

THE MERKEL MAIL

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On the "Broadway of America"

5c PER COPY

ANOTHER OF OUR FINE YOUNG MEN CLAIMED IN DEATH

Floyd Dowell, 25, Passes Away Sunday Morning After Illness of Nearly a Year; Large Concurrence Attends Funeral.

The messenger of death, which is no respecter of persons, came into our midst and again claimed one of our popular young men, Floyd Dowell, age 25, son of our genial fire chief, N. A. Dowell.

Floyd had been in ill health for more than a year and had been confined to his bed since September. Friends had visited him Saturday evening and it was after ten o'clock before they departed. Death came at 2 o'clock Sunday morning.

The funeral services were held at the Methodist church Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock and every available chair was claimed by friends of this estimable young man and his family to pay their last sad tribute to one they had known so well and had loved so tenderly. Members of the volunteer fire department attended in a body.

The services were conducted by Rev. Ira L. Paffack of Chillicothe, former Baptist pastor here, assisted by Revs. E. L. Yeats and R. A. Walker. Interment was in Rose Hill cemetery.

Born in Royce City in Rockwall county, Floyd moved to Merkel with his family about 12 years ago. He was converted and joined the Baptist church about ten years ago and following his marriage on Christmas day, 1926, to Miss Juanita Beene, he transferred his church membership to the Methodist church, of which he was a member at the time of his death. He was employed for several years by the Merkel Motor company and later operated a Gulf service station here, severing this latter connection about a year ago on account of his health.

Beside his widow, he is survived by his father, N. A. Dowell, and his stepmother, three brothers, Nordvell and Grisham, Merkel, and Audrey Dowell, Dallas, and one step-sister, Miss Alleyne Riley.

Active pallbearers were: Ed McCrary, Wilbur Thomas, O. N. Buford, Tom Allday, Herbert Dennis and W. L. Johnson.

Honorary pallbearers were: Herbert Patterson, S. M. Hunter, W. W. Haynes, Comer Haynes, Kenneth Pee, C. K. Russell, Brooks Patterson, Eli Case, W. A. Whiteley, J. E. Tucker, W. F. Gelladay and Howard Laney.

Mrs. I. W. Manscill

Funeral services were held at the First Baptist church with Rev. J. T. King, pastor, officiating, at 3 o'clock last Saturday afternoon for Mrs. Iwanna Palmer Manscill, age 75, who

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KEEPING UP WITH TEXAS

Having plenty of turnips, citizens of Raymondville, in South Texas, sent a carload to be distributed to the needy at Wichita Falls.

Eighty per cent of convicts in the state prison system are first offenders, it is cited in the prison board's annual report for Gov. Ross Sterling.

Mekevantankah, 81-year old Indian chief, who succumbed to pneumonia at San Antonio, will be buried near his Oklahoma Osage ancestors at Hominy, Okla.

Henry Hamilton Pitkin, manager of the Harvey House at Brownwood and oldest man in point of service with the Harvey House, died at Brownwood Friday night after a short illness.

West Texas' third annual high school band contest will be held April 11, Prof. O. D. Wiley, director of the Cowboy band, Simmons university, sponsor of the contest, has announced.

Another oil well, the Deep Rock Oil Company-Cook's No. 1, came in Wednesday for an estimated production of between 10,000 and 15,000 barrels daily, giving the Joinerville field 22 producers.

Brown F. Lee, former legislator and a long-time attorney, defeated P. E. (Pat) Dooley by the vote of 2,390 to 651 in the special election at San Angelo Tuesday to name a mayor to succeed the late A. A. Glover.

Dates for the convention of the 17th district, American Legion, formerly set for February 21-22 at Abilene, have been changed to March 7-8, according to announcement Tuesday by M. W. Carrico, commander of Paramore Post, the host organization.

New officers elected at the two-day convention of the West Texas Sheriff's association at Brady last week are: Bailey Bingham, Stonewall county, president; Loving Kimbrough of McCulloch county, vice president, and Jess Slaughter of Howard county, secretary-treasurer.

Sheriff John Bigham of Bell county lost a prisoner in St. Louis, when as he was returning from Chicago with E. Everstein, alias Irving Everstein, facing embezzlement charges in Bell county, the prisoner made his getaway from a hotel room where he and Bigham were to sleep.

M. B. Howard, serving his fifth term as postmaster of Sweetwater, having had the distinction of appointments from five presidents, Roosevelt, Taft, Harding, Coolidge and Hoover, died Sunday night, the culmination of an illness made acute by a stroke of apoplexy January 28.

The Texas and Pacific railway has been granted permission by the railroad commission to extend its two-cent passenger fares from Feb. 28 to June 30, the same areas, between Big Spring and Fort Worth and between Texarkana and Fort Worth via Paris and Sherman, being affected.

MAIL ORDER HOUSES

CAN YOUR MAIL ORDER HOUSES TAX COLLECTOR "REACH" MAIL ORDER HOUSES

LIST OF PRIZE WINNERS OF MERKEL POULTRY AND RABBIT SHOW ANNOUNCED

With more than 300 birds and 46 rabbits exhibited, the Merkel 1931 Poultry and Rabbit show went into history as a decided success.

Four Merkel men received awards for grand champions of the show in the hen, pullet, cock bird and cockrel entries, while two Blackwell entrants, Joe E. Davis and G. K. Finley, showed the champion pens of old birds and young birds, respectively. Merkel grand champion winners were: Bob McDonald, best hen; Bob Mayfield, best pullet; H. T. Rice, best cock bird, and E. H. Cordell, best cockrel.

The rabbit exhibit was on a non-competitive basis, with seven rabbit breeders entering. Varieties represented were Chinchilla, New Zealand

Whites and Reds, White Angoras, Silver Fox and Silver Martin.

A complete list of the awards by H. M. Rose of Sweetwater, judge of the show, follows, with the cash prize winners listed first and the winners of special prizes, together with the prizes offered and the names of the merchants offering same following:

Rhode Island Reds.
Young pen—E. H. Cordell, first; R. A. Ellis, second; Bob Mayfield, third, and E. H. Cordell, fourth; cock—H. T. Rice, first; E. H. Cordell, second and third and C. K. Russell fourth; cockrel—E. H. Cordell first; R. A. Ellis second; Bob Mayfield third; Joe Stalls, fourth, and R. A. Ellis, fifth; (Continued on Page Two.)

70 EXPECTED FOR SCOUT BANQUET

Father-Son Banquet Set for Thursday Night, Commemorating Birthday of Scouting.

About 70 are expected to be present at the Father-Son banquet at the Lions Club hall this Thursday evening commemorating the twenty-first anniversary of American Scouting.

The banquet is to begin at 7 o'clock and Herbert Patterson has been selected as toastmaster. The committee in charge of arrangements for the feed includes Mesdames F. C. McFarland, S. D. Gamble, L. B. Scott, C. H. Jones and W. J. Sheppard.

Scout Executive Ed Shumway from Abilene is to be present and Dr. E. B. Surface, also of Abilene, is on the program for the principal address, and Judge Stinson is also expected. Rev. R. A. Walker is to make an address in behalf of the local Boy Scouts.

Features of the entertainment program include readings by Marilyn Sue Grimes and Dora Marie Gaither, a saxophone solo by C. W. Delmer, with Mrs. Delmer as accompanist, and a reading by Miss Lucy Tracy.

The Scouts will demonstrate first aid work.

Scoutmaster Herbert Patterson received a telegram from J. T. Darsey, Eagle Scout, now a student at the University of Texas, expressing regret at not being able to be present for the banquet. His telegram, addressed to the Merkel Troops, Boy Scouts of America, follows:

"Hope your banquet is success and that Scouting will continue to grow for the next twenty-one years as it has in the past twenty-one. Wish I could be with you tonight but I will be this summer and hope to attend that camp with rest of Merkel Scouts."

Additional Blanks for Farm Loans Received

The local farm relief committee announces that a supply of blanks has been received and the work of taking applications may now be resumed through Sam Swann at his office in the Lions Club hall.

The local committee has been without blanks for the past two weeks and after persistent efforts on their part were able to get the blanks from the St. Louis office Thursday.

LOANS ON STOCK FEED AVAILABLE

Additional \$20,000,000 Makes Possible Funds for Non-Working Animals, Director Rules.

Washington, Feb. 19.—Dr. C. W. Warburton, secretary of the national drought relief committee, said Monday farmers could now obtain loans for livestock supplementary to loans for feeding work stock from the original \$45,000,000 emergency appropriation.

He said he believed the \$20,000,000 additional appropriation approved Saturday by President Hoover changed the \$45,000,000 measure in that respect, as well as applying to the \$20,000,000 fund.

Warburton, who has administrative charge of the loans, added that the department "would not question whether loans for feed already made were used for work or for other livestock."

Under the original appropriation loans for feed for non-working stock were prohibited.

Farmers who have already received loans within the original limitations of the \$45,000,000 measure may now apply for additional loans, dependent on their security.

Dr. Warburton said that he and other officials of the department of agriculture had conferred with Paul Bestor, chairman of the farm loan board, regarding the administrative set up which must be created for the handling of loans from the \$20,000,000 fund through agricultural credit corporations.

At this conference the allocation of the amounts to be used for direct loans for food, clothing and medicine as opposed to indirect loans through credit corporations will be determined. In administering loans through credit corporations the department will collaborate with the farm loan board.

Another Quarter Inch Rain. Rainfall of one-fourth of an inch last week-end was added to the previous total for the month of 15.8 inches to make the February precipitation 17.8 inches so far.

Condition Still Serious. Stan Johnson had a little better report Wednesday night, according to reports received Thursday morning. His condition is still very serious, with occasional slight improvement.

CONGRESS READY PASS VETS LOAN BILL OVER VETO

House Passes Measure by Overwhelming Vote; Passage in Senate Thursday Sure; Probable Veto will be Overridden.

Washington, Feb. 19.—Striking hard at administration opposition, the House Monday passed the veterans' loan bill by the overwhelming vote of 363 to 39.

It provides for an increase from 22 1-2 to 50 per cent in the loan value of the adjusted compensation certificates which were approved by the House 355 to 54, in 1924.

Amid dramatic intensity, the measure was sent to the Senate within an hour after Speaker Longworth opened the way for consideration. It carried with it more than enough votes to override a presidential veto. Similar quick action is expected in the other branch.

With their leadership split, less than two score old line Republicans rallied behind majority leader Tilson and Chairman Hawley of the House ways and means committee.

More than 400 of the 435 members were present. Under the procedure, the bill had to receive a two-thirds vote for passage.

Speaker Longworth swung 216 Republican votes for the measure against the warning of Secretary Mellon that the treasury would have difficulty in financing it.

The measure is an amendment to the loan provision of the adjusted compensation act. It reduces the rate of interest to 4 1-2 per cent compounded annually, and allows a veteran with a \$1,000 certificate to borrow \$500.

FINANCED BY BUREAU.

Under it, the loans are to be financed by the veterans administrator from the \$772,000,000 sinking fund set aside to retire the certificates when they mature in 1945, and also from the \$50,000,000 government life insurance fund. In addition, it authorizes necessary appropriations to carry out the purposes of the bill.

Veterans hold about 3,400,000 certificates with a maturity value of \$3,423,000,000, averaging about \$1,000 each. The present loan value is \$730,000,000. The new bill increases it to \$1,712,500,000. About \$325,000,000 has been loaned on the present value to 48 per cent of the veterans. Proponents of the new bill expect 50 per cent of the veterans will apply for (Continued on Page Five)

TUESDAY NAMED FOR COOPERATIVE CEMETERY WORK

Plan Proposed by Lions Club for Building Up Graves That Have Fallen in; Everyone Urged to Take Part.

Next Tuesday, February 24, has been designated by the Civic Improvement committee of the Lions club, to which a suggested plan for working over the cemetery was referred at Tuesday's meeting of the club, as the time when every resident of Merkel is asked to cooperate in giving attention to the uncared for lots and streets in Rose Hill cemetery.

The committee includes Booth Warren, chairman, C. H. Jones and P. P. Dickinson.

As has been published by the cemetery committee, annual subscriptions from lot owners and donations for the upkeep of the cemetery were not sufficient for this year to employ a sexton and only those lots whose owners are employing the sexton privately are being cared for.

Having observed that a number of graves had fallen in and because of the reputation that Merkel has for its beautiful burial grounds, H. H. Jenkins brought up the matter of a cooperative plan of working over the cemetery to relieve this condition and the civic improvement committee was asked to suggest a plan.

The proposed plan includes first a fund to be raised by popular subscription of \$1.00 each by as many as will volunteer this amount and this sum, whatever it might be, to be used for hiring labor to build up the graves and otherwise restore the cemetery to its usual good condition. In this way, the unemployed in this city will be aided in a small way at the same time.

Three lists for subscriptions for this fund are now open: one at each of the banks and one at the office of the Merkel Mail. Those desiring to subscribe to this worthy cause are urged to do so at once so that arrangements can be made to start the work Tuesday.

Those desiring to apply for work on the basis of \$1.00 per day are requested to file their names at the office of the Merkel Mail and employment will be assigned in the order of the filing of applications. Laborers for this purpose will be employed just as far as the fund will go.

Arrangements have been made with the city for the use of the dump truck and grader and any one else having a truck or two is asked to volunteer (Continued on Page Five)

MERKEL 20 YEARS AGO

(From the Files of Merkel Mail, February 24, 1911.)

The first real test of the efficiency of our waterworks system and the ability of our fire department came last Friday morning when the fire bell pealed the alarm and the house of W. R. Provine was covered in flames. W. E. Britain had both engines going to furnish pressure and in a few moments the fire was under control. The dwelling was occupied by W. M. McDuff and family and Mrs. McDuff was sick in bed at the time of the conflagration.

The first firm or property owner to discard the old-style high awning for the modern hanging which makes such an improvement for the appearance of the outside of a building and for better light on the inside is the Armstrong & Company Drug store.

The attention of our readers is directed to the advertisement of the home talent play to be staged at the Merkel opera house Friday night under the direction of Frank Ferrier for the benefit of the Firemen. The play is a story of frontier life, as the name suggests, "The Girl from 'L Triangle' Ranch," and is worthy of the local dramatic company's best efforts.

Mary, the little child of Mr. and Mrs. Claude Comegys, is quite sick this week.

W. Parten returned the first of the week from St. Louis where he purchased a summer stock for his cash establishment.

The Hayden Music Club met in regular session, Tuesday at Miss Mackey's studio. Each answered the roll call with names of famous musicians. Miss Mackey conducted the lesson on Bach and the following program was carried out: Miss Bernice Rainbolt, Aravaunt; Miss Jewel Tipton, On The Pier; Miss Ethel Jenkins, Heller Op. 45, No. 2; Miss Mildred Hogue, Sparkling Stars; Miss Lucille Sutphen, Heather Rose; Miss Louise Warren, Coming By; Miss Stella Martin, Fidelity; Miss Fay Allen, Soiree Davante; Miss Bessie Touchstone, Gavotte Modern. Program committee was Roxie Moon and Faye Allen.

Yesterday afternoon when Bob Mauldin was out at the barn his little two-year-old son came into the lot, was attacked and frightfully gored by a cow. It was necessary to remove one cheek bone, otherwise the child was unhurt.

The Way of Life
BY BRUCE BARTON

DIFFICULTIES.

My little tailor came to the office to measure me for a new suit of clothes.

He looked tired. It had not been such a good winter. The American people are either away up or away down in their thinking and their spending. While the stock market was boiling they bought lots of clothes. But they stopped very suddenly, so the little tailor said.

I wondered what a tailor thinks about. It must be monotonous life, going around and measuring men, sewing up the suits and trying them on, fixing them over, and listening to a good deal of grumbling.

"Do you find life worth living?" I asked him.

His face brightened. "It keeps me interested."

"But what are your pleasures?" I persisted. "What gives you a thrill?"

"Well, for one thing I get quite a lot of excitement in overcoming my difficulties."

He went on to tell me about his difficulties, and as he talked I felt a reverence for that little tailor and a certain amount of shame for myself. How much less he has than I have. But no complaining, no self-pity, no temptation to surrender. He is playing a game in which difficulties are his opponents, and everyday, in his modest fashion, he wins some victory.

When I was in Chicago a couple of years ago they told me about the late T. F. Marseles who left the presidency of Montgomery Ward and Company to become the president of Johns Manville. Why did he do it? He had all the money he could possibly use. Why should a man of sixty give up something which was going smoothly to tackle a new situation?

"Money had nothing to do with it," one of his former associates told me. "He called us in one day and said: 'Boys, I think I have this job fiked. So I'll just say good-bye. I'm going where there are more problems.'"

Many a man makes himself unhappy, I think, because he regards his difficulties as some special affliction for which Fate has singled him out. Difficulties are as much a part of the program of life as the pleasures. You're certain to have them. The only question is, how will you regard them? As afflictions?

Or as a part of the game—like Marseles and the little tailor?

Prize Winners

(Continued from Page One)

Hen—E. H. Cordell, first and fifth; pullet—Bob Mayfield, first; E. H. Cordell, second; Bob Mayfield, third, and R. A. Ellis, fourth and fifth.

Dark Cornish Games.

Od pen—Robert Hicks, first and second; young pen—Robert Hicks, first; cock—Mrs. Chas. G. O'Neil, Abilene, first; Robert H. Hicks, second and third; cockrel—Robert Hicks, first; R. N. Campbell, second; Robert Hicks, third, fourth and fifth; pullet—Lee Baker, first; Robert Hicks, second and third; Mrs. Chas. G. O'Neil, Abilene, fourth; Lee Baker fifth; **hen**—Robert H. Hicks, first; Mrs. Chas. G. O'Neil, second; Robert Hicks, third, fourth and fifth.

Buff Orpingtons.

Cock—A. R. Sharp, first and second; F. M. Smith, third; cockrel—Mrs. M. E. Sharp, first; hen—F. M. Smith, first; A. R. Sharp, second and third; F. M. Smith, fourth, and A. R. Sharp, fifth; pullet—Mrs. M. E. Sharp, first, second, third and fourth.

English White Leghorns Single Comb.

Old pen—W. C. Eoff, Merkel, Route 2, first; young pen—Ben Robert Hicks, (age 9), first; W. C. Eoff, second; cock—W. C. Eoff, first; cockrel—Ben Robert Hicks, first; W. C. Eoff, second, and Joe K. Higgins, third; hen—W. C. Eoff, first, second, third, fourth and fifth; pullet—Ben Robert Hicks, first, second, third and fourth; W. C. Eoff, fifth.

Dark Brown Leghorns.

W. R. Spence, Trent, first in young pen, hen and pullet.

White Langshans.

W. L. Phillips, Trent, Route 2, first in old pen, young pen, cock, and cockrel; first, second, third and fourth in hen; first, second, third and fourth in pullet.

Black Langshans.

O. R. Dye, first in young pen and cockrel; first, second, third, fourth and fifth in pullet.

Silver Laced Wyandottes.

Castle B. Ellis, first in young pen, cockrel and hen; first, second, third, fourth and fifth in pullet.

Partridge Wyandottes.

Old pen—Joe E. Davis, Blackwell, first; young pen—C. K. Finley, Blackwell, first, Joe E. Davis, second; cock—Joe E. Davis, first; cockrel—Joe E. Davis, first; G. K. Finley, second, and Joe E. Davis, third; hen—Joe E. Davis, first, second, third and fourth; pullet—G. K. Finley, first; Joe E. Davis, second; G. K. Finley, third, fourth and fifth.

Ancons.

George Russell, Blackwell, first, second and third in pullet.

White Wyandottes.

Od pen—E. Yates Brown, first; young pen—R. A. Walker, first; cockrel—R. A. Walker, first; hen—Bob McDonald, first, second, third and fourth.

White Chinese Geese.

Gander—Lee Baker, Abilene, first; **goose**—Lee Baker, Abilene, first.

Fawn and White Indian Runner Ducks.

Drake—Lee Baker, Abilene, first; **duck**—Lee Baker, Abilene, first and second.

Japanese Silkies.

Cockrel—W. T. Burleson, Sweetwater, first and second; hen—W. T. Burleson, first; pullet—W. T. Burleson, first.

Golden Sebright Bantams.

Cock—E. H. Odor, Sweetwater, first; cockrel—E. H. Odor, first; I. W. Lackey, second; hen—E. H. Odor, first, second, third, and fourth; pullet—E. H. Odor, first and second.

Buff Cocker Bantam.

Hen—E. H. Odor, first, second and third.

Bronze Turkeys.

Tom—Lee Baker, first and second; hen—Lee Baker, first; Joe Higgins, second; Lee Baker, third, and Jess Higgins, fourth.

S. C. White Minorcas.

Hen—E. Yates Brown, first. **Dark Barred Plymouth Rocks.** **Cock**—Carey O. Deavers, Merkel, Route 2, first; R. J. Miller, second; cockrel—Carey O. Deavers, third.

Light Barred Plymouth Rocks.

Young pen—L. C. Rea, Midland, second; cock—L. C. Rea, second; **Cockrel**—L. C. Rea, first and second; hen—L. C. Rea, first; pullet—L. C. Rea, first, second, third, fourth and fifth.

SPECIAL PRIZES.

No. 1 Best pen of old birds, (all breeds competing)—Joe E. Davis: One turkey aluminum roaster, Liberty Hardware company; one 48 pound sack of flour, Dr. R. I. Grimes; one gallon cane syrup and one peck spuds, J. T. Dennis; one pair Humming Bird silk ladies' hose, Jones Dry Goods company; one year's subscription to the Merkel Mail.

No. 2 Best pen of young birds, (all breeds competing)—G. K. Finley: 100 pounds laying mash, West company; one 28x4.75 heavy duty cord tube,

Merkel Motor company; one bath room mat, Barrow Furniture company; one 5 pound Conoco cup grease, Continental Oil company, Mack Buzbee, agent; 20 loaves of bread, Merkel Dandy Bakery; \$1.00 barber work, Petty and Buford.

No. 3. Best old pen of solid color birds—W. C. Eoff; One gallon of Lowe Brothers paint, Burton-Lingo company; 48 pound sack of Primrose flour, Eli Case Cash grocery; 5 gallon No-Nox gasoline, George Woodrum Filling station; \$1.50 blacksmith work, F. A. Polley; one side of bacon, Wheeler and Vaughn market.

No. 4. Best young pen of solid color birds—R. A. Walker; 5 gallon Ethyl gasoline, Earl Stanford Service Station; two handmade chairs, J. T. Darsey Furniture company; one suit and one dress cleaned, City Dry Cleaners; \$2.00 in merchandise, J. H. McDonald grocery.

No. 5. Best old pen of parti-colored birds—Joe E. Davis: one 30x4.50 Goodyear tube, Ben Bird Service Station; 25 pound sack of sugar, Dr. G. Burton Fain; \$1.00 in merchandise, Patterson market; \$1.00 barber work, City Barber shop; \$1.00 in cats Wozy's cafe; one suitcase, Brown's Bargain store.

No. 6. Best young pen of parti-colored birds—G. K. Finley: one group of hen's nests, Rose Tin shop; \$1.00 in blacksmith work, J. T. King; 25 pound sack of Startena Chick feed, Merkel Produce company; 20 pound sack of White Dove Peace Maker Cream meal, G. M. Sharp Feed store; 5 gallon Texco gasoline, Ferrier Service station; \$3.00 in merchandise, Adams and Levrett.

No. 7. Best cock in entire show, (all breeds competing)—H. T. Rice; \$5.00 in gold Farmers and Merchants National bank.

No. 8. Best cockrel bird in entire show, (all breeds competing)—E. H. Cordell; 5 gallon Socony Motor oil, Magnolia Petroleum company, C. H. Jones, agent.

No. 9. Best hen in entire show, (all breeds competing)—Bob McDonald; 3 bushels Russell Big Boll Pedigree planting cottonseed, Farm Bureau Gin.

No. 10. Best pullet in entire show, (all breeds competing)—Bob Mayfield \$5.00 in gold, West Texas Utilities company.

No. 11. Best solid cock bird—E. Yates Brown; \$1.50 in merchandise, J. M. Collins Cash grocery; one chick fountain, Earl Teague Tin shop; 3 pound jar of Handy Jar Coffee, L. D. Boyd grocery; 25 pound Purina Baby Chick scratch, J. M. Garrett Feed store.

No. 12. Best solid color cockrel—O. R. Dye; 48 pound sack Bob White flour, M. System grocery; \$1.00 worth of Baby Chick feeders, Joe Garland; one heavy work shirt, Max Mellinger;

one shampoo and set, Modern Marinello Beauty shop.

No. 13. Best solid color hen—Bob McDonald; One 350 pound ice box, Nichols Ice company; \$1.50 in groceries, Dr. L. C. Zepfennig; one pair of Buck Brand overalls, Bragg Dry Goods company.

No. 14. Best pullet solid color—Ber Robert Hicks; one gallon Globe Dip, Merkel Drug company; \$1.00 barber work, Palace Barber shop; \$1.00 in merchandise, Bob Martin Grocery company.

No. 15. Best parti-colored cock—H. T. Rice; 48 pound sack of Light Crust flour, A. R. Booth grocery; \$2.50 in merchandise, City Drug store; \$1.00 in cats, Busy Bee cafe.

No. 16. Best parti-colored cockrel—E. H. Cordell; one carton cigarettes, Ed's cafe; one pair of shoes half-sold, N. A. Dowell; 5 gallons Sinclair gasoline, Sumpter Service station; one Chevrolet inner tube, Delmer-Deaney Chevrolet company.

No. 17. Best parti-colored hen—E. H. Cordell; 5 gallon Conoco gasoline, Middleton Service station; recharging one battery, E. L. (Shorty) Patterson battery station; one gallon Pittsburg Sun Proof paint, Clay Lumber company.

No. 18. Best Parti-colored pullet—Bob Mayfield; 5 pound bucket of Magnolia cup grease, Horton and Windham Service station; 5 gallons gasoline, Hi-Way Service station; \$1.00 in cleaning, Blake's Dry Cleaners; 48 pound sack of Shawnee's Best flour, Wood grocery.

No. 19. Best trio of turkeys, (all varieties competing)—Lee Baker; \$2.50 in cash, Farmers State Bank; \$1.00 in cash, W. O. Boney, insurance and real estate; \$1.00 in cash, Dr. C. B. Gardner; 50 cents in cash, L. A. Watts, chicken buyer.

No. 20. Best tom turkey in snow—Lee Baker; \$1.00 in cash, W. F. Golladay, Gulf Refining agent; \$1.00 in cash, Douglas Sanitary dairy.

No. 21. Best turkey hen in show—Lee Baker; 5 gallons gasoline and one gallon oil, Warren Higgins shop.

No. 22. Best pair of geese, any variety—Lee Baker; \$1.00 repair work, Curley's Repair shop.

No. 23. Best pair of ducks, any variety—Lee Baker; recharging battery, Bishop Hunter Battery station.

No. 24. Best pen of white Langshans—W. L. Phillips; one quart Cook's 502 paint; best pen of Cornish games—Robert H. Hicks, one quart of Cook's 502 paint; best pen of Buff Orpingtons—Mrs. J. F. Sharp; one quart of Cook's 502 paint; best pen of silver laced wyandottes—Castle B. Ellis; one quart Cook's 502 paint, all given by the Merkel Lumber company.

No. 25. Best Rhode Island Red pullet—Bob Mayfield; one setting of Rhode Island Red eggs, R. A. Ellis.

No. 26. Best dark Cornish pullet—Lee Baker one setting of dark Cornish eggs, Robert Hicks.

No. 27. Best pen of White Leghorns—W. C. Eoff; one gallon of Watkins Germicide Dip, by W. A. Wenteley.



PUTTING AN IDEAL TO WORK

In the establishment of the government of our great country, the ideals of the leading patriots at that time were incorporated.

Foremost among these patriots stood "The Father of Our Country," George Washington.

These same ideals have been preserved and cultivated in our own organization. They are attained only through eternal striving and maintained only through eternal vigilance.



"Nerves"

DO they harass you by day and keep you awake at night?

Don't neglect them. They'll ruin your charm and beauty, alienate your friends, interfere with your success.

When you're nervous, take Dr. Miles' Nervine. It's the prescription of a successful Nerve Specialist, put up in convenient form.

Dr. Miles' Nervine is now made in two forms—Liquid and Effervescent Tablet. Both have the same soothing effect on the nerves.

\$1.00 at your drug store



MEMBER FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM



A SURFACE, like the porch floor, which is subjected to hard wear, all sorts of exposure and the penetrating rays of the sun, must be protected by a paint designed and made especially for that purpose.

Such a paint is LOWE BROTHERS PORCH AND DECK PAINT. It stands hard use and retains its color, luster and beauty for a long, long time.

It is the paint for boats and decks because of its unusual wearing qualities.

Burton-Lingo Company
Merkel, Texas

PAIN

HEADACHES NEURITIS NEURALGIA, COLDS

Whenever you have some nagging ache or pain, take some tablets of Bayer Aspirin. Relief is immediate!

There's scarcely ever an ache or pain that Bayer Aspirin won't relieve—and never a time when you can't take it.

The tablets with the Bayer cross are always safe. They don't depress the heart, or otherwise harm you. Use them just as often as they can spare you any pain or discomfort. Just be sure to buy the genuine. Examine the package. Beware of imitations.

Aspirin is the trade-mark of Bayer manufacture of monoacetic acid ester of salicylic acid.



The BEST Gray Hair Remedy is Home Made

To half pint of water add one ounce bay rum, a small box of Barbo Compound and one-fourth ounce of glycerine. Any druggist can put this up or you can mix it at home at very little cost. Apply to the hair twice a week until the desired shade is obtained. It will gradually darken streaked, faded or gray hair and make it soft and glossy. Barbo will not color the scalp, is not sticky or greasy and does not rub off.

KIRK'S HATCHERY

"Where Quality Counts"

EVERY CHICK HATCHED GUARANTEED FREE FROM DISEASE

F. P. KIRK

606 Mockingbird Lane Abilene, Texas

Electric Power Encourages Industry

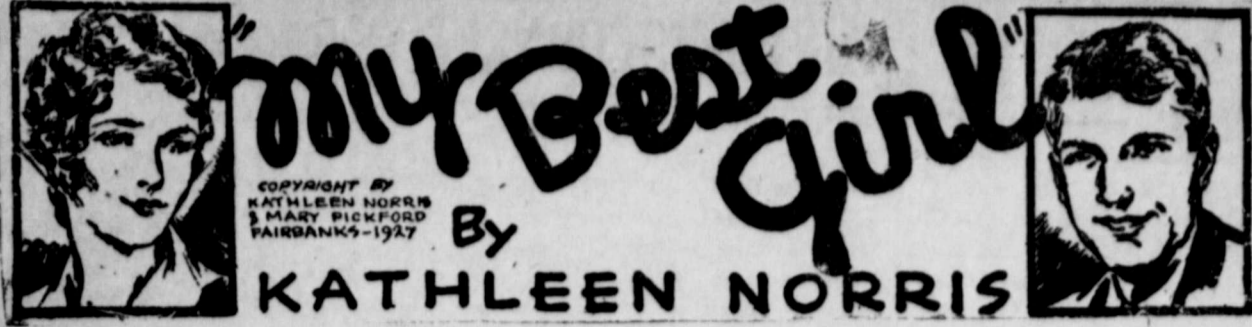


2,500 miles of trunk transmission network, interlacing this vast empire and distributing economical energy from three strategically located major generating plants, insure West Texas a power supply on a par with that of the largest cities and industrial centers.

This territory, dependably served by the West Texas Utilities Company, now offers to industry all the advantages of flexible, ever-ready electric power—of such refined quality as to meet the stringent requirements of the modern electric clock, radio and talking picture equipment, which were not in use in the days of the small isolated plant.

One hundred and twenty prosperous cities and towns throughout forty-eight West Texas counties are benefiting by the obvious advantages of transmission line service. They look into the future, secure in the knowledge that they will be able to compete with the larger cities on an equal basis.

West Texas Utilities Company



EIGHTH INSTALLMENT.

Maggie Johnson, whose father is a lettercarrier, her mother, a lazy woman who has "seen better days," and her sister a bootlegger's sweetheart who works in a beauty parlor, is stock girl in the "Mack" stores, the Five-and-Ten of San Francisco. A boy whom she knows only as "Joe Grant," but who really is Joseph Gant MacKenzie Merrill, son of the owner of the "Mack," is learning the business by starting at the bottom. He doesn't like the job until he meets Maggie. And neither of them realize that they are falling in love with each other, at first. Joe is impressed, however, by Maggie's intelligence and goodheartedness, and gives her advice on the subject nearest her heart, how to live the ideal life. She makes a suggestion for a better way of selling certain lines. He tells his father, as if it were his own idea, greatly pleasing the old man. He finds that the girls he used to know don't interest him as much as Maggie does, and when Maggie discloses her love in a burst of jealousy, he realizes that he loves her, too.

NOW GO ON WITH THE STORY

Her face burned, her hands were icy, her confused mind was only a blur, and her heart one heavy, unendurable ache. It had been pretty bold of her to question him, to rebuke him about Paula Younger. After all, it was Joe's affair. Her thoughts burned, stung, writhed together. The one unbearable thought was that the half-past five o'clock whistle would sound, and Murphy begin to close the big jointed iron grills against the world, and that she would have to go home—what else could she do?—heartbroken and alone, and bear the week-end with Joe "mad" at her.

He had already been elevated to the offices, which were placed in a position of some dignity and seclusion, on a mezzanine deck at the far rear of the store. Sometimes, when a customer brought in a defective article, Maggie had to guide her upstairs to the window marked "Complaints," and once or twice other errands had taken her to the offices. But she had no excuse today.

She turned the knob of the glass door rather timidly, and saw Joe standing at the window in the back of the room, with Simmonds, a buyer, both intent upon the inspection of some sort of material. "What is it?" Simmonds asked sharply.

"Excuse me," Maggie faltered, "but is Miss Pope up here?" Simmonds came toward her. And Joe—as she saw with a sinking heart—casually turned away and began to study a bloated, bursting book of "swatches."

"Was Miss Pope up here?" Simmonds asked. "Miss Pope," Joe said, in a quite voice, "is downstairs in the music department."

Maggie's face was very red, she looked only at the older man. "I didn't see her there," she said thickly. And somehow she got herself out of the glass door again, and somehow flew down the stairs, and was feverishly busy instantly with a large cardboard box of lockets and chains, in the jewelry department.

And all the while her heart pounded as if it would hammer her to pieces, and her shamed thoughts almost suffocated her. "He knew I went up there to talk to him—what'll he think I am! He didn't want to speak to me at all—and I bluffed that Miss Pope was up there—he seen right through me! He saw right through me. Oh I wish I was dead! I can't have him thinking like that about me! I wish I was dead. What'll I do? I can't ever look him in the face again."

She was standing at an angle of the jewelry counter that was placed in a sort of niche between columns. Suddenly she knew that a tall, lean man was lounging on the counter beside her, his shoulder almost touching her own.

"Still mad at me?" It was Joe's voice. "Joe—" Her voice wouldn't come. "Joe, don't be mean to me," she said in a low tone, holding her words steady, not raising her eyes.

"Was I mean to you, Maggie?" "Of course—of course you're not, Joe! It's just that I'm—I'm an idiot! It's none of my business who you lunch with—and I'm sorry I—blew up."

"It is your business, if you care, Maggie," he said, nicely, kindly, even a little gruffly.

"But I am going not to care." Joe experienced a queer little twinge of pain. She looked so small, so weary, so exquisitely pretty in this soft light, and she was such a loving little thing!

"I'm glad we're friends again," he said awkwardly. "Yes, I am, too."

"I couldn't of stood it," she confessed. The other employees of the Mack were streaming through the side door when Maggie came flying up from the locker room. Joe was lingering at the top of the stairs.

"I thought I'd walk with you to the corner." "Oh, that's grand! Which way do you go, Joe?"

"Down pastt he city—out on the Elmingdale road." "Then you want the Ten car." His arm was under her elbow, and she gave him once more the delicious sensation of nearness, confidence, and sweet smallness and youth.

He had never seen her so deliciously pretty, so small and loving and enchanting. She could hardly keep her little feet on the ground. Tired? Depressed? Hungry? Not when Joe Grant, tall and lean and protective and most appreciative, was beside her, was guiding her along the lighted street.

Her walk was a combination of jump, bounce, and dance step. Joe had to laugh sympathetically at the laughing face, the eager eyes that demanded his sympathy.

"This is my corner, Joe." His steps had been quite automatically turned toward that particular quiet block where he had parked his roadster. They were close to the handsome, low-slung car now.

"Here's some feller left his roadster here," Joe said. "You'd wonder he'd have any business in this neighborhood," the girl innocently commented.

"How far away do you live, Maggie?" "Oh, not so far. Pop and I walk it every morning. 'Bout—I think it's thirteen blocks."

Joe had palmed his key. "Want me to run you home in this car?" "I get so sick of my automobile, it's a treat to me to walk!" Maggie, assured him. She was horrified when he slipped into the machine, and challenged her cheerfully.

"Joe Grant, get out of that car! D'you want to be sent to jail?" "Oh, come on, get in, Maggie—don't be so scary."

"But, Joe, isn't it locked?" "Nope. Key right here! Get in, Maggie, and—listen: I'll bring it back to the other end of the block and let him hunt for it awhile, to teach him a lesson about forgetting to lock it!"

"Joe, you could be sent to jail for that!" "Oh, come on—it won't take five minutes!"

In the end, she yielded. "Maggie, how'd you like to own a car like this, and have a big, fluffy white fur coat, and be riding along here this way—down to Elmingdale, or the Westbeach Arms, or one of those fashionable places?"

"Joe b'leave me, I've seen girls do both ways, and there's nothing in letting fellers buy you coats and take you out riding. You don't mind being poor, do you, Joe?" she asked anxiously.

"Don't you?" "I? Why, but what else would I be?" she demanded blankly.

"Don't you ever think of yourself as rich, with beautiful clothes, and a maid, and a big, comfortable room?" He glanced sideways.

"I think of myself as straight," she said briefly. "Anyway, we're pretty near living the ideal life now, and my father says that all day long he thinks about—our house, and how nice and shady and quiet the kitchen is, and all the new dish towels—"

"We're getting out of debt, and even Liz said it was some comfort to come home to our house now—and she s-s-said—Liz said—that s-s-she—"

"Maggie! For heaven's sake! What are you crying about?" "Be-cause—because they said I did it, Joe! Even Ma said that I made them all comfortable—and happier—and it—it makes me cry to have them love me so!"

He abruptly ran the car into the curb, and stopped it there, and put his

arms about her, and tipped up her face.

"Now, look here, stop it. Stop this bawling right away, or you'll have me crying, too."

His big arm held her tightly, jammed against him, and her bewildered, ecstatic, tear-stained little rosy face was close to his own.

"J-J-Joe Grant!" she said breathlessly. "Maggie Johnson! You've known this was coming, haven't you?"

"J-Joe Grant!" "Surprised?" "No—but—but—I guess—maybe I thought—"

"Go on. Don't stop. Maybe you thought what?" "I thought you were kinder—kidding me along."

It was at this juncture that for a terrible moment Joe Grant disappeared from his own consciousness for a few seconds, and the Joseph Merrill who was a truant from college, who belonged to the same world as this smart roadster, took his place.

To play a part was all very well inasmuch as it concerned only himself. But here was this bewildering little madcap armful of passionately earnest femininity in his arms, her tear-soaked lashes almost touching his cheek, her whole being only too obviously ready to yield itself to his guardianship forever.

How on earth was he going to get out of this with Maggie Johnson? When he spoke, his tone and manner had subtly altered.

"Why shouldn't I kid you along?" he said. "You're too much of a kid, yourself, to get mixed up in love affairs!"

She drew herself up, fumbled in her bag for a handkerchief, wiped her eyes quite openly, and said, in a composed, cold voice: "You must drive me home, Joe. My father and mother'll be wild if I'm late."

"Maggie—listen. Don't take that tone! You know how much I like you—I've got to stop this, I've got to stop this, I'm a fool if I don't stop this," he added, in his heart. "Why, you're not eighteen—you're a little girl!"

"I'm eighteen tomorrow, and I'm not a little girl at all," she said, with swift dignity.

"Eighteen! Why, what would your father think if you married at eighteen!" Joe protested. "Damn it—and damn me for a fool!" he ejaculated. "Now I've said it! This is the first time that word has come into our conversations, and I'm the one that introduced it."

Maggie cleared her throat. "I've had a great deal of responsibility in my life, and there is nothing so developing to the character as responsibility," she began. "Since I was ten years old, I've been tryin' to earn a little an' spend a little less, to bear wrongs patiently. Pop says he's always been anxious to live the ideal

life, too, but he never thought it could be done on a postman's salary." "Listen, Maggie. Listen, darling—"

"Since Christmas," she went on, "it's been you, Joe. Everything I done—everything I've done," she corrected it, "has been done because I was thinkin' of you."

He caught her small agitated hands and held them tightly. "Maggie, just be quiet, dear. There's no need for you to get so excited and upset. Listen, dear. I like you immensely. I think you have more character than any girl I ever knew. I wouldn't give up your friendship for anything in the world. But you're only a little girl, Maggie, you're going to have a dozen beaux before you pick out the man you want to marry." He winced interiorly. "I hope our friendship—"

"I know, Joe. I know. That's you. That's your side of it. But I was talkin' about me."

She caught at his lapel with a small bare hand, and raised her beautiful wistful, childish eyes.

He laughed suddenly, boyish. "Ah, Maggie! You little idiot!" And this kiss was a different kiss. The little figure rested against his breast, the little hand was crushed against his heart, and the fragrant soul of her seemed to be drawn through her fresh, half-opened lips.

Then they talked, Maggie's hand locked in his, her head resting luxuriously against his shoulder.

"I'm getting thirty-five a week, Mary Margaret. And I'm not going

to have my wife work!" "Oh, Joe—I'll die—to hear you say 'my wife!'" "That's about—one forty a month." (Continued Next Week.) See our advertisement addressed to Farmers Wives. Farmers State Bank.

All For the Left Foot. Los Angeles, Feb. 19.—Thieves who carted two trunks full of shoes from the car of Charles J. Tyler, salesman for a Boston manufacturer, had a surprise. All were for the left foot. Use The Mail Want Ads.

Washington-

THE FATHER OF OUR COUNTRY—

A man of limitless energy, unrivalled vision and indomitable will power—could well be proud of the glorious and powerful nation he founded were he to visit us today.

The memory of Washington grows deader to the world as the years go on.

This Institution Will Not Be Opened All Day
Monday, February 23rd
In Honor of WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY
Sunday, February 22nd

FARMERS STATE BANK IN MERKEL

Capital \$40,000.00
Paid-in Surplus \$10,000.00

OFFICERS

C. M. Largent, President R. O. Anderson, active v-pres.
J. S. Swann, v-president. W. L. Diltz, Jr., cashier.
Dave Hendricks, v-president. Jack Anderson, asst. cashier.

DIRECTORS

C. M. Largent, Dave Hendricks, J. S. Swann, Max Mellinger,
Courtney Hunt, W. L. Diltz, Jr., R. O. Anderson.

FIRE

DOESN'T RING THE DOOR BELL

It descends upon you unannounced. No time then to look up your insurance policies and make sure they are effective and adequate.

We will go over your fire risks and existing policies. Perhaps we can help you eliminate unnecessary hazards. We know we can give you dependable, economical insurance protection.

W. O. BONEY

MERKEL, TEXAS

Farm Loans and all kinds of Insurance
Consult Your Insurance Agent as you Would Your Doctor or Lawyer.

Everyone in the Southwest should SEE the

Mightiest Drama of Show Ages..

"Birth of a Nation" . . .
"Four Horsemen" . . .
Dwarfed Giants of the screen
Dwarfed Beside its Storm-
Cann'd Splendors!



with RICHARD DIX
Estelle Taylor-Irene Dunn

The History of the Great Southwest sweeps across the Screen in Epic Splendor! You'll never forget it!

West Texas Premiere

STARTING

Mon., Feb. 23rd

PARAMOUNT
ABILENE

SPECIAL LOW ROUND TRIP FADES

To all points on Southern Greyhound Lines. Round trip fares at less than 2 cents per mile. Good any day, on any schedule, with 180 days allowed for the return trip.

Fort Worth	\$ 7.10
Abilene	.70
El Paso	16.60
Dallas	8.35

TERMINAL
Ferrier's Service Station
Phone 210



On The Screen

—under the glare of powerful lights and the stress of "Picture Making" the beauty rendered by Gouraud's Oriental Cream stands the test. It gives an alluring, pearly appearance that will not rub off, streak or spot.

No "touching up" necessary as the skin retains the delightfully soft, seductive beauty under all conditions.

GOURAUD'S ORIENTAL CREAM
With Pearl, Borax and Oriental Tea Extract
Send 10c for Trial Size to
Ford T. Hopkins & Son, New York City

Wake Up Your Liver Bile—Without Calomel

And You'll Jump Out of Bed in the Morning Rin' to Go

If you feel sour and sunk and the world looks punk, don't swallow a lot of salts, mineral water, oil, laxative candy or chewing gum and expect them to make you suddenly sweet and buoyant and full of sunshine.

For they can't do it. They only move the bowels and a mere movement doesn't get at the cause. The reason for your down-and-out feeling is your liver. It should pour out two pounds of liquid bile into your bowels daily.

If this bile is not flowing freely, your food doesn't digest. It just dumps in the bowels. Gas bloats up your stomach. You have a thick, bad taste and your breath is foul, skin often breaks out in blemishes. Your head aches and you feel down and out. Your whole system is poisoned.

It takes those good old CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS to get those two pounds of bile flowing freely and make you feel "up and up."

They contain wonderful, harmless, gentle vegetable extracts, amazing when it comes to making the bile flow freely. But don't ask for liver pills. Ask for Carter's Little Liver Pills. Look for the name Carter's Little Liver Pills on the red label. Beware of substitutes.

THE MERKEL MAIL

Published Every Friday Morning
Glover and Caple, Publishers.

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.

DOLLY MADISON INVENTED
ICE CREAM.

(Fort Worth Star-Telegram.)
Dolly Madison, wife of President Madison, invented ice cream and served it for the first time at a dinner, tendered by President Jefferson to the notables of his time, in 1801, with Mrs. Madison, wife of the Secretary of State, acting as the official hostess of the White House at the request of the President. Mrs. Anthony Merry, wife of the British Minister, reported this dinner to a friend at home. In the letter, in which she wrote "with deep disgust" of the democratic demeanor of the American guests, ice cream is mentioned for the first time in history, and the credit for the invention is reluctantly given to Mrs. Madison. See: Mrs. Hillhouse's "Memories of Jefferson."

WE THANK YOU.

We wish to thank each and everyone that helped to make our poultry and rabbit show a success:

The Merkel Mail for publicity they gave us.

The Sears Estate for furnishing the building for the show.

J. M. Garrett and the Purina Mills for feeding the chickens.

West Texas Utilities for furnishing lights.

The West Texas Fair association for the use of coops.

Burton-Lingo Lumber company for use of lumber for tables.

The Lions Club.

H. M. Rose for being a fair and impartial judge and for his reasonable fee for judging the show.

The following individuals, who helped us to put it over: Matt Dillingham, Bob McDonald, Bob Mayfield, John R. West, F. Y. Gaither, O. R. Dye, Messrs. Walker, Glazier, Merritt, Kirk and Irvin of Abilene.

Each merchant and professional man for their donations for special prizes.

All exhibitors, committees and friends that helped in any way to make the show the success that it was in every way.

Lets all work forward to a BIGGER AND BETTER SHOW in the coming winter with more exhibitors, more and better birds, and all breeds represented. Now is the time to start, cull your flocks, put some new and better blood into your flock. Get some good eggs for your favorite breed and get started right this year.

Again, let us say "we thank you" to everyone.

R. A. Ellis, Superintendent of Chickens.
Castle B. Ellis, Superintendent of Rabbits.
Robert Hicks, Secretary of Show.

Combined Shops to be
Titled Marinello Shop

The purchase of the Marinello Shop from Miss Mollye Shannon by Miss Edna Tiner, owner of the Modern Marinello shop, and the consolidation of the two shops in the old location of the Marinello Shop, by which name the beauty parlor is to be operated hereafter, was announced Monday.

Just before the first of the year Miss Tiner purchased the Modern Marinello Shop, which has been located for several years in the rear of Merkel Dug Company. Since Miss Shannon removed to Sweetwater, where she is the owner of the Cinderella shop, the Marinello here has been leased by Bob McDonald.

The removal of the Marinello shop location will be completed by Monday, Miss Tiner has announced. Besides Miss Jewel Pursley, who has been associated with Miss Tiner at the Modern Marinello, the corps of operators will also include Mrs. Maurine Pannell, who has been connected with the Marinello shop for several months.

HOLIDAY NOTICE.

On account of Washington's birthday, a legal holiday, falling on Sunday, the following banks will remain closed: Gay Monday, February 23. Customers will please take notice and make their arrangements accordingly.

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

Wonderful bargains in shoes for the entire family in the February Clearance Sale at Bragg Dry Goods Co.

Legal covers at Merkel Mail office.

CHURCHES

WEEKLY SERMONETTE.

Nine reasons "why you should go to church on Sunday night" are assigned by Rev. J. T. King, pastor of the Baptist church, in this week's sermonette, printed below, which is a synopsis of a sermon delivered by him to his congregation some six or more months ago.

"Why Attend the Sunday Night Services."

Text: "The night is far spent, the day is at hand; let us therefore cast off the works of darkness and let us put on the armor of life." (Romans 13:12.)

The night is far spent: the night of sorrow and trial in this world. The day is at hand: the day of opportunity to serve Christ. All that you or I shall ever do for Christ will be done here. And it must be done quickly. Time is fast passing for you. Where were you last Sunday night and what were you doing?

Did it please God? Were you happy in doing it? Friends, will those Sunday nights spent out of the church services be a comfort to you on death's day? You say I heard a good sermon over the radio, but, listen, you and your radio are a "little, cold crowd," aren't you? Suppose all the church members were to do the same thing. We would have to close our church doors and let the lost go on to hell, wouldn't we?

The time is far spent with many of you, and time is short, for you are middle age and past, not much longer to go to church, have you?

I am going to give you just a few reasons why "You should go to church on Sunday nights."

1. Because your pastor is there and he is discouraged by your "indifference." The sin of indifference is one of the blackest sins of the Christian. It's indeed a mean sin.

2. Because others are there, proving themselves more devotedly loyal. So you owe it to the church, to your pastor and your brethren, and above all to Christ.

3. Because strangers and visitors are there and your presence would bear good testimony for Christ and His church. God said: "Ye are my witnesses." You make a very poor witness for Christ by staying away from church on Sunday nights. Your own loved ones see that and have less confidence in your Christianity.

4. Because the lost are there and your presence and prayers and personal work will help to win them. Certainly that's your business as a Christian.

5. Because a blessing is there, in night service, which will never come again and you will be forever the poorer.

6. Because Jesus is in the night service and what will "He think of you" for making excuses which cannot stand the test of truth. You will meet your excuses in the judgment.

7. Jesus was betrayed at night. His critics and enemies are always present and if you are His friend you will show it by being present to prove your loyalty and Love to Him.

8. It's a time when prayer is answered. Peter was delivered from prison at night. Paul and Silas prayed and a household was saved. It may be at the night hour God will save your household or answer your prayer for the lost one for whom you have been praying.

9. Because your opportunity for laying up treasures in heaven are passing, passing, passing, and you cannot afford to miss the opportunity so precious and so close at hand.

Conscious of these truths, let us as Christians quit making excuses and fill the churches of Merkel to overflowing every Sunday night.

SPECIAL SONG SERVICE.

There will be a special song service at the Church of Christ Sunday evening at 7 o'clock. We have secured a lot of new books and several classes will be represented. A special invitation is extended to everyone to take part.

CHURCH OF CHRIST.

We welcome you at our services at all times. The services for the week are as follows: Bible study Lord's Day at 10 a. m., communion service 11 to 12, young peoples' study at 6 p. m., ladies' Bible study Tuesday at 2 p. m. and prayer service and Bible study Wednesday at 7:15 p. m.

In love, The Elders.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.

At the five reporting Sunday Schools in Merkel there were 696 present last Sunday, the Methodist and Baptist organizations running close for first place, with the Methodists in the lead with a total of 272. Attendance

at the Baptist Sunday School was 263. The numbers present at the other Sunday Schools were as follows: Church of Christ, 80; Presbyterian, 69, and Nazarene, 12.

MEN'S PRAYER MEETING.

The Men's Prayer Service will be held at the Baptist church next Sunday with S. W. H. Buzbee as leader. The lesson will be the first 14 verses of the 12th chapter of Exodus. Last Sunday between 25 and 30 men were present for the service at the Methodist church, at which time S. M. Hunter was leader.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

Sunday School at 10 a. m. Be on time at the opening, it will be interesting to you. There will not be a preaching service, as the pastor will be at Baird. Prayer meeting Wednesday evening. Come and worship with us.

W. M. Elliott, Supt.
R. A. Walker, Pastor.

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH.

"The Stay-At-Home Member is a Voter Against Everything the Church is Trying to Do."

Last Sunday was an unusually good day at the Baptist church; fine attendance at all the services. The large attendance at the morning hour was encouraging to all, with the conversion of one of our fine Junior boys. The evening service was inspiring with 150 in attendance at our B. Y. P. U.

Interesting and inspiring services planned for both morning and evening services Sunday. Special music. Catch the B. Y. P. U. spirit and be on time at 6:30 p. m.

Be on time at Sunday School at 9:45 and gladden the heart of our good superintendent, W. J. Largent, and get the blessing that comes to those who serve.

J. T. King, Pastor.

BAPTIST CIRCLE.

The Blanche Rose Walker circle will meet with Mrs. J. S. Swann Tuesday, Feb. 24, at 2:30 p. m. The program follows:

"Joshua Appointed to Succeed Moses," Mrs. Bessie Perry.
"Rahab Receiveth," Mrs. Edith Perry.

"Joshua Cometh to Jordan," Mrs. M. L. Rolden.

"Twelve Men Appointed," Mrs. W. O. Boney.

"Jericho is Shut Up," Mrs. W. L. Johnson.

"The Israelites are Smitten," Mrs. C. M. Largent.

"God Encourageth Joshua," Mrs. R. L. Bradshaw.

"The Kings Combine Against Israel," Mrs. F. A. Polley.

"The Kings War Against Gideon," Mrs. J. S. Swann.

"Divers Kings," Mrs. Causseaux.

"On the Other Side of Jordan," Mrs. Earl Lassiter.

"Balaam Slain," Mrs. W. J. Largent.

"Nine Tribes," Mrs. F. C. McFarland.

"Caleb's Portion," Mrs. W. R. Conder.

"The Canaanites are Not Conquered," Mrs. C. P. Stevens.

"Their Cities," Mrs. T. E. Collins.

"The Lot of Simeon," Mrs. Jim Meek.

"God Commandeth," Mrs. W. H. Pence.

"According to His Promise," Mrs. O. B. Tatum.

B. T. S. B. Y. P. U.

Song, "O Zion, Haste," by Union.

Prayer.

Duet, Mrs. Earl Lassiter and A. R. Booth.

Bible leader's drill, Miss Valerie Dye.

Records.

Program:

Scripture reading, Mrs. Riddle.

Introduction, Mrs. Earl Lassiter.

The Missionary Field, Geographical, Mrs. W. J. Largent.

The Field, Evangelistic, Mr. W. J. Largent.

The Field, Racial, Mr. Melvin Carey.

The Field, Enlistment, Miss Lucy Tracy.

The Field, Economic, Mr. Moore.

The Field, Denominational, Mrs. Carey.

The Field, a Force, Mrs. A. R. Booth.

Song, "We've a Story to Tell to the Nations, by the Union.

Secretary's report.

METHODIST NEWS NOTES.

George Washington's birthday will be observed at the Methodist church Sunday night. The evening service

SOCIETY

DINNER GUESTS.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Old of Abilene entertained with an elaborate dinner on Thursday evening of last week. Valentine decorations were used throughout the entertaining rooms and centered the dining table where a delectable four course dinner was served. Bridge games were enjoyed until a late hour by Mr. and Mrs. Guy Pope, Misses Creola Curry, Christine Collins, Pearl Old, Messrs. Edgar Holly, C. J. Glover and Mr. and Mrs. Old.

Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Delmer extended hospitality to guests at dinner. Valentine suggestions were used as house decorations, also roses were attractively used in the dining room. A delicious chicken menu was served in three courses. Bridge games progressed as an after dinner diversion for Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Delaney, Christine Collins, Dr. and Mrs. C. B. Gardner, C. J. Glover, and the host and hostess.

WILLING WORKERS.

The Willing Workers Sunday School class met Tuesday afternoon with Miss Mary Keny. Following the scripture reading and song service, Bible selections on Truth and the history of favorite hymns were given by members.

After a pleasant social hour of reasonable diversions, the hostess, assisted by Misses Jennie and Lizzie Keny, passed refreshment plates of sandwiches, pear salad and coffee with heart mints to Mesdames Butler, Ansell Coats, Elliott, Murray, Ethel Tucker, J. L. Tucker, Selma Russell, John Russell, J. M. Patterson, Misses Dora Garçotte, Jennie, Lizzie and Mary Keny.

BAPTIST CIRCLE.

On Tuesday afternoon, Feb. 17, the Blanche Rose Walker circle of the First Baptist church met in the home of Mrs. Charles West, with nine members present. The meeting was opened by singing "Work for the Night is Coming," followed by prayer by Mrs. Jim Meek. Mrs. West conducted an interesting Bible lesson. Following the business period, the guests joined in a social hour.

The circle will meet with Mrs. J. S. Swann on next Tuesday, Feb. 24.

hour has been changed to 7:15. C. K. Russell will sing. You will enjoy it. Regular services during the day.

SENIOR LEAGUE PROGRAM.

Topic: "What is it to Grow in Grace, and What is the Goal of Such Growth?"

Scripture, Luke 2:52, 2 Peter 2:17-18.

Leader, Mattilou Largent.

Missionary story, Lela Patterson.

Talk, Margaret Turner.

"What, then, do we Mean by Growth in Grace?" Addie Fae Patterson.

"What is the Goal of Growth in Grace?" Paul Collins.

Special.

League benediction.

NAZARENE CHURCH.

We had only a small attendance at Sunday School last Sunday; due to the fact the weather was so threatening, our folks did not come in from the country; so we had only 12 in Sunday School. Brother Howard Baird from Petosa preached at both the morning and evening hours.

We are expecting Fred Hendricks to be with us Sunday. We invite you to come and be with us in this service. If you do not attend church elsewhere, come and worship with us.

W. P. Sibley, Pastor.

City Officials Invited
To Committee Hearing

An invitation to have Merkel represented at the hearing before the house state affairs committee at Austin Tuesday, February 24, when the bill, advocating a public utilities commission, drawn and sponsored by the League of Texas Municipalities and City Attorney's association, comes up before that committee, has been received by Mayor J. P. Sharp.

In the letter from the office of the League of Texas Municipalities, Houston, Texas, which is signed by Harvey W. Draper, executive secretary, it is stated that, according to some of the municipal leaders of Texas, the bill, if enacted into law, would save citizens of the state millions of dollars and will allow utilities to earn a fair return on their investments.

Car of Oats and Feed expected Friday. G. M. Sharp Feed Store.

Complete line of office supplies at Mail office.

THE POETS CORNER

"THE SUNFLOWER'S FLIRTATION."

There's a Sunflower tall,
Near the garden wall,
And, like many a maid I know,
She is being misled,
And her vanity fed,
For she thinks she has a beau.

A windmill spins,
And sunbeams thin,
Filter thru blades as it whirs,
But the foolish flower,
In her giddy hour,
Thinks the sun is flirting with her.

—Mary A. Delmer.

TO A VIOLET.

Little violet, you are welcome
Into our midst again,
And we greet you most heartily
As first messenger of spring.

In your gown of midnight blue
You are fairer than ever,
And we only wish for you
A spring of golden weather.

Even tho' you show your beauty,
People should not call you vain,
For you come to do your duty,
Even as God who sends the rain.

God has placed you in this world
To be a gift to man;
So may your beauty be unfurled
Across the seas—from land to land.

Now, little flower, with such a mission
As first messenger of spring,
I'll praise thee on this condition—
That you strive to make men sing.

—C. Coffey.

Film Depicts Lloyd's
Gift for Clowning

The imaginative and organizing genius, to say nothing of the acting genius, of Harold Lloyd are impressively paraded before the eager public eye and ear again in "Feet First," the new Lloyd picture at the Palace Theatre, Sweetwater, Sunday and Monday.

Harold is seen as the lowly shoe clerk who aspires to high honors as the leading salesman in the chain of shoe stores owned by Robert McWade. As usual he starts off on the wrong foot, being called upon to wait on Lillian Leighton, McWade's wife, and giving her shoes that are six sizes too large. All this because he is flustered at the sight of Barbara Kent, secretary to McWade and his wife. Harold has not met Barbara formally, and he does not know her name, but he guesses that she is a wealthy daughter of society, and goes for her in a great big way.

After a series of humorous adventures in which Harold poses as a young man of wealth in order to impress Barbara at a society ball, he one day finds himself on board a liner bound from Honolulu on which are also McWade, Miss Leighton and Barbara. There follows a veritable barrage of Lloydian fun as Harold tries to "crash" a social event aboard the ship.

Finally he gets ashore only to encounter fresh thrills on the top and sides of a sky-scraper, furnishing a dare-devil climax with hair-raising stunt-stuff.

Reason enough for trading at Bragg Dry Goods Co. Merchandise is cheaper.

Most of the Best for
the Least

If you have been a constant patron of this store, you know that you can safely do all your shopping every day at our store without wondering if you are getting the MOST of the BEST for the LEAST. You know that it pays to pick such a store and stick to it, permanently.

Are you saving the PROFIT SHARING COUPONS that we give with each purchase made at our store? Most of our customers are delighted with the valuable articles they can get right at our store in exchange for the coupons we give. By concentrating your buying you'll be surprised how soon you can get many of these beautiful and useful items absolutely FREE.

WE APPRECIATE YOUR BUSINESS

L. D. Boyd Grocery
(Formerly Dunnam Bros.)

ANNOUNCING THE PURCHASE OF THE

MARINELLO SHOP

And the Removal of the

MODERN MARINELLO SHOP

to the old location of the

MARINELLO SHOP

Where the Consolidated Beauty Shops will be operated

THE MARINELLO SHOP

(Next to Bob McDonald's Barber Shop)

Featuring Permanents, Facials, Marcelles, Waving and Manicuring by a Corps of Experienced Operators

THE MARINELLO SHOP

Miss Edna Tiner, Prop.

Phone 123

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE

FOR SALE—Priced \$52.00 per acre; my farm and pasture, joining Merkel on the west and containing 179.9 acres; about 70 acres in cultivation, a house with three rooms, a barn about 40 feet square, sheds on three sides; good well of water; all under fence. Part cash, balance terms. Write Vol Martin, Los Angeles, Calif., 5437 Eighth Avenue.

FOR SALE—Cornish Game eggs, \$1.00 per setting. Robert H. Hicks at Liberty Hardware Co.

FOR SALE—Farmalls and equipment; also McCormick-Deering implements, cream separators, milking machines and feed grinders. We trade for and sell horses and mules. See Harry Barnett, Adams and Leverett, Merkel and Abilene.

FOR SALE—A real bargain, \$175.00 Victor 10-tube radio, 8 months old, now \$60.00; guaranteed A-1 shape. A White Rotary cabinet electric sewing machine, \$168.00, now \$50.00. Both of these were left at our place to be sold and are real bargains. See them at the Delaney-Delmer Chevrolet company.

FOR SALE—Four wheel trailer, A-1 condition; reasonable. Fred Wittman, Merkel, Texas. Route 1.

BIG BOLL RUSSELL cotton seed for sale, culled and sacked; just planted one year; price \$1.00 per bushel. See Comer Haynes.

FOR SALE—One mammoth bronze young tom, winner at Merkel Poultry show last week. See Lee Baker, address, Abilene, Route 3.

MAIZE DELIVERED—Will haul maize for you and put it in your barn. See me for prices. T. C. Jenkins, one half mile south of town. Phone 9018R2.

RHODE ISLAND RED eggs for sale. Bob Mayfield.

LOST AND FOUND

LOST—9 months old collie, white ring around neck; naturally born bobtail. Liberal reward. Johnnie Dunn or see Cliff Newberry, Route 2.

WANTED

GRASS LAND FOR LEASE—360 acres in Mulberry Canyon, about six miles south of Merkel. For price and other information, write The Sayles Co., Abilene, Texas.

YOUR LAND needs terracing. I will survey the terrace lines. Lee D. Williams.

WANTED—Will do all kinds of furniture repair. Prices reasonable. See J. T. Darsey.

Ft. Worth Livestock

Fort Worth, Texas, Feb. 19.—Increased cattle receipts resulted in a slow and weak to lower market Wednesday, the trade dropping back into the same old rut. Around 2,500 head arrived, exclusive of calves to the number of 1,000. Calves, however, met with a good demand and values were steady to strong.

Steers and yearlings made up the bulk of the cattle supply, yearlings being very numerous. Salesmen had to peddle their wares from start to finish. Several cars of beef steers went at \$5.25 to \$6.50. A few fat cows brought \$4 to \$4.25. A car of choice yearlings of heavy weight went at \$8.75. Bulls sold mostly at \$3 to \$3.75. A load of fed calves notched \$7.25. Other sales of good heavies were around \$6.50 to \$7.

Three loads of stocker yearlings notched \$7.35.

Hogs sold 15c to 25c lower at the start, but closed at a decline of 25c to 35c. Receipts were close to 1,000 head. The early top was \$7.40, but the best grades were stopping at \$7.25 on the final rounds.

Fair sheep receipts arrived, about 1,000 head showing up, and the market was steady.

Cattle Movement

Last Saturday Jasper McCoy shipped two carloads of cattle to Fort Worth and on Tuesday Baker and Collins shipped a car of mixed cattle to the same market.

Wash Dresses prettier than ever received this week at Bragg Dry Goods Co.

Dr. J. B. Neal, brother of State Senator Margie Neal, died early Tuesday morning at Carthage.

Soldiers Bonus

(Continued from Page One.) loans under it. They estimate the outlay will range from \$375,000,000 to \$700,000,000.

SENATE VOTES THURSDAY.

Thrusting aside a presidential protest, the senate Wednesday swept the veterans' loan measure through its finance committee and decided to vote Thursday in an effort to speed the legislation to the White House.

The finance committee approved the house bill authorizing loans to veterans up to half the face value of their compensation certificates by a vote of 13 to 3 within an hour after receiving a letter from the president vigorously objecting to the legislation.

Agreement quickly was entered into a moment later on the senate floor to take up the bill Thursday and its passage by Thursday night without change was predicted by Senator Harrison, democrat, Mississippi, in getting the agreement for consideration.

Mr. Hoover's letter to Chairman Smoot of the senate finance committee asserting the measure will "not only nullify the benefits of the veterans but inflict injury to the country as a whole" was accepted at Capitol Hill as full warning of a veto.

But administration leaders still were hunting for the necessary one-third votes to sustain the veto and they admitted this number was not in sight in the senate.

Senator Watson, of Indiana, the republican leader, joined five other republicans on the finance committee in supporting the house bill after a substitute and all amendments had been rejected.

Cemetery Day

(Continued from Page One) them for the purpose of assisting in this work.

The sexton is to have general supervision of the work to be done, but the forces to be employed will be in charge of City Marshal P. P. Dickinson as foreman. Mr. Dickinson is a member of the civic improvement committee of the Lions club.

Individuals desiring to work gratis on Tuesday and the following days will be welcomed especially members of the Lions club and any others who can devote this time.

Details of the work can be ascertained at the time of registering.

Any overplus, not used at the present time, will be left in the cemetery general fund for similar use in the future.

LIONS LUNCHEON.

Dee Grimes was toastmaster at the regular Tuesday luncheon. The club singing was led by E. Yates Brown and the invocation was given by Rev. E. L. Yeats. Especially clever were the readings by Madra Elayne Nixon and Betty Lou Grimes, with Miss Tracy at the piano.

Rev. Ira L. Parrack, formerly a member of the local club and now active with the Lions at Chillicothe, his present pastorate, spoke in his usual happy vein and was most warmly greeted.

W. W. Haynes, who recently bought an interest in the Merkel Motor company and became its manager, and a former member of the Lions club, was reinstated.

John W. Wheeler and Rev. J. T. King were numbered among the guests present.

The secretary reported receipt of an invitation from the Abilene Chamber of Commerce to their annual banquet, which was held Tuesday night, and the president and secretary of the Lions club indicated their intention to attend.

Booth Warren is to be toastmaster at the next meeting of the club on Tuesday, March 3, with C. W. Delmer assisting.

Record of Births.

Girl, to Mr. and Mrs. Lois Curb, Friday, February 13, 1931.

Girl, to Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Smith, residing in the Canyon, Friday, February 13, 1931.

Boy, named H. L., to Mr. and Mrs. H. H. McRee, Trent, Saturday, February 14, 1931.

Boy, to Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Haynie, residing in the Canyon, Monday, February 16, 1931.

Boy, to Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Speck, Tuesday, February 17, 1931.

Phillip Emanuel Arthur, 82, of Marfa, fell dead Friday while fishing at a pond on a farm near Laredo.

The state banking board has declared a 30 per cent dividend to all depositors and contributing banks under the guarantee fund, as authorized by an order of District Judge J. D. Moore of Travis county.

The wax candle was used in 200 B. C.

Abilene C. of C. Holds Its Annual Meeting

The Abilene Chamber of Commerce was fortunate in having A. P. Barrett of Fort Worth, vice-president of the Aviation Corporation, as its principal speaker at the annual banquet of the organization at the Wooten Hotel, Tuesday night. Sounding a note of high individualism, he came forth as the virile spokesman of returning optimism.

Besides the address of Mr. Barrett and the annual report of the officers of the Chamber of Commerce, the election of officers for the ensuing year was one of the features of the program. Charles Motz, Jr., is the new president; M. B. Hanks, first vice-president; A. W. Breihan, second vice-president, and A. B. Hutchinson, treasurer.

More than 200 attended the meeting, including visitors from 14 west Texas towns: Fort Worth, Coleman, Ballinger, San Angelo, Henrietta, Rotan, Seymour, Sweetwater, Haskell, Albany, Merkel, Tuscola, Lawn and Trent. Merkel was represented by Matt Dillingham, president, and C. J. Glover, secretary, respectively, of the Lions club. Messrs. Z. V. Moore and J. W. Latimer, from Blair, represented the farmers at the invitation of County Agent Heald, and other guests from this vicinity were Supt. Ross B. Jenkins of the Trent Public Schools and Principal Clyde Deavers of the Blair schools.

Hill P. Simmons, outgoing president, opened the session, which was turned over to Secretary T. N. Carswell. Mrs. Dan Moody was introduced as honor guests, with 16 Abilene women, presidents of service and study clubs honored on the program.

West Texans Call For Gas Rate Cut

Adopting a platform which calls for competition in reduction of gas rates and the establishment of municipal ownership of gas distributing companies where operation of such would be advantageous, an organized group of 100 city officials from 33 West Texas towns gathered in session at Abilene Wednesday.

Mayor Thomas E. Hayden Jr. and H. L. Debusk, city attorney of Abilene, served as chairman and secretary, respectively, for the conference.

Recommendations in a course of action for towns where gas rates are believed to be excessive were returned Wednesday afternoon by a committee composed of City Manager O. H. Bothwell, Sweetwater; Mayor W. E. Baxter, Santa Anna; John C. Turner, Hamlin, and Earl Earp of Sweetwater.

Members of a committee to work out a constitution, rules and regulations for the organization were named as follows: Forrest Wright, Cisco; Earl Earp, Sweetwater; H. L. Debusk, Abilene; C. B. Brown, Mineral Wells, and N. A. Moore, Eastland. A committee composed of S. H. Bothwell, Sweetwater; John C. Turner, Hamlin, and W. C. Bexter, Santa Anna, was named to receive annual reports from gas distributing and pipe line companies.

Merkel was represented at this meeting by T. G. Bragg and Booth Warren, members of the city council.

Obituary

(Continued from Page One) died Friday morning at 4:20 at her home in the Warren community. She had been in ill health for a number of years and her death followed serious illness of a week.

Born in Bezar, Alabama, Mrs. Manscill came to Texas with her family in 1893 and had lived for the past 24 years at the home place, where she died, in Jones county, just across the Taylor county line. She joined the Baptist church in 1898 and had been an active and consistent church worker. Her influence in the home and church and community life was such as to be held in sweet memory by all who knew her.

Her husband I. W. Manscill, died March 6, 1906, and she was laid to rest by his side in Rose Hill cemetery.

Surviving are three daughters and one son: Mrs. Joe Scarborough, Rochester; Mrs. J. H. McLean, Mission; Mrs. Fred Wittman, Warren, and Arch Manscill.

Local Sinclair Agent Attends District Meet

M. B. Moore, agent for the Sinclair Refining company, returned Tuesday from a district meeting of agents of the company, representing six states, Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Mississippi and New Mexico, at Fort Worth Monday and Tuesday. About 500 were in attendance.

Personal Mention

Mrs. B. M. Williams of Amarillo is visiting relatives here.

Mrs. Dent Gibson left Thursday to visit with her husband at Austin.

Ms. Della Campbell of Paducah is visiting her mother, Mrs. Frank Sears.

Mrs. H. C. Williams arrived Tuesday from Knox City for a visit with friends.

George Sharp was here from Fort Worth Sunday visiting his father and other relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Laney are visiting their son, Homer, at his ranch near Tatum, N. M.

Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Delaney of Rising Star were week-end guests of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Delmer.

Miss Verna Tee Beasley of Ropesville is spending the week-end with Miss Mary Elizabeth Grimes.

Mrs. B. L. Burt and Mr. and Mrs. S. O. Burt of San Angelo were week-end guests in the J. L. Banner home.

Miss Iva Bragg is visiting her brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Bragg, at Chillicothe, since Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. David Beasley and son, Robert of Ropesville, former Merkel residents, are here for a few days' visit.

Mr. and Mrs. F. P. Hamm spent the week-end with their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Guy Darsey, at Fort Worth.

Mrs. C. M. Partridge returned to her home in Humble after a pleasant visit with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. Willie Moore.

O. R. Robinson of Ranger spent the week-end with his daughter, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Murphy, at the Trent Production camp.

Misses Ethel and Eleanor Mae Hamilton were home from John Tarleton college to spend the week-end with their mother.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Bland, accompanied by their daughter, Mrs. J. L. White, spent Wednesday in Sweetwater visiting friends and relatives.

John R. West, Eli Case, J. M. Collins, J. H. McDonald and Wm. Elliott were a party of Merkel grocers who went to Amarillo on business Wednesday.

Mrs. Pearl Kyle returned to her home in Fort Worth Wednesday after a visit with her mother, Mrs. W. A. Thornton, who is reported slightly improved.

Rev. Ira L. Parrack, former pastor of the Merkel Baptist church and now pastor at Chillicothe, was shaking hands with his host of friends here early in the week.

Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Barnes and little daughter returned Wednesday to their home in Doddridge, Ark., after a visit with her father, G. M. Sharp, and other relatives.

Mrs. G. H. Bullock and two daughters, Georgene and Anna Marie, who came from Stanton, to visit her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Garrett, enjoyed the Paderewski concert at Abilene Monday evening, and returned home Tuesday.

Jack Huddleston Hit By Truck; Receives Fractures in Foot

Jack Huddleston, 12-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Huddleston, received fractures of the right foot and minor injuries to the left, when a truck, driven by J. D. Chapman of Route 6, Abilene, struck him as he ran across Front street at noon Tuesday. The youth fell out of the path of the truck after one wheel had passed over his feet, those who witnessed the accident said.

Young Huddleston, who had been downtown on a noon errand and had started to return to the schoolhouse when the accident occurred, was taken to the Merkel sanitarium, where an X-ray picture showed fractures of bones in the right foot. He was removed to the home of his parents, about four miles south of town, after the examination and was reporting resting well Thursday morning.

Chapman, driver of the truck and an employe of the Austin Bridge company, told Taylor county officers he did not know he had struck the child until he was notified of the accident, two miles east of Trent. He returned to Merkel and reported to Sheriff Burl Wheeler and Deputy Sheriff M. Meeks, who were here at the time, but was not detained.

NOTICE TO FARMERS.

Saturday, February 28, if weather permits will be the last day of the present ginning season. Be sure to bring your cotton on or before that date. Will also take orders for Cash Planting seed direct from Ed Kash himself. Will swap or exchange planting seed for mill run seed at fair price.

Farm Bureau Co. A. J. Cannon, Manager.

Merkel Girl In List Of 74 Honor Pupils

Stephenville, Feb. 19.—According to C. S. Wilkins, registrar of John Tarleton college, a final check on the scholastic records of students for the semester just ended shows that 74 students distinguished themselves by making above the grade of B in each course.

Among those students who made this fine record for the entire semester of four and one-half months is Miss Ethel Hamilton of Merkel. Miss Hamilton is in the habit of making excellent grades.

Bragg Dry Goods Co. have on a real February Clearance Sale. If you miss it, you lose.

Try a Classified Ad in The Mail.

Cash Prizes Offered In Baby Chick Plan

Of interest to farmers' wives is the announcement in an advertisement elsewhere in this issue by the Farmers State bank of their offer of three cash prizes: \$15.00 for first, \$7.50 for second, and \$2.50 for third, for the ones having the greatest survival of chicks by October 15th, this year, out of lots of 100 baby chicks, which the bank has arranged with the Kirk Hatchery of Abilene to furnish to wives of their farmer customers at a special price.

Texas leads the nation in rural population with 3,425,367 inhabitants classified as rural. Pennsylvania, 400,000 behind, holds second place.

Try a Classified Ad for Results

M SYSTEM SAVES FOR THE NATION Food is the Staff of Life. Thrift is the Backbone of the Nation. Personal Liberty is an American Privilege. We Sell Food. You Practice Thrift. You have the Liberty of Our Stock. All Done by "M" SYSTEM METHODS.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Items include Compound, Crisco, Baking Powder, Coffee, Meat, Hams, Flour. Prices range from 15c to \$2.60.

SAVE Delaney-Delmer wish to announce a new FLAT RATE for all repair work. This new rate is considerably lower than the old. It will save you money. An extensive purchase of new repair equipment has caused the American Automobile Association to select us as their OFFICIAL representative and repair garage in Merkel. THIS ENABLES US TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING SENSATIONAL OFFER TO ALL CHEVROLET OWNERS: The Holder of This Card is Entitled to 5 PER CENT DISCOUNT On all parts and repair work on Chevrolets Delaney-Delmer Chevrolet Co. Name (Valid only when signed. This offer may be withdrawn when desired by said company.) Delaney-Delmer Chevrolet Co. Merkel, Texas

Rural Community Correspondence

TRENT NEWS AND PERSONALS

A smart affair of Saturday evening was the Valentine party honoring members of the F. W. T. club given by Mrs. Buena McLeod in the home of her sister, Mrs. Alex Williamson. The living room and dining room were colorful with red hearts ranging in size from tiny ones to large Valentine effects, festooned to make a gala setting. Various Valentine games whiled the moments in the early part of the evening, after which tables were arranged for "42". A dainty refreshment plate of sandwiches, olives, cake and hot chocolate was served to Misses Maurine Smith and Virginia Strawn, Messrs. Franks, Kennedy and Stribling, Messrs. and Mesdames John Strawn, E. E. Holt, Alex Williamson, Mrs. O. L. Reaves, Miss Helen Robbe and the hostess.

Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Beckham celebrated his 75th birthday last Thursday, the 12th, with a dinner at their home, at which all his children and grandchildren were present.

Mrs. Byron Dingle and children of Fort Worth and Misses English of Glen Rose are guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Winn.

Bill Nalley has returned to his work at Iraan after a fifteen days vacation.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Smith of Lamesa were recent guests of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Tid Smith.

Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Pass and baby daughter of Abilene were guests of Mrs. T. J. Williamson and other relatives Sunday.

Mrs. D. J. Rawlings has returned home after spending several weeks with her daughter, Mrs. Everett Biggs, of Pecos, who is quite ill. Mr. Biggs accompanied Mrs. Rawlings home and Mrs. Ed Sherman returned with him to nurse Mrs. Biggs for the next few weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Music and children from O'Donnell were guests of Mrs. Music's brother, J. E. Bowers, last Sunday. They visited in Abilene in the afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Smith and children of Vernon were recent guests of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Tid Smith.

Man Roberts of Cisco was the guest Tuesday of Mr. and Mrs. Bud Wiser.

Miss Wameta Owens of Blackwell is visiting her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Abernathy.

Mr. O'Kelley of Abilene attended to business here Saturday and visited his son, Hurltell.

Mr. and Mrs. Davis of San Angelo were attending to business here Monday and greeting friends.

Mrs. Irene Hays of Goree visited with friends here on Monday.

Mrs. Clyde Shouse of Merkel was the guest Monday of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Shouse.

W. I. Decker of Merkel was shaking hands with old friends here the first of the week.

Mr. and Mrs. Hale McRee are announcing the birth of a fine baby boy born the 14th.

Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Norwood and family returned Sunday from a few days stay at Comanche.

Mr. and Mrs. C. C. McRee, recently married, were honor guests at a party given in the home of Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Adrian last Saturday evening. Games of "42" and anagrams furnished the diversion and at ten-thirty a delicious two-course refreshment, carrying out the Valentine motif, was served. Salad, date-nut sandwiches, Philadelphia cream cheese canape, candied orange-peel hearts and hot chocolate made up the first course, while cherry tarts with cream were desert. Those present were Mr. and Mrs. C. C. McRee, the honorees, Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Beasley, Mr. and Mrs. R. B. McRee, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. T. G. Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Kelly, Misses Lucille and Marjorie Adrian and the host and hostess.

Mr. and Mrs. O. A. Smith, Miss Maurine Smith and Mrs. Leslie Beasley attended the birthday dinner of Mr. Smith's father, W. D. Smith, of Stanton, last Sunday.

Misses Ruby Johnson and Imogene Mangum participated in program given by the McMurry Choral club at Ranger last Sunday.

Elsie Bishop entertained a group of little friends with a party on her ninth birthday. The time was set at 3 o'clock. When all arrived, games were played and then refreshments were served to Dorothy Jo and Willadean Strawn, Doris Steen, Margaret Relihan, Kathryn Shannon, Avis Neill, Veneta McDonald, Dorothy Versels, Helen McLeod, Elery Smith, Jr., Mark Williamson and R. T. and Deverl Bishop. The hostess was the recipient of many nice presents.

The Missionary society will meet

Blair School News

The Blair school has finished its fourth month, with the following pupils on the honor roll:

Primer—Nina Orsborn, 95; Madyln Brown, 93; Theresa Fae Dulin, 91; Lloyd Haire, 90; Billie Campbell, 90.

First grade—Mary LeB Hughes, 91; Frances Peterson, 88; Ima Gene Rosson, 93; Dessie Marie Baker, 90; Mildred Maddera, 90; Clyde Deavers, Jr., 91.

Second grade—Lena Fae Orsborn, 92; Evelyn Latimer, 93; Madalene Addison, 95; Noma Lee Clinton, 92.

Third grade—Joy Doan, 96; Ori Lee Madera, 95.

Fourth grade—Louise Addison, 93.

Fifth grade—Margie Melton, 94; Lois Rosson, 91; Arthur Addison, 90; Catherine Orsborn, 90; Marvin Peterson, 90.

The Junior declamation tryout will be held at the Baptist church at 3 o'clock on Friday, Feb. 20. There are 21 pupils for this elimination and they would be very glad to have anyone who wishes to be present.

The elimination for the Senior declamers will be held the following Friday night.

The next meeting of the Blair P. T. A. will be Friday, Feb. 27.

at the home of Mrs. M. G. Scott next Monday afternoon at 2:30. All members are urged to attend.

Brother George Parks of Roscoe will fill the pulpit at the Baptist church next Sunday at the 11 o'clock hour.

UNION RIDGE NEWS

Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Green and children were afternoon guests of Mr. D. Hendricks of Stith Sunday.

Miss Lilly Claude Barnett visited relatives at Sagerton last week-end.

There is a great deal of sickness due to the bad weather in our community.

Mr. and Mrs. Huston Clark and family were guests of Mr. and Mrs. West of Merkel Sunday.

The intermediate and primary pupils with their teachers' leadership rendered a program last Friday afternoon in remembrance of St. Valentine. A large number was present to enjoy the occasion.

Paul Pannell entertained friends with a party last Saturday night.

Everybody remember next Sunday is church day. You are urged to be on time for Sunday School and bring someone with you.

Shiloh Happenings

The health of this community is good at this time.

We had a large crowd out Sunday morning for Sunday School and preaching.

Rev. O. B. Tatum and Mr. and Mrs. Harlie Rutledge were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Orvin Robinson Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Deavers and daughter and Mr. and Mrs. Bert James were guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Grayson and Tom Greene Sunday.

There was a large crowd out for singing Sunday evening. We had visitors from Noodle, Trent and Merkel. We were glad to have them and will be glad to have all of them come again, also to our Wednesday night singing.

The P. T. A. is sponsoring a play, entitled "The Old Maids Club," to be put on at the school in the near future. Watch for the date.

Mrs. Carl Bonneaux was hostess to the Happy-Go-Lucky Bridge club last Wednesday. The house was decorated in red hearts and at the culmination of the games sandwiches, jello and whipped cream, wafers and coffee were served to Mesdames Jackson, Murphy, Greene, Barnes, Hamner, Beach, Smith and Seago.

SALT BRANCH NEWS

The Salt Branch Demonstration club met Friday, Feb. 6, at the new clubhouse, with Mrs. Higgins and Mrs. Harrell joint hostesses. After short discussions on poultry and gardening by various members, refreshments were served to Miss Chambers, the county demonstrator, Mrs. Chambers, and fourteen members of the club.

CARD OF THANKS.

We wish to thank our friends and neighbors for their kind and loving help and sympathy shown us during the sickness and death of our loving mother.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wittman. Mr. and Mrs. Joe Scarborough. Mr. and Mrs. J. H. McLane. Mr. W. R. Sumpter and Children.

COMPERE NEWS

This community has had another fine rain, which will be a great benefit to the farmers.

Mr. and Mrs. T. K. Marshall entertained quite a few friends Monday evening with a musical.

Mr. and Mrs. Osborn and Miss Eva Lou Allred are visiting in Mineral Wells this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Bert Eidson of Sylvester visited Mr. and Mrs. George Cook last week-end.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Adkin entertained with a "42" party Saturday night.

Messrs. A. W. and Jordan Clemmer made a business trip to Sylvester Monday.

(Received too late last week.)

This community had a good rain Saturday night which will greatly benefit the farmers.

The "4-Cornered" singing at Zion Chapel was rained out last Sunday.

County Superintendent B. T. Beaver was a visitor at Compere school on Thursday of last week. His talk was enjoyed by all.

Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Clemmer entertained a few friends with a "42" party Friday night.

Edd Breeze and Bill Wilburn were Merkel visitors Monday.

Grandmother Palmer left for Fort Worth Texas, Saturday for an extended visit with her granddaughter.

The Workers Council of the Baptist church of Jones county met here Tuesday and rendered a program which was greatly enjoyed by all. Dinner was served at the church.

The Junior boys basketball team played the Marrs team last Friday at Marrs.

School visitors the past week were: Mesdames S. S. Sherrill, Ben Adkin, George Smith, Lee Stanley, Chester Lucas, Boyd Tarpley, and Misses Foy Wilburn, La Verne and Valley Bond, Lila and Flora Adkin, Virgie Marshall and two Misses Rister.

BLAIR ITEMS

Those on the sick list are: Little Willie Pearl Matthews, Peggie Marie Mayfield, Master Orval Brown, Mrs. D. D. Coats and E. H. Brown.

Grandma Meeks of Post City, who is in her eighties, came in on the Santa Fe to visit her children, Mr. and Mrs. E. Barnes and Mr. and Mrs. John Meeks. This estimable lady is considered rather vigorous for her age.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Baer of Merkel visited Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Campbell Sunday.

Messrs. Herman Doan, G. I. Clinton and H. E. Campbell visited in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Claud Doan and family of Clyde recently.

Among those attending services in other places Sunday were Clyde Deavers, Lloyd Matthews and Emmett Morris, Nubia, and E. J. Osborn, Mt. Pleasant.

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Latimer and son of Nubia visited home folks, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Latimer, Sunday.

Z. V. Moore, council member of the 4-H Boys Club, attended the Chamber of Commerce banquet at Abilene Tuesday.

Earl Hughes of Abilene visited in the home of his brother, Carl Hughes, and family Monday evening.

GOLAN NEWS

The health in this community is improving.

Several men of Golan were in Anson on business last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnnie Hill spent Tuesday night in the home of L. C. Williams, leaving early Wednesday morning for Lubbock. Mrs. D. M. Hill of Abilene is spending a week with Mrs. Williams.

Golan has been playing several games of ball the past week, winning all except two. Goodman pays Golan at Golan Monday evening.

Sunday is Brother Biggs' day at Golan. Everyone come and come to Sunday School.

See our advertisement addressed to Farmers Wives, Farmers State Bank.

HEBRON NEWS

Clyde Harris helped Vedalee Pannell celebrate her ninth birthday Sunday.

Lois and Dale Burleson, Leo Harris and Bernard Clark were dinner guests of Mr. Frank Carr Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Pannell were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Lige Harris Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Pence of Merkel were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Pannell Saturday night.

The Dean children are recovering from scarlet fever.

Paul Pannell entertained his friends Saturday night with a party.

The pupils of Miss Middleton and Miss Jones presented a program Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock, featuring the Valentine season. The program follows:

Reading, "Saint Valentine," Doswell Carey.

Drill, six little Valentines.

Reading, "Victors," Blanton Carey.

Play, "Valentine Land."

Reading, "The First Valentine," L. S. Tipton.

"A Valentine Song," Dormalee Shelton and Syble Harris.

Reading, "The Unsunged Valentine," Effiebell Pannell.

Play, "A Friendly Token."

DORA DOINGS

At this writing those who have been sick are improving rapidly.

Mrs. G. F. Lewis died last Tuesday night with double pneumonia. She was laid to rest Wednesday afternoon at Slater's chapel. The children have the sympathy of this community in their dark hour of grief.

Road work is the order of the day here. Mr. Campbell has three divisions at work and is fixing the low places first, which was very badly needed.

Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Magee entertained the "42" players Friday night; the youngsters were also invited and given a large room to play and frolic in.

We had the back to the farm movement here last week when N. T. Hardy sold out his store to Alvis Traylor and moved back to his farm.

Miss Addie Mae Rogers has returned home after an extended stay in Abilene.

Mr. and Mrs. John Dudley were visiting in Merkel Saturday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Huff announce the arrival of James Loman last Friday morning. Mother and baby are doing nicely.



If baby has COLIC

A CRY in the night. Call! No cause for alarm if Castoria is handy. This pure vegetable preparation brings quick comfort, and can never harm. It is the sensible thing when children are ill. Whether it's the stomach, or the little bowels; colic or constipation; or diarrhea. When tiny tongues are coated, or the breath is bad. Whenever there's need of gentle regulation. Children love the taste of Castoria, and its mildness makes it safe for frequent use.

And a more liberal dose of Castoria is always better for growing children than strong medicine meant only for adult use.

Fletcher's CASTORIA

NOTICE

Will pick up Custom Hatch Eggs every Wednesday and Saturday at West and Company and Liberty Hardware Co.

Trays Hold 112 and 170 Eggs.

F. P. KIRK

606 Mockingbird Lane

Abilene, Texas

White Church News

It still rains in the Canyon. Brother Marvin Williams filled the pulpit here Sunday.

Mrs. Roy Hunter of Nubia attended church here Sunday.

Our entire community was sadly grieved in the passing away of little Geraldine Riggan last week. Another one of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Riggan's children, little Muriel, is sick at this writing, but we hope for him a very speedy recovery. The entire community sympathizes with Mr. and Mrs. Riggan in the loss of their baby.

Ray Brown is sick with the chicken pox.

Several of Mr. Johnnie Frazier's children have been sick, but are better now.

L. A. Dudley visited his mother, Mrs. H. West, Saturday.

We understand that Mr. Dewell McLean of Nubia will speak to us next Sunday, Feb. 22. Everyone come and give him a good hearing. We feel sure it will be well worth while to hear him.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Horton of Mulberry attended church here Sunday night.

Arcent traffic count showed 51 per cent of all vehicles on Fifth Avenue, New York, were taxicabs and that one-third of these were empty.

The Bible contains 66 books, 1189 chapters, 31,173 verses, 773,693 words, and 3,586,489 letters.

Sweetwater to Have Hereford Sale Feb. 28

Sweetwater, Feb. 19.—Twenty-seven head of registered Herefords have been consigned to the annual sale in Sweetwater to be conducted under the auspices of the Texas Hereford association on Feb. 28. Twenty-four males and three females are included.

"These animals are among the finest ever consigned to a local sale," said J. N. Dulaney, secretary of the sale. "They come from some of the best known herds in the state and represent some of the finest strains in the entire country."

A large attendance of cattlemen from throughout West Texas is expected to attend the event which through a period of many years has developed into one of the outstanding cattle sale events in the Southwest.

Earl Garten of Greensboro, Ind., noted auctioneer of registered cattle, will have charge of the sale. Mrs. J. C. Turley, Fort Worth, secretary of the Texas Hereford association, will act as secretary. John Gist of Odessa is state president.

The sale will be conducted in the livestock building at the Midwest Exposition grounds.

To Farmers Wives

In order to encourage poultry raising we have arranged with the Kirk Hatchery at Abilene, Texas, to furnish 100 baby chicks to the wives of our FARMER CUSTOMERS and will accept their notes in payment for them. This hatchery has agreed to deliver in Merkel 100 baby chicks for \$7.00.

This Bank also offers as a prize for the one having the greatest survival of these chicks by October 15th, 1931, the following cash prizes: \$15.00 for 1st prize, \$7.50 for second prize, and \$2.50 for 3rd prize.

We accept the note of any wife of our customer who is making a crop in this community for 100 of these baby chicks.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS SEE OUR OFFICIALS.

Farmers State Bank

Merkel, Texas

Sunshine Cotton

WHICH PAYS THE BEST:

A big turnout at the gin or

A big check at the bank.

Sunshine Cotton makes more per acres and sells for more on the market.

Ask the man that raised it here last year.

SEE ME FOR SEED.

SAM SWANN

THE BADGER WEEKLY

Published weekly by the students of Merkel High School and sponsored by the Senior Class of '31—Hazel Williams, sponsor.

The Staff:

Editor-in-Chief—Ola Ellen Smith. Miscellaneous Editor—Margarette Turner.
 Assistant Editor—Audrey Ferris. Joke Editors—Elvis Richardson and Lois Clark.
 Sports Editor—Fred A. Baker. Society Editor—Lona Bryan.

INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE WORK.

The following contestants entered in the interscholastic league contests: extemporaneous speaking, Margarette Turner, Benjamin Sheppard; declamation, Ola Ellen Smith, Norma Patton, Gwendolyn Vickers, Lona Bryan, Jim Patterson, Carrol King, Mardell Shouse; debate, Paul Collins, Ross Ferrier, H. C. Toombs, B. P. Middleton, Elvis Richardson, Inez Robbins, Thelma Mc Aninch, Mattilou Largent and Lois Clark. The spelling contestants will be announced in next week's paper.

We are going to send some good teams to the meet this year and we are expecting to win several first places.

MONDAY CHAPEL.

The student body was glad to welcome Brother Parrack, former pastor of the Baptist church of Merkel, Monday morning for chapel services. He gave a splendid talk in which he called our attention to the wonderful world in which we live. He reminded us of the disadvantages our parents had. When we think of the subject seriously, we are made to realize what an outstanding promising age this really is. High school students are indeed fortunate; only some of us do not seem to realize it. Our chances of amounting to something are excellent if we will only press on; the whole world is backing us; we need not drop out because our task is heavy.

Brother Parrack said Solomon asked for wisdom and understanding. What more could we ask for? If we obtain those sterling qualities, Brother Parrack pointed out, we can be useful men and women in later life. He added that if we wrestled with our problems, we would develop our mental faculties and thereby form a wonderful personality and character. "God is on your side," he said; "and if you polish your metal, you will be able to shine." As a final word he urged us to press on, saying the harder our propositions were the better we would be.

ENGLISH 9 A.

On Wednesday morning, February 17, the English Club 9 A met with Lucille Campbell as chairman, Mildred Richardson as active chairman, and Faye Vantreese as secretary. Every one enjoyed the interesting program, especially the latter part.

The program consisted of the following: Memory of Valentine, by Opal Huskey.

"Three Valentines," by Maurine White.

Captain Abraham Lincoln, by Imogene Middleton.

"Maker of Dreams," a play presented by Nell Hughes, Lucille Campbell and Florene Rider.

"Grandmother's Valentine," by Faye Vantreese.

A dance by Madra Elayne Nixon and Betty Lou Grimes.

"Moonlight on the Colorado," and "When the Organ Played at Twilight," sung by Thelma Leach, Mildred Richardson and Imogene Middleton.

DRAMATIC CLUB ENTERTAINED.

Miss Tracy's studio was the setting for Valentine's Eve for one of the gayest parties given by the Dramatic club during the school year. Misses Willie Evelyn Boaz, Zada Bell and Ida Mae Derstine and Messrs. B. P. Middleton and Paul Collins were the able hostesses and hosts.

The Valentine theme was manifested in the place cards and tally cards and in the game of "hearts," which was the principal pastime.

The program was varied and spicy. Misses Madra Elayne Nixon and Betty Lou Grimes, accompanied by Miss Tracy at the piano, danced the stately "Minuet" of Paderewski. Elvis Richardson sketched briefly for the guests

a chapter from Burton's "How to See a Play." Misses Thelma Leach, Mattilou Largent, Vera Richie, Lois Clark and Mary Elizabeth Grimes sang various popular pieces.

The entertainment was climaxed by the one-act play, "Mansions," by Flanner, presented in the Grammar school auditorium by Misses Norma Patton and Ida Mae Derstine and Mr. Gerald Derrick. The cast depicted brilliantly the emotional and rather profound theme of the play.

Upon their reassembling in the studio, the hosts and hostesses, assisted by Misses Elayne Nixon and Betty Lou Grimes, served the guests a delicious repast of lemonade, heart sandwiches, marshmallow pudding and candy hearts. A brief business meeting followed.

The singing of the school "March Song" ended the delightful evening's entertainment.

It is noteworthy that every member was present. The following guests and members were hospitably entertained during the merry and artistic affair: Misses Williams, Tracy, Nixon, Grimes, Pauline Toombs, Ruby Patton, Thelma Leach, Margaret Canon, Lois Clark, Mary Elizabeth Grimes, Beth Hamm, Velma Lee Holden, Mattilou Largent, Elsie Lasater, Thelma McAninch, Margaret Miller, Oleta Moore, Madeline Murray, Norma Patton, Vera Richie, Inez Robbins, Ola Smith, Marie Stanford, Margarette Turner, Gwendolyn Vickers, Helen Yeats; Messrs. Fred A. Baker, Paul Collins, Gerald Derrick, Ross Ferrier, Elvis Richardson, Benjamin Sheppard, Marshall Stalls, H. C. Toombs, E. L. Turner, Ceaphas Wozencraft and Lona Bryan.

PROPHCY OF JUNIOR CLASS OF '31.

Listen, O ye youths and maidens of Merkel High school, to words of wisdom from the lips of our prophet. I had been chosen as a member of the Junior class to dream strange dreams and to see strange visions of the glories of the years to be.

As I looked into the land of the future, at first I could only see moving shadows. The veil before my eyes became more and more thin, and the first person I recognized was our beloved president, Paul Collins. Paul's ambition had led him onward until he was governor of his native state, Texas.

I looked again; and as I looked in

the society circles, among those of Hollywood I recognized two members of the Junior class of '31—Zada Bell and Oleta Moore, known as the world's greatest screen actresses.

Our prophet then permitted me to cross the continent to the streets of New York City; and there to my great surprise I met Sis Boaz peddling Watkin's liniments and extracts for ten cents a bottle.

While I was still in the streets of New York City, I heard someone shouting; and I stopped and looked around. To my great surprise again, I recognized Gerald Derrick and B. P. Middleton behind the counter of a greasy fish stand.

I now turned my eyes to a magnificent palace in the distance. As it grew nearer and nearer, I gazed through the window on Ida Derstine. Ida was living in luxury after having made her fortune as editor of the Times-Herald. The door opened, and I saw two of her main servants—Mary E. Grimes and Ceaphas Wozencraft.

I then happened to gaze upon a large church while a stately preacher poured forth words of inspiration. I discovered this man to be H. C. Toombs himself, who had become one of the world's greatest ministers.

This scene faded, and the Spirit of Prophecy drew a veil over my eyes and forbade my seeing more of the things-to-be at that time.

—Margaret Canon.

HOLIDAY CLUB PROGRAM.

On last Thursday, February 12, the English 11 had a very interesting program celebrating Abraham Lincoln's birthday.

New business was attended. Vera Richie was elected the next chairman. Each member answered the roll call by giving something about Lincoln. The following program was given:

1. Lincoln, the Boy, Ford Smith.
2. Lincoln, a Great Favorite and Story Teller, Beth Hamm.
3. Lincoln's Law Firm and His Career as a Lawyer, E. L. Turner.
4. Lincoln, the Slave Emancipator, Thelma McAninch.
5. "The Moral Warfare," Alleta Foster.
6. "To A Mother Who Lost Five Sons," Vera Richie.
7. "Lincoln, The Man of the People," (Edwin Markham,) Elsie Lasater.
8. "Lincoln," (James W. Riley,) Lona Bryan.

WHEN I BOARDED THE WRONG TRAIN.

I was only a bashful boy nearing the age of fourteen, when I decided

to make a trip from Coney Island to New Jersey. Because I was so bashful, I asked only a very few questions; and when time came to change trains in New York, I followed the crowd. When we were started I found I had boarded the wrong train.

I asked the conductor what I must do, and he only laughed and said I'd have to change my route a bit. Now, I did not know what route meant; so I went to the dressing room to see whether my clothes looked all right. I asked a man there what route meant, and he only laughed and said that I might have one in my satchel. This I hunted through and through but could find nothing to resemble what I had imagined one looked like.

I resolved that at the next stop I would get off. When the train stopped, the place did not look very attractive to me; so I stayed with the train.

I had picked up what I had supposed to be my satchel when I started out; and going to the men's dressing room, I opened my satchel to get a tie to put on and found, to my surprise, I had a lady's satchel. This embarrassed me very much; and as I did not have the courage to ask the lady, pardon, I rushed back to leave the satchel by the seat and found, to my dismay, the lady was gone and so was my satchel.

I got off at the next station and took the first train back to Coney Island; and I resolved never again to take a trip until I got over some of my bashfulness.

—Hazel Jay.

SAY, DID YOU KNOW—

- That the Junior class had perfect order?
- That Mary Elizabeth is a new class reporter?
- That Dugan never smiles while keeping the Junior class study hall?
- That the Junior class has a new pupil, Artilee Simmons?
- That the Juniors are envied by the Fish and Sops?
- That our dear teacher, Mr. Tom Dugan Riddle, lost his sweet potato that one of the Slimes brought him? (He says a potato cannot sprout wings and fly; that any one happens to see it, he is asked to send it C. O. D.)
- That Elmer Adeock is brilliant in plane geometry?
- That Kathleen has short hair?
- That Terrell does not tell funny jokes?

—That Marshall is a ladies' man?
 —That Ross has curly hair?
 —That Toombs' passport is always very limited?
 —That Itzy has been to the "big lights?"
 —That Miss Patterson gave Itzy a test and showed him how to work the problems?

CAN YOU IMAGINE?

- Earl not being funny?
- Zada having red hair?
- Pon Wee Taylor gaining fifty pounds?
- Sis not having a crush in Abilene?
- Margaret not noticing the little Derrick boy?
- Ida not day-dreaming?
- Marie knowing fier Spanish?
- B. P. having black hair?
- Gerald not wearing his blue jumper?
- Woodrow talking back to the teacher?
- Ouida Mae flirting with a boy?
- Lela being as slim as Norma?
- Madeline laughing aloud?
- Ceaphus not supplying the girls with gum?
- Oleta singing in the bathtub?
- Leo not being snooty?
- Robert and Selma not talking?
- Paul not escorting Sis into English class?
- Mary Elizabeth not becoming excited when she sees a little black Ford from Abilene?

JOKES.

In English class when Miss Williams gave Paul a sentence he answered:
 "I have set still so long I need exercise."
 Miss Williams then asked Paul what he had set, since set always takes an object.
 Mrs. Clark: "Lois, what are you doing with my lipstick?"
 Lois: "I'm making a new design for a stamp, Mother. We're going to play postoffice."
 E. L. gives this suggestion for girls

INFLUENZA SPREADING

Check Colds at once with 666. Take it as a preventive. Use 666 Salve for Babies.

who sent out loud ties for Christmas; a curling iron and a bottle of peroxide.
 It's simply a hint for her to curl up and dye.

Mr. Riddle: "Some acids are much stronger than others; I'll take carbolic acid as an example."
 Class: "Whoopee!"

Margaret: "You know, the Bible says, 'Love thy enemies.'"
 Paul: "Swell!—Let's start a feud."

David: "If a man smashed a clock, could he be accused of killing time?"
 Cecil: "Not if he could prove the clock struck first."

Thelma likes big, strong, silent men; so we introduced her to the football team of the school for deaf and dumb.

Fred: "See that man playing full back? He'll be our best man in about a week."
 Lois: "Oh, this is so sudden."

HOLIDAY NOTICE.

On account of Washington's birthday, a legal holiday, falling on Sunday, the following banks will remain closed all day Monday, February 23. Customers will please take notice and make their arrangements accordingly.
 THE FARMERS STATE BANK.
 THE F. & M. NATIONAL BANK.

Set our advertisement addressed to Farmers Wives, Farmers State Bank.

5 1-2 per cent Federal Loans are Better Loans. Longer time, lower rates; plenty of money; never come due. W. Homer Shanks, Sec'y-Treas., Citizens N. F. L. A. Farms, Ranches, Business Property for sale or exchange. Room 1, Penney Bldg., Abilene, Texas.



C. M. PRESLEY
 Jeweler
 Watches—Diamonds—Silver-ware
 Abilene, Texas 209 Pine St.

PROFESSIONAL

DR. R. I. GRIMES
 PHYSICIAN & SURGEON
 —X-RAY—
 Phones
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 Successor to
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 Insurance—Notary Public
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 Attorneys-at-Law
 Civil Practice in all Courts. Special attention to land titles and probate matters.
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 Office, Merkel Sanitarium
 Phone 163

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 Attorney-at-Law
 405 Citizens National Bank Bldg.
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 Water Well Driller, all work guaranteed first class
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EXIDE BATTERIES
 13-Plate now \$7.50
 Exchange
 15-Plate now \$11.00
 Exchange
S. M. HUNTER
 Phone 25 Corner Garage

Curley's Repair Shop
 All kinds of auto work.
 Generator and Starter Service especially featured
 At Corner Garage Phone 25
SWEETWATER MARBLE AND GRANITE WORKS
 for
MEMORIALS OF MARBLE OR GRANITE
 ALSO CONCRETE COPING
 J. T. COATS, Local Rep.
 Merkel, Texas
 Phone 274W.

G. Burton Fain, M. D.
 Physician and Surgeon
 General practice, with special attention to obstetrics and diseases of children.
 Office—Boney Building.
 Phone 93 Residence 118
 Merkel, Texas

Dr. W. T. Sadler
 Announces the opening of his office in connection with
Dr. Wayne V. Ramsey.
 Farmers State Bank Bldg.,
 Merkel, Texas
 Phones: Office 78, Merkel: 4800, Abilene; Residence, 167, Merkel

MOVED
 To
BLUE FRONT GARAGE
EARL TEAGUE
 Tinner and Plumber
 Phones
 Residence 154 Shop 60
 Satisfaction Guaranteed

WHAT A PLEASURE

to deal with the same people day after day, week after week, month after month and year after year. To know when you come into the store that you will be greeted with the same familiar faces who are eager to serve you TO YOUR BEST ADVANTAGE.

Then, too, with this personal acquaintance and confidence you know that, when you are unable to come and select your merchandise, you can call us over the telephone and receive the same attention and FAIR TREATMENT as though you were here in Person.

SPECIALS FOR FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

BAKING POWDER, 25 oz.	SHOE POLISH, 15c Jet Oil 8c
K. C. 19c	APPLES, dried, choice lb 14c
SPUDS, No. 1, 15 lbs. 30c	COFFEE, Everyday, per lb. 20c
SYRUP, West Tex., No. 10 75c	

SPECIALS FOR THE WEEK

OATS, 3 Minute or Mothers China 30c	SUGAR, 25 lbs., pure cane \$1.40
CRACKERS, 3 lb. Browns 33c	BEANS, Pinto, 10 lbs. 45c
SOAP, Palmolive, 3 bars 20c	FLOUR, 48 lbs. \$1.00
SALMON, 2 for 25c	MEAL, Large sack 55c
NAILS, per lb. 5c	CARTRIDGES, 22, per box 15c
MOUSE TRAPS, 2 for 5c	BATTERIES, Telephone 35c

West Company

"Forty-Two Years in Merkel"
Phone WE DELIVER 59

**Extension of Service
And Improved Systems
Feature WTUC Report**

Abilene, Texas, Feb. 19.—The extension of service to new customers, extension of power to oil fields and the improvement of distribution systems are the most important items included in the construction report received from the office of the West Texas Utilities company here Saturday.

At San Angelo, a transformer rack and secondary line will be installed to serve the West Texas Stockmen's Supply company with additional power, and at Sonora, Harrold, Afton, McCauley and Turkey lines will be built to extend the advantages of electric service to new customers and commercial enterprises.

At Clarendon and Aspermont, secondary lines will be built, furnishing service to new customers, and in West Vernon a new line will be extended to serve a hatchery demand.

Two oil field extensions will be made at Imperial, where a transformer rack and 3-phase line will be built to serve the J. L. Lancaster lease, and a 3-phase, 440 volt secondary line will be strung to the J. R. Bell lease. Both lines will furnish power for drilling and pumping.

A 3-phase, 220 volt line will be extended to the Bradstreet Oil Company's "C" lease at Vernon, to deliver power to serve pumping demands, and at Mertzton, the third phase of a 2300 volt line will be built from the local substation to the Denny oil lease.

West Texas' program of highway development has made necessary the moving of transmission lines near Ozona, Memphis, Lakeview, Haskell, Munday, Roby and Talpa. Lines will be heightened at highway crossings and moved back to make room for new road construction.

A TRIBUTE TO DEWEY H. THOMAS.

To the Thomases, loved ones and friends of D. H. Thomas, who died last Monday:

His friends, myself and his beloved sister, Mrs. Sam Moorman, who was unable to be at the funeral on account of illness in her family, wish to convey with tear-stained faces the sorrow, pain and heartaches we have felt since the news of his death reached his birthplace.

An upright gentleman in the true sense of the word, we knew Dewey Thomas well; he always made friends easily; he lived the life that everyone should live.

His dear mother, in addition to his brothers and sisters, I've known them all since March, 1919; a dear mother, the mother of my wife, Mrs. George Bell, who is there now with Mrs. Thomas, and who is the sweet mother of two darling children, a daughter, Anita, and a son, Travis T. Bell.

George M. Bell.
Gurdon, Ark.

Must we ever be thus like children
Shrinking and cringing so,
Covering beneath the lash of pain,
Bowing our heads to woe?
Shall we never stand firm, unyielding
Calm with the calmness of God;
But he ever with tear-stained faces
Passing beneath the rod?
Aye! and the answer comes ringing
Clear as an angel's psalm:
Faint not, falter not, soul bowed down

After the storm a calm,
After the surging passion,
After the flood of tears,
After the restless heartache
After the pain that sears,
Cometh the calm of evening
Cometh the realm of rest
Cometh the Buddhist's Nirvana,
Into the peaceful breast.
Like lilies that float at eventide
Unruffled by wind or wave
Thy soul shall rest on the Infinite
Unmoved shall approach the grave.
—William Jewel.

THE MERKEL HOME LAUNDRY.
In sunshine or rainy weather we are at your service. We call for and deliver promptly. We want all the families and business firms of Merkel as our customers and, if you have never patronized us, all that we ask is a trial. Our prices are reasonable and our work will stand inspection. Thank you.

THE MERKEL HOME LAUNDRY.
Mrs. Jay, Manager.

Reason enough for trading at Bragg Dry Goods Co. Merchandise is cheaper.

JUST RECEIVED.
Full line of garden and field seeds.
J. M. Garrett.

SPECIAL OFFER.
Semi-Weekly Farm News and Merkel Mail for one year for \$2.00.

Typewriting and carbon paper at Mail office.

**Texas Almanac of 1931
Issued by Dallas News**

The Texas Almanac and State Industrial Guide, edition of 1931, which has just been issued by The Dallas Morning News, might more properly be called an encyclopedia of Texas. Nearly everything one might wish to know about Texas is found in this new volume. Among the subjects covered in articles and statistics are agriculture and live stock raising, manufacturing, commerce, finance, minerals, railroads, highways and automobiles, aviation, foreign commerce, geography and physiography, forests and lumber production, irrigation and reclamation, wild animals, bird and fish resources, population, history, government, education and churches and religious organizations.

The census figures are given. There are several hundred articles and statistical tables containing several hundred thousand facts about Texas. There is a full text of the state constitution, with explanation of each of the fifty-one amendments that have been ratified since adoption of the constitution in 1876. Constitution of the United States is included also. A folded sheet carries on one side a political and railroad map and on the other side a highway map. There are about 8,000 names and addresses of federal and state officials, county and district officials, mayors, school superintendents, chamber of commerce secretaries, writers, painters, musicians and others.

The new Texas Almanac contains an article about each of the 254 counties, also brief articles about the more important cities and towns. While the primary purpose of the Texas Almanac is to give information about Texas, certain other information of general interest is given. The new edition has 384 pages, is printed on book paper and is illustrated with a number of half tones. The price is 60c a copy by mail.

Bragg Dry Goods Co. have on a real February Clearance Sale. If you miss it, you lose.

JUST RECEIVED.
Full line of garden and field seeds.
J. M. Garrett.

Wash Dressess prettier than ever received this week at Bragg Dry Goods Co.

Mail want ads pay dividends.

ACID STOMACH



EXCESS acid is the common cause of indigestion. It results in pain and sourness about two hours after eating. The quick corrective is an alkali which will neutralize acid. The best corrective is Phillips Milk of Magnesia. It has remained standard with physicians in the 50 years since its invention.

One spoonful of Phillips Milk of Magnesia neutralizes instantly many times its volume in acid. It is harmless and tasteless and its action is quick. You will never rely on crude methods once you learn how quickly this method acts. Please let it show you—now.

Be sure to get the genuine. "Milk of Magnesia" has been the U. S. Registered Trade Mark of The Charles H. Phillips Chemical Company and its predecessor Charles H. Phillips since 1875.

R. & R. PALACE
Sweetwater

Week of February 22

Sun., Mon.
Harold Lloyd
"FEET FIRST"
Tues., Wed.
Richard Barthelme
"THE LASH"
Thurs., Fri.
'Royal Family of Broadway'
Sat.
"Follow the Leader"

SINNETT
The Mystic
in person all week

**Chevrolet Leads All
Cars Total December
Registrations by 2,000**

Chevrolet new car registrations in the United States for December led all other makes, according to figures just made possible.

With 31,609 new Chevrolet sixes titled in the domestic market during the last month of 1930, the company exceeded by 2,000 units the second leading make. Figures so far reported for January indicate that the relative position of Chevrolet in the lead should be maintained for the month just ended, particularly since Chevrolet's January production was 70,000 units.

December was the first month in the history of the automobile that six cylinder cars led the field in deliveries to consumers. While Chevrolet in 1927 and again in 1928 was first in manufacturing and sales in the industry, the company's performance in those years was based on the old four-cylinder car. Since the change-over from a four to a six in 1929, Chevrolet has forged ahead to this leading position.

HOLIDAY NOTICE.

On account of Washington's birthday, a legal holiday, falling on Sunday, the following banks will remain closed all day Monday, February 23. Customers will please take notice and make their arrangements accordingly.
THE FARMERS STATE BANK.
THE F. & M. NATIONAL BANK.

CARD OF THANKS.

We take this method of thanking our many, many friends for their kind deeds and thoughtfulness of us during the illness and death of our husband and son, also for the beautiful floral offerings.
May God's richest blessings be with all of you.
Mrs. Juanita Dowell.
Mr. and Mrs. N. A. Dowell and Family.

**Lost-Time Accidents
Are Further Reduced**

Abilene, Feb. 19.—Employee Accident-Prevention work, as carried on by the West Texas Utilities company, has been instrumental in reducing 1930 lost-time accidents by 25.5 per cent under 1929 according to information received from the safety department of the company here. Days lost per employe were brought down from .729 in 1929 to .642 in 1930.

Accident-Prevention training is a regular part of the duties of West Texas Utilities company employes. They are given instructions in the elimination of accident hazards, in the correct method of handling all manner of electrical work, and are given thorough training in the Prone pressure method of resuscitation. The latter training in artificial respiration has been instrumental in saving lives during the past few years, the most recent instance being in March of 1930, for which act a life saving medal was presented to Calvin R. Stone at Abilene, last month.

District "K," operating group of the

FOR

Seiberling Tires
Seiberling Batteries
VULCANIZING
BATTERY REPAIRS
GAS AND OILS
BENTON COLLINS
South 1st and Butternut
Abilene, Texas

The Author of "THE WAY OF LIFE"

Bruce Barton is one of the great-forces for good in American life.
He was born in Tennessee, the son of a great preacher.
He lives in New York, head of a great advertising agency.
His friends say he is the world's greatest lay preacher.

This successful business man has written the most widely read life of Christ ever written, "The Man Nobody Knows."
His book about the Bible, called "The Book Nobody Knows," gave the modern world a new understanding of the Scriptures.

Bruce Barton's
WEEKLY
Editorial

"The Way of Life"
Appears Every Week in
THE MERKEL MAIL

Tens of thousands have found help and inspiration from these articles. They are full of sound common-sense and practical, applied religion.

THIS IS ONLY ONE OF THE MANY VALUABLE FEATURES WHICH THE MAIL GIVES OUR READERS EVERY WEEK

CUSTOM HATCHING

WE ARE MAKING A SPECIAL PRICE ON CUSTOM HATCHING THIS SEASON, OWING TO THE DEPRESSED CONDITIONS.

OUR NEW PRICE IS

\$1.75 PER HUNDRED EGGS

Our Trays Hold 9 1-2 to 10 Dozen

We Assure the Same 24 Hour Service as in the Past
DON'T SEND YOUR BABY CHICK ORDERS OFF TILL YOU GET OUR PRICES.

ABILENE HATCHERY AND SEED STORE

Phone 7492 Abilene, Texas 318 Mesquite St.

company with headquarters at San Angelo, led all other districts in the annual competition for lowest ratio of days lost per employe with a mark of .106. Other groups making good showings were these with offices at Abilene, Ballinger and Cisco.

Outstanding in the company's 1930 record was the fact that no fatal accidents were reported. 1930 is the first year in the company's history that such a record has been established, and safety department executives feel confident that the good work will be continued throughout 1931.

In the comparative safety ratings of major companies of the Middle West Utilities company, the West Texas Utilities company climbed from eighth place at the first of the year to fifth place at the close.

Wonderful bargains in shoes for the entire family in the February Clearance Sale at Bragg Dry Goods Co.

WOOD GROCERY—WOOD GROCERY—WOOD GROCERY

Quality Groceries
AT
Cheap Prices

IT IS TO YOUR INTEREST TO BUY GROCERIES WHERE YOU CAN SAVE MONEY.

HERE IS A LIST OF A FEW ITEMS TO ASSURE YOU OUR PRICES ARE RIGHT.

LARD, 8 lb. Compound	85c
SPUDS, per peck, 15 lbs.	25c
SYRUP, pure cane, large can	65c
COFFEE, 100 per cent pure Rio per lb.	15c
BAKING POWDER, 10 lb. Calumet	\$1.50
SALT, 50 lb. block, plain	45c
SALT, 50 lb. block, Sulphur	55c
MACARONI or SPAGHETTI, 5 boxes	25c
PEACHES, 10 lb. box dried	\$1.10
PRUNES, 10 lb. box dried	90c

EVERYTHING IN THE STORE IS IN PROPORTION.

THIS IS NOT A SPECIAL BUT AN EVERYDAY PRICE.

YOU WILL ALWAYS FIND OUR PRICES RIGHT EVERYDAY IN THE WEEK.

WOOD GROCERY
MERKEL

WOOD GROCERY—WOOD GROCERY—WOOD GROCERY

Moved

I have moved my office to the Sinclair Warehouse on Front Street.

M. B. Moore, Agent

Sinclair Refining Co.

Phone 288