



THE MERKEL MAIL

ALL THE AUTHENTIC OIL NEWS OF THE NOODLE CREEK FIELD
MERKEL, TEXAS, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1926.

5c PER COPY



1926

1927

MAY IT BE

A MERRY CHRISTMAS

FOR YOU

THE LOOM *of* TIME

WEAVES NO LOVELIER PAT-
TERNS THAN THE SCENES
OF JOY AND GOOD WILL
BEHELD ON ALL SIDES
DURING THE MERRY
YULETIDE SEASON

May the fabric of your pleasures be wrought of silken threads, and gold according to patterns of your own selection, bringing you and yours joys to last through all the year.

And we would not forget in this Christmas message to say that your patronage, your loyalty, friendship and good-will helped to make it a pleasant year to us. To each of our patrons, wherever you may be at this glad Christmastide, we send this Christmas message, linked with sincere appreciation of past favors and expressing the hope that we may serve you in 1927.

The Farmers State Bank

MAY IT BE

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

FOR YOU

HEALTH

PROSPERITY

Santa Has Changed

They say our old friend of the prolific whiskers and the fur boots has changed his mode of travel from the sleigh and reindeer to an airplane and all modern extras in order to meet all the requirements of this advanced age and get all the presents around on time.

Whether this be true or not we have placed our order with him to bring around to every one of our friends a right large package of Christmas cheer and much happiness for the New Year.

Everybody's Garage

Phone 72

Proper Road Building

Good roads represents one of the most important factors in the development of any community. Any one who doubts this, need only make a comparison between states with and without good roads. Antiquated road building equipment and practices prevent the prosperity and high standard of living so generally prevalent in the good roads states.

State leaders are awake to the situation. E. N. Todd, state highway engineer of Kentucky says:

"The experience in this state has been, that only a modern organization can maintain roads that handle heavy traffic, and of course, this organization must be equipped with modern machinery and with experienced men to operate it."

In many states, the practice of permitting farmers to work out their poll tax with horses and makeshift equipment was abandoned, long before the modern tractor and road machinery were perfected.

The net result of the adoption of tractors, road machinery and proper road surfacing has been a much larger return for each dollar of the taxpayers' money expended for roads. In one Missouri county, a saving of nearly \$8,000 was reported in four months, as a result in substituting tractors for horses.

The automobile has so revolutionized our mode of living, that it is not surprising to know that the science of road building and maintenance has progressed more since the advent of the automobile than for a century previously.

Each year proves more conclusively that to withstand present automobile and truck traffic, and heavily traveled rock or gravel road should be protected by some waterproof, shock-absorbing wearing surface.

Just A Reminder

Don't forget to serve cottage cheese once in a while to your family, whether by itself, or as a spread for sandwiches in combination with other flavors, such as green pepper, pimiento, olives, nuts, or preserves, or as an ingredient of a salad, or in balls accompanying salads. You can make various cooked dishes with cottage cheese, too. Savory rolls are substantial enough for a main dish, and old-fashioned Dutch cheese cake is a favorite dessert with a foundation of cottage cheese.

ON A CASH BASIS JANUARY 1, 1927

Owing to the fact that we are not able to operate a credit business, we take this method and opportunity to announce that on and after January 1, 1927, we will conduct our business on a strictly cash basis.

We are always pleased to extend every favor and courtesy possible to our patrons, but our finances will not permit running a credit business. Also, if you have a credit account with us please come in and settle at once. We must pay our bills.

CORNER GARAGE

F. C. McFARLAND, Prop.

Argentina's "Fourth" Is Our Christmas

"Where the Fourth of July comes on Christmas" is the way U. S. travelers describe South America's seasons that are reversed south of the Equator, says the Research Department of the National Association of Farm Equipment Manufacturers.

The South American farmer is using the grain drill to plant his wheat when our farmers are using the threshing machine, the header and the binder. In fact, somewhere around the old world, the "click of the binder" is always heard from one year's end to the next, and just as surely, somewhere the seed is always falling.

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

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

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

Newspaper bargain days are here.

HEBRON AND KALE NEWS

It has been quite a while since there has been any items from us in the Mail but nevertheless we are still on the map.

John Davis and family had as their guests Sunday Jim Jeffery and family of the Golan community. Mr. Davis' father is also visiting him.

Mrs. Miller from Panhandle, Texas arrived recently to spend the winter with her daughter, Mrs. Lige Harris.

Misses Lola Shelton and Mary Lou Newberry spent Saturday night and Sunday in Abilene.

Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Biggs are the proud parents of a baby boy.

Joe Suggs and family spent the week end with Mrs. H. C. Barnett and family.

Mr. Jessie Davis and Miss Elsie Bird were married at Hebron Sunday afternoon. Their friends wish them much happiness.

Joe Douglas and family visited Mr. and Mrs. O. R. Douglas Sunday.

Willie Harris, Palmer Skidmore, Johnnie Heath, Leo Harris and Joe Lovins visited the Blackwell boys Sunday.

Mrs. Whaley has two of her nieces as guests this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Garner are spending Christmas at Comanche.

James Harris from Texas Tech is at home for the Holidays.

As there will be no Christmas tree here the young folks will enjoy various entertainment in different homes in this community.

Thomas Harris spent the week end at Colorado.

Gasoline

A total of 3,590,987,586 gallons of gasoline were taxed during the first six months of 1926. All of the States except Illinois, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York imposed a gasoline tax, the rate ranging from one to five cents with an average of 2.39 cents per gallon. An additional 856,450,000 gallons, it is estimated, were consumed in the four States in which the tax is not collected. Since 19,697,832 motor vehicles were registered in the six-months period, the gasoline consumption per vehicle averaged 225 gallons.

Messrs. R. Roy Adamas and L. L. Huddleston, returned Wednesday from a business trip to the Plains, where they have property interests.

Mr. J. B. Foster, route one, dropped in one day this week and renewed for the Merkel Mail and Star-Telegram.

1926-THANKS-1927

In the midst of the glad holidays we come with grateful hearts to express our gratitude to all our patrons and to wish each of you a brimful portion of happiness and contentment.

SAFFORD'S
COAL & FEED YARD
PHONE 44 SOUTH SIDE

A WEE BIT OLE' FASHION

JUST TO SAY—
A MERRY CHRISTMAS
—and—
A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Yes it's what we mean—so we say it to all our friends and customers at this happy season.

PETTY & BUFORD'S

BARBER SHOP

Good Service

THE GLOWING FIRELIGHTS

—at the Christmas hearths will soon be lighting up the many circles of happy faces, bright also with the spirit of the glad season which is upon us.

It is our sincere hope that our many friends are finding their places in these choicest of all earthly gatherings—these chosen companies of true friends.

The year has been a satisfactory one to us in a business way; you, our friends, have made it so; and now we take much pleasure in wishing for you all the finest fruits of friendship and good fellowship that the season can bring.

And may the New Year bring to you an ever-increasing meed of joy.

McDonald & Collum

PHONE 259.
We Sell for Less—We Sell the Best

1 9 2 7 HAPPY NEW YEAR

We thank you for your patronage during 1926 and want you to know that our plans for 1927 call for a program which we conscientiously believe will fully merit your continued good will and business.

We appreciate every trust placed in us and will never give you cause for regret, if within our power to prevent it.

J. T. DARSEY & CO.

The Building of a Town

Towns, like all other more or less great enterprises, are builded by co-operative effort.

If it is your town this effort must be centered on securing for it the best things possible, and not wasted nor misdirected by getting hysterical over the good things that come to towns that may become your business rivals.

If other towns are better than your home town it is because of one of two reasons: either they have some natural advantage that you cannot overcome, or you are failing to cooperate with your fellow citizens as you should towards making your town what it might become.

To make it a little stronger; the man whose interests are self-centered, with no thought or effort to improve his community; without the desire to cooperate with his fellows; with selfishness the predominate trait of his nature may live to possess millions, counted in the money values of his time, but he will die as poor as Lazarus for there are no pockets in a shroud and there are no banks or exchange between here and the hereafter.

We were taught a sound philosophy years ago in that lesson in our old readers: the father of many sons was near death, and, calling them all to his bedside he gave them a bundle of sticks and requested each to break it. Their attempts were futile and the old man took a stick at a time from the bundle and with his feeble strength broke each of them easily.

A town working together may overcome natural disadvantages and every impediment that stands in the way of its progress; while a town divided in opinion, with a citizenry unwilling, for any reason, to work shoulder to shoulder for its upbuilding will sometime fall asleep and become a dream of things that were.

Good Cows—More Profit

The yearly production records of 20,000 dairy cows show that cows which produced 100 pounds of butter fat a year returned \$10 each in income over cost of feed. Those that produced 300 pounds a year returned \$74 each in income over cost of feed was increased 7.4 times. These are averages and would not apply to any single herd, but the general advantage of increased profit as production is increased does hold true.

Newspaper bargain days are here.

Many of Those So-Called "Gentlemen"

Mark Twain said one time of England that they had gentlemen but America had no such folks. He said a gentleman, he had learned in England, was a man person, who lived without earning his living. In other language a dead beat. It is fine that he did not live in the present age. If he had he could not have said we have no such in America. The woods are full of such today. There are men who live off others and never make an effort to make an honest-to-God dollar. Not a few of this breed either. They beat their debts and swindle and anyway to keep out of work. Entirely without honor and yet too often these same birds are high up in the affairs of State and society.

We believe that the libel law should be so amended that a newspaper would have the right to publish the names of such people and thereby save many an honest man being beat by them.

Cold checkers, debt-beaters, just any way to put on a bold front, and you would think they owned more than half the Country they live in.

Mark Twain would be wrong now. We have a lot of this kind of "gentlemen."—Exchange.

INDUSTRY VS. IDLENESS

One of the most beneficent provisions God ever made for man is useful employment. One of the chief inventions of the devil is idleness. Man, created in the image, and after the likeness of the ever active God, is not designed to be an idler, a mere cumbred of the ground.

The blessings of God come to man through industry. The curses of sin come to him through idleness. It was when David was idling away his time that he put a blot on his name that has dimmed its luster for all ages. Every thing that has blessed the world has come to it through industry. Everything that has cursed it has come to it through idleness. Idleness has yet to have the first worth-while thing set down on its credit. Industry is a chown of glory. Idleness is an emblem of shame. An idle brain is the devil's workshop, idling places are his halls of learning, and idlers are numbered among his numerous products. Industry fills our places of responsibility. Idleness fills our penitentiaries and prisons. "Satan finds some mischief still for idle hands to do."

Idleness is the enemy of physical health, mental efficiency, moral integrity, and spiritual well-being. It is the rust that corrodes, the canker that eats, the gangrene that destroys, the mildew that blights; the consumption that wastes all of the capacities of spirit, soul and body. Addison says: "These are few indeed, who know how to be idle and innocent; every diversion they take is at the expense of some virtue or another, and their first step out of business is into vice and folly."

Idleness is the bane of existence; industry is its balm. Idleness leads to incompetency, poverty, despair and death. Industry tends to competency, wealth, hope and life. "There is no immorality comparable with the immorality of a wasted life. "No other investment yields the returns of a well spent life. Idleness assures defeat in every worth-while undertaking. Industry is invincible. It overcomes all difficulties, surmounts all obstacles, conquers all things. It lends a halo to the past, fills the present with hope, and tints the future with glory. Nothing is denied to industry.

Bodily activity is not all there is to industry. Men are spiritual and moral as well as mental and physical. The man whose activities are confined to material things leaves whole areas of his being, undiscovered, undeveloped and unused. Full orb'd manhood demands the discovery, development and employment of all of the powers with which God has endowed His creatures. In nothing less than unreserved devotion to God and His service, and to the service of his fellowmen, does man come to his own in this life.—H. O. Fanning.

Marries Two Couples

Rev. Ira L. Parrack, on December 12 pronounced the words that made man and wife, Mr. Tommie Patterson and Miss Flora Meeks, of Blair; the ceremony taking place at the Baptist parsonage at about nine a. m.

And on December 4th he happily united in marriage Mr. Paul Jacobs and Miss Mabel Scott, both of Trent.

To Be Exact

"I must say those biscuits are fine," exclaimed the young husband. "How could you say those were fine biscuits?" inquired his mother when they were alone. "I didn't say they were fine, mother, I merely said I must say so."

CHRISTMAS ASSURANCE



As we wish you happiness that is genuine and lasting, we wish also to give you assurance that during 1927 we will spare no effort to maintain our present high standard of service quality and value.

PATTON'S GROCERY

MERRY CHRISTMAS! HAPPY NEW YEAR

—May they both mean much of good for our big family of patrons. Accept our thanks for 1926 favors and remember we want you for our friend and patron next fall.

R. H. DEAN
"The Apple Man."

The Pointer: The Boy Friend—Say, who's the dumb-looking guy that drives your car around and works in the garden. I notice he always gives me a nasty look when I come in.

The Girl Friend—Oh, don't mind him. That's just father.

First Diner—I think we met at this restaurant last month. Your overcoat seems very familiar to me.

Second Diner—But I didn't have it last month.

"No, but I did."

Newspaper bargain days are here. Our idea of a road hog is a driver full of swine dip.

EVERY MEMBER OF OUR ORGANIZATION
JOINS US IN WISHING YOU

Yuletide Joys

—and a full measure of Happiness and prosperity in 1927.

We thank you too for your patronage in 1926 and ask that we may serve you in 1927.

MAGNOLIA FILLING STATION

CHAS. H. JONES, Agent.

Day Phone 159.

Night Phone 135.

"SERVICE WITH A SMILE."

THE FLYING FEET OF THE BUSY DAYS



—Have brought us around to Christmas again, made us all young again with the spirit of merry-making and good fellowship, reminded us once more that the best things gathered in our lives are the confidence and good will of friends.

It has been our pleasure to deal with and serve many patrons during the twelve months just past, to take in your welfare a personal and abiding interest, and it is now our privilege to wish for you one and all a full and unfeigned enjoyment of the pleasures of the Holidays.

Leslie & Middleton

Groceries and Ice
PHONE 203.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to Everybody From **RODDEN STUDIO**

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.

A WORD FROM THOS. A. JOHNSON

This paper is pleased to acknowl-
edge the receipt of an appreciative
letter from Mr. Thos. A. Johnson,
for many years an influential citi-
zen of Merkel, as well as one of the
successful bankers of the city, but
who for several years now, has been
the very efficient and popular Vice-
President and Executive Manager of
the Collins County National Bank,
at McKinney, Texas.
To give Mr. Johnson's many
friends in and around Merkel an idea
that he has not lost any of his far-
sightedness and business acumen,
we quote the following paragraph
from the letter received from him.
"Am making dividends and some
for the "old man," so I guess I

should be happy down here."
He also sends kind regards and
best wishes to all of his old friends
here, as well as to congratulate the
Merkel Mail upon the recent improve-
ment of the paper brought about
through the purchase of our new
and modern equipment.

HOSTESSES TO CLUB

Misses Evelyn and Ruby Hamm
were most charming hostesses to the
members of their club and a few
friends Tuesday of last week. Club
members arriving early disposed of
the business of electing a new presi-
dent. Mrs. Emmett Grimes being
elected to fill Miss Evelyn Hamm's
expired term, before the arrival of
the bridge guests. The games were
very merry and the house decora-
tions, table appointments and plate
favors were participated cheerful, in
compliment to the approaching holi-
days.
A most delicious refreshment plate
was passed to Mrs. Truman Canon,
Frank McFarland, Mrs. Mose Cau-
thern, Mrs. Bill Haynes, Earl Baze,
W. S. J. Brown, Emmett Grimes,
Roy Largent, Misses Lucy Tracy,
Eleanor Harrison, Vennie Heizer,
Christine Collins and the hostesses.
Mr. R. L. McLean, of route three
is among the many who have re-
cently renewed their subscription to
the Mail.

MERKEL BAPTISTS

All regular services Sunday and
through the week.
The Sunday evening services will
be a special musical service. At that
time we will have a Song Sermon
on the general theme of "Love."
There will be special numbers both
by individuals and by the choir as
well as some congregational singing.
There will be a special Christmas
program at the Church this Friday
evening with everything reflecting
the Christmas spirit.
We expect to have all improve-
ments finished on the church build-
ing by Sunday with every department
back in its own place. Lets have a
full attendance in every department
Sunday. We will also be distribut-
ing the literature for the new year,
and it is important that every one
be on hand and get lesson helps for
the next quarter.
A cordial invitation is extended to
all who will come and worship with
us in any or all services.
IRA L. PARRACK, Pastor.

WOMANS MISSIONARY SOCIETY

The Womens Missionary Society
will have their last meeting of the
year on next Monday afternoon.
The president requests that all of-
ficers for the coming year to be pre-
sent as it is very necessary that plans
be formed for next year's work. A
few other matters of business will
also be discussed. The last lesson in
the study book will also be given in
order that we may start the new
year with a new book. The time of
the meeting will be at 2:30 and we
hope for a good attendance.—Report-
er.
Have you one of our '27 calendars?
Swafford. Phone 44. It
Rev. W. R. McCarter and wife
had as their guests Wednesday eve-
ning of this week, Mr. R. L. Eaves
and wife of Stephenville. Mr. Eaves
is a brother of Mrs. McCarter, and
Professor of History at John Tarle-
ton College.
We are thankful to Mr. W. L.
Burns, Merkel's splendid Fire Chief,
for a subscription to the Mail which
he had us send to relatives.
Coal, Coal, Dawson, Domino, Mc-
Alister. Phone 44. It

METHODIST CHURCH

Carry the Christian spirit over
through Sunday to include worship.
We hope that every member of the
church, every citizen of our commu-
nity, and visiting friends, will find
their way to God's house at the hour
of worship next Sunday.
Sunday School at 9:45.
Begin the day by attending this
service of worship, praise, and Bible
study. Ample facilities have been
made for all of every age.
Worship at 11:00 a. m. and 7:00
p. m.
The public invited to attend all
our services.
W. R. McCARTER.
Will Preach Here Sunday
Elder W. G. Cypert announces
that he will preach at the North
Side Church of Christ on next Sun-
day at both the morning and even-
ing hours.
A cordial invitation is extended
everyone to attend.
INTERMEDIATE B. Y. P. U.
Bible Teachings About missions.
The Origin of Missions: Maurine
Davis.
The Message: Vera Richie.
The Methods of Missions: J. D.
Ashby.
The Task: Vernie Derrick.
The Motive: William Sheppard.
The Power: Oleta Moore.
The Program: J. E. Boaz.
All members urged to be present.
Sunday, December 26, 1926.

ADULT B. Y. P. U.

Sunday, December 26, 1926.
Leader: Mr. Mathews.
Introduction: Leader.
Police Protection A Farce: Mrs.
J. S. Swann.
Mary, the Bravest of the Brave:
Mrs. Earl Lassiter.
Mary Faces the Mob: Mrs. Mat-
hews.
Effect Upon Feng: Mrs. W. S.
Shepherd.
A Chinese Truly Converted: Mrs.
C. M. Largent.
Feng's Advancement: Mrs. Richie.
Effect of Feng in Honan: Mr.
Polly.
Feng, A Soul Winner: Mrs. Ash-
by.
**AGED MOTHER
PASSES AWAY**
After failing health for many
months and serious illness the past
few days, Mrs. Mollie Dyess, 69, a
pioneer and well know citizen of
Merkel, died at the family residence
in this city at about seven o'clock
Thursday morning.
Funeral service will be conducted
today, (Friday) at the Baptist
church, conducted by Rev. O. B. Tat-
um, assisted by Rev. Ira L. Parrack,
with burial immediately after in Rose
Hill cemetery.
Card of Thanks
We take this method of thanking
one and all for the assistance and
kind deeds and words shown us dur-
ing our loss by fire December 15th,
and especially do we thank Mr.
Dima Compton and the gentleman
that drives the Worlds Oil truck who
saved nearly all that was saved of
our household goods and especially
do we thank Mr. C. L. Tucker who
opened his doors to us until we
could secure a house.—R. E. Cole
and family. 1tpd
Card of Thanks
I take this method of thanking
Mr. Ellerbee and all others for con-
tributing to me after the fire Wed-
nesday night, December 15th and also
thank one and all for the kind words
and deeds.—Mrs. E. E. Williams. 1tpd
NOTICE!
To Whom It May Concern:
I know the party who took from
my place some cross ties five weeks
ago, and insist on you coming in and
paying for the ties at once and
thereby save trouble. Wm. O'Briant. It
OIL! OIL! OIL!
Yes we have oil but our prices are
the same as before we got oil.—Bak-
er & Wheeler Market. tf
As we are going out of business
on January 1, 1927, you can get some
real bargains in Groceries. J. D.
Porter. 1tpd
Mr. Obe Childress, of Wellington,
Texas, was here last week for a visit
with his grandson, Dr. W. T. Sad-
ler.
This paper is grateful o our good
friend, Mr. W. A. Thornton, for a
subscription to the Mail which he
had us send to his daughter, Mrs.
Effie Martin, at Tacoma, Washing-
ton.

May

—Each of us find joy and satisfaction
in unselfish service and with it all mixed
enough profit to be comfortable and
enough satisfaction to feel our duty
well done.

May we strive for a better city, for
a better business and the spirit of co-
operation.

We believe in our city; we believe in
our friends; we believe in the future.

Let us thank you, one and all and
wish you many joys for Christmas and
much progress in the direction you de-
sire during 1927.



*May Your Cup Be Full
of Cheer this Christmas!*

DR. S. W. JOHNSON
DENTIST

Greetings

The Hamm Drug Company wishes to thank you
one and all for your liberal patronage during the past
year. We will strive to give you better service during
the coming year.

**Come In and Get a Real
Kitchen Calendar**

BEST WISHES FOR 1927

FROM
HAMM DRUG COMPANY

Sie Hamm Elmer Adcock
Comer Patterson Kenneth Watkins
D. F. Wulfman Bill Hamm

GREETINGS



We wish to take this opportunity of
expressing to our friends and patrons
the customary greetings of the season.
You have given us a liberal portion of
your business for which we are very
grateful, but we are more grateful to
you for your friendship and it shall be
our purpose and aim to conduct our
business in such way that this friendship
will grow with each day of the New
Year.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year.

**LOWE-BRACKEEN
MOTOR CO.**
Chevrolet Dealers

We're Just Hoping



Wishing You An Old-Fashioned Happy New Year

—That Old Santa Claus will be better to our friends and patrons this Christmas than he ever has before and that the New Year will be better than the Christmas we wish for each of you.

Accept, if you please, our sincere thanks for your 1926 business.

We want to serve you during 1927.

**GRIMES-SMITH
DRUG CO.**
Prescription Druggist

PHONE 9.

C. of C. Executive Committee Meets

(Continued from page 1, Sec. 1) what will be required of us to obtain this additional service. We shall probably have to build some more walks in order to make the service possible.

In the opinion of those present, one of the important committees appointed was Committee on Affiliation with the West Texas Chamber of Commerce. That organization should have at least twenty-five members here and would have if they properly understood all that has been accomplished by that great organization. Taxes have been kept down; common point freight rates have been maintained at points west of Merkel which has meant a great saving to our people; and numerous other services rendered which are absolutely convincing that a membership in this body is not a contribution but a fine investment. The personnel of this committee is A. T. Sheppard, T. G. Bragg and L. R. Thompson.

Thomas Durham was appointed Publicity Manager and we may be assured that his appointment will keep Merkel properly before the public in a thoroughly reliable and deserving way.

A committee on Agriculture composed of Booth Warren, R. O. Anderson and L. R. Thompson was appointed who will cooperate with the farmer and County Agent in securing better cows, hogs and chickens, and lend any assistance possible, compatible with good business judgment, which will be of benefit to the agricultural interests of the trade territory. This committee will not try to impose its opinion on anyone unwilling or unready to take suggestions from it, but will try to be helpful to those engaged in agriculture.

All present at this meeting were not only hopeful but enthusiastic in the belief that Merkel is in the center of a great oil field and that it will become the center of the field's activities.

Mr. A. B. Patterson returned Wednesday morning from Dallas where he had been to carry Mrs. Patterson for treatment of her eyes. Mrs. Patterson will remain in Dallas under the care of a specialist for two or three weeks. Miss Opal Patterson, her daughter is there with her. They were accompanied on the trip by Mr. and Mrs. Homer Patterson, who returned with Mr. A. B. Patterson Wednesday.

Cozy Theatre

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

DECEMBER 24TH AND 25TH

CHARLES R. ROGERS PRESENTS

"THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER"

A Renand Hoffman Picturization With—
Charles Emmett Mack, Marguerite De La Motte and Henry B. Walthall.

Also a William Fox Imperial Comedy—
"EIGHT CYLINDER BULL"

MONDAY AND TUESDAY

DECEMBER 27TH AND 28TH

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Presents—

MAE MURRAY IN—
"ALTARS OF DESIRE"

WITH CONWAY TEARLE

Also An Adventure Picture
Jack Daugherty and Margaret Quimby in

"THE RADIO

DETECTIVE"

Chapter II—"THE RADIO RIDDLE."
Produced With the Cooperation of the—
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
With Educational Comedy and International News.

Wednesday and Thursday

DECEMBER 29TH AND 30TH

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Presents

REX INGRAM'S

"THE FOUR HORSEMEN"

—With—

RUDOLPH VALENTINO

and ALICE TERRY

"THE BIG CITY"

...A Merry Christmas to All...

A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR PATRONS AND FRIENDS

And we wish to thank each and all for the liberal patronage given us the past year; hoping also, that we may be able to enjoy your continued business during the coming New Year.



ED'S CAFE

E. L. TURNER, Proprietor.

P. S.—On January 1st we will move to the building next door west and will be closed for a few days, before opening better prepared and fixed to serve you in 1927.

Popular Young Couple Are Married Here

On Wednesday afternoon of this week, Rev. W. R. McCarter, pastor of the First Methodist church, in his usual happy and appropriate manner, pronounced the words that bound in marriage Mr. Floyd Dowell and Miss Juanita Beene.

The ceremony took place at the parsonage, at about two p. m. in the presence of a few intimate friends.

The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. N. A. Dowell, is well liked and esteemed by a large circle of friends and associates; is known for his upright character and business enterprise. The bride is the only daughter of Mrs. E. P. Beene, one of Merkel's most charming and accomplished young ladies. She is a graduate of the 1925 class of the Merkel High School, and has a large circle of admiring friends.

This paper joins the many friends of both the contracting parties in wishing for them all the joys and happiness of wedded bliss.

Have you one of our '27 calendars? Swafford. Phone 44. 1t

FOR TRADE—Good 7 passenger Packard car with 4 new casings. New paint. Car A-1 condition, will trade for Merkel property. Write Casey Branch & Allen, Box 994, Abilene, Texas. 1tpd

FOR RENT—A farm of 160 acres at Stith. Will rent for \$200.00 cash in advance. 100 acres in cultivation. 50 in pasture. Write B. W. Horn, 1828 Sanger Ave., Waco, Texas. 2tpd

LOST—Dark gray overcoat in road between Frank Hail and Bill Dunn's places Friday, December 17th. Finder please leave at Farmers State Bank of Merkel. 1tpd

FOR RENT—Two light housekeeping room. Mrs. C. E. Conner. 1t

If it is a house you want built, see a carpenter, but if it is Meats, see Baker & Wheeler Market. 1t

McAlester Coal, guaranteed good. Have car on track Friday or Monday. Swafford. Phone 44. 1t

Dr. H. P. Hulsey, local Chiropractor, is among the many renewing for the Merkel Mail and Abilene Morning News this week.

Christmas Magic

1926

It is everywhere in the air. May it so possess your heart with the inspiration of joy and hopefulness that you will have the best Christmas you have ever had, and will carry a heart full of gladness and contentment into all the days of the New Year.

1927

THE MODERN DRY CLEANERS

Opposite Post Office

PHONE 3.

THE SWIFT PASSING OF 1926

—Brings us to a new book in life's history and before we thumb its pages our thoughts dwell in greater appreciation upon those patrons who have placed their trust in us, the evidence of which is your patronage.

Not only for your business, but for your good will, do we return glad thanks.

May 1927 smile on you with much good fortune.

W. O. BONEY

Vitamins Via Milk

The vitamin content of milk depends largely on the vitamin content of the ration of the cow. Milk richest in vitamins is obtained from cows that have plenty of green feed and sunlight. Cows kept in their stalls and fed largely on dry feeds and cured hay produce milk that is relatively low in vitamins.

Wonder what a cedar tree with a good start in life thinks about Christmas?

When you speak to a New Yorker of the great white way he thinks you mean Broadway, even if he has heard of the Milkyway.

Fur Facts

The value of the annual catch of fur-bearing animals 25 years ago was roughly estimated at \$25,000,000 says the Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture. Today it is placed at more than \$60,000,000, and even this figure would doubtless have been exceeded if the supply had been maintained. Serious students of conservation feel that the fur resources are not being given deserved attention.

Who Owns the Forests?

The forest land of the United States, in round numbers, is split up approximately as follows: Federal Government, \$9,000,000 acres; States, 10,500,000 acres; municipalities and counties, 700,000 acres; large private owners, 220,000,000 acres; small private owners, 150,000,000 acres.

Take Off Collars and Neckties

In an address at the second New England Conference, at Hartford, at a dinner given by Governor Trumbull of Connecticut, Owen D. Young, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the General Electric Company, made a plea for the future growth and development of New England. In opening his talk, he said that he and his friend, the Governor of Connecticut, belonged to a club which meets on an island; that a rule of this club was that no member while on the island, should wear a collar or necktie and that penalty for infraction of the rule was a dip in the lake until the collar and tie was removed. Naturally, this was a rather democratic club.

"Wouldn't it be fine," said Mr. Young, "if New England could have a dinner like this with its collars and ties off?"

Mr. Young pointed out that people are now considering whether New England has been handicapped by a lack of democratic cooperation between its states. "One year ago," said he, "I suggested that you turn all your water powers into a common pool and get the benefits of the diversity of flow in your rivers, and of the rainfall on your watersheds. This is especially important in a great community like New England where the natural power supply at best is inadequate to its needs. A row or two of poles with a few copper wires breaks down the barrier of the hills.

"It has been said in recent years, that such troubles as New England has arise from the immigration of foreigners into her borders. I take no such views. May I suggest to the people who hold such views that they take their collars and neckties off and unify New England into one community of democratic cooperation. Intellectually, in my judgment, you are the most highly developed democracy in the world. I am not so sure that you apply it in your business. Let each man in New England resolve that he will in his business and economic relations, take his collar and necktie off. Let him resolve that there will be no barriers to the most complete democratic cooperation between him and everybody else with whom he comes in contact, in order that his business may prosper and his community may succeed."

Mr. Young pointed out that it is imperative to break down the artificial barriers existing between six independent New England states, and adopt a policy of economic cooperation all fields, to insure the maximum use of the resources of New England and her own economic development. He suggested that New England capital look nearer home for investments than it had been in the habit of doing.

In closing, Mr. Young said: "Nowhere else are there such great resources of brains and capital, of men and money, of public spirit, of stability of character, of fine traditions, of indomitable will, as exists within these six states. They have, for generations, furnished leadership to the country, and today they supply its leader. No one ever came intimately in contact with New England but to admire it, and no one ever left it but with regret."

17 TON BELL FOR PHILADELPHIA ARRIVES

New York, Dec. 20.—People living thirty miles outside Philadelphia will be able to hear at midnight December 31 the tolling of the death dirge of the old and the ringing in of the new year. The sonorous peals will come from a seventeen-ton bell, described as the largest single-voiced instrument in the United States, which is to be placed in Wanamaker's Tower in Philadelphia.

The bell arrived here from England, where it was cast. It is nine feet and six inches in diameter and seven feet and nine inches high. Texas made in England are said to have shown that the tone of the bell carries fully thirty miles.

Newspaper bargain days are here.

Youth, Wild Youth

Thomas Alva Edison, casting an appreciative if aged eye upon the world of womenkind, announces with finality that there is nothing wrong with the flapper and demands that the grown-ups "leave her alone."

Youth should be given credit for its "prevailing unrest," the Wizard of Menlo Park insists. Its tendency to doubt and ask questions has destroyed many legends and mythical tales once regarded as of historical importance.

Perhaps Mr. Edison is as well qualified to speak on the subject as anybody else. It is the one subject in all the world that everybody professes to be familiar with in all its ramifications. Youth, wild youth, is the subject of more conversations than any other one topic.

If youth is best on getting itself talked about, its object has been achieved with a completeness that is astounding. Almost everybody talks about youth, whether they know any thing about it or not.

It must be disconcerting to the oldsters to be told that youth is not going to the dogs, that the boys and girls of today have better morals than their fathers and grandfathers, and much better than their remote ancestors. Well, we might argue with Mr. Edison on the fathers and grandfathers, but there is no room for argument as to the remote ancestors. The world is better today than it was a hundred years ago, and infinitely better than it was a thousand years ago.

Still, there is plenty of room for improvement.—Abilene Reporter.

Tit Bits: A little man and his wife visited the zoo. When they halted before the hippopotamus he remarked admiringly: "Darned curious fish, ain't it, Ma?"

"That ain't a fish; that's a reptile."

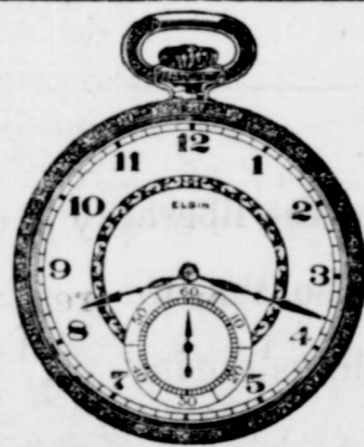
So the argument began. It progressed to a point of such violence that the old lady began belaboring the husband with her umbrella. The old man dodged and ran, with his wife in pursuit.

A keeper had just opened the door of the lions' cage and the little man popped in. He crowded in behind the largest lion and peered over its shoulder at his wife, who, on the other side of the bars, shook her umbrella furiously.

"Coward!" she shouted. "Coward!"

All But the "Squeal"

Raising domestic rabbits for meat and fur is a rapidly growing industry in this country, says the Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture, and the question of the most profitable disposition of the wastes is one of sufficient importance to challenge the attention of scientists. As in the case of packing-house wastes, part of the discarded material is recoverable as grease, part as dried blood, and the greater part as tankage or ammoniate fertilizer.



This is the last day before Christmas. See our line of Diamonds, Watches, Jewelry, Cut Glass, China Sterling and Plated Silver and etc. We will meet any mail order prices.

PRESLEY'S
Jewelry and Gift Shop
209 Pine St.
ABILENE, TEXAS

ABSTRACTS OF TITLE

for prompt and accurate service

call on

SECURITY ABSTRACT CO.

Abilene, Texas

Second floor of Court House

Phone 2378

R. W. GRIMSLEY, Manager

Much Meat

Noteworthy recent developments in the meat situation have been an increase in the beef supply and a decrease in pork production. Since 1921 beef supplies have risen steadily each year. In 1925 the total production of 7,146,000,000 pounds was almost exactly 1,000,000,000 pounds larger than the total for 1921. The enormous pork production in 1923 and in 1924 fell off more than 1,000,000,000 pounds in 1925, which means that upward of 10,000,000 fewer hogs were slaughtered in that year than in either 1923 or 1924.

The people do not take as many pills as they used to but more advise.

Building Roads

Although motor vehicle registrations and highway traffic have increased enormously in recent years and will doubtless continue to increase, highway officials do not fear the development of a general condition of congestion or any breakdown in the roads constructed because of the increased traffic, according to the United States Department of Agriculture. Highway research and experience have developed types of pavement fully capable of withstanding present and expected future traffic.

Experience may be a good teacher, but she turns out mighty few graduates.

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.

ON A CASH BASIS

To Our Friends, Patrons and the Public:

We take this method of announcing to you that, on and after January 1, 1927, we will operate our business on a cash basis. We appreciate your business so liberally given us in the past and trust you will continue same in the future, but must ask that you pay cash for our goods and service.

We must do this or quit business.

Our finances will not permit us to run a credit business.

HI-WAY
SERVICE STATION

J. C. WHITE and B. E. SMITH

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

PROFESSIONAL

DR. W. M. GAMBILL
Dentist
—X-Ray Diagnosis—
Office phone 116 Res. phone 108
Office on Front St.; Boney Bldg

M. ARMSTRONG, M. D.
Office Over Farmers State Bank
Res. Phone 12. Office 195.
Local Surgeon T. & P. For Last 10 Years.
Furnish Drugs From Office.

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...JEWELER...
116 Chestnut Street Abilene

DR. R. L. GRIMES
Physician and Surgeon
Hours 10 to 12 a.m. 2 to 5 p.m.
Phones 165-168 Res. 165

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

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Successor to
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Insurance—Notary Public
Over West Company—Front St.
Merkel —:— Texas

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Tornado Insurance Agent.
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X-Ray and Diagnosis
3rd Floor Alexander Bldg.
Telephone 177 Abilene, Tex

H. P. HULSEY, D. C.
Graduate
CHIROPRACTOR
Merkel, Texas Phone 51
Office in West Building
Over Bragg Dry Goods

DR. CHAS. E. HARRISON
Practice limited to Refracting
Eyes Examined—Glasses Fitted
209 Clinton Bldg. Phone 2020
Over Brooks D.G. Abilene, Tex

—PILES CURED—
No Knife No Pain No Detention from Work
DR. E. E. COCKRELL
Rectal and Skin Specialist
of Abilene, Texas
Phone No. 359 Alexander Bldg

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Barnes Brothers
Contractors and Builders
WE KNOW HOW
Phone 229.
Plans and Estimates Furnished
F. L. BARNES G. W. BARNES

PUBLIC STENOGRAPHIC WORK
Call at N. D. Cobb's Office
Over Farmers State Bank Bldg.
We Write
All Kinds of Legal Instruments

A. V. DYE
—Contractor and Builder—
See me for Plans and Specifications and contract terms.

Len Sublett
Water well Driller,
all work guaranteed
first-class.

Merkel, Texas
Phone 164w P. O. Box 224

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

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

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

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. 172pd

ALL kinds of cook stoves, new and second hand, also Heaters, Pianos, and Organs. Special prices on rugs.—City Furniture Co. 172pd

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. 172pd

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

TWO pair mules for sale, cash or good notes. See Taylor F. Davis. 1tpd

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

FOR SALE—Baby bed and mattresses. See O. R. Dye. 1t

FOR SALE—Used sheet iron. See C. S. Higgins, at the Blue Front Garage. 1tp

FOR SALE—Cheap, for cash or good notes that the bank will approve. Five good teams, two new double row cultivators, two planters, two gang mole board braking. Plows and other tools will sell and rent 275 acres land to right kind of man, plenty feed to run place. W. O. Dial, 3 miles west of McMurry College, Abilene, R. 3. 1t

FOR SALE—Used Underwood Typewriter, in good condition. Mrs. E. C. Perry. Phone 219-J, Merkel. 1tp

HOUSE for sale or rent. Taylor F. Davis. 1tp

FOR SALE—Four hundred cords of mesquite wood, \$2.50 per cord, cash on ground, three miles west of Trent. See H. D. Simpson. 24td4p

FOR SALE—Two nice flat-top desk. Would make nice Christmas present. See Norman Pledger. 1t

FOR SALE—Some choice White Leghorn hens. See R. B. Wells 1t

FOR RENT
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 furnished light housekeeping rooms. See Mrs. J. M. Meeks. Phone 229. 1tpd

FOR RENT—Furnished rooms, with or without table board. Mrs. T. P. Pearce. 1tpd

FOR RENT—150 acres land, with good house and other improvements. A. B. Cranston, Merkel, Route Four. 1tpd

FOR RENT—Have some furnished or unfurnished rooms for rent. Mrs. B. E. Dalton. 1t

WANTED

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. 1743

WANTED—To trade eighty acre farm, with modern conveniences, two and one half miles north of Gorman for small farm in West Texas. For term write J. N. Davis, Rt. 1, Box 14, Gorman, Texas. 1tpd

LOST—Chain and lock for spare tire, in Merkel, last Saturday. Please leave at Merkel Main office. Reward. Rev. C. C. Montadon. 1t

LOST—Left hand Buckskin glove, between Bitter Creek at Joe Douglas' and town. Will pay reward for return to Jas. A. Patterson, Pr. 1tp

Equality Before the Law

The United States Supreme Court has rendered a recent decision which says in effect, that the right to do business is superior to the right to strike. The case had its inception before the Court of Industrial Relations which hears disputes between wage earners and wage payers in Kansas.

It is of interest to note that Justice Brandeis, regarded by closed-shop people as their especial friend in the highest court, wrote the decision which says in part:

"The right to carry on business—be it called liberty or property—has value. To interfere with this right without just cause is unlawful. The fact that the injury was inflicted by a strike is sometimes a justification. But a strike may be illegal because of its purpose, however orderly the manner in which it is conducted. To collect a stale claim due to a fellow-member of the union, who was formerly employed in the business, is not a permissible purpose. In the absence of a valid agreement to the contrary, each party to a disputed claim may insist that it be determined only by a court.

"To enforce payment by a strike is clearly coercion. The legislature may make such action punishable criminally, as extortion or otherwise. And it may subject to punishment, him who uses the power to influence incident to his office in a union to order the strike. Neither the Common Law nor the Fourteenth amendment confers the absolute right to strike."

When Mr. Brandeis was elevated to the bench of the Supreme Court of the United States, the radical unionists hailed him as another Daniel.

STRAYED—A black horse mule, bearing bretchen brand, about 15 hands high. Left home about 60 days ago. Please notify John Davidson, General Delivery, Abilene, Texas. 2tpd

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.

AN UNPARALLELED GROWTH

The electric light has just passed its forty-second birthday. Think of it! Forty-seven years ago there were no electric lights. Thomas Edison's first lamps were not much like the Edison Mazda of today.

For many years the electric light was enjoyed by but a few; it was too expensive for the masses. Today it is the cheapest kind of light. Its cost is so insignificant in the family budget that it is hardly considered.

From nothing to over seven and one half billion dollars invested, is the record of less than half a century of electric development. Single plants are now built in the East, Middle West and on the Pacific Coast which develop hundreds of thousands of horsepower. To shut off electric lights today would jeopardize health and destroy commercial activity in the nation. Mr. Edison, at 84, has taken part in the growth of an industry from the beginning as probably no other man has ever been privileged to do.

Notice of Stockholders Meeting

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Stockholders of The Farmers State Bank, Merkel, Texas will be held at the office of the bank in the city of Merkel, Texas, at 4 o'clock January 11th, 1927 for the purpose of electing a Board of Directors for the ensuing year and such other business as may come before the meeting.

R. O. ANDERSON, V. P.

Miss Eva Mae Johnson, who is attending Texas Womens College at Fort Worth is at home for the Christmas holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Johnson, and many friends. Miss Johnson graduated from Merkel High School last year with honors, and we feel sure she will make a fine record in college.

Are You "Toxic?"

It is Well, Then, to Learn the Importance of Good Elimination.

FUNCTIONAL inactivity of the kidneys permits a retention of waste poisons in the blood. Symptoms of this toxic condition are a dull, languid feeling, drowsy headaches and, sometimes, toxic backache and dizziness. That the kidneys are not functioning as they should is often shown by scanty or burning passage of secretions. Many readers have learned the value of Doan's Pills, stimulant diuretic to the kidneys, in this condition. Users everywhere endorse Doan's. Ask your neighbor!

DOAN'S PILLS

60c
Stimulant Diuretic to the Kidneys
Foster-Milburn Co., Mfg. Chem., Buffalo, N. Y.

WE HOPE OLD SANTA CLAUS WILL NOT PASS A SINGLE HEARTH-STONE IN TOWN

—And that he will be sure to leave with our friends and patrons a generous portion of the things that add to comfort, peace and happiness.

CASH TAILOR SHOP

Willing To Drop It

A prisoner was in the dock on a serious charge of theft, and, the case having been presented to court by the prosecution counsel, he was ordered to stand up.

"Have you a lawyer?" asked the magistrate.

"No, sir."

"Do you want a lawyer to defend your case, then?"

"Not partickler, sir."

"Well, in these circumstances, what do you propose to do about the case?" came the next query.

"We-ll-ll," answer the prisoner, yawning extravagantly, as if wearied by the whole performance, "I'm willin' to drop the case far's I'm concerned."

1
9
2
6

The Passing Year

brings its finest cluster of pleasures to fruitage in the many mingled joys of that Christmastide.

That our many friends may gather from the passing hours the choicest sweets of the season is our sincere wish.

Please accept our sincere thanks for favors of the past.

May we serve you in 1927?

HI-WAY SERVICE STATION

J. C. WHITE and B. E. SMITH

WE WOULD BE INGRATES

Did we not at this joyous holiday season give expression of our appreciation to what we believe to be the finest group of patrons it was ever the good fortune of any one to serve.

Words are inadequate to express our full appreciation so to make it more manifest we will endeavor to reveal it more fully to you through our dealings in 1927.

E. L. ASH SHOE SHOP

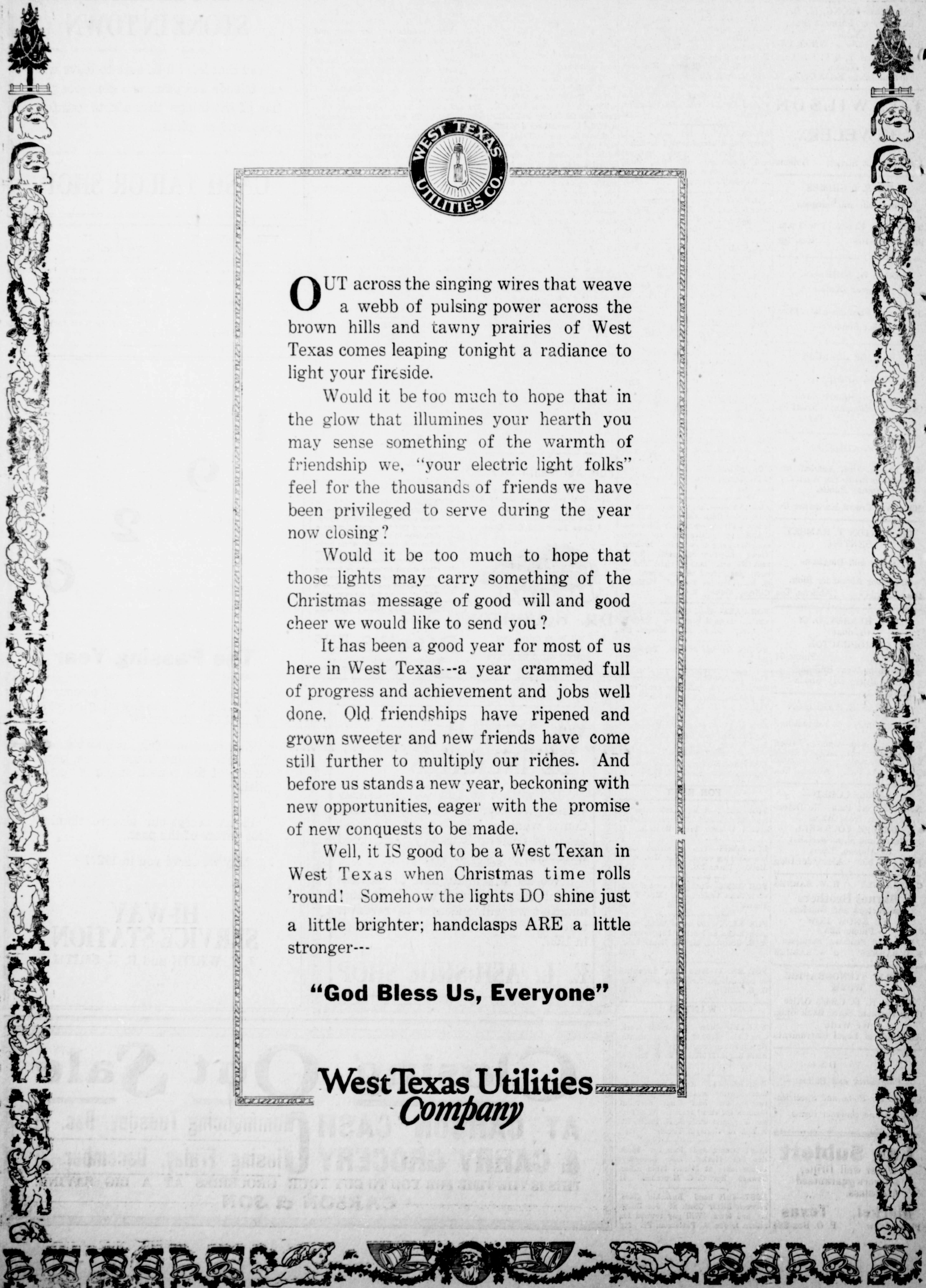
Closing Out Sale

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

Merry Christmas



OUT across the singing wires that weave a web of pulsing power across the brown hills and tawny prairies of West Texas comes leaping tonight a radiance to light your fireside.

Would it be too much to hope that in the glow that illumines your hearth you may sense something of the warmth of friendship we, "your electric light folks" feel for the thousands of friends we have been privileged to serve during the year now closing?

Would it be too much to hope that those lights may carry something of the Christmas message of good will and good cheer we would like to send you?

It has been a good year for most of us here in West Texas--a year crammed full of progress and achievement and jobs well done. Old friendships have ripened and grown sweeter and new friends have come still further to multiply our riches. And before us stands a new year, beckoning with new opportunities, eager with the promise of new conquests to be made.

Well, it IS good to be a West Texan in West Texas when Christmas time rolls 'round! Somehow the lights DO shine just a little brighter; handclasps ARE a little stronger---

"God Bless Us, Everyone"

**West Texas Utilities
Company**

MERKEL— THE BEST TOWN IN WEST TEXAS

Strong language in that headline! Made all the stronger because by some psychological process we believe it is true. Who would not live in any but the best town in Texas or any other state? Providence has provided that our towns are good or bad according as we think them good or bad.

The editor of the Merkel Mail keeps his environment right by the right sort of thinking. We have the best business men it has been our privilege to meet. Our neighbors are neighborly and our friends are friendly.

Our town is organized to do things worth while—not for the benefit of a few—but that every citizen may reap his or her full share of any benefit derived from organized effort. Besides this is Christmas time, and, instead of allowing our minds to revert back to the good old anti-eighteenth amendment days when Tom and Jerry were our holiday guests and furnished the inspiration for most of our amusement—here in Merkel we have but to turn a faucet—and lo! not light wines nor beer—nor even the heavier drinks come forth, but the purest of sparkling water found no where else in this part of the state. It refreshes you when you drink it, and cleanses you when you bathe in it. It is a wonderful thing to be able to quench your thirst without having to call a doctor to re-line your alimentary canal, and to take a bath and not be compelled to tip the porter for brushing you with a whist broom. And then we are well policed. We knock on wood as we write it, but have you heard of any robberies here? Great town this! Near enough to have full advantage of Abilene's great colleges and university with as good public school, as there is in the state right amongst us. A good sewerage system and a man who spends his time keeping our streets clean are to be listed

among our advantages. Of course we need a few things—an extension of our water and sewerage systems—some paving—more awning, show window and street lights. The fact that we are not self satisfied is a healthy symptom. Getting back to our headline—everything about us compels us to modestly admit that we are living in the best town in Texas.

There Is A Santa Claus

The old story that is never old! The story of Santa Claus!

Back in 1897, a little New York girl, Virginia O'Hanlon, wrote to the New York Sun. That newspaper was then edited by Charles A. Dana. The reply to Virginia was written by Francis P. Church. Letter and reply tell the story. Here is the letter: "Dear Editor: I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is not a Santa Claus. Papa says 'If you see it in the Sun, its so.' Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?"

Virginia O'Hanlon.
"115 W. 95th Street."

Here is the reply: "Virginia, your friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They believe that nothing can be which is not comprehensible to their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge."

"Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childish faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoy-

ment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

"Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would they prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither men nor children can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof they're not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

"You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man nor the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived can tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all the world there is nothing else so real and abiding."

"No Santa Claus! Thank God he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood."—Exchange.

MARRIED

L. V. Thornton and Miss Mildred McKay, both of the Blair community were married at 2 o'clock p. m. December 19th by Judge W. W. Wheeler at his residence in th city, in the presence of a few friends to the contracting parties.

Mr. Thornton is agent for the Santa Fe railway at Blair, while Miss McKay is the charming daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. N. McKay of the Blair community. They will reside at Blair.

Newspaper bargain days are here.

PROPOSED CHANGES AS TO FASHION

Turkey abolished the fez with a wave of the hand, almost. But the yashmak is different. Anything is different when it involves ordering women of any race to change their costume because a man said so. The fun of wearing a yashmak is negligible. For the yashmak is an ingenious arrangement for permitting a woman to expose only her eyes, and, under some of the stricter customs of Mohammedan lands, a woman appearing outside her home is expected to cover even her eyes with a veil so thick that clear vision is restricted to an area about her own feet. Young Turkey is for abolishing the veil. But it is afraid to pass a wholesale law ordering the banishing of the custom. Instead, districts are experimenting with it.

Meanwhile shoe manufacturers in the United States, so the Worcester (Mass.) Telegram hears, plan to bring out a shoe for the well-dressed man—and the shoe is to have heels two and one-half inches high. The Telegram is inclined to sputter a bit about it. It doesn't believe it can be done. Still, it isn't any more impossible than the big-legged trousers which flap to the breeze on practically every American campus. Knee breeches, silk stockings and red-heeled pumps of an elder day may come back for the youth of our own time. There is no telling what may be next.

Between high heels for American men and bare faces for Turkish women there is, perhaps, more than a thread of connection. The tendency to conformity is found among all people and under all conditions.—The Dallas News.

More Forests Needed

Fifty million acres of forest land should be acquired by the States, counties and municipalities, in addition to their present holdings of 11 million acres, says W. B. Greeley, Chief Forester, United States Department of Agriculture, and the Federal Government should add 8 or 10 million acres to its present forest area of 89 million acres.

MARRIED

On Sunday afternoon, December 5th at 2:30 o'clock Miss Blanche Randolph was married to Mr. Jake Goolsby by Elder J. J. Edwards, pastor of Elbethel Church.

A host of friends and relatives witnessed the ceremony, which was held at the home of the bride's parents.

Miss Gladys Newton of Abilene was bridesmaid with Mr. Lonnie Blair as best man.

They will make their home at 2465 Pine street Abilene.—A Friend.

Color In Salmon

The color of canned salmon indicates the variety rather than the quality. There are several kinds of salmon and these vary in color after canning from a bright red to almost white.

DON'T CRITICISE IT; READ IT

Don't criticise the Christmas numbers of the papers that come to your home, and among other faults, declare that they are all ads. A holiday number is supposed to contain a large amount of advertising—that's what a holiday number is for—to feature things for the holiday trade, and to bring out the Christmas spirit.

The Merkel business men have not only tried to help you make your holiday shopping easy for you, but in this issue of the Mail, they are expressing their thanks to you and their best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. So read this issue carefully and see if it doesn't reflect the true Christmas spirit.

NOT OUT OF CUSTOM

—But out of the fullness of grateful appreciation we wish you—

Christmas Happiness

AND THE

New Year's Best QUALITY BAKERY

Our Christmas Wishes

If we were to be asked what is our particular Christmas wish for each of our many friends we could not answer in each case until we knew the secret needs and desires of each several heart.

But having learned the one or more good things desired by each it would then be easy for us to tell our wish. We should want the most cherished craving of your heart realized and made full at this most merry and gladsome of all the seasons of the year.

And so, since we are not able to learn in detail the private desires and longing of each, we are wishing now, as our permanent policy of good will constrains us always to do, that this happy and festive season shall find the choicest of your dreams realized among the smiles and friendly voices of your friends.

MAX MELLINGER

OLD FASHION' MERRIE XMAS

HANG UP YOUR STOCKING

—And if Jolly Saint Nicholas carries out instructions he will fill it to the top with Christmas joys—smiles and happy greetings of friends and other loved ones; laughter of merry children enjoying their new toys; old ties strengthened and new ties formed; and anything and everything that you might especially desire to make your Christmas the gladdest one yet.

JONES DRY GOODS

HAPPY PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

GRANNY GILLMORE'S CHRISTMAS GIFTS

GRANNY GILLMORE lived close to the little town of Tower. She was almost eighty, but was still able to get around pretty well. Many reverses had come to Granny in her day, but through all of them she had managed to keep a cheerful, smiling face, and back of that a cheerful heart, too. She owned a small farm near town and managed to get from it enough of the necessities of life, but few of its luxuries. But Granny Gillmore was not the type who set much store on luxuries.

Her granddaughter, Margaret, lived with her, the only one left to her now. Margaret was much like her grandmother in looks and manner. She had her romantic turn of mind, too, and loved to listen to the old woman as she told of her girlhood and how she was wooed and won by Grandfather Gillmore.

It was only when Christmas came that Granny Gillmore wished that she had more of the material things of life. She would so like to give freely, generously, largely, as she had done in the long ago when things were different with her. Every Christmas, however, she did give something. Six lovely plump chickens that were raised on the little farm went to the neediest families in town. And she made it a point, no matter how cold the weather, to drive in with Margaret and deliver them personally. And in each home, in addition to the gift she brought, she left some of the love and cheer that was in her heart.

Now, she and Margaret had delivered the packages, made the few purchases they needed and were making ready for the homeward journey. Then fate stepped in to change things a bit. Granny slipped as she was stepping into the old-fashioned buggy. Margaret picked her up, frightened beyond measure. Granny insisted that she was not hurt, but Margaret would have it that they must see the doctor before leaving town. Still insisting that she was not hurt, Granny allowed herself to be led there. Doctor Stuart was away, but his assistant, Doctor Andrews, examined Granny very carefully. But he could find no injury—it was just as Granny had said—not a bit of harm done.

However, the visit to Doctor Andrews turned out to be a rather long one. Doctor Andrews seemed to be more than interested in Granny. He had been hearing about her during the two years he had spent at Tower and his heart went out to the sweet, gentle-faced old woman. But later events proved that it went out more completely to her pretty young granddaughter, for when the following Christmas came Granny was preparing fowls for a big wedding feast—Katherine Edelman.

NOT FOR THE SIZE

—Nor for the language, but for the sincerity of its purpose we ask you to accept—

OUR WISH

—That this will be a happy Christmas and that 1927 will be a good year for you.

MCDONALD & HIGGINS

BARBER SHOP

WE HAVEN'T FORGOT

—That you were our friend and patron through the year just closing, and that your patronage and good will means a lot to the success of business. And now that the Holidays are here we are wishing for you a very merry Christmas in which all the elements of good cheer will combine to make you happy, and a New Year in which each coming day will add a new measure to your store of joy.

HOLLOWAY'S CAFE

P. S.—We will soon open again at the same old stand.

PEACE

HEALTH

AS THE YEAR'S BOOKS ARE BEING CLOSED

—and as the accounting angel sums up the figures we trust that he is finding that the twelve months just past have been very profitable and enjoyable ones for all our patrons.

As we look over our books and reflect upon the year's business we are reminded of the fact that your patronage and friendship have been among factors in making the year a successful and pleasant one for us.

Therefore, as we all enter upon the enjoyment of the holiday season we take special pleasure in wishing you a most happy Christmas with all the joys and felicitations peculiar to the season, and with its passing we desire that success and satisfaction be written large upon your record for the New Year.

"THE PLACE MOST PEOPLE TRADE."

Bragg Dry Goods Company

HAPPINESS

PLENTY

The Romance Of the Unknown

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The Romance of the Unknown is now before us in the form of a New Year, whose secrets cannot be guessed and whose manipulations of human affairs may bring us much surprise, and we hope, much joy.

In the untried paths of the New Year each of us perhaps will find adventures which we little expected to encounter, and some of us will stumble upon good fortune and new undertaking, and it is the our happiness.

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But this much is certain, the old and tried friends are always good to take along when embarking upon a new undertaking, and it is the boast of this business that we are always making and keeping new friends, because we never fail our old ones.

And we shall count it a sign of good fortune if we are permitted to assist you in achieving that prosperity and contentment which we wish you and yours for 1927.

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CROWN HARDWARE CO.

OLD FATHER TIME

IS DRAWING THE
CURTAIN BACK
ON A NEW
YEAR

—And we hope it will be a good year for one and all. Especially do we feel an interest in the people who have shown an interest in this business. Whether it was patronage or a kind word spoken in our behalf, we want to thank you sincerely.

We are looking to 1927 with renewed energy and a bigger program of service and values.

Let us count you in as one of our big family of "the satisfied."

**SCHINDLER'S
VARIETY STORE**

Stop Playing Politics With Muscle Shoals

Ten years ago, as a national defense measure, Congress started a development at Muscle Shoals to produce nitrates for powder and fertilizer. The war ended and there stood Muscle Shoals, the nitrate plants practically complete, but work on the power dam only about a third complete. To date this project represents an expenditure of about \$150,000,000 of public funds.

Nothing could better illustrate the blighting effect of politics in business than the years of failure by Congress since the war ended, to some disposition of Muscle Shoals, beneficial to the public.

There stands this great property, a potential producer of nitrates for farmers and power for industries. Our Federal laws provide the method for leasing such government property for useful purposes. In spite of the fact that the leasing procedure is clear and specific and duly protects the public interest, eight years' time have been wasted playing politics with Muscle Shoals.

Finally after considering its disposition from every angle, Congress, in March, 1926, on the recommendation of President Coolidge, created a joint Congressional committee to negotiate a proper lease on this property for the production of nitrates and other fertilizer ingredients primarily, and for power purposes—the power to be equitably distributed between the communities and states to which it may be properly transported. After exhaustive hearings, bids were called for, based on the terms specified by the Committee. From the bids submitted, the Committee has recommended acceptance of the offer made by a group of public utility power companies operating in eight states of the Southern states. It now remains for the House and Senate to authorize the Secretary of War to execute a contract on behalf of the United States Government.

Therefore, the present Congress has the opportunity to finally settle this problem on terms that conform to the requirements made by Congress, insuring operation of the plants for the purposes for which they were constructed, and payment to the government of a large annual cash rental. If the proposed legislation fails of passage at this session of Congress, the question will again be deferred for perhaps another two years or more, before new leg-

Holly Berries

and Bright

Candles Help

—But they do not make Christmas. It takes the spirit of spontaneous good will, the presence of friends and the hearty cheer of the well prepared dinner along with the other joys of the season to make a real Christmas. And a real Christmas is what we wish to all our friends and customers—such a Christmas as will linger long with pleasure in the recesses of memory, to cheer you on through the new year.

KING DAVIDS CAFE

MERKEL, TEXAS

PHONE 11

39 ELM STREET

The Tale of 1926 Is About Told

To us it has been in the main a very pleasant one. Our business has been satisfactory, the number of our friends has been enlarged and we feel that we have served a useful purpose in the world.

And now as we all begin to prepare for the story of the New Year with its sorrows and joys, its shadows and bright lights, we take advantage of this happy holiday season to wish in advance that what the New Year has to tell you will be words of Success, messages of Friendship and Good Will, and that the last chapter will leave you enjoying a full measure of Happiness.

**WOODRUM'S
NEW DRIVE-IN
FILLING STATION**

Phone 192.

Kent Street.

islation can be considered and acted on by Congress. In the meantime, the promise of fertilizer assistance to agriculture and the diffusion of surplus power to industries throughout the South will be unredeemed, and the benefit from the investment of \$150,000,000 of public funds will be denied to the public.

By magnifying its importance, for political effect, Muscle Shoals has been given an apparent public value out of all proportion of its relative importance and the time Congress has wasted on it to the exclusion of more pressing matters.

Fight To Abolish Smoke

The world's first competition to abolish the smoke nuisance has been announced in France. New fuels, new methods of burning existing fuels, and chemicals, mechanical, and electrical means of doing away with atmospheric pollution are all eligible.

Engineers in the United States, as well as in England, Germany and France, are fighting the smoke evil on grounds of economy. It is estimated that the use of gas and coke, the two leading smokeless fuels, instead of raw coal, would result in the saving of hundreds of millions of dollars yearly in the world's large cities.

Every ton of coal burned raw, according to the fuels divisions of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, wastes by-products worth \$7, and property damage due to smoke and soot in American cities has been put at \$7.66 per capita each year.

Foreign Trade Increases

The following facts presented by Dr. Julius Klein, Director, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, are convincing evidence that a reasonable protective tariff policy, which is enabling our citizens to maintain a higher standard of living, and promoting continued activity and prosperity of the nation's business, has not destroyed our foreign trade:

"Our total foreign sales in 1925-26 were 120 per cent greater in value than the average from 1910 to 1914. After allowing for the lower buying power of money, they were approximately 50 per cent greater in quantity than before the war. In the past five years the quantity increase has been about 26 per cent. Imports show even more marked gain both as compared with pre-war levels and as compared with four or five years ago."

MAY THIS
CHRISTMAS
BE TO YOU ONE FILLED
WITH EVERY HAPPINESS AND JOY

During 1926 it has been a pleasure to us to serve you and if it is within our power we want to help make—

1927 A PROSPEROUS, HAPPY YEAR
FOR YOU

Accept, if you please, our thanks for each favor of the past, and may we hope for its continuance.

BURTON-LINGO CO.
PHONE 74. MERKEL, TEXAS

Write It "27"

—And every time you write it "27" let it remind you of our good wishes for you and yours during "27" and of our earnest desire to continue to serve you during "27."

May you have "27" different kinds of new joys you have never known before.

Write it "27" and think of—

MERKEL DRUG CO.

**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 Attorney, did, on the 3rd day of December A. D. 1926, file in the District Court of Taylor County, in the State of Texas, its petition in Suit No. 815-T on the Civil Docket of said Court, being suit brought by the said THE STATE OF TEXAS, as Plaintiff against Mrs. Ada Johnson (widow), H. A. Carpenter and Mrs. H. A. Carpenter, Joe Nobles and Mrs. Joe Nobles, Cliff Sherman and Mrs. Cliff Sherman, whose residences are unknown to affiant and after diligent inquiry cannot be ascertained and that G. D. Nobles and Mrs. G. D. Nobles and J. F. Jordon and Mrs. J. F. Jordon are non-residents of this state, as defendants and the nature of the Plaintiff's demand as stated in the said petition being an action to recover of the Defendants as the owner of the lands returned delinquent for the taxes due thereon for the years 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, and 1925; and, whereas, the said owners non-resident of the State (or the name of said owner unknown), and upon the affidavit of Frank E. Smith County Attorney having been made, setting forth that said two owners are non-residents of the State of Texas and residents of others are unknown to affiant, as the Attorney for the State of Texas, and after inquiry, cannot be ascertained.)

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

THE STATE OF TEXAS AND THE COUNTY OF Taylor to Mrs. Ada Johnson (widow), H. A. Carpenter and Mrs. H. A. Carpenter, and Joe Nobles and Mrs. Joe Nobles, Cliff Sherman and Mrs. Cliff Sherman whose residence are unknown, and G. D. Nobles and Mrs. G. D. Nobles, and J. F. Jordon and Mrs. J. F. Jordon who are non-residents of the State and W. D. Hutcheson and Mrs. W. D. Hutcheson who reside in

WE WOULD NOT RISK A CHRISTMAS CARD

—For fear some one may be overlooked in the rush of the Holiday season, so we have reserved this space to broadcast our—

Christmas Greetings

—To all who have favored this business in any way during the year past. We feel very grateful for the patronage we received during 1926 and will strive earnestly in 1927 to make our service and our prices the most attractive in our line in the city.

W. F. GOLLADAY
Local Agent for
GULF REFINING CO.

Friendship

And now since Friendship with its priceless joys is one of the essential ingredients of Christmas and Christmas cheer we are not going even to taste the long-awaited sweets of the season without first having sent out this wish to all our friends that the Goddess of Goodness will empty everything enjoyable into their laps.

HAPPY NEW YEAR, TOO!

Barrow Furniture Company
Phone 239

Taylor County, Texas, who are the heirs and only heirs of P. Nobles and Mrs. P. Nobles and to all persons owning or having or claiming any interest in the following described land delinquent to the State of Texas and County of Taylor for taxes, to-wit: Lots 13 to 16; Lots 13, 14, 15 and 16 and Block No. 15, College addition to the city of Merkel, Taylor County, Texas which said land is delinquent for taxes for the following amounts: \$78.76 for State taxes, and County for County taxes, and you are hereby notified that suit has been brought by the State for the collection of said taxes and you are commanded to appear and defend such suit at the January Term of the District Court of Taylor County, and State of Texas, being the next regular term thereof to be held at the Court House thereof, at Abilene, on the 3rd day of January 1927 and show cause why judgment shall not be rendered concerning said land (or lots), and ordering sale and foreclosure thereof for said taxes and costs of suit.

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

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

KEEPING CHRISTMAS

There is a better thing than the observance of Christmas Day, and that is, keeping Christmas. Are you willing to forget what you have done for other people, and to remember what other people have done for you; to ignore what the world owes you, and to think what you owe the world; to put your rights in the background, and your duties in the middle distance, and your chances to do a little more than your duty in the foreground; to see that your fellowmen are just as real as you are, and try to look behind their faces to their hearts, hungry for joy; to own that probably the only good reason for your existence is not what you are going to get out of life, but what you are going to give to life; to close your book of complaints against the management of the universe and look around for a place where you can sow a few seeds of happiness—are you willing to do these things even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas.—Henry Van Dyke.

Newspaper bargain days are here.

WE CAN'T FORGET

OUR OLD FRIENDS AND WE WON'T FORGET OUR NEW FRIENDS

—But to old friends, tried and true and to the welcome new friends, we send our—

Greetings

—For a happy Yuletide and a New Year, during which you may find contentment and prosperity in the endeavors you most enjoy.

**BAKER & WHEELER
MARKET**

The Candles of 1926 Are Burning Low

Our year of business and pleasure in Merkel has about come to a close. We are well pleased with the business of the year; we are gratified over the friendship and good will of our many patrons, and now—

WE ARE READY TO LIGHT THE CANDLES OF 1927

—By renewing our obligations to serve you one and all for another twelve months to the very best of our ability; letting nothing remain undone that we reasonably may do to accomodate our friends.

We Begin by Wishing Every One of You—

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

DR. H. P. HULSEY
CHIROPRACTOR

Phone 51.

After first of the year office will be in office now
occupied by Dr. W. M. Gambill.

The Lonely Old Lady's Christmas Valentine

THE lonely old lady sat in the twilight as the evening star looked in through the window and wondered why she seemed so sad. The star was bright enough that Christmas Eve to guide anyone to gladness, but she who sat there did not appear to know it. There were yet a few sparks amid the ashes of the hearth fire, and warmth had not wholly departed from the room; there were points of light in the maze of memories that kept the past alive, and at heart the silent thinker was not cold; but darkness was creeping over solitude, and time was registering age, and the old lady was lonely.

There was a picture on the wall of one who had been the strength and joy of earlier days, but years had passed over his grave in a distant land.

There were other pictures looking down upon her with young and happy faces, but they were pictures of children who had blessed other homes, placed about to keep company with her dream children, and reminding her now again that she had none.

So the star might have known that there was reason for pensiveness as it tried to penetrate the gathering gloom and the mystery. But whether it learned the secret or not, it witnessed as it watched, a light in the dim room. For she had taken from a portfolio her most precious possession, and she was smiling upon it. It was an old valentine, the last that she had received from him who had never returned. It was inscribed "To My Valentine." Upon it sat Cupid, in a wreath of forget-me-nots, holding a high pyramid of large roses over a large, circular spider web, with two hearts entangled in it!

The star must have recognized that it was shining upon the deathlessness of love, and helping it to share the Christmas fellowship and cheer.—
Christopher G. Hazard.

(©, 1926, Western Newspaper Union.)

Singing Christmas Carols

Christmas carols will, of course, add beauty to the holiday season. Also they will bring about an increase in communal singing.

Flowers for Christmas

When flowers are at a premium, why not give a few bulbs or a potted plant as a Christmas present to the woman who likes flowers?

Children and Christmas

It is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas, when its mighty Founder was a child himself.—Dickens.

JUST TO

SAY—

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS
AND
A HAPPY
NEW YEAR
TO OUR
FRIENDS AND
PATRONS**

**BOB MARTIN
GROCERY CO.
PHONE 80.**

Old Acquaintances Are

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Not Forgot

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We do not forget our many friends and patrons with whom we have had so many pleasant transactions during the year past, but the memory of our happy associations is one of the things which makes our own Christmas brighter all the while. We are wishing for you a cup of joy brimming over with good things for the holiday season, and throughout 1927.

Hamilton & Case Grocery

OUR CHRISTMAS CAROL

—Would be a song of gratitude for the blessings of the year, the joys of Christmas and the kindness and confidence of our many friends.

May your Christmas holidays be as merry and as full of hearty Christmas cheer as is the gladest and best of Christmas songs.

Liberty Hardware Company

CHRISTMAS TIME

YESTERDAY we put away the balls and tinsel; we robbed our tree of its adornment and left a mute witness of many a happy occasion.

Today another tree is decorated. We inhale a balm from its bruised branches and feast on a beauty of line and color.

But tomorrow—
Tomorrow never comes. It never comes to those who live and love Christmas. It is always today!

Yesterday is but a memory. Today is only the great arena of action.

But tomorrow—
Tomorrow is anticipation and dream. We get our inspiration from the love and achievements of yesterday; we gather our courage from the successes and sacrifices of today; and we build our hopes upon our rarest and chosen dreams for tomorrow.

Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow.
Every day is Christmas if the heart is warm with good-will to our fellows. Tens of thousands of happy voices may repeat the songs of the angels, but the notes will fall upon deaf ears unless the heart is properly attuned.—W. D. Pennypacker.
(©, 1924, Western Newspaper Union.)

Christmas Time

It is the Christmas time,
And up and down 'twixt heaven and earth
In glorious grief and solemn mirth,
The shining angels climb.
—Dinah Maria Mulock.

At Christmastide

At Christmastide the open hand
Scatters its bounty o'er sea and land,
And none are left to grieve alone,
For love is heaven and claims its own.
—Margaret E. Sangster.

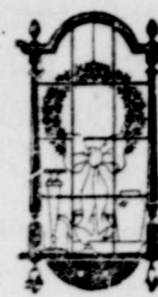
What He Wanted



Bird: My, I wish Santa would bring

WE FEEL INDEBTED

To Our Patrons for Many
Courtesies in the Past
and as We Come to
EXTEND GREETINGS
For Christmas and the New Year



We would not forget to

THANK YOU TOO

—and tell you that in the days to come it
is our hope and ambition to—

SERVE YOU BETTER

THE CORNER GARAGE

F. C. McFARLAND, Prop.

PHONE 19.

BUSINESS is BUSINESS

SO THE COMMERCIAL PROVERB HAS IT, BUT BUSINESS ALSO BECOMES A PLEASURE WHEN LEGITIMATELY CONDUCTED BY THOSE WHO LIKE THEIR WORK AND WHO HAVE PLEASANT PEOPLE WITH WHOM TO DEAL

It is in this fortunate set of circumstances that we find ourselves this glad Christmas time. Our first aim is to make our business a very useful part of the life of our city; we strive always to merit the approval of the highest moral judgment; and we know that we have one of the best possible patronages of any business firms in the country.

All these reasons combine to make us take a more than usual delight in wishing to you one and all the choicest joys of the Holidays and a generous portion of prosperity through the coming year.

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SAM SWANN GIN

Filling Santa Claus' Pack

—would be the easiest sort of matter if good wishes were bulky and had weight.

For at this season of merry exchanges of greetings and good will we are remembering each of our many friends and patrons with a hearty wish for his or her enjoyment of their chief blessings of the Holidays.

If Santa Claus had a way to deliver to each of you the pleasures that we are wishing, his pack would be loaded to overflowing many times with the most priceless gifts your hearts would choose.

And they would last you thru-out all the New Year.

J. T. DENNIS
Dry Goods and Groceries

Will Attempt To Change Marriage Laws of Texas

Progressive legislation with respect to marriage in Texas, as suggested during the recent meeting in Fort Worth of the Texas Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Association, will be proposed to the Legislature by J. C. Duvall, representative from Tarrant county.

The bill as outlined by Mr. Duvall will raise the ages of parties about to be married from 14 to 16 years for women and men, to 16 and 18 years, respectively. It will also make it necessary for the contracting parties to undergo a physical examination by a physician appointed by the county for that purpose, and any person found afflicted with a venereal disease would be denied a license. A further clause in the bill provide that the marriage license will have to be obtained and published ten days in advance of the marriage.

SCIENTISTS PLAN TO BOMB MOON

BERLIN, Dec. 21.—An attempt to hit the moon with a bomb is the announced purpose of a newly founded astronomical society of which Dr. Franz Hoeff, noted Viennese astronomer, is one of the leading members.

Discounting American plans for shooting a man up to the moon as a "bit too fantastic," Dr. Hoeff is quoted as saying the society will attempt next year to obtain virtually the same scientific results with a light-bomb rocket weighing about one ton. The moon rocket on which engineers and savans are now working is designed to reach the moon in 10 hours, propelled through space at the rate of a little more than six miles a second by a series of powder explosions within. When the rocket lands the impact is intended to explode a huge chemical bomb, the blaze of which is to be sufficiently brilliant to be observed from the earth.

Livestock Cooperatives

There are now between 4,000 and 5,000 cooperative livestock shipping associations in this country, according to the latest figures of the United States Department of Agriculture. This movement has developed rapidly during the past 12 years, and must be recognized as a factor of permanent and growing importance in the marketing of livestock.

A Merry Christmas

AND

A Happy New Year

COULD WE SAY MORE IN A WHOLE PAGE?

A. R. BOOTH
PHONE 27.

THE CURTAIN

OF THE FUTURE

—Conceals from us the things which are to be; the past is with us mostly as a chain of memories; but the present is ours in which to live and do good.

Our relations with you in the past have been pleasant to us; and now at Christmas time we find ourselves wishing that you may enjoy the finest joys of the season; and as the curtain of the New Year rises to reveal its secrets, we hope that it will show you much prosperity and happiness.

BROWN DRY GOODS CO.

Compere News

Boss, 17 year old son of Mrs. Callie Carter dropped dead near this place last Wednesday while employed by Mr. Grady Bond to help dig a dirt tank.

It was reported that while the were at work they heard a noise and upon looking around saw the boy down on his hands and knees trying to rise. He was carried a few steps out of the tank but only breathed twice. It was thought at first that he had been kicked by a mule. He was immediately carried to the home of Mr. George Stout and a physician called but upon his arrival he pronounced the boy dead and in fact said he had been dead before he was carried to the house. A coroner returned a verdict of "death by natural causes."

He was kept at the home of Mr. Stout until Thursday when the body was carried to the Canyon where the family resides and was laid to rest in the White Church cemetery.

He is survived by several brothers and sisters and his widowed mother. —Correspondent.

Step-Ins For Men

In Spokane, Wash., in the he-men belt of the Great Northwest, an enterprising storekeeper placed on display and sale a collection of silk and near-silk step-ins for men. Instead of getting mobbed by an indignant male populace, the storekeeper actually sold a dozen or more of the garments at \$6 apiece, and at last accounts he was enjoying a steady run on his stock.

Most of us he-men will curl our lips in scorn at this display of effeminacy. It will strike us as extremely sissy for grown men to adopt a purely feminine article of underwear. We will see all sorts of indications of the decline of American manhood in this incident.

Yet it is no worse than a dozen other incidents of recent years. Custom takes the stain out of many habits that were originally disgraceful. For all we know, silk step-ins and slip-overs, whatever they may be, will be all the rage in a few weeks, and no man will be considered well-dressed whose wardrobe does not contain half a dozen of each.

Clothes do not make the man, thank goodness.—Abilene Reporter.

Newspaper bargain days are here.

1926

1927

Christmas Comes But Once a Year

However, we are mighty glad that it comes that often, for we believe that Christmas time when observed in the true Christmas spirit is a most useful season of the year, and we know that we always enjoy seeing our friends have a good time at this period.

It seems right that one week of the year should be given over especially to the cultivation of friendship, good will and innocent festive pleasures. May your Christmas be as merry and as lasting as you could desire, and the New Year filled with peace, health, happiness and plenty.

MERKEL LUMBER CO.

PHONE 62.
Established 1881.
Wm. P. CAREY CO., Owners

GREETINGS

Our Friends and We

HAVE DEALT TOGETHER DUR-
ING 1926 WITH MUCH
PLEASURE TO US, AND
WE TRUST TO ALL
OF YOU

It has been our endeavor to make all of our relations with our customers so pleasant and profitable to them that they will desire to count themselves among our permanent friends.

And now while the merry Christmas bells are ringing out their notes of joy and while the blush of the New Year is in the East we tell you one and all that it is our sincere wish that this shall be the merriest Christmas you have ever known and that the New Year will unfold before you opportunities you have not known before for health, prosperity and genuine happiness.

We are desirous of being just as serviceable in as many ways as possible to you through 1927. And we shall be disappointed if you do not call upon us many times for reasonable favors during the coming months, and we shall be only too glad to contribute as far as we are able to the continuous happiness and prosperity which we are hoping will be yours in the New Year.

West Company

35 Years in Merkel

We're Satisfied With You



Because you--our patrons--have been generous and loyal to us. We wish you to know we are thinking of you today and of what you have meant to this institution--

MAY THE SANTA CLAUS OF
GOOD CHEER BE WITH YOU

--during Christmas and each day of the New Year--is the sincere wish of the

Farmers & Merchants National Bank

Merkel,

SINCE 1904

Texas