

THE MERKEL MAIL

VOL. 41—NO. 3

MERKEL, TEXAS, FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 1929.

On the "Broadway of America"

5c PER COPY

BALLOT TUESDAY ON REPAIRS FOR GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Voters Asked to Approve Bond Issue of \$16,000 to Make Badly Needed Repairs to Building Housing 500 Children.

Voters of Merkel independent school district will, on next Tuesday, April 30, express their approval or disapproval of the proposed bond issue for \$16,000, the money to be used in making badly needed repairs to the Grammar school building.

Polls will open at the city hall at 8 a. m. and close at 6 p. m. B. C. Gaither has been named election judge.

In a recent public statement the school board gave a list of the needed repairs to the building, together with the further statement "that unless something unforeseen happens, the board will be able to care for the bond issue without the addition of more taxes or raising the values of property."

Members of the board have pointed out that repairs are absolutely necessary for the safety and health of the 500 children housed in the Grammar school building. The program as outlined by the board will result in a modern heating plant, new sewer system and a practically new roof, besides providing for a complete overhauling of the building, making it as good as new at an outlay of only \$16,000.

Remember that next Tuesday is the time to vote.

Purse Belonging to Mrs. Ira Windham Stolen, Recovered

A purse belonging to Mrs. Ira Windham, containing about \$45 in cash and checks, was taken from the desk in the Ira Windham filling station Thursday afternoon of last week while Mrs. Windham was busy with office duties. A young Merkel youth who had purchased a quart of oil was suspected and he was arrested at Mineral Wells. All of the money was recovered except about 35 cents. The purse was found hidden north of Tye. The young man was brought back to Merkel and placed in jail here.

Merkel People on Extended Auto Trip

Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Williams left on Tuesday for an extended automobile trip that will take them to several Texas points and to Missouri and neighboring states. They will first visit relatives in Austin, Cameron and Marlin, going from the latter place to Calhoun, Missouri, where they will visit with Mrs. Williamson's cousins. From this place they will visit nearby towns and cities, spending the entire time in recreational activities. They expect to return to Merkel about September 1.

Merkel Sow Has Litter of Twenty-two Pigs

Lee Baker, living on route 1, believes he has a sow that holds the record. Some time ago this sow gave birth to a litter of 19 pigs, which Mr. Baker says beat the known record of 18. Last week the same sow had a litter of 22 pigs. She is of the O. L. C. stock, and Mr. Baker is naturally proud of the animal.

Merkel Lions Guests of Club at Albany

Sie Hamm, Mat Dillingham and Ted Nichols of the Merkel Lions Club were guests of the Albany club last Friday, as was Marvin Mayfield of Abilene, who joined the Merkel men for the trip. The Merkel Lions report an excellent time at Albany, a cordial welcome, good "eats" and a round of golf during the afternoon.

Brotherhood Postpones Meet.

The meeting of the Wesley Brotherhood of the Methodist church, scheduled for Tuesday night, was postponed on account of the threatening weather. Rev. O. F. Clark, pastor of the Methodist church at Sweetwater, who was to have delivered the principal address, was here, and will perhaps return at a later date and address the Brotherhood.

NEW OIL STRATUM FOUND IN TEXAS CO. TEST AT 2733 FEET

The Texas Co. and Cosden No. 6 Carter, located midway between the Tiner and Bickley oil areas, picked up during the past week at 2733 feet a new producing stratum heretofore undiscovered in that immediate section. The new well was reported to have swabbed about 150 barrels Wednesday.

The new formation is said by oil men to make three separate and distinct pay horizons for this territory. The first is the upper Noodle Creek lime, found around 2500 feet, and the second is the lower Noodle Creek, below 3,000 feet. The new stratum is approximately half way between the other two.

On the strength of the showing made by this discovery, Grisham-Hunter corporation is rigging up on their No. 1 Tiner, which had a very small show in the Noodle Creek lime and was abandoned as dry. The owners will now drill to 2750 feet to test for the newly found producing horizon.

LIONS CLUB TO WELCOME DALLAS

President Dee Grimes of the Lions club, at the regular meeting Tuesday, urged members of the club and the citizenship generally to turn out and welcome the 100 Dallas business men when they visit Merkel this morning, from 10:20 to 10:40. At a previous meeting former Mayor H. C. West was named as official spokesman for Merkel in the welcome to the Dallas trade trippers.

Mayor J. P. Sharp was a guest of the club and asked co-operation of the members in the upbuilding of the community.

Booth Warren reported that an effort was being made to have a large delegation from the club attend the state Lions convention at San Angelo May 9-10, eight or ten having already signified their intention of attending. It was reported that S. W. Johnson, member of the club, was ill, and the secretary was instructed to send flowers in the name of the club.

Rufe Tittle was named toastmaster for next week's meeting, and W. O. Boney the week following.

Mrs. J. H. Wilson Dies Suddenly at Her Home at Blair

Mrs. J. H. Wilson, resident of the Blair community for 35 years, died suddenly at her home Wednesday morning at 3:30. Funeral services were held from the home Thursday afternoon, with Rev. Marvin Williams pastor of the Blair Methodist church, officiating. Burial was in the Merkel cemetery.

The death of Mrs. Wilson caused universal regret from a wide circle of friends. She was taken suddenly ill during the night and died before a doctor could be secured.

Mrs. Wilson is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Cynthia Swafford, with whom she made her home at Blair.

Merkel Boy Keeps Marriage a Secret For Six Long Months

Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Ashby have recently been advised of the marriage of their son, Joe B., to Miss Bonnie Belle Cooner, the ceremony taking place at Kaufman, 35 miles from Dallas, six months ago. The young couple pledged each other to keep the marriage a secret until such time as they chose to make the fact known.

The time came last week at DeLeon, when Mr. and Mrs. Ashby were luncheon guests in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Riley Worthy, and there "broke the news." Later in the afternoon they told the young bride's mother.

Mrs. Ashby is the daughter of Mrs. Emma Cooner and was reared in DeLeon, receiving her education in the schools at that place, where she is quite popular in social circles. Mr. Ashby is a Merkel boy, graduating from the Merkel High school in 1926, later entering the banking business. He is now assistant cashier of the Farmers and Merchants National bank at DeLeon. Many friends in this section wish for Mr. and Mrs. Ashby much happiness. They were visitors in the home of Mr. Ashby's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Ashby, for a short time the first of the week.

DALLAS BUSINESS LEADERS PAY MERKEL VISIT TODAY; SCHOOLS TO BE DISMISSED

Dallas business men, numbering more than 100, will be guests of Merkel this morning from 10:20 to 10:40. They are on an extended trade trip that will take them to a big portion of West Texas.

As a part of Merkel's welcome, both the High school and the Grammar school will be dismissed in order to allow the 700 school children to participate in the welcome to the Dallas visitors. No formal program of welcome or entertainment has been arranged other than an address by former Mayor H. C. West. President Dee Grimes of the Lions club requests that Merkel people be at the station to welcome the Dallas business leaders and extend to them every possible hospitality.

MERKEL LODGE IS HOST TO MASONS

Two Hundred Attend Lectures By Representatives of Masonic Education Committee.

Masons from every lodge in Taylor county and a number from adjoining counties attended the educational lectures Wednesday night by Wilbur Keith and Joe R. Gunn of Dallas, representing the committee on Masonic education of the grand lodge of Texas. M. C. Graham of Merkel, district deputy grand master, presided.

Mr. Keith, who was in charge of the meeting, delivered an address dealing with the history of the Masonic fraternity. Texas Masonic activity was reviewed from 1835, the time of its beginning, to the present. Masonic investments in Texas, exclusive of the Eastern Star Home, for which he said Masons did not claim credit, total at the present time \$4,750,000.

Mr. Gunn's address dealt largely with the principles, ideals and tenets of Freemasonry.

L. C. Penry, who headed a delegation from Stamford, made a brief address. A delegation of fifteen was present from Abilene.

It was estimated that about 200 were present, representing lodges in all adjoining counties. Members of Merkel lodge feel that much benefit was derived from the meeting, the first educational program ever to be presented here.

Yegg Open Queen Theatre Safe; Make Escape With \$65

Safe crackers entered the Queen Theatre here last week, opened the Small safe on the second floor and made their escape with about \$65 in cash and checks. The robbery was committed between closing time Thursday evening and the time of opening Friday evening. S. P. Nesmith, manager, discovered the robbery as he prepared to open for business Friday night. Officers were summoned, but no arrests have been made.

Dramatic Club to Present 3-Act Comedy

"Mamma's Affairs" a comedy in three acts, will be presented by High School Dramatic club at the Merkel theatre Monday evening, beginning at 8 o'clock. "Mamma's Affairs" is known as the Harvard prize play, and is full of laughs from beginning to end. Admission will be 25 and 35 cents.

SHOTS FIRED ON HIGHWAY NEAR MERKEL IN HI-JACKING ATTEMPT

Two shots were fired at a car accipied by Mr. and Mrs. Roy Ligon of Pecos last Tuesday night, and it later developed that the car from which the shots were fired was stolen from Dr. J. M. Estes of Abilene.

Mr. Ligon observed the car trailing him, and was convinced the actions of the men were suspicious after they made several attempts to pass. When about half way to Trent the shots were fired, which caused Mr. Ligon to "step on the gas." At Trent he encountered Constable Seals, who immediately came toward Merkel in search of the car and the men. When about half way between the towns he found the car parked on the highway,

MUSICIANS FROM TRINITY U. HEARD

Band and Glee Club Give Concert at Grace Presbyterian Church in Merkel.

The Trinity University Band and Glee Club, composed of 25 men gave a concert here Wednesday at the Grace Presbyterian church, which was largely attended and well received. The organizations from Waxahachie are making a tour of west Texas towns, including Albany, Stamford, Rotan, Colorado and Fort Worth, under the supervision of Clark Leaming, dean of music at Trinity University. Mr. Leaming had direction of the glee club and C. D. Shank directed the band. This is the thirtieth annual tour of the organizations.

The city band of Merkel also assisted in the concert by playing a few numbers with the Trinity men. The local organization, it is well known, is under the direction of Joe Ward.

The male quartet was composed of Connor Robinson of Rotan, Hugh Sneed of Waxahachie, Robert Joiner of Gainesville and Edward Clark of Temple. Mr. Clark and Mr. Joiner were the vocal soloists. Mr. Byers of Teague offered some clarinet numbers. M. L. Dickerson of Arlington was piano accompanist for the glee club and soloists.

The club was brought here under the auspices of the Grace Presbyterian church of which Rev. Walker is pastor. Miss Melba West, an ex-student of Trinity University, assisted Rev. Walker in placing the men in the homes of Merkel and they were entertained by Miss West after the program Wednesday evening.

Merkel Pastor and Musicians on Radio

Three Merkel people were heard over radio K.F.Y.O., Abilene, Tuesday morning, in connection with the radio revival being conducted from that station. Rev. Ira L. Parrack, Baptist pastor, delivered the sermon, Charles Largent sang, and Mrs. L. B. Scott was at the piano. Numerous letters, telegrams and telephone calls were received expressing appreciation for the program.

Mrs. Grayson Improved

Mrs. J. H. Grayson, who underwent a serious operation at the Merkel sanitarium Wednesday of last week, is reported as rapidly recovering. Many inquiries are received daily at the hospital and from friends as to her condition.

KEEPING UP WITH TEXAS

Robbers raided a dice game at Dallas and escaped with \$375.

The Presbytery of Fort Worth, U. S., meeting in that city last week, selected Abilene as the 1930 meeting place.

Frank A. Miller, Abilene real estate man, died at his home Wednesday. He had been living in Abilene for 24 years.

A. A. Fielder, civic leader of Sherman and mayor of that city for four terms, died at a Sherman hospital Sunday.

J. P. (Pat) Williams of Mineral Wells has announced his candidacy for president of the West Texas Chamber of Commerce.

A policeman at Lake Worth, Fort Worth, rescued three boys clinging to a capsized row boat and brought them to safety.

Joseph H. Byers, prominent Mexia attorney, was found guilty of the forgery of a deed and sentenced to five years imprisonment.

Robert Blake, sentenced to death for the slaying of Fred Connor, Tulsa automobile salesman, paid the penalty in the electric chair at Huntsville last Friday.

The bulk of the \$700,000 estate of Royal A. Ferris, Dallas financier, who died last month, was willed to his son, Royal A. Ferris Jr.

A 17-year-old youth, believed responsible for twenty-five robberies in Houston, was captured Friday. Arresting officers said the youth tried to pull a gun.

Will B. Paddock, 56, former civic leader of Fort Worth, died last week in Colorado Springs, Colo., where he had moved five years ago for his health.

Mrs. Minnie Lee Costley, Waco, was killed and three other persons injured when the truck in which they were riding to church collided with a car driven by a negro.

Seven persons were killed, scores injured and much property damage caused by a storm which swept East Texas Wednesday, the greatest damage being inflicted at Slocum, near Palestine.

Henry Schussler and Fred Jordan have been indicted by the Eastland county grand jury, charging them with murder in connection with the T. & P. wreck six years ago near Dothan when seven persons were killed.

Six Deaths Per Hour in Texas During 1928

Austin, Texas, April 25.—There were six deaths an hour in Texas in 1928, figures from the bureau of vital statistics of the Health Department show. The average daily mortality was 144. Death registration is not complete and when all deaths are made a public record this number will be increased.

According to authorities on preventive medicine, half of these deaths are preventable.

There were more than 1,000 deaths ascribed to diphtheria, typhoid fever, smallpox and malaria, or either due to these four preventable diseases. Every day in 1928 there were more than ten deaths from tuberculosis, nine deaths each day of babies under 2 years old from diarrhea or dysentery. From these six diseases there were more than 8,000 deaths and if the mortality was but 10 per cent, there were 80,000 cases of the six preventable diseases.

Junior League Program.

Song; prayer; roll call; Scripture, (page 31), by leader, Imogene Middleton; story, "The Prince of the Reed Plains" by Duncan Briggs; Bible story, Louise Kerr; story, "The Cache" Mollie Frank Touchstone; benediction.

Business Change.

Elie Case has bought the interest of Seth Hamilton in the Hamilton-Case grocery store, Mr. Hamilton retiring on account of ill health. The partnership has been in existence for seven and one-half years.

Farmer Slain on Street.

Goldthwaite, April 25.—Will Hodnett, a Mills county farmer, was shot and killed on a street here Monday. Bradley Weathers, another farmer, surrendered to officers after the shooting.

FIVE NEW HOMES UNDER CONTRACT NOW IN MERKEL

Steady and Substantial Growth Indicated by Building Activity; All Structures Are to Be Modern and Up-to-Date.

Merkel is growing. Five new homes are now being built or contracted for. These, added to a number that were completed during the winter and early spring, indicates a steady and substantial growth. The five new homes are assured, and contractors are figuring on at least three others.

V. N. Ellis has just completed a 5-room stucco, Spanish model home on Bettis Heights. The new home structure is modern in every respect, built for a home and has all conveniences.

John Sears is preparing to build on Oak Street a brick veneer, to consist of six rooms and bath. He is now razing the old home place and will erect in its place one of the most attractive dwellings in Merkel. It will be modern throughout, and work is expected to begin next week.

A. V. Dye Jr., is erecting a new frame home in South Merkel, consisting of four rooms and bath. It is of the bungalow style and erected with a view to comfort. Work will be completed next week.

Uncle "Bunk" Tipton has under construction a five-room and bath frame structure in South Merkel, which is to be of bungalow type and equipped with all conveniences.

Fred Latham is tearing down his frame house on Oak street and will erect in its place a five-room rock veneer.

Improvements are being made to a number of homes, among them being that of Roy Largent, where two rooms are being added.

HONOR STUDENTS AT MERKEL HIGH

Following is a list of honor roll students at Merkel High school for the six week's period ending April 12:

Senior Honor Roll—R. E. Cole 96 3-7; Vernie Derrick 95 5-8; Ruby Patton 94; Lester Patterson 93; Addie Rae Patterson 93; Unalea Gilmore 92; Arline Willett 90.
Tenth grade—Frances Frederickson 95; Odell Hunter 94; Nina Vantress 94; Lee Darden 92; Beryl Hunter 92; J. T. Darsey 91.
Ninth grade—Elvis Richardson 96; Velma Lee Holden 94; Elsie Lisater 94; Louise Booth 93; Mary Clark 91; Gladys Petty 90.
Eighth grade—Muriel Quote 94; Alice Church 93; Nell Durham 92; Madeline Murray 91; Mary E. Grimes 90; Kathleen Mashburn 90.

Donations For Week to Cemetery Fund

Following is the list of contributors and the amount of each to the cemetery fund, up to Wednesday night:

Owen Ellis	\$ 2.00
Mrs. Geo. Bullock	2.50
Mrs. J. M. Dry	1.00
Mrs. W. M. Eoff	1.00
H. H. Toombs	10.00
Bryan Dunnigan	5.00
W. W. Wheeler	5.00
J. W. Moore	2.00
W. C. Hill	2.50
Mrs. D. A. Hill	2.50
Mrs. T. C. Allen	50
J. S. Thomas	2.50
C. A. Higgins	5.00
Mrs. M. F. Bell	1.00
Jno. Sears	25.00
Mrs. Julia A. Perkins	10.00
E. C. Simpson	2.50
Mrs. E. C. P. Ross	5.00
J. M. Williamson	5.00
A. J. Canon	5.00
G. C. Smith	50

This is pretty good for the first week, but does not go very far on the required amount. Do your part toward this worthy cause and do it now. If we keep this work going, we must have the money. If not, we will be forced to do away with the sexton, and let the weeds grow. We don't believe the people of this community want to see that condition exist, so come on with your donation, and let's put it over by the next issue of the Merkel Mail. —Committee.

Condensed Statement of Condition
The Farmers State Bank
 Merkel, Texas, Close Business Mar. 27, 1929

RESOURCES.

Loans	\$361,392.68
Overdrafts	1,496.87
Banking House	25,000.00
Furniture & Fixtures	7,500.00
Other Real Estate	11,355.40
Due from Guaranty Fund	4,105.88
Due from City of Merkel	4,055.44
U. S. Bonds	\$41,300.00
Bills of Ex. Cotton	16,120.80
Cash & Exchange	88,221.02
	145,641.82
	\$560,548.09

LIABILITIES.

Capital Stock	\$ 50,000.00
Surplus & Profits	13,172.49
Bills Payable	NONE
Rediscounts	NONE
Other Borrowed Money	NONE
Deposits	497,375.60
	\$560,548.09

Upon the merits of the above statement we solicit your business. Our funds are loaned locally for the benefit of this community.

The Farmers State Bank

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS:

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

LEGISLATURE IN SPECIAL SESSION

House Hears Resolution Opposing Colquitt's Appointment to Federal Mediation Board.

Austin, April 25.—An effort to put the house of representatives of Texas on record against appointment of former Governor O. B. Colquitt as member of the Federal railroad mediation board was referred to the committee on Federal Relations Monday.

The action was taken after the resolution apparently was voted down viva voce and a vote was being taken on the electric voting machine to determine how it stood.

"It is largely a matter of fun anyway so far as the speaker is concerned" said Speaker W. S. Barron in stopping the vote and permitting the motion to refer it to a committee.

S. E. Barnett of Greenville, author of the resolution and others did not take it as a joke. Barnett declared Colquitt should not be appointed as a democrat; that he had not been in accord with the democrats of the state for 13 years and could not get endorsement of the democrats.

A revolt from Governor Moody's legislative program broke out in the senate with a proposal to take up appropriations instead. It was referred to committee.

Prospects for a legislative investigation of the escape of Bob Silver, commuted slayer, from a state prison farm, dwindled when legislative leaders expressed themselves opposed to investigations at this session.

The governor's message was a short one. He said:

It is my desire to first submit for your consideration subjects under which I believe legislation may be passed that will improve departmental economy and efficiency. Therefore, the following subjects are respectfully submitted for your consideration:

1 The enactment of laws providing for the concentration of the Texas prison system, and the improvement of said system along modern and scientific lines.

2 The enactment of laws with reference to the handling of prisoners confined in the state penitentiary, including the adoption of an adequate parole law.

3 The enactment of laws carrying into effect the amendment to section 8 of the article VII of the constitution. (Board of Education.)

4 The enactment of laws to place the selection of subordinate employees of the state government upon a merit basis.

5 The enactment of statutes to abolish the terms of the several district courts of the state and to provide that such courts may hold sessions in any county of their several districts at anytime to be determined by the judge of such court, and to otherwise simplify and reform the procedure in civil cases.

Respectfully submitted,
 DAN MOODY,
 Governor of Texas.

County Farm Agents Form Association to Aid Agriculture

The Central West Texas Agricultural Workers' Association was organized at Abilene last week, when agricultural agents and representatives of Chambers of Commerce from eight counties were present. The object of the new association is to work for the advancement of farming in general and dairying, poultry raising and marketing in particular in ten counties of this area.

C. Metz Heald, county agent of Taylor county, was chosen president, and C. C. Jobson, agent of Jones county, was elected secretary. Meetings will be held the third Tuesday of alternate months, the next meeting to be held in June. The place of meeting is to be decided later.

Home From Corpus Christi.

Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Holloway have returned from a two months' trip to Corpus Christi, where they had gone for a rest and in search of health. They report a most excellent time, good fishing, and Mr. Holloway greatly improved. On the return trip they spent two weeks visiting relatives at McAllen.

Pioneer Dies at Abilene.

Mrs. Mildred Hawk, 74, for 34 years a resident of Taylor county, died in a hospital at Abilene Sunday morning. Funeral services were held Sunday afternoon, burial being in the Phantom Mill cemetery at Abilene.

Surviving are five sons, two daughters, eighteen grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Try a Classified Ad in the Mail

Texas Woman Sends Shoes 20 Years Old to Shop For Repairs

Joshua, Texas, April 25.—If the Old Lady Who Lived in the Shoe had had one of the shoes worn by Mrs. N. J. Branson of this place, at least one of her worries would have been alleviated.

A pair of shoes, said to have been worn by Mrs. Branson regularly for 11 years, and "now and then" for nine more years, recently was sent to a shop for repairs. The shop owner reported the shoes in good condition with the exception of the soles. After repairing the soles, the repairman pronounced the shoes ready for additional duty.

Rail Workers Win Disputed Point

Dallas, April 25.—Employees of the Texas and Pacific railway gained a point in their controversy with the road when their request for assignment of crews was granted.

The agreement provides that twenty crews be assigned to the yards at Mineola, fifteen crews to the Mineola-Texarkana run, and nine crews to the Mineola-Shreveport run. Three crews from the Louisiana division and six from the Fort Worth division will be assigned to the Mineola-Shreveport run.

No decision has been reached in regard to switching service in the Mineola yards.

Minister is Ousted on Heresy Charges

Cameron, April 25.—The Rev. H. G. Kenney, Cameron pastor, charged with heretical teachings, was notified officially by the Central Texas presbytery that he had been ousted from the local church and disqualified from holding any other pastorate in the district.

Odell U. of T. Regent.

Austin, April 25.—W. M. Odell of Fort Worth, member of the State Prison Board, will be appointed to the board of regents of the University of Texas. Governor Moody said Monday. He stated that the appointment would not be made, however, until Odell can quit the prison board.

He appointed Dr. Edward Randall of Galveston to the board last week. Dr. Randall took office Monday.

The Old Reliable
Farmers & Merchants National Bank

Merkel, Texas
 Close of Business March 27, 1929

RESOURCES

Loans, Time and Demand	\$293,656.04
Overdrafts	2,981.16
Furniture and Fixtures	6,750.00
5% Redemption Fund	312.50
Stock in Federal Reserve Bank	2,250.00
Bankers Acceptances	\$ 51,266.28
Commercial Paper	30,000.00
Bills of Exchange (cotton)	6,690.78
U. S. Bonds (owned)	112,300.00
Cash & Sight Exchange	82,632.12

CASH AVAILABLE \$282,889.18
 \$588,838.88

LIABILITIES

Capital Stock	\$ 50,000.00
Surplus	25,000.00
Undivided Profits	23,786.69
Circulation	6,250.00
Borrowed Money	NONE
Bills Payable	NONE
Rediscounts	NONE
DEPOSITS	\$483,802.19

\$588,838.88

Upon the merits of the above statement we respectfully solicit your business. Observe our cash resources. The bonds listed therein are owned by the bank. Backed by abundant available funds we are able and willing to meet the requirements of our customers.

Farmers & Merchants National Bank
 Merkel, Texas

Directors
 J. T. WARREN G. F. WEST SAM BUTMAN, SR.
 GEO. L. PAXTON BOOTH WARREN

"Never missed a dividend—never assessed a shareholder"
"FOR THE PAST QUARTER CENTURY"

NO OBLIGATION

"An inquiry entails no obligation" holds good in this office.

You can come in and ask us for information and advice on any insurance matter without feeling in any way committed to taking a policy.

If you need insurance, however, we will give you dependable insurance.

W. O. BONEY
 REAL ESTATE, FARM LOANS
 FIRE INSURANCE
 MERKEL, TEXAS

Consult Your Insurance Agent As You Would Your Lawyer

BABY CHICKS FROM STRONG UTILITY FLOCK

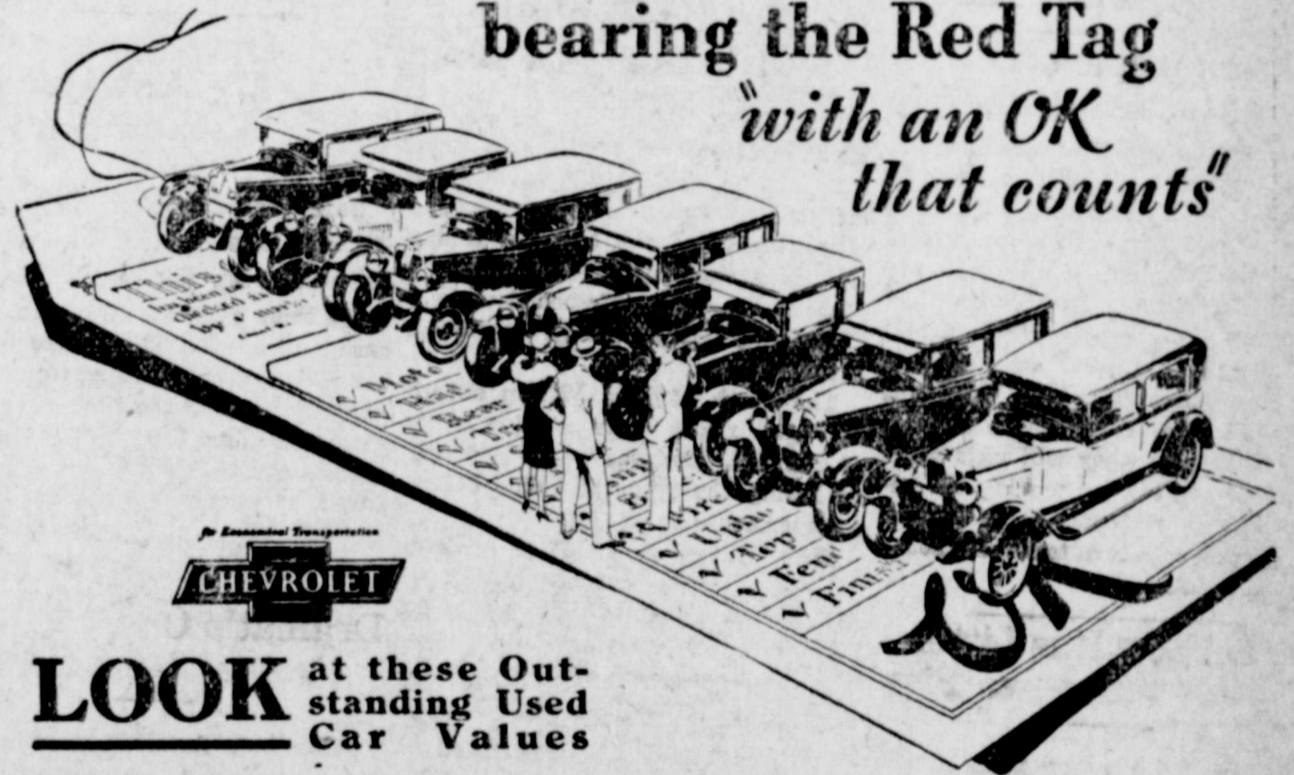
Rhode Island Reds, Barred Plymouth Rock, White Plymouth Rocks, White Wyandottes, English White Leghorns and mixed heavy chicks.

ABILENE HATCHERY & SEED STORE

318 Mesquite St. Phone 7492

Buy on a Sound Basis!

We stand behind every Used Car bearing the Red Tag "with an OK that counts"



LOOK at these Outstanding Used Car Values

- 1927 Chevrolet Sedan, original paint, good motor, overhauled, new rubber, only \$415.00
- 1927 Chevrolet Roadster, reconditioned, new rubber, new Duco paint \$275.00
- Late 1925 Studebaker Sedan, new paint, new Goodyear Casings, only \$395.00
- 1927 Ford Touring, new rubber, new paint, reconditioned \$165.00
- 1926 Dodge Coupe, good condition, a good looking serviceable car, only \$300.00

Other Bargains

OUR used car department is operated under the famous Chevrolet Red O. K. Tag system. Under this plan, we attach the Chevrolet Red O. K. Tag to the radiator cap of every reconditioned car—showing exactly what vital units of the car have been checked or reconditioned by our expert mechanics.

We believe that no fairer system of used car merchandising has ever been worked out—for it assures the customer honest value.

Due to the great popularity of the new Chevrolet Six, we have on hand at this time a wide selection of "O. K.'d" used cars taken in trade on new cars. Come in and look them over. You are sure to find exactly the car you want at a price that will amaze you. Terms are exceptionally easy.

Brackeen-Hughes Chevrolet Co.
 Merkel, Texas

Look for the Red Tag "with an OK that counts"

Frigidaire Factory Working Overtime to Supply Demand

Dayton, Ohio, April 18.—With its mammoth plants operating overtime, many departments working at night, some on triple shifts and production of several models more than doubled, Frigidaire Corporation is making herculean efforts to meet an unprecedented demand for electric refrigerators. All records for compressor shipments were broken in March.

Orders received during the first week in April alone were sufficient to tax the factory capacity for several weeks. The Frigidaire payroll is the highest in its history and the corporation is experiencing a period of the greatest popularity its products have ever enjoyed, according to E. G. Biechler, president and general manager.

The organization exceeded its sales quota for the first quarter. March shipments were fifty per cent ahead of the month preceding and 35 per cent ahead of the same month last year. During March a total of 1040 carloads of finished products left the factories for all parts of the world. Units crated for export were 50 per cent more in number than during the same month of the preceding year.

"Prospects for April indicate still more broken records," said Mr. Biechler. "We have already doubled scheduled production of our popular models. March orders and shipments were ahead of forecasts and as a consequence April shipments will be the greatest in our history."

"People called at Frigidaire display and sales rooms last month in steadily increasing numbers to inspect new models. The percentage of floor sales was the highest we have yet experienced. General warm weather prevailing this spring has had something to do with the unusually early demand. But the introduction of the new Frigidaire cold control, through which the user can obtain any necessary temperature for dessert making has, we believe, contributed even more to present phenomenal conditions."

Abilene High Wins District Track Meet

History repeated again Saturday and Abilene High School walked off with the honors in the track and field meet for district eight, Interscholastic League.

The Eagles scored 33 points, Colorado taking second place with 10, Cross Plains and Sweetwater tied for third with 9 points each.

NOTICE.

The Merkel Fruit and Vegetable Company is always open. Truck from the garden Wednesdays and Fridays. Bell Building opposite Ice House. S. K. Eckerd & Co.

Cameron Church Elders Discharged

Cameron, April 25.—A commission of the general Texas Presbytery, meeting with the congregation of the Cameron Presbyterian church in an effort to settle a controversy between followers of the Rev. H. G. Kenney, ousted Saturday as the church's pastor on heresy charges, and "orthodox" churchmen, discharged elders of the church and refused to answer questions by the members of the Kenney faction.

The congregation was notified that a meeting would be called for the election of new elders.

Overton-Comegys.

Miss Mary Comegys, daughter of J. C. Comegys of Merkel, was married at Sweetwater Saturday night to George Overton. Mrs. Overton was reared in Merkel, and has many friends here. Mr. Overton was formerly manager of the Merkel Theatre, but for the past few months has been connected with the Chrysler agency at Sweetwater. They will reside at Sweetwater.

O. C. Wells Must Die.

Coleman, April 25.—O. C. Wells, who has spent the past year in death row at the state penitentiary at Huntsville, was sentenced to die in the electric chair there May 31 by Judge E. J. Miller.

Wells was convicted of shooting to death P. A. Mitchell at his filling station and grocery store here Feb. 27, 1927, and was given the death penalty by a jury Oct. 21, 1927.

EASY TO FIGURE OUT



Lying is a fault in a boy, an art in a bachelor, a necessity to a married man and a duty to a diplomat. Occasionally you will find a male who is boss of the house but he isn't four years old yet. It's easy to figure out a saving on your garage bill if you use CONOCO Gas and Oil regularly, and let us service your car.

EXPERT REPAIRING GREASING, ETC.

Everybody's Garage
TELEPHONE 72

Connally Named on Senate Committees

Washington, April 25.—Tom Connally, the new Senator from Texas, has been assigned places on the following committees: Banking and Currency, Finance, Public Buildings and Grounds, and Privileges and Elections. Senator Sheppard, according to the list announced Monday, surrenders his place on the Committee on Education and Labor. In turn, he is named to a place on the Committee on Manufacturers, retaining his place on the other two major committees, Military Affairs and Commerce.

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

Mrs. Stallings is Visitor in Merkel

Mrs. J. J. Stallings of Fort Worth, formerly of Merkel, was here during the week looking after business interests and meeting old friends. Mrs. Stallings returns to Merkel every few months for a brief visit and is always cordially received. While here Mrs. Stallings said that Mrs. J. D. Boring, a former resident of Merkel, was in a critical condition at the home of relatives in Fort Worth. She recently suffered a stroke of paralysis.

O. R. O. POULTRY TONIC.

Guaranteed to rid your poultry of all insects, a preventative of sore head, roup and white diarrhoea; also a cure for ranning fits in dogs. Sold by Phillips Drug Co., Merkel, Texas.

MERKEL THEATRE

A GOOD SHOW FOR THE PRICE

FRIDAY

"THE ROAD TO RUIN"

(The Road Show of the Season)

An Astounding Revelation of the Moral Decay of Modern Youth. The Awful Penalty of Parental Negligence and Youthful Indiscretion.

Also Kinogram News

SATURDAY

NORMA TALMADGE, NOAH BEERY AND GILBERT ROLAND

—IN—

"THE DOVE"

A Melodrama of the Underworld with Mystery, Plotting and Clever Story that will Entertain you—different from the rest.

Also Comedy "Motor Boat Mama's"



SPECIAL NOTICE

TO

MERKEL PEOPLE

We will have a representative in Merkel next week to make estimates on Awnings for the STORE OR HOME.

If you are in the market, or will be this spring, let us figure with you at that time and show our large assortment of the Latest Patterns in Awning Material.

AWNINGS BEAUTIFY THE HOME AND ARE A WONDERFUL PROTECTION FROM THE SUN'S RAYS

We are the exclusive representative for the SUN-AWAY AWNINGS and can give you prompt delivery.

If you want us to call on you, please drop us a line to Abilene, or address W. A. Turnidge, care The Merkel Mail.

THE ABILENE ARMY STORE

Phone 8292 915 South First St.

DENTISTRY

Special reduction for two weeks only
Crown and Bridge Work

Regular Price	Our Regular Price	Special Two Weeks Only
\$15.00 Grade	\$10.00	Now \$7.50
\$10.00 Grade	\$ 7.50	Now \$6.00
\$ 7.50 Grade	\$ 6.00	Now \$5.00

Save on Your X-Ray's Also
Regular \$15.00 Full Series, Special for \$10.00
CONSULTATION FREE—COME

Dr. John A. Roberson
301-2-3 Alexander Bldg.

QUEEN
SHOWING THE PICK OF PICTURES

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

FRED HUMES

—IN—

"PUT 'EM UP"

A Western Melodrama with Punch and Pep
Also Jungle Serial "Tarzan the Mighty," No. 12
And Good Two Reel Comedy "Auntie's Mistake"

MONDAY AND TUESDAY

D. W. GRIFFITH'S LATEST
(You Know It's Good)

"LADY OF THE PAVEMENTS"

With a Wonderful Cast

Heralded among the greatest of costume pictures—it will captivate and hold you through an evening of real pleasure.

Also Comedy "Going Go Go" and News Reel

WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY

RALPH INCE AND ESTELLE TAYLOR

—IN—

"THE SINGAPORE MUTINY"

A Drama of the Sea with Action and Suspense to the last minute

Also "A Dominion of Diversity" and Kinogram News

Dry Cleaning Service!

It surely makes a big difference when your clothes are neatly pressed and free from dirt and spots. We exert every effort to do the BEST cleaning and pressing and collect business on that basis.

CITY DRY CLEANERS

"Sudden Service" Kent Street
Phone 189



Digestible Hot Breads

are always assured when leavened with Rumford. Piping hot homemade rolls, crisp golden corn bread or bran muffins round out the breakfast and start the man of the house on a successful day.



RUMFORD
The Wholesome
BAKING POWDER

Quality

LUMBER AND BUILDING MATERIALS

AT LOWEST PRICES

CLAY LUMBER CO.

"Make her happy. Build a home first."

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.

TEXAS SENATORS IN U. S. CONGRESS
(Copyright, 1928, by Alva O. Hearne)

CHARLES ALLEN CULBERSON
(1899-1923)
Charles Allen Culberson was born at Dadeville, Tallapoosa county, Alabama, on October 10, 1855, a son of David B. Culberson. His parents removed from Alabama to Gilmer, Texas, in 1858, and from there to Jefferson, Texas, three years later. For many years the father was a prominent figure in the public life of Texas, having been an adjutant general in the Confederate army, a member of the state legislature (1859-1864) and of the state senate in 1874, and a member of congress for the fourth Texas district from the Forty-fourth to the Forty-ninth congresses. While in congress he was for years chairman of the judiciary committee of the house of representatives, and was tendered an appointment on the Interstate Commerce commission by President Harrison.
Charles Allen Culberson attended the common schools of Jefferson and Prof. Morgan H. Looney's high school at Gilmer, and entered the Virginia Military Institute at Lexington, Va., in 1870. Being graduated in 1874, he spent the next two years studying law in his father's office, and then entered the law department of the University of Virginia. During his course, he was distinguished for scholarship and close application to study, being chosen judge of the moot-court and final orator of the Jefferson Literary society, both exceptional honors.
In 1878 he was admitted to the bar of Texas, and at once took a high place as an attorney and practitioner. In 1882 he obtained particular reputation in the defense of John Le Grand, convicted of murder by the Federal district court at Jefferson under the Ku Klux law. Mr. Culberson appealed to the circuit court and by his scholarship and able pleading secured from Justice Woods a reversal of the former verdict, with a declaration of the unconstitutionality of the Ku Klux law. This decision being sustained by the United States courts elsewhere, served to increase the reputation of the young attorney and place him in the front rank of his profession.
Mr. Culberson's ability soon forced him into the political arena and in 1880, when but twenty-one years of age, he was elected county attorney of Marion county. He soon resigned that position, and in 1882 was offered a nomination for the legislature, which he declined. His practice continued to increase rapidly, and in 1888, in search of a wider field, he removed to Dallas, where he formed the firm of Bookhout & Culberson.
At the democratic state convention in San Antonio, in 1890, he was nominated for attorney general by acclamation, and being elected by a large majority, served until his nomination as governor, in 1894, by the state convention at Dallas. Being triumphantly elected, he was nominated for a second term at Fort Worth in 1896, and was again elected by a majority of 60,000 in the face of a powerful fusion ticket growing out of the financial issue of that year.
Governor Culberson was a delegate to the national democratic convention at Chicago in June, 1896, and during the campaign gained a national reputation by his correspondence with Prince Bismarck on the subject of bimetallism. Governor Culberson's administrations were characterized, not alone by force and prompt attention to all public issues, but by an integrity and moral purpose seldom equaled. In his first inaugural message, he urged the legislature to redeem all the pledges of the Democratic platform, and called especial attention to the conditions of the public schools, recommending an increase of the school tax to 20 cents on every \$100. Among other evidences of his vigorous action in matters of moral concern was his prohibition of the Corbett-Fitzsimmons fight in Texas during 1895. He was re-elected in 1896. He was married to a daughter of Colonel W. W. Harrison of Fort Worth, Texas.
Governor Culberson was elected as a democrat on January 25, 1899, to succeed Colonel Roger Q. Mills in the United States senate, and took his seat March 4, 1899; was re-elected in 1905, 1911, and 1917, and served un-

til March 4, 1923, when he was succeeded by Senator Earl B. Mayfield, and there after resided in Washington, D. C., where he died on March 19, 1925. He was buried in Fort Worth, Texas.

Dora Doings

Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Hardy spent several days last week visiting in Abilene and Clyde.
Mrs. S. E. Porter has returned home from an extended visit in Knox county and Winson, Oklahoma.
A large crowd enjoyed the party at Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Hyde's Saturday night.
Mr. and Mrs. Coward and daughter, Ruth, of Clyde, spent the week-end here with relatives and friends.
Robert Oliver of Arizona is here visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Oliver.
Next Sunday is our regular singing evening. Come out and help make this a good evening of singing.

METHODIST W. M. S. PROGRAM.
The following is the program for the Woman's Missionary society to be held at the Methodist church Monday afternoon at 2:30: Song, society; devotional, Mrs. C. G. Smith; song; "She hath done what she could," Mrs. R. A. Burgess; poem, "Will you go or send?," Miss Cora Lee Hulsey; "The Christian message for woman," Mrs. M. Armstrong; special song, Mrs. F. C. Hughes; poem, a prayer hymn, Mrs. J. R. Pee; benediction.

Play at Butman.

Butman school is giving a play tonight, April 26, entitled, "He's My Pal." This play is a comedy drama in three acts. There will be entertainment for both young and old.

Mrs. Charles Jones Ill.

Mrs. Chas. Jones is in the Merkel sanitarium recovering from a major operation, performed Tuesday of this week. She was reported Thursday as doing nicely.

Stephenville will soon have its new movie talking machine installed and vitaphone pictures will be shown. This necessitated the remodeling of the projection room. Several big features of the modern talkies have been booked.

Our prescription service is the best. Phillips Drug Store.

ABILENE TO HAVE FREE CLINIC FIVE DAYS NEXT WEEK

Child Health and Parent Education Conference in Charge of Noted Physicians.

Abilene, April 25.—On Tuesday of next week the five-day Child Health and Parent Education conference being sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce of this city will open.
Among the special features of the program will be the four free clinics to be conducted during the conference by well-known specialists. The first will be on Wednesday and will be given over to cases needing surgical attention. It will be directed by Dr. Felix P. Miller, El Paso, president of the Texas State Medical association.
On Thursday Dr. J. M. McKnight, superintendent of the Texas Tuberculosis Sanitarium, will hold a clinic for those who have reason to believe that they have a tubercular infection.
Dr. W. B. Carrell of Dallas, chief surgeon of the Shrine hospital for crippled children, will examine all children with bone trouble and suffering from infantile paralysis, who are brought to him Friday morning.
A goitre clinic will be held by Dr. E. O. Rushing of Dallas Saturday morning. Dr. Rushing is a graduate of the Crile clinic at Cleveland and has special training with Kitcher of Berne, Switzerland, the outstanding authority on goitre in Europe.
All the clinics will be held at the West Texas Baptist Sanitarium and will start at 8 o'clock in the morning. No charges will be made for the services given by the specialists. Those who desire to attend should register with Dr. Stewart Cooper, Abilene, by mail or in person.
In addition to the clinical work, there will be seventeen lectures given during the conference. They will deal with different phases of child health and training. All the people of West Texas have been invited to attend the programs. The lectures will be given in the city hall auditorium. Any persons interested can secure a detailed program of the conference by writing to or calling the Abilene Chamber of Commerce.

STRAW HAT TIME

And we are ready with a wide variety of styles and the newest shapes. You will be surprised and pleased with the nifty Straw Hats designed for this season—and they are here in all the most approved creations. You will like the low price.

Everything For Summer Wear

NEW HOT WEATHER SUITS—THE LATEST STYLE OXFORDS—HOSIERY OF SOLID AND MIXED COLORS—NECKWEAR IN ALL THE COLORS OF THE RAINBOW—IN FACT, EVERY WARM WEATHER WEARING APPAREL NEED CAN BE SUPPLIED HERE AND AT LOWEST COST.

FOR THE GRADUATE

What a thrill it is to receive the coveted diploma. We have an unusually large selection of Graduation Frocks for you to choose from, made from the daintiest of materials and in the most attractive styles.



AND FOR THE BOY GRADUATE WE HAVE THE conventional Graduation Suits, made up in mannish effects—just the kind of suit that your boy will be proud to wear.

ALL GRADUATION ACCESSORIES, such as Shoes, Hose, Underwear. If they are bought here, they are correct in style.

MAX MELLINGER

MONEY SPENT AT HOME HELPS BUILD MERKEL

- MR. MERCHANT**—Why have your cleaning and pressing done out of town—when we help support you?
- MR. BANKER**—Why have your cleaning and pressing done out of town—when the out of town man never does business with your bank?
- MR. DENTIST**—Why have your cleaning and pressing done out of town—when you pull the teeth of your home town merchants?
- MR. DOCTOR**—Why have your cleaning and pressing done out of town—when your income depends on the home community?
- MR. LABORER**—Why have your cleaning and pressing done out of town—when your prosperity comes from the work of your home community?
- MR. AUTO DEALER**—Why have your cleaning and pressing done out of town—when the out of town man never deals with you?
- MRS. HOUSEWIFE**—Why have your cleaning and pressing done out of town—when the out of town man never helps support your churches, charities, or your schools, but supports those of his own town with your money?

We patronize our home town merchants and help support our home institutions.

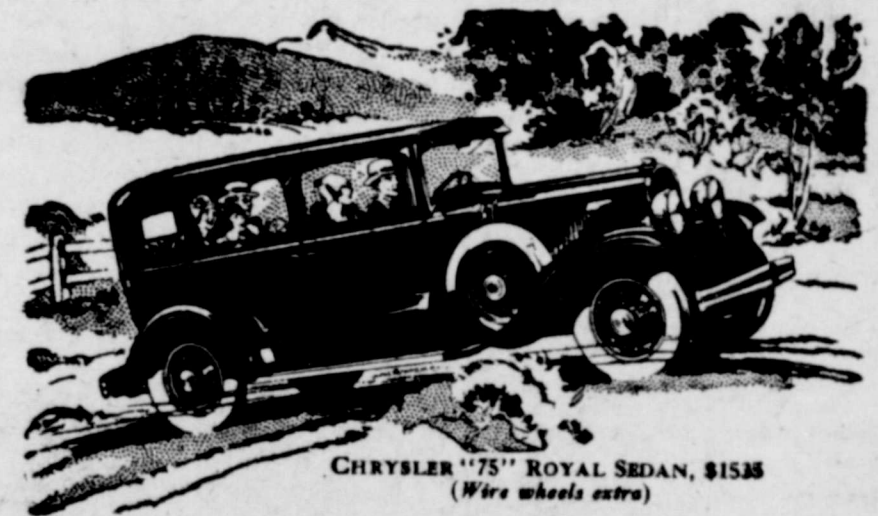
We help support you! Then why should you help support an out-of-town institution and help build another town—when we are equipped to give you the same service here at home.

STOP! AND THINK IT OVER.

We are here for your service

"BETTER WORK IN LESS TIME"

MODERN DRY CLEANERS
Across Street From Postoffice
PHONE 3



CHRYSLER "75" ROYAL SEDAN, \$1535 (Wire wheels extra)

A demonstration will prove Chrysler performance leadership

Drive a Chrysler—"75" or "65"—and you cannot help but understand why Chrysler successfully maintains its performance leadership.

No other car—regardless of price—offers the remarkable combination of features which make Chrysler's unmatched performance possible.

To try out a Chrysler in traffic is to gain a thrilling new conception of how eager, fleet and smooth fine-car acceleration can be—what infinite safety has been attained in Chrysler's weatherproof internal-expanding 4-wheel hydraulic brakes.

To open the throttle wide on the broad highway is to feel the exhilaration of steady, effortless high speed.

To negotiate a steep grade or a winding hill is to relish the satisfac-

tion of boundless energy and power, ever at your command.

Yet it is only logical that Chrysler should give such performance. If you were to have a motor car engineered-to-your-order, you would unquestionably insist on every one of the advancements in design and construction which, together, endow Chrysler with its masterful performance.

6-cylinder high-compression engine of Chrysler "Silver-Dome" principle . . . 7-bearing counter-weighted crankshaft . . . Crankshaft impulse neutralizer . . . Iso-therm Injap-Strut pistons with tongue and groove rings . . . Rubber engine mountings.

CHRYSLER "65"—Six body styles priced from \$1040 to \$1145 . . . CHRYSLER "75"—Nine body styles priced from \$1535 to \$2345 . . . All prices f. o. b. factory. Wire wheels extra.

CHRYSLER

CHRYSLER MOTORS PRODUCT

MAVERICK MOTOR COMPANY
Chrysler-Plymouth Sales and Service

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE

FOR SALE—4 room house and lot, south side, 4 blocks from T. P. station. Herbert Patterson.

FOR SALE—Baby chicks from the M. Johnson strain of Leghorns; hatched in May for \$11.00 per hundred. J. S. Touchstone, Hawley, Texas. Phone 9036 F 13 Anson.

A BARGAIN—4 room bungalow on corner lot, with gas, lights, east front; close in; for \$1275 cash; also a good lot, east front, 50x180 for \$175 cash, or some terms. See George Boyce at once.

MULES FOR SALE OR TRADE—Two large mare mules for sale or trade for truck. Compere store, 10 miles Northeast of Merkel.

FOR SALE—Bundle and headed feed; double row cultivator and planter; part time or will trade for cow. T. W. Collins, near Stith.

Kazmeier Baby Chicks
From
Trap Nested and Blood Tested Hens.
Easy to Raise

100 per cent live delivery guaranteed. Pullets raised from Kazmeier chicks undoubtedly lay from 40 to 100 eggs each more than pullets from ordinary chicks. Cost no more. Now offered at reduced prices.

Write F. W. Kazmeier, Bryan Texas. (Former Poultry Husbandman A & M)

FOR SALE—Young Jersey and Holstein cow with ten day old heifer calf for \$100.00. See her at my ranch. J. T. Warren.

PLENTY OF GOOD bundle cane for sale at 3c per bundle. Ray Harrell.

CHEVROLET SERVICE

- Guaranteed Workmanship
- Trained Mechanics
- Flat Rate Charges
- Modern Equipment including
- Storm Reboring Machine
- Wrecker Service

BRACKEEN-HUGHES CHEVROLET CO.

"Home of Better Used Cars"
Merkel :: :: Phone 17

FOR SALE—Six tons of Maize at \$18.00 per ton; eleven miles north of Merkel on the Rains farm. Mrs. R. B. Rains.

FOR SALE—Tomato plants, several varieties. See Mrs. Marvin Smith or Phone 205.

MAIZE HEADS and work stock for sale. M. Armstrong.

FOR RENT—Five-room house with bath on Bettis Heights. See P. H. Douglass.

FOR RENT

FOR RENT—Four room house, lights, gas and garage; close in. Apply at City Furniture or call Joe Garland. Phone 272.

FOR RENT—5 room house, lights, gas and garage; solid board fence. Sid Criswell.

NEW TWO ROOM apartment; nicely furnished; modern; also bedroom adjoining bath. Mrs. C. L. Boswell. Phone 171W.

WANTED

WASHING AND GREASING Modern grease rack. Cars washed and used the right way. Highway Service Station. J. C. White, Manager.

TAKE YOUR old furniture look new. G. L. Bishop Paint Shop at Burton-Lingo.

WANTED—Plain and fancy sewing. Mrs. Stanley B. King. Kent St.

LOST AND FOUND

LOST OR STRAYED—Gray horse, mane roached; also iron gray mare, mane roached, with halter on. R. L. Waldrep, Abilene, Texas, Route 4.

LOST—Small spirit level on south side two weeks ago. Swafford Coal and Feed Yard. Phone 44.

LOST—22 Remington Automatic, Chas. H. Jones engraved on breech. \$5.00 reward for return. Chas. H. Jones.

STRAYED—Poland china hog, dark spotted; weigh about 100 pounds. Notify T. R. Lassiter.

FOUND—Log chain. Owner can get same by proving ownership and paying for this ad.

FOUND—Bunch of keys. Owner can get same by proving ownership and paying for this ad.

LODGE NOTICES

Merkel Chapter Royal Arch Masons meets on first Thursday night of each month. Visitors cordially invited

J. A. Patterson, H. P. O. R. Dye, Secretary.

LEGAL NOTICE.

H. J. R. NO. 6

A JOINT RESOLUTION proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Texas providing for a Supreme Court of nine members, and for continuous session of that Court.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

Section 1. That Sections 2 and 3 of Article 5 of the Constitution of the State of Texas be amended as to hereafter read as follows:

"Article 5 Section 2. The Supreme Court shall consist of a Chief Justice and eight Associate Justices, any five of whom shall constitute a quorum, and the occurrence of five shall be necessary to a decision of a case; in other matters, until otherwise provided by law, the jurisdiction of the Court shall be exercised under such regulations and orders as the Court by a majority vote may prescribe. No person shall be eligible to the office of Chief Justice or Associate Justice of the Supreme Court unless he be, at the time of his election, a citizen of the United States and of this State and unless he shall have attained the age of thirty years, and shall have been a practicing lawyer or a judge of a court, or such lawyer and judge together at least seven years. Said Chief Justice and Associate Justices shall be elected by the qualified voters of the State at a general election, shall hold their offices six years, or until their successors are elected and qualified, and shall receive such compensation as may be provided by law. In case of a vacancy in the office of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the Governor shall fill the vacancy until the next general election for State officers, and at such general election the vacancy for the unexpired term shall be filled by election by the qualified voters of the State. The Judges of the Supreme Court who may be in office at the time this amendment takes effect shall continue in office until the expiration of their term of office under the present Constitution, and until their successors are elected and qualified. When this amendment takes effect, the Governor shall immediately appoint six additional Associate Justices of the Supreme Court for terms of office so that the terms of two of such appointed Associate Justices shall expire with the term of office of each of the present members of the Supreme Court, and, upon the qualification of such new Justices, the Commission of Appeals of the State of Texas shall terminate."

"Article V. Section 3. The Supreme Court shall have appellate jurisdiction only except as herein specified, which shall be co-extensive with the limits of the State. Its appellate jurisdiction shall extend to questions of law arising in cases of which the Courts of Civil Appeals have appellate jurisdiction under such restrictions and regulations as the Legislature may prescribe. Until otherwise provided by law, the appellate jurisdiction of the Supreme Court shall extend to questions of law arising in the cases in which the Courts of Civil Appeals may hold differently on the same question of law, or where a Statute of the State is held void, and shall extend to such other questions as may be within the Court's Appellate Jurisdiction under the Statutes of the State in force when this amendment takes effect. The Supreme Court and the Justices thereof shall have power to issue writs of habeas corpus, as may be prescribed by Law, and under such regulations as may be prescribed by Law, the said Court and the Justices thereof may issue the writs of mandamus, procedendo, certiorari and such other writs, as may be necessary to enforce its jurisdiction. The Legislature may confer original jurisdiction on the Supreme Court to issue writs of quo warranto and mandamus in such cases as may be specified, except as against the Governor of the State. The Supreme Court shall have power, upon affidavit or otherwise as by the Court may be determined, to ascertain such matters of fact as may be necessary to the proper exercise of its jurisdiction. The Supreme Court shall be open at all times and shall sit at the State Capitol for the transaction of business at such times as may be designated by the Court. The Supreme Court shall appoint a clerk, who shall give bond in such manner as is now or may hereafter,

be required by law, and he may hold his office for four years and shall be subject to removal by said Court, for good cause entered of record on the Minutes of said Court who shall receive such compensation as the Legislature may provide."

Sec. 2. Said proposed Constitutional amendment shall be submitted to a vote of the qualified electors of this State at a special election to be held throughout the State on Tuesday, July 16, 1929, at which election each voter opposing said proposed amendment shall scratch off of the ballot with a pen or pencil the following words printed on said ballot: "For the amendment to the State Constitution providing for a Supreme Court of nine members, and for continuous session of that Court", and each voter favoring said proposed amendment shall scratch off the ballot in the same manner the following words printed on said ballot: "Against the amendment to the State Constitution providing for a Supreme Court of nine members, and for continuous session of that Court." If it appears from the returns of said election that a majority of the votes cast are in favor of said amendment, the same shall become a part of the State Constitution.

Sec. 3. The Governor shall issue the necessary proclamation for said election and have the same published and said election held as provided by the Constitution and Laws of this State.

Sec. 4. The sum of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary is hereby appropriated out of the State Treasury to pay for the expenses of said publication and election.

Approved February 19, 1929.
(A Correct Copy)
JANE Y. MCCALLUM,
Secretary of State.

Blair Items

One of the biggest improvements in Blair now is the new Baptist church, and it is nearly completed. This is something the community is going to be proud of for a long time.

The farmers in the community are busy planting their crops, and some gardening is being done.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Cavette visited the latter's parents at Ranger last week-end.

Mr. and Mrs. John Rosson and son, Sherman, motored to Lubbock Saturday to visit the former's sister, who underwent an operation at that place.

Mrs. Gladys Cunningham and daughter Gerdene, of Abilene are the house guests of Mrs. Hugh Campbell this week.

Mr. John Hughes of Merkel was seen in our midst Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hughes and family spent Sunday with home folks at Trent.

Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Horton are the proud parents of a fine baby girl; weighed 9 1-2 pounds. The little lady has been christened Jimmie Nell.

Leonard Moore has returned from California after visiting relatives at that place for some weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. D. Chappell and Mr. and Mrs. S. L. Scoggins attended church service at Merkel Sunday.

A. C. Scott and J. D. Bowen of Big Spring were visiting friends in our midst Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Moore of Abilene attended the Methodist church service Sunday.

San Angelo Woman Dies Rich; Says Oil Has Been a Curse

San Angelo, April 25.—Mrs. M. A. Monroe-Smith, 75, principal in oil litigation over Pecos county ranch lands involving millions of dollars, died here last week.

Endless litigation, in which her children were aligned against her marked the closing years of her life. The lawsuits still are far from settled, and lawyers are still considering what effect her death would have upon them.

Old age was given as the primary cause of the death of the frail little woman, who in her declining years, when almost blind, was forced to sit in witness chairs and match wits with attorneys for her children, who sought to have her declared mentally incompetent.

"Oil has been a curse to me. I wish I had never seen an oil well. I wish they had never found a drop of oil on my ranch. It has brought me nothing but trouble and sorrow and definitely set my children against me and made me poor again," Mrs. Smith declared shortly before her death.

The Olney Interprise, local weekly newspaper, has changed hands, George T. Spears of Breckenridge becoming owner of the paper which Ralph Shuffler established twenty years ago, and has been managing ever since. No change will be made in the personnel of the organization.

Two Texas counties—Brazoria and Matagorda—furnish most of the world's sulphur.

Expecting a car of hulls Friday. Get them off the car. Swafford. Phone 44.

Try a Classified Ad for Results

Trent News and Personal Notes

Mrs. Chas. Bowers and daughter, Bonnie Lee of Abilene, accompanied by Miss Ball, visited with J. E. Bowers and family on Wednesday of last week.

The summer school which is being taught by Mr. Cunningham and Miss Payne opened Monday with about 15 pupils enrolled. This is fine for Trent.

Rev. Joe English of Knox City spent a few days with his brother, J. A. English and family.

Misses Mattie and Cora Scott had as their guests Wednesday and Thursday their aunts, Mrs. Duke of Fort Worth and Mrs. Conner of Weatherford.

Mrs. Jim Williamson visited with Mrs. R. B. McRee several days last week.

Barney Howell, Allen Terry, Clinton Bryan, students of John Tarleton College, spent the week-end with home folks.

Mrs. Alex Williamson and Mrs. Buna McLeod visited Rev. W. L. Hammon and family of Winters last Saturday.

Bob Nelson of Albany, an employee of H. P. L. Co., visited Miss Fannie Scott last Thursday.

Mrs. Birdie Stephenson and Mrs. Eason of Rotan spent Sunday with Mrs. Bob Johnson.

Mrs. Joe Nally was a business visitor to Cottonwood last Saturday.

Miss Idona Smith of Lamesa is visiting Mrs. Oscar Bisop, Mrs. A. W. Craig and her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Sid Smith.

Mr. and Mrs. John Payn of Merkel spent Sunday with home folks.

Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Boyd spent Sunday in Abilene.

Miss Odessa Moon and mother of Breckenridge, were guests of Mrs. Alex Williamson, Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Ross were called to Iowa Park, a brother-in-law of Mr. Ross having died suddenly.

Mrs. Ed Jones and Miss Audrey Hudspeth of Abilene spent the week-end with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Hudspeth.

Mr. Minnick, old resident, is visiting here a few days.

Mr. and Mrs. Jno. Moore, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Smith and daughters Ruby Lee, Opal, Jean, Toots, spent Sunday visiting friends at Westbrook.

Homer Terry and family are moving this week to Sweetwater.

Miss Reta Mae Winn visited friends in Big Spring last week, returning home Saturday.

Mrs. Billings spent Sunday in Coleman with her daughter, Mrs. Cecil Rutherford, Mrs. Rutherford and Cecil Jr., returned with her to spend the week.

C. D. Duke and daughters, Lela and Joe Freda of Brownsfield, spent the week-end visiting friends and relatives.

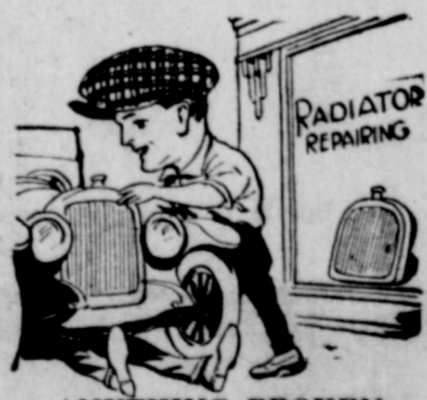
Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Adrain and daughter, Marjorie, visited in Oklahoma last week, returning Monday.

Rochelle McGowan and wife of Fort Worth were guests of Mrs. Hale McRee Saturday and Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Murdock of Big Spring were week-end guests of Mrs. Murdock's father, F. G. Boyd, and other relatives.

Mrs. Mamie Gilon, owner of the Oklahoma Cafe, has leased the Rollins building and is moving this week. She will have a much larger and nicer place.

Mrs. Ed Massey entertained members of the T. E. L. class with a surprise party Monday afternoon, honoring Mrs. H. B. Terry, who is moving to Sweetwater. The afternoon was given over to music, games, making paper flowers, dahlias, geraniums, jonquils, which were presented to the honoree with a basket of lovely gifts. A dainty plate of sandwiches, nuts,



ANYTHING BROKEN

In your machinery? If in doubt what to do, or how to proceed getting it in good working order again, why not consult me? I can probably save you money, time, labor, trouble and future delays. See me about it today.

RIDDLE GARAGE

Southeast Merkel. Phone 53

pickles, candy and delicious punch with plate favors of honeysuckle, was served to the following: Mesdames H. B. Terry, W. L. Boyd, Bud Brown, Gordon Howell, C. T. Beckham, Byron Dingle, Ross Young, Joe Lowery, Alex Williamson, E. W. Smith, E. E. Holt, A. C. Terry, Buna McLeod and E. D. Massey.

Ours is a complete drug store with quality merchandise only. Phillips Drug Store.

Expecting a car of hulls Friday. Get them off the car. Swafford. Phone 44.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.
Sunday school at 10 a. m. Attendance and interest last Sunday fine. Be on time again. If you have a neighbor not in a Sunday school, ask them to come with you. Preaching services at 11 a. m. and 7:45 p. m. Prayer meeting Wednesday evening 7:45. Wm. Elliott, Supt. R. A. Walker, Pastor.

CAKE SALE

Ladies of the Eastern Star will have a cake sale Saturday, May 4, in front Max Mellinger's store. Good variety.

SILK DRESS SPECIALS

We have assembled in two lots some extraordinary Silk Dress values. Everything that is new and smart is to be found in this unusual showing of summer frocks. Materials are of lustrous flat crepe, filmy chiffon, the important georgette in a host of new shades and attractive patterns.



LOT NO. 1—Ladies' Silk Dresses made in the prevailing styles of choicest materials, values up to \$19.75, special as long as they last, at

\$14.95

LOT NO. 2—Ladies' Silk Dresses, wonderful values at \$14.75, in the same correct styles as the higher priced dresses, special at

\$9.75

Jones Dry Goods Co.



Good Taste Tastes Good

FOR MOTHERS' DAY

A box of Nunnally's Candy is a sweet symbol of your affection for Mother. In a variety of kinds to suit her especial taste. Order now for Mothers' Day. The Candy she likes!

CITY DRUG STORE

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

CHAPEL MONDAY.

We were very glad to have a speaker Monday morning at chapel, Mr. Pedro M. Blanco, from the Philippine Islands, a graduate of Columbia University and a post graduate student in the University of Pennsylvania and Oxford University, England.

The subject of his talk was, "World Peace." A few of his remarks were as follows:

"The world needs peace. We go to war because we do not understand one another. Children quarrel because of some misunderstanding. Men quarrel only after someone fails to apologize. The same way with nations. We have every kind of modern means of war implements, yet war should not be encouraged. A native of Missouri was heard to remark that what the Americans need is a licking; but there is no one to give it to us.

"For a long time the Philippine Islands were under Spanish rule. In 1892 they declared war on Spain. By 1898 the Americans had gained possession and have been governing them these 31 years. Many changes have taken place since America has had dominion over these islands. In 1898 only 15% could read and write. Now 35% can read and write. The school system, and the social and economic conditions have changed much since then.

"The Philippine Islands are very beautiful. It is a land of palms, pines and coconuts. Twenty years ago the first skyscraper was built with all modern conveniences."

He gives part of his life as follows:

"My brother died when I was two, my mother, when I was three, and my father, when I was nine. From then until I was sixteen years of age, I stayed with my cousin. But he died and I was left alone. I came to California. I worked in many places in the United States. I got my degree from Columbia University in 1924."

He gives us two helpful maxims which we should observe:

Let us live so that when we become old men and women with gray hair we can count our gray hairs as deeds done and not deeds left undone.

For every problem there is a solution and for every difficulty there is a way out.

SAY, DIDJA YOU KNOW—

—That we sincerely hope that all the school patrons of this district will do their duty to their children (or some friend's children) by giving their endorsement to the \$16,000 school bonds?

—That if there is anyone who has an objection to the passage of the bonds on April 30, if he will see Mr. Burgess, and let him conduct him on a tour of inspection of the parts for which the proceeds will go, that we are certain that his opinion will be vastly different on the needs of our school?

—That perhaps it would have been well for several of the "outsiders" to have attended this year's Junior-Senior banquet last Friday if they would like to see a real high school banquet that would do credit to any college in Texas?

—That, even without the aid of a school play, a high school circus, or anything of the sort to gain finances this year's Seniors have put out an annual which we are certain is as good as any ever published in Merkel or any other town of this size?

SOPHOMORE NEWS.

The Sophomore class has at last decided to come out of hibernation, as they have been dead so long they are moss-covered, but we have waked up to the fact that being dead "won't do," so Thursday afternoon at 4 o'clock "we" are going to Mulberry on a picnic, and if you don't think we are planning a good time just listen, and you will hear us.

—Reporter.

MERKEL MEETS ROSCOE.

On Thursday of last week, Coach Davis took his ball team over to Roscoe to show them how to play real baseball.

As soon as the game began it was seen that it was going to be close, and at the end of the third inning the score stood at 0-0, but in the fourth Roscoe put in their pinch hitter and ran in a score. In the fifth Merkel ran in a score, thus tying the score, but in the seventh Merkel ran in another score, putting them one

ahead, but in the eighth Roscoe ran in three scores, leaving the score 4-2 in favor of Roscoe.

Merkel's line-up: Whiteaker, pitcher; Sloan, catcher; Guitar, 1st; Tittle, 2nd; Cade, shortstop; Carden, 3rd; Derick, left field; Beene, center field; Middleton, right field.

Roscoe has consented to entertain us again Friday on our home field. So everybody be sure and come and be prepared to see a good game.

THE HARVARD PRIZE PLAY

"Mamma's Affair," will be presented by the public speaking class at the Merkel theater Monday evening at 8:15 o'clock.

In this delightful comedy Rachel Barton Butler cleverly portrays the lives of two families as they are managed by the ever-present "Mamma." Just how the new doctor takes things into his own hands gives the play an unusual interest throughout the three acts.

The characters are:
 Eve Orrin (Mamma's only child)—Missie Dye.

Tommy Hooper (a bell hop)—Harold Boney.

Henry Marchant (the son)—Carlos Montandon.

Mrs. Marchant (a devoted friend)—Vernie Derrick.

Mrs. Orrin (Mamma)—Tula Miller.

Dr. Brent Jansen—Lee Darden.

Mrs. Bundy (the doctor's helper)—Bernice Lasater.

Admission charge will be twenty-five and thirty-five cents.

JUST FUN.

Extravagant.
 Ward—"Do you think the money George won shooting craps will last long?"

Eris—"Gosh no! He's spending it too fast! I saw him writing \$1.00 checks yesterday and lighting cigarettes with them."

Vote Those Bonds.

Mrs. Sublett—"The roof is so bad that it rains on my head. How long is this going to last?"

Mr. Burgess—"What do you think I am—a weather prophet?"

Unfair.


Mrs. Sheppard—By the way, Mrs. Shelton, how did Lola get along on her last examination?"

Mrs. Shelton—"Not well at all. They had the nerve to ask her about things that happened before she was born."

JUNIOR-SENIOR BANQUET.

On last Friday evening, April 19, the members of the Junior and Senior classes, members of the school board and their wives, the high school faculty, and a number of visitors assembled in the Lions club hall to celebrate the annual Junior-Senior banquet of Merkel high school. The theme for the occasion was "Through

An Oklahoma Mother Says:



"BLACK-DRAUGHT is a fine medicine to give to children. I use it for mine whenever I need to give them a laxative. They don't mind taking it when I make it into a tea, and it quickly relieves constipation and the bad symptoms which come from it. I can recommend it to other mothers, for I have found it useful in my home.

"When I was a child my mother gave it to me whenever I complained of not feeling well. I have always taken it for upset stomach and constipation. It is about the only medicine I have to take. A few doses of Black-Draught, now and then, keep my system in order. My husband takes it, too. I hardly see how I could keep house without Black-Draught. It has become a standby with us, in keeping the children and ourselves well."—Mrs. Luther Brassfield, Claremore, Okla.

Theiford's BLACK-DRAUGHT
 for Constipation, Indigestion, Biliousness

Women who need a laxative should take **CARDUI**. In use over 25 years. 6-107

the Years," which was very successfully carried out in the following program:

1. Toastmaster, Father Time—Lee Darden.
2. Invocation—R. A. Burgess.
3. "The Years at the Spring"—Mona Margaret Jones.
4. The First Mile Post (Senior response).—Norman Sloan.
5. Experiences During the Journey—Representatives from the Senior and Junior classes.
6. A Guide Along the Way—Rr. J. D. Sandefer.
7. All's Right With the World—Misses Christine Collins and Melba West (accompanist, Miss Winnie Lou Comper.)

Mr. Lee Darden very capably performed the duties of toastmaster, displaying an unusual talent along that line, while Miss Jones, as ever, was enthusiastically applauded. Mr. Norman Sloan, president of the Senior class, graciously responded by a relation of the event of the "First Mile Post." Various "Experiences During the Journey," were related by the following students: Odell Hunter, Milton Case, Vernie Derrick, Beryl Hunter, Euna Lee Gilmore, Raymond Earthman; while an appropriate speech of appreciation to the Junior class and sponsor was delivered in such a sincere and appreciative manner by Ruskin Smith, that the Juniors feel amply repaid for all their efforts.

Dr. Sandefer in his address stressed the educational benefits derived from travel and from meeting people of noble characters and great personalities.

"Book Knowledge," said Dr. Sandefer, "is not of such great importance, more can be accomplished from travel, from contact with people, especially people of influence and culture. Success may be found in three words,

and those three words are—tolling, thinking, and trusting."

The last number on the program, a duet, was beautifully rendered by Misses Christine Collins and Melba West.

The Senior class colors, green and old rose, were skillfully carried out in the following menu:

- Grape Fruit Cocktail
- Pressed Chicken
- Peas in Patties
- Pineapple Salad
- Potato Chips
- Ice Tea
- Olives
- Mint Ice
- Angel Food

Sweet peas, the Senior class flower, served as plate favors.

Near the culmination of the ice course Miss Baker, Junior sponsor, very gracefully responded upon request, with a few words, in which she assured the Seniors that it had been a pleasure to entertain them. Mrs. Claude Young, Senior sponsor, followed by expressing the appreciation of the Senior class.

Visitors present on the occasion were: Misses Jones, Melba West, Christine Collins, Winnie Lou Comper, Messrs. and Mesdames Eli Case, C. P. Church, A. J. Cannon, W. O. Boney, Herbert Patterson; Mesdames Melvin Davis and Roger A. Burgess.

WOMAN EATS ONLY BABY FOOD 3 YEARS

"For 3 years I ate only baby food, everything else formed gas. Now, thanks to Adlerika, I eat everything and enjoy life."—Mrs. M. Gunn.

Even the FIRST spoonful of Adlerika relieves gas on the stomach and removes astonishing amounts of old waste matter from the system. Makes you enjoy your meals and sleep better. No matter what you have tried for your stomach and bowels, Adlerika will surprise you. Merkel Drug Co.

Messrs. Douglas B. Swanzy, Claude Young, and Dr. T. D. Sandefer.

HONORED WITH LUNCHEON.

Miss Verna T. Beasley had as her guest this week-end, Miss Jean Fay, Abilene. Sunday Miss Beasley gave a luncheon honoring her guest.

Those enjoying the occasion were: Misses Jean Fay and Louise Boothe and Messrs. J. E. Boaz, Jr., Orion Tittle, and Otto Warren and the hostess.

Moran Man Killed.

R. M. Harris, 57, was struck by a freight train at the Plum street crossing of the T. & P. railway at Abilene last Friday afternoon and instantly killed. Three cars passed over his body. Mr. Harris had been living at Moran for the past 20 years.

Adding machine rolls at Merkel Mail office.

Try a Classified Ad in The Mail

Officers Charged With Murder.

Laredo, April 25.—Raymond J. West, 24, constable here for the last eight months, and Tomas Hernandez, motorcycle officer for the last eight years, were indicted jointly here Saturday on charges of murdering Harry Williams, Laredo newspaper reporter, whose body was found in the Rio Grande February 18.

Williams formerly lived at Muncie, Ind.

Typewriting paper at Merkel Mail office.

Sore Gums-Pyorrhea

Foul breath, loose teeth or sore gums are disgusting to behold, all will agree. Leto's Pyorrhea Remedy is highly recommended by leading dentists and never disappoints. Druggists return money if it fails. Phillips Drug Store.

For Mother's Day



Send her your photograph. Your photograph means even more to Mother than her photograph means to you, so send her the gift that will make her happy.

Make an appointment today

Mother's Day—May 12

RODDEN STUDIO



Industrial Recognition

<p>Lower Living Costs</p> <p>***</p> <p>Lower Labor Costs</p> <p>***</p> <p>Lower Taxes</p> <p>***</p> <p>Better Shipping Facilities</p> <p>***</p> <p>Permanent Conservative Labor</p>	<p>The bid of the small cities and towns for industrial recognition is being accepted.</p> <p>Far-sighted manufacturers are quitting the congested cities and removing their plants and factories to the unhurried, uncongested atmosphere of the small cities and towns.</p> <p>Widespread distribution of electric power and the development of fast freight have given West Texas cities and towns an industrial status comparable with metropolitan cities.</p> <p>Lower living costs and therefore lower labor costs, lower taxes, cheaper land, ample room for expansion and closer proximity to raw materials and markets, all have paved the way for industry's realization of the distinct advantages of small town factory sites.</p> <p>As its contribution to the advantages offered, this company has 70,000 horsepower of electric power available, three great generating stations and 15 auxiliary plants, insuring uninterrupted service 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.</p>	<p>No Fatiguing Congestion</p> <p>***</p> <p>Cheaper Land</p> <p>***</p> <p>Close to Raw Materials</p> <p>***</p> <p>Close to Markets</p> <p>***</p> <p>Room for Growth</p>
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West Texas Utilities Company

What the Gray House Hid



The Mystery of a Haunted Mansion

by Wyndham Martyn

(Continued from Last Week)

When Tim Hanby, intent on adding a white owl to his collection, had carefully aimed his twenty-two at the creature as it sat on an elm branch, he had not been prepared for the extraordinary intervention that saved his life. As his finger crossed the trigger, there came a bloodcurdling scream, and some large animal had sprung from the base of the tree. Tim felt that it was no disgrace to flee immediately.

Hanby had not been near his office for two months. An hour's dictation cleared up his correspondence, and he went to the Hardware club for luncheon.

"Hello, Douglas!" he said, stopping at the table where an elderly, gray-haired man was sitting. "I called you up this morning, but you were busy."

"Glad to see you," Douglas replied heartily. "I've missed you. What's it like to be a landed proprietor?"

"The best life in the world," Hanby declared. "but a damned sight more to do than I thought. Why did you recommend me to buy those farms?"

"A sound investment. They'll be wanted for a country club some day. How are your improvements coming along?"

"They are finished, thanks to your admirable Appleton. Douglas, how could you let a jewel of a man like that go?"

There was a curious smile on the heavily lined face of the real estate man.

"So Appleton has been up there again, has he?" inquired Douglas.

"Again? What do you mean?"

"The Gray house holds some singular fascination for him—that's what I mean. You ask why I let him go. You call him a jewel. I did that for more than thirty years."

"And yet you refused to raise his bid, and stuck some jackanapes over him. I thought you were a better business man than that."

"Tell me just what he said," Douglas returned.

"He listened to Hanby in silence. 'Now hear me,' he resumed. 'I fired Appleton. I didn't refuse to raise his bid, and I put nobody over him.'

"You fired Appleton? Douglas, you must have been crazy! What for?"

"Apparently because he was drunk and impertinent."

"Appleton? Why, he never drinks!"

"Another reason was because he had deliberately misled me as to his family life. Yet a third was because he had manipulated accounts. I don't mean that he took money from me. I mean that he had robbed Peter to pay Paul. I mean specifically that for years he had been charging other clients for the money he used to effect repairs on the Gray house."

"On my house?"

Douglas nodded.

"For years he has been interested in your house—for the last ten years, anyway. Another thing—Southard called me up a month or so ago, to ask why I allowed a man like you, with a lovely family, to buy a house where people died from bad drains. For the last few years Appleton has kept clients from buying that house. You ask why. I can't explain. Ask Appleton. I did, and was told to go to h—l."

"The Appleton I mean is a man of sixty, plump, smiling, and married to an invalid to whom he is devoted. He calls himself Darby and his wife Joan."

"That's my Appleton, too. I took it upon myself to see her. There was another illusion gone. She is no invalid, but as to being devoted, he tells her openly he wishes she were dead, so that he could marry the younger woman he runs around with."

Hanby put his hands to his head.

"This is too much!" he murmured. "Remember, I had him in my house for a month."

"I had him for more than thirty years. Up to the time he met this musical comedy person—she must be forty now—he was a good husband. Now he takes the woman out to dance halls. He has money saved but he's spending it. I have never been so utterly deceived in any one. His wife, who is religious, thinks he's possessed of a devil, and maybe she's right. She says he has any amount of money. I had his books examined, and he hasn't embezzled one cent. All he has done is to divert money from other houses to the up and repair of the one you're in. I've no kick coming. He saved money. What was he doing for it?"

Hanby explained. He told Douglas what his improvements had been their cost, and the time in which they were executed. The real-estate man made calculations on the back of a menu card. Fortunately Hanby had

exact particulars as to dimensions. "Here's another puzzle!" said Douglas. "To complete the work in that time he must have worked many more men than you paid for. I know prices and labor scales in New York state. It amounts to this—he went up to you to get the very job you pressed on him. Why? Search me. Hanby—search me! Another thing—he must have paid for extra workmen out of his own pocket, so that he could get the work done by a certain time. Again you may search me!"

Hanby frowned.

"He may have wanted the workmen off the premises for some purpose of his own."

"What purpose?" Douglas asked.

"How should I know? By the way, did you ever deny permission to a former tenant, a Miss Selenos, to go back and dig something up from the garden?"

"I denied her right to do some excavation," Appleton told me she was a madam who wanted to bomb the place. I turned it over to him. Anything in what he said?"

Hanby told him of the affair of Miss Selenos and her pets.

"I don't mind admitting that Appleton has destroyed a lot of my faith in mankind," Douglas said presently. "He was the one man I would have wavered my soul on as being square and white."

"Ever see the woman?"

"That was how it all came out. I ran out of gas near Mineola, and had to go to a very third-rate roadhouse. There was Appleton, in a neat tuxedo, doing fancy steps with a good looking ex-actress. I looked at him very hard. I couldn't believe it was he." Douglas laughed a little. "He had the d-d insolence to say that if I annoyed his lady friend by making baby eyes at her, he'd knock my block off. Next morning he didn't try to make excuses. He had a hangover, and he told me much of what he had concealed since 1890 or thereabouts. It appeared that he had always hated me and envied me my good luck." Douglas grew almost irritable. "No more about Appleton, or I'll change my table!"

.....

Hanby did not get back to the Gray house until late. He said a few words to the younger people and then asked Dina and Bill to come to the library.

"I've had a great day," he announced. "Incidentally I have discovered that my judgment of character is no better, let's say, than Bill's."

"And me a house detective?" Bill cried. "Your reason totters!"

"We've all been deceived but Les."

"Les?" cried Dina. "Oh, Bill, you're joking! That boy?"

"Dina, light of my life," said Hanby. "If there is a more thoroughgoing old hellion than Mr. Frederick Darby Pickwick Appleton, let me learn his dishonored name. I've seen his Joan this afternoon, and I know what I'm talking about. Listen! I'll begin with what Douglas told me and then come to my interview with that poor crippled old woman."

"It seems impossible!" commented Dina, at the end of her husband's narrative.

"I begin to suspect myself," Bill murmured. "Appleton?"

"It took me that way when I first heard it, but it cannot be doubted. He came here to get the opportunity to be in and near this house, and to see what was going on. He has always been coming and going. I've heard something that may bear on it a little. I got it from Mrs. Appleton. Her brother was a very rich man, but he speculated and died in poverty. There were a few years when it looked as if she was going to be his heiress; and Appleton was going to use the legacy to buy the Gray house and make it a fashionable roadhouse. He said there was a fortune in it. Fishing, golf, swimming—everything that was needed for a residential hotel. Perhaps 'roadhouse' isn't just what he meant, but that was Mrs. Appleton's term."

"But if her brother died in poverty, where would he get the money to buy this place?" Bill asked.

"I don't know. I admit that it doesn't solve the question why he should still be interested in it. There is no solution, as far as I see, and yet we know that something is going on here, or something is planned to go on, and that we stand in the way, and they want to remove us. I wonder if we ought to consult the police?"

"And get all kinds of notoriety! Oh, Hil, don't think of it! Nothing has happened—not even a tramp."

"D—n it," said Hanby. "I'm a simple type. If I like people, I trust them absolutely. I go the limit for them, and they can have everything I've got. This gives me pause—whatever that means." He put his hand

on his wife's arm. "Come and dance with me, Dellah, ere I challenge Bill to mortal combat!"

"Not a care in the world!" said Cella, a little later, watching her parents and talking intermittently to Les.

"Why should they have?" he answered. "Come to that, why should you have any cares?"

"Life bores me," the girl yawned. "I talked like that in the beginning of my sophomore year. I used to make quite a hit. You've forgotten to ask what is life. I always did that."

"Les," she snapped. "I hate you! Your apperceptions are nebulous."

"That's a new one, I admit," he said. "I'll use it."

"To others girls?"

"Why not? If you won't have me, I must try my luck somewhere else."

"You have an attenuated soul substance, Les."

"Feed it with affection. It will expand."

"The main trouble with you is that you couldn't surprise me in any way. I know all your mental reactions. You never jump off the road. I could surprise you, Les, and I've a good mind to." Cella paused. "Perhaps I ought to tell you the whole romantic affair."

Leslie Barron looked at her, frowning. The word "romantic" spelled danger.

"Let the clutch in," he commanded. "You are not the only man here," she said. "Last night, when you were playing pool with Bill, I went out to the swimming pool. It was midnight. I went out to pick some asphodel."

"What's that?"

"A romantic blossom to be found in most gardens of verse. Les, I met a most adorable, godlike man. He looked at me like a wild faun and then disappeared in a cloud of star dust."

There was something harder and more resolute about Leslie than Cella had ever seen before. She had an uneasy impression that there were depths in his nature as yet unplumbed by her; but she would not tell him so.

"Don't be rough," she said, and took her hand away from his. "Don't scowl at me so."

"Godlike strangers who disappear in star dust interest me," he said slowly. "I'd like to break his d-d neck!"

"But you couldn't," she answered. "He is much more splendid than you are."

"You admit talking to him?"

The young man's tone annoyed Cella.

"I admit nothing."

"I accuse you of talking to him," persisted Les, whose voice was husky. "Of course, if you listened," she said airily, "why should I deny it?"

"Why do you tease me?" he growled.

"Because men like you are made to be teased."

"Celia, you didn't really see any one, did you?"

"I swear I did. What I said, if I said anything—which I don't admit—I shall keep to myself."

A moment later Cella left on Bill's arm.

"Quarreling?" he asked.

"I see too much of him," she said. "I think I shall fall in love with you again. Shall I?"

"My duties don't permit," he laughed. "You look tired. Why not go to bed early?"

"How quickly you tire of me!" she mocked. "I looked for something subtler from you. Les couldn't have done worse."

Bill Potham smiled. Evidently she was fonder of Les than she had admitted. She looked at him dancing with her mother, but Les would not even smile.

"She's hurt him," said Bill to himself.

"I'll take your advice," Cella said, yawning. "Night-o, Bill!"

She had hurt Leslie more than she guessed, and much more than she would have done if she had known how miserable he was.

"It has been lovely to be here all this time," Les said presently.

"Les, that doesn't mean that you are leaving us?"

"I'm afraid I'll have to."

"Is it something Celia has said?"

Leslie lied as calmly as he could. "Not a thing! I've promised to run down to the Water Gap for a few days."

"You'll be back soon?"

Dina was distressed. She liked the boy, and hoped that Celia would marry him. Junior liked him. They all liked him, and yet Celia teased him almost to madness at times.

In his room Leslie composed a letter to Celia filled with that note of minor melancholy which drips from the pens of lovers with such exquisite ease. He told her he would be gone before she was up. He ended by saying, very darkly, that he had taken her advice and "jumped off the road."

Leslie smiled bitterly as he reread it. It sounded like a veiled threat of suicide.

All the others had gone to bed when he finished. He put the letter in his pocket, and went out to see if any wild faun was prowling about the Gray house grounds. Cella's encounter might have been fact or fancy. One could never be sure of Cella.

He gained the hall quietly, unlocked the door, and walked silently toward the abandoned swimming pool by the tennis courts.

"I'll be d-d!" said Leslie.

By the pool stood a very tall man—physically more splendid than young Barron, as Leslie himself would not have denied. The intruder heard no footfall on the grass. He

was aware of another's presence only when Leslie tapped him on the arm.

He seemed far more embarrassed than Leslie.

"What's the idea?" he snarled, trying to shake off the other's grip.

Leslie was instantly relieved. Assuredly Cella had not heard the godlike stranger speak, for his speech was of the East side unrefined.

"I don't want you to disappear in your cloud of star dust until I've had a little talk with you. What are you doing here?"

Leslie snapped the question out in a threatening tone.

"I lost my way," replied the wild faun.

"Don't lie!" said Leslie.

The wild faun frowned a little. The white moonlight showed his heavy face to be capable of readily expressed emotion. Leslie saw, too, that for some reason he wished to make his story good.

"I was trying to find a short cut," said the intruder.

"You must make a habit of it. People don't lose their way two nights in succession when the moon is full. You were here last night. Why?"

"H—l!" said the wild faun. "Is this Buckingham palace or the White House? I didn't see no sentries at the gate. If you don't like it, I'd better be on my way."

He turned away, as if to walk toward the drive.

"Not yet!" cried the younger man. "There's a little explaining to be done first."

Perceiving himself to be at a loss verbally, the stranger revised his tactic. This exasperating young man in evening dress must be taught a lesson.

"Eek," said the wild faun coldly. "I don't like your face!"

With that he brought his powerful right arm across with the idea—a wholly diverting one—of altering the sneer on his opponent's features to an expression of fear and agony. He was not quick enough. A left jab caught him on the nose.

"All right!" he said. "If you want it, you can have it!"

He made a vicious spring at Leslie Barron. Anger beclouded him. Leslie's footwork irritated him. He asked his foe to stand still and have it out man to man. He addressed him as a dancing master, and by other more opprobrious terms.

Finally he measured his distance for a blow that would end it all. The

lad in evening dress could box, and was annoyingly active. He had played for the godlike body of the wild faun, and was inflicting hurt.

Just as the strong arm of the intruder was drawing back, there came the sudden sharp cry of an owl, repeated three times. He paused for a second, and turned away his head. It was a tactical error, of which he was conscious too late. Leslie saw his opportunity and made the most of it. He landed a clean blow on the point of the jaw. The wild faun dropped, and, in falling, his head struck the base of an Italian garden marble.

Leslie knelt at the side of his fallen foe. He was undecided whether to alarm the house by calling for help, or to try to carry this big bulk in himself.

A shadow came out of nothingness, and Leslie looked up into the bland face of Mr. Appleton. Since young Barron had not shared the Hanbys' confidences, he assumed that their former guest was still in good odor, a friend of the family, and now most certainly a friend in need.

Quickly Leslie explained what had happened. He did not want the little plump man to be frightened. At the moment, he regarded himself in rather an heroic light and Mr. Appleton warmly commended his courage.

"Ah, youth, youth!" apostrophized the little man, whose years had long bereft him of it. "Magnificent!" He stooped down almost timidly. "We must not alarm our good hostess," he said. "Let us carry him to the garage and awaken a chauffeur. I will take the ruffian's feet. You, as the stronger, take his head. I will satisfy myself that he has no weapon concealed."

From the stranger's pocket Mr. Appleton drew a short, heavy billet of wood. He balanced it in his hand, frowning.

"I think this is what is termed a life preserver. It stamps its owner as a criminal by profession. You will probably be entitled to a reward, Mr. Barron. Now, if you will kindly

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SOCIETY

IDLEWISE.
One of the prettiest parties of the season was given Tuesday afternoon, complimenting members of the Idle-wise Club with Mrs. Jim Sears the hostess.

Seasonal suggestion of roses was stressed in all party favors and roses were used in profusion as decorations for the house.

Games of auction bridge were employed as the diversion for the afternoon.

A most refreshing salad plate and iced drink with gorgeous rosebuds as plate favors was served by Mrs. Sears, assisted by Mrs. John West to Mesdames Sam Cummings, Tom Largent, S. D. Gamble, F. C. McFarland, Gene Harvey, W. S. J. Brown, W. T. Sadler, Warren Smith, Roy Largent, Harry Cookston, Matt Dillingham, Misses Johnnie Sears, Iva Bragg, Boog Sears, Christine Collins, Mary Eula Sears.

FIDELIS MATRONS.

Members of the Fidelis Matrons Sunday School class of the Baptist church were entertained in the hospitable home of Mrs. Sam Swann on Friday afternoon.

A devotional opened the afternoon's program, followed by a business meeting in which new officers were elected.

A happy social hour was culminated with dainty refreshments for Mesdames Byers Petty, Earl Baze, Bill Haynes, Kirby Beckett, W. T. Sadler, Charlie Higgins and the hostess, Mrs. Swann.

DINNER BRIDGE.

Mrs. George White entertained a number of friends on Friday evening of last week with a dinner-bridge.

A delectable three course chicken dinner was served buffet style followed by bridge games which progressed happily throughout the evening hours. The guest list included Mesdames Jack Anderson, W. T. Sadler, Claude Young, George White, Misses Roberta Sloan, Melba West, Johnnie Sears, Iva Bragg, Christine Collins, Vera Baker, Boog Sears, Mona Margaret Jones.

MUSICALE.

The monthly recital by voice and piano pupils of Miss Christine Collins was held in her studio last Friday afternoon.

The life of the American composer McDowell was taken for the afternoon's study and Misses Mona Margaret Jones and Melba West beautifully illustrated the beatific of his compositions with voice and piano numbers.

Pupils participating in the recital were Venice Bell, Ima Gene Mangum, Lola Shelton, Hazel Leslie, Doris Brown, Pauline Leslie, Irene Rister, Edith Baker, Rachael Patterson, Bertie Maye Leslie, Baylor Amison, Nina Montandon, Vincent Barnett, Mrs. Homer Patterson.

Dainty refreshments of chicken salad sandwiches, angel food squares and punch were served.

BAPTIST ANNOUNCEMENTS.

All regular services Sunday and during the week.

It is hoped that our Sunday school superintendent will be able to be with us Sunday, as he is reported improving. We have missed him a lot the last two Sundays and we will be happy to have him back.

The pastor will speak at both hours Sunday.

On account of the lengthening of the days we are moving our evening services up fifteen minutes. Our B. Y. P. U's. will meet at 7:15 p. m. and the preaching service will begin at 8 o'clock.

Those who attended the State Sunday school convention at Sherman brought back the advanced standard banner and a glowing report of the convention.

A number of our people are taking advantage of the opportunity to hear Dr. L. G. Broughton in the meeting with the First Baptist church in Abilene.

Strangers and visitors are always welcomed in our services.

IRA L. PARRACK, Pastor.

Awning Representative Coming.

The Abilene Army Store makes announcement in this issue of the Merkel Mail that one of their representatives will be in Merkel next week to meet interested home owners or the owners of downtown buildings to furnish quotations on awnings. It will facilitate their plan as well as work for the convenience of customers if they will get in touch with the Abilene Army Store or word can be left at the office of the Merkel Mail for their representative to call.

Expecting word of bells Friday Get them off the car. Suffered. Phone 44.

Personal Mention

E. H. Burkes of Trent is critically ill at the Merkel sanitarium.
Miss Opal Tatum of Sweetwater was the week-end guest of Miss Ethel Martin.

Mr. and Mrs. Booth Warren spent Sunday with friends and relatives at Quanah.

Little Miss Jane Elizabeth Smith of Waco is the guest of her sister, Mr. and Mrs. George Caple.

Little Miss Gracie Lou Helms of Cross Plains is visiting with her aunt Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Brubeck.

I. J. King of El Paso, brother of E. W. King, and T. J. King, uncle, of Hale Center, are visiting Merkel relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Butler returned Monday from a visit with the latter's sister, Mrs. W. H. Holt of Lamesa.

Mr. and Mrs. B. L. Hamilton spent the week-end with Mr. Hamilton's mother at Whitney. They also visited with Waco friends.

Mr. and Mrs. O. J. Adcock returned Wednesday from a pleasant visit with relatives and friends at Brownwood, Comanche, Coryell and Gatesville.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Ben Ashby of DeLeon; Mr. and Mrs. Ted McGehee and little son, Teddy Joe, of Sweetwater, spent last Sunday and Monday with Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Ashby.

Mr. and Mrs. E. W. King have returned from Deport, where they were called to attend the funeral of Mr. King's mother, Mrs. H. C. King, who died suddenly at her home there last Thursday.

M. C. Graham is enjoying a visit from his father, M. C. Graham, and brother, R. A. Graham, both of Greenville, Texas. It is the first time his father has ever been in West Texas, and although past 80 years old, he is enjoying his first trip to this part of the state.

Mrs. Roger Wells and son of Durango, Mexico, are guests in the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Wells. On account of the revolution Mr. Wells thought it best for his family to leave Mexico but expects conditions to be such as to permit their return within a short while.

Miss Vera and Maimie Walker and Carlton Vick attended the funeral at Moran last Sunday of R. M. Harris, who was killed by a freight train at Abilene last Friday. Miss Vera Walker taught school at Noodle last year with Miss Lucille Harris, daughter of the deceased.

Rev. Ira L. Parrack, Mrs. Parrack, Miss Maxie Banner and Mrs. W. R. Conder attended the state Baptist Sunday school convention at Sherman last week. They report a large attendance and a wonderful convention. Being close to the state line, they took advantage of that fact and went over to Durant, Okla., where they had dinner.

Riddle Changes Location.

The announcement is made by J. L. Riddle, proprietor of the Riddle Garage, that he is again located at the old stand of the Riddle Garage in Southeast Merkel. For the past several months he has operated the Riddle Garage at the former H. H. Hand location on Kent street.

FOR SALE

Young Jersey and Holstein cow with ten day old heifer calf for \$100. See her at my ranch. J. T. Warren.

STAR DIARRHOEA TABLETS

Stops diarrhoea and saves the baby-chicks or your money back. Merkel Drug Co.

Warm weather is ice cream time. We handle only the best. Phillips Drug Store.

STRAW HAT SPECIAL FOR SATURDAY

Boston Store Offers Both Dress and Work Straw Hats at a Special Price.

Saturday will be Straw Hat Day at the Boston Bargain Store.

Mr. Brown has just returned from Dallas where he was able to make a special purchase thru the Federated system of both dress and work straw hats that will be offered Saturday at a very special price.

The dress straw hats consist of mostly flexible brims in colors to sell at \$1.95 and \$3.49 and the work hats have a special patent that makes them exceptionally cool.

The prices on the work straws will be from 25 to 95 cents.

—Advertising.

Editor is Victim Burglary, Forgery

Sweetwater, Texas, April 25.—Burglary and two forgeries, all occurring the same night, with C. S. Boyles Jr., editor of the Nolan County News, the victim in all three cases, have resulted in indictments being returned by the grand jury against a young commercial artist from El Paso. The Boyles residence was burglarized Tuesday night, with clothing valued at \$150 being stolen, and the same night two checks, carrying Mr. Boyles' signature, were passed at two drug stores. The checks were for \$11 and \$14.60. The stolen goods were recovered.

Union Ridge School.

Attendance this month at the Union Ridge school has been good and the students in general are doing excellent work. A few pupils are out of school on account of measles. Honor pupils for the month are:

First grade—Junior Clark, L. S. Tipton Jr. Effiebel Pannell, Laverne Harrell, Fay Oliver, Wilma McAnich.

Second grade—Clyde Jones, Bobbie Lee Kelso.

Third grade—Reed Whatley, J. T. Oliver.

Fifth grade—Alice Carey, Rubye Carey, Aline McAnich, Anna May Harris.

Seventh grade—Mary Bell Doughlas.

Eighth grade—Bessie Jones, Bernice Clark, Bessie Lou Pannell, Clements Carey.

Church of Christ

W. G. Cypert will preach at the North Side church next Sunday at 11 a. m. There will be singing at 8 p. m. Nathan Woods will have charge of the singing. All are invited to attend these services.

STAR PARASITE REMOVER

Will keep your chickens free of lice, mites, fleas, blue-bugs, healthier and producing more eggs or your money back. Merkel Drug Co.

You will like our fountain service.

Phillips Drug Store.

THANK YOU

I have secured the agency for McCONNOR'S HOME NECESSITIES and will appreciate your valued orders when in need of any of these products.

At this time I also take occasion to thank you, one and all, for the co-operation extended in assisting me to perform my duties during three years' service with the city.

Dan Reidenbach

R & R PALACE SWEETWATER

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- Dock Callaway
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