

"A College Town," Is Home Talent Play at The Cozy Feb. 17

On Thursday evening, February 17th at eight o'clock, the Baraca and Philaeta classes of the Methodist Sunday School will present the farce comedy "A College Town," with an "all-star" cast.

This play is full of fun from beginning to end and if you enjoy real laughs you cannot afford to miss it, with its many college pranks which make the hero's maiden aunt wonder why she ever left the peace and quiet of wall street for a college town."

Not one of the last attractions of this evening's entertainment are the special features to be given between

The Cast

Jimmie Cavendish, a rah-rah boy, Edward McCrary

Tad Cheseldine, the college cut-up, Wrenn Durham.

Leviticus, the ace of spades, Loring Hamblet.

Major Killepper, the head of the military, Tom Allday.

Professor Senacharrib Papp, the chairman of Philogy, T. L. Carleton.

Scotch McAllister, the football captain, Castle Ellis.

Shorty Long, the ubiquitous freshman, Hubert Blair.

Billie Van Dorn, on the glee club, Cyrus Pee.

Dr. Twiggs, on the faculty, Kenneth Pee.

Miss "Jim" Channing, the girl from Dixie, Ethel Wilson.

Marjorie Haviland, the college widow, Mrs. Claude Dye.

Mrs. Bagsby, "Ma", a popular landlady, Martha Bird.

Miss Jane Cavendish, Cavendish & Dean, Wall Street, New York, Gladys Middleton.

Mrs. Clopatia Popp, a faculty type Willie Toombs.

Mrs. Mollie Styles, a honeymooner, Cora Lee Hulsey.

Miss Twiggs, a relic of other days, Georgia Daniel.

Mrs. Twiggs, a motherly old soul, Velma Sterling.

MR. JOHN ELLIOTT, FORMER CITIZEN, ON VISIT

Mr. and Mrs. John Elliott and their son, Jack, of San Antonio, arrived in Merkel Tuesday for a few days visit among old friends and neighbors.

The Elliots were citizens of Merkel for about twenty-five years prior to their going to San Antonio some ten years ago, having come to Merkel when the town was only a small village, along about the year 1889, and, as Mr. Elliott puts it, they still have a warm place in their hearts for the town and its citizenship, of which there is no finer to be found, further stated the pioneer.

Mr. Elliott also stated that he was glad to see the old town waking up to many signs of civic improvements, such as good schools, water, sewer and fine lighting system. However, he whispered, "a little paving would not only add comfort and good business, but would bring your city out of the mud and country-town class, and add many high class citizens to the already excellent citizenship," he said. "You know towns, like people must keep abreast the progress of the times if they prosper and grow as they should," he continued.

While in our city Mr. and Mrs. Elliott and their son were guests in the homes of Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Dennis and Mrs. J. R. Dye.

We are glad to add the name of Mr. N. C. Galle, a new citizen, to our fast growing subscription list. Mr. Galle, with Mr. D. A. Lee, came to Merkel last fall, and are opening a new Tourist Camp in the western part of the city near the highway. A number of comfortable bungalow cottages have been erected, and now a filling station is being added.

OFFICIALS OF BIG COMPANIES PAY VISIT TO PROPERTIES IN THIS SECTION

According to reports, officials of the Midwest Exploration Company, the Midwest Refining Company and the Standard Oil Company of Indiana, were in Abilene first of the week and while there made an inspection trip over the properties of the Midwest Exploration Company in this section.

In the party we are informed, were Edward Bullock, director of the Hard Oil of Indiana, H. C. Brets, president of the Midwest Exploration Company, John D. Clark, President

Kirby S. Beckett To Enter Automobile Business Here

We are glad to announce that Mr. Kirby S. Beckett has secured the agency in Merkel and the territory throughout this section for the Chrysler automobiles, and expects to open his agency soon with a complete line of models and be prepared to give service on this make. He will open in the big rock garage on Front street belonging to Mr. J. L. Baker, in which Everybody's Garage was formerly located.

The building has for the past two weeks been undergoing repairs and remodeling, and when completed will make a very desirable and accommodating location for the splendid business Mr. Beckett will conduct in same. In connection with his sales and service Mr. Beckett will also have for the convenience of his friends and patrons a first class "auto laundry and ample storage room.

Mr. Beckett will make an opening announcement of this new enterprise next week, which we predict will meet with splendid success under his able management.

BAPTISTS OF DISTRICT TO RAISE FUNDS

Complete plans for raising its quota in the Conquest Campaign of Texas Baptists were formed yesterday by the Sweetwater Baptist Association in a meeting at the Caps Church. The Rev. John W. Newsome, Abilene, association evangelist, last night announced all spiking dates and stated that both a cash and pledge offering will be taken. The pledges will be due September 15, 1927.

The Conquest Campaign has as its aim the raising of \$2,000,000 or more with which to pay indebtedness of Baptist colleges and hospitals of Texas.

In the absence of the Rev. Charles T. Whaley of Sweetwater, Rev. Chas. A. Powell of the College Heights Baptist Church, Abilene, presided at yesterday's meeting. The principal address was given by Dr. F. S. Groner, secretary of the Baptist convention of Texas.

Four Squadrons

Four flying squadrons of speakers will carry on an intensive campaign with all-day services at the smaller churches. These will close with night sessions. Six of the 39 churches in the association, which includes all of Taylor and that part of Nolan county east of the Orient railway, will be visited on Sundays by two speakers.

The four groups of speakers appointed are No. 1, C. A. Powell, Abilene; Ira L. Parrack, Merkel; G. W. Lawrie, Abilene; W. L. Ayers, Blackwell.

No. 2: John W. Newsome, association evangelist of Abilene; S. F. Baucom, field secretary of the West Texas Baptist sanitarium, Abilene; E. K. Dougherty, Lamar street church, Sweetwater; Dr. M. A. Jenkins, First Baptist Church, Abilene.

No. 3: Charles T. Whaley, first Baptist church, Sweetwater; John W. Newsome, S. F. Baucom and Ira L. Parrack.

No. 4: E. K. Dougherty, C. A. Powell, J. C. McKenzie of Abilene and Scott W. Hickey, Walnut Street Baptist Church, Abilene.

These squadrons will begin their work Monday, February 14. Their itineraries are: Group one: Live Oak February 14; Dora, February 15; Nolan, February 16; Hilton and Mt. Olive, February 17; Blackwell, February 18.

No. 2: High Point, February 14; Calvary, 15; Maryneal, 16; Trent, 17; Mt. Pleasant, 18.

No. 3: Elmdale, February 21; Colony Hill, 22; Neill, 23; View, 24; Blair 25.

No. 4: Bradshaw, February 21; Moro, 22; Shep, 23; Buffalo Gap,

MARLAND DEEP TEST FINDS SHOWING AT 2,928 FOOT DEPTH

Possibility of a second "pay" in the Noodle Creek pool is creating more interest than any other event since the discovery of the pool by Phillips Petroleum Company, put Jones, Taylor, Fisher and Nolan counties back in the pale of oil activity fast fall.

The second pay prospect is held out by the Marland Oil Company No. 2 Mason, which is now setting pipe to test the showing at 2,928 to 2,932 feet some 400 feet below the level at which present production of the pool is obtained.

The pay, like the one above, is a sandy limestone, carrying oil.

The amount can not be determined until casing is set and the water in the hole cut off. The test was carrying a hole full of water when the showing was encountered.

The No. 2 Mason is in the northeast corner of the 80-acre offset lease to the Phillips Petroleum Company discovery well owned by Marland. It was something of a surprise when it showed a negligible quantity of oil in the regular pay. It was then decided to convert it into a deeper test, the first yet drilled in the pool.

The Marland No. 1 Mason, west offset to the discovery well, was only an ordinary producer, but the Marland No. 3 Mason, still further west, is rated the best well in the field.

It is now producing around 1,500 barrels on air lift. It flowed and swabbed approximately that amount when first completed several weeks ago.

Its large production, despite an ordinary producer between it and the discovery well, which was the previous best in the field, has led to the belief that the size of the production in the area will depend largely on a

well locating a "soft spot" in the pay, rather than its location with reference to nearness to previous good producers.

The Mid-West Exploration Company's No. 2 Thornton, south offset to the Marland No. 3 Mason, in process of completion, is showing the earmarks of an excellent producer, swabbing 33 barrels per hour for the first three hours from the regular pay found at 2,491 to 2,506 feet.

The World Oil Company No. 1 Clark in the Southeast corner of section 15, more than a mile northeast of production, promises an early verdict on extension of production in that direction. The test is within 300 feet of the pay depth, mudding off eight-inch casing at 2,230 feet. It is located in the axis of the acreage "play" made by the Phillips Petroleum Company, discoverer of the pool, both before and after the first well found production. This will be the first real "outside" test to the north to get down.

Cranston Looking Good

The Hart & Cole No. 1 W. R. Cranston, ten miles northeast of Merkel, after encountering several oil showings, are reported to have found a real good showing of oil with considerable gas first of the week at 2,360 feet and drilling was again, resumed today with the expectation of drilling the well in.

The Largest well, said to be in good formation and looking like a probable producer, is temporarily shut down at about 2,300 feet.

The Haynes & Hamilton well is drilling at about 1,700 feet.

The Huddleston well near Mt. Pleasant is going down nicely and has reached a depth of around 2,000 feet.

C. of C. Builds New Road to Oil Field

Through the efforts of the Merkel Chamber of Commerce, a new and excellent road to the oil field has recently been built, which shortens considerably the distance to the heart of the field.

Because of the efforts of Dr. M. Armstrong, secretary Thompson and the general road committee, a right of way for the new road was secured along the boundary lines of the land belonging to Messrs. Walling, Watkins, E. Howell and others, and now the road has been opened and graded up in fine condition.

W. H. Frazier, the best road man in Texas, superintended the work of building same, and that means that the road was not only built right but at reasonable cost, for Henry knows how, and he sees that the work is done honestly.

NOTICE INCOME TAX PAYERS

For the convenience of those who are required by law to file Federal Income Tax Returns, a Deputy Collector of Internal Revenue will be at the F. & M. National Bank, Merkel, Texas, on Saturday, February 19, 1927, to assist taxpayers in preparing their return. No charge will be made for this service. The matter of filling out your income tax return should be given immediate attention in order to avoid penalty and interest.

Mrs. L. A. Watts accompanied by her daughters Misses Lillian, Edna and Ruth, were guests of Mr. J. N. Watts and family of Abilene Sunday.

Taylor county's Farm Bureau secretary, Mr. Clyde Daniel, of Abilene, was in Merkel Monday calling on friends and transacting business.

evening of Saturday, February 26.

Sunday services will be held according to the following program: Tye, February 13, Rev. Newsome and Rev. Powell; New Hope, February 13, Rev. Newsome and Rev. Lawrie; Cedar Gap, February 13; Rev. Jenkins and Rev. Hickey; Salt Branch, February 20, Rev. Parrack and Rev. Hickey; Tuscola, February 27, Rev. McKenzie and Rev. Powell; Hamby, March 6, Rev. Newsome and Rev. J. B. Bradford.

Mrs. A. C. Boney Lets Contract For 50x120 Building

Mrs. A. C. Boney last week let the contract to Ray Douglas of Sylvester, for the erection of a 50x120 foot brick building on Front Street on the lot formerly occupied by the Boney Garage, which when completed will be occupied by the Lowe-Brackeen Chevrolet Company of this city.

The new building will be built especially to suit the motor company, which will operate their sales and service as well as accessories and repair shop especially for the Chevrolet car, and will be modern and up-to-date in every particular. The contract calls for the completion of the building by April 1st.

Milburn S. Long Appointed Judge to Succeed W. R. Ely

On Monday of this week Governor Dan Moody appointed Hon. Milburn S. Long, District Attorney, to be District Judge, succeeding Judge W. R. Ely, who last week was given a place on the Highway Commission by the Governor.

Judge Long had the indorsement of a majority of the citizenship of Taylor, Shackelford and Callahan counties for the position and he will no doubt live up to the expectations and high esteem in which the people expect and hold in him.

Within a short time after Long's appointment to the Judgeship, Governor Moody appointed Hon. J. R. Black of Baird to the position of District Attorney, to succeed Mr. Long.

Judge Black is also an able lawyer and most excellent gentleman, and will no doubt fill the position with honor and credit.

MR. RODDEN RETURNS FROM TRIP TO DETROIT

Mr. O. R. Rodden, our most excellent photographer, has this week returned from a two weeks trip to Detroit, Michigan, where he was called to be with relatives who were ill.

He has many interesting things to tell about the great city of Detroit, the home of the automobile. He was favorably impressed with the cleanliness, the broad streets, magnificent new apartment houses, Detroit boasts of, and of which they soon hope to out number Chicago. It seems to be their slogan. He said that 25,000 people might be seen almost anytime during the day from Cadillac Square, in the central part of the city.

Mr. Rodden stated that he visited various automobile factories and said one day Henry Ford added a new force of only 6,000 men to his already large working crew. A trip across into Canada was also among the interesting trips of the photographer's visit in the northern city. Mr. Rodden stated that during his entire two weeks trip he saw the sunshine only once and was indeed glad to get back to the land of sunshine.

On his return home he was accompanied by Mrs. J. R. Sanders, mother of Mrs. Rodden, who had also been in Detroit on a visit, but will shortly return to her home on the Plains of Texas.

MERKEL CAGERS HAVE TWO GAMES AT HOME

This evening at 7:00 o'clock in the Armory building, the Merkel Badgers school boys and girls play the boys and girls of Draughton's College of Abilene. The best game of the season was the one played with Draughton's. Everybody that came received full value on price paid for the game. Draughton's made a split with Colorado high school cagers, who are supposed to be the district champions. There is a possibility of having Draughton's boys and girls play here on Saturday night also, but this will be announced at the game Friday night. More seats are being placed in the armory to take care of the crowd. Prices for the two games tonight will be 35c and 25c.

On Tuesday night at 7 o'clock in the local Armory the Merkel Badgers will play the Abilene Eagles. Abilene is the first high school to defeat the Merkel five this year. We hope to see the game reversed on the local court. There will be a girls game also, but it is not definite just what school will play Merkel. It will likely be champion school of Nolan county. They won the county championship of Nolan County.

The game offers much enthusiasm as Abilene defeated Stamford and also split games with Brownwood. The price for the two games will be 35c and 25c.

Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Patterson and daughter, Miss Opal, have returned from a second trip to Dallas, where they went for the treatment of Miss Opal's eyes.

Mr. Clarence Walden, who has been attending North Texas Agricultural College at Arlington, is here with home folks.

DR. L. E. SMITH TO SPEAK AT THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONDAY NIGHT

Lucian E. Smith, M. D., of Spanish Guinea, West Africa, one of the most interesting speakers on the American platform today, will deliver an illustrated lecture on Monday evening, February 14, at 7:30 o'clock at the Grace Presbyterian Church.

Dr. Smith brings with him an assortment of African curios, also pictures and slides illustrating the life and customs of the people in Africa,

Merkel Bound to Win By Cooperation, Says Secretary Thompson

Merkel, like every other community in which oil has been discovered, has had its "ups and downs" and there will yet be periods of depression and prosperity with prosperity a certainty if we all unite in bringing it about.

When Winter No. 1 came in everybody expected to get rich within the next sixty days. Real estate was overvalued and board and room and rents were beyond the man of ordinary means or income.

We have settled down to common sense, and while some think the oil industry has not brought to us the prosperity which we expected, there is no one so pessimistic but will admit that our trade is far better than the trade of towns which have had to rely solely upon agricultural products.

This is reflected in our bank deposits which are greater than the deposits of either Anson or Winters. It has been several years since we could make this last statement.

We are just beginning to receive the state publicity to which we are entitled, and to become convinced of the necessity of having a good modern hotel and making other civic improvements, which in themselves will attract outside capital and raise the value of city property.

Business men are not attracted to a town that does not show progress of a permanent nature.

No one is coming here to purchase a fifty by one hundred forty foot lot at any reasonable price because the seller of that lot magnanimously offers to let the mineral rights go with it. A man who would purchase a lot because of such an offer would be widely enthusiastic or of questionable sanity, and it would take an expert alienist to properly diagnose his mental condition.

Supply houses are not coming here because of flaming handbills but on account of good roads, properly maintained, and reasonable proximity to the field, and first class living conditions.

These things cannot be brought about except by organized effort and at some extra cost and by every man in Merkel becoming an optimist.

There is a lot of psychology in keeping a town and community prosperous. Every business man of any sense will tell you that.

Read the bulletins sent out by Babson and other great statisticians, and by the great financial institutions and you will readily see that they are intended to keep business pepped up—to steer us clear of pessimism.

We should have a Retail Merchants Association in connection with our Chamber of Commerce. We should make our Chamber of Commerce as valuable to the farmer as to the citizen of the town, because our interests are mutual.

We should be organized to hold the trade we have, to enlarge it and to give every service to the farmer that other nearby towns give, and then if our merchants keep stocks of goods from which proper selections can be made, and at prices that will compete with other towns, we will get the business.

Our town needs to be advertised within a radius of at least fifty miles from here.

We are in the center of what will become a great oil field, and if we do not profit by that location we have no one to blame but ourselves.

Mr. D. O. Huddleston returned Friday of last week from a business trip to Wichita Falls. From all indications he must have had a very successful trip; on his return, we understand, he presented Mrs. Huddleston with a new Buick car.

W. Z. Price and wife returned to Merkel Thursday from a trip to Amarillo and Borger. Mr. Price reports activity there in the oil game very brisk, despite the severe cold, bad weather.

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New England Atmosphere With 1926 Improvements

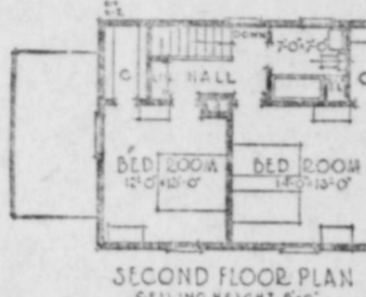


ANY one who has ever motored through the quaint sleepy towns of New England has fallen in love with the small houses that abound in that section of the country—neat, white, unpretentious and with a touch of reserve about them. Just such a house is the one pictured here. It is equally adaptable for town or country, and by merely shifting around can be built on a wide or narrow lot without spoiling it architecturally.

The house is sturdily built and has an exterior of wood siding except for the unusual stucco panels that start at the level of the second floor windows. The roof is of stained shingles, preferably moss green, in keeping with the window shutters. A house of this compact style is very easy to heat, especially when the specifications call for insulation throughout with celotex, which prevents heat leakage, and keeps the house cool in the summer.

The living and dining rooms are here combined into one large room flooded with light by windows on three sides. The two bedrooms on the second floor each have double exposure and an extra large closet in which a window may be placed.

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RESTORED TO LIFE BY HEART MASSAGE

Many Cases Known of Revival of Patients.

The recent case in which a woman who had died (that is to say, whose heart had ceased to beat) on the operating table at St. Thomas' hospital, London, was restored to life for 30 hours by massaging the heart is by no means unique, says a surgeon in the London Mail.

Death is a relative term. Because the heart has ceased to beat and the lungs to draw in fresh oxygen the remainder of the body is not necessarily dead. It remains rather in a state of suspended animation for a varying period and if by any outside means the heart can be persuaded to beat again (always provided that no wound or organic disease of any vital part is present, such as would suffice to cause real "death") this temporary assistance may suffice to tide over the breakdown.

It was, characteristically enough, the surgeon of the great Napoleon, Baron Larrey, who paved the way for the operation of heart massage by taking at that time boldly the original view that a wound of the pericardium (the membranous bag inclosing the heart) was not necessarily fatal. Yet as late as 1875 it was asserted that even so simple a matter as "tapping" it for fluid was madness.

There was a dreaded bogey then—the fear of septic infection, and it is that very same fear that in practice almost narrows down the application of this method of restoration to cases of collapse on the operating table. The time available is short, for deprived of fresh blood and oxygen the tissues will soon be dead in very truth.

But the operation, simple though it be (it is a matter practically of a swift incision through the abdominal wall, another through the diaphragm and the insertion of a finger and thumb to squeeze rhythmically the apex of the heart), involves the opening of two great body cavities. Infection without proper sterilization would be a certainty, and sterilization takes time. Only in an operating theater that is already in action, where hands and instruments are already "surgically clean," would there be any hope of success.

Nevertheless, the tale of successes is a long one. In a series of 30 cases recorded by the American surgeon, Ricketts, 12 recovered permanently. In one of them the heart had stopped for 20 minutes.

New Word to Her

"Choose your words carefully if you would be understood by your servants," is the recommendation of a housekeeper who recently had the following experience. She was especially fond of the small white peaches and had not yet seen any on the market. One evening when her cook started out, she remarked: "If you should by any chance see any of the small white peaches in passing through the market or any of the stores, buy them, and I'll reimburse you when get home." The reply came: "Sure, Miss Alice, I'll buy the peaches, all right, but what I want to know is, 'What is it that you is going to do to me when I get home?'"

Rewrote Overture

One of the operas of Rossini, the Italian composer, has an overture and a half, just because Rossini, like most men of all ages, dreaded to leave his bed. Writing in bed, he had partly completed an overture when he dropped off to sleep. The manuscript rolled to the floor and when Rossini awoke, he tried to recover the paper without leaving the bed. He found that he could not reach it, and, rather than get up, he started anew.

Those Dear Girls

Dora—Yes, Tom's a good fellow—good-looking and has plenty of money—but he's so timid and bashful, you know. He's been coming to see me twice a week for nearly a month, and he's never attempted to kiss me.

Joan—Well, he certainly appears to possess good taste among his other excellent qualities, but really he was not so timid when he called to see me the other evening.

CARD OF THANKS

We gratefully acknowledge the kind assistance, expressions of sympathy and beautiful floral offerings of our friends and acquaintances upon the death of our beloved mother, Mrs. Malinda Amstead.

Mr. and Mrs. Claude Dean and family, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Amstead and family.

ATTENTION Poultry Raisers Z-I-P Parasite remover used in the drinking water will rid your poultry of Blue Bugs, Lice, Fleas, and all other insects. Sold under a money-back guarantee by W. F. HAMBLET. 11tp

W. O. Boney can make you a loan from 5 years to 33 years at 6% interest. 1t

MRS. MALINDA OLMSTEAD

Friday morning, February 4, 1927, the death angel called the spirit of Mrs. Malinda Olmstead to her reward.

Her life had been filled with noble sacrifices, being a slave to duty, to which she never failed to patiently respond.

She believed and observed the golden rule of doing unto others as she would be done by, which is one of the noblest and most sublime wishes expressed by the savior while he was on earth.

She had lived a consecrated Christian life which is a very commendable trait and one which it will be well for her loved ones who are left to imitate so that they may meet her in the Heavenly home to which we are sure she has gone.

Malinda Ann Buynum was married to Thomas Olmstead at the age of 24 years, and to this union were born two children, Mr. Bob Olmstead of Vernon, Texas, and Mrs. Della Doan of Blair, Texas. She professed faith in Christ at the age of 16 years and lived a devoted Christian life until the end came.

Besides her two children are ten

grandchildren and two great grandchildren, as well as other relatives are left behind to mourn her death.

A FRIEND.

THURSDAY CLUB

Mrs. Robert Hicks was hostess at a very merry club party at her home on Thursday of last week. Tables had been appointed and arranged for games of "42" and at the culmination of the games a business session was held for the purpose of electing new officers. Mrs. John West was elected president, and Mrs. Tom Largent was elected secretary and treasurer. Club members were very happy to have as their guests Mrs. Will Brown of Anson and Mrs. Fred Latham of Merkel. Mrs. Hicks passed a most delicious salad served with hot tea to the above mentioned guests and following club members: Mesdames O. R. Dye, R. O. Anderson, S. D. Gamble, Ross Ferrier, T. E. Collins, W. J. Largent, Tom Largent, Dee Grimes, L. B. Scott, T. L. Grimes, Booth Warren, F. C. McFarland, John West, R. I. Grimes, Jim West, Charlie Jones and the hostess.

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A small garden is very much worth while. A space 20x25 feet will well repay you if used for beans, radishes, beets, lettuce, carrots, spinach, etc.—the quick growers. A larger area permits growing sweet corn, peas, melons, tomatoes, and the root crops for winter storage.

To utilize your land to best advantage, plan your garden right away. Also plan to use seed that bears a reputation for producing good crops over a long period of years. Northrup, King & Co.'s seeds have given satisfaction for 42 years.

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Our filling station service will please you. It is the best.

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We will charge your battery, repair your old one, or sell you a new one of the best made "the Exide."

EVERY BODY'S GARAGE

Service Plus Satisfaction

MRS. EMMETTE GRIMES ENTERTAINS

The home of Mrs. Emmette Grimes was the scene of a lovely party Saturday afternoon complimenting Mrs. David W. Wright and Mrs. E. Yates Brown, both recent brides, with Miss Maurine Hearn of Roscoe receiving as hostess. The spirit of Saint Valentine vied with the honorees for his share of the compliments throughout the afternoon and every possible tribute was paid to him in his favorite colors. Tables for Bridge were appointed with small candy baskets, fashioned in valentine motif, filled with miniature candy hearts and the tallies and bridge pads were brilliant in their red colorings.

Mrs. Wright and Mrs. Brown were the recipients of useful little valentine bride's books in which each guest had written their favorite recipes.

The Bridge games progressed throughout the hours of the late afternoon at the culmination of which the honorees were presented beautiful wall pockets filled with spring blossoms. Miss Hearn was assisted by Mrs. Grimes in serving brick cream resplendent with its red heart, angel food cake, olives and punch. The plate was complete with a red satin box of valentine candies. The guests fortunate enough to enjoy this hospitality with Mrs. Wright and Mrs. Brown were Mary Cleo Booth, Vennie Heizer, Lucy Tracy, Frances McMurry, Velma Sterling, Christine Collins, Mesdames R. I. Grimes, W. S. J. Brown, Emmette Grimes and Miss Hearn.

COLLINS AND GRAFFORDS WRITE THE MAIL FROM CENTRALIA, MO.

Centralia, Mo., Feb. 6, 1927.
The Merkel Mail,

To make sure of our paper for another year, am inclosing you a check, so please do not leave us out because we are sitting up here with our ears and eyes open trying to grasp at even the faintest hope of something big to come to the little city in clover.

Papa and mama are trying one of our "Missouri winters". They enjoyed their visit with Grady in New York. He was here to visit us in October, and intended to take them back with him, but papa's health at that time was not so good.

Miss Sophia Howard spent New Year's week with us. Words cannot express how we enjoyed her visit. We would like for all our friends to make us such a visit.

We so often speak of our friends there and wonder what part they are sharing of this world's treasure, that is coming from the late discovery of oil there. Jess says to ask Mr. C. K. Russell not to get too busy and forget how to laugh.

Papa and mama said if they were there perhaps there would not be any domino playing from them, as they, too, would be too busy enjoying the boom.

Mr. Ground Hog saw his shadow here, but as the "Centralia Fireside Guard" says, "time will tell".

Hoping for you a very prosperous year, your friends,
COLLINS and GRAFFORDS.

AGED MOTHER OF MRS. M. L. ESTES SUCCEUMBS

On Monday, February 7th, after several weeks illness the aged and much loved mother of Mrs. M. L. Estes of this city passed away at the home of Mrs. Estes.

Funeral services were held at the First Methodist Church Tuesday at three p.m., conducted by Rev. W. R. McCarter, pastor of the church assisted by Rev. Ira L. Parrack, pastor of the First Baptist Church, and Rev. Tooley of Tye. Rev. Busbee, a lifelong friend of the family, who had known and come in close contact with the life of Mrs. Mashburn, paid tribute in most effective and consoling words.

Mrs. Mashburn was born in South Georgia, January 30th, 1848, and came to Texas in 1897, living near Waco three years, and since has lived in Merkel and vicinity for twenty-seven years. She was married to Wm. Martin in 1870. To them were born three children only one of which is living, Mrs. M. L. Estes, of this city. Her second marriage was to Mr. C. W. Mashburn in 1877, and to this union was born six children, H. W. Mashburn, California; Mrs. Margaret Evans, Knox City; Mrs. M. Goodyear, Anson; Mrs. Harvey Warren, Knox City; Mrs. Ollie Spurgin, Comper; Mrs. Emma Mae Garrison, Breckenridge; all of whom attended her during the funeral except Mr. H. N. Mashburn of California.

Mrs. Mashburn was a kind and loving mother, a patient sufferer, a devout Christian holding unbroken membership with the Methodist church from childhood until death.

Yes sir, bud, your home is just what you make it; no better, no worse. Likewise your town will be just what you, the citizenship, make of it.

IMPLEMENTS

Just unloaded a car of Implements. Planters, Cultivators, Walking Busters, Sulkeys, Riding Busters, Drag Harrows, Points, Sweeps, Georgia Stocks Etc.

"Incubators & Brooders"

We have a few Incubators and Brooders left and have a few more in transit. Get one now and get your chicks off early.

Poultry Supplies, Wire Etc. in all sizes and meches. Rakes, Hoes, Shovels, Spades, Water Hose and many other things too numerous to mention. Well you know our slogan. We will appreciate your business.

Liberty Hardware Co.

"If It's Hardware We Have It"

POPULAR YOUNG COUPLE MARRIED LAST SUNDAY

Rev. W. R. McCarter, pastor of the First Methodist church of this city, in his usual happy and appropriate manner, at nine o'clock on last Sunday morning, pronounced the words that bound in marriage Mr. Claude Dye and Miss Alma Patterson, both well known and popular young people of this city, the marriage being performed at the parsonage in the presence of only a few close friends of the contracting parties.

The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. A. V. Dye, and is very popular among a host of young friends. The bride is the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Patterson, who by her many womanly charms and graces also commands a wide circle of admiring friends with whom this paper joins in extending congratulations and good wishes for a long, useful and happy wedded life.

OUR LOSS and YOUR GAIN
Entire Stock of OVERCOATS
50% DISCOUNT
BROWN DRY GOODS COMPANY



OIL MEN'S COMPENSATION OUR SPECIALTY IF IT'S INSURANCE

---SEE---

Johnny Cox Agency

Bonds and Insurance

Room 19 Radford Bldg. Phone 2767
ABILENE, TEXAS

Chevrolet Increases Zone Offices In View of Increased Sales

Reflecting increased sales activity under the 1927 sales program, the Chevrolet Motor Company has just announced the opening of three new zone sales offices located at Columbia, S. C., Salt Lake City, Utah, and Richmond, Va., making a total of 37 zone sales offices now operating.

Possibilities of increased sales of Chevrolet automobiles in the territory embraced in the new zones are such that it was virtually necessary to create new zone headquarters, with adequately increased staffs, to handle the business, according to C. E. Dawson, assistant general sales manager of the Chevrolet Motor Company.

The new zone offices will supervise more closely the activities of field forces and Chevrolet dealers. Offices will be supervised by zone sales managers, with an assistant and the necessary clerical force to maintain proper records. The opening of the new offices is in line with the Chevrolet Motor Company's policy of concentrating more closely on districts where past sales indicate a rapid growing market.

Following are the changes and appointments made in the various sales zones and regions: H. L. Horton, assistant regional sales manager of the Atlantic Coast Region at Tarrytown, N.Y., becomes regional sales manager at Tarrytown succeeding D. E. Ralston, who becomes regional sales manager of the Middle West region, with headquarters at St. Louis, Mo.; E. W. Fuhr, regional sales manager at St. Louis, becomes Pacific Coast regional sales manager at Oakland, succeeding F. M. Coats, resigned; R. L. Myers, assistant regional sales manager at St. Louis, becomes zone sales manager at New York City, succeeding G. H. Schmidt, who is transferred to the Atlantic Coast Regional office at Tarrytown to assist Mr. Horton; W. E. Holler, city sales manager at Los Angeles, Calif., becomes assistant regional manager at St. Louis; L. M. Drevves, zone sales manager at Los Angeles, becomes zones sales manager at St. Louis, succeeding W. J. Burns, who becomes zones sales manager at Oakland, Calif.; G. H. Wallace, zone sales manager at Oakland, assumes a similar position at Los Angeles; E. E. Jones, sales manager of associate zone at Richmond, Va., operating under the Baltimore zone office, now heads the new zone office at Richmond; C. G. Smith,

zone sales manager at Little Rock, Ark., becomes zone sales manager at Memphis, Tenn., replacing T. J. Burns, resigned; M. B. Roys, city sales manager, Chicago, becomes zone sales manager at Little Rock; P. A. Watson, sales manager of sub-zone at Columbia, S. C., operating under the Charlotte, N. C. zone office, becomes sales manager of the new zone at Columbia; C. B. Sparker, sales manager of sub-zone at Salt Lake City, operating under the Denver zone office, becomes sales manager of the new zone office at Salt Lake City.

OIL! OIL! OIL!

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

If you want a good feed, cooked right, go to Tom's Cafe. 4t2

A 25c classified ad often bring surprising results. tf

**Sale Bills
PRINTED**

If you intend to have a sale get our prices

We are fixed for turning out work of this kind in double-quick time.

Our Entire Big New Shipment of Spring

SHOES included in this SALE

BROWN DRY GOODS COMPANY

B. H. LANCASTER

LUMBER and RIGS

Building Material, Cement, Paints

Stains, Enamls, Varnishes

ALL BUSINESS APPRECIATED

No Work too Small for Our Consideration.

Nor too Large For Our Capacity

Estimates Furnished With a Smile

PHONE 82

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 Merkel, Texas as second class mail.

No business can succeed so well as it could without the united cooperative effort of every one connected with the same. Neither can a town grow and become the live, progressive city it should without the united cooperation of all its citizenship.

Are you, as a property owner, receiving good (high) rentals on your investment as the result of the discovery of oil in our community, doing your bit in making the town a better and more inviting place to the many new comers?? Do you extend aid, financial or otherwise, to your chamber of commerce, in an effort to bring people here, by whose coming you are able to continue to get

Our Chamber of Commerce—We Need it; Will We Maintain and Support It?

yours in good (high) rents? Are you?

Mr. Merchant, you believe in patronizing home industry, especially when it comes to your particular business. Well, then, do you practice what you preach, when it comes to patronizing your fellow business man who conducts some other line of business in your town. Or do you also send away to some mail order house or drive to some larger neighboring town? Think it over! If you think the people of this community should patronize you in your efforts to conduct a business institution in your home town, then give your business in other lines to your neighbor business man.

Miss Constance Harris was unable to perform her duties at the office of Merkel Motor company last week for a day or two on account of illness.

Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Long of Abilene were Sunday guests of Mrs. Long's father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. T. R. Lassiter.

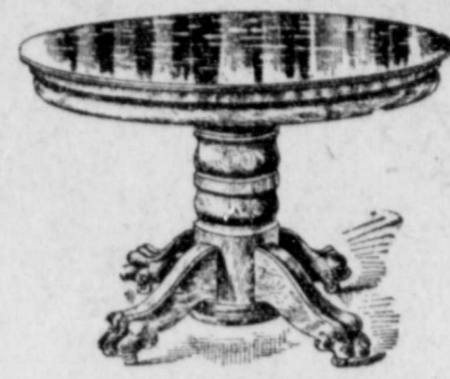
Shortly after the discovery of the Noodle Creek oil pool near this city, on last September 7, the business men and citizens immediately saw the need of a commercial organization with a capable and paid secretary or manager in charge of the work of same.

Following a mass meeting of business men and citizens a committee of citizens was appointed to secure the services of a capable man, called on the present Secretary, Mr. L. R. Thompson, and offered him the position. He accepted the place under a contract for a period of six months. Under his able and untiring efforts the Chamber of Commerce has functioned well and accomplished many things of genuine value to our city. However, the work of such an organization can hardly begin to make noticeable strides and accomplishments in so short a time but can and has in this case begun to lay plans and get in touch with things that can be worked out advantageously and successfully for the great good of our town and its people, provided the work and efforts already started may be continued and the cooperation of the citizenship maintained.

However, on March 20, Mr. Thompson's six months contract as secretary of the organization will terminate. Merkel can't well prosper and grow as she would like to and should, without the advantages gained by the aid of a commercial organization. We must continue the organization with even greater strength, determination and cooperation in the future than has been our policy in the past. Mr. Thompson, who has worked honestly, faithfully and to the very best of his ability in the interest of the city and her citizenship, will likely be willing to continue to serve in this capacity, with the united support and cooperation of the business men and citizens of the town, but as the time is growing short when his six months contract will expire, it is but right and just that he know the wishes and desires of the Executive Board and membership of the organization in the matter.

The Chamber of Commerce is a business institution, controlled and operated by the business men and citizens of the town, and they should get together at once and make their plans for carrying on the Chamber of Commerce work for the next year at least. With the existing conditions and considering the fact that Merkel has near it one of the most promising new oil fields to be found throughout the state, a field that is believed to be potentially great, and Merkel's interest and attitude regarding this new field, and its development, aside from her own efforts of progress, will depend upon the interest and attitude of the town as a whole. The Chamber of Commerce, through the able efforts of a paid secretary such as we have, is the best and only way for a town such as Merkel to look to and care for her own best interests.

LOOK at THIS



Dining Table Specials

- 42-inch all Oak Table - \$ 9.95
- 45-inch all Oak Table - 10.95
- 48-inch all Oak Table - 11.95
- 54-inch all Oak Table - 12.95

Did you ever buy a table at this price? We think not.

These prices are good for one week only.



Living Room Suit Special

One 3-piece Over Stuffed Bed Suit, consisting of Settee, Rocker and Wing Chair, covered with a good grade of Jackard Velour, a large massive suit. Sells regular at \$185.00. This is very slightly damaged and is priced this week for **\$132.50**

Get our prices on Furniture of all kinds. We can save you money.



Barrow Furniture Co.

A Souvenir for the Ladies Wrapped With Each Purchase
TODAY and TOMORROW
BROWN DRY GOODS COMPANY

COZY THEATRE

FRIDAY and SATURDAY

Carl Laemmle Presents
HOOT GIBSON
IN

"The Buckaroo Kid"
A Peter B. Kyne Story—Universal Jewel

—ALSO—

AN ADVENTURE PICTURE
Starring Wallace McDonald and Elsie Brenham

"FIGHTING WITH BUFFALO BILL"
CHAPTER 7

—WITH—
Two Reel Fox Comedy
"POLAR BORAN"

Prices 10c and 30c

MONDAY and TUESDAY

Metro-Goldwin-Meyer Presents

"There You Are"

A Comedy Knockout With All-Star Cast
—ALSO—

An Adventure Picture
Jack Daugherty and Margaret Quimby

—in—
"THE RADIO DETECTIVE"

Chapter 9
With Educational Comedy
"HANGING FIRE"

PRICES 10c and 30c

WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY

Warner Bros. Presents

"The Limited Mail"

With Monte Blue and Vera Reynolds

—ALSO—

Educational Comedy
"SOLID GOLD."

BLAIR HOTEL
UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

I have leased the Mrs. J. S. Blair Hotel and am now open for business. Will start serving meals Saturday, February 12. Meals 75c. A clean, orderly house will be maintained at all times. Your business appreciated.

JAMES HOLMES, Mgr. 1p

OUR LOSS and YOUR GAIN
Entire Stock of **OVERCOATS**
50% DISCOUNT
BROWN DRY GOODS COMPANY

You Can't Go Wrong If You Buy a Lot in
HAYNES-MOODY ADDITION
Located one block south of Grammar School
Own Your Home—Buy a Lot Today

LOTS NOW ON SALE
From \$125 to \$200
These Prices Wont Last Long

We are building houses for rent or for sale.

For Further Information See
JOHN S. HUGHES
At F. & M. Bank

"The Lesson"



THE JUDGE

HIC—HIC—
HOORAY

By M.B.



WOODRUM Filling Station

Good Gulf Gas and Oils
Quaker State Oils
Mobil oils

in fact, we have oils for any make of car. And don't forget that we handle the popular and well known

Goodrich Tires and Tubes

We would also remind you that it will pay to trade with us, paying cash for quality of goods and service that pleases.

Woodrum Filling Station

WINKLE-MULLIGAN NUPTIALS

"The Womanless Wedding," or the marriage of Winnie and Mike, a home talent comedy consisting of forty-nine characters, made up of business men of our town sponsored by the Parent-Teachers Association, and directed by Mrs. C. B. Gardner, at the High School auditorium last Friday evening was all that it was said to be and more—a side splitting comedy, highly successful in entertaining two houses and bringing in funds to the amount of \$219.00.

Not only were the ardent admirers of Winnie and Mike present, the comic page fans, but curious eyes from far and near eager to see manly dignity sacrificed for feminine charm filled the house to overflowing long before the hour set for the bridal party to arrive. It was necessary to have the second program in order to accommodate the vast crowd.

One would not be required to exert his imagination to a great extent to think he was enjoying a style show as the characters made their appearances, carefully and exquisitely costumed in low cut sleeveless models with harmonizing accessories.

A variety of display from the slim silhouette, including the new boyfant in evening shades of sea foam green, blush pink, porcelain, lotus, platinum, were worn by maid of honor, bridesmaids, flower girls, the attendants of the bride and those participating in the wedding. The bride proved true to custom in her apparel, wearing a model of white with a long train, the veil delicately arranged, giving the bride a youthful and charming appearance. And, by the way, the bride, whose name had been kept a secret and advertised as the best looking man in town, proved to be Mr. Lige Gamble of the Merkel Drug Company.

The zest, the beauty and the glamour of it all made one's heart fairly palpitate with living charm and vivacity as supple lines, lithe charm, the culmination of feminine grace and beauty were revealed by the men portraying the characters.

Immediately after the ceremony a wedding reception was held. Cake and punch was served to the wedding party, guests and all. Punch was furnished through the courtesy of Sie Hamm of Hamm Drug Co.

Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Brown, little daughter Billie Joyce, and son Charles Garrison, of Tuscola, were week end guests in the home of Mr. J. S. Thomas, the father of Mrs. Brown.

Make Your Living AT HOME

Why not devote a part of your time to the raising of Chickens and Hogs.

1. (a) Use the Automatic Incubator for best results.
 (b) Use the Automatic Brooders to assure your chicks a warm house.
2. Use our strong HOG WIRE to build your Hog pastures.



We suggest that you eliminate the tin can and **LIVE AT HOME**

The time is here when the progressive farmer will rig up for Breaking, Planting and Cultivating. Look at our "JOHN DEERE" line.

Satisfaction Guaranteed

Crown Hardware Co.

Merkel, Texas

LUMBER

Build With Our Good Lumber

You know Lumber is a most important element in the construction of your new home--and it needs be good. Generally when you skimp on its expense--buy a cheap, inferior product--you use up the saving many times over later when piercing winter blasts make necessary extra heat. So choose your Lumber carefully in the first place--it means many dollars saved.

Get Our Estimates On Your New Home

Our Prices are Right--Our Stock is Complete--Our Service is Unexcelled

BURTON-LINGO CO.

Merkel, Texas

SALT BRANCH NEWS

Health of this community is very good at present.

The farmers who have grain sown are rejoicing over the rain and snow.

The wheat and oats are looking fine.

Mrs. Jacobs was a visitor to her farm Tuesday afternoon. There will likely be an oil derrick put on the southeast part of her farm soon, which we hope means much to Mrs. Jacobs and the surrounding community.

Miss Leona Mullen spent last Friday night with Miss Ruth Pinckley.

Miss Johnnie Hinds spent last week end with home folks at Tye.

Several enjoyed the party at Mr. Floyd Jaynes Friday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Herman Abernathy spent last Sunday at Trent with her mother and father.

Mr. Truman Jaynes and Miss Vela Jones stole away from their many friends and were happily married. Mr. Truman was a popular young man of this community. Miss Jones was among the most popular young ladies of Warren.

Come to Sunday School at 10 a.m. Singing at three o'clock in the afternoon. B. Y. P. U. at 7 o'clock.



FOR SALE

FOR SALE—Slightly used electric range; half price. Phone 1231, Abilene, Texas. 11t2

CITY Furniture Company—Buy, sell and exchange. Large stock stoves, tents and rugs. Joe Garland, prop. tf

FOR SALE—Home in Abilene; six rooms and bath. Modern throughout. Small cash payment. See A. J. Burks. It

LOST—Saturday night, Feb. 6, a Weed mud chain, in Merkel, on the north side of the railroad. Finder please leave at Woodrum Filling Station. R. E. Cole. 1tp

FOR SALE—3-piece overstuffed living room suite; also '27 model coupe. Address Box 623. 1tp

Our Entire Big New Shipment of Spring SHOES included in this SALE BROWN DRY GOODS COMPANY

How to read Percentages

Were Dodge Brothers to sell 100 motor cars one year and 200 motor cars the next, they could truthfully announce that their sales had increased 100% in a single year. Yet they would only have sold 300 motor cars in all.

In other words, PERCENTAGE of annual gain is not conclusive. The NUMBER of cars sold is the true test.

That Dodge Brothers sales in 1926 showed an increase of 27.6% over 1925 is not the MAJOR fact to consider—striking as it is.

But that Dodge Brothers sold 259,967 cars in 1925, and then in 1926 sold 331,764—a gain of 71,797 sales in twelve months—tells a story of growth that stands out like a tower on the skyline of the industry.

Three hundred and thirty-one thousand buyers LAST year! Many more vital improvements added THIS year! No increase in price! Three powerful arguments for earnestly investigating this smart and sturdy product before deciding what to buy!

Touring Car	\$935.00
Coupe	\$985.00
Standard Sedan	\$1045.00
Special Sedan	\$1100.00
DeLuxe Sedan	\$1235.00

Delivered

MERKEL GARAGE
 MERKEL TEXAS

We Also Sell Dependable Used Cars

DODGE BROTHERS MOTOR CARS

CHURCHES

M. E. MISSIONARY SOCIETY

An enthusiastic business meeting of the Methodist Womens Missionary Society was held Monday afternoon at the church with the president, Mrs. Virgil Touchstone, presiding. Reports from various officers and committees were made. A lesson from "One More day in Methodist Missions," followed the business meeting. Mrs. W. R. McCarter made the lesson very interesting for the fourteen members present.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday School at 10 a.m.
 Preaching at 11 a.m. and 7:15 p.m.
 Senior Christian Endeavor at 6:15 p.m.
 Choir practice Wednesday at 7:30.
 There will be a meeting of the session Sunday afternoon at 3:30. All officials of the church are urged to be present.
 We extend a cordial invitation to the public to worship with us at all services. CHAS. H. LITTLE.

BAPTISTS HAVE VISITING PREACHER SUNDAY

Dr. C. A. Powell, pastor of College Heights Baptist church of Abilene is to fill the local pulpit Sunday. Dr. Powell is easily one of the best speakers among West Texas Baptist preachers and should have a large hearing. Surely ever Baptist in the community should hear him. His message Sunday will be in keeping with the Conquest Campaign now in full force among Texas Baptists. Among the speakers covering the field now in the interest of this campaign there is none that has a greater vision of the work or that has a more heart reaching message than Dr. Powell.

Let every member of the local church feel that the visiting preacher is entitled to a good hearing. Come to the service Sunday if it is in your power to come. Dr. Powell will speak only at the morning hour. Come in time for Sunday School and let every one stay for the preaching service. Come and bring your friends, invite your neighbors and tell others of this opportunity to hear this distinguished speaker Sunday.

The pastor will speak Sunday night on "Bartering away our Souls." Come find a place to worship and to serve. IRA L. PARRACK, Pastor.

Junior B.Y.P.U. Program

1. Introduction, Ruth Davis.
2. Jesus went to church, Cullen.
3. We need to go to church, Lois Simpson.
4. Every church member should go to church, Gerald Derrick.
5. We can sing, Ora Derrick.
6. We can bring our offering, John.
7. We can listen reverently, Margaret Eason.
8. We can invite others, Roger Derrick.

A Souvenir for the Ladies Wrapped With
 Each Purchase
 TODAY and TOMORROW
 BROWN DRY GOODS COMPANY

C. S. Higgins Garage
 Located North of Post Office
 General Repair Work Used Parts for sale
 All Mechanical Work Guaranteed
 Good Work at Absolutely Lowest Prices

World's Thirteen Luckiest Girls Make Bow to Fame



Once again the world is to have a coming out party that is greater than the presentation of a queen. It is the presentation to the world of the thirteen queens of the motion picture world for 1927. The girls are the Wampas Baby Stars for 1927. Each year the members of the Wampas, an organization of the motion picture exploitation and publicity men select thirteen of the young women of the film colony, who they believe have the greatest opportunity to become stars within the year. The selection is almost priceless to the girls. It is as nearly as anything can be, a guarantee of screen fame. Out of the thirteen girls of a year ago, five have since been starred. They are Dolores Del Rio, Vera Reynolds, Joan Crawford, Mary Astor and Sally O'Neill. Each of the others has done well. This year the thirteen baby stars are to be presented at a huge ball at Los Angeles, February 17. It is the one opportunity of a year for the public to meet and mingle with the screen famous of Hollywood, for every one is there to see and applaud the girls that are launched on their pathway to film glory and world fame.

METHODIST CHURCH

We hope to make next Sunday a high day at the Methodist Church. We want to worship Christ and honor Him in service.

We should fix for ourselves a worthy goal and strive to realize it. We may fail at either point, in intention or effort.

We invite you to meet us at 9:45 in worship and Bible study.

Worship with us at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

A program of splendid music by the orchestra and choir before the sermon at the evening service.

Program

Our Cheer Leader, march, Robt. L. Creighton.

2. Springtime, idyl, Kathryn Hawthorne.

Alumni, march, Grant Wellesley.

4. Twilight Hour, meditation, J. S. Zamecnik.

The public is cordially invited to attend all our services.

W. R. McCARTER.

Program For Adult Union

Subject: "Help in Time of Trouble."

Scripture lesson, Psalm 141.

Leader, Mr. C. R. Tittle, who will read the scripture or have it read, and discuss the introduction.

"A proper beginning for prayer," Mrs. Derrick.

"God's Help in Keeping a Pure Mouth and Heart," Mrs. Hartley.

"Faithful are the Wounds of a friend," Mrs. E. N. Brown.

"Prayer for Help," Mr. Jno. Childress.

All adults not already working in one of the other unions are urged to come and help us build up a great Adult Union here. We had more than thirty in this union Sunday night and will be glad to welcome as many more.

CARD OF THANKS

The children of Mrs. Ella H. Mashburn wish to express heartfelt thanks for thoughtful kindness and assistance given them during the sickness and death of their mother, and for the beautiful floral offerings.

HER CHILDREN

Try a Classified Ad in The Mail.

NORTH SIDE CHURCH

Elder W. G. Cypert announces that he will preach at the North Side Church of Christ on next Sunday

morning at 11 o'clock and night at 7:30. He extends a cordial invitation to visitors and strangers, and urges all their membership to be present.

Try a Classified Ad in The Mail.

HOLIDAY NOTICE
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12, LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY
 AND
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY

Being legal holidays, the undersigned banks will be closed. Customers are requested to be governed accordingly.

The Farmers State Bank
Farmers and Merchants National Bank
 MERKEL, TEXAS

COSTS YOU NOTHING PAYS YOU BEST

Our office is maintained to serve you, without cost, in all insurance matters. Our policies are written to protect you fully and pay you most in cases of loss.

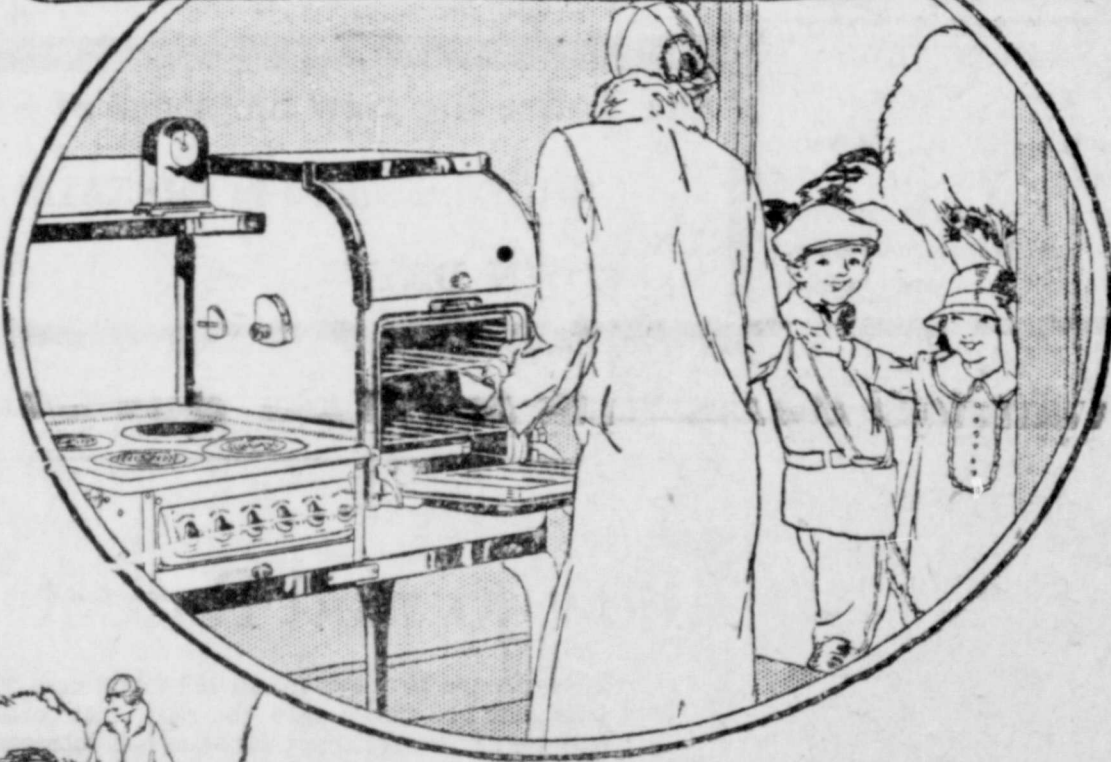
You will find us equipped to give you all forms of property protection insurance, advise you in all insurance matters and serve you at all times. Consider us pleased to give free consultation whenever desired upon insurance.

W. O. BONEY
REAL ESTATE, FARM LOANS
FIRE INSURANCE
 MERKEL, TEXAS

Consult Your Insurance Agent As You Would Your Lawyer



Hotpoint frees you from the kitchen.



LIKE HAVING A MAID at no cost

WHEN you have a Hotpoint Super-Automatic Electric Range you are free to go out with your children—or go shopping, or for recreation.

Just leave the next meal in the oven, set the automatic time and temperature controls, and go. When you return the food is ready to serve, cooked to perfection.

You have just applied science to your cooking. It's like having a maid at no cost.

Hotpoint
 Super-Automatic
ELECTRIC RANGES



Hotpoint Automatic Electric Timer. Set the hands for the time cooking should start and stop. Then forget it.

Hotpoint Automatic Electric Heat Control and Thermometer. It maintains an exact oven heat, as desired, all through cooking.



Come in and let us tell you about the many other advantages of the Hotpoint Electric Range.

West Texas Utilities Company

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.

T. C. WILSON
...JEWELER...
116 Chestnut Street Abilene

DR. R. I. GRIMES
Physician and Surgeon
Hours 10 to 12 a.m. 2 to 5 p.m.
Phones 165-163 Res. 166

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

PAULINE JOHNSON
Successor to
G. W. JOHNSON
Insurance—Notary Public
Over West Company—Front St.
Merkel —:— Texas

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

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

H. P. HULSEY, D. C.
Graduate
CHIROPRACTOR
Merkel, Texas Phone 51
In Boney Building on Front St.

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

B. BARNES H. W. BARNES
R. A. PARKER
Barnes Brothers & Parker
Contractors and Builders
WE KNOW HOW
Phones 229 and 285w
Plans and Estimates Furnished

See me before lettin your
Electrical Contracts
For Electrical Service See
JONES ELECTRIC CO.
Back of Post Office

Len Sublett
Water well Driller,
all work guaranteed
first-class.
Merkel, Texas
Phone #64w P. O. Box 224

PHONE 189
Buck's Plumbing and Electric Company
ractors for all kinds of
ing and Electrical Work
nt Street Merkel, Texas

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE

FOR SALE—Several lots close in on northeast part of town. Get in on the ground floor. No reason able offer will be refused on one or more. Address J. P. Tillery, 1808 College Ave., Fort Worth, Texas. 4t5

A WELL Constructed ten-room home for sale, situated in the best restricted residential district in Abilene. Large lot with many beautiful trees and shrubs. On paved street. Anyone desiring to locate in Abilene for its schools can not find a more desirable place at so reasonable a price. Will accept part trade on good property worth price asked. Address "X", care this paper." 1t

FOR SALE—100 bushels cotton seed from certified strain of Kasch. Now stored at Swann gin. \$1.00 per bu. Lee D. Williams, Merkel. 4t

FOR SALE—Seed oats, clear of Johnson grass, 50c per bushel. R. F. England, 3 1-2 miles southwest of Tye. 28t5p

If you want a good feed, cooked right, go to Tom's Cafe. 4t2

FOR SALE—My 7-room residence, located 4 blocks south and one east of east railroad crossing. Light and sewage connections. 3 lots, garage, wash house, barn, etc. Price \$2,500. A. M. Giles. 28t5p

FOR SALE—Garage equipment, and will lease the building to buyer. See Marvin Boney. 4t

FOR SALE—Barred rock cockerels. Also setting eggs. J. Greenfield. 1t

WOOD, WOOD—Have some good cedar cord wood at \$2.00 per cord. Also good cedar pole wood at \$2.00 per load at my place one half mile north of Nubia. T. J. Toombs. 1tp

FOR SALE—New buckeye incubator; would trade for pigs, pullets or young hens. H. H. Tye, route 5. 1tp

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.

HEMSTITCHING

I have my Hemstitching machine at Schindlers Variety Store and will appreciate your work in this line. Prices: 5c per yard for cotton and 7 1-2c for silk. Mrs. L.R. Robbins. 4t

FOR RENT

FOR RENT—Nicely furnished bedroom, close in, reasonable rent, apply at Cash Tailor Shop, Kent street. 4t

LOST AND FOUND

STRAYED—From my place 16 miles southwest of Merkel, 1 mile north of Butman school, one chester white sow pig 8 weeks old. Reward. Please notify L. C. Williams, Merkel, Texas, route five. 4t2p

STRAYED—Mouse colored mule, branded N on left jaw. Strayed about 3 weeks ago. Notify I. N. Brown, Merkel, route 5. 1tp

SPECIAL

Chicken Dinner Saturday and Sunday, with all the decorations and home cooking, served family style. Also regular boarders wanted. Good eats every meal. Give us a trial. Price 50c

SUDDERTH BOARDING HOUSE
Kent Street 4t

Try a Classified adv in the Mail

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS, To the Sheriff or any Constable of Taylor County, Greeting:

You are hereby commanded to summon James Thorn, whose residence is unknown, and the unknown heirs of James Thorn, whose residence is unknown, and the unknown parties, owning or having or claiming any interest in the lot hereinafter described, by making publication of this Citation once in each week for four successive weeks previous to the return day hereof, in some newspaper published in your County, if there be a newspaper published therein, but if not, then in the nearest County where a newspaper is published, to appear at the next regular term of the District Court of Taylor County, to be holden at the Court House thereof, in Abilene, Texas, on the 2nd Monday in April A. D. 1927, the same being the 11th day of April A. D. 1927, then and there to answer a petition filed in said Court on the 17th day of November A. D. 1926, in a suit, numbered on the docket of said Court as No 6307, wherein C. Hall, is Plaintiff, and James Thorn, whose residence is unknown, and the unknown heirs of James Thorn, whose residences are unknown, Abe Berash, and all other parties, owning or having or claiming any interest in the lot hereinafter described, are defendants, and said petition alleging:

On or about the 15th day of November, A. D. 1925, he was lawfully seized and possessed of the following described land and premises, situated in Taylor County, Texas, holding and claiming the same in fee simple, to-wit: Lot No. Twelve, Block One Hundred Thirty Seven, in Abilene, Taylor County, Texas.

That on the day and year last aforesaid, defendants unlawfully entered upon said premises and ejected plaintiff therefrom, and unlawfully withheld from him the possession thereof, to his damage of \$900.00.

Plaintiff would show to the Court that he, and those under whom he claims title, have had peaceful and

adverse possession of the above described tract of land, cultivating, using and enjoying the same for a period of more than ten years before the filing of this suit, and this he is ready to verify.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff prays judgment of the Court, that defendants and each of them, be cited to appear and answer this petition, and that plaintiff have judgement for the title and possession of the above described land and premises, and that writ of restitution issue, damages, costs of suit, etc.

HEREIN Fail Not, and have you before said Court, at its aforesaid next regular term, this writ with your return thereon, showing how you have executed the same.

Given under my hand and the Seal of said Court, at office in Abilene, Texas, this the 27th day of December A. D. 1926.

J. K. FULLER, Clerk,
District Court, Taylor County.
By Belle Wellborn, Deputy. 21t4

If it is a house you want built, see a carpenter, but if it is Meats, see Baker & Wheeler Market. 4t

Keep in Trim!

Good Elimination Is Essential to Good Health.

THE kidneys are the blood filters. If they fail to function properly there is apt to be a retention of toxic poisons in the blood. A dull, languid feeling and, sometimes, toxic backaches, headaches, and dizziness are symptoms of this condition. Further evidence of improper kidney function is often found in burning or scanty passage of secretions. Each year more and more people are learning the value of Doan's Pills, a stimulant diuretic, in this condition. Scarcely a nook or hamlet anywhere but has many enthusiastic users. Ask your neighbor!

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

OUR BIG CLEARANCE SALE OPENS TODAY, FRIDAY 11th BROWN DRY GOODS COMPANY

WHITE LEGHORNS

Day old chicks from M. Johnson special mating hens mated to Imperial cockerels; chicks 50 for \$9.00; 100, \$17.00; 300, \$49.00; 500, \$80.00; 4000, \$150.00. I will do some custom hatching this season on a brand new Newtown-Giant Incubator, the best incubator that money can buy, and the incubator that hatches the old hen's way. The trays hold 150 to 160 eggs. Terms: \$5.00 per tray, 25 per cent cash when set. Order some of this pure bred stuff and the pullets will begin to pay you back in 4 1-2 to 5 months. J. S. TOUCHSTONE, Hawley, Rt. 2, phone 9036F13, Anson, Texas. 8Apr27

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.

Baker & Wheeler will appreciate your business. We handle fresh and cured meats at all times. 4t

YOUR CHOICE

Which would you buy if you had five or six hundred dollars to invest in transportation—a small new car, or a larger and higher grade used car? The answer is obvious to anyone who looks over our selection and knows our reputation for honest values.

MERKEL GARAGE
MERKEL TEXAS

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

Let Us

Do Your Auto Repair Work

Our Auto Repair Shop is in first-class condition, well equipped to turn out absolutely first-class work. In fact, I am personally looking after this department, and guarantee satisfaction of any work given us. A trial will convince you that we know how.

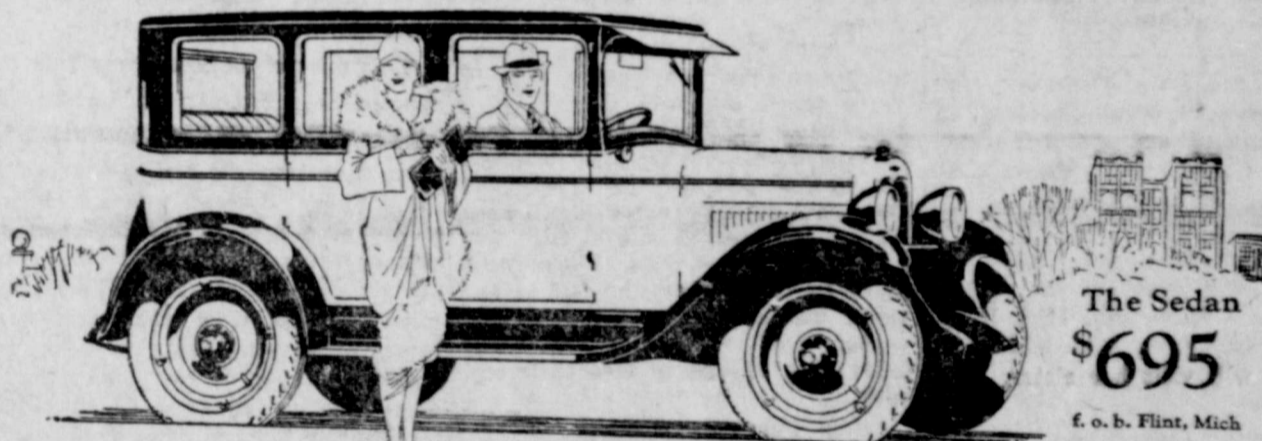
Good Tire Prices

We handle the well known and durable HOOD TIRES—once you use them always a customer. We also have a guaranteed Cord Tire at only \$8.50. Can you beat it?

-THE-

CORNER GARAGE

F. C. McFarland, Proprietor



The Sedan \$695
f. o. b. Flint, Mich

True Distinction

The Most Beautiful Sedan in Chevrolet History!

A masterly example of the coachmaker's art, the Chevrolet Sedan with its Body by Fisher reveals a distinction usually found only on the costliest custom-built creations. It is literally true that no four-door enclosed car, priced so low, ever exhibited such marvelous beauty of line and color.

It is finished in rich Marine Blue Duco, gold striped, and its handsome proportions are emphasized by new full-crown one-piece fenders and bullet-type lamps. In addition it offers the host of improvements which helped make the Most Beautiful Chevrolet the greatest sensation of America's greatest industry. AC air cleaner, AC oil filter, large 17-inch steering wheel, new frame-mounted tire carrier, gasoline gauge and many, many others.

Come in! You need only to see this new supremely beautiful and mechanically finer sedan to realize what amazing value it represents at its greatly reduced price.

Reduced Prices!

- The Touring or Roadster . . . \$525
- The Coach . . . \$595
- The Coupe . . . \$625
- Sport Cabriolet . . . \$715
- The Landau . . . \$745
- 1-Ton Truck (Chassis only) . . . \$495
- 1/2-Ton Truck (Chassis only) . . . \$395

Ballon Tires Now Standard On All Models
All prices f. o. b. Flint, Mich.

We have just installed a complete shop equipment and a specially trained mechanic is prepared to do your repair work. Used cars for sale at \$25 and up.

LOWE-BRACKEN MOTOR CO.

MERKEL, TEXAS

QUALITY AT LOW COST

SICKNESS AND ROADS TREATED BY SAME MAN

Some time ago Mr. E. H. Whitehead, publicity agent for the West Texas Chamber of Commerce, at the suggestion and aid of Mr. L. R. Thompson, local secretary of the Chamber of commerce, secured the data while on a visit in Merkel and wrote the following interesting article, published in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, which we are glad to re-produce.

When they speak of good roads in Taylor County the name of Dr. M. Armstrong is thought of synonymously. He is the real pioneer of road building in that section, and he has worked as hard doctoring the ailing roads as he has in curing patients. And he is still hard at work at both jobs.

Dr. Armstrong is chairman of the good roads committee of the Merkel Chamber of Commerce. He inherited the post naturally, because he was preaching and building good roads long before there was a Merkel Chamber of Commerce. During the past several years, he has been at the helm in a program of good roads building during which at least 200 miles of roads have been improved in the territory surrounding Merkel. On one occasion a mountain was cut down and moved into a low place to make a good road for the people of a rural community tributary to Merkel to get into town. A part of the town's trade territory lies in another county, and the county commissioner of the adjoining county could not get around to improve the roads in that corner of the county because of its remoteness from the towns of that county. However, this proved no obstacle to Dr. Armstrong and his committee. They purchased a tractor and proceeded to build the roads themselves supplemented by an appropriation from the commissioner of the other county.

Merkel is a good town today because of having provided roads for the town's farmer customers to come to town. The town gins an average of 17,000 bales annually. Situated adjacent to a large city, Merkel has yet held its own and continues to grow because the town has provided roads to its trade territory and makes it easier for the farmers to get to Merkel than to go elsewhere. Dr. Armstrong is the man responsible for the activity of the town in this regard. During the two years his unique committee has been functioning, it has paid all its financial obligations, and went into the new year with a tidy cash balance in the bank. The reason as aforesaid is—Dr. Armstrong.—Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

J. C. Mason left Thursday for Dallas, where he went to attend a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Texas Cotton Farm Bureau, he being a member of the board.

Miss Lucile Hogg, of Dallas, is here this week guest of her sister, Mrs. Houston Robertson. Miss Hogg will leave in a few days for Plainview where she will visit her sister, Mrs. D. J. Hartley.

CARD OF THANKS

We wish to thank the many friends and acquaintances for their kindness in the recent death of our beloved son and brother. Also for the beautiful floral offerings.

W. R. Bigham, Mrs. J. E. Young, Alice Bigham. It

Mr. and Mrs. T. G. Bragg returned from St. Louis and eastern markets last week, where they purchased a complete line of goods, making necessary preparations for Spring buying.

Misses Doris and Hallie Pike have returned home after an extended visit with friends and relatives in Fort Worth, Mineral Wells and Bagwell.

Miss Maxie Banner, with Jones Dry Goods Company, was one among those on the sick list this week.

Mrs. Emma Mae Mashburn of Breckenridge attended her mother, Mrs. Mashburn, during her late illness and death.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Britton and little son, Jackie, spent the week-end with Mrs. Britton's parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. R. Thomas, of Abilene.

Miss Pauline Chinn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Chinn, is reported ill at her home in Bettis Heights.

Miss Evelyn Curb, who has been attending Trinity University at Waxahachie, came in Sunday night to be with home folks.

Miss Christine Collins was a Sweetwater visitor last Saturday.

Mrs. Harvey Warren of Knox City attended her mother, Mrs. Mashburn during her late illness and death.

Mr. James Brown with the humble oil company, was a business visitor in Abilene Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. White announce the arrival of an eleven pound boy on last Saturday.

Mrs. Claude Comegys has as her guest this week her sister, Mrs. B. Row of Sweetwater.

Mrs. W. E. Lowe has returned from a trip to Clifton, Texas, where she visited with friends and relatives.

We regret to learn that Mrs. W. F. Patterson is very ill at this time.

Mr. and Mrs. Jay Hendricks and family of El Paso, are here for a visit with home folks and friends.

Judge and Mrs. C. Eakman, of Amarillo, are here for a visit with their daughter, Mrs. W. L. Diltz.

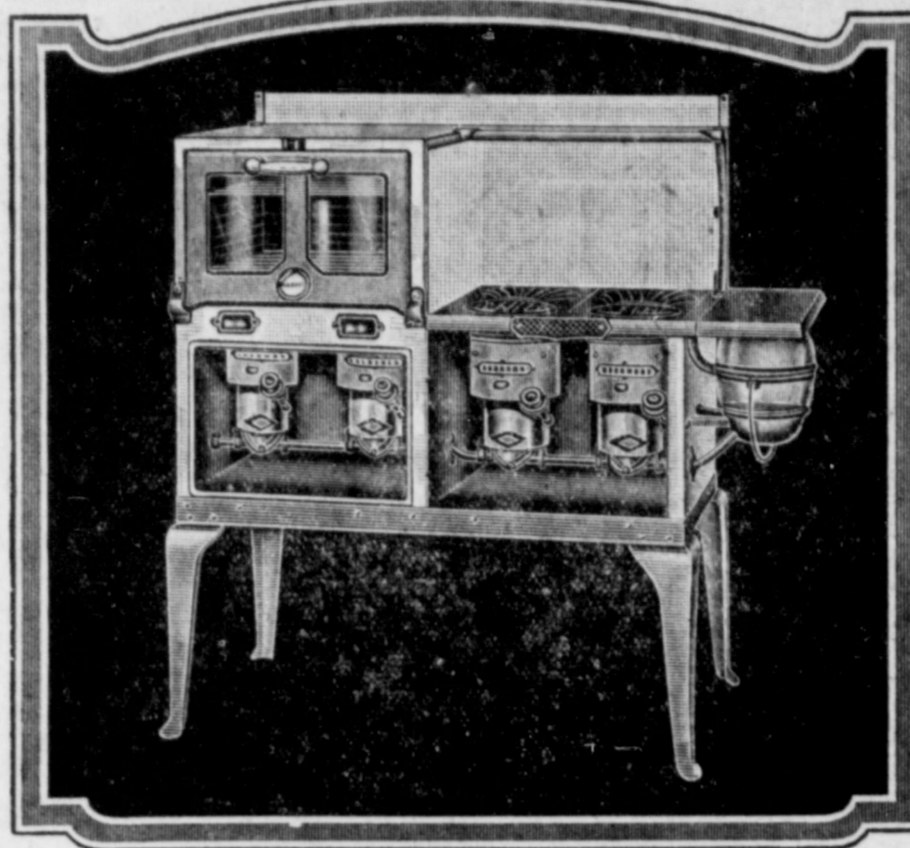
Wild Dogs Stole Ewes

When 100 ewes recently disappeared from a ranch near Narwon, New South Wales, they were tracked into rough country by a native tracker. When found the ewes were huddled together at the base of a cliff, stricken with terror. A score were dead and the tracker said that the tracks told the story of their experience. Four dingoes, or Australian wild dogs, had cut out the ewes from a large flock of sheep, driven them into hiding and there massacred 20 of the victims, though one ewe would have been more than enough to feed their captors.

First G F Club

Robert Lockhart, of Dunfermline, Scotland, in 1888 tried to play golf in Central park, New York, and was arrested as a result. John Reid, his friend, and he later went to Yonkers and eventually organized the first golf club in America. Four hundred years before that it was getting established in Scotland as a national sport, but encountered parliamentary opposition

Burn Air--It's Cheaper



An Ideal 4-Burner Apartment Stove at a price much less than the quality would indicate.

CONSUMES 400 GALLONS OF AIR WITH EACH GALLON OF KEROSENE

A four-burner stove with built-in oven, two giant burners and many other features not usually found in the ordinary oil stove make this an outstanding value at \$75.00.

Ask Us For Demonstration.

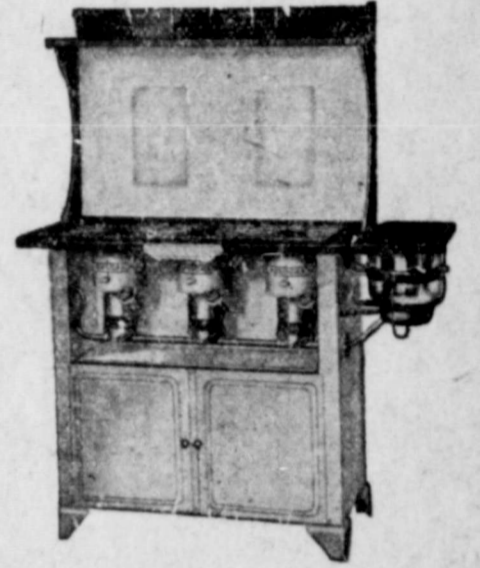
WEST COMPANY

IT'S A LONG TIME WE'VE BEEN HERE--GROWING BIGGER AND BETTER EVERY YEAR

Merkel,

Phone 59

Texas



ILL WIND BLOWS NO ONE GOOD, SAYS MAN BLOWN FROM SEAS

"It is an ill wind that blows nobody good."

This proverb is literally true in the case of Sam Butman of Merkel, who was literally blown off the high seas more than 50 years ago and landed in West Texas. Butman was a sailor on a square rigger in the old days of clipper ships. He then hailed from the rock ribbed coasts of Maine and plied the seas when steamships were rarely seen upon the ocean. Upon one occasion his ship was caught in a helplessly in the fury of the gale, terrible storm, and was floundering. High waves were washing across the deck of the ship, masts were blown down and the deck was littered with wreckage of the superstructure and sails of the square rigger. Butman raised his hands to the Heavens and vowed that if he were delivered from the storm he would go as far from the ocean as he could get, would quit the seas forever and trade his wide bottom sailor trousers for the chaps of a cowboy.

When the storm died down and he at length returned safe to land, Butman kept his vow. He purchased a ticket to the wildest and wooliest part of the West which he could reach. At that time the Texas and Pacific made Baird its Western terminus. He rode as far as he could on the train, then got off and started walking. He left Maine when the snow was

lying deep on the ground and drifts were piled up as high as the eaves of the houses. When he got off the train at Baird, grass was green, mesquite trees were putting out leaves, and Spring time was in the air. He decided he was in the country he wanted to make his home and soon secured a job as a sheep herder. He was practically penniless and was a strange man in a strange land. However, he got along. He was sent to near the present site of Merkel, which then was noted for the wonderful grass which grew waist high in the flats. He fell in love with the section and with proverbial Yankee knack, traded for a claim which a settler had failed upon and settled down. He has been there ever since.

Butman is now recognized as one of the outstanding farmers and stockmen of that section of Texas. He has 8,000 acres of valuable land, and his place is a show spot in Central West Texas. When asked his formula for success in farming in West Texas he declared diversification and work. The farmer who sits on a town sidewalk whittling on a stick, is as much out of place as a town banker sitting on a country road side whittling, according to Butman, and he declares that the farmer in order to succeed, must display the same 12-month a year industry as the town business man or sooner or later he

will not be a farmer.

'Twas an ill wind which blew Butman off the ocean, but it gave to West Texas one of its most stalwart pioneers, who for more than half a century has done his bit toward developing West Texas.

The above article, recently published in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, was secured by Mr. E. H. Whitehead, publicity manager of the West Texas Chamber of Commerce, at the suggestion of the local secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, Mr. L. R. Thompson, while the former was a visitor in our city recently.

NAZARENE CHURCH

Our revival continues with good crowds and fine results. Twelve prayed through to victory. Come out and hear Rev. Hipp, a real Bible preacher. Meeting will continue over Sunday and probably longer. Preaching at 7:30 and 10:30. You have a cordial invitation to come.

C. C. MONTANDON

Mr. J. N. Daniel and family of Abilene, Texas, are here this week, guests of B. P. Middleton and family.

Mr. A. A. McCrary, father of Mrs. L. B. Scott and Edward McCrary, received a fall one day last week, but we are glad to know his injuries were slight, and he is able to be up and out again.

The friends of Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Underwood of Crowell, Texas, have received announcements of the arrival of a seven pound baby girl on February 1 Mrs. Underwood is the daughter of F. J. Smith, was reared in Merkel, taught in the Merkel Public Schools for several years, and was known before her marriage as Miss Josie Smith.

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

YOUR DOLLAR WILL GO MUCH FARTHER IF YOU WILL ATTEND THE CLEARANCE SALE at BROWN DRY GOODS COMPANY

OUR BIG CLEARANCE SALE OPENS TODAY, FRIDAY 11th BROWN DRY GOODS COMPANY

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