

STATEMENT OF CONDITION
THE FARMERS STATE BANK

Merkel, Texas December 29th, 1920

RESOURCES

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Loans and Discounts | \$625,475.43 |
| Banking House | 7,850.00 |
| Furniture and Fixtures | 5,200.00 |
| Bonds and War Savings Stamps .. | 8,301.11 |
| Asst. and Int. Guaranty Fund.... | 4,068.79 |
| Cash and Exchange | 192,724.78 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$843,620.11 |

LIABILITIES

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Capital Stock | \$50,000.00 |
| Surplus Fund | 50,000.00 |
| Reserved for taxes | 1,263.46 |
| Undivided Profits | 12,717.05 |
| Deposits | 689,304.16 |
| Rediscouunts | 40,335.44 |
| Bills payable | None |
| Other Borrowed Money | None |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$843,620.11 |

**ONLY GUARANTY FUND BANK
IN MERKEL**

SAFETY AND SERVICE

| | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| T. J. TOOMBS | President |
| JOHN SEARS | Vice President |
| R. L. BLAND | Vice President |
| R. O. ANDERSON | Cashier |
| F. Y. GAITHER | Asst. Cashier |

Do you know
you can roll
50 good
cigarettes for
10 Cts from
one bag of



GENUINE
BULL DURHAM
TOBACCO

Recommended by
The American School

Jones Sunday.
White Pond and Sylvester come over to Golan again we are glad to have you come.
The singing Sunday night was very good and enjoyed by a very large crowd.
Every one is invited to singing Sunday evening and Sunday night at the school house.
A great deal of the school children of the large room have quit school on account of dislike of teacher.
Mr. and Mrs. Val P. Byrom are moving home.

Onion sets, both red and white at Bob Martin Grocery Co. tf

A TEXAS WONDER

For kidney and bladder troubles, gravel, weak and lame back, rheumatism and all irregularities of the kidneys and bladder. If not sold by your druggist, by mail \$1.25 Small bottle. Send for testimonials to D. E. W. Hall, 2926 Olive Street, St. Louis Mo. Sold by druggists.

Brand and Shorts at G. M. Sharp's. tf

SHILOH DOTS

The weather has been colder the last writing as we have had some snow.

Mr. Bud Brown has been on the sick list, but is some better now. Blanche Tabor is better also.

The party at Mr. Sam Grayson's last Friday night was enjoyed by those present.

Mr. Grover Tiner preached at Shiloh Sunday and several attended.

There will be preaching at Shiloh Saturday and Sunday.

There was a good crowd spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Panroy.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Winters spent Sunday with Mrs. Pheby Greene.

Miss Ida Panroy and Vera Phillips spent Saturday night with Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Woods.

A good singing was had at Joe Winters Sunday night.

Some of the people of this community went to Trent Sunday night for preaching.

Mr. Ellis Rosson spent Saturday night with Mr. Bud Winters.

Grandma Phillips is spending the week with her daughter Mrs. J. W. Pomroy. Kandy-Kid

Lucindia Buttermilch said her aunt Mahalia Widespoeder had wired she would be here on the morning of the 25th of February, 1921, for that Tea Party at the High School Auditorium and would be there promptly on that date at 8 o'clock p.m. with the proper garments on. tf

COW FEED

Plenty Meal, Hulls, Alfalfa and Johnson grass. T. J. R. Swafford, Kent St. 4t2

GET MORE EGGS—

By feeding "Martin's Egg Producer" DOUBLE your money back in eggs, or your money back in cash. "Martin's Roup Remedy" Cares and Prevents Roup. Guaranteed by Sanders Drug Store. April-15.

CREDIT IS BUSINESS CONFIDENCE
(AN ACCOUNT HERE WILL HELP)

Somebody is always depositing your money in the bank.

Is it you who are saving part of your income and putting it where it will work for your benefit?

Or is it all slipping through your fingers into the pocket and bank account of some one who appreciates its value more than you?

A savings account with us will solve that problem.

THE BANK THAT BACKS THE FARMER

THE FARMERS & MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK

MEMBER FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Merkel, Texas

GOLAN NEWS

Every one seemed to have enjoyed the snow last week as it has been so warm the past month or two.

A large crowd enjoyed the musical entertainment at the home of Mr. Frank Jeffrey Friday night.

A bad accident has happened to Lettie Duncan. As she was riding a horse after a cow, the the horse got scared at another cow and threw her off and dragged her about one hundred yards. It skinned her up considerably, but she is getting along alright now.

A crowd of young people motored to white pond, near McCauley Sunday evening. They reported a real nice time.

Every one is invited to the Rabbit drive Friday, February 18th. All the men come prepared to kill rabbits and ladies all come and bring dinner. It will be spread near Clear Fork river. The men on the south side of the river are going to meet at Mr. G. M. Byrom's mail box and the ones on the north side of the river will meet at Mr. McCain's.

Mrs. J. W. Hill and children and Miss Vida Williams spent the week end at Mr. George Riney's of McCauley.

Mettie Byrom and Edith Thompson took dinner with Miss Clonnie St. Clair Sunday.

Mr. W. T. Duncan and Mr. E. L. Thompson were seen in Merkel Friday.

Rueben Cooper, Clifford and Luther Davis were guests of Carl and Curtis St. Clair Sunday.

Mr. Bob Chandler left for Arkansas Wednesday.

Mr. W. T. Duncan and daughter Miss Lettie, and Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Duncan visited Mr. and Mrs. G. M. Byrom Sunday.

The candy breaking at Mr. W. T. Jones Saturday night was enjoyed by a large crowd.

Messers John Shelton and Curtis McCain and Miss Elva McCain were in Sylvester Sun-

Edna Cox

BLAIR NEWS

Mr. Bland visited our school last Friday.

Mr. Webb Hannah has been real sick the last week, but we are glad to say that he is better.

Blair is building up to a great extent as we have a new merchant.

Miss Dosa Doan is on the sick list this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Monroe Whisenhunt of Wichita Falls, are visiting friends and relatives here.

Mr. Hayne Hughes of Alabama came out here Saturday. They will make their home here.

Mr. Edd Blackburn and family visited Mr. and Mrs. Jim Doan Sunday evening.

Mrs. Provine has been visiting her parents Mr. and Mrs. Hannah.

Miss Vera Moore spent Sunday evening with Miss Mary Hughes.

Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Reeves, Jesse Willard and Annie attended the singing convention at Newman.

Mr. Clauie, Meeks spent Saturday night with Mr. Clyde Moore.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Moore Called on Mrs. Lucinda Hughes Sunday.

We have heard that Mr. Abb Lawrence's house burned Sunday. We extend them our sympathy.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Lacky spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Ransom Meeks. Brown Eyes.

VIOLIN AND PIANO

I could handle a few more pupils in either Piano or Violin. Rates reasonable. Mrs. Rose Miller, or call at Rose Barber Shop. 28t4

PLENTY of COAL

Dawson Fancy Egg
Domestic Lump
And Swastika Coal

H. M. ROSE & SON

"Lest We Forget"

ALL OF US ERR ALONG THIS LINE

The Point we want to get before you is a vital one to every one wishing to advance in the scale of progress and wisdom.

Are All Goods the Same ?
In Quality, Price and Style

What would you think of a fellow who classes a "Broom Tail" "Spanish Bronch" as the match of any "Kentucky Thoroughbred?"

A man who can judge a horse should buy good merchandise.

A woman who knows a good cake will buy good merchandise everytime.

We find some people wanting us to bring our prices down to meet what is known by good observers—"Junk Stuff."

We fight Junk Goods Every Time they are Offered us

Quality Merchandise and Price

Is Our Slogan for Every Month in the Year

Our business is growing and will keep stepping along. It's a good investment for you to join up with us in putting over a clean business of the Quality kind we are growing.

The Brown D. G. Company

Quality Merchandise

A FIRESIDE TALE

By JENNIE LITTLE.

(© 1921, by McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)

Another story, child dear? Sure 'tis overdrawn like the Pencil fella's my fund will be, with such a demand. Well, then, come with me, of an evening that I have in mind, to a grand concert hall in the city. A wonderful prima donna, the idol of her audiences in two continents, has come upon the stage for her last number. As she stands waiting for the applause to die away, something that she reads in the waves of upturned faces moves her to a sudden impulse, and with a tender little smile, instead of the classical selection on the program, her voice second only in sweetness to the angels' fills the vast room with:

"There's a pretty spot in Ireland, I always claim for my land."

In one of the boxes sat two of the earth's prosperous, and like a lightning artist, the man's mind flashed picture after picture on his memory's screen. In faraway County Clare he saw a young gossoon full to the brim of the sheer joy of living. The Scotch would call him a lad o' parts, the English a topping chap, but I'll declare to you that he was just a regular broth of a boy. Every old granny in the village, and clear down to every lass, thought the sun had its rising and setting in his merry charm, but only Eileen McDonogh had a mortgage on his affections. Ah, but she was the winsome colleen, and the likes of her was not to be found in a day's travel.

Then an uncle in America sent money for his passage, with tales of success that set the lad wild to go. Eileen must stay with her old folks, but when he had a good start, then he would send for her, and together they would conquer this fine new country.

"My heart goes back there daily, To the girl I left behind me.

When we kissed and said good-by."

Ah, yes, at first 'twas so. Luck and luck were with him, and his foothold grew firmer and stronger, and somehow in the struggle, Eileen drifted further into the background of his thoughts. The old bodies went one by one, and the black sorrow of loneliness was almost more than she could abide, but never did her sweetheart grow bitter or complaining in its weariness for him. Faithful and true she was to her troth with Terence O'Neill.

"Where dear old Shannon's flowing,
Where the three-leaved Shamrock grows,
Where my heart is I am going
To my little Irish Rose.

And the moment that I meet her,
With a hug and kiss I'll greet her—"
Conscience woke up entirely, and a shillalah stroke was gentle compared to the pain she gave him. For in these latest months of his prosperity he had decided that only a high-born, cultured American woman could rule his home and help to find new fields for his never-satisfied ambitions, and, cold-bloodedly, without a thought of love, he had set about to win her. This very minute, by his side, sat the lady of his worldly choice, and he had felt much elated that now she seemed not a great deal averse to his gallant attentions. Sure, she never knew about that common past, and almost had forgotten its connection with the aristocratic banker who looked at him from the mirror. 'Till tonight, that is.

"Sure no letter I'll be mailing,
For soon will I be sailing,
And I'll bless the ship that takes me
To my dear old Erin's shore."

The lady turned with a disdainful curl of the lip. "Really," says she, "one might expect the best music here and not vulgar street songs," and Terence's heart turned over with a thud of gratitude that wisdom had come not too late.

Very quiet was he on the way home, and as he handed her from the limousine, declined her gracious invitation with a "Not tonight, thank you, as I have pressing business to attend to immediately. And I probably will not see you again for some time, as I leave on the Canopic's next date of sailing."

"Indeed," said the lady, in displeased surprise. "Surely this is very sudden."

"I've not yet booked my passage," says Terence, with an old-time Irish grin, "but I think the fates won't fail me this time." And neither did they.

And now we come to a matchless evening in dear old Killarney—a night of enchanted moonlight, when all the fairies and little folk are casting their spells on everything. All alone at her window sits Eileen, with the melting sweetness of her harp, softening her voice as she sings so sadly: "It may be years, and it may be forever." And into the room strides Terence of her thoughts.

"Not on your life!" says he in the rue American style, and then dropped in his knees beside her, and into the old brogue. "Mavourneen, all time I've been madly, foolishly following a will-o'-the-wisp, but when I came to me senses and gave me heart the lead, it brought me to my own true love, straight as the crow flies. Will ye go back with me, darlin', to be the dear light of me life till the blessed saints call us from our own paradise to theirs?" And something he saw in her face made him dare to greet her after the fashion of the Shamrock song. Then because 'tis the way of a woman to forgive and forget, acushla, I can end my story in your favorite way: "And they all lived happy ever after."

MID-WINTER CLEARANCE

In order to make room for the new Spring Goods that are being purchased by our buyers, who are in St. Louis this week, we are offering unusual inducements in the prices of Dry Goods, Shoes, etc. Many prices quoted below are really under present market prices, but we must move the goods.

- | | |
|---|--------|
| \$3.00 and \$3.50 Serges and Tricotines, per yard | \$2.00 |
| Crepe de Chine and Gerogette Crepe, per yard | \$1.75 |
| \$3.00, \$3.50 and \$4.00 Silk Shirting, per yard | \$2.50 |

STAPLES-STAPLES-STAPLES

- | | |
|--|-----|
| Red Seal Girgham, per yard | 20c |
| 9-4 Brown Sheeting, per yard | 40c |
| Good grade Dress Gingham, per yard | 15c |
| Good grade Outing, per yard | 15c |
| Full 36-inch Bleached Domestic, per yard | 20c |
| Full 36-inch Brown Domestic, per yard | 15c |

TOWELS TOWELS TOWELS

At Greatly Reduced Prices

BLANKETS BLANKETS BLANKETS

You can buy them at a big Saving this week

EXTRA EXTRA EXTRA

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Sansilk Crochet Thread, per spool | 5c |
| One lot Ladies Shoes, Military Heel | \$4.95 |
| High Top Shoes, in gray and browns | 1/2 PRICE and LESS |
| \$65.00 Mens Suits | \$35.00 |

Merkel Dry Goods Company

If You Want

RESULTS

YOU can get them by advertising in this paper. It reaches the best class of people in this community.

Use this paper if you want some of their business.

Use This Paper

At The Same Old Place

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------|
| Spuds | 45c |
| Three Bottles Snuff | 95c |
| Cartoon Camel Cigaretts | \$1.80 |
| Lard | \$1.25 |
| Syrup | 60c |
| 12 Gauge Shells | 85c |
| Sugar | \$9.75 |
| Tobacco | \$1.00 |
| Extra High Patent Flour | \$5.65 |
| Meal | 73c |
| Big Oats | 30c |
| Meat | 19c |
| No. 3 wash tub | \$1.45 |
| 5 gallon oil can | \$1.10 |
| Wash board | 65c |
- Everything at bargain prices. First class line of dry goods all at bargain prices. See the fellow that makes them all howl.

RAY at BLAIR
We deliver in Merkel

NOTICE

I have almost a complete line of the J. R. Watkins products, such as

Medicines, Extracts and Flavors
Toilet Articles

You can find me at the Merkel Garage each afternoon.

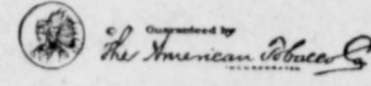
I also have plenty of Watkins Calendars, which have a list of all articles on back, and if you don't get a copy, write—

N. A. DOWELL, Box 121, Merkel, Texas



CIGARETTE

No cigarette has the same delicious flavor as Lucky Strike. Because Lucky Strike is the toasted cigarette.



BLAIR NEWS

Miss Mae Bieldeman of Merkel visited Miss Myrtle Scott Sunday.

Mrs. Richard Melton called on Mrs. C. Burks Monday.

Mrs. Simpson, one of Blair's teachers, visited home folks at Trent Sunday.

Mr. John Reynolds of Trent is here with his sister, Mrs. Carl Hughes.

Rex McClain visited our school last week.

Mrs. Noels and daughter have moved from here to their home in Merkel.

The party given at Mrs. Carl Hughes Saturday night was enjoyed by all.

Miss Bessie Brooks visited Miss Lola Blackburn Sunday.

Rev. Wilson filled his regular appointment here Sunday.

Several of the young folks enjoyed the singing at Mr. Emmet Patterson's Sunday night.

Well as every one is so busy we haven't time to find much news. Brown Eyes.

Just received \$1,500 stock of new Casings. McFarland Garage. tf

Pains Were Terrific

Read how Mrs. Albert Gregory, of R. F. D. No. 1, Bluford, Ill., got rid of her ills. "During... I was awfully weak... My pains were terrific. I thought I would die. The bearing-down pains were actually so severe I could not stand the pressure of my hands on the lower part of my stomach... I simply felt as if life was for but a short time. My husband was worried... One evening, while reading the Birthday Almanac, he came across a case similar to mine, and went straight for some Cardui for me to try."

TAKE

CARDUI

The Woman's Tonic

"I took it faithfully and the results were immediate," adds Mrs. Gregory. "I continued to get better, all my ills left me, and I went through... with no further trouble. My baby was fat and strong, and myself—thank God—am once more hale and hearty, can walk miles, do my work, though 44 years old, feel like a new person. All I owe to Cardui." For many years Cardui has been found helpful in building up the system when run down by disorders peculiar to women.

Take Cardui

Many are the strange and interesting native tribes that are found in the Americas. Among the most interesting are the people of the ostrich, who inhabit an almost as yet unknown country, and in language, and character, and race, are altogether distinct from other Indians, says an article on "People of the Ostrich" in Boys' Life. They live in the remote and almost legendary regions of the "land of large-footed men"—a land, that like Chili, Peru, Mexico, and northwest South America, has its story of the existence of a hidden city among the unexplored wilds of their Cordilleras.

The Tehuelches of Patagonia, that vast peninsular end of South America, are scattered across it, from the Straits of Magellan and the Rio Negro—a territory of over 1,000 miles in length and 300 at its narrowest. A brave, active, athletic people, wonderful horsemen, singularly expert with their weapons and implements, who lead a wandering life, and hunt the wild cattle, the guanacos—and ostriches. For Patagonia is a home of that splendid bird, which was there ages before men crossed its path in the faraway wilds of the interior. To the Tehuelches, this fine bird is as important in their existence as the guanaco, for they are a race of hunters, and grow but little food for themselves.

PREACHES FROM AN AIRPLANE

Minister With Many Parishes to Cover Puts Modern Mode of Travel to Good Use.

No tolling church bells announce to the little communities scattered through one section of America's great Northwest the periodic Sunday morning arrival of the region's most enterprising itinerant evangelist. Instead, they hear the coughing exhaust of an engine, as his airplane spirals down upon the village. Drawn irresistibly by the novelty of the visit, they flock to the airplane, now at rest in a nearby field or meadow. They find the preacher on his feet in the pilot's cockpit of the plane "Sky Pilot," ready to begin his discourse.

Explanation of this strangest of all the airplane's uses is found in the evangelist's decision, some months ago, that the time and energy required for constant travel among distant parishes was seriously curtailing his effectiveness. He decided to defy all precedent by allying aeronautics and religion. He first subjected himself to a rigorous course of training, and became an accomplished airman. He then purchased his plane, selecting a three-seater of sporting type. The rear cockpit seats the pilot, and serves as his pulpit when the meetings are held in the open; the forward cockpit accommodating his two assistants, one of them a song leader.—Omaha Bee.

Women Crave Excitement.

The wife of a very wealthy man was arrested with a group of bandits after a pistol battle with the police, in which the woman was shot in the arm. She is a woman who has traveled, is educated and bears every evidence of refinement. The police say that there are many women of this kind who work with thieves unbeknown to their families. The call of adventure is the prime motive. In a raid on an East side wine cellar recently ten men and one woman were taken to headquarters in a patrol. All the men had criminal records. The woman is happily married to all appearances, and is a patron of the opera. She said the men and women in her set were dull and that she liked to get out and mingle with the men who lived by their wits and were not afraid of dangerous paths.—New York Times.

The Chef's Daily Manicure.

One of the daily events in the life of a chef in any of the large New York hotels is his morning manicure. Before he touches food, his hands are carefully washed and his nails are cleaned, cut and polished. The job is not given to a sweet girl manicurist, but to one of the hotel physicians. He is always on hand during the day; should the chef accidentally cut himself, the doctor will bandage the wound, as he is there for that purpose.

Chefs are precious these days; many of the French ones—unable to get their daily bottles of wine—have gone back to France, where the thought of prohibition can still be treated as a joke, though even in France there are heard ominous rumbles between the jokes passed at our expense.—Popular Science Monthly.

To Jail by Airplane.

Aerial policemen in San Francisco are thus far the first to make use of the airplane to conduct a prisoner to jail, via the automobile patrol.

The sky route offers the most direct passage between two places, and in this instance the prisoner was transferred from the Alexandria county jail across the bay of San Francisco to the locality where an automobile patrol was waiting to continue the journey through the city. Where it is necessary to save time, the airplane can be of service, as in this case.

When the air becomes crowded with machines, the arrest of violators of the air-traffic laws will undoubtedly become common and aerial patrols will no longer excite comment.—Popular Science Monthly.

COZY THEATRE

Special Program Saturday Matinee 2 to 5:30

| | | | |
|---|--------------------|--|---|
| Friday | February 11 | Saturday | February 12 |
| "Home Spun Folks" A Thomas H. Ince Special, from the book by Julian Josephson | | Constance Binney in "The Stolen Kiss" | Al St. John in "Fired Again" |
| "Bride 13" Bobby Ray Comedy | | Mutt & Jeff in "Fox Hunters" | |

| | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| Monday | February 14 | Tuesday | February 15 |
| Mary Miles Minter in "Sweet Lavender" | Wm. Duncan in "Fighting Fate" | Wallace Reid in "Double Speed" | George Ovey in "Over Again" |
| Fox News | | Topics of the Day | |

Thursday Feb. 17 One Night Only

"MALE AND FEMALE"

A Paramount Super Special, from the book by the author of the "Miracle Man"

Shows at 7 and 9 No Advance in Admission Prices

| | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| Wednesday | February 16 | COMING | COMING |
| "Alice Brady" in "The Fear Market" | "Edgars Cake" A Booth Tarkington Special Comedy | Wm. S. Hart in "Between Men" | Charlie Chaplin in "Carmen" |
| Pathe Review | | METRO PRODUCTIONS | |

FOX ENTERTAINMENTS

The Merkel Mail

Published Every Friday Morning by MERKEL MAIL PRINTING COMPANY, INC. THOMAS DURHAM, Editor and Manager

SUBSCRIPTION \$1.50 PER YEAR

TELEPHONE No. 61

Entered at the postoffice at Merkel Texas as second class mail matter.

Any erroneous reflection on the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation which may appear in the columns of The Mail will be gladly corrected upon its being brought to the attention of the management.

PATRONS OF THE MAIL, who do not receive their paper regularly will confer a favor upon the management by reporting the fact. You should also watch the label of your paper to ascertain when your time is out and renew before your name automatically leaves our list, as all papers stop when the term of subscription expires.


If you have visitors, or if you know any item which would be of interest to readers of The Mail, the editor would appreciate a note or a telephone message to that effect. Or, if an occurrence of unusual interest transpires a reporter will be promptly sent to get the full particulars.

Foreign Advertising Representative THE AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION

We clipped the following wheeze from an Indiana journal. It is not original with that paper. We print it for two reasons (1) We have not printed it before, in spite of its familiarity. (2) It ought to keep the Demon Illustrator busy for a couple of days.

Voici le Wheeze:
A woman who was too economical to subscribe for her home paper sent her little son to borrow the copy taken by their neighbor. In his haste the boy ran over a four-dollar stand of bees and in ten minutes looked like a warty Summer squash. His cries reached his father who ran to his assistance, and falling to notice a barbed wire fence ran into it, breaking it down, cutting a handful of flesh from his anatomy and ruining a five-dollar pair of pants. The old cow took advantage of the gap in the fence and got into the cornfield and killed herself eating corn. Hearing the racket, the mother ran, upset a four-gallon churn of rich cream into a basket of kittens, drowning the whole litter. In her hurry she dropped and broke, past all hopes of mending, a twenty-five-dollar set of false teeth. The baby, left alone, crawled through the spilled cream and into the parlor, ruining a twenty-dollar carpet. During the excitement the eldest daughter ran away with the hired man, the dog broke up eleven setting hens, and the calves got out and chewed the tails off of four fine shirts. All to save \$1.50.

Moral: Subscribe for this paper at once and protect yourself from such calamities.—Exc.



OUR FURNITURE VALUES JUSTIFY MILES OF TRAVEL TO TRADE HERE

We welcome, specially solicit, business from out of town

We have customers who drive many miles to trade with us and they save money in doing so.

When you trade with us you are treated just the same as "home folks" and we want you to feel at home here, no matter how far you have come.

WE TURN A HOUSE INTO A HOME

J.T. Darsey Co.

FURNITURE

PHONE 196 MERKEL, TEXAS

CLASSIFIED ADS

COAL—COAL—\$10.00 per ton See O. W. Walker, Blair, Texas. 21t4

FOR SALE—12 or 15 tons of good bright maize. S. G. Russell, phone 271. 4t2p

FOR SALE—Some fresh milk cows, also some springing. See Earl Lassiter. tf

FOR SALE—Team for cash or credit. E. Barnes, Merkel, route five. tf

FOR SALE—Ferguson No. 71 Texas Red, Rust Proof Oats. E. Barnes, Merkel, route 5. tf

COAL on TRACK—Will unload another car Ludlow Coal Friday, and Saturday. You may need a little more coal. T. J. R. Swafford Phone 291. 1t

SALE or TRADE—Good young team. T. J. R. Swafford phone 291. 11t2

WANTED—Man to do general work on ranch. Sam Butman Senior. 11t2

LOST—A heavy Lap Robe, some where between White Church and Merkel. Finder please leave at Merkel Mail office. J. C. Tucker. 1tp

FOR RENT—Clean bed-room, man and wife or gentleman. Garage. Mrs. H. C. Williams, phone 171. 1t

WANTED—Cotton pickers to pick about 10 or 15 bales of cotton, of which, about half is first picking. House furnished. See S. F. Haynes, Merkel. 1t

LOST—Rear Lamp and number for Ford Car. Number 135,421. Finder please notify O. A. Smith Trent Texas. 11t2p

There will be a box supper at Mount Pleasant on Saturday night, February 12. The proceeds to be used for school equipment and for the benefit of the church. The public is cordially invited to attend.

MT. PLEASANT ITEMS

Farming seems to be the order of the day here, every one is busy tilling and preparing the soil for the 1921 crops and at the same time hoping it will prove more profitable than the 1920 crop did.

Mr. E. M. Massey and family spent Sunday with friends over in Sandburr vicinity.

Mr. and Mrs. Irin Street are the happy parents of a baby girl born on the 1st.

Our Sunday School students were happily surprised Sunday afternoon when Bro. Black of Simmons College drove over and delivered a very interesting sermon.

We learn that there is to be a sort of folks rally here the 4th Sunday afternoon. A large crowd is expected also fine singing if you have a musical voice bring it along well tuned.

Mr. Louis Click and Miss Mary Ridenbach happened to a very sad accident Sunday afternoon when the car in which they were riding suddenly refused to be controlled and turned bottom up into a ditch leaving them in a very critical condition, however, they were soon excavated with no injuries except a few bruises. Not that we wish to make a joke of a tragedy but they were on their way to Merkel to be married.

Mr. G. C. Sargent and family spent Sunday with relatives on Salt Branch.

Mr. Bill Biggler is building a little cottage over on Miss Lizzie Glennvick's place seems kinda strange yet we do not meddle. A Hob-goblin.

NOTICE

New shoe shop just opened for business in the Sears block just north of the Commercial motor Co. We do all kind of fine shoe repairing. All work guaranteed. We will appreciate your patronage. 4t2p

BRIDGES & BYRD

Eliza Ann Licksillet told me she had a postal card from Marandy Hartshorn and she and Sally Sue Daggett from Dogtown were a comin' to that Tea Party. tf

If you need any hauling see— J. R. Baze, phone 18. 1t

WANTS YOUR WORK

John Mc Donald

Contractor & Builder.
Plans Drawn and Estimates made on short notice.

Merkel, Texas

Honoring Miss Mary Campbell, a number of young people were most royally entertained at the home of Mr. and Mrs. B. H. Moore on Friday evening February 4, from 8:00 to 11:00. The occasion being her birthday. As the guests arrived each young lady and man were presented with a badge of blue and pink ribbon.

A special chair of honor was then placed in the center of the room for Miss Campbell where turn by turn she entertained each guest with an interesting year-book made and presented to her by Miss Lola Moore.

In keeping with the valentine season a favor which was a large heart bearing the inscription: "February 4, 1921" was presented to each person present.

As partners were chosen they were escorted into the dining-room where the delicious birthday cake was cut by the various guests, the coins found therein being presented to Miss Campbell.

Refreshments of whipped cream, fruit, and cake were served.

As they departed each wished for Miss Campbell a hundred more such birthdays and every wish her little heart desires.

Those present were: Misses Mary Campbell, Bessie Tucker, Mollie Shannon, Jessie and Leota Touchstone, Burnice Merritt, Louella Palmer, Mildred Estes, and Lola Moore. Messrs John Shannon, Vernie Merritt, Will Spurgin, Claude Touchstone Oslie Williams, Chester Lucas, Leonard and Corrie Camp, and Shannon Moore.

A TRINITY OF GARDENS

Every farm house should have these gardens—a vegetable garden, a fruit garden and a flower garden. This trinity of gardens, may be a triangle of gardens, with the apex pointing upward to prosperity and its base resting upon home independence.

The vegetable garden should supply the family table with fresh vegetables with a surplus to put up in brine, dry and can for winter use.

The fruit garden should contain fruits, such as grapes, black berries, strawberries, dewberries and other fruits, suitable for a small area. The orchard proper should be large enough and cared for sufficiently to produce all the peaches, apples, pears, plum cherries, and if in citrus belt, oranges, grapefruit, kumquats, etc., needed for the home.

The flower garden may not afford any income, though some of them do. It may not have any utility value at all. But it is sure to have ethical value, refining influence and pleasure moments for the gardener. It may bespeak the refinement, the taste, the knowledge and the artistic temperament of the gardener. The home adorned and beautiful by a flower garden will be a happier home and generally worth a great deal more than there are no flowers.—Farm and Ranch.

DIED LAST FRIDAY

Mrs. Harrell, wife of G. W. Harrell, of the Salt Branch community, died at the family residence in that community on last Friday, and was laid to rest in Rose Hill Cemetery, this city the following day.

Deceased had been in bad health for a long time, had reached the ripe old age of 62. We extend sympathy to the bereaved relatives.

BANK CLOSING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that on and after February 15, 1921, we the undersigned banks in the city of Merkel will open our doors each day during the week for business at 8 a.m. and close at 4 p.m. We therefore kindly ask our patrons and the public to take notice and be governed accordingly. R. O. Anderson, Cashier, Farmers State Bank, L. R. Thompson, Cashier, Farmers & Merchants National Bank.

Peace Maker Flour, at G. M. Sharp's 1t

By NELLIE A. FAIRBANKS.
(© 1921, by McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)

Bill Curtis vigorously applied the old stubby brush broom to his well-worn sult, then stopped for a moment to gaze out across the great green fields. For 16 years, weather permitting, Bill had watched and loved this time of day, when the sun was casting its last slanting rays.

Tonight he was leaving the home he loved so well and the man who had shared his home and with whom he had worked for 16 years. That was the hard part of going. Something that looked suspiciously like tears welled up in his honest blue eyes, and he gazed for a minute at the man at the sink, doing up the supper dishes. As a rule this man was talkative, but tonight he was strangely silent.

The arduous task of making an old sult look something like new was finally completed and Bill stepped out on the little platform that served as a piazza. He looked sadly at the two empty arm chairs.

"At the end of two days' journey I will be with Marcia again," and once more he could see the little white-clad figure as he left her that last evening. Again he could hear the soft sobbing as she begged him not to be away long, and Bill held her close as he whispered:

"When I have made the little fortune I have dreamed of, then I will come back to you. And when I do come back, Marcia, it will be in Ullac-time, just like it is today."

The first few weeks had been unbearable to Bill; then as the months and years passed he felt into that rut of being perfectly satisfied with working hard all day and spending the long evenings with his faithful companion and his pipe.

His little pile of money grew bigger each year until he at last decided it was time to go back to the old home and Marcia. His heart beat faster as he pictured the little vision in white, and he sighed happily as he again entered the little cottage. But his spirits drooped when he beheld Jim, sitting with his head resting in his two hands, a picture of despair. Going over, he placed his hand on Jim's shoulder and said:

"We've spent some very happy years here, old scout, but now I must be going back to Marcia. I wish you could see her, Jim—so small, with wavy tresses and—"

"Yes, but 16 years makes an awful difference, old man," Jim answered.

"Yes, yes," Bill murmured, half absent; "in some people, but not Marcia."

At last the time came when the comrades parted. Jim drove Bill over the two miles to the railroad station, and they silently pressed each other's hand, for neither could speak just then.

Jim drove back to the lonely cottage, seated himself in his arm chair beside the vacant one, and when the big full moon arose its beams fell on one lonely figure, and an empty chair.

In the meantime the train sped on towards Bill's old home and Marcia. His journey ended at noon two days later, but as Bill felt terribly romantic, he waited until the sun was setting, then Marcia must see him first by the Ullac bush near her door. As he neared the house he wished he had kept corresponding all these years; but then, he felt sure Marcia loved him enough to watch and wait for him even though it was sixteen years.

He was almost at the gate when a sudden fear took possession of him. Things did not look just right. What if Marcia had gone away, or had died; but no, he must put such thoughts away. At the gate a piercing scream reached his ear—just as he was by the Ullac tree, where Marcia must see him first—and two dirty-faced boys came rushing around the corner of the house, the larger one finally overtaking the other, and they immediately started a fist fight.

The door of the house opened quickly, and a woman, one who would easily tip the scales at two hundred, appeared in a soiled gingham dress, sleeves rolled to her elbows, exhibiting a pair of fat red arms thickly covered with white suds, and the equally red face showed plainly she had just emerged from the family washtub.

Bill rubbed his eyes and looked again. There might just have been an ordinary double chin attached to that face, but Bill could swear he saw four. He also noticed the thin, half gray locks, twisted into a little hard knot at the back of her head. Crushing the innocent Ullac where he had a few moments before so romantically placed his hand, he stepped back a little farther.

There was no mistaking. The eyes proved it was Marcia, and if there was the least bit of doubt left in his mind, it disappeared when a man in overalls brushed past him and called out, "Hurry up and get my dinner, Marcia."

And Marcia was just starting back for the kitchen when she espied the man by the Ullac bush. Raising her voice, she called out loudly:

"Get away from them Ullacs or I'll call the dog."

Three days later Bill turned the corner of his own little cottage, and peering through the window, beheld Jim in the act of setting one single place at the table.

"Set it for two, old man," Bill sang out cheerily. "And Jim, when you said a lot could happen in 16 years, you said something."



We Have Received a Car Load of John Deere Implements

Consisting of the Following---

Disc Plows, Disc Harrows, Sulky Plows,
Single Row Cotton Planters, Double Row Cotton Planters
Single Row Cultivators, Double Row Cultivators

When you are in the market for any of these Implements call and see us, as we have them in stock ready for you. ¶ We also have Water Hose, Rakes, Garden Plows, Sprinklers, and all such things as you may need for your garden. ¶ Our stock of Hardware in all lines is in good shape. ¶ If in need of plowgear, such as Bridles, Lines, Collars, Hames, Chains, in fact anything in the leather goods line call and see us.

GROCERIES We carry a full stock of Groceries **GROCERIES**
at all times and prices are right

Whether it be Hardware or Groceries, we will appreciate your trade

The Crown Hardware Company

TO THE MERKEL MAIL

There are as you know, two bills before the present legislature which are of particular concern to the division of our school system, i. e.; the bill pertaining to an appropriation to be made for the continuance of Rural State Aid and a bill providing for the retirement of about \$1,000,000 of the state bonds in which the permanent school fund is now invested, which money, if the bill is passed, can be used for the purchase of school bonds offered for sale.

While all of the schools of the county are not, at this time, particularly concerned in the sale of bonds, all are deeply interested in the matter of the continuance of State Aid, at least for a time. An appeal has been made by people of all of our rural communities to our Senator and Representative to this matter, and further communication is being taken up relative to the bill which will enable the purchase of bonds. The following is a part of a letter sent from this office through the schools to the Honorable John Russell and the Honorable Ben L. Cox:

"While this is my first year of service in the capacity of county superintendent, I have already learned enough to feel assurance in saying that the Rural State Aid Law has meant more to the rural schools of this county than has any other law passed in recent years. When the law first began its operation, I think I may say that not more than a third of the schools of this county were eligible for the aid. Immediately, it became an incentive for real improvement and this good work has continued, until this year of the forty-five schools of the county, all are classed as State Aid schools, except two and these two hope to be able to be so classified at an early date. In this county this year about three thousand children are having instruction and opportunities that they could not hope to have were there not such a thing as State Aid. As

important as it is, I do not regard the amount of money appropriated to each district as the chief consideration. The effort put forth by those districts in qualifying for State Aid, the valuable and much needed equipment placed in the various schools, the splendid new buildings which have been erected to state plans, and the increase in maintenance taxes in most of the districts are certainly strong arguments for the continuance, at least for a time, of this appropriation. In the November election, as you know, the school Amendment, whereby a school district may be allowed to vote what is needed for its support, was passed with a big majority vote in this county, with the rural districts making a better showing, on the whole, than the cities. Since that time trustees of four rural schools in the county have consulted me in regard to what they can do next year to vote a tax that will, with the State Aid help, enable them to have three teachers instead of two, relieving badly crowded conditions and to have seven months term instead of a six months. However it will be at least several years before such conditions can be hoped for, in event our most progressive common school districts, that even a fairly good school can be maintained without some assistance from the State Aid in addition to the regular scholastic apportionment."

May I not urge that many of the public-spirited citizens of our towns and cities add an appeal to what has been said in behalf of our rural schools? Sixty-nine per cent of the children of our state are trained in rural and village schools. Can anyone afford to disregard the interests of such a per cent of our future citizens? There are many men and women in this country who have much influence with our law-makers and who will, I believe, be glad to use this influence to help in this important matter, if it is only brought to their attention. While, as you know, the State Department

gives preference to bonds of small schools, because, otherwise it would be almost impossible for these bonds to be disposed of, the sale of school bonds is a matter of concern to us all. May I not also hope that an appeal for this bill, as mentioned, will be included in the communication to our representatives?

I fear that the bill recently passed by the Legislature, deferring the publishing of delinquent tax lists and reducing the penalty for non-payment to five per cent, will result in the deferring of the payment of taxes, and the schools, accordingly, will suffer greatly. Except for the interest on the payment fund and the four million dollar appropriation, the state available fund comes from the payment of taxes. Many of the schools have not collected their local taxes and have been depending entirely upon state funds. It should be fully understood that further delay in paying taxes will mean delay in the state apportionment. To date there have been five apportionments paid by the state, amounting to \$5.50 per capita. This means that three million of the four million dollars appropriated have been paid. Under our present State administration the state apportionments are the most prompt our schools have ever known, and if conditions were at all normal, no inconvenience would be felt at this time.

If the present Legislature does not take action for a general apportionment for the schools, the apportionment per capita next year will be reduced from fourteen dollars and a half to eleven and a half or even less. But for the text-book tax, this reduction would be to eight and a half or nine dollars. (If I may digress a moment here I should like to call your attention to some phases of the free text-book law, not generally understood, or overlooked.) If this law were repealed, there would be a loss of the fifteen cent tax leaving only the twenty cent maintenance tax to pay teachers' salaries. This year nearly two million dollars

will go into the available school fund from the text-book fund. Furthermore, the free text-book amendment makes it constitutional to vote funds for the schools from the general funds of the state. Without this amendment neither the four million dollar appropriation nor the State Aid appropriation would be constitutional. Certainly, much influence should be brought to bear upon our representatives to the end that our per capita apportionment should, at least, not be reduced.

The members of the Legislature are our representatives; they will not go counter to wishes, if they are convinced that we really desire the passage of certain measures. Let me urge again that we do not delay, but let them know AT ONCE our wishes in the matters.

Very truly yours,
Ada D. Pearce, County Supt.

Our Measure is Full

On January 18 the State Inspector of Weights and Measures was in Merkel and checked up our Visible Filling Pump. It showed that when you bought Gasoline from us you received five ounces over the amount you were paying for, or that much more than enough to come up to the requirements of law. We will leave the pump just as it is, and our customers will continue to receive the benefits of same. ¶ Full measure, prompt and courteous treatment is what you get here.

Give us your Next Order

21t4

Woodrum Filling Station

GEM CONFECTIONERY

We are headquarters for, cold drinks, ice cream, fresh fruits, cigars, cigarettes and candies.

We also have secured the agency for the Acme Graphophone and records and will have same on exhibit at the Gem.

AGENTS FOR ABILENE STEAM LAUNDRY

NOTICE

I will have plenty of that good old J. R. Watkins stuff such as Toilet Artirles, peper, sage, nut megg, Spices, flavoring of all kinds, cough syrup, laxitive syrup, cold tablets, salve, cold cream, Soap that will lather in hard water, shaving soap, face cream, shampoo, jelley, hair tonic, all of this is guaranteed

to be pure. See me at the Merkel Garage each afternoon or call at my house at the South end of Rose street. N. A. Dowell.

About the time we were beginning to urge our farmer friends that their future existance lay safe in the product of the little brown hen, the bottom fell out of the price on eggs. Another case of getting back to normal.

GREAT SALE! BANKRUPT STOCK

High-Grade Merchandise, consisting of Men's, Ladies' and Children's Ready-to-Wear, Dress Goods, Silks, Shoes, Hats, etc., all of the best of makes, offered to the public at

A Fraction of Original Cost

This is your biggest and best opportunity to secure your wants for some time to come. You know the quality of goods handled by this store, formerly known as the E. Seigel and Economy Store, which was sold to the highest bidder by the Federal Court at public sale.

We Are Going to Sell This Stock of High-grade Merchandise to the Public for 30 Days

Come expecting and you will get the biggest bargains that have ever been offered you in Merkel. Your Quarters will now buy what your Dollars formerly did. Read below some of the bargains. Space does not permit us mentioning more.

Mens fine suits, Schloss Bros. and other highest grade makes, all wool. These suits sold up to \$85.00
Your choice.....**\$19.98**

\$20 and 22.50 Edwin Clapp, highest grade mens shoes, in all desirable styles go at this sale at choice.....**\$9.98**

\$15 and 16.00 W. L. Douglas fine dress shoes in a large assortment of styles, your choice.....**\$7.49**

\$25 Combination Stetson lace boot, a good one, sale price.....**\$10.49**

Ladies finest quality shoes, high and low heels. including a very nice line of low shoes and pumps
\$7.50 kind for.....**\$3.98**
\$9.00 kind for.....**\$4.98**
10.00 kind for.....**5.98**
One lot of shoes and pumps, up to \$15 kind, for.....**2.98**

LADIES HATS - Every hat in the house, prices were up to \$25. Come in take your choice of any ladies hat in the house for.....**\$1.98**

Best grade J. & P. Coats thread 10c quality for per spool.....**5c**

\$2.50 & 3.00 best grade union-made overalls, Bankrupt Sale price.....**98c**

25c grade work sox, Bankrupt sale price.....**10c**

35c Best grade bleached domestic, such qualities as Hope, good as gold Bankrupt sale price, per yd.....**15c**

A big line if blankets and comforts at
Your Own Prices

\$12.50 Ladies all-silk poplin dresses, in all colors and sizes Bankrupt sale price.....**\$4.98**

Ladies Fine Silk Dresses---Our entire stock of Tricotine, Serge, Georgette, Taffetas, Messeline, etc., dresses that sold up to \$65.00, for your choice Bankrupt sale price.....**\$10.98**
Come early and get your pick

25c Huck towels, large size, each **12c**

\$10.00 and 15.00 Mens finest quality crepe and silk shirts Bankrupt sale price.....**\$4.98**

35c to 50c best grade gingham Bankrupt sale price, per yd.....**15c**

Best grade blue shirts, that formerly sold up to 3.00, bankrupt sale.....**98c**
All sizes, up to size 20

Up to \$18 Stetson hats, Bankrupt sale, take your choice.....**\$7.98**

\$15.00 large and small brim fur hats Bankrupt sale price.....**\$6.98**

\$8.00 and 8.50 Mens best grade work shoes, goodyear welts.....**\$3.98**

One lot fine all-wool ladies sweaters, values up to \$15, your choice **\$3.98**

\$2.00 to 3.00 fine georgette and crepe de chine 40-in. wide, in all colors Bankrupt sale price, yard.....**98c**

\$1.50 quality mens ribbed shirt and drawers, Bankrupt sale price.....**69c**

DON'T BE MISLEAD, LOOK FOR THE RIGHT PLACE, FORMERLY THE

ECONOMY STORE

Two doors above Post Office

Beasley Building, Merkel, Texas