

# THE MERKEL MAIL

THE MERCHANTS WHO ADVERTISE APPRECIATE YOUR BUSINESS—READ THE ADS

VOL. 37—NO. 49

MERKEL, TEXAS, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1926

8 PAGES

## LUNCHEON CLUB ENJOYS ENTHUSIASTIC MEETING

The regular meeting of the Luncheon Club on last Tuesday evening was without doubt one of the best, most interesting and constructive meetings that was ever held by the organization. Mr. Sie Hamm ably acted as toastmaster, and it seemed the consensus of opinion that, although a young man, he proved a past master in the art.

There were many things of importance discussed and every one who spoke had a good message in the interest of the town and community, in fact it was interestingly discussed and proved by facts from a number of speakers that one of the big and important facts the public should consider is that "The man in town and the man in the country can't well get along and prosper without fair consideration of the other's interest." However, the main thought of the evening was "How well would Merkel be benefited by the graveling of the road from town to the intersection of the Stith road north of town, which road has already been completed up to the Taylor county line.

To the Luncheon Club members it was indeed a pleasure to have as visitors upon this occasion a number of the live wire and progressive farmers from the Stith and Sand Bur communities. This delegation, composed of Messrs. L. L. Martin, the very efficient head of the Stith school and J. H. Bridges, W. C. Church, J. D. Daniel, and E. F. Van-treese, all of whom made a few timely and appreciated talks, but Mr. Martin being at the head of their delegation made the principal talk for the visitors. His subject was "The Relation of the country man to that of the town man," and to say that his remarks were timely, appropriate and logical is not too much eulogy. His talk was considered by those present as one of the best ever delivered before the organization.

County Agent J. R. Masterson was also present, and he has at all times a standing invitation to be present at any and all of the meetings of the Luncheon Club. He gave us some mighty fine thoughts and facts concerning his splendid work as County Demonstration Agent in this county.

Dr. M. Armstrong, who is a member of the Luncheon Club good roads committee, and often called by his friends "the road crank," made a splendid talk, assuring those present that the matter of graveling the Stith road would soon take shape, the plans for same being about completed.

Commissioner Diltz was present and made a few remarks, stating that the county would go the citizens of Merkel half of the cost of graveling the road.

Rev. W. R. McCarter, who has only been in our city a few months, was called on by the toastmaster and made a very nice talk on the best ways and means of upbuilding the town and community, giving facts as to how each can best serve the other.

Mr. L. R. Thompson, now of Abilene, formerly in the banking business here, and for two years president of the Luncheon Club, was present and favored those present with a very fine talk.

In the absence of the president, Mr. H. C. West, who is ill at his home, Mr. Chas. H. Jones, vice-president, presided, and conducted the business session. In-

## HAVE YOU NOTICED IT?

Four men, standing on a street corner one day this week, discussing politics and local affairs, asked the Editor of the Mail this question: "Why it is that the business men engaged in a certain line of business in Merkel seldom ever, and some never carry an advertisement in your paper?" We could only say that we suppose these business men either feel secure in the business they are receiving and do not wish to expand, or they may be using some other manner of advertising. And one of the four gentlemen remarked "They are in a trust because their prices are always the same." Another said "Well, the average citizen has long since learned that the only place to find creditable and legitimate bargains in merchandise offered the public, is by reading the local news papers."

## MERCHANTS LEAVE FOR MARKET

The buyers for several local dry goods firms of the city left this week for the eastern markets, where they will buy large and complete stocks of spring and summer goods for their respective firms.

For the Jones Dry Goods, Mr. W. J. Sheppard, local manager, joined by the buyers for this firm's various stores, is in the Eastern markets.

For the Bragg Dry Goods Company, Mr. and Mrs. T. G. Bragg are in St. Louis personally selecting the new goods for this firm.

Mr. Max Mellinger left Sunday for St. Louis and Chicago, where he will select the season's new lines for his spring and summer stocks.

Buyers for the Brown Dry Goods Company will probably leave next week for market.

It is doubtful if the Merkel country was ever in better condition than at present, and it may therefore be expected that the merchants of the city will buy very large stocks in order that they may be sure of caring for the wants of their customers. When it comes to quality and price our merchants are always careful and certain.

## MR. HUTCHESON IN DALLAS TO SEE EYE SPECIALISTS

Mr. W. D. Hutcheson, the popular and genial proprietor of the Crown Hardware Company, accompanied by Mrs. Hutcheson, left Wednesday for Dallas, where he went to consult an eye specialist, having been troubled for some time with his eyes.

We join his many friends in the hope that he will receive immediate relief from his ailment.

Interesting talks were made by several, among whom was Mr. R. O. Anderson, who suggested that the Club look into the matter of assisting the farmers who desire better planting seed, such as maize, etc. Mr. W. H. Frazier, the man who superintends the building of good roads worth the money, stated that he believed he could build the gravel road to connect with the Stith road for from \$3,600 to \$4,000. J. A. Summerhill made an interesting talk on the progress of the Merkel schools, stating that for another year he would like to see established with the school work here the teaching of vocational agriculture. His address met with hearty applause and approval.

## CANDIDATE FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL

Thomas S. Christopher, Dallas attorney, announced Saturday that he will be a candidate for Attorney General of Texas, in the approaching primaries.

Mr. Christopher was born in Nacogdoches and moved with his parents at an early age to West Texas, living in Merkel during his childhood. He was graduated from the Merkel High School with the highest honors of his class. The next few years were spent in Abilene, during which time he was a student at Simmons University, Abilene, and Texas University.

For the last three years Mr. Christopher has been a member of the law firm of McNees, Roberts & Christopher. He is a teacher of one division of the Brotherhood Class of the Tyler Street Methodist church, and is a Royal Arch Mason. He has never before offered for, nor held public office.

"In making this announcement," Mr. Christopher said, "I wish to make it clear from the beginning that I fully indorse the administration of the Hon. Dan Moody, and should he submit for re-election, it shall be my pleasure to land him my full support.

"Believing I am qualified, but realizing the great responsibility of the position I shall give to the people of Texas, an honest, capable and efficient administration, by associating with me men of known legal ability, of ripe experience and unmistakable reputation for honesty and integrity.

"Taught from my earliest childhood that honor was more to be desired than riches or much gold, whatever I may lack in other respects I propose to make up in an honest administration, a sincerity of purpose, and fearless prosecution of the affairs of the office."—Dallas News.

## PROPOSE TO RAISE STOCK FOR PAPER

G. Fisk announced Tuesday morning that he and associates had taken over the Times Printing Company, publishers of the Abilene Times, which has been issued twice a week for about three years, that they will operate the paper as a weekly until plans now under way for formation of a stock company materialize, when a morning daily newspaper will be started.

Although definite plans have not been formed, Mr. Fisk stated that preliminary plans for formation of a stock company to be capitalized for \$50,000 or more were formed at a meeting held Monday evening. Mr. Fisk was until about six months ago proprietor of the Times Printing company, having sold his interests to E. H. Kent and R. S. Stephens. Mr. Kent has been active head of the concern until Monday, when Mr. Fisk took charge for himself and associates.

Names of those associated with him were not divulged for publication, but it is understood that H. T. Hodge, proprietor of the Palace and Gem Theatres, and Prof. W. O. Davis of the Abilene High School and others are interested.—The Abilene Reporter.

Mr. V. P. Tippett of San Angelo came over last week-end for Mrs. Tippett and baby, who had spent the week here the guests of her mother, Mrs. E. N. Brown, returning to their home Monday.

## IMPERSONATOR COMING FEB. 10TH.

Through the efforts of the Parent-Teachers Association of this city, Mr. J. Olen Leach, noted and talented Reader and Impersonator, will appear at the High School auditorium on Wednesday evening, February 10th, at 7:30 o'clock.

His very entertaining and interesting program will consist of a mixed program of Dramatic, Comic and Dialect selections by the very best authors, and will be a rare treat to every one attending.

In bringing this splendid entertainer to our city the Parent-Teachers Association is providing the citizenship, and especially the school children of the town and community, with a program that is not only entertaining and interesting, but one that is highly educational as well.

Let every parent with their children attend and enjoy this program, as well as help a good cause along.

## BANKERS HAVE JOINT MEETING

Messrs. J. T. Warren, president of the Farmers & Merchants National Bank, and J. S. Swann, president of the Farmers State Bank, attended a meeting in Abilene Tuesday of bankers from over the entire county where the main topic of discussion was "The Importance and necessity of inducing and assisting farmers of the county who may desire to raise more and better hogs and cows.

This is indeed a good move, and the bankers are to be commended for their liberal desire to assist the farmers in thus solving their problems of raising more of the necessities of life upon the farms.

However, the move is not a new one with the Merkel bankers, for, being practical men and largely interested in farming themselves, they know the actual needs of and have always stood ready to lend every assistance possible to the farmers within their territory. In fact there are no more capable and accommodating bankers than those to be found in this city.

## SKATING ON SIDE WALKS

My attention has been called to parties of youngsters congregating and skating on the side walks in front of private residences, and creating a nuisance by loud, boisterous and vociferous language, so much so that the inhabitants of the private property is very much disturbed thereby. Now, we have an ordinance covering such conduct and making it unlawful to ride a bicycle, etc., on side walks, so if you are guilty of disturbing any one by skating on the side walk you are violating this ordinance and may be fined for so doing. Now, before you may skate on any side walk, other than your own, you must first obtain permission from the parties whom you might disturb by skating there. I hope that the boys and girls who have been doing this will not be guilty of doing so again. Very respectfully, N. D. COBB, Mayor.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Frazier spent last Sunday in Sweetwater visiting their daughter, Mrs. Lorena Walker. One day first of the week Mrs. Frazier returned there in response to a message that her daughter was ill.

## CLEARING GROUND FOR NEW BUILDING

Workmen began first of the week clearing the debris from the lot recently purchased by Mr. Seth Hamilton next to the building occupied by the West Texas Utilities Company, preparatory to the erection of a new brick store building.

Mr. Max Mellinger owns the adjoining three lots on the West of Mr. Hamilton's lot, and is expected to build on these lots this spring.

## W. S. SMELSER, 70, DIES TUESDAY

Walter Scott Smelser, aged 70, died here at one o'clock Tuesday morning following an illness of several weeks. Funeral services conducted by Dr. Millard A. Jenkins were to be held from the residence of his sister, Mrs. R. E. McCamant, 1826 Idlewild, at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Mr. Smelser was one of the old time residents of this section, having been in West Texas for many years, the last twelve of which he spent here with his sister. He is survived by two daughters, Misses Lucille and Vivian, and a son, Sam Smelser. The daughters are both here for the funeral, but the son, who is in the navy, and now sick in a Washington hospital, will not be able to attend.—Abilene Daily Reporter.

Mr. Smelser was really one of the pioneers of West Texas, and for some twenty-five years has been a property owner in and about Merkel, and at one time resided in this immediate community. He has many friends here, especially among the old timers, and at the time of his death owned two brick buildings here, those occupied by the Post Office and The Merkel Mail.

For the past six years the management of this paper has had business dealings with this good man, and it gives us much pleasure to say that in all our dealings we found him all that the words honor and square dealings could imply, and we feel that in his going we have really and truly lost a friend.

We extend deepest sympathy to his surviving loved ones.

## FLORA FRANCIS ANDERSON UNDERGOES OPERATION

Miss Flora Francis Anderson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. O. Anderson, on Monday morning of this week underwent an operation at the family residence for appendicitis, following a sudden and acute attack. The operation, we are informed, has so far proved very satisfactory in every particular.

Miss Anderson is a Sophomore in the local high school, is very popular and her many friends regret very much the sudden attack of appendicitis, but will be glad to learn that she is now getting along nicely and will no doubt soon be at her school work again.

## Moves Into Home

Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Haynes moved this week into their comfortable home on the north side which Mr. Haynes purchased and remodeled.

Mr. T. G. Butler, a registered pharmacist, of Quitman, Tex., has recently accepted a position with the Hamm Drug Company, and by his accommodating and courteous manners is fast making friends. He has our thanks for a subscription to the Merkel Mail which he sends to his parents at Mineola, Texas.

## TO PUT ON DRIVE FOR CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

In order that help may be given the local Cemetery Association, which question was brought up at a recent meeting of the Luncheon Club, that organization appointed a committee composed of Messrs. Herbert Patterson, L. B. Howard and Sie Hamm, whose duty was to help the Cemetery Association raise funds with which to carry on the work of taking care of the cemetery just east of town, most of which is needed to pay the keeper of the cemetery. These gentlemen are arranging to make a drive throughout the town and community and as their aides have appointed the following: Mr. Herbert Patterson has charge of raising funds throughout the rural districts and has appointed the following: Salt Branch Community, Mrs. Will Hayes and Mrs. Will Higgins; Noodle community, W. J. Bicknell and Ben Wheeler; Nubia, Eli Cordell; Blair, J. B. Hughes; Shiloh, Lee Eason; Warren community, Walter Jones and G. L. Baker; Mt. Pleasant community, F. W. Reidenbach; North East of town, J. W. Teaff.

Mr. Howard makes the following appointments to secure aid in the city of Merkel. South side: Mrs. Amy Sears, chairman, Mrs. W. L. Harkrider, Mrs. J. T. Warren, Mrs. Sam Swann, Mrs. Ed Turner.

North side: Mrs. J. E. Richardson, chairman, Mrs. George Woodrum, Mrs. W. O. Boney, Miss Mossy Sears.

Business houses: Mrs. R. O. Anderson, chairman, and Mrs. Twyman Collins.

Mr. Hamm will have charge of securing aid from non-residents who are interested in the graves of deceased loved ones that are buried in the local cemetery.

## CONFEDERATE COINS QUOTA ALL SOLD HERE

From Mr. Booth Warren, local chairman for the sale of Merkel's quota of Stone Mountain Confederate Coins, we learn the quota was 351, but 400 coins were sent, all of which were purchased by the good people of Merkel within the prescribed time, a thing that up to this time has not been reported complete by some of our larger neighboring cities.

Mr. G. D. Richie, one of the pioneer and excellent citizens of the Canyon community, purchased the last ten coins on last Saturday, we are informed.

This move was given the endorsement and support of both our splendid banking institutions as well as many other business firms, and went over in fine shape as it should have done.

## CLESBY PATTERSON UNDERGOES OPERATION

Mr. J. A. Patterson left last week for Waxahachie in response to a message stating that his son, Clesby, who is a student at Trinity University, was to be operated on for appendicitis, and this paper is informed that a message from Mr. Patterson has been received this week stating that Clesby withstood the operation fine and that he is at this time doing nicely.

Miss Willie Swann, of Snyder, stopped off here one day last week on her return from the Eastern Markets where she had been to buy millinery goods for the firm with which she is associated in that city.



# STATEMENT OF CONDITION OF THE FARMERS STATE BANK

At close of business Dec. 31, 1926

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
<b>TOTAL QUICK ASSETS</b>	<b>\$421,887.20</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$720,028.39</b>

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

Banking Friendship that Encircles this Section

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

J. S. Swann, President  
R. O. Anderson, V. Pres.  
J. C. Mason, V. Pres.  
W. L. Diltz, Cashier

Herbert Patterson, Assistant Cashier  
Dallas Scarbrough  
David Hendricks

# The TALE of KIDDIE KATYDD

By Arthur Scott Bailey



## THE WARNING

IT MUST not be supposed that all of Kiddie Katydd's family made the same never-ending din at night. Actually it was only the gentlemen that so amused themselves. No doubt the ladies, too, knew the secret about the mysterious Katy—and what she did.

But for some reason they never mentioned the matter. Even when they gossiped among them-



Mr. Nighthawk Was One of the Nightly Wanderers.

selves, as they sometimes did, they never touched upon that subject.

Furthermore, in the daytime Kiddie and his fellows were as quiet as they could be. Having waked the echoes all night long, they were content, when morning came, to rest silently among the trees and shrubs. And a very good reason did they have, too, for such a habit. During the day there were altogether too many birds flying about, to please the Katydds. And Kiddie often remarked in a joking way that the only birds he cared about were those that didn't care about him!

Of course, there were a few birds

that prowled about Pleasant Valley after dark. Mr. Nighthawk was one of that crew of nightly wanderers. And whenever the word was passed around that he had been seen in the neighborhood, Kiddie Katydd tried to lower his solemn chant, because he knew that Mr. Nighthawk was usually in search of something to eat.

Now, when Kiddie Katydd felt hungry he drove away his gnawing pangs by browsing upon leaves and tender twigs. But Mr. Nighthawk had no taste for such fodder.

He had an appetite for insects. And between dusk and dawn a good many of Kiddie Katydd's neighbors of one kind or another found their way into Mr. Nighthawk's tummy.

So you see it was no wonder that Kiddie was not eager to attract the attention of that night rover. Some of the more timid of Kiddie's companions even begged him, at times, to hush. They said he was making such a noise that Mr. Nighthawk would be sure to hear it, even if he were a quarter of a mile away.

But Kiddie Katydd usually laughed at those faint-hearted ones; and often he shrilled his Katy did, Katy did, more loudly than before, just to show them that he was not afraid.

"A person has to take a few chances," he remarked one day. "If we were all afraid to make a sound it would pretty hard on Katy, for then she would have nobody to take her part. And what would people think of her?"

Evidently Kiddie's reason was a good one, because a number of his cousins spoke up at once and said that they agreed with him perfectly.

But their sisters all exclaimed that sooner or later Mr. Nighthawk would hear them; and then there would certainly be trouble.

Strangely enough, the words were scarcely out of their mouths before they heard a loud call that struck them cold with fear.

"Peent! Peent! The cry came out of the air above them without the least warning. And everybody—including Kiddie Katydd—knew that Mr. Nighthawk had come.

(© by Grosset & Dunlap)

# Statement of the Condition of THE FARMERS & MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK

At the close of business Dec. 31, 1926

RESOURCES	
Loans, Time and Demand	\$132,948.76
Prime Commercial Paper	220,000.00
Bills of Exchange, Cotton	45,596.39
Overdrafts	2,922.36
Bonds and Warrants	18,541.89
Furniture and Fixtures	7,500.00
Five per cent Red. Fund	312.50
Stock in Fed. Reserve Bank	1,950.00
Stock in Fed. Int. Bkg. Co.	90.00
Other Resources	624.23
U. S. Bonds	110,200.00
Cash and Sight Exchange	149,248.76
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$689,934.89</b>

LIABILITIES	
Capital Stock	\$ 50,000.00
Surplus	15,000.00
Undivided Profits	9,238.58
Circulation	6,250.00
<b>Deposits</b>	<b>609,446.31</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$689,934.89</b>

## THE OLD RELIABLE

# FARMERS & MERCHANTS NAT'L BANK

MERKEL TEXAS  
'SINCE 1904'

## Young Ladies Organize Club

Misses Ruby and Evelyn Hamm were the charming hostesses on last Friday afternoon from three o'clock until five in their spacious home on Oak street to a number of friends.

At this time a Club was organized, the name of which has not yet been determined. With Miss Christine Collins acting as Chairman, the following were elected as officers: Miss Collins, president; Miss Mary Eula Sears Press Reporter. The Club will meet each Tuesday with different members as hostesses.

During the social hours tables with attractive covers were arranged for forty-two, where interesting games were enjoyed.

At the tea hour dainty covers were laid and an unusually delicious salad plate was served.

In many clever and unique ways did the hostesses make the afternoon unusually pleasant for Misses Christine Collins, Lucy Tracy, Mary Eula Sears, Mary Cleo Booth, Mesdames Warren Smith, Emmitt Grimes, Sie Hamm, Earl Baze, Bill Haynes, Roy Largent, Jack Durham.

The artistic rooms of the home of Mrs. Earl Baze, on Oak street, were most inviting Tuesday afternoon when she welcomed into them at three o'clock the members of the newly organized club for several hours of interesting games of forty-two. Every one highly enjoyed the games, after which the hostess served a very tempting salad course. Tea was poured by Miss Christine Collins from a beautiful import-

ed china tea service.

Guests were: Misses Christine Collins, Ruby Hamm, Evelyn Hamm, Lucy Tracy, Mary Eula Sears, Mary Cleo Booth; Mesdames Sie Hamm, Emmitt Grimes, Roy Largent, Jack Durham, Warren Smith. The special guest for the afternoon was Mrs. L. B. Howard.

## Presbyterian Missionary Society

The Missionary Society of the Presbyterian church met Monday afternoon with Mrs. Little. After a very interesting program, officers for the coming year were elected: President, Mrs. Little; Vice-president, Mrs. G. F. West; Secretary Treasurer, Mrs. Elliott; Secretary of Literature, Mrs. H. C. West; Secretary of Associate Members, Mrs. John West.

We will meet again on Monday, February 8, at the Manse to begin the study of our home book, "Peasant Pioneers." The women of the church are urged to be present, even though they are not members of the society.

Mr. and Mrs. W. S. J. Brown went to Dallas last Saturday night to attend the bedside of Mrs. John Sears, Mrs. Brown's mother, who is seriously ill in a sanitarium there. Mr. Brown returned Tuesday and reports Mrs. Sears improving but little if any at all.

Mr. F. F. Freeman of Oklahoma City was here first of the week guest of his sister, Mrs. S. W. Johnson.

## THE WHY of SUPERSTITIONS

By H. IRVING KING

### SYMPATHETIC MAGIC

YOU will find in some districts bear's grease and muskrat oil highly recommended as sovereign remedies for bald heads. Also to be used to prevent the hair from falling out. The explanation is very simple: It is merely our old friend sympathetic magic in one of his many medical guises. The hair which covers the body of the bear is long, strong, and thick; the hair in the coat of the muskrat is fine, close-set and plentiful. By the magic of contact these hairy qualities are communicated to the grease and the oil and by the magic of transference act upon the scanty locks of the man whose hair is "falling out" or the scanty invisible fur on the pate of the bald-headed man. It is the phase of sympathetic magic which Sir James Frazer calls homeopathic magic—like producing like.

The mind of primitive man, blindly groping for solution of the problem of cause and effect, found nothing so satisfying as this homeopathic theory—which we call sympathetic magic, but which to him was a demonstrable science. When it failed to work it was because something was wrong in the formula employed; or perhaps evil spirits interfered with what, to Mr. Cave-man, was a "law of nature."

(© by McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)

### Useful for Housewife

A Scandinavian claims to have designed a contrivance that will broadcast refrigeration (according to the inventor) in exactly the same way as present-day wireless stations broadcast music. All that the housewife of the future will have to do is to keep her refrigerator receiver tuned to a central sending station.—Mason City Banner-Times.

### Then They Kissed

Before bidding her good-night he begged to be permitted to kiss her. "Oh, no," she said. "I couldn't permit such a thing. Besides, somebody might see us." "That's true," he said. There was a pause, after which she said, with a light laugh: "How quiet it is here! There appears to be nobody about."

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

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

## WHO SAID

"No Violent Extreme Endures?"

THOMAS CARLYLE, author of this succinct axiom, was the son of a mason and farmer. He was born in Ecclefechan, Dumfriesshire, Scotland, December 4, 1795, and although his parents intended him for a ministerial career, his propensity to authorship at an early age convinced the young man at least that he was more fitted for the pursuit of literature.

Although his first literary attempts were published in the Edinburgh "Encyclopedia," his career may be said to have begun in the "London Magazine" in 1823, when portions of his "Life of Schiller" appeared. This work in later years was treated separately, and appeared in special form in 1825—Carlyle's first success of note in the literary field.

Few authors have had their works studied so minutely as Carlyle, and his ease and fluency in writing have been seized upon by many as examples of the sort of literature which always will endure.

Much time was spent on his "History of Friedrich the II of Prussia," called "Frederick the Great," and this production of his pen also was the largest the eminent author turned out. The last two volumes appeared in 1865, and although he continued to some extent in his field, this work in reality marked the end of a successful career.

While in Scotland Carlyle received word of the death in London of his wife, accounting for much of his later seclusion. In his later life he was offered a government pension and a baronetcy, both of which he declined. He died at Chelsea, February 5, 1881. —Wayne D. McMurray.

(© by George Matthew Adams)



(© by McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)

## Thursday Club

The members of the Thursday Club were delightfully entertained in the home of Mrs. R. I. Grimes on Thursday, assembling there at three o'clock. Lovely cut flowers in vases and baskets added charm to the occasion. At the tables, marked with beautiful hand painted score pads, guests found their places for the ever popular game of forty-two. The hostess, assisted by Mrs. S. D. Gamble, passed a delicious salad plate to the following guests: Mesdames Roy Adams, R. O. Anderson, Twyman Collins, Ollie Dye, S. D. Gamble, Dee Grimes, T. L. Grimes, Robert Hicks, L. B. Howard, Chas. H. Jones, Tom Largent, W. J. Largent, F. C. McFarland, L. B. Scott, John West, Emmett Grimes and V. P. Tippet of San Angelo.

On track—One car Diavallo Lump and one Dawson Fancy Egg Coal. Swafford, phone 44. It

Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Duke of Waco, are here for a visit with Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Adcock, Mrs. Duke being a sister of Mrs. Adcock.

Mr. and Mrs. L. P. Jones, of Sierra Blanca, were here this week for a visit with Mrs. Jones' father, Mr. J. C. Moore and their many friends as well.

Misses Annie Bickley and Genevra Middleton who are teaching school at Moro, were up last Sunday for a visit with home-folks.

## COUNTY AGENT DEMONSTRATES TERRACING

The County Agent, Mr. J. R. Masterson, spent Tuesday and Wednesday demonstrating farm terracing to the farmers of this territory. He stated that progressive farming will be the program of the people in rural districts around Merkel in 1926. A live interest is being shown in farm terracing, the planting of sweet clover and experimental farming in the schools, are projects which Mr. Masterson is now promoting.

More than fifty farmers were present to see the work conducted, and to acquaint themselves with the methods of promoting this activity. Some of those present requested Mr. Masterson to order terracing machines for them.

A large number of those attending the demonstration also placed orders with the county agent for sweet clover seeds. Because this legume will be planted over various sections of the county by different farmers, enough tests will be made to determine the practicability of the clover for Taylor county.

The county agent attended the Merkel Luncheon Club Tuesday evening and was assured by that organization that liberal premiums would be offered to members of boys' and girls' clubs for next fall's exhibit at the Merkel Community Fair.

We are grateful to Mr. L. A. Arrington of the Merkel Drug Co. for the renewal of his subscription to the Mail.



## Dr. W. B. Rutledge

OF LUBBOCK

Will be in Merkel Friday and Saturday  
Feb. 5 and 6 to test eyes and fit glasses.

Located at the

Stephens Hotel

## 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. 8 from 12 a. m. to 5 p. m.  
Phone No. 359      Abilene, Texas



# 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.

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

### Gretna Garbo



Beautiful Gretna Garbo is one of the latest arrivals from abroad to join the ranks of "movie" stars. She is known as the "Swedish Beauty," and comes to America to make her initial bow in a prominent screen play.

### "What's in a Name?"

By MILDRED MARSHALL

Facts about your name; its history; meaning; whence it was derived; significance; your lucky day, lucky jewel

#### VERONICA

VERONICA has full rights to her claims as a holy name. It signifies "true picture" and comes from the Latin "verus," meaning true, and the Greek word for image. The two terms were strangely jumbled together by the popular tongue in the name of the crucifix at Lucca, which was called the Veronica and was that "Holy Face of Lucca" by which oaths were taken.

Another Veronica is the same countenance upon a piece of linen at St. Peter's. The origin being forgotten, this is called St. Veronica's handkerchief, and the popular legend is that a woman who had lent her handkerchief to our Blessed Savior to wipe His face during the passage of the "Via Dolorosa" had found the likeness imprinted on it. In a poem on the life of Pilate, we are told that the suffering emperor of Rome, learning that a woman at Jerusalem named "Veronike" possessed this handkerchief which had the power to heal the sick, sent for her and was cured.

In this way, Veronica became a saint, though there was a real Saint Veronica who lived near Milan in the fifteenth century. The French love the name and call it Veronique. The Scotch, who have an exquisite blue flower known as Veronica, have given the name national popularity.

Jude is Veronica's talisman gem. It will bring her good health and long life. Thursday is her lucky day and 4 her lucky number.

(© by Western Newspaper Union)

### The Hotel Stenographer



"It's a fine day," announced the House Detective.

"Yes, it's good weather," replied the Hotel Stenographer. "I do not know what we would do without the weather and making puns. These are the conversational standbys of the stupid."

"Hub?" asked the House Detective. "Whether it is cold or whether it is hot, we have to have weather, whether or not," punned the girl. "That always gives original people something to talk about. Like the income tax and the parking problem. We have it always with us."

"It must be wonderful, Kelly, to talk about something pleasant all the time. People who work for the oil industry or had factories during the war, can make their own weather, and in consequence can always talk pleasantly. They run down to Miami whenever there is a blizzard, or up to Montreal when it is hot; they go to Arizona when they have a wet spell, or out in the country to get rained on."

"Don't think I am critical, Kelly. Weather was invented a long time ago, and it is one of our grandest institutions, but when I have nothing else to talk about but the weather, I tune out and keep still for a while till a real bright idea about love or dressmaking, scandal or something new and interesting comes to my mind."

"I used to know a John who never talked anything out the weather. He was so stupid the dentist was afraid to give him gas, because he couldn't tell when he became unconscious."

"That's pretty hard on us both, ain't it?" asked Kelly.

"Uh?"

"Yeah," replied Kelly, "you ain't been doing nothing for the last ten minutes but talk about the weather."

"On your way," cried the girl. "I am a busy woman."

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# 30 Days Time

## 30 Days Time Untill 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 and 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"

### COMPERE NEWS

By Alma Stout

The farmers are all busy putting up their land.

Health of the community is not very good at present.

Those visiting Mrs. Stout's on Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. C. Foster and baby, Mr. Bill Mayfield and little sons, and Mr. Cora Camp.

Mrs. Smith left Monday for Oklahoma where she will visit with relatives and friends the next few weeks.

Little Mildred Howard has been very sick the past week.

Mr. and Mrs. Tarvin visited at Mr. Alired's a while Sunday.

A large crowd attended the parents and teachers meeting at Compere Friday night. A short program was given and sandwiches were served to those attending.

Mrs. Stout was on the sick list last week.

Some from here attended the singing at Noodle Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Tarvin called on their daughter, Mrs. Alta Howard, for a while Sunday evening.

Misses Willie, Rose and Cordie Ellington, Ollie and Jasper Hobbs were visitors in this community Sunday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur McCoy and children and Mr. Hollis McCoy and wife spent Sunday with Mrs. S. A. Hobbs and family.

Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Tarvin visited at Mrs. Stout's a while Saturday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Foster and baby visited his mother, Mrs. Jake Foster, Sunday.

Miss Rose Ellington spent Wednesday night with Miss Ella Hobbs.

Mr. and Mrs. Chester Lucas spent Saturday with her mother Mrs. T. K. Marshall.

Miss Virgie Marshall was the guest of her sister, Mrs. Chester Lucas, Saturday night.

Mr. G. W. Stout was in Anson Saturday morning.

Mr. Tarvin motored to Eula Saturday.

Some from here attended the parties at Truby Friday and Saturday nights.

E. C. Tarvin attended the party in Warren community Saturday night.

Miss Virgie Marshall spent Tuesday night with her sister, Mrs. Violet Smith.

Mr. and Mrs. C. Lucas called on Mrs. Ben Adkins a few moments Wednesday afternoon.

Compere ball teams played a game of ball with Pleasant Hill Wednesday. The scores were for the Boys 9 to 14 in favor of Pleasant Hill and the girls also lost to them 4 to 7. The game between Compere and Mulberry Thursday was won by Compere teams. Scores were for the boys 16 to 3 and for the girls 6 to 3. Come see the games with Noodle Friday.

Maize Heads—Meal—Hulls— See Swafford, phone 44. It

#### Both Meant Brains

Doctor Busby, whose figure was much beneath the common size, was one day accosted in a public coffee-room by a baronet of colossal stature with, "May I pass to my seat, O giant?" when the doctor, politely making way, replied, "Pass, O pigmy."

"Oh, sir," said the baronet, "my expression alluded to the size of your intellect."

"And mine to yours," said the doctor.—London Answers.

#### Not That Familiar

"Are you and your wife well acquainted with the Spurgeons next door?"

"Well, not exactly well acquainted. We say 'How do you do?' to them, but we are not yet on such familiar terms as to say 'How do you do it?'"

#### Carry On!

"Harry kissed me at the pictures last night."

"What did you say?"

"I told him if he did things like that in the dark I never wanted to see his face again."—Sydney Bulletin.

## BARGAINS

This is a Special Invitation to you to come to our store and see the many savings you can make on groceries. Every item in our store priced in plain figures.

A LITTLE SAVING TO YOU ON EVERYTHING YOU BUY

is worth while to every individual. It is not our idea only to meet prices, but to make

PRICES, QUALITY, SERVICE AND CASH BUY YOU MORE TO EAT

This is no idle talk, we mean it.

TRY US!

Carson's Cash and Carry GROCERY

## 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.

#### MERKEL BAPTISTS

Sunday school at 10 a.m. with a welcome and a work for all.

Preaching by the pastor at 11 a.m. and 7:15 p.m. Morning subject "Profitable Praying." Evening subject, "Selling Jesus."

All B.Y.P.U.'s meet at 6:15 p.m. Training classes meet at 7 P.M. Monday.

Ladies meeting Tuesday at 2 p.m. Prayermeeting Wednesday at 7 p.m.

The A.B.C. bunch is boosting prayermeeting this month, and they are going to set a new record. This A.B.C. bunch is Bro. Hicks' class or the "Men's Adult Bible Class." This class has men above fifty years of age and has more than twenty enrolled and is 100 per cent almost every Sunday.

In connection with the prayermeeting the Church Conference for February will be held this week. Every member of the church will find it interesting as well as helpful to attend these business meetings of the church. There will be important matters about the Sunday School at this meeting.

A warm welcome is awaiting all who will come to worship with us in any of these services. Ira L. Parrack, pastor.

#### Methodist Church

We anticipate a big day Sunday at the Methodist Church. We greatly desire that the day be made one of real worship and service. We hope that all our people will cooperate with us. Let us enter upon the duties of the day with purpose, zeal and determination.

Begin with the first service, the Sunday School, at 9:45, where special preparation has been made for every one of every class.

Rev. W. E. Lyon, our presiding elder, will be with us Sunday, preaching for us at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. and holding our second quarterly conference.

W. R. McCarter.

#### Presbyterian Church

Sunday school at 10 a.m.

Preaching at 11 a.m. and 7:15 p.m. Junior Christian Endeavor at the 11 o'clock hour.

Senior Christian Endeavor at 6:15 p.m. Choir practice Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. Chas. H. Little, pastor.

#### Christian Endeavor Program

Leader, Venice Bell.

Topic: "What does Christian Endeavor mean to me?"

Scripture reading: Matt. 20: 25-28. Talk by leader.

Song; Clippings; Questions.

Reading of the pledge.

Announcements; song; mishap.

Immediately after the program last Sunday, Jan. 29, the society entered into business session and elected officers for the coming term. It is the hope of the executive committee that a

larger and better society may be built up during this year. The officers are: President, David Ferries; vice-president, Mildred Smith; secretary treasurer, Helen Compton.

Maize Heads—Meal—Hulls— See Swafford, phone 44. It

Mr. C. K. Russell and family were guests of Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Thompson at their home in Abilene last Sunday.

V. Hodges and Anna Maude Garrison of Abilene were the week-end guests of Miss Mae Beidleman of Merkel.

Mrs. T. M. Smith and daughters, Mildred and Ola, were called to Sweetwater Saturday to attend the funeral of Mrs. Smith's uncle, S. W. Curtis.

Call 61 to place a want ad in the Mail or give us a news item.



## 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.

### I DON'T

Most motorists are blooming fools,  
They trifle with the traffic rules.  
I Don't.  
No man should try to get the drop  
On any seasoned traffic cop,  
Nor fail to heed his sign to stop.  
I Don't.  
A man should never drive too fast,  
Or brag about the cars he passed  
I Don't.  
For Safety First should be his creed.  
There really isn't any need  
To drive a car at reckless speed.  
I Don't.  
A man should never lose his bean  
When piloting a gas-machine.  
I Don't.  
On city street or open road,  
A man should never break the code,  
Nor fellow-farers incommode.  
I Don't.  
He should not scare equestrians,  
Nor chase the poor pedestrians.  
I Don't.  
In fact, I have no car to run,  
I'm shy the coin to purchase one,  
You'd think I wouldn't have much fun.  
I Don't.

Mr. G. C. Lowrey paid this office a very pleasant and appreciated call recently, and stated that he had all his land broke and ready for the spring rains.

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

## MASON TELLS OF PREACHER WHO LEFT CONGREGATION FOR PENITENTIARY

Merkel, Texas, Feb. 3.  
Editor Merkel Mail,  
Dear Sir:

I see a piece in your paper of last week where a preacher bid his congregation good-bye in a peculiar manner, but you never intimated to what church he adhered, and I am just going to see if I can locate what church or faith he adheres to.

First I will take what Oliver Wendell Holmes says about the human family. He says our brains are seventy year clocks. The angel of life winds them up once for all, closes the case and gives the key into the hand of the resurrection angel." And when I read it I thought of what a stupendous task awaits the resurrection, when all the countless millions of old rickety, rusty, worm-eaten clocks are to be resurrected and wiped and dusted and repaired for mansions in the skies. There will be every kind and character of clock and clock work resurrected on that day. There will be the Catholic with his beads and the Episcopalian clock with his ritual.

There will be an old clock resurrected on that day wearing a broadcloth coat buttoned up to his throat, and when he is wound up he will go off with a whiz and a bang. He will get up out of the dust shouting hallelulah, and he will proclaim sanctification and falling from grace, and baptism by sprinkling and pouring, as the only true doctrine by which men shall go sweeping through the pearly gates to the New Jerusalem. And he will be recognized as a Methodist preacher, a little noisy, a little clogged with chicken feathers, but ripe for the Kingdom of Heaven.

There will be another old clock resurrected on that day, dressed like the former but a little stiffer and straighter in the back, and armed with a pair of gold spectacles and a manu-

script. When he is wound up he will break out in a cold sepulchral tone with, firstly: "ordination," secondly: "predestination," and thirdly, "the final preservative of the saints," and he will be recognized as a Presbyterian preacher, a little blue and frigid, a little dry and formal, but one of God's own elect, and he will be labeled for Paradise.

There will be an old hard shell clock resurrected with throat whiskers, and wearing a shad-bellied coat and flap breeches. And when he is wound up a little and a little oil squirted in his old wheels, he will swing into space on the wings of the gospel with: "My dear beloved Brethren, ah, I was a ridin along this mornin' a tryin' to study up somethin' to preach to this dying congregation, ah, and as I rid up by the old mill pond, ah, lo and behold, there was an old snag a stickin' up out of the middle of the pond, ah, and an old mud turtle had climbed up out uv the water and wuz a settin' up on the old snag a sunnin' uv himself, ah, and lo and behold ah, when I rid up a leetle nearer to him, ah, he jumped off uv the snag ker-chugg into the water, thereby proving emersion, ah.

Now comes that old preacher who said: "Brethren and Sisters I come to say good-bye. I don't think God loves this church because none of you ever die. I don't believe 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 fruits and wormy apples. By their fruits ye shall know them. Brethren, I am going to a better place. I have been called to be chaplin of a penitentiary. Where I go, ye cannot come. Behold I go to prepare a place for you, and may the Lord have mercy on your poor souls. Good-bye." He is a little solemn and saintly and the golden slippers he is bound to wear. I am constrained to believe he was a

## Miss Swann BUYS HATS FOR JONES DRY GOODS

Through an act of personal friendship, Miss Willie Swann, Who was in the St. Louis market for the H. L. Davis Co. of Snyder, bought for us a complete line of

### "Ladies Gold Medal Hats"

We consider ourselves fortunate in having Miss Swann, who was for many seasons identified with the Millinery Business here, make this selection for us.

A big shipment of these hats have just arrived. They are beautiful—showing the bright, new colors for Spring.

We are also showing a full line of

### New Spring Dresses

and coats. We extend to one and all a most cordial invitation to call and see the New Things and make OUR STORE your SHOPPING PLACE while in town.

## JONES DRY GOODS

# WALL PAPER

New shipment of Wall Paper just received. Let us show you the new patterns; prices are much lower. We can supply you with any grade of paper you might want. Prices range from **15c** Per double roll and up

We carry America's leading brand of paint  
**Sherwin-Williams**  
Paints, Oils and Varnishes

None better and none cheaper. Figured by the job. Let us furnish you with your Paint, Oil, Paper, Canvas and tacks.

"Standard Goods at Legitimate Prices"

# BARROW FURNITURE COMPANY

Campbellite, but a good man and true.

Our brains are clocks and our hearts are the pendulums. If we live right in this world, when the resurrection day shall come the Lord God will polish the wheels and jewel the bearings and crown the casements with stars and with gold. And the pendulums shall be harps encrusted with precious stones. They shall swing to and fro on angel wings, making music in

### PROFESSIONAL

**THOS. C. WILSON**  
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All Work Guaranteed  
Located at Merkel Drug Co.

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Physician and Surgeon

Hours 10 to 12 a.m. 2 to 5 p.m.  
Phones 105-163 Res. 165

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**DR. MINTON T. RAMSEY**  
DENTIST  
X-Ray and Diagnosis  
3rd Floor Alexander Bldg.  
Telephone 177 Abilene, Tex

the ear of God, and flashing His Glory through all the blissful cycles of Eternity.

A solemn murmur of the soul tells of a world to be.

As travelers hear the billows role before they reach the sea.  
J. C. MASON.

\* \* \* \* \*  
\* **SALT BRANCH ITEMS** \*  
\* By Wynona Patton \*  
\* \* \* \* \*

Salt Branch B.Y.P.U. is progressing nicely. The B.Y.P.U. officers will meet at Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Hays Friday night.

Quite a number of the Salt Branch folks went to the singing at Noodle Sunday.

Mrs. S. O. Patton entertained the young ladies of the community with a slumber party last Friday night. Interesting games were played. Cake, tea, and candy were served.

The girls basket ball game with Salt Branch and Union Ridge last Friday evening was won for Salt Branch 13 to 5.

Mr. S. O. Patton and L. L. Willis made a business trip to Littlefield, Texas, last week.

Miss Jennie Reeves West was a visitor at Salt Branch Sunday.

Miss Fannie Thompson was the guest of Misses Ruba and Wynona Patton Sunday.

The party at Mr. and Mrs. L. B. McClain's Saturday night was enjoyed by all present.

Renew your subscription to the Merkel Mail before it expires

### STATIONERY SPECIAL

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

### Night Coughing Quickly Stopped

New Way Simple But Very Effective

Night coughing, with its distressing loss of sleep and dangerous sapping of strength and vitality, can now be almost instantly checked through a simple but wonderfully effective treatment that is economical, too.

This treatment is based on the famous prescription known as Dr. King's New Discovery for Coughs. For astonishing relief make this test tonight before retiring—Simply take one teaspoonful and hold it in the throat for 15 or 20 seconds before swallowing it. The prescription has a double action. It not only soothes and heals soreness and irritation, but it quickly loosens and removes the phlegm and congestion which are the real cause of night coughing. So with the cause removed, coughing stops quickly and you sleep the whole night through.

The Dr. King's New Discovery prescription is for coughs, chest colds, sore throat, hoarseness, bronchitis, spasmodic croup, etc. Fine for children as well as grown-ups—no harmful drugs. 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



## Specially Made Fordson Tractor Oil

If you operate a tractor, try some of this oil. It will give good satisfaction.

**W. F. GOLLIDAY**

LOCAL AGENT

Gulf Refining Company

Merkel

Texas

### WHAT IS A BALANCED FARM PROGRAM?

Just what is a balanced farm program? The question is a poser. It has several answers, depending upon local conditions and the kind of farming one chooses to follow. Up in Iowa a balanced farm program means the growing of much corn in rotation with sweet clover, soy beans or other legumes; some oats, a little wheat and other grains, and then enough hogs and cattle to feed the grain to. This year Iowa farming is out of balance. They produced abundantly of all the grains mentioned, but failed to provide the livestock to consume it. Therefore, Iowa farmers are having a taste of hard times despite their bumper crops.

Down here in the Southwest, or in most sections, cotton is supposed to be the money crop. At least, it is sold for money in its raw state even though it often costs more to produce it than is received. Cotton should be a part of the balanced farm program in the Southwest, and especially in Texas, but all cotton is just like all corn in Iowa. A balanced farm in the Southwest should make cotton the main money crop, if in sections where cotton is grown. It should be planted in rotation with some good legume, like sweet clover, soy or velvet beans, cowpeas, etc. Enough grains and other feedstuffs should be produced to make certain enough feed for the year. Such foodstuffs as can be economically produced and saved should be grown on every farm. There should be good livestock, including a cow or two, a few sheep, hogs, and good chickens even though the farmer is not a specialist in animal husbandry. Under a plan of this kind the farmer is almost insured a living and if he makes any cotton he will have some money to spend at the end of the season. By rotating cotton with legumes and plowing under a green crop or two, the yield per acre will be largely increased and before long

the production cost will be reduced and a profit be made.—Farm and Ranch.

### SECRETARY JARDINE TO BE AT FAT STOCK SHOW

Fort Worth, Feb. 4.—Hon. W. M. Jardine, Secretary of Agriculture, whom, it is understood has tentatively agreed to address the convention of the Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers' Association in March, has been invited by John C. Burns, secretary of the Texas Hereford Association, to open the new sales pavilion at the Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show, March 6 to 13.

Mr. Burns' letter of invitation to the Secretary was as follows: "Hon. W. M. Jardine, Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

"Dear Mr. Jardine: We are much pleased to learn that you are planning to attend the meeting of the Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers' Association, to be held in this city March 9, 10, and 11, during the week of the Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show, which is also held here.

"We want you to attend the Show and would appreciate it very much if you would deliver a brief address to our breeders on the occasion of the opening of our Hereford Auction Sale, which will be held Wednesday, March 10th, beginning at 1 p.m. Our new sale pavilion will be used for the first time on this occasion and a large representation of Southwestern breeders of both registered and commercial cattle will be assembled. A message from you at that time, with the revival of interest in the cattle business and the generally better outlook for the industry, will be very encouraging and helpful.

"We also wish to extend to you an invitation to be our guest at the Annual Banquet of the Texas Hereford Association of the Texas Hotel, this city, Tuesday evening at 7 o'clock."

## STRAIGHT TALKS WITH AUNT EMMY

### ON HOW TO LEAVE AN ESTATE

"Do you know, Auntie," said Helen, as she accepted a cup of tea from Aunt Emmy, "I feel terribly sorry for Mrs. Strong."

"Yes," agreed Aunt Emmy, "it will be hard for her. She is such a dependent, helpless, little thing."

"Oh, I don't mean that," interrupted Helen. "Her feelings are so hurt because, as she says, her husband publicly insulted her by not making her executrix and trustee of his estate."

"Good gracious, child, did she say that!" exclaimed Aunt Emmy, setting her cup down with a bang.

"Yes, she did, Auntie," said Helen, enjoying the sensation she had made and determined to make the most of it, "and I'm sure I agree with her. The idea of that old man appointing a trust company to look after Mrs. Strong's money. It isn't as though there wasn't plenty of it. The Strong's are the richest people in town, I guess."

"Well, for mercy's sakes!" cried Aunt Emmy, disgust in every syllable, "if it don't beat all! You are as big a fool as she is then!"

"What do you mean, Aunt Emmy?" asked Helen with dignity. "I think it nothing short of disgraceful for a man to show that he has no confidence in his wife by putting his money in strangers' hands to be doled out to her as they see fit."

"You never thought that up, Helen," said Aunt Emmy, "that's Mrs. Strong. She always talks as though she was living in a story book, poor, silly, little thing."

Helen blushed and Aunt Emmy went on—"Do you know what it means to administer an estate, especially a big one like Mr. Strong's?"

"Why, no," stammered Helen, "but it must be simple."

Aunt Emmy sniffed. "Simple! Let me tell you a little about it. When a man dies the things he owns cease for a time to be anybody's property and become his estate. The property passes from his control on his death naturally, and as his estate it is controlled and supervised by the Court which will be in charge of the estate for many months probably. First this Court finds out whether or not there is a will and if the will is valid. Then it must find out about the executor. If the will is properly drawn and valid, it will be 'admitted to probate.' The persons who witnessed it must be found and examined.

"The executor must satisfy the Court as to fitness and willingness to perform the many arduous duties involved. Perhaps he will have to furnish a bond, to assure the Court of his financial responsibility. He must assemble all the so-called assets, have them valued and file an inventory and appraisal of them with the Court. All the debts against the estate must be collected. The settlement of all claims against persons and corporations is a job no one without a thorough knowledge of business can undertake.

"In an estate like Mr. Strong's there is sure to be a certain amount of financial negotiation that demands banking knowledge. Then the executor must pay claims against the estate in the order of precedence laid down by law. Also you know state inheritance and federal estate taxes must be met promptly. Finally, after the estate is settled as to claims it has and claims against it, the executor must see that the various bequests are made."

"Oh, Auntie, don't tell me any more. I never thought that there were so many complicated things to be done. Poor Mrs. Strong never knew a thing about business."

"Mr. Strong knew that," remarked Aunt Emmy dryly, "and don't you suppose he had his children in mind, too? He wanted his estate handled so that the children and Mrs. Strong would be protected and assured of a good, comfortable living all their lives, with something to go on to the grandchildren. Even if Mrs. Strong were a business woman, no one could tell how long she would live to administer the estate. He knew that the trust company would not die, nor lose its faculties, nor be influenced by personal feeling so that it might be unjust to some one, and that it represents some of the best business and banking judgment in town."

"Well, I guess old man Strong knew what he was doing!" said Helen.—Anne B. Aymes

The more recently adopted method of killing the common harberry which spreads black stem rust of small grains is by the use of such chemicals as salt and kerosene, according to the Department of Agriculture. These methods have several advantages over the digging method formerly used. They are less laborious, cheaper and more certain. This is especially true if bushes are growing in stony ground where digging is difficult. Department Circular 356 tells all about how to use this method.—Becker-Farmers.



## John Deere Implements

We now have in transit our third car of implements for this season. If you are wanting a John Deere Planter or Cultivator for this season you had better place your order now!

### INCUBATORS--

We carry the "Safety Hatch" and also the "Automatic" incubators. If in the market for a machine, we would like to show them to you and give you our prices.

### OIL STOVES--

any and all models of the "New Perfection" oil stoves.

## Crown Hardware Company

"We Give You Satisfaction ALL The Time  
And Save You Money EVERY Time"

### PREACHING AND ORDINATION AT COMPERE

Saturday at 11 am. pastor Parrack will preach in the Comper Baptist church and there will be a conference following the preaching service. All members of the church should try to be at this service.

Sunday afternoon at three o'clock there will be an ordination service. Two new deacons will be ordained at this service. The pastors and deacons of all neighboring churches have been invited to participate in this service. The clerk of the church has tried to communicate this initiation to each church, but if any one of our neighboring pastors or deacons has failed to get word of the initiation he is urged to come to the service.

### 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

On track—One car Diavallo Lump and one Dawson Fancy Egg Coal. Swafford, phone 44. It

### WATKINS PRODUCTS

I wish to announce to the patrons of Watkins Products and the public in the Merkel territory that I own the agency for the sale of these Products in the West half of Taylor county and have at my home in Merkel on Oak street a large and complete line of these goods and expect to call on you. When in need of anything would be glad to have you call on me for same. "Service is my Motto." Respectfully, W. A. WHITELEY. 5t2p

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

Mr. and Mrs. E. W. King entertained with a dinner Sunday, honoring their cousin, the Rev. Jack Joyner, of Wortham, Texas, who has been conducting a revival at the Grace Presbyterian church. Those present were: Rev. and Mrs. Chas. H. Little and daughter, Dorothy, Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Murray and children, Madeline, Gordon and Mabel, Ellis Matlock, and Rev. Joyner.

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

Try a Classified Ad in the Mail.

## NOTICE

On and after March 1st, 1926, I will operate my Filling Station and garage business on a STRICTLY CASH basis. Cash to all. We appreciate your business and strive to give good service.

Come to see us for  
**GAS, OIL, TIRES, TUBES  
AND REPAIR WORK**

**Boney's Service Station**

Phone 60

## 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**





# A REQUEST

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 kindly ask that you drop in and make settlement, as we must make our final report at once.

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**  
MANAGER

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**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

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

**FOR SALE**—150-egg incubator good as new. G. F. Turner. route No. 1. 1tp

**FOR SALE**—One 3-horse gas engine, in good condition. See W. F. Golliday. 1t

**LAST-CHANCE**—To get a few state certified cotton seed. See me at once as I only have a few sacks left. Taylor F. Davis. 1t

**FOR SALE**—Good young work mule and a mare. Cash or good note. Taylor F. Davis. 1t

**FOR SALE**—cheap, four-room house and lot close in. Will take cheap car as part pay. Also a dandy 40-acre farm 1 mile from town at \$80 per acre, good terms. And 492 acres ranch land near View, will take some trade and good time on balance. See J. C. Mason. 1tp

Maize Heads—Meal—Hulls—  
See Swafford, phone 44. 1t

**FOR SALE**—Some good first year Kasch Cotton Seed, at \$1.50 per bushel, while they last. See W.T. Bird, Merkel, Box 242. 5t4p

**FOR SALE**—Jersey milk cow, six years old. Phone 9038F2. J.J. Northcutt, Merkel, Rt. 4. 1tp

**FOR SALE**—Fine full blooded S.C. Buff Orpington Roosters. Will have some in Merkel Saturday. See or write V. P. Byrom, Trent, Texas, route 2. 1t

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

**WANTED**—Man to work on roads regularly in this precinct. Apply to Phillip A. Diltz, phone No. 148. 1tpd

**FOR RENT**  
FOR RENT—Two furnished rooms, second door north of the Christian church. Mrs. R. L. Bradshaw. 1tp

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

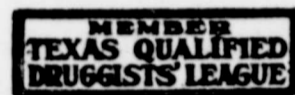
Baker & Wheeler will appreciate your patronage in fresh and cured meats of all kinds in season. Call on them for fresh pork, sausage, steak, cured meats, roasts, etc. tf

Mr. and Mrs. R. A. McBean and baby daughter came over last Sunday from San Angelo for a visit with Mrs. McBean's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Brown. Mr. McBean returned to his home on Monday while Mrs. McBean and baby remained here for a more extended visit.

# AT YOUR SERVICE

**7 DAYS AND 7 NIGHTS, 52 WEEKS**

in the year. We appreciate your patronage. Mail orders are given special attention. We have employed Mr. Tom D. Butler of Quitman, Texas as Pharmacist who has been registered and employed for the past 12 years, who will be glad to fill your prescriptions just as the Doctor writes them.



We are always at your service. "What you want, when you want it"

## HAMM DRUG CO.

SIE HAMM, MGR.  
Phone 93 Merkel, Texas

### STOP THAT ITCHING

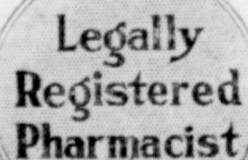
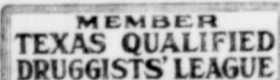
If you suffer from any form of skin diseases such as Itch, Eczema, Tetter or Cracked Hands, Poison Oak, Ring Worm, Old Sores or Sores on Children. We will sell you a Jar of BLUE STAR REMEDY on a guarantee. It will not stain your clothing and has a pleasant odor.

For sale by MERKEL DRUG CO

### Len Sublett

Water well Driller, all work guaranteed first-class.

Merkel, Texas



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

### SPECIAL

Complete ELGIN Watches

\$11.00 and Up

Also a good value in

DIAMOND RINGS

From \$15.00 Up

### PRESLEY'S

Jewelry & Gift Shop

Expert Repairing

209 Pine St. Abilene, Texas

### STOP THAT BACKACHE!

Many Merkel Folks Have Found The Way.

Is a dull, nerve-racking backache wearing you out? Do you feel older and slower than you should? Are you tired, weak and nervous; find it impossible to be happy, or enjoy the good times around you? Then there's something wrong and likely it's your kidneys. Why not get at the cause? Use Doan's Pills—a stimulant diuretic to the kidneys. Your neighbors recommend Doan's. Read what this Merkel resident says:  
J. R. Baze, says: "I had a dull gnawing ache across my back and when I stooped, sharp pains stabbed through my kidneys. My back felt achy and sore. My kidneys acted irregularly and the secretions passed too freely. I purchased Doan's Pills at the Merkel Drug Co., and my kidneys again acted properly and my back was rid of all the misery."  
60c at all dealers. Foster-Milburn Co., Mfrs., Buffalo, N. Y.

### CARD OF THANKS

J. L. Barker and wife, of route four, Merkel, wish to express to the good women of the Stith community their sincere appreciation for the well filled box of eatables sent to them after Mrs. Barker begun to improve, she having had a spell of sickness for some time. May the Lord bless each of you for your kindness.

We also wish to thank Rev. and Mrs. D. J. Dodd, who spent some time with us, and helped us during this illness. We found them kind and companionable.

Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Barker. 1tp

Miss Dagmah Rawlings, of Trent, who for the past ten days has been the guest of Mrs. Pearl Hollingsworth and friends, in Merkel, returned to her home Wednesday afternoon.

We regret to learn that Dr. S. W. Johnson, one of our splendid dentists, has been absent from his office this week on account of being confined to his bed with an attack of "flu."

Mr. C. L. Eoff, formerly of this city, but lately located at Yuma, Arizona, writes to have the address of his Merkel Mail changed to Somerton, Arizona. He also reports a fine winter in that country and that the cotton crop in the great Yuma Valley is about gathered, there being raised about 28,000 bales this year.

Mr. Jack Anderson, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. O. Anderson, who for the past two years has been attending the North Texas A. & M. College at Arlington, arrived home first of the week and immediately accepted a position with the Farmers State Bank in the bookkeeping department. He is one of Merkel's most excellent young men, is highly qualified and will no doubt make this institution a most capable employe.

Georgia and Louisiana pure Ribbon Cane Syrup at W. F. Hamblet's Grocery Store. 1t

Miss Gilbert, popular high school teacher, had as her guests at a Theatre party Monday evening, Miss Hart and Mr. Alexander, of Abilene, Misses Bird, Durham, Gilbert and Messrs. Loring Hamblet and Edward McCrary.

Miss Velma Holloway left last Monday for Wichita Falls for a visit with her sister, Mrs. S. O. Owens, at Wichita Falls.

Mrs. G. R. Holloway left this week for Bastrop for a visit with her daughter, Mrs. George Groene.



## SPECIAL SALE

From Monday, the 8th. to Saturday, the 13th. we will sell all Edison Mazda Lamps THREE for the price of two. By buying by the box there will be a considerable saving.

**West Texas Utilities Company**



# 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

On track—One car Diavallo Lump and one Dawson Fancy Egg Coal. Swafford, phone 44. It

Mr. G. C. Lowrey paid this office a very pleasant and appreciated call recently, and stated that he had all his land broke and ready for the spring rains.

Try a Classified Ad in the Mail.

# 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**

WNU Service  
(Copyright, 1926, by W. G. Chapman.)

### 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 Beacon. Believing it to be safe, he conceals himself and sails—a 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 better acquainted, she tells him of the party's purpose, and Dick, recognizing the girl, insists she should have been at the Beacon, and she reveals the fact that the servants who should have been at the Beacon 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 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 discovers by eavesdropping that he was on the yacht, and she reveals the fact that the servants who should have been at the Beacon 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. In the morning one of the crew of the Pelican, which is on a reef, fast breaking up, and that he volunteered to swim in the morning. Neither to Dick nor Alice, who hears the man's story, does it ring true, and Dick is more than ever convinced that some plot is being hatched 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 the noise, 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 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 Alice for an interview with Doctor Alster. Cutler, after hearing Dick's reasoning has convinced him 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 by eavesdropping on a conversation for some mysterious purpose, being kept under the influence of drugs, Marie, who had believed that she had married her, quarrels with him concerning his attentions to Alice Cutler. The man throws her over a cliff into the sea, and leaves the spot before having 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.

**CHAPTER XII.**—Dick broadcasts a message appealing for help from any passing ship. Leaving his prisoners, he frightens Doctor Alster sufficiently to induce him to betray his confederate, Blake, and restore Cutler to sanity. Before this can be accomplished the Pelican comes back.

**CHAPTER XIII.**—Brent lands from the yacht. In his absence Dick induces the crew, most of whom he has seduced with when the vessel was his father's, to help him save Cutler and Alice.

**CHAPTER XIV.**—With Doctor Alster Brent goes to the cave and releases Blake and McGee. Dick and the crew of the Pelican prevent their escape. A ship, apparently having received Dick's wireless message, approaches the island.

**CHAPTER XV.**—The vessel is the United States torpedo boat *Sprite*, with its arrival the matter of the custody of the conspirators against Cutler is taken from Dick's hands. Alster confesses his part in the plot, which had been, as Dick had guessed, the manipulation, to his disadvantage, of his uncle's holdings on Wall street. The financier, realizing the predicament from which Dick has saved him, offers the young man a commensurate reward, and Dick accepts it—but it is not a monetary one. The Pelican goes back to America with two happy passengers, and neither of them, this time, is blind.

(Continued From last Week)

"This island to spy on me?" he asked, stepping in front of her to block the way.

For a second his blazing eyes and flushed face startled her, and the answer that sprang to her lips died unexpressed.

"Oh, I know he's here," he continued, sneering. "I've met him on the island. If he's your lover, Miss Alice, you'll have trouble in finding him."

"Whom are you talking about?" she managed to ask.

For reply, the man smiled craftily, with a gleam of triumph in his eyes. "Very odd that you shouldn't know," he said finally. "Very innocent, aren't you, Miss Alice? You haven't seen him since that day he fished your bag out of the river? You didn't send him down to the yacht with a fake package so he could get aboard and hide? Of course not. You're innocent of—"

"Please stop, Mr. Blake!" she interrupted. "You're getting quite silly. If you mean that I'm pretending not to know that the man who picked my bag from the river isn't here on the island, I'll save you further speculation. I know he's here. I saw him yesterday—had a talk with him. But I didn't smuggle him aboard, nor help him to get down here. Will that satisfy you?"

"No, it won't," came the blunt reply. "I don't believe you."

"Thank you!" was the rejoinder. "Now let me pass. I've taken enough of your insults. When uncle's better—"

"You'll have me discharged?"

"Perhaps."

He laughed in an ugly way. "You won't have the pleasure, Miss Alice," he sneered. "I've already discharged myself. I'm master down here. Your uncle's dying. Doctor Alster says it's doubtful if he ever regains consciousness again. We may have to bury him here on the island."

"Oh!" she shuddered.

He seemed to relent a little, and went on more gently:

"I don't want to alarm you, Miss Alice, but you had to know the truth. He's sinking rapidly. But he's an old man, and hadn't many more years to live. We're young—both of us—and we—" He paused and eyed her greedily. "Have you stopped to consider our position here, Miss Alice?"

"What position?" she murmured.

"Our position on this island. We're marooned here, and may have to stay here for months. There is no way to get word ashore, and boats rarely appear off this island. Yes, we may have to live here for many months before we're taken off. That isn't so bad in one way. There's plenty of food in the house, and we can keep each other company. I shall do everything to make it pleasant for you. In the end you may learn to look at things differently, and—"

She had stopped, and was gazing half curiously at him, as if he were some kind of new animal she had just discovered. The expression in her eyes irritated and then angered him.

"If you mean I may change my mind about marrying you, Mr. Blake," she interrupted, shaking her head, "you're deceiving yourself. Nothing can change that decision."

"Not even force?" he blurted out angrily.

"Force!" she repeated in an even tone. "What do you mean by that?"

Completely losing control of himself for a moment, he clutched her hand and drew her near him. "I mean that I can make you do what I please here," he replied, thrusting his face close to hers. "You're in my power, Miss Alice. There's nobody on this island you can go to except your uncle, and he's past helping anyone. If I say the word, I can make you my wife whether you will or not. I can—"

"Oh, you reptile!" came explosively from the lips of Alice Cutler, accompanied by an exhibition of physical force that Blake was entirely unprepared for. She wrenched her hand from his grasp, and throwing all her strength into the effort she sent him reeling backward against the wall of rocks.

Before he could recover his balance, she was running in the opposite direction, tripping and lightly over the beach as a child, and with nearly as much speed as a man. Blake essayed to follow, but her long lead in the race to the house discouraged him, and he stopped midway to vent his wrath in muttered threats.

Dick had once thought of interfering, but when the girl defied the man, and threw him backward, he felt like applauding. "Don't believe she needs me yet," he grinned. "Psychologically that would have been the wrong moment to butt in. Women don't like to be helped in such affairs until there's real danger. But"—musing seriously—"I'm afraid it's coming when she'll need all the help she can get."

Blake's revelations concerning affairs up at the house had disturbed him. If Steve Cutler was unconscious, slowly dying without chance of regaining his senses, what companionship had the girl? There was Marie, her maid, but Dick knew she was in love with Blake, and more or less involved in the plot. There was Doctor Alster. But what sort of man was he?

So far Dick hadn't met the family physician, and there seemed to be a ray of hope in the thought that Alster would prove a friend and help to Miss Cutler. "I'll have to get in communication with him," he muttered, "and establish some sort of entente cordiale. Between us we might put Blake and McGee to rout."

With this idea in mind, he waited until Blake left the beach, and then slipped down the rocks to the level below. Following a wide circuit that led to the rear of the cliff, he worked his way gradually up to the house, using

every caution to conceal himself behind trees and shrubs. His theory was that Blake would be in the front, and by approaching from the rear he could slip into the kitchen unobserved. McGee, he reasoned, would still be at the cave on guard duty.

He was successful in his ruse, reaching the rear of the big house without attracting attention. He tried the back door, and finding it unlocked opened it and slipped inside. The kitchen was a large, pretentious affair, suitable as a workshop for a large army of servants.

It was completely deserted now, giving it a forlorn, unpleasant appearance. All the latest appliances for cooking and serving dinners and banquets were present, but without cooks or waiters they seemed a hollow mockery.

"What is a home without a cook?" Dick murmured in passing.

He entered the butler's pantry adjoining the big, commodious kitchen, and nearly ran plump into a pair of flour and dough-covered arms. Alice Cutler, under the stress of necessity, was making tentative experiments in cookery, with her sleeves rolled up to her elbows, showing a pair of plump arms, and a fancy boudoir cap covering her head. An ample apron protected her dress. Her cheeks were flushed to a rich crimson, with small patches of flour and dough distributed here and there in irregular patterns.

She glanced up with startled eyes, and then, as calmly as if meeting an old friend, she said: "Well! What is it you want now?"

"To see you, first," he said, "and, second, to see Doctor Alster."

"What do you want to see Doctor Alster for?" she queried.

"To find out what sort of a man he is—to see if he's for you or against you."

"He was quiet for a long time, watching and appraising him. Finally, she nodded her head. "I'll take you to him," she said quietly. "Perhaps you're right. We ought to know whether he's for us or against us. I have my doubts sometimes."

### CHAPTER X

Dick thrilled a little when she used the word "us"; he had distinctly noted the singular pronoun, and it was her own choice of the plural. He reasoned that, consciously or unconsciously, the word implied a trust in him that he had not dared to believe before.

He watched her graceful movements, as she cleaned and washed her hands and arms, dried them on a roller towel, removed the apron, touched her hair with deft hands, and then, after readjusting her boudoir cap, nodded to him.

"Follow me. I'll take you to him."

Doctor Alster was a short, thick-set man of perhaps forty, with black hair and beard, and dark, shifty eyes. Dick's first impression was not very favorable. When he stepped forward to meet him, the eyes under the shaggy brows widened in surprise, and then narrowed swiftly to small pin points.

"I'm glad to meet you, doctor," Dick said, advancing with extended hand.

The other grunted and stared back suspiciously. "Who are you, sir?" he demanded truculently.

"A friend of Miss Cutler's. You heard her say that."

"But your name?"

"For the present, names are immaterial. I'm greatly concerned about Mr. Cutler's health. How is he?"

"Bad, sir—very bad," was the reply, accompanied by a solemn shake of the head.

"Can I see Mr. Cutler?" Dick asked.

"See him!" repeated Alster in surprise. Then, frowning and shaking his head, he added, "No, sir, I couldn't grant that request. It might prove dangerous to him in his weakened condition."

"If he's unconscious, what harm could come of it? You can't surprise or shock an unconscious patient."

"He might regain his senses for a moment, and the sight of a stranger—"

"—a friend."

"Well, even a friend he didn't expect to see here might give him a shock that would kill him."

Dick smiled with exasperating coolness. Alster's face slowly mottled and turned red. Losing his polite manners, he asked abruptly, "Who are you, sir? Aren't you the stowaway that came down here unbidden?"

"I came down on the yacht. If you choose to call me a stowaway, all right."

"Mr. Blake was telling me about you," added the doctor. "He's been very anxious to see you. I'll summon him."

"It isn't necessary," replied Dick. "I've met Mr. Blake several times."

"I'll summon him at once."

He moved toward the door. Dick made no attempt to detain him. It opened and closed behind the man, the lock clicking in response to the turn of the key on the outside. Dick smiled.

On the other side he could hear voices in an altercation. Alice Cutler was speaking authoritatively.

"You must give me that key, doctor—at once."

"I can't, Miss Cutler," replied the other. "He's a dangerous man, and I must summon Mr. Blake."

"I'll be responsible for him," cut in the girl. "Are you going to give me that key?"

"No, Miss Alice!"

There was the sound of heavy retreating footsteps, gradually dying away in the distance. Then a voice called softly through the keyhole.

"You must escape! Mr. Blake will be here soon."

"Don't worry about me, Miss Cutler," Dick called back. "I can take care of myself. But"—hesitatingly—"I wouldn't put too much faith in

Doctor Alster. I don't believe he's for us."

Dick had surveyed the outlook through the window with just such a possible contingency in view, and it required little exertion or hazard on his part to climb out on the roof of the back porch and slide down one of the pillars. Before Blake and Doctor Alster appeared in the room he was in the woods, watching the window at a safe distance.

"Blake will know by this time I've escaped from the cave," he meditated. "Therefore, he'll set McGee on my trail again. Perhaps this time I'll be prepared for him."

His visit to the house had satisfied him on two doubtful points. The first, and what seemed the more important to him, was that Alice Cutler had come to believe and trust in him. She no longer viewed him as an enemy or troublesome interloper. The second point he had cleared up in his mind was that Doctor Alster was a friend of Blake's and in league with him.

"That means three to one against me, not counting Marie," he reflected. It was noticeable that he did not include Miss Cutler in this grouping, but that was because he had personally assumed her burdens and intended to relieve her of all responsibility.

He decided his next move was to pay another visit to the wireless plant, and learn if possible where the yacht was located. There was no question in his mind that Blake was communicating with Captain Brent, exchanging messages of some sort or another.

Dick remained a long time watching the window and the back of the house. If any one emerged through the doorway, he could see him in ample time to get away.

There was no sign of any one stirring about, and he finally abandoned the watch. Retreating into the woods, he made his way cautiously to the beach and from there to the face of the cliff, which offered so many advantageous hiding places.

Concealing himself in the mouth of a small sea cave where he had a clear view of every line of approach, he fell to meditating upon his next move. If he destroyed the wireless plant, he would cut off their last chance of getting a message ashore or to a passing vessel. On the other hand, if he left it intact, he permitted

Blake to hatch up any sort of a plot with Captain Brent or to carry out his original scheme.

"Which," he reflected with a scowl, "I'm still ignorant of."

The minutes slipped away swiftly. After his exertions, Dick felt tired and sleepy. The reaction from the excitement made him doze in catnaps. Arousing himself from one of these, he heard voices over his head. They came from the top of the cliff, which was just visible from his hiding place. They were angry words, spoken in a high-pitched, feminine voice.

"I saw you with her! You needn't deny it! I'll scratch your eyes out if you touch her again!"

It was Marie, venting her jealousy upon her unlucky lover. Dick smiled, enjoying the conversation. Blake spoke in a lower, more guarded voice.

"No, I won't keep still!" the maid added a moment later. "You got to promise to leave her alone, or I'll tell her all. You've deceived me, and—"

"I tell you to shut up!" came from her lover in a menacing voice. "If you don't, I'll—"

"What will you do?" mocked the maid. "You're a coward, and don't dare touch me. I know you."

"Be careful!"

Marie laughed defiantly, taunting him only as an aroused, jealous woman could; but in the midst of it there came a new note, which made Dick glance upward hurriedly. It was as if the laugh had suddenly turned into a scream—a frightful cry of fear and horror.

A moment later a wriggling, twisting body shot through the air, missing the ledge on which Dick stood by less than a foot. The maid had either stepped too near the edge of the cliff and fallen over, or she had been pushed to her doom by another.

Dick had no way of judging the cause of her mishap. He simply saw her body hurtling through space and heard it splash in the greedy sea below. A last despairing cry escaped her lips, and then the green water closed over her.

There was no way to reach her except by a straight dive from his escape hole. Dick reasoned that

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**Trainmen Have "Lingo"**  
**Absolutely Their Own**

One of the picturesque features of railroading is the terminology used by railroad men themselves to describe things which are known to the traveler in an altogether different tongue. The engineer, known to his associates as "eagle eye," "hog-head" and "throat puller," gets assistance in running his "mill," "kettle" or "battleship" from the fireman, who answers to "diamond pusher" and "tallow pot." The brakeman as "round hog" or "car catcher," sits in the "doghouse" or "buggy," synonymous for caboose. The conductor, familiarly, "switch boy," gives out orders from his "knowledge box."

Passengers ride in "varnished cars" and view the surroundings from the "rubberneck car." Freight is transported in the "sidedoor pullman" and coal in the "whale belly."

In the switch yards cars are "shuffled up" or "sawed off." The railroader "freezes the hub" when a hot box develops and "wings her" in case the emergency brakes are required.

If ever necessary to jump he "hits the grit." At quitting time he "plugs for home" and on leaving the service he "pulls the pin."—Boston News Bureau.

**All Shades of Color**  
**Play on Gulf Waters**

"I have found where the sample sets of colors used on all the Mediterranean are located—the Gulf of Tunis," declares a writer in the Detroit Free Press.

"Due to varying depths, changing character of the bottom, clouds, sky, and atmosphere, there is here to be seen a marvelous display of color—all shades of blue from warm purplish through chilly cobalt to greenish, and even many shades of green—it is never twice alike, and would, I should think, be the inspiration or despair of a marine painter.

"Nor is color confined to the water, for in March and April the fields are dazzlingly gorgeous, with crimson poppies, yellow daisies, and blue flowers whose name I do not know. These flourish in such profusion that green becomes the minor note in an incredible polychrome display.

"The amount of raw color, so to speak, in the landscape at times is simply incredible, not to be imagined by any one who has not traveled outside our Central West.

**High Standard of Justice**

British justice sets up high standards for itself, as is illustrated by a story that appeared in a recent issue of the Manchester Guardian. "Mr. J. Sharpe, the Tower Bridge magistrate," the article reads, "gave a lecture to all concerned on Wednesday as to the necessity of keeping a prisoner's antecedents from the knowledge of the court until he had been found guilty. There is, of course, no more elementary principle of English justice than this. Once at the central criminal court Mr. Russell Gurney remarked to a man who had just been acquitted of burglary: 'You are a very fortunate man. I know all about you. You have been convicted three times before.' The words were no sooner out of his mouth than he was told that there were further indictments against the prisoner, but as it was impossible that he could now receive a fair trial he was discharged."

**Fat and Genius Akin?**

The relation between feeding and genius, which Sir Arthur Keith of England has been stressing of late, was noted long ago by Theophile Gautier, who, himself exceedingly stout, contended that all true men of genius should be fat. In support of his theory he cited the elder Dumas, "always fat and jolly," that "more barrel than man," Balzac, and "that hippopotamus in breeches," Rossini, as well as the plump and well-fed Victor Hugo and Sainte-Beuve. A more recent critic has declared that Zola did all his best work when he was very stout, and that his talent dwindled with his physical bulk. On the other hand, why is "fat-witted" an adjective which means the very opposite of talented?—Pierre Van Paassen, in the Atlanta Constitution.

**Marvelous Brain**

The brain is a curious organ. It is almost insensible to pain, for one thing, and it is much less subject to disease than the rest of the body is. Even when there is definite brain trouble, it is often impossible to detect in the brain tissue any alteration of substance. It is also very difficult to exhaust the brain by intellectual work, provided the other organs are in a healthy condition. Finally, the brain does its work on an exceedingly small amount of substance. Sir Arthur Keith, the British surgeon, has put the fact very graphically by saying that the energy contained in an ounce of sugar would be enough to produce one of Shakespeare's plays if it should find its way to a brain as gifted as Shakespeare's was.—Youth's Companion

**Rebuted**

An actor fell in love with a chorus girl who did not return his affection. After he had proposed to her for the twentieth time she became exasperated, and said, excitedly: "Look here, I wouldn't marry you, not if you was the last man on earth. I don't want nothing to do with you, 's that plain English?"

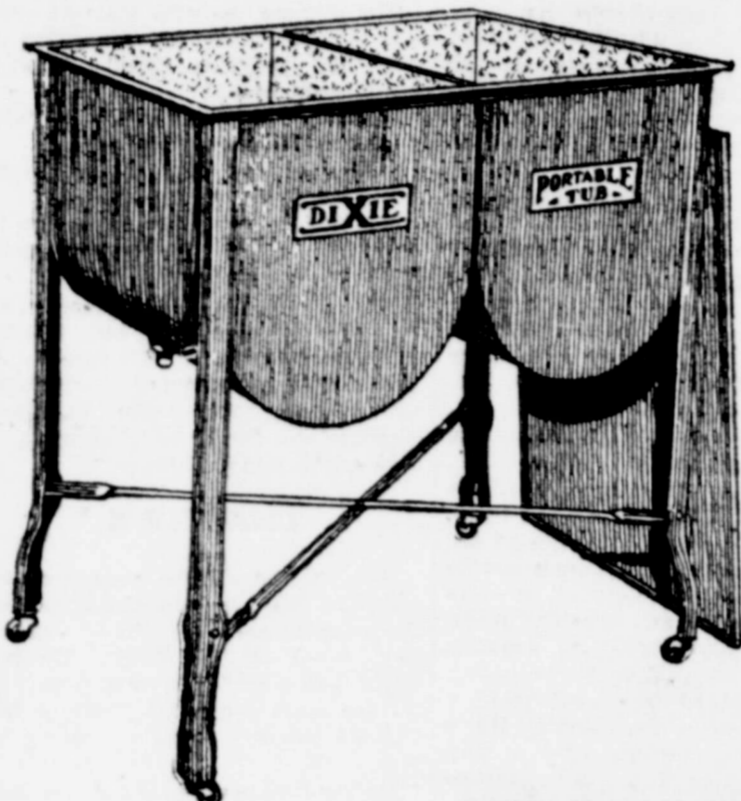
"It's plain enough, my dear," replied the unbesieged suitor, "but I can't English, you know."



**DO YOUR WASHING AT HOME**

Know that it is done as you want it, by using the "THOR WASHING MACHING". It can be done at home with ease, no wear or tear on the clothing or disappointment.

All this week and next, we will give a "DIXIE PORTABLE TUB" free with every machine sold.



What Wonderful Laundry Work!

**West Texas Utilities Company**

**FORD SELLS 217,112 TRUCKS IN YEAR 1925**

The year 1925 witnessed the biggest sale of Ford Ton Trucks in the history of the Ford Motor Company, according to a sales statement just issued by the company. The total for the year was 217,112 units, an increase of 16,826 over the sales of 1924. This mounting demand for Ford trucks was accounted as due largely to an increase in truck buying by the agricultural districts of this country. The American farmer, one of the most logical users of the ton trucks, is now coming into the market stronger than ever before and indications are that 1926 will see a marked rise in the number of trucks of less than two tons capacity on American farms.

Other figures indicate that more than 60 per cent of all trucks in use during the past year were Fords. In the less than two ton class, 71 per cent

of all makes sold were Fords. Four standard types of truck bodies on the Ford Ton Truck chassis comprise the line for the new year. A stake body, especially adapted for farm and other use requiring accommodations for heavy, bulky loads and three express types are versatile enough to cover every field of ton haulage.

One of the express bodies features low sides while another is of the canopy top and curtain type. The third is screened with canopy top and protecting curtains. Open and closed cabs also are provided.

One new commercial body style was developed during 1925, the pick up body, designed to take the place of the rear deck of the Ford Runabout for light weight haulage in which speed, light weight and easy maneuvering ability are dominant factors. The runabout seat affords comfortable riding for the driver and there is ample room for another passenger. Full protection

against inclement weather is provided by the top and side curtains which open with both the doors.

Maize Heads—Meal—Hulls—See Swafford, phone 44. It

**WIFE AND HUSBAND BOTH ILL WITH GAS**

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

On track—One car Diavallo Lump and one Dawson Fancy Egg Coal. Swafford, phone 44. It

**S. W. CURTIS DEAD**

On January 29, 1926, S. W. Curtis passed to his Heavenly reward. He had been a great sufferer of cancer, but bore it with patience. He said he had lived his time and was ready to go when the Lord called him. To Mr. and Mrs. Curtis were born ten children, three daughters and seven sons, five of the children preceeding him in death he leaves his wife, Mrs. S. W. Curtis, four sons, Calem Curtis, Jr., and Charles Curtis of New Mexico, George Curtis, Calvin Curtis and daughter, Mrs. Horace Hanks of Sweetwater. His sister, Miss Amanda Curtis and niece, Mrs. Marvin Smith, of Merkel, ten grandchildren and two great grandchildren also survive him. But we would not call him back to a world of suffering. Funeral services were held at the residence Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock.

Try a Classified Ad in The Mail.

**MAKING FARM RECORDS TALK**

By D. H. OTIS  
Agricultural Director,  
American Bankers Association.

Any one who has driven an automobile in a new country knows the value of a good road map. Farm accounts,



properly kept, are a reliable road map to aid the farmer in directing the business management of his farm.

In farming communities where records have been kept in considerable number it is not uncommon to find differences in net income of \$1,000 per farm between the average and the poorer farms of the community. It is also frequently found that there is a difference of over \$1,000 between the average farm and a few of the better farms of the community. These differences of from \$1,000 to \$2,000 per farm in the net income are of vital concern to any farm in any community.

**Where to Get the Facts**

Farm records and inventories will reveal the reasons for these differences. The various colleges of agriculture and the United States Department of Agriculture have a collection of records and farm management surveys from which they find it possible to construct standards or guides showing actual attainments under good systems of management. Figures of this kind are available to county agents and farmers who desire to use them. It is also possible to organize farm accounting groups in a community and with the help of the College of Agriculture to develop community standards showing what the average and what the better farms are doing. These standards or examples of what the more successful farms are doing, when handled in such a way as not to divulge the identity of the owners, are a wonderful help in pointing out to the less successful farmers the weak spots in the business management of their farms.

**How to Use the Facts**

The farmer who keeps a careful record of the factors relating to the business management of his farm is in position to compare his farm with the average and with the best in the volume of business, as number of acres, total investment, number of cows, total receipts and total expenses. He can check on his diversity of income by comparing his income from sale of cows, sale of livestock, livestock products and sales from miscellaneous sources. His quality of business can be studied by comparing such items as income per acre or income per cow, etc.

By such a process the farmer is in position to make his records talk to him and point out the weak and the strong features in his farm operation. There is no tax that we pay today that compares with the tax we pay for our ignorance. This is true on the farm as elsewhere. Farm records, including inventories from which it is easy to form financial statements, will do wonders in reducing the tax of ignorance and placing farm business on a business basis and inspire confidence in the farmer, himself and with all those with whom he deals.

**BANKERS HELP**

Minnesota bankers played a constructive part in boosting the attendance at the Northwest Dairy Exposition held in connection with the State Fair in September. Five hundred members of the Minnesota Bankers Association received letters from the chairman of the agricultural committee, asking them to assist in forming delegations from their respective communities to attend the show.

The Atlanta, Ga., Clearing House gives the boll weevil no rest. In an effort to effect a concerted and statewide poison war on the boll weevil, this institution sent letters recently to all the bankers in the state asking that they assist in emphasizing the need for a wholesale war on the pest. According to a recent survey poisoning is being done on the larger farms, but not to any appreciable extent on the small farms. According to reports by the Department of Agriculture, the boll weevil infestation is heavier this year than ever before, and if allowed to go unchallenged the crop will be destroyed. Immediate and extensive action is urged.

Over two hundred bankers in Iowa recently made an arrangement to attend the Iowa State University for a two-day period and study farming and farm problems. The bankers will sit as students under the professors in the agricultural department, and will dig right down to the bottom of the many subjects which are of mutual concern to themselves and the farmers. This action on the part of the bankers of Iowa shows a real spirit of interest and a determined intention to understand.

Clark County (S. D.) Bankers, have appointed an agricultural committee of five to aid the county agent in putting across the latter's program of work, with special emphasis on a tomato corn contest and eradication of tuberculosis in the county.

**NOTICE!**

REMINDER, No. 1.

We are giving *S.N. Green Stamps* during our Big Sale that is now on

REMINDER No. 2.

We Close at 6 p. m.

**BROWN DRY GOODS CO.**

"The Green Stamp Store"