

The Cross Plains Review

VOL. XVI

CROSS PLAINS, TEXAS, FRIDAY, DEC. 18, 1925

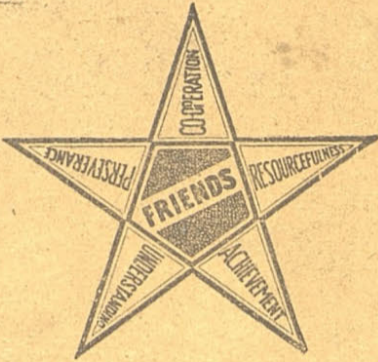
No 40

3 More Producing Wells Brought in For Town-site; Total 65

This Bank Wishes-

you an overflow of undisturbed Happiness, peace of mind and body, warmth of heart and lasting joy of life.

In the gladsome spirit of Yuletide we send greeting to all our friends and patrons.



Farmers National Bank

Read our messages appearing in Farm and Ranch



OF CROSS PLAINS, TEXAS

"A Bank of Personal Service"

TOWNSITE FIELD CONTINUES ACTIVE, WITH MORE WELLS

Three more producers were completed in townsite this week, making grand total of 65.

Brannon and Murry finished their well on block 14 for 100 barrels, and well on block No. 4 for 75 barrels. Hornbeak, et al, completed their well on block 33 for 75 barrels. Cranfills & Renolds had small well on block 37; they gave it a heavy shot and damaged the casing so it may be several days before the well is completed. Operators continue active in shallow field and at Cross Cut.

Much activity on enlarged scale here is expected after the first of the year.

The following is Wednesday's drilling report in townsite:

Mook Texas, Canyon O. & G. Co. & M. E. Wakefield, McDonough No. 4, spudding.

Mitchell, Jones & May, block 15, shut down

Cranfill-Reynold, Campbell No. 1, drilling at 720

Brannon & Murry, block 44, 1345 feet

Brannon & Murry, block 28, drilling at 800.

Mitchell, Jones & May, block 24, drilling at 875.

Mitchell, Jones & May, block 13, 1310 feet

Brannon & Murry, block 5, drilling at 1155

J. G. Weiler, block 31, rig completed.

J. G. Weiler, block 32, rigging up.

Kirk, Brewer & Stone, block 3, Mathis addition, 630

W. D. Riddle, block 26, spudding, 500

Shackelford, Oil Co., block 29, rigging up

Williams & Mason block 27, 270

Guffey, et al, block 18, spudding, Ruff Drilling Co., et al block 38, 580

Savens, et al, Thorne 1, spudding Nichols et al, block 16, 875

McCamy, Neeb & Stone, Blk 11 820

Cranfill & Reynolds blk. 6, rig. Hamill Drilling Co. blk. 24, 150 ft.

Kirk, Brewer & Stone, et al, No. 2 on block 29, 700.

STOCKHOLDERS ELECT DIRECTORS FOR SANITORIUM

Temporary organization of the new Cross Plains Sanitorium Company was completed at a meeting of the stockholders, held in the reception rooms of the new Sanitorium building Monday night.

The new enterprise is capitalized at \$5000.00 and is in reality a community hospital, the stock being subscribed in amounts by local people and it being the intention to operate the institution rather from the standpoint of meeting an imperative need of this section, than a means of profit to the stockholders.

According to a report of the financial committee, about fifty per cent of the capital stock has been subscribed in amounts ranging from \$25.00 to \$500.00, and an other campaign will be launched to place the remaining stock now held by the underwriters of the proposition. A clause of the bylaws now being prepared for adoption, will limit stock subscribers to \$500.00 each individual.

The temporary building and equipment committee headed by Rev. S. P. Collins, reported the building ready for occupancy and sufficient equipment installed to begin caring for emergency cases at once. Application for charter is now being made, under the name of the Cross Plains Sanitorium Co. and the doors will be open to patients as soon as a quota of nurses can be employed.

A public reception and house warming attended by almost the entire community was held Saturday last, to acquaint the public with the splendid appointments of the institution.

A vote of thanks was extended by the stockholders at Monday night's meeting to Rev. S. P. Collins for the efforts in establishing the new institution and the following board was elected to manage its affairs pending the arrival of the State Charter.

Rev. S. P. Collins, Chairman of the board, Mrs. L. A. McDonough, Tom Anderson, J. F. Love, Tom Bryant, Judge Paul V. Harrell and F. M. Gwn board members.

The new building is of stucco exterior and gypsum plaster interior and is as nearly fire proof as possible to build, and is equipped with a most modern and complete operating room, with XRay machine and complete laboratory in connection.

Mr. and Mrs. B. J. Garner entertained several tables of bridge at their home Saturday evening. The house was attractively decorated with cedar and poinsettias and the tallies and favors were in keeping with the season. A delicious luncheon was served late in the evening and prizes were awarded to Mrs. Marion N. Harvey, Mrs. Geo. M. Wilson, Mr. Paul V. Harrell and Mr. Harry B. Baker. Mr. Clayton Fauts of Ranger, was an out of town guest. Next Saturday Mr. and Mrs. George M. Wilson will entertain with a seven o'clock dinner.

The 20th Century Club met with Mrs. Tom Brabham Wednesday afternoon. Mrs. Floyd Gwin acted as leader and a very interesting program given. Refreshments were served during the social hour.

C. OF C. BAND WILL GO TO COLEMAN FRIDAY

The C. of C. Band will make a booster trip to Coleman, Friday Dec. 18th, and will attend the Chamber of Commerce Convention of the Heart of Texas district.

The trip is strictly unofficial, just a booster trip, to let folks know that Cross Plains is still on the map. The Chamber of Commerce Convention of the Oil Belt district, will convene here March 23rd, a great crowd is expected here on that date.

According to Ben L. Russell, agent, Callahan county, 17,939 bales of cotton were shipped in 1925 as compared with 17,000 in the period last year.

W. C. Williams is on a vacation in Worth and is active age 50.

Yuletide Greetings:

May this Yuletide Season bring you an abundance of Happiness and Prosperity. May this Christmas be a joyful one and may the new year bring you added blessings, is our wish for you and yours.

Build a Home First

We have the Plans, Service and Lumber. Whata you say?

JOE H. SHACKELFORD'S
Lumber, Paint and Hardware Store

SCHOOL OUT THIS WEEK FOR HOLIDAY VACATION

The school will be closed for the holiday season and will not open until Jan. 4th. The school was formed. The teachers and county institute at this year. The faculty was working harmoniously and the result has been evidenced by the rapid progress made by the pupils in all departments. The faculty deserves to be commended for their efficient system of training and management. They have a unity of purpose and that is to succeed.

Forbes-Irvin

George Forbes and Miss Bennie Irvin, were married Sunday, at Eastland, by Baptist pastor Rev. Nelson. This young couple has many friends here who will join the Review in extending best wishes for a happy and prosperous union.

MAGAZINE SECTION HAS MOST POPULAR FEATURES

lay the paper over and view these articles. How do you like our front page in the Christmas colors and pictures this week? We go to considerable expense in getting out our magazine section and we hope you like it.

Macon Freeman, Clyde Durringer and Walton Baum, went over to Rising Star Tuesday night to take degree in the Chapter of the Masonic order. They were accompanied by De Anderson and R. W. McNeel.

Oscar Tate and family of Lascruses, N. M. have been visiting relatives here.

May This Yuletide Bring-

U.B. Phifty



you much real happiness and may the New Year be a bright and prosperous one, is the sincere wish of this bank.

Member Federal Reserve System

The First State Bank
CROSS PLAINS, TEXAS

M. E. Wakefield, President, Geo. B. Scott, Cashier
J. A. Bar, vice-Pres. J. D. Conlee, Asst. cashier
John Nelson, E. I. Vestal, Noah Johnson, Tom Bryant and Paul V. Harrell Directors

CROSS PLAINS MARKETS 8,000 BALES OF COTTON

Cross Plains has marketed about 8,000 bales of cotton this fall. This section is developing into a real cotton producing country and the high prices paid for the bulk of the crop, has left the farmers in this community in prosperous condition. It pays to till the soil in the Cross Plains section. The farmer is coming into his own. Many of them have derived large sums of money from the oil interests here.

There will be no Review next week, as previously stated. The next issue will be published January 1st 1926.

We feel sure that our readers will not object, as Christmas only comes once a year. After the first of the year The Review owners plan to make considerable improvements, with increased efficiency.

Mr. and Mrs. Marion Harvey will spend Christmas in Tulsa, Okla.

SPECIAL PROGRAM ENJOYED AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

A special program was given at the First Baptist Church last Sunday night in honor of the oil men, their families and friends; and the house was filled to seating capacity. The program consisted principally of musical numbers, vocal and instrumental, and was enjoyed by all as evidenced by the many expressions of appreciation.

The town orchestra contributed to the program. A number of solos and quartets were rendered. The choir and congregational singing was splendid. The pastor Rev. H. O. Hearn made a short address of welcome, which was impressive and highly appreciated.

Pete Savens, oil operator of Mineral Wells is locating here. He is building a home on North Treet, and will move his family here as soon as his home is completed.

John Helms of El Paso, is visiting Mr. and Mrs. John Westerman.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ANNOUNCES PROGRAM FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

Dec. 20th, Morning Worship at 11 o'clock. Evening service a pageant, "And Kings shall come." This symbolic service takes the place of the serve of worship and challenges the consecration of life to Christ through gifts of Self, Service and Substance. This is the third time our Church has observed the "White Gift" form of Christmas service.

Dec. 24th, 7:30 P. M., A Christmas service of story and song, "The Littlest Son," by Dixie Wilson.

At close of the service we will have the regular S. S. Christmas tree with "Santa" to complete the program.

Mr. Ballew who was run down by a car several weeks ago, was taken to Abilene sanitarium, this week for adjustment of broken bones.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Shackelford visited in Woodson, Tuesday.

Through the untiring efforts of J. W. Westerman with backing of rest City Council, we now have a plentiful supply of water for all home needs.

R. F. Lacy of route 2 had business in town Tuesday.

R. F. Bounds has erected a very neat bungalow west of the school building and J. Ferguson has built a new bungalow in the north part of town.

A letter just received from the Star Telegram advises us that the Bargain Days will be extended to Dec. 31; you still have two weeks to get in on the special rate. The Review agent will send in your subscription or renewal.

Christmas Is Coming

WE ARE NOW DISPLAYING OUR Holiday Line

Shop Early and Get Your Choice

We Compete Only With Dallas, Fort Worth and Other Large Cities on Quality and Prices

The City Drug Store

Member Texas Qualified Druggists' League

Read the League's messages in Farm and Ranch and Holland's Magazine



Merrie Christmas



THE NIGHT BEFORE—



Merry Open House on Christmas Eve

Seamstress Finds a Warm Welcome and Assists at Social Function.

By MARTHA BANNING THOMAS

BEACON HILL was ablaze with candles. They shone in every window. They gleamed through the glass panes of the doorways. Tall candles, short candles; candles of every size and color. For was it not Christmas Eve? And is it not a custom to make merry at this special time in a very charming way?



Groups of Carolers Stood at Street Corners and Sang.

Groups of carolers stood at street corners and sang. Hundreds of people strolled up and down. There was an atmosphere of good will that pervaded the place as surely as wreaths hung in the windows.

Miss Mixer never knew exactly how it happened. She was hurrying home after a hard day's sewing in a dressmaker's shop. She was tired and hungry. Christmas Eve to her merely meant that she was wearier than usual. She stopped for a moment to look in through the door of this happy, shining house. And then, almost unaware of what she did, she walked in. Yes, she actually did. And she had no more idea of who lived there than a maple tree on Boston Common! Something drew her straight to the fireplace. She went as naturally as a bee seeks honey.

The Gladness of the World



When o'er the moonlit, misty fields,
Dumb with the world's great joy,
The shepherds sought the white-walled town,
Where lay the baby boy—
And, oh, the gladness of the world,
The glory of the skies,
Because the longed-for Christ looked up
In happy Mary's eyes!

—Margaret Deland

Merry Christmas, and Paid in Full

How Silas Vaughan Contributed to Yuletide Cheer of the Needy.

By FRANK HERBERT SWEET

IT WAS an eloquent plea for the public building, an urge for its beauty, its value to the town, the educational gift to the eyes of youth. The speaker was hypnotic. He had engaged for that. Purse strings were loosened. Money poured freely—twenty, fifty, a hundred, five hundred. And it was Christmas. They went to Silas Vaughan, the grocer leader, a wealthy man of the town. People looked surreptitiously to see what munificent sum he would give.

At first a hand went into his pocket like the others, then came out and



yield to noble impulses," said a neighbor in a voice that all could hear. The next day was Christmas, with the grocery and drug stores open for a few hours. Silas Vaughan went to his desk and took out twice as many bills as ever had been allowed to accumulate before. Times were hard, and more were obliged to charge. Fully half of the accounts were selected from the others, and several words written at the bottom. That took nearly an hour. Then he slipped the bills into his pocket, put on his hat and coat, and went out, leaving the store to the clerks. It was nearly closing time when he came back. This he occupied with packing and arranging a number of baskets with fruit and nuts and candies, which he sent out anonymously.

CHRISTMAS ZEST

CHISTMAS-zest warms the heart and makes the heart glow. Do not let any outside cynicism rob you of this glow. Do not curl your lip and say you know the elevator man or the grocer's boy or the many others to whom you give a little Christmas joy is just looking for the present and is being polite for that reason.

Enjoy their pleasure in receiving. Enjoy, yourself, in giving. And doesn't every one enjoy presents? When you say:

"He's looking for a Christmas present," you lose half your own joy.

When you say: "What an opportunity to add a little present to another person's Christmas," you have your own full measure of joy.

Christmas zest must not be bereft of any of its spirit.—Mary Graham Bonner.

(© 1925, Western Newspaper Union.)

In the evening came a big church community Christmas tree.

Most of the donors of the public building were there, rather proud of themselves and not above circulating bits of criticism. When Silas entered, there was no uncertain air of chilliness in the room. A few nodded to him, but frigidly.

Silas appeared to take no notice, and found a seat near the front, where apparently he sat calm and unruffled. A poorly-dressed man down in front had been looking about expectantly, as though waiting for some one to speak. Suddenly he rose.

"I ain't no speaker," he called, loudly, "but I got suthin' to say. 'Bout the new buildin', I ain't nothin' for real need. An' I never liked horn-blowin'. Now, it's been an awful hard time for workin' folks, on 'count o' there bein' so much slack. First time I couldn't pay up in twenty years. I couldn't see no Christmas for me. Now, listen: This mornin' a feller carried papers all round. I got one. First, I felt 't was a sheriff thing, like

Then I read on the bottom, 'I hope this will be the beginning of better things for Christmas. Paid in full. Silas Vaughan.' Mine was thirty dollars, 'n' given away



He said all his things up away. But he was appearing frigid. He made a mess of his speech, but he said no one matter. So the bells for Christmas ring, So the little children sing. —Lydia Avery Conley Ward.

Christmas Lesson for Miss Belinda

Promise to Teach Maid to Read and Write, Most Welcome Gift.

By EMILY BURKS ADAMS

CHISTMAS was in evidence everywhere. The whole household were happy, save perhaps one—Belinda, the German maid, who had for six months lived with the Thoburns, a well-to-do family.

"Sure, Mrs. Toburn, I've done all I thought is right to do already, and I'm pleased dot you like it."

"Yes, Belinda, and the house never looked prettier. You're quite an artist as well as a cook. I'm glad you gave up going to visit your sister, for the good dinner tomorrow depends upon you. We shall try to make it up to you, Belinda, in some way."

"Oh, do you think so, Mrs. Toburn? I am sure pleased to know dot I am ob service to you, and you are so good to me already," said Belinda, with a sigh, as she retired to her room.

The Thoburns, old and young, were radio enthusiasts, and were being entertained with Christmas greetings and carols.

"Mother, did you notice that Belinda seemed sad—something unusual for her? I wonder if we have gotten her enough for Christmas?—let's see—there's her beads, handkerchief, hose. She will feel all right tomorrow. She really doesn't mind missing the visit with her sister, does she? She'd rather be doing all this for us, for serving others is what makes one happy, isn't it, mother?"

"Oh, yes, I suppose so, if the service isn't too hard."

"Mother, what do you mean by service being too hard? I think we should enjoy doing things for others. I can never forget the quotation: 'To live in the hearts of others is not to die!' I think we should enjoy doing things for others and not think it hard. What—"

"Well," interrupted Mrs. Thoburn, "you seem to think service hard, as you wouldn't write those letters for Belinda last evening, and one was a Christmas letter to her sister. That, probably was the cause of her sigh."

Amy was listening in and heard over the radio: "Let every true American, as a gift to himself, give the promise that he will teach one foreigner how to read and write, and in so doing, help drive illiteracy from our land. A wonderful gift to your self and to the one taught—As ye have done it unto the least of these, ye have done it unto Me." Merry Christmas to all."

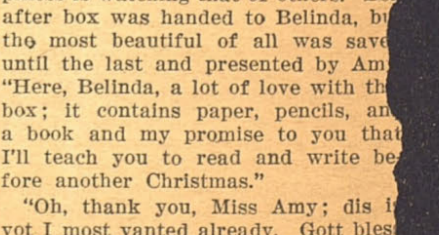
Amy looked at the others, her face beaming. "Oh, mother, our slogan for Educational week was: 'Each one teach one; Lallots, not bullets.'"

"A fine slogan, Amy, if put into practice," remarked Mrs. Thoburn. Christmas morning all gathered around the tree to open their packages. Belinda stood in the background, beaming at the happiness of the others, for next to our own happiness is watching that of others. Boy after box was handed to Belinda, but the most beautiful of all was saved until the last and presented by Amy. "Here, Belinda, a lot of love with the box; it contains paper, pencils, and a book and my promise to you that I'll teach you to read and write before another Christmas."

"Oh, thank you, Miss Amy; dis I vot I most wanted already. Gott bless you!"

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The Willing Worker
Now father makes a dozeeful pause,
A tired and slightly blue man,
A merry myth is Santa Claus,
But father's only human.



THE WIFE-SHIP WOMAN

THE GIRL

SYNOPSIS.—Traveling by canoe on the Mississippi, on his way to Biloxi, in the early days of the settlement of Louisiana, William Brampton, English spy, known to Indians and settlers as the "White Indian," sees a Natchez Indian post a declaration of war against the French. For his own purposes, he hastens to Biloxi to carry the news to Bienville, French governor.

CHAPTER II—Continued

"Ah, but Steur de Bienville? I, your friend, wish by all the saints that you knew him! After you went up the river the last time 40 of his excellency's soldiers deserted, running away to Carolina. And he vowed he would hang you if he ever caught you, for enticing them away."

This was disturbing news. I could trust Joe Labrador, old companion in many a venture, to speak naught but the truth. Then I became angry, as a man will who is wrongfully accused. There was much Bienville could have arranged for me; I might even have seduced his soldiers from their allegiance had it appealed to me as being feasible. So I became incensed now I was charged with something I was innocent of—doubly resentful because I had not had the wit to think of it.

Labrador mistook my silence for hesitation, and earnestly said:

"You must turn back at once before any of Monsieur du Pratz's people see and recognize you. I will go with you as far as Fort Rosalie, perhaps farther. I will forget my new wife. I will go beyond Chartres. Bah! there will be women enough for all of us. Steur de Bienville is in a temper. Now France and Spain have had a peace—smoke he is like a bear with a sore head. For years he has begged to have the seat of government changed to la Nouvelle Orleans. He has been denied. Pardieu. What will the imbeciles in France have? Bienville is to make the Lillies grow in the valley. Yes. He is to send the immigrants on their way as far as the Missouri and the Yazoo. To be sure. But behold! Nothing but fallbirds, worn-out rakes and women of the street have been sent over. And even these so fast he cannot have time to send them to the plantations. Thank the good God some decent women will be coming along now! Bienville is a bad man to have against one."

During Labrador's outburst I had had time to cool off. I remembered the card I had to play, and could not believe the governor would deal harshly with me. I was innocent of deceiving his soldiers away. They had not needed my urging to make them deserters. And small wonder that any were left for garrison duty, now it had become necessary for the governor to quarter them among the Indians, where they dressed—rather, undressed—and painted themselves like savages, and learned ways of idleness, which unfitted them for routine work.

"Where is the governor?" I asked.

"At New Biloxi. If he has not been warned of your coming you have every chance to get away. It is your lucky star that sent you by this cut-off instead of down to la Nouvelle Orleans; for he has spoken ill of you there, and every cabin is ready to gobble you up."

"He is unjust. He wrongs me. I'll see him. No man on earth can send me running to cover when I am innocent," I declared, feeling very virtuous because I was innocent of the crime charged.

He eyed me admiringly, yet pityingly.

"You know you are English," he softly reminded me.

"Runaway English," I gruffly corrected. "There are runaway English, just as there are runaway Frenchmen. I've lived on the river for three years. It suits me. I'll stay."

"Ma foi! Yes, you'll stay!" he growled.

"And you? You go back to Orleans?"

He hesitated, his soul struggling between friendship, fear and hopes of matrimony. One of the last two won for a time; and he muttered:

"I return to Bayou St. Jean. When the ship comes in some of the women are to be sent at once to la Nouvelle Orleans. I shall be there, waiting. I shall marry a good girl. If she turns out bad I can always go deep into the forest."

I could not blame him for avoiding a dangerous company when his presence could aid me none. He was one of the Labradors of Canada, and like the majority of the Canadian born or bred had small liking for the French. Just as the latter looked with contempt on the children of the new world.

He showed his native astuteness in avoiding the governor's displeasure by keeping clear of me for the time. I knew that when it came to a pinch he would cheerfully make any sacrifice to aid me; for there was a small matter between us, born of the dangers of the Illinois country, an affair of my aiding him to escape the stake. And he believed he was indebted to me.

He reasoned that just now he could do me none by accompanying me to Biloxi. More than likely such an association with the White Indian—as he was called because of my forest-runnings—would place him under suspicion. And lastly, were not new wives to be sent to la Nouvelle Orleans, and on the spot would have first choice.

By Hugh Pendexter

Author of "Kings of the Missouri" "Pay Gravel" "A Virginia Scout," etc.

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"My friend," he softly called as his light canoe moved off a few rods toward the St. Jean shore, "if you find the path rough I shall know it. The river is all ears and a great gossip. My ear is to the ground. I shall hear. If the worst comes the river path to the north shall be opened, and we will follow it and find plenty of room to live our lives in the good God's country up there. You are runaway English. I will kiss my wife goodby and be runaway French. Bon jour et bon voyage."

Bienville had vision. He knew the importance of a river port. He had fretted much because the government had ignored his preference for New Orleans. It was the one spot on the river in close proximity to the gulf that would answer for a permanent settlement. I think he would have won his point if not for a rise in the river inundating the little settlement; and Biloxi was again chosen. Like a shuttle-cock the seat of government had shifted back and forth between Biloxi and Mobile.

If any one could seal the Mississippi valley for France it would be Bienville with his bulldog determination and his commonsense. Even though working under the tremendous burden of trash for colonists and the company's frantic orders for the discovery of mines, or anything else which could be immediately realized upon as an asset, he believed he could win out if permitted to develop New Orleans and other river ports. To control the destiny of the valley from the gulf was impractical. One might as well try to govern it from Pensacola as from Mobile or Biloxi. And I was determined to complete my journey and meet this cool-headed, sagacious executive with but one card to play against his belief that I was something more than a renegade Englishman.

For the rest of the trip across the lake I saw no one except a Choctaw hunter after birds, and was opposite the mouth of the River of Pearls, when two Frenchmen in a clumsy sailing packet came along and went into the wind, and gaped at me in amazement.

"The White Indian!" one of them exclaimed, while the sail flapped impatiently against the stub of a mast.

"I was beginning to think you had lost your tongues," I replied. "I am bound for Biloxi. Can you give me a tow?"

They exchanged quick glances, and the elder of the two bowed most graciously and insisted:

"Better than that, monsieur. The pirogue will annoy you. Make it fast for a tow, then come aboard and take your pleasure decently."

The byplay of their eyes had not escaped me; nor did I doubt they had been ordered to watch for my coming. It mattered nothing, however, so long as I wished to make Biloxi. The boat would be more comfortable, and if they were secretly delighted to serve their master, I too, could rejoice at being relieved from the exertion of paddling the heavy pirogue the full distance.

So we set off, contented and gay, the two of them singing snatches of chansons which invariably reflected some amorous sentiment. Between these bits of sentiment they asked me polite questions about the upper river. It was plain that word had been passed along the river to watch for and report my presence. Joe Labrador had said the very huts at New Orleans were ready to "gobble" me up. The nearer I drew to Biloxi the more sharp set would I find this disposition to be.

"What is the latest news, my friends?" I finally managed to ask as their chattering queries slowed down.

"A wife-ship comes to Biloxi. We hurry home," said the younger man with a snicker.

"Silence, Basile," sternly rebuked the other. "Monsieur, the White Indian, we are Jules and Basile Mator, father and son. What the boy says is true; a wife-ship comes. It is bad for man to live alone." And he fetched a deep sigh.

"The Company of the Indies has listened to his excellency's advice and will send no more wantons across the ocean," babbled the young man.

"Silence, child!" commanded the father. "Yes, monsieur, the White—"

"Monsieur Mator, I am William Brampton," I broke in.

"Monsieur Brampton, I am more glad to meet you than you can know. As the boy says, this wife-ship will be filled with honest women. Women one can love and cherish, and take pride to show to one's friends. Good cooks, good—"

"But what of the news?" I interrupted.

Mator pere drew a long face and mournfully replied:

"The last trade law goes bad with us. As for that all our trade laws are bad. To get supplies we must go to Mobile, Pensacola or Massacre Island (the old name for Dauphine island, so called from the mounds of human bones found there). For delivery at la Nouvelle Orleans we must pay five per cent extra, twice that if delivered at Natchez, and 13 per cent—ah, mon Dieu! How that extra premium does climb up—at the Yazoo."

I suppressed a smile to hear how foolishly the Company of the Indies was playing into English hands. It would be hard enough for them to hold their trade without penalizing their customers. The directors of the company could never comprehend that to succeed it must encourage the colonists to work for themselves. "Work for us," was their motto. Mator ran on:

"But that is not the worst, Monsieur Brampton. If we would trade we must send our products to la Nouvelle Orleans, Biloxi, Ship Island, or Mobile. And first-grade tobacco can bring only 25 livres the hundred, rice 20 livres the hundred, the best wheat flour 15 livres, and a livre for a deerskin—think of it!"

"It is hard to be a planter here," I agreed. "Now in Carolina—but I cannot return there."

"We understand monsieur's very sensible emotion. Monsieur cannot return there," said Jules.

His expression and bearing were simplicity itself; his words contained a veiled threat.

"Bah! Who cares?" I cried. "Not I. I have lived in the woods so long I am known as the White Indian. I will never be cooped up in a settlement again, even if free to come and go as I pleased. All I wish now is to find Steur de Bienville."

"Then you will go to Ship Island, for his excellency went there this morning to await the coming of the wife-ship," said Jules.

I rolled my robes in a pillow and stretched out in the bow and fell asleep almost at once. When I awoke it was to see the stars overhead. I slept again, and on my second awakening found we were behind Ship Island and making for the anchorage on the north side, where the masts of a ship were silhouetted against the morning sky. As I surveyed the Bay of Biloxi, the



"Never Mind Who I Am. Leave the Woman Alone."

islands, and the main, I could not blame Bienville for his impatience with the government for insisting on a gulf port. Shoaling of the port on Dauphine had driven the seat of government from Mobile to Biloxi, but those who dwell in Biloxi learned that the reflection from the sand was evil to endure, and that boats left unused were soon destroyed by the worms.

However, it was the unloading of the cargo-ships that supplied the last word in waste and inefficiency. Vessels from France must stop at Ship Island, nearly 15 miles from the settlement. The cargoes were transferred to packet boats which were met by small boats when two or three miles from shore. Nor was this the end of landing the goods, for the small boats in turn took the sand a musket-shot from shore, and their loads were brought in by men, or by carts on high wheels. All this fuss and bother was enough to drive a practical mind to frenzy. When immigrants are substituted for barrels and bales one can easily imagine the confusion and dismay of the newcomers.

I had seen them huddled together without shelter, without food, homeless, starving and dying, while Bienville worked most desperately to distribute them up and down the river.

At that time I stood in high feather with the governor, having accompanied him and his axmen the previous winter to New Orleans. But I had never been on Ship Island when immigrants were arriving. As it was part of my business to learn the kind of men and women, as well as the number, the company was sending over, I was glad the governor was at the island, as otherwise I might not have been allowed to go there.

A priest at Kaskaskia had told me on the down-trip that the reckless shipping of convicts and fallen women had been ordered stopped, and that a more desirable class of home-makers were coming to the valley. The more desirable they were the more aroused the Atlantic provinces would become.

"I have some hard Spanish money for you, Monsieur Mator," I remarked as I sat upright.

"God hear me! But hard money is a fairy hard to catch, now that Monsieur L'as has covered the world with his paper money!" exclaimed the father.

The very packet seemed to sniff the prospect at silver and leaped more buoyantly through the shallow waters.

At Ship Island, where the boats anchored—the Mattors called it Isle Francoise—there was twenty feet of water. As we drew nearer we saw the ship was discharging merchandise, while men and women were roaming about in all directions, receiving their first impressions of the new world.

"Land me near the ship. I'll hunt the governor afoot," I said.

We ran into a cove near the ship, and I tossed Jules some silver pieces, which he kissed enthusiastically and then hid in his clothes.

"It's the Maire," cried Basile, his eyes lighting with boyish interest. "I saw her last season when she came in to Dauphine with the warship Africaine. They were bringing blacks from the Guinea coast. Faugh! A sweet-smelling ship for the ladies!"

"And they are ladies!" cried Jules. "I see one in black who walks like a queen. Wives for some of us. First come, first served!"

And with that he leaped ahead of me and raced up the beach in his haste to present Basile with a step-mother.

It was not until clear of the Maire, which the immigrants seemed to shun, that I sensed the confusion of the scene and observed the amazement and despair of the newcomers. A sergeant, tanned as dark as a Guinea black, was unusually active in pulling and pushing the immigrants about. In disgust I watched this fellow, his dirty paws making too free with the women, and then had my ire aroused by beholding him seize a woman in black by the arm—the one Mator said walked like a queen—and give her a spin that sent her reeling across the sand to fall at my feet.

"Tonnerre de Dieu!" I found myself shouting as I sprang between the brute and the poor thing. "Are these people here for punishment, or to build a new world?"

"Ten million devils! Who are you to interfere with Sergeant Suarez, twenty years in the marines, when he is doing his duty?"

"Never mind who I am. Leave the woman alone."

He crouched for a spring, his eyes glaring like a tree-cat's, and I was ready for him, when to my surprise the rage died out of his face. His dark countenance began twisting up like old parchment. "God is good!" he whispered exultingly. "That brown beard! That big nose! Broll me and boil me if it isn't the White Indian! He! Ho!"

"The White Indian, yes. What of it, you nimblejack?"

"No, no," he softly cried. "I shall not be drawn into a quarrel with monsieur. He is game for my betters. Ah! But this rare news. I leave you to console the wench, monsieur, while I go to the excellency."

I turned to help the woman to her feet, but she was already erect, a slim figure in black, the somber tone of her attire being accented by the mass of yellow hair and the clear ivory pallor of her features. And as I gazed I found myself thinking that the hardships of the voyage had left her all eyes. Several women, attracted by the scene, laughed raucously; and a glance told me Bienville's insistence that decent women only be sent had not been heeded. I would have turned away if not for the unspoken appeal in the oval face of the sergeant's victim.

"I have not thanked you, monsieur," she whispered.

"Nor shall you. I did nothing. But you are ill, mademoiselle."

"A hunter bargaining for a wife!" shrilly screamed a wanton. "They swim out to meet us. Don't waste time on that sniveling thing, my big man."

The woman in black was shrinking from her mates, and well might she, as with foul abuse they upbraided her for trying to "steal the first proper man." There was death in her face as the torrent of filth was loosed, and I would have retreated to save her something of embarrassment had not the Mattors now come up to be instantly pounced upon by the harpies.

"Wek, the hero has met the heroine. Who and what is she?"

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Faithful to His Trust

While attending his sheep on the downs of Pyccombe, near Brighton, George Pearce, an elderly shepherd, tripped over a rut and broke a bone in his leg, says the South Wales News in a recent issue.

His cries for help having passed unheeded, he determined to round up his sheep before seeking aid for himself.

With the aid of his dog he drove them into a pen and fixed several hurdles to prevent their escape.

Then, limping in great pain, he carried three bags of fodder, which he put in the troughs for the lambs.

Having made certain that his charges would not suffer, Pearce limped over rough ground to his cottage, nearly two miles away, and there collapsed at the door.

Pride in Work

Whatever be the conditions which surround you in your work, do it with high thought and noble purpose. Do not whine and complain because of your unhappy lot; but accept it, humble and obscure as it may be, knowing that it is possible to clean out a gutter with the self-respecting dignity of a monarch, or to blacken a shoe with the enthusiasm of a religionist.—Hugh O. Pentecost

Daddy's Evening Fairy Tale
By Mary Graham Bonner
Illustrated by H. H. ...

THE AIRPLANE GOAT

"Gather around me, goats," said the little black goat who had just come to the zoo.

He had two small horns and was very quiet and uninteresting-looking.

But the other animals had heard that the little black goat had had many wonderful experiences.

He was a goat worth knowing.

But there were no other goats in the house where he had been given special room.

It was the house belonging to the antelopes or the deer family, and the giraffes, the camels and the tapirs, as well as the gloomy gnu and the elands.

"Pardon me if I make a mistake," he added.

"In fact, I did make a mistake. I should not have said, 'Gather around me, goats,' for I see that there are no goats to gather around me."

"Well, gather around me, animals!" "We can't gather around you," said one of the tapirs, "for we are all in separate yards, though the yards are all joined together and attached to our big house."

"Well, we can listen if the goat will talk loud enough," suggested Mrs. Eland.

"Good idea," said the camel. "I am used to adventures and would like to hear of others."

"I will talk so you all can hear," said the black goat. "I want you all to hear."

They all smiled in their various, funny, animal ways, and the little black goat commenced his tale.

"Animals," he said, "I have been up in the air and yet I am not a bird."

"No, a goat is not any relation to a bird—not even distantly connected with the bird family."

"But there are others who go up in the air in air boats known as airplanes."

"They are not birds. They are people. And because they haven't wings as birds have they travel in air ships which have wings."

"You don't mean to say that you have been in an airship or airplane?" the other animals all whispered in hushed and solemn voices.

They were very much impressed.

They had heard of airplanes from children who had come to the zoo and who had talked so much of them that they had often paid too little attention to the animals.

"Yes," said the goat.

"Yes," he repeated. "I have been up in an airplane with two men. I was the only goat present."

"They were making themselves perfect in the art of being birds, or of flying, I forget which they called it, before they should take longer and more thrilling trips."

"But on a four-hundred-mile journey they took me!"

"They called me their mascot which means something that brings good luck. They had good luck when I was with them, and they said they felt that they were never going to lose their luck."

"But, oh, what an honor it is to be an airplane goat! I feel I can call myself that now."

"Indeed you can," the other animals said. "We are proud to have you with us."

"We're so glad to have heard of your adventures, and we shall hope to bear more of this business of flying and what you felt like and all."

"Oh, I felt splendid," said the goat. "I was all right. But it's nice to get such a welcome."

"I feel quite important."

"You are important," the others all said.

And they were very glad that he belonged to their house in the zoo.

She Knew the Breed

Little Marion and her next-door neighbor Donald were engaged in an absorbing conversation.

"What are anarchists?" asked Little Marion.

"They want everything anyone else has got, and they never wash themselves," he replied.

"Oh, yes!" cried Little Marion with enthusiasm. "I see—they are just like boys grown up!"

Young America

Little Mabel came home from school with a report which showed that she was excellent in all her studies but that she was very poor in deportment. Her mother quizzed her to find out what was wrong. At last little Mabel blurted out: "All I did was to stand on my head with my feet against the wall, to prove I could do it."—Trouveur de Sentiers.

Heals Leg Sores
Peterson's Ointment

To the millions of people who use Peterson's Ointment for piles, eczema, salt rheum, pimply skin, sore feet and chafing, Peterson says, "Tell any sufferer from old sores that its mighty healing power is wonderful." All druggists, 60 cents.

To-NIGHT Tomorrow Alright
A vegetable aperient, adds tone and vigor to the digestive and eliminative system, improves the appetite, relieves Sick Headache and Biliousness, corrects Constipation.
Used for over 30 years
Chips off the Old Block
DR. PEARY'S RED CROSS BALL BLUE TABLETS
One-third the regular dose. Made of same ingredients, then candy coated. For children and adults.
SOLD BY YOUR DRUGGIST

The Purity of Cuticura
Makes It Unexcelled
For All Toilet Purposes

The tanner pays more attention to the bark than to the bite.

For your daughter's sake, use Red Cross Ball Blue in the laundry. She will then have that dainty, well-groomed appearance that girls admire.—Advertisement.

If blood will tell, perhaps that is why murder will out.

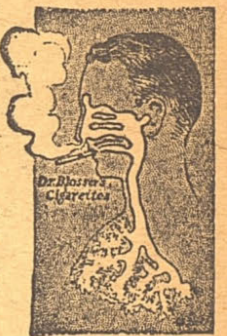
One 50-cent bottle of Dr. Peary's "Dead Shot" will save money, time, anxiety and health. One dose expels Worms or Tapeworm. 312 Pearl St., N. Y. Adv.

Rise above little things.

HOW TO HAVE
A CLEAR HEAD

Here is What You Have So Long Been Seeking.

Do you get up in the morning with a stopped-up nose? Are your breathing passages clogged with a cold? Does your head feel choked up and dull? Have you that mean, low-spirited feeling which comes from lack of proper oxygen? If so, here is a pleasant, harmless cigarette that will clear out the head, nose and throat.



These cigarettes are the formula of Dr. J. W. Blosser, and are composed of medicinal herbs, flowers and berries.

Dr. Blosser's Cigarettes contain no tobacco, no cubebs, nothing habit forming, and are entirely harmless. They are used by women and children as well as men. These are not to be confused with the "cubeb" or other similar cigarettes.

It is so simple to inhale this pleasant and soothing smoke. Much more convenient than using sprays, washes, douches, etc.

If you suffer from catarrh, asthma, catarrhal deafness, or if subject to frequent colds, you should try Dr. Blosser's Remedy which may be had at any drug store; or if you desire proof of its beneficial and pleasant effect, send ten cents (coin or stamps) to The Blosser Co., 74 G H, Atlanta, Ga., for a trial package.

Green's August Flower
for Constipation, Indigestion and Torpid Liver
Relieves that feeling of having eaten unwisely. 30c and 90c bottles. AT ALL DRUGGISTS.

Grove's Tasteless Chill Tonic
Makes the Body Strong. Makes the Blood Rich. 60c

INFLAMED EYES
Use Dr. Thompson's Eyewater. Buy at your druggist's or 121 River, Troy, N. Y. Booklet.

WEAR A SUIT OF Waterproof Whipcord
In Oxford or Brown Colors
Coat and trousers...
Single trousers...
Send for samples at EDWARD S. 100 Hopkins Pl.

1925

GREETINGS

1926

May The New Year

Bring to You and Yours

The Choicest Blessings

With the advent of 1926 we feel particularly grateful to our business friends for a generous patronage in the past.

And while we went another step toward our goal of a more perfect service we hope that in 1926 we may show our appreciation of your loyalty in a more tangible form by serving you even more acceptably.

We are glad that we live in Cross Plains; and wish to assure you that we deem it pleasure to serve you.

Here at the outset of a New and promising year we come to thank you and to pledge anew our best efforts to make this business more like you would have it be than ever before.

May Success, Happiness and Health Be Yours

The Canyon Oil & Gas Co. Inc.
The Cross Plains Gas Co. Inc.
Crabb & McNeel and Tom Bryant

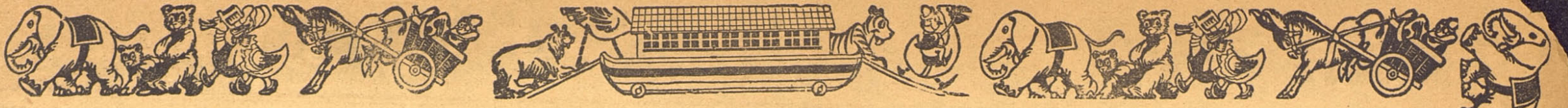
Farmers National Bank Bldg.

Phone 76

1925

GREETINGS

1926



The Racket Store

"Better Goods for Same Money--Same Goods for Less Money"

A Merry Christmas and Best Wishes to All

DO YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING Early

—and do it here; it will pay. We have the biggest and best selected stock of Holiday Goods in Cross Plains. Something here for all the family.

Toys For The Children

that are serviceable and inexpensive. Come in and see what we have for you.



FOR THE LADIES

Leather Hand Purses, at 1.25 to \$20.00
 Silver Knives, Forks and spoons, 20 yr. Community \$13.00
 Many other items too numerous to mention.

FOR MEN

Men's Dress Shirts, newest patterns, prices \$1.25 to \$3.45, a very useful gift.
 Men's Dress Shoes, Hats, newest colors and shapes. Ties
 Silk Sox, Handkerchiefs—nice inexpensive Gifts.

We have added to our large stock a complete line of WALL PAPER in very newest patterns, 10c a roll and up, 18 choice patterns

G. W. CUNNINGHAM



Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Gensley left Saturday for their honey moon trip. They went to Davenport, Iowa, and Chicago, by way of Dallas, where they spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Elson. They plan to return about the first of the year.

A business house of Cross Plains mailed ye editor a letter soliciting his business. The letter heads and letter were printed elsewhere. That was an exception to the rule; most of our business firms are loyal to the home printers.

We will serve a special Christmas dinner. Eat with us
 Mrs. Bob's Cafe.

Notice

Your account with the Joyce Drug Co. is due. Please settle same at Deal Drug Store, at once.
 J. W. Joyce 8-t-p

Meet your friends at the mark down sale at the Cross Plains Mercantile Store.

For Sale

Second Hand Phonographs. We have a bunch of them to sell for cash or on payments,
 J. E. Henkle
 Second Hand Furniture, Pianos
 Sewing machines, & Stoves.

Cross Plains Mercantile Mark down Sale, open Saturday, Dec. 12

We will serve a special Christmas dinner. Eat with us.
 Mrs. Bob's Cafe.

1280 acres of unimproved black land at \$17.00 per acre and three farms for sale six miles north of Melvin, near Salt Gap, at a bargain. I would consider an oil lease on same.
 B. L. Craddock,
 208 Galveston Ave.
 Fort Worth, Texas. 3tp

FOR SALE — or trade, 23 Star, practically new throughout, \$2,500. Address Box 145, Wichita Falls, Texas.

Sewing Machines

New Singer Electric Special, terms \$10.00 cash and \$5.00 per month, good stock of new Singers and some bargains in used machines. We rent and repair.
 J. E. Henkel.

PAUL V. HARRELL

Attorney-at-Law
 Over Guaranty State Ban Bldg.

HART & LESTER
 Attorneys-at-Law
 Farmers National Bank Building
 CROSS PLAINS, TEXAS

JEWELRY AUCTION SALE

SALE NOW GOING ON

2:30 P. M.

And Continues Until Christmas
 Sale Every Afternoon 2:30—Every
 Night At 7 O'Clock

TWO SALES DAILY

7:00 P. M.



Every Person Entering Store Will Be Given FREE TICKET for Gift

Everything Must Go. Thousands of Dollars Worth of High Grade Jewelry Bearing Celebrated Standard Trade-Marks. Consisting of: Elgin, Waltham, Hamilton and Illinois Watches, Ladies Wrist Watches, Diamonds, Pearls, Cut Glass, China, Silverware, Etc., Will Be Placed in the Hands of the Auctioneer for Your Bid.

Every Article Guaranteed as Represented

This Will Be the Selling Sensation of the Year
 Free Gifts Will Be Presented at Each Sale. Diamond Ring Free on Last Day of Sale. Come In and Get Your Free Ticket

Ladies Are Especially Invited

H. MOGUL

"The Watch King of Texas," At

Cross Plains Drug Store

CROSS PLAINS, TEXAS

Everything In Jewelry and Diamonds



The Family's Present to the Family!

A Chevrolet for Christmas—there's a gift suggestion that thousands will welcome! Pool the cost of lesser gifts for father, mother, sister, and brother—and make a Chevrolet the family's present to the family,

Talk it over at the table tonight. Then pay us a visit. Learn how little it will cost to have a good-looking, dependable car in which to make the Christmas calls this year.

Offering quality at low cost, giving you quality features found on the finest cars, a Chevrolet will be a lasting gift—one that you and the whole family will be enjoying long after lesser gifts have been forgotten.

Touring - \$525
 Roadster - 525
 Coupe - 675
 Sedan - 775
 ALL PRICES F. O. B. FLINT, MICHIGAN

Orrell-Dodson Chevrolet Co.

QUALITY AT LOW COST

Every Member of This Organization Wishes You

A Merry Christmas



And we Hope that a Full Measure of Happiness and Prosperity may be Yours Throughout the Coming Year

It is good to live and do business in a town and community like ours and among such people, and we count it a privilege and a pleasure to have served you in the past

CROSS PLAINS MOTOR CO.

"The Most Courteous Service in West Texas"

Lincoln *Ford* Fordson
CARS-TRUCKS-TRACTORS

BEST WISHES

For a Merry Christmas and
Happy and Prosperous
1926

Welcome Service Sta'n
Howard Baum



Season's Greetings

Here's hoping your Christmas will be cheery and bright and that good fortune will smile on you through the days of 1926. And we wish to thank our many patrons for their Liberal patronage in the past; our business relations have been pleasant, and as we're retiring we again thank you one and all.

Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Wilson

Earl Baker, son of Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Baker of Burkett, and Miss Edith Nicholson of Ballinger were married Dec. 1, and will make their home in Ballinger. Their many friends wish them much happiness and prosperity.

The Ballinger Ledger featured this marriage as one of the season's big social events.

Messrs Walker and Phillips of Rowden were in shopping this week.

J. T. Evans of Comanche, visited his daughter Mrs. W. A. Gattin of Burnt Branch, last week.

Harvey Dennis and family of Lamesa, are visiting with relatives here. Mrs. Dennis and children will remain through the holidays.

Misses Mary Helen and Margaret Nicholson spent the past weekend at Cicco, with Glenis Cunningham.

Miss Era Eager, who attends Business College, at Cisco, will spend the holidays with home folk.

Weldon Anderson, who attends school at Kerrville, will spend Christmas with home folk.

Mr. and Mrs Doyle Neeb of route 2 were visiting relatives here the first of the week.

The Box Supper given at Liberty, Friday night for benefit of school, was a decided success.

Mr. Marian Ferguson of Belton and Mr. Edd Killingsworth of Marlin Texas visited C. W. Worthy and family of Cottonwood, last week.

Dr. Tyson and son Clovis had business in Baird, Thursday.

Miss Mary Moragne, who attends C. I. A. at Denton, will spend the holidays with home folk.

Mrs. J. B. Moore of Cottonwood was visiting and shopping here Tuesday.

LOST—A Fire Stone baloon tire on rim, Ford size. Finder please return to, Mrs. G. W. McLain,

Their Christmas and an Odd Tree

One Surprise Package That Brought Joy to Entire Family.

By GERTRUDE WALTON



IT IS plain to see that for this Christmas there will be no tree—I mean one that isn't made from a basket or a table—no real tree. Any kind of a Santa Claus, as well as trees, would die in this terrible place. It would be more bearable if James were home," Mida Lee exclaimed impatiently as she looked lovingly at a photograph of her elder son, James, who, because of government service over the sea, could not spend Christmas with his home circle.

As she looked out over the treeless, snow-covered prairies of her northern

ranch home, eighteen miles from town, where the season's drought had robbed them of garden and grain, her sighs rose to an excited exclamation which brought twelve-year-old Clara from an adjoining room to hear the secret her mother revealed.

"Let us be a tree—and a Santa Claus, too. You may be Santa Claus and I will be a tree laden with packages which you may take from me and give to the boys at the sheep-herders' wagon tomorrow. Father and Lester will be gone to town all day and we will visit the boys and

Social Error

Mrs. Miller had her bridge club to luncheon and the afternoon session at cards. As the last guest departed, Theodora, the little blond daughter, remarked:

"Mother, some one has used one of the guest towels."
"Is it possible?" exclaimed her mother. "Some people don't seem to know what guest towels are for, you know."



May Each Christmas Scene

Remind you of our good wishes for your Yuletide joy and may the bells of the New Year remind you of our Greetings and wishes for your Health and Happiness.

Cross Plains Drug Co.

A Happy CHRISTMAS To You and Yours

The Gift Store

—A selected line of Gifts for Yuletide in Candies, Stationery, Toilet Goods, Silver Ware, and other articles that would be appreciated as Gifts.



Caskey's Drug Store

W. A. McGowen & Sons

Announcing Their Great Slaughter



SALE

BEGINNING FRIDAY DEC. 18TH, 9 A.M.

With this announcement we extend our greetings and best wishes to you, for a Merry Christmas. We promise the purchasing public that this SLAUGHTER SALE will excell all former Sales in this section of Texas for bargains in everything to wear and good things to eat.

We have applied the Price Cutter to our entire \$35,000 Stock. You'll find it easy shopping at McGowen & Sons.

Look for the big Sale Signs and come to this Sale every day.

W. A. McGowen & Sons

CROSS PLAINS, TEXAS

If We Could Only Be Your Santa Claus

We'd fill your needs of life with the things you most need and desire.

To all our patrons we send the season's choicest greetings and express our lasting thanks for favors of the past.

We look to the future in the hope of continuing to serve you.

Gray's Service Station

Phone 125 "Sudden Service" 8th & Main St.

Mrs. McGowen's Fashion Shop

at Balcony of Cross Plains Drug Store
Beginning at Once
A Quit Business Sale

Now I have everything reduced at at price you can't find elsewhere. Have several nice things for your Christmas Shopping, and you will find my prices lower than elsewhere.

I only have fifteen days more to dispose of my stock and must, regardless of price. I want all my customers to take advantage of this. Come make my place your place in town.

Evans Ellis sustained serious injuries last week, when his car went into a ditch on highway on Cisco road.

Mr. Evans who has been critically ill with pneumonia is some better. He is oil scout for Midwest Oil Co., and has rooms at the Anderson home.

His parents arrived Sunday from the state of Colorado, to be with him.

Read the Christmas messages from the business firms in this issue. The Yuletide spirit prevails throughout this issue.

"Uncle Tom" McClure of Pioneer was critically injured, Sunday in an auto wreck. His condition is serious we regret to report.

J. E. Henkle made a business trip to Mineral Wells a few days ago.

Mrs. Jenkins and children have returned from San Antonio, where they visited with relatives for two weeks.

The little son of John Moore sustained a broken arm, Sunday when he fell while playing.

G. E. Nicholson returned from Winters Wednesday where he is managing department store for Higginbotham Bros. & Co., and is moving his family there this week. Our best wishes go with them.

J. Q. Barnes, new manager of Higginbotham Dry Goods Department, spent weekend with relatives at Santa Anna.

Miss Hellen Ogilvy of McMurry College, Abilene, and Ed Ogilvy of Kansas, will spend the holidays with home folk.

Mrs. Hart and daughter Inez, of Cottonwood were in shopping last week.

B. G. Lindley and family of Childress were visiting here this week.

Miss Marie Bryson who teaches near Winters, spent weekend with home folk.

Miss Velma Barr who attends school at Lubbock will spend the holidays here.

O. D. Crocket, recently of San Saba has returned to make his home here.

Geo. Forbes and Tom Bruce had business in Brownwood, Thursday.

Messers Lee and Walter Seward were hunting in the Davis mountains last week.

Cavin and Bowden Freeman, Walton Baum, and Moorman Robertson, visited in Fort Worth last Friday. Moorman took the D. O. K. K. Degree of the K. P. Lodge.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Clifton from north of town, were Friday visitors here.

Bill Wagner made a business trip to San Angelo, first of week.

Revs. Brabham and Hearns and Messers Porter Henderson and Rogers are on a deer hunt this week, in Mason county.

Mrs. Antry and Mrs. Nicholson and son, Gradon, visited in Winters Sunday.

New residences are going up over town, and several additions to the business section have been made the past few weeks. The town continues to maintain a steady growth. Other new business houses will probably be added after the first of the year.

Cross Plains is a great town. 2500 prosperous people enjoying life here, but wouldn't it be nice if we had a sewage system, paved streets, ect.

We are going to have them some time. Why not be enjoying them soon? That is not an expense—but an investment.

Brookie Eubank of Houston, is here to spend the Yuletide with home folk at Dressy.

Lee Champion, the champion turnip grower of Texas, who resides near Cottonwood, presented the Review force with three more giant turnips, last Saturday. He has several bushels of turnips weighing around five pounds. We will have a supply of this choice product for the holidays, so we won't go hungry.

Mesdames Graham and Ruby Hodges motored to Brownwood to meet Mrs. Forrest Dawkins of Taylor, who will remain for the holidays.

Please report all births, weddings, etc to the Review office.

A new filling station is under construction on lots just north of Neebs Produce Co.

Drs. Howard and Young have moved their offices from the City Drug Store to the Cross Plains Drug Store.

BROADWAY
THEATRE

CISCO
STARTING
SUNDAY, DEC. 20

FOR 3--DAYS--3

CHARLIE
CHAPLIN

IN HIS LATEST

"THE

GOLD
RUSH"

THE CHAPLIN GENIUS

Switches the hardships and heartbreaks of humanity's everyday life into hilarious fun and uproarious laughter. Yet there is the Chaplin the whole world laughs at, Chaplin of the big shoes, trick derby, little cane, the baggy trousers and the funny shuffling walk.

EXTRA ADDED ATTRACTION

"The Six Serenaders" an Orchestra with Pep

May This Christmas

Contain All The Happiness You Desire

To The Patrons Whom It Has Been
Our Pleasure to Serve

We Extend Hearty Christmas Greetings and Our Best Wishes For 1926

In this holiday message we are joined by all the members of our organization. We only hope your dealings with us have been as pleasant to you as they have to us, and that during 1926 it may be our good fortune to continue to claim you as our patron.

Accept our hearty thanks for your patronage and for the kind words spoken in our behalf during 1925.

- IF its Dry Goods
- IF its Furniture
- IF its Hardware
- IF its Groceries
- IF its Lumber,

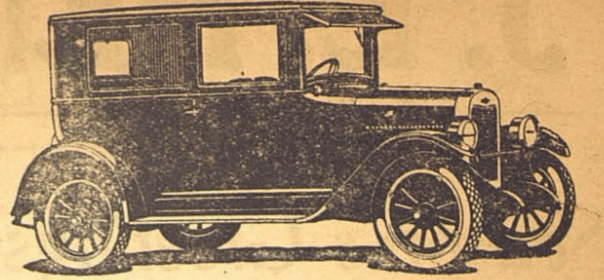
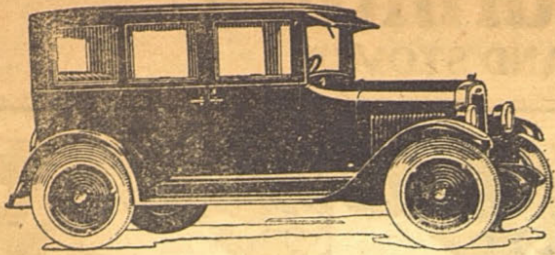
We have it for you, and invite you to visit us; you are welcome

And we wish to call your attention to the fact that our Big Pre-Christmas Sale is Still Going, which we invite you to attend.

Yuletide Cheer

HIGGINBOTHAM BROS. & CO.

"Every Thing and Lumber"



A Yuletide Expression

But With Us It Is An Everyday Wish

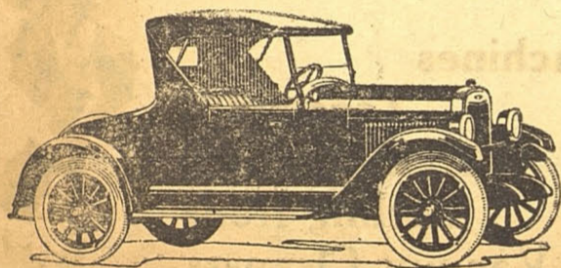
Were it not for the happiness we derive from the loyalty and friendly interest of the people our business would grow cold and dull to us. We feel deeply indebted to our patrons not only for their patronage But for their **FRIENDLY INTEREST** in our business.

We rejoice at Christmas time and sincerely exchange

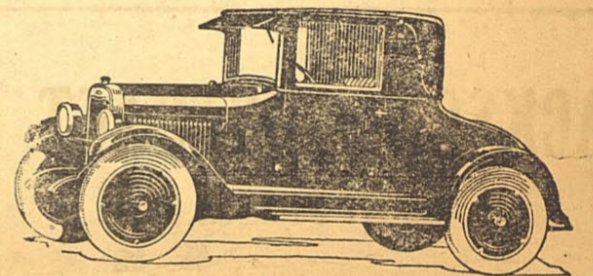
The Season's Greetings

But we do not stop at wishing you the joys of all the season. We hope and trust that the days ahead of you will all be happy days.

As for us, we will count each day a happy one when we are privileged to to serve you. As the last word of this holiday message to all our patrons let us add our thanks for all favors of the past.



Orrell-Dodson Chevrolet Co.



We Feel Indebted

To our patrons for Many Courtesies in the Past and as We Come to

Extend Greetings For Christmas and the New Year

We would not forget to Thank You Too

and tell you that in the days to come it is our hope and ambition to **SERVE YOU BETTER.**

Harris' Tailor Shop

Phone 25 "Service That Satisfies"

CHRISTMAS EVE

CHRISTMAS baskets filled with holiday cheer. Money jingling gaily with no mercenary hardness about it. Sleigh bells tinkling in the clear, pure air. Shops alight, and filled with people. People with countless bundles. Red ribbon, wreaths, Christmas cards selected at the last moment. Christmas greetings on every lip. Light in windows of houses. Trees decorated with tinsel and toys. Shadows dancing between the fireplace and the tree. Christmas decorations, never out of style, always lovely. Christmas plants, bunches of flowers, boxes of candy. All being bought, delivered or arriving. Doorbells ringing. Surprises. Friends remembering. Loyalties emphasized. Kindness. Christmas Eve!—Mary Graham Bonner. (© 1925, Western Newspaper Union.)

present them with a tree and Santa Claus for Christmas Eve," Mrs. Lee laughed. Mrs. Lee sang all the next morning at her baking, after she had tucked her husband and ten-year-old Lester in the sled for their long drive. In the afternoon, with a basket on her arm and some small packages fastened over her coat, so she would represent a tree, Mrs. Lee and Clara started to the wagon to carry Christmas to the sheep-herders. While Mrs. Lee put the wagon in order, Clara tucked up bits of Christmas color she had clipped from magazines or had designed from paper. On the way home Mrs. Lee and Clara planned to have their Christmas

SCHOOL CHAPEL PROGRAM

Song, Holy Night, by school. Invocation, Rev. Collins. Address, Two important factors to develop—Far vision and patience to specialize, Supt. Piano Solo, Betty Pace. Song, 8th grade girls. Reading, The Orphan's Christmas, Evelyn Rutherford. Song, 10th & 11th grades. Piano Solo, Christine Cunningham. Reading Lee Hughes. Violin Duett, Marie Williams and Truett McDonald. Piano Solo, Miss Winters. Song, Characteristics, 10th grade girls. Reading Seaborn Collins.

Mrs. Henry and Children of Putnam spent the weekend with Mrs. Benson.

Mrs. C. W. Worthy and daughter of Cottonwood, visited Mrs. Bryan Bennett of Baird Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Coffee and Mrs. Smith of Admiral, were in trading last week.

Chas. Gatlin and Mrs. Carrie Nowlin of Dallas, will spend Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. Gatlin of route 2.

Miss Mary Parker of Kerens, will spend the Holidays with her sister, Mrs. R. A. Autry.

Mrs. Hooper of Coleman, is visiting her son, Ariel Bertrand and family this week.

Mrs. S. Claunch of Shattuck Okla., has been visiting her niece, Mrs. Ellis Nichols.

Miss Alma Baker, who attends Drauhons Business College at Abilene, will spend the holidays with her parents at Burkett.

A Bountiful Share of Happiness

as the world is filled with gladness; when gloom gives away to the radiant rays of good cheer and when the world seems at its best—That's Christmas—the joy season—and that's when

We Wish For You

a bountiful share of all the happiness the season affords.

Thanks

Kindly and sincerely we tender you our thanks for 1925 business. We hope to serve you in Feed and Produce in 1926.

Neeb Produce Co.

C.M. PETERMAN

MASSEUR

GAFFORD RESIDENCE

Or Old Mathis Place on East 8th Street

J. E. HENKEL

Second Hand Furniture

PIANOS, SEWING MACHINES AND STOVES

Season's Greetings-

May this Christmas bring you greater happiness and joy than any you have ever enjoyed, is our wish for you.

And we wish to call your attention to our New Spring Hats, just arrived, shown in smart colors and patterns--a beautiful array of early spring styles. See them now, and make your selections.

The Bonnet Shop

Mrs. Margaret Taylor, Prop.

Have Moved Offices

We have moved our offices from The City Drug Store to the C. P. Drug Store (Dr. Robertson's Drug Store), 3 doors south of First State Bank.

Doctors HOWARD & YOUNG

JACKSON ABSTRACT CO.

Rupert Jackson, Mgr.

ABSTRACTORS

BAIRD, TEXAS

K. of P. Bldg. Phone 59

SABANO NEWS

We are being blessed with fine weather. People will soon have their crops gathered, ready to start breaking land for new crop.

W. M. Black has bought Hoyte Brown's farm and will move back to Sabanno. We will be glad to have them with us again. Mr. Black is a deacon in the Baptist Church and a fine church worker.

J. H. Duke and family are moving to Hamby, Texas. We regret very much to lose this splendid family.

M. B. Houston, one of our fine boys left for Clovis, New Mexico, to attend school. After he finishes school, (the lawyer who was sent to plead case of Sam Houston) is going to give him a course in law, free of charge, he was so deeply impressed by him.

Len Irvin, sheriff of Lamb county, is visiting relatives here, is also trying to lease his farm five miles north of Cross Plains.

Miss Loma Irvin and Ben Atwood, were married in Cisco last Friday afternoon. Miss Loma is a very popular girl. Her many friends wish them a happy and prosperous life.

Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Green of Stanton, are visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. P. Wood.—Correspondent

F. M. Gwin and Mr. and Mrs. James F. Love attended the annual banquet, of the Coleman Chamber of Commerce Tuesday of past week. It was an elaborate affair. They enjoyed the occasion very much.

E. H. Boyett, of Corbon, has accepted position with Caskey's Drug Store, as Pharmacist

Fred Purvis of Roscoe, was here Saturday on business. He formerly lived at Cottonwood, where he has a farm. While here he subscribed for the Review.

W. T. Evans of Cottonwood was a pleasant caller at the Review office a few days ago and renewed his subscription, while here.

A. L. Dickson, who accidentally shot his foot off while hunting here last week, died enroute to hospital at Cisco. His home was in Breckenridge. He was a driller here in the oil field. His gun was accidentally discharged while he was crossing a wire fence, load striking his ankle and severing his foot. He is survived by family.

This tragedy occurred last week before we went to press, but we were unable to get authoritative information at the time.



Merry Christmas!

Electrical Gifts

are always appreciated and brings happy remembrances 365 days in the year.



The following are some of our suggestions:

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Sewing Machines | Toasters |
| Electric Ranges | Perculator Sets |
| Fireless Cookers | Curling Irons |
| Waffle Irons | Vacuum Cleaners |
| Washing Machines | Health Pads |

If you are going to give something Electrical, we would be glad if you would select it now as we are taking special orders early

West Texas Utilities Co.



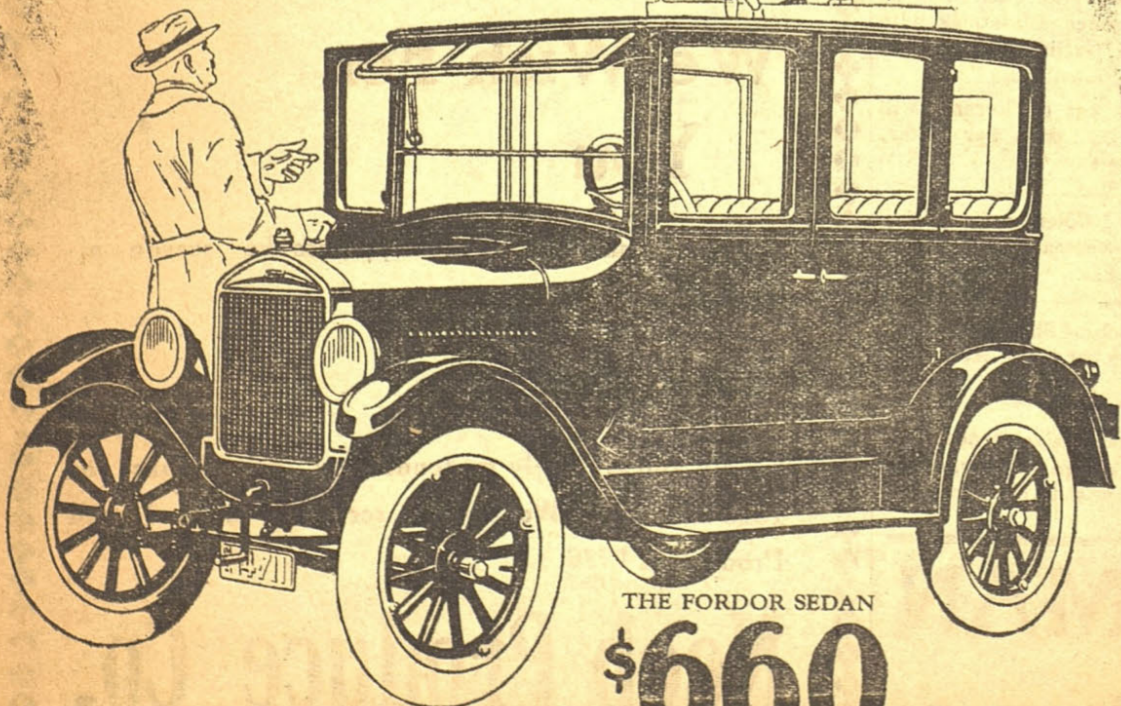
Ford

Christmas Suggests This Judicious Purchase

The Fordor Sedan is an ideal Christmas gift for the whole family—an attractive and practical all-year car. It is finished in deep Windsor Maroon, with interior upholstery to harmonize. Nickeled radiator, low, deep seats, wide doors, hooded sun visor and large fenders. See this good-looking car at the salesroom of the nearest Authorized Ford Dealer. Easy terms gladly arranged.



Ford Motor Company
Detroit, Mich.



THE FORDOR SEDAN
\$660

Runabout - \$260 Touring Car \$290 Coupe - - \$520 Tudor Sedan \$580
Closed cars in color. Demountable rims and starter extra on open cars.
All prices f. o. b. Detroit

This is Station



Broadcasting Greetings and sincere good wishes to our patrons.

EXTRA Trousers FREE with each suit.

Carr & Wright
Tailor Shop
Back of Owl Barber Shop

1 Acre of Land with 2 room house in west part of town, \$600.00.
1 3 room house and 2 lots—east part of town, \$1500.00.
See, S. L. Teague.

FOR SALE or TRADE—For land or Cross Plains property, big six Studebaker Speedster 24 model. Box 302, Cross Plains Texas. 2-to

LOST--A blue chest of silver ware. Leon Rucker, at Cross Plains Motor Co.

The Big Mark Down Sale Cross Plains Mercantile Store.

Build a home

Christmas Wishes

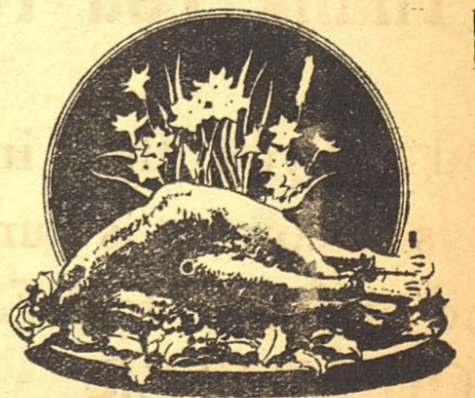
We take this opportunity to wish you a most happy and joyful Christmas.

We will Serve a

Special
Christmas
Dinner

Prepared Right,
Served Right

Make your plans now to eat Christmas dinner here.



Mrs. Bob's Cafe



To Our Multitude of Friends and Patrons

GREETINGS

As we are caught up in this great inspiring, helping spirit of the Yuletide season it is our wish that new joys not known before may come to you and abide with you through the days and weeks and months of the New Year.

*May your mind be brighter; your
Heart be lighter and may the joy
Of giving and the pleasure of
Receiving cheer you on to a
fuller and richer life in 1926*

Because of your fine loyalty to this business in the past we send this word of Greeting for Christmas and the New Year and wish here also to express our sincere thanks and lasting gratitude to each of you.

*To Continue to Serve You Is a Privilege We
Seek, and in Which We Will Find Pleasure.*

TOM BRYANT

TOM BRYANT INSURANCE AGENCY MAGON W. FREEMAN

Phone 76

Farmers National Bank Bldg

The NEW YEAR



What's Over the Next Ridge?

WHEN DICKINSON SHERMAN asks, "What's over the next ridge?" That's what the American people want to know. The level way may be beautiful to the eye and soothing to the mind, but in time its very perfection tires. But in a ridge rise across the way and labor attention springs to new life.

What's over the ridge? He asks. He starts to find it may find the climb steep and hard, but he presses on to the crest. Curiosity plagues him. Anticipation is better reality," may be true. But he sees for himself.

It was this urge "for to see and that marched the American across the continent, from farther frontier. That march accomplished. The United States now the richest and most powerful nation. The physical frontiers are in their stead are new things in the next ridge" in industry, in invention, in politics, in life. The Old Year dies and the new is born it is more than ever old, "What next?"

New Year bids fair to spring a national surprise as students that of the World war of the Armistice of 1918. The events cast their shadows the passing Old Year forebodingly to result in concord, cohesion and solidification which have now seemed unthinkable. Look with its documents there in shadow of tremendous.

"Who won the war?" Certainly no European nation. It has at last come to victors and vanquished alike the World war was disaster for all, individually and collectively. Europe has lost its domination of the social and economic world. Its political prestige has diminished to the vanishing point. No one nation has the power to regain its lost position. Nations must "hang together or separately." No need to assume spiritual regeneration. It is a plain way of self-preservation and its price combination and co-operation—an inevitably unified Europe against the rest of the world.

It is almost unbelievably no official statistics have eyes to see. The fact is on the football

games of a November Saturday shows that twelve intercollegiate games out of a total of 116 were seen by 470,000 spectators, which means an expenditure of many millions on one day in ready cash for a luxury.

Material conditions of living for the American people during 1925 have been the "highest in all history," Secretary Hoover declares in an economic review made public as part of the annual report of the Commerce department. Factors listed by the secretary as contributing to this condition included a virtually complete absence of unemployment, high wages, continued growing efficiency in management and operation, an equitable balance of prices as among the greater producing groups of the population and a gradual return to stable currencies and normal business operations among the nations abroad.

The best of it all is that no voice is heard predicting anything but continued prosperity for 1926.

IF THE dear old Congressional Record is not among the "Best Sellers" in 1926, it will not be for lack of exciting material. Congress will be in session until the beginning of the congressional campaign next fall. And the tentative program is full of potential thrills. Tax reduction is important, though not exciting. But look at the possibilities in war-debt settlements, the World court, reorganization of the executive departments, the shipping board, agricultural co-operative marketing, consolidation of the railroads, the coal strike and military and civil aviation development. And, for good measure, there are the row between the forest service and the western live stock men over grazing fees; the education bill for a new department with a cabinet officer; the public shooting bill and investigations galore. And finally, there's always the chance of a mixup between Vice President Dawes and the senate!

WOULD it surprise you if congress should start the Twentieth Amendment to the Constitution on its way, as is quite likely? No; it will not abolish tobacco or coffee or candy or jazz. It has to do with the mechanics of government and will establish the principle of immediate legislative responsiveness to contemporary opinion. The amendment, in short, permits the terms of the President and members of congress to begin January 1 following election. March 14, 1924,

the food, not alone for themselves, but for all members of the colony, particularly for the little ant children of the queens that are at the head of the colony.—Ohio State Journal.

Puzzles Archeologists
It was almost 200 years before Hernando Cortez dropped anchor in the Gulf of Mexico that the Aztecs founded the present City of Mexico and called it Tenochtitlan. Like their predecessors, the Toltecs, who, according to anthropologists, wand

the senate passed such an amendment by the significant majority of 63 to 7. In the house, owing to various reasons, it did not come to a vote. Washington wiseacres predict that the Sixty-ninth congress will pass it. Its passage would simplify a situation that has argued pro and con ever since 1795.

WHAT'S next in radio? Make a 1926 guess for yourself; your guess is as good as anyone's—provided your imagination is going strong. In the meantime you can get anything from President Coolidge's message to congress to a dictum by Overseer Volvia in Zion that the earth is flat—which is more than you can say of his music. You can get religion of any selected variety; also politics and information. Turn the dial and take your choice: the markets; a lecture on hog cholera; a college education. All the world is listening and learning as never before. In snowed-in cabins in the silent places none go insane from loneliness whom the radio keeps in touch with the world. Today the radio is boiling water in a kettle on ice; is stopping head-on trains through emergency brakes; is making the diagnosis for a surgical operation. Next!

HERE is a new "Prayer for Our Country" that is soon to be heard in public worship—it would seem that any good American, irrespective of race and creed, can join in the petition:

"Almighty God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage; we humbly beseech Thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of Thy favor and glad to do Thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endure with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in Thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that through obedience to Thy laws we may show forth Thy praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble suffer not our trust in Thee to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

Mexico from the north in the Seventeenth century, the Aztecs were skilled architects. While for four centuries the Toltecs raised their gigantic columns and built their palaces of huge blocks of stone, adorning them with elaborate stone carvings, their successors, the Aztecs, erected public buildings and dwelling places of similar design. And these ruins still endure to confuse archeologists intent on discovering just where Toltec craftsmanship stopped and Aztec craftsmanship be

TEXAS COTTON CROP IS 4,100,000 BALES

Estimate of Federal Statistician Gives 3,661,000 Ginned Prior to Dec. 1.

Based on all the information available on December 1, the Texas cotton crop was estimated to be 4,100,000 bales, according to the regular monthly cotton report issued Friday by H. H. Shutz, government crop statistician. It is estimated that 3,661,000 bales, or 91 per cent of the crop, had been ginned prior to December 1. A total of 536,000 bales have been ginned since November 14.

During the past decade the average amount of cotton ginned up to December 1 has been 90 per cent. Last year 91 per cent had been ginned at that date. With the continuance of good weather it is expected that the entire crop will be gathered in a few more weeks.

The October freezing weather in the northwest portion of Texas, unusual in its earliness and severity, found the crop there two weeks late, and as a consequence the losses were heavy in both quantity and quality of yield. Under normal conditions the Northwest could have made at least 900,000 bales, as against 989,000 bales ginned last year, when conditions were unsurpassed for gathering. A conservative estimate of the cotton that might have been made in this district in addition to what is promised at the present time can be placed at 110,000 bales, valued at \$11,000,000.

Most of the month has been very favorable for gathering the crop. Some communities have gathered, ginned and sold the crop and have started preparing the ground for next year's crop. Owing to excessive rainfall as well as unseasonable low temperatures, an unusually large proportion of the cotton gathered during the past month or six weeks has been of low grade. Estimates of untenderable cotton gathered this season range from 15 per cent to 25 per cent, due partly to lack of staple length, but mostly to poor grade.

Granted Twenty Days' Freedom.

Austin, Tex.—General Joe M. Rangel, leader of a Mexican revolutionary band in Texas 10 years ago, whose incarceration in a Texas prison for the slaying of Candelario Ortiz, deputy sheriff of Dimmit county, has been a subject of international controversy for a decade, was granted 20 days' freedom by Governor Miriam A. Ferguson Thursday, to pay his first visit to his children and grandchildren in San Antonio since he was imprisoned. He is under a five to 99-year sentence. There was no pardon of the Mexican leader, the governor's office announced.

Head of Slain Boy Identified.

Stephenville, Tex.—The head of a 17-year-old boy found near Stephenville, was identified Friday by neighbors as that of Bernie Connolly, and his step-father, F. M. Snow, was arrested by a state ranger and county officers on a formal charge of murder.

Oil Royalties Paid.

Austin, Tex.—The Texon Oil Company, operating on University of Texas land in Reagan county, remitted \$101,734.70 in royalties for November production, bringing the total amount of royalties to approximately \$1,700,000 from university lands.

Laundrymen Select Sweetwater.

San Angelo, Tex.—Re-elected officers by acclamation and selecting Sweetwater as the next place of meeting, the West Texas Laundry Owners' Association closed its annual convention at San Angelo Thursday.

Expenditures of Government.

Washington.—The expenditures of the federal government for the coming fiscal year were estimated Friday by President Coolidge at \$3,896,207,921, an increase of \$160,033,326 over the outlay for the current year.

Fixed National Program Urged.

Washington.—Delegates to National Rivers and Harbors Congress Friday urged President Coolidge to foster a fixed national program to insure early completion of a unified national waterways transportation system.

Refuses Call of Election.

Houston, Tex.—The petition of Magnolia Park citizens for an election on the dissolution of the municipality Friday was denied by County Judge Chester H. Bryan.

Huge Gasser in Wortham Field.

Mexia, Tex.—In an untested tract near the Wortham oil field the Pure Oil Company Sunday brought in a 6,000,000 cubic foot gas well at the shallow depth of 650 feet on the Henry Seale lease.

Greeks Clash With Italians.

Athens.—Greek inhabitants of the island of Carpathus have clashed with Italian gendarmes in a localized rebellion. It is reported that there were many casualties on both sides.

TEXAS NEWS

Edinburg soon will have a new hotel, costing approximately \$25,000.

More than 400,000 bushels of certified seed cotton were grown in Texas this past season despite drought in Central Texas.

Mark Moss of Llano has been appointed game warden for that district in which several west central counties are included.

The Donna irrigation district has voted to issue \$380,000 in bonds to improve the canal system and install electric pumps.

Over half the rice in Jefferson county has been threshed and with continued fair weather all the crop will be in within a short time.

Federal government engineers are preparing to make a topographical survey of Orange county as a preliminary to the creation of a drainage system.

Survey of a second route from the south plains to Fort Worth has been begun by the Santa Fe railway. The survey runs out of both Crosbyton and Floydada.

A bond issue of \$50,000 to cover cost of preliminary surveys and preparations for the proposed Rio river irrigation project carried recently by a good majority.

The extension of water mains and installation of more hydrants will be one of the many new projects outlined in the way of improvements for Alvin in 1926.

Approval of a letting by the previous state highway commission of a contract for road construction in Fayette county was made this week by the state highway commission.

The graveled road from Palestine to Frankston, Texas, in the northern part of Anderson county, was opened to travel this week. The gravel has been applied for most of the 23 miles.

Rev. E. M. Mobley of Luling, Baptist minister, has been appointed chaplain of the Confederate Home at Austin, effective January 1. He succeeds Rev. R. A. Roland, Methodist minister, who resigned.

An issue of \$300,000 De Witt County road bonds, of District No. 17, bearing 5 per cent, and maturing serially, has been approved by the attorney general's department and registered in the comptroller's department.

Texas suffered a loss of \$889,487 during November by fire. There were 387 conflagrations during the month the fire insurance department reported, 102 of which originated by unknown causes for a loss of \$299,193.

The bond election held in the Runge road district carried by a big majority. The issue was for \$327,000 to build a hard-surfaced highway from the De Witt county line to the San Antonio river and from Helena to Karnes City.

Elections to increase school taxator must be submitted by the independent school districts and be participated in by only qualified property taxpayers, the supreme court held Friday in declaring unconstitutional and void a Fort Worth election held in 1922.

The matter of marking roadways and routes of the old Texas armies, and of marking other historic spots will be presented to the state legislature at the next session by a committee from the Harris County Historical Society.

The state girls' clothing contest will be held at Beaumont, April 29 to May 1, it was announced this week by Miss Lillian Peck, state supervisor of home economics and director and originator of the contest. More than 600 girls are expected to participate.

Tomato lands from Tyler to Red Lawn along the Lufkin branch of the Cotton Belt are in unusual demand this fall, the heaviest demand centering around Gresham and Flint. All available acreage could have been rented or sold. One Chicago produce concern is preparing to plant 100 acres of tomatoes at Flint and others are figuring on acreage deals in the tomato belt. That the 1926 acreage will be heavily increased is indicated by the present activity.

Several hundred men are busy and more than 40 carloads of material are being unloaded at Three Rivers to rush work on the new line of the Southern Natural Gas Company, which is to increase the supply of gas for Houston and San Antonio. The line which is to serve as an addition to the present one in operation, is to be 73 miles long and will come from the Laredo fields to the Three Rivers gas field and then be connected with the main line. Work is now under way constructing the crossing of the Nueces River at a point a few miles west of Three Rivers.

On the historic spot where La Salle established in 1865 the first white settlement in Texas a group of Texas men and women have started a movement to preserve and mark permanently the location of the fort. Due to recent discovery in Spain of certain documents and charts, the location of La Salle's colony has been definitely established by Professor Herbert E. Bolton of Berkeley, Cal., as being on the west bank of the Garcitas river, about two miles south of Keran's Spur on the St. Louis, Brownsville and Mexico railway.

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL

Sunday School Lesson

(By REV. P. B. FITZWATER, D.D., Dean of the Evening School, Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.)
(©. 1925, Western Newspaper Union.)

Lesson for December 20

CHRISTMAS LESSON

LESSON TEXT—Matt. 2:1-15
GOLDEN TEXT—"For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."—Luke 2:11.

PRIMARY TOPIC—Wise Men Visit the Baby Jesus.
JUNIOR TOPIC—Wise Men Follow the Star.

INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—The Christmas Spirit.
YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—The Prince of Peace.

Note: For this Sunday's lesson the lesson committee has given us an option of a Christmas lesson or a summary of Paul's life. It is presumed that most teachers will prefer the Christmas lesson since Paul has been the central figure for six months.

I. The Wise Men Seeking Jesus (vv. 1-2).

These wise men who sought Jesus were either Arabian or Persian astrologers, students of the stars. The appearance of an unusual star attracted their attention. Perhaps they were acquainted with the famous prophecy of Balaam (Num. 24:17). Doubtless through the influence of the Jews who remained in Chaldea, or the direct influence of Daniel extending to this time, they had become acquainted with the hope of a Messiah. The light they had was dim, but they lived up to the best they had. We learn from them:

1. That All True Wisdom Leads to the Savior, for He is the Fullness of Wisdom.

2. That God's Word Shall Not Return Unto Him Void (Isa. 55:11).

The seed cast upon the Eastern waters brought forth fruit after many days. This ought to bring confidence to many ministers and Sunday school teachers who have not as yet seen the fruit of their labors.

3. The Grace of God Calls Men From Unexpected Quarters.

Some who have the least opportunities give the greatest honor to Christ, while others, blessed with the richest opportunities, shut Him out.

II. Herod Seeking to Kill Jesus (vv. 8-9).

The news brought by the wise men struck terror to Herod's heart. He was not alone in this for all Jerusalem was troubled with him. A glimpse at the social customs in and about Jerusalem in that day will enable us to understand why this news brought uneasiness to the people. They were living in the greatest luxury. Beautiful apparel, sumptuous feasts, palatial houses, etc., led to gross immorality. We can thus readily see why Herod and all Jerusalem should be troubled. They did not want a Savior who would save them from their sins; they wanted to continue in them. Herod demanded of the priests and scribes information as to where Christ should be born. They were soon able to tell him. These people had a technical knowledge of the Scriptures, but had no heart for the Savior as set forth therein. Conditions much like these prevail today. This reception of the Savior shows that perverseness of heart is the cause of so many being indifferent to Christ, and of their opposition to Him when His claims are presented. It is true today that the luxuries of wealth, the frivolities of the fashion-lovers, and the gross immoralities to which these lead, make Jesus Christ unwelcome in many quarters.

III. Jesus Found (vv. 9-12).

The wise men, having obtained the desired information, started immediately to find Jesus. As soon as they left the city the star which had guided them from the East appeared again to lead them on—not that it had disappeared from the sky, but no doubt the city buildings shut out its light. All star guided them to the place where Jesus was. When they found Him they worshipped Him. In this they displayed true faith. They did not see any miracle, only a babe, yet they worshipped Him as king. Blessed are they that have not seen and yet have believed (John 20:29). Note God's overruling providence in all this. Many hundred years before the prophet had said that Christ should come from Bethlehem (Micah 5:2). God so ordered affairs that Mary should be brought to that city to give birth to Christ. Let us be assured that nothing can thwart the divine purpose. God so ordered that these men should depart another way, thereby defeating Herod's wicked purpose. Through these wise men the Lord gave gifts into the hands of Joseph and Mary before their going to Egypt. Doubtless this served a good purpose in meeting their expenses during their stay there. Truly all things work together for good to them that love God (Rom. 8:28).

Life

Life is but a day, and the hours flee. Soon it is high noon, then afternoon, evening, night, when all service ceases.—R. P. Anderson.

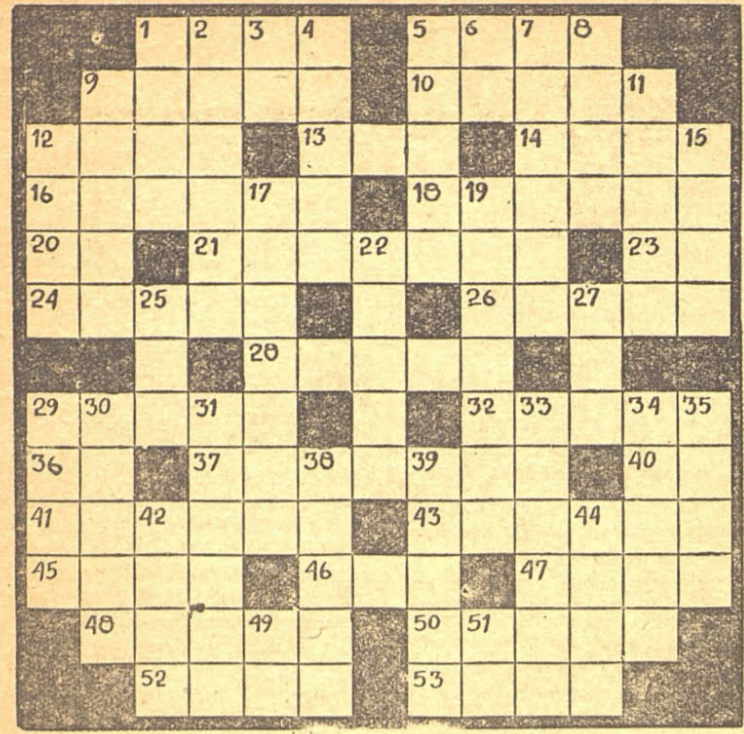
Simplicity and Purity

"Simplicity and purity are the two wings by which a man is lifted up above all earthly things."

A Wrong Deed

A wrong deed should be immediately repented of and confessed.

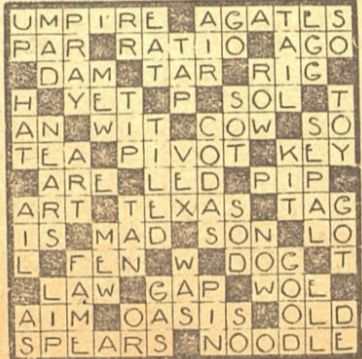
CROSS-WORD PUZZLE



(Copyright, 1925.)

- Horizontal.**
- 1—Level
 - 5—A name for a cat
 - 9—A kind of illumination
 - 10—To lead to seats in a theatre
 - 12—A long narrow cut
 - 13—Every one of
 - 14—A certain quantity of paper
 - 16—One who makes or sells hats
 - 18—Position in golf
 - 20—Either
 - 21—Pertaining to the east
 - 23—A suffix denoting agency
 - 24—Dresses in
 - 26—Any official decree or proclamation
 - 28—Presses
 - 29—A pronoun
 - 32—Pertaining to the tides
 - 36—The fourth and second vowels of the alphabet
 - 37—Sorts of brotherhoods among the ancient Jews
 - 40—Regarding (abbr.)
 - 41—Remission or payment back
 - 43—Standards of perfection
 - 45—To prepare for publication
 - 46—Part of a circle
 - 47—Employs
 - 48—Vapor
 - 50—Bottles of old wrecked or dismantled ships
 - 52—A current of air or water running contrary to the regular current
 - 53—Consumes
- Vertical.**
- 1—To pass from one place to another
 - 2—Later
 - 3—Part of the verb "to be"
 - 4—Drops of water shed in weeping
 - 5—Throbbing
 - 6—You and me
 - 7—Became smaller in size after washing
 - 8—Beheld
 - 9—To burn with an unsteady flame
 - 11—Speed contests
 - 12—To exhibit
- 15—Simple**
17—Most simple
19—Had faith in
22—A pronoun
25—Part of the verb "to be"
27—Also
29—Ripped
30—Pays attention
31—Arranged in seats
33—In an Arthurian romance, either of two women beloved by Tristram
34—A city in France on the Rhone river
35—A smaller amount
38—Full of joints
39—A recess in a wall for a statue
42—To attack with the teeth
44—Requests
49—An advertisement (abbr.)
51—Underwriting account (abbr.)

Solution of Last Week's Puzzle.



HOW TO SOLVE A CROSS-WORD PUZZLE

When the correct letters are placed in the white spaces this puzzle will spell words both vertically and horizontally. The first letter in each word is indicated by a number, which refers to the definition listed below the puzzle. Thus No. 1 under the column headed "horizontal" defines a word which will fill the white spaces up to the first black square to the right, and a number under "vertical" defines a word which will fill the white squares to the next black one below. No letters go in the black spaces. All words used are dictionary words, except proper names. Abbreviations, slang, initials, technical terms and obsolete forms are indicated in the definitions.

NURSERY RHYME PUZZLE



LITTLE Miss Lilly
 Looks awfully silly
 Dressed up in her mother's best clothes.
 If she doesn't take care
 She may trip on the stair,
 Or fall down and bump her small nose.

Find three other persons. Left side down, on skirt. Upper right corner down, on skirt and parasol. Right side down, along arm.

PIQUANT DANCE MILLINERY; FAVOR CHINESE EMBROIDERY

GENIUS is lavishing modernistic art on the piquant dress hats which so add to the picture at dinners, dances and various social functions. Nowadays creators of our chapeaux take not only the needle in hand, but the brush as well, for handpainting adds to the glory of present-day millinery. Even the small sports felt hat departs from its role of simplicity to allow artists to paint a few colorful leaves or a conventional design on its snug fitting crown. From the standpoint of hand-painting, embroidery and applique the

Fashion continues to revel in an orgy of gay colors. Our wraps, our hats, our frocks and our costume accessories are vibrating with metallic splendor together with exotic hue. To this era of gorgeousness, Chinese art and stitchery are contributing a magnanimous share. The smartest black satin frocks are very nearly losing their identity embellished as they are in trimmings of Chinese embroideries which are extravagantly colorful. In the matter of evening wraps, not satisfied with "touches" of Chinese embroidery here and there,



Group of Formal Hats.

Group of hats in the illustration abound in fetching ideas. Both the chapeaux at the top of the picture display a riotous combination of color, gilded leather, and intriguing stitchery. Velvet motifs in gay hues have their edges encrusted with gold paint and there are interworkings of metal thread, with glimpses of gold tissue combined with gold leather. The plaque of embroidered roses in the hat to the left below supplies brilliant color, the rest of the model

women of fashion are appropriating unto themselves the Chinese mandarin in all its original native beauty. Sometimes, as in the instance of the evening wrap illustrated, a band of handsome fur is added, which the more accents the color glories in oriental embroidery. Of course not every one can afford an all-over embroidered Chinese mandarin wrap. However, this fact need not be discouraging, for somewhere, somehow if we have managed to introduce even a simple motif or so of Chinese inspiration we may congratulate ourselves for having obeyed the mandates of the mode. For instance, embroidered motifs done in Chinese



Gives Exotic Hue to the Mode.

being created of black velvet with silvered black ribbon. With chenille as the medium for hand stitchery a colorful effect is acquired on the off-the-face brim of the cunning chapeau to the center right. Here are a few suggestions for introducing a bit of the Oriental into dress design. Form the full-below-the-shoulder portion of one's cloth, velvet or satin frock of a strip of Chinese embroidery; to the ends of a scarf collar attached to a simple dress, add borders of colorful stitchery; a vestee of Chinese, paisley or peasant embroidery will transform the most unpretentious dress into a garment of pronounced style distinction.

JULIA BOTTOMLEY.
 (Western Newspaper Union.)

Distressing Feature
 Mrs. M. C. Van Winkle, chief of the women's division of the Washington police department, said the other day: "My experience leads me to think that boys are growing better, while girls are growing worse. A distressing feature of the thing is that the more 'modern' a girl is—the worse she is, I mean, from the conservative viewpoint—the greater her success. "A modern girl got married not long ago to one of the richest and finest men in the country. A friend of mine made a neat comment on the match. "When girls are overbold," she said, "men are bowled over."

Red Cross Ball Blue should be used in every home. It makes clothes white as snow and never injures the fabric. All good grocers.—Advertisement.

Cashed Old Check
 Thirty-five years ago, Mrs. Fondella Wilds of Dover, Del., received a check for \$3.10 for services in appearing before a justice of the peace in settling the estate of her husband. Mrs. Wilds kept the voucher, and a short time ago, remembering that she had it, presented it to the county for payment. The check, dated November 4, 1899, was honored at its face value.

Cuticura for Pimply Faces.
 To remove pimples and blackheads smear them with Cuticura Ointment. Wash off in five minutes with Cuticura Soap and hot water. Once clear keep your skin clear by using them for daily toilet purposes. Don't fail to include Cuticura Talcum. Advertisement.

It's Brand New
 Marcel Sweigart, when she was a very little girl, went one day with her mother to call at the home of an old friend, who had passed on to another life. Marcel went into the silent room and at once became interested in the coffin. She looked it over from end to end, stooped down and viewed the bottom critically and then whispered to her mother: "It's brand new."

Smarting, scalding, sticky eyes relieved by morning if Roman Eye Balsam is used when retiring. 372 Pearl St., N. Y. Adv.

"Penny" Nails
 It should really be "pounds," not "penny," when you ask for a six-penny or an eight-penny nail. Years ago it used to be that a thousand nails of a certain size weighed six pounds, of another a bit larger the same number weighed eight pounds—hence eight-pound nails, six-pound nails, which, hurriedly spoken, soon became contracted to six-penny, eight-penny.

The Bride Shops
 "What is this?"
 "Rhubarb."
 "What can one do with it?"
 "Why, you can serve it steved or make a pie."
 "And are the barbs troublesome?"—Louisville Courier-Journal.

A Clean Record for Four Generations

Since 1878 GRANDPA'S WONDER SOAP has been winning friends. The greatest hard water soap on earth. Made of fresh sweet Coconut Oil and Genuine Pine Tar. Coconut Oil is a skin food. Pine Tar is a mild deodorant. A great shampoo and fine for dandruff. At all dealers in medium and large sizes at popular prices. The Beaver Soap Co., Dayton, O. Soap makers since 1878.

That Good Old Pine Tar Soap

Why have RHEUMATISM

OH, what a wonderful feeling to be free from that miserable rheumatism. To know again the joy of limber joints and active muscles—freedom from that agonizing pain! How often have you longed for some relief as you suffered torture from swollen, inflamed muscles and joints—how often have you said you would give anything in the world for a few hours comfort! But you didn't know that all you had to do to get real relief from this nerve wracking misery was just to build rich, red blood, did you? You didn't know that rheumatism had to be stopped from the inside by destroying the impurities that cause it—by building millions of red cells in your poor, weak blood, did you? Until you fill your system full of healthy, rich, red blood you will never end your rheumatism. S. S. S. will surely help you. That's because S.S.S. helps Nature build the red-blood that fight off the impurities that rheumatism. Conquer rheumatism! S. S. S. shown the way. For general S. S. S. has brought blessed relief comfort to thousands of rheumatism sufferers. When the rich, red blood S. S. S. helps Nature build goes through your system, it purifies the blood in your body. Rheumatism vanishes—skin blemishes disappear—you begin to get hungry again and enjoy your food—strength and power fill your body—you are vigorous—red-blooded and ready for action. Know this joy of living again! Take S. S. S. and your rheumatism! Get S. S. S. from any drug store. Larger bottle is more economical.

Kills Headache - Relieves Pain
DIXIE FEVER AND PAIN POW

Sure Relief
 6 BELL-ANS
 Hot water
 Sure Relief
BELL-ANS
 FOR INDIGESTION
 25¢ and 75¢ Pkgs. Sold Everywhere

Vaseline
 Prevents Chapped Hands & Cracked Knuckles
 Rub "Vaseline" Petroleum Jelly on your hands before working in the cold or wet and you'll avoid chapped hands and cracked knuckles. For cuts, burns, bumps, bruises and sores or skin troubles, apply "Vaseline" Jelly liberally. Always safe, soothing and healing. Look for the trade-mark "Vaseline" on every package. It is your protection.
 Chesebrough Mfg. Company
 State Street (Corner 4) New York
Vaseline
 REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.
 PETROLEUM JELLY

ECZEMA
 Relieve that itching, burning and start the healing now
Resinoid
 Divorce is the cold lunch that follows love's banquet.

Are You Ready?
 ARE you ready to enjoy your social duties, sports or recreations?
 Try HOSTETTER'S Celebrated Stomach Bitters—a wholesome tonic, appetizer and corrective.
 At All Drug Stores
 The Hostetter Co., Pittsburgh, Pa.
HOSTETTER'S
 CELEBRATED
STOMACH BITTERS

Stop Malaria
 With the Popular, Well Proven, Genuine
WINTERSMITH'S CHILL TONIC
 60c and \$1 sizes at all druggists or by Wintersmith Chemical Co., Louisville, Ky.

Dickey's OLD RELIABLE Eye
 relieves sun and wind-burned eyes. Doesn't hurt. Genuine in Red Box. 25c at all druggists or by DICKEY DRUG CO., Bristol, Va.

WRITE FOR NEWS PAPERS AND MAGAZINES. Big money paid writers. See our complete course, reduced to \$25.00. JOHN H. WHITE, Shippensburg, Pa.

SHOW CASE
 Drug, Dry Goods & Jewelry Fixtures
 Soda Fountains
 BUY DIRECT FROM MANUFACTURERS
SOUTHERN FOUNTAIN AND FIXTURE CO.
 Dallas, Texas

PARKER'S HAIR BALM
 Removes Dandruff—Stops Itchy Scalp—Restores Color—Beauty to Gray and Balding Hair—60c and \$1.00 at Druggists—Hiscox Chem. Works, Patheon, N. Y.

HINDERCORNS Removes corns, blisters, etc., stops all pain, ensures comfort, makes walking easy. 15c by mail. Hiscox Chemical Works, Patheon, N. Y.

W. N. U., DALLAS, NO. 51



WITH HEARTY
APPRECIATION
FOR YOUR 1925
PATRONAGE

And Our Earnest Wish That
Health, Happiness and Prosperity
Will Attend You Through 1926
and other years to come

**Cross Plains Mercantile
Company**

COMING HERE SOON

The Nairn Albietz Players will be for week's engagement, beginning the week of Dec. 28., under auspices of the Band and Parent-Teachers. Opening play "Other People's Business." Ladies free opening night.

GRIFFITH COMEDIANS ARE
HERE THIS WEEK

The Griffith Comedians are playing here this week under canvas. They are featuring a good class of plays, shown under auspices of the Parent-Teachers Association.

Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Pace and daughter, Elizabeth, left Wednesday for a month's visit with Mr. Pace's parents of Hopkinsville, Kentucky

A light snow fell here Tuesday, the first of the season.

The Cisco Lobos defeated the fast Cleburne foot ball squad last Tuesday, which gave Cisco first place in all west Texas, in race for state championship.

Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Gwin made a business trip to Baird, Monday.

LOST—A leather bill fold containing about \$50.00. Finder please leave at Review office and get Reward.

L. R. Kitchen of this place and Miss Ozelle Jones of Mexia, were married Tuesday of last week. They will make their home here. Mr. Kitchen has purchased the Blue Front Cafe on West 8th Street.

J. T. Sturges and family of Mercedes, are moving to Cross Plains. They will make their home in the residence just vacated by Mr. Nicholson and family. Mrs. Sturges is a sister of Mesdames Ruby Shackelford and Lucy Baum, of this city.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

We will serve a Christmas dinner. We will have turkey and all the extras, will be glad to have you. The Waffle House On West 8th Street.

LOST—A Little girl's fur neck piece. Finder please leave at McGowen's Store.

CHRISTMAS SALE

Coots, Dresses, Millinery, Kid Gloves and many gifts for the holidays. The prices are right. Mrs. Corrie B. West, Back of Guaranty State Bank.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

And Happy New Year
FROM

Lotief's Dry Goods Co
The New Store

Make our store your headquarters. This is our last call and heart to heart message to you regarding your Christmas shopping. Look at our windows and see the the many beautiful things we have to select from.

Gifts for Ladies

- Silk Hosiery 50c and 3.00
- Silk Underwear, 1.95 to 19.50
- Fitted Bags and Hat Boxes 5.95 to 25.00
- Purses, all leather 1.50 to 6.00
- A box of handkerchiefs 25c to 1.25
- Garters, Powder Puffs 15c to 1.25
- House Slippers 58c to 1.50
- Japanese Baskets 45c to 1.25
- Toilet sets, all kinds 2.00 to 7.50
- Trunks, Suit Cases

For Men Folks

- Suits and Overcoats 17.50 up
- Shirts in fancy patterns 95c to 3.00
- Sweaters and Jakets 1.95 to 7.50
- Silk and Wool Socks 45c to 1.00
- Ties, Garter sets 25c to 1.25
- Handkerchiefs, per box 50c to 1.00
- Hand Bags and Suit Cases
- Bath Robes 3.95 and up
- Shirts, and suits and lots of other pretty things.

LOTIEF'S DRY GOODS CO.

Greetings!

From the Model Store
The Model's Prices Best of All

At this Joyful Season our thoughts revert gratefully to those whose courtesy, good will and loyalty have made possible our progress.

We extend our heartiest wishes for your happiness and prosperity throughout the New Year.

The Model Store
"Sells For Less"

MONDAY METAL WORKS

Phone 151

Tanks, Tin-Work

J. W. BENNETT, MGR.

Greetings!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to You

You are invited to eat your
Christmas Dinner
Here

A special Dinner with all the "Trimmings"

BERTRAND'S CAFE

Arel A. Bertrand, Prop.

B. G. Lindly of Childress was a business visitor here last.

Mr. and Mrs. Holland Bond of Dresden, were in shopping, Tuesday.

HART & LESTER
Attorneys-at-Law

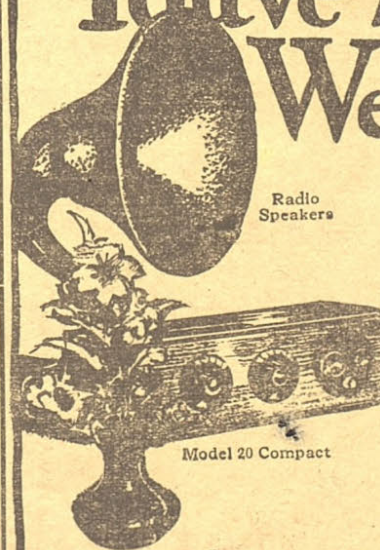
Farmers National Bank Building
CROSS PLAINS, TEXAS

To Our Friends and Patrons:

May this Christmas bring you all the many things your heart desires, and the New Year prove a full 12 months of Happiness and prosperity.

**ATWATER KENT
RADIO**

*You've heard of it.
We have it!*



THE FAME of the Atwater Kent Model 20 Compact Receiving Set is as wide as Radio itself. It seems to be just what the people were waiting for. It is sweeping the country and sweeping this community. It is the best in Radio at a convenient price. We recommend it—but your personal test will tell you more than we can. We have plenty today; can't tell about tomorrow. Glad to demonstrate—in the store or the home.

X Plains Hdw. Co.

A Good Place to Trade