



**"The Radio Detective"  
A Boy Scout Picture  
At the Cozy Theatre**

The Troop Committee for the Boy Scout organization of Merkel is bringing this interesting picture to the Cozy next Monday and Tuesday night, December 21st and 22nd.

The Committee and Troop will appreciate patronage.—Herbert Patterson, Scout Master.

**Big Cake Sale Saturday**

On next Saturday, December 18, the ladies of the Parent-Teachers Club will hold a big cake sale; same to be held in the salesroom of the Merkel Motor Company.

The cakes will be furnished by the members of the Association, and ladies desiring delicious cakes for their Sunday dinner will no doubt find many kinds and varieties from which to pick.

**Conclusions Seem Reasonable**

A two-year international study of city transportation, has convinced the Rapid Transit Committee of the St. Louis Board of Aldermen that street cars must remain the backbone of city service. The conclusion is based upon personal investigation by the Committee, of conditions in largest American cities as well as European and South American.

These are the outstanding conclusions and recommendations of the Committee's report:

Motor busses will not supersede, but will supplement street cars.

Motor bus competition with street railways causes wasteful duplication of service.

Speed of street cars may be increased, by separating them from other traffic and decreasing the number of stops.

Street car service in the primary business district suffers from congestion, more than it contributes to it.

"A conservative estimate would place the street car riders at not less than 75 per cent of the traveling public," says the report. "It would seem that their interests should have at least 75 per cent of the consideration that is given to the transportation and traffic problems.

"City transportation for the great masses of the people must continue to be provided by electric cars, supplemented by motor busses and rapid transit lines."

**Good Citizen Of Horn  
Community Dies**

Mr. Felix Howard, 58 years of age, a citizen of the Horn community, some ten miles north of Merkel, after a lingering illness of many months quietly passed away at the family residence, on Tuesday, December 14, and was laid to rest in Rose Hill cemetery, this city, on Wednesday afternoon; Rev. Williams, of Abilene, conducting funeral rites.

The deceased was born in Georgia, moved to Alabama, thence to Texas 34 years ago. He leaves a wife and two children, one son and a daughter, both residing at home.

For 21 years he had been a faithful and energetic member of the Baptist church, and by his good life won and held the esteem and respect of the entire community in which he resided.

**Will Preach At Noodle**

Elder W. G. Cypert announces that on next Sunday he will preach at Noodle, at both the morning and evening hours.

Everybody is extended a cordial invitation to hear him.

**Plan For Tax Sanity**

Addressing the National Founders' Association, James A. Emery expounded five points, "the application of which," he said, "would work a revolution in the betterment of local tax conditions," as follows:

"1. Demand adequate provision for submission of bond issues to people, limit capacity of the state government to get into debt, and undertake to confine the life of necessary bond issues to the life of the improvement against which they issue.

"2. Urge adoption of effective budget control of appropriation and expenditure.

"3. Develop demand for adoption, where practicable, of a 'pay-as-you-go,' policy.

"4. Present in each state, through an effective committee, information with respect to local indebtedness and expenditures, and help to create a tax consciousness that will help to stop immediate extravagant expenditures.

"5. Start an examination of local boards and commissions to abolish the unnecessary, avoid duplication of effort, secure curtailment of expenditure and improve administrative efficiency."

Between 1919 and 1924, federal taxes declined 39 per cent, state taxes increased 87 per cent and that of their local subdivisions 56 per cent. That is, during the five-year period, the average American family paid \$92.64 less to Washington, and \$61.31 more to its local government.

Mr. A. L. Walden and family, residing on route four returned this week from an extended visit to their old home in Arkansas. They report hard times in that country.

**ASK OUR  
CUSTOMERS**

**FARMERS STATE BANK**

MERKEL TEXAS

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

Herbert Patterson,  
Assistant Cashier

Dallas Scarbrough  
David Hendricks

**ASK  
ANYBODY**



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

"Organized 1904."

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**DIRECTORS**

J. T. WARREN  
G. F. WEST

GEO. L. PAXTON  
BOOTH WARREN  
SAM BUTMAN, Sr.

A. R. Booth, who has been very ill, is now able to be up and at his grocery business.

Abuse of the authority vested in him by an officer of the law should no more be tolerated than should violation of the law.

Christmas Boxes, all sizes, 5c 10c and 15c.—Brown Dry Goods Co.

Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Neill returned first of the week from a visit with relatives at Rule, Texas.

Miss Dorris Durham and Miss Mildred Swafford, students at C. I. A. Denton, are expected home today to spend the holiday season with home folks and friends. Miss Maurine Tipton, a Junior in this college, arrived home yesterday. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Tipton of this city.

We progress. There was a traffic jam on one of Merkel's streets today.

As we are going out of business on January 1st, you can get some bargains in Groceries. J. D. Porter, Cash Grocery. 1tp

Mr. Jim Burns, one of the splendid citizens on route four, left yesterday for a visit to his old home in Tennessee.

If you are haunted by the Christmas Spirit, do your shopping and mailing early.

Some men don't even have the say as to what they will give their wives for Christmas.

Christmas Boxes, all sizes, 5c 10c and 15c.—Brown Dry Goods Co.

Have your key ring checked with name plate and address stamped on same. They'll come back. J. H. Stone. 1tp

Mr. Joe Hartley has our thanks for a subscription to the Mail, which he sends to his brother, D. J., at Plainview.

**OIL! OIL! OIL!**

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

Messrs. T. L. Odom and W. D. Swann, both prominent financiers of Tyler, Texas, were here first of the week on business and visitors in the home of the latter's brother, Mr. J. S. Swann and family.

**C. B. BARNES H. W. BARNES**

**Barnes Brothers**

Contractors and Builders

WE KNOW HOW

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**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**

**REMEMBER**

That we have every facility for turning out neat printing of all kinds. Letter heads, bill heads, office stationery, etc., furnished at the lowest prices first class work will permit.

**Pangburn's  
Chocolates**

**Diamonds**

**INDIVIDUAL GIFTS AT CHRISTMAS TIME**

MR. AND MRS. BALLEW had been married long enough to forget wedding anniversaries, but were still trying to observe Christmas giving.

"Now, I must give Ray something splendid. Reverses must not stop the Christmas giving. He always gives me more than I do him. My thirty-five dollars will buy him the golf outfit, but then he would be away all the time and I so wanted a tea-cart with my money, so little I can give Ray. He has his ties, socks, and shirts—and they've never been worn—that I gave him last year. I have an idea! I'll fix up a box of them and re-present them. He will never know the difference and what we don't know doesn't hurt us," philosophized Mrs. Ballew.

In rushed Ray to dinner. "Hello, Vi! Christmas is almost here and I've worried no little over what I'll give you, dear, but you deserve the best."

As Christmas drew near Viola hurriedly shopped, but always wound up at the furniture store—looking at tea-carts. "I know what I shall do; I'll get the cart for Ray. It will come in fine when he has his stag parties."

It was Christmas Eve, and if there is anything that delights a woman, at that time, it is the belief that her husband has a diamond in hiding for her.

"Say, Ray, let's give our gifts this evening for we leave so early in the morning, and I want to see the sparkle of mine." Viola noticed Ray's eyes droop but continued: "Honey, I have you a useful gift, something different and one that you can enjoy with the men."

"By Jinks! thought Ray, 'she's got my golf outfit. Just what I wanted; strange we always get what we want! I'm a little sorry about Vi's present, but she will be pleased. I paid a good price for it.'"

Viola rolled in the tea-cart and kept assuring Ray how much he would enjoy it, but was surprised at the happy look on his face.

"Now, Ray, dear, show me mine." "Well, Vi, I—er—see. Well, honey, I'll have to set yours up—but it's a peach."

"A baby-grand piano!" exclaimed Viola; "just what I wanted, and here I've been selfish enough to give you a tea-cart."

"Honey, that's all right. I believe in practical gifts. I wanted to give you something—something you could entertain your club with. I could hardly afford it, dear, but a wife like you deserves the best—I got you—er—well, I got you a radio."—Emily Burks Adams.

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**SAVES PENNIES FOR CAPITAL CHRISTMAS**

"MRS. HULL has a capital plan of saving and giving Christmas capital which she calls her 'fancy fund,' because she uses it exactly as she wishes, with no drawing on the regular family income," Mrs. Ross exclaimed enthusiastically to her friends at an afternoon tea.

"The day after Christmas Mrs. Hull begins saving pennies that come into her hands through the year. She places them in a toy bank and adds six per cent interest at the end of the year. If she has saved ten dollars in pennies she adds sixty cents, which she says pays postage on her Christmas parcels. She always has a fund for Christmas, for she has never acquired the 'penny habit of giving' to church activities. Last year she divided the 'fancy fund' among her nieces and nephews, with instructions that the small amount was to be placed in saving and to be added to, or used as capital to compile more capital. The results were interesting, for each recipient must always keep that amount in reserve for a future savings account.

"Once Mrs. Hull purchased seeds and bulbs and distributed them where they would be appreciated; once she subscribed for magazines which rotated among a large number of readers, some in public institutions. Another time she ordered toys, games and books for a children's home; another year she procured dozens of small dolls, with remnants for clothes, to send to a needy mission school. Once she sent hundreds of greeting cards, and once scores of inspiring mottoes to places where such things are seldom seen. Her mother one year received a fresh bouquet or a plant every few weeks during the year. This year her husband, who promised her his pennies, has added to her 'fancy fund.' She has over twelve dollars with the interest, and she has figured she may spend twenty-five cents each week during the year in making someone happier—fifty-two weeks of sending Christmas cheer! As ideas and opportunities present themselves each week she will use the fund. The first week she invited a homesick college boy into her home to spend the weekend.

"It seems to me that Mrs. Hull is accumulating more than cold capital in her penny plan. She is establishing a 'bank of blessings' with unlimited 'reserve funds of love,' which compounds interest at a rapid rate and pays one hundred per cent."

"Divinellike dividends," Mrs. Leigh answered softly.—Gertrude Walton.

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**CHILDREN'S VOICES AT CHRISTMAS TIME**

IT WAS the Christmas time. Snowflakes like soft downy feathers were falling over the city, covering its dirt and soot with a beautiful blanket of white.

Men and women were jostling one another through the crowded city streets. Some were laden with packages. Some carried but a few.

A few were poorly clothed; yet with calm, satisfied faces. More were poorly clothed, with sad, restless faces, as if they grieved for what they could not have.

Many wore rich clothing and luxurious furs, and some of these had calm, restful faces; but many were weary as if they worried for a peace which was not theirs.

A beggar sat in a corner selling his pencils, one by one. Many unheeding the pencils, dropped a coin into the box strapped about his weather-beaten neck. Some, not noticing the beggar, passed in and out of the great department store.

Many stories over the beggar's head Christmas carols had been pealing forth all the afternoon. The passers-by could not have failed to hear them; yet if their minds or hearts responded they gave no sign. Their expressions changed not.

Down through the hurrying crowds came a group of little girls on Christmas shopping bent, hastening to the store o'er which the Christmas chimes rang out. Heedless of the elbowing through they stopped to listen and saw the beggar.

"Let's buy," said the blithe little leader, and they stepped forward to purchase his wares.

The dull-eyed creature looked at the fresh young faces and spoke:

"Why don't you sing, girls?" "All right. Let's!" joyfully agreed the gay children.

"The Lord is come!" the clear young voices took up the old refrain.

Pedestrians, so long unmindful of the chimes, turned at the sound of the children's voices. Some stopped and listened; tense faces relaxed, softened; many smiled as they went on their way.

Other children joined the little band. They sang the old hymn through; then scurried away. But those who had heard and seen remembered. Their hearts were lightened; their burdens lifted; their worries seemed passed away.

It was the children's voices. It was a beggar's whim.—Florence H. Wells.

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**Holiday Goods Galore**

We have a nice assortment of Holiday Goods and we are making prices that are "live to let live." We will make prices on anything in the store with exceptions of merchandise that carry restrictions that manufacturers sets prices on that we have to sell at prices they specify.

We are offering these prices only until December 24th to reduce our stock for Inventory. We have presents that will be suitable for any one you might wish to give them to.

We wish to thank all our friends and patrons for business they've given us this year and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

**Liberty Hardware Co.**

"IF ITS HARDWARE WE HAVE IT."

**NEW LOW PRICES**

on the improved

**ESSEX**

Essex Coach	-	-	-	-	\$820.00
Essex Sedan	-	-	-	-	\$925.00

Delivered in Merkel

Make your family a Christmas present worth while by presenting them with a new Essex closed car on Christmas morning.

Also have some BARGAINS in late model

**USED FORDS**

**BONEY'S GARAGE**

Front Street

Phone 60

**CHRISTMAS GIFTS THAT COUNT MOST**

HENRY came home from town the day before Christmas and handed Mrs. White a package, saying with a grin:

"Grandma Cook sent you a Christmas present."

"Why, bless her dear old heart," Mrs. White cried, "what in the world is it?"

"Well," answered Henry, "she said she had made some soap, and that the batch turned out so well she wanted you to have some; she said it made a fine suds, and that she wished you a Merry Christmas."

And sure enough, when Mrs. White unwrapped the clumsily tied package, there was a brick of home-made yellow soap, smelling strongly of sassafras.

A friend of the family who was present was inclined to take the matter as a joke.

"What a funny thing," she laughed. "I didn't suppose anyone made soap at home, nowadays."

But the bar of aromatic cleanser meant more to Mrs. White than a mere piece of soap. It stood for friendship. It was a symbol of service gladly given. Grandma Cook's soap was a real gift, something she thought was extra nice and therefore wanted to share with one she liked.

Oh, when will we get away from the idea gifts must represent money, that we cannot give unless we have the wherewith to purchase the glittering wares displayed in the window and on the counter, during the holiday season? Last Christmas a friend happened to look out of a window and espied a neighbor's little boy coming in the gate; his secretive air and careful tiptoeing up the walk made the friend step behind a curtain, where he could see without being seen. Cautiously the boy crept upon the porch and, his little face breaking into smiles, deposited a newspaper-wrapped bundle at the door, then still tiptoeing, he hurried down the walk and out of the gate.

Waiting until he was out of sight, so as not to spoil the "surprise," my friend opened the door and, upon undoing the parcel, found a tiny basket made of cardboard and covered with gaudy red and green paper, put on with many a glaring stitch and smear of glue. It contained several pieces of hard, striped candy, a home-made yarn ball, some broken nut meats, laboriously picked out with patient little fingers, and a broken-bladed jackknife, doubtless his most cherished possession.—Frank Herbert Sweet.

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**GIVE A YEAR'S SUBSCRIPTION TO THE MERKEL MAIL**

Only \$1.50 a year. A six months' subscription costs 75 cents. Stretch the memory of Christmas 365 days long.

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Subscribe NOW at this office for both papers at the Special Combination Offer, one year for **\$5.60**

# HOT POINT RANGE DEMONSTRATION

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16TH AND 17TH.

## WEST TEXAS UTILITIES COMPANY

### 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 understand that the editor of  
a newspaper in a certain oil town  
was captured, conducted to and im-  
prisoned in another oil town near  
neighbor to the first oil town. Pos-  
sibly the enterprising citizens of the  
second oil town felt in need of pub-  
licity, not possessing an editor of their  
own.

Parties were arrested a few days  
ago at Cisco charged with stealing  
and conveying from Rising Star, six-  
teen truckloads of oil well drilling  
material to the J. W. Finer tract  
ten miles north of here. Parties  
from Rising Star who claim they  
own the material made affidavit to  
that effect and have left it in charge  
of deputy sheriff C. L. Derrick. The  
men whom it is alleged brought the  
material from Rising Star purchased  
other material from a local hard-  
ware firm for which they gave in  
payment a check for \$500. It is  
claimed by the hardware firm that  
the check was returned unpaid.

Mr. D. J. Gibson, one of the pion-  
eer and splendid citizens residing  
on route three, has our thanks for  
the renewal of his subscription to  
the Mail. Mr. Gibson came to this  
community in the fall of 1885.

### TONAL

Merkel Mail: To be truly thank-  
ful and grateful for all favors and  
blessings, be they divinely or hu-  
manly bestowed, is a wonderful trait  
and grace in any person, and such  
people are usually a blessing and  
help to any community and its peo-  
ple.

Rightly said and timely spoken,  
In a time when so many people are  
depressed over the nonfruitfulness  
of their brighter expectations too  
many are inclined to blind them-  
selves to any manner of brightness.  
There is plenty to be thankful for,  
even in the case of those who ex-  
pected to pay all their debts this  
fall and be ready to make new ones  
next spring. To realize that one  
must go ahead with his old debts,  
without a chance to liquidate them in  
time to incur others, isn't a stimula-  
tion to happiness. But it will be all  
the same in two years, and what is  
two years in a healthy man's life,  
time? Disappointment is one of the  
best of tonics for the strengthening  
of character. One who can be strong  
only when continuously prosperous  
or healthy is fundamentally fragile.  
It takes setbacks in business and  
spells of sickness to bring out the  
brighter colors of character. Queen  
Marie is at home now and telling  
King Ferdinand she thought if she  
had to eat another hotel dinner she'd  
die.—State Press, in Dallas News.

### A Nest of Tables

An ever-useful Christmas gift is a  
nest of four tables of mahogany. At  
tea time, to hold the after-dinner  
coffee cups, and, in fact, a dozen times  
a day, these tables will prove their  
usefulness.

### LAUGH—BE HAPPY AT CHRISTMAS TIME

IF IT were possible, the Randal-  
s would have been unhappy, because  
of the many reverses of the past  
year; a great loss by fire, sickness,  
too; and hospital bills, and many of  
the misfortunes that come in a life-  
time seemed to have come to them  
the past year. To peep in on them,  
or even to have listened in, would have  
convinced any recluse that happiness  
was permeating the very atmosphere  
of that home.

"Now, James," began Mrs. Randal,  
who didn't resemble one who takes  
the "daddy dozen" but proved the say-  
ing, "Laugh and the world laughs  
with you." "I have laughed at Marta's  
letter until I am sick. All their money,  
yet she says she can't have a happy  
Christmas because of our many re-  
verses, and that they wouldn't think  
of having any one in, and for us not  
to be too lonely. Well, well, that sure-  
ly is funny—us not to be too lonely!"  
Mrs. Randal burst out laughing again.

"Well, Rose, quit your laughing and  
read that letter, or tell it to me."  
"Oh, James, to think of her being  
so unhappy over our loss when we  
don't even think about it. She always  
sees the 'Slough of Despond'; no  
wonder she's so skinny. Worrying  
about us! Jim, we've never had a  
happier Christmas. None of us has  
died yet; we still have our garage  
to live in. Christmas is Christmas  
whether our pocketbook be fat or  
lean."

"Yes, Rose, but Christmas doesn't  
seem to be the same to the fat and  
lean, judging from your laugh and  
Marta's sadness."

"Say, James, let's have them down  
for Christmas and show them what a  
wonderful time people can have living  
in their garage. We can put them  
overhead in the servants' quarters—  
have to make use of it in some way,  
for we may never be able to afford  
another maid."

"Hop to it, dear. You always do  
the proper stunt at the right time. I  
think we shall enjoy it, as you seem  
to enjoy the thought of it."

Mrs. Randal continued to laugh,  
and as Marta was leaving, she, too,  
laughed and said: "Well, Rose, laugh-  
ing is catching; happiness, too, I sup-  
pose. I think we shall live in our  
garage next year—not nearly so much  
work, and truly—I've never had a  
better time. Surely a Merry Christ-  
mas we've had and we wish for you  
and James—well, you'll be happy and  
think you are prosperous whether you  
are or not, so all I can say to you is—  
good-by.—Emily Burks Adams.

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### CHRISTMAS CARDS

CHRISTMAS cards have be-  
come a nightmare for many  
people, but it is the misuse and  
not the use of them that should  
be deplored.

A Christmas card today, as al-  
ways, is, or should be, a har-  
binger of love. If it is not, the  
fault is with us, and not with  
the card. A card should always  
be a message of friendship, not  
a perfunctory duty. In a busy  
world it is a convenient, delight-  
ful way in which to remember  
one's friends; as such, it has  
come to stay.

May we respect this time-hon-  
ored institution and may it serve  
us as our winged messenger,  
rather than enslave us as an un-  
pleasant or pretended duty.—H.  
Lucius Cook.

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### SAD, BUT TRUE



Teacher—Willie, why is everyone  
happy at Christmas time?  
Willie—Well my father's happy be-  
cause business is so good.

### PACKAGES

Fergusons to Make Home in Aus-  
tin—(Headline). So they can keep  
an eye on Dan?

Merkel wanted an oil gusher, not a  
water spout.

In grasping all the pennies you  
can, beware you don't grab the  
devil's tail.

Pleasure is sometimes trouble  
camouflaged.

When tooting your own horn don't  
forget that the other fellow may try  
to drown your racket by knocking  
with his hammer.

Another new car, another lease  
sold.

Doctor Tells How it Feels in Earth-  
quake—(Headline). Possibly many  
of his patients could tell how an  
earthquake feels.

It seems to us that the weather has  
been unnecessarily ill-natured this  
week.

The optimist enjoys Christmas, the  
pessimist the bills.

Ma says she wants to marry some-  
body. Well, some folks she and Jim  
have it in for are already married.

### When Christmas Comes

When Christmas comes  
We smartly rush  
And buy both this and that.  
In crowds we crush  
And don't know where we're at—  
When Christmas comes.

When Christmas comes,  
We sit us down  
And take account of stock;  
Perhaps we frown  
At making such a mock—  
When Christmas comes.  
—The Jangler, in Town Topics.

### THINKS OF FRIENDS AT CHRISTMAS TIME

AT CHRISTMAS time more than  
at any other season of the year  
my thoughts turn to the old  
friends. Memories and recollections  
of the old home circle come thick and  
fast; father—how grave and serious  
he was—and the older boys and my  
sister, and dearest of all—mother.  
They are nearer to me at Christmas  
than at any other time of the year. It  
was mother who told us the Christ-  
mas stories and filled our stockings  
after we had all been sent off to bed.  
I knew I should always find raisins in  
mine—mother knew well how I liked  
them. I never see a box of raisins  
today without recalling all the Christ-  
mas joys of childhood—and mother.  
How far away these old friends are!  
Most of them are lying silent and still  
in the little country cemetery near  
which we lived, and all that are living  
are scattered.

The college community in which we  
live is nomadic and shifting. The  
friends of today pass on rapidly and  
are gone tomorrow to the remotest  
parts of the earth. The old friends  
are everywhere. No matter where I  
go—New York or San Francisco, Min-  
neapolis or New Orleans, Naples or  
Edinburgh, Paris or London, I happen  
upon them. I met one in Pompeii; I  
had hardly been ten minutes in Toron-  
to, where I thought I knew no one,  
until I almost ran head-first into an  
old acquaintance.

Where are your old friends? "Gone,  
scattered," you say. Ten years ago,  
at Christmas time, I was with twenty  
young college friends gathered about  
the fireplace, hilariously celebrating  
before they should go home for the  
holidays. Where are they now? One  
has been far beyond the Canal zone;  
another is making a home for himself

on the Pacific coast; three are in New  
York; two are in England, and others  
are in various and remote parts of  
this country. One of these, wrote me  
this week: "Time has not made me  
forget the Sunday evening we spent  
about your old fireplace when we were  
served with sponge cake and milk. I  
should like to be there just once more,  
but I should want to come back to my  
work the next day." What a child he  
seems to me!

My experience is only the common  
experience of us all. Time breaks our  
closest associations and scatters our  
companions of a few years ago. But  
it is the old friends and the friends  
who are far away of whom we are  
thinking most these days—those that  
have gone, and those that are going.

There are a few of us whose  
thoughts and whose prayers are not  
with our old friends at Christmas  
time—those who are near and those  
who are far away. Living or dead—  
wherever they are—God bless them  
and keep them all!—Thomas Arkie  
Clark.

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### FREQUENTLY HAPPENS

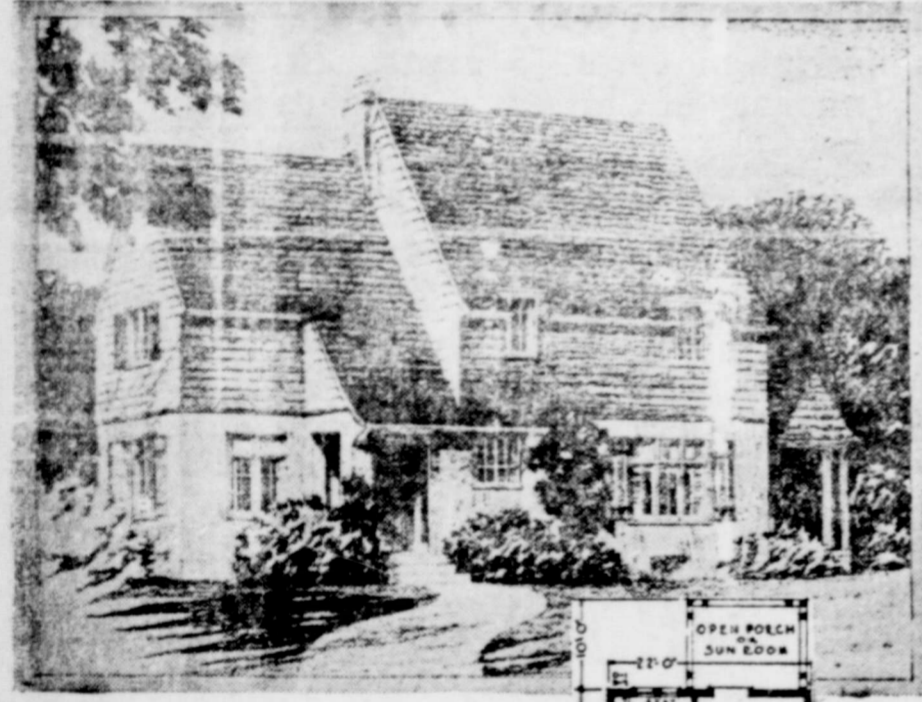


First Bug—What do you expect for  
Christmas.

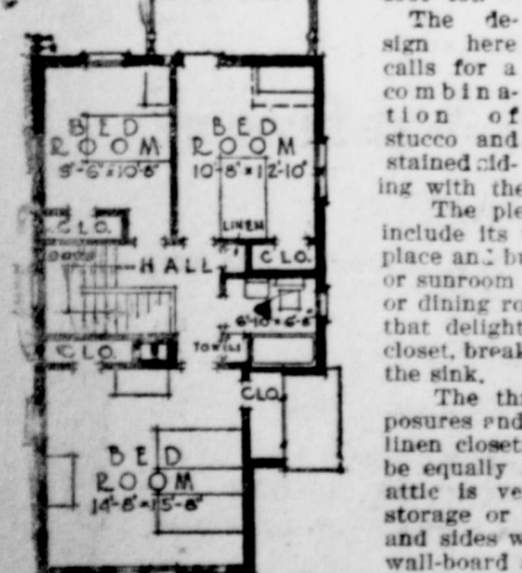
Second Bug—Judging by past ex-  
perience, something that I will have  
no use in the world for!

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### Old World Charm Meets New World Conveniences



PLACING your house according to your  
lot is the privilege of the person who  
builds this practical dwelling of the Eng-  
lish farm house type. The entrance is so  
arranged that the house may either be  
placed lengthwise for a thirty-foot city  
lot or cross-  
wise for a  
60 or 75  
foot lot.



SECOND FLOOR PLAN  
CEILING HEIGHT 8'-0"

The pleasing features of the living room  
include its windows on three sides, open fire-  
place and built-in book shelves. The open porch  
or sunroom may open off from either the living  
or dining room. The kitchen has all the details  
that delight the housewife—cupboards, broom  
closet, breakfast nook and double windows over  
the sink.

The three bedrooms all have double ex-  
posures and are well provided with clothes and  
linen closets. The bathroom is so placed as to  
be equally accessible from each bedroom. The  
attic is ventilated and makes a serviceable  
storage or playroom by sheathing the rafters  
and sides with celotex, which serves both as a  
wall-board and insulating material.

This small home is light and spacious, yet  
compact and adapted to doing without a serv-  
ant, is a typical 1925 product. The poky, dark  
houses of fifteen or even ten years ago with their  
fussy little hallways and poor planning would be  
scorned by the modern housewife who has learned  
to expect comfort built right into her home and to  
have everything planned for her convenience in  
working. Cold, draughty houses are also out of  
date. All well built houses, are insulated as this  
one is, with celotex sheathing on the exterior  
walls under the stucco. This effects a great saving  
in fuel in the winter and resists the intense heat  
of the sun in summer.

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# 7-ONLY-7

## More Shopping Days Before Christmas

We have drastic price reduction on everything in  
the store to help meet the low price of cotton. Save  
money on your Christmas Gifts—Look over the follow-  
ing suggestions:

### For Men and Boys

- Silk Hose
- Ties
- Scarfs
- Shirts
- Gloves
- House Shoes
- Lumberjacks
- Sweaters
- Bathrobes
- Handkerchiefs
- Hats
- Boots
- Shoes
- Hart, Schaffner and  
Mark Suits

### For Ladies and Girls

- Handkerchiefs
- Silk Hose
- Silk Underwear
- Towel Sets
- Table Linen
- Hat Boxes
- Gloves
- Bathrobes
- House Shoes
- Blankets
- Purses
- Garters
- Gowns
- Hand Bags
- Furs

Always a pleasure to show our merchandise and we  
will guarantee to save you money on every item. We  
believe that quality and the low price is building our  
business bigger every day.

COME IN AND LET US SHOW YOU.

# MAX MELLINGER

## FLIVVERS, OIL WELLS AND TAIL LIGHTS

BY VINSON ERVIN

A few days ago most of the citizens, except a few in the local hospitals, bastiles and the like, of Merkel, Trent, Abilene, Anson, Roby, and other cities and towns of Texas and forty-seven other States became obsessed of the suspicion that another well was to be drilled in on a certain day in the Noodle Creek Oilfield, and laboring under that suspicion they united in a hegrira and trekked to the oilfield of the homely, but soupy, name.

Right here we rise to advise those who wish to make sure thing investments in oil to put their money on the wildcat well where there is a homely cognomen attached to some section of the surrounding scenery for there is where oil in great smears, gobs and clusters will be encountered. What of Spindletop, Goose Creek, Big Lake, Humble, Nigger Creek, Smackover, not to mention Noodle Creek again? Some significance might also be attached to the predominance of watery geography, although, it has been stated positively on several occasions by scientists that water and oil do not mix.

To return to our original subject, a laudable custom of ours. As mentioned, representatives of all the known oases of the most important section of the continent of North America moved in a cloud upon the N. C. (Noodle Creek) Oilfield. Being questful of new sights, sounds and experiences we joined the rest of the population and chattered merrily along (we have that kind of a flivver).

While making good time, at the very least seventeen miles an hour, Lizzie suddenly gurgled, subsided gradually and stopped. We, with our usual acumen for going at once to the heart of a matter or the bottom of the trouble, jumped overboard and looked for a flat. There was none. (It is considered unethical by motorists to use the word tire in speaking of a flat, as there are only a few varieties of flats, such as a dwelling, a level piece of land, etc.) No flat.

We were unable to account for such unprecedented behavior on the part of a flivver of the well-known make which we own and possess. Thinking deeply upon our problem, we recalled vaguely having heard that the timer, that attachment to the motor which—er—does the timing, would develop sudden ills and refuse to carry on. In which case the thing to do, we further understood, was to oil it! Concluding that

possibly in the present instance, the timer had the carache, we gave it the dose of oil for which it seemed to yearn. We then turned the motor over. (It is considered bad form among the best automobile mechanics to use the word "crank" in speaking of this action. However, this is likely due to the visions of back-bending exercise the word "crank" brings up.) Lizzie strangled, gasped and fainted. Again pondering seriously, as is our habit, we remembered, with what seemed inspirational clarity, a friend of ours whose sons and heirs had filled his oilcan with molasses of a most viscid character, and he unknowingly and blithely attempted to oil the timer of his car with the liquid sweetening, with distressing results. We have no son and heir, but knowing that others have who tamper with other people's, that is our, belongings, we frantically examined the contents of our oilcan, but found to our intense relief that it contained nothing but oil, or at any rate that stuff which filling station proprietors artfully lead us to believe is oil, the best there is on the market.

The oil and the timer being apparently guiltless, we searched our memory diligently to recall any mention we had heard made of any other part of a flivver's anatomy which might cause it, the flivver, to quit in a funk. Ah, the carburetor! According to every garage man, filling station herder or anyone else having even slight motor experience, the carburetor is notoriously temperamental. We also recalled that whenever we had engaged a mechanic to correct some ill of Lizzie's motor each one had made a determined frontal attack upon the carburetor. We, therefore, upon the occasion under discussion, decided that the carburetor must be suffering with influenza or some similar ailment. We tinkered with it, and then again tried persuasion with Lizzie. She only moaned dismally.

Baffled but hopeful, we stood thinking. Gradually and steadily a thought grew in our mind, and we began to have that sinking feeling that one has when he sees disaster impending with himself as the impendee. We looked in the gasoline tank. Our blackest fears were verified. Not a drop—of gasoline. We, in our customary light-hearted and carefree manner, had been attempting the impossible, make an automobile—beg pardon—flivver run without gasoline, something which has never been successfully accom-

plished unless there was a hill to push it off. We were at the bottom of two hills, one in front and one behind; therefore the plan to push Lizzie off a hill didn't appear feasible. We must evolve some other scheme wherewith to accomplish her further locomotion.

We looked up the road. A car was approaching at a speed something less than the usual oilfield rate of about ninety-five miles an hour. We were certain that this car was traveling not faster than ninety-four and a half. We flagged it. About a hundred yards down the road the car stopped. We ran hastily toward it. When we were nearly to it, it suddenly started backward. We barely escaped demolition under its wheels by jumping into a ditch. A trifle startled, we loudly and excitedly shouted, "Hey!" at the driver. But without effect. He had started with speed enough to cover the hundred yards to our flivver with a little loss of time as possible, and he kept going. Drivers of other cars hurriedly took to the ditch.

We arrived at the car we had halted. "Say," we said to the driver in a confidential manner, "our flivver stopped. It must be out of gas. The tank is empty."

"Thash so?" he inquired, seemingly with interest.

"Yes. Can you spare us a gallon or two of gas so we can get to the next filling station?"

"De—hic—glad to, but the thingum—hic—bob under the gash tank of this car won't—hic—turn."

"It won't?"

"No."

"No?"

"No."

After this unavailing exchange of scintillating repartee, we thought to stop another car in the hope of procuring the needful gas, but just as that idea came into our verdant mind we remembered that the little jigger under the tank of our flivver wouldn't turn either. We came to the conclusion that this was probably a universal failing among motor cars, and decided it was useless to stop another car for gas.

Gloomily we were visioning ourself afoot heading a mournful procession of one to the filling station we had passed a mile and some inches back, when our hasty friend in the car we had stopped said, "Hop in and I'll—hic—take you to the nexsh fillin' station. It ain't far." "Can we get some gas there?" we asked hopefully.

"Sure—thash what it's for."

"We mean," we responded with dignity, thinking the fellow a trifle slow in not getting our meaning from our first question; "will they have something in which we can carry a gallon?"

"Sure. They got a jug—hic—for that very purpash."

We climbed into the car, but we were filled with doubt. Certainly this accomodating party had formed a close acquaintanceship with a jug, but whether or not he knew of one used for the purpose of conveying gasoline to stranded flivvers—

We reached the filling station, got a gallon of the valuable fluid without which no self-respecting automobile will attempt to travel, and returned to Lizzie. She drank thirstily and started industriously putting the miles behind.

Eventually and still in one piece we arrived at the oilfield, but a trifle behind our schedule due to the drouth in the gas tank.

There were several people present. We stretched our neck as much as we thought it would stand without becoming permanently elongated, and peered over the heads of the crowd. Away in the distance we saw the derrick. It bore no stain of oil which the derrick of every gushing oilwell has to put up with. Evidently the well hadn't seen fit to gush.

We looked about us at the crowd. We always like to look at crowds. There is no better way we know of for seeing so many people at one time than to look at a crowd. This one was oversize. It spread to the mesquite jungles roundabout. We were on the outermost edge of it.

Desiring to be conversant with the march of events, we asked a man near us if the well had gushed, that is spouted forth oil, gas, drilling tools and whatnot.

"No," he said, "it ain't."

"When will it gush?"

"When they hit the paystreak."

"Well, when will they hit the paystreak?" we inquired somewhat impatiently, thinking we were being spoofed.

"Gosh, how would I know?"

Not knowing how he would know, we changed our tactics.

"Are they drilling now?" we asked, hoping to get some light on the

matter.

"Yep."

"How deep is it to the paystreak?"

"Oh, three-four foot, maybe."

"How many feet are they drilling a minute?"

"Blankety blank!" heartily chirped our opponent. "What you think they're drilling through, mush?"

Our questioning having forced us no information, we were forced to relinquish a cherished idea of ours. Having a turn for efficiency, we had thought that if we knew the depth necessary to drill to reach the paystreak as our friend termed it, and the number of feet being drilled per minute, we could figure the exact instant the well would gush. This known, instead of standing impatiently watching for the event, we could stroll about, see the sights, and turn to look toward the well at the precise instant it would commence its gushing.

The spectators, having nothing to spectate, were becoming restless and groups were clustering here and there on the fringe of the crowd and speculating as to the time the well would come in, volume of its production, etc. One such group formed near us. "I bet it hits the crown block," said one. "I bet you can hear the gas a mile when it starts," spoke another. "I believe I hear the gas hissing now," said a man next to us. We then heard a hissing, but it came from behind. We had heard such hissing before. Our back hair rose up and flapped gently in the breeze. Fearfully, overcoming the impulse to depart rapidly from that neighborhood, we turned our head and looked. There under a small mesquite bush not a great distance from the person who first heard its hissing was a sizeable snake. The day was warm and the excitement warmer. Apparently Mr. Snake thought an early spring had arrived, and he had come forth from his winter quarters, or had not yet retired to them. We don't know which, as we have never inquired closely into the habits of snakes. It makes us nervous even to think about them.

"L-I-look b-behind you!" we said in a calm, firm voice to the party who

had thought he heard gas hissing, at the same time moving around in front of him so as to put him between ourself and the snake. Never again will we stand in front of a person and warn him of a snake behind him. He looked, saw and departed. He allowed no such trifle as ourself and several hundred other people to cramp the style of his departure. We still have dents in our anatomy. Before we could arise and betake ourself quietly and with dignity from the scene, the others nearby also looked and saw, and immediately, enthusiastically and un-animously emigrated from that spot over our prostrate form. When at last we could arise, even the snake had left, and we alone embellished the immediate landscape. We looked and felt like we had played the part we had, obstructed a stampede.

Order was finally restored and attention was again turned to the well, which, showed no indication of furnishing any entertainment. The crowd soon became dissatisfied with a well with such a coy disposition, and began to leave. We, being of a prudent nature, glanced skyward, saw that the sun was sinking, as has long been its established custom, and knowing that in consequence thereof, according to some poet or other, the shades of night would soon be falling fast, we left; that is, we did

as soon as Lizzie was willing.

Back on the highway we rambled rapidly along until a truck loomed in our path, ambling at a fair speed in the direction we were traveling. Trucks are a nuisance. They should be barred from the highways. This one was too big to see over, around or under. We, having no business whatever anywhere and plenty of time to attend to it, were, like everybody else similarly situated, in a hurry. Putting on more speed we shot around the truck. It was dark by now, and Lizzie's headlights didn't focus just right. They threw their light at the moon instead of the road. Before we knew it, old man Disaster himself took charge. Next thing we knew after circumnavigating the truck Lizzie was trying to run roughshod over a farm wagon which had a trailer in the form of a large, substantial red cow.

After expending considerable effort, language and perspiration, we with the willing but inexpert aid of several volunteer assistants, who had had no previous experience in such matters, succeeded in untangling Lizzie from the cow, or the cow from Lizzie, through our knowledge that Lizzie was made of tin and the cow of beef.

Upon conducting a thorough investigation, we ascertained the cause of the catastrophe. Said cow had no tail light.

### ABSTRACTS OF TITLE

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### SECURITY ABSTRACT CO.

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Second floor of Court House Phone 2378

R. W. GRIMSLEY, Manager

for Economical Transportation



## 40,000 have bought CHEVROLET the Certificate Way

Use this plan to pay cash for your next car and effect a decided saving.

The widespread favor now enjoyed by the Chevrolet Purchase Certificate Plan is partly due to its fundamental soundness, safety and thrift and partly to the fact that the buyer earns 6%, instead of paying interest, and receives additional attractive credits on all service and accessories purchased from his Chevrolet dealer.

Come in! Let us show you why so many thousands have used this famous and widely popular plan in buying the worlds finest low-priced car.

Touring or Roadster \$510, Coupe or Coach \$645, Sedan \$735, Landau \$765, 1-Ton Truck (Chassis Only) \$495, 1/2-Ton Truck (Chassis Only) \$375. All prices f. o. b. Flint, Mich.



## More Value than the Price Suggests

In the year just drawing to a close the price of Dodge Brothers Motor Cars was materially lowered.

Yet during this period more important improvements were incorporated than in any year in Dodge Brothers history. Advances were made in engineering and body designs. The cars possess a greater degree of smoothness, silence and ease. They are more comfortable, more beautiful.

Current prices—made possible, of course, by constantly mounting sales—are therefore not an obvious measure of value. Prices, in fact, have never told the full story of Dodge Brothers dependability and basic worth.

But now, more than ever before, there is far more value than the price suggests.

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

## LOWE-BRACKEN MOTOR CO.

MERKEL, TEXAS

QUALITY AT LOW COST

## 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.

### Cotton Not Best Wealth Producer A. & M. Study Shows

"Cotton deceives more Oklahoma farmers and business men in the matter of its true relation to their financial well-being than any other farm enterprise in the State," J. T. Sanders, head of the department of agricultural economics at the Oklahoma A. & M. College, says.

"Cotton in reality often is an enemy to our prosperity," Mr. Sanders says, "and this is true largely because of overdoing a good thing. Cotton will and should continue to be the main basis of our agriculture in the cotton belt, if prices remain as they have been during the last few years. Nevertheless, our present tenant system puts too much emphasis on cotton. In the main we have an unbalanced condition because tenants do not have the choice as to what crops they are to plant. Owners of tenant farms insist on a crop system that undoubtedly is not only bad for the tenants' financial progress, but for the State's prosperity in general."

"A recent survey of the crop acreage of about 600 cotton farmers in Oklahoma shows that owners, who are free to plant what they wish, had only 53 per cent of their crop land in cotton, while tenants had 64 per cent of theirs in cotton. Tenants usually believe that too much cotton does not pay them best, Mr. Sanders thinks, "while the landlords believe that the more cotton they can get their tenants to plant the better off they (the landlords) will be. Facts seem to show that both are right, although a more careful study of owners probably would show that they are wrong."

In 1923 it cost tenants in Oklahoma 63 per cent more to grow an acre of cotton than it did to grow wheat, corn and oats the following year. The value of cotton per acre averaged about 66 per cent more than did the value of grain per acre. This shows that, counting the cost and total returns from cotton, it does not pay enough more than does other crops to make the tenant want to plant nothing but cotton. If risk and other indirect costs could be included, the case for cotton would be very much against the tenant.

In contrast to this cotton situation for tenants, cotton costs owners of rented land less than does grain, but at the same time owners get a rent

from cotton that averages two-thirds more than their rent on grain. With two-thirds larger income and less cost for cotton than they have for other crops, it is only natural for them to insist that tenants grow the largest possible cotton acreage.

Striking proof that depending too much on cotton does not pay farmers is shown by a recent survey by the department of agricultural economics of 600 farmers in Bryan and Pottawatomie counties, Oklahoma. It shows that farmers who received 40 per cent or less of all farm receipts from cotton had saved an average of \$248 each year since they began earning; also, it was found that those farmers who depending on live stock, gardens and fruits for 10 % or less of all their receipts were unable to save at the rate of \$85 a year, while farmers whose receipts from these sources amounted to 26 per cent or more of all their income saved at the average rate of \$240 a year since they began for themselves.

In short, depending too much on cotton means that one group made one fourth the financial progress reported by farmers who did not depend so much on cotton. A small income from live stock, gardens and fruits went along with small savings of wealth. These facts further show that the efficient manager does not organize his farm so he has to depend largely on cotton. These facts are highly significant and probably show that a sound policy of permanent prosperity in the cotton belt would mean that tenants must have a freer choice as to the amount of cotton they will grow, or that they will have to work toward a system of farming where far less tenancy prevails. Either plan would mean a reduction in the proportion of cotton to other crops. These plans are basic a reduction in the proportion of cotton to a permanent solution of the problem of surplus cotton acreage.

### WEST TEXAS

#### WINS NATIONAL VICTORY AT PHIL.

West Texas scores again. The West Texas Chamber of Commerce agricultural exhibit at the Sesqui-Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia has been awarded the gold medal in competition with exhibits from practically every state in the Union. The West Texas exhibit won on the basis of scope and variety of products and ingenuity of arrangement and display, according to a letter received from Sesqui officials who complimented most highly the achievement of West Texas Chamber of Commerce in winning the award. The silver medals went to North Carolina and Ohio, and Arkansas took the bronze award.

The West Texas Chamber of Commerce exhibit has attracted great attention since the opening day of the big exposition. B. M. Whiteker, exhibit manager of the organization went to Philadelphia and personally arranged the exhibit. It is worthy of note that the West Texas display was the only agricultural exhibit ready when the Sesqui opened its doors on June 1, although practically every state exhibited later, some being financed by legislature appropriations.

The West Texas exhibit featured agricultural products of West Texas. A big star, emblematic of the Lone Star State, was made of maize and other grain sorghums to constitute the center piece of the exhibit. Nine mounted sheep and goats flanked the exhibit on each side and in the back ground was a huge horse made of grain sorghums. Worked into the exhibit were artistic bundles of grain, containers filled with threshed wheat from the plains, including samples of Giles Garner of Snyder famous 86 bushels per acre wheat. Cotton was displayed in its different stages with samples of cotton fibres and cotton cloth in process of manufacture. Numbers of bolls of cotton were kept on hand during the season for souvenir distribution. Fruits, vegetables, canned articles and in fact every variety of product produced in West Texas were constantly supplied the exhibit. Descriptive literature of practically every county and leading town was distributed from the booth throughout the month of the fair.

B. M. Whiteker, exhibit manager of the West Texas Chamber of Commerce is a veteran exhibitor of West Texas. His exhibits while secretary of the Haskell Chamber of Commerce scored high at every fair, and during his six years as exhibit manager of the West Texas Chamber of Commerce, he has won every first where he has exhibited except one, and that time damage was done his products by rats. John Whiteker, son of B. M. Whiteker, was in charge of the Philadelphia booth and attended to changes in arrangement of new materials sent in.

Try a Classified Ad in The Mail.

**THIS CHRISTMAS**  
Give Something Different  
For the Family, for your Friends  
The gift that only you can give,  
**Your Photograph**  
RODDEN STUDIO, Merkel, Texas

### MAYOR N. D. COBB AND WIFE CELEBRATE THEIR 25TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

December 9th marked the twenty-fifth year of wedded bliss for Mayor N. D. Cobb and wife of Merkel. Their marriage was solemnized at Dallas. At that time Mr. Cobb was a resident of Robertson County. Mrs. Cobb was Miss Dora Talley of Merkel. Two sons and a daughter have blessed their union.

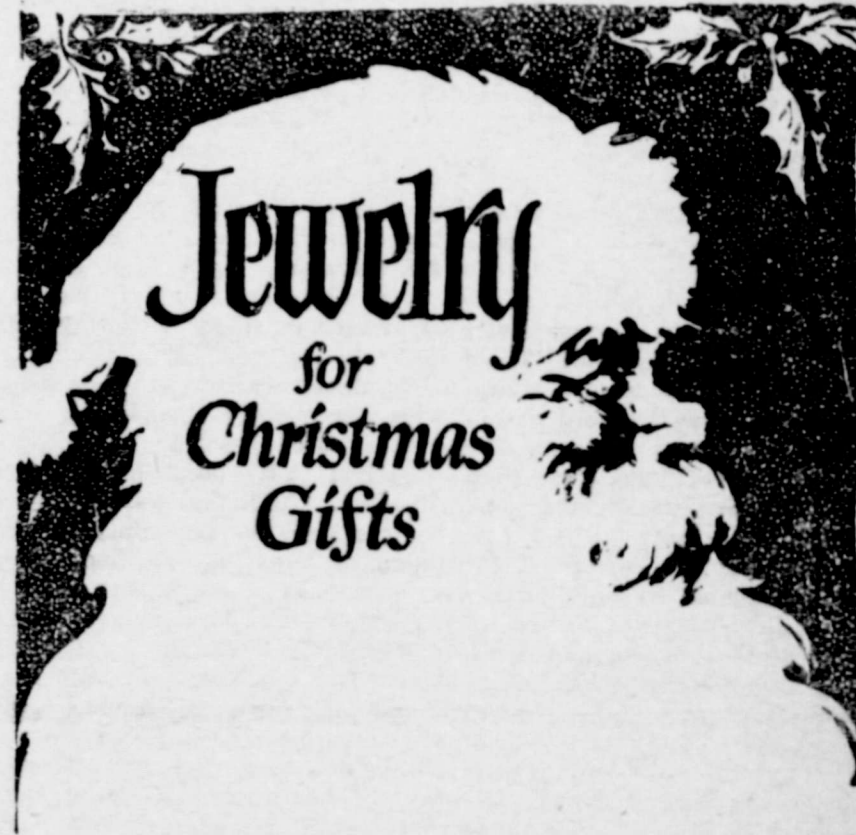
Mr. Cobb at the time of his marriage was county superintendent of schools of Robertson County. He was for eighteen years on the board of examiners, and for six years a member of the State board of Examiners. Previous to his tenure of office as county school superintendent, Mr. Cobb taught school in Robertson County, and it was while engaged in this work that he met Miss Talley, who was a pupil of his.

After studying law and being admitted to the bar, Mr. Cobb made the race for county judge of Robertson County, and was defeated by a very slight margin. Later he removed to Fort Worth and engaged in the practice of law. However, an unfortunate venture in the mercantile business resulted in his sustain-

ing considerable financial loss, and he decided to go west to recoup his fortunes. He came first to Merkel, but soon went to Trent where he taught school in 1904-05. There was no school building at Trent at that time, and Mr. Cobb taught in the Christian church building. Later he was mainly instrumental in having a school building erected at Trent. Thus, by this laudable enterprise, he no doubt earned for himself the right to the title of father of Trent's schools.

After his year as teacher at Trent Mr. Cobb returned to Merkel, where he has resided continuously since, holding various public offices, including justice of the peace, county commissioner, and is now serving his second term as mayor of Merkel.

Most of Mayor Cobb's life since attaining manhood has been spent in public service, and he has administered the offices he has held commendably and for the betterment of the community. Merkel is fortunate in having so able a man as its chief officer.



**Jewelry**  
for  
**Christmas**  
Gifts

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.

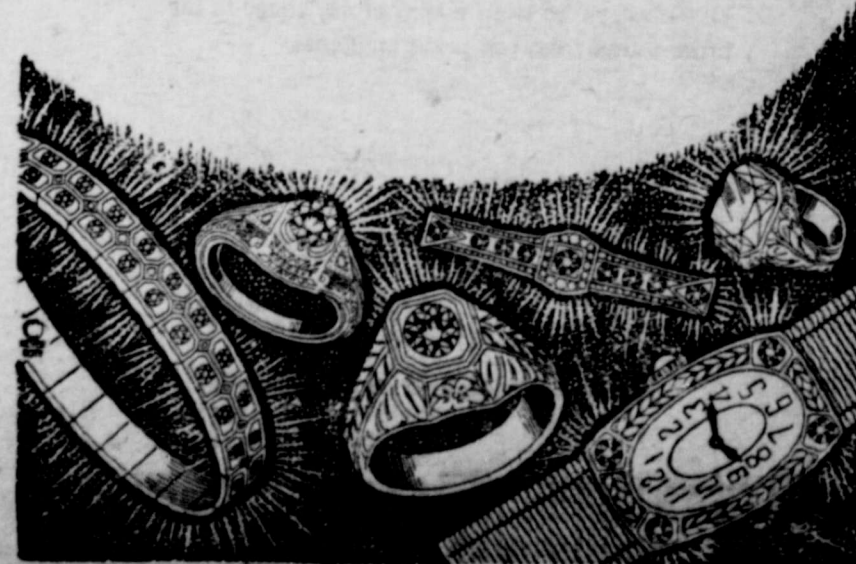
Wrist Watches.....\$18 to \$60

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

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

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- Smoking Stands
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- Ivory Sets
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- Books
- Christmas Cards and Seals
- Electric Percolators
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**CHRISTMAS—  
—and YOUR DINNER**

IT'S a satisfaction to know that the Food is the best—the finest the market affords. If you buy here you are assured of highest quality, with lowest prices, such as these:

- Assorted Nuts, per lb. 35c
- Cranberries, gallon 70c
- No. 2 Sliced Pineapple, 4 for \$1.00
- Smith's Best Flour, 100 lbs. \$4.25

FRUITS OF ALL KINDS  
FIRE WORKS FOR THE KIDDIES  
**PATTONS GROCERY**

**Entertains With Supper**

Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Higgins entertained some of their friends with an oyster supper Monday night. Forty-two, drawing, and whistling games were enjoyed. Mrs. Earthman being the best artist won first prize and Mr. Higgins winning the whistling prize.

Covers were laid for Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Butler, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Lee, Mr. and Mrs. T. T. Earthman and Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Higgins.

Each guests regretted when the time came to depart.

Latest scientific figures show that light travels 186,178 miles a second, which is nearly 20 miles a second slower than the original calculations. But still that seems to be fast enough, says the Red Wing, Minn., Republican.

Newspaper bargain days are here.

**Embarrassing**

The General—Jolly good sermon. Fellow deserves a better congregation. Hardly a soul in the place.

The Widow—Wasn't it dreadful? Every time he said 'dearly beloved' I felt as if I'd receive a proposal.

What has become of all the high sounding talk about relief measures for the cotton farmer? There is no more reason why farming as a business should receive private or government aid than any other business, except in case of drought, or a public calamity of some kind. The farmer that will use his brain as well as his hands and feet, diversify his farming operations, by planting plenty of grain and feed stuff; raise their own meat, will never have to worry over the price of cotton, or appeal to the government for help. —The Baird Star.

**The Open Door**

By "Dad"

Away back in the 80's there lived in Atlanta, Georgia, a seventeen-year-old boy, an orphan, whose upbringing was left to his devoted old grandmother. Their home, an humble but comfortable one, was located in the outskirts of the then young metropolis of the South, which at that time was recovering from the ravaging effects of the Civil War and Sherman's march to the sea.

The boy had nothing to complain of insofar as the comforts of life were concerned. His home life was congenial and he was the pride of his good old grandmother. His companions were boys and girls of his own age who had grown up in the same community, who were punctual at school and Sunday school and who had never dreamed of the "sheik" or "flapper." He was of a type that drew to himself the love and friendship of all who knew him.

But the circus came to town. Old John Robinson's circus. This boy had never seen a circus. He had been looking forward with joy and happiness for several days to this great event. He would see his first circus. So he left home and went to see the great parade. He stood with the crowd and watched and listened as the aggregation of wonders passed, the band, the beautiful horses mounted by men and women clothed in brilliant costumes, the wild inhabitants of the jungle on foot and in cages. The boy was awe-stricken and delighted and he stood and witnessed for the first time the long parade of a great show. And then—

He followed the parade to the show grounds. He bought his ticket and entered the "big top." What he saw there has been seen since by hundreds of thousands of others. But after the performance was over and the crowd had left the show grounds, he forgot home, friends and his grandmother and sought the manager of the show. Being an exceptionally bright boy, active, intelligent and handsome, the manager gave him a job.

The boy remained with the circus for five years. He traveled from town to town, from city to city and from State to State. During all that time his services were recognized and he was rapidly promoted until he held a prominent clerical position.

When the show season closed, old John Robinson always made for Cincinnati where he kept the show in winter quarters. One cold winter night the young man was seated in his room at one of the hotels in Cincinnati, and had just finished his last reports for the season, and all at once he thought of home and grandmother. He must go and see that dear old woman who had always been so good and who loved him so much. He packed his suitcase and hastened to catch a train for Atlanta, his old home.

Atlanta was not the city then that it is now—no electric lights, no electric trolley lines nor skyscrapers that you see there today—for at that time she was just rising from the ashes of a desperate struggle. There were gas lights on the streets, a few in the homes, while many of the homes still used the old kerosene lamps.

When the boy arrived in Atlanta it was raining and the city looked dark, dreary and dismal and he had a long distance to walk. It was midnight. When finally he reached that part of the city which he once called home, he saw in the distance a light shining in the hallway of the house. Approaching slowly he recognized his old home. The door was open and the light was shining. Opening the gate, he walked up to the house and knocked. He knocked again, and then down the hall a door opened and the sweet old face of his grandmother peeped out.

"Grandmother!"  
"My boy!"  
And they were soon clasped in each other's arms. The boy asked: "Why

was the door left open and why did you leave the light burning?"

"My darling boy," his grandmother replied. "That door has been kept wide open and the light has been burning in this hall every night since you left home for I knew you would come back."

Young man, the light is still burning, the door is wide open and your Savior is still waiting to clasp you to His arms. Will you come?"

**A TOWN WITH A FUTURE**

Many towns have been started with their future far from being assured, and they have died under adverse conditions, with a great loss in property and wealth to their citizens.

Merkel is a town with an assured future. It has not one, but three great factors of commerce which make its future secure, and will in time yield "it boundless wealth. These three are oil, cotton and livestock. No community so circumstanced can fail to prosper.

**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

**IDEAL CHRISTMAS GIFT**

Corona Four, the standard Portable \$60.00 cash or \$65.00 terms, \$10.00 down and \$5.00 a month. Mail orders promptly filled. Write Abilene Typewriter Exchange, Abilene, Texas. 17t2p

**BLEEDING SORE GUMS:** Even after pyorrhea has affected your stomach, kidneys and your general health, causing rheumatism. Leto's Pyorrhea Remedy, used as directed can save you. Druggists return money if it fail.

HAMM DRUG CO.

Your name imprinted on Christmas cards adds individuality.

We wonder what the exact age of the alleged "flapper bandit," Miss Rebecca Bradley, who last Saturday held up the Farmers' National Bank at Buda and escaped the clutches of the law for several hours, really is. Several of the daily papers are using the ages from 17 to 22 years, but we are of the opinion that if she were a daughter of ours, whether 17 or 50 years, we would adhere to the old family discipline of "hickory tea," substituting a razor strap for said tea, and see if the pretty miss could not be taught there was such a thing as a family's honor to uphold rather than disgraceful "publicity" which doubtless the alleged "flapper bandit" craved.

**The GIFT  
Exquisite!**

THINGS of beauty and a joy forever—silken undergarments and negligees are the most truly acceptable of all feminine gifts. Teddies, nightgowns, pajamas, slips, step-ins and bloomers, in all shades.



**PICCADILLY STYLE SHOP**  
Across Street From Post Office

**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**



**Special Gift in Values**  
**RADIOS**

**Give Joy to the Family!**

The Radio is an everlasting gift—the best entertainment of the country at your command at all times. We carry all the Standard makes of reliable Receiving Sets and Accessories at reasonable prices.

The Crosley 5-50-A, five-tube set, tuned Radio frequency combined with regeneration, making one of the most powerful five-tube sets on the market. Prices including Radiotrons, loud speaker, B batteries, antenna wire, 100 amp storage battery and all necessary accessories complete **\$100.00**

Other standard makes and equipment in proportion.  
Radiolas, Crosley, Arborphone  
Eveready Batteries, B Eliminators, Storage Batteries, Cunningham Tubes. Everything for the Radio.

**WEST COMPANY**  
Make this a Radio Christmas

**LETTERS RECEIVED FOR SANTA CLAUS**

Dear Santa:  
Please bring me an airplane, a little car, a steam shovel and some fruit and candy. I am being a nice boy.  
Junior.

Dear Santa Claus:  
I want you to bring me a baby doll, trunk, umbrella, baby buggy, candy, nuts, and fruits.  
Annie Mae Burns, Rt. 4.

Dear Santa Claus:  
I want you to bring me a little car, horn, and some crayons, ball, candy, nuts, fruits and anything else you can spare me.  
Little J. T. Burns, Rt. 4.

Dear Santa Claus:  
I will tell you what I want. I want a cap pistol and 5 boxes of caps. My brother wants a touring car and 5 boxes of caps, he has the pistol.  
Yours truly,  
Oscar Roy Adcock and Wayland Roy Adcock.

Dear Santa Claus:  
I am a little boy, 8 years of age. I want a bicycle if you have one for me, if not, anything that you have for me would be alright. I would like an air gun. Don't forget apples, oranges, candy and nuts.  
Zerk Robertson.

Dear Santa Claus:  
Will you please bring me a train that goes round on a track and passes a depot and a truck and some blocks to build things with and a dog and some caps for my pistol.  
Your little friend,  
Elmo Burfeind.

P. S. Bring Jop what ever she wants you to.

Dear Santa Claus:  
Please bring me a baby doll, and a pair of house shoes, some nuts and fruits, and anything else you can spare a little girl like me.  
Mary Helen Mashburn.

Dear Santa Claus:  
I am a little girl, 6 years old. I love you dearly. Please bring me a doll, a doll bed and a little dresser, fruits, nuts, and candy. Thanking you in advance, I am.  
Lola Foster.

Dearest Santa:  
As it is almost Christmas, we are writing to you, asking you not to forget us. We are two small boys, eight and six years of age. We are not asking you for much as we know that you have so many little boys and girls to visit. We only ask for a tool chest, candy, fruits, and nuts. Thanking you very much.  
Eldon and Othell Reeves.

Dear Santa Claus:  
As it is about Christmas I thought I would write you to tell you what I want for Christmas. I want a baby doll with a little cap and dress to match and little white slippers and socks. I want a ring with a red set in it. Of course I want candy and apples and oranges. Santa Claus I have a little baby sister, 21 months old, please bring her some toys. I am 9 years old. I live in the country.  
Yours truly,  
Fay Pinckley.

Dear Santa Claus:  
I have been a good little girl for the last few days, and I am expecting you to come to visit me this year. Please bring me a set of little dishes, a baby doll and a doll buggy. I wish you would also fill my stockings with candy, fruits and nuts. I love you lots and lots.  
Geraldne Sloan.

To Dear Old Santa Claus:  
Dear Santa: I am a little boy ten years old. Have been a pretty good boy and Santa I want you to please bring me a knife, a watch and a new neck tie, and don't forget my two sisters. Golden wants a little doll buggy and Sifter, our little baby sister wants a little doll too, yes and Santa we want some oranges, apples, nuts and candy and anything else you can bring us, and dear Santa don't forget all dear little children every where, especially the little orphan children. I will be a good boy and go to bed early. Lots of love to Dear old Santa.  
Thomas King, Rt. 2.

To My Dear Old Santa:  
Dear Santa: Please bring me a little broom and a piano and my sister, Kathleen wants a sleepy doll, and a broom. My little brother, M. J. wants a wagon with a horse hooked to it and a big horn, so please don't forget to visit us, Santa.  
From Sarahlee, Kathleen and M. J. Lucas.

Dear Santa Claus:  
Please bring me a blackboard with crayons, house shoes, suit case for dolly, and some dishes and a winding toy. Santa Claus, I thank you.  
Your loving little girl,  
Mary Joe Garland.

Dear Santa:  
I am a little country boy just eight years old. I want you to bring me a air gun and a little car. Would be so much helped with fruits of all kinds. I help my mother and father work all the time. I am very crazy for Christmas to come. Hoping all little girls and boys a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.  
Master W. M. Lawson, Rt. 3.  
P. S. I will please you with cake, pies and all good things to eat.

Dear Santa Claus:  
I am writing to you to see if you have forgotten about me, I guess you have. Santa please bring me a football, a banjo, toy car, a saxophone, a typewriter, three boxes of air rifle shot and plenty of candy, apples, oranges, and all kinds of nuts. I go to Stith school and am thirteen years old and in the sixth grade, so please come to see me.  
Your friend,  
Sam Burns, Rt. 4.

Dear Santa Claus:  
I want you to bring me a doll and buggy, a bed and a chair and some apples, oranges, candy and nuts of all kinds. Please bring me a pair of skates, and bring me a pair of scissors and a set of aluminum dishes.  
Good by old Santa,  
Bessie Stout.

Dear Santa Claus:  
Please bring me a baby doll and some A. B. C. blocks and a little cedar chest for my doll, clothes, also some fruit, candy and nuts. I will be a good little girl.  
Your little friend,  
Comora Hughes.

Dear Santa:  
How are you? I want you to please bring me a baby doll and a baby buggy. I will thank you very much and a little cedar chest for my doll and a ring Santa, and a sack of fruit and candies. I will try to be a good little girl. I will thank you very much, dear Santa.  
Your little friend,  
Laverne Hughes.

Dear Santa Claus:  
Please bring me a coaster wagon and a pair of skates and some nuts and candy and if you won't mind it I would like to have some fruit.  
Your little friend,  
William Hughes.

Dear Santa Claus:  
I am a little boy, 5 years old. I have been a good boy and have been picking cotton. Dear Old Santa I want you to bring me a watch, nuts and some candy. I will thank you very much.  
Your little friend,  
Ray Tarpley, Rt. 1.  
P. S. We have a large chimney for you to come down. We will sure put the fire out.

Dear Santa Claus:  
I am a little girl, 3 years old. I want a baby doll and buggy, some dishes and apples, oranges, candy, and nuts.  
Your little friend,  
Peggy Doris Robertson.

Dear Santa Claus:  
I am a little girl, 10 years old. I want a baby doll, and buggy, some apples, oranges, candy, nuts and anything else you can bring me and don't forget the other little girls and boys.  
Evelyn Robertson.

Try a Classified Ad in The Mail.



**FOR THE BEST CHRISTMAS DINNER**

We have all the "trimmings" to go with the holiday turkey—  
**FRUITS, CANDIES, NUTS**

We have all the necessary ingredients for **THE FRUIT CAKE**

And a general line of Staple Groceries.  
**We Deliver.**

**McDonald & Collum**

Kent Street Phone 259.

Dear Santa Claus:  
I am a little boy 3 years old. My mother says I have been a very good boy this year. I didn't pick any cotton but I brought in wood and chips for mother to cook with. I want you to bring me nuts, candies, fruits and a rubber ball with A. B. C.'s on it. Oh yes, dear Santa will you please bring me a go-bike. Thank you.  
Your little friend,  
Joe Tarpley, Rt. 1.

**WHY TAKE A CHANCE?**

Six persons were killed on a grade crossing at Wellborn, Fla., Wednesday—a young woman, her mother, her mother-in-law and her two little daughters, aged six and three years respectively. The sixth member of the party was a friend, the wife of the Wellborn postmaster.

Somebody was careless. Somebody "took a chance." The grade crossing was a warning to be cautious—to obey the command painted on a sign to "Stop, look and listen." That would have assured safety for the party of six in the automobile.

But it was easier to take a chance. It meant the saving of a quarter of a minute. It meant avoiding the necessity of stopping and starting. And it meant—death!

The thousands of grade-crossing horrors that occur annually in the public of indifference that is inexorable, of carelessness that is criminal. An automobile has no chance when it disputes a crossing with a flying train weighing hundreds of tons. It will be hurled from the track a mass of tangled wreckage, and only as the result of a miracle can any of its occupants escape death or serious injury.

Why gamble with fate at the grade crossing?  
Why dare death for the sake of ten or fifteen seconds saved, even if the journey is important?

Why take it for granted that you, Mr., or Mrs. or Miss Car Driver, are luckier than thousands who have died at grade crossings.

Gamble if you will, but don't gamble with human lives. When you reach a grade crossing, be sure you can get across before you start across.

be at Noodle Dome. Upon going to Noodle Dome he interviewed deputy Adams, who informed him that Mr. Armistead was not his prisoner, but was placed in the Noodle Dome calaboose by Mr. Brown. Mr. Russell was unable to secure his uncle's release.

**Christmas Gifts at a small cost that are practical.—Brown Dry Goods Co.**

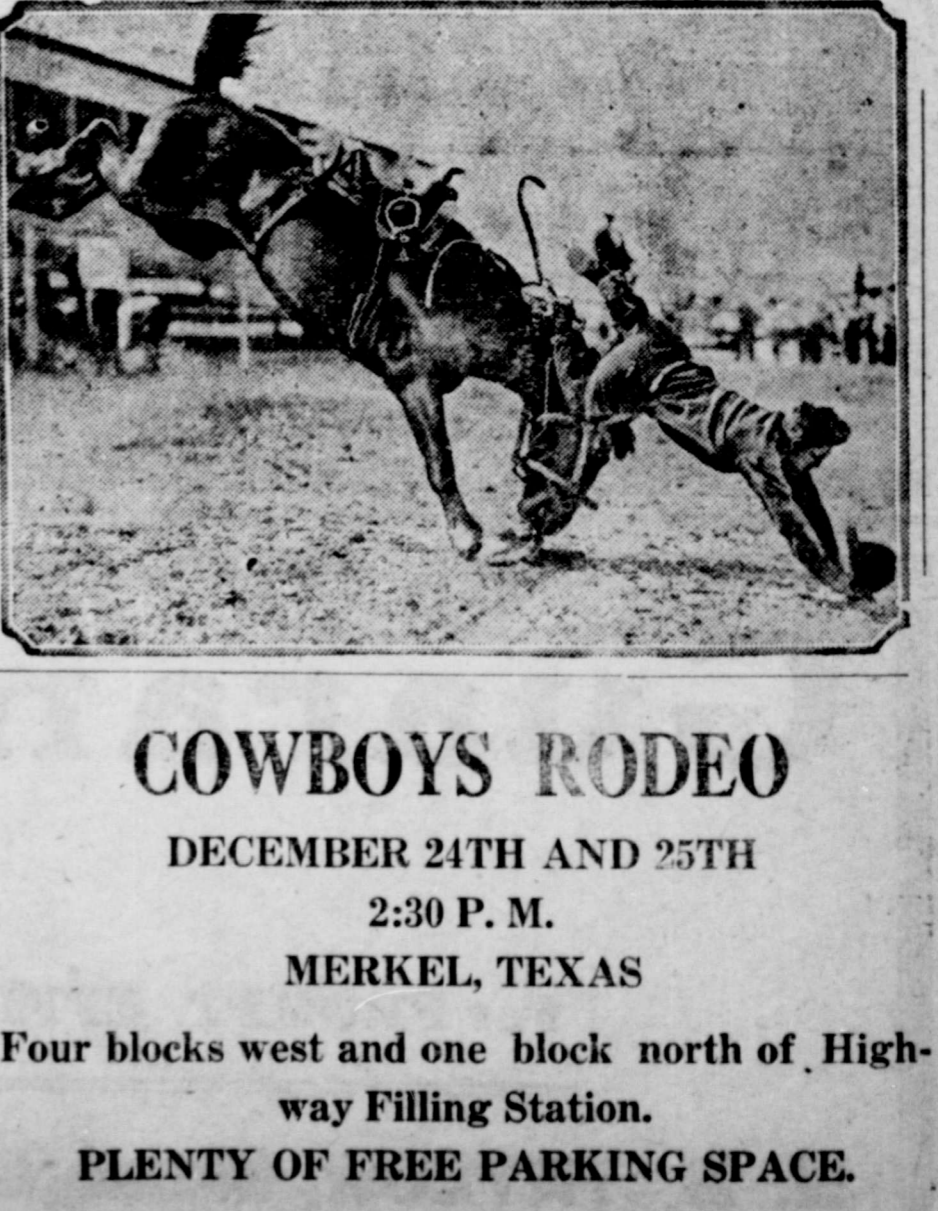
**Closing Out Sale**

**AT CARSON CASH & CARRY GROCERY**

Commencing Tuesday, Dec. 21  
Closing Friday, December 31

**THIS IS THE TIME FOR YOU TO BUY YOUR GROCERIES AT A BIG SAVING.**

**CARSON & SON**



**COWBOYS RODEO**

DECEMBER 24TH AND 25TH  
2:30 P. M.  
MERKEL, TEXAS

Four blocks west and one block north of Highway Filling Station.  
**PLENTY OF FREE PARKING SPACE.**



**Friendships Most Perfect Gift—  
Your Photograph**  
Make the appointment now, and avoid  
disappointment.  
**Roddens Studio, Merkel, Texas.**

**NOTICE BY PUBLICATION TO  
NON-RESIDENT AND UN-  
KNOWN OWNERS**

THE STATE OF TEXAS,  
County of Taylor.  
WHEREAS, THE STATE OF  
TEXAS, Through its County Attor-  
ney, 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. Car-  
penter, Joe Nobles and Mrs. Joe  
Nobles, Cliff Sherman and Mrs.  
Cliff Sherman, whose residences are  
unknown to affiant and after dili-  
gent 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 re-  
cover 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 Def-  
endant by notice in the name of  
THE STATE OF TEXAS, and the  
County of Taylor, directed to all per-  
sons owning or being in any way in-  
terested in the lands therein de-  
scribed delinquent to the State and  
County for taxes, and to be pub-  
lished in a newspaper in said County,  
one time a week for three consecu-  
tive weeks, in the manner and style  
following:—  
THE STATE OF TEXAS AND  
THE COUNTY OF Taylor to Mrs.  
Ada Johnson (widow), H. A. Car-  
penter and Mrs. H. A. Carpenter,  
and Joe Nobles and Mrs. Joe Nobles,  
Cliff Sherman and Mrs. Cliff Sher-  
man 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 per-  
sons owning or having or claiming  
any interest in the following de-  
scribed 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, Col-  
lege 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 concerning said land  
(or lots), and ordering sale and fore-  
closure thereof for said taxes and  
costs of suit.

WITNESS MY HAND AND OF-  
FICIAL SEAL At my office in Abi-  
lene, Texas, this 3rd day of De-  
cember A. D. 1926.

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

**INTERMEDIATE LEAGUE**

Subject: (Christmas): My Gift to  
the King.  
Leader: Weldon Coates.  
Song: "Silent Night, Holy Night."  
Prayer.  
Scripture: Matt. 20:37: Leader.  
The Meaning of Christmas: Milton  
Case.  
True Giving to Others: J. T. Dar-  
sey.  
Christmas Play.  
Jane: Louise Booth.  
Spirit of Christmas: Thelma  
Leach.  
Orphan Girl: Hazel Leslie.  
Orphan Boy: O. B. Boden.  
Newsboy: W. A. Whitley.  
Girl: Ethel Hamilton.  
Chinese Boy: E. L. Turner.  
Song.  
Benediction.

**Intermediate Epworth League**

Subject: My gift to the King.  
Leader: Milton Case.  
Scripture: Matt. 2:1-11; Romans  
12:1-2.  
Song: "Joy to the World."  
Song: "Silent Night."  
The Meaning of Christmas: W. A.  
Whitley.  
True Giving to Others: Louise  
Booth.  
Violin Solo: Lynn McSpaddin.  
Benediction.

Your name imprinted on Christ-  
mas cards adds individuality.

**BABY GIRL PASSES AWAY**

Every one was made sad on last  
Friday morning when the death  
angel entered the home of Mr. and  
Mrs. Howard Tarvin and carried  
away their darling little daughter,  
Charlene.

She was sick only a few days and  
in spite of all that physicians and  
loving friends could do, quietly pass-  
ed away Friday morning about ten  
o'clock. Little Charlene was only  
about two years old and will always  
be remembered by her sweet ways.  
Funeral services were held at the  
Presbyterian Church here with bur-  
ial services immediately afterward  
in the Comper community. The be-  
reaved family have our sympathy in  
this their saddest hour.—A Friend.

Archie Rose and N. A. Dowell re-  
turned Saturday night from a week's  
hunting trip in the Big Bend coun-  
try. Leaving here they drove to  
Marathon and from there into the  
wilds where, about thirty miles from  
Marathon, they killed a four-point,  
blacktail buck deer. Upon being  
questioned as to whose shot laid the  
prairie monarch low, each claimed  
the honor, but finally and fortunately  
before hostilities ensued compromised  
by saying, "we killed it."

**METHODIST CHURCH**

"Orphanage Day."  
Next Sunday is the day set apart  
by the Methodists of Texas to re-  
member our Orphanage with a  
Christmas offering. No more appro-  
priate time than at Christmas could  
be fixed in our calendar to remem-  
ber the helpless, especially depend-  
ent children.

We hope that every member of  
our Sunday school and church will  
bring an offering next Sunday for  
the Orphanage.

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

A glad welcome to every one at  
all our services, especially visitors  
and strangers.—W. R. McCarter.

Try a Classified Ad in The Mail.

**ONE  
MORE  
WEEK  
OF OUR  
PRE-VENTORY  
SALE  
SALE CLOSSES  
DECEMBER 24  
WEST COMPANY  
PHONE 59.**

**ADULT B. Y. P. U.**

Sunday, December 19, 1926.  
Introduction, by leader: Mrs.  
Teaff.  
Faith Taught by a Story: Mrs.  
Brown.  
Repentance and Faith: Mr. Child-  
ress.  
Scripture Stresses Faith: Mrs.  
Hartley.  
The Great Faith Chapter: Mrs.  
Casseaux.  
The kind of Faith that Saves: Rev.  
Parrack.

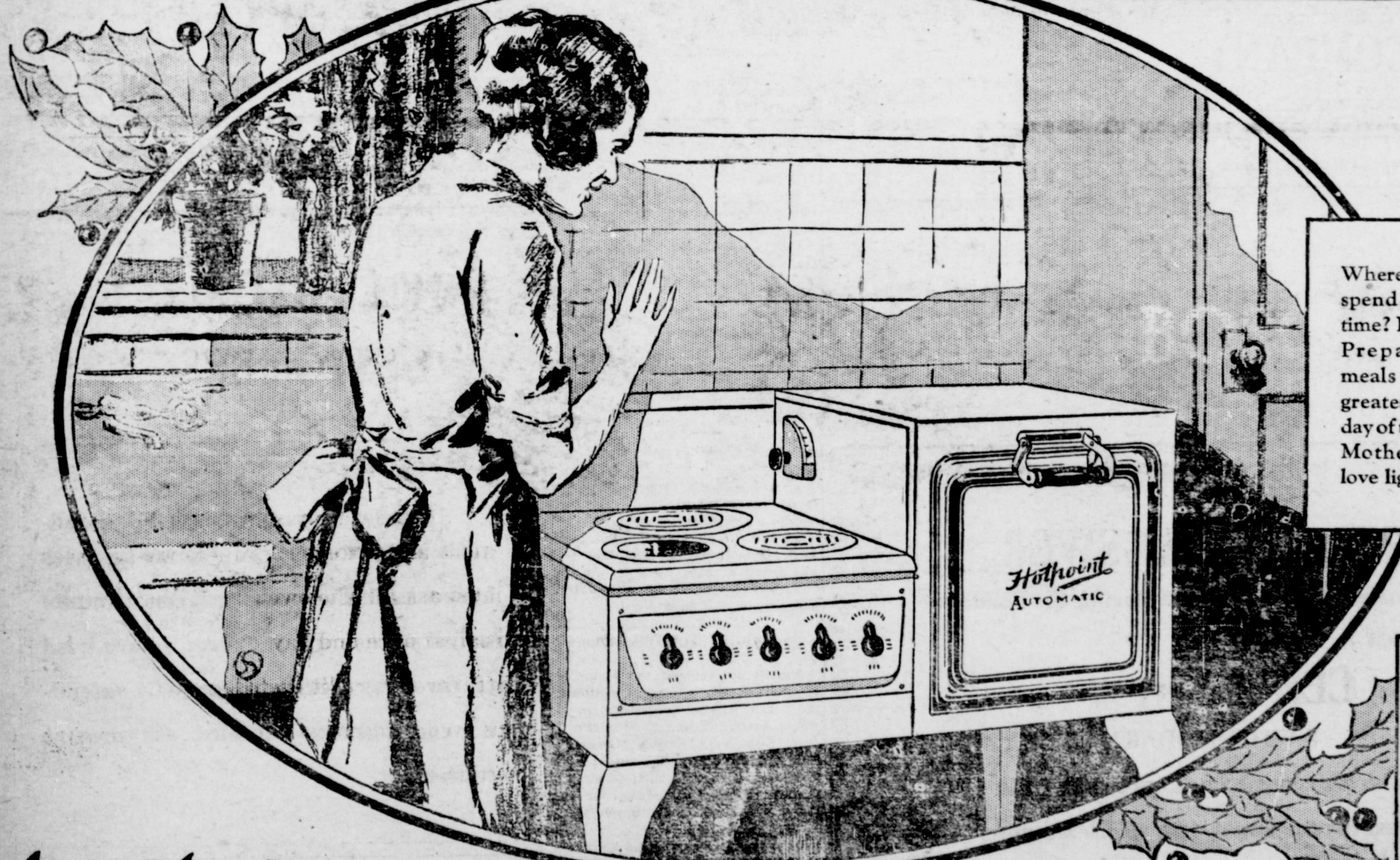
"Dad," the supreme grand facto-  
rum of our job and ad department,  
now beams benignly upon all and  
sundry. We look for him to sprout  
wings and a halo by about the 24th.

Unsolved mystery for local Sher-  
locks to try their talent on: Was  
the Trent editor arrested, and if so,  
by whom, and if not, why not, also  
why?

Christmas Gifts at a small  
cost that are practical.—Brown  
Dry Goods Co.

Try a Classified Ad in The Mail.

*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 re-  
member this Christ-  
mas and your thought-  
fulness every day for  
many years to come.  
This greatest of all  
gifts has been made  
the easiest of all for  
you to give.

**An Automatic  
Hotpoint Electric Range**

## AUTO ACCESSORIES MAKE WELCOME GIFTS



This store is headquarters for practical Gifts for motorists. Look over this list of quality items and make your selection early. Complete Stock. Fair prices.

**EVERYTHING TO KEEP THE CAR  
WARM AND WORKING WELL**  
Everything To Keep the Passengers—

### COMFORTABLE

- |                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Delco Ford Ignition   | Rim Spreaders   |
| Stromberg Carburetors | Horns           |
| Fox Lock Wheel        | Jacks           |
| Windshield Wipers     | Locking Caps    |
| Auto Heaters          | Boyce Motometer |
| Hub Cap Sets          | Clocks          |
| Snap-On Wrenches      | Shift Knobs     |
| Town Plates           | Bumpers         |
| Pedal Pants           | Foot Feeds      |
| Step Plates           |                 |
| Heaters               |                 |

## WEST COMPANY

THE MARK THE HOUSE FOR THE MARK  
**DEPENDABLE AUTO NECESSITIES**

#### Editor States Real Problem

"Prevention of automobile accidents is pressing for solution, but compulsory accident insurance is not the answer," says the Silverton, Oregon, Tribune.

"Those who are proposing that careful drivers shall be punished for the misdeeds of the reckless, do not take into account that compulsion to insure will not be a preventive, but

rather will tend to increase the accidents.

"It would reduce the incentive to careful operation, which results from the present personal liability and which is now an important factor in holding insurance rates to a reasonable level.

"Prevention should never be subordinated to indemnity, for then the real purpose to be accomplished is swallowed up in the means used."

## TEXAS INDUSTRIAL REVIEW

Estelline—Fort Worth & Denver City Railway Company to build branch railroad from Estelline to Plainview.

Nacogdoches—Bids opened, for constructing \$30,000 high school auditorium-gymnasium.

Canadian—H. N. Ramp shipped two carloads cattle to Kansas City market recently.

Big Spring—First Street being paved.

1500 carloads Thanksgiving turkeys shipped out of Texas, this year. Corpus Christi—Modern cotton compress, warehouse and loading wharf under construction.

Eagle Pass—Fire department to purchase chemical truck.

Victoria—Plans preparing, for new Junior College building.

Grand Prairie—New street lights installed in South Grand Prairie.

Huntsville—Several streets being paved.

Wheeler—Phelps Gasoline Company's extraction plant completed and in operation.

Cisco—Three rural mail routes to be extended.

Bremont—Bremont Hotel being extensively improved.

Miles—J. A. Hancock Grocery Store being remodeled.

Weimar—Pecan crop in this section reported best in 20 years.

Edna—Jackson County tomato growers organize, as Jackson County Truck Growers Association.

Dalhart—Dalhart Ice & Electric Company to spend \$250,000 on new electric light plant and other improvements.

Dalhart—Building construction active.

Denison—New plant of "Denison Herald" opened November 27.

Alvin—New fig preserving plant to be established in Alvin.

Falfurrias—Actual work starts, on construction of new high school.

Alpine—Contract let, for erection of 7 additional cottages to house Sul Ross College students.

Falfurrias—Heavy citrus fruit shipments being made from here.

Happy—Water system to be installed.

Happy—First State Bank now located in new quarters.

Austin—Shrimp production along Gulf coast will exceed that of other years by several thousand pounds.

Eastland—Bids opened, for erection of new high school building.

Gulf Production Company's No. 9 Weed oil well at Spindletop completed, flowing 4,000 barrels.

Jacksboro—Sinclair Oil & Gas Co., will develop its holding in Preston field.

Gorman—Additional pump installed at local water works.

Olden—Virgin Hamilton will rebuild filling station recently destroyed by fire.

Sanderson—Bids asked, for constructing concrete dip across Lozier Canyon.

Big Spring—Establishment and operation of creamery and cold storage plant here, planned by Howard Co., farmers.

Big Spring—Erection of new hotel proposed.

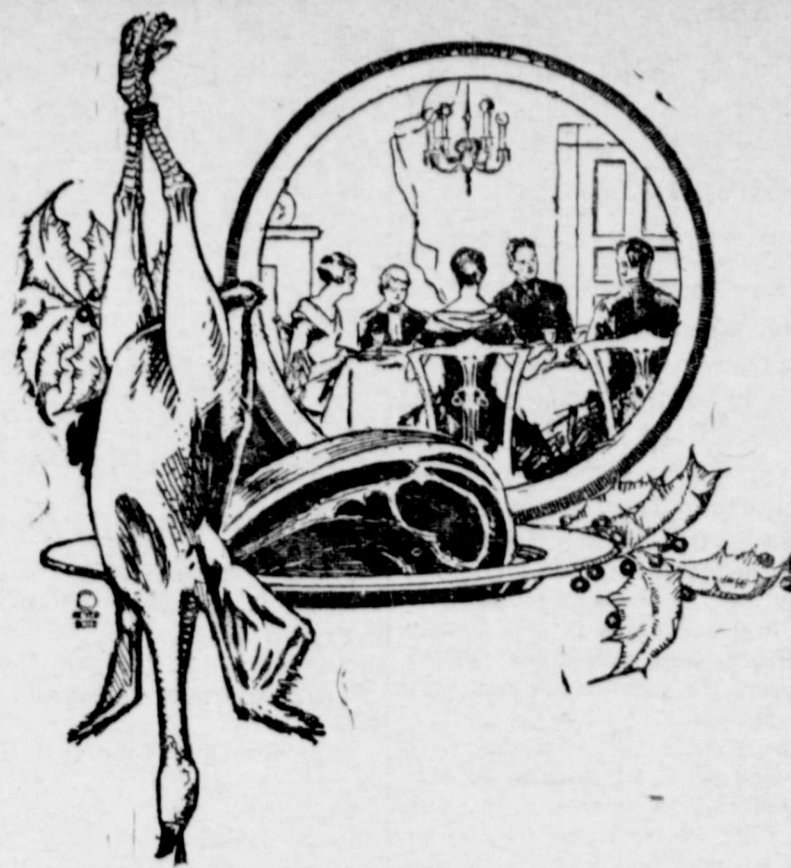
Odessa—Post office receipts doubled within last year.

Big Spring—J. M. Radford to erect new business building here.

Miles—White way lighting system installed.

Marathon—Progress being made, on construction of new Gage Hotel.

Sierra—Heavy cattle shipments



FOR YOUR BENEFIT AND TO REDUCE STOCK WE ARE OFFERING YOU SOME GOOD PRICES ON THE FOLLOWING ARTICLES FOR ONE WEEK BEGINNING DECEMBER 17 TO 25.

3 lb. can Breakfast Delight Coffee	\$1.45
3 lb. can All Gold Coffee	\$1.45
1 lb. can All Gold Coffee	\$.50
3 lb. can Grandad Coffee— cup and saucer in each can	\$1.30
4 lb can Shortening, your choice	\$.55
5 lb. can Calumet Baking Powder	\$1.15
48 lb. sack Smith's Best Extra High Patent Flour	\$2.10
10 lb. pail Penick Golden Syrup	\$.60
10 lb. pail White Label Georgia Cane Syrup	\$1.00
10 lb pail "Nigger in De Cane Patch" Syrup	\$1.00

Many other bargains too numerous to mention.

WITH EVERY \$10.00 GROCERY ORDER WE WILL GIVE AWAY WHILE THEY LAST ONE QUART OF STRAINED HONEY.

FARMERS WE HAVE MICHIGAN AND KANSAS MEAT SALT

Don't forget our Market. Here you get the choicest cuts of Meat, sweet and tender. A good roast of Pork or Beef fixed the way you like it. Give us your order for Christmas turkeys now.

Don't forget the Oysters for your dressing.

Your patronage solicited and appreciated. We strive to please. We are here to stay.

YOURS FOR QUALITY, COURTESY, AND CLEANLINESS.

PHONE 249—WE DELIVER.

PHONE 249.

## QUALITY MARKET & GROCERY

O. F. WEIDENBACH, Proprietor

being made from this town.

Victoria—W. C. Schmidt to open new sheet metal plant, to Victoria.

Cisco—Tomlin-Young Drug Store being rebuilt.

Wheeler—55,000 acre tract, west of here, to be developed as game reserve.

Brown County pecan crop excellent.

Albany—First Street to be paved. San Antonio—\$5,600,000 municipal improvement project to be started soon.

Dallas—\$1,450,000 being spent, relaying tracks and extending car lines of Dallas Railway & Terminal Company.

How 10,000 pecan trees along Texas streams, with a good crop.

Beaumont—Magnolia Petroleum pending \$5,000,000, to increase refinery capacity.

Amarillo—Interstate Commerce Commission authorizes three new rail lines, 229 miles, into Texas Panhandle.

Amarillo—With 43 new producers in one week, oil production in Panhandle is 160,000 barrels daily.

Eagle Lake—Rycade Oil well, Maverick County, flows 5,000,000 feet gas a day, at 5551 feet.

Amarillo—Humble Oil may build pipe line to Comine, 315 miles.

#### Something To Think About

Ninety per cent of the farm life of Our Country is existing substantially as it existed 100 years ago, declares Arthur Williams, Vice President, New York Edison Company. This condition, he says, can be remedied only through complete electrification of rural highways, for the purpose of bringing the power plant to the farms.

He suggests that, just as highways are provided for vehicles by the collective effort of all who would be benefited, so highways might be provided for electricity on the same basis. "It is an economic, not a political question," he says.

He estimates that complete electrification of farms would increase their value more than 10 per cent, which would more than offset the cost of building the electrical highways, in his opinion.

#### Caution

Mrs. Saylor—Henry, are you trying to keep something from me?

Mr. Saylor—No, dear, just from the neighbors.

"What would this nation be without the telephone? We enjoy its maximum development here. The time-saving resulting from its use is so great that it cannot be figured. It is one of the chief reasons why the United States, one of the largest nations in territory, but with only 110,000,000 population, can show such record-breaking achievements and development in all section—there is no isolation.

The real American, that is to say, the farmer, rancher, fisherman, miner, work side by side with those other real Americans, the bankers, the professional men, the diligent mechanics and the clerical forces throughout this great nation.

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

## 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

## HERE IS YOUR ANSWER

—As to how you may look your best during the holidays  
LET US DO YOUR—

### -CLEANING-

—WITH MODERN EQUIPMENT

Your garments will come back promptly with NO ODORS—except the sweet odor of Cleanliness.

We Call for and Deliver.

PHONE NO. 3.

## THE MODERN DRY CLEANERS AND TAILORS

Across Street from Postoffice

## Keep Eliminative System Active

Good Health Requires Good Elimination

ONE can't feel well when there is a retention of poisonous waste in the blood. This is called a toxic condition, and is apt to make one tired, dull and languid. Other symptoms are sometimes toxic backaches and headaches. That the kidneys are not functioning properly is often shown by scanty or burning passage of secretions. Many people have learned the value of **Doan's Pills**, a stimulant diuretic, when the kidneys seem functionally inactive. Everywhere one finds enthusiastic Doan's users. Ask your neighbor!

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

## 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

Try a Classified Ad in The Mail.

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

### Making It Easy

Mrs. Buy-on-time—How much is this hat?  
Clerk—It's \$10 cash.  
Mrs. B.—And how much by installments?  
Clerk—It is \$15—\$10 down and \$1 a week for five weeks.

## Jones County First In West Texas Cotton

A total of 4,027,880 bales of cotton had been ginned in Texas prior to November 14, according to figures given out by the Department of Commerce.

Neuses county in South Texas still leads, Hidalgo still retains second place. A few of the leading cotton producing counties of the state are reported as follows:

Neuces	101,506
Hidalgo	89,494
Williamson	89,413
Ellis	88,611
McLennan	72,612
San Patricio	60,927

Jones County leads all the counties of West Texas and takes her place as the seventh in the entire State. Some of the leading West Texas counties are reported as follows:

Jones	60,959
Runnels	50,343
Taylor	42,684
Coleman	38,270
Fisher	31,900
Haskell	30,703
Wilbarger	30,609
Mitchell	25,714
Scurry	23,906

—Anson Enterprise.

## Football Star Cousin Of Local Man

We reprint below extracts from report appearing in the Wichita Falls Record-News of a game between Wichita Falls high school team known as the Coyotes and the Quanah High school team, the Indians. The Mitchell mentioned in the dispatch is a cousin of Vinson Ervin, special correspondent for the Merkel

Mail, and plays half-back on the Wichita Falls team. Mitchell has consistently starred for his team in all its contests in which he has taken part:

"Wichita Falls high school's Coyotes found the Quanah Indians a much more efficient lot than they had expected to meet in their trek up the Denver, and found themselves frequently smothered at vital moments, ending the game with a score of 24-0.

"Out of the Coyote backfield stood out one brilliant luminary who answers to the name of Mitchell, this lad having the punch to put it over in touch more than one-quarter, four touchdowns.

"After receiving Quanah's kickoff the Pack started like the proverbial house afire, Francis, Mitchell and Allred smashing through for four successive first downs.

"Near the end of the first quarter Mitchell executed a beautiful 30-yard run around Quanah's right end for the first touchdown.

"Opening the second period, Mitchell intercepted a pass from Cox. After a series of plunges by Francis and eight-yard pass. Allred to Francis, Mitchell got loose again, outdistancing all tacklers for another 28-yard run around the Indian right end to score.

"Mitchell late in the second quarter dashed half the length of the field and then fought his way over the goal, stiff-arming two Quanah tacklers and one of his men out of the way to get through."

### A Warm Essay

In a little country school not far from Princeton literary exercises are regularly indulged in every Friday afternoon during the term. A twelve-year-old boy read an original essay on "The Newspaper." The latter day youthful Solomon treats his subject thusly:

"Newspapers are sheets of paper on which stuff is read in printed. The men look over the paper to see if their names is in it and the women use it to put on shelves and came. I don't know how newspapers came into the world. I don't think God does. The Bible says nothing about editors and I never heard of one being in heaven. I guess the editor is the missing link them fellers talk about. The first editor I ever heard of was the feller who wrote up the flood. He has been here ever since.

"Some editors belong to the church and some try to raise whiskers. All of them raise hell in their neighborhood and all of them are liars. At least all I know is and I only know one. Editors never die. At least I never saw a dead one. Sometimes the paper dies and then people feel glad but some never went to school because editors never got licked. Our paper is a mighty poor one but we take it so ma can use it on our pantry shelves. Our editor don't amount to much, but paw says he had a poor chance when he was a boy. He goes without underclothes in winter, wears no socks and has a wife to support him. Paw hasn't paid his subscription in five years and don't intend to."—Princeton Record.

## What U. S. Farm Folks Eat; Some Interesting Figures

Various interesting conclusions have been drawn from a recent study of food consumption by farm families, made by the Bureau of Home Economics of the United States Department of Agriculture. This study was part of a standard of living study for which figures were collected from 1,331 families in four States: Kansas, Ohio, Missouri and Kentucky.

Kentucky and Missouri led in the consumption of pork, bacon, lard, molasses and cornmeal—foods which usually play an important part in the Southern diet. Beef, potatoes, dried fruits, beans and peas were used in large quantities on the farms in Kansas and Ohio. Milk, cream, eggs and poultry were consumed in large quantities in Missouri and Kansas. Ohio and Missouri led in the consumption of purchased bread, but when bread, is expressed as equivalent flour, the wheat consumed in the four states was similar. Fresh vegetables and fruits were consumed in larger quantities in Missouri and Ohio than in Kansas and Kentucky. On the whole, the diet of the farm families studied was nourishing and abundant. The chief lack was in the proportion of fruits and vegetables to other important foods.

Foods furnished by the farm were valued at a fair price, somewhat between what would have been received had they been paid and what would have been paid had they been purchased locally. On this basis it was found that 40 per cent of the average value of all the farm family's living was represented by food, one-third of which was purchased. The total cost for food per man per year varied in the different states. It averaged \$1.47 per adult male unit in the states studied. This means the cost of the food consumed by the average moderately active man. The proportions spent for the various food groups are: 23 per cent for meat, eggs and cheese; 19 per cent for milk and cream; 12 per cent for fatty foods; 19 per cent for cereals; and 12 per cent for other foods. The largest proportion of purchased food was in Ohio, 39 per cent. In Kansas it was 36 per cent, in Kentucky 29, and in Missouri 27 per cent. Food furnished by the farm thus amounted to 60 or 65 per cent of all food consumed.—Dallas News.

### MAKING TWO OF YOURSELF

You have heard people say, "I can't make two of myself." Wrong. Anyone who uses newspaper space for advertising can make as many of himself as there are readers of the papers in which he advertises. He reaches all classes of people. He reaches people he never heard of, and who probably never heard of him or his business until they saw his advertisements.

Advertising is now in such general use that the buying public has come to depend largely upon it for guidance in buying; and they can have no more dependable guide than truthful advertising. Everyone who reads advertisements and nearly everyone does is influenced consciously or unconsciously, in his buying by them. The business men who advertise truthfully, intelligently and constantly will secure the business of the majority of the people and keep it. Because he shows faith in his goods and his business by truthfully advertising a business man can assure his success; it is as inevitable as the constant dripping of water will wear away the hardest stone.

## County Superintendent Warns Against Abuse Of State Books

M. A. Williams, county superintendent, has issued a warning to school trustees and patrons, that in many instances free textbooks furnished by the state are not receiving the proper care required by law. A number of letters have been mailed by Mr. Williams, dealing with the question, and pointing out the importance of complying with state regulations.

According to Mr. Williams, the custodian, who is selected by the trustees of the respective schools, is required to sign a bond when not in the care of the students. Mr. Williams stated that several custodians have moved away without resigning or notifying the school trustees.

He said that in visits to the schools he found that books were not only left unlocked, but were left scattered over the rooms.

Try a Classified Ad in The Mail.

## Notice To The 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

### A Good Seller

A party of traveling men, seated in the lobby of the hotel, were bragging about the splendid firms they worked for, each one trying to outdo the other. They told how rich, how progressive, how big and how fine were their respective companies, how many people they employed, etc.

"No house in this country, I am

proud to say, has more men and women pushing its line of goods than mine," proudly remarked one in the corner, who had not yet been heard from.

"What do you sell?"

"Baby carriages," he replied.

Melbourne.—Missouri Shore voted in an election held at Hobart on his 104th birthday.

## 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

## EVERYBODY'S 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 Goodies 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

Cakes

Candies

## THE QUALITY BAKERY

Fruit Cakes ready baked and wrapped in 1 lb. and 5 lb packages.

Fresh Christmas Candies will be made this week, 30c lb.

# HOT POINT RANGE DEMONSTRATION

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16TH AND 17TH.

## WEST TEXAS UTILITIES COMPANY

### Parents Of Mrs. M. C. Graham Celebrate 50th Wedding Anniversary

Sunday at the home of their daughter, Mrs. M. C. Graham of Merkel, Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Johnson were the honorees at a celebration of the golden anniversary of their wedding, which was solemnized December 10, 1876, in Fannin County, Texas. Both are natives of Georgia. Mrs. Johnson was Miss Mattie Trout. Eleven children were born to their union, ten of whom are living. They are besides Mrs. Graham, Mrs. J. E. Newby, Mrs. John Myers, J. M. Johnson, all of Sweetwater; Cleve and Thos. Johnson of Cisco; E. G. and E. J. Johnson of Mineral Wells; Wm. Johnson of Cross Plains, and Mrs. John Matlock of Fort Gibson, Oklahoma. All with the exception of Mrs. Matlock, were present at the celebration.

The gathering was also in the nature of a family reunion, there being present sixty-three members of the family, including five great grandchildren.

The occasion was one of great pleasure to the participants and one that will long remain fresh and pleasant in their memories.

Guests were Rev. W. R. McCarter, pastor of the Methodist Church here, and wife. Mrs. Williams of Merkel. Rev. McNeal and wife of Sweetwater. S. J. Stapleton and family of Trent. C. W. Graham and family of Abilene.

Christmas Gifts at a small cost that are practical.—Brown Dry Goods Co.

### New Ideas In Housebuilding

"One of the questions that will come before the research department of proposed national lumber use extension undertaking," says Wilson Compton, Secretary-Manager of the National Lumber Manufacturers Association, "is that of lumber's contribution to the problem of providing good housing at much lower cost than at present."

"Other building material interests are making studies of reducing construction costs by enlarging the material units. Sample concrete block houses actually have been reduced to about 100 units, instead of 75,000 units that appear in a small brick dwelling house."

"Governor Atterbury of the New York Tenement House Committee, points out that 63 per cent of the cost of a house goes to putting the units together. He considers it possible to build concrete large unit houses of five or six rooms and 160 different pieces in about three days."

Already knocked-down lumber houses have proved themselves practical. In this large unit type of construction, it is pretty safe to predict that lumber can be put up in larger, stronger and fewer units per house, weight considered, than any other type of material. Earthquakes and wind storms have demonstrated the tremendous strength of lumber to resist pressure and vibration. This advantage will become more evident in the unit type of construction, for lumber can be fastened together so that it is almost impossible to shake or pull it apart.

Only seven more shopping days until Christmas. Shop early. Newspaper bargain days are here.

### Take A Lesson From Insurance

There is a growing tendency to cut out waste and inefficiency in manufacturing, production and distribution, and to simplify and standardize every possible operation.

Industries which feel that they cannot standardize or simplify their operations might take a lesson from insurance.

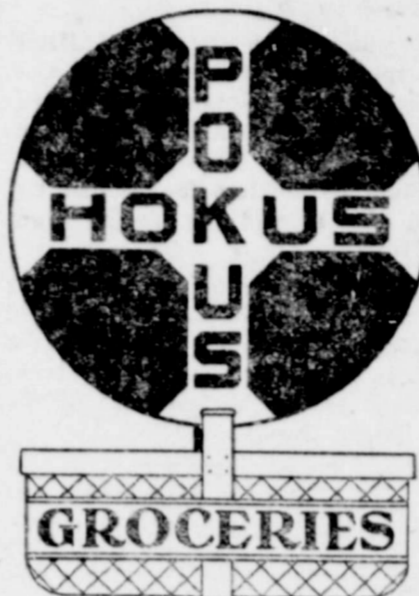
In the 200 lines in the standard fire insurance policy, there are approximately 1920 words—remarkably few considering that upwards of \$140,000,000,000 worth of property is under the protection of stock fire insurance companies alone. When one considers the variety of risks which fire insurance must cover, and considers the number of legal problems involved, it would seem like an impossible job to draw a contract of so few words, which is applicable around the world.

W. E. Mallalieu, General Manager of the National Board of Fire Underwriters, points out that people "do not buy anything when they take out insurance, but enter into a definite contract."

Every person taking out insurance should read his policy. It is doubtful if one person in a hundred goes to this trouble. The fact that there is so little controversy over insurance claims which are not of incendiary origin, speaks volumes for the carefulness and the fairness with which this contract between the insurance company and the insured is drawn.

Only seven more shopping days until Christmas. Shop early.

### Hokus-Pokus Grocery To Open Here Soon



About January 1st or shortly thereafter the Carson Cash and Carry Grocery will be changed to the Hokus-Pokus system, symbol for which appears above. This system is similar to the Piggly-Wiggly and M-System stores.

J. N. Carson, manager, announces that in making the proposed change complete new fixtures will be installed and the new store will start with an entire new stock of groceries. We bespeak for this progressive firm a full share of business.

### Chevrolet Shatters All Records Of 3-Speed Automobiles In Dec.

Again shattering all production records in the history of three-speed automobiles, the Chevrolet Motor Company, this month, closes its greatest year with an output of 728,697 cars—an increase of more than 40 per cent over the previous record year.

The unparalleled public favor which has attached itself to the Chevrolet car has enabled the company to exceed by 209,637 cars its own record of 1925 when 519,060 units were produced.

Under pressure of the most sensational demand the great organization has ever witnessed, factory wheels turned at a record clip throughout the year building a Chevrolet car every 12 seconds of each working day. Daily production averaged 2,450 cars and reached a high monthly level in September when daily output averaged 3,381 units.

Output for the year far exceeds that of the combined total production in the first ten years of Chevrolet production, 1912 to 1921 included.

"Production records, which Chevrolet has been able to establish very consistently are especially gratifying primarily because they reflect the increasing public confidence in the organization and its product," said W. S. Knudsen, president Chevrolet Motor Company. "We thoroughly appreciate this tribute to the Chevrolet car and we shall strive to merit the continued high endorsement, which the motoring public has conferred upon our product," he declared.

Chevrolet established a new monthly output mark in September when 81,158 units were produced. This achievement followed several months of record-breaking production. April May and June with respective production of 71,157; 74,617 and 77,241 each established successive records. July production was restricted somewhat to permit the tooling and other changes necessary to effect several further improvements in Chevrolet models. August production then snapped up to 76,551 units, only 690 fewer cars than were built in June, which stood as Chevrolet's high record month until out-distanced by September.

With production capacity for 1927 greater than ever before, Chevrolet, next month, enters on what promises to be a new record for the world's largest manufacturer of three-speed transmission cars.—From Chevrolet Motor Company, Roy C. Hayes, Publicity Director.

A training school for Federal highway inspectors has been started. Verily this is an age of specialists.

### An Outstanding Industrial Feat

"Probably the most outstanding single industrial accomplishment since the war, has been the reorganization of our American railways," declared Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover, in his annual report.

"It is an interesting commentary upon government operation that private enterprise has been able to operate the railways with far fewer employes, and at the same time load almost 15 per cent more cars than the government administration. In 1920, the last year of government operation, the total number of employes rose to 1,999,000, as compared with 1,783,000 in 1925.

"The result of this great reorganization upon the whole economic fabric of the country has been far-reaching. Rapid dispatch has great-

ly reduced the inventories of the country, has contributed to stabilization of production and employment, and has increased the efficiency of all production and distribution."

When activities slump, as they will until after the first of the year, the time should be spent in planning for greater activities after that time. The town or the individual that gets blue and discouraged for the reason that every drill does not hit pay are but delaying the period of the general development which is certain to take place if we but do our duty as citizens. We should not waste unfavorable comparisons but use it all in building up our own town and its trade territory.

Only seven more shopping days until Christmas. Shop early.

### AN HONEST DEAL

There is basis for real pride in the fact that customers seldom ask us to guarantee our Used Cars. It indicates that our efforts to build up public confidence were well directed. Our reputation is ample assurance of honest deals and honest values.

Merkel Garage  
Front St. Merkel, Texas

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

### NOTICE-- TO OUR CUSTOMERS

As the close of the year is at hand, and we must close our accounts, pay our bills and prepare for starting business in the New Year.

We have been glad to accommodate our customers; have appreciated your business and trust that you will now come in and make settlement of your accounts with me.

I must have it to operate my business.

WOODRUM'S  
DRIVE-IN  
FILLING STATION  
GEO. WOODRUM, Mgr.

# Sale Prices Still On

Others are taking advantage of our sale prices

## Why Not You?

You will find Santa Claus Headquarters at

# OUR STORE

And You Can Save Money Here.

OPEN NIGHTS

# Barrow Furniture Co.

# 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.

## BROWN DRY GOODS COMPANY

"WE SELL FOR LESS"

**MERKEL BAPTISTS**

In addition to the regular services we will have two special services during the Christmas holidays. One will be Friday night, December 24. We will have a tree at the church with a real Christmas program consisting of songs, readings and brief address. There will be candy and fruit for every one and if old Santa can be there he will hand it out to the children. But the main feature of the entertainment will be the gifts we bring for Jesus. It is His birthday and we should give something to Him on this occasion. Since He is not here in the bodily form that He once was, we cannot give things to Him personally so we give them to the ones that He refers to when He says, "Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of the least of these ye did it unto me." Our offering will go to Buckner Orphans Home and every member of the church is urged to bring your offering to the service Friday night. Any member who finds they cannot be at the church Friday night is urged to bring their offering Sunday, put it in the church envelope, mark it for Buckner Orphans Home and drop it in the tray at one of the services Sunday. Remember this is for the whole church and is our regular offering for the orphans home for the year. Of course we are having the tree and candy and fruit for our children but this program is for the whole church and every member ought to get in on it.

The Lords says, "He that hath pity on the poor lendeth unto the Lord, and that which he hath given I will repay him again." Do we believe Him? Are we willing to trust Him with a little loan to help take care of these 700 children that have neither father nor mother to provide for them? Again the Lord says, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Then if we would have a happy Christmas let us make a generous gift to the orphans. Of course there are a number of poor people here that we will want to help and we will help but we must not let that keep us from doing something for the Orphans Home.

The other special service will be a "Song Sermon Service" for the Sunday evening service following Christmas. The theme of the service will be "Love" and this will run through the entire service which will consist of songs, both congregational and special, a reading, and a short scripture lesson.

Dr. R. C. Pender will be with us in the Friday night service and in a few words he will tell of the needs and conditions at the Orphans Home. A cordial invitation is extended to all who will to come to any or all our services.—Ira L. Parrack, Pastor.

### INGRAM TRAVELED 10,000 MILES FOR "MARE NOSTRUM"

#### Famous Director Spent Year in Europe On Original Spots

#### MANY NEW FACES IN FILM

#### Ingram, Trainer of Notable Talent in Past Employs Fifteen Nationalities Here

"Mare Nostrum" (Our Sea), Rex Ingram's newest production for Metro-Goldwyn, will have its first showing at the Cozy Theatre. This widely heralded picture is the first in more than two years from the youthful director who already has to his credit such successes as "The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse," "Scaramouche" and "The Prisoner of Zenda."


Since his masterful handling of "The Four Horsemen" Ingram has been a leading figure in the progress of the motion picture industry. Each of his pictures has marked an advancing step.

No other director attains the combination of drama, pictorial beauty, interesting characters and all the other things that go to make up an outstanding production, as does Ingram. His "Four Horsemen," "Conquering Power," "The Prisoner of Zenda," "Scaramouche" and other pictures he has made reflect his rare genius.

Ingram spent more than a year in Europe producing "Mare Nostrum" on the original locations in France, Spain and Italy described by Blasco Ibanez in his famous book. He traveled more than 10,000 miles.

**SENIOR B. Y. P. U.**  
Subject: "Faith."  
Leader: Mr. Bill Haynes.  
Introduction: Leader.  
Faith Taught by a Story: Floyd Dowell.  
Repentance and Faith: Rubyjo Higgins.  
Scripture Stresses Faith: Mildred Hamm.  
The Great Faith Chapter: William Wozencraft.  
The Kind of Faith That Saves: Mrs. Bill Haynes.  
Make the Surrender: Elsie Richie.  
Believing In Or On: Elsie Richie.  
All young people are cordially invited to attend the B. Y. P. U. at 6:15 Sunday evening.

**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.



**DR. HOUGHTON**  
All Work Guaranteed  
25 Years Experience  
SOUTH SIDE DENTIST  
116 1-2 Chestnut St. Abilene.

### Provided Breakfast for Old Santa Claus

"DO YOU think?" inquired small David of his father, "that Santa is coming 'bout this time?"

"Why, not quite so early, son. A little later, perhaps. Still, if you listen carefully, perhaps you can hear his bells."

Small David stood on tip-toe near the window and cocked his pink ears. "I think," he said slowly, "I think I hear 'em!"

The family rather forgot small David in the next half hour. There was much to do. But finally father looked up. "Where's the boy?" he asked.

David had disappeared. They scurried about hunting for him in every room. No David. Then some one heard a faint noise on the front porch. Father stepped out to see what it was. A small, square figure in very short pants was bending over something.

"Son," called father, "what are you doing out here?"

"S-s-sh!" warned small David. Father stepped nearer.

"See," said small David reaching up or tip-toe to whisper. "See, I brought out a bowl of breakfast food for Santa Claus. He might get hungry."

Father gathered up his son, amused and pleased.

"That's the very first time I ever knew of any one thinking about Santa's comfort. Bless you, boy! That's the right holiday spirit!"

Next morning small David found



"Mother, I thought Santa was going to bring me a train and choo-choo for Christmas."

"Well, he did bring them to you, didn't he?"

"Well, there's papa's, but where's mine?"

### The City of Been

In Holland the story of the city of Been is told every Christmas. This wonderful place was famous for its magnificence and beauty, and also for its wickedness and shamelessness. One day the whole city was swallowed up by the sea. It is said that every Christmas Eve the bells of the churches of the submerged city are heard to ring again.

### THE DAY OF DAYS

Ring out glad bells across the earth—Christmas has come again! Ring out the glad tidings from land to land, from shore to shore in peals of soul-lifting joy. In crashing strains of tumultuous welcome, Christmas! the day of days! has come to cheer and gladden the earth again, to bring each and every one of us new hope and new faith. The old and the young, the grave and the gay, look for its coming with the same eagerness and delight, with the same confidence and optimism. For we never grow too old to catch the message of Christmas; each year but adds to the delight with which we greet it. Perhaps, as little children this delight manifested itself more plainly, yet it was not as deep, as heartfelt, as that which comes as we grow older, for each Christmas has added unto itself so many dear associations, so many precious memories that we find ourselves treasuring the day more and more as the years go by. The love of those around our own home and hearth, the kind remembrance and good wishes of our friends, the host of sweet, unforgettable things that are ours at this time makes Christmas stand out in our memories as a day of happiness untold. Let the glad bells peal their tidings of joy—let holly and mistletoe hang everywhere—let merriment and thanksgiving and feasting prevail—for Christmas has come again!—Katherine Edelman.  
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**The Community Supper Really Like Christmas**

"THESE community suppers are always so stupid!" declared a pretty girl to a small group around her. "I wish we could put some pep and fun into this one and give the people a good time. Something really like Christmas, and not so dull."

The others looked dubious and scratched their heads. "What'll we do?" they asked.

"I know!" declared the pretty girl. "Just got the idea. Now, listen everyone! Why not imitate the way they used to do in the olden times? A minstrel in the gallery, lots of minstrels! Singing and playing on horns and things! Hide them by screens covered with greens. Let the people get seated at the tables, then all pipe up with old songs every one knows. Dress the minstrels in gay colors. Then have them come down the stairs singing and playing. Let them wind among the tables. Have a jester in front joking and making fun. A real old English custom. It will help a lot and give the diners a good time."

"And," added another, fired with enthusiasm, "red candles on the tables, wreaths at all the windows, waitresses with red ribbons about their heads and a sprig of holly tucked over one ear."

"Not to mention," laughed a third, "a dinner of roast turkey, cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes, rolls, coffee and mince pie!"

"Right-o!" said the rest. And so it was done. The very merriest community supper that was ever given in that town.—Patience Eden.

(© 1924, Western Newspaper Union.)

**Sing Heigh-Ho! Unto The Christmas Holly**

NOTHING quite so typifies the spirit of Christmas as a bunch of beautiful, glistening foliaged and scarlet-berried holly. Holly seems the quintessence of Yule and should and generally does occupy the place of honor in Christmas decorations.

There are states where the holly isn't to be found in great abundance. In some sections of the South a limited supply must be made to serve the purpose. For profuse decorations other greens fashioned from sprays of Irish yew whose fan-like and lacy foliage is ideal for this use; and, too, there are the beautiful, waxy leaves from the magnolia as well as cedar.

But the holly bough, of course, of all Christmas green is the loveliest and most popular, not only here but in other lands and in France, in particular, as Brittany grows it in quantities. The holly is of slow growth and propagated by seed which do not germinate until the second year. We think of holly berries always as being red, but some kinds bear yellow fruit, some white, and others even black.

The holly has a commercial value that isn't generally known. Its even-grained and hard wood is ivory white and is used for inlaying and as an ebony substitute for tenon handles and other articles, when stained. The leaves are used in medicine.—Frances Marshall Morgan.

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**Some Hubbies Are Brave**



She—What were you thinking of giving me for Christmas, hubby?  
He—I was thinking of some nice warm woolen stockings, dear.

**First Christmas Trees**

Christmas trees became popular in the United States about the same time that they were introduced into England. In England the first Christmas trees were set up in the royal palace of St. James at the time Queen Victoria married the prince consort, in 1840.

**Christmas Comes**

Heads of families think it is remarkable what a short time there is between Christmases.

**The Christmas Tree**

It requires the sweet adaptability of the child mind to enable its recent admirers to revel in a bonfire made of the Christmas tree.

**Eat It by the Ton**

Twelve hundred tons of plum pudding are consumed in London at Christmas.

**Start Day Early**

In Finland it is a custom to attend church services at five o'clock on Christmas morning.

**The Pine Tree and a Christmas Inspiration**

THE creaking, crunching snow under foot, as well as the crisp, frosty air bespoke a temperature some degrees below zero. However, native mid-westerners looked for, anticipated and expected a quantity of snow and cold weather for the Christmas holidays. Their expectations were usually right with an added cold stretch long before the holidays, and long after them.

The hard lines of the massive, bulky, stone Central Administration building of the college was delightfully contrasted against the dead white, fluffy, fairy-like snow all about it. This building, as did four others, faced a huge stretch of campus, with groupings of trees scattered pleasingly about to break the wide expanse. Trees, heavily hung with the almost artificial-looking cottony webbing formed an artistic group across the road and in front of the building. In the center of the group stood a well formed, tall, perfect specimen of a long-needled pine. It was singled out to be the proud possessor of many colored lights distributed about generously among its branches. Deserving of praise was this awesome tree, and its surroundings.

Silhouetted against the sky, forming a background for the proud pine tree stood the campanile, the pride of every student on the campus. In the dull afterglow of the winter twilight the chimes were extolling the Christmas carols.

At the foot of the narrow winding staircase of iron which leads to the belfry of the campanile, upon close inspection could be seen a maid and young man—not the first time, nor would it be the last time the campanile should witness such a sight. The meeting had been planned in view of their separation on the morrow when both would go to their homes. Moved by the sight of the proud pine, its symbolism, and the chimes, they had each other farewell in fond embrace, carrying away with them the spirit of the proud pine tree in their hearts.—Eleanor E. King.

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**THE CHRISTMAS SEASON**

HAPPY fatigue. Rushing, hurrying, sitting up late. Doing up bundles. Posting packages. Delivering presents. Getting so tired-out you don't know how you can ever finish and then a new vigor and energy and Christmas spirit coming over you so that you feel you can continue more than ever. Wondering whether it will snow and the snow arriving just in time for Christmas, the stars twinkling down on the white, white earth. Bright red apples with the real flavor of the country. Memories of other Christmases and New Year's, blurred at other times somewhat, but poignantly vivid in the happiness of Christmas-tide. This is the Christmas season.—Mary Graham Bonner.

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**Making Others Happy Will Bring Happiness**

AUNT ELIZA had lived alone for many years; her finances had dwindled, and her health as well.

It was Christmas Eve and as Aunt Eliza returned from town with a few little things that her scant purse could buy, her heart was a little heavy, for the winter was before her and her strength was failing fast.

"I'm glad I got that knife for crippled Jim; he so enjoys cutting out those animals. Life is worth while so long as we can give others pleasure, and there is always some one that we can help. I'll read to blind Jane tomorrow and that will help her and me pass away the day. Tonight I must try to think of some way that I can earn money. Sister would help me if she knew, so would the church ladies, but I simply can't tell anyone. Well, the only way to be happy is to make some one else happy, so I'll take Jimmy's knife to him. God has never forsaken me." All this was going through Aunt Eliza's mind.

As she opened the door she stood face to face with her only sister. She was overcome with joy.

"Oh, Eliza, all the children want for Christmas is you, and they sent me for you. We have a nice home next to ours, for you. We will start tonight so we can get there for dinner tomorrow. You shall never feel lonely again."

Eliza continues to believe that making others happy brings happiness.—Emily Burks Adams.

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**For the Tree**

Has any one ever tried cutting little stars, circles, fir trees, etc., from pumpkin rind for the Christmas tree? Peel pumpkin with as wide a peeling as possible. Then cut out your circles, etc., with scissors or knife and fasten to a piece of card.

**Christmas Day Brides**

According to an old belief Christmas Day brides are inclined to be frivolous and fond of pleasure.

**CHRISTMAS AT THE BOARDING SCHOOL**

IT WAS a boarding school, but the girls called it "The Bastille." They felt imprisoned as the holiday season approached, and they realized the stringency of their financial condition as they thought of the contributions that they wanted to make to the general and particular Christmas joy. They could bend over the schoolbooks for the few days that separated them from home, but what would the wise girls from the East have to offer upon the Christmas trees on their arrival? Their impecunious state, usually chronic, now alarmed them. There had not been so much consternation since Phil Overbaugh fell overboard at the boat race. A star of hope arose, however, as the conference ended in a resolve to undertake such personal commercial enterprises as might solve the puzzle.

Thus, Betty Gilder, surnamed "Pudge," cut off candy, and appeared with an advertisement of her course in the label that she wore, "Don't feed me, I'm reducing." This promised to be lucrative, as it involved a large reduction in her income tax.

Sue Perkins ("Perky") confessed that she had put a safety pin upon the collection plate in lieu of her usual contribution and pleaded "safety first" as her excuse, but was duly reproved by the class.

Polly Spencer ("Pretty Polly") and Emma Gay ("Whoa, Emma") started an odd job shop in their room, polishing shoes and taking in washing and mending, with lectures at the doors of the girls' rooms on the good effects of bright shoes on dull minds and cautions that no holes larger than a fifty-cent piece would be accepted.

Sarah Dodd ("Spiffy"), the class cheer leader, saved three dollars by counteracting on a book agent. After the agent had enlarged upon the beautiful binding, the thick paper and the lovely pictures of the History of Great Women, and when he had run down and lapsed into silence, Spiffy sweetly refused the opportunity offered to give him a copy of Josephus. That settled it.

Mary Wingate ("Marrybud") undertook to learn her catechism, accepting five dollars in advance from her father for the feat. But she balked after the fiftieth question, being only half through, and had to return two-fifty to her parent and report only the same amount to the class. Groans greeted her recital, possibly for her failure.

After all, they had a merry Christmas. Gathering again when the vacation was over, each had much to show for it and everyone had been able to do something for the happiness of the rest.—Christopher G. Hazard.

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**LACK IMAGINATION AT CHRISTMAS TIME**

"SAY," inquired Roxy of her intimate friend behind the ribbon counter, "say, Annie, what does she think we are? Fence-posts with a talking machine inside us?"

Annie tossed her bobbed head and looked as arrogant as this season's debutante. "Sure, she does, Roxy. We're nothing but a convenience. A kind of kitchenette that helps feed her fancies. These swell dames make me sick! I wish they had to stand on their feet and smile at a thousand women coming to buy ribbon!"

"Say it with roses, Annie. Say it with roses. I took a hate to Christmas the first year I come here to this store. People never look at you. They look through you and around you and beyond you. Bet you a nickel that woman coming now couldn't tell the color of my hair to save her soul. And I've sold her three hundred yards of ribbon, or I'm a liar. Ain't it fierce!"

Roxy waited for her customer. Like a merchantman under full sail Mrs. A. Saunders-Smythe came alongside the counter. She lifted her lorgnette with languid interest. "Are you the girl who customarily waits on me?" she asked of Roxy.

Swift lightning played over Roxy's heart. In a sudden abandonment of anger she looked Mrs. A. Saunders-Smythe straight in the eye.

"Quite likely," quoth Roxy in exact imitation of her customer's indolent tone. "Quite likely, madam. I serve so many, it is difficult to remember!"

Mrs. A. Saunders-Smythe looked up in a kind of startled horror at this impudence. Roxy's eyes were bright with tears. She was sick with a terror at her outburst—yet a little proud. She'd lose her job now. Well—it was almost worth it—

For a moment there was silence at the ribbon counter. Mrs. A. Saunders-Smythe took her fill of looking at Roxy. Then, quite suddenly she reached out a gloved hand and touched the young girl on the arm.

"I'm sorry—I've been stupid—and unkind! Sometimes we lose our imagination at Christmas. We don't think. I'll always remember you now, child!"

The merchantman sailed off. "Gee!" exploded Annie. Roxy lifted her voice. "Merry Christmas! Mrs. Smythe!" she called.—Patience Eden.

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**Christmas Bells**

Over the world the music swells, The chiming sound of the Christmas bells Ringing the message now, as then, Of "Peace on earth, good will to men"—Childress.

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FOR SALE

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

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

FOR SALE-160 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-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 Idelwild, Abilene, Texas.

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-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-Wool comfort tops, pieced from tailor samples; lasts a lifetime. Cash Tailor Shop. 1t

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

STORE fixtures for sale, quick, cheap and a bargain, good condition. Floor and counter cases, garment rack, shoe seats and stool, desk, chair, computing scale, etc. Write B. W. Neal, Abilene. 17t2p

ALL kinds of cook stoves, new and second hand, also Heaters, Pianos, and Organs. Special prices on rugs. -City Furniture Co. 17t2pd

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

Christmas Boxes, all sizes, 5c 10c and 15c.-Brown Dry Goods Co.

FOR SALE-One tin rooster, practically new. A Heavy Sleeper.

FOR SALE-One coming two year old Bronze Tom, at \$7.50. Also one coming one year old Bronze Tom, at \$6.00. Subject to prior sale. Address or come to see Angus Garvin, at Warren ranch house, Merkel, Rt. 1. 17t2pd

FOR SALE-Good second hand Ford touring car. Will take cows in trade.-Sie Hamm. 1t

CANARY Birds for Christmas-bright yellow birds, in pairs or singlers; cages if desired. Mrs. Ira L. Parrack. Phone 207. 1tpd

FOR SALE-Garage equipment, and will lease the building to buyer. Marvin Boney. 1t

FOR RENT

FOR RENT-Two rooms, for light-housekeeping. Phone 229. Mrs. J. M. Meeks. 1tpd

FOR RENT-Two furnished rooms with bath, for lighthousekeeping. 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 unfurnished rooms; water, lights, sewer, bath. Close in, reasonable rent. Mrs. C. S. Higgins. Phone 149. 1t

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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

WANTED-Land to rent for farming, or employment as farm laborer for 1927. References: M. F. Woods, Route One, Box 9, Merkel, Texas. 1p

WANTED-Man for steady work. Can make \$150.00 up per month. No experience necessary. See me or write Box 547, Merkel. E. B. Barnes. 17t3

If it is a house you want built, see a carpenter, but if it is Meats, see Baker & Wheeler Market. tf

CHRISTMAS TIME-TIME TO CHECK UP

ONE morning while checking up the list of relatives and friends to whom we usually sent Christmas greetings or a remembrance, the telephone rang and Mrs. Hannis, a neighbor, called:

"The Helping Hand club is sending cards or tokens to the inmates of the hospital for the blind and disabled. We knew you would wish to contribute to their happiness."

After assenting, rather impatiently, I exclaimed so loudly to myself that the cat jumped from its basket and ran into the hall.

"It is just the same old story every Christmas, that perhaps next year we will be able to spend more, but each time we have to count our pennies a little more closely to remember all we hope to with a bit of a love token. It is indeed wearisome and discouraging. Our list grows larger but the elasticity of my mind and money maneuvering is stretched to its limit. Shall we have fewer friends and lament the large number of relatives? Shall our desires be less unselfish and unworthy in wishing to lend to the cheer fund of others?"

As I looked out at the sunshine on the softly falling snow I was reminded of those who, because of no eyesight, were unable to enjoy the beauties of nature, of those who had no sense of hearing or no power of speech, of those who are crippled, of unfortunates with unclouded minds, and of those who, since infancy, had no reasoning faculties, a real checking-up system in my system began.

My eyesight has always been splendid. Have my eyes been used to spy out all the world wonders at hand that were possible for me to appreciate or to see all the misery that is in my power to alleviate? Have I "listened in" on the bird carols in the air and to the rhythm of the babbling brook, or have my ears been tuned to hear unkind gossip in place of worthy words that might set in harmony a soul at discord with the weary world?

Have my words been more often cruel than kind, or have they expressed thankfulness for beautiful days, for health, for every-minute blessings? Have my feet been active in errands of kindness, mercy, love and have my hands been glad servants of service to others? While listing complaints in my Christmas calendar, has my unreasonable mind fathomed what it would mean to be without power to think sanely? Have I smiled through work and worry, illness and ill-temper? Have I ever been cold, hungry, ragged, weary, ill, when there were not forthcoming sufficient food, fire, clothing, a bed, restoratives? All around me is fresh air "without charge, free without asking"; through the years there have been my parents where my own little folks could visit grandmother, there has been a home, loved ones-Christ.

These were gifts that had been enjoyed through my life. My power was limited in distributing as many gifts as I was receiving every moment. Checking up had revealed a list of riches in my Christmas catalogue which cold cash had no power to purchase. These riches shall be checked out more freely through the year until there shall radiate from my heart to other hearts the spirit of Christmas continued.-Gertrude Walton.

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CAUGHT THE THRILL OF CHILDHOOD DAYS

"HERE!" exclaimed mother, "that's the last string of pop you I'm going to hang on this tree. I'm so tired I can scarcely move! Oh dear, Christmas is wonderful for the children, but a trifle hard on the grownups. I wish you and I, George, could feel as we once did. Wouldn't it be glorious?"

Father brushed off some pine needles from his coat. He looked thoughtful. "It's a pity, isn't it, to get so tired we can't enjoy this season?" he said. "I wonder if it isn't our fault? We're too grownup. A great mistake, I'm convinced. Perhaps we could catch that fine thrill of childhood if we tried."

Mother and father stood looking quietly at each other. Then father had an idea. A broad smile broke over his face. He slapped his knee. He chuckled. "I have an idea, Susie," he said; "let's take this sled we bought for Billy and go out for a coast-eh, what?"

"A-a-coast, George?" "Certainly!"

"But we're so tired! And it's nearly 12 o'clock!"

"Pshaw! What does that matter? We never thought of time when I was courting you, Susie!"

This made mother smile. She stood uncertainly in the middle of the room thinking about it. Then with an unexpected run she was fumbling for her coat in the hall closet. "Beet you to the hill on Cedar street," she called.

In fifteen minutes, feeling like delighted, naughty children, mother and father were skimming down the Cedar street hill on Billy's new sled. They went like the wind. Their cheeks glowed in the frosty air. The very stars seemed laughing with them.

At the bottom of the hill father stood looking at mother. You're so darned pretty, Susie, I've just got to kiss you!"

And he did. "Bless Billy's sled!" murmured mother from the depth of father's rough coat.-Martha Banning Thomas.

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NATURE'S GIFTS

NATURE is busy at Christmas time getting ready her presents. Sometimes she is delayed a little, again she is ahead of time, but invariably she bestows exquisite gifts upon people.

There are the trees and the fields, bare, bleak and ugly after the radiance of autumn has left them. Nature garbs them for Christmas as part of her lavish gifts to human kind.

The trees are covered with snow, and ledges of crystal beauty ornament ledges, eaves and rocks. Sometimes the trees are glittering with nature's artistic blending of snow and rain and ice so that they gleam as jewels upon the winter scene.

Fields are covered with snow which rests softly and kindly upon their great, brown surfaces and many colors dance in sparkling reflection between the sun's rays and the white snow.

Nature wishes us a Merry Christmas in so lovely a way:-Mary Graham Bonner.

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Wrap Gifts Attractively

A great deal of the charm of a Christmas gift is in the way it is wrapped up, and this year there are any number of new and attractive boxes, papers and ribbons. Quite the most unusual way of giving silk stockings is to enclose three pairs of stockings in a box of lacquer in a shade of Chinese red, old gold or black. These are tied with bright-colored or gold cord and the effect is delightful.



"Gee, I wish Santa would get a diving suit!"

CHRISTMAS PRESENT FOR THE SHOP GIRLS

THE woman made a leisurely survey of the vast outspread of Christmas goods, then turned to the girl behind the counter.

"You must have a Christmas feeling in here," she congratulated. "I almost envy you, my dear. That group of school girls did seem so happy over something."

It was early, with very few customers. The woman talked at the counter ten minutes or more, then was conscious of a low, peculiar whistle.

The counter girl flushed anxiously and moved straight toward the office of the room manager.

The customer went on a few yards to another girl.

"What is it?" she asked; "my talking with her? She is a nice girl."

"Janie is awful nice, paying a sister's expenses at school, and supporting her mother. Pity the room manager wants her job for another-but please don't be seen talking to me any more. I-I can't risk losing my place."

"Why, my poor child! I should be seen buying instead of talking. Um! And down by the door a girl said that this store stops salaries on vacations. Um!"

The girl Janie was just coming from the office, crying.

"Fired you, did they?" snapped the customer, frowning. "Tell me how?"

"Here-ere," fumed the floor manager, at the door. "Our discipline-er, why Mrs. Waite, I-I didn't recognize you in that plain dress. It's-er, all right. N-nothing will be done. And-and don't mention it to Mr. Hall. It might-er, lose me my-head."

"Might be a good thing for the help, too," ungraciously. "Now, look here, Janie is to have a new position, at half salary extra, as sort of room host to go round and talk with customers and help smooth out their perplexities. And vacations of all the girls are to be taken with salaries continued."

"But-"

"Or I shall change my custom to a more humane store. Have a talk with the owners. Tell them the alternative. They will jump to do it. No, Janie," at the girl's wondering look, "I don't own a cent of stock; just supposed to be the largest customer. And-er, I'm trying to make all you girls a Christmas present"-Frank Herbert Sweet.

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His Christmas Dream and It All Came True

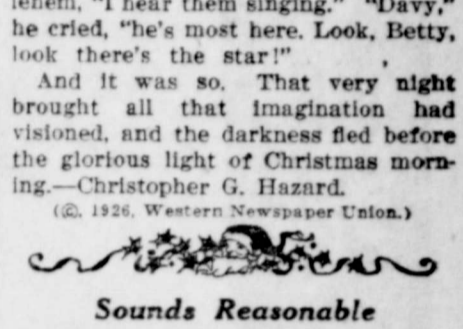
HE WAS such a beautiful little darling that his mother looked at him and forgot what she was going to say, when she was about to give him a lecture about pulling the cat's tail. And when he went with her to the hospital with a basket of flowers, and passed up and down the wards with a smile and a Christmas flower for every sufferer, they felt as though an angel had appeared again.

It was in his cozy room at home that he had a dream house. There he had day dreams, as well as night dreams. There he entertained "Mr. Bethlehem," and "Betty Bosbuckle," and her brother "David." On the chimney shelf was a lunch for Santa Claus, and near it was a letter that registered a few of his hopes. He preferred chocolate elephants rather than chocolate horses, as they amounted to more. He conferred with his white rabbit mascot about the chipmunk skin that served as a rug for his garage, built for the coming automobile. There must have been a radiola in the room, it was so full of happy thoughts and sweet, faint sounds. "Listen," he said to Mr. Bethlehem, "I hear them singing." "Davy," he cried, "he's most here. Look, Betty, look there's the star!"

And it was so. That very night brought all that imagination had envisioned, and the darkness fled before the glorious light of Christmas morning.-Christopher G. Hazard.

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Sounds Reasonable



"Pop, I want Santa to bring me a razor for Christmas."

"What in the world would you do with a razor?"

"Well, you call me a little shaver, don't you?"

Advertisement for insurance with illustration of a man and a dog. Text: Always On the Job! OLKS are spending a lot of money today for insurance. You buy protection against loss by fire, windstorms, theft, injury and even death. Premiums may seem high, but you know the benefits are worth the price. There is one form of protection, however, that all of us in this community enjoy every day and it does not cost us one cent! We never can know how many lives it has saved, how much sickness it has prevented, how many hours of contentment it has brought to our homes. This protection is the service rendered by the business men of our town, who quietly and faithfully meet our daily needs. No matter what emergency may face us, they continue to supply us with food, shelter, clothing and the other necessities of life. You will find their ads in this paper. They solicit-and deserve-your generous patronage. They are your friends in time of need! Read the Ads in this Paper and save yourself money by trading at home



# Practical Gifts

are the most Acceptable



IF ITS FOR A MAN WE SUGGEST A SUIT, OVERCOAT, HIGH CLASS SHOES, SWEATERS, MUFFLERS, GLOVES, HOSE, HANDKERCHIEFS, HOUSE SHOES, BELTS, SHIRTS, TIES, A GOOD HAT OR A NIFTY CAP.

FOR LADIES AND CHILDREN THERE'S NO LIMIT TO THE PRACTICAL GIFTS SUCH AS DOWN COMFORTS, GOOD COTTON COMFORTS, WOOL AND COTTON BLANKETS, TABLE LINEN AND LUNCH SETS, PURSE LINEN TOWELS, TOWEL SETS, SCARFS, LEATHER AND BEADED BAGS, HOSE, HANDKERCHIEFS, HAT BOXES, SILK UNDERWEAR, DAINTY VOILE TEDS, GOWNS, SWEATERS, CAPS, GLOVES AND BABY DOLLS.

**OUR BIG SALE WILL NOT CLOSE 'TIL XMAS EVE NIGHT**



**Come Early**  
and shop at  
our **Christ-**  
**mas booth**  
where you will  
find just the gift  
wou want to buy.

For the convenience of our customers  
our store will be

**Open Until 9 O'clock**  
each evening until Christmas eve night.



## **Bragg Dry Goods Co.**

