

The Grapeland Messenger.

AN AD IN THE MESSENGER IS WORTH TWO ON THE FENCE

VOLUME 24, NO. 11

GRAPELAND, HOUSTON COUNTY, TEXAS, THURSDAY, MAY 13, 1920

PRICE \$1.50 PER YEAR

EXTRA SPECIALS

5 bars laundry soap, white or yellow . . .	\$.25
3 lbs. Arm & Hammer Soda25
5 lbs. Success soda for25
3 lbs best roasted coffee for	1.00
White Star syrup, per gallon	1.15
Karo Syrup, per gallon	1.00
3 lbs best grade bucket coffee	1.50
High patent flour every sack guaranteed	3.35

CHOPS BRAN SHORTS

KEELAND BROS.
THE PRICE IS THE THING

An Astounding Bargain Opportunity

Knock-out to old High Cost of Living

Note Carefully

We are offering you the chance to save dollars and cents on your Shoe bill. This opportunity represents genuine price reduction. The shoes that we are offering are all 1920 styles and not old out-of-date styles.

Ladies' kid and patent pumps, military heel, value \$10.00, sale price	\$7.75
Ladies' patent, one-eyelet ties, full Louis heel, value \$12.00, sale price	\$8.95
Ladies' patent oxfords, Louis heel, value \$11.00, sale price	\$9.65
Ladies' brown kid oxfords, Louis heel, value \$12.50, sale price	\$9.95
Ladies' plain patent pumps, Louis heel, value \$11.00, sale price	\$9.65
Ladies' brown and black kid pumps, Louis heel, value \$9.50, sale price	\$7.75
Misses' patent Mary Jane pumps, value \$5.50, sale price	\$4.95

Young Men's Oxfords

Young men's oxfords in both Howard & Foster and White House, glaze kangaroo, glaze kid and Russia calf, all the very latest styles, value \$10.00, sale price \$7.95

Boys, Better take a look at these Shoes!

You will find many other Bargains in our shoe department.

W. H. Long & Co.
The Value Giving Store

District Conference of the M. E. Church Closes Session

The annual meeting of the District Conference of the Navasota District came to a close last Thursday morning, after being in session three days.

Iola was selected as the next meeting place, a year hence.

The following lay delegates were elected to the annual conference, which meets in Houston in November:

M. E. Darsey, Grapeland; W. L. Dean, Hunstville; T. W. Byers, Madisonville; E. N. Colson, Iola; C. W. Moore, Crockett; R. J. Sullivan, Conroe; Mrs. N. M. Wycough, Madisonville; Dudley Brown, Anderson.

Before adjourning, the conference unanimously adopted the following resolution:

Whereas, the Navasota District Conference has been so cordially received and so royally entertained in the progressive little city of Grapeland, therefore be it

Resolved, that we hereby attempt to express our heartfelt gratitude to Rev. J. E. Buttrill, host of the conference, for his careful preparation and thoughtful attention to make our comfort and convenience complete.

That we most heartily thank the citizens of Grapeland for the most delightful entertainment in their homes.

We pray God's richest blessings upon you all.

Signed P. T. Ramsey, L. O. Weston, W. C. Hughes, J. I. Weatherby, and others.

NEW PROSPECT

New Prospect, May 10.—We had plenty of rain last week. Cotton chopping is progressing nicely; both cotton and corn are looking well.

The neighbors met at the cotton patch of Carol Estell last Thursday and plowed his cotton. We are glad to report Carol able to be up after a hard tussle with pneumonia. He is now visiting his sister, Mrs. Skidmore at Grapeland.

There was no preaching here last Sunday, the pastor failing to reach his appointment.

Mr. and Mrs. John Taylor and Miss Thelma Campbell all of Palestine, visited N. J. Campbell and family Sunday.

Alton Baker and family visited relatives at Union last Friday night and Sunday.

Ed Musick and family went to Daly last Saturday.

Mrs. Kyle and daughter, Miss Luise, and Grady Finch and wife went to Shiloh to the singing convention.

Mrs. Box visited relatives at Denson Springs last week.

Weston, the young son of Mr. and Mrs. Claud Brooks, is on the road to recovery after having pneumonia.

POSTED

Totty Lake (railroad lake) is posted and no trespassing will be allowed.

T. W. Marshall,
Pumper and Manager.

Another shipment of tricolette blouses due this week at Darsey's.

Where to Buy

When you come to Grapeland

We invite you to come to our store. It is always a pleasure indeed to have you with us.

You will find we carry at all times a general line of merchandise. This makes buying a pleasure.

Come in and let us show you through. We take pleasure in doing this.

You will find that we are making some very low prices for this week.

Pretty line of dress gingham, per yard . . . 35c
Pretty voiles, per yard. \$1.00, 65c and . . . 50c
Solid organdy, per yard \$1.25 and 65c

Special on Men's Panama Hats

\$3.50 values for only \$3.00

New shoes just arrived. Let us show you these.

Coupons With Cash Purchases

McLean & Riall

DEPENDABLE MERCHANTS
Grapeland, Texas

AN URGENT APPEAL

To the Voters of Houston County:

Please do not forget the "special" election next Saturday, the 15th inst.. This election should not go by "default" simply because it is for an "unexpired" term. The call session of our legislature is being convened by the Governor for the purpose of dealing with a matter of the greatest importance—one which reaches out to every class of our citizenship, and especially the FARMERS and BUSINESS people. The eradication of the "pink boll worm" and the question of "quarantine" to effect that purpose, and the matter of compensation and justice for the farmers in the prohibited districts, are subjects that call for discriminating judgement and legislative capacity of no mean order. Being the only candidate so far announced for this special term, I am deeply interested in seeing a good vote polled on the 15th and beg to urge that this be done. I take it that if any one had expected to oppose me he would have taken the

people into his confidence and come out "in the open" so that we may know who he is and what he stands for. Therefore, TO THE POLLS on next Saturday.

Very respectfully yours,
Chas. Cuiberson Rice.
adv 1-t.

WANTED

Capable young girls of good moral character, with high school education, over 18 years of age, to become nurses. Apply to Palestine Sanitarium and Training School, Palestine, Texas. 11-4-t.

REPAIR YOUR SCREENS

The fly is a natural carrier of disease germs. Guard against him in time. We have a big stock of good screen doors and the best screen wire. T. H. Leaverton Lumber Co.

Going away? Select your trunk and suit case or hand bag at Darsey's.

Phone us your order. We deliver promptly. Murray & Mangum.

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE OF HOUSTON COUNTY APPOINTED BY JUDGE JOHN S. PRINCE

To the Honorable John S. Prince,
Judge of the District Court of
Houston County, Texas:

Continuing our report as
County Finance Committee, under
your directions, beg to report
that after filing with you our
report on the County Clerk's office
for the year 1918 and 1919, we
found copy of what seemed to
be an annual report made by Mr.
A. E. Owens, Clerk, for the year
of 1917 among some records in
possession of West Colter, the
Court House Janitor, and on
checking this report with the
County Clerk's records, we found
same to correspond with fee book
for said year, and analyzing this
report and the records of his
office found same to be as follows:

Receipts of office as per his report, \$5,937.79.

Improperly included in this report as fees of office, ex-officio and amount allowed for keeping Finance Ledger, \$562.50.
Balance, \$5,375.29.

Allowable Deductions From Fees

Salary, \$2,400.00.

Amount paid deputy and assistants, \$2,170.85.

One-fourth excess fees allowed by law, \$211.11.
Total, \$4,771.96.

Three-fourths excess fees, county's part, \$603.33.

Expense of office, \$102.30.

Amount of excess fees due County, year ending Nov. 30, 1917, \$501.03.

We next examined and checked reports and accounts of C. W. Butler, Tax Collector, for years 1918 and 1919, and found the following:

Report December 1st, 1917, to December 1st, 1918:

Receipts of Office.

State Commission as reported, \$1466.33.

County Commission as reported, \$1917.00

Commission Redemptions, \$229.00.

Compiling Sup. Delinquent Rec., \$225.00.

Total receipts as shown \$3787.33.

Deductions.

Deputy fees, \$1180.00.

Expense of office, \$451.30.
Total, \$1631.30.

Net amount shown to have been retained by C. W. Butler, \$2156.03.

Since beginning the examination of the reports and records of this office Mr. Butler has shown us that the above statement contains fees for issuing Poll Tax Receipts, amounting in the aggregate \$212.49, which he was not required to report as fees of office, which would leave \$1943.54 retained by him out of the fees which he is required to report for said year.

Report December 1st, 1918 to December 1st, 1919 as revised by this committee:

Receipts of Office.

State Commission as reported, \$2193.52.

County Commission as reported, \$2853.97.

Commission Redemption \$797.00.

Amount to be applied on 1918 salary, \$252.00.

Amount to be applied on 1919 salary, \$64.00.
Total, \$316.00.
Balance, \$481.00.

Commissions State & County Highway Tax, \$58.28.

April 24, 1919, Warrant No. 85 not included in his report, \$223.08.

Total fees of office, \$5809.16.

Deductions.

Salary, \$2400.00.
Deputies and assistants as per his report, \$2325.00.
Total, \$4725.00.
Excess fees of office year ending December 1st, 1919, \$1084.16.
One-fourth excess fees (Tax Collector's part), \$271.04.
Three fourths excess fees (County's part), \$813.12.
Sundry expenses as per his report, \$693.90.
Balance, \$119.22.
Less error in settlements of 1916 and 1918 as shown by his

affidavit attached, \$41.27.

Balance due County, \$77.95.

It will be seen from the foregoing statement covering the year ending December 31, 1919, that we have deducted from fees of the Tax Collector's office \$23-25.00, covering Deputies and Assistants, and \$693.00 covering sundry expenses, making a total of \$3018.90 for the year. The expense account is itemized in his annual Statement and has the O. K. of Nat Patton, County Judge.

The Dupty hire and Assistants is itemized in the following manner:

First Deputy, (12 months), \$1500.00.

Second Deputy, (6 months), \$450.00.

One Assistant, \$225.00.

One helper registering automobiles, \$150.00.
Total, \$2325.00.

The Deputy hire and Assistants also has the O. K. of Judge Patton. As we understand the Statute, itemized and sworn statements of such expenses and Deputy hire should be filed monthly with the Board of County Commissioners for their examination and approval before same can be legally deducted from the fees of office. We can find no evidence of Mr. Butler having complied with this feature of the law.

This committee also called on Mr. Butler for his records to verify these items, which he failed to furnish, stating that during the past year he had not kept an itemized record of the amount he had paid his Deputies and Assistants, and furnished us with a statement, which he reported was according to the best information he had, but this does not corroborate his sworn annual statement.

We attach the itemized statement which we made purporting to cover the amount paid Deputies and Assistants amounting to \$2362.50, which includes \$100.00 for compiling State Highway Records, which item was included in his annual expense account.

The practice of the Tax Collector and other County Offices of deducting large sums for expenses, Deputy hire and assistants from the fees of their offices at the end of their Fiscal years, ignoring the statutes requiring the filing of monthly sworn itemized statements with the County Commissioners, and having said court approve such expense and deputy hire, so as to make it a legal deduction, is condemned by this Committee, and should not be countenanced, in our opinion, in the future.

We also find among the list of deputies and assistants of Mr. Butler, persons not legally appointed, and we recommend that in future all deputies and assistants appointed shall be in accordance with statute provided, which requires the approval of the County Judge, and the amount of compensation to be paid each, fixed.

Our statement shows Mr. Butler to be due the county \$77.95, which amount he has paid to the County Treasurer. This difference due the county is brought about from our interpretation of the fee law, and revision of his report.

We next examined the annual report filed by R. J. Spence, Sheriff, for fiscal year ending December 1st, 1919, in which report he reports fees collected \$2362.38, and which amount included \$800.00 ex-officio allowed by the commissioners court.

Mr. Spence informed us that he had filed annually a report as required by law, but we were unable to find any report except the one referred to, which we checked with Mr. Spence's books, and found same to be correct.

Our attention has just been called to a recent decision of the higher Courts which limits ex-officio salaries Commissioners' Courts may grant to Sheriffs,

According to the population of the County, and according to this decision, the limit would be \$550.00 in Houston County.

It is our understanding that at the time of this ex-officio was authorized and granted there was apparant authority for doing so, and we are not sure, under this decision, whether Mr. Spence should return to the County the \$250.00, but we recommend that the matter be referred to the County Attorney, and if the \$250.00 in question was illegally paid to Mr. Spence, that he refund the amount to the County.

While we were unable to find but the one Annual Report made by Mr. Spence, we examined his records for several years back, and we did not discover any irregularity, or where he had drawn excess fees, or ex-officio, other than in the manner above stated.

We next examined the annual report of County Attorney Earle Porter Adams, for the Fiscal year ending December 1st, 1919, being the first and only Annual Report filed by him, which shows total fees of office \$2308.72, of which he had only collected at the time of making this report \$1893.52, and, he being entitled to all fees of office up to \$2400.00 per annum, he is, therefore, entitled to all fees collected and \$415.20 uncollected fees, accrued in said year according to his report, which is very full and complete, and is filed with the District Clerk.

We next examined Annual Report filed by County Judge Nat Patton, covering Fiscal year ending December 1st, 1919, which report shows a total of \$2418.69 received during said year, in fees of office and ex-officio salary, the ex-officio being \$1800.00, fees \$618.69. However, listed among the fees of office is an item "Board of Equalization" Term Twenty-five days, \$100.00 and other items for Court service at the rate of four dollars per day, amounting to \$288.00, leaving, as we understand it, only \$230.00 that we think should actually be included as fees of office. The County Judge of Houston County may receive ex-officio and fees not to exceed \$2500.00.

We find in possession of the County Judge a number of Convict Bonds for fines and costs, on which Judge Patton states he's personally made partial collections, but has not yet turned in the amounts collected on fines for the reason that he prefers waiting until the total fines have been collected. We also find that a number of cases that the total amount of these fines should be paid in full, and we would recommend that steps be taken at once to collect the balance of these fines, and the collection turned into the County Treasury, as provided by the statutes.

We next examined the report of V. B. Tunstall, District Clerk, covering Fiscal year ending December 1st, 1919, and same showed total fees collected for year \$1401.45. The District Clerk in this County is entitled to fees of his office not to exceed \$2400.00, and as the amount received by Mr. Tunstall is so far below the maximum amount we did not make a very close check of his office but believe the same to be correct.

We next took up the office of Jno. H. Ellis, Tax Assessor, for Fiscal year ending December 1st, 1919, and being the only report which we were able to locate, and which report was as follows:

Amount received for assessing state taxes, \$1474.39.

Amount received for assessing county taxes, \$1445.54.

Amount received for assessing R. & B. taxes, \$735.82.

Amount received for assessing school taxes, \$295.00.

Total receipts, \$3950.70.

Amount paid for assessing 1580 Rend. precinct No. 1 \$158.00.

Amount paid for assessing 2210 Rend. precinct No. 2, \$221.00.

Amount paid for assessing 2598 Rend. precinct No. 3, \$259.80.

Amount paid for assessing

2291 Rend. Precinct No. 4, \$239.10.

Amount paid Miss Janie Smith in office, \$250.00.

Amount paid miscellaneous making rolls, \$420.00.

Amount paid for stamps, \$30.00.

Total expenditures, \$1567.90.

Our analysis of the above report is as follows:

Amount received assessing State taxes, \$1474.39.

Amount received assessing County taxes, \$1445.54.

Less expense of making Guide books, \$300.00.

Balance, \$1145.39..

Amount received assessing R. & B. Bond Taxes, \$735.82.

Amount received assessing school taxes, \$290.34.

Total, \$3645.94.

Paid deputies for assessing per his report, \$867.90.

Paid office deputies and assistants, \$670.00.

Total, \$1537.90.

Amount fees of office due J. H. Ellis, \$2108.04.

Amount allowed by court making guide books, \$300.00.

Total, \$2408.04.

Amount improperly allowed in settlement for stamps, \$30.00.

Balance, \$2378.04.

The amount allowed J. H. Ellis in final settlement \$2382.80.

Correct amount due J. H. Ellis as shown above, \$2378.04.

Amount due County, \$4.76.

We find no fault with Mr. Ellis' report for this year, except the two items, viz: \$250.00 paid Miss Janie Smith, \$420.00 miscellaneous, making up 1919 tax rolls. Mr. Ellis failed to file monthly report covering these expense items, as the amounts accrued, as is required by Statute. At the time these expenses were made Mr. Ellis should have filed an itemized and sworn monthly statement with the Commissioners' Court for their examination and approval.

We deplore the fact that we are unable to find and records, annual or monthly reports, pertaining to the office of J. H. Ellis, Tax Assessor, except for one year covered by our report, which would enable us to check his expense account and deputy hire, and without more information than we have been able to get cannot make an intelligent report on previous years.

We made a short examination of the records of the County Treasurer, and find that he is allowed two per cent on receipts and disbursements, not to exceed \$2000.00 per annum. At this rate of Commission, the County Treasurer receives practically his entire salary at the beginning of the year, and we would recommend that the commission allowed the County Treasurer be lowered to one per cent, which would enable him to receive about one-half of his salary the first of the year and the balance along through the year, as the money is disbursed.

We find that the County Treasurer, W. M. Robison, has not drawn in any one year exceeding \$2000.00, the maximum salary allowed the County Treasurer in this County.

On account of the limited time, we have not checked the County Treasurer's books closely, but believe the recent published report of the financial condition of Houston County, with the correction that was made and published, is correct. And, therefore, see no necessity for going into these figures again.

We have no books of the Commissioners' Court to examine except, probably, the Commissioners' Court Minutes, which is too voluminous for us to go into very fully, but we feel that we should not complete this report without making some reference to certain transactions that has been handled by the Commissioners. Court:

First: The employment of A. O. Harper to audit the records and books of the various County officers for a period of four years:

In Vol. 11, page 391, Commissioners Court Minutes of this County, we found that they made a contract with said Harper, providing for certain kind of audit, and the requirements of a bond in the sum of \$1000.00 for

the faithful performance of the contract. The contract seems to have been drawn with a view of protecting the rights and interest of the County, but we are informed that, notwithstanding the fact that the contract provided for a bond, no bond was required, and the audit, which was delivered to this Committee and purporting to be the audit made A. O. Harper is in our judgement, worthless, and should never have been paid for, for the reason that it was not complete and not prepared in accordance with the terms of the contract.

Second: We find from the Commissioners' Court Minutes, in Volume 11, page 240, the following:

Copy of notice for bids:

Bids Wanted
"The Commissioners' Court of Houston County will receive bids on Monday February 10th, A. D. 1919, for the installation of Plat Book System for said County. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids."

Nat Patton, County Judge.
And on page 241 of same Volume copy of bid of A. O. Harper for Plat Book System. In substance he proposes, for the sum of \$1.00 per block or sub-division, to furnish the Plat Book System desired.

On page 248, same volume, we find copy of bid A. A. Alrich, for making Plat Book System, and his bid, in substance, is 75c per tact, or a flat bid of \$6000.00 for the complete job.

On page 242, same volume, we find where the Court accepted the bid of A. O. Harper.

On page 259, same volume, we find an order made by the Commissioners' Court, on March 25, 1919, providing for a Tax Levy of 2c on the One Hundred Dollars valuation of property in Houston County, to create a fund to be called "Houston County Plat Book Warrant Fund" and in this resolution it is stated that it had been determined by this court that the aggregate cost of platting and numbering all surveys and sub-divisions in said County will not exceed the sum of \$15,000.00. Indicating to our mind, that the Court contemplated that the cost of the work under contract with A. O. Harper would cost, approximately, that amount.

We find in same Volume, page 262, estimate No. 1, A. O. Harper, contractor of date April 16, 1919, to the Commissioners' Court of Houston County, Texas, which reads as follows:

Gentlemen:
The following is estimate of the work which has been performed by me under my contract with your County, dated February 12th, 1919, for \$7500.00," and on same page we find the following:

"Whereas, all the work covered by said estimate has been inspected and accepted by this Court as being in accordance with said contract and said estimate has been duly audited and found to be correct."

A further order is issued authorizing the issuance of warrants in the sum of \$7500.00 to cover Mr. Harper's bill. These orders purport to be signed by Nat Patton, County Judge; J. S. Long, Commissioner Prec. No. 1; J. C. Estes, Commissioners' Precinct No. 2; Aaron Speer, Commissioner Prec. No. 3.

We find further that on the 20th day of May, issued upon estimate furnished by the said A. O. Harper, additional warrants aggregating \$2000.00 and other warrants on June 24th, September 2nd; making a grand total of \$12,000.00.

We find further on page 539, same volume, that the Commissioners' Court has entered into a contract with B. F. Dent, E. P. Adams and N. H. Phillips to represent Houston county in an effort to prevent the payment of warrants issued to A. O. Harper, on the grounds that he had failed and refused to comply with said contract and to complete the work provided for in his contract, and other matters in connection with the Platt Book System.

We find further, on page 260,
(Continued on next page)

FINANCE COMMITTEE'S REPORT

same volume, the form of Warrants to be issued A. O. Harper for this work, and the form indicates that same is made to bear 6 per cent interest per annum from March 25, 1920, and the principal and interest is made payable to A. O. Harper, contractor, his assigns, or bearer, at the Continental & Commercial National Bank, Chicago, Ill.

Reviewing these transactions, it appears to this Committee that the Commissioners' Court has authorized the issuance of Warrants to A. O. Harper on the Platt Book contract in the sum of \$12,000.00 and placed upon the records of the Commissioners' Court Minutes statements to the effect that Mr. Harper's estimates had been duly audited by them and found to be correct. We have before us a written report made by Mr. H. G. Guinn, at our request, in which he states that "I worked with the A. O. Harper Block System of Houston county from start to finish and did probably 90 per cent of the work that was completed, or that was put on finished sheets and received by the Commissioners Court;" and he further states that the "System as now stands, shows approximately, 1100 surveys plotted—6200 tracts," which, at \$1 per tract, contract price with Harper, would amount to \$6200.

Third: To begin with, this Committee is at a loss to understand why the Commissioners' Court ever turned down A. A. Aldrich's bid, which was 25c per tract less, or on a basis of a flat proposition of \$6000.00, and accepted the bid of A. O. Harper, a non-resident, at higher figures, and then again, we are at a loss to understand that after accepting his bid why they issued Warrants to A. O. Harper in the amount of \$12,000.00 when, according to statement made by Mr. Guinn, who should be in position to know, that he had only completed plats of 6200 tracts, which, under his contract of \$1.00 per tract, he would only be entitled to \$6200. We attach the complete statement made by Mr. Guinn relative to the Platt Book matter, which contains much information and which we would like to have made a part of our report.

It is our understanding that Mr. J. A. Beathard voted against the payment of \$1000 paid Mr. Harper for auditing the county records and also voted against the contract made with Mr. Harper for the Platt Sytem, and as a result of his voting "no" on these and some other matters, he seems to have gotten the reputation of "sitting on the lid," so to speak. In view of the financial condition of this county, we think it would be fortunate for this county if some of the other commissioners would decide to sit on the lid with him until the county gets on a cash basis.

We also find in Volume 11, page 515, of Commissioners' Court Minutes, an order reading as follows:

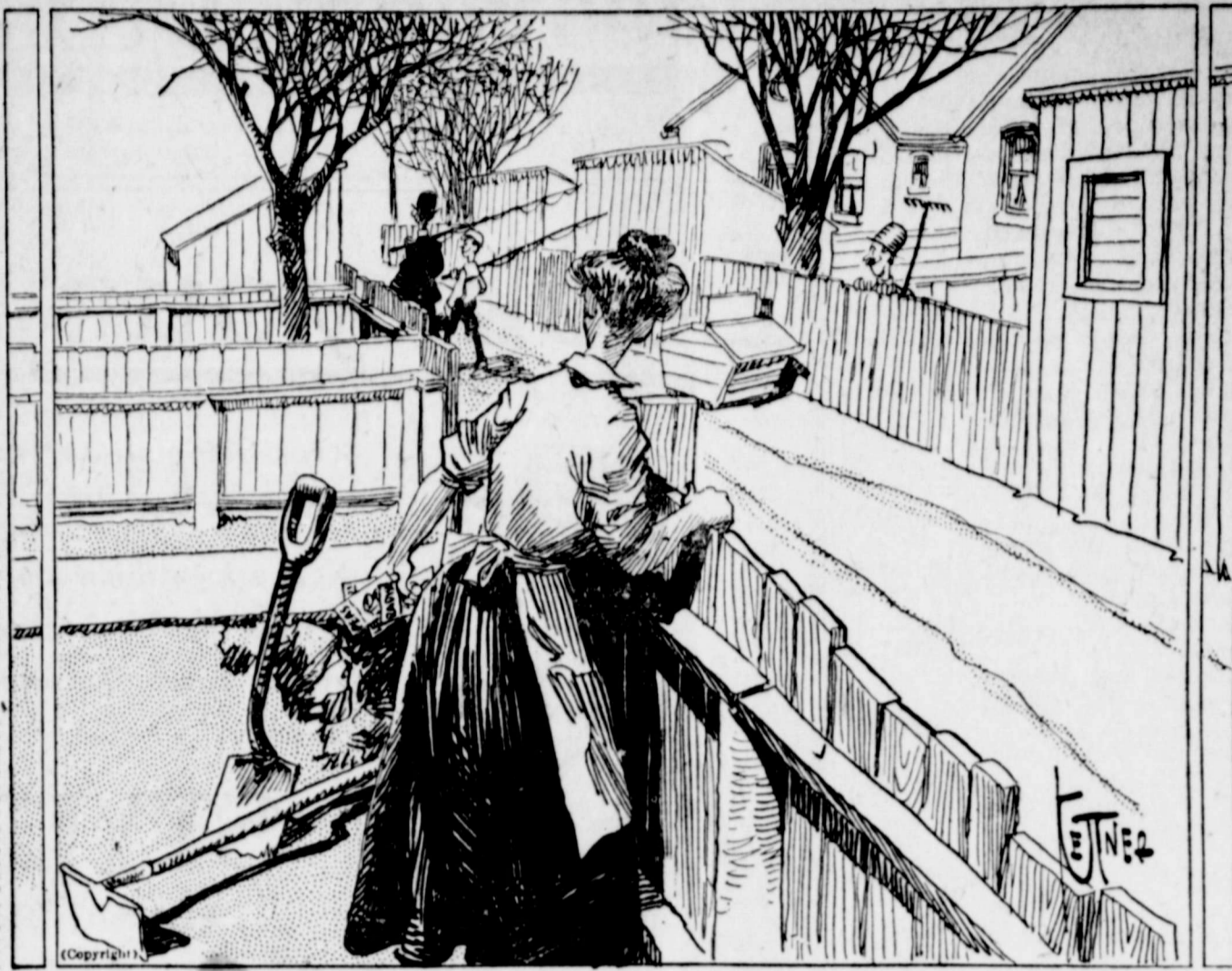
"It is the order of the Commissioners' Court that John H. Ellis be allowed to draw, in advance of his salary, One Thousand Dollars to pay his deputies."

This order seems to have been made February 9, 1920. Warrants show to have already been issued to Mr. Ellis for the full amount allowed. So far as we know very little has been done toward assessing taxes for the year 1920. We believe the authorization of the issuance of Warrants by the Commissioners' Court to Mr. Ellis in this manner is irregular and improper.

Our understanding of the statute is that the Commissioners' Court may make advances monthly, as the work of assessing is done, such amounts as he might require to pay his deputies and other expenses of doing this work, but we do not believe the law contemplates that any sum or amount should be paid Mr. Ellis for work not actually done.

We find further from commissioners' Court Minutes, page

The Bolsheviks



279, Volume 11, the following order:

"Whereas, by an order made and entered on the 10th day of March, A. D. 1919, whereby the County Judge was limited to the payment of road and lunacy claims within vacation and nothing else, and

"Whereas, it has come to the attention of the Court that a great many claims arise when this Court is not in session that should be attended to, working a great hardship on the public by having to await payment of claims until the regular term of this court,

"It is therefore the order of the Court that said order be rescinded and is ordered void and of no effect; and

"It is further ordered that the County Judge be allowed to O. K. and order paid, in vacation, any claims which he may consider cannot properly wait over until the regular term, presenting said claims, showing their payment, at the regular term of this Court for approval, and the Clerk is hereby ordered to issue Warrants for any claims so O. K'd. by the County Judge.

"J. S. Long, Commissioner Precinct No. 1; J. C. Estes, Commissioner Precinct No. 2; Aaron Speer, Commissioner Precinct No. 3."

It will be seen from the above order that three of the Commissioners have authorized the issuance of Warrants in payment of claims O. K'd. by the County Judge. This is doubtless responsible for the commissioners claiming that Warrants have been issued without their knowledge or approval.

In view of the fact that the commissioners are now drawing a salary of \$100.00 per month, we believe that the Commissioners' Court should meet twice a month for the purpose of examining and authorizing the payment of claims, and that no claims should be allowed or paid except as approved by the commissioners in open court.

We further believe the Commissioners' Court should have a Claim Book, and there should be a bill for every Warrant that is issued by the County Clerk, and this bill should be filed and entered in the Claim Book in numerical order, and properly considered in open court, and show the approval or disapproval of the court, and let no Warrants be issued in the future that is subject to question. If this course is followed, and the Minutes of the Commissioners' Court read at each regular meeting, and approved in this manner, and the various officers required to make monthly reports, and the Finance Ledger kept as provided by the statute, we believe the affairs of Houston

county can be much improved.

Some questions have been raised by some of the officers with reference to their understanding of the monthly report, and the keeping of the Finance Ledger by the County Clerk. We would suggest and recommend that if this cannot be worked out by the Commissioners' Court and County officers that the Commissioners' Court employ a competent Auditor by the day to come to Crockett and open a Finance Ledger, show each officer what is required under the Statute with reference to making monthly reports. And, let these monthly reports begin with December 1st, 1919, the beginning of the Fiscal year, and have same brought down to date, and leave no excuse for any officer not understanding this requirement, or the County Clerk any excuse for not keeping a Finance Ledger.

We believe an Auditor, to do the work above referred to, can be had for probably \$150.00, and this committee will be glad to render any assistance we can to secure the right man to do the work. Our idea being to assist the Commissioners' to get this system started right, believing that a great deal of trouble we are now having is due to following precedents.

We would also recommend that the Commissioners' Court make some provisions for the safe filing and care of these monthly and annual reports of officers, also original bills and orders of Commissioners' Court so they would be available for examination at any time.

All the County Officers have been very courteous to us, and especially do we wish to thank the District and County Attorney for information relative to the law governing the fees and salary allowed each County Officer, and also, Mr. Denny Collins, the Deputy County Clerk, whom we have found it necessary to call on for much information, which has been promptly furnished.

Respectfully submitted,
G. Q. King,
W. G. Darsey,
C. C. Warfield,
Finance Committee.

Mr. Guinn's Letter
Crockett, Texas, April 29, 1920.
To Finance Committee, Crockett Texas.

Gentlemen: I have been requested to submit you a report of the A. O. Harper block system of Houston County. I beg to advise that I worked with this system from start to finish, and did probably 90 per cent of the work that was completed, or that was put on finished sheets and received by the Commissioners' Court.

As I understand the contract as finally agreed upon; Harper

was to get \$1.00 per tract for each and every tract plotted and put upon the record, as the record owner of said tract. The purpose of this system was to get rid of unknown owners. A block system properly put into operation under Mr. Harper's contract, would put the County Attorney in position to locate the owner of every tract of land in Houston county, and there would not appear any unknown owners in the county, and the collection by the County Attorney, with the proper information of delinquent taxes should become a very simple process.

For the benefit of the Commissioners, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Coleman Scarborough and myself, got up an itemized statement of all taxes yet delinquent. I mean to say, a statement of the surveys showing not to have been worked for back taxes, and the surveys not plotted, or the surveys not attempted to be put onto the white sheets. This data was misplaced or destroyed, or at least Mr. Phillips' part of it, so I will have to give what I remember to have been given in by him as being plotted and placed upon the finished white sheets.

There are approximately 1300 abstract headright surveys in Houston county, and I think that the white sheet list as turned in by Harper will show about 1100, or about 85 per cent of the total number of tracts; but the remaining 15 per cent tracts, will probably constitute 30 or 40 per cent of total acreage of the County, as most of the unfinished tracts are leagues and large tracts of more than 500 acres.

These unfinished tracts are those tracts that the records are so incomplete and inconsistent, that it is impossible to plot them without a survey upon the ground. I do not mean that all these surveys will have to be surveyed upon the ground, but it is necessary to at least do enough surveying to get a tie so that a correct map can be made according to ownership. This was a part of Mr. Harper's contract, but he effected a final settlement before it was done and this matter stands as he left it.

As I understand the terms of Harper's contract, he was to figure back taxes and furnish the County Attorney with statements of all taxes and the record owner of same, but he took the position at his last meeting with the Commissioners' Court that was not any part of his contract, and I think that the Court employed a man to do this work, or at least keep that part of the work going. His position looks very inconsistent to me, because these taxes cannot be worked by any one until a correct map is furnished the

tax man, and if Harper completes the record as contemplated under his contract, the tax matter will be a simple matter of calculation. Again most of the delinquent taxes yet to compute, is of these big surveys that cannot be plotted and there is a majority of cases land owned or held by non residents. In most cases, or at least in many instances, there are large excesses in the surveys and it is impossible to identify the land claimed except by a survey.

Having worked in three different counties on the block system, I wish to state as a matter of individual opinion, that I regard the block system if practically and properly installed in this county, and that the present system, while not yet near complete, has more than paid its self out. As the tax record will show something like \$30,000 back taxes collected up to date; however, I think it would be a very bad policy for the County to permit the system stand as it is, unfinished and incomplete in its most important function; Viz., doing away with unknown owners and permitting many large tax payers escape the payment of back taxes on account of not being able to locate and sue on the land.

I think that the present system can be finished, to that point of perfection, and that every cent of back taxes in the County due can be collected, and when property kept up and kept revised, that it will, within a very few years, eliminate double assessment, unknown owners etc. I would not estimate the cost of the completion to run more than \$2000 or 3000 outside of tax calculations and tax notices. This, of course is an approximate cost of this work and it is impossible to tell exact what this character of work will cost, and you will find a great many surveys excessive, and in that event it would require a correct and accurate resurvey of the entire tract and a reassessment of same. But in case of this kind the County and State would be developing taxation on land not known to exist and could very profitably afford to go to extra cost.

The system as now stands shows approximate:

1100 surveys plotted, 6200 tracts.

200 surveys not plotted, estimated, 2500 tracts.

Total tracts estimated for County, not counting City, 9000 tracts.

Number surveys delinquent taxes figured up to date, 700.

Delinquent taxes collected up to date, \$30,000.

Number surveys not figured up to date, 600.

Estimate back taxes yet due, \$40,000.

Estimated acreage in excess and otherwise not taxed, 50,000.

Estimate increased tax valuation under proper system land values both State and County, total, \$250,000.

In this connection, I wish to state that I have had occasion to investigate the excess claim and held by the Louisiana and Texas Lumber Company and that I believe that under a resurvey of all their lands and hat it will be shown that they hold 15,000 acres more land than they are paying taxes upon, and that many of these leagues we could not plot embrace, in some instances as much as 1500 acres to the leagues. I also wish to state that much of this \$30,000 shown as collected, was collected as excess land, on tracts that showed excess acreage. In my estimate of Mr. Harper's contract, I did not take into account city blocks as I had nothing to do with the City blocks and do not think any attempt was ever made to put these lots on, or at least I am sure no effort was made to put a correct and intelligent map of the City lots on, as the City has no map of record that would be of any value in assessing taxes were the tax payers to refuse to pay the taxes.

Trusting this information is worth something to your committee..

Very respectfully,
H. G. Guinn.

NO. 768
Official Statement of the Financial Condition of the
THE GUARANTY STATE BANK

at Grapeland, State of Texas, at the close of business on the 4th day of May, 1920 published in the Grapeland Messenger, a newspaper printed and published at Grapeland, State of Texas, on the 13th day of May, 1920.

Resources	
Loans and discounts, personal or collateral	\$ 91,292.40
Loans real estate	4,440.39
County Warrants	1,721.93
Bonds and Stocks	34,050.00
Real estate banking house	3,428.90
Furniture and Fixtures	2,651.70
Due from Approved reserve agents net	27,227.53
Cash Items	103.95
Currency	11,974.00
Specie	3,485.40
Interest and Assessment Depositors' Guaranty Fund	1,827.84
Acceptance and bills of exchange	5,854.76
Total	\$188,058.80
Liabilities	
Capital Stock paid in	\$ 20,000.00
Surplus fund	10,000.00
Undivided profits net	2,556.36
Individual Deposits, subject to check	113,592.31
Time Certificates of Deposits	21,316.18
Cashier's Checks	1,180.34
Bonds deposited	19,050.00
Other liabilities	363.61
Total	\$188,058.80

STATE OF TEXAS,
 County of Houston.

We C. W. Kennedy, as president, and U. M. Brock, as cashier, of said bank, each of us do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of our knowledge and belief.

C. W. Kennedy, President,
 U. M. Brock, Cashier.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 11th day of May, 1920.
 O. W. Davis,
 Notary Public Houston County, (SEAL) Texas.

Correct—Attest:
 P. H. Stafford,
 J. C. Kennedy,
 J. R. Pennington,
 Directors.

FOR TAX COLLECTOR

Mr. P. S. Willis of Crockett authorizes his announcement this week as a candidate for Tax Collector, subject to the action of the democratic primary in July.

Mr. Willis has been a citizen of Houston county for 49 years, therefore is well known to most of the people. Mr. Willis has never before asked the people for any public favor, but he is fully capable to fill the position he seeks, and in the event of his election, promises to discharge his duties faithfully, to the best of his ability.

He is asking for the office solely upon his merits and qualifications and not upon the demerits of anyone.

He will be grateful for any favors shown him, and we ask that you give his candidacy careful consideration.

PAINT

We have paint for your house, for floors, porch swings, furniture, buggies, wagons, automobiles. We have a special line of wax for polishing furniture.
 T. H. Leaverton Lumber Co.

Mothers, don't sew yourself away. Come to Darsey's where you will find beautiful ready made dresses, underwear and other garments for your children.

Alfalfa hay that is good. Get it at
 Murray & Mangum's.

Rub-My-Tism is a powerful antiseptic; it kills the poison caused from infected cuts, cures old sores, letter, etc.

No. 183
Official Statement of the Financial Condition of the
Farmers & Merchants State Bank

at Grapeland, State of Texas, at the close of business on the 4th day of May, 1920, published in the Grapeland Messenger, a newspaper printed and published at Grapeland, State of Texas, on the 13th day of May, 1920.

Resources	
Loans and discounts, personal or collateral	\$ 116,993.69
Loans, real estate	15,357.51
Overdrafts	93.48
U. S. Bonds	12,150.00
Real estate (banking house)	2,983.03
Collections in transit	87.00
Furniture and Fixtures	2,000.00
Due from Approved reserve agents net	16,004.67
Cash Items	879.08
Currency	11,220.00
Specie	2,248.00
Interest and Assessment Depositors' guaranty fund	1,960.20
Acceptances and bills of Exchange	5,000.00
Other Resources Cotton Seed	226.25
Total	\$187,202.91
Liabilities	
Capital stock paid in	\$ 15,000.00
Surplus fund	16,500.00
Undivided profits net	2,769.57
Individual deposits, subject to check	122,993.61
Time Certificates of Deposits	17,669.86
Bonds Deposited	12,150.00
Other liabilities: Reserved for taxes and interest	119.87
Total	\$187,202.91

STATE OF TEXAS,
 County of Houston.

We, George E. Darsey, as president and W. D. Granberry, as cashier, of said bank, each of us do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of our knowledge and belief.

George E. Darsey, President
 W. D. Granberry, Cashier.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 10th day of May, 1920.
 O. W. Davis,
 Notary Public, Houston County, (SEAL) Texas.

Correct—Attest:
 W. G. Darsey,
 M. E. Darsey,
 T. S. Kent,
 Directors.

THE REVIVAL

The revival at the Methodist church is gaining in interest with each service and good crowds are attending.

Rev. A. T. Walker of Conroe, who held the meeting here last year is doing the preaching, being ably assisted by Mr. F. W. Woodard of Elkhart, who is in charge of the choir.

Bro. Walker is delighting his hearers with his earnest preaching, and the good singing is an outstanding feature of the services.

Two services are held daily, at 10 a. m. and 7:45 p. m.

GARAGE FOR SALE

We offer our garage for sale. If you are interested see us for price and particulars. We also have two good Fords for sale.
 Brooks Bros.

A beautiful line of smocks, georgette and voile waists and wash skirts at Darsey's.

For all kinds of ice cold bottled drinks, such as soda water, LaPerla, etc., you can get them at the ice house. We keep 'em cold!
 J. W. Howard.

Just unloaded a fresh car of meal and hulls. See me when you are in the market. Will treat you right.
 O. W. Davis.

Flour has gone to \$16.00 per barrel. We can still sell you "VERABEST" at \$3.50 per sack.
 W. H. Long & Co.

George E. Darsey & Co.
THE SERVICE FIRST STORE

Look your Best!



It's a helpmate to you wherever you are and whatever you do.

Neat appearance counts in the business world; it wins the admiration of your social group; it makes you feel at ease; it increases your efficiency.

STYLEPLUS
HAND TAILORED
ALL WOOL
CLOTHES

give one the "look your best" appearance and that "I'm all here" feeling.

Come and view our showing of men's GUARANTEED 2 and 3 piece woolen suits and the Palm Beaches.

Try them on and you will be impressed. They are priced right.

Bathing Suits

Whether you will spend your vacation at the seashore or at home, you will get more pleasure out of a bathing suit of your own. We have received our first shipment for the season, which includes popular models in suits for men, women, boys, girls and children. Make your selections early. They won't last long.

NEW ARRIVALS
in Men's Wear

KERRY KUT union suits in a number of fine silk and mercerized materials.

WASH TIES of fine cotton and silk material.

PERFECTO SHIRTS in a number of new patterns in madras and silk.

EXTRA TROUSERS in the smaller sizes and woolen materials.

STRAW HATS that are very popular in every section.

SILK HOSIERY in leading plain and fancy colors and designs.

You cannot always go by the price in determining quality. A look through this store will convince you that you can buy merchandise of the highest quality for less than you expect to pay. There's a reason.



The Chester

A gentleman's straight last shoe made by Florsheim that has established a permanent patronage among the best dressed men who desire the same style and comfort season after season.

Black or Rich Brown Kid. The same style in low quarters for the Summer season.





STEER CLEAR

of beef wagons where inferior meat is sold
Our stock of FRESH AND CURED MEATS is the choice
of the market and you are safe in buying here.

CITY MEAT MARKET
T. W. LEWIS, Proprietor

LOCAL ITEMS

See Darsey for hoes.

N. J. Davis of Livingston visited relatives here Monday.

Men, see those 'Carborundum' pocket hones at Darsey's.

New style lamps at Kennedy Bros.

Plenty of screen wire at Darsey's.

Miss Annie Sewell of Carthage, Mo., is here visiting her sister, Mrs. G. H. Farmer.

We have just received a fresh lot of Texas Queen Flour. IT'S GOOD. Murray & Mangum.

Bee Brand Insect Powder kills potato bugs. 15c per box at Kennedy Bros.

Plenty of buggies and harness at A. B. Guice's shop. Just unloaded a car.

Phone us your order. We deliver promptly. Murray & Mangum.

Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Royall have gone to Dallas to visit their daughter, Mrs. Smiley.

Get your screen doors at Darsey's.

Mrs. M. A. Lively and baby of Houston are visiting relatives in Grapeland.

Get your screen fastners and tacks at Darsey's.

Ormie Lively of Oakwood was visiting friends in Grapeland Sunday.

See Darsey for screen door hangers.

Darsey has a few pieces of PYREX left.

FREEZERS

Ice cream freezers at Kennedy Bros.

Darsey has the biggest assortment of tinware in Grapeland.

When you buy parts from us they are genuine FORD PARTS. tf Brooks Bros.

If you are going to plant a patch of June corn see us for seed. Murray & Mangum.

Misses Dona Johnson and Mae Wherry of Oakwood are the guests of Mrs. Chas. Jones.

Aluminum syrup pitchers at Darsey's.

Try a sack of "VERABEST" flour at the old price. Sold by W. H. Long & Co.

Federal casings always give satisfaction. That is why we sell them. Kennedy Bros.

Rev. and Mrs. Frank E. Luker of Athens visited relatives here last week-end.

Swat the fly. You will find fly swatters at Darsey's.

Don't forget we deliver promptly on receipt of your order. Phone us your needs. Murray & Mangum.

You will find what you need in GENUINE FORD PARTS at tf Brooks Bros.

FOR SALE

Good double buggy and pair of good harness. It Mrs. Fannie Cook.

Rub-my-Tism is a great pain killer. It relieves pain and soreness caused by Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Sprains, etc.

Get your groceries from Darsey. We deliver.

Buy your meal and hulls from tf O. W. Davis

Get the most for your produce at Darsey's.

Mrs. Howell Appling of Carthage is here visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Howard.

If It's Wood You want
Call E. L. Frisby. Short and two longs, line 105. 6-3 mos.

When you want the newest and best always go to Kennedy Bros.

Why not get that new buggy now while you can, at A. B. Guice's?

Darsey received a big assortment of alarm clock's.

Autos bought, sold and repaired. Work guaranteed. Truck wanted. Hughes & Sons.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Brooks of Alto spent Saturday and Sunday with relatives in the New Prospect community.

We have a big stock of good shingles. Be sure to see us if you need any.

T. H. Leaverton Lumber Co.

Rev. and Mrs. G. H. Farmer and Miss Annie Sewell are in Galveston this week attending the state convention of the Christian church.

FOR SALE

A few bushels of pure Mebane cotton seed. L. N. Lasiter, Grapeland, Route 1. 10-2-t

Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Allen of Alto were here Monday visiting Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Long and Mrs. Allen's sister, Miss Pat Harrison.

WANTED

Your order in monument work. Special offer in children's designs this month.

Jessie L. Willis, Jacksonville, Texas.

Harry Lively, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Lively of this city, was married last Sunday to Miss George Anne Garvey of Livingston. They will make their home in Livingston, where Mr. Lively has a position.

That "Cracker Jack" chicken brooder at Darsey's will do everything that a hen will but scratch. Darsey's.

For Sale

A Dodge touring car in good condition, for less money than you can buy a Ford. See—tf P. H. Stafford.

NOTICE BATHERS

If you can't swim don't risk your life, but buy a pair of water wings for 50c at Kennedy Bros.

W. R. Bishop of Athens, candidate for District Judge, spent several days last week in this community in the interest of his candidacy. He was accompanied by his wife.

PICNIC PLATES

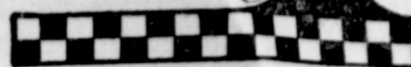
Don't be bothered with your good dishes on your next picnic, but come to Kennedy Bros., and buy a dozen paper plates for 15c.

FOR SALE

8 Duroc pigs and 1 pair of males. J. V. Rosprim.

NYSIS
TOILETRIES

with
"The Odor Entrancing"



America's most distinctive contribution to the enhancement of feminine charm.

NYSIS PARFUM—

"The Odor Entrancing."

NYSIS FACE POWDER—

Stays on but does not show.

NYSIS VANISHING CREAM—

Protects the skin against weather.

NYSIS TALCUM—

There is nothing finer.

NYSIS COLD CREAM—

Softens and cleanses the skin.

NYSIS TOILET WATER—

Adds to the bath's delight.

NYSIS SOAP—

Fits the hands; clears the skin.

THE PEOPLES DRUG STORE
HONESTY AND QUALITY WADE L. SMITH

WRIGLEYS



After a hearty meal, you'll avoid that stuffy feeling if you chew a stick of

WRIGLEYS

Other benefits: to teeth, breath, appetite, nerves. That's a good deal to get for 5 cents!

Sealed Tight—Kept Right



→The Flavor Lasts←

Sticky fly paper at Kennedy Bros.

Use plenty of hydrated lime about your premises as a safeguard against the fly menace. We have lots of it.—T. H. Leaverton Lumber Co.

Edwin DuBose and Calvin Duitch went to Austin last week to attend the state Interscholastic League Meet. Edwin won all the honors awarded to rural high school boys in the declamation contest.

How's This?

We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure. Hall's Catarrh Cure has been taken by catarrh sufferers for the past thirty-five years, and has become known as the most reliable remedy for Catarrh. Hall's Catarrh Cure acts thru the Blood on the Mucous surfaces, expelling the Poison from the Blood and healing the diseased portions. After you have taken Hall's Catarrh Cure for a short time you will see a great improvement in your general health. Start taking Hall's Catarrh Cure at once and get rid of catarrh. Send for testimonials, free. F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, Ohio. Sold by all Druggists, 75c.

Sell Darsey your produce.

UP THE HILL--ON THE SQUARE

Turn to the left and you face our store—so you cant miss us when you come to

CROCKETT

If it is in town, we have it and it is the best Quality that money can buy. Everything in

Drug Sundries, Gasoline and Oil

FREE AIR

As we say it—it is

GOOLSBY-SHERMAN DRUG CO.

CARL GOOLSBY

Crockett, Texas

LIP SHERMAN

Dependability

Superior Service

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Messenger is authorized to make the following announcements, subject to the action of the democratic primary in July:

For District Judge, Third Judicial District:
JOHN S. PRINCE
 (Re-election)
 of Henderson County
W. R. (JACK) BISHOP
 of Henderson County
B. H. GARDNER
 of Anderson County

For State Senator:
J. H. PAINTER
 of Houston County

For County Clerk:
W. D. COLLINS
HARRY BREWTON

For Tax Collector:
C. W. BUTLER JR.
 (Re-election.)
R. S. WILLIS

For Tax Assessor:
WILL McLEAN
H. P. ENGLISH

For Treasurer:
WILLIE ROBISON
 (Re-election)

For County Attorney:
EARLE P. ADAMS
 (Re-election)

For Sheriff:
P. D. (DOUG) AUSTIN
W. A. (WILL) HOOPER
P. T. (PRESTON) LIVELY
O. B. (DEB) HALE
A. W. PHILLIPS,

For County Superintendent:
J. H. ROSSER (Re-election)

For County Judge:
NAT PATTON (Re-election)
J. P. O'KEEFE

For District Clerk:
V. B. TUNSTALL
 (Re-election)

For Road Superintendent:
W. A. MANNING
CARL GAINAY
STELL SHARP
H. T. DAVIS

For Commissioner Prec't. No. 1:
J. S. LONG (Re-election)
J. K. (K.) JONES
ED DOUGLASS
W. J. BRANCH

For Commissioner Prec't. No. 2:
G. R. (ROSS) MURCHISON
J. C. ESTES (Re-election)

For Public Weigher, Justice Precinct No. 5:
ED PARKER
C. E. LIVELY
G. M. WALTON

For Justice Peace, Prec't. No. 2:
JOHN GALE

For Constable Precinct No. 2:
R. R. (Boss) SCARBOROUGH

666 has more imitations than any other Chill and Fever Tonic on the market, but no one wants imitations. They are dangerous things in the medicine line.

Don't Always blame Hens When Eggs Are Scarce

Rats may be getting them—U. S. Government Bulletins prove they know how to get them. Break a cake of RAT-SNAP into small pieces and place where rats travel. If there, RAT-SNAP will get them—positively. Three sizes, 25c, 50c, \$1.00. Sold and guaranteed by Wade L. Smith and Keeland Bros.

Meal and hulls always on hand. See me if you need any. Quick service. O. W. Davis. tf

We are proud of the confidence doctors, druggist and the public have in 666 Chill and Fever Tonic.

ROCK HILL NEWS

Rock Hill, May 10.—We had a nice rain down in this part of the world last week, which was needed and appreciated.

There is a big crop of dewberries and as you look around at the patches you can see the women and girls all busy gathering them, and over in the field you can see the men busy chopping cotton and working their crops. We are very thankful that so far we have had no floods to destroy our crops.

Miss Maud King of Elkhart visited in this community Sunday.

Jim Brown of Missouri is here making a crop with his uncle, J. C. Denson.

Mr. and Mrs. John Gibson of Weches visited the former's brother, Bill Gipson, Saturday and Sunday.

C. M. Streetman attended the county convention at Crockett last Tuesday.

Mrs. R. L. Gray and daughter, Miss Nora, of Antrim were driving around in their new Ford in this community last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Newton Streetman and Mrs. C. M. Streetman went to Palestine Saturday. The former went to San Antonio Saturday night, Mrs. Streetman remaining in Palestine visiting her son, C. R. Streetman. They returned Monday and had a delightful time.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill O. Matthews visited Mr. and Mrs. Albert Edens at Antrim Sunday.

Dr. Officer was called to C. M. Streetman's Saturday night to attend a sick mule.

There has been lots of talk of "mad cats." There was a "Streetman" cat went mad last week, but was soon discovered and killed by the owner.

There will be a meeting at the school house this Friday night, May 14, to discuss school matters.

There was a good crowd present at prayer meeting Sunday night; also at Sunday school. We feel ourselves growing, but all of us do not do all we can. Let's all work harder. Sunday was made to worship the Lord and we all ought to feel like doing something to upbuild the community and for God. Every body come next Sunday—little, big, old and young, and see how our efforts are blessed.

A nice, pleasant purgative that also has a genial stimulating effect in the liver and stomach is one reason why Prickly Ash Bitters is so well liked by men who have used it. They find it a good medicine for the whole family. Price \$1.25 per bottle.

Wade L. Smith, Special Agent.

Just Unloaded a Car of Buggies

This will probably be the last car of buggies I will have this season. Come and see them at A. B. Guice's.

NOTICE

Dock, the all purpose horse, will make the season at my place on the M. D. Murchison farm south of town. Fee \$10, colt insured.

9-3-t H. S. Harrison.

FOR SALE

A registered Jersey bull; 4 years old, solid color, a fine male. A bargain at \$85.00. See or write

9-3-t C. A. Moore, Augusta, Texas.

FROM MR. KILLION

Lamesa, Texas, May 4.

Editor Messenger:

I am now located at Lamesa, Dawson county, about 600 miles northwest of Grapeland. I bought property and moved here a few days ago on account of my health.

This is fine plains country and very fertile when it rains, but no one can figure when that will be. However, the people seem to be prosperous.

Farming is carried on mostly by irrigation, and the wells are very strong. Most any well will irrigate an acre or more of land, and fine gardens are raised most every year. Anything will grow here that will grow in East Texas. The soil is dark red sand and very easy to cultivate. One hand can cultivate 100 acres and do that riding. This county made ten bales of cotton to every voter in the county last year, and I never saw as much feed for sale anywhere.

Land is worth from ten to fifty dollars per acre, and just as level as it can be. It is a common thing to hear of farmers here clearing from five to ten thousand dollars last year, but it cost much more to live here than in East Texas. Most all merchandise is from ten to twenty-five per cent higher. And another thing I realize is that not many of us appreciate our friends like we should. When a man moves among strangers, see them laughing and talking to each other, and he standing around like a "dummy," it will make him think of his friends as he had not before.

I will close by inviting the editor to come out this summer and take a trip over in Mexico with me deer hunting, as they say there are plenty of them there.

With best wishes to all, I am,
 Yours truly,
 John Killion.

Garner Hill, Gladstone, N. J., Sells Rat-Snap, He Says.

"I sell and use RAT-SNAP. Like to look any man in the face and tell it's the best. It's good. People like RAT-SNAP because it "does" kill rats. Petrifies carcass—leaves no smell. Comes in cakes—no mixing to do. Cats or dogs won't touch it. Three sizes, 25c, 50c \$1.00 Sold and guaranteed by Wade L. Smith and Keeland Bros.

Pure, nourishing blood makes healthy flesh, good muscles and a strong vitality. The reverse is the case when the blood is poor. To drive out impurities and enrich the blood take Prickly Ash Bitters. It is a most efficient blood purifier and system regulator for men. Price \$1.25 per bottle.

Wade L. Smith, Special Agent.

Let Mrs. Mary Graves Tell You Her Poultry Raising Experience

"Three years ago bought an incubator, this year I've made money. Rats stole my baby chicks. Didn't know until a friend gave me a cake of RAT-SNAP. Next morning found two dead rats in hennery. Keep finding them. Suddenly they disappeared altogether. It's the only sure rat killer." Take Mrs. Graves' advice. Three sizes, 25c, 50c, and \$1.00. Sold and guaranteed by Wade Smith, & Keeland Bros.

Ford

"The Universal Car"

There is in the GENUINE that degree of EXCELLENCE never to be found in imitations.

Insist that GENUINE Ford-made Repair Parts be used in the repair of your Ford.

To insure yourself against imitation repair parts, secure these parts from, or take your repair work to, an Authorized Ford Service Station.

TOWERY MOTOR COMPANY

FORD DEALERS
 Crockett, - - Texas

BROOKS BROTHERS, Grapeland.....Ford Service
TOMME BROTHERS, Ratcliff.....Ford Service
ATKINSON BROTHERS, Lovelady.....Ford Service

TRINITY RIVER RIPPLES

Reynard, May 10.—Things are looking good and weather conditions are all that could be wished for, and farmers have their work pretty well in hand.

The writer spent Sunday morning with Mrs. W. P. Kyle and some of the children had a pleasant time.

C. C. Smith and family, Mrs. J. H. Beazley spent Sunday with relatives in Daly's.

Mr. and Mrs. Oran Riels were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Beazley. Miss Gertrude Fulgham was also their guest.

Mrs. West has returned home from Crockett and Grapeland about sick with bronchitis. Having had that experience, we know how to sympathize with her.

A. E. Murry had his first experience as a juror last week.

The 'everybody's' party at Mrs. Beazley's was pulled off o. k. "conversational" and "musical" and ringed around Rosey" until a late hour.

Bro. Bean it does look a little hard you can make all the corn on your land and make meat or most anything else you want to out of the corn except one, and you must not waste it that way. Let's quit talking about old time religion and old time democracy and try to make the new as good as we can and ought.

Mr. and Mrs. T. S. Kent spent the better part of last week with their son, Tom, on the farm and enjoyed the country breeze once more.

Leland Chiles received a few days ago a barrack bag which he turned in at Roose, France. It came right to his home box.

Let's not forget the 15th and give Mr. Rice a handsome vote.

GENUINE FORD PARTS are better. At Brooks Bros. tf

ECZEMA!

Money back without question if HUNT'S Salve fails in the treatment of ITCH, ECZEMA, RINGWORM, TETTER or other itching skin diseases. Try a 75 cent box at our risk.



WADE L. SMITH

Money Made

OPERATING GRIST MILLS

Grind on Stone Buhrs, manufacturing corn meal, corn chops, whole wheat flour and other mill products, which are made on the improved Blue Ridge Mill outfits.

Write for Catalogue and Prices

James B. Sedberry, President and Manager

WILLIAMS MILL MANUFACTURING COMPANY OF ARK.
 Texarkana, Ark.

EARLE ADAMS

ATTORNEY AT LAW

Crockett, Texas

Will Practice in State and Federal Courts
 Office in 1st Nat'l. Bank Building
 (Law firm of Adams & Young is dissolved)

DR. G. D. SMALL

EYE, EAR, NOSE
 AND THROAT

Office: Rooms 3, 4, 5, 6 Ritner Building, 103 1/2 Main St.

Palestine, Texas

Office Hours:

9 to 12 a. m. 2 to 5 p. m.

DR. G. L. RYE

DENTIST

Office over First National Bank across from depot

Palestine, Texas

Office Hours:
 9 to 12 1 to 5

C. C. OFFICER

Veterinarian

Telephone the Goodson Hotel or Drug Stores

JOHN SPENCE

Lawyer

CROCKETT, TEXAS

Office up stairs over Millar & Berry's Store

ABSTRACTS

You cannot sell your land without an Abstract showing perfect title. Why not have your lands abstracted and your titles perfected? We have the Only complete up-to-date Abstract Land Titles of Houston County.

J. W. YOUNG

Crockett, Texas



The sign of the GUARANTY FUND is a symbol of safety for depositors.

This time-tried and tested system of banking is an effective guarantee of dependable banking protection.

Safeguard your money and your future by a connection with this bank, which operates under the

GUARANTY FUND
BANKING LAW
OF THE
STATE OF TEXAS

**FARMERS & MERCHANTS
STATE BANK**

Legal Blanks for Sale

The Messenger has in stock the following legal blanks:

Chattel Mortgages, each 5c per doz. 50c.

Vendor's Lien Notes, each 5c per doz. 50c.

Release of Vendor's Lien Note, each 5c, per doz. 50c.

Renewal and Extension of Vendor's Lien Note, each 5c, per doz. 50c.

General Warranty Deeds with Vendor's Lien, each 5c, per doz 60c.

Transfer of Vendor's Lien Note, each 5c, per doz. 50c. tf

Cash for Produce

We are cash buyers of produce and it will always pay you to see us when you have anything to sell, especially chickens and eggs.

J. W. Howard.

We Picked Up Seven Large Dead Rats First Morning Using "Rat Snap"

So writes Mr. B. E. Carpenter, Woodbridge, N. J. We lost 18 small chicks one night, killed by rats. Bought some RAT-SNAP and picked up 7 large dead rats next morning and in 2 weeks didn't see a single rat. RAT-SNAP is good and sure. Comes in cake ready for use. Three sizes, 25c, 50c, \$1.00. Sold and guaranteed by Wade L. Smith and Keeland Bros..

Pimples and blotches on the skin are caused by billious impurities in the blood. The right remedy is Prickly Ash Bitters. It removes the cause by purifying the blood, liver and bowels. Price \$1.25 per bottle.

Wade L. Smith, Special Agent.

Let us clean up that suit. We do cleaning, pressing and dying.

M. L. Clewis

LIVELYVILLE NEWS

Livelyville, May 10—Cotton chopping is the order of the day and everyone is busy. The weather so far promises to be favorable for good crop production.

People are hard at work to make our memorial day, May 21, a decided success. We hope to have some good singers, good preachers, good speakers, and last, but not least, a good dinner.

What is the reason for the present day unrest? Who can say? Perhaps it is too much money for some folks, not enough for others; too many luxuries for some and not any for others. Unrest is generally caused by unfavorable environment; it is a state of mind. To adjust things on a more normal scale which have been made abnormal by conditions, especially after war, let us all do what we can abstain from this state of unrest, and things will adjust themselves by and by, as they have always done.

Many Livelyville folks went to Evergreen to help celebrate their memorial day. They certainly had lovely singing and good speaking, and dinner, now why didn't you be there and see?

J. W. Ellis and wife visited their son, Dudley Ellis, Saturday, and spent Sunday afternoon with Mrs. G. W. Garner.

Mr. and Mrs. John Masters, formerly of this locality, announce the birth of a daughter May 7. We congratulate them.

Miss Rusie Brown went to town last week on a shopping trip.

G. W. Garner and Paul McDonald went to Latexo Sunday.

We had singing Sunday afternoon. Quite a number was present.

SALMON NEWS

Salmon, May 10.—The busy time in farming has arrived and the farmer's will have to jump high now for awhile, for Gen. Green is coming in strong force.

We had a good Sunday school yesterday and we hope and trust that it will continue good.. The number present in classes was 82. That speaks well for Salmon, and let's try in every way to make it better. Sunday school is the best place in the world to train our children and young boys and girls in the way they should go, and we are so glad that the young people of this community are taking such an interest in this work.

Bro. N. S. Herod and L. N. Lasiter attended the memorial service at Evergreen last Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Starkey and children spent Sunday afternoon with Mr. and Mrs. Dan Herod.

Dan Shipper was a Palestine visitor Saturday night, returning Sunday morning on No. 3.

Bruce Morhead, Ben Moseley, Oscar Garrison and Tucker Campbell motored to Weches Sunday afternoon.

Quite a number of our young people attended the singing at Oak Grove Sunday evening.

We want to meet at Guiceland Saturday evening before the fourth Sunday and have a general cleaning up around the graveyard. Come and bring your working tools.

Mr. and Mrs. Lish Walling and children attended church at Oak Grove Sunday.

Miss Mae Morrison went to

Small Individual Threshers

The Williams Improved Threshers are built for individual threshing, can be operated with 3 to 5 H. P. Gasoline Engines.

Write for Catalogue

James B. Sedberry, President

WILLIAMS MILL MANUFACTURING COMPANY OF ARK.
Texarkana, Ark.

PALESTINE MATTRESS FACTORY

PALESTINE, TEXAS

The Factory that has a Permanent Home

We will furnish ticking and furnish cotton and we will work over your mattresses for \$6.00, \$6.50 and \$7.50, and we burlap and pay the freight both ways.

We sell new mattresses for \$9.50, \$10.00, \$10.50, \$12.50 and \$15.00.

Palestine Saturday to visit her sister, Mrs. Lorena Goldman.

Our revival meeting will begin Saturday night before the third Sunday in July.

EPHESUS NEWS

Ephesus, May 10.—Our Sunday school is progressing nicely and we noticed a number of visitors from other communities present Sunday. Among them was Jake Cutler and family of Union Chapel, and J. O. Grounds and family and Henry Graham of Chapel Hill.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Lackey of Leon county are here on a visit to the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dave Turner.

Next Sunday is our regular meeting day and we are expecting a large congregation, as Bro. Durnell always preaches a good sermon.

Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Kelley were visiting their daughter, Mrs. Deckard Anderson, Sunday.

Mrs. John Stewart went to Crockett Saturday to visit her Sister, who is very ill.

Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Anderson visited Mrs. Alice Neal Sunday. Clarence Turney of Daly's spent Saturday night and Sunday with his uncle, Jim Turner.

Miss Evie Grounds of Chapel Hill spent Sunday afternoon with her grandmother, Mrs. Sallie Goolsby.

Ira Walling could not be with us Sunday evening, but he has promised to come next Sunday at 10 o'clock. Everybody be sure to come early, as preaching will begin at 11 o'clock.

NOTICE

I will sing at New Prospect Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock, as I didn't get to go last Sunday. Everybody come and be on time. L. N. Lasiter.

You can get the GENUINE FORD PARTS at Ford PRICES at Brooks Bros. tf

If you are going to buy a buggy this season it will pay you to buy it now from

A. B. Guice.

Mrs. George E. Darsey and daughter Miss Lucindy and Miss Melba Brock spent last week-end in Houston.

666 cures Malaria, Chills and Fever, Bilious Fever, Colds and La Grippe. It kills the parasite that causes the fever. It is a splendid laxative and general tonic.

TOILET ARTICLES

You will always find here a full line of

**TOILET ARTICLES PERFUMES
SPONGES BRUSHES
RUBBER GOODS**

Also a good line of family medicines. We invite you to visit our store when in need of any thing carried in a drug store.

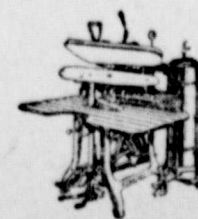
D. N. Leaverton
LEADING DRUGGIST

Your Clothes

are a very personal matter—one which commands your greatest concern, both in their selection and care. On account of their high cost you no doubt are more concerned in their care nowadays than ever before.

Our cleaning and pressing offers you individual service—based on years of experience and success in this exacting work.

You will be pleased with our quick service, thorough workmanship, courteous treatment and moderate prices.



Clewis

Saturday of this Week

"THE DELICIOUS LITTLE DEVIL"

by Mae Murray. A comedy drama.. Not a thriller, but one that you will like.. A real laugh maker. Shows at 1:30 p. m. and 8:00 p. m. Don't miss it.

MONDAY—NEXT WEEK

Another Robertson-Cole production.. They always satisfy.

WEDNESDAY

HARRY T. MOREY in **"THE DARKEST HOUR."** You can't miss this one because look who is playing. It is a Vitagraph.

NOTICE

On account of the increased cost of films and war tax, we are forced to raise our price to—

13c and 2c war tax, 15c for children.
22c and 3c war tax, 25c for adults.

EFFECTIVE MAY 14th.

Star Theatre

At STAR THEATRE

THURSDAY, MAY 20th

That Miracle of Movie Photography

"The Flame of Hellgate"

A great romantic drama of the far West. A picture you have longed to see. A new style of play.

You who love romance, you who love fair play, you who love to see the weak protected from the powers of the unscrupulous, you who like a play with a punch and a thrill of romance, come and see this great masterpiece.

THURSDAY, MAY 20th.

You who live on the farm---

Don't hesitate to take this night off and spend it at the Star Theatre to see this wonderful feature. It is absolutely the best play you have ever seen. You cannot afford to miss it. Give the devil his due and see this play.

"THE FLAME OF HELLGATE"

In the production of this picture there was over one million dollars spent, over 8 months in filming and arduous labor. If the makers can spend so much you can surely spend two hours to see this wonderful, miraculous photoplay.

Star Theatre, Thursday, May 20th.

CROCKETT NEWS

Crockett, Texas, May 11, 1920. The March term of the District Court adjourned Saturday, May 8th, and Judge Prince left for Palestine where he opened District Court Monday, May 10.

Criminal Docket:

The last case tried was that of Ed Krenek charged by indictment with killing Jim Crowson. The defense plead the unwritten law, and the jury found him guilty of manslaughter, gave him five years and recommended a suspension of sentence. This case attracted more attention than any of recent years, a large array of witnesses being in attendance, and hundreds of spectators thronging the court room each day. The jury was composed of young men, none of whom were over forty five years of age.

Motions for new trials were overruled in the following cases and notice of appeal given to the Court of Criminal Appeals, twenty days after adjournment of court being allowed in which to file statements of facts:

Wilbur Finch, murder; tried here on change of venue from Walker county and defendant given ten years.

Joe Ivins, murder; three years. In this case the killing occurred at a dance near Weldon, both parties to the affair prior to the difficulty, having been intimate friends.

Civil Docket:

New trials were refused in cases tried during the term; one of Alfred vs Arledge et al, another, Stephenson vs Bryant.

Mrs. I. B. Lansford had as her guests Sunday, May 9th., Mr. and Mrs. Chester Kennedy of Grapeland.

Monday night fire arising from an unknown origin, damaged the plant of the oil mill in this city possibly a hundred thousand dollars.. It started in the Hull House and spread rapidly to other buildings, the seed and meal and fertilizer warehouses going in rapid succession. Several hundred tons of feed stuffs and fertilizers were destroyed. Heroic efforts on the part of the local fire company, assisted by the citizens, saved a number of nearby residences.

Two milch cows for sale; also some high-bred Jersey heifers and bulls.

J. W. Ellisor,
Elkhart, Texas.

666 quickly relieves Constipation, Biliousness, Loss of Appetite and Headaches, due to Torpid Liver.

ITCH!
Money back without question if HUNT'S Salve fails in the treatment of ITCH, SORENESS, RING WORM, TETTER or other itching skin disease. Try a 75 cent box at our risk.
WADE L. SMITH

Young Men and Women are in Demand in Business

A country wide investigation of employment conditions to get information as to the type of help in greatest demand shows the following results: 1338 of 2445 advertisements for help specified a business training and 524 of the remaining 1107 advertisements were for positions that office assistants grow into. No other profession can claim one-fifth as great a demand. In fact, this proves that there is a greater demand for business training than for all other trades combined.. Here are more figures to show the advantages of entering the business field as compared with other professions: the average income of a lawyer is \$1500, of a doctor \$1800, others in proportion, while the average income of a business man is \$3000 a year.

The volume of business will wonderfully increase during the next four years. Building was practically at a standstill during the war years, and there is much lost time to gain. New world markets opened up to the United States since the war have caused still further expansion of American business. These facts mean big business and constant demand for trained office help. Judge Gray, Chairman of the Board of Steel Corporation, said "Our prospects are bright, our opportunity for success greater than ever before. I predict that the next five years in this country will be the most progressive, prosperous and successful in our history."

You are not going to pass up a business training and its wonderful opportunities to become a day laborer, house maid, department store clerk, telephone operator, factory hand or live on the back end of someone else's farm. You can't afford it when you can spend a few months with us and make sure your success.

Make up your mind to enter now. Fill in and mail to Tyler Commercial College, Tyler, Texas, for large free catalogue..

Name
Address

Poreh swing chains at Kennedy Bros.

Darsey's force is egg "Hungry" we want them all.. Also your hides and Bee wax.

Get steel wool at Darsey's and keep those old greasy pots cleaned easy.

FOR CONSTABLE

R. R. (Boss) Scarborough authorizes his announcement this week as a candidate for Constable of Precinct No. 2, the Augusta precinct, his candidacy being subject to the will of the voters in the July primary. Mr. Scarborough made the race for this office several years ago, and feels that he has waited a sufficient time to again offer for the place. He is a good man for the place. He possesses all the qualifications necessary to make a good peace officer, and if the people of that precinct see proper to elect him, we feel sure they will have no cause to regret their action.

He will be grateful for your support and promises a faithful and impartial discharge of his duties. Give his candidacy due consideration.

Guiceland Memorial Service

Following is the program for the 5th annual memorial service at Guiceland Sunday, May 30: Master of ceremonies, W. J. Starkey..

Chaplain, N. S. Herod. Welcome address, A. E. Davis. Response, Mr. Riall. Memorial, W. F. Brooks. Three dimensions of man, Rev. Trimble. Dinner.

Decorations, 1 to 1:30. If a man die, shall he live again? J. F. Lively.

Education and development, S. W. Dutch.

Does it pay to live a Christian? C. L. Halton.

Music will be furnished by L. N. Lasiter, W. R. Campbell and J. A. Bean.

We also cordially invite our friends to come prepared to help us make the occasion a success as you have on previous meetings, with your well filled baskets and co-operation.

Committee.

Bargains in aluminum stew boilers at Kennedy Bros.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

We will hold the annual memorial service at Davis cemetery Sunday, May 30. The exercises will begin at 10 o'clock. We have secured some good speakers and invite the public to attend. Dinner will be served on the ground.

J. J. Brooks,
T. H. Leaverton,
J. E. Hollingsworth,
Committee.

NOTICE WOODMEN

There will be a meeting of the W. O. W. Lodge next Saturday night, May 15. All members are urged to be present. Important business.

C. L. Halton, C. C.

NOTICE TO PUBLIC

I wish to state that I find Mr. Steve Allen not guilty of getting my barb wire. Evidence shows that he is entirely innocent. It

W. P. Davidson.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

Memorial services will be held at Refuge Friday, June 4, and at San Pedro Friday, June 11. Appropriate programs have been arranged for both services, and a cordial invitation is extended the public to attend. Dinner will be served on the ground.

If you need brick for any purpose, see us. W have a big stock.

T. H. Leaverton Lumber Co.

THE CRADLE ROLL

A girl was born to Mr. and Mrs. John Masters Friday, May 7, 1920.

Screen wire is the mosquitos' stopping place. Make him stop at the door. All widths at Kennedy Bros.

Polish that heater with 'E-Z' stove polish before you store it away for the summer.

Darsey.

SAWMILL BURNED

W. B. Kellum of near Weches was in to see us Monday and informed us that he and his brother, C. R. Kellum, lost their saw mill by fire last Friday night, together with a lot of dressed lumber. The loss is estimated at \$3,000 with no insurance. It is their intention to rebuild the mill at once.

See us for brick, cement, shingles—any kind of building material. We are the home-builders. T. H. Leaverton Lumber Co.

The old saying that all men are born equal is pretty good to repeat while making a speech but a lot of people down in the audience know it isn't true. Pigs aren't born equal. Some pigs are runts at birth, while other pigs are healthy and alert from the beginning. The same is true of men. And there isn't much difference between some pigs and some men.



HARRY T. MOREY

Something like ten years ago, before he became a Vitagraph star, Harry T. Morey was described as a "robust" actor. His fine physique has stood him in good stead in the silent drama. He has been able to play all sorts of roles, and look the part.