

THE MERKEL MAIL

THE MERCHANTS WHO ADVERTISE APPRECIATE YOUR BUSINESS—READ THE ADS

VOL. 37—NO. 48

MERKEL, TEXAS, FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 1926

8 PAGES

BOYS SHOW INTEREST IN SCOUT MOVE

"The boys of Merkel are showing considerable interest in the prospects for organization of a real Boy Scout organization here," according to Chas. H. Jones, chairman of the local membership committee. "Our school superintendent says that we will have no difficulty in securing the boys. What we need right now is men who will make this thing possible for our boys."

Other Towns Active

Albany, Stamford, Anson, Baird, Haskell, Winters, Ballinger, Coleman and Abilene are all actively working upon the development of their local committees, who will be represented on the Chisholm Trail Area Council which will be organized in the very near future, and which will comprise Haskell, Runnels, Coleman, Callahan, Taylor, Shackelford and Jones counties. "Each town will be a spoke in this area wheel with the definite responsibility of looking after their own boys," says Mr. Carl W. Barnes, Area organization Executive for the Boy Scouts of America, upon his recent visit here. "All towns will have representation on the Chisholm Trail Area Council in proportion to their population; it is a fair business like arrangement he said.

We hope to show the rest of the state that the counties composing this area council are as squarely behind their boys as any other section of this great state. Fine interest is being shown everywhere in this great move.

A Man Problem.

"Boys need leadership. That is why these local committees are needed," says Mr. Jones. "The Boy Scouts of America are furnishing us with an efficient method of administering a tried and proven program for our boys. The work cannot be the success that it should be unless there are enough men in this community who will see that the work is done right, and who will form the local committee. We want every one to realize that this boy problem is a man problem, the problem of your interest plus your action.

This town must show up better than any other in the territory in its interest in her boys.

J. A. Summerhill, superintendent of schools, is very much interested in seeing this work organized. "I know what Scouting is, and what it can do," he says. "The national Educational Association is squarely behind it for the good it has accomplished in America during the past fifteen years."

How It Works.

In brief, the plan works like this: On one side we set up the things we want the boy to do; on the other side we put the things he naturally wants to do; we tie them all up together and make it all one game, and because it is part of a game the boy just simply lives up to all of the virtues prescribed.

The things we want boys to do are represented in the twelve scout laws: A scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent.

The things that the boy wants to do appear in the units of achievement necessary for successfully becoming a tenderfoot, a second class, a first class or merit badge scout. These things comprise the endless features of camping, woodcraft, signaling, firebuilding, swimming, and first aid to the injured along with other useful, practical, conservative and definitely helpful ac-

COUNTY AGENT TO DEMONSTRATE TERRACING HERE

It is announced that the County Agent, Mr. J. R. Masterson, will be at the Dr. M. Armstrong farm on Salt Branch, next Tuesday, February 2nd., for the purpose of demonstrating how to make survey for terracing and why it will pay the farmers to do this.

Mr. Masterson invites all who are interested to be present at the Armstrong farm on this date and it is expected that many will avail themselves of the opportunity.

CLOVER SEED FOR FARMERS OF CO.

A number of farmers have requested me to assist them in getting sweet clover seeds. After making thorough investigations I find that the seeds will cost us 14 cents a pound delivered to Abilene. These seeds were grown and thrashed in Kansas out of the Johnson Grass belt. From 8 to 14 pounds are needed to the acre. If a drill is used, the minimum amount of seeds are used, but since we have not clove seed drills in this section, 14 pounds are needed for hand planting. This crop should be planted during the next three weeks, in order that the clover may get a start of them before spring begins, and in order that early pastures may be provided. Sweet clover is composed of practically the same elements that are found in alfalfa, and will grow in a territory that is too dry for alfalfa. It has proved a success in the counties adjacent to Taylor, and grows in some sections of this county. All who wish to secure a share of the order should notify me immediately.

J. R. MASTERSON, County Agent, Abilene, Texas.

MERKEL CITIZENS TO SERVE ON PETIT JURY

The following names of citizens from Merkel and community appear among the list of jurors summoned to appear next Monday morning for Petit Jury service: W. W. Toombs, Porter Erwin, T. L. Holloway, Roy Harrell, Fred Guitart, J. P. Dudley, W. B. Petty, Carl M. Hughes, W. C. Matthews, L. C. Sublett, T. E. Lassiter, and J. E. Perkins

Magnolia Makes Improvement

Mr. Chas. H. Jones, the genial and hustling manager of the Magnolia Filling Station in this city, is just completing the rearrangement and furnishing of the interior of the Magnolia office in this city, which will add much to comfort and appearance of same.

compleishments.

Henry W. Holmes, division of education Harvard University, says, "Scouting is not a fad, a side-issue, a personal accomplishment to be learned or left to individual choice; it is as important as reading, writing or arithmetic."

We have a splendid town with fine standards of citizenship. Our boys want this program. We need this program for our boys. Every man in this community is invited to join this great move to help our boys to help themselves.

PURE BRED HOGS FOR THIS COUNTY

In order that the scarcity of hogs over Taylor county may be supplied, we are planning to secure for the farming people a car load of bred gilts. These animals are to be imported from Iowa, and will be of a good blood strain but will not be registered. The packing house people are cooperating with us and will have a man on the ground to select the animals, without cost to the purchaser. The average weight of the gilts will be around 150 pounds. The cost to the Taylor county farmers will be the market price of hogs the day that the animals are purchased plus the freight rate from Iowa to Taylor county. A gilt weighing 150 pounds will cost the farmer around \$25 delivered here. The car will stop at the point where the largest number of animals are to be distributed. If a large number is to be delivered in the neighborhood of Merkel, the hogs will be distributed from Merkel, but if the largest portion of them are to be distributed in the vicinity of Tuscola, the car will stop there. All who are interested in this project should get in touch with me immediately. I am in my office at Abilene on Saturdays only.

J. R. MASTERSON, County Agent, Abilene, Tex.

PRESBYTERIAN REVIVAL GROWING

The revival meeting now in progress at the Grace Presbyterian church is growing in interest with each service. Those who believe in the old time religion and appreciate full gospel preaching cannot afford to miss these services. Rev. Mr. Joiner who is doing the preaching in this series of meetings has already proved himself to be a man of strong convictions who preaches the gospel without fear or favor, and his soul stirring messages have been a benediction to all who have heard him.

Services will continue through out the week at 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. We urge the full cooperation of every church member in helping to make this meeting a success and fulfilling the desires of our hearts which is to build up the church and reach the unsaved. A cordial invitation is given to the public to be present at all services. Let us make Sunday a great day in the Sunday school with every officer, teacher and pupil present and on time.

Chas. H. Little, pastor.

MAYOR COBB ATTENDS WATERWORKS MEETING

Judge and Mrs. N. D. Cobb returned first of this week from Fort Worth where they spent a week, the Judge attending the Southwestern Water Works school and Mrs. Cobb visiting relatives.

NEWSPAPER BARGAINS

The Star-Telegram from now till Dec. 1, 1926, and the Merkel Mail for one year \$7.35
The Abilene Daily Reporter from now until Jan. 1, 1927, and the Merkel Mail one year \$5.00
The Dallas News, Daily and Sunday, one year and the Merkel Mail one year for \$7.00
Dallas News, daily except Sunday, and the Merkel Mail for one year each \$5.85
These prices are good until Jan. 31, 1926.

BOY ACCIDENTALLY SHOOTS SELF

One of the saddest and most regrettable accidents that has happened in this community for many years took place on a farm north of Noodle on the river last Sunday when Merrill Davis, a lad of 17 years, shot the top of his head off by accident.

From the information given this paper, it seems that young Davis with other young friends, had gone out for a little hunt and while using the butt of a shot gun to scare a rabbit from a brush pile, the gun was somehow discharged, the shot taking the top of Davis' head off, killing him instantly.

After funeral services conducted at the home in that community, the remains were laid to rest in the Rose Hill Cemetery in this city on Monday.

MR. SIE HAMM TO BE NEXT TOASTMASTER

On next Tuesday evening the Merkel Luncheon Club will hold its regular meeting, and at this meeting it is expected that much important matters concerning the city and community will be brought up for discussion, such as streets, roads, etc. Especially will the matter of graveling the road leading north of Merkel to intersect with the Stith road be discussed and the contract for the work on same likely let.

As toastmaster for this meeting, Mr. Sie Hamm has been named. Mr. Hamm is one of the younger business men of the city, and might naturally be expected to bring forth a real, live peppy, but constructive, program.

It is also expected that at this meeting there will be a full and complete report from the delegates attending the meeting this week at Midland of the West Texas Chamber of Commerce, district meeting, and every one will want to hear the report.

Every man in and about Merkel, who is interested in the town and community, is invited to be present. The Luncheon Club is your organization just as much as it is your neighbor's. Its objective is the building up of the town and community, and just how well it succeeds depends just as much upon you and your efforts in its behalf, as it does that of your neighbor.

It is easy to stay away and say the Luncheon Club never does anything. Perhaps it would do something if you would come out and help put forth some of your pet ideas.

MISS MELBA WEST ON TRINITY HONOR ROLL

Waxahachie, Texas, Jan. 27.—Miss Melba West, honor graduate of the 1925 class of the local high school, is reported to be on the honor roll of Trinity University for the fall term. While in high school Miss West took part in the essay, basketball and tennis contests and in college she is on the Glee Club, Spanish Club and the Y.W.C.A. She is a very popular member of the Freshman class of Trinity University.

Play at Shiloh Postponed

The Mail is requested to announce that the play to have taken place at Shiloh on the 29th has been postponed until Friday night, February 5th.

Every one interested will take notice of the change in date and be governed accordingly.

TO CONDUCT APPEAL FOR DISABLED VETERANS

Mrs. R. O. Anderson has been appointed by the Mayor to serve as Chairman of the Annual Forget-Me-Not Appeal of the Disabled American Veterans of the World War, to be conducted in Merkel in the near future.

The committee will be augmented by representatives of all fraternal societies, women's club and other organizations, and meetings are to be held at frequent intervals during the period of preparation for the intensive drive. Teams of ladies and girls will sell the little forget-me-not flowers to the public, and all proceeds will go towards actual relief, welfare, legislative, hospitalization, rehabilitation and employment assistance of the wounded and disabled world war veterans of the nation.

President Coolidge heads the list of prominent national and state figures who have given their hearty endorsement to the Forget-Me-Not Appeal, and the cause it represents. The Disabled American Veterans of the World War is the only Congressionally recognized organization consisting entirely of wounded, injured and disabled veterans of the world war; and its activities in behalf of those who bear the scars of war extend to all parts of the United States, there being many thousands of wounded American Veterans who have need for the aid and cooperation of this Association in the adjudication of their claims and treatment of their war-time disabilities.

In several hundred cities throughout the United States, the Forget-Me-Not Appeal will be sponsored by citizens' committees; and efforts will be made here to achieve a high mark in civic and patriotic records of response. The local committee hopes to interest every public-spirited man and woman in the community in its preparations for the coming Forget-Me-Not drive; and will invite a general participation in the committee's activities.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORKER VISITS METHODIST CHURCH

Mrs. C. E. Jamison, of Memphis, Texas, conference Superintendent of young people for the Woman's Missionary Society of the North West Texas Conference and Miss Bess Combes, Council Field Worker for young people with headquarters at Nashville, Tenn., held a very interesting meeting at the Methodist church Wednesday evening. Miss Combes is a missionary to China, and is home on a furlough. She has already spent thirteen years in China and comes back to her own country to tell of her work in that field and to further enlist the support of the Christian people and especially the young people in the great Missionary enterprise of the church. Mrs. Jamison and Miss Combes are making a rapid tour of the Northwest Texas Conference and left immediately after the services for Abilene where they had an engagement.

Preaching at Cross Roads South of Nubia Community

Elder Ellis McGaughey, of Abilene, will preach next Sunday at Cross Roads, one mile south of Nubia. Every one is cordially invited to hear him.

Austin Robertson, of Merkel route one, is among those renewing for the Mail recently.

MERKEL FAILS TO SECURE C. OF C. MEET

For the last three years quite a number of Merkel's citizens have interested themselves in and made an effort to bring to this city the District Meeting of the West Texas Chamber of Commerce. However, in each instance they have only fallen short a very few votes, and were only beaten by those towns contending that were in close distance to each of the three conventions.

This year the meeting was held at Midland, and Merkel, Post and Stanton were the only contenders. Post was eliminated on the first ballot, and since the last three meetings have been held at Colorado, Big Spring and Midland, respectively, it was naturally expected that either Merkel or Post should get the next meeting, as every one should know that it was best and really right for the best interest of the organization for the next meeting to be held a little further away from the places that had the meeting the past three years. But Stanton was there with a very large and enthusiastic delegation and when Post threw her vote to Stanton instead of Merkel as was expected by all delegates, even Stanton, the latter city won over Merkel by only about a dozen votes.

The Midland meeting was by far the best the organization has ever held, larger attendance and more generally appreciated. And the city of Midland did her self proud in royally entertaining the visitors in grand and glorious style. In fact in a manner only to be found in a west Texas town.

Those attending the convention from Merkel were: Mr. L. R. Thompson, for two years President of the Luncheon Club, who for the past two years had made the nominating speech in behalf of bringing to this city the next Convention, but who just recently moved to Abilene, and who had been invited and asked by the Luncheon Club to go to Midland and again speak in behalf of Merkel. May we say here that in so far as speech making was concerned Mr. Thompson very ably and eloquently represented this city. In fact he did his part nobly and we might also add that the only reason that Merkel did not get the next convention was that there was not enough of her citizens interested sufficient to attend the convention and thereby help bring home the "bacon." Others attending were: E. T. Grimes, C. H. Jones, J. A. Summerhill, S. A. Grimes, E. Yates Brown, Loring Hamblet, Thos. Durham, the Merkel orchestra composed of J. C. Comegys, Robert Dennis, Delma Compton, Herbert Dennis, T. C. Wilson, Miss Rennie Burns and Mrs. Opal Smith.

We would also not fail to state that the Merkel orchestra as usual, were accorded much recognition. In fact they were given first place on the program of entertainment as was Mr. Delma Compton, who sang to many encores.

It was a fine trip, one worth the effort and trouble endured by those making same, and was highly appreciated.

Mrs. V. P. Tippet and baby of San Angelo are guests of the former's mother, Mrs. E. N. Brown.

According to the Abilene Times of this week, marriage license were issued recently to O. A. Williams and Miss Laura Parks, of Merkel.

STATEMENT OF CONDITION OF THE FARMERS STATE BANK

At close of business Dec. 31, 1925

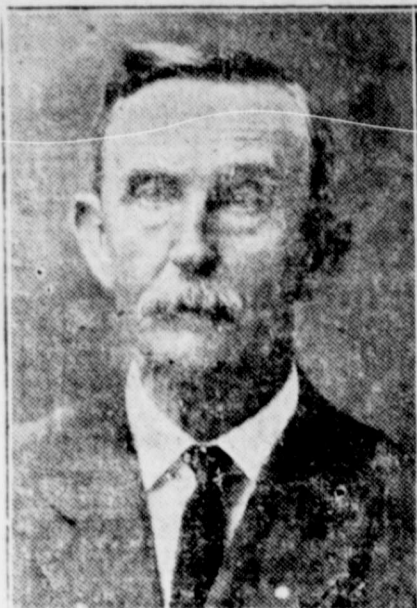
RESOURCES	
Loans	\$249,520.08
Banking House	12,500.00
Furniture & Fixtures	5,430.00
Other Real Estate	11,652.50
Stocks and Bonds	1,135.00
Assessment Gty. Fund	9,480.95
Int. Depositors Gty. Fund	8,422.66
Cash and Ex.	\$200,317.00
Prime Com. Paper	85,000.00
U. S. Bonds and Treas. Cert.	78,950.00
Bills of Exchange	
Cotton	57,620.20
TOTAL QUICK ASSETS	\$421,887.20
Total	\$720,028.39

LIABILITIES	
Capital Stock	\$ 50,000.00
Surplus and Profits Earned	20,750.00
Dividends Unpaid	2,500.00
Borrowed Money	NONE
Deposits	646,778.39
Total	\$720,028.39

Banking Friendship that Encircles this Section

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

J. S. Swann, President	Herbert Patterson,
R. O. Anderson, V. Pres.	Assistant Cashier
J. C. Mason, V. Pres.	
W. L. Diltz, Cashier	Dallas Scarbrough
	David Hendricks



J. T. HOWARD FOR TAX ASSESSOR THIS COUNTY

In this issue of the Merkel Mail will be found in the announcement column, the name of Mr. J. T. Howard as a candidate for the office of Tax Assessor of Taylor county, subject to the action of the Democratic Primary in July.

For eighteen years Mr. Howard was connected with the Farmers & Merchants National Bank of Merkel, and by his prominent affiliation with same, together with his long residence in Taylor county, gives him a wide acquaintance and a large host of friends throughout same.

Besides his years of experience in the banking business, Mr. Howard served with efficiency, honor and satisfaction the people of Rhea county, Tennessee, as County Clerk for many years before his coming to Taylor county.

And besides his business qualifications, Mr. Howard is all that the word honor means, is friendly and courteous to every one and last but not least he is a genuine Christian gentleman. Should the voters see fit to elect him to this most important position, he promises to devote his entire personal time and attention to same. This paper would urge upon the voters over the county before making up their minds as to whom to cast their votes for in the race for county Tax Assessor, to kindly give his claims careful study and due consideration.

CROSS ROADS ITEMS

Farmers are rejoicing over the snow we have just had. This, with the rain that fell before it, will put quite a bit of moisture in the ground. We had about 4 and one-half inches of snow.

Miss Merritt is not teaching this week on account of the illness of her father, Miss Eva Lee Bigham is teaching in her place.

Attendance at school has been rather light for a few days due to sickness in the community.

Ocie and Georgie Fay Rister have had scarlet fever but are almost over it now.

Master Billie McCartney has been real sick with pneumonia since last Saturday but was some better when we last heard from him.

Hollis Hammond has been sick with bronchitis for two or three weeks but is now able to be back in school.

There was no preaching Sunday because it was too snowy. A few gathered in the afternoon for Sunday school.

Some of the boys have been enjoying hunting rabbits in the snow the past few days.

Ray King has been sick with tonsillitis but is now able to be in school.

Mrs. W. W. Harp has not been well for some time, and still has a severe cold.

Fayette Harp and family have moved back to this community from the plains.

Mrs. R. F. England visited Mrs. Clyde Newton one evening last week.

Mr. Kading died last Thursday morning. He had been sick for several months. He was buried at Tye.

Mrs. Hudson and children visited Mrs. Millard King Sunday, January 17th.

Panama City Has Much to Interest Tourists

Although Panama is one of the most ancient cities in the New world, it is to the United States that it owes much of its present prestige and wealth. After the fall of the Incas kingdoms and the draining of their great stores of gold and other wealth, the sacking of the old city by pirates, and the decline of Spanish sea power, Panama went into a partial eclipse.

Panama perpetrates one of the greatest of geographic jokes on those who visit it. From the sea wall promenade one can see the sun rise majestically from the broad blue bosom of the Pacific, which to most Americans is the proper place only for a setting sun. And when one sails from Panama city to Colon, the Atlantic terminal of the canal, the direction is from southeast to northwest, instead of from west to east, as might reasonably be expected.

Although the present city of Panama dates from the Seventeenth century, it is considered historically the new city to distinguish it from old Panama, now in ruins, a few miles to the east. Old Panama was entirely destroyed by the notorious pirate, Henry Morgan.—National Geographic Society Bulletin

Ocean's Waters Teem With Dangerous Fish

A fish that has a very bad name in West Indian waters is the barracouta. It is shaped like a torpedo and is blue-black above and gray below. It is feared by negroes more than the shark. A girl swimmer not long ago was killed by one of these creatures.

What is probably the most dangerous of all fish is, however, the piral, common in South American rivers, especially in tributaries of the Orinoco. It is not large, but it travels in shoals and has fearful teeth and a poison for blood.

A fish called the long-guard and found in the seas off Central America, has the queer habit of leaping from water and skimming like a flying fish at great speed. It has a long, sharp snout. There are several cases of these fish having pierced the sails of fishing boats exactly as if pierced by a large arrow. Their long snouts are very firm and sharp. Some years ago a boy, while fishing off Cross Caye, was killed by a long-guard which struck him in the chest.

Communists and Cakes

Communist newspapers comment humorously on the predicament of an enthusiastic member of the party. This Communist's wife started to bake the usual cake for a church holiday. He explained that as he did not observe such days a cake was unnecessary. The wife insisted, and he finally agreed that the cake be baked, but specified that it be different in shape from the ordinary. The wife replied that a cake of any other shape would be foolish and began to cry. The Communist became angry, declared that he was the head of the family and forbade his wife to bake the cake. Then he recalled that in a Communist family husband and wife are equal, and that he could not give orders. So, ask some Communist writers, what can a loyal Communist do if he wants peace at home, especially if he likes cake?

Hold-Up and a Runaway

"It was before the time of automobiles," writes C. G. S., relating a reminiscence in Copper's Weekly. "I was driving a span of mustangs that had been trained to start at the lifting of a hand instead of the usual 'giddyap.' I was returning from a neighboring town through a stretch of woods when two men appeared on each side of the road and ordered me to 'stick 'em up.' I responded instantly, so did the ponies. As my hands shot up, the team sprang forward and before the robbers could get into action we were going lickety-split over the corduroy road. The ponies ran nearly a mile before I could get hold of the lines and get them under control. . . . Banditry was not so uncommon even in the old days."

Loons Not Lunatics

To most of us the expression "crazy as a loon" is quite familiar, but loons are not lunatics and so far as we know they never become insane.

There are three species of loons in northeastern North America; the black-throated, the red-throated and the great northern diver which is called plain loon.

Their call is of loud, clear, quavering tones sliding through a number of notes—"a sort of weird laughter." It may be expressed as "wah-hoo-o-o." Heard on a dark night in the stillness of the North woods it not only startles but alarms. The expression "crazy as a loon" undoubtedly has its origin in the maniacal laugh of this bird.

American Boundary Lines

The boundary line between North and Central America is a very irregular one, separating Mexico from Guatemala and British Honduras. It follows the Hondo river from the Caribbean sea, then west near the 18 degree north line of latitude, then south to the sixteenth line of latitude, then southwest to the Pacific. The boundary line between Central and South America is much simpler and shorter, dividing the republic of Panama from the republic of Colombia. It runs irregularly from the northeast at Cape Tiburon to the southwest at Cocalita point.

Organized in the days of the Covered Wagon

NOTICE

Although we have already given away more than seven hundred 1926 MAP CALENDARS it has come to our attention that some of our very best customers neglected to get one.

For the benefit of the patrons who failed to receive one of these useful maps we have ordered ONE HUNDRED MORE and expect to receive them the later part of this month.

If you are a customer of this bank and have not received your MAP kindly call for it about Jan.28

THE OLD RELIABLE

FARMERS & MERCHANTS NAT'L BANK

MERKEL TEXAS

'SINCE 1904'

A Square Deal For Every Customer

PARENT-TEACHERS MEET

Wednesday, January 20, the Parent-Teachers met in regular session. An enthusiastic announcement of the Art Exhibit, which is coming to Merkel, was given by Miss Hearn.

An impressive devotional was led by Rev. McCarter and a helpful and interesting paper on health was read by Dr. Gardner.

An unusual thing about this meeting was the presence of a few fathers. We wish more of them could find time to visit the P.T.A.

A short but pleasing talk was given by Mrs. Fred S. Rogers of Lamesa, who was visiting here.

Misses Coats and Heizer, with their pupils, gave a most interesting program which expressed

talent and skill as well as an untiring effort on the part of the teachers and pupils.

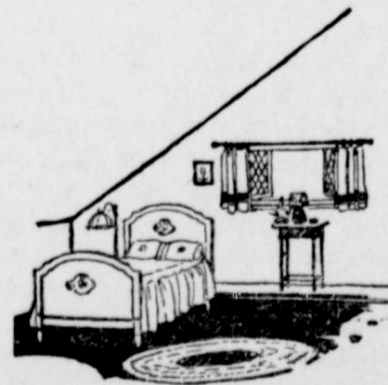
The next meeting will be February 10th.

IN A HURRY?

Yes. Quick service and best workmanship in Cleaning, Pressing and altering of clothes at CASH TAILOR SHOP. Call No. 180. It

Pay your poll tax this week. The last day is Saturday, January 30. The indications are that the political situation in Texas is going to be the most interesting ever before in the state's history, and you may want to use your citizenship by casting your vote for your favorite candidate or pet policy.

Big Improvements at little cost!



With a few sheets of Sheetrock, the fireproof wallboard, big rooms can be quickly partitioned into extra rooms, unfinished attics and basements turned into valuable space, garages made wind-tight and fireproof.

Sheetrock is low in cost, easy to erect. We will supply your needs promptly.

SHEETROCK
THE Fireproof WALLBOARD

BURTON-LINGO COMPANY

PILES CURED

NO KNIFE NO PAIN NO DETENTION FROM WORK
Dr. E. E. COCKERELL
RECTAL AND SKIN SPECIALIST
OF ABILENE, TEXAS

Will be at the Stephens Hotel in Merkel Monday, Feb. 1 from 12 a. m. to 5 p. m.
Phone No. 359 Abilene, Texas

PRICES THAT EXCEL

Every item in our store offered at prices that attract the attention of everyone. We invite you to call at our store and compare the values with other prices. The saving on your monthly grocery bill, offered by the C C C Grocery only is an amount that appeals to every individual.

We give National Coupons, an extra saving to you, on all 50c purchases
CARSON'S CASH and CARRY GROCERY

Try a Classified Ad in the Mail.

The Assurance Of SATISFACTION

When you drive your car out of our garage and repair shop, you have the satisfaction of knowing that your car has been properly taken care of. It is to our interest as well as yours to see that our repair work is satisfactory.

An another thing that pleases our customers is the fact that your car will be ready at the time promised. All kinds of repairs and adjustments made promptly.

Estimates made on all jobs in advance. Bring the car in this week and get it ready for Spring driving.

The life of your car depends upon the upkeep. Minor adjustments often avoid bad breaks.

Have your car looked over today

EVERYBODY'S GARAGE

"Our Customers must be Satisfied"

Phone Front Street

WE LOVE YOU

By DOUGLAS MALLOCH

NOT to one girl only
I would write a rime,
But to all the lonely,
Anywhere or time—
Yes, to ev'ry maiden
From her man apart,
Ev'ry lover laden
With a heavy heart.

But to those asunder,
Anytime or where
What the word, I wonder,
That will lighten care?
Here's the day, the reason,
Why I send a line:
It's the happy season
Of St. Valentine.

Not to one girl only
I would write a rime,
But to all the lonely,
Anywhere or time—
Not to king or caddie
With a lassie dear,
But to ev'ry laddie,
Anywhere or here.

Ev'ry maid among you,
How I hope you see
That the song that's sung you
Doesn't come from me—
Not one heart discovers,
Not one tale would tell,
But a million lovers
Send their love as well.

Man, wherever wedding,
Please to understand
Not one maid is sending
Something from her hand;
But a million of them,
Just as fond and true,
Though a million love them,
Send their love to you.

It's a mighty greeting
Via Valentine,
Singing and repeating
All along the line:
Sik or rags arrayed in,
High or low your class,
Here's to ev'ry maiden,
Here's to ev'ry man!

What the day or weather,
What the land or clime,
All of us together
Love you all the time.
All of us love only
You, and you, and you—
All of us are lonely,
All of us are true!
(© by McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)

WHEN I WAS TWENTY-ONE

BY JOSEPH KAYE

AT 21—Former Governor Louis F. Hart of Washington Listened Patiently to the Recitals of Unruly Youth.

WHEN I was twenty-one my position in life was not very exalted. I had to earn a living somehow, and teaching school seemed about as good a job as any other. So I taught school in the state of Missouri and listened to the recitals of unruly and impatient youth with what orderly patience I could muster. As this was over 20 years ago, I don't remember how far this good nature of mine extended. Maybe my pupils did love their teacher.

"At the same time I was teaching I studied law. The gathering of this additional knowledge had to be done at night but since my ambition was to be a great figure in law I did not mind the extra work but welcomed it gladly.—Louis F. Hart"

TODAY—Mr. Hart's early ambition to become a great lawyer was turned aside, for although he got his A. B. from Harvard at twenty-one and was called to the bar soon after; he did not practice for very long but went into the fire insurance business. In 1912, when he was only thirty-one, he was elected lieutenant governor of Washington and re-elected in 1916. Upon the death of Governor Lister, he became the chief executive and when his term expired in 1921 he was re-elected for another four-year term. At the end of this period Governor Hart had the distinction of having been the head, or the vice-head of the state of Washington for 13 consecutive years.

(© by McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)

THE YOUNG LADY ACROSS THE WAY



The young lady across the way says there are styles in dogs just as in everything else and it seems as if she heard more about hooch hounds now than either airdales or police dogs though she's never seen one.

(© by McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)

30 Days Time

30 days more until Spring bursts wide open on us

Then, everybody gets busy cleaning yards, flower beds, gardens and alleys. We have everything to do that with. **LAWN HOSE**, we want you to see it. We can give you any length from **SIX INCHES to FIVE HUNDRED FEET** in one piece, so buy what you need. We can show you the grade you buy. Garden Plows, Garden Tools of all kinds.

Poultry Wire, Incubators, Poultry Supplies

"Implements Galore!"

All ready to go. See our samples before you buy. Oak Tongues and Eveners. We don't have room to tell you all we have, so if it's Hardware you want to come on around here.

Liberty Hardware Co.

"IF IT'S HARDWARE, WE HAVE IT"

TO THE PUBLIC

We take this method of letting the public know the facts about the talk that is being circulated about us not administering to the needs of my brother who has been sick for some time. Some have gone so far as to say that I wouldn't even go to see him. There is not a word of truth in it, I always made two trips a day one at night and stayed all the way from eight until twelve o'clock until I made myself sick and have been confined to my room for the past fifteen days.

J. BEN CAMPBELL. 1t

Expecting car Coal any day. Swafford. Phone 44. 1t

COZY Theatre

FRIDAY and SATURDAY

January 29 and 30

Carl Laemmle Presents

"SPOOK RANCH"

Starring

HOOT GIBSON

A Big Universal Jewel

—Also—

An Adventure Picture

WILLIAM DESMOND

and Mary McAlister

—in—

"THE ACE OF SPADES"

Chapt. 5 "Thundering Hoofs"

And roaring 2-reel Comedy

"WILD CAT WILLIE"

MONDAY and TUESDAY

February 1 and 2

GLORIA SWANSON

—in—

"STAGE STRUCK"

A Paramount Picture

And Educational Comedy—

"ONE WILD NIGHT"

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY

February 3 and 4

PETE MORRISON

and Lightening in

"THE EMPTY SADDLE"

With Betty Goodwin

And Educational Comedy—

"MEXICAN MELODY"

PROGRAM TO BE GIVEN WITH THE ART EXHIBIT

Tuesday evening the following program will be given:

1. Solo, Mrs. Howard.
2. Delphian topic.
3. Reading, Flora Frances Anderson.
4. Merkel Quartette.
5. Delphian topic.
6. Reading, Tommie Durham.

Wednesday Evening.

1. When an old man gets to thinking, by E. L. Turner.
2. Piano solo, Eleanor Mae Hamilton.
3. Mud pie days, Pauline Toombs.
4. Piano solo, Missie Dye.
5. Elmer Brown, Maurine Davis.
6. Piano solo, Florence Ligon.
7. Reading, Harold Boney.
8. Song, by four girls.
9. Annihilation, Missie Dye.
10. The smack in school, Ruth Whatley.
11. Delphian notes.

Thursday Evening.

1. Reading, Modyn Sheppard.
2. The Owl and the Pussy Cat, by Mary Zoe West.
3. Piano solo, Margaret Miller.
4. When Daddy's sick, Margaret Canon.
5. Reading, Clara Belle Golightly.
6. Number by choral club.
7. Solo, Brown Eyes why are you blue, Nell Hughes.
8. Little Millie Hearing, H. C. Toombs.
9. Tea Party, four little girls.
10. My Pa, Clementine McDonald.
11. Delphian topics.

Friday Evening.

1. When Ma and Me got Tired, Artilee Simmons.
2. Trio, Thelma Leach, Ida Mae Derstine, Mary E. Grimes.
3. The Chewing Gum Man, Ross Ferrier.
4. Saxophone solo, Isadore Melinger.
5. When Father Carves the Duck, Nell Durham.
6. Violin Duet, D. O. Huddleston and Lynn McSpadden.
7. Nothin' to Laugh at, Willie Evelyn Boaz.
8. Piano Duet, Dorothy Little and Mattilou Largent.
9. So Was L, Velma Lee Holden.
10. Piano solo, Holley Perry.
11. Dialogue, Margaret and E.L. Turner.
12. Lochinvar, Harold Chaney.
13. Delphian topics.

Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Shaw of Merkel, route four, had as their guests recently Mrs. Shaw's nephew and his wife from Cedar Gap. She had not seen her nephew in ten years and their visit was indeed a pleasant one.

Condition of Fur

Fur is in prime condition for harvesting at one brief season only, according to the biological survey of the United States Department of Agriculture. Ill-advised open seasons are a natural result of the lack of sufficient information regarding the life habits of fur animals, says the department. A defect frequently noted in present fur laws is that the open season provided is so long that it permits trapping before pelts are prime in fall and after breeding has begun in spring. An open season of more than three months' duration, it would seem, is not justifiable anywhere in the United States. Far too many unprofitable pelts are coming to the raw-fur markets every year. Pelts of superior quality would reach the markets if these facts were appreciated and laws framed accordingly.

Original Gold Pens

Gold was first used in the making of pen points in the United States in 1835. Soon it was found necessary to harden the points of these pens, and this was done by protecting them with diamonds or rubies, which made the pens very costly and consequently very rare. John Hawkins, to whom is due the discovery that an alloy of iridium and osmium soldered on to the gold would serve the purpose just as well as the gem stones and at much less cost, was the first to use iridium. In 1850 his method was superseded and for the first time iridium was fused with the gold and a much stronger and a more durable penpoint was produced. Over 100,000 pens are manufactured every year by one firm alone.

Birds Great Travelers

The journeys undertaken by some birds are really marvelous. The tiny goldcrest—the smallest European bird—weighing but a dram, and some other avian Lilliputians cross the waters of the North sea on dark November nights, while some species of sandpipers migrate from islands well within the Arctic circle to New Zealand and Cape Horn. These wonderful aerial feats are undertaken by birds barely three months old. The Arctic tern, a common sea swallow, flies almost from pole to pole twice a year.—London Discovery.

African Bearers Easily Pleased

Explorers through the wilds of Africa are not embarrassed by undue labor costs, as the bushmen there are the burden bearers for visitors. A man carries 60 pounds on his head, is able to travel 15 miles a day with ease, and will bear his burden 250 miles for \$2.50 and then walk back home filled with joy because he has had a real journey and plenty of fun. The carriers are particularly well fed and they like that.

Mr. F. W. Teague of Merkel, route two, is another of our many new subscribers since the New Year.

Mr. J. W. Latimer, Merkel, route five, has our thanks for the renewal of his subscription to the Mail for another year.

Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Reagan, of the Noodle community were called to Winters Wednesday to attend the funeral of a relative, a young man who had died from pneumonia.

Mrs. Edwin J. Gravelle, of Los Angeles, was here recently for a visit with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Baze, and her brother Mr. Earl Baze.

We are informed that Mr. Harry Lee of this city, who recently underwent an operation at an Abilene Sanitarium, is getting along nicely at this time.

Mr. J. T. Darsey, manager of the Darsey Furniture Company is spending the week in Waco on business and visiting his mother.

Expecting car Coal any day. Swafford. Phone 44. 1t

STOP THAT ITCHING

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 of Children. We will sell you a Jar of BLUE STAR REMEDY on a guarantee. It will not stain your clothing and has a pleasant odor.

For sale by MERKEL DRUG CO

Don't Overlook

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

the MONEY

REAL ESTATE, FARM LOANS FIRE INSURANCE

After a Fire==

you'll 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.

The Merkel Mail

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Taylor and Jones counties \$1.50
Anywhere else \$2.00
IN ADVANCE

TELEPHONE No. 61

Entered at the postoffice at Mer-
kel, Texas as second class mail.

If this town is not as good as
you think it should be, the ques-
tion is are you doing your part
toward making it better?

Most any old, selfish egotist
can belittle his town, spread
scandal and gossip about his
neighbors and of which no good
citizens care to participate in.

A young lady who until re-
cently had been a missionary in
China, a representative of one of
the foremost churches in Amer-
ica, lecturing in Merkel this week
before a small crowd of church
people, called herself a Mission-
ary from China. And while the
statement was really made in a
jesticulating way, one some-
times might consider the state-
ment proper when considering
the conduct of some of our na-
tives. Such natives cannot be
termed as among the ignorant
and unlearned either, and yet
their actions some times would
put to shame the heathen of any
country.

OWN YOUR HOME?

Every man is entitled to a
home. Have you got yours? Lis-
ten, men, I have got about 75
labors of as good farming land
as any on the Plains that I can
sell at \$15.00 to \$30.00 per acre
without any cash. Mr. Enoch,
the owner of this land, knows
that the rent will pay for this
land in a few years. Therefore
he has given us permission to
sell it on crop payment plan.
Nothing due until your crop is
made, then just regular rent,
one third and one fourth of your
crop each year. Just think of
this. There never was such an
opportunity offered to the far-
mer. Why pay rent when you
can own your own home just as
cheaply? You have or will re-
ceive a letter from John W. Bl-
lock of Littlefield, Texas, the
home office of the Enoch Lands
telling you of this wonderful
plan. Read it carefully then
write, phone or call and see me
and arrange a trip to see this
land. Seeing is believing. Yours
respectfully, L. D. MATLOCK,
P. O. Box 103, Merkel, Texas,
Phone 251. It

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

RESOLUTIONS

The W. Matron, W. Patron,
officers and members of Merkel
chapter No. 212, O. E. S.

We your committee appoint-
ed to draft resolutions of respec-
t on the death of our deceas-
ed sister, Mrs. Mary Taylor
Browning, respectfully submit
the following:

Whereas it has been our mis-
fortune to lose our dear Sister,
who has for many years been a
loyal and faithful worker and
member of our chapter, and
when we look to the fifth point
of our Star, which station she
filled for many years, the noble
character of Electa, which she
represented with grace and dig-
nity, we shall Miss her.

Therefore be it resolved that
in her death Merkel Chapter
has sustained an irreparable
loss. That a noble character, a
loving mother, a true friend and
Christian worker has passed to
her just reward. To the family
and friends of the deceased we
extend our heartfelt sympathy
in this their hour of bereave-
ment, and unite with them in a
hope of a reunion in that realm
beyond the Stars.

Resolved, second, that our
chapter be draped in mourning
for a period of 30 days and that
these resolutions be spread up-
on the minutes and a copy sent
to the family of deceased.

Mrs. Ella Williams, Mrs. May
Lee, and W. N. Hall, Committee.

In memory of our departed
Sister, Mrs. Mary T. Browning:
A woman noble, pure and good
What more can mortal say?

Earth gave to Heaven a costly
gem

When our Sister passed away.

Her life was like an open book

And written on each page

Were acts of charity and love

From Childhood to old age.

And she has gane to Heaven

above,

There with the Lord to be,

For in her life three angels

dwelt,

Faith, Hope and Charity.

By a friend and member of

the O. E. S.

MAN OR WOMAN—\$50.00 to
\$75.00 weekly showing our sam-
ples and taking orders for Fam-
ous Packard Tailored Shirts and
Neckwear direct from our fac-
tory. Easy work. Experience un-
necessary. Your pay starts at
once. Spring line ready. Repre-
sentatives in other counties
earning \$50 to \$75 a week. ES-
SEX COACH furnished FREE.
Act quick. Write for FREE sam-
ples. Packard Manufacturing
Co., T835 Orleans, Chicago,
Illinois. 29t2p

I will have car of hulls and
meal on track at once. See or
phone me for prices off the car.
L. L. Murray, Phone 265. tf

WARREN NOTES
By Vera Jones

The farmers are all beginning
to put up their land for spring.

Mr. and Mrs. Jessie Higgins
visited Mr. and Mrs. Evers Sun-
day evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Bass of Hawley
spent the day Sunday with their
daughter, Mrs. Noel Jones.

Mr. and Mrs. C. T. McCormick
visited Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Jones
Sunday evening.

Miss Cartie Ellington visited
Misses Artie and Helen McCor-
mick Thursday night.

Mr. E. H. Jones and Mr. C. T.
McCormick visited Mr. Bob Can-
non a while Sunday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Harris vis-
ited his mother and father, Mr.
and Mrs. Harris, Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Gressett vis-
ited Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Criswell
Sunday.

Mr. E. C. Tarvin visited Mr.
and Mrs. Tarvin Sunday.

**MUST REGISTER MOTOR
VEHICLES AT ONCE**

"Unless motorists proceed im-
mediately to the headlight test
stations and to the tax collect-
ors' offices to attend to their
1926 registrations, there will in
evitably occur the greatest last
minute rush and jam which has
ever been experienced at regis-
tration time in Texas. Registra-
tion is being delayed to the point
where motorists will cause them-
selves great inconvenience in
waiting in the long lines at the
test stations and the tax collect-
ors offices.

January 31st is the last day
for payment of registration fees
during the regular registration
period, and after that date delin-
quent registrants will be re-
quired to pay a penalty of 25
per cent of the total fee.

Motorists can help the test
stations and tax collectors tre-
mendously and save time and in-
convenience to themselves, if
they will proceed immediately to
the test stations and then to the
tax collectors for registration.

**MAN SLEEPS LIKE LOG,
AND EATS ANYTHING**

"After taking Adlerika I can
eat anything and sleep like a
log. I had gas on the stomach
and couldn't keep food down nor
sleep." (Signed) R. C. Miller.
ONE spoonful Adlerika removes
GAS and often brings surpris-
ing relief to the stomach. Stops
that full bloated feeling. Often
brings out old waste matter you
never thought was in your sys-
tem. Excellent for chronic con-
stipation. Merkel Drug Co. In-
Trent by R. B. Johnson. tf

Smart Spring Slippers

That Don't Sacrifice Comfort

We are featuring for the New Season Slip-
pers for Men and Women that will appeal to
you because of their trim smartness. But they
have an added claim to favor that you can't see

They are made to be comfortable. If you
would like your new Spring Slippers to litterly
feel "as comfortable as old shoes" from the first
moment you slip them on, then we suggest
you spend five minutes with us the next time
you are down town.

Also the New Spring Dry Goods is beginning
to come in.

Max Mellinger

Pay Your Street Tax

The Merkel Mail is asked to
call the attention of the citi-
zens to the fact that if they pay
their street tax before the first
day of February the same will
be only \$3.00, whereas after
that date it will cost you \$5.00.

FOR SALE or Trade for farm
land, well improved sheep and
goat ranch in Uvalde county,
1280 acres at \$12 per acre. Ap-
ply at Merkel Mail office. tf

Baker & Wheeler will appreci-
ate your patronage in fresh and
cured meats of all kinds in sea-
son. Call on them for fresh pork,
sausage, steak, cured meats,
roasts, etc. tf

DOES YOUR BACK ACHE?

**Bad Backs Bring Suffering to
Many Merkel Folks**

Is that dull, constant back-
ache making you old and miser-
able? Does your back throb and
ache until it seems you jjust
can't keep going? Do you suffer
headaches, dizzy spells and ur-
inary disorders; feel weak, tired
and worn-out Then look to your
kidneys. Delay may mean seri-
ous kidney sickness! Use Doan's
Pills—a stimulant diuretic to the
kidneys. Doan's are recommend-
ed by Merkel folks.

E. L. Ash, prop. of shoe busi-
ness, Oak St., Merkel, says: "My
back became weak and a dull
ache settled across it and when
I stooped sharp pains stabbed
through it. My kidneys were
weak. After using oDan's Pills
which I purchased at the Mer-
kel Drug Co., my kidneys were
fixed up fine."

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

Burton-Lingo Co.

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

Expecting car Coal any day.
Swafford. Phone 44. It

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



**Quick Way to End
Dangerous Cough**

Why let a dangerous cough hang on
when you can, through a simple treat-
ment, get speedy relief and often break
it up completely in 24 hours?

This treatment is based on the fa-
mous Dr. King's New Discovery for
Coughs. You take just one teaspoon-
ful and hold it in your throat for 15 or
20 seconds before swallowing it. It has
a double action. It not only soothes
and heals irritation, but also removes
the phlegm and congestion which are
the real cause of the coughing. So the
worst cough quickly disappears.

Dr. King's New Discovery is for
coughs, chest colds, bronchitis, spas-
modic croup, etc. Fine for children,
too—no harmful drugs. Very econom-
ical, as the dose is only one teaspoon-
ful. At all good druggists. Ask for



Expert Repairing

The way we repair shoes, it is really more of a re-
made 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



TUDOR SEDAN

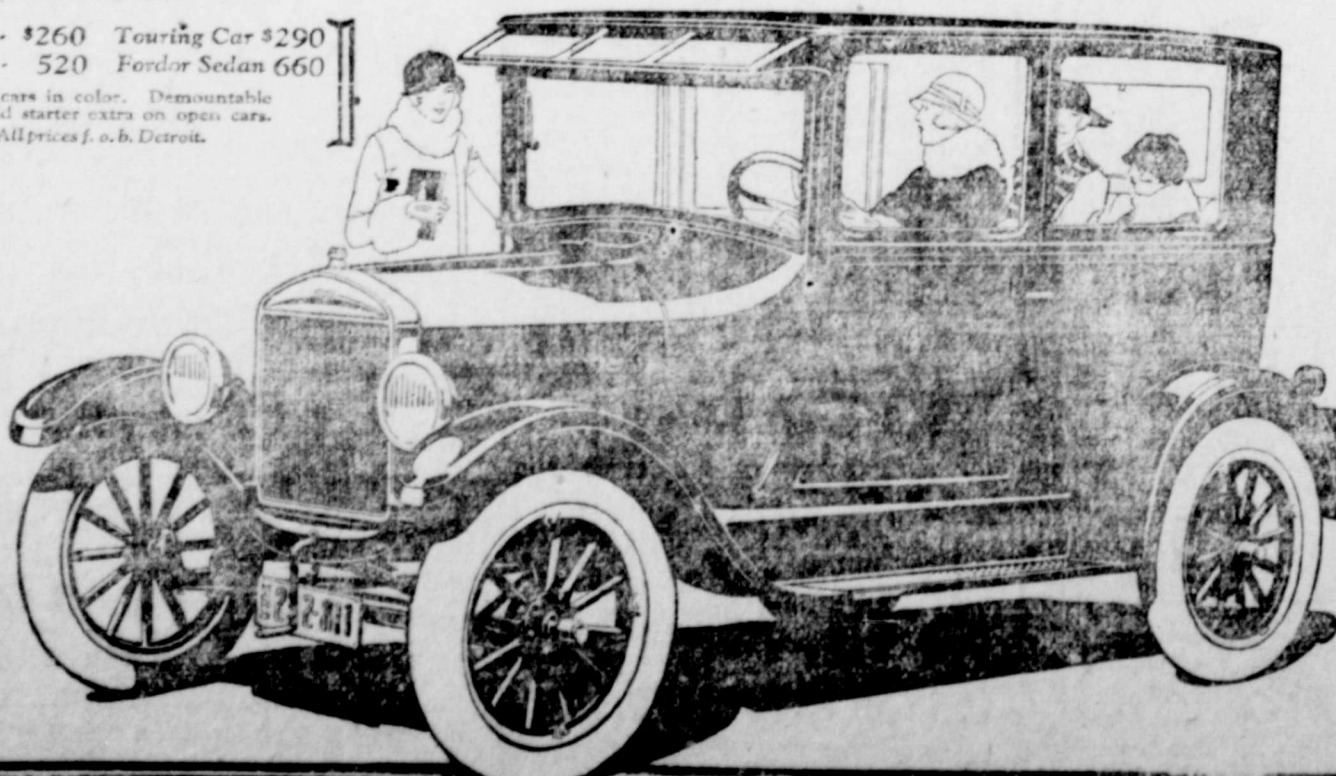
\$580

F. O. B. Detroit

Runabout - \$260 Towing Car \$290
Compe - 520 Fordor Sedan 660
Closed cars in color. Demountable
rims and starter extra on open cars.
All prices f. o. b. Detroit.

The Ford Tudor Sedan, with all-steel body, is
an ideal family car. Anyone can learn to drive it.
Seats five passengers in comfort. The nearest Author-
ized Ford Dealer will gladly explain the easy terms on
which this good-looking Sedan may be purchased.

Ford Motor Company
Detroit, Mich.



BABY CHICKS
Strong, healthy, vigorous baby chicks from selected purebred fowls Leghorns, Barred Rocks, Reds, Buff Orpingtons 15c each and up. Custom hatching.
Higgins Hatchery
Route 1, Merkel, Texas Jan. 29

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT
By F. A. WALKER

A DESTROYING ANGEL

GOING through the world today is a destroying angel, sowing seeds of strife and sorrow among men and women who proudly proclaim from the housetops and on the street corners that they are free agents independent in thought and action. Yet when you look impartially into the purpose which actuate these self-confident persons, you will discover to your amazement that their boastful assertions are at variance with the truth.

With willing ears, however, they listen attentively to base argument which if followed to the end would ultimately destroy their individuality and usefulness.

So, instead of accepting advice from elders, from interested wives and husbands, or from employers, these inconsistent persons gulp down poisonous draughts which have been mixed with exceeding care to dethrone their reason.

Out of weekly or monthly earnings they hand over at regular intervals a stipulated percentage of their receipts, to keep an arch enemy and his cohorts in fine raiments, luxurious living quarters, choice cigars, trained servants and imposing automobiles.

While his victims are toiling he enjoys life, making a pretense of improving their living conditions, principally by worn out catchwords and promises which are never kept.

He compliments and flatters as he robs them, fattens, grows rich and domineers.

And all this he does with the money earned by his thousands of unsuspecting slaves who have yet to learn the knack of saving and the primitive art of taking care of themselves.

Under the strong will and hypnotic gaze of this destroying angel, his miserable serfs who are constantly complaining of "hard times" let themselves go blind of their own best interests.

(© by McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)

FARM & RANCH LOANS

At 6, 6½ and 7 per cent interest payable once a year. Terms 5, 10, 20 or 33 years, the best contract ever offered the borrower. NO RED TAPE. See me if you want a loan. V. E. MUIR, Abilene, Texas. 1Jan27

A LINE O' CHEER

By John Kendrick Bangs

A VALENTINE

IF BEING lover of my kind Will put me in the line, Why—if you really do not mind— I'll be your Valentine; And if perchance in sorrow you Are groping on this day, Or friendless plod in grip of rue Some dark, unlovely, way, With all my heart I'm with you, Friend, Sharing your sorry lot. And will be to the very end 'E'en though you see me not. (© by McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)

AN ABBREVIATED STORY

THE LANDLORD

THE tenants of the Polar Bear apartment had done everything in their power to induce Monk E. Wrencher, their flinty-hearted landlord, to give them a little steam heat in their time of need. They had even had him serenaded by an expensive brass band, which played "Keep the Home Fires Burning," continuously for five hours beneath his windows. But to no avail—icicles continued to form on the radiators and more tenants contracted pneumonia and passed to a nicer, warmer climate.

And then, suddenly, Monk E. Wrencher felt a strange stirring of his long dormant conscience.

"After all," he thought, "the tenants have some rights. They're human beings, after all, even if they are tenants. We can't all be landlords. Who knows, by some odd turn of fate, that I might not be a tenant myself some day. I'll give them all the steam they want, beginning tomorrow."

Now, as it chanced, the next day was unseasonably, uncomfortably warm. And even as the tenants threw up their windows for a breath of air, the radiators suddenly grew smoking hot and great clouds of steam arose as if to mock them.

With frantic cries they sought out Monk E. Wrencher and gave him such a pitiless drubbing that he never sent up another ounce of steam.

(© by George Matthew Adams)

Maize Heads at Swafford Coal Yard. See before you buy. Phone 44. 1t

SCHOOL NOTES

The beauty contest for the Annual is getting interesting. The Seniors are trying to get their "beauty" in the Annual, but they have some very keen competition from the under-classes.

The work of assembling material for the Annual is progressing rapidly and satisfactory. The Editor-in-Chief, Eva Mae Johnson, expects to have printing copy ready next week.

The boys basketball team defeated Trent Wednesday night on the local gymnasium by the score of 19 to 13. Our boys are rounding into good shape the last few days.

Superintendent J. A. Summerhill has received recognition for the grade work of our local schools from Lubbock. He will in the next few weeks get the grade schools on the recognized list of classified Elementary schools of all the city schools of the state. The high school has 19 affiliated units and will submit material for two additional units this spring. This means a great deal for our schools. Any child from the grades that moves to any city or classified school system of the state will be allowed to continue work assigned by the Merkel Schools.

We regret the death of Mrs. Womack Wednesday morning, mother of R. T. Womack, one of our seniors. Her death was unexpected. The class extends to R.T. and the entire family their sympathies.

—M.H.S.—

Display Greatest Works of Old and Modern Artists

The Art Exhibit scheduled for the local school will be on display at the Armory building on next week. It will be a treat and an opportunity for the people of Merkel as it is not often that one is able to see such pictures without making special trips to museums and other places for that purpose.

The exhibit contains more than 150 fine reproductions of the world's famous masterpieces of art. The reproductions are of the finest types produced, showing the original colors and strokes of the brush, as they are produced by special new processes. Among the famous paintings represented are such subjects as "Mona Lisa," by DaVinci, the original in the Lowverre, Paris, is said to be valued at \$5,000,000 "The Song of the Lark," by Jules Breton, original in the Art Institute, Chicago. "Hope," by George Frederick Watts, in Tate Gallery, London. "The Pot of Basil," by John W. Alexander, in Boston Public Museum. "Connecticut Hills," by Ben Foster, Metropolitan Art Museum, New York City, and many others. The exhibit is being held under the auspices of the city schools. A small charge of admission is being made, the entire amount of which goes to the school's Picture Fund.

The exhibit will be open to the public from four to six o'clock in the afternoon and seven to nine o'clock at night. There will be a short program given each evening beginning at seven and lasting about thirty minutes. No extra admission for the program. Members of the Delphian

**The Hired Hand Says:
YOU HAD BETTER
FALL IN LINE**

Scores of Merkel Auto Owners are profiting by our big Inventory Accessory Sale. We are offering items that every car owner needs, at prices that are extremely low. There are other items, too that we failed to list in our ad which we offer at the same low prices.

Our big stock of auto necessities offers you at times an opportunity to buy your supplies at a saving. Quality merchandise, fair prices and prompt, courteous treatment—this is the basis on which we bid for your patronage.

West Company



Club, pupils of Misses Tracy and Yoakum, and other pupils of the school will appear on these programs.

Members of the faculty, assisted by the P.T.A. will be hostesses of the exhibit each afternoon and night.

Any one wishing to buy copies of these pictures may do so by placing your order with the school.

Tickets that are being sold now are season tickets and admit the individual to the exhibit each afternoon and night.

This exhibit has been shown in the largest cities of Texas, including Dallas and San Antonio, and was last week shown in Sweetwater.

This exhibit is being obtained from the Colonial Art Company, Oklahoma City, and is not the work of the children of the Merkel Grammar school. Buy a season ticket to this exhibit and help your school as well as avail yourself of the opportunity of seeing some masterpieces of art. Wise men say that one good

picture can mold the minds of a nation.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BELIEVE THIS, NO!

A minister in a certain town in Alabama took permanent leave of his congregation in the following manner:

"Brothers and Sisters, I come to say goodby. I don't think God loves this church, because none of you ever die. I don't think you love each other, because I never marry any of you. I don't think you love me, because you have not paid my salary. Your donations are mouldy fruit and wormy apples, and 'by their fruits ye shall know them."

"Brethren, I am going to a better place. I have been called to be chaplain of a penitentiary. 'Where I go ye cannot come, but I go to prepare a place for you,' and may the Lord have mercy on your souls. Good-bye."

Try a Classified Ad in The Mail.

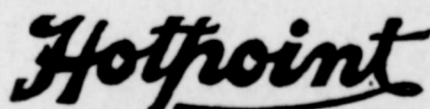
ELECTRIC COOKERY IS BETTER COOKERY

Done to a Turn

—Without Watching

Any of your favorite dishes, regardless of whether roasted, baked or broiled, can be cooked much more deliciously with an electric range, and without the tedious, pains taking watching and care required with the ordinary fuel stove.

Today, thousands of alert, modern housewives put their food into electric ovens, set the electric timers and the heat controls, and then go away and forget it. Hours later they return to perfectly cooked meals, steaming hot all ready to serve.



ELECTRIC RANGES

You will be interested in seeing our many styles of electric ranges, and each adopted to individual preferences. Come in and secure first hand information regarding the supercleanliness, the convenience and coolness of electric cooking and how greatly it will lighten your house work.

West Texas Utilities Co.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- For County Judge: TOM K. EPLEN
- For Sheriff: H. T. O'BAR
- For County Clerk: W. E. BEASLEY
- For Tax Collector: R. A. McCLAIN EARL HUGHES
- For County Treasurer: AUSTIN FITTS (Precinct Offices)
- For Public Weigher: THOS. A. BEARDEN
- For Commissioner, this Precinct: PHILLIP A. DILTZ



Quick - Easy - Economical

To facilitate the handling of Long Distance station-to-station calls you may now give your call direct to the local operator when she asks, "Number, please?" Just give the name of the distant town or city and the number of the desired telephone. She will see that your call is completed as soon as possible.

Only calls for a number will be accepted by the local operator. All other long distance calls must be passed to the Long Distance operator in the regular way.

SOUTHWESTERN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY



GOLD BOND SAVING STAMPS

The Emblem of Thrift

An extraordinary announcement to the citizens of Merkel and Merkel trade territory and a thing that will be of interest to every citizen is the fact that you can secure Gold Bond Saving Stamps with every purchase you make from the firms listed on this page. By confining your purchases to the firms who give Gold Bond Saving Stamps you can save a discount you cannot afford to miss; so why not save them. These stamps are absolutely free and the cost is taken care of by the extra volume it brings the giver.

On account of negligence of the sales people at times they will forget to ask you to take the stamps, but at the same time it is the desire of the management of the store's that you get the stamps on each and every purchase, so please call for them. This merchandise will be on display at the Bragg Dry Goods Company, at all times and you are requested to come and inspect it when possible

Banks pay dividends on what you save--Gold Bond Saving Stamps pay dividends on what you spend

Below you will see listed a few items that will give you an idea of the quality merchandise you can secure with Gold Bond Saving Stamps

Rogers Silverware, Electrical Goods, Aluminum, Pyrex, Cut Glass, Ivory Goods, Reqs. Kodaks, Clocks and other household necessities

START NOW TO SAVE GOLD BOND SAVING STAMPS

Trade with the firms listed below and get Gold Bond Saving Stamps

BRAGG DRY GOODS COMPANY
WOODRUM FILLING STATION
BAKER & WHEELER MEAT MARKET

J. T. DARSEY & CO., FURNITURE
GRIMES & SMITH DRUG STORE
BOB MARTIN GROCERY COMPANY

Are you going to put your money in a new suit? If so, you will be sure to save money if you have your new suit made to measure. Fit, style and price guaranteed to please. CASH TAILOR SHOP. It

Len Sublett

Water well Driller, all work guaranteed first-class.

Merkel, Texas

SPECIAL

Complete ELGIN Watches

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Also a good value in

DIAMOND RINGS

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PRESLEY'S

Jewelry & Gift Shop

Expert Repairing

209 Pine St. Abilene, Texas

MEMBER TEXAS QUALIFIED DRUGGISTS LEAGUE

Legally Registered Pharmacist

Merkel Drug COMPANY
 S. D. Gamble, Mgr.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE

FOR SALE—Good fresh Jersey milk cow. See E. C. Richards, west of Noodle, telephone No. 9039F11. 22t2p

FOR SALE—Some good mesquite cord wood at \$2.00 per cord on the ground. See Sam Winter, Bettis Heights, Merkel. 29t2p

FOR SALE—75 bushels Mebane Cotton Seed at \$1.00. M. J. Shaw Merkel, route 4, two miles east of Stith. tf

FOR RENT

FOR RENT—Two unfurnished south rooms to party without children. Lee Acuff. 1t

FOR RENT—9-room house on Oak street. Has bath and garage. For further particulars see J.F. Abernathy. 1tp

WANTED

WANTED—Some milk customers, either morning or night. Mrs. R. L. Proctor. tf

Maize Heads at Swafford Coal Yard. See before you buy. Phone 44. 1t

LOST AND FOUND

LOST—A navaho blanket between Noodle and Sweetwater creek. Finder please notify T. C. Jenkins, phone 9039-32. 29t2p

We give Gold Bond Saving Stamps with Cash Purchases. Also on accounts if paid by the 10th of each month. Bob Martin Grocery Company. 1t

Renew your subscription to the Merkel Mail before it expires

MERKEL BAPTISTS

Sunday school at 10 a.m. with a congenial class for all who will come to study the Bible. If you love the "Old Book" come and study it with others who love it also. We had a fine attendance last Sunday in spite of the snow. Numbers of people from the country were present. All department superintendents but 2 were present. Certainly we have as faithful officers and teachers as will be found any place.

Preaching by the pastor at 11 a.m. and 7:15 p.m. Morning subject: "How to read the Bible Profitably." Evening subject, "Bringing Men to Jesus"

All B. Y. P. U.'s meet in main auditorium at 6:15. Come to B.Y.P.U. and stay for the evening preaching service. Should the B.Y.P.U. close their program before 7:15 there will be a song service covering the interval.

Monthly workers meeting on Monday at 7 p.m. Every officer and teacher should be at this meeting when we will plan our work looking to reaching the advanced standard.

Ladies meeting Tuesday at 2. Prayermeeting Wednesday at 7 p.m. All Baptists in our community are urged to come join with us in the Lord's work. Visitors and people without church homes are always welcome at any service. Ira L. Parrack, Pastor.

Senior B.Y.P.U. Program

Group captain, Joe Hartley. Leader, Delbert Polly. Introduction by leader. Our Scripture selection, Maurine Hearn.

Story Showing Personal Service, Mildred Hamm. Christians, the Saving Salt, by Iris Garrett.

The Personal Appeal wins, Joe Ben Ashby.

Plan for personal service, Fred Giles.

Pray and Give, Stella Wilson.

Presbyterian Church

Sunday School at 10 a.m. Preaching at 11 a.m. and 7:15 p.m. Junior Christian Endeavor at 6:15 p.m.

Senior Christian Endeavor at 6:15 p.m.

Ladies Missionary Society at 3:00 p.m. Monday.

Chas. H. Little, pastor.

Methodist Church

Most all our people were kept away from church and Sunday school last Sunday.

We hope that next Sunday may be a fine day, and that we shall have a great attendance at each service. W. R. McCarter.

Presbyterian Auxiliary

The auxiliary will meet with Mrs. Chas. H. Little Monday, February 1. The following program will be given. Devotional, Mrs. William Elliott. Live issues in Indian affairs, Mrs. Chas. Jones. The new Dwight, Mrs. J. L. Baker. Beside the Railroad track, Mrs. Jas. West. Missionary Booth at Fair, Mrs. J. L. Tucker. Growth emphasized, Mrs. Chas. Little. Who else, if any, Mrs. S. F. Haynes.

You can get nice Mutton Choppes at Baker & Wheeler Market next Monday. We appreciate your trade.

Christian Endeavor Program

Leader, Mildred Smith. Topic: "The call, the claims and the conquest of the church." Scripture reading: Acts 13:1-3; Heb. 10:14-25; Thess. 1:1-10. Talk by leader. Song; Clippings; Question. Announcements, song, mispah. The main thing is to be there.

Expecting car Coal any day. Swafford. Phone 44. 1t

Mesdames S. A. Duckett, of Tulia, and W. A. Bullock, of Caddo, who were here for a visit with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Harris, returned this week to their respective homes.

In order to close my business and make my report to the Company for the past year, 1925, will kindly ask all who owe me a little balance to come in at once and take care of same.

Since publishing the above last week, we are proud to say that most of our good customers have come in and made settlement of their accounts, for which we are very grateful. And to the few who have not as yet been in, will ask that you kindly drop in and make settlement, as we must make our final report by Feb. 1st.

We appreciate your business and are doing our best to render you every service possible, but in order to stay in business we must make our collections.

MAGNOLIA FILLING STATION
C. H. JONES, MGR.

STOP!!! FOR SERVICE

We handle the best that can be bought in **GAS and OIL, TIRES, TUBES and ACCESSORIES**

No hold-up prices. We buy right and sell right.

Come in and "gas" with us.

Oasis Filling Station
Your Trade Appreciated

Mrs. W. F. Evans and baby and Mrs. H. M. Warren, all of Knox City, were guests this week of Mrs. E. C. Spurgin of the Comper community, as well as other relatives and friends.

Expecting car Coal any day. Swafford. Phone 44.

Mrs. W. S. J. Brown returned first of the week from Dallas, where she has been for the past week attending the bedside of her mother, Mrs. John Sears, who is under the care of specialists in a Dallas sanitarium. We regret to learn that she is not improving in health.

40 YEARS

—Farmers of Taylor and surrounding counties have used Moline Plows.

We have customers who have used their Moline Double Disc Plows over 20 years.

The Moline costs a little more than competitive makes, but they cut more, pull lighter, last longer and cost less to keep up Plows delivered to your farm.

Terms, cash, part cash or all on fall time

Your credit is good here.

ED. S. HUGHES COMPANY
Abilene, Texas

In Valhalla and Out

by George Ethelbert Walsh

SYNOPSIS

CHAPTER I.—Fishing in idle fashion, from a private dock, Dick Van Ness watches a ship, the Pelican, which he recognizes as the Beacon, his father's yacht before his death, and financial reverses forced him to part with it. A man whom he hears a girl who accompanies him address as Mr. Blake lands from the yacht. The girl drops her handbag in the stream, and Dick recovers it. Thanking him, she gives him her visiting card. She is Alice Cutler, niece of Stephen Cutler, successful business rival of the elder Van Ness.

CHAPTER II.—Dick overhears a conversation between Blake and Captain Brent of the Pelican which gives him the impression that the yacht is bound on a voyage of adventure to an island the name of which he does not hear.

CHAPTER III.—Acting on impulse, Dick, footloose and ready for any sort of adventure, remembers a hiding place in the main cabin of the yacht and determines to conceal himself and sail stowaway with the party. Stephen Cutler, invalid, comes aboard, with his niece, and the ship sails.

CHAPTER IV.—In his retreat Dick overhears conversations between Blake and Captain Brent which appear to denote something sinister. Believing the cabin empty, Dick emerges from hiding and encounters Marie, Alice Cutler's French maid. Getting back quickly, unrecognized, the girl insists she has seen a "ghost," and is ridiculed. The yacht reaches its apparent destination, an island. Dick swims ashore.

CHAPTER V.—On the island next day Van Ness witnesses an exchange of mysterious signals which he realizes are between Blake, at Cutler's house, and Captain Brent, on the yacht. He is present, unseen, while Blake and Marie speak in heated terms of things which add to the mystery of the situation. Sleeping in a boathouse near the dock, Dick is awakened by a noise. He admits he was on the yacht, and she reveals the fact that the servants who should have been at the house are mysteriously absent, only her uncle, Stephen Cutler, Doctor Alster, Blake and herself being on the island. Dick's presence is known only to Alice. The yacht sails, leaving the party.

CHAPTER VI.—Floating on a life-raft, a sailor is assisted to the shore by Van Ness. He asserts he is one of the crew of the Pelican, which is on a reef, fast breaking up, and that he volunteered to swim ashore and seek aid. Neither to Dick nor Alice, who hears the man's story, does it ring true, and Dick is more than a little suspicious that some plot, engineered by Blake and involving Stephen Cutler, is afoot.

CHAPTER VII.—Exploring the island, Dick discovers a wireless apparatus from which messages are being sent and received. They are in code and he can make nothing of them, though he is convinced Blake is communicating with the yacht. Continuing his investigations, Van Ness is surprised and knocked senseless by McGee, the sailor whom he had helped ashore. The fellow leaves Dick bound and helpless in a cave, while he goes to inform Blake of Dick's presence, and his captivity.

CHAPTER VIII.—Blake visits Dick, recognizing him as the man he had seen on the dock, but attaching little importance to his presence on the island. Van Ness succeeds in freeing himself from his bonds.

CHAPTER IX.—Escaping from the cave, Dick overhears a detailed conversation between Blake and Alice Cutler, in which the man threatens her with violence if she will not agree to marry him. She indignantly refuses. Dick makes his way to the house and arranges with Doctor Alster, Cutler's physician, that if, as he suspects, Cutler is the victim of a plot which Blake has engineered, Doctor Alster is the man upon whom the conspirators must rely for the successful working out of their plans.

CHAPTER X.—Van Ness gets little information from Doctor Alster, but is convinced that Stephen Cutler is, for some mysterious purpose, being kept under the influence of drugs. Marie, who had believed Blake to love with her, quarrels with him concerning his attentions to Alice Cutler. The man throws her over a cliff into the sea, and leaves the spot believing her dead. She is rescued by Dick.

CHAPTER XI.—From Marie Van Ness gets an idea of the plot of which Stephen Cutler is the victim—the manipulation of the latter's financial holdings while he is incapacitated. Dick overpowers and binds both McGee and Blake, and leaving them helpless turns his attention to the wireless apparatus, of which he knows something.

(Continued From last Week)

Dick regained consciousness under the usual procedure adopted for reviving the unconscious—water from a bucket poured over his head and face—until with a gasp he raised his voice in sharp protest.

"Don't! I'm coming to," he cried. "Reckon I didn't hurt you as much as you deserved," replied the seaman, bending over him. "All right. Sit up then an' make yourself easy."

"I will if you'll give me a chance. This rope cuts."

"Sure. That's what I intended it should do."

Sick and dazed by the blow, Dick stared at him. There was little comfort to be gained from a study of the brutal face.

"Why'd you do that?" as asked finally.

The man grinned. "Why'd you poke your nose down here?"

"Was there any law against it?" Dick asked. "I didn't see any sign prohibiting it."

"You're a cool one," retorted the other. "Then, showing genuine curiosity, he asked, "How'd you get on this

island? Where'd you come from? And what'd you want here?"

Dick hesitated a second before answering. Then he said frankly: "I came down on the yacht, of course. How else could I get here?"

"That, I think's a lie," was the retort. "But you can tell it to Mr. Blake. He'll be interested."

"Are you going to tell Mr. Blake?"

"Sure! He told me to spot you an' get you. He don't want anybody interfering with his plans. Reckon I'll tell him how you're here anxious to see him. S'long."

CHAPTER VIII

Dick did not have to wait long for the return of the seaman, accompanied by Blake. During the short interval, he made a careful survey of his surroundings, tested the rope that bound him, and vainly speculated upon his chance of escaping.

There seemed to be no outlet to the smaller cave he was in, except through the one in which the wireless was located. It was nothing more than a sort of recess or alcove extending back from the black hole into which he had let himself. He groaned from the pain in his head.

When the entrance to the cave was darkened by the appearance of the two men, he silenced his groans and compressed his lips firmly. The seaman led the way, and thrust an electric torch in his face.

"There he is, sir," he said. "Reckon I did a good job of it."

Mr. Blake stepped forward and thrust his face down at Dick. For a moment he was quiet, inspecting him closely. Then a grunt escaped his lips.

"Let me have that torch, McGee," he said abruptly.

Taking it from his companion's hand and thrusting it close into Dick's face, he scrutinized the features in silence.

"We've met before," he added, frowning. "Your face is familiar."

"Then perhaps you can tell me where," replied Dick, determined not to enlighten him.

The man was busy with his thoughts, trying to summon from memory a vague impression. Suddenly his face lightened.

"I have it!" he exclaimed. "You're the man who fished Miss Cutler's bag from the river the day before we sailed. Aren't you? Yes, I recognize you. I don't need your answer."

"I don't deny it, Mr. Blake. Glad to meet you again."

The other grunted. Then he asked the inevitable question: "How'd you get down here?"

"Came down on the yacht," replied Dick, smiling.

Blake frowned. "You weren't a member of the crew," he asserted.

"No," smiled Dick. "I didn't have to work my passage."

"Stowaway?"

"Well, not exactly—call it an uninvited guest."

Sudden suspicion entered the other's face. "Did Miss Cutler know you were aboard?"

Dick laughed and shrugged his shoulders. "Ask her," he replied impatiently.

An uneasy expression came into Blake's eyes, and for a few moments he was quiet. Then quite coolly, having made up his mind, he said, "No, I won't ask her. I'll leave you here for her to find. If she knows you're on the island, she'll hunt for you."

He swung around, and faced the seaman. "Keep him here, McGee, and watch him. If Miss Cutler should stumble upon him let me know."

He walked back into the main cave, followed by McGee.

"Are you going to let me starve?" called Dick. "That's hardly fair, Mr."



"Sure!" Grinned the Other. "I Won't Let Him Starve—Not Quite."

Blake. There's a law against slow murder."

Without answering him, Blake spoke again to the seaman: "Give him enough food and water to keep him alive, McGee. But don't overfeed him. You understand?"

"Sure!" grinned the other. "I won't let him starve—not quite."

When they disappeared up the rude steps provided by nature, Dick's heart skipped a few beats. The prospect was not promising. His imprisonment in the dark hole would not be pleasant. The pain in his head, and the strain of the rope that bound him, were bad enough; but Blake intended to increase his torture by half starving him.

He knew better than Blake that Miss Cutler would make no rigid search for him. He wasn't sure but she would be glad of his disappearance.

"A nice pickle I've got myself into," he muttered. "They'll leave me here until they're through with their scheme, then likely as not sail away without me. I'll be worse off than Robinson Crusoe."

The agony he was suffering made him restless. Unable to sit up quietly and endure the pain, he began rolling his body around, turning over and over until he reached the nearest wall. So far as he could see it offered no way of escape even if he could free himself.

He rolled slowly and painfully to the opposite wall. It was the same as the other, with no break in it. Then back to the farthest corner of his prison he made his agonizing way. Here, too, the wall of the cave met the bottom and shelved upward gradually to meet the roof.

He groaned in despair, and lay quiet, ready to faint from the excruciating torture of his wound. In this limp attitude, he remained for some time, fighting back the weakness that swept across him in waves.

It was cold and damp down there, and for some time Dick was unconscious of any change in the atmosphere of the place; but gradually it came to him that a very faint sea air was blowing upon his forehead whenever his head was placed in a certain position. He sniffed at it, and moved his head back. The salty odor of the air lost its strength.

Returning his head to its former position, he sniffed again. There was an unmistakable draft of sea air fanning his face, very faint and indefinite, but enough to arouse his curiosity.

"Where does it come from?" he muttered.

He followed his nose until he came to a point where the draft was the strongest. By thrusting his face directly in it, and using his tongue in place of his hands, he made a discovery that thrilled him.

The salt air was coming through an aperture in the rocks no bigger than his fist. By holding his face close to it, he could get the strong salty flavor.

"This opens into one of the sea caves under the cliff," he muttered.

But an aperture the size of a man's fist offered little consolation. He could not crawl through it. But the very fact that it was there, a narrow entrance to one of the sea caves, aroused his spirits.

"I might enlarge it," he added, after a long pause. "If I had the use of my hands."

It was a forlorn hope, but Dick realized that his position was desperate, and he had to take advantage of any chance. McGee, watching outside, would not visit him often. Secure in the thought that his prisoner could not escape except through the main entrance, his vigilance would naturally relax.

Dick had to free his hands to make the experiment of enlarging the hole! Unfortunately McGee's training had taught him to tie a knot that was not easily loosened. A sailor's knot is about the most difficult to unfasten, and the harder Dick strained the tighter the rope seemed to draw.

"I can't do it that way," he muttered after a long futile struggle. "McGee's a seaman, and I know sailor's knots." He lay back and breathed hard, but his mind was working actively. If he was to free himself it had to be through some trick. He looked around for a sharp rock which might serve to saw the rope in half, but most of them seemed to have their edges worn smooth and round.

Again he despaired and dropped back exhausted with the pain of his efforts. He thought of his box of matches. If he could get at them he might burn the rope!

He began wriggling his hands around to reach his pocket, but without avail. Then another idea occurred to him. The box of matches was in his trousers pocket. By elevating his feet in the air, and shaking them at the same time he wriggled his body, there was a chance he might work the precious box out.

He began this experiment as soon as it occurred to him. He rolled his body up to the side of the nearest wall, and then began shifting his position until he had his feet elevated far above his head. Almost standing on his bottom, with his shoulders on the bottom of the cave, he began a process of shimmying that would have been the envy of the most successful exponent of that art.

For a long time nothing happened. Then he felt the box work up toward the mouth of his pocket. He renewed his efforts, performing the most ridiculous antics; but it stuck, and for many minutes he could not move it farther.

He was almost on the point of despair when the box suddenly slipped out and fell lightly to the floor. With an exclamation of delight, Dick dropped his legs, and began eagerly searching for the box with his mouth.

He picked it up finally, and tried to open it with his lips and teeth, but this was a feat beyond him. Half in anger at his failure, he crunched the wooden box with his teeth and spilled the matches out.

With another grunt of satisfaction he fished around on the floor until he had a match in his lips. Holding it firmly with his teeth, he tried to scratch it against the chemical-treated strip. But here again he met with difficulty.

The light box constantly eluded him. It would not budge. The salt air could not get into the passage.

head of the match against it. Again and again he essayed to light one.

Dripping with cold perspiration and desperate at his failure, he tried every trick he could think of, and only gave it up when exhausted. With a groan he dropped down.

Now what all his skill had failed in accomplishing accident performed for him. In dropping his body back, he landed plump on the box and completely crushed in the sides that his teeth had started.

Dick never knew how it occurred; but one match in the heap must have been so placed that his body forced the impregnated head against the rough surface of the box.

There was a flash and glare, and the whole pile of matches was ignited. The box itself took fire, forming a good-sized blaze. Started at first, Dick stared at the fire, and then realizing that his opportunity was quickly passing he thrust his two hands over the flame until the rope began smoking.

It was a frightful ordeal, for the flames made no exception to his wrists, burning them as well as the rope. He had to grit his teeth to hold back a cry of pain, but with all the stoicism he could command he waited silently and patiently until box and matches were consumed.

By that time the rope was burning. He waited as long as he could, watching the flames eat their way through strand after strand. Then with a mighty effort he jerked his hands apart.

The rope parted near the middle, freeing him so he could tackle the rest of his bonds with both hands. Extinguishing the fire, he began feverishly to unfasten the rope that still held his legs.

Once free and on his feet, he began exercising his limbs to restore the circulation. Then he flung himself down near the small aperture in the wall, and began tearing at the rocks.

At first he made no perceptible progress, but a piece of rock the size of his fist finally yielded to his efforts. A little examination showed him that the wall was cracked and broken in many places, and that by taking advantage of these he could make better progress.

Half an hour of hard work made him jubilant. The aperture was big enough to admit a man's thigh. Renewing his efforts he enlarged it a little more. Thrusting a hand into the hole, he found that beyond the mouth it was deeper and wider.

It was nearly an hour later before he had the hole large enough to admit his body. He crawled through eagerly and tremblingly. The sea air reached his nostrils now with a strong salty flavor.

Dick was sure that the other end opened into a sea cove. The thought of concealing his method of escape came to him. So far as possible he had to cover up his trail.

Returning to the cave he gathered up the other ends of the rope and thrust them into the opening. Then crawling in feet first, he gathered the loose rocks up and walled up the opening as deftly as possible.

He shuddered a little when the last ray of light was excluded. He felt like a man walled up in a living tomb. If there was no way of exit at the other end, and if McGee should discover his method of escape and seal up the entrance, he would indeed be imprisoned in a living tomb without chance of escape.

The horror of such a finish sickened him, and for a moment he hesitated. He started to tear down the wall he had constructed, but his panic lasted only a minute.

"I mustn't get cold feet," he reasoned with himself. "There must be an outlet on the other end."

Encouraged by this conclusion, he began wriggling backward. He wished now that he had entered head-first, but in that position he could not have covered his retreat.

"Besides," he thought, "if I have to come back and give myself up, I'll need my hands to break through into the cave again. It's ten to one I'll have to do it."

This lack of confidence in his scheme was in direct contradiction to his former conclusion, but his mind was so narrowed by fear and uncertainty that he was hardly responsible for his thoughts.

CHAPTER IX

Wriggling backward through the narrow hole had many disadvantages, as well as dangers. It was like feeling one's way through the dark with the feet, blindly stumbling along at the brink of a precipice, it was an even chance that the body would be carried over it before the mind sensed the danger.

Nevertheless, Dick made slow but sure progress, kicking his heels upward and sideways to feel his way, and when he finally came to a broader place he made the attempt to turn around so he could crawl head first.

It was a narrow squeeze, and for a time it was doubtful if he could do it. Like a squirrel curling up to sleep, he doubled his body until his head was between his knees, and then slowly squirmed and twisted until his position was reversed.

After that the going was easier. He could feel his way with his hands and could use his eyes to some extent. It was as black as midnight in the hole, but his eyes, grown accustomed to it, seemed to penetrate the gloom.

The salt air that drifted through the passage urged him onward. It was becoming stronger every moment, and the salt air could not get into the passage.

(Continued Next Week)

Apple Pie Originator

Deserved High Honor

An old legend tells of how the bakers of a certain town in England paraded before the king with their pies. As the baker of the pie which pleased the king most was to receive a bag of gold, the bakers tried to outdo each other in originality.

For instance, one baker made an enormous pie crust filled with flowers, on which were seated ten children, who sang for the king. The other bakers were not far behind in their ideas of what would most please the king's eye.

The king was very tired and hungry when he reached the town, and although he dutifully admired all the beautiful pies, he couldn't help thinking: "If only one of these pies could be eaten!" Let it be said that until this time pies had always been made of meat. No one ever thought of having pie for dessert.

At the rear of the procession came a peasant with a plate upon which was what was obviously just a pie. The king halted him and grasped the pie eagerly.

It was a perfect example of the baker's art, crisp and fragrant, with a golden brown crust, but the king didn't even stop to look at it. He devoured it as if famished, and then demanded to know of what the pie was made.

The peasant answered that it had been made of apples from the tree that shaded his hut. He was too poor to make a pie of meat, much less compete with the other bakers, who had scoffed at him for joining the parade.

But the king was so pleased with the extraordinary pie made of apples that he gave the peasant the prize, knighted him and commanded him to send one of his apple pies to the palace every day.

Witches Had Regular

Periods for Meeting

In the Middle ages "covent" or "convent" was used to describe a religious assembly. Hence "Covent Garden," from the garden of a convent that once stood on the site of the famous London fruit and flower market. By degrees "covent" came to be used to describe any gathering of twelve people with a leader. In the case of witches, it came to stand for a company of twelve, with their chief impersonating or representing the devil. In England, every district seems to have had its coven, and local meetings were usually held once a week; but the "Sabbath of Witches," held four times a year, and usually on a Thursday, for some strange reason, was the more important of the gatherings. Once in every seven years there would be what was called a "Great Sabbath," at which all the covens of a wide district would congregate, and tradition has it that on that occasion the chief witch or "Devil" himself was sacrificed.

Mother Robin's Bravery

In an old tree-stump a pair of robins built their nest. When the young were nearly ready to leave I heard a great commotion, and the many cries of distress from several species of birds told me that an enemy was attacking. When I reached it, the hen was standing at the entrance to her home, and with wings spread was doing her best to drive a weasel away. I performed the latter deed for her, but the weasel returned in the night. When I saw the nest the following day I saw how gamely the robin had fought to protect her young. All the latter had been taken away by the marauder, but he had only obtained them by passing over the dead and mangled body of their mother.—London Tit-Bits.

High Praise

Twin stories are always interesting and there is a good laugh in this one, which had its origin in the Robin Hood camp at Arrowhead.

It seems one of the little lads at camp is a twin and sending him to camp marked the first time he had been separated from his little sister. The little girl pined away at home, not knowing what to do with herself, but she was immeasurably cheered up when she received the following letter from her brother:

"Dear Twin: I am having a swell time, only that I miss you just awful. Camp is great, and everything would be O. K. only that you are not here, the missing link."—Los Angeles Times.

Baker & Wheeler will have for their customers on next Monday some nice Mutton. Try Some. It

THE DOLLAR

that stayed at home

One day two "Dollar Bank Notes" met in a local depository. They were old friends, for several years before they had lived together in the purse of a prominent Farmer of this County. They had left the Farmer's purse at about the same time, the one going to Chicago in payment for some article purchased from a Mail Order House. The other had been working steadily at home helping to build up the schools, the roads and the community in general! It developed from their conversation that the first "Bill" had been leading a gay life, hopping from pocket to pocket, adding further wealth in distant cities to powerful corporations who give nothing toward the development of this country.

The home Dollar had first gone to the local merchant in part payment for a pair

of shoes. The same day he was transferred to a Mr. Jones who worked for that merchant. Mr. Jones passed him on to a butcher who passed him on to the local garage man for repairs on a delivery truck. From the garage he went to a grocery store and then back to the original Farmer in payment for some butter and eggs. The next time he left the Farmer it was in part payment of Taxes to keep up the schools, and the Good Roads of the Community, and up to the present date he had been paid out for Taxes by four different Farmers.

When this story was finished, the Big Town Dollar" sighed and said: "It's a mess they've made of my life! What a pity I can't tell these people how much more good I could do for them if they'd use me at home, too."

Buy in your home town! your Dry Goods, Millinery, Ready-to-Wear, Shoes and Gents Furnishings from the

Bragg Dry Goods Co.

"The Place Most People Trade"

SHILOH HAPPENINGS
By Mrs. C. W. Seago

Health of the community is very good at this time.

Had good attendance at Sunday School Sunday morning, also for the B.Y.P.U. Sunday night.

Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Grayson were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Deavers Sunday.

Miss Thelma Deavers visited Misses Lottie and Grace Washburn Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Howell were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Riley Sunday.

Misses Eulala and Avis Deavers visited Miss Doris Brown Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Seago and Mrs. Bud Brown attended the Sunday school association Sunday evening at Riverside. Heard some fine talks on the Sunday School work.

There will be a play at the Church Friday night, February 5th. to raise funds to finish paying for the piano. Admission 25 cents. Everybody come and help this worthy cause.

The B.Y.P.U. officers met last Friday night at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Howell to discuss plans for the betterment of the B.Y.P.U. After the work and plans were made out the

hostess served hot chocolate and cake to the following: Misses Eulala Deavers and Thelma Deavers, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Armstrong, Miss Doris Brown, Messrs. Milton and Austin Watts Edgar Grayson, Carey Deavers and the writer and family.

There will be preaching next Saturday morning and Saturday night. Sunday School Sunday evening at three o'clock. Preaching at four p.m. B.Y.P.U. at 7 p.m. A welcome to all to attend any of these services.

Mr. J. A. Horton, another good friend of the Merkel Mail, and one of the splendid citizens residing on route four, has our thanks for the renewal of his Merkel Mail along with that of the Dallas Semi-Weekly Farm News.

Mr. Houston Robertson was a renewal for the Merkel Mail last week.

W. A. Bynum, of Abilene, was a recent caller at this office and left his subscription to the Mail. Mr. Bynum operates the only licensed teacher placing bureau in Texas, having just received his license from the State Department. His services are free to employers of teachers.

WARREN NEWS
By Rose Ellington

Health of the community is not very good at this writing.

Mr. Hollis McCoy is on the sick list this week.

Miss Ruth Chancey spent Monday night with Misses Helen and Artie McCormick.

Mrs. R. L. Newman of Merkel visited Mr. and Mrs. Hollis McCoy the first of this week.

Mrs. S. A. Hobbs and Ella Hobbs spent Wednesday morning with Mrs. Ellington and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Emmitt Patterson spent Monday afternoon with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Finch.

Mrs. Ellington, Willie and Rose Ellington, Miss Ella Hobbs, Grandma Hobbs and Grandma Harvell spent Wednesday afternoon with Mrs. Tom Harvell.

Mrs. Barbara McCoy, Muster McCoy spent Monday with Mr. and Mrs. Hollis McCoy.

On last Sunday we were all made exceedingly sad when the news of the death of Merrell Davis of Horn was made known. It seems that he with some other boys were out rabbit hunting and in punching in some brush with the stock of his gun it was

in some way discharged, shooting him through the head and killing him instantly. The family has our heartfelt sympathy in their sad hour of trouble as Merrell seemed to be a favorite among his many friends.

Grandma Hobbs and Ella and Hall Hobbs of Comper spent Monday with Mr. and Mrs. John Hobbs.

Rose Ellington spent Wednesday night with Miss Ella Hobbs.

On last Wednesday the 20th, Mr. Bill Harvell quietly stole away from his many friends and motored to Clyde where he and Miss Ethel Hamm of Clyde were quietly married. We extend congratulations to them and wish them a long and happy married life.

Mr. and Mrs. Noil Jones spent Wednesday night with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Jones.

Mr. Bob Hobbs spent the first part of the week with Mr. and Mrs. Hollis McCoy.

Maize Heads at Swafford Coal Yard. See before you buy. Phone 44.

We give Gold Bond Saving Stamps with Cash Purchases. Also on accounts if paid by the 10th of each month. Bob Martin Grocery Company.

TEXAS TEACHERS EXCHANGE AT ABILENE

Abilene, Texas, Jan 26.—Texas' only licensed teacher's agency is located at Abilene, according to J. Lee Tarpley, chief deputy labor commissioner, who has just obtained a license from the State Labor Department, granting to W. A. Bynum of this city the legal right to operate the Texas Teacher' Exchange.

My Bynum has had several years experience placing school teachers, having opened a bureau here in 1903, and operated a while in Shreveport, La., and Las Cruces, N. M. He has placed hundreds of teachers over the West and Southwest. Now that he has the only legal private bureau in the state, he expects to do a much larger volume of business this year than ever before. Free service to employers wishing teachers.

In Memoriam

On the 10th of January, 1926, Nannie L. Provine passed to her Heavenly reward. She was the wife of Samuel F. Provine, who survives her, and whose heart is at the breaking point because of this sad providence. She was born in Graves County, Kentucky, March 15, 1876. She came to Texas with her parents at the age of eleven. In the midst of this sorrow there is cause for rejoicing for when only a girl she gave her heart to the Saviour and was prepared when death suddenly overtook her. She, at the time of her conversion, joined the Methodist church and lived a consecrated life. She also leaves two daughters, Mrs. Herman Doan, Mrs. Nina Cox, and two brothers, J. T. Williams, of Mayfield, Ky., and B. M. Williams of Merkel; also a sister, Mrs. Ella Rice of Dallas, to mourn her departure. So devoted to her husband and children these no doubt will miss her most. Not only will she be missed in her home, but the whole community, the little church that had just been built, will feel the need of her influence. Mrs. Provine was laid to rest under a bank of flowers in the Merkel cemetery along side of two little grandchildren who had preceded her, and no doubt were waiting to welcome her to the glory land. Rev. Johnson of Sylvester, assisted by Rev. Stutts of Abilene, conducted the funeral services.

Let us be patient, there severe afflictions;

Not from the ground arise. But oftentimes celestial benedictions

Assume the dark disguise. In that great cloister's stillness,

By Guardian angels led, Safe from temptation, safe from sin pollution,

She lives whom we call dead.

Fifth Sunday Singing to Meet With Noodle Class

The Fifth Sunday singing will meet next Sunday, January 31, with the Noodle class. The Vaughn Quartette will be present and will give a number of selections. All class leaders and book representatives are urged to be present. New officers will be elected and other business will be attended to. There will be no public dinner.

Houston Robertson, President. V. Garner, Secretary.

OUR BIG MID-WINTER SALE IS IN FULL SWING

A host of people are availing themselves of this wonderful opportunity to save money on goods they are needing

YOU WILL ALSO GET YOUR GREEN STAMPS

BROWN DRY GOODS COMPANY

"THE GREEN STAMP STORE"

BEGINNING FEB. 1st. WE WILL CLOSE PROMPTLY AT 6:00 O'CLOCK