

FIFTH STORY IS ADDED TO NEW MERKEL HOTEL

ATHLETIC PARK URGED BY LIONS AS MERKEL NEED

Effort Will Be Made to Secure Centrally Located Ground and Enclose It For All Kinds Athletic Contests.

The need for an enclosed athletic park for Merkel was stressed at the meeting of the Lions club Tuesday following a report by S. A. Johnson, member of a committee appointed to investigate the possibilities of securing such a park.

Mr. Johnson stated that the lumber and other material for enclosing the park, exclusive of the labor, could be bought for about \$575. It is desired to have such a park located on the highway, where the advertising concessions on the fence would yield revenue, R. O. Anderson and Charley Jones, who own property on the highway east of town, indicated that the use of their ground would be permitted for such a park.

Superintendent Burgess and others spoke of the need for an enclosed park if Merkel was to have competitive games. It was also stated that surrounding communities were interested in the project, and that a number had indicated a desire to play their "match" games in Merkel in the event a suitable park was available. The committee was instructed to continue its efforts and report back to a later meeting of the club.

OLD MAIDS VS. BACHELORS.
Believe it or not, but old bachelors are of more benefit to the community than old maids.

At least that was the decision of a "jury" called upon to decide this question at the meeting of the Lions. The "jury" was composed of guests of the club—Jim Williamson, Owen Ellis, John Toombs and Finis Hogan. The subject for debate was, "Resolved That Old Maids Are of More Benefit to the Community Than Are Old Bachelors." A. H. Brackeen was appointed to champion the affirmative side of the question, selecting as his aid Rev. R. A. Walker. Dr. H. P. Hulsey represented the negative side, assisted by Dr. R. I. Grimes.

The debate brought out many "interesting points" on both sides and the prediction was freely made that it would be a "hung jury." Without leaving the "jury box," and after very brief deliberation, the verdict was rendered in favor of the bachelors.

Miss Christine Collins favored the club with two solos, accompanied by Miss Melba West at the piano, followed by a piano number by Miss West.

LARGENT CATTLE AT STOCK SHOW

When the Fat Stock Show at Fort Worth opens on March 9, C. M. Largent & Sons' fine Hereford herd from their Merkel ranch will again compete for prizes in the Hereford division. The Largent herd has won numerous prizes in past years.

In the group will be "Prince Domino the 151st," along with several other Herefords that have won blue ribbons at state fairs and expositions.

The Largent cattle have been shown throughout the North and East at the larger fairs, and have been liberal prize winners wherever exhibited. They have been shown at the Fort Worth Fat Stock Show for the past 23 years.

Sister Merkel Men Dies at Stephenville

Mrs. Johnson Compton, sister of J. F. and G. M. Sharp of Merkel, died at her home at Stephenville Thursday of last week. Funeral services were held the following day, with interment in the Stephenville cemetery.

G. M. Sharp, brother, and J. P. Sharp Jr., a nephew, attended the funeral. G. M. Sharp, the other Merkel brother, is recovering from a long illness and was unable to make the trip.

Mrs. Compton is survived by her husband and two daughters, one living at Abilene and the other at Stephenville.

City Election April 2

NEW PRODUCER IN TINER AREA

Texas Co. Carter No. 5 Comes in For Estimated Flow of 150 Barrels.

One new well, Texas Co. Carter No. 5, in the Tiner area was added to the producers in the Merkel oil territory, during the week, this well coming in Sunday for an estimated production of 150 barrels.

At least six completions, scattered throughout the various areas, are expected during next week.

The wildcat well at View, 12 miles south of Merkel, continues to swab about 12 barrels. No information has been made public as to the intention of the drillers regarding this well. It is generally believed that the hole will be drilled deeper if the swabbing tests do not materially increase the flow.

Four dry holes are reported, including the Grisham-Hunter No. 1; Roberts Oil Corp. Grayson No. 7; Phillips Petroleum Vestal No. 4, and White Eagle Oil and Refining Co. well, four miles southwest of Trent.

Emergency Measure Aids Taylor Schools

Expected passage of an emergency appropriation bill providing \$30,000 for state school aid, will prevent shortening of terms of 32 state aid schools in Taylor county, according to County Superintendent M. A. Williams.

News of the emergency appropriation was received at the office of the county superintendent Wednesday.

LINDY HURT IN LANDING PLANE

Mexico City, Feb. 28.—Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh's flying skill saved the life of his fiancée, Miss Anne Morrow, when their plane capsized on landing at Valbuena field Wednesday. The colonel received what embassy attaches describes as a "slightly dislocated shoulder blade." Miss Morrow was frightened but not injured.

Secrecy surrounded events of the day before and after the accident. Lindbergh was returning from an air trip of several hours with the girl he will marry. The airplane, a four-passenger monoplane named "The City of Wichita," had been crippled by loss of a landing wheel and the colonel faced a situation of unusual danger with the chances favoring a crash.

SHARKEY WINNER OVER STRIBLING

Flamingo Park, Miami Beach, Fla., Feb. 28.—The fistie hopes of W. L. (Young) Stribling, heavyweight pride of Georgia and the south, skyrocketed Wednesday night in the balmy tropical air—flaring high, then falling, extinguished in a sputtering blaze by the ramming fists of the big Boston sailor, Jack Sharkey, in a slashing ten round fight thrillingly close from start to finish. Sharkey had his hand lifted aloft, the victor, on the decision of Referee Lou Magnolia of New York.

Thus leaping back along the come back road that leads toward the crown cast aside by Gene Tunney last year, Sharkey out-pointed and outboxed his southern rival in a fast finish before a crowd of close to 40,000 in the most picturesque and colorful sports spectacle the Old South ever has witnessed.

Allday Buys Durham Home.

Tom Allday this week purchased the Jack Durham home and will occupy the place after March 6. Mr. Durham is moving to Albany, where he will be associated with his father in the publication of the Albany News, recently acquired. The deal was made through Thompson & Boswell.

Mayor, Two Aldermen and City Secretary to Be Chosen.

The first Tuesday of next month, April 2, is the date for the Merkel city election, at which time a mayor, two aldermen and city secretary are to be elected. The duties of tax assessor and collector are connected with the latter office.

The terms of Mayor Henry C. West, Aldermen H. L. Propst and Asa Sheppard expire with the April election, as does the term of Miss Johnson, city secretary, assessor and collector. Mr. Propst resigned several weeks ago on account of removing to Abilene.

No word has come from any of the present officers as to whether or not they will seek re-election, neither has there been announced the candidacies of any other persons for the various offices.

There has been no more than casual interest in the coming election so far, but with the date only one month off, the campaign is expected to assume definite proportions during the next few days.

G. F. West Suffers Broken Collar Bone As Car Turns Over

A broken collar bone and numerous body bruises were sustained by G. F. West Thursday morning when his car turned over at Trent. Mr. West was driving the car, which left the pavement, and in his efforts to right the machine back on the pavement, the car was overturned.

Mr. West was brought to his home in Merkel following the accident, where he received medical treatment, and was reported as resting comfortably Thursday afternoon.

Abilene Couple Married.
Grady W. Taylor and Miss Mattie Hurst, both of Abilene were married Tuesday afternoon at the Methodist parsonage, Rev. T. C. Willett performing the ceremony. They will reside in Abilene.

Recovering From Flu.
The flu epidemic has raged in the home of Rev. and Mrs. T. C. Willett for the past several days, all four of the children of the household having been ill at the same time. All are rapidly recuperating.

McCloskey Acquitted.
Austin, Feb. 28.—Judge Augustus McCloskey was acquitted by a jury here this morning on charges of vote fraud. The verdict was returned at 2 a. m. the jury having been given the case 55 minutes earlier.

Baby Girl Born.
A fine baby girl was born to Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Allison of Miami, Texas, this week at the home of the little tot's grand parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Byron.

THREE HURT IN ROAD ACCIDENT NEAR TRENT

O. G. Freeman and his son, F. E. Freeman, both residents of Trent, are in the Merkel sanitarium suffering from painful and serious injuries sustained in an automobile accident between Merkel and Trent Tuesday night.

The father's wounds are confined almost entirely to the head. A deep gash across the head was sustained, and he was nearly scalped. F. E. Freeman, the son, received severe head lacerations, broken ribs and perhaps internal injuries.

The Freemans were in a wagon going from Merkel to Trent when the accident occurred. They told hospital attendants that a car smashed into them from behind, evidently blinded by the headlights of another car traveling east. The injuries to the Freemans were sustained by being thrown

THOMAS DURHAM GOES TO ALBANY

Former Editor of Merkel Mail to Direct Publication of the Albany News.

Thomas Durham, for nine years editor of the Merkel Mail, has acquired the editorship and management of the Albany News, owned and edited by Richard McCarty for the past thirty years.

Mr. Durham assumed charge of the Albany paper this week, and will have associated with him his son, Jack Durham, who was connected with his father in the publication of the Mail. For the past several weeks Jack has been employed as a linotype operator at Austin.

Mr. McCarty issued a statement regarding relinquishing control of the Albany paper, in which he said: "I am after a breathing spell. I want to do some independent writing and travel a bit without having to hurry home and patch up a busted press. The wife and I are thinking of spending the summer in California."

Under the guidance of Mr. McCarty, the Albany News has been regarded as among the ablest edited weekly papers in Texas. His versatile writings on political questions and on community development have been widely quoted throughout Texas and in other states.

Friends in Merkel and throughout West Texas will rejoice that Mr. Durham has acquired so valuable property as the Albany News. Until six months ago he owned and edited the Merkel Mail, giving to its publication his best thought and effort and working at all times for the best interests of Merkel. He carries with him to Albany the best wishes of hosts of friends and the record of successful newspaper management in Merkel and other West Texas towns.

It is probable that Mr. Durham will not move his family to Albany until late summer.

Collector Will Aid Income Taxpayers

For the purpose of assisting income taxpayers in filing their returns for the year 1928, a deputy collector of the U. S. Internal revenue department will be in Abilene March 11, 12, 13 and 14.

This service is free to taxpayers, provided as a convenience, and citizens of the Abilene district of West Texas are invited and urged to avail themselves of the services of the deputy collector.

Brooks Patterson at Home.

Brooks Patterson, who has been seriously ill at the Merkel sanitarium following an acute appendicitis operation, was sufficiently improved to be removed to his home Wednesday.

KEEPING UP WITH TEXAS

Practically an entire block of frame buildings were destroyed by fire at Corpus Christi.

A marriage license was issued at Edinburg to a 73-year-old negro, who said that it was his eighth matrimonial venture.

Request of students of Trinity University that they be permitted to dance at the institution was refused by the faculty.

A fight in a boarding house at Brownwood resulted in the death of J. R. Wilson of Iowa Park and serious stab wounds to two other men.

R. W. Caruth of Dallas was kidnapped in broad daylight, forced to drive the kidnaper to the suburbs, where he was robbed of \$22 and his car.

Fire destroyed a large warehouse and unloading platform of the Texas Electric Service company at Odessa, causing damage of about \$150,000.

Mrs. Susan Thornton Price, 90, widow of the Rev. Sylvester T. Price, who died in Austin in 1861, died Sunday at the home of her cousin in Waco.

The court of criminal appeals has affirmed the death verdict given Henry Helms for his part in the robbery of the Cisco National Bank on Dec. 23, 1927.

Brownwood was selected as the next meeting place of the seventeenth district association of the American Legion at the recent convention held at Mineral Wells.

Federal court at Abilene will open on April 3, with Judge James C. Wilson of Fort Worth presiding. The court term is expected to last two or three weeks.

Rewards totaling \$2,750 have been posted for the arrest and conviction of the slayers of Glen A. Coulson, prominent Greenville capitalist, shot to death in his hotel apartment.

Safe blowers looted a Piggly Wiggly safe at Brownwood of several thousand dollars while the citizens were engaged in fighting and watching the burning of a large house which was being moved.

Judge W. S. Simpkins, 86, oldest members of the faculty of the law school of Texas University, died at his home in Austin Tuesday. Judge Simpkins was credited with having fired the first shot in the civil war at Fort Sumpter, S. C.

The Texas Hoover special train, bound for the inauguration ceremonies at Washington, left Dallas last night. The Cowboy band of Simmons University Abilene, is with the Texas delegation as the official band.

United States Senator Earl B. Mayfield, who will retire from the senate Monday, says he is undecided on his future plans, declaring he has flattering offers to locate in both Fort Worth and Dallas.

HOOVER CABINET ABOUT COMPLETE

Washington, Feb. 28.—As matters shaped up Wednesday night, friends of President-Elect Hoover believed the cabinet selections now stood:

Secretary of State, Henry L. Stimson of New York.

Secretary of Treasury, Andrew W. Mellon of Pennsylvania.

Secretary of War, James W. Good of Iowa.

Attorney General, William D. Mitchell of Minnesota.

Postmaster General, Walter F. Brown of Ohio.

Secretary of Navy, Charles Francis Adams of Massachusetts.

Secretary of Interior, Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur of California.

This still left in doubt the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce and Labor, although there were increasing reports that William N. Doak of Virginia would succeed James J. Davis of Pennsylvania in the Labor post. Agriculture and Commerce were regarded as still open, with final selections to be made within the next thirty-six or forty-eight hours.

DRS. GRIMES AND SADLER HOSPITAL TAKES TOP FLOOR

Sanitarium to Be Entirely Separate From Hotel With Private Elevator Entrance; Will Give Merkel Modern Hospital.

The new hotel for Merkel assumed more definite and greater proportions this week, when negotiations were concluded whereby the building, if erected, will be five stories high instead of four.

Drs. Grimes and Sadler reached an agreement with the builders whereby the entire fifth floor, which will be entirely separate and apart from the hotel proper, will be specially constructed for hospital purposes and occupied by the Merkel sanitarium. A long-time lease was agreed upon at a handsome rental, and the income will not only aid the builders in erecting the building, but will at the same time give to Merkel a more imposing structure and a modern hospital at the same time.

TWENTY-FIVE HOSPITAL ROOMS.

The new addition will consist of approximately 25 hospital rooms. A private elevator entrance, entirely separate from the hotel, will convey passengers and patients to the fifth floor, this entrance to be separated from the hotel by store buildings. The same modern conveniences planned for the hotel will be extended to the hospital, including hot and cold water, steam heat, etc. The arrangement will be such as to give to Merkel a sanitarium with conveniences and comforts equal to those to be found in the larger cities.

It is the purpose of Drs. Grimes and Sadler to furnish their new hospital home with the very latest equipment, in keeping with the excellent architectural design of the hotel building. The private elevator leading to the fifth floor will be large enough to convey injured patients to the hospital and operating rooms on specially constructed hospital lounges.

ASSET TO MERKEL.

The new hospital, which will be made possible only if the hotel is erected, means another step forward for Merkel. Drs. Grimes and Sadler, discussing their new hospital plans, said they could see bright prospects for Merkel—enough to justify the large expenditure that will be necessary to carry out their plans of enlarging and bettering their hospital facilities. It is their intention to spread out and keep pace with the growth of the town, hence their decision to join with the hotel movement and aid in providing two well worth projects at the same time. The Merkel sanitarium was established by them January 1, 1927, providing this immediate section with hospital facilities, but their proposed plans will provide an institution such as is not found in many towns of like size.

HOTEL SITE CHOSEN.

Another development of importance during the week in connection with the hotel matter was the selection of the site. Negotiations have been concluded whereby the hotel, if built, will be erected on the southwest corner of Elm and Lamar streets, in the same block with the postoffice and one block from the highway. The building will be faced north, and will occupy a space 75 feet on Elm street and running back 160 feet on Lamar street. Both these streets, already paved, are wide thoroughfares, thus furnishing ample parking space for automobiles. Mrs. Elva Harrington, who is negotiating for the building of the hotel, together with her associates, was here during the week and selected the location, which she said was ideal for hotel purposes. Mrs. Harrington, while here, reached an agreement with the hotel committee, of which R. O. Anderson is chairman, and Drs. Grimes and Sadler, for the erection of the fifth story. She announced that she was ready to begin operations as soon as Merkel had met the requirements as outlined when negotiations were first begun.

These requirements are that Merkel is to raise a bonus of \$12,500 for

(Continued on Page Four)

YOUR AUCTION SALE

If you should hold a public sale
Just let us know and without fail
Our bank will furnish you a clerk,
One well adapted to the work,
Who knows the folks, knows who is who,
So he can take good notes for you.
We also might your paper take
If you decide a sale to make.
The Farmers State Bank in every way
Will help to make your auction pay.

The Farmers State Bank

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS:

J. S. SWANN, President
R. O. ANDERSON, V. Pres.
DAVID HENDRICKS, V. Pres.
W. L. DILTZ, Jr., Cashier.
HERBERT PATTERSON,
Assistant Cashier
B. L. HAMILTON,
Assistant Cashier

WHAT'S DOING In West Texas

Many farmers of Spur, and others in Dickens county are planning to attend the Texas-Panhandle-Plains dairy show at Plainview in April, some of them taking prize Jerseys. The Spur Chamber of Commerce has assisted in placing \$10,000 worth of excellent cows in the Spur country.

Stamford is experiencing a remarkable growth in building with an addition of 1700 square feet to the city hall to house new fire fighting equipment, an \$85,000 West Texas Utilities ice house, one pretentious six story hotel, and a six story modern office building.

A. K. Short, Federal land bank representative of Houston and M. R. Bentley, agricultural engineer extension service, of A. & M. College, will hold a one day terracing school in Haskell the first of March in co-operation with County Agent Trice. Other county agents will assist in the work.

The goal of \$2,500 for a library for Olney has been oversubscribed \$500, and the purchasing committee has listed a number of books to be published. Half the \$2,500 goal was furnished by ten interested citizens to be given when it was equaled in other donations.

Elmo V. Cook, teacher of vocational agriculture in the Coleman high school is making a success of evening dairying schools held in the school house. Farmers interested in improving and increasing their herds make up a large percent of those attending.

San Saba has been put on the waiting list for a county home demonstration agent since a mass meeting of women at the court house asked for this service. Mrs. Amanda Cowan of the woman's auxiliary of the C. of C. and Miss Bertha Edwards of the extension service were influential in procuring the agent.

Work on a new city hall at Paducah has started. It is to be of brick construction, two stories high and will house, in addition to the city government, the fire department which now has about \$20,000 worth of equipment, the Chamber of Commerce, and will contain living and club rooms for the firemen.

A cash outlay of from \$55,000 to \$60,000 is being put into a new telephone system of the Bell Telephone company at Presidio. In addition to an entirely new system for Presidio the erection of a new office building, the lines to Marfa are also to be rebuilt.

The O'Donnell electric hatchery is now in operation under supervision of H. H. Williams. The big 18,000 egg Petersine electric machine was installed recently in the Fritz building and was set with eggs the middle of the month. Regular settings are to be made twice a week.

The February issue of West Texas Today, official magazine of the West Texas Chamber of Commerce, contained an advance story on the eleventh annual convention of the regional commercial organization which will be held in El Paso, May 13, 14, and 15. Pictures depicting scenes en route to the border city, and attractions there are also published.

The March issue of West Texas Today will be devoted almost entirely to Aviation and towns that have taken forward steps in this new means of transportation in West Texas. This issue follows the appointing of an Aviation committee and its meeting in Ft. Worth.

The new high school building at Big Spring which was recently completed is one of the most modern in West Texas, having 31 rooms, spacious auditorium, a gymnasium with a seating capacity of six hundred. The cost was approximately \$120,000.

NOTICE TO FARMERS.

I have bought a lot of Pure Bred Qualla Planting Seed which I have done at the request of a number of farmers; also will have a few bushels of Pure Delphos Big Boll Cotton. This has not been proven here, but I am anxious for several to try it out. I have several close friends that have tried it out and claim it will produce twice as much per acre as any other cotton.

These seed will sell for \$2.25 delivered here.

The Qualla will sell for \$1.65 delivered here.

See me at once and give your order for these seed and get them early.

L. L. MURRAY

The Old Reliable has always advocated DIVERSIFICATION and is glad to assist in a program which will invariably reflect a profit to the farmer regardless of the seasonal success or failure of the cotton crop.

DIVERSIFY



WE WILL HELP YOU

THE OLD RELIABLE

Farmers & Merchants National Bank

MERKEL, TEXAS

"For the past quarter century"

IT'S SURPRISING



A few packets of seed, spaded soil, a rake and some string — your planting's done.

HOW EASILY



Sunshine and moisture bring up the sprouts and the great miracle is on.

BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS

All summer they grow and bloom radiating color and fragrance.



ARE GROWN FROM

High growers, dwarfs, climbers, —reds, yellows, blues—all shades. —Everything you could want in annual flowers.



THESE SEEDS

Dependable Everywhere

Northrup, King & Co's Seeds

All Standard Size Vegetable Packets And Most Of The Flower Packets

5¢ Ask Your Dealer

NO BETTER SEEDS AT ANY PRICE

Endowment Campaign.

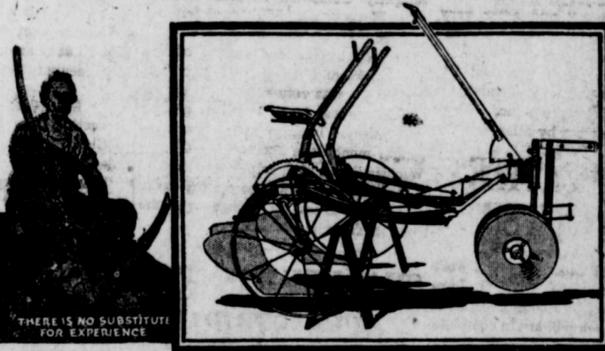
Dr. J. W. Hunt, president of McMurry College at Abilene, has announced March 19 as the date for launching a \$50,000 endowment campaign for the institution.

Arguello, said to have been 117 years old, is dead here after a week's illness.

Woman 117 Dead.

Edinburg, Feb. 28.—Mrs. Feliciano Arguello, said to have been 117 years old, is dead here after a week's illness. Until her last sickness she continued to do housework and had perfect eyesight, members of the family said.

AVERY PLAINSMAN LISTER



PERFECT BALANCE

An AVERY PLUS Feature

For 100 years Avery implements have expressed an ideal. It has been handed down from generation to generation. Now it is voiced in Avery Plus Features.

Thus, in the Avery Plainsman Lister you have in addition to exceptional quality, an outstanding Plus Feature. It is the perfect balance of the implement—a product of the creative ability, sincere effort, experience and skill of

Avery designers, inventors and craftsmen.

Whether at work or in transport, this celebrated lister is in perfect poise. The front wheels do not fly up in the air when the bottoms are raised. Weight of operator, weight of plows, position, size, have all been scientifically considered to produce this perfect balance. Result? A better lister and better work.

Avery Plus Features Make Money for You

In every case a Plus Feature saves time, saves labor, improves results. Thereby it makes money for you. Do you want this extra profit? Call upon us for further facts and a demonstration.

LIBERTY HARDWARE CO.
MERKEL, TEXAS

ABILENE PLANS FOR BIG CROWDS

Spring Exposition and Fashion Show to Last All Next Week; Entertainment Features.

Abilene, Texas, Feb. 28.—All arrangements for the spring exposition and fashion show, a new kind of entertainment feature for West Texas, which is to be held in Abilene all next week, have been completed and those in charge of the affairs are now waiting for the time to arrive and for the people from over the territory to come in and enjoy the various programs.

An outstanding feature of the week will be an elaborate fashion show at Fair Park Auditorium on Tuesday, March 5. This program will be given at 3 p. m. and again at 8 p. m. more than two dozen beautiful women will be used to model the new spring wearables and accessories. Musical numbers and other amusements will be included on the two hour program, which will be the most ambitious offering of the kind ever given in Texas outside one or two of the larger cities.

Six Abilene department stores are participating in this show and have pooled their resources in order to give the people of West Texas a real fashion show.

The opening attraction of the week will be the fine arts concert at Fair Park auditorium at 8 p. m. Monday, March 4, in which members of the fine arts faculties of Simmons University, Abilene Christian College and McMurry College will be presented in a brilliant, balanced and interesting program of musical numbers and dramatic offerings.

Other attractions of the week will include a special presentation of new ideas for spring in furniture and home decorating to be given Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of the week, from 7 to 10 p. m. each day, by the eight members of the local furniture association. An automobile show in which over 15 dealers will take part will be held on Thursday and a radio show will be given on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

In addition, Abilene manufacturers will hold their annual exhibit during the week and will have a very interesting display in which everything from lingerie to bricks and from boilers

All the attractions will be given free of admission and from the interest being manifested over the country, indications are that large crowds will see all of them.

INTERMEDIATE B.Y.P.U.

Subject: "The B.Y.P.U. and Missions."

1. The Purpose of the Church—Himalaya Swafford.
2. The Needs of the World—Benjamin Sheppard.
3. Bible Study and Missions—Doyle Morrison.
4. The Lives of Missionary Heroes—Mabel Pilcher.
5. Our Gifts and Missions—Howard Carson.
6. Our Prayers and Missions—Harry Boaz.
7. Our Lives and Missions—Vernie Derrick.

Special Offer Extended—On account of the bad weather during February we have extended our Special 25 per cent reduction on all sizes of Portraits during the month of March. See our advertisement.

TOUGH GOING



But not if you come here and exercise the proper precautions by supplying your car with superior Conoco Gasoline and the very best of oils. Pure gasoline and pure oils are necessary for perfect motor satisfaction, and that is what we dispense, plus courteous service at all times. The same high standard is maintained in our garage service.

EXPERT REPAIRING
GREASING, ETC.

Everybody's Garage
TELEPHONE 72

FOUR DEAD IN TEXAS STORMS

Dallas, Feb. 28.—A series of tornadoes and vicious twisters, attended by heavy rain and in some places large hailstorms, swept over portions of Central Texas early Monday morning, bringing death to four persons, serious injury to nine others and minor injuries to a score.

At Grand Prairie, Dallas county, halfway between Dallas and Arlington, two negroes were killed, four white persons injured and twenty or more homes and outbuildings demolished.

At Cooper, Delta county, two persons were killed, one probably fatally injured, a score received minor hurts and fifteen buildings were destroyed, entailing a loss of \$40,000.

At Mesquite, Dallas county, one man was slightly injured and there was a small property damage. The wind was high at Rowlett, Dallas county, and there was a deluge of rain accompanied by hail but no material damage.

Special Offer Extended—On account of the bad weather during February we have extended our Special 25 per cent reduction on all sizes of Portraits during the month of March. See our advertisement.

BANK HOLIDAY.

On account of Texas Independence day the undersigned banks will be closed all day Saturday, March 2, 1929. Patrons will please take notice and make their arrangements in accordance.

F. & M. NATIONAL BANK.
FARMERS STATE BANK.

Expecting car hulls any day. Swafford. Phone 44. So. Side.

Blair Items

Mrs. Jake Reeves, who has been real sick from the flu, is getting along nicely.

Mr. and Mrs. Fox of Oklahoma spent the past two weeks with the latter's sister, Mr. and Mrs. Elice Brooks.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Melton of Blackwell, Texas, spent the past two weeks with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Melton.

Jim Moore and Pat Addison, made a business trip to Ballinger Wednesday.

Allen James of Alba, Texas, is visiting his brother Mr. and Mrs. Riley James.

Ora Mayfield of Tye visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Mayfield, Sunday.

Mrs. Brown of Oklahoma, is spending an indefinite time with her son, Mr. and Mrs. T. N. Brown.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hughes visited Mr. and Mrs. Earl Hughes of Abilene Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. John Meeks and family spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Earnest Meek of Butman.

Mr. and Mrs. Emette Morris spent the week-end with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Phillips.

Tarlton Farmer, Mrs. A. L. Farmer, and Mrs. Hugh Campbell made a business trip to Abilene Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Doan of White Church visited their parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Doan, Friday.

Bro. and Mrs. Williams of Abilene dined with Mr. and Mrs. Jim Campbell Sunday.

Wanted—To buy maize heads.
\$18.00 per ton.
Sam Swann

Drink Crazy Water for Health.
City Drug Store.

Special Offer Extended

On Account of the Bad Weather During February We Have Extended Our

25%

Reduction on all sizes of Portraits during the month of March

Now is the time for that Portrait of Mother and Dad or that family group you have been thinking of.

Rodden Studio



WHY BUY HIGH PRICED FEED for your cows when you can grind your own feed and get more milk?

We have DAIRY FEED to sell.

We Grind and Gin on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Sam Swan

50,000 YOUNG GUINEAS and 50,000 CAPONS WANTED AT MERKEL PRODUCE CO.

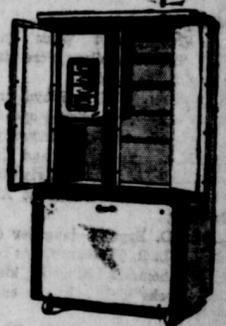
Call and see the manager for further information. It will be to your interest to investigate. It means increased income from your poultry yards.



Ask Our Salesmen
About Our
Preferred Stock

Ask Our Salesmen
About Our
Preferred Stock

This Is the NEW Frigidaire



Here is the most striking, convenient, dependable, efficient and quiet electric refrigerator, yes, FRIGIDAIRE you've ever seen! It's improved from top to bottom, made like the finest timepiece. . . . And priced LOWER, too! . . . It has power when you want it, always unflinching, keeping foods fresh and wholesome at all times!

These Are Ice Cubes from the NEW Frigidaire



Now you can have ALL the ice cubes you may want for water, teas, or what not. . . . And, too, your salads and desserts made quicker and better when placed in the FRIGIDAIRE where there is a constant low temperature. . . . Investigate this improvement of the NEW FRIGIDAIRE.

West Texas Utilities Company

THE MERKEL MAIL
Published Every Friday Morning
J.J. HUTCHISON, Editor

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
Taylor and Jones counties\$1.50
Anywhere else\$2.00
(In Advance)

TELEPHONE No. 61

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

SOME MORE BIG NEWS.

The talk and work in behalf of a new and modern hotel for Merkel has already borne fruit.

It has been the history of towns and cities that one new industry attracts another.

Announcement is made this week that Drs. Grimes and Sadler, as evidence of their confidence in Merkel and its future, have concluded arrangements whereby the fifth story will be added to the hotel and utilized by them in equipping and maintaining a modern hospital and clinic.

This information should encourage the citizenship of Merkel to greater activity. It means a larger and more imposing hotel structure, with the addition of a modern sanitarium coming as a gift so far as the citizenship of Merkel is concerned. A long-time lease at a heavy rental will justify the builders in erecting the fifth story, and the new arrangement means that Merkel will get two worth while institutions for the price of one.

Only \$2,500 stands in the way of Merkel securing both the hotel and the hospital. With \$10,000 of the required bonus already raised, it ought to be an easy matter to secure the remainder, when the increased property values and general civic betterment are taken into consideration.

As we see it, Merkel's future depends upon the raising of \$2,500. There ought to be enough volunteers in Merkel and this section to assure the building of the five story hotel and hospital in twenty-four hours.

The hotel committee will be out next week, but don't wait for them to call. Look up some member of the committee and place your name on the dotted line for a Greater Merkel.

Personal Mention

Mesdames A. M. Doherty and F. A. Polly were visitors in Abilene Tuesday. Mrs. Virginia J. Walker of Chicago is the guest of her niece, Mrs. Charlie Jones.

Miss Johnnie Sears returned to her home last week after an extended visit in Cuba.

J. S. Swann spent Tuesday at Albany in attendance upon the auction sale of Hereford cattle.

Marguerite, 12-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Cannon, has been quite ill with flu since Monday.

Mrs. Ruth Stratton of Trent is recovering from an acute appendicitis operation at Merkel sanitarium.

Mrs. A. B. Hughes of Waco and Mrs. W. W. Hair of Abilene were visitors in Merkel Wednesday.

Price Floyd, son of H. C. Floyd, underwent an acute appendicitis operation at Merkel sanitarium Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Largent and Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Largent were visitors to the Hereford auction sale at Albany Tuesday.

Mrs. Paul D. Bryant, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Thompson, has returned to her home at Edmond, Okla., after a two weeks' visit to her parents in Merkel.

W. E. Garoutte, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Morton, Miss Ernestine Morton of Snyder, and Mrs. Trixie Barton of Colorado were week-end visitors of the Misses Garoutte.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Coit and children have returned to their home in Richardson after a visit of several days with Mrs. Coit's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Warren.

Auto Licenses Cut Half by New Bill

Austin, Feb. 28.—Automobile license on a Ford coupe will be reduced to \$7.66 and on a Ford sedan to \$8.66 under the schedule of rates placed in the auto registration bill passed by the house of representatives. The bill makes approximate reduction of fifty per cent generally in the registration fees now effective.

The fee will be based on weight, omitting the horse power rating. Up to 2,000 pounds the charge on passenger cars will be 28 cents a hundred; from there to 3,500 pounds, 35 cents a hundred; from there to 4,500 pounds, 48 cents a hundred and above that 50 cents a hundred pounds.

Second sheets at Merkel Mail office.

Try a Classified Ad in the Mail

TEXAS SENATORS IN U. S. CONGRESS

(Copyright, 1923, by Alva O. Hearne)

SAMUEL BELL MAXEY (1875-1887)

Samuel Bell Maxey was born in Tompkinsville, Monroe county, Ky., on March 30, 1825. His family was of Huguenot descent and moved to Kentucky from Virginia. His father was clerk of the county and circuit courts of Clifton county, Kentucky.

Samuel Maxey attended common schools and was graduated from the military academy at West Point at the age of twenty-one. He was brevetted second lieutenant of the seventh infantry on July 1, 1846, and as second lieutenant of the eighth infantry on February 23, 1847.

During the Mexican war Lieutenant Maxey served at the siege of Vera Cruz, and the battle of Cerro Gordo. He was brevetted first lieutenant in August, 1847, for gallant conduct at Contreras and Churubusco. He was also at Molino del Rey and the capture of the city of Mexico. General Winfield Scott made him commander of a picked company in the city guard. After the war he was stationed at Jefferson Barracks, but resigned in September, 1849, returned to Kentucky and studied law. In 1850 he began the practice of law at Albany, Clifton county, Ky., where he served as clerk of the county and circuit courts and as master in chancery in 1852-1856.

He married a Miss Denton in 1853, and in 1857 removed to Paris, Lamar county, Texas, where he engaged in the private practice until 1858. In 1858-1859 he served as district attorney of Lamar county. Maxey had been brought up a whig, but the upheaval in politics made him a democrat. He voted for John C. Breckinridge and afterward favored the secession of the state.

In 1861 he was elected to the state senate for four years, but he declined and raised the ninth Texas infantry for the Confederate army, of which he was colonel, and joined General Albert Sidney Johnston in March, 1862, at Decatur, Alabama, whence he was sent to Chattanooga to collect and reorganize troops to be in preparedness for the possible advance of Buell. In the meantime he had been made a brigadier-general. He now served under General Bragg and assailed the rear of Buell's army on its retreat, driving it from Bridgeport, Battle Creek and Stevenson and making valuable captures of stores, etc.

He was under General Joseph E. Johnston in the defense of Jackson Mississippi. In 1863, President Davis ordered General Maxey to take command of the Indian territory. He organized that military district and placed 8,000 men under arms. In 1864, with these troops he assailed General Sterling Price at Prairie Dome, and at Poison Springs he fought General Frederick Steele and captured his entire train of about 227 wagons, thus compelling him to retreat. For these services he was made a major-general.

After the war General Maxey resumed the practice of law at his home in Paris, Texas, and was appointed judge but declined to accept the appointment. In 1874 he was elected to the United States senate and took his seat on March 4, 1875. He was re-elected to the United States senate in 1881. In addition to serving as chairman of the committee on postoffices, he was an active member of the committees on territories, military affairs, and labor and education. He endeavored to protect the frontier and insure its peace and safety, to grant liberal appropriations for rivers and harbors and other interior improvements, to procure greater postal facilities, and to increase our foreign trade by generous subsidies to steamship lines. His bills first asserted the right of way through the Indian territory, which was afterwards obtained for the railroads through that region. General Maxey favored revenue reform and regarded a protective tariff as unconstitutional and oppressive. His connection with the "Star Route" frauds was proved to be without foundation.

Upon his retirement from the United States senate on March 3, 1887, General Maxey located in Eureka Springs, Arkansas, where he died on August 16, 1895. He was buried at Paris, Texas.

Special Offer Extended—On account of the bad weather during February we have extended our Special 25 per cent reduction on all sizes of Portraits during the month of March. See our advertisement.

Wanted—To buy maize heads, \$18.00 per ton. Sam Swann



DINNER HONORING SISTERS.

G. S. Dunning was host at a dinner party Monday at which Mrs. J. L. Pollard and Miss Fannie McConnell of Princeton, Ky., were honor guests. Mrs. Pollard and Miss McConnell are sisters of J. W. McConnell and are enjoying a visit with their brother and family at the country home four miles west of Merkel.

A few close friends of the family were invited to partake of the excellent dinner and to meet Mrs. Pollard and Miss McConnell.

DINNED PARTY.

On last Sunday, covers were laid for twenty-one dinner guests at the hospitable home of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Dunning. Those present were: Mr. Sam Dunning and charming family and guest, Miss Gracie, from Roscoe; J. W. McConnell and family, Messrs. Frank Buckles, James Feizer, Barney Williams, Dr. Joseph Warmick, of Abilene; Mrs. J. L. Pollard, Miss Fannie McConnell.

The two last named from Princeton, Ky., are visiting their brother and family at their home four miles west of Merkel.

Fried chicken, back bone, spare ribs, snap beans, angel food cake and ice cream were served.

Mrs. Dunning is a charming hostess and lucky indeed are those fortunate enough to be present.

IDLEWISE.

Mrs. Matt Dillingham proved a most gracious hostess to members of the Idlewise club Tuesday afternoon. A color scheme of the more delicate shades of yellow was featured in candies, game appointments and refreshments. The club game of bridge was the diversion for the afternoon. A salad and ice course was served to Misses Iva Bragg, Mary Eula Sears, Boog Sears, Lucy Tracey, Mary Cleo Booth, Christine Collins, Mesdames George White, Roy Largent, Bill Brown, Harry Cookston, R. I. Grimes and Charlie Jones.

ABILENE VISITORS HONORED.

Mrs. Ollie Dye entertained in honor of her sisters, Mesdames Homer Scott, Owen Ellis, Bob Jones, Frank Lawler, C. O. Lynch and Pat Murphy, all of Abilene and at the same time complimented members of the Thursday club, on last Saturday afternoon in her attractive new home on Oak street. A candle motif was predominant in all party accessories and house decorations and clever indeed were the novelty stunts originated for the entertainment of her guests. Each table featured a different game providing a variety of fun as progressions were made. A delectable candle salad and punch in which the favored colors of red and green were stressed was passed to Mesdames Scott, Ellis, Jones, Lawler, Lynch, Murphy, Anderson, Sears, Dersine, Lassiter, Dye Gardner, Petty, Swann, West, Brown, Hughes, Haynes, Dillingham, Cummings, Anderson, Collins, Ferrier, Gamble, Grimes, Hicks, Jones, W. J. Largent, Tom Largent, McFarland, Scott, Warren, John West, Misses Valrie Dye, Cora Lee Hulsey, Melba West, Lucy Tracey.

CLASS PARTY.

Mesdames R. A. Burgess, Ross Ferrier, Elmer Lowe, B. L. Hamilton, and Herbert Patterson delightfully entertained members of their Sunday school class with a pretty George Washington party in the home of Mrs. Patterson on Tuesday afternoon. Seasonal contests and indoor games, preceded by a business session, completed the afternoon's entertainment and at tea time cherry pie and coffee were passed to Mesdames Kirchman, Ding, Hughes, Brackeen, Patterson, Thompson, Hicks, Morten, Ogle, Id-Oscar, Buford, Rush Buford, Hale, Tom Toombs, Richardson, Coats and the hostesses.

See us for Dallas Morning News. City Drug Store

NOODLE NEWS

The health of the community is not so well at present. Some still have the flu.

L. C. Jenkins has been sick, but is better at present.

Norman Sloan is sick with the flu. Little Miss Iris Eoff is sick. We hope she will soon recover to her former health.

Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Cade were called to View Sunday, where they attended the funeral of the baby of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas McGehee.

Miss Doris Mosbee of Anson spent the week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. O. W. Sosebee.

Bro. O. B. Tatum filled his regular appointment Saturday night and Sunday.

Lloyd Jenkins, from Ft. Worth, is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins.

Archie Clark, from Lubbock, visited his parents the week-end.

Mr. and Mrs. Gene Spurgin of Anson took dinner with Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Bicknell Friday.

Bro. J. J. Watson will preach at the M. E. church Sunday at 3 o'clock.

Everyone is invited to attend the choir practice Friday night. Good singers are expected from Anson and other places, so come and be with us.

RESOLUTIONS ON THE DEATH OF W. B. FARMER

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren of Merkel Lodge No. 710, A. F. & A. M. We your committee appointed to draft resolutions in memory of Brother W. B. Farmer, beg to submit the following:

Whereas on the 24th Day of December, 1928 at Abilene, Texas, it pleased the Grand Master of the Universe in his infinite wisdom, to remove from his earthly existence our dear Brother W. B. Farmer, and to transplant him a member of the Celestial Lodge Above, where the supreme Architect of the Universe presides, and

Whereas Brother Farmer was an honored member of this lodge, and held his membership with us for a number of years, and proves himself to be a Mason in the full sense of the teachings of the fraternity.

Therefore, be it resolved that in the death of our good brother the Masonic fraternity has lost a true Brother, and this lodge a worthy member, one who lived and practiced the true principals of our order, and in his everyday life was a living example of those great tenets, Faith, Hope, and Charity, having faith in God, hope in immortality, and charity toward all mankind, ever ready to lend a helping hand to a brother, or friend, to aid him in his efforts at reformation, and while we drop a sympathetic tear for his bereaved ones, we bow in humble submission to the will of our Heavenly Father, and leave in his hands the soul of our deceased brother.

Be it further resolved, that these resolutions be spread upon the minutes of this lodge, a copy delivered to the bereaved family, and a copy be handed to the Merkel Mail for publication, and that the members of this lodge wear the usual badge of mourning for thirty days.

Respectfully submitted,
C. L. Boswell,
S. A. Coats,
Tom Toombs.

Passed and approved at a stated meeting of Merkel Lodge No. 710, A. F. & A. M., held on the 23rd day of February A. D. 1929.

Attest: C. L. Boswell, Sec'y.
Merkel Lodge No. 710, A.F.&A.M. (Seal)

BANK HOLIDAY.

On account of Texas Independence day the undersigned banks will be closed all day Saturday, March 2, 1929. Patrons will please take notice and make their arrangements in accordance.

F. & M. NATIONAL BANK.
FARMERS STATE BANK.

We have the Famous Mineral Wells Water. City Drug Store.

Try a Classified Ad in The Mail

Fifth Story Added to New Merkel Hotel

(Continued from Page One)

the erection of the hotel. Ten thousand dollars of this amount has already been pledged, leaving a balance of only \$2,500 to be secured before actual work on the new hotel can begin. Mr. Anderson and his committee, meeting Tuesday afternoon, decided to make a determined effort to secure the remainder of the bonus money during the coming week, appealing to all those who have the interest of Merkel at heart to join in the hotel movement when the goal is almost in sight. The fifth story is to be erected without any additional bonus requirement, giving to the town a much more imposing building than was originally proposed.

NOW UP TO MERKEL.

"It is now up to Merkel to decide whether or not we are to have the new hotel," Mr. Anderson stated, "and the answer will depend on whether or not they subscribe only \$2,500 in the next few days to the hotel bonus. We have been talking hotel for several months and the time to act has now arrived."

Mr. Anderson and his committee will devote practically all of next week, or as much of it as necessary, in soliciting subscriptions to the hotel.

Resident of Lawn Dead.

Funeral services for Mrs. Ollie Harris, 34, wife of J. W. Harris of Lawn, were held at graveside in the Dewey cemetery five miles south of Lawn, Wednesday afternoon. Mrs. Harris died in a sanitarium at Abilene Tuesday morning. She had been living in the Lawn community for 15 years.

WANTED TO BUY.

Your chickens. Highest market price. You will find my coop back of Bob Martin's Store and I will be in the store.

J. L. Harris.

Crazy Water is here. City Drug Store.

Adding machine rolls at Merkel Mail office.

Salt Branch News

The farmers are rejoicing over the fine rain that fell Tuesday night.

Mrs. Austin Robertson, and daughter, Peggy Doris, spent last week with Mrs. S. W. Taylor at Sweetwater.

Mrs. W. M. Hays and Mrs. Henry Hester spent Tuesday afternoon with Mrs. Letha Petty.

We are glad to hear of the improvement of Mrs. Houston Robertson. We understand her mother, Mrs. Hogg of Palacios is visiting her and will spend some two months with her.

Rev. G. O. Summers will preach Saturday night, Sunday and Sunday night. A cordial invitation is extended to everyone to come and hear him. There will also be singing at 2:30 p. m. We have our new books. Let every one come and help.

Hobson Robertson is at court this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilson attended Sunday school Sunday.

Fay Pinckley has had the flu, but is improving.

Ouida Rice has had the flu. School is progressing nicely. We think our teachers are the best yet.

Mrs. W. E. Petty has been on the sick list this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Harrell visited Mr. and Mrs. Houston Robertson Sunday night.

Electric lighting on a large scale was first used by John Wanamaker in his Philadelphia store. This was in 1878, soon after Charles F. Brush, of Cleveland, had developed an electric dynamo at Franklin Institute in Philadelphia. The newspaper referred to the arc lights as "miniature moons held captive in glass globes."

Nothing like a refreshing drink. Try our fountain service. Phillips Drug Store.

Wanted—To buy maize heads, \$18.00 per ton. Sam Swann

A complete stock of fresh drugs and everything in medicines. Phillips Drug Store.

Before you Build a Home See
CLAY LUMBER CO.
We can help you finance it, can give you service, furnish you with best grade of any kind of material and save you money.
WHY NOT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SAVING AND BUY FROM CLAY LUMBER CO.
"Make her happy. Build a home first."

Dry Cleaning Service!
Use the telephone and our driver will collect your soiled garments at once and will return them in a very short time—fresh, clean and as good as new.
CITY DRY CLEANERS
"Sudden Service" Kent Street
Phone 189

LOST YOUR APPETITE?
Well, our fresh and cured meats and the many meat combinations will restore your appetite unless you are mighty sick. Try something good to eat today and see how much better you feel.
WHEELER & VAUGHN
Phone 107
Order Thru Your Groceryman for Delivery

RIDDLE GARAGE
Now at the H. H. Hand Location on Kent Street.
ACETYLENE WELDING, VULCANIZING, RADIATOR REPAIRING, BATTERY REPAIRING
We appreciate your patronage
Kent Street Phone 53

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE

FOR SALE OR TRADE—Just completed, brand new, compact, bungalow home, 4 rooms and bath, all conveniences, close to school. Will sell on liberal terms or trade for equity in good farm. Booth Warren.

LOTS FOR SALE—In Haynes-Moody addition, Merkel's choicest residence section; gas, electricity and water on each lot. For further information see John S. Hughes.

SORGHUM FOR SALE—Good bundles, good heads, bright feed, better than red top; 5c per bundle, three miles northeast of Trent. Pete Neill.

BABY CHICKS from M. Johnson Imperial and Star mating strains; 100, \$15.50; 300, \$15.00; 500, \$14.50; 1000, \$14.00 per hundred. J. S. Touchstone, Hawley, Texas, Box 77. Phone 9036F13 Anson, Texas.

FOR SALE—Good used Ford cars. Blue Front Service Station.

SPAN MULES for sale or trade; span large mare mules to trade for truck; will sell and give terms. Comper Store, Merkel, Texas.

FOR SALE—Rhode Island Red Eggs for setting, Owens farm strain, 75 cents per setting. Bill Harwell Merkel, Route 1.

FOR SALE—Three head heavy work stock, disc plow, double row cultivator and planter. Will take cattle as part on time. See me at my farm, eight miles northeast. T. W. Collins.

FOR SALE—50 fine leghorn hens, Johnson Strain. \$1.00 each. J. W. Teaff, Route 4.

FOR SALE—Cord Wood. \$2.50 a cord while it lasts. 1 1-2 miles North of town. Phone 8. J. S. Swann.

FOR SALE—One pony disc, good as new; one good Mr. Bill Planter; one sorrel mare. R. E. Cole.

Used Cars with an O. K. That Counts
Three days' trial. If not satisfied cash back on any new or used car. Price paid.

CHEVROLETS
1926 Chevrolet Touring. This is a good one.
Chevrolet Sedan, a bargain \$175.00
1927 Chevrolet roadster, new paint, looks good runs good.
1925 Chevrolet touring, a good looking, serviceable car, curtains, good rubber, O. K. \$185.00
1925 Chevrolet touring, fair condition \$150.00

FORDS
1924 Ford Roadster, new paint \$85.00
1928 Model A Ford Tudor \$395.00
1924 Ford coupe, bargain.
1924 Ford touring, good condition \$85.00
Some for \$25.00.
1925 Dodge Touring, new top, new paint, motor good.
BRACKEEN-HUGHES CHEVROLET CO.
"Home of Better Used Cars"

FOR SALE—Silver Lace Wyandotte eggs, 75c for fifteen. Voll Cantrell, Merkel, Route 3.

FOR SALE—Fresh Jersey cow with heifer calf. Swafford Coal Yard. Phone 44.

FOR SALE—Good clean, 2 yr. Kasch Cotton Seed at \$1.00; made better than 1-3 bale per acre; picked early. Comer Haynes, Route 4.

FOR SALE—Dark Cornish game eggs. See Robert Hicks.

FIVE TONS of maize, \$25.00 per ton; also good sorghum. G. F. Turner, Route 1, Box 21.

FOR SALE—Dining room suite, cabinet and cook table. Mrs. P. T. Allday.

FOR SALE—Old lumber suitable for wood. Phone 209.

FOR SALE—240 acres land, 65 in cultivation, \$13.50 an acre. Terms. See Booth Warren.

WANTED

WILL TRADE lot with small house in Abilene for car or stock. Claud Smith, Trent, Texas, Route 2.

WANTED—To trade Lot 13, block 52, Haynes Addition, on good used car. E. M. Sherman, Trent, Texas.

WANTED—Some Laundering; work done the electrical way; all work guaranteed; also first class rooms, modernly equipped, for rent. Mrs. Dan Reidenbach.

FOR RENT

FOR RENT—One bed room; Close in. Call 149W.

FOR RENT—5 room house. C. S. Higgins.

FOR RENT—Two furnished rooms. Mrs. A. J. Cannon.

FOR RENT—An apartment, modern conveniences; also milk cow for sale. Mrs. N. Casseau.

TWO FURNISHED rooms for rent and two turkey gobblers for sale. Call at L. M. Howard's Store, Noodle, Texas.

FOR RENT—Two furnished rooms for house-keeping, or one bedroom; first house north Christian church. Mrs. Bradshaw.

FOR RENT—Four room house, gas, water and lights, in south Merkel. George Moore, Phone 265W.

TWO FURNISHED rooms for rent. Mrs. George Moore. Phone 265W.

LOST AND FOUND

LOST—Black and white spotted hound, yellow dots over eyes, trap scar on foot. Notify D. P. Moore, Route 4. Phone 9026 F21.

Wanted—To buy maize heads. \$18.00 per ton. Sam Swann

Try a Classified Ad in the Mail

"The Trail of '98" Booked By Manager Nesmith of Queen

Manager S. P. Nesmith of the Queen Theatre announces that he has booked "The Trail of '98" the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer special production for a showing on March 14th-15th-16th. This production is hailed by its producers as the successor to "The Big Parade," and, according to reports, is of road show magnitude.

"The Trail of '98" is a picturization of Robert W. Service's famous novel of the Klondike gold rush and is said to be an excellent screen picture of Alaska in those stirring days of '98 when the eyes of the nation turned toward our ice bound possession where man was endeavoring to find gold in its frozen soil. Among the highlights of the production are the gigantic snowslides burying thousands in its path; the lifetaking trek of the gold-seekers up the famous Chilkoot Pass; the shooting of the famous White Horse Rapids of the Yukon River in flimsy wooden scows, and the burning of Dawson City, perhaps the most famous gold camp the world has ever known. Woven among these many thrills is an appealing romance of a boy and girl thrown together by the rush to Alaska for gold.

Delores Del Rio, Ralph Forbes, Karl Dane, Tully Marshall and Harry Carey head a cast of 15,000 people. The direction is by Clarence Brown who is responsible for the Gilbert and Garbo pictures which have delighted theatre-goers the world over.

= Gafton =

TRENT, TEXAS

Where Everybody Goes—Always a Good Show—Fine Music!

TODAY, FRIDAY MARCH 1
WARNER BROS. PRESENT

"WOMEN THEY TALK ABOUT"

With Irene Rich, Audrey Ferris and William Collier
A picture that will give you plenty to think about and more to talk about. Also

"TARZAN THE MIGHTY"

The Year's Greatest Serial Sensation, and Cartoons.

SATURDAY

"UNDER THE BLACK EAGLE"

With Flash, the Wonder Movie Dog. A Picture that is different. One you will like.

Also Comedy and News

MONDAY AND TUESDAY

"WINGS"

With Clara Bow, Buddy Rogers, Richard Arlen and Gary Cooper.

You have heard enough and know enough about this great masterpiece. You must see it. Probably your last opportunity.

Also Selected Short Subjects

WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY

"THE SHOP WORN ANGEL"

With Nancy Carroll and Gary Cooper. A Positive Knockout
See it.

Also Fine Short Subjects.

COMING

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN"

The Greatest American Classic since 'The Birth of a Nation'

"REDSKIN"

Another Vanishing American. In Color

Clara Bow in

"THREE WEEK ENDS"

HOT	* * * * *	NO CLINKERS
HARD	* ALAMO	* LITTLE ASH
BRIGHT	* COAL	* PRACTICALLY
CLEAN	* * * * *	SOOTLESS

A WONDERFUL COAL
Will have Car of this on track first of next week.

SWAFFORD

Phone 44 So. Side

Saturday Specials

--From--

Clarence Saunders Store

FLOUR	FLAKY WHITE. 48's	\$1.85
SUGAR	Imperial Cane, 25 Pound Bags	\$1.65
	Imperial Cane, 10 Pound Bags	65c
BACON	SWIFT'S PREMIUM Breakfast, 1 Pound Cartons	45c
COFFEE	Maxwell House, 3 Pound Cans	\$1.47
	Maxwell House, 1 Pound Cans	50c
COFFEE	WAPCO 3 Pound Cans	\$1.25
MILK	Carnation, Tall Cans	11c
	Carnation, Baby Size. Six Cans	33c
LETTUCE	NICE CRISP ICE BERG	8c
BANANAS	NICE RIPE GREEN TIP	10c
CABBAGE	NICE GREEN HEADS 1 Pound	4½c
GRAPE FRUIT	NICE FRESH TEXAS STOCK EACH	5c
APPLES	DELICIOUS CHOICE 163's A Dozen	30c

Phone 69 Pay Cash and Pay Less We Deliver

SPRING CLEAN-UP AND PAINT-UP CAMPAIGN

Spring is just around the corner. Who will be the first to start the ball rolling? A few dollars worth of paint on that store front will add hundreds of dollars to its appearance. The same will apply to your home or garage.

LET'S MAKE MERKEL THE CLEANEST, PRETTIEST CITY TO BE FOUND ANYWHERE.

A little paint and elbow grease will do it. We have the paint if you have the other. We are willing to help by reducing the price of paint, and will sell you **SHERWIN-WILLIAMS PAINT** at the following prices:

S W P Glass White (the world's standard), per gal. **\$3.35**
S W P Regular Colors, per gallon, **\$3.20**
S W P Paste Paint, one gallon makes three, per gal. **\$3.45**
S W P Family Paint, a good all purpose paint, per gallon, **\$2.75**

Roof and Bridge Paint, a heavy bodied Lead and Oil Paint, Black, per gallon, **\$1.85**
A Good Varnish, per gallon, **\$2.85**

REDUCED PRICES ON OUR ENTIRE PAINT LINE

Remember, **SHERWIN-WILLIAMS PAINT** is the very best to be had, and at these prices you can't lose.

In order to maintain these prices we must have cash at time of sale. Nothing booked at these prices.

BARROW FURNITURE CO.

THE BADGER WEEKLY

Published weekly by the students of Merkel High School and sponsored by the Junior Class of '29—Vera Baker sponsor.

The Staff:

Editor-in-Chief—J. T. Darsey Jr.
 Asst. Editor-in-Chief—Milton Case
 Sport Editor—J. D. Ashby.
 Humor Editor—Willie Harris.
 Society Editor—Dorice Brown.
 Willie Evelyn Boaz.

Miss. Editor—Frances Frederickson.
 Senior Reporter—Raymond Earthman.
 Junior Reporter—J. T. Darsey Jr.
 Sophomore Reporter—Louise Booth
 Freshman Reporter.

DISTRICT BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT.

The following are the tabulated results of the tournament held by District No. 8 at Roby on Friday, Feb. 22, to decide the championship in basketball.

- Abilene vs. Denton, 35 to 17.
- Colorado vs. Stamford, 34 to 20.
- Big Spring vs. Snyder, 35 to 21.
- Blackwell vs. Peacock, 19 to 18.
- Goree vs. Merkel, 30 to 15.
- O'Brien vs. Jayton, 21 to 5.
- Albany vs. Roby, 21 to 20.
- Abilene vs. Colorado, 28 to 12.
- Big Springs vs. Blackwell, 31 to 22.
- Goree, by 21.
- Jayton, by 5.
- Albany, by 36.
- Abilene vs. Big Spring, 35 to 18.
- Goree vs. Albany, 19 to 7.
- Abilene vs. Goree, 37 to 19.
- Abilene champions.

Goree was one of the speediest little teams ever seen in this district. They put Merkel out of the race the first game and swept all opposition by even greater score until they met Abilene in the final game Saturday night.

Roby is to be highly commended and the Merkel boys and coach reports a good time even if they were forced out in the first game.

Abilene was decidedly the best team for they won their games by good margins. They will represent district No. 8 against Cisco this week for bi-district title.

SOPH NEWS.

We are sorry to know that Opal Foster, Artie McCormick, Marie Stanford, Ola Smith, Vera Richie, Maurice Frederickson, and Selma Jones are all absent from our Sophomore class and we hope they will soon be with us again.

SAY, DIDJA' KNOW—

—That even tho' the Badgers were unable to win the championship in District 8 in basketball, it took the "finalists" to defeat them?

—That the old' high school is only hitting on about three because so many of the students have the "flu"?

—That during the last two weeks there have been \$50.00 worth of books added to our Library for the public speaking class, so that they may meet the requirements and get affiliation?

—That Miss Sloan spent last weekend with Mrs. Claud Young in the latter's Abilene home?

—That Supt. and Mrs. Burgess motored to Roby last Friday to see Merkel perform in the district tournament and then went on to Rotan, where they spent a very pleasant Friday night and Saturday with Rev. and Mrs. J. W. Mayhew, a former pastor of the Methodist church here and now stationed in Rotan?

—That at present the following Juniors are out of school because of illness: Milton Case, Carlos Montan-

don, Doris Brown, Eleanor Mae Hamilton, and Hilda Rister.

—That several of the students are taking make-up examinations this week?

—That the speech arts class is to celebrate with a party Friday night?

STUDENTS AID IN PROGRAM.

The following program was given by a number of H. S. students who are members of the Epworth League last Sunday night at the Methodist church:

1. Song service.
 2. Prayer.
 3. Special song by the young people.
 4. Reading—Mollie Frank Touchstone.
 5. Talk—Mr. Lee Cox.
 6. Special music—Lynn McSpadden.
 7. Reading—Girle Lou Pee.
 8. Talk—Dr. Willett.
 9. Reading—Marvin Hunter.
 10. Special song—Roy Largent.
 11. Playette—"Thanksgiving Ann."
- Characters:
 Thanksgiving Ann—Mattie Lou Largent.
 Mrs. Allen—Beryl Hunter.
 Mr. Allen—Nadine Tippett.
 Children—Odell Hunter, Girtie Lou Pee, and Mollie Frank Touchstone.
 Hired man—Thelma Leach.

WHO'S WHO WINNERS.

The following is the final result of the Who's Who in M. H. S. contest:

1. Best Looking Boy—Fred Guitar.
2. Friendliest Girl—Lola Shelton.
3. Best All-Around Girl—Addie Fae Patterson.
4. Best Student—Elvis Richardson.
5. Most Athletic Boy—Finis Cade.
6. Best All-Around Boy—Lee Darden.
7. Cleverest Boy—Raymond Earthman.
8. Cutest Girl—Nadine Tippett.
9. Peppiest Girl—Louise Booth.

My Greatest Ambition.

I have always admired school teachers who wore glasses. My greatest ambition is to be one of these, an old maid school teacher with cork-screw curls and glasses on her nose.

—Ruby Patton.

My Outstanding Ambition.

Every person, great, large, big or small, has dreams or desires for the future. I have one real desire that stands above all others. As I heard Mrs. Young say one day that some day she intended to keep house for her husband. As she has taught school for many years and is sponsor of the Senior class of '29, her nerves will fail her, and my greatest ambition is to be her kitchen maid.

—Lois Suber.

My Greatest Ambition.

My greatest ambition is to learn to cook and to sew so that I can make some lonely old bachelor a happy and

efficient wife. I hope now that an old bachelor with a big income will take what I have said to heart and notify me real soon. I am very anxious to get settled down in a cozy little cottage, built for just two, with vines growing over the door and the flowers growing large in the kisses of the autumn sun.

—Ima Gene Mangum.

My Ambition.

As everyone must have some kind of ambition in life, I have decided that mine was to be a stenographer in some city. I also wish to travel.

—Bernice Lassater.

My Highest Ambition.

My highest ambition is to be able to write poetry like Miss Beryl Hunter, and to have a master mind like the Junior editor, J. T. Darsey.

—Will Sheppard.

Fred Humes' Horse "Lightning" Feature in "Arizona Cyclone"

"Lightning" the horse ridden by Fred Humes in his latest string vehicle "Arizona Cyclone," is considered one of the best trained horses in pictures. "Lightning" does about everything but talk and he has ways and means of almost getting that over.

In "Arizona Cyclone," the Universal Western which is coming to the Queen Theatre Friday and Saturday, "Lightning" is seen to supreme advantage. At one time when his master, in the picture, Larry Day, finds himself in a particularly tight place in having to rescue his employer from death on a runaway horse, he takes after him of his own accord and runs him down with little effort on the part of his rider.

Lillian Gish has furnished the world many surprises; her roles have ranged from the picturesque sweetness of "Romola" to the tragic sacrifice of "Mimi," but it has remained for "The Wind" her newest Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer vehicle, playing at the Queen Theatre, Monday and Tuesday, to bring out a new side to the actress' many-sided versatility.

Try a Classified Ad for Results.

Regular Meeting of Boy Scouts Tonight

All local scouts and boys of scout age are asked to be present at the Presbyterian church tonight at 7:30 for the regular scout meeting, as there will be important business as well as some real fun for visitors. The contest is still on and the scout who gets the most recruits wins the fine scout hand ax or the official Boy Scout knife, so if you are as much as 12 years of age and want to join this organization of the wideawake boys of the world—tell some scout about it, or better still, be there yourself tonight.

Use The Mail Want Ads.

Get a roast or steak from our choice Home Fed Baby Beef. Chickens and Turkeys dressed to order. Fresh Oysters and Cat Fish. Quality Market. Phone No. 2.

QUEEN

SHOWING THE PICK OF PICTURES

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

FRED HUMES IN "THE ARIZONA CYCLONE"

Glamorous Adventure and Romance under Arizona skies. Some gripping entertainment that you will long remember. Also the fourth chapter of "Tarzan The Mighty" and a good two reel comedy "Follow Teacher"

MONDAY AND TUESDAY

LILLIAN GISH IN "THE WIND"

One of the Big Pictures of the year—this epic of pioneer days of the untamed West. Rarely has one screen play had two such thrills as the Cyclone Scenes and the Wild Horse Stampede. Also comedy "All Parts" and International News Reel

WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY

TED WELLS IN "GREASED LIGHTNING"

A lightning tale of Outlaws, Love and Romance of the West. Also comedy "Shifting Scenes" and Kinogram News

Coming Monday and Tuesday March 11-12

DOLORES DEL RIO IN

"REVENGE"

Daring! Dazzling!

Hail !!! SPRING is HERE !!!



And to Formally Open the Season On March 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 the

Spring Exposition and Fashion Show

Will Be Presented in Abilene For the People of West Texas

FINE ARTS CONCERT

Monday, March 4, 8:00 P. M.
 Fair Park Auditorium

Presented by talent from the Faculties of the Fine Arts Departments of Stansbury University, Abilene Christian College and McMurry College

A brilliant, diversified and delightful presentation.

Furniture and Home Decorating Exposition

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Mar. 4, 5, 6
 From 7 to 10 P. M. Each Day

The right members of the Abilene Furniture Association will hold Open House at their individual establishments and will have on display all the new things for making the home attractive, comfortable and interesting. . . . valuable premiums will be distributed.

RADIO SHOW

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
 March 6, 7, 8—All Day Each Day
 Hilton Hotel Annex

An elaborate showing of all that's new and good in radio sets. . . . over fifteen different makes and approximately 150 styles will be exhibited and explained by radio technicians.

For Your Enjoyment

That is the object of the Spring Exposition and Fashion Show. The newest and best in many lines of merchandise will be shown. . . . highly enjoyable entertainment features offered and interesting displays of products made in Abilene factories, exhibited.

In addition the individual business establishments of the city will hold "Open House" during the week for all who will visit them.

Everybody in West Texas is invited to attend the various programs of the week.

SPRING STYLE SHOW

Tuesday, March 5—Two Showings
 3:00 P. M. and 8:00 P. M.
 Fair Park Auditorium

Fashion's newest and latest for the Midland. . . . a radiant offering of the season's bewitching productions. . . . glorious models. . . . and an event that will hold your interest.

AUTOMOBILE SHOW

Thursday, March 7—All Day
 Fair Park Motor Company Building,
 North Fourth and Wilson

Over 20 different makes of motor vehicles will be shown. . . . Dealers participating in the combined show will hold open houses at their separate showrooms, each day of the week.

ABILENE MANUFACTURERS' EXHIBIT

Opens 5:00 p. m., Tuesday, March 5. . . . open each day and closing of the week. . . . closing 1:00 p. m., Saturday, March 9. . . . to Hall Building at 1070. . . . 16 Second Street.

Abilene factories will display their products and many favors will be given visitors.

THIS IS ABILENE'S TREAT—IT'S ALL FREE!



Extremely LOW RATES to the SOUTHWESTERN EXPOSITION AND FAT STOCK SHOW Ft. Worth—Mar. 9-16

TICKETS ON SALE MAR. 6-14 inclusive

THE TEXAS & PACIFIC RAILWAY

RETURN LIMIT MAR. 17th

Beginning Tests For Removal of Hydrogen Sulphide From Oil

Fort Worth, Feb. 28.—One of the major problems confronting producers and refiners of crude oil in Texas may have been solved if tests now being started at the Port Arthur refinery of the Texas Company are successful. This problem is the removal of sulphur and hydrogen sulphide from the crude oil which has these elements in large amounts. More than 300,000 barrels in West Texas daily and the low price received for this oil, in comparison with so called sweet oil, is due to the presence of these sulphurous elements.

A chemical process has been invented by W. J. Anson of Los Angeles, Cal. which removes at a low cost per barrel all of the hydrogen sulphide from crude oil, according to the claims of the inventor. Application for letters patent has been made on this process, which is unique in that it does not involve the application of heat or pressure to the crude in removing the undesirable sulphur elements and therefore does not lower the Baume gravity nor the percentage of recoverable gasoline.

Mr. Anson has signed an optional contract with the Texas Company for the erection of a working model plant at the company's Port Arthur refinery, where complete tests will be made within the next thirty days.

Child Dies at View.

Funeral services were held at View Sunday afternoon for Clois Beryl McGehee, 11-month-old son of Mrs. T. M. McGehee. Burial was in the cemetery at View. The child died Saturday night following a short illness.

The telephone industry annually purchases thousands of new poles to replace old ones and for the construction of new lines. Ninety per cent of all poles purchased at the present time are treated with creosote and other preservatives to lengthen life and guard against attacks of insects. Yellow pine is used to a greater extent than any other timber, 40 per cent of all poles being of this material. Chestnut poles amount to 19 per cent, northern white cedar 18 per cent, and western red cedar 17 per cent.

Second space at Merkel Mail office.

Baird Key Rate Cut.

Baird, Feb. 28.—Mayor H. Schwartz has received notice from the Fire Insurance Department that Baird has been given the maximum good fire record credit of 15 per cent, effective March 1. During the past 12 months the key rate has been reduced from 60 to 43 cents and another small reduction has been applied for with the removal of telephone and telegraph poles from Market Square.

More than 250 million dollars worth of lighting fixtures, a new high record, were manufactured in the United States last year and attest the increasing appreciation of adequate illumination in homes and work places.

Try a Classified Ad in the Mail

Sherman Succeeds Mexia.

Sherman, Feb. 28.—Sherman will take over the franchise of Mexia in the Lone Star loop and that organization will continue a six-club league, President T. H. Fisher of Paris advised L. H. Young, local chairman, in officially notifying him that a berth has been awarded this city.

Bandits Make Big Haul.

Marshall, Feb. 28.—Two unmasked bandits held up and robbed Clarence Saunders' store on West Houston Avenue Saturday night at 11:15 o'clock, bound and gagged Hughie Sanders, proprietor of the store, and Richard Buesch, employe, and escaped with \$2,200 in cash.

Try a Classified Ad in the Mail

Houston Daylight Robbery.

Houston, Texas, Feb. 28.—Choosing a time when the streets were crowded with shoppers, an unmasked bandit held up the Queen Theatre, in the center of the business district, here late Saturday and escaped with \$535.

Road Inspector Convicted.

Houston, Texas, Feb. 28.—Morris C. Laine, Harris County road inspector, Saturday night was found guilty of murder and given a term of five years in the penitentiary for slaying T. F. Conoway in front of the First Baptist church on Oct. 2, 1927.

Bargains: We have connections with oil companies, oil brokers and investors in real estate. It will pay you to list your holdings with us. Thompson and Boswell

Fatal Knife Wound.

Wellington, Feb. 28.—Roy Oatman, 30, farmer residing near here, died early Sunday morning of a wound received in the neck which severed his jugular vein.

A short time later Ed Fulcher was taken to a hospital suffering with severe cuts. Oatman is survived by three daughters.

Night Watchman Shot.

Texarkana, Feb. 28.—Elmer C. Schuster, night watchman, was shot through the leg when he surprised a burglar attempting to crack a safe at a garage here. Although dangerously wounded, Schuster walked four blocks to a telephone to call police.

Adding machine rolls at Merkel Mail office.

West Texas Moves East.

Midland, Feb. 28.—E. E. Bryant, Midland oil man, went to a hotel in Leck, small oil town in Winkles county, and registered for a week. He left the town on business for a few days, leaving his bags and clothes in his hotel room.

When he returned his bags and clothes were gone.

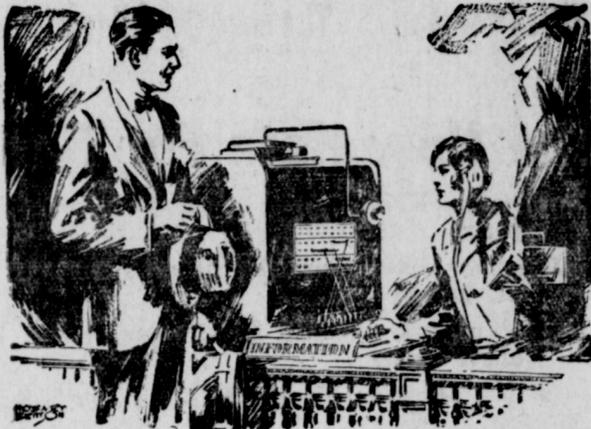
But so was the hotel! Bryant found his clothes in Winkles in the same Leck hotel. While he was away, the hotel was jacked up and moved to Wink.

Wanted in Four States.

Houston, Feb. 28.—Lew Rand, wanted in Lawrence, Kan., Beaumont, Texas, and in Nebraska and Missouri on bad check charges, was arrested in a downtown hotel here.

OPPORTUNITY BECKONS

Men of ability and character, who are willing to give all they have to the organization and development of territory in the service.



Parents and Pencils

(Courtesy of American Ex. Nat. Bank, Dallas)

A NAME is announced. The door swings open and there enters a confident and respectful individual with brief case in his hand.

Some call him another insurance agent. They pretend to be busy and ask if he can call at some other time.

Others have come to know this man as a friendly counsellor, a creator of estates where no estates grew before, a man who carries in his brief case happiness and luxury and security in the days that are to come.

Policies and premiums and riders and beneficiaries is the language of the call. Facts and figures are tossed about and destiny hangs on the point of a pencil.

From out a frame on the desk or from off the wall comes a cherubic smile. The poised pencil of the visitor is resolutely snatched and down goes the name on the dotted line. Trusting little lives have been protected.

More Than the Law Demanded

Agents Wanted Now

THIS
79 YR. OLD NEW YORK
LIFE INS. CO.
WILL
RE-LOCATE
IN
WEST TEXAS

TRAINING
FURNISHED WITHOUT
ANY COST
PROFITS MADE
DURING TRAINING

PERIOD

WHY THE "OLD RELIABLE"

For twenty years I have heard the Manhattan Life Insurance Company spoken of as the "Old Reliable." Some months ago I began to search through dusty records of the years that have passed since first the company began its career, in order to find out why it has acquired this name.

In reading the records of board meetings, policy records and such like, there is revealed a story of service to thousands of American people. There is found the record of the humble workman in the factory, who has practiced economy to carry his \$1,000. of insurance to help his family as far as he could, and side by side is the name of the great capitalist John Wanamaker, who bought his millions of insurance because he realized the uncertainty of business but knew the certainty of an insurance policy.

Farther back through the pages of history I found the name of a man of whom the world never heard. I doubt if he was known beyond the little county in which he lived. Side by side with his name is that of Grover Cleveland who held the highest honor that is possible for the people of our country to bestow. Again there stands the name of a man who labored and loved, saved and bought protection for his loved ones. I doubt if ever his name was in print, for he dug his living from the soil of a hillside farm. By his side is found the name of another President of this country, Benjamin Harrison.

Volumes could be recorded from the names of those who have asked the Manhattan to help carry the burden, but I couldn't see how this could give the name "Old Reliable" for the same history is on the pages of many insurance companies.

On and on I turned through page after page. I couldn't help but realize that each name stands for the American ideals of home. As the early settlers guarded their war path, so has man in the later years homes from the prowling Indians on the guarded the future of his loved ones by life insurance.

But why "The Old Reliable." Sell the search on back until I realize that I am reading the records of the sixties when this country of ours was torn

with strife, and war stalked across the land. On pages of the Policy Register are names of men of the North and men of the South. For almost four years there is a difference in these names, for in almost every case of the Southern names there are no payments credited during those four years. Money could not be sent across the line from the South to the North. According to the strict letter of the contract the company was not obligated to pay except where policies were paid up or had paid up values.

I became interested in following this up to see what final disposition was made of these cases. Here is the story revealed to me.

When the war clouds had rolled away the Manhattan took up the Herculean task of locating all these policyholders. Those who were living were given the opportunity to reinstate their policies without examination, for the company felt that circumstances and not the policyholders had been responsible for the non-payment of premiums.

Where policyholders had died, the company paid all claims in same manner as if all premiums had been paid. The only subtractions made were for premiums due from time of lapse to date of death, which of course, was the only just way. This was an almost unbelievable thing for a corporation to do. At first many people doubted the news, but as check after check came in to help restore the Southland, people began to call the Manhattan "The Old Reliable" and in many places the word "Manhattan" was almost forgotten by the use of the words "Old Reliable."

This was not a bid for fame at the time but characterizes the spirit of our company all through its seventy-six years of service. When local catastrophes of communities have disrupted policyholders' ability to transmit premiums, as in the case of last year's disaster in the Mississippi Valley, "The Old Reliable" has ever been first on the ground to extend every service possible to its great family of policyholders.

Its traditions and ideals have been built on the motto of "Reliability" and as such, it has justly won the undying fame of "The Old Reliable."

Without Capital

YOU CAN
ENTER THIS
HONORABLE
LIFE WORK
AT ONCE

SEND REFERENCES
AND FULL DATA
IN FIRST LETTER
TO
DALLAS BRANCH

OFFICE

THE MANHATTAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

OF NEW YORK

ARTHUR EMERY, Manager

W. A. FOSDICK, Supt. of Agents

Suite 1517

American Ex. Nat'l Bank Bldg.

DALLAS, TEXAS

DAPPER DAN



The Jolly Bachelor

Behold the blithe unmarried guy!
His life is free from worry;
Except when he must clean and dry
His clothing in a hurry!

There really aren't many of the Hallroom type of fellows in this town, tho, DAPPER DAN'S cleaning, pressing and repairing service is so efficient, economical and expeditious that his service is in demand among all classes. It's really cheaper to let DAN do it!

MODERN DRY CLEANERS OF COURSE Phone 3

Across from Postoffice You'll like the plan of Dapper Dan, The clever Cleaning-Dyeing man!

LET US DO YOUR COLLECTING

Western Collecting Agency

Upstairs over City Hall

P. O. Box 3 Phone 193

Dora Doings

Our community is made sad again by the death of two of our neighbors last week. C. H. Griggs died last Thursday after two days illness of bronchial pneumonia. He was buried at Kleem, in Williamson County, Saturday. Mrs. A. D. Cross died last Friday evening of double pneumonia and complications. She was laid to rest at Salter's chapel Saturday afternoon. To the bereaved family we extend our deepest sympathies.

Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Dudley and children visited in the White Church community Sunday.

The first basketball game of the finals between Blackwell and Divide High school was played here Thursday our boys winning by 18 to 22.

Mrs. Delia Perry is on the sick list this week.

Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Perry were calling in the Elm Grove community Sunday evening.

Miss Etta Lime, High school student at Winters, was visiting home folks this week-end.

Mrs. L. V. Magee visited her daughter, Mrs. Myrtle Phillips, out near Champion, a few days last week.

Mrs. Jim Ensminger is on the sick list this week.

Hoyt Shelton is at home again after several days staying in Sweetwater for treatment.

Bro. Badgett filled his regular appointment here Sunday morning. Bro. Owens preached Saturday night.

Among those on our sick list this week are: H. S. Wright, Sam Hanks, W. T. Perry, Pollie Oliver, Ervin Drury, and Ruth Jones.

Owing to so much sickness and bad weather there is very little farming being done.

Friends of Uncle Willis Perry are glad to learn that he is resting well at the Baptist Sanitarium in Abilene after an operation last Thursday.

Moving to Abilene.

C. L. Blankenship, superintendent of schools at Trent, is moving his family to Abilene and will make his home in that city. Before locating in Trent, three years ago, Mr. Blankenship was connected with the schools at Snyder.

Read the advertisements in this paper. There's a message in every one of them that may enable you to save money. At least you will know where to find what you want without doing a lot of hunting and asking questions, and you also know the merchants appreciate your patronage because they solicit your business and make special offers.

Governor Signs New Marriage License Bill

Austin, Feb. 28.—Governor Dan Moody has signed Senator Julien Hyer's marriage license publicity bill. It will become effective 90 days from the end of the present session of the legislature. This will be between June 8 and June 15, depending on date of adjournment.

Rush for the gretna greens is expected to make May for once outrank June as a bride's month.

Under the bill three days notice must be given before a marriage license can be issued. Before its issuance the man must present a hygienic certificate.

Two Die in Fire.

Humble, Harris, Co., Texas, Feb. 28.—Fire, sweeping a block in the heart of the business district of this little oil town, took a heavy toll of life and property early Sunday morning.

Two men are dead and the property damage is estimated at more than \$40,000.

Barry Miller For Governor.

Austin, Feb. 28.—Lieut. Gov. Barry Miller was definitely put forward as a candidate for governor and pledged the unsolicited support of numerous senators when the senate ousted him from the chair and eulogized him on his selection as deputy grand master of Texas Odd Fellows.

Huggins Chronicle Editor.

Houston, Feb. 28.—Appointment of W. O. Huggins, as editor of the Houston Chronicle has been announced by Jesse H. Jones, publisher. Mr. Huggins succeeds the late C. B. Gillespie, who died February 7.

I am in the market for some good butcher hogs, and cattle. O. F. Weidenbach at Quality Market.

Typewriting paper at Merkel Mail office.

Eats Big Steak and Fried Onions—No Gas

"Every time I ate I had terrible stomach gas. Now, thanks to Adlerika, I eat steak and fried onions and feel fine." Mrs. J. Julian.

Just ONE spoonful Adlerika relieves gas and that bloated feeling so that you can eat and sleep well. Acts on BOTH upper and lower bowels and removes old waste matter you never thought was there. No matter what you have tried for your stomach and bowels, Adlerika will surprise you. Merkel Drug Co.

Business Phone 21 Residence Phone 181

SECRETS OF TOMORROW

Tomorrow never tells you what is coming. All may be well but all may not be well. Tomorrow holds no worries for the man whose home, property, valuables and business are fully insured. We cannot tell you of the secrets of tomorrow but we can protect you against tomorrow's possible misfortune.

Ask us today.

W. O. BONEY

REAL ESTATE, FARM LOANS
FIRE INSURANCE
MERKEL, TEXAS

Consult Your Insurance Agent As You Would Your Lawyer

NOTICE

Since moving to Abilene, I take this method of announcing to my friends that I have formed a partnership business with Mr. V. W. Young, succeeding the firm name of CASEY & YOUNG, Real Estate, Fire Insurance and Farm, Ranch and City Loans.

We can make you loans on farm and ranch property at the rate of 6% to 8%. We have a few cash buyers for tracts of land, ranging from 160 to 640 acres, located within 15 or 20 miles of Abilene.

For further information, call, write or phone us at our expense.

YOUNG & PROPST

505 Alexander Bldg.
P. O. Box 343
Abilene, Texas

V. W. YOUNG

H. L. PROPST

Reduction In Electric Rates

Lower rates for electricity for domestic and commercial purposes have been made voluntarily by the West Texas Utilities Company. The cost per kilowatt-hour has been reduced.

The New Rate For Residences

13 Cents net per Kilowatt-hour for the first four kilowatt-hours used per room per month.

9 Cents net per kilowatt-hour for the next four kilowatt-hours used per room per month.

6 Cents net per kilowatt-hour for all energy used in excess of the above amount.

Minimum Monthly Bill \$1.50 Per Meter.

Determination of Number of Rooms

The room count is based upon the ordinary real estate rating, and in making the count, alcoves, unfurnished attics, bathrooms, cellars, hallways, laundries, closets, pantries, open porches, garages, barns, and outbuildings will not be included. Premises with less than three rooms, real estate rating, will be classed as 3-room premises; those with more than seven rooms will be rated as 7-room premises.

THE NUMBER OF OUTLETS AND APPLIANCES USED DO NOT AFFECT THE RATE.

Table Showing New Net Rate and No. Kilowatt-Hrs. Each Step

SIZE OF RESIDENCE	First Step 13 Cents Per Kilowatt Hour	Second Step 9 Cents Per Kilowatt Hour	Third Step, the New SIX CENT RATE
	For First	For Next	
3 ROOMS OR LESS	12 Kilowatt-hours	12 Kilowatt-hours	For all Kilowatt-hours used each month over total of first and second steps, per kilowatt-hour 6c
4 ROOMS	16 Kilowatt-hours	16 Kilowatt-hours	
5 ROOMS	20 Kilowatt-hours	20 Kilowatt-hours	
6 ROOMS	24 Kilowatt-hours	24 Kilowatt-hours	
7 ROOMS OR MORE	28 Kilowatt-hours	28 Kilowatt-hours	

You will note how few kilowatt-hours per month need be used before you reach the new low SIX CENT price.

COMMERCIAL RATE

13 CENTS net per kilowatt-hour for the first 30 hours of maximum demand.

10 CENTS net per kilowatt-hour for the next 60 hours use of maximum demand.

5 CENTS net per kilowatt-hour for all energy used in excess of the above amounts.

The new rate makes liberal use of electricity for all purposes in commercial establishments inexpensive. Mimimum monthly bill \$1.50 per meter.

Further explanation of the rates will be given gladly upon request.

These rates were effective in Merkel on the first day of December, 1928.

West Texas Utilities Company

What the Gray House Hid



The Mystery of a Haunted Mansion
by Wyndham Martyn

THE STORY

Chapter I—Hilton Hanby, prosperous New York merchant, has realized a long-cherished ambition by purchasing a country place—the Gray House, near Pine Plains. An unknown woman, who gives her name as Miss Selenos, a former tenant of the Gray House, calls at his office and warns him that the house is under a curse. Further alarming details are impressed upon Adolf Smucker, Hanby's secretary, by a man who claims to have been chauffeur for Sir Stanford Seymour, former occupant of the place.

Chapter II—The Hanbys laugh off the warnings they have received both from Miss Selenos and from Smucker's acquaintance, as some form of practical joke, but they are shocked when they hear that the caretaker whom they have put in charge of the Gray House, a man named Kerr, has been mysteriously murdered.

Hilton Hanby came back to his guests after ten minutes at the telephone. "A very unfortunate thing," he told them. "A man named Kerr, whom I engaged through my lawyers only yesterday, has been killed. I must go up tomorrow and see about it."

"I'll go with you, dad," Junior said promptly. "Tell us the details."

"There are none. Kerr was an unmarried man of good character, a veteran of the Spanish-American war, who had been living at Kingston. I wanted a caretaker, because we shan't be living there for a time, and I've been warned that thieves make a specialty of new plumbing fixtures. There's nobody to guard them."

"But you haven't had time to put my in," said Dina.

"That's the mysterious part of it—there's nothing to steal. Kerr moved a bed and a few household belongings into a ground-floor room, and they have not been disturbed."

"Was he killed inside the house?" Celia demanded.

"No—outside. His body was found in the lake."

Hanby shot a quick look at his wife as he said this. From the little frown she gave he saw that the memory of what Smucker had said lingered with her and assumed a new importance at this tragedy.

"Was he drowned?" Dina asked.

"No—his head was battered in with the handle of a pick. Why they threw him in the lake I can't imagine."

"They did it to conceal the body," suggested Junior. "The weights probably slipped off and the corpse came to the surface again."

"Lakes are always dragged," Hanby replied. "It seems a silly, meaningless crime."

"There's always motivation, if you know where to look for it," Junior answered wisely. "On the whole, it's rather fortunate that I'm going up with you tomorrow."

"The police will be delighted," his father said.

Hanby was annoyed to think that this crime had obtruded itself on his birthday. It was a bad beginning for his ownership of the Gray House.

"The police!" sneered Junior. "What do the police know of the psychology of crime?"

"Fity them, don't chide them," Celia mocked. "Poor policemen, they haven't been at Mercersburg and New Haven."

"There's probably a whole lot more in this than you think," Junior went on, unshaken. "On the face of it, it's a crazy, motiveless crime. We may run into all sorts of amazing things—wheels within wheels. Kerr may not have been a caretaker. He may have been sent there to spy on us."

"Then who killed him?" Hanby snapped. He could see that Dina was disturbed more than he liked.

"And why?"

"That we shall find out," replied Junior. "When first you spoke of the Gray House, I thought there was something mysterious about it. Why did it stand empty so long? Haunted, probably. Oh, these things happen in your generation they scoffed, but we are wiser. In my psychology class—"

"Tell me about it tomorrow," interrupted his father. "Come on, people—let's dance! This is my birthday. Away with gloom!"

He seized Dina, and they began elaborate improvisations on a fox-trot motif.

"You don't think there's anything in it, do you?" Dina asked him. "I mean, anything to do with what that awful little man was saying?"

"Of course not," he answered. "We shall find at the inquest that

some roving tramp killed Kerr to steal his savings."

"Tramps!" she said. "She was city-bred, and distrusted remote places. 'There are always tramps, aren't there?'"

"They won't worry us. We shall have a house filled with people, and there'll be gardeners and workers also—this is my great surprise—I'm taking a year off from business. I can afford it."

"Oh, Hil, how lovely!" she cried. "I've hated your business because it has kept you away from us so much. Can you really afford it?"

"I'm rolling in money," he said gaily. "I bought acreage and sold by the front foot. I'm a boy again!"

"That's nothing new, Housatonic," she laughed. "Ada Bishop really believes that's your absurd name. You'll be a boy when you die!"

"Darling Dina, don't worry about Smucker and his drunken dream. I'll have it out with old Bill tomorrow, and Reggie will have to confess that he failed. It was a fool scheme of theirs, anyway."

"When did you ever know Bill Pelham to do anything really foolish?"

"He acted the part superbly. It fooled me completely."

"I don't mean that exactly. It seems so stupid to imagine that any one could be scared away from a house by vague talk like that. Hil, do verify the names Smucker gave you—Mr. Seymour and the others. Promise me!"

"Probably all names that Reggie thought up on the spur of the moment; but I'll ask the agent I bought the place from, if that will satisfy you."

Adolf Smucker was always earlier at the office than the other employees. It gained him a reputation for punctuality, and enabled him to learn much of the firm's business that would otherwise be kept from him.

He was nervous on this particular morning. He had gone home the night before, and had told his family of all the daring and splendid things he had said and done. Mrs. Smucker, usually so admiring and reassuring, had remarked:

"Dolf, you've fired yourself. You might have waited till the two girls was out of school!"

Smucker's father had listened rapturously to the account of the planked steak.

"Real beer!" he said many times. "Not in this life shall I taste real beer again!"

"Nor in the life to come," said his daughter-in-law. "Turn your thought from your sinful appetites." She looked at the clock. "It's time you went to the docks."

Assuredly Adolf Smucker was unhappy. He was filing letters industriously when Hanby sent for him.

"No," said Hanby, as Adolf unsheathed his newly pointed pencils. "I'm not giving you any letters to-day. I'm getting rid of you. The cashier will pay you a month's salary."

The Adam's apple tried to burst its bounds.

"I'm sure I've worked long and faithfully for you, Mr. Hanby," Smucker cried. "I don't deserve this!"

"You don't," returned Hanby. "Two weeks' salary would be quite sufficient. Listen to me, Smucker. You've never been either faithful or efficient. God knows why I didn't fire you years ago. I suppose those hard-luck stories you used to spring whenever you were in danger saved you. You told me less than a month ago the same old yarn about paying installments on your house and looking after an old father. Don't interrupt! Your house was paid for three years ago, and your old father is right watchman on some docks near where you live. Your three elder children keep themselves and help support the home. Probably you are comfortably fixed."

Smucker raised his voice.

"Mr. Hanby, I won't be fired without a good reason!"

"You've not even been honest," continued Hanby. "There are petty cash irregularities that can be gone into if you wish it, and certain losses of postage stamps. If you are wise, you won't irritate me any longer."

Smucker withdrew. So they had found out about him! What a trick for a rich man like Hanby, to be watching when an old employee used an office stamp for his private correspondence!

When he was much excited, there were noises in Mr. Smucker's head as of things about to burst. What a day there would be when the intellectuals controlled the workers and enslaved the capitalists! He had been one of those who believed that Lenin was to be the savior of America. Lenin had died, but others would be raised up. Smucker's visions of ven-

ance were stupendous. They died down a little when he reflected that he must face that snarling domestic economist, Mrs. Adolf. He drew his month's unearned salary vindictively.

At eleven o'clock Bill Pelham, summoned by telephone, sauntered into Hanby's office. He was a slight man, above middle height, with dark hair and eyes. His was a tired, lined face—the face of a man to whom success has not come. No man was closer to him than Hanby.

"How's the dog market, Bill?" Hanby asked.

"I don't know; but my business is going to the dogs, if that's what you mean. We can't all guess where the wheel is going to stop. Sorry I couldn't get to your dinner party last night. Dina rang me up and told me that my absence was the only blemish."

"That's a fact, Bill," Hanby looked at him keenly. "You don't relish this country life idea?"

"It's a tragedy to me," Pelham growled. "Your home is my home. You let me come when I want to and leave when I want to. You ask no vain questions, and my grutches never make you angry. I don't know what the devil I shall do. You've been blessed above all the men I know. Your girls are pretty and popular, and yet they don't go for zing gin with chauffeurs. Your boy is popular, and yet he keeps clean. I've often thought the Hanby family was sent to show that decency was possible even in this jazz life we lead. Do I relish your going? Don't make a jest of it!"

"You'll be at the Gray house, too. You can't drop out of our lives, so don't anticipate it. Funny place, the Gray house! I suppose you read that my caretaker was murdered last night?"

"Haven't seen the morning papers. Tell me about it."

"A puzzling crime," commented Pelham, when he had heard all that his friend knew.

"I may be next," Hanby said, wondering how long Bill could maintain this air of complete innocence. "Poor Dina a widow, with the chance of marrying a better man!"

"Don't!" said Bill, frowning. "I don't like to hear you make a joke of that sort of thing. If Dina died, could you ever marry again?"

"Good G—d, no! Of course not!" replied Hanby, startled.

"She couldn't either. Hil, old man, don't you know that every now and again in this human family two people are born like Dina and you—two people whom nothing can separate but death? I've watched you with other women, and I've watched her with other men—pretty women, too—and better-looking cusses than you. Tell me, have you ever seen a woman you care a d—n for since you met Dina?"

"No."

"And she's seen no other man. You two are marvels. That family of yours is what it is because of its parents."

"I didn't mean that about Dina marrying," Hanby said, a little shamefacedly. "You know men don't like to seem sentimental. Your friendship has been a great deal to us, Bill, and you are not going to drop out."

"I worship Dina," Bill Pelham said meditatively. "Directly I saw her, twenty years ago, I knew that she was the one woman." He smiled whimsically. "Every Christmas she lets me kiss her under the mistletoe. Once every year! You can bet I shall be with you on Christmas eve, anyway."

Hanby smiled.

"If we lived in some European countries, I should have to challenge you to a duel for that and kill you."

"It's the dark, saturnine villain who does the slaying," Bill reminded him. "I should sneer diabolically, and ask you to name the rib under which you would like my rapier to go. He lighted a cigarette. "Why did you ask me to come?"

"To discuss your Aunt Selina."

"How the devil did you know I had an Aunt Selina? She was a great-granddaughter, a playmate of Martha Washington, if the family history is correct."

"I didn't know it. Look here, Bill—Dina's all upset about some merry spirits who have been trying to frighten me away from Pine Plains. Do you admit coming here and pretending to be Miss Selenos, who hated and despised me above all men, and pined her faith on dogs?"

"One of us is crazy," replied Bill Pelham. "At the time you say I was here, a dozen men will prove that I was in Chicago. I have played practical jokes, and I hope to again, if I live; but I know nothing of this. Tell me all."

Hanby described not only his experience but that of Adolf Smucker. "You can count Reggie out, too," Pelham declared. "He's at the bankers' convention in Baltimore. These two people may be fakes, but Reggie and I are innocent. Silly sort of stories to tell!"

"That's what Dina said."

"Is she worried?"

"Just a little. Nothing physical can scare her, but she takes funny psychological excursions. She was reading an English book on 'Haunted Houses' when I left."

"There are such things," Pelham said, gravely. "Glamis castle, for one, and the house, where the Wesleys lived. I don't know enough to disbelieve. Look here, Hil—we've got to get to the bottom of this."

"What do you suggest?"

"I've got a clear day. I'll interview the man you bought the place from, and find out about past tenants. Also, I'll see if there was a

Selenos family holding land grants in California. I'll probably drop in after dinner. Where are you off to?" concluded Pelham, as Hanby reached for his hat.

"Pine Plains. Junior is motoring me up. I'll be back by dinner time, with luck. Anyhow, wait for me. I've got to see about another caretaker and arrange for the burial of Kerr. Not a cent was found on him, and it seems that he has no relations. I feel responsible in a way. Junior seems to think that he's going to be a Sherlock Holmes, to the chagrin and confusion of the Pine Plains police."

"There is no such thing as a meaningless crime," Pelham remarked. "Junior may be of some help."

"I hope so. I want to clear up everything, so that Dina and Celia won't have a chance to feel nervous. Dina has a vague idea that the country is dangerous. She was raised in Cleveland's most select residential district, and has always lived in cities. I'm a wild man from the Housatonic feud country, and the idea of tramps doesn't give me a thrill at all."

"If I know Dina," Bill said thoughtfully, "she'll be less worried about tramps than she will about any reputed curse on the place. Like many of those highly strung women, she's psychically sensitive. If all these tragedies happened there, she's bound to hear of them. You're already had a murder on your front lawn."

"That's not serious," Hanby returned. "Some wandering yegg killed the poor fellow for his savings."

"I wish you hadn't sent that Selenos woman off without getting more particulars from her. You calmly shut all avenues of information."

"Her manner was so infernally insulting, Bill. You know I'm not the sort of man to be told that I must sell the house I've selected as a home after inspecting hundreds of places. The poor old thing was crazy."

"What about Smucker?"

"Hooch talked there. Smucker's not too well balanced, either."

Bill Pelham shook his head.

"I don't like it," he said.

(Continued Next Week.)

Mulberry Resident Home From Long Trip

Geo. D. Richie, who lives between Mulberry and the mountain, in the Castle Peak community, has returned from a delightful trip which took him to see his ten children scattered from coast to coast.

Other than the pleasure of visiting his children, Mr. Richie found much to interest him, especially in South and East Texas. He visited some of the pineries of East Texas, and on the return trip he gathered a quantity of moss that grows so profusely on the trees in the South and East sections of Texas. Some of the moss was left at the Mail office and Mr. Richie retained a supply to show to his friends in this section.

In his trip through Texas Mr. Richie visited his daughter, Mrs. Perry Townsend, at Lampasas, and another daughter, Mrs. Josie Avert, at Bay City. He came to Mulberry Canyon in 1884 and has lived in that section since that time.

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To My Friends in Merkel and Taylor County

I take this method of announcing that I am now connected with the Security Abstract and Title Company, located in rooms 322-23 Citizens National Bank Bldg. Abilene, Texas, being associated with my son, Clyde Beasley, and R. W. Grimsley in the Abstract business. We have a complete set of Records pertaining to all land titles in Taylor County, Texas, and will appreciate a reasonable share of your abstract business.

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Dora Doings

Our community is made sad again by the death of two of our neighbors last week. C. H. Griggs died last Thursday after two days illness of bronchial pneumonia. He was buried at Kleem, in Williamson County, Saturday. Mrs. A. D. Cross died last Friday evening of double pneumonia and complications. She was laid to rest at Salter's chapel Saturday afternoon. To the bereaved family we extend our deepest sympathies.

Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Dudley and children visited in the White Church community Sunday.

The first basketball game of the finals between Blackwell and Divide High school was played here Thursday our boys winning by 18 to 22.

Mrs. Delia Perry is on the sick list this week.

Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Perry were calling in the Elm Grove community Sunday evening.

Miss Etta Lime, High school student at Winters, was visiting home folks this week-end.

Mrs. L. V. Magee visited her daughter, Mrs. Myrtle Philips, out near Champion, a few days last week.

Mrs. Jim Ensminger is on the sick list this week.

Hoyt Shelton is at home again after several days staying in Sweetwater for treatment.

Bro. Badgett filled his regular appointment here Sunday morning. Bro. Owens preached Saturday night.

Among those on our sick list this week are: H. S. Wright, Sam Hanks, W. T. Perry, Pollie Oliver, Ervin Drury, and Ruth Jones.

Owing to so much sickness and bad weather there is very little farming being done.

Friends of Uncle Willis Perry are glad to learn that he is resting well at the Baptist Sanitarium in Abilene after an operation last Thursday.

Moving to Abilene.

C. L. Blankenship, superintendent of schools at Trent, is moving his family to Abilene and will make his home in that city. Before locating in Trent, three years ago, Mr. Blankenship was connected with the schools at Snyder.

Read the advertisements in this paper. There's a message in every one of them that may enable you to save money. At least you will know where to find what you want without doing a lot of hunting and asking questions, and you also know the merchants appreciate your patronage because they solicit your business and make special offers.

Governor Signs New Marriage License Bill

Austin, Feb. 28.—Governor Dan Moody has signed Senator Julien Hyer's marriage license publicity bill. It will become effective 90 days from the end of the present session of the legislature. This will be between June 8 and June 15, depending on date of adjournment.

Rush for the green is expected to make May for once outrank June as a bride's month.

Under the bill three days notice must be given before a marriage license can be issued. Before its issuance the man must present a hygienic certificate.

Two Die in Fire.

Humble, Harris, Co., Texas, Feb. 28.—Fire, sweeping a block in the heart of the business district of this little oil town, took a heavy toll of life and property early Sunday morning. Two men are dead and the property damage is estimated at more than \$40,000.

Barry Miller For Governor.

Austin, Feb. 28.—Lieut. Gov. Barry Miller was definitely put forward as a candidate for governor and pledged the unsolicited support of numerous senators when the senate ousted him from the chair and eulogized him on his selection as deputy grand master of Texas Odd Fellows.

Huggins Chronicle Editor.

Houston, Feb. 28.—Appointment of W. O. Huggins, as editor of the Houston Chronicle has been announced by Jesse H. Jones, publisher. Mr. Huggins succeeds the late C. B. Gillespie, who died February 7.

I am in the market for some good butcher hogs, and cattle. O. F. Weidenbach at Quality Market.

Typewriting paper at Merkel Mail office.

Eats Big Steak and Fried Onions—No Gas

"Every time I ate I had terrible stomach gas. Now, thanks to Adlerika, I eat steak and fried onions and feel fine." Mrs. J. Julian.

Just ONE spoonful Adlerika relieves gas and that bloated feeling so that you can eat and sleep well. Acts on BOTH upper and lower bowels and removes old waste matter you never thought was there. No matter what you have tried for your stomach and bowels, Adlerika will surprise you. Merkel Drug Co.

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SECRETS OF TOMORROW

Tomorrow never tells you what is coming. All may be well but all may not be well. Tomorrow holds no worries for the man whose home, property, valuables and business are fully insured. We cannot tell you of the secrets of tomorrow but we can protect you against tomorrow's possible misfortune.

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NOTICE

Since moving to Abilene, I take this method of announcing to my friends that I have formed a partnership business with Mr. V. W. Young, succeeding the firm name of CASEY & YOUNG, Real Estate, Fire Insurance and Farm, Ranch and City Loans.

We can make you loans on farm and ranch property at the rate of 6% to 8%. We have a few cash buyers for tracts of land, ranging from 160 to 640 acres, located within 15 or 20 miles of Abilene.

For further information, call, write or phone us at our expense.

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Reduction In Electric Rates

Lower rates for electricity for domestic and commercial purposes have been made voluntarily by the West Texas Utilities Company. The cost per kilowatt-hour has been reduced.

The New Rate For Residences

13 Cents net per Kilowatt-hour for the first four kilowatt-hours used per room per month.

9 Cents net per kilowatt-hour for the next four kilowatt-hours used per room per month.

6 Cents net per kilowatt-hour for all energy used in excess of the above amount.

Minimum Monthly Bill \$1.50 Per Meter.

Determination of Number of Rooms

The room count is based upon the ordinary real estate rating, and in making the count, alcoves, unfurnished attics, bathrooms, cellars, hallways, laundries, closets, pantries, open porches, garages, barns, and outbuildings will not be included. Premises with less than three rooms, real estate rating, will be classed as 3-room premises; those with more than seven rooms will be rated as 7-room premises.

THE NUMBER OF OUTLETS AND APPLIANCES USED DO NOT AFFECT THE RATE.

Table Showing New Net Rate and No. Kilowatt-Hrs. Each Step

SIZE OF RESIDENCE	First Step 13 Cents Per Kilowatt Hour	Second Step 9 Cents Per Kilowatt Hour	Third Step, the New SIX CENT RATE
	For First	For Next	RATE
3 ROOMS OR LESS	12 Kilowatt-hours	12 Kilowatt-hours	For all Kilowatt-hours used each month over total of first and second steps, per kilowatt-hour 6c
4 ROOMS	16 Kilowatt-hours	16 Kilowatt-hours	
5 ROOMS	20 Kilowatt-hours	20 Kilowatt-hours	
6 ROOMS	24 Kilowatt-hours	24 Kilowatt-hours	
7 ROOMS OR MORE	28 Kilowatt-hours	28 Kilowatt-hours	

You will note how few kilowatt-hours per month need be used before you reach the new low SIX CENT price.

COMMERCIAL RATE

13 CENTS net per kilowatt-hour for the first 30 hours of maximum demand.

10 CENTS net per kilowatt-hour for the next 60 hours use of maximum demand.

5 CENTS net per kilowatt-hour for all energy used in excess of the above amounts.

The new rate makes liberal use of electricity for all purposes in commercial establishments inexpensive. Minimum monthly bill \$1.50 per meter.

Further explanation of the rates will be given gladly upon request.

These rates were effective in Merkel on the first day of December, 1928.

West Texas Utilities Company

What the Gray House Hid



The Mystery of a Haunted Mansion

by Wyndham Martyn

W.N.U. SERVICE
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THE STORY

Chapter I—Hilton Hanby, prosperous New York merchant, has a realized a long-cherished ambition by purchasing a country place—the Gray House, near Pine Plains. An unknown woman, who gives her name as Miss Selenos, a former tenant of the Gray House, calls at his office and warns him that the house is under a curse. Further alarming details are impressed upon Adolf Smucker, Hanby's secretary, by a man who claims to have been chauffeur for Sir Stanford Seymour, former occupant of the place.

Chapter II—The Hanbys laugh off the warnings they have received both from Miss Selenos and from Smucker's acquaintance, as some form of practical joke, but they are shocked when they hear that the caretaker whom they have put in charge of the Gray House, a man named Kerr, has been mysteriously murdered.

Hilton Hanby came back to his guests after ten minutes at the telephone.

"A very unfortunate thing," he told them. "A man named Kerr, whom I engaged through my lawyers only yesterday, has been killed. I must go up tomorrow and see about it."

"I'll go with you, dad," Junior said promptly. "Tell us the details."

"There are none. Kerr was an unmarried man of good character, a veteran of the Spanish-American war, who had been living at Kingston. I wanted a caretaker, because we hadn't been living there for a time, and I've been warned that thieves make a specialty of new plumbing fixtures. If there's nobody to guard them."

"But you haven't had time to put any in," said Dina.

"That's the mysterious part of it—there's nothing to steal. Kerr moved a bed and a few household belongings into a ground-floor room, and they have not been disturbed."

"Was he killed inside the house?" Celia demanded.

"No—outside. His body was found in the lake."

Hanby shot a quick look at his wife as he said this. From the little frown she gave he saw that the memory of what Smucker had said lingered with her and assumed a new importance at this tragedy.

"Was he drowned?" Dina asked.

"No—his head was battered in with the handle of a pick. Why they threw him in the lake I can't imagine. They did it to conceal the body," suggested Junior. "The weights probably slipped off and the corpse came to the surface again."

"Lakes are always dragged," Hanby replied. "It seems a silly, meaningless crime."

"There's always motivation, if you know where to look for it," Junior answered wisely. "On the whole, it's rather fortunate that I'm going up with you tomorrow."

"The police will be delighted," his father said.

Hanby was annoyed to think that this crime had obtruded itself on his birthday. It was a bad beginning for his ownership of the Gray House.

"The police!" sneered Junior. "What do the police know of the psychology of crime?"

"Pity them, don't chide them," Celia mocked. "Poor policemen, they haven't been to Mercersburg and New Haven."

"There's probably a whole lot more in this than you think," Junior went on, unshaken. "On the face of it, it's a crazy, motiveless crime. We may run into all sorts of amazing things—wheels within wheels. Kerr may not have been a caretaker. He may have been sent there to spy on us."

"Then who killed him?" Hanby snapped. He could see that Dina was disturbed more than he liked.

"And why?"

"That we shall find out," replied Junior. "When first you spoke of the Gray House, I thought there was something mysterious about it. Why did it stand empty so long? Haunted, probably. Oh, these things happen in your generation they scoffed, but we are wiser. In my psychology class—"

"Tell me about it tomorrow," interrupted his father. "Come on, people—let's dance! This is my birthday. Away with gloom!"

He seized Dina, and they began elaborate improvisations on a fox-trot motif.

"You don't think there's anything in it, do you?" Dina asked him. "I mean, anything to do with what that awful little man was saying?"

"Of course not," he answered. "We shall find at the inquest that

some roving tramp killed Kerr to steal his savings."

"Tramps!" she said. "Ste was city-bred, and distrusted remote places. There are always tramps, aren't there?"

"They won't worry us. We shall have a house filled with people, and there'll be gardeners and workers. Also—this is my great surprise—I'm taking a year off from business. I can afford it."

"Oh, Hil, how lovely!" she cried. "I've hated your business because it has kept you away from us so much. Can you really afford it?"

"I'm rolling in money," he said gayly. "I bought acreage and sold by the front foot. I'm a boy again!"

"That's nothing new, Housatonic," she laughed. "Ada Bishop really believes that's your absurd name. You'll be a boy when you die!"

"Darling Dina, don't worry about Smucker and his drunken dream. I'll have it out with old Bill tomorrow, and Reggie will have to confess that he failed. It was a fool scheme of theirs, anyway."

"When did you ever know Bill Pelham to do anything really foolish?"

"He acted the part superbly. It fooled me completely."

"I don't mean that exactly. It seems so stupid to imagine that any one could be scared away from a house by vague talk like that. Hil, do verify the names Smucker gave you—Mr. Seymour and the others. Promise me!"

"Probably all names that Reggie thought up on the spur of the moment; but I'll ask the agent I bought the place from, if that will satisfy you."

Adolf Smucker was always earlier at the office than the other employees. It gained him a reputation for punctuality, and enabled him to learn much of the firm's business that would otherwise be kept from him.

He was nervous on this particular morning. He had gone home the night before, and had told his family of all the daring and splendid things he had said and done. Mrs. Smucker, usually so admiring and reassuring, had remarked:

"Dolf, you've fired yourself. You might have waited till the two girls was out of school!"

Smucker's father had listened rapturously to the account of the planked steak.

"Real beer!" he said many times. "Not in this life shall I taste real beer again!"

"Nor in the life to come," said his daughter-in-law. "Turn your thought from your sinful appetites." She looked at the clock. "It's time you went to the docks."

Assuredly Adolf Smucker was unhappy. He was filing letters industriously when Hanby sent for him.

"No," said Hanby, as Adolf unsheathed his newly pointed pencils. "I'm not giving you any letters today. I'm getting rid of you. The cashier will pay you a month's salary."

The Adam's apple tried to burst its bounds.

"I'm sure I've worked long and faithfully for you, Mr. Hanby," Smucker cried. "I don't deserve this!"

"You don't," returned Hanby. "Two weeks' salary would be quite sufficient. Listen to me, Smucker. You've never been either faithful or efficient. God knows why I didn't fire you years ago. I suppose those hard-luck stories you used to spring whenever you were in danger saved you. You told me less than a month ago the same old yarn about paying in installments on your house and looking after an old father. Don't interrupt! Your house was paid for three years ago, and your old father is right watchman on some docks near where you live. Your three elder children keep themselves and help support the home. Probably you are comfortably fixed."

Smucker raised his voice.

"Mr. Hanby, I won't be fired without a good reason!"

"You've not even been honest," continued Hanby. "There are petty cash irregularities that can be gone into if you wish it, and certain losses of postage stamps. If you are wise, you won't irritate me any longer."

Smucker withdrew. So they had found out about him! What a trick for a rich man like Hanby, to be watching when an old employee used an office stamp for his private correspondence!

When he was much excited, there were noises in Mr. Smucker's head as of things about to burst. What a day there would be when the intellectuals controlled the workers and enslaved the capitalists! He had been one of those who believed that Lenin was to be the savior of America. Lenin had died, but others would be raised up. Smucker's visions of ven-

geance were stupendous. They died down a little when he reflected that he must face that sound domestic economist, Mrs. Adolf. He drew his month's unearned salary stultifyingly.

At eleven o'clock Bill Pelham, summoned by telephone, sauntered into Hanby's office. He was a slight man, above middle height, with dark hair and eyes. His was a tired, lined face—the face of a man to whom success has not come. No man was closer to him than Hanby.

"How's the dog market, Bill?" Hanby asked.

"I don't know; but my business is going to the dogs, if that's what you mean. We can't all guess where the wheel is going to stop. Sorry I couldn't get to your dinner party last night. Dina rang me up and told me that my absence was the only blemish."

"That's a fact, Bill," Hanby looked at him keenly. "You don't relish this country life idea?"

"It's a tragedy to me," Pelham growled. "Your home is my home. You let me come when I want to and leave when I want to. You ask no vain questions, and my gronches never make you angry. I don't know what the devil I shall do. You've been blessed above all the men I know. Your girls are pretty and popular, and yet they don't go gawling gin with chauffeurs. Your boy is popular, and yet he keeps clean. I've often thought the Hanby family was sent to show that decency was possible even in this jazz life we lead. Do I relish your going? Don't make a jest of it!"

"You'll be at the Gray house, too. You can't drop out of our lives, so don't anticipate it. Funny place, the Gray house! I suppose you read that my caretaker was murdered last night?"

"Haven't seen the morning papers. Tell me about it."

"A puzzling crime," commented Pelham, when he had heard all that his friend knew.

"I may be next," Hanby said, wondering how long Bill could maintain this air of complete innocence. "Poor Dina a widow, with the chance of marrying a better man!"

"Don't!" said Bill, frowning. "I don't like to hear you make a joke of that sort of thing. If Dina died, could you ever marry again?"

"Good G—d, no! Of course not!" replied Hanby, startled.

"She couldn't either. Hil, old man, don't you know that every now and again in this human family two people are born like Dina and you—two people whom nothing can separate but death? I've watched you with other women, and I've watched her with other men—pretty women, too—and better-looking cusses than you. Tell me, have you ever seen a woman you care a d—n for since you met Dina?"

"No."

"And she's seen no other man. You two are marvels. That family of yours is what it is because of its parents."

"I didn't mean that about Dina marrying," Hanby said. "A little shamefacedly. You know men don't like to seem sentimental. Your friendship has been a great deal to us, Bill, and you are not going to drop out."

"I worship Dina," Bill Pelham said meditatively. "Directly I saw her, twenty years ago, I knew that she was the one woman." He smiled whimsically. "Every Christmas she lets me kiss her under the mistletoe. Once every year! You can bet I shall be with you on Christmas eve, anyway."

Hanby smiled.

"If we lived in some European countries, I should have to challenge you to a duel for that and kill you."

"It's the dark, saturnine villain who does the slaying," Bill reminded him. "I should sneer diabolically, and ask you to name the rib under which you would like my rapier to go." He lighted a cigarette. "Why did you ask me to come?"

"To discuss your Aunt Selina."

"How the devil did you know I had an Aunt Selina? She was a great-granddaughter, a playmate of Martha Washington, if the family history is correct."

"I didn't know it. Look here, Bill—Dina's all upset about some merry spirits who have been trying to frighten me away from Pine Plains. Do you admit coming here and pretending to be Miss Selenos, who hated and despised me above all men, and ploned her faith on dogs?"

"One of us is crazy," replied Bill Pelham. "At the time you say I was here, a dozen men will prove that I was in Chicago. I have played practical jokes, and I hope to again, if I live; but I know nothing of this. Tell me all."

Hanby described not only his experience but that of Adolf Smucker.

"You can count Reggie out, too," Pelham declared. "He's at the bankers' convention in Baltimore. These two people may be fakes, but Reggie and I are innocent. Silly sort of stories to tell!"

"That's what Dina said."

"Is she worried?"

"Just a little. Nothing physical can scare her, but she takes funny psychological excursions. She was reading an English book on 'Haunted Houses' when I left."

"There are such things," Pelham said, gravely. "Glamis castle, for one, and the house where the Wesleys lived. I don't know enough to disbelieve. Look here, Hil—we've got to get to the bottom of this."

"What do you suggest?"

"I've got a clear day. I'll interview the man you bought the place from, and find out about past tenants. Also, I'll see if there was a

Selenos family holding land grants in California. I'll probably drop in after dinner. Where are you off to?" concluded Pelham, as Hanby reached for his hat.

"Pine Plains. Junior is motorizing me up. I'll be back by dinner time, with luck. Anyhow, wait for me. I've got to see about another caretaker and arrange for the burial of Kerr. Not a cent was found on him, and it seems that he has no relations. I feel responsible in a way. Junior seems to think that he's going to be a Sherlock Holmes, to the chagrin and confusion of the Pine Plains police."

"There is no such thing as a meaningless crime," Pelham remarked. "Junior may be of some help."

"I hope so. I want to clear up everything, so that Dina and Celia won't have a chance to feel nervous. Dina has a vague idea that the country is dangerous. She was raised in Cleveland's most select residential district, and has always lived in cities. I'm a wild man from the Housatonic feud country, and the idea of tramps doesn't give me a thrill at all."

"If I know Dina," Bill said thoughtfully, "she'll be less worried about tramps than she will about any reputed curse on the place. Like many of those highly strung women, she's psychically sensitive. If all these tragedies happened there, she's bound to hear of them. You've already had a murder on your front lawn."

"That's not serious," Hanby returned. "Some wandering yegg killed the poor fellow for his savings."

"I wish you hadn't sent that Selenos woman off without getting more particulars from her. You calmly shut all avenues of information."

"Her manner was so infernally insulting, Bill. You know I'm not the sort of man to be told that I must sell the house I've selected as a home after inspecting hundreds of places. The poor old thing was crazy."

"What about Smucker?"

"Hooch talked there. Smucker's not too well balanced, either."

Bill Pelham shook his head.

"I don't like it," he said. (Continued Next Week.)

Mulberry Resident Home From Long Trip

Geo. D. Richie, who lives between Mulberry and the mountain, in the Castle Peak community, has returned from a delightful trip which took him to see his ten children scattered from coast to coast.

Other than the pleasure of visiting his children, Mr. Richie found much to interest him, especially in South and East Texas. He visited some of the pinerias of East Texas, and on the return trip he gathered a quantity of moss that grows so profusely on the trees in the South and East sections of Texas. Some of the moss was left at the Mail office and Mr. Richie retained a supply to show to his friends of this section.

In his trip through Texas Mr. Richie visited his daughter, Mrs. Perry Townsend, at Lampasas, and another daughter, Mrs. Josie Avert, at Bay City. He came to Mulberry Canyon in 1884 and has lived in that section since that time.

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To My Friends in Merkel and Taylor County

I take this method of announcing that I am now connected with the Security Abstract and Title Company, located in rooms 322-23 Citizens National Bank Bldg. Abilene, Texas, being associated with my son, Clyde Beasley, and R. W. Grimsley in the Abstract business. We have a complete set of Records pertaining to all land titles in Taylor County, Texas, and will appreciate a reasonable share of your abstract business.

When in Abilene call at our offices and we will give you the best services possible.

W. E. BEASLEY



JONES DRY GOODS, Merkel, Texas

SPEAKERS EXTOL GEO. WASHINGTON

Large Delegations From Abilene and Trent Join Merkel Masons in Program.

A delegation of about forty-five Abilenians and a number from Trent joined with the members of Merkel lodge No. 710, at the Presbyterian church, in celebrating with appropriate memorial services the birth of George Washington. The audience consisted of approximately 200 Masons and their families.

The meeting was called to order by T. D. Compton, worshipful master of Merkel lodge, followed by invocation by Rev. J. P. Watson of Trent. The purpose of the gathering was explained by M. C. Graham, district deputy grand master.

Dr. E. L. Salkeld of Abilene spoke on George Washington as a Mason, paying tribute to his unselfishness and his interest in humanity, sketching his life as youth, soldier and statesman.

W. R. Lense of Abilene, general manager of the Abilene and Southern Railway company, spoke of the deserved memorials erected to Washington and the many tributes paid him by different countries. He told of a recent visit to the lodge at Alexandria, Va., which Washington served as master.

Rev. Ira L. Parrack, pastor of the Merkel Baptist church, reviewed the progress of Masonry in Texas during the past 103 years, the period of its existence in the Lone Star state.

Readings were given by Miss Nell Hughes, Miss Lucy Tracey and Miss Mollie Frank Touchstone. Musical entertainment included duets by the Misses Sears, piano numbers by Miss Melba West, and a quartette from Merkel lodge.

BAPTIST ANNOUNCEMENTS

All regular services Sunday and during the week. Sunday school 10 a. m. Preaching by the pastor 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. All B. Y. P. U.'s meet at 6:45 p. m. Prayer and conference meeting Wednesday 7:30 p. m. Visitors and strangers are always welcome at our services.

Ira L. Parrack, Pastor

JUNIOR LEAGUE PROGRAM.

Song; prayer; roll call; scripture, Galatians 6:9, by leader, Vivian Lasater; The Way to Conquer, by Lois Whitely; Remember Lincoln's Courage by Alice Church; Keep Right on, by Imogene Middleton; The Spider Sets an Example, by Louise Kerr; Columbus, by Nell Hughes; Bible Story, by Julia Proctor; Benediction.

BANK HOLIDAY.

On account of Texas Independence day the undersigned banks will be closed all day Saturday, March 2, 1929. Patrons will please take notice and make their arrangements in accordance.

F. & M. NATIONAL BANK.
FARMERS STATE BANK.

Special Offer Extended—On account of the bad weather during February we have extended our Special 25 per cent reduction on all sizes of Portraits during the month of March. See our advertisement.

Have your prescriptions filled at Phillips Drug Store. Registered pharmacists.

Coupon Item For March Attracts Much Attention

Show Windows at the Boston Bargain Store Has Oriental Cast.

Filled with beautiful chinaware sets which consist of a sugar and creamer imported direct from Japan to the Boston Bargain Store, the show windows are the center of attraction this week.

This set of Japanese chinaware is the coupon item which will start Friday of this week.

Many Merkel ladies are anxiously waiting for the first day of March to arrive so that they may take advantage of this unusual offer.

The Boston Bargain Store offers a different coupon item every month, to those who buy so much as one dollar's worth of merchandise.

Last month the very beautiful pillow cases were all gone several days before the middle of the month.

The March coupon item promises to be the best one yet.—Advertising.

Sweetwater Corinth Churches to Be Hosts to Baptist Workers

The workers' conference of the Sweetwater Baptist Association will convene with the First Baptist church at Sweetwater Monday, and on Tuesday the workers' conference of the Jones County Baptist Association will meet with the Corinth Baptist church. Following is the program at Sweetwater:

10:00 A. M.—Devotional.—B. F. Ayers.

10:20 A. M.—Duty and Responsibility of Pastor Leading His Church in Supporting our Denominational Work.—Graves Darby.

10:40 A. M.—Have We The Right to Designate Our Offerings To Denominational Work?—R. M. McGinnis.

11:00 A. M.—Sermon.—G. W. Parks.

Noon Lunch.

1:00 P. M.—Board Meeting and W. M. U. Meeting.

2:00 P. M.—Illustrated Message.—Zebb Freeman.

2:30 P. M.—Difficulties in Installing the Budget and How to Overcome Them.—Walter Jackson.

2:50 P. M.—Checking up on Sunday Schools and Budgeting.—Missionary.

3:00 P. M.—Inspirational Address.—W. C. Ashford.

The program at the Corinth Baptist church Tuesday follows:

10:00 A. M.—Devotional.—L. D. Crumpler.

10:20 A. M.—How to Maintain a Soul-Winning Church.—H. H. Summers.

10:40 A. M.—Importance of Evangelistic and Doctrinal Preaching.—W. R. Derr.

11:00 A. M.—Sermon.—C. R. Campbell.

Noon Lunch.

1:00 P. M. Devotional.—G. O. Summers.

1:15 P. M.—Scriptural Proof for the United Budget.—Henry Littleton.

1:35 P. M.—What the Unified Budget Has Meant to My Church.—Ira L. Parrack.

1:55 P. M.—Relation of the Unified Budget to Denominational Support.—J. Perry King.

2:15 P. M.—How to Put on the Budget in a Church.—W. C. Moffit.

2:35 P. M.—Joy and Value of Christian Fellowship.—O. B. Tatum.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

Sunday school at 10 a. m. Preaching at 11 a. m. followed by a Communion service. Offering for the Reynolds' Home. Evening service at 7:30. Session meeting Tuesday evening at 7:30. Prayer meeting Wednesday evening at 7:30. Come worship with us in all the services.

Wm. Elliott, Supt.
R. A. Walker, Pastor.

Wanted—To buy maize heads. \$18.00 per ton.

Sam Swann

For Aggressin Blackleg Vaccine see Phillips Drug Store.

Wanted—To buy maize heads. \$18.00 per ton.

Sam Swann

CANYON NEWS

A number of young people enjoyed the Valentine party given by Miss Lottie Butman. After a series of games, refreshments consisting of hot chocolate and cake were served.

The Junior basketball team of Butman school defeated I. X. L. Juniors by a score of 16-12.

Friday night the Butman school P. T. A. met. After a business session an interesting program was enjoyed. Two outstanding numbers on the program were songs by Evalyn and Jimmie Perry, and Odena and Odis Pribble with guitar accompaniment. A sack supper was also in order for the evening. The proceeds were to be used in buying playground equipment. We take this opportunity in thanking the young folks of other communities for co-operating with us.

Death visited the Nubia community and took away one of the sweetest and most devoted mothers. The Merkel Mail friends wish to extend deepest sympathy to the bereaved family of Mrs. Ed. Miller.

Miss Novis Whitaker visited relatives at Dora recently.

Mr. Leo Huff and grandfather of the Dora community spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Tommie Russon.

Nina Lois Anderson was unable to return to her school work Monday on account of illness.

Mrs. Eli Cordell has also been on the sick list.

Mr. Lykins and family were in the community visiting friends last week. Mr. Lykins is farming on the plains this year. He reports that on the plains there remains lots of cotton yet to be gathered; and "slides" are used to great advantage.

A number of young people enjoyed the "storm party" at Mr. and Mrs. Tommie Russon's Saturday night.

Miss Elna Hale, principal of Butman school, visited home folks in Abilene Saturday and Sunday.

Misses Evalyn and Nadine Perry left Sunday for a visit with their aunt in Fort Worth. While there they plan to take a course in nursing.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Butman Sr., made a business trip to Sweetwater Monday.

Mrs. Ira Johnson Dead.

Funeral services were held at Trent Monday for Mrs. Ira Johnson, who died Sunday at San Angelo after a lingering illness. Rev. Ira L. Parrack of Merkel conducted the services.

Mrs. Johnson is survived by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Reagan of Longworth, one brother and one sister.

Mrs. Sublett Back.

Mrs. Len Sublett is back in her place as teacher in the Grammar school after an absence on account of the illness of her mother, Mrs. Christopher. Mrs. Christopher is improved enough that Mrs. Sublett was able to bring her to Merkel from the West Texas Sanitarium at Abilene, but she is still dangerously ill.

Expecting car hulls any day. Swafford. Phone 44. So. Side.

MEAT SPECIALS FOR FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

Steak from choice Baby Beef per lb.	30c
Roasts from choice Baby Beef, per lb.	20c
Pork Chops Home killed hogs, per lb.	30c
Pork Sausage, the kind you'll like, per lb.	25c
Sliced Bacon, fancy, per lb.	35c
Box Bacon, per lb.	40c
Fresh Oysters, pint	50c
Fresh Water Dressed Cat Fish, per lb	35c

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We have just received a shipment of John Deere Implements consisting of Single Row Cultivators, Double Row Cultivators, Double Row Planters, also Double Row Beam Hitch Platers. We have these now on our display floor and we would appreciate your coming in and let us show you these implements.

INCUBATORS

We have in stock the following makes of incubators

AUTOMATIC AND SAFETY HATCH

Brooders of various sizes

CREAM SEPARATORS

We carry the Gold Medal also the Baltic. Our stock of Harness and general hardware is in good shape.

WE WILL GIVE YOU GOOD SERVICE, GOOD PRICES AND GOOD MERCHANDISE.

Your trade appreciated.

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It is to these that this message is directed. The Merkel Mail has among its personnel men, who have had extensive training in advertising design and writing. In addition, we have a complete cut service with which to illustrate any advertisement.

We are always glad to render every possible service to our advertisers. The writing of the advertisement and the use of the cuts are a part of our service. All you need to do is to tell us what you want to advertise and we will do the rest.

PHONE 61

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