

# THE MERKEL MAIL

THE MERCHANTS WHO ADVERTISE APPRECIATE YOUR BUSINESS—READ THE ADS

VOL. 37—NO. 42

MERKEL, TEXAS, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1925

16 PAGES

## CHRISTMAS CANTATA AT THE M. E. CHURCH

Sunday evening at the regular hour of service at the Methodist Church, the choir, under the direction of Mrs. J. Samuel Rider, will render a Christmas Cantata. A great deal of practice has been necessary to render this program with credit. If you have not yet got the Christmas Spirit of good cheer and good will toward your fellow man, come out and hear this splendid musical program Sunday evening. Visitors and strangers are cordially invited.

- The program follows:
1. O Zion, That Bringest Good Tidings. (Prelude and men's unison chorus.)
  - No. 2. Arise and Shine (Bass solo, and tenor duet, and chorus)
  - No. 3. A King Shall Rule (Full Chorus.)
  - No. 4. O Little Town of Bethlehem (Soprano and Alto duet.)
  - No. 5. There shall come a Star. (Soprano or Tenor Solo and Quartette or Chorus.)
  - No. 6. One Midnight Still (Contralto or Baritone Solo.)
  - No. 7. Glory to God in the Highest. (Chorus)
  - No. 8. Would I had lived in Bethlehem. (Quartette.)
  - No. 9. No room for the Christ Child. (Soprano or tenor solo.)
  - No. 10. God with us. (Chorus.)
  - No. 11. Sing Unto God. (Final Chorus.)

## WILL BE CANDIDATE FOR COTTON WEAVER

While in conversation with Mr. Thos. A. Bearden, a most excellent and capable citizen of this community, we learn that he expects to soon announce in these columns as a candidate for Cotton Weaver of the Merkel precinct.

Our readers and voters may watch this paper for his definite announcement in the near future, he states.

## ON WAY TO CUBA

Mr. Ralph Bigham, of Houston, came in first of the week for a visit with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Claude Bigham, of Trent, and his grandmother, Mrs. W. P. Browning of this city. Mr. Bigham expects to soon sail for Cuba, where he will become manager of a big ranch in that country, owned by American citizens.

Mr. E. Doyle Garrett who has been attending Baylor University at Waco, is spending the holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Garrett.

## DODGE BROS. ANNOUNCE PRICE CUT

The Merkel Garage, local dealers for Dodge Brothers motor cars, were informed early Wednesday morning by telegraph that tremendous price reductions will be made on all models, effective January 7. Although the exact size of the reductions have not been announced, a unique feature is that the price cuts will be effective on all cars sold since December 15th, and the amount of the reduction will be refunded on cars bought between December 15 and January 7th.

These reductions are made possible, the message states, by completion of a \$10,000,000 expansion program at the Dodge Brothers plant. New buildings and equipment practically double the capacity of the Dodge Brothers factories. A whole page announcement of the reductions is made in this paper.

## MRS. JOHN SEARS IS NOW IMPROVING

Mr. John Sears and daughters, Miss Johnnie and Mrs. W. S. J. Brown, accompanied by Mr. Brown, returned first of the week from Dallas where they had been to visit Mrs. Sears, who has been in a sanitarium in that city for some time, and who we are glad to learn is now improving nicely from a recent operation.

As stated recently, Mr. and Mrs. Sears are among the pioneer and very best citizens of this community, and their host of friends will indeed be glad to learn that she is improving nicely.

## Doctor Gardner Locates Here

Dr. C. B. Gardner and family have come to Merkel to make their home. The doctor is associated with Dr. Geo. L. Miller and comes to our town with high recommendations. Dr. Miller and family will be away from Merkel for several months after the first of the year and Dr. Gardner will have charge of Dr. Miller's offices and practice, and will reside at the Miller residence during that time.

Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Holt, of Ballinger and Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Brown, of Tuscola, were up last Sunday for a visit with J. S. Thomas and family.

## BIG PICTURE AT COZY THEATRE

The belief that the Indian does not show emotion, that he does not visibly register joy or sorrow was disproved during the making of Paramount's "The Thundering Herd," which William K. Howard produced from Zane Grey's gripping historical novel.

While filming the buffalo hunt and stampede scenes for the picture, a group of Arapaho Indians also taking part in the production, stood behind the camera and watched the action. When the buffalo thundered across the plains in one bellowing mass, tears gathered in the eyes of the red men.

The Araphoes, loaned to Paramount from the government reservation in Wyoming, were transported to the location in Yellowstone Park by Famous Players-Lasky Corporation. It was the first time in over thirty years and of them had seen a bison. When the players rode into the maddened herd, the Indians actually cried.

Among those watching the scene was Chief-Goes-In-Lodge, age seventy-two, who took part in many real buffalo killings during the late sixties and early seventies. The Chief, an historical character of note, portrays the same role in "The Thundering Herd" that he played in real life fifty years ago.

In rounding up the herd of buffalo for the picture, the entire camp of Indians assisted. Despite the fact that they had not come in contact with the animals for more than thirty years, the red men showed greater skill than most of the white men.

Featured in the cast of "The Thundering Herd" are Jack Holt, Lois Wilson, Noah Berry and Raymond Hatton. This picture will appear at the Cozy Theatre Today and tomorrow.

## CHRISTMAS SERMON AT PRESBYTERIANS

Sunday school at 10 a.m. Preaching at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Junior Christian Endeavor at the 11 o'clock hour.

Senior Christian Endeavor at 6 p.m.

The choir will render special music at the morning and evening services. Special Christmas message by the pastor. We extend a cordial invitation to the public to worship with us.

## TO OUR READERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC

It gives us much pleasure to call your attention to the great volume of both local and display advertising to be found in the columns of this paper. Besides the fact that the paper has been accorded a most wonderful patronage by the business men and citizens of the town and community, it has enabled us to publish a much larger paper, which is also complimentary to the town as a great business center and reflects a live, up-to-date, progressive set of business men.

We want to say to our readers that they need not go elsewhere than in Merkel to do their Christmas shopping, for here the business men have large and complete stocks of everything one could wish, and they are usually right when it comes to prices.

Then, again, when you buy it in Merkel, you keep Merkel money in Merkel, and help build up your own home town.

## PROHIBITION ROW ON IN NAT'L CONGRESS

Washington, Dec. 15.—The new debate over prohibition, which has begun in Congress, is likely to equal in length and ferocity the one that drove John Barleycorn beyond the law six years ago.

The old fellow was dragged by the neck into the Senate Tuesday and a noisy argument developed as to whether he was alive or dead. The debate will be continued at frequent intervals in the House and Senate so long as the wets scent the faintest hope.

An assault from the wet side by Senator Edge of New Jersey, a prominent and regular Republican, set off the liveliest fight the Senate has witnessed this season. Wets and dries plied into the ring and verbally mauled each other for two hours.

Wets charged there was more drunkenness than before prohibition. Dries said that contention was ridiculous.

Edge said later that he expected to ask the Senate Judiciary Committee to hold hearings on his bills to revive 2.75 per cent beer and lift restrictions on liquor prescriptions.

**Can't Be Enforced, Says Edge**  
"It is generally admitted that the present act cannot be enforced; that it is ridiculous to employ half the population to police the other half and then fail," Edge said in his speech.

"Almost all the leading national activity is to find ways to evade or beat the law. Citizens in all walks of life, scrupulously honest and law-abiding in all other ways, boast of their success or ability to do so. Homes where in the old days liquor was never found now produce so-called pre-war stocks in apparent inexhaustible supplies."

This stirred Senator Willis of Ohio, the driest of Republicans, "That has not been my experience, I regret to say." Here laughter interrupted the Senator who in some confusion quickly added: "Or, rather, I say it without regret."

"Isn't it a fact," inquired Cole Blease of South Carolina, "that foreign Ambassadors and Ministers actually have whiskey and wine on their tables when if the President of the United States did that he would be denounced as a criminal?"

"I don't know anything about that," Mr. Willis replied, "but it is perfectly idle and silly for anybody to say that consumption of liquor has increased. Why, in the old days men stood at bars two and three deep—I am told."

## Sheppard Makes Reply

The men and women who disregard the national prohibition law, or encourage and patronize bootleggers and others who disregard it, "are law breakers and criminals and take their places among the law breaking and criminal classes of the country," was declared in Senate debate Tuesday by Senator Morris Sheppard of Texas. The Texas Senator, who is author of Nationwide constitutional prohibition, was answering the speech of Senator Edge (Rep.) of New Jersey.

## "Mandates of States,"

"In making the eighteenth amendment effective," said Senator Sheppard, "we are carrying out the mandates of the States as determined and expressed under the Constitution itself. A distinctive American principle is the rule of the majority. When the requisite, constitutional majority of the States ratified the eighteenth amendment, all the states and all their inhabitants were placed under a sacred obligation to obey it. Any other

## MALONE BROS. BIG RODEO HERE 24-25

On Decemtr 24 and 25, the Malone Brothers, expert rodeo men, with their famous wild herds, will give in this city two big performances, at 2:30 in the afternoon each day.

Mr. Bob Malone, who has been playing the big fall fairs in many of the cities of the northern states, will be here in person to help make the occasion a big success. Read their advertisement in this paper.

## DR. GRIMES IS THE NEXT TOASTMASTER

As has been stated before, the next Luncheon Club meeting night will be known as "Ladies Night," and at this time it is expected that a Ladies Auxiliary will be organized for the purpose of securing their united efforts in making our city more beautiful next year. And as Toastmaster for the big event, President Henry C. West, has named Dr. R. I. Grimes as Toastmaster, which insures, to begin with, a very fine program and large attendance of both men and women at the next meeting.

Program and further announcement will be made in another issue of the Mail. Watch for it.

## MR. THOMPSON SELLS HIS HOME HERE TOO

In our last issue of the Mail we made mention in the item regarding the purchase of Mr. L. R. Thompson's interest in the F. & M. Bank, that it was rumored that he had also sold his home. Since that time he has informed us that such is the case, and further that he and his good family will very likely soon move from our midst. However, as to the character of business he will enter, or just where, has not yet been decided.

Their many friends throughout the entire city and community will indeed regret very much that they are so soon to leave our midst, and this paper joins with them in wishing for Mr. and Mrs. Thompson the very best that life affords, and with pleasure commend them to the best people of any community in which they may decide to locate.

They have both been very popular in church, social and civic affairs of our town and community, and in the business circle, as his friends so often state, "we have found Mr. Thompson every inch a man."

Mrs. R. L. Bradshaw and little girl will leave Friday to spend the holidays with her daughter Mrs. W. A. Johnson, at Greenville, Texas, and other relatives at Fort Worth, Honey Grove and Cleburne, Texas.

Mr. Joe Holmes left Tuesday night for Big Spring where he had been called to attend the funeral of a friend in the person of Mr. J. T. Anderson, a prominent citizen of that community.

course would be un-American, anarchistic, bolshevistic and revolutionary. Men and women who disregard it, or who encourage and patronize those who disregard it and the laws duly enacted for its enforcement, become lawbreakers and criminals and take their places among the law breaking and criminal classes of the nation."

## CHRISTMAS SERVICE AT BAPTIST CHURCH

The service Sunday morning will be in keeping with the season. Special music and a Christmas sermon will be prominent in the morning service. It is hoped that every member of the local church as well as friends will be present Sunday morning.

Sunday evening the pastor will bring a second message on Nehemiah, the theme being "Overcoming Difficulties."

All other services for Sunday and for the week as usual with the addition of a special Christmas program Thursday evening at seven o'clock.

Our good women are undertaking to supply hens for a dinner at Buckner Orphans Home. We are told that it takes 125 hens to do this as there are some 700 children in the Home. Mr. Joe Harris has kindly agreed to receive the hens at his poultry house and furnish coops in which to ship them. All friends of orphan children are invited to help get the 125 hens. Bring them to Mr. Harris' Poultry house Saturday or Monday morning so they can be shipped out on the noon train Monday.

Ira L. Parrack, Pastor.

## DR. GAMBILL TO MOVE TO BONEY BUILDING

Dr. W. M. Gambill, Dentist, with offices in the West building over Bragg Dry Goods Company, announces that on January 1, 1926, he will move his offices to the W. O. Boney building, over Hamilton & Case Grocery, where he will be pleased to have his patrons and friends call on him after the above named date.

Mr. D. M. Miller, one of the cotton kings of Jones county, who makes Merkel his trading place, was here one day this week and dropped into the Mail office to arrange for his next year's reading. He reports his daughter, Mrs. Edna Spratlin, of Houston, is visiting in his home during the holidays.

## Read Our New Serial

### In Valhalla and Out

By George Ethelbert Walsh

Here is a story which proves that modern conditions can produce as romantic and thrilling a sea tale as those of old in which buccaneers and pirate gold figured.

No buried treasure in this story, but there is a kidnapped maiden and for good measure a kidnapped millionaire; also a stolen yacht, a pirate of the modern financial sort and a lot of bang-up exciting adventures. You are sure to be delighted with it.

First Installment Will Appear in NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE of The Merkel Mail



EVERY

### BRANCH OF BANKING

The activities of this Bank, extending as it does into every branch of business, is in a position to render its customers a service at once so varied and complete that they have to carry but one account. Come in and talk over your financial business with one of our officers. You will find them willing to take all the time needed to help you with your business.

## FARMER STATE BANK

Banking Friendship that Encircles this Section

#### OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

J. S. Swann, President J. C. Mason, Vice-President R. O. Anderson, Active Vice-Pres, W. L. Diltz Jr., Cashier Herbert Patterson, Assistant-Cashier. David Hendricks

#### STOCKHOLDERS MEETING

The annual meeting of the shareholders of The Farmers State Bank, Merkel, Texas, will be held at the office of the Bank at 4 o'clock P. M. on Thursday January 14th, 1926, for the purpose of electing Directors and such other business which may come before the meeting.

R. O. Anderson, Vice-Pres. 11t4

#### LOW RATES to SUCCESVILLE

139 Texas business firms asked for Draughon-trained bookkeepers and stenographers in November—many more calls this month Low Holiday Rates on scholarships insuring positions or your money back. Courses indorsed by more bankers than all others. Write TODAY. Draughon's College, Box H, Abilene, Tex. 11t2p

### Expert Repairing

The way we repair shoes, it is really more of a re-make rather than a repaired shoe. Naturally the service a re-made shoe gives is almost equal to a new shoe.

### GOODYEAR SHOE SHOP

176 Cypress, Opposite Gambill's. Abilene, Texas

## CHRISTMAS

## CAKES AND CANDIES



Our cakes are full of good substantial food, make a hit with every member of the family, and our fruit cakes are delicious. Set one before the family Christmas Day.

The children enjoy our hard candies for Christmas because they last longer, and the older folks too. Order them today and we'll have them ready when you call.

### QUALITY BAKERY

A. A. McGEHEE, Prop.

BREAD IS YOUR BEST FOOD. EAT MORE OF IT

## Trimming the Tree

By Frances Grinstead



HE decorated tree, around which our Christmas holiday centers, has an origin older than Christianity itself. In ancient days trees were held sacred to various good and evil spirits and offerings to them were hung upon the branches. To the Teutons the fir tree, with its symmetrical spreading branches, was a symbol of the sun and they celebrated the winter season by decking it in tinsel, flowers, toys and other ornaments.

Christian use of the tree symbol probably began in Germany, but there are many stories of the first Christmas tree. One is that Martin Luther, walking under the stars one Christmas Eve, was moved by their wonder as a revelation of the nearness of God to man. When he reached home, he took a little fir tree and put lighted candles on its branches to explain his thought to the children.

With age-old traditions behind it, it is fitting that the typical Christmas tree in these days is decorated purely for the sake of its own beauty. Small and graceful, it often stands on the library table, gifts heaped around its base, or in miniature form graces the dining table, the center of cheer until New Year's. If it is to shine in the memories of children through years to come, its ornaments must be hung with as much thought as ever the old Teutons gave to the placing of their sun-festival gifts. The secret of decorating a tree effectively is to make its decorations look as if they grew there. One secret of that is to place the ornaments at the points of growth.



where the limbs branch and where the twigs leave the branches; the other is to place ornaments that look heavy where the tree looks strongest, well back on the branches and toward the lower part of the tree.

It is a good thing to lay out the materials for decoration with those of like shape and color together and to handle one kind of decorations at a time. In this way it is easy to distribute masses of trimming and spots of color evenly and to see that the different kinds are well intermingled. It is a common mistake to place most of the ornaments on the tip ends of the branches, under the impression that they will show up best there. As a matter of fact, a few ornaments well placed on the body of the tree are more effective than if they are scattered on the outer circumference.

The remainder of lights reflected from various ornaments should also be considered; those with glassy surfaces shine with a different glow from that of tinsel, and apples, oranges and confections of candy must not be expected to counterbalance brighter surfaces. So distribute the decorations having a different kind of surface. The glassy ornaments will relieve the dark masses of the tree if they are hung well back in it, but dull-surfaced objects, if not too large, should be hung in nearer view. A good place for fruits, which are heavy but too dull to show in the body of the tree unless there is a break in the foliage, is on the sturdy lower limbs.

The small electric lights which have superseded candles for the Christmas tree should be arranged in orderly gradation from the lower limbs to the top. A pretty effect is produced if tiny white bulbs are substituted for the vari-colored ones that usually make up these circuits and each light enclosed in a small paper cone of soft yellow or orange. These cones projecting downward give much the same impression as the vertical effect of candles.

Chains of tinsel and colored paper are effective decorations if they are used rightly. They should not be simply strung around the tree, weighing on the tips of its branches, so that they seem to fetter it. If they wind branches, as a vine might, they seem to belong in the tree.



Toys may have their place on the tree itself, if they are decorative. An amusing doll perched on a limb, a brightly-colored horn gleaming in the shadows, a rubber ball suspended high in the branches, will delight the children.

The grown-up who trims a Christmas tree has a chance for once in the year to be an artist—with the most appreciative public in the world. The children on Christmas morning will recognize his work as a masterpiece if he only remembers two rules: First, the tree's the thing; it must be treated as a unit and every bit of decoration must further the total effect. Second, don't overload it; if it is not smoothed with trimming, the tree itself is the very best part of the decoration.

(©, 1925, Western Newspaper Union.)

## Grandmother Compares Present With Long Ago

JENNY and her great-grandmother were having a little chat while they waited for the announcement from the maid that Christmas dinner was ready. Grandma Smith had been born and reared in the South. She was spending the holidays with her daughter in the North. Grandmother was in her early nineties, but a remarkable woman for her age. Tall, erect, spry, she would never grow old mentally for she was too progressive in her thinking.

"Jenny, as I looked around the house just now, I couldn't help but realize what a difference a generation or two has made in our mode of living. I couldn't keep from comparing this day and home with a Christmas Day and home I knew long ago. You know, Jenny, Andrew and I were married on one Christmas, years ago. Andrew built a little cabin on a plot of ground he owned. It was perched up on a hill. I thought it was the loveliest, most beautiful cabin ever built in the whole world. And it was. It was the last word in cozy, home architecture of the times. Inside it had a dirt floor and a few pieces of hickory furniture which Andrew had made. I wove all the linens and other cloth which we used. We were so happy. We had a big home wedding. One of my wedding presents was a tin cup. That cup was a prized possession, much talked about and envied by my neighbors. Sometimes I wonder, we lived so simply—and happily—and now how complex are—"

The dinner gong boomed forth a welcome sound. The family gathered and with joyful chatterings hurried in to the festively arranged Christmas dinner table.—Eleanor E. King.

(©, 1925, Western Newspaper Union.)

### LETTER GOT THERE

SHE didn't have Santa Claus' address, but she knew that Aunt Mary must have it, so she wrote the following letter to him and sent it in care of "Aunt Mary, New York," having first read it to her mother:

"Dear Santa Claus: I hope you are well. Are you? Won't you have to come this year in your airplane, or your automobile? Here is my list:

"Too teddy bears in dresses. A doll's writing desk. A doll, not a girl doll. A doll's house (it is in the corner bookshop that is kept by Miss Sinclair). One bear brown and the other white. I think that is all. Your loving friend."

The letter must have arrived, for the presents did.—C. G. Hazard.

(©, 1925, Western Newspaper Union.)

### Christmas Card That Ended His Loneliness

FORT several years circumstances had made James Wingall move from town to town so that he seemed to lose almost the entire connection with his past. He was so occupied with trade he did not note the passing years, nor realize that almost all his schoolmates now were married and he a bachelor of thirty-five.

One Christmas Eve, however, when he returned to an empty hotel room, it was with feelings that in spite of his business success, something vital was lacking in his life. Perhaps that was why he disliked Christmas so. When business ceased, nothing else remained.

In the solitude of his room, he opened the few Christmas cards which still sought him out. Every one he scanned he tossed aside, except one from the first girl he had ever kissed. He held it tenderly and read it many times. "You faithful dear," he murmured, and going to the telephone, inquired when he could catch a train. He had decided to go home and see his friends again, and find a partner, if he could, to make life really a success.—H. Lucius Cook.

(©, 1925, Western Newspaper Union.)

### White Christmas Trees

To prepare white Christmas trees take branches of evergreen of desired size and dip in thick starch to which a small box of borax has been added and white trees are still damp sprinkle each with artificial snow. The trees when dry may be placed in pots or baskets and the top of earth covered with moss. A larger tree may be made to glitter with artificial snow by sprinkling it on while the branches are moistened with glue. Tufts of cotton and glass icicles may be used for trimming.

### For Golfing Friend

For one's golfing friend, a nice gift would be a small score pad in a leather wrist strap. It provides a space for keeping one's own score, that of his opponent, and the number of holes played.

### Test

"He has proposed, but does he really love me?" "Wait and see what he sends you for Christmas, girlie. Then give him your answer."

### Christmas Eve Bread

According to an old superstition, bread baked on Christmas Eve will never become moldy.



## The Gift for Her

Give your wife a Bank Account for Christmas—either a Saving Account or a Checking Account. It is one of the most practical and useful gifts you can give. A Checking Account supplies her with a plan for keeping accurate account of her house hold expenses. A Saving Account affords her the opportunity to save regularly whatever balance remains from her allowance

To Everyone we Wish a



## THE OLD RELIABLE FARMERS & MERCHANTS National Bank

J. T. Warren, Pres. Booth Warren, Cashier Owen Ellis, Ass't Cashier

DIRECTORS— J. T. Warren, Geo. F. West, Sam Butman Sr., Booth Warren

Never Missed a Dividend  
Never Assessed a Shareholder

### STATIONERY SPECIAL

200 sheets of paper and 100 envelopes to match with your name and address or monogram printed to order in blue ink for \$2.00. You may have your choice of folder or straight sheet in white, pearl gray, royal blue, pink or light yellow. You can't beat this for a stationery bargain. Makes appropriate gifts. Also have \$1.15 box. THE MERKEL MAIL.

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

Your name printed on your greeting cards adds individuality

The Old Reliable Farmers & Merchants National Bank never missed a dividend; never assessed a shareholder. Bring your cotton checks for cash or credit to the Farmers & Merchants National Bank.

The Kings Daughters Class of the Methodist church will have a market at the Barrow Furniture store on Saturday, December 19, 1925.

Baker & Wheeler will appreciate your patronage in fresh and cured meats of all kinds in season. Call on them for fresh pork, sausage, steak, cured meats, roasts, etc.

## HOME FOR CHRISTMAS



## Holiday Rates

To all points in LOUISIANA and TEXAS

Also Vicksburg, Mississippi ON SALE DAILY

DECEMBER 17 to 25 INCLUSIVE  
FINAL LIMIT JAN. 5TH, 1926

Be a Christmas present, Go yourself Let us help you plan your trip. Ask any T & P Agt. Geo. D. Hunter, G. P. A. T. & P Ry, Dallas

## Len Sublett

Water well Driller,  
all work guaranteed  
first-class.

Merkel, Texas

... FISHING

If you suffer from any form of skin diseases such as Itch, Eczema, Tetter or Cracked Hands, Poison Oak, Ring Worm, Old Sores or Sores on Children. We will sell you a Jar of BLUE STAIN REMEDY on a guarantee. It will not stain your clothing and has a pleasant odor.

For sale by MERKEL DRUG CO

## The BULL'S EYE

Editorial Manager



Another "Bull" Durham advertisement by Will Rogers, Ziegfeld Follies sensation star, and leading American humorist. More coming. Watch for them.

## America is Safe with "Bull" Durham

A gang of Scientists left on a Boat for a year's cruise to study queer kind of Fish in the South Atlantic Ocean. They should have stayed here in New York and went to see and hear what I did the other day, a real Red Bolsheviki meeting. They would have seen queer looking Fish there, Suckers, Eels, Flounders, Bullheads, and every Guy that got up was a big mouth Bass. They denounced everything in America, The Weather, The Constitution, White Gloves for Pall Bearers, Mah Jongg, Lower Taxes, Suspenders, Cross Word Puzzles, Shower Baths, League of Nations and Ice Cream Pies. After looking them all over I found what was the matter with them. There wasn't a one of them knew enough to roll his own. How are you going to improve on a Government if you dont know that much. Every man you see pouring "Bull" Durham into his paper, you can bet he is satisfied with America, because its the old right down to earth Americans that do it.

*Will Rogers*  
P. S. There is going to be another piece in this paper soon. Look for it.

65 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE  
**2 BAGS for 15¢**  
make 100 cigarettes  
The WORLD'S BEST CIGARETTE

**"BULL" DURHAM**  
Guaranteed by  
The American Tobacco Co.  
INCORPORATED  
111 Fifth Avenue, New York City



From the Grocery Store that serves you with a Christmas smile of good cheer each and every day throughout the year and where you will always find the spirit of fairness and good will predominate.

## Hamilton & Case

Staple and Fancy Groceries

### MISS WELBORN TO RUN FOR DISTRICT CLERK

Slumbering coals under Taylor County's Political Pot were recently stirred, when Miss Belle Welborn was endorsed by every member of the Taylor County Bar, and was strongly urged by said Bar to be a candidate for District Clerk of the Forty-Second Judicial District, Taylor County, Texas. She has also been endorsed by many officials of Taylor county, and by a large number of her friends to make this race.

Miss Welborn has been assistant District Clerk under J. K. Fuller, (who will not be an applicant for this office in the coming election) for a number of years. She has received these endorsements and recommendations because of her efficient work as Deputy District Clerk, thorough knowledge of the records, and the courteous manner in which she serves the public.

Miss Welborn's endorsement reads, in part, as follows: "We unanimously recommend Miss Welborn as in every way qualified and capable of discharging the duties of the District Clerks' office. She is thoroughly familiar with the records, and with the duties of the District Clerk; she is intelligent, capable, efficient, and painstaking in the performance of her duties. She would make an excellent District Clerk."

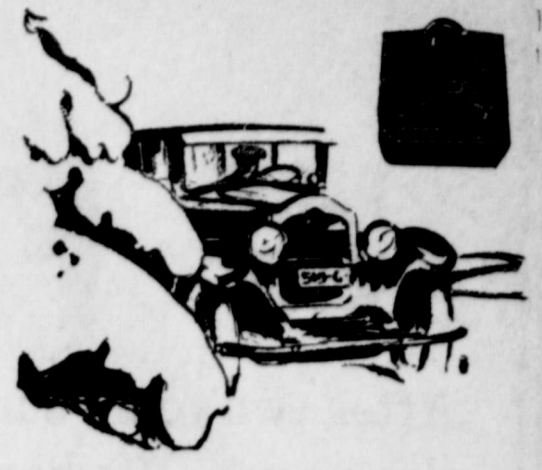
### Married Sunday

Mr. James H. Collins and Mrs. Sarah A. Noel were married at the Methodist parsonage Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock, Rev. W. R. McCarter, pastor of the Methodist church, officiating.

We can sharpen your discs as quickly and accurately as it can be done with our new Disc Roller C.P. Stevens Blacksmith Shop It

Try a Classified Ad in the Mail

Don't  
Take a  
Chance



We have the denatured alcohol and glycerene to protect your Radiator.

We can save you money on tires and tubes. Call and see before you buy.

Ford parts and accessories  
The best that can be had  
Oils and Greases. Texhoma gasoline, there is none better  
**Oasis Filling Station**

Appreciates Your Trade  
Day Phone 25 Bill Haynes, Mgr. Night Phone 22

FOR SALE—Stationery for individuals. 200 sheets of paper and 100 envelopes to match with your name and address printed in blue ink, or monogram, on both paper and envelopes for \$2.00. Colors: white, pearl gray, royal blue, pink and yellow. It

has individuality when it's printed. See samples at THE MERKEL MAIL OFFICE.

If you have something especially good to sell for butchering, call Patterson Brothers, Telephone No. 77.

### Burton-Lingo Co.

Plenty of—  
Window Glass,  
Putty and  
Building Paper  
Make that old room warm—  
Use Sheetrock

### PROFESSIONAL

**E. S. CUMMINGS**  
Attorney At Law  
Offices 307, 308, 309  
Citizens National Bank Building  
Abilene, Texas

**THOS. C. WILSON**  
The Jeweler  
Watches, Clocks and Jewelry  
Repaired  
All Work Guaranteed  
Located at Merkel Drug Co.

**DR. R. I. GRIMES**  
Physician and Surgeon  
Hours 10 to 12 a.m. 2 to 5 p.m.  
Phones 105-163 Res. 165

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

**G. W. JOHNSON**  
Insurance—Notary Public  
Over West Company—Front St.  
Merkel — Texas

**W. W. WHEELER**  
Real Estate, Fire, Accident and  
Tornado Insurance Agent.  
Notary Public.  
Office over Crown Hardware Co.  
Your name printed on your  
greeting cards adds individuality

### T. E. L. CLASS HAS ANNUAL LUNCHEON

The members of the T. E. L. Class of the First Baptist church with a few invited visitors enjoyed very much a one o'clock Christmas luncheon in the basement of the church on last Thursday. As this is an annual affair of the class, it was looked forward to with much anticipation of the good time to be had. There was such an air of hospitality, good will and Christmas spirit, and the beautiful yuletide decorations lent a happy atmosphere of jollity. The luncheon table was especially pretty with little Christmas trees as center decorations with carols on either end. Dainty nut baskets marked the places at the tables where a lovely two course luncheon was served. During the luncheon hour the following special numbers were enjoyed: Solo, Mrs. L. B. Howard; Quartette by Mesdames A. R. Booth, Thos. Bearden, L. B. Howard and W. J. Largent; Solo by little Miss Annie Laurie Howard.

Following the luncheon hour, Santa Claus arrived and distributed gifts for all from the little Christmas tree.

A short business meeting of the class was held after the social hour. The class president, Mrs. L. B. Scott, presided. The class members present were: Mesdames Everet King, L. B. Scott, John Toombs, Dent Gibson, O. R. Dye, Sam Swann, W. H. Derstine, A. R. Booth, Doyle Pogue, Twyman Collins, W. J. Largent, Roy Miller, Earthman, Frank Hodo, L. B. Howard, Abbott, Ira Parrack, Thos. Bearden. Visitors were: Mesdames Newsom, Lige Gamble, F. C. McFarland, Ottie Smith, Sedberry and Miss Hoggerton.

Removal Sale—I will move this store one block west Jan 1, 1926. 50 Oil, Wood and Coal stoves, new and used. 40 Overcoats for less. CITY FURNITURE Co. 1822p  
Subscribe for the Merkel Mail



## CHRISTMAS GIFTS "GALORE" GIFTS - THAT - LAST



Smoking Stands	Bar Pins	Candy
Smoking Sets	Nut Sets	Kodaks
Razor Sets	Casseroles	Marcelle Irons
Shaving Stands	Console Sets	Dolls
Watches	Sandle Sticks	Manicure Sets
Rings	Bud Vases	Perfume Atomizers
Toilet Sets	Silverware	Ivory Sets
Razor Straps	Clocks	Memory Books
Books	Cut Glass	Bill Folds
Bibles	Vanities	Typewriters
Book Ends	Xmas Boxes	Stationery
Kodak Albums	Xmas Cards	Cigars
Pipe Sets	Cigar Humidors	Cigarettes
		Phonographs
		Diamonds



OUR STOCK IS COMPLETE  
A VISIT WILL CONVINC

## HAMM DRUG CO.

PHONE 93

The *Rexall* Store

**BEGIN THE YEAR RIGHT**

**FARM WITH**

**FARMALL TRACTOR**

**THIS YEAR**

After two years successful tryout one of our dealers in South Texas has sold and delivered 143 Farmalls this year. We have already sold two car loads of these machines to some of the most successful farmers of this section, In fact the sales in every section of Texas have greatly exceeded our expectations. If you are not acquainted with the "Farmall" come in and let us show you the greatest labor and money saver that is to be had today,

We wish to extend to every citizen of this community the season's greetings and to wish for you continued happiness and prosperity.

It is with much pleasure that we announce to you that we are again in position to serve you during the coming year with the greatest line of farm machinery in the world today, The McCormick Deering Line. Unequaled in quality and workmanship, pleasing in appearance and design. built to give the greatest number of years of satisfactory service with the least expense. Backed by an unlimited guarentee and sold with a service that is unexcelled and appreciated by good farmers everywhere.

**"GOOD EQUIPMENT MAKES A GOOD FARMER BETTER"**

Your Friends,

**WEST COMPANY**

"Thirty-five Years of Better Service"

MERKEL

TEXAS

**HUTCHINS-BLAIR WEDDING**

At his residence in Merkel on last Sunday evening, Judge W. W. Wheeler united in marriage Mr. D. C. Hutchins and Miss Dewey Blair, in the presence of a few friends. They left immediately for Abilene, where they will make their home.

The bride is the daughter of Mrs. J. S. Blair, of this city, and has a large circle of admiring friends and acquaintances. The groom, who was formerly with the Planters Gin Company at Blair, is now in the cotton business in Abilene, and he, too, has by his honesty and fairness made many warm and lasting friends in and about this city, where for several years he has resided. This paper joins the happy couple's friends in extending to them congratulations.

Buy men's Xmas Presents from a Men's Store. L. B. Howard Company.

**ELDER W. G. CYPERT TO PREACH AT TRENT SUN.**

Elder W. G. Cypert, of this city, announces that on next Sunday he will preach at Trent at both the morning and evening hours.

He invites every one who will to hear him, and especially urges the membership of the church to be present.

**Orphans to Have Chicken Dinner by Local Ladies Aid**

The good ladies of the local Baptist church are preparing to send to the orphan children at Buckner Orphan Home, 125 big, fine, fat hens, sufficient to give every member of that great and good institution a nice chicken dinner for Christmas.

And for the benefit of all who wish to contribute a nice fat hen to this worthy cause, we call your attention to their advertisement in this paper.

**All Did Their Bit to Make Christmas Merry**

EVERYBODY in Brompton knew that it was all the Hammonds could do to make ends meet. A big family and a small income is not a combination to make easy living. Yet at Christmas time the Hammond family managed to have all the good things that go with the day and to be able to purchase the gifts of love that mean so much.

It was all due to the plan that Mrs. Hammond had worked out when the children were small. Several weeks before Christmas a contribution box was placed in the Hammond dining room; across it was written in big letters of red and green: "Do your bit to make Christmas merry," and each member of the family was supposed to contribute something, be it ever so little. And it was surprising, just as soon as the box was put up each year, how many wonderful ways cropped out for earning extra nickels and dimes. Even little Tim, in spite of being only five, contributed his mite to the cheer fund. And the fun the family had in trying to fill the box—why, it was nearly as good as Christmas itself! Each evening it was held up and weighed by the smaller children and they always agreed that it was getting so "awful" heavy; when it was opened just before Christmas there was always a shout of surprise and joy, and they declared that it contained much more than they had thought it would. And now they were spending the money that was made up of so much sacrifice, such planning and scheming as there was to get the most out of it. And when Christmas morning dawned there was no happier family in all Brompton—the Christmas family fund had brought them so many good things.—Katherine Edelman.

(©. 1925, Western Newspaper Union.)

**THE HONORED COLORS**

WE ARE the colors red and green,  
How we are honored!  
How could Christmas be Christmas without green and without red to help in the gay decorations?  
Long ago we two colors were given this honor.  
How gay and pleased it makes us.  
It makes green so vivid and bright with delight.  
It makes red so glowing and resplendent with enjoyment.  
We are glad no other colors were chosen!—Mary Graham Bonner.  
(©. 1925, Western Newspaper Union.)

**Christmas Specials**

Why not make your Christmas Gift Furniture, something that last through the days to come.

Our house is full of appropriate gifts for either Fathers Mother, Brother, Sister or Sweetheart.

Such as Cedar Chests, Chifforobes, Hoosier Cabinets, Rockers, Floor Lamps, Rugs, Living Room, Bed Room and Dining Room Suits all Specially priced for Christmas.

**Extra Special on Wall Paper**

We have some 15 or 20 close out Patterns of wall paper to be sold at

**HALF PRICE**

Buy your Christmas Gifts at

**BARROW'S**

We give Green Stamps with all cash purchases

**TO OUR FRIENDS AND PATRONS**

Beginning January 1st, 1926 our credit business will be strictly 30 days.

Our reason for this is our bills have to be paid on the 1st. of each month and we cannot carry any past due accounts.

**Magnolia Filling Station**

## COZY THEATRE

FRIDAY and SATURDAY, Dec. 18-19

Adolph Zukor and Jesse L. Lasky Present  
ZANE GREY'S

### "THE THUNDERING HERD"

With Jack Holt, Lois Wilson, Noah Berry and Raymond Hatton

A Recreation of the West of 50 Years Ago with thousands of Buffalo in the picture.  
Another Paramount Super Special

—Also—

### "THE FIGHTING RANGER"

With Jack Daugherty, Eileen Sedgwick and Al Wilson, World Famous Stunt Flyer

And Educational Comedy— "DYNAMITE DOGGIE"  
Admission ..... 10c, 20c, 40c

MONDAY and TUESDAY, Dec. 21-22

Adolph Zukor and Jesse L. Lasky Present  
"BEBE DANIELS

—in—

### "LOVERS IN QUARANTINE"

With Harrison Ford

A Paramount Picture

With Universal Comedy and News Reel

Admission ..... 10c-20c-30c

WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY, Dec. 23-24

Carl Laemmle Presents  
JACK HOXIE

—in—

### "TWO FISTED JONES"

Also Educational Comedy— "MOVIE MORSELS"  
Admission ..... 10c-20c-30c

Don't Forget "THE PONY EXPRESS," successor to the "Covered Wagon" will be shown here Christmas Day and the following Saturday.

### The Christmas Spirit; It Can Never Be Cheap

She worked in what was considered a second-rate store in a big city. To her, though, the store was a beautiful one. And when it was decorated at Christmas time with its tinsel and gay Christmas touches, she thought it the most beautiful place on earth.

She loved the jewelry that was sold there. Sometimes she would hold a bit of cardboard from which hung a cheap earring to her ear and would think that when she got her pay the following week she might buy a pair. They were certainly becoming and would be more so when off the cardboard.

How crowded the store became around Christmas time. The people would look and admire and buy. She would be so busy. It was splendid to be busy, and even to be tired with the Christmas rush. There was something so stimulating about the Christmas rush.

There were several floor walkers in the store—an extra one was added for the Christmas season. True, their presence was not so magnificent as the floor walkers in the great, expensive stores, but they were grand to her. And she loved to say, with a beautiful manner:

"Just a moment, madame; I will call the floor walker."

And then, this Christmas, greater happiness than ever came to her. A most wonderful floor walker came as an "extra," but they said he would be taken on for good—he was such a capable man.

And she took him on for good. For hadn't they fallen in love with each other at once?

Oh, to some the store might seem cheap, the people in it might seem funny imitations of the people who belonged to the very expensive stores. But there was glorious Christmas happiness in that store. For it radiated the Christmas spirit. And the Christmas spirit can never be cheap!—Mary Graham Bonner.

(© 1925, Western Newspaper Union.)

### Expensive Presents Do Not Give Most Pleasure

MR. AND MRS. GORSE were invited to spend Christmas with Mr. Gorse's wealthy sister on her farm. "But we can't; we can't," insisted Mrs. Gorse. "Our rent has been raised this year, and living is so dear in town we cannot afford presents that even her children will enjoy."

"It's us they want, and not our gifts," rejoined Mr. Gorse. "You leave the presents to me."

On Christmas Day the Gorses drove up to the big white country house in their flivver. Such a welcome as they received. Not an idle nor an embarrassing moment—even for Mrs. Gorse who discarded so reluctantly the weight of city poverty. Laughter, music, fun prevailed. And after dinner, when the grown-ups peeked into the nursery to see what the children were doing, Mr. Gorse had his triumph. The children had discarded their expensive toys, and sat in a circle on the floor playing industriously with some ten-cent magnets he had brought.

"You know our children's likes better than we do," said the charming hostess, as she led the Gorses back to the living room. "And nothing I received pleases me so much as the books you brought me, unless it is to have you here on Christmas day."

Even Mrs. Gorse knew that her words rang true.—H. Lucius Cook.

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### HIS GENEROSITY



"I hear that you are going to give your mother-in-law an automobile for Christmas."  
"Yes, but it is guaranteed not to run more than half way from her house to mine, without breaking down."

### Coconut Balls

Into a saucepan put three cupfuls of granulated sugar, add two cupfuls cold water and boil until sugar spins thread from tip of fork dipped into it. Into this sirup stir a good-sized coconut, grated—the prepared dry coconut does not answer the purpose quite as well—take saucepan at once from fire and turn contents into bowl or set saucepan where candy will cool quickly. When cool enough to handle make into balls with the fingers, roll in powdered sugar and wrap in waxed paper.

Subscribe for the Merkel Mail

### HIGH SCHOOL NOTES

The advertising committee has been working this week among the different merchants of the town. Several have taken space in the Annual. The school expects to patronize home folks; we expect to have the annual printed at home; all of the photographs for the cuts will be made by the local photographer; so we earnestly solicit every business firm in town to give us an ad if possible for we expect to advertise home products. We do not expect to solicit any advertising out of town unless the home merchants fail to support us. We are sure our merchants will give us sufficient ads to justify the printing of the Annual.

A half holiday was offered to the class in high school which was a hundred per cent first in subscriptions to the Annual. The Juniors and Seniors, at the end of the contest, finished so close together that the holiday was given to both classes. It has

been decided by both classes that the holiday would be devoted to the Christmas tree and each class is planning a merry time.

The prettiest girl was selected from the classes Wednesday morning. The results were as follows:

Seniors, Thelma Copeland.  
Juniors, Delphine Moore.  
Sophomores, Gladys Deutschman  
Freshmen, Lois Leslie.

The basket ball squad has been greatly strengthened by the enrollment of Floyd King of Morgan Mills, Texas. The basket ball team of this town was the most outstanding one in the state last year. As this new student was a member of this team last year we are expecting to have a good player in our line-up.

School will be dismissed here Friday for the Christmas holidays, and will not re-open until January 4th. The teachers will attend institute at Abilene next week.

### METHODIST CHURCH

We invite you to worship with us Sunday at the Methodist church. Appropriate Christmas music and sermon at 11 o'clock. A collection will be taken for the Methodist Orphanage at the close of the service.

At the evening hour a service of unusual interest will be conducted by the Choir, and an excellent treat is in store for you. "A Christmas Cantata," the message in song. W. R. McCarter.

They're going fast—those \$14.50 full size 29x4.40 Balloon Tires. West's Accessory Department.

Mr. J. L. Barker and wife left last week for an extended visit to friends and relatives in Fannin county.

M. P. Latimer of route five is among those renewing this week for the Merkel Mail and Abilene Reporter.

# Practical Gifts

## Make Your Christmas Gifts Practical

Something that will be enjoyed the year through

### OUR Suggestions

- Hand Bags
- Hat Boxes
- Mufflers
- Bath Robes
- Ties
- Hose
- Hats
- Caps
- Underwear
- Suits
- Overcoats
- Sox
- Gloves
- Sweaters
- Lumber Jackets
- Belts
- Collars
- Cuff Links
- House Slippers



### SUITS

ONE OR TWO PANTS IN COLLEGE STYLE OR PLAIN.

### OVERCOATS

IN THE NEW MODELS AND THE BEST MATERIALS



## LADIES' SPECIALS

Just five more shopping days and during this time we are offering extra special bargains in Ladies', Misses' and Childrens' Coats and Dresses. Have some extra bargains in handsome woolsens and silks. Come in at once our salesmen and salesladies will be pleased to help you make your selections.

## MAX MELLINGER

"Make Our Store Your Christmas Store"

**ABILENE MORNING REPORTER**  
Abilene, Texas  
One year for Only \$4.20  
Daily and Sunday  
BARGAIN RATE

# The Best OF TIRES AT THE Lowest Prices

Phone us when you are out of gas or have a flat tire.

## Boney's Service Station

A full line of Humble and Mobil oils.

TELEPHONE 60

Free Road Service

Now it is stated that medical science has lengthened life 12 to 14 years. Somehow it sounds just like those government reports telling how much more money we have than we had last month.

Call 61 to place a want ad in the Mail or give us a news item. We appreciate both of them.

Only a few days left in which to put off that shopping.

Another income tax installment nears, marring an otherwise enjoyable month.

The expensive thing about a car is the pride that makes you want a shiny new one each year.

### CHILDREN'S VOICES AT CHRISTMAS TIME

IT WAS the Christmas time. Snowflakes like soft downy feathers were falling over the city, covering its dirt and soot with a beautiful blanket of white.

Men and women were jostling one another through the crowded city streets. Some were laden with packages. Some carried but a few.

A few were poorly clothed; yet with calm, satisfied faces. More were poorly clothed, with sad, restless faces, as if they grieved for what they could not have.

Many wore rich clothing and luxurious furs, and some of these had calm, satisfied faces; but many were weary as if they worried for a peace which was not theirs.

A beggar sat in a corner selling his pencils, one by one. Many unheeding the pencils, dropped a coin into the box strapped about his weather-beaten neck. Some, not noticing the beggar, passed in and out of the great department store.

Many stories over the beggar's head Christmas carols had been pealing forth all the afternoon. The passers-by could not have failed to hear them; yet if their minds or hearts responded they gave no sign. Their expressions changed not.

Down through the hurrying crowds came a group of little girls on Christmas shopping bent, hastening to the store where the Christmas chimes rang out. Headless of the elbowing through they stopped to listen and saw the beggar.

"Let's buy," said the little leader, and they stepped forward to purchase his wares.

The dull-eyed creature looked at the fresh young faces and spoke: "Why don't you sing, girls?" "All right. Let's!" joyfully agreed the gay children.

"The Lord is come!" the clear young voices took up the old refrain. Pedestrians, so long unmindful of the chimes, turned at the sound of the children's voices. Some stopped and listened; tense faces relaxed, softened; many smiled as they went on their way.

Other children joined the little band. They sang the old hymn through; then scurried away. But those who had heard and seen remembered. Their hearts were lightened; their burdens lifted; their worries seemed passed away.

It was the children's voices. It was a beggar's whim.—Florence H. Wells.

(© 1925, Western Newspaper Union.)

Subscribe for the Merkel Mail

# Pre-Inventory CASH SALE

DECEMBER 12TH. TO 24TH. INCLUSIVE

In order to reduce our stock before invoicing, we are offering the following **EXTREMELY** low prices on groceries, for cash only. Prices are subject to stock we now have on hand. No goods delivered at these prices. These are the best prices you have had or will have for many moons, so make your purchases early and in large quantities

100 lbs. Bewleys Best Flour, None better,	\$4.70
24 lb. Sack of Cream Meal	.75
100 lbs. Pure Cane Sugar (in 25 lb. sacks)	6.60
25 lbs Pure Cane Sugar	1.65
12 cans of No. 2 Tomatoes	1.15
12 cans of Campbell's Pork and Beans	1.15
12 cans of Primrose Corn	1.90
12 cans of Standard Corn	1.40
12 cans of Pie Peaches	1.35
12 cans of Del Monte No. 2 1-2 Sliced Peaches	3.00
12 cans of Del Monte No. 21-2 Melba Halves	3.10
15 lbs. of Pinto Beans	1.00

Flour and Sugar are on a steady upward move. We could not replace these at the prices we are offering them to you. Everything in our Grocery Department is cut to the limit.

Remember we are Headquarters for Christmas Fruits, Candies, Nuts, Vegetables and Fruit Cake Ingredients.

These Prices are Strictly Cash

Wishing you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year

## West Company

I'm Listening



What Will It Be?

## It is always hard to select some one Gift For Christmas

We are submitting a list of appropriate gifts for gentlemen, ladies, boys and girls

### FOR LADIES

- Vanities
- Toilet Sets
- Perfumers
- Perfumes and Toilet Water
- Parisian Ivory
- Stationery
- Fine Chocolates
- Manicure Rolls
- Traveling Sets
- Fountain Pens
- Eversharp Pencils



We are carrying a good line of Jewelry, Pearls, Doamond Broaches, Diamond Rings, Cuff Links, etc. Call and look our stock over before buying.



### FOR GENTLEMEN

- Bill Folds and Pocket Books
- Flash Lights
- Pipes
- Cigars and Cigarettes
- Safety Razors
- Shaving Sets
- Combs and Brushes
- Stationery
- Traveling Sets
- Fountain Pens
- Eversharp Pencils

### FOR THE BOYS AND GIRLS

- Footballs
- Basket Balls
- Candy
- Fountain Pens
- Eversharp Pencils
- Stationery
- Vanities
- Safety Razors
- Manicure Sets
- Parisian Ivory
- Perfumes and Toilet Water
- Perfumers

The above is only a partial list of the many beautiful and useful Christmas gifts now on display at our store. Come in and make your selections early,

## Merkel Drug Company

### LAUGH—BE HAPPY AT CHRISTMAS TIME

IF IT were possible, the Randals would have been unhappy, because of the many reverses of the past year; a great loss by fire, sickness, too; and hospital bills, and many of the misfortunes that come in a lifetime seemed to have come to them the past year. To peep in on them, or even to have listened in, would have convinced any recluse that happiness was permeating the very atmosphere of that home.

"Now, James," began Mrs. Randal, who didn't resemble one who takes the "daddy dose" but proved the saying, "Laugh and the world laughs with you." "I have laughed at Marta's letter until I am sick. All their money, yet she says she can't have a happy Christmas because of our many reverses, and that they wouldn't think of having any one in, and for us not to be too lonely. Well, well, that surely is funny—us not be too lonely!" Mrs. Randal burst out laughing again.

"Well, Rose, quit your laughing and read that letter, or tell it to me."

"Oh, James, to think of her being so unhappy over our loss when we don't even think about it. She always sees the 'Slough of Despond'; no wonder she's so skinny. Worrying about us! Jim, we've never had a happier Christmas. None of us has died yet; we still have our garage to live in. Christmas is Christmas whether our pocketbook be fat or lean."

"Yes, Rose, but Christmas doesn't seem to be the same to the fat and lean, judging from your laugh and Marta's sadness."

"Say, James, let's have them down for Christmas and show them what a wonderful time people can have living in their garage. We can put them overhead in the servants' quarters—have to make use of it in some way, for we may never be able to afford another maid."

"Hop to it, dear. You always do the proper stunt at the right time. I think we shall enjoy it, as you seem to enjoy the thought of it."

Mrs. Randal continued to laugh, and as Marta was leaving, she, too, laughed and said: "Well, Rose, laughing is catching; happiness, too, I suppose. I think we shall live in our garage next year—not nearly so much work, and truly—I've never had a better time. Surely a Merry Christmas we've had and we wish for you and James—well, you'll be happy and think you are prosperous whether you are or not, so all I can say to you is—good-by.—Emily Burks Adams.

(© 1925, Western Newspaper Union.)

Try a Classified Ad in The Mail.

### CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

the crowds are not so dense. Due consideration for clerks and store employes in general, and a selfish interest in the saving of one's own time and temper bespeak for all who have gifts to buy the early hours of the day.

Try a Classified Ad in the Mail.



## THE PONY EXPRESS THE BEST PICTURE OF THE YEAR

DEC. 25th & 26th

C. O. Z. Y THEATRE



## In Our Toy Department

We are making some attractive prices from now until the Xmas season is over—So when in town look our toys over before the Xmas rush.

In selecting that Gift for Father, Mother, Brother, and Sister, think of Silverware, Dishes, Cutglass, Shotguns, Airguns, Bicycles, Tricycles, and many other things too numerous to mention.

## Farm Implements

If you are in the market for a Disc Plow, Sulky, Cultivator, or a Planter come in and look the John Deere line over before you buy.

We Deliver Anywhere

# Crown Hdwe. Co.

### A TALK WITH MERKEL MAN

Mr. Meek Tells Something of Interest to Merkel Folks.

There's nothing more convincing than the statement of someone you know and have confidence in. That's why this talk with Mr. Meek of N. Front st., should be mighty helpful here ni Merkel.

Jim Meek, prop. of blacksmith shop, N. Front St., Merkel, says: "My kidneys acted so often I

had to get up several times at night and the secretions were painful in passage. There was a soreness and dull aching in my back, too. Doan's Pills from the Hamm Drug Co. fixed my back and kidneys up fine."

60c, at all dealers. Foster-Milburn Co., Mfrs., Buffalo, N. Y.

There seems to be an opinion on the part of many who invested in recent get-rich-quick schemes that they didn't make it.

### WARREN NOTES

By Vera Jones

Health of the community is good at present.

Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Harris visited her parents of Salt Branch community Saturday night.

Mr. and Mrs. C. T. McCormick visited in Abilene Saturday.

Miss Vela Jones visited Miss Willie Newman Saturday night and Sunday.

Miss Artie McCormick visited Miss Lottie Gressett Saturday night.

Mrs. Barbara McCoy visited Mrs. R. L. Newman a while Saturday night.

Some from our community attended the tent show in Merkel last week.

Miss Helen McCormick visited Miss Vera Jones Sunday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd McCoy visited his mother Sunday.

Miss Ruth Chancey visited Miss Azilene Sumpter Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Chriswell visited Mr. and Mrs. H. Gressett Sunday.

Mr. Vineyard and family visited Mr. and Mrs. H. Gressett Sunday.

Miss Sena May Chancey visited her grandparents of Merkel Sunday afternoon.

Is your subscription about to expire to the Mail. Look at the label on this paper and see.

### Santa Claus

won't know where to do his shopping unless you tell him you can supply many of his needs.

Get wise, Mr. Merchant, advertise in this paper NOW and tell him of your stock of goods.

### HAPPY GRANDMA— AND CHRISTMAS DAY

THE family had just completed an excellent Christmas dinner. From first course to last, including stuffing and "fixin's." It was by far (so they all declared) the best dinner ever eaten by anybody. They acted as if they knew about every dinner in Christendom. But this is a common failing of those who are happy and satisfied.

Cousins, nephews, nieces and children sat themselves down on cushions in front of the blazing fireplace. Mothers and fathers, uncles and aunts found comfortable chairs. Grandfather stood filling his pipe from a bowl of tobacco on a stand. Grandma, pink and lovely as a flower, folded her hands in her black satin lap and smiled at every one.

"Grandma," declared a young voice that fluted like a blackbird's, "is the most wonderful person in the world. She's younger than the youngest of us here, and prettier than anyone in seven counties. I wish she would give us her secret of youth."

Grandfather was pleased. Why shouldn't he be? He glanced proudly at his dainty wife. "I'll tell you why she's so young and beautiful," he said: "It's because, my children, she's a windmill."

"A windmill!" shouted every one. "Just that," said grandfather. "And she's forever turning with the Wind-of-Good-Will. She goes round so fast that she hasn't time to think of anything but pumping up kind thoughts from the Well of Generosity. But the best of it is, that grandma," here grandfather shook a solemn forefinger at everybody, the cat included, "the best of it is, that she is so built that she can't turn in a bad wind!" "What do you mean by that?" again shouted the children.

"I mean," smiled grandfather, in a kind of triumphant manner, "that an ill wind can no more influence your grandmother than it can blow sunshine away from the sun! She won't turn an inch in it. But send along a fine, strong wind of joy—and away your grandmother goes a thousand revolutions a minute."

"Pshaw!" laughed grandmother, "how you talk!" But after thinking about it for some time, the cousins, nephews, nieces, children and aunts and uncles agreed exactly with grandfather.

"That's why Christmas Day here is the happiest day of the year!" they declared. "Let's ask grandma to teach us all how to turn into the right kind of windmills!" — Martha Banning Thomas.

(© 1925, Western Newspaper Union.)

Try a Classified Ad in The Mail.

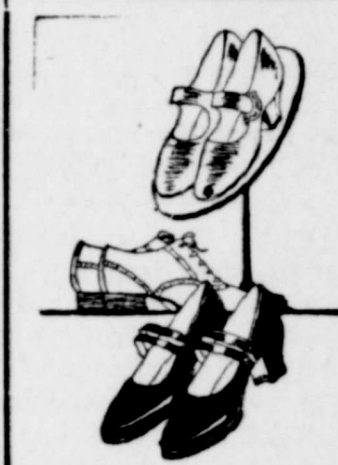


## Cowboys Rodeo

### MERKLE, TEXAS

DECEMBER 24TH. AND 25TH.  
2:30 P. M.

One block west of Middleton's Filling Station



## CHRISTMAS SALE OF SHOES

All the latest styles and leathers included at remarkably low prices.

Dress up in a new pair for Christmas  
Out of town customers and mail orders given prompt attention

## Sapp's Bootery

ABILENE, TEXAS

## DO YOU KNOW THAT THE ABILENE ARMY STORE HAS FIVE TIMES THE STOCK IT HAD ONE YEAR AGO?

We have the largest selection of Army Goods and other Merchandise of any Army Store in the State of Texas.

## Useful Christmas Suggestions from Our Store

### For Father

Army Wool Socks  
9 1/2 oz. Army O. D. Wool Serge Shirts  
Cashmere Wool Socks (natural Color)  
Dress Shoes, House Slippers, Boottees, Army Overcoats  
Leather Coats, Sweaters  
Unionsuits, Coleman Lanterns  
Hats and Caps  
Army Wool Pants and Blouses  
Army Wool Gloves  
Leather Gloves, Pocket Knives

### For the Boy

The "Billie Boot" with Pocket Knife  
"Original" Chippewa Boottees, sizes 1 to 5 1/2  
Dress Shoes, Pocket Knives  
Sweaters, Army Locker  
Pup Tents, Waterproofed Duck  
Boy Scout Axe, Pick and Shovel  
Knapsack, Canteens and Mess Kits, Belts, etc. Dress Socks.

### FOR MOTHER

Fancy Beacon Blankets, both double and single. Comforts  
"Original" Chippewa servicable Shoes and Boottees for Ladies  
Gasoline Cook and Heating Stove

We have always received a nice business from our Merkel friends which we appreciate, and trust you will continue to keep us in mind while shopping in Abilene.

## The Abilene Army Store

W. A. Turnidge., prop

General Merchandise

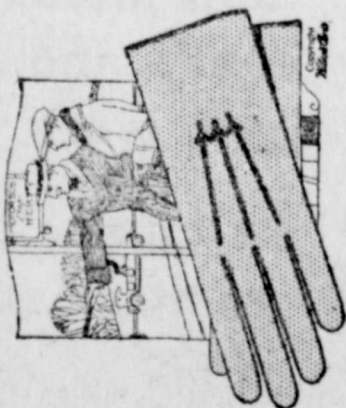
Army goods a special

Harness Shop 1050 South Second

Main Store 1064 South se

ABILENE, TEXAS

## CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR "HIM"



"Everything New that's good" for Father, Brother and Sweetheart, The kind that will please him, "Something different" Out of town shoppers especially appreciated. You will find our service not lacking.

Just 5 more days to do your Christmas shopping. Come buy your gifts for "him" at a man's store.

We Specialize

All Parcel Post packages prepaid  
**MINGUS-PRICE**

Shoes, Clothing, Men's Furnishings  
ABILENE TEXAS

## The Merkel Mail

Published on Friday Morning by  
The Merkel Mail Printing Co.  
Thos. Durham, Editor-Mgr.

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES**  
In Taylor, Jones, Nolan and  
Fisher Counties, per yr. . . \$1.50  
Outside these counties, yr. \$2.00  
IN ADVANCE

**TELEPHONE No. 61**  
Entered at the postoffice at Mer-  
kel, Texas as second class mail.

### YOUR TOWN AND YOU

Your town boosts you. Why not do as well by the town as it does by you? No citizen is so powerful, none so humble, but what the town is an aid to him in some way or other.

The food that he eats, the clothes he wears, the recreation and amusement that he enjoys, all originate in the town, because the money with which they are procured is made here.

When a fellow boosts his own town he does not stop there. He is performing an act that improves his own condition, for every good word and every good deed has its elevating influence.

A few people are always home town boosters. They accomplish much in the way of community betterment, and this improves the condition of not only themselves, but also of those who do no boosting at all.

If every citizen would constitute himself a home town booster the result collectively would be many times as great, and opportunities for self improvement would be more numerous.

Think it over in your odd moments. Then get into the boost wagon and hit the pace.

Mr. G. B. Hamilton, of Chickasha, Oklahoma, came in last week for a holiday visit with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Hamilton and brother, Mr. Seth Hamilton and family.

Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Lobban and children of Wyoming came in this week for a visit with Mrs. Lobban's mother, Mrs. W. F. Hamblet, and brother, Mr. Jay Greenfield.

We are thankful to Mr. E. H. Thompson for the renewal of his subscription to the Mail, together with that of one which he sends to his father in Oklahoma.

We are thankful to Mr. T. L. Stevens, prominent and substantial citizen of Trent, for the renewal of his Merkel Mail, Star-Telegram and Abilene Reporter for another year.

Claude Derrick, one of the well fixed citizens of the Noodle community, has our thanks for the renewal of his Merkel Mail and Star-Telegram.

The most Sensational Tire Bargain in Merkel, West's Accessory Department. It

G. M. Byrom and W. C. Hill, both influential citizens of the Golan community, were here one day this week, making renewals for the Merkel Mail and transacting other business.

Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Scott and son, Burneal, returned first of the week from a visit to relatives at Ferris, Texas, returning via Fort Worth and Dallas.

Mr. B. C. Gaither returned first of the week from a visit to his daughter at Tuscola, and left Wednesday for San Angelo where he will visit his son, Forrest Gaither, who is connected with a bank in that city.

Mrs. Roy Adams and baby daughter are expected home this week from an extended visit with the former's parents at Post, Texas.

Your name printed on your greeting cards adds individuality

## New Experience for Santa Claus

By W. D. PENNYPACKER



CAPTAIN and Mrs. Pickering promised to play Santa Claus. They loved to do a little towards making the day bright and spreading the holiday spirit. Christmas after Christmas they had taken some part—if not for the children, then for the sick or aged—but always some part.

This time it was different. They, themselves, nervously awaited the day. It was to be unique. They were to help in a festive occasion at a state's prison. They were to carry gladness and the spirit of Christmas with them and radiate it within four sombre stone walls. It seemed almost impossible.

The Pickering were to impersonate Santa and Mrs. Santa Claus.

When the time arrived and everything else was in readiness Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus found there was but one way to get into the assembly hall to create the proper effect. That was by climbing three tiers of fire escape and entering a window. This was the plan chosen as there was no dressing room in connection with the hall and no place where Santa and his party could be detained in comfort throughout the first half of a lengthy program without being observed by all.

To climb three stories of fire escape on a winter's night with ever so small a bundle is difficult enough, but to ascend the cold iron stairway each with a large basket or bag filled with oranges and candy, and to have to replenish their supply through this same dangerous way was almost more than they bargained for or were, indeed, able to do. It was work, and Captain and Mrs. Pickering never denied it.

When Santa poked his beehiskered head through the window and dragged his lumbering bundle after him there was a hum of suppressed voices, and a marked increase in noise and merriment when Mrs. Santa appeared.

All the time they were distributing



# Holiday Groceries that Bring a Smile

It's customary and natural with all industrious housewives that on Xmas. day they serve the best and most delicious dinner of the year.

Hence, to meet their every need for this annual happy occasion we have on hand a large and complete stock of the Highest Class fancy groceries that the market affords.

For making your cakes, we have the finest flour and ingredients. Our line of fruits, nuts, candies etc. is the largest in town

But the best of all is, you can find the price right the year 'round.

## Mc Donald & Collum

Kent

Street

## Gifts For Everybody

What to give is the problem of the day. A problem that turns into pleasure as soon as you enter this Christmas store. You can't help but catch the Yuletide spirit. It permeates every nook and corner. Every turn of the head reveals a gift solution, and every ticket a price that helps to make your gift money go far.



### SPECIAL IN DRESSES

Good News for the Gift-Givers

No smarter dresses than these can you expect to find. Each one is peerless in style authority. Fabrics include all that is newest in all colors. Values up to \$35.00 Sale—

\$22.75

Values up to \$39.50

Sale

\$33.75

Values up to \$49.50

Sale

\$42.50

### CHRISTMAS SALE GLOVES

Fine quality French Kid Gloves with fancy cuffs in light and dark combinations of tan, brown black and grey. Our regular price is \$3.50.

SALE PRICE \$1.95 PAIR

### SPECIAL SALE of WOOLENS and SILKS

—One Lot Woolens, value up to \$2.50 in checks, stripes and plaids. Sale—

59c YARD

54-inch Flannels in rose, red, tan, green, cuckoo in solid as well as bordered patterns, value up to \$5.95 yard. Sale—

\$2.45 YARD

—All Wool Balbriggan, 54-in. all wool Balbriggan, all colors, \$2.50 grade. Sale—

\$1.79 YARD

54-in. Clarmeen in tan, black, rust, and pansy shades. Value to \$4.95. Sale—

\$3.50 YARD

### CHRISTMAS SALE COATS

Coats with large Fur Collars and cuffs fashioned of rich piled fabrics, lined throughout and warmly interlined. Values to \$25 Sale

—\$18.75—

Values up to \$35.00, Sale

—\$25.00—

Values up to \$49.50, Sale

—\$33.75—

The gifts

# Poston Hemphill CO.

Abilene,

Texas

and fruit they were besieged by questions from the crowd, and replied with as much spirit and safety as the place and the condition of the assembled audience would allow. It was but fair to say that Santa and Mrs. Santa both enjoyed their visit to that unusual place, and that they lingered longer than their usual custom on holiday visits.

Christmas is always a day of joyful interest, and Santa was glad to look squarely into the faces of the many gathered in that hall that night. In spite of the clouds and mists of circumstances that engulfed them his visit during that holiday season seemed to have touched a chord that was welcome in the memory of each. Countenances at first hard, softened with the recollections of happier years. Flashes came into eyes that bespoke all that is good, and ambitious, and noble. Regrets, and remorse, and sorrows—if there were any—were this day swallowed up in the more sentimental and romantic myths about Christmas.

That was a memorable day for Mr. and Mrs. Pickering. They had given a little of themselves in their desire to cheer others, and in doing so the chimes of gladness were started with renewed vigor in their hearts. They had learned something, too. They were wiser. They became conscious that there

is no soil so dark that it will not respond promptly to the sunshine and gladness of Christmas. The almost instantaneous change in the expressions of many faces was entirely convincing. Christmas had come, and again it had impressed the old, old message of peace and good will to men.

When the Pickering went back to their own comfortable home that night and sat in front of a welcome log fire they were conscious of wishing that this good spirit of Christmas might last throughout the entire year. It doesn't, of course, for human nature will be human nature while the world lasts. And they felt grateful for the sense of good will which it had brought them, and hopeful that it might linger with them for many weeks, at least.

As for the scores of persons who that day had seen their first Santa Claus since their happy childhood days in the old home, there can be no question but that their hard, unresponsive feelings were temporarily swallowed up in the more tender, humanizing strains of the shepherds' hymn:  
Glorry to God in the highest.

## MOLINE DISC PLOWS

Cost a trifle more to start with but cost far less to operate.

We can furnish you names of hundreds of farmers in Taylor, Jones and surrounding counties who have used their Moline Plows for 20 years and are still doing good work with them.

Terms, either cash, half cash, or all on next Fall time.

Your credit is good here

## Ed. S. Hughes Co.

ABILENE, TEXAS



**CLASSIFIED ADS**

**FOR SALE**

I have 195 acres of land to rent if you want to buy teams to cultivate it. Will back you for teams tools and harness if you have money to buy your feed and groceries and force sufficient to handle this much land. G. M. Byrom, Trent, Texas. tf

**REMOVAL SALE**—Army Goods and new overcoats, fine Dining Room Suits, Church Organ, No. 9 Oliver Typewriter, Hoosier Cabinets, reconditioned Perfect Oil Stoves, like new. CITY FURNITURE CO. 18t2p

**FOR SALE**—First year Kasch, Cliett and Mebane Cotton Seed, well matured, grown in Sweet-water creek bottom, making one half bale per acre. Price \$1.50 per bushel at barn. G. M. Byrom, Trent, Texas, route 2. tf

**FOR SALE**—Three small farms, close to Merkel. Can give possession. See J. A. Jaynes. 11t2p

**MAIZE**, Maize, for sale. See Hollis Haynes or Dent Gibson, Merkel, Texas. 11t2p

**FOR SALE**—What's the use to drive all over the country looking for something when you can come to my office and I can tell you of 30 or 40 places I can sell you worth the money. I have them in lots of from 15 acres to 640 acres. Have some of the very best farms and have land as low as \$15 per acre. Why not make your wife and children a home for a Christmas present. I have them that I can deliver on January 1. I am not a knocker; I strictly attend to my own business and guarantee you a square deal and always try to get a bargain and the seller pays the commission, so if you want to buy or sell see me. Yours for business. E. D. COATS. 1t

**FOR SALE or Trade**—Good six-room house in Merkel. Would take good Ford car and four good mules as part payment. See C. M. Pogue or G. W. Boyce. 1tp

**GOOD bundle Maize and Cane** for sale. See W. L. Diltz. tf

**CORN**, Corn—Have good Ear Corn for sale. J. M. Garrett. 1tp

**FOR SALE**—Good gentle milk cow. See Holland Teaff. 1tp

**FOR SALE**—Some good Kasch Cotton Seed, re-cleaned. Gives extra good turn out, at \$1.50 per bushel. G. L. Shuff, Merkel, route five. 1tp

**FOR SALE**—160 acres of land part of it sandy, 3 1/2 miles north west of Merkel, \$35 per acre. See R. E. Cole, Merkel, Texas, Box 191. 1tp

**MILK**—Have both sweet and sour milk for sale. Call at R. A. Hill's home at the south end of Ash street. 1tp

**FOR SALE**—About 4000 bundles of Cane and Maize. Priced right. P. E. Rape, 1 1/2 miles southeast of Merkel. 1tp

**FOR RENT**

**FOR RENT**—Four-room house three miles west of Merkel on highway. Good place for tourist park. See S. F. Haynes. 1tp

**FOR RENT**—150 acres of bottom land. See C. A. Duncan, Trent, route two. 18t2

**LOST AND FOUND**

**STRAYED**—2 bay horses, last Thursday night, from my place, 3 miles south of Trent. Shod all round, will weigh about 1250 each. Will pay liberal reward. W. E. Watkins, Trent, Texas. 11t2p

**REMOVAL SALE**—I will move this store one block west Jan 1, 1926. 50 Oil, Wood and Coal stoves, new and used. 40 Overcoats for less. CITY FURNITURE Co. 18t2p

**\$10.00 REWARD**—For two big black hogs strayed from my place last week. Notify John S. Hughes. 1t

**STRAYED**—A dark brown cow with horns. Left my home in Merkel Thursday of last week. Notify Patterson Brothers. 1t

**WANTED**—A few more milk and butter customers. Let me dress your Xmas turkey or chicken. Phone 219. 1tp

You can't beat a Lumber Jack for an Xmas Gift. L. H. Howard Company. 1t

Only \$14.50! A full size 29x4.40 Balloon tire at West's Accessory Department, of course

**Christmas Season Time to Make New Friends**

THE car stopped. It had been passing through a poor locality that Christmas morning.

"Where are all these old women hurrying?" the lady asked of one of the old women hobbling along.

"Bet Bog's man is hurted, an' we're goin' to help what we can, mam."

"So many?"

"Oh, I'll clean the windy, likely, an' Jen, yonder, who's a good cook, will get dinner. Some'll do one thing, an' some another. We'll all help, so Bet can be with her man. We like to be neighborly."

The lady drove on, but stopped at a Christmas store.

She had lived next door to her neighbor for three years, and had never nodded or called. Such things were common in their sets.

But now the car stopped, and the lady went to the house and introduced herself, and begged to come in later and see the children playing about the Christmas tree.

They parted with warmly clasped hands. They were to be good friends. It had just come about.

The footman had taken an armful of bundles round to the side door.—Frank Herbert Sweet.

**Remember**  
That every added subscriber helps to make this paper better for everybody



**Yuletide Greetings**

Christmas is here again and it's time to think of presents. Whether its for Dad, Mother or anyone of the family, we have something that is appropriate for their gift. Furniture or house furnishings make the most useful as well as the most lasting gifts. Why not come in and inspect our complete stock of Furniture, Rugs and other well chosen pieces for the home.



**J. T. DARSEY & CO.**  
Furniture and Oil Stoves

**Then and Now**

The old-fashioned boy who used to get an apple, an orange, a handful of mixed nuts, a dime's worth of powder and shot or a new pair of home-knit socks for Christmas now has a grandson who must have a new car, a diamond ring, and a check. Times change.

**SEASONABLE WILDNESS**



Shb—I know a place nearby where the mistletoe grows wild.  
He—Lead me there. I'll grow wild, too.

**Everybody's Tree Is the Community Tree**

CHRISTMAS means so much that one day cannot contain it. It begins about December 1 and continues until New Year's Day crowds it out. Forests of evergreen trees move into town in advance. Burdened expression and overloaded postmen serve Santa Claus as heralds, and the tide of joyful excitement rises higher and higher until it foams about the roots of the sparkling and beautiful community Christmas tree.

It was a glorious tree last year. The moon looked down from a peaceful sky. The singers filled the air with sweet sounds. The people who crowded about were from every land. They all translated the carols into their own tongues and made them bring back the gladness of past days. All nations and all denominations were for a moment united as they stood in front of the courthouse and looked up past the summit of the tree that stood for all and saw the flag of America shining in the spotlight and streaming in the free air of our great democracy. The tree that grows on American soil is Everybody's Tree. It sheds its light and its gift of liberty upon us all.—Christopher G. Hazard.

Mrs. Sidney Coats is spending the holidays with her parents in Cleburne, and will be joined by Mr. Coats next week. Small car owners! \$17.75 will buy a full size 29x4.40 Balloon Tire with tube at West's Accessory Department.

**FISHER'S**

"The House of Twenty Years Service"

Fisher's is a "Gift House" of new and beautiful things that will bring equal gratification to the giver and the recipient. Their charm lies not in expensiveness, but in the fact that they are lasting gifts. Always delightful, useful and of good taste.

This "store" solves the problem of how to give all the things you want without spending beyond your means.

Ladies' Wrist Watch

in all the new shapes and sizes in white gold  
**\$12.80 to \$65.00**

**Blue White Diamonds**

Blue white Diamonds of Exquisite Beauty Mounted in white gold.

**\$18 to \$750.00**

**Gentleman's Pocket Watch**

In White or Green Gold. Elgin and Waltham  
—\$12.50 to \$65.00—

BAR PINS  
..... In Platinum and White Gold. ....  
—\$15.00 to \$100.00—

**W. C. FISER**  
JEWELER & OPTOMETRIST  
The Old Reliable

932 S. First St., Phone 1190 Abilene, T



**Suggestions for Men's Gifts**

**GIFTS THAT MEN WILL APPRECIATE**

Among the many Gift Suggestions that we can offer you in our Men's Department are---

- Manhattan Shirts
- Manhattan Pajamas
- Cadet Office Jackets
- Hole-Proof Hosiery
- Hickok Belts
- Stetson Hats
- Hansen Gloves
- Cadet Sweaters
- Comfy House Shoes
- Hickok Beltograms

Nationally known brands of standard quality merchandise in smart styles that every man will appreciate. We have scores of other no velty items that you holiday shoppers will find very appropriate and convenient to help you fill out your Christmas list of gifts. Ample salesforce to serve you promptly and satisfactorily.

**Minter Dry Goods Company**

"Abilene's Progressive Store"

Abilene

Texas

# A TREMENDOUS PRICE REDUCTION

On January seventh nineteen twenty-six Dodge Brothers, Incorporated, will announce a tremendous reduction in the prices of their complete line of motor cars.

These reductions will apply on all cars bought after midnight, December Fifteenth nineteen twenty-five

When the new prices are made known on January seventh, the full amount of the reduction will be immediately refunded to all purchasers since December fifteenth.

These revolutionary reductions are made possible by a recently completed ten million dollar expansion program---new buildings and equipment that will nearly double the capacity of Dodge Brothers factories in nineteen twenty-six.

There is no change in the policy upon which Dodge Brothers established their leadership eleven years ago---the policy of constant improvement without yearly models.

## **MERKEL GARAGE**

**ROSS FERRIER**

**H. L. PROPST**

**Front Street**

**Telephone 123**

**Merkel, Texas**

# CHRISTMAS SPECIALS



Pan-g-burns gift box Chocolates with Christmas motto makes a delightful gift

for Mother, Sister or Sweetheart



Pearls Make a Lasting and an Appropriate Gift

## Gift Suggestions from Gift HEADQUARTERS

- |                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| <b>FOR MEN</b>      | <b>FOR WOMEN</b> |
| Gents Watches       | Candle Sticks    |
| Smoker Sets         | Stationery       |
| Gents Traveling Kit | Ivory Sets       |
| Bill Folds          | Kodaks           |
| Watch Chains        | Kodak Albums     |
| Emblem Knives       | Console Sets     |
| Emblem Rings        | Perfumers        |
| Cigars              | Manicure Rolls   |
| Pipes               | Toilet Sets      |



A Beautiful Selection of Continental Plate Silver to Select from



A FOUNTAIN PEN is a Gift for every member of the family. Each one can use these articles, and the Giver is Remembered for years. Parker Pen and Pencil Sets, Conklin Pen and Pencil Sets



Dolls of all Descriptions And the Price is Right

We have a Dandy Assortment of Clock Sets and Clocks.



We Can Certainly Please You with a Wrist Watch for our line is complete.

Our Doll and Toy Department Is Santa's Headquarters

**SPECIALS ON DOLLS COME IN AND SEE THEM**



Toys Real Boys Enjoy

Anything in gifts for the Kiddies



We extend to you a wish for a very Merry Xmas.

**GRIMES-SMITH DRUG CO.**

Christmas Greetings, from Patterson Brothers Market, the place where you get Green Discount Stamps and Good Old Tuff Meats. We have bought some especially good meats for Christmas eats. They will be on display in our case for you to see.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year we remain at your service. Patterson Brothers Market. Don't fail to call for your Green Stamps.

Your name printed on your greeting cards adds individuality

### CHRISTMAS MORNING —THE MAGIC PILLOW

THE serene, hushed silence of the hospital was of utmost contrast to the turbulent, rushing, noisy, jostling crowds elbowing their way along the well-filled thoroughfare. The comfortable, even temperature of the hospital contrasted singularly with the blustering, crisp, wintry, typically Christmas weather outside.

The silence of this huge, white building was broken now and then by the soft though swift footfalls of three or four busy young men. The patients in the free ward who were well enough, wondered what it all meant. Two youths in particular were interested in the coils of wire and doings of these men. They secretly hoped that they might be up and bustling about, shortly, as these lads were. It is not strange that two normal boys would be interested in being up and busy with crisp Christmas air and inspirations floating about. A free ward is a bit dull.

Bill occupied the last cot in the south end of the room, and Jack was on the cot at Bill's left. The next morning, Christmas morning, Bill woke, listened a moment, then rang for the floor nurse. In his excitement he roused Jack.

"Jack, are we alive? I hear bells, chimes, singing."

"Well, I heard it, too, when I had my head on the pillow, but now that I have lifted my head up, I don't hear it."

The nurse arrived, beaming with smiles. When questioned by the excited boys, she answered, "The boys in the radio class at the high school in back of us here, thought they would surprise you, and I guess they did. The head phones worked fine. Perhaps you would like to talk to those boys who installed your set. They are tuning in. I will get them."

Jack and Bill could not contain themselves. "A radio, how wonderful! The days won't be half so long."

—Eleanor E. King.

(©, 1925, Western Newspaper Union.)

### CHRISTMAS

A STORY in two parts. The birth of a Babe, heralded by angels, and the wonderful light from a star; The career of a Man whose life radiated love and good will.

With the Babe God came to earth. In the Man He walked and communed with men. In both, the Divine and human are beautifully interwoven into the love which Christmas personifies.

Let us sense the light above the manger and feel the warmth of the love which has hallowed the day since first the angels brought their unusual message. May Christmas bring you joy.

—W. D. Pennypacker.

(©, 1925, Western Newspaper Union.)

### Senior B.Y.P.U. Program

Subject: "The Church, the world's hope."

Leader, Mrs. Warren Smith.

Introduction by leader.

Part 1. "A world stupefied in sin," by Helen Booth.

Part 2. "Paul writes of the world's need," by Delbert Polly.

Part 3. "Is America Christian?"

Sub-head 1 and 2 by Nell Swann.

Part 4. "Sub-head 3 and 4," by Flossie Campbell.

Part 5. "Sub-head 5," by Yates Brown.

The B.Y.P.U. will not advance

without your cooperation, so

come and help us put our B.Y.

P.U. where it should be. Some

one reminded us that the devil

would down us if he could but

we as Christians are not going

to let this happen. Are you will-

ing to help us in this fight?

## HENS

For Buckner Orphan's Home

Bring them to Mr. Joe Harris' Poultry House Saturday. Let's give them one chicken dinner. It will take 125 hens. How many will you bring?

### Notice to the Public

Beginning with the first of the year 1926 we will only do a "FIRST TO FIRST" business. All bills will be due on the first of each month. As gasoline and tires have gone so high and it takes so much money to run a credit business, we will hereafter just do a "FIRST TO FIRST" business.

Now we want to treat you right but we can not carry you but one month at a time.

Hoping you will do business with us on our new plan, and we thank you for the past business you have given us, and hope you will have

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

**WOODRUM FILLING STATION**  
**MERKEL TEXAS**



## Mules! Mules!

Two Cars!-!  
At Auction

MERKEL, TEXAS

Will sell at auction 2 car load broke mules, these are all Texas mules right out of harness, age, 3 to 6 years old, 15 to 16 hand high, these mules will be here from now until sale.

Whether you want to buy mules or not don't miss this sale. Each mule will be guaranteed as represented.

If you want good mules buy home raised mules.

Sale Will Start Sat. Dec. 19, 1925  
at 1:30 P. M.

**Billingsly & Jones**

COL. F. O. WHITE, AUCTIONEER

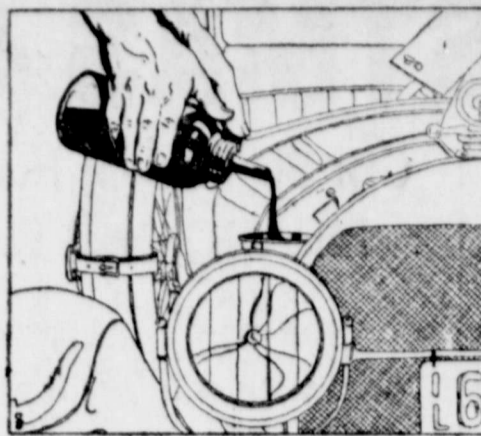
# THE RIGHT COLD WEATHER OIL

The correct lubrication for your motor in cold weather is of more importance than in warm weather. Upon the choice of oils depends the life of your motor. Enjoy safe and "trouble free" winter driving by using the correct winter grade of GARGOYLE MOBILOIL

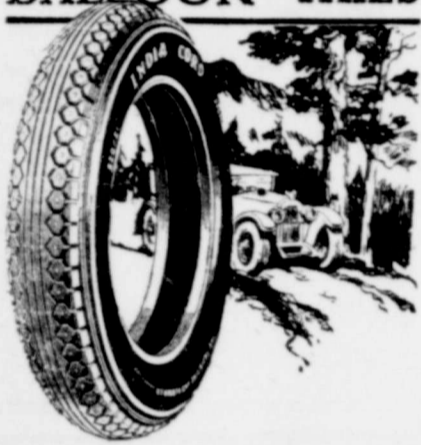
54 makes and 365 models of cars require a winter oil. Do you have one of them?

The Mobiloil chart recommends MOBILOIL "E" for Fords. MOBILOIL ARTIC for most other makes.

**Both flow freely at ZERO**  
**And we have ANTI-FREEZ for your radiator**



## INDIA BALLOON TIRES



We have secured the exclusive agency in Merkel for  
**The India Tires**

Have you seen these tires? This is a real tire and is backed by a guarantee. As we are going to have a big stock of these tires after the 1st., we are offering some **Special Prices on Other Brands** to make room for these new tires.

**Everybody's Garage**  
**"A Fair Deal Guaranteed"**

### Every Christmas Fair and Happy for Swinton

IT WAS an unusual Christmas; Nature had made it so. The rosebuds were still bursting into bloom; the sunshine was broadcasting far and near; a warmth that doesn't usually continue was over the land; but one fire was needed and that the Christmas blaze, to kindle in the hearts of the cold and selfish the warmth and sunshine which God had settled over the land and intended for every heart.

Abe Swinton came from his shanty, yawned and looked around. Old Scrooge himself couldn't hold a candle to Abe, who was selfish and stingy to the bone. The chimes of the First church were pealing forth "Merry Christmas, Merry Christmas! Merry Christmas to all!" The boys and girls were playing in the street and shouted to Abe: "A Christmas of sunshine and flowers, we bring you today. We hope you'll enjoy them and your groch will pass away."

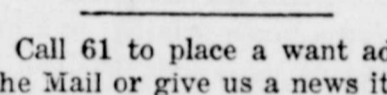
Abe went into his hut and muttered to himself; he felt chilly but couldn't venture out again. He took from hiding a bag of shining gold—he felt of it, started to put it back, but instead took it to the Provident association.

"Use this he said, for the poor. This is the best Christmas I ever had and I feel happy. It's because the sun shines so warm, I suppose; never another like it, to me at least."

The sunshine continued and every Christmas was fair and happy and joyous.—Emily Burks Adams.

(© 1925, Western Newspaper Union.)

### A GOOD SUBSTITUTE



### SAVES PENNIES FOR CAPITAL CHRISTMAS

"MRS. HULL has a capital plan of saving and giving Christmas capital which she calls her 'fancy fund,' because she uses it exactly as she wishes, with no drawing on the regular family income," Mrs. Ross exclaimed enthusiastically to her friends at an afternoon tea.

"The day after Christmas Mrs. Hull begins saving pennies that come into her hands through the year. She places them in a toy bank and adds six per cent interest at the end of the year. If she has saved ten dollars in pennies she adds sixty cents, which she says pays postage on her Christmas parcels. She always has a fund for Christmas, for she has never acquired the 'penny habit of giving' to church activities. Last year she divided the 'fancy fund' among her nieces and nephews, with instructions that the small amount was to be placed in saving and to be added to, or used as capital to compile more capital. The results were interesting, for each recipient must always keep that amount in reserve for a future savings account.

"Once Mrs. Hull purchased socks and bulbs and distributed them where they would be appreciated; once she subscribed for magazines which rotated among a large number of readers, some in public institutions. Another time she ordered toys, games and books for a children's home; another year she procured dozens of small dolls, with remnants for clothes, to send to a needy mission school. Once she sent hundreds of greeting cards, and once scores of inspiring mottoes to places where such things are seldom seen. Her mother one year received a fresh bouquet or a plant every few weeks during the year. This year her husband, who promised her his pennies, has added to her 'fancy fund.' She has over twelve dollars with the interest, and she has figured she may spend twenty-five cents each week during the year in making someone happier—fifty-two weeks of sending Christmas cheer! As ideas and opportunities present themselves each week she will use the fund. The first week she invited a homesick college boy into her home to spend the weekend.

"It seems to me that Mrs. Hull is accumulating more than cold capital in her penny plan. She is establishing a 'bank of blessings' with unlimited 'reserve funds of love,' which compounds interest at a rapid rate and pays one hundred per cent."

"Divineline dividends," Mrs. Leigh answered softly.—Gertrude Walton.

Call 61 to place a want ad in Only a few days left in which the Mail or give us a news item to put off that shopping.

#### Junior League

The Junior League of the Methodist church met on last Sunday afternoon and elected the following officers:

President, Nell Durham; vice-president, Florene Rider; Secretary, Imogene Middleton; Treasurer, Roy Robins; Press Reporter, Billie Robins; Agent, Odell Hunter.

On Sunday afternoon, Dec. 20, at five o'clock the following Christmas program will be given Song, "Joy to the World."

Prayer, Mrs. McCarter. Scripture reading; Comment Playlet.

Jane, Zeldia Belle Miller.

The Spirit of Christmas, Imogene Middleton.

Poem, "The Orphan Girl," by Thelma Patterson.

Sentence prayers, Benediction.

Your name printed on your greeting cards adds individuality

#### HAVE YOU LOST ANYTHING?

A man lost a nice traveling handbag in the city of Merkel. He made his trip to California and return, and then placed an advertisement in the Merkel Mail for the handbag. It was returned the next day after the paper was printed. A lady lost a fine gold wrist watch, a present very dear to her. She advertised in the Merkel Mail for the watch, offering \$10.00 reward. A man brought the watch and received the \$10.00. The advertisement in each case only cost about 25c.

Pretty Creton Comforts for Christmas gifts. See Mrs. G. F. Woods, T. P. section house. Quilting \$1.00 per spool by hand. 1tp

Mrs. L. D. Gaither of San Antonio came in first of the week for a visit with her parents, Dr. and Mrs. W. V. Cranford.

#### Christian Endeavor Program

Leader, Helen Compton. Topic: "Why is Christmas a time of joy?"

Scripture reading: Matt. 1:18-23; II Cor. 9:15.

Talk by leader.

Song, "He Came upon the Midnight Clear." Clippings.

Questions, Song, "Silent night Holy Night." Mispah.

Come let's make it a shinning meeting because its subject is a charming one.

Mr. Ray Adams, of O'Donnell, came in this week to spend the holidays. He will be found at the Post Office, where he is valuably assisting during the holiday season of rush mail.

Mr. G. B. Brown of Abilene is among those renewing for the "old home paper". He and his good family formerly resided in Merkel.

## A REAL TIRE VALUE

To our Customers, Friends and the Tire and Tube Buyers We have bought an awfully large stock of **TIRES AND TUBES AT THE OLD PRICE** and until December 31st. will make you a very close price

Thanking you for your liberal patronage and assuring you we are ready and glad to serve you in any way possible. We solicit your business

**DON'T FORGET TO CALL FOR YOUR GREEN STAMPS**

**MAGNOLIA FILLING STATION**

## We're Back Again



With a New Line of

## Christmas Goods

Will Open **Saturday at Noon** Dec. 12

**IN THE DANIEL BUILDING ON FRONT ST.**  
A COMPLETE LINE OF

- TOYS
- DOLLS
- WAGONS
- TRICYCLES
- DOLL BUGGIES
- FOUNTAIN PENS
- STATIONERY
- PICTURES
- COMBS
- BRUSHES
- MIRRORS
- SHAVING SETS

- TIRES
- HOSE
- HOUSE SHOES
- HANDKERCHIEFS
- ALUMINUM WARE
- GRANITE WARE
- DISHES
- DINNER SETS
- GLASS WARE
- SALAD BOWLS
- NOTIONS, ETC.

We extend a cordial invitation to our old patrons and friends to call and see us, also invite the patronage of new ones.

**Schindler's Variety Store**  
FRONT STREET

The gifts

M

**Algernon Noseup—the Bundle That Cured Him**

IT WASN'T his real name, but people thought he deserved it. Like a top, he carried a swelled head upon a small foundation. His nose was so much in the air that it distributed snubs plentifully. His idea of getting up was that of putting others down.

Algernon despised Christmas. He even felt ready to snub Santa Claus. This snob had a special snub for anybody who believed in Christmas cheer and generous happiness. He was an ardent member of the Society for the Prevention of Useless Giving. Indeed, he was the chairman of the branch of it that infested his town without bearing a gift. There may have been a streak of fat in his character, but there surely was a streak of mean.

It was a bundle that cured him. As he stalked to his door with his eyes on the church steeple he fell over it, and as he opened it that Christmas Day and found that a number of his neighbors had conspired to warm his heart with tokens of kind consideration, he felt so strangely humbled and ashamed of himself that he was never afterwards able to look down upon anybody.—Christopher G. Hazard.  
(©. 1925, Western Newspaper Union.)

**Tiny Tim**

"And how did little Tim behave?" asked Mrs. Cratchit. "As good as gold," said Bob, "and better. Somehow he gets thoughtful sitting by himself so much, and thinks the strangest things you ever heard. He told me, coming home, that he hoped people saw him in the church, because he was a cripple, and it might be pleasant to them to remember upon Christmas day, who made lame beggars walk and blind men see." And so, as Tiny Tim observed, "God bless us every one!"—Charles Dickens.

**Kerchiefs as Gifts**

Pretty handkerchiefs may be made at home. One is a square of fine white linen with appliqued corners of mauve linen outlined with embroidery. The other has a tiny white linen center, surrounded by a wide footing lace edged and bordered round with daisies.

**Creamed Dates**

Stone the dates, roll in sugar, and put a piece of fondant in place of the stone. Roll again in granulated sugar. Fill with nuts or peanut butter instead of fondant if desired.

**Just Before Christmas**

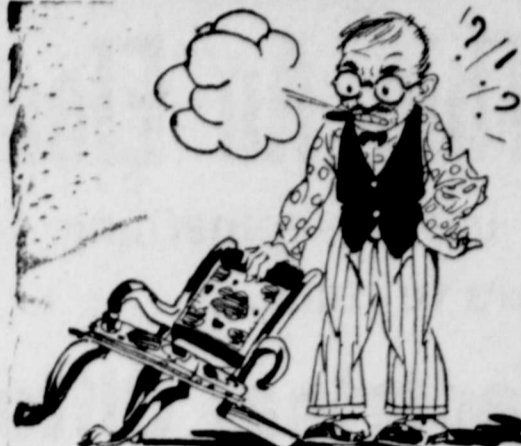
The hour was very late.  
Little Willie—Mamma, where do you suppose Santa Claus is right at this moment?  
Mother—I wish I knew.

**NOW BEWARE Of the Trash**

that you are being offered for what they call "HALF THE PRICE"

See Our Goods Get Our Prices  
**BROWN DRY GOODS CO.**

We Sell For Less—Because We Sell For Cash



**SAD, BUT TRUE**



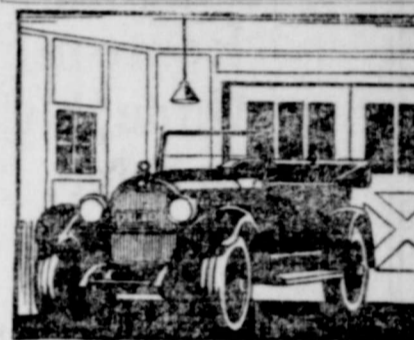
Teacher—Willie, why is everyone happy at Christmas time?  
Willie—Well my father's happy because business is so good.

**A Nest of Tables**

An ever-useful Christmas gift is a nest of four tables of mahogany. At tea time, to hold the after-dinner coffee cups, and, in fact, a dozen times a day, these tables will prove their usefulness.

**When It's Christmas**

Tell Old Trouble: "Go your way When it's Christmas. No place here for you to stay, When it's Christmas. We are in the joyous land; Sing and shout at Joy's command; Give us "Dixie" by the band When it's Christmas!"



Line your garage with Sheetrock. It keeps the cold out. It is fireproof, too. Cannot burn, because it is made from rock. Does not warp, shrink or buckle. Quickly erected and low in cost. Ask us about it.

Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.  
**SHEETROCK**  
THE Fireproof WALLBOARD  
BURTON-LINGO CO.

**TYE TO HAVE HOME TALENT PLAY TONIGHT**

"Brother Josiah" is the title of a three-act home talent play at the Tye School Auditorium tonight, Friday, December 18. This is said to be a very fine home talent play and is full of laughs. There will also be high class vaudeville between acts. Proceeds derived from this play will go to the school, and your attendance is urgently solicited.

Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Rosson, of Taft, Texas, came up recently for a visit with relatives and friends. They formerly resided in the Trent community. They will read the Merkel Mail another year.

Big shipment of men's fine Dress Shirts for Xmas presents. Give him one from the Men's Store. L. B. Howard Co. It Try a Classified Ad in the Mail.

**Lovely Shower Given Bride**

Mrs. R. H. Matthews, formerly Miss Lillian Blair, was given a lovely shower Saturday afternoon by the ladies of the Nubia community and friends in Merkel at the home of Mrs. R. M. McGinnis in Merkel.

The box containing many useful and pretty gifts was presented to the bride by two little girls. After the pretty array of gifts had been admired, delicious refreshments were served to the following ladies: Mesdames R. H. Matthews, W. J. Campbell, Joe Davis, W. C. Matthews, Roland Toombs, Hollingsworth, W. L. Blair, Rouble Johnson, Whit Richie, Phillips, R. H. Matthews Sr., and Miss Dollie Toombs.

Give him a leather sport coat for Xmas. L. B. Howard Co. It A nice Overcoat for him. L. B. Howard Company. tl

**CHRISTMAS CARDS**

CHRISTMAS cards have become a nightmare for many people, but it is the misuse and not the use of them that should be deplored.

A Christmas card today, as always, is, or should be, a harbinger of love. If it is not, the fault is with us, and not with the card. A card should always be a message of friendship, not a perfunctory duty. In a busy world it is a convenient, delightful way in which to remember one's friends; as such, it has come to stay.

May we respect this time-honored institution and may it serve us as our winged messenger, rather than enslave us as an unpleasant or pretended duty.—H. Lucius Cook.  
(©. 1925, Western Newspaper Union.)

**THE UNUSUAL USUAL**

"WE'RE tired of Christmas, they said. 'It's the same old thing every year. Same old wreaths. Same old nuisance getting presents. Same old expense. Same old fatigue. Same old holiday greetings. Nothing new about it. It's a bore."

Their names are Mr. and Mrs. Joylessness. They do not see, poor, pathetic creatures that they are, that the usual things are in reality the unusual.

Love is usual, so are children, so is a birthday, an anniversary, friendship.

But only the usual can rise to the great heights.

And Christmas is the most unusual of all.—Mary Graham Bonner.  
(©. 1925, Western Newspaper Union.)

**FREQUENTLY HAPPENS**



First Bug—What do you expect for Christmas.

Second Bug—Judging by past experience, something that I will have no use in the world for!

**AGAIN WE SAY**

"Give Something for the Car for Christmas"

**Yuletide Specials**

What more acceptable Christmas Gift for the man or woman who owns a car Adding to the beauty of and increasing the comfort derived from the car, and ever present reminder of your thoughtfulness. Make your selection from our stock where you have a complete assortment from which to choose and where prices are fair.

- BOSCH BATTERY IGNITION**  
Adds pep to the motor, insures easy starting and freedom from trouble. . . . . \$17.50
- LINCOLN SNUBBERS**  
Bring out the full advantages of balloon tires, giving perfect riding comfort.  
Regular type . . . . . \$15.00  
Balloon type . . . . . \$19.00
- BOYCE MOTOMETERS**  
We have a wide variety for any car, both with and without locking cap.  
Priced . . . . . \$3.50 to \$14.00
- SPOTLIGHT**  
Here is the biggest bargain we have ever offered. A big six inch lamp at . . . . . \$2.50  
Others up to . . . . . \$7.50
- CLOCKS**  
Something that is ever visible—a gift unique  
Each . . . . . \$2.50 to \$10.00

- STROMBERG CARBURETOR**  
Adds power, saves gasoline, increases flexibility of car. Each . . . . . \$15.75
- MOTOR DRIVEN HORN**  
The perfect warning signal. No car complete without one. Scharzwe . . . . . \$4.00
- CIGAR LIGHTERS**  
If he smokes, you could find no better gift than this.  
With trouble lamp . . . . . \$7.00  
Plain, Clamp-On . . . . . \$3.00
- HUB CAP SETS**  
Add to the smartness of the car. These are priced unusually low, per set. . . . . \$2.00
- STEERING WHEELS**  
Here is something of real value.  
Plain type . . . . . \$2.50, \$5.00 and \$10.00  
Locking type, installed . . . . . \$12.50

Rear View Mirrors, Heaters, Pedal Pads, Fender Braces, Dash Lamps, Horn buttons, Door Lever Extenders, Foot Feeds and other gifts too numerous to mention. Watch our Windows, Come in and let us show you.

**WEST COMPANY**

THE HOUSE FOR  
**DEPENDABLE AUTO NECESSITIES**

**IT'S THE Freed-Eiseman RADIO**

that receives the noon-day programs loud and clear.

It's The---  
**Freed-Eiseman Neutrodyne**

that gets the distance at night on the loud speaker loud and distinct

It's The---  
**Freed-Eiseman**  
that they are all talking about

FOR  
**FREED-EISEMAN RADIOS**  
SEE

**R. W. NEWSOM**  
At Everybody's Garage  
MACHINE ON DISPLAY

# Make This An Electrical Christmas

Give something useful, something that will bring remembrances through the years to come.

## Electrical Gifts Will Do It

**Waffle Iron**  
A Lovely Gift



Those Virginia Waffles will bring Remembrances through the years to come.



The Gift that Saves  
Mother Hours of  
Toil



By the use of the electric Range Mother can cook those tasty dishes better. It will be remembered through the long summer days that are coming.

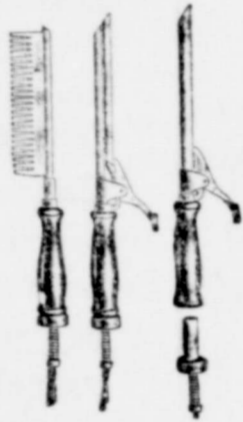
**Percolator**

A Handsome Gift



That good percolated coffee will long be remembered.

These Will Please

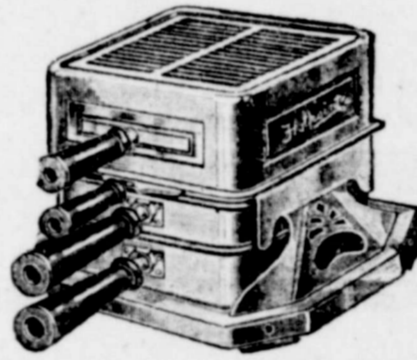


These will make her remember you every day of the year.

**OTHER SUITABLE GIFTS**

Boudoir and Reading Lamps, a large stock to select from. Vibrators, Warming Pads, Christmas tree Lamps.

**Table Stove**  
A Wonderful Gift

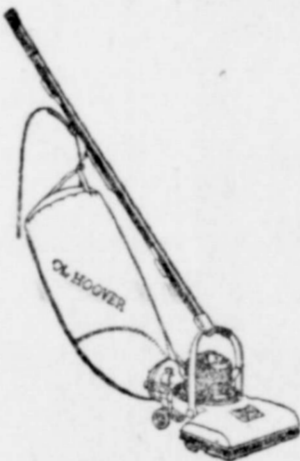


Cook breakfast on the table with this gift and save labor

**THESE ARE NICE GIFTS**

Irons, Toasters, Bath Room Heaters, Washing Machines, Water Heaters, Floor Lamps, Why not install lighting fixtures.

**HOOVER**



A Gift that Keeps the House Clean



## West Texas Utilities Company

### "NO MAN IS USELESS" —MESSAGE OF CHEER

CHRISTMAS snow was falling, but the downy flakes, so feathery and beautiful in themselves, were covering the earth with a thick, cold blanket which to Mr. Simmons' mind was like a shroud to all the ambitions of his life. When others were jostling each other good-naturedly in every store, buying presents to surprise their loved ones, and wrapping them tenderly in tissue paper tied with scarlet ribbon behind closed doors, this lonely soul walked the streets uneasily and aimlessly, disturbed and tormented by the unwonted crowds of shoppers, and, if the truth were known, hopelessly depressed both by the weather, and the animated throngs so busy with activities which he could neither share nor bear.

Alone, yet terribly afraid to be alone, and feeling more so in these crowds in which he had no part, he turned his footsteps from the town and sought companionship from Nature. He strolled across the snowy fields, beside a freezing brook, and into a pine grove all weighted down with snow. There in the solitude he felt gradually at ease, for a throng of happy memories came trooping to him through the trees—memories of yesteryear, when with his sisters in these very woods he had helped chop down the family Christmas tree when he was very small. What jolly days those were—what fun they'd had—he lived again those happy times before the reaper came. And then, mechanically, as he leaned against a tree, he drew from his pocket an envelope he had received that morning, but had not had interest enough to open for it was evidently a baneful Christmas card. But he tore it open now, and read:

The best day in the year  
Brings the best wish in the  
world  
To my best friend,  
Merry Christmas.

Tears of gratitude filled his eyes, for certainly he had not lived in vain when one could send him such a message. Joyfully he quoted Stevenson's words, "No man is useless while he has a friend," and then he turned his steps toward town.—H. Lucius Cook.  
(©, 1925, Western Newspaper Union.)



FRUIT CAKE

Ma's makin' fruit cake! Don't dare to get under her feet now, for her mind is on candied citron peel and spice and how many cups of flour and just the right proportion of brown sugar.

Fruit cake has the delightful quality that the older it is, the better it tastes. They bake it with a paper wrapper on—women folk are laughing at this description but never mind—and the whole house smells of fruit cake all the evening.

Just the top of a fruit cake, with its little hills that hide nuts in them and little upsticking bits of cherry or raisin, its mysterious valleys that are full of sweet congealment, its browned crustiness—oh, gee, Ma, can't

### Splendid Sea Story In Valhalla and Out

By George Ethelbert Walsh

**Gold!**

But it mostly is in the treasure vaults of Wall Street.

**Pirates!**

Principally the modern sort who do their scuttling and sinking in the stock market.

**Kidnapped Maiden!**

Yes, but she proved more than a handful for the kidnapers.

**Lovers!**

Indeed, yes! All the world will love the two in this story.

**Villains and Plots!**

Just as wicked as any in older tales of the sea, with radio and other modern improvements to further their schemes.

**Our New Serial**  
Starting in  
NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE OF  
The Merkel Mail

we have just one piece apiece tonight, and make the rest do for Christmas.

Ma is firm. She has had these sumptuary supplications before, and she knows how to be firm when firmness is required. The fruit cake is the first thing she prepares for Christmas dinner, just as it is the last thing to be consumed.

And the best part of it is, that usually when you come to the fruit cake part of the main yuletide meal, you're so full that there's no room for as much fruit cake as you'd like to eat, and so there's always enough of that, at least, to bring the New Year's dinner to a fitting and fine conclusion.

Removal Sale—Army Goods and new overcoats, fine Dining Room Suits, Church Organ, No. 9 Oliver Typewriter, Hoosier Cabinets, reconditioned Perfection Oil Stoves, like new. CITY FURNITURE CO. 1812p

Our Painless Extractions are Absolutely Painless and "We Don't Mean Maybe" If your plates do not fit, we can make them fit makes no difference who made them.



We Especially Invite Hard Jobs.  
DR. K. M. WATKINS & ASSOCIATES, DENTISTS  
Dr. Johnson, Associate  
Texas' Leading Plate Specialists in Texas's Best City.  
Rooms 15-16 Compton Buld., 152 1/2 Cypress, Abilene.

### REAL ESTATE, FARM LOANS FIRE INSURANCE

After a Fire--

you find no satisfaction in figuring up the amount of insurance you should have had. But there is a lot of satisfaction in knowing that your property as it stands today is fully covered by dependable fire insurance.

Our fire insurance policies are dependable.

**W. O. BONEY**  
MERKEL, TEXAS

Consult your Insurance Agent as you would your lawyer.

Mr. Robert Turner, wife and baby girl of Rule, Texas, spent last Sunday in the city with the former's uncle, Judge W. W. Wheeler and other relatives.

#### SPECIAL

Complete ELGIN Watches

\$11.00 and Up

Also a good value in

The DIAMOND RINGS gifts

From \$15.00 Up

**M. PRESLEY'S**

#### AUTO REPAIRING

I am now doing repair work at my home. I can save you money on any kind of repair work, and I guarantee satisfaction. Also have assortment of used parts. Located across street from T. L. Grimes place, 1 block east of Oak street. Charlie Higgins. It

A. L. BRYANT & SONS  
Painters and Paperhangers

A complete line of 1926 wall paper samples. Estimates free and appreciated. Residence 2 blocks northeast of post office. P. O. Box 536, Merkel. It

Bring your discs to us for sharpening. We have a new Disc Roller and can give you quick service. C.P. Stevens Blacksmith It

Call 61 to place a want ad in the Mail or give us a news item. We appreciate both of them.

MEMBER  
TEXAS QUALIFIED  
DRUGGISTS' LEAGUE

Legally  
Registered  
Pharmacist

**Merkel Drug  
COMPANY**  
S. D. Gamble, Mgr.

#### WIFE AND HUSBAND BOTH ILL WITH GAS

"For years I had gas on the stomach. The first dose of Adlerika helped. I now sleep well and all gas is gone. It also helped my husband." (Signed) Mrs. B. Brinkley. ONE spoonful Adlerika removes GAS and often brings astonishing relief to the stomach Stops that full, bloated feeling. Brings out old, waste matter you never thought was in your system. This excellent intestinal evacuant is wonderful for constipation. Merkel Drug Co., in Trent by R. B. Johnson.

W. O. Boney represents the San Antonio Joint Stock and Land Bank. See him for 6% money. It

# Xmas is Sure to Come As Long As Time Lasts Only One More Week UNTIL SANTA MAKES HIS TOUR



We have presents for the whole family. Gifts that are serviceable. Gifts that will not only bring cheer this Christmas but thought out the year and probably, years to come.

Wheel Goods for the kiddies in all sizes from the little "Tot" to "Brudder" and "Sis". Select suitable, substantial gifts. Come in and look our stock over and let us help you to make your selections. Santa Claus has a store room with us, he has already been having us store away presents for some good boys and girls. Remember we have a complete line of Hardware in all lines. Also remember we are the only Hardware Store in town that gives 2x Green Stamps, ask for them. We appreciate your business and good will

## Liberty Hardware Co.

If It's Hardware We Have It.

### HELPING HOLIDAY MAIL

There is nothing unreasonable in the request of Postmaster Meggs for public cooperation in handling the Christmas mail. Cooperation is more in the interest of the patrons than of the department and failure to do it will react upon those asked to give it. Apply the need for asking

public cooperation in dispatching Christmas mail is not what it was. The people are becoming accustomed to mailing parcels early, to bind up packages of letters, to wrap securely and mark legibly. Many still refuse or fail to take note of these requirements but the number is decreasing constantly. Already Christmas packages are in the mail in thousands.

With "Don't Open until Christmas" stickers, these parcels are getting to their destination while the getting is good. The people recognize that 'mail early' is quite as satisfactory and possible as "shop early." Both practices commend themselves. They ought to be adopted universally. Try a Classified Ad in The Mail.

### A WELCOMED CHECK CAME AT CHRISTMAS

MARTHA WHITESIDE was a lonely old woman. She lived in a little gray cottage on Bank street. She had no relatives and very few friends. But this fact did not seem to bother her very much—at least the town thought it did not. And gradually even the few friends she had moved away or forgot her, or died, so that often she spent days without seeing a soul. The town felt that she did not want any of it, so the town let her alone; left her to herself and the money she was hoarding so closely. She was voted a miser and a crabbed old woman.

But as it often happens in this world the town misunderstood. Martha was neither a miser nor a crabbed old woman. Instead she craved love and affection and would have given worlds to be able to help in every good and worth while cause that came up. But she couldn't—for contrary to the belief of the town Martha was poor—so poor that she often had to go without the barest necessities so that the tiny income that was hers might stretch over a year. But she was too proud to let this fact ever be known—too loyal to the memory of her easy-going husband to let the town know he had left her so badly off.

A few days before Christmas Martha answered the postman's ring with astonishment. She seldom got a letter now and a registered letter was something she had not seen for years. With trembling fingers she drew forth a check, made out to the order of Martha Whiteside, and the amount was \$500. She stared at it for a moment, then she remembered the contest she had entered. There was so much spare time on her hands she had worked over it many hours. It seemed unbelievable that she had won the first prize, but it must be true.

That Christmas the town became acquainted with the real Martha Whiteside; a woman whose greatest joy in life seemed to be found in giving and serving and from then on the town took her to its heart. Perhaps because understanding dawned upon it.—Katherine Edelman.

(© 1925, Western Newspaper Union.)

### When Christmas Comes

When Christmas comes  
We smartly rush  
And buy both this and that.  
In crowds we crush  
And don't know where we're at—  
When Christmas comes.

When Christmas comes,  
We sit us down  
And take account of stock;  
Perhaps we frown  
At making such a mock—  
When Christmas comes.  
—The Jingle, in Town Topics

### DRY BILL WOULD OUST CONGRESS MEMBERS

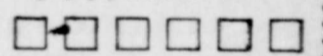
Any government employe, or member of congress or of the military establishment would be dishonorably dismissed for buying liquor from a bootlegger or in any way violating the prohibition laws under the provision of a bill introduced in the House yesterday by Representative Blanton of Texas.

Mr. Blanton, in another bill, seeks to make members of the diplomatic corps conform to the eighteenth amendment, contending that it is unfair for Americans to have to observe it while diplomats are granted immunity.—From Washington Post, December 10.

Your name printed on your greeting cards adds individuality

### A Word to the Borrower

IF you are a borrower of this paper, don't you think it is an injustice to the man who is paying for it? He may be looking for it at this very moment. Make it a regular visitor to your home. The subscription price is an investment that will repay you well.



**Christmas Suggests This Judicious Purchase**

The Fordor Sedan is an ideal Christmas gift for the whole family—an attractive and practical all-car car. It is finished in deep Windsor Maroon, with interior upholstery to harmonize. Nickered radiator, low, deep seats, wide doors, hooded sun visor and large fenders. See this good-looking car at the showroom of the nearest Authorized Ford Dealer. Easy terms gladly arranged.

**Ford Motor Company**  
Detroit, Mich.

THE FORDOR SEDAN  
**\$660**

\$260 Touring Car \$290 Coupe - - \$520 Tudor Sedan \$580  
Closed cars in color. Demountable rims and starter extra on open cars.  
All prices f. o. b. Detroit

## You go Home Happy-- If you do your Christmas shopping HERE

Prices are Right  
Quality is Right  
Service is Right

Come here and load your arms with Christmas delicacies. You will have food for the holidays that the entire family will enjoy.

**Bob Martin Grocery Co.**

### DR. E. E. COCKRELL

I CURE PILES without the knife—no detention from work. Office practice only  
Rectal and Skin Specialist  
Suite 312 Alexander Building. Office Hours 8 to 12 and 1 to 5 p.m. Phone 359, Abilene, Texas



# Bragg Dry Goods Co

## THE CHRISTMAS GIFT STORE

If you would give practical gifts that would be appreciated, you will select them here—Our store is over-flowing with dependable merchandise at Xmas. saving prices.

### A FEW OF OUR EXTRA SPECIAL CHRISTMAS PRICES ARE—

One lot ladies and childrens coats. regardless of value, priced.....\$1.98

Another lot ladies and misses coats at...\$4.95

Choice of any ladies hat for.....\$2.98

One special lot men's suits priced.....\$19.95

An extra Blanket value at.....\$2.95

Every thing priced special for Xmas. selling.

SHOP EARLY and SAVE MONEY!



# BRAGG DRY GOODS Co.

The Place Most People Trade

#### Many Words That Add to Christmas Season

WORDS come to our lips so easily that we do not always appreciate how glorious some of them are, and how much they mean to us.

Think of the words that add to the Christmas season! Every one of them has a significance and a Christmas meaning of its own.

There are greens and there are ribbons. There are gifts and there is Yuletide. There is sleigh and there is snow.

There are bells and there is cheer. There is the bright fire, and the frosty air. There are sleds and sunshine on the snow and the glow of a Christmas afternoon.

There is happiness and there are candles. There are wreaths and holly and mistletoe.

There is Santa Claus for the children and friendly voices wishing one and all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

There is the postman and there is a small child by the old chimney.

There is plum pudding and mince pie and turkey and cranberry. There is the Christmas tree and children talking of reindeer.

There is tinsel and there is holiday candy. There are stockings and there are Christmas decorations.

There are surprises and there are excitements.

And all of these things have such beautiful sounds. The words themselves are so wonderful. They mean so much. No other words would be the same.

And best of all is the word Christmas.

It is the year's most glorious word.—Mary Graham Bonner.

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#### Six Puppies, Nellie's Present for Her Mistress

THERE was to be no Christmas party for little Suzanne Hansen. The family was in dire financial difficulties and it was mutually agreed among them all that for this one Christmas there would be no exchange of gifts. Suzanne was disappointed that there would be no surprises, but she comforted herself with the thought that she would at least have Nellie, her faithful dog, to play with Christmas Day. Nellie had been given to her the Christmas before by her uncle and she had been Suzanne's constant companion up until about a month ago when the dog was sent away—"to the hospital," her mother had explained. Suzanne had been most unspeakably lonely all that month with no pal, and she had been counting the days till Christmas when she was promised the dog could be hers again.

Christmas morning when the door rang, Suzanne flew down the stairs answer. There was an excited cry. "Oh mummy, come down and what's here." There in a basket sat by the boy from the dog hospital six little puppies.

"I'll give you just a Christmas gift for you, Suzanne," said the boy and he closed the door behind him.—Marie

#### ANDREWS TELLS THRILLING TALE OF GOBI DESERT

Explorer's Own Account Gives Dodge Brothers Motor Cars Credit for Big Exploits

(By Dr. Roy Chapman Andrews)

(This is the first of a series of four interesting articles regarding the recently ended third Asiatic Expedition of the American Museum of Natural History, by Roy Chapman Andrews, the leader of the party of explorers.)

The Motor car will be the "Covered wagon" of the Gobi Desert in Mongolia, the most extensive undeveloped and unexplored region now left in the world. Motor Vehicles will be to this quarter of the globe what the ox-drawn and horse-drawn canvas topped wagons were to America's Great West, and it is conceivable that some scenario writer of the future will give

us a drama of central Asia comparable to the splendid picture based on Emerson Hough's book.

This practically unknown territory is half as large as the United States, Alaska excluded. If you put Mongolia down on the map of the United States it would extend from Washington on the east to Nevada on the West, and from Austin, Texas, on the south to the Canadian border. It has never been open to the world because of the impossibility of traffic of camel trains, the only means of communication. But now it is being criss-crossed in every direction by motor cars, or more correctly by one motor car, the Dodge. Sixty or seventy Dodge Brothers cars are making regular trips for into the interior of this vast waste bringing out loads of furs, wool and other precious goods.

No car except the Dodge is

found far in the interior. We have tried it out on each of our three expeditions and have had it demonstrated to our satisfaction that the Dodge is the only car that will stand up under the strain of the roadless desert and do everything we ask of it.

The Dodge and I went through some thrilling and extraordinary adventures together. For one thing, I believe I can say truthfully that I am the only man in the world who ever shot a mountain sheep from the seat of a motor car. I was able to do it because, apparently, the sheep was so astonished to see such a strange creature as a motor car in its rocky domain that it forgot to run away.

It happened one day while I was driving my Dodge up and down a series of steep ridges in the Altai Mountains. Everybody knows that the mountain sheep is about the most timid creature

in the world. Bagging one of them is a rare event, for the hunter must be, not only a mountain climber of rare ability, but an exceptional shot. When I first saw the one that I got it was standing on a point of rock high above me. Stopping the car I grabbed my rifle, expecting to see the sheep go bounding away. Instead, the sheep, astounded and curious, took a few steps ahead to get a better view of this strange creature that had invaded its fastness. It stood motionless in full view, and I brought it down at the first shot.

Something New! A full size 29x4.40 Balloon Tire with tube for \$17.75. West's Accessory Department.

Mr. J. F. Abernathy, we are informed, will leave Sunday for a visit in his old home state, Tennessee.

#### Saved to Buy Christmas Present for Her Daughter

THE eldest of the four children now ten; their mother had died three years. How the father kept such a young family together, a miracle even to him, but with the help of the day nursery, he had aged very well.

For the third Christmas now the widower tucked the children snugly in bed with a promise to call the daybreak. Then he tiptoed to his room.

Half an hour later when the house was quiet, Santa Claus entered the kitchen and proceeded to hang four little stockings hanging in a row behind the stove. Then suddenly he remembered that he had forgotten to bring a present for the father of the house. How disappointed the little ones would be to have their father overlooked like this! Why, they would think he's not been good! But it was too late, now, to get him anything. Nothing could be done.

Shortly after the house was quiet once again, the little girl stole into the kitchen and hung a stocking with a package in it near the others. For months she had saved her pennies so that when Christmas came again she would be able to play Santa Claus to her daddy. "How surprised 'n happy will be," she thought, as she slipped back to her room.—H. Lucius Co.

(©, 1925, Western Newspaper Union.)

## CUT THIS OUT

We have arranged this for your convenience so that you can sit down and in a few minutes figure out what your total gifts for the family will cost

#### Give Him These

	Check Here
FANCY SILK SOX	.67
KUM-A-PART CUFF BUTTONS	.50
TAN, BLUE & BLK Stripe BELT	.85
SCOTCH Fringed WOOL SCARF	2.50
Silver Monogram BELT BUCKLE	1.15
BLANKET LINED GLOVES	2.16
GOLD WATCH CHAINS	2.70
ADJUSTABLE DRESS CAPS	1.85
MENS SUEDE DRESS GLOVES	1.35
BOYS BOOTEES	3.15
GENUINE Leather BILL FOLD	.95
MENS & BOYS Sport SWEATER	3.55
TOTAL	

#### Give Her These

	Check Here
GENUINE Calfskin Ladies PURSE	1.93
Combination VANITY & Compact	1.57
Silk Jersey TEDS & BLOOMERS	1.98
MELBA PERFUME SETS	2.98
Beautiful Corduroy BATH ROBES	3.98
MANICURE SPECIALTIES	.45
Heavy Nap COTTON BLANKETS	2.65
GIRLS WOOL SPORT CAPS	1.15
BATH TOWEL SETS	.90
FANCY GARTERS	.45
BABY BLANKETS	.90
Baby's Combination KNIT SUITS	4.45
TOTAL	

## Bring This With You To Brown's

W. J. Brown, Joint Stock See him for money.

#### Burning the Yule

The burning of the Yule log at Christmas time, in parts of Europe and the continent, is a survival of an ancient festival among the northern nations to celebrate the return of the sun at the winter solstice (December 21). The Yule log is thought to bring good fortune, and frequently part of it is saved to light the new one in the following year. The Italians regard the charred Yule log as a protection against lightning. "Yule" is an old word for Christmas, and is still used provincially.

#### Chocolate Caramels

Use one pound of brown sugar, one fourth pound unsweetened chocolate, shaved, and one-half cupful of water. Boil some as fudge and before removing from fire add a generous lump of butter and one cupful of walnuts. Other nut meats or they may be omitted. After it is poured into a greased pan cut it in squares before getting hard.

#### What to Give?

When one thinks of what to give an old friend for Christmas, the first consideration is, "Now what did I give last year?" Perhaps that is the best way as any to open the question of New Year's resolutions.

#### San Francisco

Jud Tunk... were a Santa... be such a... drive up to... sell him some... ning Star.

Christmas and Sox... at as you would your lawyer.