

Keeping Up
With Texas

Liquor law violators in Texas have been fined more than \$1,000,000 since repeal in 1935. Total assessment in liquor cases through November of this year amounted to \$1,000,130.98.

Mrs. Ethel King, 38, operator of Club Lido, Texarkana night club, died in a Texarkana hospital Friday of injuries received Thursday when the car in which she was riding crashed into an oil truck which police said was parked on highway 67 just inside the north limits of that city. She suffered a fractured skull.

Grady Durbin, about 38, of Pecos, was killed almost instantly early Saturday morning when the truck he was driving rammied into the rear of another parked on highway 80 about five miles west of Sweetwater.

Texas City's costly Southport Oil refinery fire last Friday claimed two lives, with nearly a score of other workmen seriously burned when sprayed with burning oil. The dead: O. W. Taylor, 36, and Paul Dupree, 40, both of Texas City.

Selection of Del Rio as the 1941 convention city of the Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers' association and election of Price Maddox of Sweetwater as president were announced in the closing session of the association at San Angelo Saturday.

Otis Reuben Sanders, 42, and Tom Reynolds, 48, were indicted at Dallas Saturday on charges of swindling two Anson men of \$1,000 through the sale of a device which was supposed to print money.

Bodies of a newly-married couple found in a tourist cabin near Fort Worth last Thursday were identified as Mr. and Mrs. Burnie Wanoreck, who had come from West Texas and been married the night before at Lake Worth. Death was due to carbon monoxide poisoning.

Both semi-annual games of the Texas school boy football race will be played on Saturday and at opposite ends of the state. Masonic Home will meet Amarillo at Amarillo and Temple plays Corpus Christi at Corpus Christi.

John Francis Hart, associate editor of the Commerce Journal, a member of the East Texas State Teachers college faculty, died at Commerce Sunday.

The Cotton Bowl at Dallas has been sold out for the New Year's Day game between the Texas Aggies and Fordham, and checks are being returned to persons whose applications came too late for one of the 45,507 seats in the stadium.

Two deaths within twenty-four hours caused Dallas Monday to lose hope of setting a new national traffic safety record. Sue Christine Hurt, 15, was fatally injured when she walked from behind a street car into the path of another going in the opposite direction. Elva Williams, 25, was killed and three persons injured in a head-on crash of two automobiles.

Walter Woodward, 58, state life insurance commissioner and former state senator, died Tuesday at Coleman. He had been suffering two weeks from a complication of bronchial and heart trouble.

John Norwood Parramore, 65, member of one of this section's oldest families and a resident of Abilene since 1881, died Sunday at his home in Abilene. He was a twin brother of D. D. Parramore and they were sons of the late Col. J. H. Parramore.

Rudolph Kurtz, Jr., 19, Temple injured in a train-auto collision near Belton, in which two persons were killed, died in a Temple hospital Monday. Willie Reynolds, 19, and R. R. Reynolds, Jr., 4, Satin, Falls county, died in the crash.

THE MERKEL MAIL

VOL. 51.—No. 40.

MERKEL, TEXAS, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1940.

On the "Broadway of America"

5c PER COPY

LARGE AUDIENCE HEARS ANNUAL BAND CONCERT

Appreciative Crowd, Estimated At 500, Gathers for Well Executed Program Tuesday Night by Three Organizations.

The Merkel High School band presented its annual concert to an appreciative audience of approximately 500 in the gymnasium-auditorium on Tuesday evening. The band played a varied concert of marches, overtures and specialty numbers that were exceptionally well received by the audience.

Feature soloist was Jack Haynes, cornetist, who gave first "Stars in a Velvety Sky" (H. Clark), with "Something About a Soldier" as encore.

Specialty number of the second part was a "Ragtime Wedding" (Paul Yoder), presenting a wedding ceremony in "time and rime," that proved a decided hit.

The program opened with the Rhythm band playing five numbers under the direction of Miss Vennie Heizer, with Miss Mildred Holt as accompanist. Their numbers were: "Christmas in the Air," "Jingle Bells," "The Christmas Toys March By," "Christmas Again" and "Silent Night."

Following the Rhythm band the Grammar School band was presented under the direction of Richard Young in the following three numbers: "Honor Band March" (Ernest Weber), "Little Primrose Overture" (Hazel) and "Honor Roll March" (Russell.)

Enlivening the program at interludes were the quintet of baton twirlers in spectacular exhibitions. Clarice Higgins is drum major, with the following assistants, Wanda Douglas, Fredda Huddleston, Anne Walker and Mary Faye Johnson.

The program by the High School band, presented in two parts, was as follows:

First part — "Amparito Roca," Spanish march, (Jamie Texidor); "Panora Overture" (G. H. Holmes); "Stars in a Velvety Sky" (H. Clark), Jack Haynes; "Choral in G. Minor" (Bach-Abert), interpreted by the bass sections; "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring," (Bach); "Semper Fidelis March" (Sousa.)

Second part — "Westward Ho" (Max Thomas); "The Donkey Serenade" (Rudolf Friml); "Christmas Festival" (De Lameter); "Ragtime Wedding" (Paul Yoder); "Stars and Stripes Forever" (Sousa), concluding with the national anthem. A march, "Trombones on Parade," was rendered as an encore to the Christmas Festival.

Characters participating in the wedding ceremony were: Frances Walker, reader; Forrest Glenn Barnett, preacher; Dora Gaither, bride; Sammie McGehee, groom; George Mack Owens, bride's father.

Introductions of the three organizations were cleverly made by a quartet of little misses, Beth Ann Myers, Mary Ruth Hutcheson, Reba Rae Kingsbury and La Fern Stanford.

At the conclusion of the program John Mack Grant, president of the

(Continued on Page Four)

INDIAN THEME STRESSED AT PEP SQUAD BANQUET

In an Indian setting of totem poles, multi-colored ribbons, peace-pipes and candle-lit tables, the annual banquet honoring the football boys and given by the Merkel Pep Squad, was held at the Merkel Lions Club hall Monday night, Dec. 14, with one hundred and eighteen places laid for members of the football squad, Pep Squad, High School faculty and their wives, board members and their wives.

With Peggy Robertson, head yell leader, as toastmistress, a turkey banquet with all the trimmings was served by the home economics girls dressed as Indian maidens.

Guests, on entrance, received Indian headdresses and found their places marked by bark peanut-filled canoes and hand-painted Indian head programs.

The program given was: "Appeal to the Great Spirit," Nathan Wood, president of school board. Chief Maiden, Peggy Robertson, head yell leader.

Medicine Maiden, "To the Senior Boys," Eva Martin, assistant leader.

(Continued on Page Two)

Plan to Erect Signs As Markers on Road To and From Camp

Plans for marking with signs both ends of the road from the Ely crossing on the highway leading to the camp site at View were launched at Tuesday's luncheon of the Lions club, at which time President R. T. Gray appointed W. O. Boney as a committee of one to confer with County Commissioner Jack Capon and report to the club the best way of financing this feature.

Lee Starnes, new minister of the Church of Christ, and Jarrell Hale, West Texas Utilities employee of Abilene, were special guests of the club.

E. O. Carson, who made up his attendance at Waco when he was absent from the local club's luncheon attending the Masonic grand lodge, told of his meeting with the club and several interesting points of their program.

Committee chairmen reporting were: Stanley King, of the Goodfellows; A. A. McGehee, Christmas decorations in the right-of-way park; Supt. Connor Robinson, band concert. At the suggestion of Supt. Robinson, a lusty roar was given President Gray and the committee for their fine work in lighting the Arizona cypress on the highway.

Opening sing-song was led by Nathan Wood, with Gay West at the piano. Invocation was given by Minister Lee Starnes.

Abilenian Reviews Trip Through the Holy Land

Trent, Dec. 19.—The Trent Parent-Teacher association met in regular session with Mrs. Joe Nalley presiding and was happy to have as their guest speaker last Tuesday evening Mrs. E. P. Meade, of Abilene. Mrs. Meade had been abroad and had toured the Holy Land. She gave a very interesting lecture on the Holy Land and showed colored moving pictures of her trip.

The sixth and seventh grades, accompanied by Miss Christine Collins, sang Christmas carols.

Mrs. Karl Bonneaux gave a report of her trip to the Texas Parent-Teacher meeting, which she attended at Dallas.

The association was happy to receive a letter from Mrs. Bud Winter, president, and to know that she is doing well and will soon be able to be with the members.

Post Office Will Stay Open Until 6 Saturday

For the benefit of patrons during the Christmas rush, Postmaster Wrenn Durham announces that the local post office will remain open until 6 p. m. Saturday, instead of closing at noon as customary.

Christmas Day the post office will be closed all day, with no delivery to be made on rural routes.

DEATH CLAIMS N. B. TEAFF, 85, TYE COMMUNITY

Resident of Taylor County Since 1901 Passes Away Tuesday; Survived By Nine Children; Burial in Rose Hill.

Funeral services were held at 2 o'clock Wednesday afternoon from the West Side Baptist church of Tye for N. B. Teaff, 85, Taylor county farmer since 1901, who died Tuesday at his home near Tye.

The pastor, Rev. J. L. Burleson, officiated, assisted by Rev. R. L. Gilpin, Methodist pastor. Burial followed in Rose Hill cemetery under the direction of the Barrow-Sheppard funeral home.

Born Nov. 26, 1855, in Marion county, Ark., he was married there in November, 1879, to Georgia Ann Isom. She preceded him in death, June 1, 1932. The couple moved to Taylor county from Coryell county in 1901.

He is survived by nine children: Mrs. Lizzie Newton, and Arch, Garland and Ernest of Tye; Walter and Dee of Merkel; Henry of Weinert; Will of Post, and Arthur Teaff of Hedley.

Other survivors are a brother, J. W. Teaff, Merkel; two sisters, Mrs. Jim Rister of Goree and Mrs. John Henry of House, N. M.; 39 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren. Pallbearers were Ted Bigham, Ollie Bigham, Manton Ely, Fred McMin, Hubert McCartney, Walter McCartney, Fred Perry and Floyd Kinney.

Flowers girls were Ideen Ely, Lorena McCartney, Lula Rister, Gladys Newton, Ruby Bigham, Iris Lynn King, Katie Bigham and Leola Reidenbach.

Icy Pavements Result From Rain and Freeze

From late Friday night until about noon Sunday, streets and highways in this section were coated with a thin ice that made automobile driving a perplexing problem, to say nothing of obscuring vision of drivers caused by ice-coated windshields.

Shortly before noon Sunday the icy covering began to thaw, with nearly all traces gone by dark.

Saturday morning registered a low of 24 degrees, which was reported Sunday and Monday mornings. On Tuesday the low was 29.

Including one-quarter inch of moisture reported in last week's issue of The Mail, Volunteer Weather Observer J. I. Ford gauged the week's precipitation at five-eighths of an inch all told, bringing the 1940 total to 26 1-4 inches.

Swabbing Continues in Kelso Test at Stith

Swabbing was under way Wednesday afternoon on the Danciger Oil & Refineries No. 1 F. B. Kelso, east of Stith, reports Thursday morning indicating that the cleaning process lacked about two feet of reaching the bottom, where pipe was set above a showing of oil at 2,336-38 feet.

Southwest of Trent, the Tex Harvey Oil company (Arthur Harvey) of Dallas No. 1 McRee was reported coring Tuesday for the Strawn sand section. The deep rotary was below 4,390 feet. No. 1 McRee is located only a short distance from the Taylor-Nolan line.

Record of Births.

Girl, to Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Campbell, Sunday, December 15, 1940.

Girl, to Mr. and Mrs. T. P. Carey, Route 2, Monday, December 16, 1940.

1 SHOPPING WEEK LEFT
TO GET BROTHER A TRAIN

BUY CHRISTMAS SEALS

ANNUAL POULTRY SHOW DATES ARE SET JAN. 16-17-18

Jan. 16, 17 and 18 are the dates tentatively set for the annual show of the Merkel Poultry association, Grover Gilbert, president of the association, told a representative of The Mail Wednesday night.

It is planned this year to have a greatly enlarged FFA division in connection with the show.

Officers of the Merkel Poultry association, besides Gilbert, are: Byers Petty, vice-president; Pete West, secretary-treasurer, and Arl Sharp, superintendent.

Start Installing REA Meters; Project to be Energized in 30 Days

Eight crews of two men each will begin setting meters and circuit breakers on project "A" of the Taylor Electric Co-Operative, Inc., lines Friday, Supt. Johnny Cox stated Thursday morning. The equipment was due Thursday, he said.

The 16 men have 800 homes on 410 miles of line to place meters and breakers on. Cox estimated it would require about 30 days.

"We hope to have this done by the time construction of the line is completed and the sub-station is ready," Cox said.

He thought that project "A" could be energized in 30 more working days.

"A few more homes still have not been wired. If they are not wired by the time our men get there with meters, they will just have to skip those and return later. That will delay energizing the line," Cox pointed out.

"B" project, which includes 150 miles of extension lines, has been surveyed and mapped.

Ewell Stone of Oklahoma City, examiner for the REA, will be in the county Friday to re-check "B" project for final approval of such details of membership density and feasibility of its construction, according to Cox.

The co-operative's lines extend over parts of Jones, Taylor, Callahan, Shackelford, Nolan, and Fisher counties.

Wife of Evangelist to Be Buried at Leonard

News was received Thursday morning by Mrs. L. L. Murray of the death of Mrs. J. W. Joiner at Leonard. She is the wife of Jack Joiner, well known here, as he has held a number of revival meetings in Merkel.

Mrs. Joiner died Wednesday and burial was to take place at Leonard, probably Thursday.

Surviving are the husband, one son and two daughters.

MERKEL 20 YEARS AGO
(From the Files of Merkel Mail, December 24, 1920.)

"The New Co-Ed," a four-act comedy drama at the Cozy theatre last Friday night, was pronounced a grand success from every standpoint. The play, under the direction of Miss Lucy Tracy, was presented by the following characters: Letty Willis, the "New Co-Ed," a poor girl entering college for the first time, by Lorena Dry; Madge, a protecting friend of Letty, Christine Collins; Dick Bradley, a good college sport, Billy Stevens; Estelle Doolittle, the spoiled beauty, Blanche Durham; Punch Doolittle, brother of Estelle, a mischievous fellow who is full of fun and foolishness, by Wallace Bragg; Grace, May and Rose, girl chums, were done by Edna Watts, Iva Bragg and Loyce Dry; Miss Rice, the dignified matron of the school, Mary Eula Sears; George Washington Watts, a lazy dandy, Joel County; Jim Young, a college leader, Chester Hutcheson.

GOODFELLOWS YET SHORT OF GOAL SET FOR BASKETS

Total of \$138.47 in Fund, as Reported Thursday Morning; Many Donors Respond During Week; Two Days to Go.

Although nearing their goal of \$150, Merkel Goodfellows are not lagging in their efforts to raise funds to provide Christmas boxes for as many of the unfortunate families of the city as possible—homes where otherwise there would be very little of the joys of the Christmas season.

Up to Thursday morning, the Goodfellows' fund had reached a total of \$138.47, with two more days to go. Any one who has not yet donated to this worthy undertaking may leave any amount desired at the Farmers & Merchants National bank, for Booth Warren, treasurer, or hand same to any member of the committee from the Lions club or from the churches of the city.

Those who have pledged hens or want to donate a hen for the Christmas baskets are asked to leave them (on foot) at Campbell's grocery either Saturday, Dec. 21, or Monday, Dec. 23.

The fireboys can still mend and repair any toys left in their barrel at the city hall.

At a meeting of the general committee Monday night, Chairman Stanley King gave various members of the committee assignments of purchasing the articles to go in the baskets. It was announced that Al McGehee of the Dandy bakery would donate a loaf of bread for each basket—a custom he has followed in previous years.

Donors to the Goodfellows fund since last week's issue of The Mail follow:

Previously reported	..... \$ 74.16
Miss Johnny Sears	..... 2.50
Presbyterian Sunday	
School	..... 5.00
Zoe West Warren	..... 2.00
Owen Robertson	..... 1.00
Merkel Motor Co.	..... 2.50
Campbell's Grocery	..... 2.50
Petty & West	..... 1.00
Queen Theatre	..... 5.00
Merkel Drug Co.	..... 2.00
W. S. J. Brown	..... 5.00
Dee Grimes	..... 2.50
Mack Buzbee	..... .50
Max Mellinger	..... 2.00
Business and	
Professional Women	..... 11.00
W. A. Whiteley, Jr.	..... .50
Herbert Patterson	..... 2.00
Mrs. John Shannon	..... 1.00
Johnny Cox	..... 1.00
Rev. Marvin Boyd	..... 1.00
Merkel Lodge No. 710	
A. F. & A. M.	..... 11.31
Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Fugat	..... 2.00
W. O. Boney	..... 1.00
Total	..... \$138.47

tistically gave a pantomime, imitating a young couple's maneuvers to and from attending the theatre. Likewise, the readings by Mary Lou Comegys and Frances Anderson and Master Sterling Sheppard, each of which was clever and appreciated by the entire audience.

The music by the Merkel orchestra on the above mentioned occasion was very fine and appreciated by every one in attendance. The personnel of the orchestra is composed of Messrs. H. M. Rose, Arthur Clark, Claude Comegys, Earl Thornton, Fred Harrell, Geo. Groene, Mrs. C. A. Miller and Miss Lula Sharp.

Miss Nell Britain returned last week from a visit to relatives at Walnut Springs, Texas.

Messrs. Hancock Brothers have this week consolidated the Merkel Bakery and the Metropolitan Cafe, which will hereafter be known as Hancock Brothers Cafe and Bakery.

52 Gifts.. \$100

You Give a Gift a Week When You Give

The Mail

• A gift subscription to The Mail is really a gift that keeps on giving! The lucky receiver will enjoy its up-to-the-minute news and interesting features every week in the year! Economical, too!

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THE MERKEL MAIL
Published Every Friday Morning
C. J. GLOVER, Editor

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

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Taylor and Jones Counties.....\$1.00
Elsewhere.....\$1.50
(In Advance)

Advertising Rates On Application
TELEPHONE No. 61.

All obituaries, resolutions of respect, cards of thanks, etc., are classed as advertising, and will be charged for at 1 cent per word with a minimum of 35 cents.

**John Curb Elected
New AAA Chairman**

John Curb of Merkel was elected chairman of the county AAA committee at the meeting of delegates to the county convention held Saturday afternoon at the court house in Abilene.

Mr. Curb has been a community committeeman in precinct 2 for several years. For the past two years he has worked in the AAA office at Abilene as county performance supervisor. As county chairman he succeeds J. Walter Hammond, who has been chairman of the county AAA committee since the administration farm program was launched in 1933. Hammond is at present president of the state organization.

B. H. Pritchard of Shep, a member of the county committee for four years, was elected vice-chairman. Third member of the board is C. H.

FASHION PREVIEW



Christmas and toys are synonymous for most children, and this means wear and tear on their clothes. The December issue of Good Housekeeping offers a solution to this vexing prob-

lem with these crown-tested rayon challis dresses featuring trim velveteen basques. They are practical for play, but still look festive enough for the special holiday.

Moore of Tuscola, who succeeds John Lovett.

Delegates who chose the committee were: H. B. Williams, Billy McCasland, Lloyd Bynum and Will Toombs. Both Curb and Moore must resign from community committees to which they were named Friday. Curb will be succeeded by Ollie Higgins, and Moore by K. C. Robertson.

In elections held in four precincts Friday, the following community committees were named:

At Buffalo Gap—John Lovett, Carl Moore and D. T. Petree were elected. H. B. Williams was selected the delegate.

In Abilene, Will Nesmith, Pete Morris and J. M. Briggs were named to the committee. Lloyd Bynum was designated delegate.

Merkel territory farmers elected John Curb, Borden Perkins and H. L. Beasley committeemen, and W. W. Toombs, their delegate.

At Bradshaw, Arthur Wade, McCasland and R. H. Walker were named to the community committee.

It is estimated that at the end of the summer course of the Civilian Pilot Training program, more than 1,000,000 hours were flown by 34,000 students and instructors.

**The Mail to Issue
Christmas Week
Edition Dec. 24**

Attention of correspondents and club reporters, also advertisers as well, is called to the early publication date of The Mail during Christmas week.

The holiday falls on Wednesday this year, and it, therefore, is deemed best by the publishers of The Mail to move up the time of issue that week to Tuesday, Dec. 24.

All news reports and society happenings are requested at the earliest possible time but in no case later than Monday, Dec. 23.

RURAL SOCIETY

COMPERE DINNER CLUB.

On Dec. 10, the Comper club had one of those delightful things—a covered dish dinner in the friendly home of Mrs. Ben Adkins at noon. When the members gathered around the table with Mrs. Adkins' small daughter, Ida Beth, in a high chair, it seemed as if Santa Claus were in the warm living room hovering over a tree by the south window. Mrs. Adkins had a real wood fire and a gaily decorated Christmas tree.

After taking Mrs. Justice in as a member and listening to the president, Mrs. I. B. Ray, offer thanks, the club had this delightful holiday spread: roast turkey, roast spare ribs, dressing, cranberries, pickles, french fried potatoes, preserves, pie, jelly rolls, coconut cake and hot coffee.

The next meeting will be with Mrs. T. A. Tucker on Jan. 9, 1941. Bring covered dishes as before.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PARTY.

A Christmas party in a beautiful setting was held in the home of Rev. and Mrs. J. R. Murdock Monday evening for the young married people of the Noodle Baptist church.

Interesting games were played and gifts were distributed from a beautifully decorated Christmas tree.

Refreshments were served to Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Read, Mr. and Mrs. Swope and children, Mr. and Mrs. Otto Bicknell, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Strange, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Perrin and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Causey and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Hollis Irvin and children, Mr. and Mrs. Harrell and son, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Caldwell, Vernon Horton, Mr. and Mrs. Chester Horne, Mrs. Hicks Goode and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Satterwhite and Rev. and Mrs. J. R. Murdock and children.

BLAIR 4-H GIRLS.

The 4-H girls club of Blair met Monday, Dec. 16, with Miss Ruth Chatman as sponsor. Games were played and a Christmas tree was laden with pretty gifts for those present.

Enjoying this gala affair were Miss Chatman, Jimmie Nell Horton, Verne Opal Moore, Lena Jo Fulton, Lila Mae Lowery, Delwee Melton, Mary E. Melton, Bertha Mae Moore, Bettie Lou Melton and Jackie Melton.

The merchants who advertise in this paper will give you the best values for your money.

Pep Squad

(Continued from Page One)
Little Cherokee, song, "Cherokee," Maureen Moore.

Medicine Maiden, "Toast to the Girls," Ova Martin, assistant leader. Laughing Water, song, "Indian Summer," Joyce Cox.

Pig Skin Scalping, "Review of the Season Scores and Games," Charles Clark, assistant coach.

Indian Twins, "Indian Love Call," Eva and Ova Martin.

Leading Warriors, Co-Captains Harvey Davis and Byron Bryant.

Scouting the Future, poem, "Football Diet About Squad," Ruth Bell, president of Pep Squad.

Honoring the Chief (Coach), Bobbie Bryant.

Salute, Coach Benson.

Final War Council, school song.

Coach Benson presented the following lettermen: Byron Bryant, Red Davis, Douglas McCoy, Roy Coats, Tillman Rutledge, Raymond Smith (co-captain-elect), Jack Melton, David Gibson, Buddy Derington, James Cox, Elbert Hickam (co-captain-elect), Euell Hickam, Deverle Higgins, Jerry Warren, Clarence Harrell, Lee Mac Reynolds. The rest of the squad and student manager, Edwin Renfro, were also introduced. Tillman Rutledge was presented as their favorite squad man by vote of the Pep Squad, and Maureen Moore introduced as "The Football Boys' Favorite."

Gifts were presented to Miss Mary Lou Ashburn, Pep Squad sponsor, by the Pep Squad; to Coaches Benson and Clark, by the football boys; to Maureen Moore, by football boys, and to the three Pep leaders by the girls. Tribute was also paid to Supt. Connor Robinson and Principal Rex Myers, Dr. W. T. Sadler and hospital staff and all Badger followers.

The climax of the evening was the announcement of the 1941-42 yell leaders: Joyce Cox, head yell leader, and Bobbie Bryant and Betty Jane Curb as assistants.

Miss Mary Lou Ashburn, High School teacher and Pep Squad sponsor, supervised all banquet plans. Cotton Owens served the group.

Four doctors are engaged in aerial medical work in the interior of Australia. When called by telephone or telegram, they fly to homesteads hundreds of miles away.

**ACCEPTABLE
GIFT SUGGESTIONS:**

UNITED STATES SAVING BONDS—
Any desired denomination \$25.00 to \$1,000.00

NEW CRISP CURRENCY
\$1.00, \$5.00, \$10.00 or \$20.00
In Christmas Envelopes

Initial Deposit in 1941 Xmas Savings Club—

Deposit Weekly	Receive in 50 Weeks
\$.25	\$ 12.50
.50	25.00
1.00	50.00
2.00	100.00
3.00	150.00
5.00	250.00

Plus interest if deposits made regularly. "A little deposited each week will mean a lot next Christmas."

A CHECKING ACCOUNT—
With check book in leatherette folder.

THE OLD RELIABLE
Farmers & Merchants National Bank
MERKEL, TEXAS
Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

OBITUARY

OSCAR TOM LAND, JR.

Several from here attended the funeral of little Oscar Tom Land, Jr., infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Land, 7226 Butternut street, Abilene, on Thursday, Dec. 12. Rev. Mr. Kemp of Abilene conducted the services in the home at 10:30 a. m.

Interment was held in Rose Hill cemetery, Merkel, with Elliott funeral home of Abilene in charge.

Mrs. Land will be remembered as the former Miss Margie Melton, and sympathy is extended from the community to the bereaved parents and loved ones.

A Friend.
Blair, Texas.

Try a Classified Ad in The Mail

Although president of the United States, William Henry Harrison personally shopped for the White House food, carrying a large market basket on his arm.

Office supplies—Mail office.

Real Estate Loans

• We make loans in Merkel to build, buy or refinance — including FHA.

Minimum Expense and Competitive Interest Rates

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**Effective
POSTERS**



When you are going to advertise a play or any event where posters will be used—The Merkel Mail knows the best design and the best colors to use to do the finest job.

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Printers and Publishers

**LISTEN IN... OVER KXOX
FRIDAY, DEC. 20, 6:30 p. m.**

Home Talent Program Every Friday at 6:30 p. m. (1210 on your dial.) Free Groceries

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------------------|--------|
| Yams | Peck. 25c | Fresh | |
| Yams | Bushel 90c | Tomatoes | Lb. 5c |
| Spuds | 10 lbs. 15c | Fresh | |
| Pintos | 10 lbs. 35c | Turnips and Tops | 5c |
| Pure | | | |
| Lard | 8 lb. bucket 75c | | |
| Rinso 2 large boxes | 38c | | |
| Print Bag | | | |
| Flour | 48 lbs. \$1.29 | | |
| Toilet Tissue 7 rolls | 25c | | |
| Soda | | | |
| Crackers | 2 lbs. 15c | | |
| A-1 | | | |
| Crackers | 2 lbs. 20c | | |
| Catsup | 1 lb. can 10c | | |
| Large Limas 3 lbs. | 25c | | |

--- MARKET ---

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Sugar Cured | |
| JOWLS | Lb. 13c |
| Pork | |
| Sausage | Lb. 18c |
| Liver | Lb. 15c |
| Swift's | |
| Chili | Lb. 23c |
| Sliced | |
| Bacon | Lb. 20c |
| Sliced | |
| Fresh Ham .. | Lb. 24c |
| Chuck Roast | Lb. 18c |
| Brisket or | |
| Rib Roast .. | Lb. 15c |

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Fruits, Nuts and
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| Crushed | |
| Pineapple .. | 3 cans 25c |
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Six Magazines and This Newspaper - A Total of 124 Issues

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| McCall's Magazine | 12 issues |
| Woman's Home Companion | 12 issues |
| American Poultry Journal | 12 issues |
| Farm Journal—Farmer's Wife | 12 issues |
| Breeder's Gazette | 12 issues |
| Southern Agriculturist | 12 issues |
| THE MERKEL MAIL | 52 issues |

\$ 2.00

YOU WILL GET ALL SEVEN publications, and if you are already a subscriber to ANY of these SEVEN publications, your present subscription will be extended. Mail or bring the coupon below to our office AT ONCE, and you will receive THE SIX BIG MAGAZINES and THE MERKEL MAIL each week—that's 72 magazines and 52 newspapers—124 issues in all for only \$2.00. ACT NOW — THIS OFFER IS LIMITED.

USE THIS COUPON AND SAVE \$2.00

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Yes, indeed, I want to accept your magazine offer before it is withdrawn. Enclosed is \$2.00 in FULL PAYMENT for a ONE YEAR'S subscription, new or renewal, to your newspaper and the following six publications:

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|--------------------------------|--------|----------------------------------|--------|
| McCALL'S MAGAZINE | 1 year | Farm Journal-Farmer's Wife | 1 year |
| WOMAN'S HOME COMPANION | 1 year | BREEDER'S GAZETTE | 1 year |
| AMERICAN POULTRY Journal | 1 year | SOUTHERN AGRICULTURIST | 1 year |

My Name is _____ Address _____
Town _____ State _____

TRENT NEWS AND PERSONALS

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Springer, Weldon Mack and Colette, are visiting relatives in Roxton this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Boyd spent the day Sunday with her father, Mr. Dee Perry, of Merkel.

Oscar Sherrill Bishop is sporting a new 1941 Ford truck.

Mrs. Ben Howell spent a few days in San Antonio the past week.

Mrs. Wallace Kelly and little daughter are visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Hogue.

Paul Goode, who is employed in Brownwood, was visiting here the latter part of last week.

M. G. Scott of Abilene was a visitor in our midst last week.

Ralph Coats of Abilene was here last week.

The NYA boys who are working at the school house are building brick walks in many needy places on the school campus.

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Jones and children visited Mrs. Weaver in Lamesa last Saturday. Mrs. Weaver returned home with them.

GIFT PARTY.

Mrs. W. P. Hood was honoree for a prettily arranged gift shower last Thursday afternoon in the home of Mrs. Fred Porter.

Many delightful games were played and enjoyed.

Mrs. Hood was presented a lovely array of gifts after which refreshments were served to Mesdames C. C. Stribbling, C. T. Beckham, I. V. Davis, Carl Edwards, W. C. Mathews, N. O. Bright and Lynda Lou, Dorothy Hood, Mrs. Porter and Mrs. Hood.

Those sending gifts were Mrs. John Crain and Mrs. J. B. Winn.

BLAIR ITEMS

Rev. A. C. Healer, of Sweetwater, delivered an interesting discourse at the Blair Baptist church Sunday afternoon. We hope Rev. Mr. Healer will preach again here soon. Artist Cook and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Bradberry and two children of White Church attended the services here.

Rev. J. B. Stewart, M. E. pastor, will fill the pulpit at the M. E. church Dec. 22. All are invited to attend these services.

Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Orsborn, whose home burned recently, were given a miscellaneous shower at the Methodist church Monday. Many lovely and useful gifts were presented to them from the people of the community and surrounding towns. Three quilts were quilted and a covered dish luncheon was served by some forty women.

Mr. and Mrs. Reed Cox of Clint returned home Monday after a week's visit with the latter's sister, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Doan. Mr. and Mrs. Cox were down looking after their property here.

(Omitted Last Week)

Those who want to make applications for participation in the 1941 federal mattress making program at Blair, are asked to see Mrs. Hugh Campbell at her home, as there was no voting box held at Blair on Dec. 7.

Miss Freddie Melton of Merkel visited with Misses Mildred and Pauline Maddera last week-end.

Mr. and Mrs. Claud Doan of Clyde visited with Mr. and Mrs. Price Melton and family Tuesday night.

J. E. Meeks of Butman spent the week-end with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. John Meeks.

Mr. and Mrs. S. L. Scogins, accompanied by Mrs. Charles Tipton and baby, Billie Nell, left Saturday for Alba, Texas, to spend the holidays with relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. O. D. Pruitt spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Pat Martin of Anson.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Melton, Mr. and Mrs. Pattie Melton and children, Mrs. Marshall Owens, Mrs. Earl Palmer of Merkel and Irvin Melton of the U. S. army were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Melton Sunday.

Mrs. Will Campbell is on the sick list at this writing.

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Abbott of Abilene visited Mr. and Mrs. Pat Addison Sunday.

The home just north of Blair occupied by E. J. Orsborn and family was almost totally destroyed by fire on Tuesday, Dec. 10, with loss of all the contents and household furnishings except a sewing machine and library table.

NOTICE.

Any one having an account against precinct No. 2, Taylor county, is requested to file same with the undersigned before next Monday.

Jack Canon,
County Commissioner.

Advertise in The Merkel Mail.

Printed Velveteen



Cotton velveteen in colorful printed patterns is a practical and warm fabric for fall and winter dresses. The seams of this dress are pinked to keep them as flat as possible. Bias pockets and skirt emphasize the plaid of the material.

Potatoes Can be Grown Without Soil and Sun

Chicago, Dec. 19.—Potatoes produced without soil or sunlight? Fabrics made without wool or cotton? It can be done by the magic of electrochemistry, Dr. Colin G. Fink of Columbia university says.

Dr. Fink told the national industrial chemical conference that, while it is difficult to prophesy without being fantastic, the artificial production of foodstuffs and fabrics is fully possible.

Fundamentally, Dr. Fink explained, the synthetic production of potatoes requires nothing more than the substitution of one form of energy, electricity, for another, light. Just as the sunlight furnishes the energy for plants to create starches, so electricity can be used as the energy for manufacturing these same compounds artificially.

In the synthetic production of potatoes, the constituents of potato starch—carbon, hydrogen and oxygen—are driven together to form the compound by means of electricity. This same "driving together," he said is done in plants by light furnished them by the sun.

Dr. Fink said that fabrics may be made electrically in the near future and that they may become more popular than natural wool or cotton.

This process would utilize the phenomenon of electrophoresis—the migration of particles in a solution from one part to another brought on by an electric field.

By placing in solution various compounds, such as wood pulp or rayon, and then drawing the particles together electrically into "mats" or "tufts," out of which fabric can be woven, "a new textile industry may be born," he said.

Reserves Called.

Washington, Dec. 19.—The War department Monday ordered the mobilization of the 28,739 members of the regular army reserve corps by Feb. 15.

Adopt Orphan for Week, Plea of Gov. O'Daniel

Austin, Dec. 19.—Gov. Lee O'Daniel Sunday asked Texans to play host to children of three state orphan homes during Christmas week.

In his one hundredth mansion radio broadcast the governor announced that his family would entertain two orphans for the week.

He said arrangements had been completed with state homes at Waco, Corsicana and Gilmer (negroes) for children to be taken into private homes for a week beginning next Sunday.

He asked that family groups "avail themselves of this opportunity to bring happiness and good cheer into their homes and into the lives of these boys and girls."

Under the plan he outlined, persons desiring to entertain orphan children should present a letter of recommendation from their mayor, county judge, minister or other reputable person to the superintendent of either home.

Those without means of transportation were asked to communicate with the governor who said he would attempt to arrange travel facilities.

In a program devoted to Christmas, O'Daniel renewed a recommendation that Texans give Texas agricultural and industrial products as Christmas presents. Specifically recommended were all cotton products, citrus fruit and pecans, three of the state's leading products.

Letters to Santa Claus

Dearest Santa:
I am a little girl 5 years old. For Christmas I want a doll that will go to sleep. I have a little brother, Fredlyn; he wants a little red wagon.
Love,
Blanche Yvonne Farmer.

Dear Santa Claus:
I am a little boy 10 years old. I go to Butman school. For Christmas I want a little tractor, gun, caps, fruits of all kinds.
Love,
Derrell Lee Farmer.

Dear Santa Claus:
I am a little boy 10 years old. I have gone to Sunday School a lot

this year. I will try to go more this coming year, if you will bring me a football and a pair of nice gloves and a pair of trousers and sweater, and a hat if you can spare it, too. Don't forget my brother. We will go to Sunday School more in the future. We thank you.
Yours truly,
J. L. Shults.

Turkish ships are exempted from the international law which requires all ships to carry bells for time keeping and fog signaling. Turkish vessels carry drums instead.

Complete line of office supplies at Mail office.

More English proper names start with "S" than with any other letter.

HINTS ON What to Give

PRACTICAL GIFTS ARE BEST

You'll Find a Variety of Useful Items
SILVERWARE, CHINA, GLASSWARE, ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES, NOVELTIES OF ALL KINDS

- Open Evenings for Your Convenience
- Visit Our Gift Section Before You Buy

The Recollection of Quality Remains Long After the Price Is Forgotten.

BULLOCK HARDWARE

TUNE IN
Merkel Radio Program Over
Station KRBC
Abilene
Each Monday, Wednesday,
Friday 7:45-8:15 a. m.

Only Slight Damage From Car Turnover

Trent, Dec. 19.—The Roy Williams family of Trent happened to a very unusual accident while on their way to Garza county, where they recently purchased a farm.

Hauling a trailer load of cows, and their new car loaded with canned fruit, a back tire on the car blew out, causing the trailer to start whipping about and overturning the car as it did so, spilling fruit in jars and cans over the highway, and cows, too, but only four jars of fruit were broken, no cows were killed and none of the trio was injured.

In the party were Mr. Williams, his wife and son, Billie Ray. Only slight damage was done to the car.



Now's your chance to treat your food budget to a holiday thrill! Canned food, meats, fresh fruits and vegetables to make the season a merry one for family appetites.

No. 1 Central American
Bananas lb. 5c

See the New "Milady" design in **COMMUNITY PLATE**

It's lovely! A floral design charming... feminine... exquisitely carved... the kind of a design thousands of women have demanded. Now, in Community Plate.

Popular open stock staple pieces and designs.

New Low Prices on COMMUNITY
25% less than last year on all open stock staple pieces. Now's the time to get your silverware. These low prices may not last.

Complete SERVICES in anti-tarnish chests now as low as \$26

SPECIAL Introductory Offer
Pierced Server, in the new "Milady" design, regularly \$1.25—now **25c**



C. M. PRESSLEY

JEWELER

209 Pine St. Abilene

- U. S. No. 1
SPUDS 10 lbs. 14c
- TEXAS SEEDLESS ORANGES** Doz. 15c
- DELICIOUS APPLES** Doz. 20c
- TEXAS SEEDLESS GRAPEFRUIT** Doz. 23c
- FRESH CRISP CELERY** Stalk 9c
- CRANBERRIES** .. Qt. 23c

- LARGE PAPERSHELL PECANS** .. Lb. 15c to 25c
- No. 1 **WALNUTS** Lb. 25c
- No. 1 **ALMONDS** Lb. 25c
- BRAZIL NUTS** .. Lb. 15c
- ROASTED PEANUTS** Lb. 15c
- FRESH COCOANUTS** ... 2 for 15c
- CALIFORNIA NAVEL ORANGES** Doz. 25c
- HARD-N-CRISP LETTUCE** ... 2 heads 9c

Golden Date Pudding

Broadcast by Mary Lee Taylor December 19, 1940

- 2 tablespoons soft butter
2 tablespoons sugar
1/4 teaspoon salt
2 eggs, separated
1 package lemon-flavored gelatin
3/4 cup boiling water
- 1 cup Pet Milk
1 cup finely cut, pitted dates, or raisins, halved
3/4 cup finely cut nuts
6 graham crackers, 2 1/2 inches across

Cream together butter, sugar and salt. Beat in well beaten egg yolks. Dissolve gelatin in boiling water. Stir dissolved gelatin into egg mixture. Stir in milk. Add cut dates and nuts. Chill until mixture begins to thicken. Rub an 8 inch mold with vegetable oil. Roll graham crackers into fine crumbs. Garnish bottom of mold, if desired, with 6 pitted dates. Beat egg whites until stiff, but not dry. Fold into chilled gelatin mixture. Put in prepared mold. Sprinkle top with crumbs. Chill until firm. Serves 6.

For This Recipe You'll Need:

- LEMON JELLO** Pkg. 6c
- DATES or RAISINS** 1 lb. 20c
- GRAHAM Crackers** 1 lb. pkg. 15c
- IRRADIATED Pet Milk** 6 cans 23c

Market Specials

Leave Us Your Order for a Xmas Turkey or Hen

Let Us Grind and-or Season Your Sausage

- Armour's Star, Half or Whole **HAMS** Lb. 23c
- TENDER CHUCK ROAST** Lb. 19c
- Palace Brand, Sliced **BACON** Lb. 23c
- Pork Roast** Lb. 19c

- PURE CANE — Cloth Bag SUGAR** 25 lbs. \$1.23
- Chocolate or Xmas Mixed CANDY** Lb. 15c
- CRISCO** 3 lbs. 49c
- KIMBELL'S BEST FLOUR** 48 lbs. \$1.44

White Swan Coffee

Come In and Get a Hot Cup FREE Saturday

- 1 lb. .. 24c | 3 lbs. .. 73c

- Packed in Cellophane Bag
COCOANUT 1 lb. 19c
- MINCE MEAT** 3 pkgs. 25c
- POWDERED or BROWN SUGAR** 3 pkgs. 25c
- CRUSHED PINEAPPLE** 3 cans 25c
- HURRICANE LAMP FREE CAKE FLOUR** Pkg. 27c
- Packed in Cellophane Bag
RAISINS 4 lbs. 33c



Baker's Cocoa 1 lb. 19c

Phone 173

CAMPBELL'S GROCERY & MARKET

We Deliver

THESE PRICES EFFECTIVE FROM NOW UNTIL CHRISTMAS

Fire Prevention Brings Insurance Rate Down

Miss Olga Juneger, from the State Fire Insurance department, visited the Merkel schools Monday, Dec. 16. Miss Juneger held conferences with the teachers of the school regarding themes that have been written by the students on "Fire Prevention."

Fire drills were observed by her while here in both buildings. The students made record time in clearing the buildings after the fire alarms were sounded. In one instance a "blocked exit" drill was held, making it necessary for 200 children to pass out one exit. In spite of the slight delay the Grammar School building was cleared in one minute and 20 seconds.

Miss Juneger also inspected the "Fire Prevention" posters that were on display in Bragg's window in October. She was accompanied on her tour of inspection by Fireman Hill of the Abilene Fire department and both were high in their praise of the work that is being done in the Merkel schools to prevent fires.

The city of Merkel is given a reduction in its fire insurance rate as a result of fire prevention being taught in school.

Prizes in Lighting Contest are Listed

Prizes to be given in the Christmas lighting contest, sponsored by the Fortnightly Study club, are as follows:

Outside division—first prize, eight stemmed crystal water glasses, offered by Bullock Hardware; second prize, a pottery vase, from Crown Variety.

Inside division—first prize, six cup electric Cory coffee maker, donated by West Company; second prize, a round mirror, offered by Nutt Variety.

The grand prize of the contest, a three-way floor lamp, is offered by the West Texas Utilities company.

These gifts will be on display in the show windows of the respective donors. Judging extends from Dec. 20 to Dec. 25; entries must be lighted from 6 to 9 p. m.

Merkel Women Attend Initiation Banquet

Mrs. Mattie Lloyd Wooten was guest speaker at the initiation banquet of Mu chapter, Delta Gamma, honorary society for women teachers, Saturday night. Her talk climaxed the dinner program in the Hilton hotel ballroom, Abilene. Before the dinner, members met in the gold room for an initiation ceremony.

Among those initiated was one Merkel woman, Mrs. Connor Robinson. Other initiates were Mrs. Lois Goolsby of Anson, Parri Dee Agee of Avoca, Odell Johnson of Abilene and Mrs. M. E. Shankle of Lawn.

Also attending the banquet from Merkel were Mrs. Len Sublett and Misses Mamie Ellis and Alzada Pogue.

Scouts from Troop 20 Ready for Advancement

Following a board of review Monday afternoon, conducted by Scoutmaster Charles Clark, Boy Scout troop 20 will have the following boys up for advancement Friday night:

Tenderfoot—Frankie Shults, Leroy Smith, Zedie Johnson, Billie Joe Toombs, James Griswold.

Second class—Norman Cruse, Dorman Clark, Billy Joe Jaynes, R. W. Johnson, Sammy Myers.

Second class merit badge—Ikey Turner, bookbinding.

First class merit badges—Benny Kemper, bookbinding, woodwork, art; Billy Murray, blacksmithing, auto-mobiling, bookbinding, woodwork.

ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING.

Notice is hereby given: That the annual meeting of the stockholders of The Farmers and Merchants National Bank of Merkel, Texas, will be held at the office of said bank on Tuesday, the 14th day of January, 1941, at 7 o'clock p. m., for the election of directors and the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Booth Warren, Cashier.

TELEPHONE THE MAIL

The Mail will be glad to receive news of entertainments or visitors in Merkel homes, as well as other news items of a general nature. If you have company, entertain friends or return from a trip please telephone 61 or 29.

PERSONALS

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd A. Hutcheson and son, Floyd A. Jr., of Houston, spent the first of the week with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Hutcheson.

Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Sparks of Abilene spent the week-end with Mrs. Sparks' parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Hays. They have just recently returned from Brownwood, where Mr. Sparks has been employed at Camp Bowie. He returned to begin work on the Abilene camp.

Mrs. Bob Hicks has as her guest her mother, Mrs. B. A. Walters, of Wills Point.

Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Guthrie and son, Allan, of Big Spring, were here over the week-end, returning home Sunday.

Guest the early part of the week of Mr. and Mrs. Andy Shouse was a brother of Mrs. Shouse, Nelson Bailey, of Del Rio.

Mrs. Jackson Parker arrived last week-end from Fort Bliss to spend the holidays with her mother, Mrs. J. S. Blair, and daughter, Jean, who is attending school here. Lieut. Parker will join them Sunday.

A. C. Sears, home from Fargo, N. D., where he is attending the state college of agriculture, to spend the holidays with his mother, Mrs. Clyde Sears, has as his guest Kenneth Campbell, of Bottineau, N. D. A. C. is doing work as an assistant professor of animal husbandry while attaining his M. S. degree.

Mr. and Mrs. Cleo Lyles of Amherst are spending the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ira Stanley.

Recent guests of Mrs. Amy Sears were Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Needham and Mrs. Jim Wilkerson, all of Waco.

Mr. and Mrs. Neal Monroe and son of Menard are guests of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Patton.

Garrett Richardson, who has been away for several months at Brownwood and other places, returned to Merkel last Saturday night.

Betty Jane Keifer, daughter of J. T. Keifer, left Thursday morning on the Sunshine Special for Sherman to enter the Woodmen Circle home.

Merkel Retail Grocers Attend Annual Party

For the annual Christmas party of the Abilene District Retail Grocers association held at the Fair Park Supper club building, Abilene, on Tuesday night, a number went over from Merkel.

Among those attending were Messrs. and Mesdames Ray Wilson, Earl Watts, Claud Perry, Eli Case, Milton Case and Byron Dingle, Mrs. W. W. Campbell, Miss Mary Lou Ashburn, Messrs. Herbert Dunn and Pinky Cypert.

If you have any visitors, Phone 29 or 61.

Tye Man a Director Of Farm Federation

J. Walter Hammond of Tye, president of the Texas Agriculture association, was elected a director of the American Farm bureau federation at its annual convention in Baltimore.

He was one of the two new men added to the 17-member board. He was chosen by delegates from the 11 states of the southern region. Previously, Texas was not represented.

Fire Totally Destroys Marrs School Building

The Marrs school house in Jones county was completely destroyed by fire Tuesday night about 11:50. Origin of the fire is undetermined.

Temporarily school sessions will be held in the church at Hodges, while plans are being perfected for re-building the school. The loss was covered by insurance.

Leave for California Aeronautical School

Byron Patterson, Cecil Justice and C. M. Stanley left Thursday for Los Angeles, Calif., where they will enter an aeronautical school.

Mr. Patterson was accompanied by his wife and two daughters, who will remain in California.

No. 1 Citizen Selected.

Sweetwater, Dec. 19.—Luther M. Watson, publisher of the Nolan County News, Tuesday night was named Sweetwater's No. 1 citizen for 1940-41 by a committee made up of representatives of the civic clubs of the city. He was presented a silver loving cup at the conclusion of the Sweetwater Lions Club's ninth annual minstrel.

State Master Farmer Weds.

Coleman, Dec. 19.—John Will Vance of Shields, awarded the title of State Master Farmer last week, was married here Saturday night to Miss Chrystene Trowbridge of Coleman, county home demonstration agent.

May Go to British Court.

Washington, Dec. 19.—Norman Armour, ace career diplomat and now United States ambassador to Argentina, was mentioned in informed circles here Tuesday for the vacant post of American ambassador to London.

Three men were killed and a fourth wounded when a gunman fired a stream of bullets through an open tavern window at Los Ebanos, small settlement near the Sam Fordyce oil field in western Hidalgo county. The dead were: Special Deputy Sheriff Zaragoza Flores, 50; Marcos Ramirez, 60, and Santana Garza, 27. The slayer escaped.

Reunion of '39 Class Is Scheduled Dec. 27

Representatives from the class of '39 have planned a reunion for Friday, Dec. 27, to begin at 7:15 at the Lions hall. Every member is urged to be present.

W. I. Wozencraft is president of the 1939 graduating class of Merkel High school.

Band Concert

(Continued from Page One) band, presented Director Young with a leather golf bag as a Christmas present from the band members in appreciation of his work with them. Sue Grimes, band sweetheart, was the recipient of a beautiful bracelet as a gift from the band.

The concert was sponsored by the Merkel Parent-Teacher association, of which Mrs. N. T. Hodge is president.

Hospital Notes.

Raymond Lawson entered Sadler Clinic last Friday for major surgery.

Edsel Church, who was brought to the hospital late Saturday afternoon with a back injury sustained in an automobile collision on the Salt Branch road, was dismissed Monday.

Patients received during the week for treatment were: Mrs. Roy Harrell, on Monday; Melton Riley, on Tuesday, dismissed the next day, and Mrs. F. M. Cooper, Trent, on Wednesday.

Mrs. Cecil McRee of Trent was dismissed Tuesday.

A daughter was born at the hospital Monday to Mr. and Mrs. T. P. Carey, Route 2.

Program Over KXOX.

Pupils from the studio of Miss Christine Collins will present a program of vocal numbers over KXOX, Sweetwater, this Friday afternoon from 6:30 to 7 o'clock.

SENDING YOU A HOLIDAY MESSAGE OF THE West

May the chuckwagon of health be laden with good things for your bodily comfort. May the soil, the fields and prairies of wealth be filled with abundant harvest of material blessings. May the sun-swept plains reflect ing happiness, be spread for you with contentment and joy.

Worth HOTEL
FORT WORTH, TEXAS

MERKEL MAIL WANT ADS FOR RESULTS

XMAS CARDS

Our Remaining Stock of CHRISTMAS CARDS AND ENVELOPES TO MATCH

In Broken Lots of 5c Each

Others at 2 for 5c

The Merkel Mail

Specials for Friday, Saturday, Monday and Tuesday — Dec. 20, 21, 23 and 24

Brown's Chocolate Covered Cherries 19c	Christmas Mixed Candy 2 lbs. 25c
Drip or Regular Grind Folger's ... 2 lbs. 50c	No. 1 Can Pork & Beans ... 5c
Wolf Tamales 15c	Bicycle to be given away by us MAGIC
Wolf Chili 25c	Washer 2 boxes 45c
We Have All Kinds of Nuts, Walnuts, Pecans, Negrotoes, Almonds and Peanuts	No. 2 Can Tomatoes .. 2 for 15c
Cranberries Qt. 22c	Fresh Tomatoes Lb. 5c
APPLES	ORANGES
Small Winesaps Doz. 10c	California Medium Size .. Doz. 25c
Large Winesaps Doz. 25c	Calif. Large .. Doz. 30c
Delicious 2 doz. 35c	California Extra Large .. Doz. 40c
Delicious Doz. 20c	Texas Medium Doz. 15c
Delicious Doz. 25c	Large Grapefruit ... Doz. 15c
Delicious Each 5c	Bananas Doz. 15c
Lettuce Head 5c	Celery Stalk 10c

CARSON'S GROCERY and MARKET

"Trade at Carson's and Bank the Difference"

FREE DELIVERY — PHONE 250



FOR SALE

FOR SALE CHEAP—Good seven-room house, to be moved. See George Woodrum.

FOR SALE—Electric heater and tank, in good condition. Mrs. Seth Hamilton.

FOR RENT

FOR RENT—Four room house; all kinds of stoves and odd pieces of furniture at bargains. Joe Garland Second Hand store.

FOR RENT—Building, corner Elm and Edwards street; can give possession Jan. 1, 1941; building now occupied by Barrow Furniture company. Write E. G. Neely, 4311 Hall St., Dallas, Texas.

WANTED

WANTED TO BUY books, pamphlets, manuscripts on Texas. Bring to Black's Radio Shop by Dec. 24. Dr. Claude Elliott.

LOST AND FOUND

LOST—Two keys on ring with tag of F. & M. National bank. Return to Merkel Mail office.

Terms of Rail Board Members Begin Jan. 1

Austin, Dec. 19.—Terms of the state railroad commission begin on Jan. 1 following a general election, Attorney General Gerald C. Mann ruled Tuesday.

Mann gave the opinion at the request of Lon A. Smith, veteran commissioner who did not seek re-election this year and to whose place Olin Culberson was elected.

Although Smith had qualified for his last six-year term on Jan. 15, 1935, Mann said, his successor was authorized by the law to assume the duties of the position on Jan. 1.

He cited an act of the 45th legislature in 1937 which specifically made such provision.

Turkey Prices are Fixed.

London, Dec. 19.—The food ministry Tuesday fixed the price of undressed Christmas turkeys at two shillings, ten pence a pound (about 57 cents) because butchers were raising their prices.

MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS.

We will appreciate the privilege of sending in your subscription to the leading magazines. On a great many of them, if you want to include your subscription to The Mail, we are in

Although scientists have only tabulated 7,000 of such colors and shades, the human eye is capable of noting differences among 2,000,000 different colors and shades.

Texas' forty cheese factories manufactured almost 20,000,000 pounds in 1939, but consumption within the state of 40,000,000 pounds dispels any fear of over-production.

Nine-tenths of the total weight, not height, of an iceberg lies below the water surface.

By early April hundreds of thousands of acres in Central Texas are covered with bluebonnet flowers.

Bereavement acknowledgement engraved cards, with envelopes to match, 50 cents per dozen at Merkel Mail office.

Productive Hand Bills



Hand bills must be attractive and they must be well printed to do their job the best. You can depend on The Merkel Mail printing to be the best possible. Try us next time.

The Merkel Mail
Printers and Publishers

Merkel Poultrymen Heavy Prize Winners

A Buff Orpington, entered by Grover Gilbert, won the special prize as best solid-color cock in the West Texas Poultry association show held at Abilene last week.

Gilbert also showed the best solid-color display and first young pen. His other winnings in the Buff Orpington class were: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th hen; 1st, 2nd cock; 1st, 2nd, 5th pullet; 2nd, 5th cockerel.

Other local entries in the prize-winning list were: Pete West, 3rd young pen in Buff Orpingtons; Joe Horton, 1st, 2nd cockerel, 1st pullet in Black Giants; R. J. Miller, 3rd hen, 2nd, 3rd pullet, 2nd, 3rd cockerel in White Rocks.

LOCAL NEWS BRIEFS

The Earl Beech family is now occupying the Brooks Patterson home on Oak street, which they recently purchased. Mr. and Mrs. Pete West and Mrs. Harriet Grimes moved to the Byron Patterson home, next door north, when the Byron Pattersons departed for California.

L. V. Moore, for a number of years employed by Eli Case and Son grocery, was added to the West Texas Utilities company force this week.

Mrs. Annie Turner is in receipt of word from her son, Raymond E. Cannon, that he is now acting first sergeant at Kelly field, in charge of 700 men. He is stationed at general headquarters, Air Corps detachment.

Just say you saw it in The Mail.

Saturday Designated Merkel "Bangle Day"

Saturday has been designated as "bangle day" in Merkel, when five young ladies will sell bangles on the streets for the benefit of tuberculosis prevention, sponsored by the Taylor County Tuberculosis association. The bangles will sell for ten cents or any larger amount that the buyer wishes to contribute.

Mrs. Johnny Cox was appointed as local chairman of the bangle sale by Miss Lena Wilson, executive secretary of the association, and the following young ladies will sell bangles Saturday: Misses Bonnie White, Wanda Dingle, Venita Allen, Tommy Grimes and Dorothy Shannon.

At the Queen theatre Manager Hodge will also carry on the screen Thursday and Friday nights a trailer on tuberculosis prevention.

County Soil Checks Aggregate \$45,000

Soil conservation compliance checks received Saturday, Monday and Tuesday at the Taylor county AAA headquarters totaled \$45,005.91. A. L. Cook, AAA administrator, announced Wednesday.

They are being distributed to 575 farmers.

With receipt of these checks, Cook estimates half the soil payments have been received. Total thus far is \$135,546.98 on 1,473 contracts.

If you have lost or found anything, want to buy or sell anything, let the folks know it through The Mail want ad column. They read it

Pathfinder Polls of Public Opinion

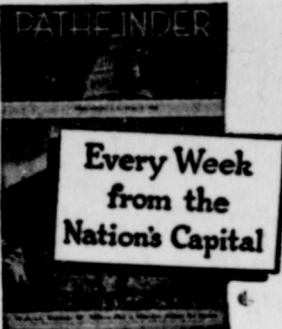


PATHFINDER

PATHFINDER polls keep millions of folks everywhere posted in advance on vital questions—war, politics, elections, farm problems, labor, world events. An exclusive PATHFINDER feature. Nothing else like it. A real news sensation.

Read in More Than a Million Homes

Besides, PATHFINDER is the world's oldest and most widely-read news magazine, bringing to you in words and pictures everything that happens, fresh from the world's news center in Washington. World events verified and interpreted, boiled down into 20 interesting departments—unbiased, non-partisan, dependable, complete. Costs 75% less.



This Newspaper & PATHFINDER BOTH one year Only \$ 1.60

GIFT PROBLEMS SOLVED

Gifts that are a joy to give . . . easy to buy . . . Give clever, original gifts this year . . . Lee-Bailey has a store full of such gifts . . . SEE THEM TODAY!

Gifts for Him

- Shaving Sets . . \$1 to \$2.50
- Razor Sets . . . 98c to \$1.95
- Pipes \$1 to \$2.50
- Bill Folds \$1 to \$5.00
- 1 lb. Tobacco . . 69c to 79c
- Kodaks \$1.98 to \$2.95
- Flashlights . . . 59c to \$1.39
- Socks 3 pair \$1.00
- Sock and Tie Combination . . . \$1.50

Gifts for Her

- Dresser Sets \$1.98 to \$10.98
- Evening in Paris Sets 55c to \$5.00
- Coty Sets \$1 to \$5.00
- Airmaid Hosiery, box \$3.45
- Airmaid Hanks, 3 in box 50c
- Perfumes 25c to \$5.00
- Locket, Bracelets
- King's Candies

Elgin Watches — Electric Heating Pads
FOUNTAIN PENS

Lee-Bailey Drug

"THE BETTER DRUG STORE"



Christmas Food Sale



Prices Good

Friday, Saturday, Monday and Tuesday — Dec. 20 - 21 - 23 - 24

- DELICIOUS APPLES EXTRA LARGE . . 6 for 25c
- WINESAP APPLES Doz. 25c
- CRANBERRIES Lb. 23c
- FRESH COCOANUTS 2 for 15c
- ORANGES LARGE SIZE Doz. 29c
- ORANGES MEDIUM SIZE 2 doz. 25c
- LETTUCE Head 5c
- CELERY Bunch 10c
- SPUDS 10 lbs. 19c

SUPREME Salad Wafers . . 1 lb. box 17c

CHOCOLATE COVERED CHERRIES 19c
1 lb. box

PURE CANE Sugar 10 lb. bag 49c

RED & WHITE or FOLGER'S Coffee 1 lb. can 25c

RED & WHITE Cranberry Sauce . . Can 15c

MOIST Cocoanut Per can 10c

RED & WHITE Mince Meat Pkg. 9c

RED & WHITE MARSHMALLOWS 15c
1 Lb. Bag

POWDERED Sugar 2 pkgs. 17c

BROWN Sugar 2 pkgs. 17c

WHITE Karo Syrup Pint can 17c

RED & WHITE Pumpkin No. 2 can 10c

RED & WHITE Corn No. 2 can 25c

OUR VALUE Peas No. 2 can 10c

RED PITTED Cherries No. 2 can 13c

MIXED XMAS CANDY 15c
Per Lb.

RED & WHITE Catsup 14 oz. bottle 17c

RED & WHITE STRAWBERRY Preserves Per glass 23c

SUN SPUN Salad Dressing Pint 20c

DEL DIXI Pickles (sour or dill) Qt. 15c

SHELLED Pecans Per lb. 39c

ALL FLAVORS JELLO 5c
Pkg.

WHOLE Green Beans . . No. 2 can 18c

RED & WHITE Pears No. 2 1/2 can 20c

RED & WHITE Fruit Cocktail . . . 2 cans 25c

RED & WHITE Pineapple No. 2 can 18c

WHOLE Beets No. 2 can 15c

MARKET SPECIALS

- XMAS HAMS HALF or WHOLE Lb. 22 1/2c
- PORK ROAST Lb. 19c
- CHEESE Lb. 25c
- SLICED BACON Lb. 22c
- OLEO Lb. 15c

GIVE SOMEONE A BASKET OF FOOD THIS CHRISTMAS



WEST COMPANY, Merkel A. W. WOOD, Trent
Herring & Thompson, Noodle E. BRADLEY MERC. CO., Stith

Unwritten Story Makes Top News for the Year

New York, Dec. 19.—A news story that has not been written—soviet Russia's role in world events—was included Sunday for the first time in the annual United Press selection of the 10 big news stories of the year.

"The Enigma of Russia," is 10th on the U. P. list for 1940. The third term election of President Roosevelt is the number one news event of the year, the battle of Britain second, and the fall of France third.

"This is the first time that something which has not been reported has ever received enough votes to qualify among the first 10," Earl J. Johnson, U. P. vice-president and general manager, said. "Our editors felt that if the facts about Russian influence on world affairs were not shrouded by official secrecy and censorship, the Russian story might be among the most important of the year."

"The big thing we do not know about Russia is the extent of her

influence on Tokyo's operations in the Far East and on Germany's plans in the Balkans."

Johnson said an unusual feature of the news of 1940 was that most of the big news events were closely related in terms of cause or effect. That has not been true in other years when headlines were dominated by politics, multiple births, earthquakes, record airplane flights, and other such unrelated news stories.

The United Press list for 1940 follows:

1. President Roosevelt's re-election for a third term and preliminary developments including the sensational rise of Wendell Willkie.
2. Battle of Britain which is history's first big-scale air war and may be one of the decisive battles of the world.
3. Fall of France with resulting British evacuation of Dunkirk and Battle of Oran.
4. United States selective service and other measures of hemispheric defense including the destroyers-for-naval-bases deal.
5. German occupancy of Norway, Denmark and the low countries.

6. Berlin-Rome-Tokyo axis and Japanese thrust at Indo-China.

7. Italy's abortive attempt to invade Greece.

8. Germany's diplomatic offensive into the Balkans with abdication of Rumanian King Carol.

9. Italy's entrance into the war.

10. The enigma of Russia.

CARD OF THANKS.

We take this method of expressing our sincere thanks and appreciation to each one for the donations and the many useful gifts that we have received since the burning of our home.

Sincerely,
Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Orsborn and Family.

Much of the tropical zone of South America lies at an altitude that makes the climate like that of the temperate zone. The continent represents 13 per cent of the earth's surface and contains four per cent of its population.

Adding machine rolls 15c or two for 25c; regular retail price everywhere. For sale at the Merkel Mail.

Experts Predict Great Rise in Employment

New York, Dec. 19.—The Twentieth Century fund, an institute devoted to economic research, predicted Saturday that national employment would increase approximately 6,000,000 by the fall of 1942.

In a report surveying labor policy under the defense program, the fund said that "labor shortages can exist in certain localities or trades in spite of considerable unemployment in other areas."

Acute shortages of aircraft supervisors and tool instrument makers were cited as current examples by the research staff, which is headed by Prof. Lloyd G. Reynolds of John Hopkins university.

Such specific conditions should not obscure the labor picture as a whole, the report said adding:

"It would certainly be wrong to conclude that all employable workers will have jobs by the end of 1942. x x x Many of the unemployed will not be absorbed because they are in

the wrong places or the wrong occupations, and there may well be unemployment of 2,000,000 or more even at the peak of defense production."

To help remedy the skilled labor shortage, the report proposed the drastic expedient of breaking down production processes into simpler elements, which can be performed by

workers with only a few months' training."

Texas Schools Rank 25th.
Austin, Dec. 19.—A message ranking Texas public schools twenty-fifth in the nation went out from the State department of education Friday in a bulletin dated Christmas 1940.

"PERCE STRINGS" by JIM WEST



WEST'S AUTO SUPPLY STORE
"Serving the Car Owner Since 1914"
TEL. 222 Merkel, Texas

Our Customers Wrote This Advertisement

Recently we asked a large number of our customers this question, "If you could have only one wish for this Christmas, what would it be?" Almost without exception the answer came back, "Good Health!"

Truly, there is no more precious possession than good health. In the light of real value, all other things shrink to insignificance by comparison.

GIVE US "GOOD HEALTH" AND WE'LL MANAGE THE REST.



WE PUT "GOOD HEALTH" AT THE HEAD OF THE LIST AT OUR HOUSE.



...and we have this to add about health protection

AFTER ALL, "GOOD HEALTH" PAYS BIG DIVIDENDS IN HAPPINESS.



I DON'T KNOW OF ANYTHING MORE IMPORTANT THAN "GOOD HEALTH."



"GOOD HEALTH" HAS BEEN LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR MY SUCCESS.



America has made great progress in stamping out many diseases that have threatened the health of the nation. However, the common cold is responsible for more than two hundred million illnesses each year. Therefore, along with our Christmas wishes of "Good Health to you and your family," we add this practical suggestion... guard against catching cold!

This is the season of the year when strict precaution against catching cold is of vital importance. Any sudden change of temperature, such as occurs when you go from a warm room into an unheated part of the house, chills your body and makes you an easy prey to the attack of the cold germ. Play safe! Don't give a common cold an even break! Provide adequate heat and a circulation of pure, warm air in every room of your house during the short winter season.

Lone Star Gas Co.
Supplying Natural Gas to Your Local Distributing Company

HEAT YOUR ENTIRE HOME FOR YOUR HEALTH'S SAKE

Engineering Contract For Camp Awarded

Fort Worth, Dec. 19.—Freese & Nichols of Fort Worth have been awarded a war department contract for architectural engineering on the \$4,500,000 military camp to be built near Abilene to house the 45th division, it was announced Monday.

Under the contract, negotiated by Marvin C. Nichols in Washington last week, the firm will lay out the camp, design its utilities and road systems, and supervise all construction work.

Contract for the construction job is expected to be awarded in Washington this week. Completion date of the camp has been set for February 15.

The Abilene camp, on a 2,300 acre site near View, will follow the same general pattern of Camp Bowie, now nearing completion at Brownwood. Provision will be made for housing 20,000 men.

Butman 4-H Club Plans Boys' Community Fair

The Butman school is now working in the third month of the year with good interest and almost a perfect attendance. The first two months' record for attendance was broken into by "pretty" weather and cotton picking.

The boys of the school have organized a 4-H club, with Sam Butman, Jr., as community sponsor. They met with him on Dec. 9 and discussed a few plans for the year. In addition to the regular project plan in the school, they discussed and planned a "Boys' Community Fair," to be held in early fall at the school under the sponsorship of the club.

The honor roll for the first month: Second grade, Margaret Perkins, Betty Lou Riggan; fifth, Frances Perkins; sixth, Bobby Peterson; seventh, J. E. Meeks.

The honor roll for the second

month: Second grade, Margaret Perkins, Betty Lou Riggan; third, Bobby Hunter; fourth, Novis Smith; fifth, Buddy Hunter, Frances Perkins; sixth, Bobby Peterson; seventh, J. E. Meeks.

Noodle School News

The Noodle basketball boys went to a tournament at Hawley, Dec. 13 and 14.

The boys played Wilson at eight o'clock Friday night. The game was easily won by our boys with the score 18-4. All eight of the boys on the team got to play in that game.

The second game the boys played against Hawley, Saturday afternoon at one o'clock. The game was very close throughout, but the Noodle boys rallied in the last moment to win a 21-18 victory.

In the finals, the Noodle boys played A. C. C. academy. It was a good game, but the A. C. C. academy team came out on the long end of the score after a tough game.

Bus Martin was elected captain of the team. We are very proud of our boys. They brought back the second place trophy.

The other teams that entered the tournament were: Anson, Hawley, Avoca, McCaulley, Wilson, Truby and A. C. C. academy.

The basketball girls went to Lawn last week-end to a tournament, but due to the cold weather it was called off.

College Elects FDR.

Washington, Dec. 19.—The electoral college Monday voted President Roosevelt a third term, just routine business when the electors met in the various state capitals and cast 449 ballots for Franklin D. Roosevelt and 82 for Wendell L. Willkie.

Bereavement acknowledgement engraved cards, with envelopes to match, 50 cents per dozen at Merkel Mail office.

QUEEN THEATRE CALENDAR

Friday-Saturday — Johnny Mack Brown, Fuzzy Knight in "Son of Roaring Dan;" added, 2 reel comedy, cartoon and serial.

Saturday preview, Sunday matinee, Monday night—James Cagney, Ann Sheridan in "City For Conquest;" also Popeye cartoon and News.

Tuesday only — George Tobias, Lucile Fairbanks in "Calling All Husbands;" 2-reel comedy and short subjects.

Free Show for Kiddies 10:00 a. m. Wednesday-Thursday — Claudette Colbert, Ray Milland in "Arise My Love;" also selected short subjects.

"City for Conquest"

A powerful drama of undying love in the big city is the thrilling theme that will greet Queen audiences Saturday preview, Sunday matinee and Monday night when Warner Bros.' new film, "City for Conquest" starts its local run. The film, starring James Cagney and Ann Sheridan, is as turbulent, exciting and dramatic as New York City itself.

Cagney plays the part of an East Side newsboy who discovers that one must be hard and tough to make a dent in the town. Ann Sheridan has the role of a girl who finds that the price of success can be very high. Together they plan to accomplish something—to beat their way through the cruel oppression of the town's seven and a half million struggling souls. Ann dances her way to fame while Cagney tries to earn enough money to marry her and send his brother through music school. They find that the city can be conquered, but only if one can face great tragedy and sacrifice. There is a story that will never be forgotten.

"City for Conquest" has a supporting cast that is unsurpassed. Frank Craven, fine actor of the legitimate theatre, plays the role of a wise, old philosopher who knows his New York inside out—from the Battery to the Bronx. Frank McHugh lends humor to the film as a typical Noo Yawker who is never at a loss for words of advice. Donald Crisp, known for his splendid performances, runs true to form as Cagney's unswerving pal. Arthur Kennedy, fresh from the New York stage, is cast as Cagney's brother, who composes a "Symphony of the Magic Isle" that is the soul and tempo of New York.

Also featured in the brilliant cast are George Tobias, Jerome Coman, Elia Kazan, Joyce Compton, Lee Patrick, Anthony Quinn, Blanche Yurke, George Lloyd, Thurston Hall, Ben Weldon, John Arledge, Ed Keane, Selmer Jackson and Joseph Creham. Max Steiner wrote the accompanying musical score.

"Arise, My Love"

With the magnificent surge of the drama of our times; with the frothy light-hearted gayety of romance in Paris; with the poignance of love on the brink of disaster, a stirring new photoplay brings Claudette Colbert and Ray Milland to the Queen theatre Wednesday, (Christmas day), and Thursday.

It is "Arise, My Love," produced by Arthur Hornblow and directed with all the genius and insight that have characterized the previous motion pictures of Mitchell Leisen.

"Arise, My Love" is the story of fighters. Claudette Colbert, as an audacious newspaper woman, fights the despots of Europe with words. Ray Milland, a flying fool, speaks above the clouds with roaring machine guns.

They meet in Spain where she saves his life. He pursues her deliriously to Paris, where in one outrageously gay scene Claudette locks her shoes in the safe to keep her heart from straying. But it is inevitable that they lose their hearts to each other. With the realization of love comes a new timidity. They want to run to the safety of America. They almost do, but a submarine intervenes and they are thrown back on the shores of Europe in the middle of the battle of France.

Their story goes on to the bitter end at the Forest of Compiègne, and here the lovers meet again and resolve to come back to America. But now it is with chins held high and hearts singing, because they are ready to tell their land what the great fight is about.

With the two leading roles splendidly portrayed by Miss Colbert and Milland, there is no lack of fine supporting characters. Outstanding are the portrayal of a harassed press editor by Walter Abel, and the brief but unforgettable role played by Esther Dale. This column recommends an evening with "Arise, My Love" as the perfect tonic for your doubts and fears. See it. You'll love it!

Directors of League Contests are Named

Directors of the Interscholastic League contests to be held March 21 and 22 were announced this week by L. E. Dudley, superintendent of the Abilene Public schools.

H. S. Fatherree, high school principal, is director general. Others are Comer Clay, in charge of debate; E. C. Polk, senior declamation; Benjamine Speck, junior declamation; Holmes Webb, ward school boys declamation; Mrs. L. H. Harrison, ward school girls declamation; Pansy Gardner, extempore speech; Mrs. Selma Bishop, high school ready writers; Elizabeth Bowyer, ward school ready writers; Bobbie Clack, high school spelling; Mrs. Pat Henagan, high school art; C. B. Ford, one-act play; Ida Mae Spann, story telling; D. A. Mayhew, high school athletics; S. E. Pass, ward school athletics.

A banquet has been planned for the teachers Tuesday, Jan. 28, at 7 o'clock, in the high school cafeteria, Abilene. Comer Clay will be master of ceremonies, and music will be furnished by the Abilene high school orchestra under the direction of R. T. Bynum. Dr. T. H. Taylor, president of Howard Payne college, will be the principal speaker for the evening. Arrangements for the banquet are in the hands of Mrs. Pat Henagan, Miss Odell Johnson and Fred McKinzie.

Studies made by the safety committee of the General Federation of Women's clubs show that 81 per cent of pedestrians look neither way before crossing a street; 17 per cent look in only one direction, and two per cent look both ways.

Just say you saw it in The Mail.

Bronchial Coughs

Acts Like a Flash—Highly Praised
Spend a few cents today at any good drug store for a bottle of Buckley's CANADIOL Mixture (triple acting)—take a couple of doses at bedtime—feel its instant powerful effective action spread thru throat, head and bronchial tubes. It starts at once to loosen up thick, choking phlegm—soothe the raw membranes and make breathing easier.
But be sure you get Buckley's CANADIOL Mixture—by far the largest selling medicine for coughs due to colds, in cold wintry Canada. Over 10 million bottles sold.
MERKEL DRUG COMPANY

Specials for Friday and Saturday

We want to say hello to our friends and customers who have been so loyal to us to make our business good, so we want to show our appreciation by giving you all a nice treat before Christmas. Come and bring your wife and children and friends on — — —

SATURDAY, DEC. 21

Drink all the coffee you want, get our prices on nuts, candy and fruits. Box of groceries to be given away. WE HAVE A FULL LINE OF FRESH GROCERIES. Prices to suit your pocketbook. Also a full line of sack feed and chicken feed.

J. Y. MELTON

EAST FRONT STREET MERKEL, TEXAS

Just Say the Word—

And we'll study your insurance needs and present you with our written recommendations. No obligation, of course.

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FARM LOANS AND ALL KINDS OF INSURANCE

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DO YOU — —
"Swap for Cash?"
We give \$2.00 worth of change tickets for each dollar paid on subscriptions — —
The Merkel Mail
"Your Home Town Newspaper"



Only **FOUR** More Shopping Days Till Christmas

FURNITURE is a very truly grand gift . . . it is certain to make Christmas happier and to spread its cheer and comfort for many years to come, and at a cost so surprisingly small. Buy one piece, or a roomful, with the knowledge that the Holiday Season will be happier because of your wise choosing. Come in and inspect our large stock before you complete your gift selections.

TO BE SOLD . . .

Dec. 20 - 3 p.m.

For only **\$1.00** Each

A FOUR-PIECE BEDROOM SUITE

— and —

TWO-PIECE LIVING ROOM SUITE

BARROW-SHEPPARD CO.

MERKEL, TEXAS

EXTRA SPECIAL PRICES FOR CHRISTMAS

GOOD from DEC. 18 to DEC. 26

- Light Crust Flour 48 lbs. \$1.58
- Light Crust Flour 24 lbs. 80c
- All Christmas Candies Lb. 10c
- GRAPEFRUIT Sack \$1.25
- TEXAS ORANGES Bushel \$1.25
- FRESH TOMATOES Lb. 5c
- CRYSTAL SOAP 5 bars 19c
- Paper Shell Pecans, Burket Lb. 18c
- FOLGER'S COFFEE Lb. 24c
- SPUDS 10 lbs. 14c
- MATCHES 6 boxes 14c
- SUNRAY CRACKERS 2 lbs. 13c

SEE US BEFORE SELLING YOUR EGGS
Wishing You a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
Front Street Grocery
L. M. MELTON, Prop.



BAIRD READER PRESENTED AT LUNCHEON.

Mrs. Henry West extended genuine Yuletide hospitality to members of her Sunday School class, "The Builders," at a luncheon and seated program on last Saturday. Brilliantly lighted cellophane bells greeted guests with the aroma of pine, a blazing fire and the soft glow of candlelight permeated an atmosphere idyllic, coming in from the ice outside.

A seasonal luncheon was served buffet style at one o'clock. Places were found with boutonnières of holly berries. Mrs. Connor Robinson presented Mrs. West with a gift from the class, and Mrs. Ralph Walker, who has removed to Abilene to make her home, was remembered with a gift from the class.

Mesdames S. D. Gamble, F. C. McFarland and David Gamble called during the program hour, which was presented by Mrs. C. H. Sidaous of Baird. Mrs. Sidaous read the beautiful Christmas story, "The Vision of Sir Launfal," by Lowell. She responded most graciously with a more modern poem, "O Wondrous Night." The program closed by all singing "Silent Night," with Mrs. Sidney Foy at the piano.

Members of the class are: Mesdames John West, Jim West, Connor Robinson, Delma Compton, Bill Teaff, Lem Dudley, Harry Barnett, Andrew Baker, Joe Ramsey and Miss Mamie Ellis and other guests, Mrs. Pete West, Mrs. R. A. Walker, Mrs. Sidney Foy, Mrs. C. H. Sidaous and Miss Christine Collins.

BAPTIST YOUNG PEOPLE GIVEN CHRISTMAS PARTY.

Sponsors for the Young People's department of the Baptist church assumed hostess roles for a lovely Christmas party on last Friday evening. Mistletoe and ferns were decorations where a white lighted tree furnished inspiration for a very impressive program on "Let Your Light Shine." Master of ceremonies was L. B. Gibson, and Rev. Cooper Waters gave the main address of the evening.

At the refreshment hour delectable chicken salad in orange cups, fruit cake, olives, mints and spiced tea were served with plate favors of lighted candles in candy holders. Those present were Messrs. and Mesdames Winston Polley, W. A. McCandless, Cooper Waters, Mesdames R. H. Mathews, Twyman Collins, Owen Robertson; Misses Sue Bird, Mildred Bird, Nadine Clack, Dot Swafford, Clara White, Ruth Roberts, Thelma Mathews, Pearl Mathews, Grovone Ford, Vivian Davis; Messrs. L. B. Gibson, Vernon Davis, Weldon Davis, Howard Carson, Douglas McCoy, Don Warren and Joseph Winter.

THEATRE PARTY.

On Monday evening a group of Methodist young people enjoyed a theatre party with Mrs. N. T. Hodge, Miss Mary Collins, Miss La Verne Dunbar and Jimmy Bickley co-hostesses and host. Following a happy evening spent at the local cinema, all

reassembled at Cotton's cafe where they were served refreshments.

Those present for this delightfully informal party were Misses Ruth West, La Verne Dunbar, Hettie Logan Clay, Imogene Schulze, Mary Collins; Messrs. Billie George Gant, Ben Ferguson, J. V. Patterson, Marvin Hunter, Ben Robert Hicks, Carroll McAninch, Jimmy Bickley, A. C. Sears and his guest, Kenneth Campbell.

ALATHEAN CLASS.

The Alathean class of the First Baptist church had their annual Christmas luncheon Wednesday, Dec. 11, in the basement of the church, serving a typical Christmas menu. After the gifts were distributed, Mrs. J. W. McConnell read some stories, both seasonal and humorous.

Those enjoying the occasion were Mesdames O. B. Tatum, Chas. West, Beulah Tipton, W. F. Patterson, A. H. Zollinger, F. A. Polley, L. D. Chapman, G. M. Sharp, W. C. Burleson, S. O. Patton, W. L. Johnson, J. S. Swann, W. W. Wheeler, W. T. Johnson, Myrtle Barnett, W. O. Boney, H. P. Allen, W. A. McCandless, Fred A. Baker, E. M. McDonald, J. Ben Campbell, J. M. Williamson, J. W. McConnell, Dunning McConnell, E. O. Carson, J. M. Meeks and R. P. Fields.

JUNIOR STUDY CLUB.

Mrs. Pete West was hostess to the Junior Study club on Thursday afternoon of last week. The program was introduced by a discussion of "Authors and Novels of Today," by Mrs. J. E. Boaz, Jr., followed by a book review, "Mrs. Miniver" (Jan Struther), by Mrs. Wrenn Durham.

One guest, Mrs. Byron Patterson, was present. Members present were Mesdames J. E. Boaz, Jr., Wrenn Durham, Raymond Ferguson, Andy Shouse, Elmo Collins, N. T. Hodge, L. C. Zehnpfennig, Geo. T. Moore, Max Swafford, W. T. Sadler, Chester Collinsworth, Pete West and David Gamble; Misses Hettie Logan Clay, Imogene Schulze, Billie Gardner, Frances Cleveland, La Verne Dunbar, Ruth West, Mary Collins, Mildred Hamm.

FIDELIS MATRONS.

Featuring a Christmas note in all party appointments, the Fidelis Matrons class of the First Baptist church was entertained Tuesday evening of last week in the home of Mrs. W. T. Sadler.

Arranged on the living room mantle was a Christmas reindeer scene and marking places for foursome tables were red and green place cards. Candle-centered stars were table centerpieces.

After a sumptuous Christmas dinner of turkey with all the trimmings, the guests were entertained by Mrs. Richard Young and Miss Sandra Sadler playing piano selections. Mrs. Owen Robertson gave the devotional, after which Miss Maureen Moore closed the program with the song,

"Star of the East," accompanied by Miss Pearl Mathews.

Guests present were: Misses Maureen Moore, Pearl Mathews, Sandra Sadler and Johnnie Soars; Mesdames Owen Robertson, J. E. Boaz, Jr., David Gamble, Dutch Bryant, Sam Swann, Byron Dingle, Worth Lee, E. Y. Bailey, Nell Lee, H. W. Lemens, Geo. T. Moore, Max Swafford, L. V. Moore, E. B. Wallace, Ruble Johnson, Buck Leach, C. B. Knight, W. T. Sadler, Bill Sledge, Bob Fowler, Wynona Scroggins, Richard Young and Dean Higgins.

BUFFET SUPPER.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Cox entertained the employees of Taylor Electric Co-Operative, Inc., and those employed by the engineering firm on the project with a buffet supper in their home Tuesday evening.

Those present were Mr. and Mrs. T. V. Bright, Mr. and Mrs. Winston Polley, Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Bird, F. E. Everett, Jr., Miss Elna Tucker and Miss Ruth Roberts.

O. E. S. MEETING.

The Order of the Eastern Star met in regular session Tuesday, Dec. 9. After the business was taken care of, plans were made for a Christmas party to be held Saturday, Dec. 21, at 3 p. m. when gifts will be exchanged. All members are invited.

Those attending were: Mr. and Mrs. Gene Reese, Mr. and Mrs. Andy Shouse, Mrs. Aurra Johnson, Mrs. R. J. Miller, Mrs. Henry Ueckert, Mrs. J. M. Williamson, Mrs. Vernie Merritt and Mrs. Ida Sharp.

ANNIVERSARY DINNER.

Supt. and Mrs. Connor Robinson entertained Wednesday, Dec. 18, in their home on the occasion of the 39th anniversary of Mrs. Robinson's parents, Rev. and Mrs. E. B. Surface, of Abilene. Rev. Mr. Surface and Mrs. Surface, accompanied by Mrs. John Guitar, Sr., were dinner guests, with all table appointments carrying out the Yuletide spirit.

WEDDING ANNOUNCED.

Mr. J. M. Garrett is announcing the marriage of his youngest daughter, Iris, to Mr. Forrest Harper, principal of the ward school at Hamilton. The wedding took place at 4 o'clock Monday afternoon at Hamilton.

STALLS-CARSON.

Marriage of Miss Dorothy Carson of Stamford and Marshall Stalls, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Stalls, was solemnized at 6:30 Tuesday evening at Stamford. They were attended by Felix Stalls, brother of the groom, and a sister of the bride.

Mrs. Stalls has been employed by the Southwestern Bell Telephone company, while the groom is a member of the office force of the Dunn Bros. trucking company at Odessa, where they will make their home.

RURAL SOCIETY

THOMPSON-SANDERS.

On December 6, Miss Bersha Mae Thompson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Thompson of Stith, became the bride of J. D. Sanders of Vancouver, Wash. The groom is the only son of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Sanders of Odessa.

The wedding took place at Odessa at 3 o'clock. The only attendants of the couple were sisters of the groom, Mrs. M. L. Barker and Mrs. R. C. Davis of Brownwood.

The bride was attractively attired in a royal blue dress with black accessories. She was a Merkel graduate of 1939.

FAREWELL PARTY.

Misses Pug Tarpley and Clarice Fay Blair were hostesses Thursday night of last week honoring Miss Bobbie Charlene Burnett with a farewell party in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Boyd Tarpley of Noodle.

The house was beautifully decorated and the Christmas theme was carried out in colors of red and green. Games were played, and about 10:30 Miss Burnett was led to a Christmas tree loaded with gifts.

Those who enjoyed the party were: Misses Erma and Betty Lou Herring, Mary Jo and Bobbie Bicknell, Billie Jean Sosebee, Yvonne Howard, Radie Tarpley, Iris Eoff, Mernel Hudson, Flora Dec Murdock, Clara Deutschman, Dorothy Jean Jackson, Crenella and Sis Swope, Ruthie Sosebee and Bobbie Charlene Burnett.

Messrs. Harold Clemmer, Harlon Winter, Tip Carter, Glenn Tarpley, Harold Sosebee, Grady Carr, E. W. Herring, Clinton Bird, Bus Martin and Herbert Montgomery and the hostesses, Clarice Fay Blair and Pug Tarpley.

BIRTHDAY DINNER.

Mrs. J. H. Clark honored her husband, who was 50 years old, with a birthday dinner Sunday; it was also their 31st wedding anniversary. Guests were Mr. Clark's sisters, Mrs.

In The Churches

SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.

Only 335 were present at the six reporting Sunday Schools in Merkel last Sunday, the small number being due to the freezing weather and icy streets. On the previous Sunday, the attendance was 615 and a year ago, 690.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH.

Sunday School at 10 a. m. Morning sermon at 11. Training Union 6. Special Christmas program at the evening hour, 7 p. m.

Teachers' and officers' meeting and prayer meeting 7 Wednesday evening.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

Sunday School at 10 a. m. is the only service at our church. Everyone is urged to attend regularly.

W. M. Elliott, Clerk of Session.

CHURCH OF CHRIST.

Sunday services: Bible classes 9:45, preaching at 10:45, young people's meeting at 6:15. Preaching at 7 p. m. Wednesday evening Bible study at 7 o'clock.

You are invited to attend.

Lee Starnes, Minister.

NAZARENE CHURCH.

Sunday School 10 a. m. Preaching 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. NYPS at 6:30 Sunday evening. Prayer meeting Wednesday evening at 7:30 o'clock.

Everyone is cordially invited to these services.

G. O. Crow, Pastor.

FUNDAMENTALIST BAPTIST CHURCH.

Preaching Saturday night at 7 o'clock. Sunday School 9:45 a. m. Preaching 11 a. m. and 7 p. m. Prayer meeting Wednesday evening at 7.

M. C. Miller, Pastor.

NUBIA M. E. CHURCH.

Both services at the M. E. church, Nubia, were retarded on account of

Tom Coats and Mrs. Mose Brown; his father, H. D. Clark; Tom Coats, Mose Brown, one brother, Ben Clark, and Mrs. Clark.

All of his children were present except their oldest girl, Mrs. M. B. Jones of Hamlin, who could not come. Others present were Mr. and Mrs. Chas. West, Mr. and Mrs. D. E. Hughes, Benard, Woodrow, Junior, Willie Joe and Patsy Jean Clark.

(Additional Rural Society on Page Two.)

the winter weather in general last Sunday.

Sunday School will start at 10 a. m. Sunday, Dec. 22, and after Sunday School there will be a Christmas program and tree. Every one is invited to bring a gift and draw a name for a pal to give it to and at the same time you will be a pal for some one else and will receive a gift. This is just another way to help break down any selfish or sluggish idea we might have at Christmas time.

There will be League and singing Sunday night.

—Reporter.

NEW LIVE OAK CHURCH.

Scheduled for next Sunday evening, Dec. 22, at 6:30, is a Christmas program followed by a tree, which is to be held at the New Live Oak Baptist church in the Butman community. Everyone is invited to attend. Santa is to be there, too, also fruits for the kiddies. We shall draw for gifts and everyone that brings a gift shall receive one.

Also, Rev. A. C. Healer will preach Sunday morning at 11 and Sunday School will be at 10 o'clock. You are welcome.

—Reporter.

Sunday is Home Day For Texas Methodists

The children's division of the Methodist church will present a Christmas program at the Sunday School assembly hour, beginning at 9:45.

The morning worship service will feature the Christmas theme and there will be special Christmas music. Rev. C. A. Bickley, district superintendent, will preach at 11 a. m. The children of the church will have a Christmas tree and a brief program in their department room Sunday afternoon at 5:30.

The evening service hour, which is from 7 until 8 o'clock, will be given to a simple Christmas service consisting of selections from the New Testament and several well known carols and songs. These Scriptures and music selections will combine to relate the account of the birth of Jesus.

Sunday will also be Methodist Home day for Merkel Methodists, as well as others throughout the state. Every Christmas, free will offerings are made for the support of the Methodist Home at Waco where the Methodist churches of Texas are maintaining the home for over 400 orphans. The complete program of the Home, including food, shelter, supplies, education and every item of maintenance, is raised for the entire year through the Christmas offerings.

Adding machine rolls 15c or two for 25c; regular retail price every where. For sale at the Merkel Mail.

Dry Goods Sales Up.
New York, Dec. 19.—A nationwide average dollar sales gain of eight per cent and individual store increases running as high as 30 per cent over the last Christmas shopping season were reported Tuesday by the National Retail Dry Goods association.

ELI CASE and SON
GROCERY & MARKET
PHONE 234

CHRISTMAS SPECIALS!
Friday, Saturday, Monday and Tuesday

1 lb. Pkgs. Powdered or Brown Sugar 3 for 25c

No. 2 Cans Pecan Valley Green Beans 3 for 25c

Pure Cane — Kraft Bags Sugar 10 lbs. 46c

Catsup 14 oz. bot. 10c

Mince Meat 3 pkg. 25c

Sour Pickles ... Qt. jar 10c

Long Shred Cocoanut LB. 19c

Packed in Heavy Syrup Peaches, No. 2 1/2, 15c

Del Monte Pears No. 2 1/2 can 22c

Cranberry Sauce, Large can 15c

Del Monte Crushed P'Apple 3 Cans 25

Lettuce Head 5c

Extra Nice Celery Stalk 10c

Carrots .. 3 bch. 10c

Fresh Large Size Cocoanuts 2 for 15c

SPECIAL PRICES ON Oranges, Apples, Bananas, Etc.
See Our Stock Before You Buy

Large Winesap Apples Doz. 25c

Calif. Medium Size Oranges .. Doz. 19c

Walnuts, Almonds, Pecans, Brazil Nuts, Etc.

Cranberries Qt. 23c

Mixed Candy 2 lbs. 25c

Sliced Breakfast Bacon LB. 25c

Lean Pork Chops LB. 19c

Brisket Roast Lb. 15c

Chuck Steak.. Lb. 20c

Fleischmann's Yeast 3 for 10c

Oleo Lb. 10c

- FRESH OYSTERS -

QUEEN THEATRE
"Showing the Pick of Pictures for Less"

FRIDAY-SATURDAY
JOHNNY MACK BROWN — FUZZY KNIGHT
"SONS OF ROARING DAN"
Added: 2-Reel Comedy, Cartoon and Serial

Saturday Preview, 11 p. m., Sunday-Monday
JAMES CAGNEY — ANN SHERIDAN
"CITY FOR CONQUEST"
Also Popeye Cartoon and News

TUESDAY ONLY—Bargain Nite—10c-15c
GEORGE TOBIAS — LUCILE FAIRBANKS
"CALLING ALL HUSBANDS"
2-Reel Comedy and Short Subject
FREE SHOW for the Kiddies 10 a. m.

WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY
CLAUDETTE COLBERT — RAY MILLAND
In "ARISE, MY LOVE"
Selected Short Subjects

Merkel Drug Co.

GIFT SUGGESTIONS

ELGIN and BROADWAY WATCHES
Prophylactic Comb and Brush Sets
Birthstone and Cameo Rings
MASONIC RINGS and PINS
LOCKETS and CAMEO PENDANTS
PARKER and SHEAFFER PENS
COTY FITTED TRAVEL KITS

Pangburn Candy
Lucien Lelong Sets
Silex Coffee Makers
Old Spice Shave Mugs
Luxor Sets
Cameras
Old Spice Sets

Evening in Paris Sets
Max Factor Sets
Amity Travel Kits
Perfumes
Cigarette Lighters
Richard Hudnut Set
Military Brush Sets