

# THE MERKEL MAIL

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8 PAGES

## JUNIUS FEASTS LIKE A ROMAN MONARCH

Christmas with its multitudinous festivities is now numbered with the things of the past, and everything has resumed its wonted quiet. The dinners and parties were too numerous to admit individual mention, but we can not refrain from a brief mention of the superb birthday party of Master Floyd Grayson, at the lovely and palatial home of his parents, Captain and Mrs. J. H. Grayson, December 26, when a bounteous and delicious feast was spread, which would have been creditable to Delmonico, and satiated the epicurean appetite of Lucullus. The gathering of the gleeful and unsophisticated youths of our section, their innocent and mirthful plays and general hilarity would have excited the envy of a medieval stoic, it was a most elaborate, grand social event which all enjoyed.

The dinner Sunday at the hospital home of Mr. and Mrs. Ulric Wheeler was indeed a gastronomic feast, where every dainty known to the culinary art graced their princely board that would have equalled the fabled ambrosia of the Gods.

Mrs. Sam Grayson has suffered excruciating pain the past week with neuralgia in an aching tooth, but is considerably improved.

We read with deep interest, profit and appreciation the excellent article of Mr. Smith, who seems to detest and abhor these blasted newspaper liars, all of which we heartily endorse. We have been in the newspaper business thirty-five years, have occupied every position on a paper from country correspondent to staff correspondent of one of the leading and most prominent dailies of the state, The Waco Times Herald, and we have always been eager and ever ready to exorcise and annihilate these famous and loathsome newspaper liars. We doff our Beaver and extend our journalistic paw to Bro. Smith and with the sapient bard of Avon, say, "lay on McDuff."

Mr. J. F. Callahan of Goree has returned home after a pleasant visit to his father, Mr. G. G. Callihan and brother Volney and sister Mrs. Bill Tyner.

Mr. Milton and Grover Tyner have just returned from a visit to their father Dick Tyner and brother G. E. Tyner at Wichita Falls, and report having had a most excellent time.

Mr. Bud Brown who has been dangerously ill for the past six weeks with typhoid fever still continues in a precarious condition.

Miss Nancy Dice is reported as being quite sick.

Chas. Seago and wife have returned from an extended visit to San Saba where they visited Mr. Sam Seago and family. They both report a most excellent time during their protracted stay. Mr. Seago is prospering in his new home, has excellent health and is surrounded by good neighbors but longs to again mingle and commingle with the good people of Noodle, whom he deems the best people in the State.

A big turkey dinner at Mr. and Mrs. Marion Winters Sunday was indeed a most enjoyable affair. The menu upon this happy occasion was too varied and multitudinous to admit of separate mention. The numerous guests with our accord voted Mr. and Mrs. Winter, host and hostess, par excellent.

Well Drilling—See R. D. Tyler, or M. D. Daniel. 22tf

## ARIZONA HAS TWO ACTING GOVERNORS

Phoenix, Ariz., Jan. 1.—Interest in the efforts of G. W. P. Hunt, incumbent and Democratic claimant to the office of Governor of Arizona, to prevent occupancy of the office by Thomas E. Campbell, Republican, who was formally inaugurated today, centered tonight in the probable legal steps expected to follow. Hunt took the oath of office Saturday.

An armed Deputy Sheriff, acting, he said, on the authority of Leroy Ladd, Hunt's private secretary, prevented Campbell from occupying the Governor's offices. A suggestion by Campbell adherents that the doors be broken down provoked cheers from the crowd which witnessed the inauguration, but Campbell counseled the employment of orderly means, and the crowd dispersed quietly.

Attorneys for Campbell tonight served notice on Hunt of application for a writ of mandamus. The matter has been set for hearing on Tuesday morning. Another development of the night was a proffer from friends of Governor Hunt of a surrender of the office tomorrow on the condition that the inspection of the ballots be stopped at once and the contest proper be begun on the discoveries that have been made so far in the inspection of a little more than half the ballots.

Final determination of the controversy is expected to rest with the result of the contest instituted by Hunt.

After Campbell completed his inaugural address on the Capitol grounds today the crowd refused to leave. Some one cried:

"Let's put him in anyway." There was an ominous stir and the police became more alert. Deputy Sheriff Barrett asked for a hearing and the crowd hooted and jeered. Campbell asked that the officer be heard. Barrett explained that he was acting under orders from the Sheriff, who told him to take instructions from Leroy Ladd, secretary to former Governor Hunt.

"We don't care about Ladd, we want Campbell," some one shouted. Campbell again appeared and urged the crowd to restrain itself and leave the solution of the contest to the court. He held an impromptu reception on the lawn in front of the Capitol, the doors of which were kept locked. The crowd then dispersed quietly.

## Hunt Refuses to Surrender His Office to Gov. Campbell.

Phoenix, Ariz., Jan. 2.—When Thomas E. Campbell, governor-elect, went to the statehouse today to take over his duties, Governor G. W. P. Hunt, incumbent, refused to surrender the office.

Governor Hunt told Governor Campbell he could not recognize Governor Campbell's credentials. After a formal demand for possession of the executive office, Governor Campbell withdrew and will maintain his headquarters in a downtown office building, pending the outcome of legal procedure to force Governor Hunt to give up the office.

## COWBOY CATCHES 15 COYOTES, 3 BOBCATS.

San Angelo, Tex., Jan. 1.—Lewis Farris, a young cowboy, working on ranches north of San Angelo, reports the capture of fifteen coyotes in two weeks.

He also caught three bobcats.

## Received Extra Pay

Manager Holdridge and all employees of the Southwestern Telephone exchange at this place received a nice Christmas present from their company in the form of a check for extra pay.

Those who had been working over one year were given three weeks extra pay, and those who had been working less than one year but over three months were given a check for two weeks extra pay. In token of their appreciation the force here have sent a card of thanks to the Southwestern News, a craft paper issued by the Southwestern Telephone Company.

## No Hunting Allowed

on my farm one mile south of town, nor shooting into from the road. (1544p) Mrs. T. F. Compton

## COMMERCIAL LEAGUE CALLED TO MEET TUESDAY EVENING JAN. 8TH--7 O'CLOCK

Smoker For All Who Smoke and Hot Air Discussion For Those Who Do Not Smoke. Importance Business to be Transacted. All old Members Requested to Come.

The first meeting of the Merkel Commercial League for the New Year is scheduled to be held Tuesday evening at 7 o'clock. Meeting to be held in City Hall.

All members whether directly in business are requested to be present. Clerks and others who feel an interest in such work are wanted for sure at this meeting.

## 119 RATTLESNAKES TAKEN FROM DEN

J. W. Childress has set a record of catching rattlesnakes in this country.

On Christmas day he killed a big bunch, went back the following day and killed some more from the same place and returned on Wednesday and finished the job with a total of 119 snakes. On an average the snakes were from two to six feet long.

## 46 ASYLUM WOMEN BURNED TO DEATH

Montreal, Dec. 31.—Forty-six women were burned to death in a fire that destroyed St. Ferdinand de Halifax, Megantic County, Quebec, late Saturday night, according to a report received here.

Patients of the asylum, of whom there were 180, were all women. St. Ferdinand de Halifax is an almost inaccessible portion of the province and communications on Sunday are poor.

Meager reports obtained from available sources give no intimation of the cause of the fire, which started while the inmates were asleep and apparently spread rapidly.

The asylum, which cared for 180 female idiots, virtually was without fire protection.

Reports received here describe the scenes as horrifying. The inmates of the asylum were uncontrollable and many of them were said to have leaped from high windows. Others in bewilderment crouched in terror near the window until the flames caught them.

One of the sisters met death in an effort to rescue several of the unfortunate girls who were trapped by the flames.

Owing to the intensely cold weather, the mercury registering 20 degrees below zero, the water in the hydrants about the building was frozen and little could be done to stay the progress of the flames.

According to the advices, many of the girls who fled from the scene were located by villagers, who took them to their homes.

Thirty girls who were students at a convent adjoining the asylum, which also was burned, are said to have had narrow escapes. The property damage is estimated at \$200,000.

## Mules and Wagon For Sale

Good team of work mules and 2 1/2 inch wagon for sale or trade. See W. L. Diltz. 22tf

## 11,955 BALES TO JANUARY 1ST, 1917

The amount of cotton weighed here up to January 1st, was 11,955 bales.

This is exactly 545 bales short of the amount of our progress for the Merkel country and with a few scattered bales throughout the country the receipts will grow some but will likely fall a little below 12,500 in total.

## BEN T. MERRITT TO LEAVE F. & M. BANK

Excessive indoor work at the Farmers & Merchants Bank to the detriment of his health has caused Ben T. Merritt, assistant cashier of the Farmers & Merchants National Bank, to resign his position with that institution.

Mr. Merritt's resignation is to take effect as soon as his successor, Harry L. Rudemose arrives here from Fort Worth. Mr. Rudemose was formerly connected with the F. & M. Bank here and has a wide acquaintance. His continued work in banking circles since his departure qualifies him fully to the position he will assume on his arrival.

The outgoing assistant cashier, has throughout his residence here, from boyhood to his present exalted position, commanded as high respects from the public as has any young man who ever lived in Merkel, and there are no exceptions made in this statement. Ben has been associated with this bank about seven years. We, with his many friends, regret to know of his severance of connections with Merkel banking circles, and can only wish him the very best there is in life in any undertaking he may follow. Ben has not decided just what he will do. For the time being, after his duties are over he will rest for awhile.

## Notice

If you want to borrow money or have your notes extended, wire, write or come to see me. Can loan you money at 8 per cent. T. C. Weir, Abilene, Tex.

Dr. Daly is coming prepared to treat diseases of the Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat and fit glasses. Don't forget the date—in Merkel Tuesday, January 16th at the Walker Cottage.

Phone Busy Bee Cafe No. 263 for service car—Marvin Boney.

Well Drilling—See R. D. Tyler, or M. D. Daniel. 22tf

## REP. DEBOGORY TO STAND BY PLEDGES

Representative Eugene Debogory accompanied by his family left last Saturday for McKinney where they will visit Mrs. Debogory's parents until the state legislature opens next Tuesday.

Mr. Debogory before leaving stated that he had not forgotten his plans as announced during the campaign, saying his constituents could count on his working for every measure he had advocated during this time.

"While there have been many minor measures called to my attention some of which possess considerable merit" he said, "I intend to give as much attention as possible to matters of court reform. I will introduce a bill to change the constitution of the state by eliminating the courts of civil appeals and having only one appellate court, that being the supreme court. Under this bill, if it becomes a law, it will be possible for every litigant to obtain a final hearing on any case within six months whereas under the present system it many times requires six years to get to the final decision."

"I will also advocate speed in court procedure in every way. I would like to see only one judge in each county, and that judge hear the cases of county and district court instead of operating two courts as we now do. Both of these measures would do away with the salaries of judges and court officials and the total amount thus saved would come back to the people in the reduction of their taxes."

"I will also seek a constitutional amendment whereby lien holders will be compelled to render for taxation their liens in the county in which the land is situated, or else be unable to collect same. This would stop all dodging of taxes by the lien holders and would be of direct benefit to the other tax payers in one way at least, giving a larger rendition and subsequent lowering of rates. Also, I am heartily opposed to the present system of taxation by which the owner of land on which money is still owed is compelled to render it for taxation at its full value instead of at the amount he has paid on this property."

"As instructed by the voters of the county I will vote for submission."

"In those bills seeking constitutional amendments, both as to court reform and rendition of liens for taxation, I expect to meet with great opposition. Many corporations and a portion of the present lax court methods whereby they may draw their suits through several years and thus wear out the poorer litigants, no matter what the justice of their claims. These people will naturally oppose any contemplated change in court procedure giving a quicker final hearing of cases, but I am confident that if this proposed people of Texas they will vote it into amendment can be gotten before the large business interests favor retention of a state law by its adoption."

"There will also be opposition to the proposed method of forcing rendition of liens, for those who have been accustomed to keep the bulk of their assets in liens and keeping these liens from being rendered wherever possible will fight such an amendment."

"I have been petitioned to vote for the passage of bills from requiring wide tired wagons down to the very least of matters that can come before a legislature, and I will give attention to these measures when they are introduced, working for whatever I believe the best interests of our people. I still intend, however, to stick to my promises made in the primary and devote every energy toward securing those things which I then promised the men who voted for and elected me."

Taylor-County Times.

## New Brick Going Up

Messrs. George Brown and C. P. Stevens have started the erection of a brick building on Kent Street which, when completed will be used by them as a home for their "Merkel Country Blacksmith Shop." This makes the third brick building to be erected here within the last 12 months, if those in present course of construction are considered.

Phone W. E. Lowe, at the Metropolitan Cafe for service car day or night.

## BALLOONS SENT UP TURN AEROPLANES

Sunday evening a short time after dark Chief Ferrier sent up a large paper balloon. The wind carried the hot air paper bag in an easterly direction and watchers pronounced that it was going directly over Abilene.

Next afternoon when copies of the Abilene Reporter were received here, a two column aeroplane story was inserted therein.

Some good Abilene citizens, yes, two of them, had seen something the night before. Whatever it was flew over Abilene and disappeared in a cloud. The watchers thought they heard a dull hum or dron like the motor of an aeroplane gives out, and on telling their story to Frank Grimes of the Reporter—a big writeup came out, and Abilene people wondered if Germany was sending their Taubes our way.

After reading and thinking over this Abilene Reporter article of Monday, Chief Ferrier sent up two more balloons from in front of his business, the Elite Confectionery here. These two balloons like the one of the evening before traveled in an easterly direction, apparently going directly toward Abilene.

To Merkel people the departure of these hot air bags did not arouse a particle of enthusiasm but in Abilene two more aeroplanes were seen and one was so positive he said he would swear that he heard the engines running, while another man said the machines were so close to the ground he could almost detect the outlines. And again, Frank Grimes of the Reporter, made a scoop aeroplane story out of two toy balloons sent up from here.

The Reporter advises that parties living in San Angelo have recently seen or heard aeroplanes at night. This does not seem unusual—that people living in San Angelo should see things like aeroplanes, snakes and the like at night; but for people in Abilene to begin seeing things in big bunches makes us think that the fiery fluid flows freely during the holidays and the ill effects are just now perceptible.

In the future when anybody here sends up a toy balloon, it would be better to advise the neighboring towns, else they may report that Villa's air bandits were raiding their town.

## W. O. W. CIRCLE ANNUAL AFFAIRS

This Friday night the W. O. W. and Circle will have their annual Eve feast at the Woodman Hall and all members are notified. It was first the plan of the Circle but the idea has spread until a joint celebration will be held.

On Tuesday the Stith lodge and Circle held their annual joint installation at the Stith lodge halls in an event similar to what is planned here. Messrs. T. F. Compton and W. L. Burns from here were at the Stith meeting and assisted in the installation.

## New Telephone Manager Here

Relieving J. F. Holdridge resigned, Mr. O. C. Lomax now in charge of the Southwestern Telephone Company here.

Mr. Lomax assumed charge of the Merkel station the first while Mr. Holdridge is taking advantage of a much needed rest.

See Allen & Jones for all kinds of feed, in Boyce Building.



Statement of Condition

# Farmers State BANK

Merkel, Texas

At Close of Business Dec. 27, 1916

## RESOURCES

Loans	\$211,968.21
Banking House	9,500.00
Other Real Estate	2,500.00
Furniture and Fixtures	3,950.00
Interest in Gty. Fund	2,720.32
Cash and Exchange	186,354.12
Total	\$416,992.65

## LIABILITIES

Capital Stock	\$ 35,000.00
Surplus and Profits	26,150.30
Deposits	355,242.35
Reserved for Taxes	600.00
Total	\$416,992.65

The above statement is correct.

R. O. ANDERSON, Cashier

Commence Business January, 1912

Safety—Service—Satisfaction

We Solicit Your Business

## How a Mother Saved Her Son

By EUNICE BLAKE

Ten or fifteen years ago we heard more of anarchists than we do today. Possibly the great war has produced a condition in Europe more terrible than anything the wildest anarchist had ever dreamed of. There was a time when the anarchists of the world were well organized, being in touch with one another all over the world, and the circle was more powerful with respect to its members than any of the tyrants it wished to eliminate.

Manuel Fernandez, a Spaniard, was in his youth converted to the theories of the anarchists, and when he was twenty-one years old he offered himself for any purpose by which he might serve the cause. He was informed that lots would be drawn by a number of devotees as to who should assassinate a sovereign. Manuel volunteered to be one of those to risk having to perform the work and drew the fatal black ball.

He was at once taken apart from the others and given the name of the sovereign he was to assassinate. He was also warned that any talking would result in his own death.

"If you do your duty like a man," said his instructor, "you will be honored; if you shrink from it you will be followed to the ends of the earth. No country is remote enough to shield you."

Manuel being face to face with the reality, the ideal faded away very quickly. He was horrified at the position in which he had placed himself. Going to his mother, he threw himself into her arms as he had done when a boy and told her all.

Senora Fernandez was a woman of great resource. She began at once to think out a plan for saving her son and when she had come to a decision said to him:

"My boy, we must find a way to convince your associates that you are dead. Appear to be making preparations for the crime you are expected to commit, and I will be making preparations for your pretended death."

Manuel at once began to appear to experiment with bombs in a little outhouse in the rear of his home. He applied to his anarchist associates for some one versed in chemistry to be sent him as an instructor. A man was detailed for the purpose, and Manuel appeared to be an attentive student. The two secretly worked together at such times as they could do so without running much risk of being discovered, and in time several bombs were made, any one of which was capable of killing a dozen men.

Manuel succeeded in impressing his instructor with the belief that he was really studying how to make bombs that he might do his duty by his anarchist comrades. He proved an apt pupil and as he progressed insisted on making the explosives himself. When he seemed competent to do so he told his instructor that he needed him no longer. The man went away, cautioning Manuel to be very careful lest he cause a premature explosion with himself or the victim.

One night, or rather, morning—for it was about 2 o'clock those living near the Fernandez home were awakened by a terrific explosion. The police at once rushed there and found Senora Fernandez bending over a body which she said was her son. It was so mutilated that its features were not distinguishable, but the clothes on it were those worn by Manuel. The woman was loud in her grief, especially that her son should have died in such a cause, for there was plenty of evidence that he had been making bombs for an illegitimate purpose. The police made their notes, then told the mother that she might bury the body. She waited till she saw the man she had seen working with her son come to view the corpse.

"How do you know that this is the body of your son?" he asked. "The features are unrecognizable."

"Because of the clothes. Do you not remember that suit he wore?"

The man seemed satisfied and went away. The same afternoon there was a funeral at the Fernandez home, and the body was laid away.

The evening before the tragedy Manuel Fernandez, disguised as an old man, took a train for Gibraltar, where he waited for a ship to take him to America. He was fortunate in the fact that one from Genoa stopped there the day after his arrival. He at once took passage in the steamer and in due time reached New York.

While he had been learning how to make the bombs his mother was arranging for the explosion. She went to a medical college and made a confidante of the man in charge of subjects provided for the use of students in anatomy. He agreed to furnish her with a corpse about the size of her son, and on the night of the explosion he had it secretly conveyed to her home. She dressed it in the suit of clothes her son was used to wearing and conveyed it to the outhouse where the bombs were made.

Manuel had run a wire from the outhouse to a point where his mother could easily make an electric circuit and explode a bomb. Placing the subject in the outhouse, she pressed the key and before any one had arrived on the scene removed the wire.

Senora Fernandez's plan worked successfully in every respect. But her son has never been known in America by his true name. None of his anarchist associates doubted that he met his death through carelessness.

## Moved to Abilene

Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Woodroof have moved to their new home at North Second and Grape Streets in Abilene.

Mr. Woodroof is connected with the Mungus-Woodroof haberdashers of Abilene. We regret to lose this esteemed young couple but commend them as the best of people to their neighbors in our sister city.

## A Tribute to My Father

To my father who was buried at Merkel, October 26, 1916.

He dreaded the crossing of the turbulent tide,

Of the river of death, so deep, so wide.

I told him 't would be but a heavenly dream,

That beyond the darkness the light would gleam

And mother would stand on the love lit shore

To convoy him safely through heaven's door.

I wonder did he find it so.

He longed for the land "Across the blue"

But dreaded, so dreaded, the passing through.

He loved his Savior, but somehow there crept

A fear o'er his heart that some corner unswept

Might still hold a trace of unpardoned sin

I told him "God's love would welcome him in.

I wonder did he find it so.

He felt so unworthy in the sight of God,

Yet I believe that on earth ne'er trod

A man that throughout all the days of his life

Was purer and nobler and free from strife.

My father was a man devoid of guile,

I told him his life had been worth while.

I know, I know, he's proved it so.

Go back across the years with me,

To a little town in Tennessee.

And list to the verdicts one by one

From the lips of those who in days long gone

Walked side by side with him, no word or aught

From that throng is heard.

I know; they said so long ago.

My father, I know the helmsman bore thee,

Safe, safe, across the troubled sea.

And anchored thy bark on the shining sand

And placed thy feet on the golden strand.

Thy tortured heart finds peace at last,

All, all thy suffering forever passed.

But, O! I miss, I miss thee so.

One night when this constant, awful dread

Of death was on him, I knelt at his bed,

While asking God to remove his fear,

In turn he tried to give me cheer.

Those spoken words hold comfort rare.

But his latter days, how hard to bear.

I must submit, God willed it so.

—By his daughter, Pattie C. Wright, Eskota, Texas, December 29, 1916.

## DRAUGHON'S

PRACTICAL Business College

ABILENE, TEXAS

Only well-known Business College in West Texas. Thousands of firms nearer our Employment Department than any other. Money-back contract guarantees position. Catalogue FREE.

## Don't Overlook

that subscription. If you are in arrears remember that we can always find good use for

the MONEY

## STATEMENT OF THE Farmers & Merchants NATIONAL BANK OF MERKEL, TEXAS

At Close of Business Wednesday, December 27, 1916

## RESOURCES

Loans	\$244,269.33
U. S. Bonds—par	10,250.00
Stock in Federal Reserve Bank	1,500.00
Five Per Cent Redemption Fund	312.50
Furniture and Fixtures	3,600.00
Real Estate	5,900.00
CASH AND EXCHANGE	246,367.61
Total	\$512,199.44

## LIABILITIES

Capital Stock	\$ 25,000.00
Surplus and Profits	48,503.34
Circulation	6,250.00
Bills Payable	None
Rediscounts	None
Other Borrowed Money	None
DEPOSITS	432,446.10
Total	\$512,199.44

We appreciate your business and are anxious to render good Banking Service to our friends and patrons at all times.

THOS. JOHNSON, Cashier.

## WEAR A CLEAN SUIT

LET

FERGUSON & RENFRO, The Tailors

AT THE CITY BARBER SHOP DO

Your Cleaning and Pressing

## BONEY'S AUTO SERVICE

Phone 263 Merkel Cafe

Goes Anywhere at Any Time

I'll Take You and Bring You Back. Night Phone No. 9

Marvin Boney

O. S. BURNS, Merkel

## Dodge Service Car

Goes Day or Night—Anywhere

Phone 6, Elite Confectionery—Nite Phone 136

## Automobile Livery

Phone No. 4—Metropolitan Cafe

Calls answered Day or Night

Phone me when you want to go somewhere

W. E. LOWE :: Service Cars

R. D. BROYLES

## Veterinary Surgeon and Dentist

Blair Hotel :: Merkel, Texas

Calls answered Day or Night

Family Dr. says:  
When you eat too much take some of our Medicine.



ABUSING YOUR "STOMACH" IS THE CAUSE OF MOST OF YOUR SICKNESS. WHEN YOU EAT TOO MUCH TAKE SOMETHING IN TIME TO AID YOUR DIGESTION.

IT IS A WISE THING TO HAVE RIGHT WITH YOU OR IN THE HOUSE SOME "DYSPEPSIA TABLETS" AND A TONIC.

WHenever you need medicines or any sort of drug store things, come to us for them for when you deal with us you can "RELY" ON WHAT YOU BUY.

## GRIMES DRUG STORE

## DO YOU DREAD WINTER?

If every man, woman and child in this vicinity would only take one spoonful of

## SCOTT'S EMULSION

after meals for one month, it would put vigor in their blood to withstand the rigors of winter weather and help prevent colds, grippe, and winter sickness.

SCOTT'S is a fortifying medicinal-food of particular benefit in changing seasons, and every drop yields direct returns in richer blood, stronger lungs, and greater resistive power. No alcohol in SCOTT'S.

Scott & Bowman, Bloomfield, N. J.

14-11



## A Singular Marriage

By DONALD CHAMBERLIN

When I walked the deck of the liner Arganda on the third day out and saw for the first time among the passengers who were recovering from mal de mer and getting out from the ship's smells to help them do so Helen Timerson I little thought that within five days she would be my wife and we would be married in a way such as no couple had been married before.

I was going abroad to establish a wireless telegraph station, wireless telegraphy being my profession. I kept away from the wireless office on the ship, fearing to make known my interest in wireless matters, and I did not care to have what I might say reported. But a time came when this did not deter me.

We were steaming along through a thick fog one afternoon when suddenly I felt a shock. We had collided with a vessel, which passed out of sight, leaving us with a big hole in our ship's bottom. I ran to the wireless office, and from that time till the vessel went down I alternated with the operator calling for help. Meanwhile the ship had been put on a course toward the shore, and when we were left on the water we were not far from it.

I was picked up by a boat that had left the ship with but a few persons in her, and during the exposure that followed they all died. How I kept body and soul together I am at a loss to know. I have a hazy remembrance of the boat being overturned and I expecting to be drowned. But later I found myself lying on a beach. This seemed like life to me, and I made an effort. Sitting up, I looked about me and saw only bodies of those who had been washed ashore from the wreck. It was a gruesome sight, one that I shall never forget. And I was oppressed with the thought how narrowly I had escaped a like fate.

Presently I arose and staggered about on my feet. One of the first objects to confront me was the girl I had seen on the steamer's deck—Helen Timerson. I supposed she was dead. I approached her and saw that she breathed. I had a flask in my pocket with top well screwed on, and I had refrained from taking the last drink. This I gave to the girl, and it revived her.

Looking about me, I discerned at a distance the antennae of a wireless station. Expecting that there would be persons there, I took Miss Timerson in my arms and carried her there. What was my surprise to find the place deserted. Why no one was there I do not know. I was alone with the girl, and I prepared something for Miss Timerson, feeding her carefully.

Well, to make a long story short, we were the only two persons on that island for a week. Others started to go there, but were turned from their course. Within a couple of days of our arrival the young lady and I had quite recovered our strength, and I noticed that she seemed concerned at the equivocal position in which she was placed being alone with a man. I told her that the circumstances in which we were placed would preserve us from scandal. She replied that they should preserve us, but they would not. There were always persons who would take advantage of such a situation to cast a slur.

I told her that if she felt that way about the matter there was but one recourse for us—to be married. After much pondering without reply to this she said that she did not see how we could be married, since there was no one to marry us and no witnesses. A plan occurred to me for a marriage ceremony that would be legal, but it seemed so wild that I said nothing to her about it at the time.

The next day I led Miss Timerson into the operating room and began to call for ships out at sea. I soon came in touch with a tramp steamer 500 miles distant and asked if there was a clergyman aboard. The reply being in the affirmative, I called for him and asked if he would marry a couple by wireless. He assented, and I then told Helen what I had done.

We were an hour talking the matter over, at the end of which time we agreed to be married. I called the ship I had called before, gave the parson our names and such other information as was required, and we went through a marriage ceremony by wireless telegraphy. The minister was requested to send the certificate to her address, duly witnessed by two persons on board the vessel.

The day after our union a boat arrived, bringing persons to take charge of the station, and the same boat took me and my bride to the mainland. On reaching it we learned of the great commotion excited by the loss of the Arganda and that we had both been reported among the missing.

Before going among our friends my wife requested that nothing be said about our marriage until she could ascertain how our being together on a deserted island would be received. She soon had cause to announce to the world that we were man and wife.

Although our marriage was for the purpose of avoiding a bluish, it turned out to be a very happy union. We have been blessed with a numerous progeny, and nothing has occurred to cause us to regret the step we took.



A few pairs of house shoes left—must be sold. Prices greatly reduced. Former prices \$1.25, \$1.50 and \$1.75. Now 95c and \$1.20.

Some \$4.50, \$5 and \$5.50 skirts, all new latest styles and patterns. Close out. Price \$3.65.

# IT WILL PAY YOU TO BUY NOW

YOU CAN NOW FILL YOUR WARDROBE AND SAVE MONEY. WE HAVE REDUCED PRICES ON ARTICLES IN EVERY DEPARTMENT.

YOU CAN BUY WHAT YOU NEED TO FINISH OUT THIS WINTER AND FOR EARLY WEAR NEXT WINTER.

OUR ORIGINAL PRICES ARE ALWAYS ONLY WHAT OUR GOOD GOODS ARE WORTH; OUR "REDUCTIONS" SAVE YOU MONEY.

IT WILL PAY YOU TO BUY NOW AND FILL YOUR WARDROBE FULL.

GROCERIES	
7 pounds Coffee	\$1.00
5 pounds good Peaberry	1.00
100 pounds best Flour	4.80
3-pound can Kraut	10c
2-pound can Tomatoes	10c
6 boxes best Matches	25c

We guarantee to save you money. Space forbids additional price making. We have chops, bran and shorts, and all other heavy groceries. Get our prices before you buy.

THE STAR STORE

## An Escape

By ELINOR MARSH

A young Russian named Ivan Ivanovitch, living at Kars, not many miles north of the boundary line between Russia and Turkey, found employment across the border and while there fell in love with a young Turkish girl. Her father refused her to him unless he would renounce the Christian religion and become a Mohammedan. Ivan was averse to doing so, but it is easy for one who is in love to find a salve for his conscience, and he finally consented. He professed adhesion to the prophet, and the two were married. This is a simple matter with the Turks, for the bride is conducted to the groom's house and left there with him. There is no such ceremony as among Christians.

Of course the young husband's conversion was a form, but he was obliged to go to prayers in the mosque like any Mohammedan and otherwise conform to that religion. After awhile he grew tired of this and, taking his wife with him, went back to the other side of the border.

Now, it was not long after the Ivanovitch family made this move that the Grand Duke Nicholas marched by, impressing men into his army as he advanced, taking Ivan among the number. When the latter found that they were marching on Erzerum he was much concerned, for it was near that city that he had married his wife, and if he should be captured and recognized fighting in a Christian army against the followers of Mohammed he would suffer as dreadful fate as could be visited on a renegade.

Ivanovitch was on the flank of his army and ten miles to the northwest of Erzerum. There he was captured by the Turks and carried with them in their retreat before the Russians toward Trebizond.

Just before the Russian advance into Turkey, Mme. Ivanovitch went on a visit to her people and was there during the surrender of Erzerum by the Turks. One day while looking at some Russian prisoners who were being marched by, she saw her husband among them.

The good woman was seized with the same trepidation as Ivan, that he might be recognized as a Mohammedan renegade. Wishing to be near him to afford him such protection as she might be able, she followed the prisoners, their captors taking them along in retreat, and saw them go into bivouac for the night.

Now, there was no opportunity for a woman to mingle among men in Turkey, for Turkish women and men do not associate together as in other countries. The only way Mme. Ivanovitch could go among the soldiers and prisoners was by assuming man's attire. Entering the women's quarters of a house near by, she prevailed upon a wife to procure her a suit of her husband's, which she put on and, carrying her own clothes in a bundle under her arm, went to the place where the prisoners were. There she made friends with the guard and offered her services for any duty she might perform. She was told that she might take part in watching the prisoners, and, obtaining a gun, she stood guard with the rest.

Toward midnight she took position near her husband and dropped her bundle beside him, at the same time making signs to him to roll into some underbrush a few yards from him. Slowly edging in that direction, he came to the edge of the brush. Most of them were near enough to observe Ivan, and Mme. Ivanovitch placed herself between the two. Then the prisoner rolled into the brush.

As soon as he examined the contents of the bundle he saw his wife's design. As a man in Russian uniform it would be impossible for him to make his way through the Turkish lines, but as a woman he would have every advantage, especially as the face of a Turkish woman is always hidden by a veil. Under cover of the darkness he took off his clothes and put on those of his wife, then made his way out of the bivouac of guards and prisoners.

Coming to the road over which he had been marched during the day, he walked along it till he came to a house. There he took refuge in an outhouse till morning, when he rapped at the women's quarters. He was admitted, made up a story of having been to see an officer to whom she (he) was married, and was treated with kindness.

Here he was in double danger, for he was not only a renegade Mussulman, but a man in the women's quarters, a place where not even a husband may enter unless his wife is without visitors. However, he insisted on remaining veiled and got out as soon as he could without exciting suspicion.

Following the road back toward the Russians, he modestly withdrew to one side on meeting Turkish soldiers who were hurrying before their conquerors. At last he met the Russian advance and, lifting his veil, revealed himself as a man and a Russian.

The next meeting between Ivanovitch and his wife was in a hospital with the Russian lines. He had been taken ill and relegated to the quarters of the sick. Mme. Ivanovitch had made her way back toward Erzerum and had been hoping that he had made good his escape. She had gone with Red Cross nurses to help in the hospital, and one day as she was passing his cot the two met.

She was free to kneel beside him, and the two embraced with thanks, the one to God, the other to Allah.

## LOCAL NEWS

Leave your order for ear corn with Allen & Jones.

Miss Mary Jennings, a student at S. M. W. at Dallas, was a visitor here last week.

Phone W. E. Lowe, at the Metropolitan Cafe for service car day or night.

Miss Kate Stroud of Robert Lee arrived Saturday for a ten days' visit with Miss Gladys Demere of Route 5.

Car of ear corn expected to arrive at once. Allen & Jones.

Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Miller who spent Christmas with the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Garrett, have returned home to Tolar.

Service Car day or night—Marvin Boney. Phone 263. Busy Bee Cafe. Night phone No. 9.

G. W. Chadwick of Salt Branch was in our office Saturday on business. He had no out-of-town visitors at his home Christmas, and he said, "he hoped some of them would not come soon."

John Cozart and daughters, Misses Elsie and Floy, of Colorado, came in last week to visit relatives and friends here.

J. E. Costephens and wife returned from a week's stay at Haskell and Stamford Friday, at which places they visited relatives. They report an enjoyable trip.

Not because it is an honored custom, but because of the sincerity of my appreciation, I take this opportunity to thank you for the part you have played in my business prosperity for the past 12 months, and for your continued patronage with a happy and prosperous New Year. Sincerely, Henry M. Rose, the oil man and sheet metal worker.

T. V. Touchstone of Chillicothe returned home last Friday after a few days' visit with relatives here. Mrs. Touchstone remained until Friday of this week before returning.

Mrs. Virgil Clower has returned to Paxton after visiting her mother and sister, Mrs. C. and Miss Flora Wright.

L. T. Cunningham, rural school supervisor of the state, with County Superintendent J. S. Smith and W. A. Taylor, were here the first of the week. Mr. Cunningham is winding up his work in this county, having visited all the rural schools.

# HUNT'S LIGHTNING OIL

Good druggists everywhere are quick to recommend Hunt's Lightning Oil when a healing lotion or liniment is asked for. It has been the standard home remedy for more than thirty years. Nothing is so powerful in dealing with pain.

SOLD ONLY IN 25c AND 50c BOTTLES



**RHEUMATISM**—Simply rub Hunt's Lightning Oil on the afflicted part. It is quick in action, driving the pain entirely out—soothing the hurting parts. It is truly astonishing to feel the almost instant effect that this powerful liniment has on pain. The hurting seems to be gone almost before the application is completed.

**NEURALGIA?**—I have been afflicted with neuralgia spells periodically for several years until I learned of Hunt's Lightning Oil. It permanently cured me. I have never had a pain that it would not relieve and I have been using Hunt's Lightning Oil for fifteen years," says Uncle Jesse Loving, the best known citizen of Grayson County, Texas.

**CUTS & BURNS**—I would almost as soon think of running my farm without implements as without Hunt's Lightning Oil. Of all the liniments I have ever used for cuts and burns, it is the quickest in action and richest in results. For burns and flesh cuts it is absolutely wonderful. I regard it as a household necessity," says Mr. S. Harrison, Kosciusko, Miss. Thousands praise it.

**HEADACHES**—If space would permit, I could print out all of the testimonials written of the relief that Hunt's Lightning Oil has given to headaches, no news would be published in this paper. It would all be Hunt's Lightning Oil praise. If you suffer, don't hesitate a moment but come to our store and get a bottle of Hunt's Lightning Oil. A surprise will be in store for you. 50c and 25c bottles.

SOLD LOCALLY BY

H. C. Burroughs

## CLASSIFIED ADS

NOTICE—I have on my ranch 25 head of 3-year-old, halter-broke mules to let out to responsible parties to work. S. N. Morrison. 5t2p

FOR SALE—A good, 3-room house at a bargain. See W. L. Diltz. 5t1f

FOR SALE—1914 Studebaker automobile. See Dr. Foster. 5t4p

FOR SALE—Jersey cows, fresh, select stock, must sell, overstocked.—T. W. Collins, Near Stith. 5t2p

FOR SALE—Mare and colt. For cash or good note. C. L. Tucker. 8t1f

FOR SALE—A good second hand surry, a buggy and a light one horse wagon. E. D. Coats. 2t1f

FOR RENT.—Furnished rooms for light housekeeping and one single room. Phone 17 or see Mrs. Allen at Woodroofs.

FOR SALE.—Work horses, mules and mares, second hand planters and cultivators. M. Armstrong.

FOR SALE:—4 Bay horses 1 Bay Mare, 2 to 4 years old \$75.00 to \$100.00 per head, or \$400.00 for the 5 head. A. B. Granston. Route 1. 2t13pd

FOR SALE:—Jersey Cows, Fresh, select stock, must sell, overstocked.—T. W. Collins, Near Stith. 2t13pd

FOR SALE OR TRADE.—Standard double disc Plow. E. Barnes Merkel 2t13pd

LOST:—One bay mare and black filly colt. Notify Chas. Orr, Merkel. 2t13pd

Carey Touchstone who has been teaching at Laredo returned home for the Christmas holidays. On account of his health Mr. Touchstone has been compelled to give up his work there and his plans for the future are indefinite.

Mrs. Victor Harris and little Ruby are in El Paso for a protracted stay if the change proves beneficial to the former's health. While there they are guests of Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Maxwell.

### Masons to Meet Saturday

Saturday night is regular meeting night of the Masonic Lodge. All members are requested to be present and visitors are cordially invited. Victor Harris, W. M.

### Six Per Cent Money

On good improved farms, 25 years here in the business. Write us what you have and find out what we can do for you before you place your loan. Compege & Comper, District Managers, Abilene, Texas.

### Attention Firemen

Monday night is our annual meeting night for election of officers and other business. Be sure to attend. F. J. Ferrier, Chief.

B. R. Adams left last week for the Tahoka country where he will farm during the ensuing year.



# Start The New Year Right

Order from **E. L. ROGERS** anything you want in the Grocery  
 ---fancy and staple line. Our goods always new and fresh, and  
 from **Merkel's Foremost Grocery**

MISS EVELYN WILLIAMS, EDITOR

## Merry Wives

Miss Jesse Sutphen was hostess to the Merry Wives Club on their regular meeting day Wednesday of last week.

The dinner in which all the Wives aided in preparation was of great variety and more delicious than usual for this special occasion.

The always pleasant day was added to on this occasion by the presence of several outside friends, these being Miss Agnes Powell, Mr. and Mrs. T. V. Touchstone of Chillicothe, Messrs. Emmett and Ennis Grimes. In all, about twenty guests were present.

## New Year Party

The Junior Class of the Methodist Sunday School was entertained by their teacher, Mrs. Ben Merritt last Monday afternoon. The warm afternoon made outdoor pleasures suitable, so a number of games were played.

Those present of the class were Buford Smith, Wilbur Thomas, Gaston Bond, Dick Mims, Mary Rogers, Mossie Sears and Ina Lee Ely. Visitors: Marvin Sherrill, Roy, Harry and Lewis Tucker, Harry Merritt, Allen Edwards, Lois Dry and Ruth Jones.

Refreshments of punch and cake were served and Mrs. Merritt was assisted in entertaining by Bonnie Sherrill, Loel Merritt and Miss Lucille Edwards.

## Six O'clock Dinner

To honor the Christmas visitors of the members of the Merry Wives Club a dinner was given at the Metropolitan Cafe last Friday evening. Those honored were Misses May Burkett of Abilene, Murtice Huffaker of Greenville and Mrs. Virgil Touchstone of Chillicothe, Henry Coit of Renner and Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Woodroof who leave this week to make Abilene their home. The other guests were Misses Warren and Sutphen, Messrs. and Mesdames L. B. Howard, Robert Hicks, H. C. Burroughs, Jr. and Geo. D. Graves, Messrs. Emmett, Ennis and Dee Grimes.

After dinner skating was the diversion the remainder of the evening.

## Kimbrough-Harris

Word has been received by his parents of the wedding of Thaddeus L. Harris and Miss Mabel Kimbrough of Mississippi on Dec. 20th.

Although Mr. Harris spends a large part of his time in the old state he is considered one of Merkel's son and we would wish, now that he has won the charm which drew him there, that they will return to the west to live.

The groom's friends here extend their wishes for happiness and success.

## Wheeler-Harris

The Baptist parsonage was the scene of a quiet wedding Sunday when Miss Willa Wheeler became

the wife of A. B. Harris, at 3 in the afternoon. Beside Rev. Owens' family W. W. Wheeler and Miss Maggie, father and sister of the bride, Mr. and Mrs. Jno. Wheeler and Miss Sophia Howard were present for the wedding.

The bride was dressed in a tailored suit of brown with shoes to match and a white hat.

Miss Willa, who is the daughter of Judge and Mrs. W. W. Wheeler, has lived in Merkel since childhood and is sincerely loved by all who know her. She is a character of true worth to her home, her church and her friends, and will no doubt prove a valued companion to the man whom she has wed.

While the groom has land interests south of Merkel, Mr. and Mrs. Harris are now living in Merkel and will remain here at least during the winter.

The heartiest congratulations are extended these two.

## Wedded in Honolulu

Through Mrs. Victor Harris who is visiting in El Paso, word has been received of the marriage of her brother, E. C. Counts. The wedding having been on Dec. 31 in Honolulu.

Miss Edith Pratt, a resident of that city being the bride. Mr. and Mrs. Counts will make their home in Honolulu, the former having recently gone in business there.

The marriage is the culmination of a romance of Mr. Count's visit to Honolulu several years ago. Following his residence there for some two years, he went to China for an extended business stay, and later returned to the States, to be drawn back to the Islands by love ties this last year. A cablegram brought the news back to relatives and friends who extend congratulations across the sea for wealth, health and happiness to Mr. and Mrs. Counts.



## W. W. DARBY

THE BEST KNOWN, BEST LIKED, BEST BOOKKEEPING TEACHER IN TEXAS

is Now Teaching Bookkeeping in Draughon's Practical Business College at Dallas, "The City of Good Positions."

At no other time in the history of Texas has business been better or positions more plentiful.

Combined Bookkeepers and Stenographers are as staple in business at Dallas as sugar and coffee is a grocery store.

IF INTERESTED, WRITE, WIRE OR PHONE TODAY DRAUGHON'S PRACTICAL BUSINESS COLLEGE

2409 1/2 Commerce St. Dallas, Texas

Miss Mamie Rister, formerly connected with the Parton Dry Goods Co., has accepted a position with the Anchor Mercantile Company as saleslady having accepted the new position the 1st.

Dr. and Mrs. Sherrill formerly of Bellvue are here to make Merkel their home. They arrived this week and the doctor will open his dental offices over the Farmers State Bank just as soon as his instruments arrive.

## The Degeneracy of Modern War

By Captain F. A. MITCHEL

"I don't see how they're going to make stories about this big war in Europe," said the G. A. R. veteran, "when it's all over. What kind of a war is it, anyway? A hundred thousand men march up against a line of trenches defended by rapid fire guns, electric wires and grenades; 60,000 or 70,000 of them are either killed or wounded, while the rest capture a few yards of territory or are driven back without having accomplished anything. You might as well extract romance from the Chicago stockyards on killing day."

The remark was made to a party of men sitting on chairs tilted against the outside of a country store.

"Where's the romance in the war you fit in?" asked an old farmer, taking his pipe out of his mouth and looking at the G. A. R. man doubtfully.

"What is it? Why, that war was brimful of it. It was spread over a big country; there were comparatively few battles; a small amount of taking fortifications and all the rest was romance. I don't mean girl romance, though there was plenty of that. I mean adventure romance. I was concerned in one of 'em myself. We was layin' quiet in camp, down in Tennessee, one summer's evening, singin', 'When this cruel war is over,' or 'Lorena' or some other of the romantic war songs of that time, when my captain came along in a hurry, shoutin', 'Any locomotive engineer among you boys?' I said I'd been a fireman on a locomotive and could run a machine rollable well. He yanked me off to the general, who asked me a few questions, then told me that the bridge guard across the Tennessee river, twenty miles above us, had been attacked and unless he could get re-enforcements there right off the bridge would be taken and burned. This would break our line of communications and we might have to give up a big stretch of country we occupied. He wanted an engineer to take a regiment through to the rescue. The officer commanding the guard had telegraphed that he couldn't hold out much longer, when the wire was cut.

"The train was made up and 400 men were hurrying into the cars. A locomotive was being fired up, and I jumped aboard and took the throttle.

"Well, now, mebbe there was nothin' adventurous in that ride! The colonel commanding the regiment and the adjutant were in the cab with me, and it wasn't long before they were made aware of the fact that we were running a gantlet. It was the people along the road who were trying to wreck us that made it amusing. Rounding a curve, I saw about half the length of the train ahead of the wedged in under the rail. It was too late to stop, but I reversed and waited. There was a thump, but the engine stuck to the track. There were seven out of ten chances that we would have been ditched and most of us in the cab killed or maimed.

"The next amusing occurrence was the rattle of bullets against the cab. Nobody was hurt, but you'd better believe every man ducked, not excepting the colonel.

"But they didn't get the excitement out of it that I did. I was straining my eyes into the darkness ahead with my hand on the throttle, expecting every minute to run up against an obstruction. The shadow of a tree was a log felled across the track; the shadow of a stump was a tie on the rails. And sometimes the obstructions were real. Once I pulled up within a few feet of a log that had been rolled square across the rails. Another time I slowed up before reaching a switch and found that it had been left open to run us up against a brick house. You see, if they hadn't really been tryin' to wreck us there wouldn't 'a' been any excitement.

"And if there hadn't been any necessity of gain' at a rapid gait there wouldn't 'a' been any fun neither. If we didn't get there in time to save the bridge it meant the retreat of the whole army. So you see I was obliged to let her out, wagner or no danger, for if I didn't we wouldn't be in time, and we might as well be wrecked as too late. Besides, if I'd wanted to go slow the colonel, who was at my elbow, wouldn't have allowed it.

"The last obstruction was a post put up on end as a cattle guard only a few miles from the bridge. Seeing that I couldn't stop in time, I put on

## You Need a Tonic

There are times in every woman's life when she needs a tonic to help her over the hard places. When that time comes to you, you know what tonic to take—Cardui, the woman's tonic. Cardui is composed of purely vegetable ingredients, which act gently, yet surely, on the weakened womanly organs, and helps build them back to strength and health. It has benefited thousands and thousands of weak, ailing women in its past half century of wonderful success, and it will do the same for you. You can't make a mistake in taking

## GARDUI The Woman's Tonic

Miss Amelia Wilson, R. F. D. No. 4, Alma, Ark., says: "I think Cardui is the greatest medicine on earth, for women. Before I began to take Cardui, I was so weak and nervous, and had such awful dizzy spells and a poor appetite. Now I feel as well and as strong as I ever did, and can eat most anything." Begin taking Cardui today. Sold by all dealers.

Has Helped Thousands.

## Merkel Cafe

I have bought the Busy Bee Cafe and have moved from my old stand and will be glad to serve the public in the same courteous way, with the same old prices, and will be better prepared to accommodate you.

EVERYTHING UP TO DATE

I am at your service

E. L. Turner

"Ed's Place"

steam and snapped it off like a twig. "After passing this we heard firing and knew that the bridge was not yet lost. I blew a long blast on the whistle and heard a distant cheer. When we came near the bridge the colonel ordered me to stop the train in a cut. The men got out and, forming on one side of the cut on high ground, charged down on the attacking force and drove them off.

"Now, that's what I call the romance of war—the adventurous romance. When I got back to camp the general sent for me, and I thought he was going to hug me. I never saw a man look so tickled in my life. I'd saved hundreds of square miles of territory.

"What chance has any soldier to do anything like that in this big European slaughter business? I don't blame fellows for not volunteering in such a war. It's like volunteering for certain death without any of the excitement that was so fascinating in the racket we had from '61 to '65."

"How about them fellers fightin' in the sky?" asked a listener.

The G. A. R. man gave no reply.

## Six Per Cent Money

On good improved farms, 25 years in the business. Write us what you have and find out what we can do for you before you place your loan. Compere & Compere, District Managers, Abilene, Texas.

## Notice

If you want to borrow money or have your notes extended, wire, write or come to see me. Can loan you money at 8 per cent. T. C. Weir, Abilene, Tex.

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The most Up-to-Date  
SHOP IN MERKEL  
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WEST & PATE : : Proprietors

## W. O. W.

Merkel Camp No. 719 meets  
second and fourth Friday night  
of each month.

T. F. Compton, C. C.  
S. Hamilton, Clerk

Company E. 101 Reg. of U. R.

W. O. W. Merkel Camp 719  
meets every Wednesday night

## Residence for Automobile

Four room house and two lots  
in town of Rising Star. Will  
trade for second-hand auto. Preferable a Ford. Must be in good  
condition. S. W. H. Buzbee. 224p



Yes, Break Up Your  
Washboard!

Didn't you break your back, break your  
arms, break your health and break your  
clothes? Hasn't the washboard ruined  
enough clothes to deserve breaking up?

## Magic Washing Stick

Finished Mr. Washboard.

And by such gentle means. Force, as  
you know, never settles things right.  
Magic Washing Stick is not soap, but  
is used with the regular soap. It is not  
washing powder, nor lye, nor alkali,  
nor acid, nor any other harmful thing.  
It loosens the dirt by gentle means,  
by natural means. It does not damage  
the finest texture, nor harden the wool-  
ens nor shrink the flannels. The soft,  
snowy cleanliness of your fine linens,  
gretty laces and dainty lingerie will be  
a continual delight.

Once you show your help how much  
labor is saved, how much nicer the  
clothes, you need have no fear of their  
raining your clothes again.

"I was so machine and one hour with  
Magic Washing Stick puts my clothes  
on the line. I recommend it to every-  
body."

MRS. L. A. ...  
Wash Days  
Are Made  
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FIFTEEN WASHINGS 25 CTS.  
For less than 2c a day you save two  
hours time, you save your clothes, you  
save your feelings. You save your looks.  
Use one stick, five washings, and it not  
stand year 20c. WILL BE RETURNED.

Sold by all Drugists and Grocery stores.  
If you don't see it, write to us, we'll  
send you a free trial. Or send 25c in  
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Citation by Publication

The State of Texas—To the Sheriff of Taylor County, Greeting

You are hereby commanded to summon R. S. Snell, and the unknown heirs of R. S. Snell deceased, the unknown heirs of Robert T. Walker, deceased, L. M. Snell and the unknown heirs of L. M. Snell, Fannie Naill and the unknown heirs of Fannie Naill, S. A. Naill and the unknown heirs of S. A. Naill, Laura M. Cadwell, and the unknown heirs of Laura M. Cadwell, H. M. Cadwell and the unknown heirs of H. M. Cadwell, Mary E. Cadwell and the unknown heirs of Mary E. Cadwell, J. A. Cadwell and the unknown heirs of J. A. Cadwell, Carrie Snell and the unknown heirs of Carrie Snell, Rosella Doggett, and the unknown heirs of Rosella Doggett, James Doggett and the unknown heirs of James Doggett, T. S. Doggett and the unknown heirs of T. S. Doggett, Clara W. Cantrell and the unknown heirs of Clara W. Cantrell, J. R. Lawrence and the unknown heirs of J. R. Lawrence, Mary O. Eads and the unknown heirs of Mary O. Eads, Eliza Ewing Brownrigg and the unknown heirs of Eliza Ewing Brownrigg, Elizabeth Blount Brownrigg and the unknown heirs of Elizabeth Blount Brownrigg, B. F. Eads and the unknown heirs of B. F. Eads, J. R. Stuart and the unknown heirs of J. R. Stuart, A. J. Stuart and the unknown heirs of A. J. Stuart, R. A. Ellis and the unknown heirs of R. A. Ellis, D. B. Corley and the unknown heirs of D. B. Corley, H. K. Martin and the unknown heirs of H. K. Martin, Joel A. Corley and the unknown heirs of Joel A. Corley, Bettie Brownrigg and the unknown heirs of Bettie Brownrigg, Ewing Brownrigg and the unknown heirs of Ewing Brownrigg, and W. H. Woodman and the heirs of W. H. Woodman, by making publication of this Citation once in each week for eight consecutive weeks previous to the return day hereof, in some newspaper published in your County, if there be a newspaper published therein, but if not, then in any newspaper published in the 42nd Judicial District; but if there be no newspaper published in said Judicial District, then in a newspaper published in the nearest District to said 42nd Judicial District, to appear at the next regular term to the District Court of Taylor County, to be holden at the Court House thereof, in Abilene, on the 4th Monday in February A. D. 1917, the same being the 25th day of February A. D. 1917, then and there to answer a petition filed in said Court on the 20th day of December A. D. 1916, in a suit, numbered on the docket of said Court No. 3743, wherein D. McMahan Plaintiff, and R. S. Snell, and the unknown heirs of R. S. Snell, deceased, the unknown heirs of Robert T. Walker, deceased, L. M. Snell and the unknown heirs of L. M. Snell, Fannie Naill and the unknown heirs of Fannie Naill, S. A. Naill and the unknown heirs of S. A. Naill, Laura M. Cadwell and the unknown heirs of Laura M. Cadwell, H. M. Cadwell and the unknown heirs of H. M. Cadwell, Mary E. Cadwell and the unknown heirs of Mary E. Cadwell, J. A. Cadwell and the unknown heirs of J. A. Cadwell, Carrie Snell and the unknown heirs of Carrie Snell, Rosella Doggett and the unknown heirs of Rosella Doggett, James Doggett and the unknown heirs of James Doggett, T. S. Doggett and the unknown heirs of T. S. Doggett, Lana & Lane, a firm composed of C. E. Lane and T. W. Lane, Clara W. Cantrell and the unknown heirs of Clara W. Cantrell, J. R. Lawrence and the unknown heirs of J. R. Lawrence, Mary O. Eads and the unknown heirs of Mary O. Eads, Eliza Ewing Brownrigg and the unknown heirs of Eliza Ewing Brownrigg, Elizabeth Blount Brownrigg and the unknown heirs of Elizabeth Blount Brownrigg, B. F. Eads and the unknown heirs of B. F. Eads, J. R. Stuart and the unknown heirs of J. R. Stuart, A. J. Stuart and the unknown heirs of A. J. Stuart, R. A. Ellis and the unknown heirs of R. A. Ellis, D. B. Corley and the unknown heirs of D. B. Corley, H. K. Martin and the unknown heirs of H. K. Martin, Joel A. Corley and the unknown heirs of Joel A. Corley, Bettie Brownrigg and the unknown heirs of Bettie Brownrigg, Ewing Brownrigg and the unknown heirs of Ewing Brownrigg, and W. H. Woodman and the unknown heirs of W. H. Woodman, are Defendants, and said petition alleging

FIRST That the respective residences of each and all of the defendants hereinabove named are to this plaintiff unknown, except the residences of the defendants, C. E. Lane and T. W. Lane; That the residence of C. E. Lane is Galveston County, Texas, and the residence of T. W. Lane is Fayette County, Texas.

SECOND That on or about December 1st, 1916, plaintiff was lawfully seized and possessed of the following described lands and premises, situated in Taylor County, Texas, holding and claiming the same in fee simple, to-wit:

154 acres of land more or less, out of the B. H. H. Butts survey No. 60, described as follows: BEGINNING at the S. E. corner of a 47-acre tract of out of said survey sold by George Court to J. F. Strickland, by deed

dated July 13th, 1885, and recorded in the Deeds Records of Taylor County, Texas, Vol. M, page 563, to which reference is made, said beginning point being on the bank of the Clear Fork of the Brazos River; THENCE West with the South line of said Strickland tract, 1137 vrs to the West line of said Butts survey; THENCE South with the West line of said Butts survey to the S. W. corner of a tract of land sold by C. P. Gamble to George Ridenour, by deed dated May 7th, 1885, and recorded in the Deed Records of Taylor County, Texas, Vol. K, page 449, to which reference is made; THENCE with the Buffalo Gap and Mount Moro public road N. 89 E. 45 vrs; S. 82 E. 32 vrs; S. 81 E. 118 vrs; N. 71 E. 409 vrs to the bank of the Clear Fork of the Brazos river; THENCE down the river with its meanders to the place of beginning.

THIRD That on the day and year last aforesaid, defendants unlawfully entered upon said premises and ejected plaintiff therefrom, and unlawfully withholds from plaintiff the possession thereof, to his damage \$5000.00. That the reasonable annual rental value of said land and premises is \$500.00.

FOURTH That plaintiff purchased said premises from R. O. Proctor et al, by good and sufficient general warranty deed, dated November 16th, 1916, and recorded in the Deed Records of Taylor County, Texas, Vol. —, page —; That said R. O. Proctor et al, from whom plaintiff purchased said property, were the heirs and all of the heirs of George Ridenour, deceased, and his deceased wife, Nancy P. Ridenour. That the said George Ridenour purchased from C. P. Gamble said premises by good and sufficient general warranty deed, dated May 7th, 1885, and recorded in the Deed Records of Taylor County, Texas, in Vol. K, page 449, to which reference is made; that the said C. P. Gamble purchased said premises from B. F. Eads and wife, Mary O. Eads et al, by good and sufficient general warranty deed, dated June 15th, 1878, and recorded in the Deed Records of Taylor County, Texas, Vol. A, page 191, to which reference is made. That said C. P. Gamble also purchased said property from J. A. Corley by quit-claim deed dated December 11th 1878, and recorded in the Deed Records of Taylor County, Texas, Vol. A, page 507, to which reference is made. That said J. A. Corley purchased said property from Henry K. Martin, by quit-claim deed dated September 5th, 1878, and recorded in the Deed Records of Taylor County, Texas, Vol. A, page 276, to which reference is made, and by quit-claim deed dated August 17th, 1878, and recorded in the Deed Records of Taylor County, Texas, Vol. A, page 260, to which reference is made. That the said Henry K. Martin purchased said property from H. S. Schrick, Sheriff of Eastland County, Texas, by sheriff's deed dated August 7th, 1878, and recorded in the Deed Records of Taylor County, Texas, Vol. A, page 258, to which reference is made; that said sheriff's deed purported to sell all of the right, title and interest in said premises belonging to the defendants Mary O. Eads, B. F. Eads, Eliza E. Brownrigg, Elizabeth B. Brownrigg, Mrs. L. M. Snell, Carrie Snell and Rosella Snell. That said sheriff's deed was executed in accordance with a certain judgment and order of sale in cause No. 2690, in the District Court of Fayette County, Texas, styled Mary O. Eads, et al vs. L. M. Snell et al, a certified copy of which judgment is of record in the Deed Records of Taylor County, Texas, in Vol. A, page 303, to which reference is made, and said order of sale and sheriff's return thereon being recorded in the Deed Records of Taylor County, Texas, in Vol. A, page 253, to which reference is made.

FIFTH That the claims of the defendants to said title, as far as to this plaintiff is known, is as follows: Patent No. 506, Vol. No. 12, from the State of Texas, to R. S. Snell, and the heirs of Robert T. Walker, assignees of B. H. H. Butts, conveying the entire B. H. H. Butts survey, of which the property hereinabove described is a part; power of attorney, coupled with an interest, from certain parties purporting to be the heirs of R. S. Snell, deceased, to C. E. Lane and T. W. Lane, composing the law firm of Lane & Lane, of LaGrange, Fayette County, Texas, said power of attorney being dated February 13th, 1896, and recorded in the Deed Records of Taylor County, Texas, in Vol. 12, page 214, to which reference is made; power of attorney, coupled with an interest, from Clara W. Cantrell, representing herself to be an heir of Robert T. Walker, to J. R. Lawrence, dated January 20th, 1891, and recorded in the Deed Records of Taylor County, Texas, Vol. Z, page 161, to which reference is made.

SIXTH That plaintiff and his grantors claiming under the deeds and chain of title hereinabove set forth, all of which is duly registered as above set forth, have been peaceable, continuous and adverse possession of the lands and tenements hereinabove described, cultivating, using and enjoying the same and paying all taxes due thereon for an uninterrupted period of thirty-five years immediately preceding the filing of

this suit. SEVENTH Wherefore, premises considered, plaintiff prays for citation in accordance with law upon each and all of said defendants, that a guardian ad litem be appointed as provided by law, and upon final hearing, that he have judgment against each and all of said defendants for the title and possession of said premises, for his damages, and for such other and further relief in law or in equity, general or special, to which he may show himself justly entitled.

Herein fail not, but have before said Court, at its aforesaid next regular term, this writ with your return thereon, showing how you have executed the same. Given under my hand and seal of said Court, at office in Abilene this 20th day of December A. D. 1916. [SEAL] J. N. ROUTH, Clerk District Court Taylor County.

Advertised Letters.

Anderson, Mrs. Mary. Hawkins, Mrs. A. S. Hill, Mrs. Annie. Mangum, Mr. Smith, Jess. Smith, Jno. E. Sparksman, H. These letters will be sent to the dead letter office Jan. 17th, 1917. H. C. Williams, P. M. Merkel, Texas.

A WORD WITH WOMEN

Valuable Advice for Merkel Readers

Many a woman endures with noble patience the daily misery of backache, pains about the hips, blue, nervous spells, dizziness and urinary disorders hopeless of relief because she doesn't know what is the matter.

It is not true that every pain in the back or hips is trouble "peculiar to the sex." Often when the kidneys get congested and inflamed, such aches and pains follow.

You can tell it is kidney trouble if secretions are dark colored, contain sediment; the passages are too frequent or scanty. Then help the weakened kidneys. Don't expect them to get well alone.

Doan's Kidney Pills have won the praise of thousands of women. They are endorsed at home—read this Merkel woman's convincing statement:

Mrs. M. A. Warren, El Paso St., Merkel, says: "I had a great deal of trouble with my back and could hardly turn without a sharp catch across my kidneys. I felt worn out and languid nearly all the time and became very nervous. Doan's Kidney Pills soon helped me and I kept up the treatment until I was cured."

Price 50c at all dealers. Don't simply ask for a kidney remedy—get Doan's Kidney Pills—the same that cured Mrs. Warren. Foster—Milburn Co., Props., Buffalo, N. Y.

How He Loved Himself. She—Just think, Henry, we've never had a cross word. He—No, Mame. Ain't I the patient cuss?—Exchange.

ECZEMA! Hunt's Cure is guaranteed to stop and permanently cure that terrible itching. It is compounded for that purpose and your money will be promptly refunded WITHOUT QUESTION if Hunt's Cure fails to cure Itch, Eczema, Tetter, Ring Worm or any other skin disease. See boxes Sold and Guaranteed Locally by

LOOK OUT FOR THE CARS! Do YOU know of anyone who is old enough to read, who has not seen that sign at a railroad crossing?

If everyone has seen it at some time or other, then why doesn't the railroad let the sign rot away? Why does the railroad company continue to keep those signs at every crossing? Maybe you think, Mr. Merchant, "Most everybody knows my store, I don't have to advertise."

Your store and your goods need more advertising than the railroad need do to warn people to "Look Out for the Cars." Nothing is ever completed in the advertising world.

The Department Stores are a very good example—they are continually advertising—and they are continually doing a good business.

If it pays to run a few ads around about Christmas time, it certainly will pay you to run advertisements about all the time.

It's just business, that's all, to ADVERTISE IN THIS PAPER

Matilda Brix, Widow She Tells How She Got a Second Husband By M. QUAD Copyright, 1916, by the McClure Newspaper Syndicate.

I arrived at Jackson's Hollow to find it a town on a hill. It was a quiet hour on a warm day when I arrived. There were a few men on the streets, but they were so busy trying to get up a dog fight that they gave me scant heed.

I don't know to this day why I entered the hotel. I suppose it was fate. The landlord of the place was in the office. He sat in a chair with his feet in another, and he was asleep with his mouth open. He was bareheaded and baldheaded, and a hundred or more flies were running up and down his bald pate trying to find a soft spot.

I took off my hat and sat down and fanned away the insects. After about five minutes and with a lonesome smile on his face the man woke up and whispered: "Oh, mother, that is so nice!" "But I am not your mother," I replied.

"Then who are you?" "I am only the widow Brix, sir." "And what do you want here?" "I want to see your wife." "But you can't unless you can fly. Her soul passed into the beyond about three years ago, and since then I have had to go it alone."

After a look around and seeing the dirt and dust and cobwebs and confusion that prevailed I said: "You seem to have made hard work of it going it alone." "Yes, it's a little tough to be without a wife when you have had one for twenty years. I do my own cooking, washing, mending and bedmaking."

"This is a tavern, and what about the travelers?" I queried. "Oh, there are no travelers but me, and I don't travel very much except in my dreams. All the travelers go to Mrs. Carson's boarding house, and I am rather glad of it, as my style of cooking might bring about a tragedy."

"Mebbe you want to bust up Mrs. Carson's boarding house?" I answered. "But how will I do it?" he asked, with a little animation in his voice. "Yes, I believe I would like to bust up her house, because I have asked her three times to marry me, and three times she has thrown me down."

"If you will hire me I'll bust her boarding house within a month," I said. "Lordy me! But how would you do it?" he exclaimed. "I should begin by dusting, mopping, washing windows and making this old pigpen look like a first class hotel at Newport. I presume there is a week's work in the kitchen setting things to rights, but I am a worker. When I got things cleaned up I should want you to buy some provisions and see that the word went around that the Paradise was ready to entertain all patrons on a scale of unexampled magnificence."

"Great Caesar!" he whispered as he held up his hand. "Say, gal, you are a wonder! What about wages?" "You are too poor to pay any wages for the first month at least."

"Doggone me if I ain't, but I'll tell you what I'll do, and I never broke my word yet to man, woman or telegraph pole. If you will work for a month and get things shipshape I will marry you—yes, by gosh, I'll marry you! That will be better than wages."

"But I shall have something to say about that," I replied as I rose up. It was three days before the news got around in Jackson's Hollow that a new move was on foot at the Paradise hotel. The idlers dropped in to the number of twenty or more, and when they saw me flying from room to room with broom and mop they had many compliments for me. In fact, more than a dozen of them offered me their hands and hearts in marriage. In each case I replied that I was highly flattered, but had no time to fool away.

It will surprise you to learn that in a month's time the old shebang was doing a good tavern business, and Mrs. Carson's boarding house was almost deserted. When the month was a little more than up the landlord came to me as I was frying pancakes for the breakfast of a dry goods drummer and said: "Matilda, what about our gettin' married?"

I told him to go away until I had fried six or eight more pancakes and thought the matter over, and the result was that we were married that evening, and forty-nine lovers and travelers kissed the blushing bride. All went as happy as the pig in the potato patch for a week or more, and then my husband came into the kitchen one day and found me using kerosene to bury up the fire. With an impulse, which was very creditable to him, he reached out and cuffed me on the ear. That ear tingled yet, although many years have passed since I got the cuff. He dodged the stove lid which I threw at him, and half an hour later he was as dead as Hamlet at the Great. He had died while sitting in his chair. He had used too much energy in cuffing me and had burst a blood vessel. I called in a doctor.

"Would it surprise you to learn that your husband is dead?" he asked of me after he had pawed around for a while. "Not a bit," I replied. "He was too good for this world anyhow." "My fee is \$2, madam, and you will please pay it in small bills."

The Colonel's Convalescence By ALAN HINSDALE

In one of those battles between the French and Germans when the latter were endeavoring to reach the channel Colonel Latrobe, a man of forty, was wounded and instead of being sent to a hospital was left for want of transportation at a chateau by the way. The lady who owned the place directed that he be placed in one of her best rooms and at once assumed his care. Fortunately for both, the fighting did not come near the chateau, and the colonel was left to recover, his wants being supplied by the lady, a spinster named Remercier.

Mr. Remercier was some five years younger than Latrobe, and spinsters usually preserve their youthful appearance longer than their married sisters. At any rate this is liable to be the case with unmarried women who have no cares or troubles. The colonel's nurse was still a handsome woman.

There was a long period of convalescence, during which the colonel was unable to join his command. Mr. Remercier read to him, chatted with him, fed him, indeed made his convalescence delightful. Every morning she gathered flowers from her garden, carried them to his room and arranged them in a vase of Dresden china with her own hands. Many of the delicacies prepared for him to eat she cooked with her own hands. No matter what time of day he called for anything he needed the lady responded and always with a sympathetic smile.

In time Latrobe spent a portion of the day in an easy chair; then nearly all the day there; then he was able to walk about his room and finally to go downstairs. He was chafing to get back to the front, though loath to leave his luxurious abode and especially his fair hostess.

One morning in June he was sitting on the terrace with Mr. Remercier. The sun shone brightly, and delicious perfume came from the roses growing beside the terrace. Conversation turned upon the school of St. Cyr, from which the colonel had been graduated a sublieutenant into the army.

"I visited St. Cyr when but seventeen years old," said mademoiselle. "I can conceive of no place so entrancing to a girl of that age as a military academy. The young men in uniform are far more resplendent than those in civilian dress. There are the martial music, the military ceremonies, every thing to turn a girl's head."

"And I remember," added the colonel, "how we youngsters delighted in making love to the girls who visited St. Cyr. Lovemaking had not the meaning that it has for older men. It was what the Americans call flirting. We thought nothing of telling a girl we loved her, and the girl's thought nothing of pretending to reciprocate. We enjoyed the sentiment without having to fret about the responsibilities. When we had made love to one girl we were ready for another. And when they had gone we returned to our studies as free mentally as before they had come."

"Your future may be true with respect to the young men," said the lady, "and in most cases perhaps with regard to the girls. In my case it was different. In one of these young military students I met that which was the most serious episode of my life. He made love to me simply for the temporary enjoyment of the sentiment. Alas, it was far more than that to me! That is why I have never married."

"The brute!" exclaimed the colonel. "No; he was simply young and did not realize the danger to me of what he was doing." "Perhaps he did realize it in time, to his cost. I confess that there was one of my affairs that stood by me for many years. I could not shake it off. Even today, after twenty years, I see in my dreams that young face and press again that soft hand."

"And why did you, after discovering that you really loved her, not seek her out?" "Ah, that would have served in America, where they marry for love, but not in France, where parents arrange marriages for their children."

"Who was the girl?" "If I remember correctly she was the daughter of a gentleman of fortune, living in one of the provinces. Her name was Hortense." He was stilled; he had forgotten her surname. "Would you know her again, do you suppose, after not seeing her for twenty years?" "That I could not say."

Mr. Remercier arose and went into the house. Presently she returned with a miniature painting, which she handed to the colonel. He looked at it for a few moments as though it brought back some vague memory; then suddenly he turned his eyes upon his companion in a sort of wonder. "Where did you get this?" he asked. "I have had it ever since the original visited St. Cyr twenty years ago." The colonel's steady gaze gradually revealed to him that the miniature was a likeness of Mr. Remercier at seventeen.

"Hortense!" he exclaimed. "Hear!" was the low reply. When the colonel went back to the front he returned a married man. Indeed, had not duty called him he would not have returned. He was very much pleased at receiving another wound, just severe enough to lay him up for a month. He returned to the chateau of his wife, and the month of recovery and his honeymoon were one and the same thing.

The End of A Rivalry By ESTHER VANDEVEER

Josephine Sommers was as a girl from ten to sixteen years an incorrigible tomboy. Everybody called her Joe, and everybody admitted that she was well named, for she might be considered either a boy or a girl. Her most intimate friends were boys, and they always spoke of her as "one of us."

When Joe was fifteen a change came over her—that is, she was passing from childhood to womanhood. This transition was in her case peculiar. A girl of fifteen knows that she can't do those things she did when a child. For instance, she can't climb trees with the same freedom; she can't ride on horseback straddle without apparel fitted for the purpose; there is not the same freedom in her friendships with boys.

Joe had not quite let go all these juvenile ways, and yet she was reaching for young ladyhood. One thing she had not yet grasped, and that was a proper appreciation of being made love to by a young man. Boys had never thought of making love to her. A boy would no more have made love to her than to another boy. For a boy to make love to her would have sounded ridiculous, and ten to one, she would have laughed at him.

The first time that anything serious in the way of a love matter occurred to Joe Sommers was when she was fifteen and a half years old. Two boys, Bob Atherton and Johnnie Myers, laid longing eyes upon her. Neither of them made any mention of the fact to her. If one walked home with her from school the other kept out of the way. If one engaged her for a game of tennis the other amused himself in some other way. Joe did not see the rivalry, but the boys were conscious of it, and there was not a day that one did not try to get ahead of the other.

Of course this constant effort was bound in the end to make trouble between the two boys. Every time one saw the other enjoying Joe's society to the exclusion of the other the green monster flapped his wings. An explosion is sure to come in such cases, and this one was no exception.

All three of the parties to this triangular love affair—though the girl had no sentimental part in it at all—were in the same class in the Eppingham high school. When a certain baseball game was played between the Eppingham and the Waterton high schools Bob Atherton saw on the grand stand Joe Sommers sitting with a vacant place beside her. He joined her and asked if he might occupy it. She gave him permission, saying that she expected another boy to sit with her, but there was room for him on the other side.

Now, the other boy was Johnnie Myers. Before he reached the stand the place on the other side of Joe was occupied, and he saw Bob in his place. He didn't approach the two and make a scene, but there was consternation within him. He did not even claim his right to sit by the girl. He went off to another part of the field, nursing his wrath against Joe, who was to be blamed if any one was, but against Bob.

When the game was finished and the multitude left the athletic grounds Johnnie saw his rival walking with Joe toward her home. His own route lay in this direction. Indeed, he lived not far from her, and she could look from her window into his back yard. When Bob left her Johnnie joined him and accused him of intentionally occupying his place at the baseball game. Bob was innocent of the charge, but certain words used by Johnnie riled him.

Joe had laid aside her belongings and was sitting by her window when she saw Bob climb the fence in the rear of Johnnie's home and approach Johnnie with apparent hostile intent. The next thing she saw was a battle. It did not take Joe long to discern the cause of this encounter. Realizing that she had not properly protected the boy she had promised to sit beside at the game, it was plain to her that this disgraceful fight between her two friends was her own fault. Running downstairs and out through a back door, she vaulted all fences that separated her from the combatants, finally sighting in the yard where they were fighting. But so engaged were they with each other that they did not see her.

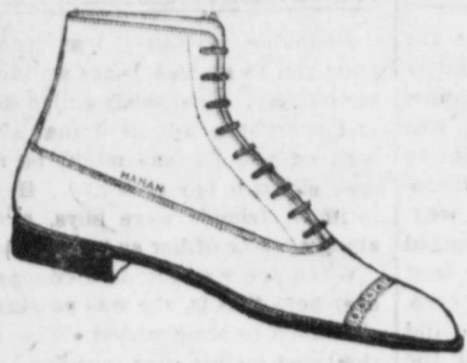
What predominated in Joe's mind was this: Through her neglect these two boys had been brought to punch each other. She was angry with herself, but still more angry with them for making her fault more glaring. The fact of their rivalry for her did not enter her head. Indeed, she did not know that there was a rivalry.

It happened that the gardener had been using a hose to water some plants and had left it on the ground. Joe seized it, and the first intimation of her presence to the combatants for her favor was a stream of water poured over them. For a few moments, not discerning the cause of the interruption, they continued to maul each other. Then both turned and, seeing the object of their devotion directing the stream, they ceased to fight and stood apart, whereupon Joe dropped the hose and stood looking at them angrily. She was trying to find words to express what was within her, but, failing, she jumped the fence and ran away.

That was the end of the rivalry for Joe Sommers' favor on the part of these two boys, for she turned the cold shoulder on both of them.



# Mingus & Woodroof Co.



**Shoes, Clothiers, Hatters and Men's Furnishers**



Messrs. Will and Luther Woodroof have connected themselves with this wide-a-wake firm and assure their friends and old Merkel customers they would appreciate a visit from each and everyone. Our merchandise is the best money will buy, our prices are right and we are here to render you service that means lasting satisfaction. Come to see us, we want your business, and will appreciate every nickel spent with us. If it's anything in men's and young men's apparel we have it

**"Everything New That's Good"**

**W. D. (WILL) WOODROOF**

Abilene, Texas

**L. W. (LUKE) WOODROOF**

## SHILOH

Christmas has come and gone and we are now entering upon another new year. May we strive to do more good to our fellowman in the new year than we have in the one just passed, and may we who contribute to the Merkel Mail be so truthful that they will not be wanting to organize a liars club for us to join.

Misses Albertine Winter and Edith Mayberry of Abilene spent the Christmas holidays with homefolks.

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Barnes returned home Tuesday from a visit to relatives in east Texas.

Mr. and Mrs. Tabor gave the young folks a party Monday night.

Grover Tyner of Abilene spent the week end with homefolks here.

Mr. and Mrs. Marion Winter gave the young folks an entertainment Friday night. They report a most enjoyable time.

Misses Willie and Mollie Hardy of Clyde spent Saturday with Misses Lyda and Nina Beavers.

Mrs. Phoebe Green and son Homer returned home Monday from a visit to relative in Oklahoma.

Mr. Atlas Phillips of Trent visited homefolks here last week.

Misses Lyda and Nina Beavers spent Wednesday with Miss Vivian Tatum near Merkel.

Mrs. Mayberry and family have moved to Merkel. We regret to give up this good family but wish them success in their new home.

T. Winter, Joe Winter, Wilber Woods, Ray Winter and W. B. Beavers made a business trip to

## Anson Monday.

Mr. Jones and family have moved to their new home near Anson. We wish them the best of success in their new home.

Mr. Clyde Williams is here on a visit to his aunt, Mrs. Beavers. Mr. Williams spent quite a while in Canada, and has many interesting scenes to show us.

## A TEXAS WONDER.

The Texas Wonder cures Kidney and Bladder troubles, dissolves gravel, cures diabetes, weak and lame backs, rheumatism and all irregularities of the kidneys and bladder in both men and women, regulates bladder troubles in children. If not sold by your druggist, will be sent by mail on receipt of \$1. One small bottle is two months' treatment and seldom fails to perfect a cure. Send for Texas testimonials. Dr. E. W. Hall, 2926 Olive St., St. Louis, Mo. Sold by druggists

## Turns Tables on Police

Sheridan, Wyo., Dec. 31.—How James Allen, who says he has enlisted in the United States

## Fuel Buyers Read This

We have good oak and mesquite wood for sale

Strawn coal at \$6.50 per ton

Buy your wood and coal from us

**WARREN BROS. :: COAL DEALERS**

Navy, turned the tables on police officers who attempted to arrest him, and himself imprisoned the Chief of Police and two other officers became known here today.

Allen is in jail here under special guard, a tribute to his skill in resisting arrest.

When arrested yesterday on suspicion of passing a worthless check, Allen pressed a revolver against the officers side and forced him to march past the police station. A moment later the pair met Chief of Police Robertson and Allen forced him to accompany them. Later a third policeman was encountered and Allen marched the trio to the railroad yards, where the officers were locked in a box car.

Before the officers broke out of their prison Allen forced a coal hauler to drive him out of town, the flight being marked by a running revolver fight with the officers. Several hours later he surrendered, after a posse had surrounded a barn in which he had taken refuge.

"A few more recruits like

him," said Chief Robertson tonight, "will solve the question of national preparedness."

## Man Killed at Colorado

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George Waller shortly after the shooting surrendered to officers and was placed in jail. He has not made a statement.

The funeral of Dr. Phenix will be held tomorrow.

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We appreciate your patronage. Sharp and Haynes. Phone 184. 5t2

## Dissolution of Partnership

Notice is hereby given that the co-partnership heretofore existing between M. E. Carey and D. J. Young, doing business at Merkel, Texas, as Merkel Lumber Company, was dissolved on the 31st day of December, A. D. 1916.

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M. E. Carey,  
D. J. Young.

Horses and mules for sale on cash or credit. See R. L. Bland. 5t2

## NOODLE

Christmas has passed with its many joys and now we turn our faces toward another new year and may it be a prosperous year for all.

Rev. Johnson filled his appointment at the Methodist church Sunday morning and night.

Henry Eason and C. B. Jones spent the holidays with friends and relatives and have returned to Denton where they will attend school.

W. L. Barbee of Noodle has moved to Merkel.

Miss Bessie Touchstone of Merkel was at Noodle Monday to organize a music class. We wish her much success.

J. E. Jones a former resident of Noodle has moved to the Shinnery near Sinclair.

C. R. Horton a former resident of Noodle community is now a resident of Merkel.

## ARE YOU SICK OR ALL RUN DOWN

And nothing you have tried seems to help you?

Think a moment. Your body is a delicate machine and needs the scientific adjustment that I give, which includes all the essentials of CHIROPRACTIC, MESSASAGE, HYDROTHERAPY AND TURKISH AND RUSSIAN BATHS. Also scientific dieting and rules for corrective exercise and right living. Consult me free. Dr. J. T. Pae.

## Land to Grub

I have some land to grub for wood. See Earl Lassiter. 5t2

# Misfit Clothing Company

**OUR BIG ANNUAL SUIT SALE STARTED JANUARY THE FIRST**

**\$12.95**

Owing to the big advance in Clothing we are compelled to divide our stock in two prices. Choice \$12.95

We also have about 100 suits we are going to sell at only \$9.95

These suits are Tailor-made by the best Tailors in the country and are bargains at \$15.00 to \$22.50. See them

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J. K. WARD, Manager

Abilene, Texas



# Mingus & Woodroof Co.



**Shoes, Clothiers, Hatters and Men's Furnishers**



Messrs. Will and Luther Woodroof have connected themselves with this wide-a-wake firm and assure their friends and old Merkel customers they would appreciate a visit from each and everyone. Our merchandise is the best money will buy, our prices are right and we are here to render you service that means lasting satisfaction. Come to see us, we want your business, and will appreciate every nickel spent with us. If it's anything in men's and young men's apparel we have it

**"Everything New That's Good"**

**W. D. (WILL) WOODROOF**

Abilene, Texas

**L. W. (LUKE) WOODROOF**

## SHILOH

Christmas has come and gone and we are now entering upon another new year. May we strive to do more good to our fellowman in the new year than we have in the one just passed, and may we who contribute to the Merkel Mail be so truthful that they will not be wanting to organize a liars club for us to join.

Misses Albertine Winter and Edith Mayberry of Abilene spent the Christmas holidays with homefolks.

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Barnes returned home Tuesday from a visit to relatives in east Texas.

Mr. and Mrs. Tabor gave the young folks a party Monday night.

Grover Tyner of Abilene spent the week end with homefolks here.

Mr. and Mrs. Marion Winter gave the young folks an entertainment Friday night. They report a most enjoyable time.

Misses Willie and Mollie Hardy of Clyde spent Saturday with Misses Lyda and Nina Beavers.

Mrs. Phoebe Green and son Homer returned home Monday from a visit to relative in Oklahoma.

Mr. Atlas Phillips of Trent visited homefolks here last week.

Misses Lyda and Nina Beavers spent Wednesday with Miss Vivian Tatum near Merkel.

Mrs. Mayberry and family have moved to Merkel. We regret to give up this good family but wish them success in their new home.

T. Winter, Joe Winter, Wilber Woods, Ray Winter and W. B. Beavers made a business trip to

## Anson Monday.

Mr. Jones and family have moved to their new home near Anson. We wish them the best of success in their new home.

Mr. Clyde Williams is here on a visit to his aunt, Mrs. Beavers. Mr. Williams spent quite a while in Canada, and has many interesting scenes to show us.

## A TEXAS WONDER.

The Texas Wonder cures Kidney and Bladder troubles, dissolves gravel, cures diabetes, weak and lame backs, rheumatism and all irregularities of the kidneys and bladder in both men and women, regulates bladder troubles in children. If not sold by your druggist, will be sent by mail on receipt of \$1. One small bottle is two months' treatment and seldom fails to perfect a cure. Send for Texas testimonials. Dr. E. W. Hall, 2926 Olive St., St. Louis, Mo. Sold by druggists

## Turas Tables on Police

Sheridan, Wyo., Dec. 31.—How James Allen, who says he has enlisted in the United States

## Fuel Buyers Read This

We have good oak and mesquite wood for sale

Strawn coal at \$6.50 per ton

Buy your wood and coal from us

**WARREN BROS. :: COAL DEALERS**

Navy, turned the tables on police officers who attempted to arrest him, and himself imprisoned the Chief of Police and two other officers became known here today.

Allen is in jail here under special guard, a tribute to his skill in resisting arrest.

When arrested yesterday on suspicion of passing a worthless check, Allen pressed a revolver against the officers side and forced him to march past the police station. A moment later the pair met Chief of Police Robertson and Allen forced him to accompany them. Later a third policeman was encountered and Allen marched the trio to the railroad yards, where the officers were locked in a box car.

Before the officers broke out of their prison Allen forced a coal hauler to drive him out of town, the flight being marked by a running revolver fight with the officers. Several hours later he surrendered, after a posse had surrounded a barn in which he had taken refuge.

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