

THE MERKEL MAIL

VOL. 26—NO. 42

MERKEL, TEXAS, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1914

PART 2

11,150 BALES OF COTTON HAVE BEEN WEIGHED HERE DURING THIS SEASON

Estimate of 20,000 Bales Will Probably Hold as Conservative Even with Weather Conditions Very Unfavorable as They Have Been—Prices on Standstill.

In both the Merkel cotton yards and in the Scott warehouse up to the time of this writing there have been brought to Merkel and weighed the sum of 11,150 bales of cotton.

These figures represent the larger part of the Merkel country cotton crop. However, our estimate of 20,000 bales for the entire season seems to be very conservative even with the very unfavorable weather we have had during the past eight weeks for gathering the Merkel country cotton crop. As was said by Mr. Mason in his letter to the Paris Daily News, of Nov. 17, much cotton raised here this year will be lost. The farmers will be unable to harvest and save the big crop our country has been blessed with this year.

WILKINS IS A WINNER AT SHOW

H. P. Wilkins one of our foremost chicken raisers made the following winnings at the Panhandle Poultry Show at Amarillo last week. 1st cock bird, 2nd cockerel, 2nd hen 1st, 2nd, and 3rd pullets; 1st and 3rd pen in Barred Rock class.

In addition to these prizes it is supposed that Mr. Wilkins won the one hundred dollar Silver Loving Cup offered by various lawyers of Amarillo for the best display of Barred Rock chickens. The amount of the display requiring 15 entries. Our townsman being there with 19 entries and having won 1st and third in addition to 1st cock bird and first pullet of the Barred Rock class. We take it for granted that he was also awarded the magnificent Silver Loving Cup for his display. Mr. Wilkins is already the owner of a handsome Silver Loving Cup which he won at Stamford for having the best display of parti-colored birds in the show.

31.85 INCHES RAIN DURING THIS YEAR

Up until the present time this year the total rainfall has been 31.85 inches or 4.39 inches more than our country received during the twelve months preceding.

During the present year the greatest amount of rainfall was registered in the month of August. The total for that time being 9.46 inches. The next largest amount of rainfall for any month this year was 7.41 inches in May preceded by 4.40 inches precipitation in April. During the months of January, March and September, Jupiter Pluvius refused completely to favor our country with even a sprinkle and in February only one tenth of an inch fell.

Persian Ivory is the latest fad in manicure and dresser sets my front case is full of the latest designs, if you buy early we can have an initial letter put on each piece. Mrs. E. M. Rust.

ATTRACTIONS HERE ALL THIS WEEK

Every kind of attraction able to find seroudging room in Merkel is here this week to entertain our visitors and citizens. There is now open for your approval The Firemens Annual Carnival. The West Texas Carnival Co. showing on South First Street each night with big shows and free attractions.

A reputable Wild West Show is also billed for our town on Saturday. Mr. Frank Still is staging this attraction and is something of a champion performer himself. The attraction will begin Saturday evening at 2:30 with broncho busting, wild horse races, potato races, goat roping and riding stunts of thrilling movements. A Free exhibition is promised by Frank Still on the streets of Merkel Saturday evening just before the Frontier Day Celebration starts. It will be remembered that Mr. Still is one of the contestants in the noted 7 day broncho busting contest staged at The National Corn Exposition at Dallas last Spring. He was fortunate in being one of the few riders who competed in the prize riding for the \$1000.00 saddle which Hugo Strickland of Gainsville won. In addition to this Mr. Still promises to have a special goat roping contest between himself and the Weir Bros of this place (Messrs George and Gaines Weir.) This in itself no doubt will be well worth seeing for the Weir boys are in a class above all others when it comes to speed in roping. Geo. Weir now holds the best time for steer roping ever made by a professional roper.

Each evening during the week there are feature attractions at both the moving picture shows.

New City Editor For Reporter

In Sunday's issue of the Abilene Reporter the management announces a change at the desk of their City Editors department.

This position lately filled by W.H. Wright who has resigned to enter the Methodist Conference will be filled in the future by Mr. Frank Grimes formerly connected with the Brenham Banner and the Temple Telegram. The new man on the staff of the Reporter is a relation of our townsman T. L. Grimes.

Notice of Stockholders Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of the shareholders of The Farmers State Bank, Merkel, Texas, will be held at the office of the Bank January 12 1915 for the purpose of electing directors and such other business as may come before the meeting.

R.O. Anderson, Cashier.

HAULING NOTICE.

For hauling ring me at Clarke, phone 195 or Porters Grocery, phone 286. H.S. (Dad) Wilson.

Bags 3363 is a specific for La Grippe. 2t

WHO'S WHO IN MERKEL, AND WHY

A review of past weeks, months and years in so far as we are able to look backward. Conditions are such that we are compelled to look the other way and keep a quick step at double time in order to keep pace with affairs and people of our town and country.

MERKEL'S MAYOR

Merkel is situated about one hundred yards west of the 100 meridian and is ruled over at the present by His Royal Highness, J. J. Stallings, Mayor, formerly a farmer of this country and a pioneer. Mayor Stallings is what you would call "Farmer Jim" and won in a walk. He is known here as the second Jim Hogg. (apologies to recent politician), but notwithstanding he is deserving of all good that is said about him. His advent into the Supreme Chair was first by appointment to fill the unexpired term of William Travis Potter now of Austin. Politically Mayor Stallings is a Democrat of the first water, one of the Jeffersonian kind. He was a friend to Joe Bailey and voted for Hon. Thos. H. Ball. His term of office seems to be satisfactory as far as we are concerned and we are a believer in him.

MERKEL'S PROSECUTOR

Charles Duiguid Mims, Ex-Mayor of Merkel was born and raised in Kentucky lived awhile in Nacogdoches but saw the great light a few years ago and moved with his family to our town. He is a believer in our country and has since his residence here been a constant reader of our paper until last week when his subscription expired. According to our books last weeks copy of the Mail is the first time our rag has not been sent to his address since his arrival here. We hope that in case this article comes to his attention he forgets the past, shakes us by the hands and calls it square. Really we want Judge Mims to continue as one of our supporters and as the City Attorney of our town we believe he ought to keep up with what is going on around him. Judge Mims enjoys a large law practice and we gladly recommend him to our readers. We have been fortunate in not having to employ an attorney since Judge Mims has been a resident of our town. The only case we ever had in court was well under the direction of an outside attorney when our present city prosecutor decided to domicile himself here. Politically his inclinations are like those of Hon. Mayor. He also tore his coat for Ball; but split it with Bailey.

OUR CUSTODIAN

Looking at it from our view point this position ought to be filled by it incumbent, H. C. Burroughs Sr., in a quiet and easy manner but we have been informed that he has under his care a total amount of over \$7000. Really we didn't know there was that much money, and how he safeguards it without absconding and taking this ready cash with him we do not understand. The solution we suppose is from the fact that it is H. C. Burroughs and a man who a measley \$7000.00 would not worry.

OUR CITY "DADS"

There are five in this exalted crowd and each of them draw from the City Treasurer every three months \$15.00 for the patriotic services they have or have not rendered. They are J. O. Hamilton, J. L. Harris, J. P. Sharp, G. H. Adams and O. W. Williams. Each one of these distinguished gentlemen is to be congratulated for the conservative and judicial way in which they manipulate the wires governing the destiny of our town.

OUR CITY MARSHAL

The man with the five cornered star on his coat is W. N. Hall. He moved to Merkel from some part of south Texas near the town of Uvalde. On coming to our city, he found things on the boom and erected a planing mill to assist in the manufacture of Merkel homes which were going up at the rate of about one per day; at that time. When that line of work struck the "toboggan" he scratched his head and started another house. Some people thought it was an air castle but he made it stick. He was elected to watch over the welfare and safety of our people. Naturally his work was satisfactory to many, fairly so to some and disgusting to a few. He placed another story to the house about eighteen months ago and seated himself in the Marshal's chair for another two years. He is given as an assistant for care of streets about the city. one venerable B. J. Dodd a friend to everybody and everybodys friend.

OUR RELIGIOUS BODIES

Nowhere in Texas do we believe there will be found a town where religious work is on a higher plane. Perhaps the most noteworthy man of all religious bodies in Merkel, is the Rev. A. A. Baker former pastor of the Presbyterian church of this place and while he has retired from constant work with his people on account of his very mature age he has not relented in the least in his work for the Supreme Architect, he is ever a follower of the Lord and a man loved by every man, woman and child who knows him. Rev. Baker has as companions in active work Rev. Hubert E. Bullock pastor of the Presbyterian church, Rev. W. M. Gaddy pastor of the Baptist church, Rev. Ed. R. Wallace pastor of the Methodist church and Elder W. G. Cypert pastor of the north side Christian Church. Under the direc-



Merkel children writing to Santa Claus should direct their letters as follows: Santa Claus, G. F. Club, Merkel, Texas.

tion of each of these ministers, enthusiastic Sunday school work is being carried on every Sunday. The Superintendents of the various Sunday schools find their churches well filled each Lords Day and a cooperative spirit in religious work is shown on every hand.

OUR SCHOOL SYSTEM

This educational body and a medium through which our town is widely advertised is under the direction of the efficient H. M. Morris formerly of Midlothian, Texas. Mr. Morris is ably assisted on every hand by teachers in all branches and our school year is moving forward like a ship on a calm sea but under full steam.

THOSE WHO REGULATE OUR SCHOOL SYSTEM

This body ruled under a gavel weaved by J. S. Swann, another personage like unto our Hon. Mayor, he to, is sometimes termed "Farmer Jim" (more apologies). Mr. Swann is probably more of a pioneer to the Merkel country than 99 per cent of our citizens. He is a bank president, a school trustee, an after dinner speaker, a successful farmer and stock raiser. The writer has recollection of boyhood days when we would meet up with Mr. Swann on his ranch northwest of this city and our boyish mind then formed a thought of "Some-day Mr. Swann will be a big man", and we were not mistaken in our forethought; we have lived to see the day. With Mr. Swann there are six other Merkel citizens who congregate once a month and sign the pay check for our school teachers. The body of school trustees is a regular organized order. They have a president, a vice president, a secretary and a conclave every now and then to look after the urgent needs of the children of their constituents. The body is composed of J. S. Swann, T.A. Johnson, J. W. Wheeler, J. T. Dennis, N. D. Cobb, W. L. Harkrider and O. J. Adcock. None of these gentlemen even though they discharge their duties in a commendable way are paid a cent for their trouble, with them it is a kind of a thankyou, job but always well done.

UNCLE SAM'S MANAGER

The man who looks at you over the top of his glasses and through the bars at the postoffice is H.C. Williams, recently appointed since our country was redeemed from the clutches of republicanism by the democrats.

We have known Mr. Williams for many years and at the beginning our acquaintance was very intimate. He taught our young ideas how to shoot in a one-room

school house at Trent. He drove from Merkel to teach this school but never thought of moving his home. He moved his work and engaged in the real estate and insurance business, being associated with G.W. Johnson. Having trained us, we naturally followed in his footsteps and tried to get the postoffice job, but as of yore he gave us another beating.

We are glad because he is a good man and a good postmaster and we have a better job. May he live many years longer and continue to grow fatter and richer.

OUR BANKERS

Of the most important come T.A. Johnson and R.O. Anderson cashiers of the Farmers & Merchants National Bank and the Farmers State Bank respectfully. We say they are the most important and have reasons to prove our contention. To one of either of these men the woeful proposition comes to their face of lending a circulating medium that keeps the wolf away from our door as well as the door of many homes in this part of Texas. Each are noted for the generous way in which they respond to the request of various parties when an occasion demands, personally comment on these two men we credit the first with being the silver tongued orator of our town and the latter with being a direct opposite when it comes to making a speech. He is there with the silver but has never demonstrated the tongue. These men are super-dominated in official positions by J. T. Warren and J. S. Swann respectively of the above mentioned banks. Of the latter we have already enlightened our readers. Mr. Warren is also a banker, an ex-school trustee, another one of our after dinner speakers also a successful farmer and a breeder of registered cattle. He is an advocate of reduced acreage and is making preparations to place all of his farm land in feed crops for 1915 harvest and is in the market for a gasoline tractor to do the work with.

FORMER OFFICIALS

We erect a mental monument to the services of Merkel's former city officials. Our first mayor was G.W. Johnson who started Merkel out on the right road August 4th, 1906. He was assisted in the discharge of his duties by G. M. Cauthen as marshal. In April 1907 the Hon. W.W. Wheeler was elected to fill the Mayors chair while the name of Mr. Cauthen was again submitted to our voters and he again was the man with the big gun on. This all ended in 1911 when the next elec-

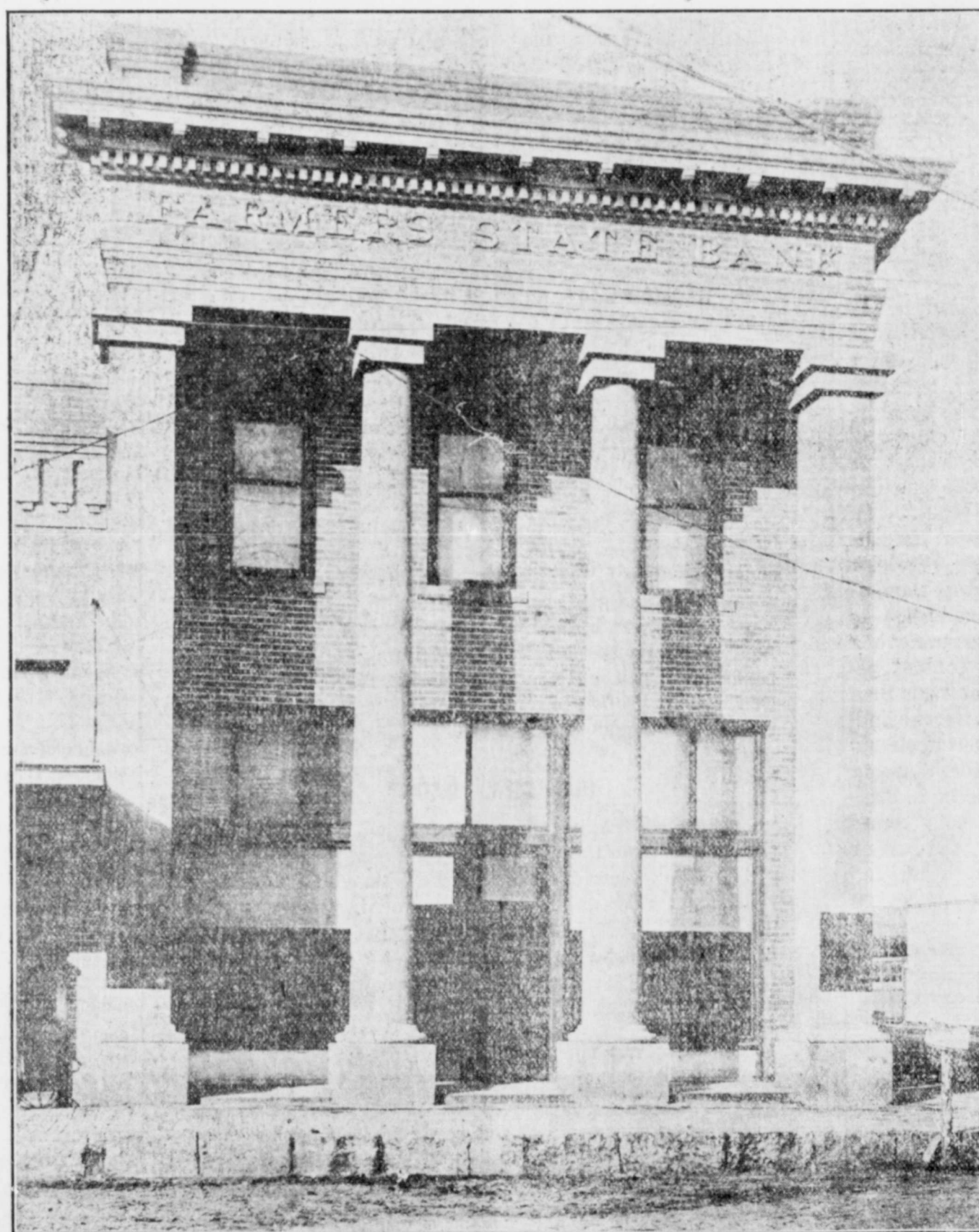
(Continued on page 8)

J. S. SWANN President
JOHN SEARS Vice President

R. O. ANDERSON Cashier
B. C. MOORE Asst. Cashier

A Merry Christmas

To All Our Friends and Patrons



WE SOLICIT ALL GOOD BUSINESS
We have Over One Thousand Satisfied Customers

Farmers State Bank

MERKEL

TEXAS

FIRST APPEARANCE
HERE OF THE
WORLD'S RENOWNED
STAR

**ANNETTE
KELLERMANN**

(The Perfect Woman)
(with Form Divine)

in
"NEPTUNE'S
DAUGHTER"

500 PEOPLE
1000 SCENES

The Greatest
Motion Tableau
Ever Conceived

An Original Fairy
Romance, together
with the Most
Stupendous, Thrilling
Awe-Inspiring and
Daring Aquatic Feats
Ever Presented
to the Public

SEE

THE MODERN VENUS
THE MOST PERFECT
WOMAN in the WORLD



Cozy Theatre

FRIDAY DEC. 11

PRICE 15 and 25

3 — Equals — 25

A startling statement but a true one in this case. One teaspoonful of medicine and two pounds of your own ground feed (cost about 3 cents) equal, in what they do for your animals and fowls, two pounds of any ready-made stock or poultry tonic (price 25 cents). There you are! If you don't believe it, try it out! Buy, today, a can of—

**Bee Dee STOCK & POULTRY
MEDICINE**

Changes feed into toxic—Makes it result-producing.

Write for a trial package of Bee Dee STOCK & POULTRY MEDICINE, also our 32 page, illustrated book, fully explaining its uses. Address: Bee Dee Stock Medicine Company, Chattanooga, Tenn.

25c, 50c and \$1. per can. At your dealer's.

THE MERKEL GARAGE

Repair work promptly done
and Satisfaction Guaranteed.

TEXAS COMPANY'S OILS AND GAS.

If you need anything in our
business give us a call.

S. P. FOSTER : PROPRIETOR

**DOCTORS INDORSE NEWBRO'S
HERPICIDE FOR THE HAIR**

When a doctor indorses a preparation it means more than an ordinary testimonial. His opinion is always that of the professional man devoted to the welfare of the people.

Dr. J. J. Boyd, Covington, Tenn., says: "I feel it my duty to write this for the benefit of those suffering from dandruff. In the average case a few applications of Newbro's Herpicide will remove all dandruff. It is advisable to continue its use for several weeks."

The words of J. B. Thompson, M. D., No. 2 Burroughs Place, Cor. Hollis St., Boston, Mass., are not less enthusiastic: "I can only speak in praise of Newbro's Herpicide. It is all that is claimed and perhaps more. Herpicide not only cleanses the scalp but brightens the hair, gives it life and makes it soft."

Dr. T. A. Moore, Duncan, Ariz., writes of his experience: "My scalp was in places covered by patches of dry, scaly material and the itching was incessant. Since using Herpicide all these evils have disappeared and my hair is soft, smooth and growing. Hair has grown on spots before but thinly covered."
Newbro's Herpicide is "the original remedy to kill the dandruff germ" and stop falling hair. The terrible itching which goes with dandruff is allayed almost at once.
Newbro's Herpicide in 50c. and \$1.00 sizes is guaranteed to do all that is claimed. If you are not satisfied your money will be refunded.
Applications may be obtained at the leading barber shops. Be sure you get genuine Herpicide.

For Sale by H. C. Burroughs

Whenever You Need a General Tonic
Take Grove's

The Old Standard Grove's Tasteless
chill Tonic is equally valuable as a
General Tonic because it contains the
well known tonic properties of QUININE
and IRON. It acts on the Liver, Drives
out Malaria, Enriches the Blood and
Builds up the Whole System. 50 cents.

How To Give Quinine To Children.
FEBRILINE is the trade-mark name given to
the improved Quinine. It is a Tasteless Syrup, pleas-
ant to take and does not disturb the stomach.
Children take it and never know it is Quinine.
Also especially adapted to adults who cannot
take ordinary Quinine. Does not nauseate nor
cause nervousness nor ringing in the head. Try
the next time you need Quinine for any pur-
pose. Ask for 2-ounce original package. The
same FEBRILINE is blown in bottle. 25 cents.

Follow The Arrows to



BURROUGHS DRUG STORE
For Your Xmas
Presents



THE WORLD SMILES

On the man with exquisitely clean lin-
en. He smiles on himself too with the
consciousness of absolute cleanliness.
Send your things to this laundry and
you'll know the feeling. Once you ex-
perience our way of laundering, nothing
less good will ever satisfy you again.

SWEETWATER STEAM LAUNDRY
M. B. BELL, Agent, Merkel.

Sick Headache

Sick headache is nearly all caused by
disorders of the stomach. Correct
them and the periodic attacks of the
headache will disappear. Mrs. John
Bishop of Roseville, Ohio writes:

"About a year ago I was troubled
with indigestion and had sick headache
that lasted two or three days at the
time. I doctored and tried a number
of remedies but nothing helped me un-
til during one of these sick spells a
friend advised me to take Chamber-
lain's Tablets. This medicine relieved
me in a short time." For sale by all
dealers. adv

Was a Privileged Bee.

Hazel, aged four, was spending the
day with her aunt. While there a bee
stung her. When she returned home
that evening her father asked her if
she killed the bee and she replied:
"Why, no, papa; it was Aunt Jane's
bee."

Follow the Arrows to



BURROUGHS DRUG STORE
For Your Xmas
Presents

Mrs. McClain's Experience With
Croup

"When my little boy, Ray, was
small he was subject to the croup and
I was always alarmed at such times.
Chamberlain's Cough Remedy proved
far better than any other for this
trouble. It always relieved him quick-
ly. I am never without it in the house
for I know it is a positive cure for the
croup." writes Mrs. W. R. McClain,
Blairsville, Pa. For sale by all deal-
ers. adv

Inspiration.

Half the difficulty of fighting any
severe battle or accomplishing any
hard task vanishes when a man feels
that he has comrades at his side fight-
ing in the same cause, or that the
eyes of those he loves are upon him,
and their hearts praying for his vic-
tory.—C. J. Perry.

Chamberlain's Cough Remedy—the
Mother's Favorite

"I give Chamberlain's Cough Remedy
to my children when they have
colds and coughs," writes Mrs. Verne
Shaffer, Vandergrift, Pa. "It always
helps them and is far superior to any
other cough medicine I have ever used.
I advise any one in need of such medi-
cine to give it a trial." For Sale by
all dealers. adv

FESTIVAL FOR THE YOUNG

Opportunity of Christmas of Bringing
Happiness to Children Should Not
Be Passed By.

Christmas, the celebration of the
birthday of the Divine Child, is pecu-
liarly the children's festival. And
while it cannot, too, but be a time of
special rejoicing among grown-ups, we
realize after all, that it has no other
charm to compare with the pleasure
we take in some kiddy's delight over
the doll or drum or picture book that
our special Santa Claus has brought
him.

This opportunity of making some
child's Christmas one of surpassing
joy, of which he will carry a gracious
and endearing memory into after life,
years, it may be, after our direct in-
fluence for good or evil will have
ceased forever—this opportunity of
giving pleasure is one of the best
that life has to offer us. And per-
haps the greatest opportunity is his
who in place of home ties, has the
wide, gray world of homeless, loveless,
unhappy childhood from which to
choose the most needy recipient of his
Christmas giving. The chances of
giving happiness in this way are so
many, the means so simple, and the
deed itself so worthy, that no one of
us should let the season pass unim-
proved.



For it is good to be children
sometimes, and never better than
at Christmas, when its mighty
Founder was a child himself.

—Charles Dickens

WISE AND JUST.

There was a man in our town,
And he was wondrous wise;
He said all plants were mistletoe
To his discerning eyes.

When'er beneath a spray of green,
From holly down to fir,
He found a maiden young and fair,
He then and there kissed her.

And when the maids objected, he
Did penance there and then;
He counted up each kiss he took,
And gave it back again.

*Brother
Sinner*
Harry Irving Greene



JOHN HARDING was not
a mild man, neither was
he inclined to be super-
stitious. As a rule he
had small belief in
signs, presentiments or
hunches, but just now
all this was different. For he had
seen certain signs that one of his
shoots had been stolen; had a pre-
sentiment that a certain unworthy
known as "Shiftless Joe" had done the
foul deed, and possessed a hunch that
he was about to horsewhip Joe until
he outspoke any pig critter that
was ever lifted over a fence on a
moonless night. So, being a man of
deeds as well as thoughts, he took
down his trusty bull whip and started
swampward towards the abode of his
victim to be.

Now Shiftless Joe was not reckoned
among the 400 of John Harding's com-
munity, and when one is told that
there were but 400 people in that dis-
trict he will understand that the state-
ment has a well-defined meaning. He
lived alone at the edge of the big
swamp, fishing in summer when it
was not too hot; trapping in winter
when it was not too cold; sleeping and
loafing the year around, he was avoid-
ed by the entire hard-working, hard-
praying settlement.

It was a long tramp from the home
of Harding to the miserable cabin of
the trapper, and by the time the for-
mer had arrived there his righteous
wrath against the slothful, sinful being
whom he sought was grim and un-
relenting. "My house is the house of
prayer; but ye have made it a den of
thieves," he quoted sternly. Then he
raised his fist and smote upon the
wretched door such a blow as Moses
of old might have struck when he split
the rock and bade the waters gush
forth. From within a squeaky, rat-
like voice bade him enter, and through
the narrow doorway he crowded.

He glanced around the cluttered
place. From one corner a thin, weas-
el-like figure arose and stood cringing
before the mighty one, fear thickly
spreading his face as he noted the
formidable whip tightly clutched in
the equally formidable hand. "Good
morning, Mr. Harding. Happy New
Year," he said, fawningly.

"It is a bad morning for you, and it
is going to be an unhappy beginning
of the New Year," he retorted. "Steal
my shoot, will you!" The smaller man
threw up his hands with a protesting
gesture as quick dental leaped to his
lips. But Harding silenced him with
a roar.

"Don't aid lying to your thievery,
you sheep-killing cur. One false word
from your lips and your punishment
shall be doubled. You thought you
were cunning, but in several places I
found the mark of that club foot of
yours while you were making off with
my good pork. Now what have you to
say?"

"Nothing, except that I did not steal
—" As a bear strikes, so did the heavy
arm of the invader shoot out, the hand
gripping the thin shoulder like a trap.

"I warned you if you lied your pun-
ishment should be doubled. Has not
the good Lord commanded 'Thou shalt
not steal?' Thank your stars that you
did not live in those days, for you
would have been stoned to death.
Rather, bless your luck that you have
fallen into the hands of a compassion-
ate man." With a hiss the lash fell
and a shuddering scream burst from
the lips of the cringing one. But from
then on no sound escaped them until,
at last released from the iron grip, Joe
fell limply upon the frozen ground.
Sternly gazing down upon his victim
for a moment, Harding turned away.
"It was the just punishment of a
rogue by a just man," he muttered to
his conscience.

From a shapeless, writhing heap the
fallen one arose, his small eyes glit-
tering with the deadly glare of a prodded
serpent. "Whip me, you black devil—
you usurer—you forecloser of widow's
mortgages—you dodger of taxes—you
—you—" The voice rose to an inar-
tulate scream of rage. "By the Eter-
nal, I'll kill you for that—yes, murder
you in cold blood." Then the first



"I'll Kill You for That, Yes."

wild outburst of passion passed and
into the red eyes a look of cunning
crept, the cunning that outwitted
wary wild beasts and took them in his
snare.

He passed rapidly through the brush
until he came to a hollow log, from
which he drew an ancient gun which
he had stolen and hidden there years
before. None knew that he possessed
it, and he chuckled at his own cunning
as he plotted his details. He
knew that Harding's family was away
and that John would attend church
that night and return home alone after
services. Nothing would be easier
than to raise a window of his foe's
house during his absence, and upon his
return kill him at his own threshold
and, leaving the weapon behind him,
flee. Joe was known to never carry a
weapon, and the leaving of this fire-
arm behind, together with the forcible
entry of the place, would throw the
crime upon mysterious tramps or bur-
glars. As darkness fell he prowled
forth, assured himself that Harding
had gone, then, prying open the win-
dow, entered and sat waiting by the
low burning lamp until the sound of
distant wheels reached his ears. He
had not loaded his weapon yet, having
reasoned that should he be caught
before the act with an unloaded gun he
would be deemed guilty of a far less
offense than should it be loaded. But
now the time had come.

From his pocket he drew some pow-
der and poured it into the yawning
muzzle, laying the bullet upon the
table. Next, he must have some paper
wadding for both powder and ball, and
a book lay close at hand. Without
looking at its cover he tore forth a
handful of leaves and, selecting one,
laid the others aside as he raised the
first piece preparatory to crumpling it
up and ramming it home upon the
powder. As he did so the words upon
the leaf caught his eye, and slowly he
read:

"Thou shalt not kill."

His hand trembled and his face
grew gray. Then in the night without
he heard the beat of hoofs before the
barn, coupled with the loud command
to "whoa," and with a gasp he clutched
another sheet. Before his eyes swam
the words:

"Likewise I say unto you, there is
joy in the presence of the angels of
God over one sinner that repenteth."

Slowly the gun slipped from his
hand, his form relaxed and he sank
into a chair, his head falling upon the
table.

Five minutes later John Harding,
fresh from unbarnishing his team,
throwing open the door, started back
in fear and amazement. Then softly
he approached the man who was now
shuddering as he had beneath the
whip, laid the gun aside and gazed at
the mutilated Bible. Upon the floor
he saw the dropped pages, gathered
them up, read them, then slowly un-
derstood.

For the second time that day Hard-
ing's hand fell upon the shoulder of
the other, but this time it was with a
parent's gentleness.

"Brother sinner," he whispered husk-
ily.

Easily Made Christmas
Novelties in Neckwear



NECKWEAR and muff sets were
never more fashionable than they
are just now, and they are among the
easiest to make of home-made gifts.
They confer both style and comfort
upon their wearers to the joy of those
who receive them.

Neckpieces are simply straight
lengths of velvet, plush or fur cloth,
cut a quarter of a yard wide and a
yard or more in length. They are
lined with satin and gathered in at the
ends, where a tasseled ornament
makes the finish. They fasten about
the neck with a hook and eye slide.
Crocheted, passamenterie or bead
buckles and ornaments are used on
them.

Muffs are barrel-shaped and made
over beds of down or wool batting.
These beds are bought ready made
and are very cheap. Velvet coverings
are usually gathered over them with
ruffles at each end as shown in the
picture. The silk and ruffles are lined
with satin. Silk cords or strands of
large black beads are fashionable this
season for decorating these sets.

Inexpensive Gifts in
Collars and Vestees



A COLLAR and vestee in sheer or
gandie, to wear with tailored suits
will be welcomed by every woman and
costs almost nothing but the time for
making. The flaring collar is finished
with hand-embroidered scallops or a
band of fine narrow swiss embroidery,
or lace, which extends down each side.
The collar and vestee must be cut
separately and joined at the neck line.
The collar is wired to make it stand
and flare correctly.

A brilliant vestee, with collar and
revers of filmy lace, is pictured made
of brocade velvet and shadow lace.
The vestee is a band about the neck
gradually widening to the waist line
where it is trimmed into points. It
fastens just above the points with
hooks and eyes, and here three small,
fancy buttons are set on for ornament.
A short ruffle of lace forms a flaring
collar which is supported with fine
wires. The revers are made of straight
pieces of lace draped in at each side
and at the top in the neck line. Made
of bright colored brocades this is one
of the prettiest of novelties to be worn
to embellish the blouse.

Holiday Ties and
Bows in Ribbon



INEXPENSIVE and pretty neckwear
is made of narrow colored velvet
ribbon. Bows and ties like those
shown in the picture are often finished
with small flowers of ribbon or chiffon.

Who's Who in Merkel. and Why

(Concluded from page 1)

tion came around and the Merkel people elected as their Mayor Hon. C. D. Mims here-tofore talked about in these columns. With him the present City Marshall, W. N. Hall, stepped into office. In April 1913 the name of W. T. Potter was submitted to our voters as the man for our Mayorship and his election forth coming. He only served a few months of his time until he received a more lucrative position under appointment of Governor Colquitt as Secretary of the board of Irrigation Engineers at Austin. This brought about a condition of affairs explained at the beginning of this retrospective and prospective spasm.

ORDER AGAINST CONFLAGRATIONS

A body organized in 1908 with B. C. Gaither as the Chief, the following year he was re-instated and under his primary training Merkel now has one of the best fire departments in the State of Texas. Following Mr. Gaither came former Marshal G. M. Cauthen with the ruling of one year to be closely followed by our barber friend Will F. Evans who served for a like time when the boys elected as their leader their first chief B. C. Gaither. The office was made vacant shortly afterward by Mr. Gaither's move to Tuscola and the "Kid Chief" J. Frank Ferrier was elected to fill the remaining term. His services seemed fairly satisfactory to all the boys and not a single vote was registered against him at the last election and he is now serving us as a duly elected chief with an excellent record. As to what the Volunteer Firefighters have been worth to Merkel during the past year can be shown by some comparative figures. In our sister city of Abilene the report of the Abilene Chief, J. J. Clinton on November, 17th last was as follows for the year ending then:

The city shows to have had their department called out to protect \$117,300.00 worth of property on which there was a loss of \$57,280.20 not including a loss of \$9,474.50 which the Abilene Department could not reach. In Merkel for a like time we fine the following figures:

Our department was called out to protect property valued at \$36,520.00 and on the total amount involved there was a loss of approximately \$2,999.65

SOME OF OUR CATTLEMEN

We have already talked about some of our Merkel country ranch owners to wit: J. S. Swann and J. T. Warren. There remain yet of no less importance Messrs Jno. Sear, C. M. Largent, Sam Butman, R. H. Collins, Arthur Sears and the Commission Co. of Bond and Huddleston. We say commission of these latter two men for they manage to make a commission on the eastern cattle after they have made them respectable for market purposes by feeding them on Merkel country grass and feed. Messrs Sear and Largent both have aspirations for better bred cattle. The latter has so far been more successful in his vocation from the fact that he devotes his entire time to the study of raising the best Hereford cattle in the Southern part of the United States. While Mr Sear has the same stock but his time is occupied in banking circles of our town. The other two cattlemen mentioned above, Messrs Arthur Sears and R. H. Collins are content with larger heads of cattle all raised and fattened for market purposes.

OUR POULTRYMEN

When you say poultry raisers to a man in West Texas his first thought is of the Merkel country citizens. (Reference, our report of the Merkel Poultry Show in

this weeks issue of the Mail.)

OUR MEDICAL FRATERNITY

Here is an order of Merkel citizens worthy of your support if you need them. As it is at present these men are at times in dire circumstances. Only at times are they fortunate enough to scare the wolf away from the door by their professional calls. They are Doctors Geo. L. Miller, W. B. Cranford, M. Armstrong, G. M. Williams, S. L. Davis and O. F. McMaster. The latter two are always looking down in the mouth. The idea we wish to impart to our readers here is that Merkel is a healthy country and deserving of such advertisement.

TILLERS OF THE SOIL

Here is where theMerkel country springs into prominence.

Merkel has a record of shipping more cotton than any other town between Fort Worth and El Paso on the Texas and Pacific railway. This comes through the progressiveness of our farmers. To individually mention the prominent agriculturalists of the Merkel country we would have all the advertisements scrouged out of our paper and such would be an impossibility for that is how we manage to "get by" as J. G. Jackson would say.

OUR ADVERTISERS

To these patriotic people you either owe a compliment or a contention, for 'tis by their financial patronage this paper is sent to your address. If you are in the market for any thing from a tin horn to a piano it will pay you to see what our merchants are advertising.

A dollar saved is a dollar made and the savings listed in this week's Merkel Mail by our home merchants and business men would fill the Belgian relief cup to overflowing so far as the Merkel country would be duty bound to contribute.

How's This?

We offer One Hundred Dollars reward for any case of Catarrh that can not be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure.

F. J. Cheney & Co. Toledo, Ohio. We the undersigned, have known F. J. Cheney for the last 15 years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions and financially able to carry out any obligations made by his firm.

Nat'l Bank of Commerce
Toledo, Ohio.

Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Testimonials sent free. Price 75c per bottle. Sold by all druggists.

Take Halls Family Pills for constipation. adv

Old Peace Treaty.

A copy of the official declaration of peace between England and the United Netherlands, of 1667, was recently sold in London, together with other proclamations, pamphlets, broadsides and news sheets. The pamphlet brought \$280. This was the treaty which gave New York to England.

For that dull Feeling after Eating

I have used Chamberlain's Tablets for some time, and can testify that they have done me more good than any tablets I have ever used. My trouble was a heavy dull feeling after eating. — DAVID FREEMAN, Kempt, Nova Scotia. These Tablets strengthen the stomach and improve the digestion. They also regulate the liver and bowels. They are far superior to pills but cost no more. For sale by all dealers. adv

Had Become Callicured.

"Does my practicing make you nervous?" asked the man who is learning to play the bugle for the territorials. "It did when I first heard the neighbors discussing it," replied the sympathetic person. "But now I'm getting so I don't care what happens to you."—London Opinion.

The Magic Washing Stick

"The Magic Washing Stick is just fine. [It did just what you said it would do and the clothes were so nice and white with all that hard rubbing left off," writes Mrs. Sarah Goodale, Preston, Texas.] The Magic Stick is not a soap nor washing powder. Sold by druggist, three sticks for 25c, or by mail from A. B. Richards Medicine Co., Sherman, Texas. adv

COW BOYS' REUNION

AND

Frontier Day Celebration

WILL BE HELD AT

MERKEL, TEXAS

Saturday

DEC. 12, '14.

Performance Positively Begins at 2:00 p. m., Rain or Shine
OFFICIAL PROGRAM:

2:30 p. m. Wild Horse Race, prize	\$10.00
3:00 p. m. Cowboys' Horse Race, prize	10.00
(Entrance fee in both the above events \$2.00 each.)	
3:30 p. m. Cigar Race, prize	\$1.00
4:00 p. m. Potatoe Race, prize	1.00
4:30 p. m. Shoe Race, prize	1.00
5:00 p. m. Broncho Riding Contest by the Worlds Champions	Prize \$15.00 Entrance Fee \$3.00
Goat Roping. 1st prize \$15.00; second prize \$10.00; third prize \$5.00. Entrance fee \$2.50.	

Roping Exhibition by Frank Still on Streets Free AT 1:30 p.m.

\$3.00 will be given to the man who brings in the worst bucking horse or mule. This is not a Wild West Show, but all home talent from start to finish. For futher information see

FRANK STILL, Mgr.

GENERAL ADMISSION - - 10c AND 25c

To Mend Broken Dishes.

There is nothing better for mending broken dishes or a lamp that is loose in the collar than alum melted and used while hot.

Heartburn is a symptom of indigestion. Take a dose of HERBINE in such cases. The pain disappears instantly. The bowels operate speedily and you feel fine, cheerful and vigorous. Price 50c Sold by H. C. Burroughs. adv

Use for Bones of Albatross.

Bones of the albatross are being used to a very great extent of late as mouthpieces for pipes instead of amber.

Wheezing in the lungs indicates that phlegm is obstructing the air passage. BALLARD'S HOREHOUND SYRUP loosens the phlegm so that it can be coughed up and ejected. Price 25c, 50c and \$1.00 per bottle. Sold by H. C. Burroughs. adv

A Luscious Criticism.

"Her criticisms," said Mrs. Twickenbury, "were extremely succulent." —Christian Register.

Stops Pain Right Now

Hunt's Lightning Oil Gives almost instant relief in cases of Rheumatism, neuralgia, headache etc., and act as a healing oil on cuts and bruises. Every home should keep a bottle handy. Get it at any reputable drug store in 25c and 50c bottles. adv

Shark a Long-Distance Swimmer.

The shark holds the record for long-distance swimming. A shark has been known to cover 800 miles in three days.

Sickly children need White's Cream Vermifuge. It not only destroys worms, if there be any, but it acts as a strengthening tonic in the stomach and bowels. Price 25c per bottle. Sold by H. C. Burroughs. adv



THE MERKEL MAIL

VOL. 26—NO. 42

MERKEL, TEXAS, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1914

16 PAGES

:: A Merry Christmas to All the World ::



AN APPEAL TO SANTA CLAUS

Have you any good roads to give out this Christmas? If you have you had better bring some with you for you may get stuck in the mud just before you reach our town. If you think you will be late in getting here it might be well to bring some natural gas along to light things up with.

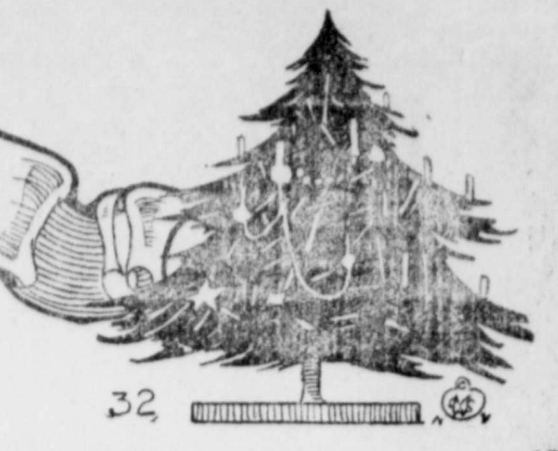
Now Santa Claus we are badly in need of these good roads and ask that you do all you can for us. Trusting that you help us out in this, we remain very expectant and in dire need of better highways.

THE MAIL AND ITS READERS.



The Store of Practical and Inexpensive

Christmas Gifts



32

FOLLOW THE ARROWS TO THIS PLACE

APPROPRIATE GIFTS FOR EVERY MEMBER OF THE FAMILY—AND HER

Everything on Display December 15th---Open Evenings until Xmas

OUR PLACE THE TOYLAND OF THE TOWN--See for YOURSELF



Parisian Ivory

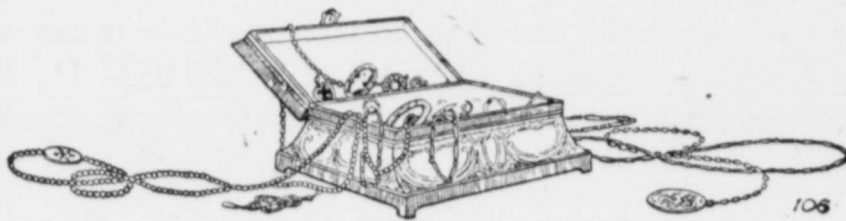
The Latest

and most acceptable gifts. Toilet Sets in Parisian Silver, Pompeian Gold and French designs Manicure Sets.

DIAMONDS and the many Xmas Gifts

Accommodations to the Visiting Public. Be one of our visitors. Make it a Kodak--an Anso--could any gift be better? Anso films fit any Kodaks. Get the Adso kind. Why? Because they sell for less and are better

Follow The Arrows to BURROUGHS at Merkel



Jewel Boxes and All Those

Gifts that go with them, carrying a life-time remembrance as a result.

11 Shopping Days until Xmas

Shop early here--Be Satisfied.

Follow The Arrows to BURROUGHS at Merkel



Cut Glass for The Home

Fruit Bowles, Candle Sticks, Nappies, Vases, Bon Bon Dishes, Rose Bowles, Puff Boxes and everything in Cut Glass Designs

THE CHRISTMAS SHOP FOR EVERYBODY

Fireworks for the boys.--Dolls for the babies--Gifts for father--good selections for your mother---something for sister and at a saving to yourself. Follow the line of arrows to

BURROUGHS DRUG STORE

For Xmas Presents That Please

THE Farmers & Merchants Natl. Bank OF MERKEL

Capital and Surplus \$50,000.00

Member Bank in Regional Reserve System

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

J. T. Warren G. F. West C. P. Warren Henry James Ed. S. Hughes Ben T. Merritt Thos. Johnson

RAILROAD MEN ARE STRONG FOR MERKEL

A letter from the Editor of the Texas & Pacific Magazine to the Mail in which a few encouraging words are spoken by the writer, Jack H. Ester.

The Mail, Merkel, Texas, Indicated by the correspondence from Dallas and New Orleans, the Mail has the warmest congratulations from the First Vice president and other officials of the Texas & Pacific Railway Company, giving this expression with the publication of the Mail's special edition. There is a friendly feeling manifest between the railroad men and the press, attested by the helpfulness upon the part of each agency in building up the great West Texas country.

The Texas & Pacific Railway has reason to be proud of Merkel and the growing country contiguous to the town, which element has been loyal in its support of its transportation facilities, and the same has been the case, inversely, of the railway company in its support to the town and county communities Constant co-

operation in these things must be maintained and stimulated to guarantee development.

According to the T. & P. officials, they have taken the keenest delight in observing the steady growth of Merkel and trade territory that is consistently being broadened. High buildings and massive stone structures are not needed in appreciating the growth of a city of a city. The observance of underlying principles of progress denote more than the surface of material things indicate. Along this line, attention is called to the fact that the tickets sales of the station of Merkel for the month of October, 1914 increased 26.1 per cent as compared with the total sales for that month last year. The record of Mr. A. J. Leighty agent, is worthy of appreciation. He also showed an increase for the month of September. Realizing the public interest in Railway affairs as never before, it is one of the policies of the new management of the Texas & Pacific Ry. to take into its confidence the patrons served by its lines, giving them a keener insight into the problems of transportation

After all railroads are but the servants of the people, who, through National and State com-

missions and city ordinances, regulate to a great extent the operation of trains and prescribed rules for accounting and other routine activities.

It has been proven to the satisfaction of all that when transportation companies do not prosper the people served by these companies do not prosper. If train schedules are combed by the fine teeth of retrenchment, leaving for the people to use absolutely the trains that are compelled to run, giving them inadequate service, unsafe transportation and other hardships resulting from short earnings, the people at large are the first to suffer. The world today is demanding safe, quick and comfortable train service and its business men demand dispatch in the movement of freight.

With the increased cost of living a demand for higher wages among the employes of the railroads arose and very promptly was granted. Now the railroads ask that they might be permitted slightly to increase their freight rates. They, too, suffer and are suffering now from the same high cost of living and higher prices for material and labor. This request, to date, has not been granted, but it is believed by many that public sentiment has so shaped that all channels of private and industrial factions are in favor of granting the needed aid to the railroads.

The first vice president of the T. & P. has made it plain that all railroads will be what the people make them. By this, he means that the carriers may be made or broken by their attitude. People served by railroads must at all times be fair and friendly in all dealings. Juries and judges must be honest in their convictions and give legal matters their conscientious consideration.

R.H. Reaves a merchant of our sister city of Trent was in Merkel Saturday on business.

OLD SOLDIER HAS GONE TO REWARD

Sam R. Curtis born in Lincoln county Tennessee January 12, 1846 died at Merkel at 9 30 o'clock Wednesday morning December 8th.

After having spent a larger part of his boyhood days in Tennessee the deceased moved with his parents, brothers and sisters to Danville, Kentucky where the home remained until the year of 1865 at which time they moved to Hill county Texas. Twenty two years later they moved to Taylor county and has since that time made his home here. He served in the Confederate Army for two years, and over forty two years ago professed religion and united with the Cumberland Presbyterian Church of which he has always been an ardent member. Mr. Curtis having passed from our midst, we are reminded that those old land marks to which we owe our southern chivalry are rapidly passing from view. He was a pioneer to the Merkel country and one of the best men of our entire country. Surviving him is one brother and one sister, S. W. Curtis of Sweetwater and Miss Amandie Curtis of th's city.

Funeral services were held at the Presbyterian church Thursday morning at 10 o'clock, with burial immediately afterward Rev. Hubert E. Bullock conducting the services.

Lame back may come from over work, cold settled in the muscles of the back or from disease. In the two former cases the right remedy is BALLARD'S SNOW LINIMENT. It should be rubbed in thoroughly over the affected part and relief will be prompt and satisfactory. Price 25c, 50c and \$1.00. Sold by H. C. Burroughs. adv

Nice fresh line of Kings Candies at Mrs. E.M. Rust

"HONEST SERVICE"

Jno. G. Jackson

Real Estate--Farm Loans

Fire Insurance

Capital \$1,250,000.00; Surplus--\$485

The combined capital of the three Abilene banks is \$450,000. Only one of my clients who owns over 100,000 acres of Texas lands furnishes a bigger capital for my business. In fact, I have the biggest and best in Abilene from every viewpoint except possibly that of surplus. If I could eat regularly and had plenty of expense money I would sell out a chunk of West Texas this winter bigger than Belgium. I am going to sell out a slice about like Luxemburg anyway and if you have anything to sell or want to buy, remember that I am your Huckleberry.

SOME EXCLUSIVE SPECIALS "Read the Red and Yellow Signs"

No one ever lost an eye reading my ads nor a dollar buying my exclusive bargains and you should get the habit. I am preparing a list longer than my imagination for the Christmas number of the Reporter but here are a few small pre-holiday and preliminary opportunities:

STOCK FARM AT A SNAP--480 acres within three miles of Merkel on public road and in good community; 70 acres in valley farm, balance in grass and Bitter creek, plenty of water and lots of wild rye in pasture; good 4-room house. The price is the thing here. Price, 160 acres improved at \$22.50 per acre, only \$750 cash, terms on balance and I will lease you the 320 acres of grass at \$50 per year for five years. Now, if you want to quit cotton and raise cows, hogs, chickens, mules, milo maize, sorghum, kaffir corn and a big family here is your chance.

CHICKEN SPECIAL--50 acres within two miles of Abilene, just north of Howerton Lake (if that's not over 2 miles); 40 in cultivation, 10 in pasture; 4-room house, well and tank. Price \$2500; \$500 cash or stock and liberal terms.

MERKEL POULTRY--40 acres within two miles of Merkel northwest; 30 acres in valley field, 10 in pasture; good 4-room house, newly painted, well, cistern, storm house, barn and garden. Over \$1000 worth of improvements. This place is worth \$2500 but listen: Price, \$1500; \$300 cash and liberal terms.

FARM MORTGAGE LOANS

In the last week I have placed \$10,000 and if you need any of my money you had better see me quick, but no use unless you have a high-class, gilt-edge and thrily secured proposition. It makes no difference to me but the man furnishing the money is awfully particular. My rates are 8 to 10 per cent--that is when I get the right kind of security then I get all I can. I am just human like you and so is the man with the money.

I hope that you have a Merry Christmas and will buy several of my exclusive bargains during the New year.

"Read The Red and Yellow Signs."

Jno. G. Jackson

Next to F. & M. Bank, ABILENE, TEXAS

Make Your Christmas Gifts Useful



Your Friends Will Delight in *Your* Pride



Dearie - Won't you buy my present of "Mack" I told him what I Want

Everything to Make the Home Comfortable

Belmont & Miller Co.
mack

Everything to Make the Home Beautiful

Sale - Sale - Sale Begins Saturday, Dec. 12th

Remember the dates and come to Trent. The last visit to our store at Ranger we found ourselves overstocked on Fall and Winter Mdse. Also having a store at Navasota and Waco in order to reduce our stocks we are going to make the following sacrifice.

Read - Read - Read

And come to Trent and figure with us before buying elsewhere. This sale Thursday December, 24

36 inch bleached domestic the kind you always pay 10c per yard, sale price 15 yards for one dollar
36 inch unbleached domestic the regular price 10c, sale price 13 yards for one dollar.
36 inch bleached and unbleached domestic sells at 10 and 12 1-2c, sale price 9cts

50c ladies underwear 35c
Ladies underwear comes in fleeced lined and ribbed, sells everywhere for 50c. Sale price 35c
Come to Trent
10c gingham 7 1-2
Extra good grade mostly light colors regular price 10 cents Sale price 7 1-2

\$4. ladies messaline skirts \$3. comes in assorted shades. Watch them go on sale at \$3. \$10. ladies cloaks at \$7.50. Ladies cloaks come in broadcloth mixtures and are up-to-date, sells everywhere for \$10. our price only 7 50. Ladies cloaks come in blue and brown. Sizes 32 and 34 only worth up to 7.50 Watch them go on this sale 4 00 to 4 50, 2 00 children cloaks 1.50. Cloaks come in red broadcloth and bouquin sale price 1.50 5 00 Florsheim and 4 00 Florsheim comes in tan button and lace sells every where for 5 00 and 6 00 sale price 4 00 4 00 and 5.00 ladies skirts at 3 00. Ladies skirts come in assorted shades and sizes. Sell the world over from 4 00 to 5 00. Sale price 3 00 Remember that this space dont permit us to quote all prices on everything. Come to Trent and we will do the rest.

NEMIR Dry Goods Co
Trent - Texas.



"Bell" Connection Valuable to You

From seed time to harvest and all the year through, every farmer occasionally has business to transact in distant towns. Letters go slow and traveling is expensive. Why not let the Long Distance Bell Telephone lines carry your message? Have you a Telephone connected to the Bell System?

THE SOUTHWESTERN TELEGRAPH & TELEPHONE COMPANY. 12-R-14

Wanted 100 young men who are going to marry to buy their engagement rings from me. I can show you any style from the plain band to the latest Tiffany wedding ring. Mrs. E.M. Rust.

Gas in the stomach comes from food that has fermented. Get rid of this badly digested food food as quickly as possible if you would avoid a bilious attack; HERBINE is the remedy you need. It cleanses and strengthens the stomach, liver and bowels, and restores energy and cheerfulness. Price 50c. Sold by H. C. Burroughs. adv

Lewis Patterson of Hamlin is here spending the month of December with his uncle D.E. Compton of Route 2.

D. G. M. Williams was in Abilene on business Tuesday.

W.M. Jenkins of Dallas was here Saturday and Sunday shaking hands with old friends and looking after business matters.

Mr. and Mrs. Cal Buford of Abilene were here Saturday and Sunday visiting the formers parents Mr. and Mrs J.A. Buford.

Nice assortment of Waldemar Vest Chains all guaranteed good. Mrs. E. M. Rust Drug and Jewelry.

Mr. and Mrs. G.H. Mansell left Saturday for Arlington where their home is at the present. These good people are leaving the Merkel country after an extended stay in our midst and their many friends regret very much to have them break their neighborhood ties and move to another country.

With a deposit we will put any thing aside for you and you are sure of your present at the time of giving. No disappointment when you trade at Mrs. E. M. Rusts.

J.C. Bickley of Merit was here last week looking after his Merkel country property. Mr. Bickley is highly pleased with the Merkel country and is now a frequent visitor to our town.

There is nothing nicer for a Christmas present than a Eastman Kodak. If its an Eastman it will make a clear cut picture. See them at Mrs. E. M. Rusts.

Roy (Bill) Sheppard is returning to Merkel this week to accept his old position at the Elite Confectionary. Roy has been in Winters for the past three months.

T. L. Stevens of Trent was in our office this week laving his supply of reading matter for the coming year. In reality he made himself a Christmas present of the Merkel Mail for another year.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Cower of Vernon who have been making their home the Merkel country for the past month left Saturday.

LOCAL AND PERSONAL

Jaxon self filling fountain pens for \$1.00 at Mrs. E.M. Rust.

Misses Grace Moore and Ruby Dowdy were in Abilene Saturday.

Joe Bettus of Abilene was here Saturday shaking hands with friends.

H. C. Burrough Jr. and sister Miss Frances were visiting friends in Abilene Sunday.

G.B. Tittle our genial keeper of county monies at Abilene was here Saturday. The face of this popular fat man in Merkel makes us feel much at home and reminds us of bygone days.

Miss Elizabeth Swafford who has been visiting her brother Luther Swafford and family of Dallas returned home last week.

Mrs. M.A. Woodroof returned to her home at Hillsboro Friday after spending the past two months with her son W.D. Woodroof and family.

Mrs. Alva Clark of Houston who has been here for some time visiting her mother Mrs. C.E. Whiteaker returned home last week.

Chickens For Sale

Twelve White Plymouth Rock cockerels for sale. Fishel stock. One dollar each. Mrs. O. F. McMaster.

Notice.

I am now offering my place for sale 3 miles southwest of Trent. James A. Baker t2pd

Wanted— 50 teams for seed hauling. Apply at Guitar Gin. It

For sale or will trade for wood a fine half grown colt. Apply at Merkel Mail office. 1tpd

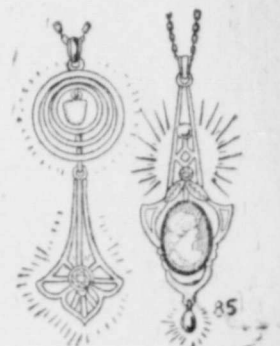
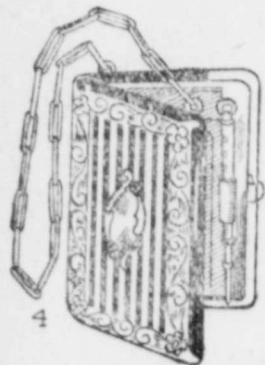
Lost 2 Saddle blankets in Warren community. Color green with red border. Reward for return to Mail office. G.M. Foster 1tpd



CHRISTMAS

Sales At The CHRISTMAS GIFT STORE

Perfect gifts in perfect packages, in things beautiful and suitable for presents. The satisfaction of giving really perfect gifts will be yours if your selection is made here. The sentiment of Christmas finds its highest expression in the beautiful and new things We are showing--things that cannot be found at any other store. The Rust package is a perfect package. The very essence of refinement and good taste.



Gifts For Ladies

- Cut Glass Fruit Bowls
- Gold Umbrella
- Gold Watches
- Diamond Lavalliers
- Cameo Brooches
- French Toilet Sets
- Picture Frames
- Fancy Christmas Stationery
- Fancy Clock
- Set silver knives and forks
- Set Salad forks
- Set Teaspoons
- Pie set
- Carving set
- Coffee percolater
- Baking dish
- Casserole
- Chafing Dish
- Eastman kodak 2A Brownie



Gifts For Girls

- Diamond Brooches
- Diamond rings
- Cameo neck chains
- Bracelet watch
- Pendent diamond neck chains set in onyx
- Tango bracelets, things of style but not of beauty
- French ivory toilet sets
- Nail files
- Hand mirrors
- Puff boxes
- Hair receivers
- Pin cushions
- Scissors
- Hair brushes
- Soap boxes
- Nail brushes
- Manicure Sets
- Nothing nicer than a box of Whitney's stationery
- Leather covered and silver party bags
- Easman folding pocket camera

Gifts for Men

- French ivory military sets
- Silver military sets
- Thermos bottles
- Fountain pens
- Clutch pencils both Silver and gold
- Cigarette cases
- Box cigars
- Chains
- Cigar cases
- Pipes
- Purces
- Waldemar Vest
- Coat chains
- Belt chains
- Vest chains
- Gold fobs
- Cuff Links
- Tie clasp
- Stick Pins
- Gold Umbrella
- Easman Vest
- Pocket Folding Kadak



Gifts for Boys

- Watches, chains, cuff buttons, tie clasp, stick pins, comb and brush.
- Base balls, mitts, masks, bats, harps
- Boy Scout books, Girton Series, Camp Fire series.
- Easman kodak No. 2 specially for boys.



Gifts for Children

- Childs bracelet, ring set, necklaces, plain band rings, toy watches, toilet set, table set of knife and fork and spoon, choo choo series of linen books, easy painting and drawing, bed time stories, mothers foot stool stories, our boys series, Billy Whiskers stories, Peter Rabbit series Jack and bean stalk, one syllable series, miniture kodak No. 0 for children \$1.25



Well chosen books for gifts at Christmas times. Books are of minds speaking to minds, vital, refreshing enlarging. For this reason books are priceless as gifts. The best of all gifts, the Bible. Students bible, complete teachers bible, large type bible, red letter teachers bible, child's bible, concordance bible, family record bible. You are making a record, are you keeping it for your children. Testaments. Best of the latest fiction. Books. Toast Holiday gifts and package dressings, Tags, seals, cards, lable stamps.

Pop! Bang! Pow The Boys!

Must be remembered. Let them enjoy life. Give them a little money and they will let you hear from them. Cannon crackers, torpedoes, sky rockets, roman caneles, salutes, magic snakes, baloons, repeating pistols and caps, auto torpedoes, yankee sparklers, safety torpedoes.

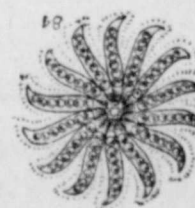
Roman Candles 30 balls 25 cents.

No Time For KODAKS

In our rush with Christmas goods we have not overlooked our Drugs.

Mrs. E. M. RUST, DRUGS

The Rexall Store



THE ROUND UP



THE HERDING IN OF ENORMOUS SAVINGS TO THOSE WHO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR Pre-Inventory Prices

Say! Aren't you surprised to catch yourself reading an 'ad', and do you realize you are likely to read it **Thru?** Why? Because this is not the common ordinary 'ad' you often glance at, but a very exceptional one. There is something interesting and beneficial to you contained herein.

You are going to do some shopping between the dates of December the 11th and 24th. Mark these dates. There is a reason for everything worth while to you because it is the means of conveying to you how you can save money. In other words make your dollar have more CENTS. **We are going to give everybody a Xmas-present who trades with us during above specified time.** It will be in this way. Each purchaser will get a present of such discounts in prices that they will gladly thank us for. You are earnestly invited to come. Remember the dates, Friday Dec. 11th. to Thursday Dec. 24th. Yours for a square deal and satisfaction and wishing you

A MERRY CHRISTMAS

J. P. SHARP



Awards on all entries of the Merkel Poultry and Pet Stock Show of Dec. 3, 4 and 5.

Barred Rocks—N. A. Cropp, Brownwood, 1st, 3rd ckl.; Mrs Joe Higgins, Merkel, 1st ck. 2nd 4th ckl, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th hen, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th pullet, 1st, 2nd pens.

White Wyandottes—Dr. R. B. Homan El Paso, 2 ck, 2, 4 hen. H M Rose, Merkel, 1st, 4th ck; 2nd, 4rd ckl; 1st, 3rd hen; 1st, 4th pens. R L Bland, Merkel, 3rd ck; 2nd, 3rd, 4th pullet; 3rd pen. T R Douglass, Merkel, 1st, 4th ckl; 1st pullet; 2nd pen.

S. C. R. I. Reds—Jas Everett, Oglesby, 2nd ck; 1st, 3rd pullet; 4th pen. D H Jeffries, Abilene, 1st, 4th ck; 4th ckl; 1st, 4th hen; 2nd pullet; 1st pen. R A Ellis, Merkel, 3rd ck; 1st ckl; 2nd pen. E H Cordill, Nubia, 2nd hen, 4th pullet, 3rd pen. G L Baker & Son, Merkel, 3rd ckl. J W Teaff, Merkel, 2nd ckl, 3rd hen.

Black Langshans—M C Sisk, Merkel, 1st ck, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th hen.

S C White Leghorns—Lewis McGaughey, Merkel, 2nd ck, 1st ckl.

S C Brown Leghorns—J A Falkner, Coleman, 1st, 2nd, 3rd ckl; 1, 2, 3, 4 hen, 1st pen.

S C Buff Leghorns—H R Kaneaster, Brownwood, 1, 2, 3, 4 pullet.

S C Black Minorcas—W R Walkerr, Merkel, 1st hen. P S Kauffman, Abilene, 5nd pullet.

SC Buff Orpingtons—A J Hartley, Merkel, 2nd ck, 1, 2, 3 ckl, 1, 3 hen; 1, 2, 3, 4 pullet, 1, 2 pen. Mrs Hattie Baker, Merkel, 4th ckl, 2nd pen.

S C White Orpington—W O

Williams, Merkel, 1st ck, 1st ckl, 1, 2, 3, 3 hens; 1, 2, 3, 4 pullet; 1, 2 pen.

Dark Cornish—W E Justice, Merkel, 1st ck, 1st ckl, 2nd hen; 1, 2, 3, 4 pullet, 1, 2 pen.

White Cornish—J C Comegys, Merkel, 3rd ck, 1, 2, 3 hen, 1st pullet.

White I R Ducks—Lee Baker, Merkel, 1, 3 drake, 1, 2, 3, 4 kucks.

Best Display in Show (all birks)—1st to RA Ellis, Merkel, on R I Reds; 2nd to D H Jeffries, Abilene, on R I Reds.

Special Premiums (All Birds)

Largest and Best Display—RA Ellis, Merkel.

2nd Best Display—D H Jeffries, Abilene

Best Display (Parti Color)—R A Ellis, Merkel.

Best Display (Solid Dolor)—W O Williams, Merkel

Best Pen—DH Jeffries, Abilene

2nd Best Pen—W O Williams, Merkel.

Best Male and Female—D H Jeffries, Abilens

Heaviest Hen—J W Teaff, Merkel.

Best male R A Ellis, best female Jas. Everet

Best Hen—W O Williams, Merkel

Best Pen—DH Jeffries, Abilene

Best Cock—

Best Cockerel—Ellis, Merkel

Best Pullet—Everett, Oglesby.

White Waynedotts—Best display, best male, 2nd best male, H M Rose, Merkel.

English Class—Best male, best female, W O Williams, Merkel.

Mediterranean Class—Best male, JA Falkner, Coleman; best female, H R Kaneaster, Brownwood.

Barred Rocks—Best pen, Mrs Joe Higgins, Merkel; best male, N A Cropp, Brownwood.

R I Reds—Best pen, D H Jeffries, Abilene; best male, R A Ellis, Merkel; best pullet, Jas Everett, Oglesby.

Buff Orpingtons—Best pen, Mrs Hattie Baker, Merkel.

Best Drake and Duck by one exhibitor—Lee Baker, Merkel. W. O. Williams, Secy.

Found Dead Near Sweetwater

The body of an unidentified man was found near Sweetwater Thursday by some small boys who were hunting.

They reported their grewsome find to Sheriff Yarborough who promptly started an investigation. The body was without clothing and in a badly decompose condition with parts of flesh lacerated and torn. Owing to the find having laid in an unprotected place so long it was not decided whether the deceased met his death from natural causes or whether murder was the cause.

Here from Mobeetie.

W. L. Parten of Mobeetie, formerly a citizen of Merkel was here Tuesday and Wednesday on his way to east Texas on business.

Mr. Parten was accompanied from Big Spring here by his brother-in-law T. E. Paylor also a former resident of Merkel.

Abilene lady Dies.

Mrs. Susie Shelton of Abilene died at the family home Friday evening of last week, after a lingering illness of more than a year.

The deceased had for a number of years been a resident of Abilene and had numerous friends there as well as at this place. Of the relatives in the Merkel country they are Messrs Terrell, Joe and Sam Winter and Mrs. Phoebe Greene. Burial services were held at Abilene Saturday December 6th at 2 P

Mrs. Parmelly Buried Here.

Mrs. Gladys Parmelly wife of LeRoy Parmelly of Abilene died at the family home at 10 o'clock Thursday evening December 3rd, from typhoid fever. Having been sick for about 4 weeks when death called her. With the deceased during her last moments was her husband and other close relatives and friends. Her parents Mr. and Mrs. Sam Winter of Merkel, sisters Mesdames H. L. Propst, J. J. Russell, Walker and Laura Winter, brothers Lit, Jinks and Hodge Winters.

Surviving the deceased who was well known in Merkel, is a husband and two small children Clara and Loyd ages three and one years respectfully.

Mrs. Parmelly was born July 25th, 1889. Was reared in the Merkel country, having as childhood companions those who are now mourning her untimely departure. A portion of her childhood days were spent at Merkel while she made her home with her sister Mrs. H. L. Propst and attended the Merkel Public Schools. She was married to LeRoy Parmelly in July of 1910 and moved soon afterward to Abilene where the home ties remained unbroken and the happy union blessed by two bright beautiful children until death called the mother into the great beyond. The body was brought here Friday afternoon on the Texas & Pacific westbound passenger No. 3 and remained at the residence of Mrs. H. L. Propst a sister of the deceased, until Saturday morning at 11.30 when burial was given in Rose Hill Cemetery. Elders Price Bankhead and W. G. Cy-part conducting the services.

The numerous friends of the family are extending the most sincere sympathy to the bereaved husband and loved ones in this their greatest moment of sorrow.

Bass 3363 relieves any kind of nerve pain sold and guaranteed by your druggist. 2t

Follow the Arrows to



BURROUGHS DRUG STORE
For Your Xmas
Presents

San Angelo Sheriff Here.

H. C. Allen sheriff of Tom Green county was in our city Monday morning following the trail of a supposed horse thief. From here Sheriff Allen went to Putnam where he located the stolen horse and had information concerning the guilty parties.

Skin Disease Cured

Your Druggist guarantees to return your money if Hunt's Cure fails to cure skin disease—Itch, Eczema, Tetter, Ringworm and other forms of skin trouble. Also fine for piles, old sores. Costs nothing if it fails to cure. Give it a trial. adv

COTTON COTTON.

Now is the time to buy your pianos and sewing machines while you can get 10c for your cotton. See E. D. Coats. and fourth Friday nights

W. M. Elliott, C. C. S. Hamilton, Clerk
3363 the remedy for
for sale by

Bass 3363 relieves any kind of nerve pain sold and guaranteed by your druggist. 2t

Card of Thanks.

Words cannot express our appreciation to our neighbors and friends both of Abilene and Merkel for their many acts of kindness and for their tender sympathies extended to us during our sad bereavement in the death of our precious wife, daughter and sister Gladys Winter Parmelly who passed away Thursday evening in Abilene. While our hearts are so burdened with grief there is joy in knowing we had true and loving friends who came to us with kind words and flowers to lighten our burdens.

May the richest blessings of heaven be with you all.

Le Roy Parmelly,
Sam Winter and family.

Youths use Shotguns in Duel

Texarkana, Dec. 4.—George Smith and Lewis Calloway, both 20, fought a duel by agreement with shotguns at Dixie Bend on Red River yesterday.

Smith was killed. The boys quarreled over a young woman acquaintance. After getting their shotguns they stepped off the regulation distance, wheeled and opened fire.

The father and brother of the dead youth are state witnesses in the trial of Omer Smith, charged with killing a man named Eaton in the same neighborhood. This trial started this afternoon, but was postponed until next week.

The Magic Washing Stick

"The Magic Washing stick is the finest thing in the world. Cleans clothes without rubbing—makes the whitest clothes I ever saw. I cannot do with it any more. All you say is true, clothes all you say and I would not give it for nothing I ever used. Had my lady, will try it." writes Mrs. Gammill, Ashdown, Ark. This peculiar article is sold by druggists, three sticks, for 25c or by mail from A. Richards Medicine Co., Sherman, Texas. adv

Bass 3363 cools the fever. See your druggist. 2t

We Wish You a Merry Christmas

And we want to help you prepare your Christmas dinner by furnishing the groceries. We have a full line of Xmas specials

Phone 8-0



We Will Both be Happy--If you will allow us to help you meet the demand for good things to eat for Xmas Holidays

Phone 8-0

TURNER'S SANITARY GROCERY :: Merkel's Model Store



MRS. W. H. DICKSON, EDITOR

The Twentieth Century Club met Saturday November 28th with Mrs. W.A. Scott. Ten members present. The Club took up selling red cross seals, the money to go to the maintenance of the Childrens Hospital at Galveston for bone tuberculosis cases. After a pleasant hour spent with Shakespear the hostess served hot chocolate and cake.

The dance Friday evening at the Hall was a very enjoyable affair. The chaperons were Mr. and Mrs. O. M. Sharp, Mr. and Mrs. R. O. Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Gaither, Mesdames J. C. Hamm and J. W. Powell. The guests were Misses Lucile Roberts of Stamford, Elma Sheppard, Ona Hamblett, Janie Lee and Willie Weir, Annis Burnett, Gail McCarty, Lena Roberts. Messers. Parker Sharp, Conna Adams, W. L. Diltz, Luther Grimes, Raymond Touchstone, Jessie Scarborough of Cisco, Ennis and Emmitt Grimes.

The Home and School League met at the school house Friday evening December 4th with about seventy people present. After a short business session a splendid program was rendered. Twenty members were enrolled. Forty two dollars was donated to improve the school grounds and a committee appointed to solicit funds for some needed improvements. A small donation was made by Mrs. Robinson to help pay on the single desks she is so nobly providing for her room. Throughout the evening beautiful music was furnished by Messers. Burns and Banner which was greatly enjoyed by all. The next meeting will be held on the evening of January 1st. Everyone is invited to attend these meetings and keep in touch with the schools.

Orr-Jones.

The first news of the marriage of Mr. Henry Orr of this place and Miss Jessie Jones of Carbon reached this city Thursday morning when the Texas & Pacific train No. 5 arrived from the east. Mr. and Mrs. Orr stepped from the train and announced their marriage of the evening before at 8 o'clock in Abilene. Mr Orr at present is in charge of the prescription department the Grimes Drug Store and has a host of friends here who are extending congratulations. The Mail joins hands with them and wish the bride and groom a joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year followed by many such occasions throughout their wedded life.

XXth Century Questions

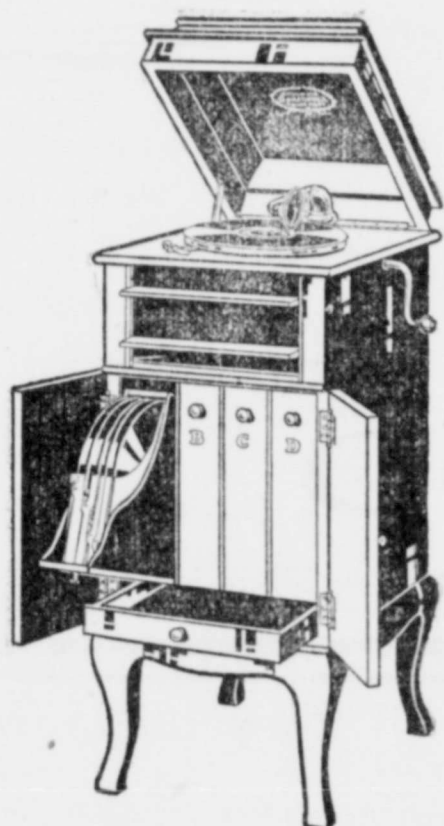
Does the King suggest Polonius that he go eye dropping?
How much time has elapsed between the play scene and the king's confession? Has the confession been foreshadowed?
What motive does the king reveal for his crime? Does he inspire pity?
Does Hamlet delay the kill

BOOM-CONSUME
MADE IN AMERICA
MADE IN AMERICA
GOODS

A Christmas Present for the Entire Family

Columbia Grafonolas and Graphophones. Prices \$17.50 AND HIGHER

Furnish enjoyment for every member of the family with a **COLUMBIA**

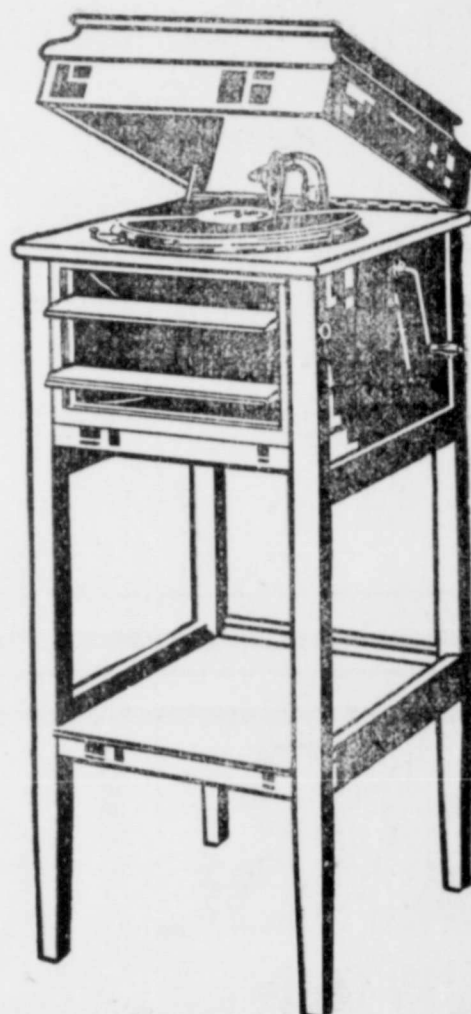


Price, \$75.00 \$7.50 down balance \$7.50 per month

Make the evening at home enjoyable for your family. Do it the Columbia way



Price \$150.00 \$10.00 down and \$10.00 a month



Price \$50.00 \$5.00 down and \$5. a month

Double disk records for machines Prices 65c to each and higher

The candy land of Merkel---Buy your nuts here. All kinds of FIRE WORKS for the boys. Special Christmas boxes of Candies for her. Our Slogan: Everything we handle is made in America.

BUY THAT KIND
THE ELITE CONFECTIONERY

except for more adequate re-venge?

Whom does Hamlet believe behind the arras?

What has been Polonius agency? Is his work finished?

Do you understand Hamlets use of pictures for comparison?

What reason does the Ghost give for his second appearance?

Is it the real one?

Can the king longer be in doubt as to real of feigned madness in Hamlet?

How does the queen describe the killing and Hamlets condition to the king?

In what regard is Hamlet held by the populace. How does this complicate the kings problem?

What is the kings purpose in sending Hamlet away?

Is scene IV extraneous to the plot? What does it furnish by contrast? Cite instances in other plays.

To what does Hamlet dedicate himself in the end? In philosophy and poetry which is the superior eloquy this or "To be or not to be?"

To My Friends and Customers

I will make another book order next Monday, 14th. and any one wanting special books please

E. M. Rust.

League Program.

Subject: How much do we love Christ?

Scripture reference: John 21; 15:22.

Leader: Mrs. Wallace.

Song.

Prayer.

Our love for Christ: Mrs. Jennings.

What are we doing to show our love for Christ. Frank Armstrong.

What does it mean to be a Christian? Discussed by all.

Quartette - Wilma, Beulah, Jasper, Noel.

Prayer.

Miscellaneous.

Benediction.

The members of the 20th Century Club will meet with Mrs. O. W. Williams Saturday afternoon.

SHERIFF'S SALE

The State of Texas, County of Taylor.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN That by virtue of an order of sale issued out of the Honorable District Court of Martin county, on the first day of December 1914 by H. Hamilton, Clerk of said Court, for the sum of Thirty-one hundred, seventy-six dollars and seventy-six cents (\$3,176.76) and costs of suit, under a judgement in favor of Marie Williams, M. C. Williams Josephine Rogers and R. R. Rogers i

a certain cause in said court No. 418, styled Marie Williams et al, vs. Jas. Versyp et al placed in my hands for service I, J. T. Dodson as Sheriff of Taylor county, Texas did, on the 7th day of December, 1914 levy on certain Real Estate, situated in Taylor county Texas, described as follows to-wit:

All that certain portion of the West one half of section No. 45 of the Blind Asylum land in Taylor county, Texas, lying South of the Right of Way of The Texas & Pacific Ry. Co., in Taylor County, Texas, containing about 210 acres of land and levied upon as the property of James Versyp, Mrs. Clara F. Versyp, John Griffin Versyp, Hollis Alexander Versyp, Fannie Versyp Knott and W. L. Knott and that on the first Tuesday in January 1915, the same being the 6th day of said month at the Court House door of Taylor county, in the city of Abilene, Texas between the hours of 10 a. m. and 4 p. m., by virtue of said levy any said order of sale I will sell the above described Real Estate at public vendue, for cash, to the highest bidder, as the property of said James Versyp Clara F. Versyp, John Griffin Versyp, Hollis Alexander Versyp Fannie Versyp Knott and W. L. Knott.

And in compliance with law, I give this notice by publication, in the English language, once a week for three consecutive weeks immediately preceding said day of sale, in the Merkel Mail, a newspaper published in Taylor county.

Witness my hand, this 7th day of December 1914.

J. T. DODSON Sheriff, Taylor County, Texas.



Don't Miss It!
Next Episode No. 4

OF THE MILLION DOLLAR MYSTERY

Thanhouser's Million Dollar Motion Picture Production

Entitled "The Top of the Flat."

at the

ROYAL THEATRE

Tuesday afternoon and evening

Next week



Only One "BROMO QUININE"
To get the genuine, call for full name, LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE. Look for signature of H. W. GROVE. Cures a Cold in One Day. Stops cough and headache, and works off cold. 25c.
Piles Cured in 6 to 14 Days
Your druggist will refund money if PAIN-RELEASING OINTMENT fails to cure any case of itching, burning, bleeding or protruding Piles in 6 to 14 days. The first application gives ease and rest. 50c.

Grimes

Merkel's Foremost Drug Store

No special line of Holiday goods to be shown, but our complete stock of JEWELRY will satisfy the most fastidious. If you contemplate the purchase of Jewelry as one of your Christmas gifts it will pay you to see us and make your selections from our stock.

OUR Mammoth Candle

Starts Burning, Saturday, Dec. 19th at noon.

A FREE guess to Everybody
A valuable \$20.00 prize to the one guessing the nearest to the time the Candle Burns. Come in and let us explain.

IT IS ALL - - FREE

T. L. GRIMES Druggist
THE NYAL STORE

The Breezy Corner!

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

For your Children,
Don't fail to see the special
Christmas Counter of Dolls
and other Presents.

Miss Ona Stanley
at J. T. Dennis' Dry Goods Store

GENERAL PROSPERITY

Wears Suits that are neatly cleaned and pressed

DO YOU ?

LADIES' WORK A SPECIALTY

The Star Store Tailor Shop
C. L. CASH, Proprietor

SEE LIFE FOR A NICKEL AND A DIME

The place where a little
gets a lot.
Everybody goes.

THE ROYAL THEATRE

CLEAN CLOTHES YOU FEEL BETTER

Let us do your Tailoring work.
Phone us about your laundry.
Called for and delivered.

Church Bros., In Hogue-Hamilton Stand
Representative of Abilene Steam Laundry

HAVE YOUR PORTRAITS

head the list of desirable Holiday Gifts.
Have your picture made—**\$2.50** up.
Kodak finishing. We develop 10c per spool.
Prints 4c each—post card size 5c each.

The Universal Studio
OLLIE CORDELL, Mgr.

IF IT IS SWEET We Have It

Everything in the Confectionery Line—
pure, wholesome, delicious and not ex-
pensive. :: Your friends come here

Hot Drinks of All Kinds

The Elite Confectionery

Auto Users Specialties

Pennsylvania Eord Type Auto Caseings
and Inner Tubes. Gasoline & Auto Oils
Ladies convenient, Supreme Gasoline Sad
Irons. Absolutely safe, easy to manipulate

H. M. ROSE

Crenshaw Block

KODAKS

A new and Classy line of Kodaks and Films.
Our films fit any make Kodak or Camera.
Let us fill your needs.

Burroughs Drug Store

EIGHT MORE DAYS FOR SCHOOL WORK

We are informed by Superintendent H. M. Morris of the city schools that Thursday morning Dec. 23rd will see the beginning of the holiday vacation for the many Merkel girls and boys.

The length of the School Holidays will be from Thursday morning, Dec. 23 until Thursday morning Jan. 1st, 1915.

Compere.

Rain, rain and mud. Cant do any thing but rain.

Health is very good except bad colds. Mr. Henry Palmer is not doing so well at this writing.

The wedding bells have been ringing again. Mr. R. Palmer and Miss Carrie Shannon were married at Stith Sunday evening at five o'clock.

Mr. and Mrs. McKee of Oklahoma who have been visiting Mrs. Shannon, the formers sister, returned home Monday.

A good many cotton pickers have left our community on account of so much rain. Frost has cut the cotton crop real short in this country.

Hubert and Tommie Freeman of Trent were in Compere Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Spurgin gave the young people a sociable Friday night. All present report a nice time.

A complete line of Eastman kodaks and supplies at Mrs. E. M. Rusts.

Follow The Arrows to



BURROUGHS DRUG STORE
For Your Xmas
Presents

Butman.

Recent weater demonstrations testify to the truth of the statement "When the nights begin to lengthen the cold begins to strengthen.

Several cotton pickers are leaving here for their homes back east. Bad weater, approach of Yuletide and distant sweethearts are a trio of reasons for this.

Rumor has it that Wesley Sowell has about perfected a maceine for gathering cotton bolls.

Everybody (and this means the girls) come to the box supper at Butman School house next Saturday night. The proceeds will be used to lift an indebtedness against an organ.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Matthews made a shopping trip to Merkel Satudaday.

Evidently J. Pluvius has not yet entirely exhausted his supply of rain water.

School opened at Butman last Monday week.

There will be singing at Nubia Sunday afternoon. All are cordially invited.

Advertised Letters.

These can be redeemed upon payment of one cent.

Beavers, S. T.
Bell, Miss Van
Brown, Miss Mollie
Brooks, C. C.
Calwell, Fred
Duncan, W. T. (2)
Fulbright, J. T.
Grider, L. A.
Houser, E.
Jones, Sam
Logan, Grace
Matthews, Texand
McEleanor, Ode
Meeks, Ealy
Panton, Dr.
Pencell, Burns
Perat J. C.
Pleasant, Willie
Roby, W. F.
Sanders, Allen
Sanders, Raymond
Spim, Loney
Stanley, Arthur
Smart, Susie
Smith, Lex
Snider, T. G.
Smith, John
Weil, J. P.

Woodwrd, Effie
These will be sent to the dead letter office December 19th.

H. C. Williams, P. M.
Merkel, Texas.

For Eczema Tetter and Salt Rehum

The intense itching characteristic of these ailments is almost instantly allayed by Chamberlains Salve. Many severe cases have been cured by it. For sale by all dealers. adv

7 REEL FEATURE AT COZY TONIGHT

Probably no other picture being shown at the present is causing more comment than the seven reel feature showing Annette Kellerman, the perfect woman in the production of "Neptune's Daughter.

In main the pictures appeal to you more when the scenes of rugged rock beaches, sandy beaches and aquatic scenes are brought out on the scene.

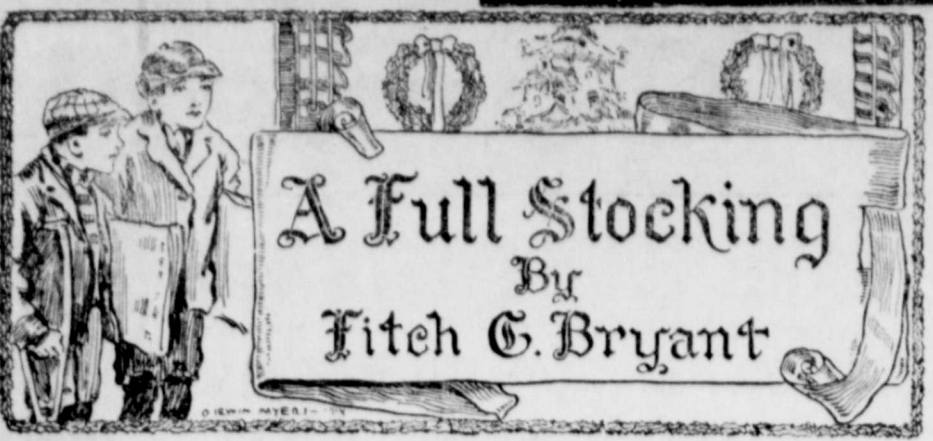
This feature was shown in Dallas last week at the Hippodrome Theater for its second appearance within the last 90 days. The demand for the sight of Miss Kellerman as Neptune's Oldest Daughter in a highly dramatic play has caused it to be shown in the cities for the second time. The prices for the seven reel show will be 15 and 25 cents.

Sick Two Years With Indigestion

"Two years ago I was greatly benefited through using two or three bottles of Chamberlain's Tablets," writes Mrs. S. A. Keller, Elidia, Ohio. "Before taking them I was sick two years with indigestion." Sold by all dealers. adv

For Sale: 6 coming 3 year old mules; one coming 4 year old horse; 4 young bay mares and three brood mares - A. B. Cranston, 12 miles northeast of Merkel. 4:3

Before you buy your holiday gifts be sure and let Burroughs show you through their new and immense stock of cut glass, jewelry and silver ware.



A Full Stocking
By
Fitch G. Bryant

UCH weather, and Christmas but a few days away. The city was properly dressed for the occasion. Snow covered the streets and the steps leading to the beautiful homes on the boulevard where every holiday wish of the people would be gratified.

The bright-eyed, thinly-clad boy on the steps of one of these beautiful homes was not wasting any time in envying the rich. He had waited for some minutes for the big automobile he knew was due to arrive from the hospital about that time each day.

The big car pulled up beside the curb. A big, kindly-faced man stepped from it and started up the steps. "Say, are you the doc?"

The surgeon paused half-way up the steps and glanced at the small bit of humanity balanced on the stone hand-rail. "Why, yes, my little man, what can I do for you?" he asked tenderly, as he stepped over and put a hand on the lad's knee. He was familiar with the type of boy who had greeted him, and it was a type of boy he liked, a fearless, independent, little waif of the streets. In the great hospital, of which he was the head, they were his most uncompaining and appreciative patients, even if they were not the profitable ones.

"Noth'ing fer meself; it's fer me brudder." The little fellow spoke earnestly and looked straight into the eminent surgeon's kindly gray eyes. "Your brother? Oh, I see. Well, what's the matter with your brother?" "Cripple." The one word, with the saddened tone, told the whole story to Doctor Harrison. He knew the rest of the tale from long experience, and asked no further questions.

"Come in the house, and let's talk it over." "Say, doc, I don't believe you want me to come in. I ain't got no money." "Why, that's just the reason I want you to come in," the doctor replied, with a merry twinkle in his eye, and ran up the steps closely followed by the small urchin. As the door closed behind him he seized the youngster in a playful bear hug, and landed him in a heavily upholstered leather chair. It was such a chair as that boy had seen in the great shop windows, but had never thought of sitting in, and the warmth of its soft cushions gave a pleasant thrill to his shivering little body.

"What is your name?" "Tom McGuire. You know Pat McGuire that tends bar down in East Downey street?" "No, I don't believe I do." "Well, he's me uncle, and he says you set his leg time of the big rail road smash-up at Hanover."

"Yes, I remember going out to Hanover with a lot of other doctors at the time of the accident; but that was ten years ago." "That don't make any difference to Uncle Pat. He never forgets favors. Guess he ain't had many in his life."

"Did your Uncle Pat send you to see me?" asked the surgeon. "Naw, but it's because what he told me 'bout you made me think it might be all right to come and see 'bout Pete's leg."

"Where is your brother, Thomas?" "Aw, don't call me that. I ain't Thomas. I'm just Tom. Raggy Tom they call me 'round the square. I sells papers on the southwest corner of the square. Business ain't so bad this time o' year, and I'm breakin' in Pete."

"He can walk, then, can he?" The physician had seated himself close to his small caller, and was giving his whole attention to the case in hand. "Tell me more about Pete."

"Pete was born that way. Doctor said one leg wasn't no good and never was goin' to be, so when Pete got big enough, I saved me pennies and bought him a crutch, and after 'while he got so's he could use it. Then I took him down to the corner and he helped me sell papers in rush hours. He likes to be doin' 'sontin', but he gets awful tired holdin' the papers and hangin' on to his crutch."

"Does he stay there all day?" "Naw, not all the time. Business ain't rushin' only mornin's and nights, and Pete stays home part of the time. On cold days he gets shivery 'cause he can't get 'round very fast so's to keep himself warm."

"Is there any news stand on that corner?" the doctor asked, becoming still more interested. "Naw, we dassen't put one up. Billy Hahn, he's the feller what had that corner before me, he tried to get leave to put up a stand alongside of the fountain where there's plenty of room, but the aldermen turned him down. He didn't have no pull, and I ain't got none neither. Me and Pete was up on the northeast corner, and when Billy got wet feet and pneumonia and died, we come down to his corner."

awhile. Maw's got two younger'n me and Pete. I'm ten and Pete's goin' on nine. Maw works awful hard takin' care of the kids and sewin' fer a department store. She says to me one time: 'Tom, you look after Pete and I'll take care of the young uns.' Maw can't hardly get enough to buy 'em clothes, so I chip in when biz is good. Say, doc, I read in my paper 'bout that kid you fixed up last week, and I'll bet ten cents Pete's leg's just like that. Thinks I, when I read that, 'I'm goin' to see Doc Harrison and tell him 'bout Pete.' Now, doc, on the level, how much do you charge for a job like that?"

"I received \$3,000 for that operation." There was a merry twinkle in the doctor's eye that was lost on his little visitor. "Aw, say, doc, wot yer givin' me? You didn't make all that in one day?" "Yes, in two hours, Tom."

The youngster's eyes filled with tears, and he bit his lip to hold back the sobs. A good leg meant so much to Pete, and he would gladly give \$3,000 for one for him if that were possible, but the doctor might have as well asked for the moon in payment for that leg. His vision of Pete without the hated crutch was fast disappearing, but he would not let it get away entirely.

"Don't you never charge no less?" the boy managed to ask, without giving away to the burst of tears ready to flow at his disappointment. "Oh, yes, indeed; but you asked me how much I received for an operation like last week's, and I never performed one just like that before. It was very difficult and peculiar."

Tom slid out of the chair as if to go. "I guess it's all off, doc. I ain't in your class."

"Tom, sit down there." The doctor's tone of command was filled with more laughter than severity. "Let's talk business."

The youngster obeyed, watching the eminent surgeon with a puzzled look, uncertain whether the great man was really going to make a concession or upbraid him for taking his time. Faint though it was, a new hope sprang up in the small breast. Possibly there might be some terms of payment that he could meet as he grew older and could earn more than the few pennies that meant the day's profits on his paper sales.

"Tom," the doctor continued, "I know Pete." "You know Pete?" Tom gasped in amazement. "Yes, I have seen him down by the fountain at the square. You know we specialists always keep our eyes open for anything in our line, so I have noticed him several times as I passed the corner. Of course, I can't say positively, but I think an operation will give Pete two legs instead of one. Now, how much can you afford to pay for such an operation?"

The youngster's eyes shone like two live coals. So the doctor knew Pete, and thought he could cure him! Was it a dream? Tom pinched himself to make sure it was all real. Yes, he was awake all right. How much could he afford? He felt he could afford anything to give Pete a new leg, but how little that was compared with what the doctor would expect! Both sat in silence for ever a minute. The surgeon knew what was going on in the youngster's mind, but thought best to let him come to his own conclusion. The boy fumbled his cap nervously while he considered the great question, and at length looked up suddenly into the surgeon's face. There was no doubt or uncertainty in his face or tone as he announced his decision.

"Doc, the only thing I've got in the world is me corner down by the fountain, where me and Pete sells papers. I can't give you all that, for I wouldn't have nuthin' for me and Pete to live on and to help maw with the kids. I'll tell you what I'll do, doc, I'll let you have half o' that corner. You can hire a kid to sell papers for you and have some dough left, but you won't make no \$3,000 in kingdom come."

The doctor knit his brows and Tom imagined he could see a quick refusal of his proposition, but the kindly gleam came back into the doctor's eye and Tom began to hope again as the doctor pondered over the proposition for a moment. Then the doctor said: "All right, Tom; I'll accept that proposition, and we'll draw up the agreement right now. Let's see, this is December eighteenth. We'll start the new arrangement beginning with January first."

In the course of a quarter of an hour the paper was duly prepared and signed and witnessed, and Tom saw the doctor file it carefully in the strong box in his safe. With a hearty handshake, the surgeon bade adieu to his ten-year-old man of affairs, and turned to a patient waiting in the outer office.

Tom McGuire had known all too little of happiness in his hard ten years, but this was surely the climax of his earthly bliss. A new leg for Pete! Could anything be finer! He ran most of the way back to the square, and nearly knocked the cripple over in his eagerness to tell the good news.

"Say, Pete, you're goin' to have a new leg." "What?" the bewildered Pete was too intent on selling papers to bother about new legs. "A new leg, I say. Doc Harrison, what I told you 'bout, is goin' to make one fer you."

"Aw, gwan. Wot yer givin' me?" grunted the skeptical Pete, ignoring the enthusiasm of the head of the house. "Come on, I'll show you." "Naw, you don't. You don't get me losin' what leg I've got."

"Honest, Pete, I'm on the level. The doc says he bets he can fix you up good as new." "Naw fer me. I'm fer keepin' me bum prop. I reads how a doc saws off a boy's legs just for fun."

"Aw, Pete, don't be silly. The doc won't hurt you." "Don't you believe it," Pete replied, and started down the sidewalk to get away from temptation, Tom knew Pete's stolid strength of will, and decided on another tack. He felt in his pocket and found sixteen cents. Counting out five pennies, he ran across the street, and soon had Dr. Harrison on the wire.

"Hello, this you, doc?—Pete won't come—Naw, he's afraid you'll hurt him. He's read how a doc cut off a feller's leg just for fun.—Send up a paper? Sure, but you'll have to hide yer sign, or he won't never come in.—All right, I'll send him up. Please don't hurt him, will you, doc?—Good-by."

Tom ran back to the corner. "Hey, Pete," he called, as soon as he was within earshot of the cripple. "A guy just told me to hustle a Star up to 345 West Alden avenue. Get on a Prince street car, and hurry up. Here's a dime fer carfare."

"There ain't no profit in that," Pete grunted, "go yerself an' save the dime." "Do as yer told, I'm bess o' this corner," the young financier retorted, shoving Pete toward a car as fast as the cripple could hobble. "Get off at Walnut street and walk west half a block," he shouted as he helped Pete on the car platform.

For the first time in twenty-two years Dr. Harrison's sign, was hidden as the cripple struggled up the steps and rang the bell. "Here's yer paper," he said in a matter-of-fact tone, holding out the first edition, when the maid opened the door.

"Paper?" asked the girl, pretending ignorance. "Step in a moment and I'll see if it belongs here." Pete stepped inside and took off his cap. The girl disappeared, but returned presently, and pointed to an open door down the hall. Pete hobbled in



The Physician Had Seated Himself Close to His Small Caller, and Was Giving His Whole Attention to the Case in Hand.

the direction pointed, and entered the doctor's outer office. "Sit down a minute," came a pleasant voice from somewhere, and Pete crawled up into one of the large chairs. The next few minutes were about the busiest the cripple had ever known. Pictures, statuary, books, furniture—never in his short life had he seen such an array. How could he possibly remember all to tell Tom? Before the survey was half finished, however, a tall man with a kindly face stood before him and held out his hand for the paper. Pete handed him the Star and arose to go.

"Hold on a minute, how much do I owe you?" "Two cents." "Two cents?" the doctor shouted, so loud that Pete feared he had overcharged him. "Didn't you pay carfare to get here?"

"Yes, Tom paid that," Pete smiled with relief. "Tom? Who's Tom?" "He's me big brudder." This time the smile bespoke pride and thankfulness. "Likely sort of chap?" "Yes, sir; Tom's all right." The smile was wider than ever.

"Do you know who I am?" the doctor asked in his kindest tone, placing his hand on the boy's shoulder. "No." "I am Dr. Harrison." The smile disappeared and the boy began to tremble at mention of the awful name. "Possibly you have heard of me?"

"Ye—es," Pete whispered, too scared to realize whether he was saying "yes" or "no." "Now, Pete, take a good look at me," the doctor continued as he arose from his chair and stood in the middle of the room for the cripple's inspection. "I'm not really such an awful man, am I, Pete?"

"N—n—o—o," Pete answered, more because the surgeon's tone needed a negative reply than because he knew what he was saying. "Pete, I like little boys," the doctor went on, ignoring the lad's terrified expression. "And I kind of think some of them like me. Do you think you could?"

"Ma—aybe," the youngster was doing his best to be brave. The doctor glanced at the open door and nodded to the maid. "Tom McGuire is out at the door and wants to see you," she said. "Send him in," the surgeon answered heartily. "Well, I never. Hello, Tom!"

"Hello, doc! Done anything to Pete's leg?" "Why, no, we haven't mentioned legs. Have we, Pete?" "Not yet," said Pete, with a feeling that something was still to come. "Say, doc, look at it now, will you?" Tom exclaimed energetically and began to take off his brother's shoe. "Hold on a minute, Tom; this isn't the place to examine legs, and besides, I never make an examination without the owner's consent."

"Tell the doc you want to have yer leg looked at," Tom commanded in a tone that bore authority. "Before Pete could answer, the doctor had interposed a good natured objection. "You keep out of this, Tom. This is Pete's leg, and he shall have the whole say about what is done to that leg."

This announcement was a revelation to Pete, who had had visions of being bound and gagged while the doctor attacked his leg with a common hand-saw. "Is that straight?" he asked, looking up dubiously into the surgeon's face. "Absolutely!" the doctor exclaimed. "I won't touch a finger to that leg till you give me your consent."

"There, Pete, what'd I tell you," Tom broke in, but the doctor frowned at him to keep quiet. The eyes of both Tom and the surgeon were now on Pete. "What'll it cost?" The cripple seemed about to yield but wanted one more obstacle cleared away. "Never mind the cost, Tom and I have arranged that between us."

The look of appreciation and gratitude that the cripple brother gave

calling, but he only pulled the bed-clothes over his head and pretended not to hear. He would not for the world let maw know that he would cry, he who was supposed to bear the burden of the family on his shoulders. "Tom! Tom! Tom!" come the call again, "here's a letter for you." A letter for Tom? Such an event had come into his life only twice, once when the fresh air society offered him a week in the country which he could not afford to take, and a letter from the license bureau with his newsboy badge. The dry side of the



"Aw, Gwan, Wot Yer Givin' Me?" Grunted the Skeptical Pete.

pillow served as handkerchief and towel, and, holding his head low to hide his red eyes, he ran into the next room. "John J. Sweeney," he read on the corner of the envelope, "why, he's the alderman from this district." Fingers were all thumbs trying to get that letter open and part of it was torn before the envelope would give up its secret. The note was short and type-written but it took Tom nearly five minutes to read it aloud. Each word seemed to have taken a new meaning to the astonished boy.

"Mr. Thomas McGuire, 148 Willow St., City. Dear Sir: I have the honor to inform you that the application of McGuire and Harrison for a news stand adjoining the fountain on the southwest corner of the square has been granted and possession may be taken at once. Believe me, Yours very truly, JOHN J. SWEENEY, Alderman 17th District."

"Great Jewhilikens," Tom shouted, and his mother, too, made some sort of an exclamation that was drowned in the racket of the two smaller McGuires, who felt called upon to add to the general din.

"Me and the doc's goin' to have a real news stand right where I wanted it. Don't I wish Pete was home to hear the good news! What do you think o' that, maw? A great big news stand right at the fountain where we can sell ten times more papers! Ain't that a bully Christmas present? Say, maw, the doc's a brick and don't you forget it."

"Well, hurry up and get dressed or you won't have much Christmas Day left." Tom vaulted chair and cradle on his way back to the bedroom and slammed his tear soaked pillow into a corner of the room as an expression of his feelings toward tears.

A real news stand. A great big stand all to ourselves. I can see just how it's goin' to look. Gee! ain't that grand! But greater news was on the way and before he had pulled on the empty stocking he heard a noise in the other room and peeped out. There was a big man in a fur overcoat at the door with another letter and he was not the postman either.

"Tom, here's another one for you." The summons was needless for Tom was already at his mother's side and had seized the white envelope. "James B. Harrison, M. D.," he read. "That's about Pete. Jimminy Christmas! Say, maw, you open it. My hands is all shaky."

Mrs. McGuire could not make much better headway opening the envelope than Tom, but she managed to pull out the letter and Tom began to read laboriously. "Mr. Thomas McGuire, 148 Willow St., Dear Tom: Merry Christmas from Pete and the doc. Hurrah for Pete! The operation was a great success. Pete will be running around without a crutch long before next Christmas. Come around to the hospital at four o'clock. Sincerely your friend."

"JAMES B. HARRISON." "P. S.—By the way, Tom, I don't believe I shall have time to take care of my half of that newspaper privilege at the corner, so I return herewith the agreement cancelled. Leave a paper at my house every night while Pete is in the hospital and we will call it square. J. B. H."

"Three cheers fer Pete," Tom yelled, and gave the table such a kick with

his bare toe that it almost made him howl. A little thing like that was not allowed to break up the celebration so he grasped his mother's hands, and swung her around and around in a "ring round a rosie" until the poor woman hardly knew whether it was Christmas or Fourth of July. "Ain't this a grand Christmas?" he shouted. "Ain't the doc bully? Ain't Peter the luckiest feller in the whole world?"

"Yes, yes, yes," groaned Mrs. McGuire, trying her best to regain her breath and balance. "O, it's—too—good—to be true!"

"Well, it is true, fer I knew the doc wouldn't fool me. Ain't he the grandest ever?"

"Tom you'll never be ready to go to the hospital by four o'clock if you don't get dressed."

Tom rushed into the bedroom and came back with the empty stocking that had hung on the chair.

"Say maw, I'll shut my eyes, and you stick them two letters in me stocking and I'll pretend I found 'em there. Ain't this a bee-outful Christmas?"

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WORLD'S MOST SACRED SPOT
Manger in Church of the Nativity at Bethlehem Where Christ is Said to Have Been Born.

What may perhaps be described as the most sacred spot on earth is the grotto or manger in the Church of the Nativity at Bethlehem. This small underground chamber, reached from the church above by a flight of steps, is said to be the site of the actual manger where Christ was born, and a silver star, let into the floor underneath the altar, is alleged to be the exact spot of the Nativity. Above the star hang fifteen lamps, which have continually illuminated the little chapel for several hundred years. The altar is adorned with most elaborate embroideries, the work of royal princesses, while from the ceiling hang a number of brass lamps and a few paintings. There has, of course, been no little controversy as to whether this is the actual site of the original manger. To begin with, it is underground, and many people wonder how it could have been used by cattle and horses. Here, however, we have to remember that in East donkeys and mules often are in underground stables, and the same case would present no difficulty to the agile native cattle of Palestine. No less an authority than Colonel Conder has declared that "the rud grotto with its rocky manger may be accepted even by the most skeptical of modern explorers."

Georgie's Threat.
Little Georgie Prim had rejoined the Sunday school, as was his annual custom, just two weeks before Christmas. "I'm glad to see you here again," said the superintendent. "Well, believe me," said little Georgie, "you've got to do better by me than you did last Christmas or I'll go to the Presbyterian church next time."

Friendly Advice.
"Yes," said the Fairy Prince, "you may have whatever you want for a Christmas present." "I will choose," said the Fortunate Person, "either a wife or an automobile." "How foolish!" exclaimed the Fairy Prince. "Why do you not select something that you can manage?"

Maid and Mistletoe.
According to Archbishop Nares, the maid who was not kissed under mistletoe at Christmas would not be married in that year. The mistletoe speedily invaded the drawing room without, however, reducing the quantity of kissing in the kitchen.

Two in One.
"What a lucky fellow Bliss is." "How so?" "His fiancée's birthday comes on Christmas."