

Big Chain Grocery Store Will Open Here SATURDAY

A Clarence Saunders Store, one of the stores of the big chain grocery store system, with Mr. W.S.J. Brown as manager of the Grocery department, and Mr. O. F. Weidenbach as manager of the Market, opens in this city next Saturday morning at nine o'clock. And arrangements are being made for a grand celebration in honor of same. Refreshments will be served to all who visit the store on this day, and provisions have been made for the entertainment of hundreds.

The Clarence Saunders Store, with hundreds throughout the country in many towns and cities, is among the most popular chain store, and is under the management of the popular gentlemen named above seems sure to be a success from the beginning.

They are great newspaper advertisers and our readers are sure to have the opportunity of hearing from them through the columns of the Mail regularly. We would like to call your attention to their big announcement in this week's issue.

Earl Hughes For Tax Collector

This paper is authorized to announce as a candidate for re-election to the office of Tax Collector of Taylor County, Mr. Earl Hughes, present incumbent. Mr. Hughes is serving his first term in this position and without doubt is doing so not only to the satisfaction of his friends and the public in general, but with credit and honor to himself.

He is not only capable and efficient, but courteous and accommodating in the management and conduct of the affairs of the office, rendering the best possible service and in strict keeping with laws governing the duties to be performed. He promises that if elected again, he will render even better and more efficient service, since his experience and close attention to his duties have naturally made him better qualified than at the beginning of this his first term.

What we might say concerning him could have but little added weight in view of his record and achievement which is too well known to the voters of the entire county; therefore we would only ask that in casting your vote for Tax Collector of Taylor County in the coming July Primary you give his claims just and fair consideration.

VESTAL HICKS IN CHARGE OASIS FILLING STATION

Mr. Vestal Hicks is now manager and proprietor of the Oasis Filling Station, located on the corner of Kent and Front Streets. Mr. Hicks is well known, a good hustler and will no doubt enjoy his share of the business in his line.

LUNCHEON

The suburban home of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Lassiter was the scene of a most perfectly planned luncheon on Wednesday of this week. Invitations for this affair were sent out in the form of a New Year's greeting and this motif was stressed throughout the days arrangements. The delicious menu consisted of:

- Soup
Dressing
Hot Rolls
Gravy
Cream Potatoes
Cream Puffs
Cranberry Sauce
Stuffed Celery
Green Pea Salad
Fruit Cake
Paradise Pudding
Coffee

Games of 42 furnished diversion for the afternoon. The guest list on this happy occasion included Mesdames S. D. Gamble, L. B. Scott, L. L. Huddleston, Ross Ferrier, T. E. Collins, Dee Grimes, Tom Largent, Jim West, Booth Warren, F. C. McFarland, Bill Swann, E. Yates Brown, C. B. Gardner, W. S. J. Brown and the hostess.

H. D. Simpson, formerly of this city, but a citizen of Mission, Texas, is here on business, looking after his property interests. Mr. Simpson reports his country in fine condition, with the oranges, grape fruit and other products very fine. We are thankful to him for a very fine orange and grape fruit right from his own fine farm in the valley.

Open New Tailor Shop on Kent St.

In the Warren Building, on Kent Street, Messrs. L. J. Renfro and Tom M. Allday, have opened a new and up-to-date Tailor Shop, well equipped with the very latest and most modern machinery and devices of the Scherer Clarifying System, which besides cleaning the most delicate fabrics, will also take out all odors, leaving the garments clean and wholesome in every respect.

For many years Mr. Renfro has successfully conducted a tailoring business in this city, and now he and Mr. Tom Allday, who is well and favorably known in this city also, have formed a partnership, their establishment to be known in the future as the "City Dry Cleaners," and they state that besides the best work in the dry cleaning business they will be enabled to give their customers the much sought "One Day Service."

They will also carry a first class line of Tailor's Samples and make a specialty of Tailor-made clothing. And another thing often needed by the bachelor public especially, and some times a lot of married fellows, is the mending and alteration of clothing, and in this line these gentlemen claim to have no superiors and few equals. They are both popular and well known, and this paper predicts for them a fair share of the business in their line. Read their announcement in this paper. Since they are believers in printers ink advertising, you might watch for their announcements from time to time.

BOY SCOUT LEADERS MEET AT ABILENE 18th

The Annual meeting of the Adult Leaders of the Chisholm Trail Council, Boy Scouts of America, will be held at the Hilton Hotel, January 18th, Wednesday, starting at 3:30 and continuing through the dinner hour at the Hilton.

President C. M. Caldwell will preside and reports will be heard from each city in the seven counties which comprise the Chisholm Trail Council: Haskell, Jones, Shackelford, Taylor, Callahan, Rynnells, Coleman.

Herbert Patterson is local Scoutmaster and the members of the local Scout Committee that are expected to attend are L. W. Cox, A. T. Sheppard and John S. Hughes.

Since Executive Ed Shumway, also known as "The Big Chief," took charge of the scout work in December 1926, there has been a great improvement in scouting throughout the territory supervised by the Big Chief. A large number of new scout troops have been organized and the scout membership increased more than 100 percent.

Camp Tonkawa, the summer Boy Scout camp held at Lueders was a great success and 1928 indications point to one of the largest scout camps ever held in Texas.

Plans are under way now for a permanent Camp Site for all scouts of this territory and when this is accomplished permanent cabins and administration buildings will be erected. A large attendance is expected at the Annual Council meeting January 18th, Wednesday, at the Hilton.

Regional Meeting at Dallas. James E. West, the Chief Scout Executive of the Boy Scouts of America, will be the principal speaker at a great scout meeting in Dallas on January 26 and 27 at the Baker hotel during the annual meeting of all scout officials and adult leaders of the Ninth Region, Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico.

The members of the Merkel committee mentioned above have been invited to attend. Many will drive through but special trains will be run from Abilene and all parts of the state for this important meeting.

By courtesy of Radio Station WFAA, The Dallas News, the Dallas Journal, James E. West will convey a special message to the boys of the southwest and to all listeners promptly at 6:30 p.m. January 26, at eight o'clock Mr. West will broadcast his entire address to the Ninth Regional Committee meeting. A Public Court of Honor will be held at the Crystal Ball Room at 7:30 the evening of January 17, at which time one thousand scouts are expected to attend.

President C. M. Caldwell and Executive Ed Shumway together with prominent citizens, scoutmasters and community leaders will attend the meeting from Abilene.

Miss Wellborn Announces For District Clerk

We are pleased to place the name of Miss Belle Wellborn, of Abilene, in our announcement column as a candidate for re-election to the office of District Clerk, subject to the action of the Democratic Primary in July. Miss Wellborn is serving her first term in this office with satisfaction to the people of Taylor county and with the highest honor and credit to herself. However, her official record is too well and favorably known to need further comment or commendation from us, and suffice it to say should the voters of the county favor her with reelection to a second term, they will be assured of the same very efficient, courteous and satisfactory service in the District Clerk's office in the future as has been accorded them during Miss Wellborn's first term. In fact Miss Wellborn's office is one of the neatest and best kept offices among the county officials, and her very efficient and accommodating service makes her among the most popular.

And this paper would urge that when casting your vote for District Clerk in the coming July Primary, you give Miss Wellborn's claims careful and fair consideration.

M. A. Williams For County School Supt.

Mr. M. A. Williams, present County School Superintendent, asks that we place his name in our announcement column as a candidate for reelection to that position, subject to the Democratic Primary next July.

Mr. Williams has without doubt served honestly, zealously and efficiently the people of this county as a servant in this position, and each year under his able management the public schools of this county have advanced and kept abreast of the progress of the country, and this year the common schools will enjoy longer terms, more money having been appropriated for same than ever before, and Mr. Williams also expects a greater rural aid appropriation for Taylor county this year than has been allotted to same in the past.

Mr. Williams is one county official who can always be found constantly on the job, ever working in the interest of the school children of the county, and should the voters favor him again with election, he promises the same satisfactory service in the future his record bespeaks for him in his past service.

We would urge the voters to give his claims careful and due consideration when casting their vote in the July primaries.

WHITE HOUSE CAFE MOVES

Mr. J. F. (Shorty) Holloway, proprietor of the White House Cafe, announces in this paper the removal of this, one of the popular eating places of the city, to the building formerly occupied by Renfro's Tailor Shop, and next door to the Merkel Garage, where a neat, clean, modern eating place has been established. New fixtures and other equipment have been added. Read their announcement in this paper.

Boston Bargain Store Will Open Here Saturday

A new dry goods store, the "Boston Bargain Store," Mr. E. Yates Brown as manager, will open for business in this city on Saturday morning in the Boney building on Front street.

Announcement was made in our last issue that Mr. Brown would soon open a new chain dry goods store in this city, and we call your attention to his advertisement in this paper.

Mr. Brown has been connected with the business interests of the city for a number of years, and will no doubt enjoy his share of the business in his line.

Mr. O'Bar Announces For Sheriff

In the proper announcement column of this paper will be found the name of H. T. O'Bar, as a candidate for re-election to the office of Sheriff of Taylor County.

Having served honestly and faithfully in this capacity for the past several years, Mr. O'Bar and his official record are too well known to need commendation from us, and to put it in his own language, "I have done my dead level best," and should the voters of Taylor County see fit to again honor him with election to the office he promises to continue to pursue in the future the same careful, painstaking and persistent effort to make, if possible, an even better sheriff than the county ever had.

It is a known fact that Mr. O'Bar has been diligent in his efforts to enforce the laws and bring to justice all violators of same, be he friend or foe. And while he puts forth every effort possible to enforce the law, he is courteous and fair to every one with whom he has dealings.

His announcement is made subject to the action of the Democratic Primary next July, and this paper would ask that the voters give his claims due and fair consideration when casting their vote for Sheriff of Taylor county.

Chrysler Makes Big Reductions

The Maverick Motor Company, local Chrysler dealers, are announcing in this issue the new lower prices on the "52" and "62" lines. Drastic reductions are made on many models, the popular coach coming in for first place. The "52" coach has been reduced \$65.00 and the "62" coupe is \$100.00 less than former price.

The lower prices are made in the face of new improvements on the 1928 line of Chrysler motor cars, and therefore offers still greater values in the various price classes. The Chrysler has achieved an unequalled record in the motor industry by rising from 27th place in 1924 to 4th place in 1927.

The many friends of Mr. Elmer Adcock, son of Postmaster and Mrs. O. J. Adcock, will be glad to learn that he is slightly improved after several days of serious illness.

J. T. Howard For Tax Assessor

In the proper announcement column of this paper will be found the name of J. T. Howard, as a candidate for re-election to the office of Tax Assessor of Taylor County, subject to the action of the Democratic Primary in July.

Mr. Howard is now serving his first term in this position. Before his election every one who was acquainted with him knew that he would make good, and now practically every person in the county is aware of the fact that he has made a good, honest and efficient servant of the people of the entire county, for his fine record is an open book to every one. He is without doubt one of the most accommodating and painstaking officials ever to be elected to a similar position, and bends every effort to take care of the duties of the office in an honorable and pleasing manner, always tracking the law to the letter as to matters pertaining to his official duties.

If elected to a second term, which according to Democratic practice, is customary in this state when an official has conducted the affairs in such efficient manner as his record bespeaks for this his first term as Tax Assessor. Hence, we would ask that you give Mr. Howard's claims for re-election fair consideration in the coming July Primary.

Concerning the growth of the taxable values in this county the past two years, Mr. Howard quotes the following facts: For 1926 the taxable values on real estate were: \$13,088,550; personal taxes, \$6,370,860; and there were 10,608 poll taxes assessed for 1926. In 1927 real estate valuations were \$15,536,025; showing an increase over the previous year of \$2,447,475; with \$7,192,795 personal taxes, showing an increase of \$821,935, and there were 11,696 polls assessed an increase of over a thousand. The total increase in taxable values from 1926 to 1927 was \$3,269,410.

FARM BUREAU PLANS BIG YEAR FOR 1928

Abilene, Texas, Jan. 11.—Under normal conditions Jones and Taylor counties next season will deliver 12,000 bales to the channels of co-operative marketing, and this figure should be increased to 15,000 bales if certain projects now under consideration are consummated, in the opinion of Clyde Daniel, field service representative of the Texas Farm Bureau Cotton Association.

"Jones and Taylor counties this season delivered 2 percent more of the production to be marketed co-operatively than was delivered the year before," he said, "and there is a rapidly growing sentiment, and active support now being given the movement from all sections of the territory which is reflecting itself upon possibilities for a very favorable showing next season." Mr. Daniel complimented bankers, business men, newspapers and other agencies which have forcibly demonstrated their interest in the welfare of the producer by cooperation rendered.

He also stated that there was a growing tendency towards improving the quality of cotton in this section, and he states that "more good planting seed than ever before was distributed during the past year."

Speaking on the various Association services, Mr. Daniel told of the three Farm Bureau co-operative gins which had been established this season at Hamlin, Merkel, and Bradshaw, and stated that leaders in other communities were anxious for additional gins of this character. Other association services available to the membership were listed as certified cotton seed, production credit, group life insurance, poison and fertilizer purchasing services.

DUNN BROTHERS MOVE GROCERY TO KENT ST.

As stated in this paper last week, a new and modern store building has been prepared for the Dunn Brothers Market and Grocery and they have this week moved their stock of merchandise to same, where handsome new market and grocery fixtures have also been installed.

Read their announcement in this paper.

Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Bragg of Chillicothe, Texas, were guests of the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. G. Bragg, for Saturday and Sunday.

Austin Fitts Announces For County Treas.

In the announcement column of the Merkel Mail will be found the name of Austin Fitts, of Abilene, as a candidate for the office of County Treasurer of Taylor County, subject to the action of the Democratic Primary next July.

For many years Mr. Fitts has faithfully and honestly conducted the affairs of the office of Treasurer of Taylor County, and is perhaps one of the best known and best liked men within the confines of the entire county. He can always be found at his post of duty, and to every one having business with him and his office, he is always courteous and obliging, be he stranger or a best known friend.

His official record, like his personal life, is well known and an open book to every voter throughout the county, and should the people see fit to again entrust to him the cares and duty of the office of County Treasurer, he pledges to them the same faithful, honest and courteous service in the future as has been his custom in the past.

We earnestly solicit for him your careful, fair consideration when casting your vote for Treasurer in the coming July Primary.

Wagner & Elliott Buy Tailor Shop

Messrs. Rolfe Wagner and Glenn Elliott have this week purchased the interests of Messrs. W. A. and Lloyd Elliott in the Modern Dry Cleaners and Tailors, and have already assumed the management of same.

The new managers have been connected with this splendid enterprise since its opening here a little more than a year ago, and know the business thoroughly; in fact they have been the tailors all the while. They have given the very best of service in their line, and say that they are now even better prepared to serve their trade satisfactorily. They are fine fellows and we feel sure will enjoy their share of the business in this line.

THE PRICE TOO HIGH

Glorious as were the achievements of successful overseas flyers during 1927, the loss of 18 men and three women, who failed, makes the price of this kind of glory, seem too high. Those who died in the quest for trans-oceanic flying fame, leaving no record to tell the tragic story of their fate, were these:

Nungesser and Gali, between Paris and New York; Saint-Roman and Mouneyres, between Senegal and Buenos Aires; early in May.

Pedler, Knope and Miss Mildred Doran; Frost and Scott; Erwin and Eichwaldt; between California and Honolulu in August.

Redfern, between Brunswick, Ga., and Rio Janeiro, in August. Hamilton, Minchin and Princess Lowenstein-Wertheim, who left England for Canada, August 31.

Bertaud Hill and Payne, in an attempted flight from New York to Rome in September.

Ondal, Goldsborough, Kohler and Mrs. Frances Grayson, who left New York on December 23 for Harbor Grace, Newfoundland, on the first leg of a proposed flight to England.

Through sheer luck, Haldeman and Miss Kath Elder escaped death when their plane landed in the Atlantic near a tank steamer, in October.

Besides the loss of life attending these stunts hundreds of thousands of dollars and the time of many ships and airplanes were spent in fruitless searches for the victims.

In the present state of aviation, the cost of overseas flying is too high.

Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Sheppard were called to Abilene Thursday to attend the funerals of a nephew of Mrs. Sheppard, the young man having died in Fort Worth, where he was attending school.

Rev. W. J. Mayhew and Mrs. Mayhew returned last week from Killeen, Texas, where they had called on account of the illness of a grandchild. The child was reported considerably improved.



STATEMENT of CONDITION

THE FARMERS STATE BANK

Merkel, Texas, Close of Business Dec. 31, 1927.

RESOURCES table with columns for item and amount, including Loans, Banking House, Furniture & Fixtures, etc.

LIABILITIES table with columns for item and amount, including Capital Stock, Surplus & Profits, Bills Payable, etc.

The above statement is correct. W. L. DILTZ, Jr., Cashier

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS list including J. S. Swann, President; Herbert Patterson, Assistant Cashier; J. C. Mason, V. Pres.; Dallas Scarborough, David Hendricks.

ABROLHOS ISLANDS MENACE TO SHIPPING

Princess Mafalda Added to Long Toll of Wrecks.

Washington.—The Abrolhos, or Santa Barbara Islands, off the coast of central Brazil, near where the Italian liner Princess Mafalda recently went down in one of the worst marine disasters since the sinking of the Titanic...

Pass Near Obstruction. "One of the principal shipping lanes between Europe and South America, and the lane from North American ports to Brazil and Argentine, touch both at Pernambuco and Bahia and then skirt the coast southward to Rio de Janeiro. These ship routes pass just outside the Abrolhos islands and their clustering shoals. On Santa Barbara, chief of the islets, is a lighthouse to warn ships to keep to the eastward."

"Because these islets, rocks and reefs lie so close to frequented ship lanes, they have taken a heavy toll. Several of the more important shoals are named from ships that have met disaster on them, as La France shoal, on which the steamer La France went aground in 1884, and California shoal, struck by the ship California in 1891. The isles are approximately 30 miles off the nearest point of the mainland, Bahia or Baleine point. The shoals and reefs stretch 12 or 15 miles farther seaward. Just as North American fishermen frequent the Newfoundland banks, so the Abrolhos bank draws the fishermen of Brazil. Scores of fishing boats are usually to be found near the islands, many of them from Port Seguro, 100 miles to the north. This little port was the landing place in 1500 of Cabral, on whose exploit hung the claim of Portugal to the great land that is now Brazil."

An Isolated Section. "This has remained an isolated section of the Brazilian coast. The nearest town to the scene of the sinking of the Princess Mafalda is Caravelas, several miles up the river of the same name, and a few miles down the coast from Baleia point. The population of the town is about 4,000. It has a short railway running inland to gold mines, but it is not connected with other coastal towns. The nearest sizable towns are Victoria, 200 miles to the south, and Bahia, 250 miles to the north."

Goose Bone Prophets Say Winter Will Be Severe

Seattle, Wash.—The rush season for long-range weather forecasting by goose-bone prophets has arrived. According to a press clipping bureau here these predictions for the most part reveal in forecasting a severe winter.

To date there have been 53 prognostications of winter weather made and each one is different in the shiver foreboding. In sizing up the approaching winter one school holds it will be severe because the breast bones of geese are thick this fall; hunters, trappers, and northwest Indians base their predictions on antics of fur, woodland animals, trees, seeds and serenity of bird life.

Many use the moon's phases of the lunatic to forecast cold weeks. Not one, however, has alluded to sun spots on the weather's behavior.

Control of Dirigible Simple but Effective

When I say Lincoln Beachey was running the dirigibles I mean it literally. The dirigibles of those days (1911) were about 40 feet long and their envelopes contained 20,000 cubic feet of hydrogen gas. They looked like cigars—and tasted about as long. There was a lift of only 80 pounds to every 1,000 feet of hydrogen and this compelled us to construct the under carriage of bamboo.

This bamboo work was in the form of a steamer gangplank with a railing on either side. The motive power was furnished by an ordinary motorcycle engine situated in the center of the gangplank.

Beachey was the sole occupant of the dirigible, being engineer, crew, navigator and captain. He could not help being at least a captain, because that title was conferred on any man the minute he put a foot in a balloon basket.

Beachey controlled the antics of his dirigible by his activities on the 30-foot gangplank. When he wanted to fly on the level he stayed in the center, hugging the engine. When he wanted to go up he ran backward on the gangplank, and when he desired to come down to earth he scooted forward until his weight caused the nose of the dirigible to droop. He weighed only 135 pounds, but couldn't shake a toe without causing his oil-silk hippo to respond with a wiggle and a shiver.—William Hickman Pickens in the Saturday Evening Post.

FROM NUMBERS, B. C., TO THE U. S. CENSUS

First Counting of Noses Was Done by Moses.

Washington.—All Turkey stayed at home one Friday recently while 50,000 officials took the first census of the Ottoman empire.

"Turkey has made up for tardiness by asking questions far more thorough than appear in the famous first census of history," says a bulletin from the Washington headquarters of the National Geographic society.

"Take ye the sum of all the congregation of the children of Israel, after their families, by the house of their fathers, with the number of their names every male by their polls; from twenty years old and upward, all that are able to go forth to war in Israel."

"Thus spoke the Lord to Moses, and Moses, with Aaron's assistance, collected the figures for the first census report, which may be found in practically every home and hotel room. It is appropriately entitled 'Numbers,' the fourth book of the Bible.

"By its breadth of scope the census William of Normandy ordered for his new kingdom of England, resembles modern surveys. He commanded his minions in 1085 A. D. to record every lord and peasant, every acre, every ox, every mill, every manor, every weir and every plow, the value thereof—and this is forward looking—the natural resources, woods, fields and streams capable of development and revenue. The report to William the Conqueror became the Domesday Book, unreadable today except by scholars, yet protected in the public record office at London as one of the most precious possessions of England.

Russia's First Count in 1897. "The United States, although a newcomer in the ranks of civilization, was one of the first nations to establish the modern periodic census. Sweden took the lead before our first census in 1790, but England, France and Prussia did not see the necessity of regular counting of noses until ten or twenty years later. Russia took no census until 1897.

"Deeply religious settlers of America nearly exact our first census when they harked back to another less fortunate Bible census. 'Satan stood up against Israel,' our ancestors pointed out to the marshals, 'and provoked David to number Israel from Beersheba even to Dan.' What happened? 'God was displeased; therefore he smote Israel. The Lord sent pestilence upon Israel; and there fell of Israel 70,000 men.'

"Fears that our first census would bring similar destruction upon the nation did not materialize, so the marshals delivered their reports to President Washington within nine months for all the original states, except Vermont, Rhode Island and South Carolina. Vermont and Rhode Island entered the Union later. The marshal of South Carolina found workers scarce at \$1 per 150 heads counted.

"Today a visitor at the census bureau may see the names of famous Americans and the answers given to the first census takers' simple questionnaires. John Hancock's family consisted of two free white males of sixteen and upward; three white females, seven other persons (servants no doubt) and no slaves. Progress in 70 years presents a contrast with data for Abraham Lincoln collected in 1830: 'Age, fifty-one, married, lawyer, value of real estate \$5,000—personal estate \$12,000, Kentucky, place of birth.'

"From one census every ten years the census bureau has increased to 104 censuses. In addition to many special surveys such as that made to supply data to congress for immigration quotas. One census collected every week shows the number of babies born. Using these figures the bureau sets up its large calculator at an exhibit and every 20 seconds announces to the world that the millions of Americans has been increased, for example, by baby No. 118,772,331.

Statistics About Buying.

"Not content with counting men, women and children, where they work, whether they are in school and if so, how long; not satisfied with tabulating the value of wheat grown and tons of manganese ore dug out of the ground; not resting even with summing up the business of hats and hammocks, shoes and sulphuric acid manufactured in the United States, the census bureau proposes to 'complete the picture.' To finish the portrait in figures of the whole United States, it is necessary, they say, to have a census of distribution. That means an accounting of what is sold to the housewife over the grocery, drug and meat counters, and of what the wholesaler sells to the retailer.

"Recently the census bureau released its first experimental distribution survey for which Baltimore served as a laboratory specimen. The weavers of figures found that in Baltimore 283 people are required to support one neighborhood grocery; that Baltimoreans spend \$450.72 per year in stores; that the department stores take the most; that Baltimore spends more on automobiles than on furnishing its homes and that in the average family purchasing budget food requires 31 per cent, clothing 20 per cent and the family automobile comes next with 9 per cent. The same survey has been extended to ten other cities; Chicago, Atlanta, Denver, Fargo, N. D.; Kansas City, Providence, San Francisco, Seattle, Springfield, Ill., and Syracuse, N. Y. Some day it will be extended to the whole nation."

STATEMENT of CONDITION

FARMERS & MERCHANTS NAT'L BANK

Merkel, Texas

Close of Business December 31st, 1927

RESOURCES table with columns for item and amount, including Loans, Time and Demand, Overdrafts, Warrants, Ind. School Dist., etc.

LIABILITIES table with columns for item and amount, including Capital Stock, Surplus and Undivided Profits, Dividend Unpaid, etc.

STATE OF TEXAS } I, Booth Warren, Cashier of the above named bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

BOOTH WARREN, Cashier

Directors

J. T. Warren G. F. West Sam Butman, Sr. Geo. L. Paxton Booth Warren

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Regular services Sunday. Sunday school at 10 a.m. We would like very much for every class to have present its entire enrollment every Sunday on time, it will help the officers and teachers and you.

Let's add to the percentage of Sunday School and church attendance in Merkel already above the average. Preaching services at 11 a.m. and

7 p.m. Prayermeeting each Wednesday evening at 7 p.m.

W. M. Elliott, Supt. S. S. R. A. Walker, Pastor.

We meet all competition. J. H. McDonald Grocery. It

Mrs. E. T. Hood, of Greensburg, Kansas, is here for an extended visit with her daughter, Mrs. L. R. Thompson.

QUEEN

"NOT OCCASIONALLY—BUT ALWAYS A GOOD SHOW"

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY Big Double Show

PICTURES AND VAUDEVILLE



with GARY COOPER A stirring tale of the days when rustlers roamed the cattle country.

"King of the Jungle" —and— 4 REELS OF COMEDY

Monday and Tues. Thomas Meighan

"WE'RE ALL GAMBLERS"

The star of "The CANADIAN" in a powerful dramatic role as a prize fighter who fights his way up the social scale until—but see Meighan's new melodrama! You can't lose! It's A Paramount Picture —Also— COMEDY and NEWS and Ink Well Imps

4 High Class 4 Vaudeville Acts

Sensational Slack and tight wire Artists. MARVELOUS Exhibition of Contortion. BIFF and BANG—those Funny Comedy Acrobats Comedy Juggling



Wed. and Thurs.

She put the "Rush" in Russia She danced on her toes—put Russia on its ear—had her sweetie standing on his head. She's a fake Grand Duchess, but a real comedy queen. And there are more quivers and shivers, laughs and thrills when she does the veil dance than you've ever seen before.

—Also— "SHORT SUBJECTS"

TO OUR CUSTOMERS AND FRIENDS

We are now located in the building next door to JONES & LACKEY'S BARBER SHOP, where we are better prepared than ever before to give you GOOD SERVICE in the Cafe Business. Our place is new and up-to-date in every respect. We appreciate your loyal support in the past and trust that you will favor us with a continuance of your patronage in the future.

We will try to give you the kind of service you want. Come and make your wants known to us.

WHITE HOUSE CAFE

J. F. HOLLOWAY, Proprietor

OPENING

Our New Store

A Bedspread For
95c
to the first 36 people who enter.

SATURDAY

We are one of the
FEDERATED
Chain of Stores

(OPEN AT NINE O'CLOCK)

It is our purpose to give to the people of Merkel and surrounding community the very lowest prices on all kinds of Dry Goods, Shoes and Gents Furnishings.

“Cash Makes the Price Lower”

Boston Bargain Store

E. YATES BROWN, Manager

Earth's Crust Settling, Sir Oliver Lodge Says

London.—The earth's crust is settling, declares Sir Oliver Lodge, explaining the abundance of earthquakes, tidal waves, typhoons and hurricanes, rainstorms and floods.

“There is nothing abnormal in the operation,” he says, “but improved methods of communication broadcast the news of earthquakes and typhoons all over the world in a few seconds. A century ago typhoons and earthquakes, such as have happened in Japan, Mexico and the Black sea, would have been unheard of for many months.

“The crust of the earth is continually settling down. If a crack appears in the fabric of a house the house does not necessarily collapse at that spot, though another part of the building may fall because of the crack. Similarly a crack in the earth in the Pacific may cause another crack in a different part of the world.”

Obliging Duelist in Jail

Oldenburg, Austria.—Erich Tyuka, court translator, is in jail for killing Walter Setz, government official, in a duel. Tyuka explained that Setz, having insulted him, explained that he must fight a duel or he could not take his place again in society. Society made no such demands on Tyuka, but he accommodated Setz. Unhappily, his fire was fatal.

Carry Their Hobbies With Them on Train

Most people think that commuters spend their time on the train reading the newspapers or chatting about business. Playing cards is also a well-known club-car pastime for men who must journey an hour or more on their twice-a-day trip. But there are other occupations.

Girls knit and sew on their way to the office and sometimes write letters on the morning express. Incidentally, women seem to prefer novels to newspapers as they shuttle to and from the job. Then cross-word puzzles keep some members of both sexes busy, some of them eagerly entering the puzzle mazes on the station platform before the train pulls in.

Now and then a chess addict may be observed with a pocket folding board, working out profound problems of the game. He wears, consciously or unconsciously, a mantle of superiority in the presence of the cross-word puzzlers.

There is considerable study done on the commuters' trains, usually by younger commuters.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Fully Supplied

“Funny thing to me that Hub Snuckles don't get married,” remarked Mrs. Lagg.

“What in tunkett does he want with a wife?” returned Lufe Lagg of Booger Holler. “He's got a tame wildcat that is always on the p'int of eating him up and a pet crow that has had its tongue split and talks all the —yaw-w-wa! — time.” —Kansas City Times.

LIFE ADVENTUROUS FOR COAST GUARD

Experiences Rival Those of Pirate Days.

Fort Lauderdale, Fla.—One thrilling adventure after another, rivaling those of days when pirate ships sailed the high seas and buccaneers compelled their prisoners to walk the plank, makes up the life of coast guardsmen battling rum runners in Florida waters.

Prices have been put upon the heads of several guardsmen, officers declare, as the struggle to halt the smuggling of liquor becomes more acute. Winter's icy winds in the North are turning the bows of many runners southward, resulting in increased activity along the Florida coast.

When a slim, speedy government chaser, armed with one-pounders, closes in on the boat filled with illegal cargo, the officers seldom know whether the crew will surrender, abandon the vessel or choose to “fight it out.”

Three Killed in Battle.

There was, for example, the recent battle about thirty miles off Fort Lauderdale in which three officers were killed and a fourth wounded when coast guard boat No. 249 captured a rum runner.

The 249 was on its way to Nassau, in the Bahamas, carrying Robert K. Webster, secret service operative, to trace counterfeit \$50 bills used in rum transactions, when it spotted and closed in on the rumbot and captured Horace Alderman and Robert E. Weech.

While officers transferred the cargo, Sidney Sanderlin, boatswain, sought to get in touch by radio with the Fort Lauderdale base. Suddenly, the account goes, Alderman fired down the hatch and killed Sanderlin. Victor A. Lamby, motor machinist, rushed to aid the fallen man and was mortally wounded by a bullet through his spine.

Alderman grabbed Lamby's gun, gave it to Weech and ordered the other six government men to “lie up.”

“Move the whisky back to our boat,” he instructed Weech, “and then go below and set this government boat on fire.”

As Weech went into the hold Webster jumped for Alderman. He was killed instantly with a bullet through his head. Jodie L. Hollingsworth, following the secret service man, was wounded through the eye and nose. But it was the “break,” and the rest of the small crew rushed upon Alderman and Weech and overpowered them and brought them to port. They

“MONEY TALKS”

Do You Want More Money Than You Have Now?

Sure you do. We are in position to help you make more at your odd times. Come in and let us show you the best “INCUBATOR” that is built for the money, and they are not just a box, they are the kind that get the chickens out of the egg.

We have just received a large shipment of “JERSEYS” in all sizes from 80 egg size to 600 egg size. We want more and better chickens on every farm in our trade territory. We are ready to help you select your chickens and help select your equipment.

Now is the time to get them started in order to get the highest market price for your broilers. Come in and let us talk it over with you.

Liberty Hardware Co.

If It's Hardware We Have It

- NOW -

While all the family are at home and happy make that appointment for a Family Group.

They might not all be together next year.

“PHOTOGRAPHS LIVE FOREVER”

RODDEN STUDIO

DUNN BROTHERS MARKET and GROCERY

— Moved to Kent St. —

We are now located in our new home on Kent St., next door to Darsey Furniture Co., where we have fitted up and equipped a new building especially for a market and grocery; installing the latest and best in meat market and grocery fixtures, making it possible for us to give you good clean meat and groceries. We are pleased to quote you the following extreme-low prices—

— FOR CASH ONLY —

Spuds	per peck	.37
Yams	per peck	.40
Lettuce	per head	.10
Nice Grapes	per pound	.15
Bannas	per dozen	.35
Maxwell House Coffee,	3 lb. can	1.45
Gold Plume Coffee with 2 pounds of Sugar, Nice Shopping Bag, cup & saucer		1.45
Pickels	per quart	.37
Pinto Beans	per pound	.09
Delmonte Peaches, size 2 1/2,	per can	.27 1/2
Silvar Bar Peas, No. 2,	per cad	.16
Primrose Corn, No. 2,	per can	.17
Our Darling Corn, No. 2,	per can	.17
East Texas Pure Ribbon Cane	per gallon	.98

Don't forget our Cream station. We give the highest test. Service every day. Your business always appreciated.

"Ben-Hur" Inspired Me, Says Novarro

Ben-Hur had a curious effect on me. I had read—or heard read—the novel when a boy, retaining only vaguely a memory of it; and when Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer offered me the role of Ben-Hur in the picturization of the Lew Wallace novel, it just seemed an actor's job—very interesting and important, it is true; yet, essentially, like other work. One of the studio staff suggested: "Read the book!" I accepted the suggestion, and dipped into it.

I had gotten only into the Wise Men of the East scene when I realized that here was a setting that transcended any book or play or continuity I had ever been acquainted with. The Star of Bethlehem—the Nativity—the Adoration—the Edict of Herod—the Flight into Egypt—nearly a hundred pages filled with the mightiest event in history. The proud Sadducean family, and the lowly Jesus!

How could I help being chilled by the contrast? How, indeed, fail to realize what the story meant!

Truly Ben-Hur is beautifully pictured by Lew Wallace. Ingenuous, brave and boyish, devoted to his mother and sister, filled with youthful enthusiasm for his chum and equally for the world's high adventure, yet deeply prideful and willing to dare and suffer all rather than to forego principle. What a charming lightness, an idyllic quality if I may say so, in his first meeting with Esther in the market-place, where he restores the crippled dove to her hand and craves to know her better.

The more somber parts of the action brought to my attention again the marvels of the book in its painting of the wickedness, lust and cruelty of the Greek or Roman world at the opening of the Christian era, and the sublime power of our Holy faith in combating these conditions and eventually overcoming them. If was my recreation at this period to visit the Castle of St. Angelo, the library of the Vatican, St. Peter's Cathedral, and in particular the wonderful Sistine and other galleries where the concepts of our religion are picturized in visible form by Michael Angelo and Raphael.

Had I wanted a demonstration of the truth that the world changes but human nature is more or less per-

manent, I could equally have found it in the violent quarrels twixt the Fascisti and anti-Fascisti that marked the making of our scenes with myself as "Ben-Hur" as the galley slave in the Sea Fight. If it had not been rector, the magnificence of the sea for Fred Niblo, our diplomatic dif-

fight could not have been obtained. The grandeur of Gen. Wallace's depiction of the great Antioch scenes and the thrilling chariot race in such that it fired me to meet his ideal of the dauntless Jew who wins through to victory in the Circus Maximus and to the love of Esther.

What an opportunity in the final scenes for Judah, son of Ithamar, prince of the House of Hur! Mistaken "soldier of God", misguided in thinking that with his Galileans he might rescue the Saviour and set Him on a temporal throne; then as Jesus cured the sick and went by, he, Ben-Hur, is redeemed from such worldly misguided ambitions in the service of the Son of God.

I rejoiced in the role and it has bettered me mentally and spiritually and I might add physically. Such a part comes but once in a lifetime and I am glad that it can come only once because it is so close to the fountains of our being, to the Godward impulses that are within us.

We meet all competition. J. H. McDonald Grocery. It

Messrs. W. H. and Walter Frazier returned yesterday from Rochester, where they had been called to attend the funeral of a nephew, Tommie Jones, aged 20 years, the funeral taking place at eleven o'clock on Thursday.

ANNOUNCEMENT

I now have an office in the SEARS VARIETY STORE.

I shall be glad to give you a statement of the leading Insurance Company of Texas. Buy Texas Insurance and keep your money at Home.

SOUTHWESTERN LIFE INSURANCE CO.

MRS. L. M. TOUCHSTONE, AGENT

**What You Want
How You Want It
When You Want It**

For anything in the line of printing come to us and we'll guarantee you satisfactory work at prices that are right

SATURDAY Only

Five Gallons of Gas and 1 Quart of Oil for

\$1.00

Grayson Filling Station

N. L. RIGGAN, Mgr.

I have leased the Grayson Filling Station and wish to solicit the patronage of all my friends as well as the general public. Will appreciate your business.

Go After Business

in a business way—the advertising way. An ad in this paper offers the maximum service at the minimum cost. It reaches the people of the town and vicinity you want to reach.

Try It—It Pays

American Telephone & Telegraph Co.—Bell System
153rd Dividend

The regular quarterly dividend of Two Dollars and Twenty-Five Cents (\$2.25) per share will be paid on Monday, January 16, 1928, to stockholders of record at the close of business on Tuesday, December 20, 1927.
H. LAIR-SMITH, Treas.

Find Weave Lets in Rays More Than Fabric

Washington.—To be bathed by the beneficial ultra-violet rays, wear open-weave fabric.

To test the claims that artificial silk cloth allowed large amounts of the health-giving short wave lengths of sunlight to pass through, various fabrics were submitted to test at the national bureau of standards. Cotton was found to be nearly as transparent to the ultra-violet light, as viscose and cellulose acetate, and real silk had about the same transparency as cotton.

The viscose artificial silk was more transparent than that made from cellulose acetate but the maximum transparency measured was only 27 per cent. Dyes or the yellowing due to age was found to reduce the transmission to only about 5 to 10 per cent and in most fabrics the threads occupy 95 to 99 per cent of the total space.

The experts conclude that the composition of the fabric is of less importance than the coarseness of weave.

Volcano Causes 2 Pacific Islands to Be Made One

Dutch Harbor, Alaska.—News covering the recent volcanic disturbance in Bering sea reached here recently via the coast guard cutter Northland. The vessel visited Bogoslof island to examine new formations.
The older rock mass is unchanged

Deer's Appetites Ruin Golf Course Greens

Girard, Calif.—The Girard golf club is probably the only golf club in the world that finds itself up against a necessity of hiring a caretaker to shoot wild animals off the greens.

The links border on several dark canyons that run back into the Santa Monica mountains, where bands of wild deer browse. Nobody has shot at these deer in so long that they are more or less tame. At night when the golf players go home to explain to their wives that they have been in their offices all day the deer come out of the canyons, nibble the rich grass and eat up everything else green that is in sight.

Recent fires in Topanga canyon have destroyed the wild herbage. As a result most of the deer are now "boarding" on the golf club greens. Officers of the club say a man or boy with a lantern will be hired to keep the deer on the run after nightfall.

Not the Only Big Pig

Word comes from Johannesburg, South Africa, through London, that the world's biggest pig recently traveled to that fair accompanied by his valet and manager. This pig recently visited Australia and has traveled 35,000 miles. He is insured for \$25,000 and his daily meals consist of four cases of apples, eight or nine buckets of milk, two bushels of bran and sixteen to eighteen cabbages, with a few side dishes thrown in. He measures 8 feet 3 inches long and his belt is 6 feet 9 inches. He weighs over half a ton. At that, he wouldn't make some of our largest specimens look very puny.—American Swineherd.

Prosaic Shepherding

Shepherding is becoming a science in France. A school of shepherding is operating at Rambouillet. The school is a government institution, fostered by the ministry of agriculture. It teaches many things that the shepherds with their crooks, painted by artists and described by poets, never bothered about. There are no picturesque costumes. Students are not judged by their ability to sing or pose. They have to study the work of shepherding with a view to making a profit on sheep. About all the romance left in the profession is the sheep dog.

Planters Gin

We wish to thank all our customers for their patronage the past season, and we extend to you our wish for a prosperous 1928.

We wish to announce also to our patrons and the public that we now have a full line of feeds of all kinds which we will sell to you at the lowest market price.

When in the market for

**Hulls Meal
Cake Corn
Bran Dairy Feed
Chicken Feeds**

let us figure with you. We will keep a complete line at all time and will appreciate your patronage.

**JIM TOOMBS
— AT THE —
PLANTERS GIN**



THEY WEAR
— LONGER

JONES DRY GOODS
MERKEL, TEXAS

ALACE

-FRIDAY ONLY-

CLARA BOW in "WINE"

The NEW SENSATION OF ALL THE BIG THEATRES

Leonard's Coloradoans

AN 8-PIECE ORCHESTRA

They played 6 weeks in Sweetwater at the Wright Hotel and have a three months engagement at the Hilton Hotel in Abilene. On the stage for 30 minutes playing the latest popular tunes of the day in a way you will enjoy. Also—NEWS and COMEDY

-SATURDAY ONLY-

"WOLF'S CLOTHING"

STARRING

Montie Blue and Patsy Ruth Miller

in one of the best Cosmopolitan stories of this year. Also these same "COLORADOANS" with an entirely new program, for thirty minutes more of good, clean, wholesome entertainment that you can't help enjoying. NEWS and COMEDY

MONDAY and TUESDAY

THOMAS MEIGHAN in

"BLIND ALLEYS"

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's brand new comedy—"LIGHTER That FAILED" and PATHE NEWS Last program that your merchants tickets are good—Don't Miss It!

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

January 18th, 19th and 20th.

"BEN-HUR"

A million thrills to thrill millions. A picture for the old, middle-aged and the young. You can't afford to miss it. Also Easop Fables.

NOTICE

TO ALL OWNING OR CLAIMING ANY PROPERTY ABUTTING UPON THE HEREINBELOW MENTIONED PORTIONS OF STREETS IN THE CITY OF MERKEL, TEXAS, AND TO ALL OWNING OR CLAIMING ANY INTEREST IN ANY SUCH PROPERTY:

The Governing Body of the City of Merkel has ordered that the hereinbelow mentioned streets be improved by raising, grading and filling same, and installing concrete curbs and gutters, and paving with 3 Inch Vertical Fibre Brick on natural foundation, together with incidentals and appurtenances, and contract has been made and entered into with Panhandle Construction Company for the making and construction of such improvements. Estimate of the cost of such improvements for each such portion of street or highway has been prepared.

The portions of streets or highways so to be improved, together with the estimated cost of the improvements for each such portion of street or highway, and the amount or amounts per front foot proposed to be assessed against the abutting property and owners thereof on each such portion, are as follows; to-wit:

On Oak Street, from 2 feet South of the most Southerly rail of the Texas & Pacific's South passing track to the North property line of Calvert Street, known and designated as District or Unit No. 8; estimated cost of the improvements is \$30,969.56; the estimated amount per front foot to be assessed against abutting property and the owners thereof for curb is \$4.40; the estimated amount per front foot to be assessed against abutting property and the owners thereof for improvements exclusive of curb is \$4.70; the total estimated amount per front foot to be assessed against abutting property and the owners thereof is \$5.10.

On Oak Street, from the North line of Calvert Street to the South line of Coomb Street, known and designated as District or Unit No. 9; estimated cost of the improvements is \$12,656.85; the estimated amount per front foot to be assessed against abutting property and the owners thereof for curb is \$4.40; the estimated amount per front foot to be assessed against abutting property and the owners thereof for improvements exclusive of curb is \$4.70; the total estimated amount per front foot to be assessed against abutting property and the owners thereof is \$5.10.

On Austin Street, from the West property line of Oak Street to the West property line of Ash Street, known and designated as District or Unit No. 10; estimated cost of the improvements is \$12,163.79; the estimated amount per front foot to be assessed against abutting property and the owners thereof for curb is \$4.40; the estimated amount per front foot to be assessed against abutting property and the owners thereof for improvements exclusive of curb is \$4.70; the total estimated amount per front foot to be assessed against abutting property and the owners thereof is \$5.10.

On Austin Street, from the West line of Ash Street to the West property line of West Street, known and designated as District or Unit No. 11; Estimated cost of the improvements is \$9,812.88; the estimated amount per front foot to be assessed against abutting property and the owners thereof for curb is \$4.40; the estimated amount per front foot to be assessed against abutting property and the owners thereof for improvements exclusive of curb is \$4.70; the total estimated amount per front foot to be assessed against abutting property and the owners thereof is \$5.10.

On Locust Street, from the South property line of Travis Street to the South property line of Baker Street, known and designated as District or Unit No. 12; estimated cost of the improvements is \$16,983.75; the estimated amount per front foot to be assessed against abutting property and the owners thereof for curb is \$4.40; the estimated amount per front foot to be assessed against abutting property and the owners thereof for improvements exclusive of curb is \$4.70; the total estimated amount per front foot to be assessed against abutting property and the owners thereof is \$5.10.

On Baker Street, from the West line of Oak Street to the East line of Locust Street, known and designated as District or Unit No. 13; the estimated cost of the improvements is \$3,457.87; the estimated amount per front foot to be assessed against abutting property and the owners thereof for curb is \$4.40; the estimated amount per front foot to be assessed against abutting property and the owners thereof for improvements exclusive of curb is \$4.70; the total estimated amount per front foot to be assessed against abutting property and the owners thereof is \$5.10.

On South Front Street, from its

Announcement!

We have installed for your convenience a new

SCHERER CLARIFYING SYSTEM

Which will thoroughly clean and deodorize all Clothing, making it possible for us to give

ONE-DAY SERVICE

We assure you expert workmanship and courteous Treatment at all times.

CITY DRY CLEANERS

"SUDDEN SERVICE"

L. J. Renfro

Tom Allday

Phone 189

Kent Street

RHEUMATISM

While in France with the American Army I obtained a noted French prescription for the treatment of Rheumatism and Neuritis. I have given this to thousands with wonderful results. The prescription cost me nothing. I ask nothing for it. I will mail it to you if you will send me your address. A postal will bring it. Write today. PAUL CASE, Dept. S312 Brockton, Mass.

Church of Christ

Elder W. G. Cypert will preach at the North Side Church of Christ next Sunday morning at eleven o'clock and in the evening at 7:30.

Subject for the eleven o'clock hour will be "Facing the Future." Let's all go to church.

Mr. Max Mellinger returned first of the week from a business trip to Dallas.

NO. 7481

Report of the Condition of

The Farmers & Merchants National Bank

AT MERKEL

In the State of Texas, at the Close of Business on Dec. 31, 1927

RESOURCES

Loans and Discounts, including rediscounts	\$522,587.99
Total loans	\$522,587.99
Overdrafts, secured, None. Unsecured	\$2200.30
Deposited to secure circulation (U. S. Bonds par value)	\$6,250.00
All other United States Government Securities	\$109,900.00
Other bonds, stocks, securities, etc.	3,365.73
Furniture and Fixtures	6,750.00
Real estate owned other than banking house	NONE
Lawful reserve with Federal Reserve Bank	45,231.04
Cash in vault and amount due from national banks	75,512.74
Amount due from State banks, bankers and trust companies in the United States (other than included in Items 8, 9, and 10)	20.00
Checks on other banks in the same city or town as reporting bank	2,980.21
Total of Items 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13	\$78,512.95
Checks and drafts on banks (including Federal Reserve Bank) located out side of city or town of reporting bank	NONE
Miscellaneous cash items	NONE
Redemption fund with U. S. Treasurer and due from U. S. Treasurer	312.50
Total	\$775,110.56

LIABILITIES

Capital stock paid in	\$50,000.00
Surplus Fund	25,000.00
Undivided profits	\$8,860.59
Reserved for	NONE
Less current expenses, paid	8,860.59
Circulating notes outstanding	6,250.00
Amount due to State banks, bankers, and trust companies in the U. S.	12,315.62
Cashiers checks outstanding	3,709.88
Dividend checks outstanding	3,000.00
Total of items 24, 25, 26, 27, 28 and 29	\$19,025.50
Demand Deposits subject to Reserve:	
Individual deposits subject to check	558,664.62
Certificates of deposits due in less than 30 days	10,334.00
Other Demand Deposits	5,404.72
Total of demand deposit (other than bank deposits)	
Reserve, Items 30, 31, 32, 33 and 34	\$574,403.34
Savings Deposits	91,571.13
State, County or other municipal deposits secured by pledge of assets of this bank or surety bond	NONE
Other time Deposits	NONE
Total of time deposits subject to reserve, Items 35, 36, 37, and 38	\$91,571.13
Total	\$775,110.56

OF TEXAS, COUNTY OF TAYLOR, SS: Booth Warren, Cashier of the above-named bank, do solemnly swear above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief. BOOTH WARREN, Cashier subscribed and sworn to before me this 10th day of Jan. 1928. Rosie Laney, Notary Public. Correct—Attest:—G. F. WEST, J. T. WARREN, SAM BUTMAN Directors.

intersection with the West Property Line of Oak Street to its intersection with the West Property Line of Locust Street, known and designated as Unit No. 14; estimated cost of the improvements is \$3,883.53; the estimated amount per front foot to be assessed against abutting property and the owners thereof for curb is \$4.40; the estimated amount per front foot to be assessed against abutting property and the owners thereof for improvements exclusive of curb is \$4.70; the total estimated amount per front foot to be assessed against abutting property and the owners thereof is \$5.10.

A hearing will be given and held by and before the Governing Body of the City of Merkel, Texas, on the 30th day of January, 1928, at 3:00 o'clock P.M., in the City Secretary's Office in the city of Merkel, Texas, to all owning or claiming any property abutting upon said portions of streets and highways, and to all owning or claiming any interest in any such property. At said time and place all owning or claiming any such abutting property, or any interest therein, shall be and appear, and will be fully heard concerning said improvements, the cost thereof, the amounts to be assessed therefor, the benefits to the respective parcels of abutting property by means of the improvements on the portion of street or highway upon which the property abuts, and concerning the regularity, validity, and sufficiency of the contract for, and all proceedings relating to such improvements and proposed assessments therefor, and concerning any matter as to which they are entitled to hearing under the law in force in the City and under the proceedings of the City with reference to said matters. Following such hearing, assessments will be levied against abutting property and the owners thereof, and such assessments, when levied, shall be a personal liability of the owners of such property, and a first and prior lien upon the property as provided by the law in force in the city and under which the proceedings are taken, being the Act passed at the First Called Session of the 40th Legislature of the State of Texas, now known as Chapter 106 of the Acts of said Session. The improvements on each said portion of street or highway constitute an entirely separate and distinct Unit of improvement, all to the same extent as if entirely separate and distinct proceedings had been taken with reference to the improvements and assessments therefor in connection with improvements on each such portion of street or highway, and the assessments against the property abutting upon any unit shall be and are in no wise affected by any fact or circumstance relating to or connected with the improvements in other units. Of all said matters and things, all owning or claiming any such property, or any interest therein, as well

as all others in anywise interested or affected, will take notice. Done by order of the City Council of the City of Merkel, Texas, this 2nd day of January, 1928. PAULINE JOHNSON, City Secretary, City of Merkel, Texas. 13t3 Mrs. H. C. Williams returned first of the week from a visit to her daughter, Mrs. E. Q. Warren, at Knox City, Texas. The improvements on each said portion of street or highway constitute an entirely separate and distinct Unit of improvement, all to the same extent as if entirely separate and distinct proceedings had been taken with reference to the improvements and assessments therefor in connection with improvements on each such portion of street or highway, and the assessments against the property abutting upon any unit shall be and are in no wise affected by any fact or circumstance relating to or connected with the improvements in other units.

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Mrs. H. C. Williams returned first of the week from a visit to her daughter, Mrs. E. Q. Warren, at Knox City, Texas.

PILES

Cured without the knife

Blind, Bleeding, Protruding, no matter how long standing, within a few days, without cutting, tying, burning, sloughing or detention from business. Fissure, fistula and other rectal diseases successfully treated. Examination FREE.

Dr. E. E. Cockerell Rectal and Skin Specialist

312 Alexander Bldg. Abilene Will be at HAMM DRUG Co. Wednesday, Jan. 18. 1 to 5 p.m.

FOR REAL VALUES and Friendly Service—Shop with us.

NEW MERCHANDISE ARRIVING WEEKLY

Attractive House Dresses

FOR LESS THAN THE COST OF MATERIALS.

HOSIERY

For all the family. It will pay you to try them.

Household Supplies and Notions of Every Description

SEARS VARIETY STORE

"The Home of Bargains"

MERKEL,

TEXAS

PALACE

Jan. 18, 19 & 20

Wednes. Thurs. & Fri.

Bigger Than "The Big Parade"

'BEN HUR'

The Christ is represented by a Star, shown in colors, which alone is more than worth the price of the show. Admission 25c and 50c.

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.

Wouldn't Mr. Hearst have been an easy mark for Jim the Penman?

Many a man pays a lawyer money that would come handy in paying the fine.

Anyway the new model A seems inferior to the old T as a joke breeder.

It is said that jaywalking is being reduced. But so are the ranks of the jaywalkers.

President Coolidge is 55, consequently justified in considering himself exempt from the draft.

Greenland ranch, in California, has had temperatures as high as 135 degrees. Anyway, the name sounds cool.

With automobiles and airplanes be hard to find even a onehorse town, coming so commonplace it will soon

A cash and carry liquor system is proposed for Manitoba. But the trouble is that so few are able to carry the stuff.

Motion picture films up to 1,000 feet in length may now be sent by mail. Osculatory portions, however, should be limited to a 100-yard dash.

Asa Haynes of Alabama was convicted of violating the prohibition law. Had it been Asa Haynes of Ohio it would have been bigger news.

AGILE JASON

Merkel Mail: Jason Wetherell, 61-year-old negro of Kingston, N. C., is a persistent if not reliable prophet. Each year since 1917 he has predicted that he would die on a certain date. His last set date having passed more than a week ago, he now asserts that he will shuffle off not later than August, and has invited his friends to stand by to witness his exit. He is in excellent health at present.

Jason, sooner or later, will die. We doubt if that prediction can be successfully gainsaid. Not for very long, at least. But the exact date of his demise, unless he brings it on purposely, will be so difficult to fix that even an accepted prophet, a hard-working prophet with much practical experience, would hesitate to stake his reputation on it. If all life is mechanical, and mechanical alone, as our materialists believe, then it ends only when some vital part gives way. An automobile stops when the ignition fails to contact the gas. That is a mechanical certainty. Specimens of defunct automobiles may be seen on many vacant lots, about many garages reconditioned from blacksmith shops. A miscellany of dejected automobiles, throbless automobiles, non-motivating automobiles, is a depressing sight. It suggests decay, retrogression, loss. But the least thoughtful agree that if a few vital parts were applied to the defuncts, and gas supplied with which to make the ignition fruitful, those abandoned hulks would be alive again. It is different with the human hulk. When he attains defunctitude nothing can be done for him, his must signify that human life is not wholly mechanical. As for Jason Wetherell, the 61-year old colored

Carolinian, he was not born yesterday, slangly speaking. The craving for publicity is not exclusive to the great Nordic race. It permeates the Soudic group as well. And Jason gets more publicity by predicting his own death than he could get by any other means equally inexpensive. Had he not made such predictions he probably never would have gained entry to this exclusive space.—State Press in The Dallas News.

Mrs. J. B. Parrack, who has been seriously ill for some time, is now convalescing nicely. We are glad to be able to give this good news to her many friends.

We meet all competition. J. H. McDonald Grocery.

Mr. T. Winter returned last week from a business trip and visit to the Plains.

The many friends of Mr. J. W. Mayfield will be glad to learn that he is reported improving at this time from a very serious illness.

Mrs. C. S. Curb who has been visiting her sister, Mrs. Ethel Penny, at Sulphur Springs, Texas, returned to her home here Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Eli Case were in Anson this week on business.

Mr. and Mrs. O. F. Weidenbach visited friends and relatives in Eastland first of the week.

We appreciate your business, large or small, and endeavor to merit your patronage by always giving courteous service and quality meats. Baker & Wheeler Market. tf

A 25c classified ad often brings surprising results. tf

27th in 1924

18th in 1925

9th in 1926

4th in 1927

in 1928

rd

Chrysler—third in volume of sales for 1928; third according to sales records of the National Automobile Chamber of Commerce

In 42 months Chrysler, due to splendid public endorsement of its products from their very introduction, has come from 27th to 3rd place.

Of the 43 motor car manufacturers in the N. A. A. C. all but two, far longer established, have been outsold by Chrysler.

The order of precedence is determined by the dollar volume of sales in the twelve-month ended July 1st preceding the National Show.

In the forty-two months since the introduction of Chrysler the public has purchased

more than eight hundred and fifty millions of dollars' (\$850,000,000) worth of Chrysler motor cars.

No other make of car has ever recorded such phenomenally rapid progress.

There can be no more impressive public endorsement of Chrysler performance, Chrysler long life, Chrysler quality, Chrysler value, supplied in four great price fields by Chrysler's four great cars—the New "52," the Great New "62," the Illustrious New "72" and the New 112 h.p. Imperial "80"—America's most powerful motor car. 1106

CHRYSLER

Prices Reduced=

	WAS	NOW
Chrysler "52" ROADSTER	\$725.00	\$670.00
COUPE	\$725.00	\$670.00
DELUXE COUPE	\$795.00	\$720.00
2-DOOR SEDAN	\$735.00	\$670.00
4-DOOR SEDAN	\$795.00	\$720.00
DELUXE SEDAN	\$875.00	\$790.00
TOURING	\$750.00	\$695.00

(All Prices F. O. B. Factory)

	WAS	NOW
Chrysler "62" ROADSTER	\$1175	\$1075
COUPE	\$1245	\$1145
2-DOOR SEDAN	\$1145	\$1095
4-DOOR SEDAN	\$1245	\$1175
LANDAU SEDAN	\$1295	\$1235

Leather trim \$25.00 extra.

(All Prices F. O. B. Factory)

Maverick Motor Company

Front Street

Merkel, Texas

Garage Notice

To my Friends and Patrons:

I have leased the front of the Corner Garage to Mr. R. C. (Bill) Sheppard, and he will be in full charge of all business in the front, such as Gasoline, Oils and Accessories, and I will operate the repair shop in the rear, doing the work myself and all work that I turn out will be fully guaranteed to give satisfactory service.

We will each appreciate any business given us, for either the front or shop.

Corner Garage

R. C. (Bill) Sheppard
MANAGER FRONT

F. C. McFarland
MANAGER SHOP

PROFESSIONAL

ARMSTRONG, M. D. Over Farmers State Ban. Phone 12. Office 195. ...

Dr's. Grimes & Sadler PHYSICIANS & SURGEONS HOSPITAL FACILITIES X-RAY

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

PAULINE JOHNSON Successor to G. W. JOHNSON Insurance-Notary Public

W. W. WHEELER Real Estate, Fire, Accident and Tornado Insurance Agent.

DR. E. E. COCKRELL Rectal and Skin Specialist of Abilene, Texas

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

FREE! FREE! One Large 8x10 Enlargement with each \$5.00 worth of Kodak Finishing

H. P. HULSEY, D. C. CHIROPRACTOR Merkel, Teas Phone 51

Exide BATTERIES Watch the old Battery, Boys! I am here for your benefit as well as mine.

E. L. WILSON & SON Contractors for PAINTING and PAPERING

Full Set Teeth \$17.50 No Better Plate Made at Any Price

DR. HOUGHTON All Work Guaranteed 25 Years Experience

C. WILSON JEWELER... 116 Chestnut Street Abilene

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE—My home place on Oak street. Mrs. S. H. L. Swafford, phone 154-W.

FOR SALE—A bargain, good team of horses, good single-row cultivator and planter.

FOR SALE—Teams and tools and land for rent. See Hollis Haynes or Buster Haynes, Merkel.

DEPENDABLE TREES AND PLANTS—Finest trees in fifty-two years. Sure-bearing Peach, Plum, Apple, Apricot, Fig, Nectarine, Jujube, Persimmon, Grape, Blackberries, Hauptberries, Dewberries, Pecans.

FOR SALE—Complete Blacksmith Shop at Blair, Texas, including building and lot, power hammer, gas engine, and all necessary tools.

JERSEY COWS—Three car loads fresh cows, springer cows and two-year-old heifers.

WOULD TRADE—Nice five-room cottage 1558 Oak Street, Belmont Addition, Abilene, and take well located lot in Merkel on same.

FOR SALE—Have 200 bushels more of the Mebane Early Triumph Cotton Seed from Lockhart, Texas, at \$1.75 per bushel.

FOR SALE—Large quantity of good kindling. See W. R. Hampton.

FOR SALE or Trade—One Buckeye incubator and brooder.

FOR SALE—My household furniture, at once. Some good bargains if sold at once.

REPAIRING and remaking furniture, staining, enameling, etc.

FOR SALE—Cord wood on the ground at \$2.00 per cord.

FOR RENT

ROOMS For Rent—3 or 4 unfurnished rooms for light housekeeping.

ROOMS For Rent—Nice bed rooms, at the Pierce House. Gas furnished too.

FOR RENT—One large, well furnished room for housekeeping.

ROOMS For Rent—Furnished or unfurnished or bed rooms, reasonable.

FOR RENT—A furnished apartment, gas and other modern conveniences.

LOST AND FOUND

STRAYED—From my place in Merkel, one bay horse. Has roach mane. Will pay reward. R. J. Beasley.

LOST—Between my home and town, a gold watch attached to a short silver belt chain.

WOMAN PREACHER WINS WAY IN WEST

Ministers to Flock in 35-Mile-Long Pastorate.

Spokane, Wash.—Across a pastorate that stretches 35 miles through the Colville valley of Washington, Rev. Gertrude L. Apel drives her car throughout the week ministering to the spiritual needs of 150 members of two Methodist Episcopal congregations.

In this little empire there is only one other resident Protestant minister to assist her in burying the dead, baptizing the babies and marrying the young couples.

During ten years of her ministry Miss Apel has held three pastorates. The first was in Montana and the other two in Washington.

To her ability to meet people on a common ground Miss Apel attributes much of the success of her pastoral work.

"People recognize their need of the church when we make Jesus Christ real to them and help solve the problems of their everyday lives," she declares.

"I do not believe the young people of our times are different from those of other generations. In some cases, it is true, they have come into contact with materialistic theories in their school work and the church has offered them nothing that they felt met the situation.

Beginning her preparation for the ministry before the canons of her denomination provided for admission of women into its pulpits, Miss Apel was one of the first of her sex to be ordained by the Methodist Episcopal church.

Connie Talmadge's New Comedy Film

Constance Talmadge is coming to town in the picture that thrilled even blase Hollywood!

It is "The Duchess of Buffalo," a gay story of Russia, in which Miss Talmadge has the role of an American girl who wins stage fame abroad and plays havoc with the hearts of handsome young officers and wealthy noblemen.

Creating a sensation in a daring dance before a brilliant audience, the girl attracts the attention of a grand duke, who showers her with jewels.

Constance flees to another city, resolving to sacrifice her love for the officer in an effort to safeguard his military career.

Masquerading as a grand duchess and leading officials to believe that her sweetheart is her adjutant, the dancer is lavishly entertained.

Hesitating to openly proclaim that she is not the grand duchess, for fear of leading to the detection of her sweetheart, who is hiding from the soldiers on his trail, the dancer extricates herself from the dilemma when the real grand duchess, who is jealous of her fickle spouse, arrives at a hotel, where the denouement takes place in the royal suite.

The highly amorous and mirthful situations are adroitly handled by Director Sidney A. Franklin, whose screen successes include Norma Talmadge's "Smilin' Through," and Constance's outstanding pictures, "East Is West" and "Her Sister From Paris."

Call and get a bucket of the best Ribbon Cane Syrup west of the Mississippi river. Quick sales—small profits. W. F. Hamblet.

CONTINENTAL OIL COMPANY Call 72—Everybody's Garage MACK BUZBEE, AGENT

Humorous Talk Went Unheeded After That

A good Bret Harte story is told by William H. Crane, the veteran actor, in "Footprints and Echoes."

Harte was very much astonished and stepped aside, while the deacon took the center of the platform.

There was a protracted pause and, as Mr. Jones failed to respond, the deacon continued:

"Well, if he is, I have the pleasure to say that his wife has just died."

Why British Clothiers Seldom Amass Money

Father may think he wears his clothes a long time, but they wear 'em longer in Britain.

Of four other veterans in a rural parish, one is wearing a fifty-year-old suit, another continues to brush an overcoat he has worn for 30 winters.

Oh, yes. There is one woman, the wife of a farmhand, who admits she bought her best costume 15 years ago and still wears it to meeting.

Buck BRAND WORK CLOTHES FIT AND WEAR BRAGG DRY GOODS COMPANY Merkel, Texas

Thousands of New Words spelled, pronounced, and defined in WEBSTER'S NEW INTERNATIONAL DICTIONARY

YOUR TRAINING! YOUR POSITION! The position you accept in business depends upon your training.

Premier Duplex Cleaner January 17th. and 18th. Campaign Week LATEST THING IN CLEANERS

The Badger Weekly

The Badger Weekly is published each week and sponsored by Mrs. Young. The officers are:

- Addie Fae Patterson, Ed-In-Chief.
- Norma Shannon, Literary Editor.
- Patsy Lewis, Society Editor.
- Gladys Watts, Misc. Editor.
- David Cannon, Humor Editor.
- Paul Causseaux, Sport Editor.
- Senior Reporters: Sterling Sheppard, John D. Coates, Rubyjo Higgins, and Fred Yandell.
- Sophomore Reporters: J. T. Darsey, Frances Frederickson.
- Freshmen Reporters: Louise Booth Eris Ash, and Margaret Turner.

EL SIN CUIDADO CIRCULO

The Spanish students who are eligible to the Spanish Club met last Thursday afternoon for the purpose of organizing a club.

The club consists of students of the first, second and third year Spanish classes, whose term average is 85 or above. The officers were elected as follows: Sterling Sheppard, president; J. T. Darsey, secy-treas.; Addie Fae Patterson, reporter; Mrs. Young, the Spanish teacher, is sponsor of the Club.

A name for the Club was also decided upon and the one chosen was "El Sin Cuidado Circulo," which means "The care-free Club."

The following students are members of the club: Frances Frederickson, Odell Hunter, Beryl Hunter, Ima Gene Mangum, Nina Vantrees, R. E. Cole, Roy Kelso, Doris Brown, Lucille Cole, Gladys Watts, Missie Dye, Ethel Hamilton, Eleanor Mae Hamilton, Marcella Pinckley, Lula Miller, Gladys Copeland, Sterling Sheppard, Elizabeth Harkrider, Nola Neil, Ima Parrack, Norma Foster, Addie Fae Patterson, Norma Shannon, Lois Suber, Milton Case, Elvis Richardson, Helen McCormick, Alice Reed and J. T. Darsey. Reporter.

—M. H. S.—

Misses Ruby Stevenson and Fannie Belle Boaz spent part of the week end at the home of Miss Patsy Lewis and the rest of the week-end Misses Fannie Belle Boaz and Patsy Lewis spent at the home of Ruby Stevenson.

—M. H. S.—

We are glad to have with us now as a student of Merkel High, W. M. Daylor, of Lueders, Texas.

—M. H. S.—

Miss Lola Hays was a visitor at the High School Monday, Jan. 9th.

—M. H. S.—

We heard that Mrs. Young and Miss Bird were going to entertain the K. K. K.'s. We wonder if this is true?

REMOVAL —SPECIALS—

Only a short time before we move to our new location and our aim is not to move any Winter Merchandise. The price is cut deep—the more you buy the more you save

All Wool Blankets ½ price. All Stamped Goods ½ price

All Sweaters and knit Caps ½ price.

All Ladies and Childrens Winter Coats ½ price

Big reduction on all Mens Heavy Underwear, Outing Pajamas and Night Shirts.

Big reduction on Ladies Outing Gowns and Pajamas.

Big Reductions on all Childrens Winter Underwear and Sleepers.

Big reduction on all Ladies and Childrens Shoes

Bragg Dry Goods Co.

THIRD DEATH AT TO KANAGA

Caves of Island May
Wild Animal.

Kodiak, Alaska.—Do the deep sea-worn caves of lonely Kanaga Island conceal strange animal-like men who venture out at low tide to prey on natives and white fox-farm attendants? For the third time in a year a Seattle man's death adds to the North riddle. Thus far the toll of Kanaga includes T. Shrugger, Tom Marrah and P. H. Munro.

More than a score of Aleuts have fallen victims to some mysterious power at various times in recent years, yet there has been no witness of the terrible deeds committed nor has a clue to the malefactors been found. Fox-pelt poachers do prey among the fur islands, but they rarely molest the islanders, fearing disclosure of their crimes. The Aleut natives are peaceful men, seldom perturbed to the fighting point.

Has Largest Blue Fox Farm. Kanaga is the home just now of the largest blue fox farm in the world. The island lies near the tip of the Aleutian group, the relic of terrific submarine upheaval centuries ago. Besides Aleuts, there are a few persons descended from the Baranoff explorers and the Muscovian influence is shown in their mode of living—low-roofed stone houses with large fireplaces where the fires seldom die down as a rule. Pelting of furs is the occupation, besides fishing and hunting.

Day after day in autumn and winter Kanaga is veiled with dense fog; the furious sea beats the rocky shores, wearing deep caves far into the bowels of the sandstone formation. Some of the caves are a mile back with high vaulted ceilings. In these natural tombs Aleuts bore their dead, each body rolled in layer after layer of long seaweed or kelp. The dead were mummified and today are in a good state of preservation.

Wild Beauty in Spring. In spring Kanaga casts off the drab clothing of winter. Lupines, lilies and wild celery transfer it into a great flower garden. Sea fowl by the million come to eat the wild rice and schools of fish. The towering cliffs are covered with spruce and there is a strange wild beauty all around. Wild and semidomesticated foxes overrun the land.

Lured by the natural torpid surroundings, the Aleuts have become half-dazed, the white settlers morbid, until all move about as dead living people. In the mummy caves are found grotesque masks, ikons and oriental carvings. The beach receives a backwash from many shores. Driftwood from Asia reaches Kanaga in the Japan current. This adds to the terror and superstitions of the islanders.

Little wonder the stranger landing at Kanaga is held at a distance, and peering eyes watch from secret places until suspicion is overcome.

Cruel Comment

A young woman, newly engaged, took her future husband to be "inspected" by a somewhat fearsome aunt who had the uncomfortable habit of invariably saying exactly what she thought.

As the young couple were leaving the aunt said to her niece: "My dear, I'd rather have him for lunch than for life."

SOPH SLYSTERS

Say didja know—
That we are glad to have our class

mate, Missie Dye, with us once again. That this week is the week of terror?

That Merkel, which has always been behind the rest of the schools her size, is to play her basketball games on the outdoor court from now on? That there is absolutely no school spirit this year?

That the annual managers seem to be asleep?

That all of this is indeed the truth. Well we know it and told you about it, too.

—M. H. S.—
EASY PATHS

It isn't the easy paths of life we trod on this good old earth, but those that are trod with toil and strife that prove to be of worth.

No, it isn't the easy times we know that always make us great and give us a chance our metal to show;

'Tis rather the blows of fate.

And he who can travel the path that is rough with a smile upon his face; he who smilingly takes fate's cuff is the one who will win the race.

Frances Frederickson.

—M. H. S.—

Miss Booth doesn't think she will teach school next year. We suspect our suspicions are right. Wonder if she is going to keep house.

Examinations are to be given this week. At last, it is time to begin studying! We've put it off long enough!! But there is one consolation—if we fail we won't have lost but a few hours toil.

—M. H. S.—

K.K.K. CLUB ENTERTAINED
The members of the K. K. K. Club of the Junior Class were very delightfully entertained by Miss Patsy Lewis at the home of Mr. and Mrs. T. T. Earthman on Friday night, January 6th.

Miss Lewis assisted by Misses Ruby Stevenson and Fannie Belle Boaz, served a dinner consisting of baked chicken, dressing, gravy, peas, olives, hot chocolate and cake. This dinner was very charming as it was prepared by Patsy, assisted by Mrs. Earthman. The place cards were painted by Miss Lewis and showed much originality.

After dinner the guests enjoyed a musical program rendered by Mrs. Earthman and several of the girls. The following club members were present: Bernice Lasater, Lois Suber, Addie-Fae Patterson, Norma Shannon, Lola Shelton, Gladys Watts, Euna Lea Gilmore and the sponsor, Mrs. Young. And guests, Misses

Martha Bird, Ruby Stevenson, Fannie Belle Boaz and Mr. Raymond Earthman.

Mr. Oscar Leach, of Russel Springs Kentucky, is here for a visit with his uncle, Mr. W. G. Leach. Mr. Guy Calhoun and Mr. Sammie Winfrey, also of Kentucky, were guests Wednesday of Mr. Leach and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Black and Mr. and Mrs. B. M. Black returned Thursday from Lubbock, where they had been called to attend the funeral of the latter's daughter, Mrs. Della Dresser, who died from Pneumonia in that city Wednesday.

Mr. J. Ben Campbell received the sad news Friday of the sudden death of his sister, Mrs. R. L. Wood of Honey Grove. Mr. Campbell left immediately for that place to attend the funeral Sunday, returning home on Tuesday.

Wanted, two ladies for permanent traveling positions. Guaranteed salary of \$200.00 per month and railroad expenses. No selling. Also two ladies for local work. Only a few hours weekly. Guaranteed salary of \$120.00 for contract period. Experience unnecessary. Inquire of Mrs. R. A. Parsons at the Woodrum Hotel, Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Phone for appointment. 1t

"TEX" RICKARD

World Famous Sports Promoter, writes:



"Lucky Strikes never injure my throat. Many of my friends in all walks of life use and enjoy them."

J. P. Rickard



The Cream of the Tobacco Crop

"No article can grow without quality behind it. LUCKY STRIKES are growing and have grown because of their quality. 'The Cream of the Crop' goes into LUCKY STRIKE. The best Tobacco is bought for them. I know, because it is my job to see that this is so."

J. P. Rickard
Buyer of Tobacco
at Louisville, Ky.

"It's toasted"

No Throat Irritation—No Cough.

TO OUR NEWEST ENTERPRISE

THE Clarence Saunders Store

and the managers of the different departments, Messrs. W. S. J. Brown and O. F. Weidenbach, we extend congratulations and bid you welcome to the business realm of our city.

THE FARMERS STATE BANK

THE MERKEL MAIL

Vol. 39—No. 40.

MERKEL, TEXAS, FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 1928.

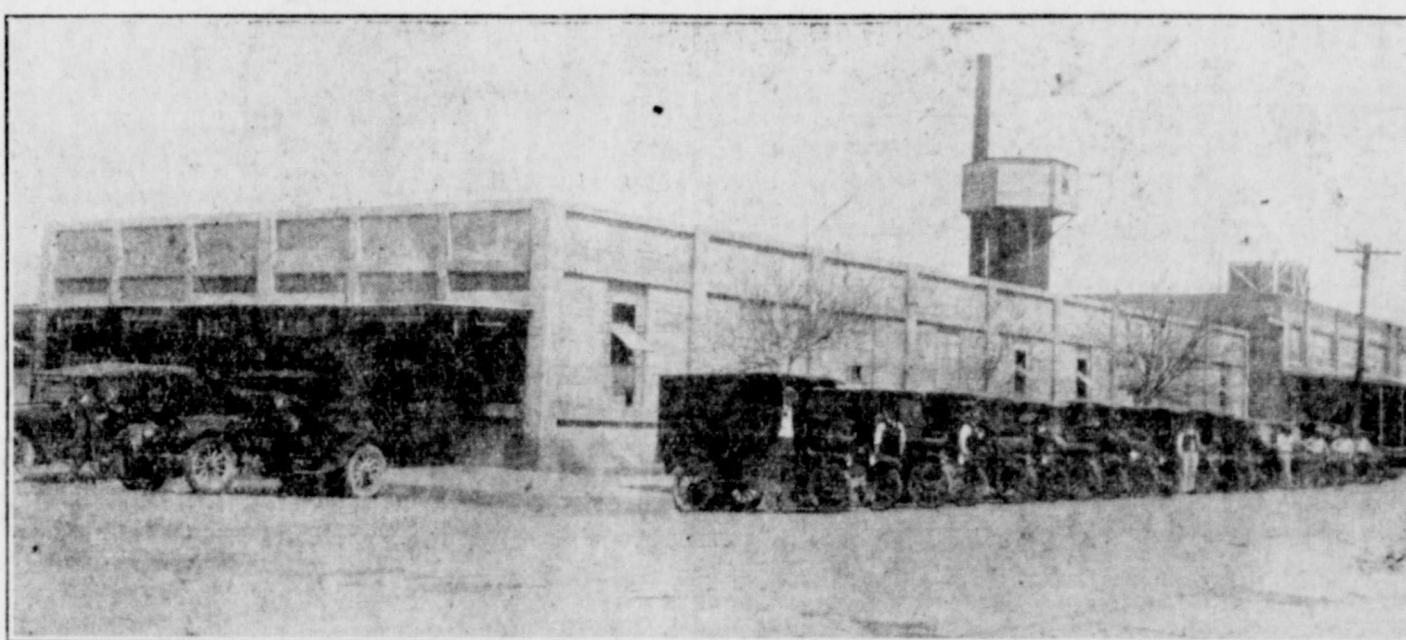
5c PER COPY

Clarence Saunders Opening Tomorrow Most Beautiful Chain Grocery Store

**NATIONALLY KNOWN
AS MOST BEAUTIFUL
CHAIN GROCERY STORE
IN THE NATION : : :**

Spotless white fixtures trimmed in black and conveniently arranged. This arrangement makes it possible to see every item in the store from the front door. Every article is marked with a large white price tag. The shelving is painted with white enamel and this gives a most attractive display. The vegetable section is most appetizing.

A representative of The Merkel Mail visited the above store this morning and was astonished on opening the door at the spaciousness, handsomeness and beauty of the interior. At the rear on the left is one of the handsomest of white porcelain Freezer Display Counters, Frigidaire equipped. To give you a further description here of this new store will rob you of the surprise and pleasure you will have on visiting it on opening day.



Merchandise for Clarence Saunders stores is concentrated in our warehouse at Memphis, Tenn., and other nearby distributing points. No brokers—no jobbers—no middle men—No distributors to pay. This gives you the reason we are enabled to sell quality Groceries at most reasonable prices.

Everyone Is Invited

W. S. J. BROWN ELEVEN YEARS IN BUSINESS IN CITY

W. S. J. Brown is not a stranger in the business realm or to the people of Merkel and surrounding trades territory. For the past eleven years he has been a business man of this city and has enjoyed a most successful business.

He is to be congratulated on the nice new store he has opened for Merkel. It will be the means of many more people buying their groceries at Merkel, which will mean the buying of other needs here also.

O. F. WEIDENBACH IN CHARGE MEAT DEPT.

While Mr. Weidenbach has only been in business in this city about one year, he has shown himself to be a capable business man and has had a nice share of the patronage of this territory. He has had many years experience in his line and came here with the highest recommendations. You will find at all times the choicest of meats in this department, and at prices you like.

Mr. Brown Says Over 12 Per- cent Saved at Clarence Saunders Stores

Let us make a few figures on what a small saving on every item you may purchase in a year's time will amount to.

Money is worth on an average of eight to ten per cent per year.

Without a doubt you can save ten to twenty per cent on your grocery bill by buying in a Clarence Saunders store, for the following common sense reasons: We do not have clerks, you wait on yourself, we do not have a bookkeeper, he must be paid, we do not have charge accounts, consequently you do not pay the bill the other fellow beats, we do not have to borrow money to carry accounts, there is interest that must be paid.

Suppose your grocery bill amounts to, say thirty dollars per month and you are able to save twelve and one-half per cent by trading at the Clarence Saunders store, this will amount to three dollars and seventy-five cents per month, or forty-five dollars per year, and since the money is worth at least eight per cent the entire amount would be forty-eight dollars and sixty cents, enough to pay your average grocery bill for one and one-half months out of the year. In addition to this saving you have the privilege of selecting just what you want, you are not required to buy what you do not care to use.

A Big Time At Clarence Saun- ders Store

Have lunch with us—FREE EATS, ABSOLUTELY can you believe it? PLENTY of nice sandwiches, coffee and cakes to everyone. Just come around to the new Clarence Saunders Store SATURDAY, JANUARY 14th. The store will open at nine o'clock and remain open until late Saturday night, so everybody will have a chance to be entertained. A crowd of five hundred can easily be taken care of and is expected. Last minute preparations are being made to take care of the tremendous crowd. There will be plenty for all.

There will be demonstrators of nationally advertised foods there to wait on you and see that you have a good time. Let's meet the neighbor or friend at Clarence Saunders for a jolly good time. You must get the habit right away. Remember Clarence Saunders sells CHEAPER and CHEAPER.

The Fastest Growing Chain Grocery Store In The Entire World

Clarence Saunders saw the necessity and the coming of the chain grocery stores that was being demanded by the buying public. Having had many years experience in the retail business, and foreseeing the wants of the people he began the arrangement and method of selling groceries under his own plan. He then offered this plan to other merchants, giving them fixtures and buying power.

You will find only quality brands of merchandise in Clarence Saunders stores—all the way from soup to nuts.

Clarence Saunders have their own wholesale warehouses at convenient points to distribute its merchandise to its stores.

These things plus the fact that these stores do not have bookkeepers, clerks or bad debts to lose, and no delivery expense, are proof enough that quality goods can be sold at cheaper prices.

TELEPHONE 42

I am now in my new location, and am better prepared to serve you than ever before.

We pay the highest market price for CREAM—buy every day.

Come to see me at the Red Front first door East of G. F. West Company on Front Street.

C. E. CONNER

NAZARENE CHURCH

Revival will begin at our church Saturday night, Feb. 14th. It will be conducted by Rec. H. C. Cagle and Mrs. Mary Lee Cagle, of Penile, Texas, will have charge of the singing. Also Miss Brannon of Plainview, Texas, will give specials. Don't fail to hear them. Meeting will continue

to 29th. Preaching at 10:30 and 7:45 each day. Everybody is invited to attend this feast.

C. C. Montandon, pastor.

Miss Willie Swann of Snyder is the guest of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Swann. Miss Swann will go from here to Dallas for an extended stay and from there to St. Louis.

4 times as big as SAN FRANCISCO



DUNLOP CITY

Throughout the world the productive Dunlop properties cover so vast an area that—if combined into one place—they would form a "Dunlop City" of over 100,000 acres.

WITH all its greatness, San Francisco occupies but 26,880 acres. "Dunlop City"—with over 100,000 acres—is more than four times as big!

And Dunlop City has grown for just one reason—the uniformly supreme quality of Dunlop Tires.

Great size brings great responsibilities. To protect the good name of "Dunlop City," every set of Dunlop Tires must be uniformly supreme.

The manufacturing advantages which Dunlop's great size have brought, make this quality possible—at lower prices than ever.

You can expect more of Dunlops.

DUNLOP TIRES

Brackeen-Hughes Chevrolet Co

FRONT STREET MERKEL, TEXAS

BRINGS 1,000 BIRD SPECIMENS TO U. S.

Professor Reports Many Hitherto Unknown Varieties.

Boston.—The story of one of the most enterprising explorations in the interest of science is being compiled in the report of Prof. Joseph F. Rock of Harvard university, who recently returned from a three-year exploration in the wilds of Tibetan highlands, bordering on China. The expedition was sponsored by the Arnold arboretum and the Harvard university botanical and zoological departments.

Many difficulties had to be overcome during the trip, according to Professor Rock's report. All the marching was done, in the first place, at high altitudes, seldom less than 15,000 feet, with the atmosphere so rarefied that breathing was rendered difficult. Bitter cold in the high altitudes contrasted sharply with the heat encountered on other marches through sun-stricken desert lands.

Through snow and ice, wind and sleet, mud and sand the expedition finally won, and has brought to the arboretum and the Harvard museums a great wealth of scientific data.

Though the data and specimens collected have not yet been completely classified, there is no doubt the trip was worth while, according to the report of Professor Rock. The new collection consists of some 30,000 sheets of plants, several hundred packages containing seeds of rare plants, samples of trees and wood found in Tibet, 1,000 bird specimens, almost a thousand valuable photographs, besides extensive data on scientific matters.

Many rare and even some almost extinct birds are in the collection. Among these are specimens of the bearded eagle, having a wing spread of over ten feet; Kolonor cranes, black neck cranes, several hitherto unknown species of pheasants, bar neck geese, white ibis, herons, cormorants, blue tail bush robins, snow cocks, ravens and snipe. Fully 300 different species of birds are to be found in the collection, according to an estimate of Doctor Outram Bangs, now engaged in a final classification.

The expedition started in 1924. Prof. Charles Sprague Sargent, director of the arboretum, who died in Boston while the expedition was still in China, was partly responsible for the expedition, and the expenses were borne entirely by the arboretum authorities.

Loss in Attendance for Prussian Schools

Berlin.—There has been a marked decline in the number of children attending the public schools of Prussia. While in 1921, when a school census was last taken, the number of pupils was 5,461,594, figures recently published by the Prussian ministry of education show that there are only 4,138,995 in attendance now.

This decline of more than 24 per cent is explained as being due to the great retrogression in the birth rate during and immediately following the war.

Fortunately the number of teachers has declined by only 6.24 per cent. This means that the classes have become somewhat smaller and consequently more attention can be given to each pupil. While in 1921 each teacher had on an average 47 pupils to look after, he is now responsible for only 38.

To Cut America's Sugar Bill Over 200 Million

New York.—The \$232,000,000 which America spends annually for sugar will be kept at home within a few years hence. American farmers will be growing that amount of sugar along with other crops if the plan now being worked out by the bureau of standards is successful.

The experiment is largely based upon growing the wild artichokes, says Farm and Fireside. Artichokes, unlike sugar beets, need little cultivation and produce their own seed, whereas sugar beet seed has to be imported from Europe.

From the artichoke comes a substance called levulose, 73 per cent sweeter than cane sugar. Chemically it gives the same sweetness as fresh honey.

Hey, You!!

Why be scared of The Adolphus?

We have rooms with bath at \$2.00

Coffee 5c

The ADOLPHUS DALLAS, TEXAS

Open Sale

New Spring Ladies Ready-to-Wear Millinery and Novelty Shoes

Just at the time you are tired of the old Fall Shades, we are showing a store completely stocked with new Spring Dresses, Coats, Coat Suits and Novelty Shoes.

Our Prices the Lowest

New Spring Dresses

Pastel Shades—Tan, Beige, Rust, Pink, Rose, Navy—Combination trimmed. Beautiful styles to select from, prices that have no equal

\$10.00 \$14.00
\$18.00



New Spring Hats

Pastel shades—Latest Styles—First time shown. Any head size—

\$1.85 \$3.85 \$4.85

Novelty Shoes

Patents, Satins, Kid leather—Pumps, straps, ties.

Special for Saturday—

\$3.95 \$4.85

New Spring Coats

Plenty to select from. Plain tan, navy, grey or sport models in mixed tweed, plaid check. Priced for quick sale at

\$10.00 \$16.00
\$19.00

\$1.50 Grade All Silk Chiffon Hose. Silk all way to top. Pointed heel. Pair. **89¢**

\$2.50 grade sheared silk chiffon hose all new shades, pointed heel. **\$1.69**

Brighten up your appearance with New Spring Styles. WALK A BLOCK--SAVE A DOLLAR

Guynn Orchid Shop

ABILENE, TEXAS

FULWILER BUILDING, N. Second Street—ACROSS STREET FROM GAMBILL'S Formerly over Woolworth's Store NOW DOWN STAIRS.

Mrs. T. V. Touchstone visited in Chillicothe last week. 6. Moses returns to Egypt, Sarah Sheppard. 7. Trouble begins, Clara Francis Largent.

Mr. Andrew Jones of Simmons University, Abilene, visited friends here over the week-end.

Miss Mary Eula Sears, who for the past several months has been in the employ of one of the leading firms in Abilene, has returned to her home in this city, which news her many friends will welcome.

JUNIOR B.Y.P.U. PROGRAM

Subject: "A call to a great task."
1. Introduction, by Hollis Huddleston. 2. God speaks from the burning bush, by Dot Swafford. 3. The call to Lead Israel, Thelma Patterson. 4. God gives Moses three signs, by John A. Jones. 5. Moses' last excuse, Jackie Slater.

WHEN BETTER AUTOMOBILES ARE BUILT... BUICK WILL BUILD THEM

Everything that is BUICK for only \$1195 f. o. b. factory

You may have thought that you couldn't buy a Buick for as little as \$1195—that you would have to pay considerably more for Buick quality.

The truth is that you can have any one of three popular Buick models at this figure—a Sedan, Coupe or Sport Roadster—all of them, cars of true Buick quality.

You have always wanted a Buick—and today's Buick surpasses all previous creations. See it drive it—and own the car you have long wanted.

SEDANS \$1195 to \$1995 / COUPES \$1195 to \$1800 / SPORT MODELS \$1195 to \$1525

All prices f. o. b. Flint, Mich., government tax to be added. The G. M. A. C. finance plan, the most desirable, is available.

SHELTON MOTOR CO. ABILENE, TEXAS

CORRECT IN EVERY LINE!

Your Clothes reflect your taste. If you are attired in apparel that is faultless in every particular, people will realize that you insist upon the Best Cleaning. So call—

THE MODERN Dry Cleaners

Phone 3

We are equipped to give you this service, as we have 12 years of know-how.

MODERN DRY CLEANERS
—LADIES SILKS A SPECIALTY—



PHILLIP W. LAWLIS

It is with much sorrow that we chronicle the death of one of our highly esteemed friends and citizens Phillip W. Lawlis. He was born at Columbus, Indiana, April 3rd, 1860, and died at the local sanitarium at Merkel on December 31st, 1927. He was married to Elizabeth Logan in 1884 and to this union were born seven children, namely: George, Mrs. Mary Dean, Mrs. Minnie Green, Mrs. Mattie Jeffrey, Louis, Homer, and Edward Lawlis.

After his wife's death he was married to Mrs. Elizabeth McMillan, and to this union were born seven children, namely: John, Mrs. Vera Sexton, Palmer, Mrs. Sarah Sipes, Woodrow and Otho Roy, one having died in infancy. His wife died Nov. 10, 1925. He has six brothers, Simon, Jake, Alfred, Jeff, Will and Rev. Frank Lawlis, pastor of the Methodist church at Snyder, and three sisters Mrs. Emma Baker of Malven, Ark., Mrs. Alma Wilburn, Little Rock, Ark. and Mrs. Annie McLenden at Fort Worth, Texas.

Bro. Lawlis was converted and joined the Methodist church at the age of 24 and lived a consistent Christian life since. He was steward in the church for 38 years, district

steward for 20 years and church trustee for 20 years. He was an active and faithful worker until his health began to fail the last two years of his life.

Bro. Lawlis was a prominent citizen of his county a progressive and successful farmer and all times interested in every move that tended to the betterment of his community. In his death his family has lost a good father, the community a valuable citizen and the church a staunch supporter. But we all know that, today in that higher world to which he aspired he is rejoicing in a well spent Christian life.

Funeral services were held at Lawlis Chapel, the church he helped found, by Rev. W. C. Hinds, assisted by his pastor, Rev. L. E. Northcutt, Rev. R. V. Tooley and Rev. Sam Young. And the Masonic Lodge of Sylvester of which he was a member conferring rites at the Newman cemetery where he was laid to rest.

A Friend.

Mrs. L. A. Watts is spending the week in Fort Worth with her son, Foster, who is there for medical attention.

Miss Sidney Lee Altman spent last week-end at the home of her parents in Abilene.

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

Blair Items

There is some sickness in this community at this time.

Little Elwinna, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Doan, who has been seriously ill, is better at this writing.

The planters gin company is erecting a new warehouse to handle all kinds of feed.

Mrs. Jim Burfiend spent the day with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Neighbors, Tuesday.

Our little city is still growing.

Mrs. R. B. Horton spent one day this week with Mrs. Boyce Balew.

Mr. and Mrs. T. F. Logan spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Campbell.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Spears and daughter, Zuma, visited the week-end with their sons, Henry and J. P. of Valera, Texas.

Mrs. Hugh Campbell and niece, little Madilene Addison, made a flying trip to Abilene one day recently.

Mrs. Alice Wilson and Miss Fairy Orr visited in our midst Friday

evening. Misses Ruth Pinckley and Effie Grayson spent the day with Miss Mae Melton Sunday.

There is a continued series of meetings at the Baptist church, conducted by Bro. Scott Hickey and pastor, Bro. Brannon, of Abilene. Every one is invited to come and be with us.

Intermediate League Program

Subject "The Inside of the Cup." Leader: Thelma Leach. Song: Prayer. Scripture reading: Luke 11:29-44.

Talks: Anchan, Ouida Hulsey. Jacob, Dahlia Watkins. Ananias and Sapphina, Milton Case. Judas, Matt. 27:3-10, Margaret Turner. Daniel, 2 Samuel 12:1-13, W. A. Whiteley. Gehazi, 2 Kings 3:20-27, Harold Leeton. Benediction.

Miss Evelyn Pannell returned to Dallas Sunday on the Sunshine special, her father, Mr. Jack Pannell, and sister, Bessielou, carried her to Abilene. She intends to enter a business college.

Happy New Year!

-KANSAS CITY LIFE

To our more than 40,000 Texas policy holders, we thank you for your patronage. To all our Texas friends, we wish you a happy and prosperous New Year.

Check Up on Your Life Insurance!

As the wise merchant takes stock on January first; so should you check up on your assets and liabilities, consider your responsibilities and see if you have ENOUGH or the right kind of Life Insurance to fit your needs.

The Kansas City Life Man listed below is more than an Insurance Agent; he is an Insurance SERVICE Expert and Adviser. Consult him about your affairs; he will conscientiously advise you as to your personal insurance needs.

The Company he represents is an old strong institution with over 200,000 policy holders, over \$375,000,000.00 Life Insurance in force and over \$50,000,000.00 in gilt-edged assets. See him during January.

The ORVILLE THORP AGENCY

STATE MANAGERS FOR TEXAS, Magnolia Bldg., Dallas
Total Insurance in Force in Texas Over \$85,000,000.00
Paid Texas Beneficiaries on Death claims over \$5,000,000.00
New Business in Texas during 1927 over \$17,000,000.00

- R. M. ADAMS, District Manager, Abilene.
- C. H. BOLES, Abilene.
- WENDELL I. FOREMAN, Abilene.
- A. JOHN, Abilene.
- A. E. JONES, Abilene.
- MRS. LEONA B. NOLEN, Abilene.
- E. D. WARREN, Abilene.
- MISS MOLLY L. WILLIAMS, Abilene.
- R. O. ANDERSON, Merkel.
- J. PARKER SHARP, Jr., Merkel.
- ELMER B. BARNES, Merkel.
- M. F. SELF, Ovalo.
- JAMES H. DAVIS, Lawn.
- CLARENCE G. ARMSTRONG, Trent.

Again - the Greatest Sensation of America's Greatest Industry

for Economical Transportation



Again, Chevrolet has created an automobile so far beyond all expectations in the low-price field that it constitutes the greatest achievement of America's greatest industry.

Built on a 4-inch longer wheelbase—offering numerous improvements in performance, beauty and safety—the Bigger and Better Chevrolet marks a spectacular epoch in the development of luxurious transportation at low cost.

The engine is of improved valve-in-head design with alloy "invar strut" pistons . . . hydro-laminated camshaft gears . . . mushroom type valve tappets . . . AC oil filter . . . AC air cleaner and a new crankcase breathing system.

Throughout the entire car similar

advancements are represented—from the four-inch longer wheelbase and the new semi-elliptic shock absorber springs—84% of the wheelbase, to the marvelously beautiful new Fisher bodies in new Duco colors.

Come in and drive this great new car. Drive it through traffic—and get the thrill of its darting pick-up . . . the smooth, certain action of its non-locking four-wheel brakes! Drive it on the open road—and test every point in the speed range for smoothness and roadability! Try it on the hills—and learn the true meaning of Chevrolet power!

Do that—and you will agree with thousands of others that here is the world's most luxurious low-priced automobile.

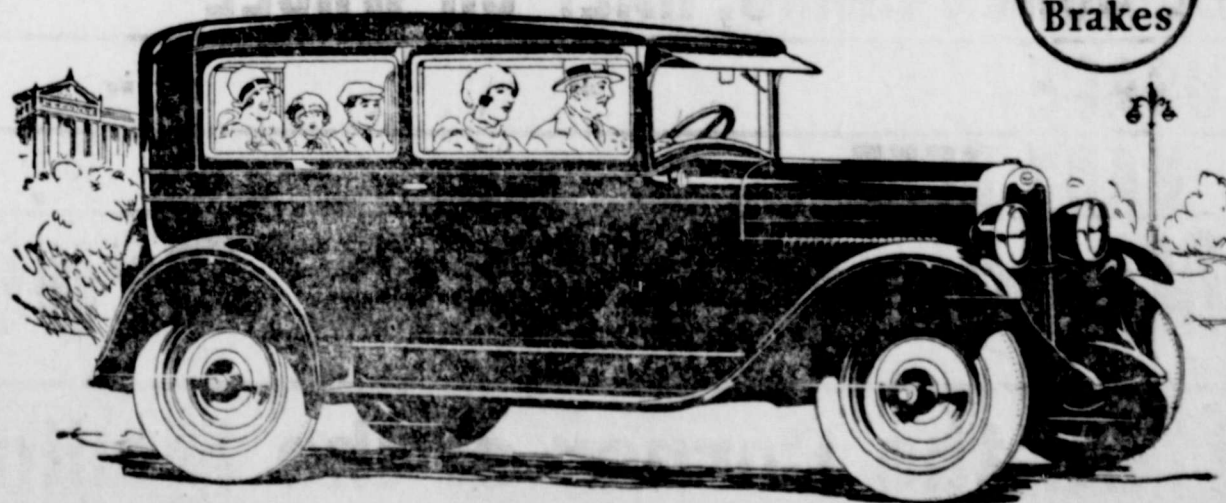
Every feature of advanced design demanded in the finest cars now offered in the New Chevrolet! Read this partial list.

- Improved valve-in-head motor.
- New stronger frame 4" longer wheelbase 107".
- New four-wheel brakes.
- Thermostat control cooling system.
- New alloy "invar strut" pistons.
- New instrument panel indirectly lighted.
- New ball bearing worm and gear steering.
- Semi-elliptic shock absorber springs; 84 per cent of wheelbase.
- Safety gasoline tank at rear.
- Larger balloon tires 30" x 4.50".
- New streamline bodies by Fisher.
- New Duco colors.
- Theft-proof steering and ignition lock.
- A. C. oil filter.
- A. C. air cleaner.
- Single-plate dry disc-clutch.
- New crankcase breathing system.
- New two port exhaust.
- Heavy one-piece full-crown fenders.
- Alemite pressure lubrication.
- Vacuum tank fuel supply.
- Improved Delco-Remy distributor ignition.
- Combination tail and stop light.
- Large 17" steering wheel with spark and throttle levers located on top.
- Rear view mirror.



"Prices Reduced!"

- The Roadster\$495
 - The Touring\$495
 - The Coach\$585
 - The Coupe\$595
 - The 4-Door Sedan\$675
 - The Sport Cabriolet.....\$665
 - The Imperial Landau\$715
 - Light Delivery\$375
(Chassis Only)
 - Utility Truck\$495
(Chassis Only)
- All prices f.o.b. Flint, Mich.



BRACKEEN-HUGHES CHEVROLET CO.

MERKEL, TEXAS

MASSEY-WOODS CHEVROLET CO.

TRENT, TEXAS

QUALITY AT LOW COST

A NEW SONG FOR YOU

A Tune to Make You Peppy.

Tomorrow will mark another step of progress for Merkel. A Self Service Store where you help yourself.

-- COME TO OUR PARTY -- PLENTY OF FREE EATS AND MUSIC TO ENTERTAIN YOU --

FREE! To the first 100 customers buying a bill Groceries only \$2 or more, 1 pot plant free **FREE!**

Prices to Make You Happy -- SATURDAY

SPUDS - - 10 lbs. 24c

Tomatoes - - 3 cans 25c

Post Toasties - - large pkg. 10c

Corn = = No. 2 can 10c

Hominy - - large can 11c

Pork and Beans - - 3 cans 25c

Coffee **Folgers** 1 lb. 52c
2 lb. \$1.03

SUGAR - Pure Cane - 69c
10 lbs.

Soup . . . VanCamps Tomato each .07¹/₂c

Crackers . . . 2 lb. Soda 29c
2 lb. Graham 32c

Northern Sugar Cured SLICED BACON, Fancy, lb. 35c

HIGHEST QUALITY BOX BACON - - .50

SALT PORK, NICE AND LEAN - - LB. .16

COUNTRY STYLE CURED HAMS, HALF OR WHOLE - - LB. .24

REAL PORK SAUSAGE - - LB. .25

CHUCK ROAST, BABY BEEF . . . LB. .18

Fresh Water Cat Fish, Dressed, lb. 32c

MERKEL | On the Corner of the Mellinger Block | MERKEL

CLARENCE SAUNDERS
SOLE OWNER OF MY NAME