







**USEFUL**

PEOPLE who decide to give only useful Christmas gifts often have a bunch of surprises waiting for them around the corner.

"Think before you leap," is a useful motto to remember.

Useful presents should be accepted with a spirit in which they are given. In the Christmas spirit given, when you get a useful present, do not put it back and exchange it for something you can use.

Keep it; hang on to it. Do not give away to the poor, for they have abilities enough of their own.

One of the most useful useful gifts for some people—is a smoking jacket.

Once we gave our old Uncle a one of those costly nicotine jackets. It had blue satin cuffs and a red collar. The coat was held together by buttons but by gold buttons. The garment made a hit with Uncle Peter, but not the knots. Years his smoking jacket had flannel undershirt, gracefully lined with suspenders. Every evening he sat by the stove, smoking a pipe which would have suffocated a ship stoker. He never told us he burned in the pipe, and we

cured of the deadly corn cob. He quit smoking the pipe, and instead brought home a bale of cigars.

He made a handsome figure, wearing the braided smoking jacket, and puffing a cigar with a gilt band around it. We left him, smoking happily by the stove. In one hour we returned. Uncle Peter was still consuming cigars. On the floor lay the family cat. It did not raise its head at our footsteps. It would never look up again. The picture frames on the walls had turned green.

Uncle Peter denied that his Flor de Mulo Ear segars had killed the cat. He insisted she had rolled over after taking one squint at the smoking jacket.

Useful gifts often have a way of making themselves useful when you least expect it. For instance, we buried the cat in Uncle Peter's smoking jacket!



**CHRISTMAS BELLS**

HERE are Christmas bells and bells.

The real Christmas bells ring only in the morning of the sacred day. The ring from morning until which they jangle through the air.

Christmas doorbell is a great bell. It is the busiest bell of long the doorbell has. When the doorbell rings on Christmas day, everybody rushes to the front as if the house had caught on fire and that was the nearest exit. The doorbell has everyone in the fanning as if they were so many ducks.

There are two reasons why the Christmas doorbell is a welcome visitor when it jars upon the ear. In the first place, you know that no bills are going to be presented by the caller at the door. In the second place the doorbell may announce the arrival of a package.

A saved-off express wagon driver, with a chunky, holly-bound package under his arm, can get more attention on Christmas day than the governor of the state, surrounded by his military and preceded by a Chinese orchestra playing "Tippelally."

A package the expressman or courier brings, is seized by a dozen eager hands. It is strange how ready everybody is to help in relieving the deliveryman of his 12-ounce burden. Then the package is conveyed in state to the inspecting department. It is opened with nervous anticipation, and there is great rejoicing when it proves to be a knitted muffler for father from Aunt Jessica. The muffler is as large as a young hammock, and is pinker than pa's cheeks when we all insist that he try it on.

If there is a grown-up daughter in the family, she beats all records getting to the door when the bell rings on Christmas day. If anybody beats her to the knob, it is not her fault, as she slid down the banister and took a flying leap, which was the best she could do without breaking bones. She expects the kind of presents which are not found in fireplaces after Santa Claus' visit. She's looking for bouquets of flowers, huge boxes of candy and other tokens of regard. Sometimes, though not very often, the bell ring announces a neatly wrapped wedding ring.

The Christmas telephone bell is an important feature of the Yuletide. It rings Christmas tidings which formerly were sent on decorative cards, which, with their imitation snow, made handy match scratchers.

The Christmas dinner bell—one at a time, please. Don't all rush in at once!

**Millicent and the Mistletoe**  
By LYSLE FERREE CASS

**M**ILLICENT HEBARD had not the slightest idea that she even remotely resembled Audrey Arlington, stellar member of the National Film Manufacturing company's cast. In fact, having only recently arrived in the big city from a downstate farm, she had not even seen any of Miss Arlington's celebrated moving-picture portrayals, much less heard of that opulent magnate of filmdom, the National Film Manufacturing company. Truth to tell, the very first time she learned of its existence was that evening when, worn out by a bootless tour of business offices where she had hoped for employment, she read its "ad" in the Help Wanted section of a newspaper.

Millicent had come to the metropolis a girl with the high hopes and dimly remembered enthusiasm of youth. Incidentally she brought remarkable good looks with her too, although, being unsophisticated and from the country, she was not as self-conscious of them as most city girls of her age are. The home farm was hopelessly mortgaged and for several years past she had realized with increasing poignancy what a tax upon her aged parents' slender resources she was.

As a girl grows older she craves more and better things, and, no matter how slightly she may be in-



duced in the matter, her support is unavoidably more expensive from year to year. It was acute realization of this that had prompted Millicent to adventure citywards, armed with her diploma from the Tingleville Commercial college, proving her to be a fully trained stenographer.

Millicent had found no positions open, however. Nobody seemed in need of a stenographer without past experience or even a typist. Some business men, she found, wanted a girl in their offices, but they expressed themselves as being more personally interested in Millicent's good looks than in her Tingleville certificate. So Millicent wisely looked elsewhere. Wisely maybe, but fruitlessly. Then one evening in her bare hall room this second week she came across the two-line "ad" of the National Film Manufacturing company, which, it seemed, was lukewarmly interested in securing a girl "for filing." A princely stipend of six dollars per week was the practical inducement offered.

Six dollars loomed gigantic to our Millicent just then and, although the thought of being only an office girl was humiliating, it was considerably better than nothing. She determined to be first of the hundred-odd applicants at the studio on the morrow, and so, indeed, she was.

On the way out next morning Miss Millicent occupied herself with a perusal of the newspaper and therein read a long account of the stupendous production which the National Film Manufacturing company was about to release. The names of fascinating Audrey Arlington, darling of the movie

fans, and of Ned Tolman, her handsome male "support," occurred frequently. The release was to be in no less than five reels, three of which the press notice stated were already done and desperate efforts were being made to finish taking the other two for a theater presentation by Christmas eve. "A mammoth, elaborate production... no expense spared... etc., etc., ad lib.

Not knowing much about the movies, Millicent wasn't much impressed, however. At the moment her mind was fervently occupied with melancholy reminiscences of a "Ned" whom she herself had known—Ned Harkins, who had pledged eternal fidelity to her in the shadow of a haystack one moonlight night years before when both he and she were barely more than children. Ned—her Ned—had gone away to the big city three years before to make his fortune. She never had heard from him since.

Unclouded eyes, a fresh clean complexion and simple direct address won Millicent her interview with the office manager in the film plant. While he still was explaining her new filing duties, he rushed the chief director—hair rumpled and gesticulating in wild excitement.

"Audrey Arlington fell down in the middle of her big scene in the last reel of the Christmas release. . . . Complete nervous breakdown! . . . hysterical . . . are rushing her direct to the nearest hospital now. . . . What in heaven's name will we do? There isn't a girl in the whole stock company who can make up to look enough like her to complete the personification for this final reel!"

The head director kept wringing his hands and swearing frantically. The president of the company registered acute distress. Then his eyes accidentally fell upon pretty Millicent among her filing cases.

"Look! Look! Mr. Isaacson!" yelled the head director, pointing. "As I live, that girl looks enough like Miss Arlington to be mistaken for her on the street! . . . Come here, Miss—Miss whatever-your-name-is! Have you ever posed before a 'picture' camera? No? . . . well, it doesn't make any difference just now anyway. You're fired from that office job. I'll give you \$50 a week to substitute for Miss Arlington in this last reel. . . . No, I haven't time to listen to anything about it! Come on back to the studio with me right now! The 'set' is all up and we were right in the middle of the scene when Miss Arlington fainted. Ned Tolman, the leading man, is waiting 'C'mon!"

Bewildered—Millicent was pulled out of the busy offices and back to the huge glass-domed studio where the last reel of the famous Christmas release was being held in impatient abeyance for its principal.

"Listen now, miss," exploded the director as Millicent emerged from the dressing room clad in the same wonderful gown that Audrey Arlington had been wearing only ten minutes before. "Pay attention to what I say and don't stare at either me or the camera. Act natural; that's what we're paying you for! Walk inside of those tape lines on the floor and don't on any account move outside them. This scene is the parlor of your home. It's supposed to be Christmas eve. You're to turn your back to the camera and be tying a sprig of mistletoe to the chandelier. Mr. Ned Tolman, who plays opposite 'lead,' will do the rest. You simply act as any girl would under the circumstances. . . . Hey you! Get Mr. Tolman from his dressing-room. Tell him we're all ready again. Now, in you go miss!"

Millicent did just as she was told, although her heart beat fast and her head was in a whirl. With her back to the assemblage behind the cranking camera man, she raised both arms to tie the sprig of mistletoe to the chandelier. Quick footsteps sounded behind her and, an instant later, a man's strong arms were around her waist and his handsome face thrust close to hers for a kiss.

With a cry of mingled fright and indignation, the girl squirmed about in his arms and tried to push him away. Then for the first time she caught sight of the movie matinee idol's face.

"Ned?" she thrilled in joyous amazement. "Ned Harkins! You are the famous Ned Tolma?"

"Millicent!" breathed he, clasping her closer as their lips met in a long long kiss and the watching director yelled: "Fine! fine! Hold that!"

Presently the whirr of the camera crank ceased and the grin on the faces of actor, "extra," and "set-shifter" broadened.

"Hey there!" finally shouted the head director. "Film's run out; scene's over! We've had enough of that kiss now!"

"But I haven't," murmured Ned, looking fondly down into his old sweetheart's happiness-flushed face. "Have you, Millicent?"

"Never! I could keep on doing it forever," she whispered softly back.

**MISS SANTA CLAUS**



With joyful heart, on dainty toes,  
Her eyes ashen, each cheek a rose,  
Well laden with her presents goes  
The Christmas maid.

In Santa's task she claims a share,  
And bears her gifts with thoughtful care,  
While Love attends her everywhere,  
A willing aid.

Oh, Santa, take a friendly tip,  
Unless you want to lose your grip,  
Don't let her make another trip  
In all your days.

For she's a vision, so complete,  
So captivating, fair and sweet,  
That she has got you surely beat  
A hundred ways.



**A GREAT DAY.**

This is Christmas day, the anniversary of the world's greatest event. To one day all the early world looked forward; to the same day the later world looks back. That day holds time together.—Alexander Smith.

**DAYS BEFORE CHRISTMAS**

When the Joy of Your Kiddies Brings Tender Memories of Years Ago.

In these strenuous shopping days, writes Louis James, have you caught yourself remembering suddenly, in all sorts of queer, half forgotten things? Have you remembered how these days before Christmas are the wonderful days in the life of the child, more wonderful days, perhaps, than any that are to come?

You know that yourself. You can't help recalling how time went by those days before the great day. You remember how each day seemed somehow more wonderful than the one before, each day a prelude of real joy to that first marvelous moment of Christmas morning, when, after a night of little if any sleep, you scrambled up and stood breathless on the threshold of the room which had been forbidden you all those interminable hours that went before.

The child you take with you through the wonderlands of the modern toy department wants what you did. The little girl stops before the baby doll, wide eyed, still with desire. The boy stands flooded with happiness before an ark in which is every imaginable creation. You remember what a small thing your own was, a fourth the size. But his joy is no greater than yours.

He pushes toward the rocking horse. Now it runs by machinery, when once you ran your own across the floor to the imminent danger of total destruction to persons and furniture that might stand in the way. But Christmas day was your day. The day when "don'ts" were not and you were king or queen in your kingdom of toys.

You pass on to trains and there again electricity is running them. You pulled them yourself.

Then you catch the look on the face of your boy. He is watching the huge engine move slowly, smoothly along. It passes under infinite tunnels and bridges and over made hills that present intricate difficulties of passage. Your tunnels were of chairs and the table in your kitchen made a splendid bridge to cross.

He turns to you, the child of this twentieth century. His smile is beatific. He wants it—that train. He never wanted anything so much before. He never will again he is sure.

And as you move away you smile, a little sadly, a little gladly. You are proud to be able to make him so wonderfully happy, this child of yours, but you are sure, too, that he is no happier than you were these same pre-Christmas days, those years before.

**Change of Scenery.**

The fool who rocked the boat will now proceed to put on a set of cotton whiskers and light the candles on the Christmas tree.

**THE LATE SHOPPER**

**T**HE late Shopper is a prominent member of the Genus Procrastinatus.

He has his own peculiar way of celebrating Christmas. Often he celebrates it in bed, with a water bag on his chest and the tip of an anxious physician around his wrist. His eyes are closed and his poor, warped brain is worn in a sling.

On the floor beside his bed, torn and gnawed and bitten in numerous places, is his Christmas list. The day before Christmas he sallied forth with a list in his hand and a look of desperate determination on his features.

The Late Shopper is a cheerful giver, withal. He loves giving for its own sake, but he loves it better for the sake of putting it off. Decidedly is no believer in the "Do-it-now" movement. Nor is he selfish. It is at a habit. It is to be feared that he were dying of thirst he would be giving himself a drink.

He should find rest and peace in his Christmas shoppers—the kind that are incurable. Here they could retire and nurse their wounds, incurred in the last toy counter rush.

How fortunate it is that Santa Claus was not born a late shopper. He is always on the job, and gets ready for the holiday season months ahead, we are reliably informed by the nursery books. However, Santa Claus is in constant danger of losing his reputation. There are hundreds of fond Fathers who pose as Santa Claus to their little broods, Papas who sally forth to collect a bagful of toys just when the stores are closing on Christmas eve, and the holly garlands are being taken down, and the manager of the dress goods department is getting ready to announce, "Spring and Summer Styles."

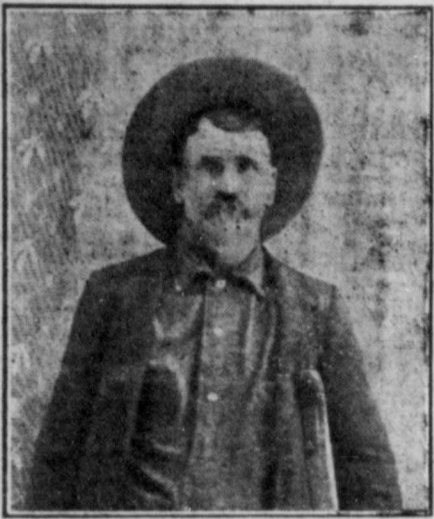
The Late Shoppers we have always with us. As eleventh-hour athletes, they take all the running, jumping and line-plunging honors. But often the Late Shopper has one good mark to his credit. He puts off giving at all times, and therefore puts off giving a piece of his mind to his wife.

**Filling the Stockings**





**ONE-LEGGED OLD TIMER**



**J. B. FERRIER**

He has seen more rough and tumble days than any other man in Taylor, Jones, Nolan or surrounding. While a very small boy he was a deck hand and roustabout on a steamboat on the Ohio river.

Immediately following the war Mr. Ferrier came to Texas. He was in the vicinity of San Antonio, in the beginning of the '70s and it was there he suffered the loss of his left limb. Few early timers are living who remember the incident. It came about when a noted tough on one of the ranches of Santone river decided to kill our esteemed townsman. He was all but successful and shot Mr. Ferrier from his saddle but was not successful in escaping with his own life. In Mr. Ferrier's own words, the law in those days was the man who was quickest on trigger. After amputation of the limb he never altered in his work and many who are living today will vouch for his being one of the best broncho-busters ever in the west. Several years after this he was forced to swim Paint Creek with his boot on. This was necessary as he was compelled to reach camp and the river had "riz." On this very same occasion he later fell asleep in a camp wagon with his friend Sam, with a negro cook on guard to watch the water which then stood over the ground about the wagon. It was raining hard and the negro fell asleep, when he woke up he stuck his hand out of the back of the wagon and it touched water. It was about all Mr. Ferrier and Sam could do to keep the old darkey from starting to sea. A saddle horse that was tied to the wagon was given Mr. Ferrier it was up to him to lead the bunch out of the water to safety. Only a few feet away was a lake and it was dark as Egypt. The party becoming separated in the dark and the man named Sam happened to hit the lake, he swam out safely and after a hard fight the three reached dry ground.

When Mr. Ferrier came into this section his headquarters were around Double Mountain. His first year in that vicinity netted him \$15.00 per month and with the money he purchased an interest in a few cattle. This was in '77 and seven years later his interests had accumulated until his holdings netted him \$300.00. He lost \$3300.00 of this amount when the man who bought his cattle went broke. In 1881 he started from southern Texas to Kansas with cattle, following the old McKinzie trail in part. Returning from the long trip he saw some interesting things on Clear Fork creek where they are by now is. Two men were quarreling over a maverick and each had their guns drawn when Phil Porter, now deceased, was noted for his daring grab with a Winchester, covered the maverick and the steer loose and declaring that the steer was his and that he was going to have it. In reality Mr. Porter says the steer belonged to the party but the man got him. An interesting account of a maverick event is told in Mr. Ferrier's own words.

Buy bread checks from the Pure Food Bakery and save money. 3 ten cent checks for 25 cents. N. H. Hester, prop.



# Xmas Greetings

Another Xmas is here, and the old year 1915 is about to pass, and we desire to extend our sincere thanks to our friends and customers for the liberal patronage accorded us during the past year.

Business during this time has been the best we have ever experienced and our trade has grown and expanded in a marvelous way, for which we feel a deep sense of gratitude, and in entering the new year of 1916 will say that it will be our endeavor to please our customers. We shall carry a very complete line of general hardware and same will be sold at the lowest price possible consistent with quality and good business methods.

With genuine appreciation to our friends and customers for past patronage and soliciting continuance of same, we extend an invitation for as many new ones as may see fit to favor us. We wish one and all a Merry Christmas and a most happy and prosperous New Year. We are,  
Sincerely Yours

## Crown Hardware Company

coming up for their corn and going off without it. I hopped up to whistle at them and snatched open the door to the dug-out. Just then something happened which scared me and hurt my eyesight. Click, click, click, and I could see nothing but men and guns. Maybe you can imagine how I felt for I can not explain. Some of the guns were shaking pretty badly and I thought I had better speak quick if I wanted to say anything before my head was blown off. I was not the man they were hunting but that didn't keep me from being nearly scared to death.

Like Charlie West says, Mr. Ferrier has been here since before the screech-owls came, and he could talk to Dolf Clark for a week about Indian days.

**H. W. Hester Holds Cotton**  
During the year 1914 and the present year H. W. Hester has retained possession of every bale of cotton raised on his place, two miles east of Merkel.

His method of varied farming and diversifying has enabled him to hold his fleecy staple until the price suits him. His large grain crop of last season is also on hand and will remain there as long as Mr. Hester sees fit to hold it.

**Car Load of Jersey Cows**  
A car load of the best stock jersey cows ever brought to west Texas. All young and will be fresh in short time. See them stables at the Hellums Wagon Yard. Chandler & McAlester, owners. 1t2pd.

Buy bread checks from the Pure Food Bakery and save money. 3 ten cent checks for 25 cents. N. H. Hester, prop.

**A REAL OLD TIMER**



**F. SEARS**

As a young man he drove freight wagons from Whiteright to Jefferson, using a steering device of "Gee, Bawley, and Haw, Pide," same as all other drivers of ox teams. He could manage several yoke as well as he could one, and the more they would give him to herd the better he liked it.

It has been intimated that he herded sheep in this western country, but we have been unable to substantiate this rumor. We do know, however, that his success as a cattleman has been proven. He is the owner of extensive farm properties along Sweetwater Creek and yearly derives good returns from his holdings.

**Stock For Sale**

Team of mare mules and team of horses for sale on good note. Also have good young jack for sale.

R. A. Saddler. 17t3pd

Cleaning and pressing called for and delivered. Phone 194. H. L. Owen.

**About Mailing Parcels**

To the patrons of the Merkel Post Office. The force sends greetings to each and wishing you a joyous holiday occasion.

Some things to remember when preparing your parcels for mailing. You cannot be too particular in packing to avoid breakage in the mails, or express especially fragile articles. They may be subject to tons of pressure of other mail in transit. Wrap each parcel with heavy paper and tie well.

Don't forget to put your own address on all parcels preceded by "From".

Arrangements have been made to have your parcels properly wrapped at small cost at Behrens-McMillens.

Last words—Mail early; wrap securely; address plainly.

Respectfully,  
The Postmaster.



**PERFECT LAUNDERING**

In all cases is what makes this the favorite laundry of refined men and women. Shirt waists, blouses, skirts, shirts, collars, etc., sent here go back to their owners perfectly and correctly laundered. Test us with yours this week.

SWEETWATER STEAM LAUNDRY  
DUDLEY & MARTIN, Agents, Merkel  
Phone No. 194

**CLASSIFIED ADS**

Some good young work horses, mares and colts for sale, cash or good notes. See Arthur Rose at Anchor Mercantile Company.

LOST several dollars by not trading at J. A. Ducketts.

FOUND a Place to trade where the Price is the thing. J. A. Duckett.

PIANO FOR SALE:—Will sell on easy terms or will trade. Write Post office Box 549. tf.

WANTED—100 customers at Wetzell's barber shop, 10 and 15 cents in Coats building.

FOR SALE—8 room house and lot; barn etc; one block of center of town, on Oak street. Price only \$1750; \$250 cash and \$250 per year. Jno. G. Jackson. 3t3

FOR SALE—At a bargain my home in Merkel; 5 rooms, bath and two porches; two lots; two barns; separate cow, horse and wood lots; cement sidewalks, shade trees and shrubbery; well and windmill. Cost over \$3000. Price \$2000 for quick sale. Jno. G. Jackson, Abilene. 3t3

LOST—A package containing shoes and cloth, from Anchor Mercantile. Finder please return to Merkel Mail office or notify J. S. Bailey, Nubia, Texas. 17-1tp

FOR SALE—Full blood Duroc Jersey pigs, \$3.00 each. Also two bred sows, \$20.00 each. G. L. Baker, six miles northeast of Merkel. 17t2pd

STRAYED or STOLEN—from Hall Music Company, Abilene, Texas: Two bay horses about 15 hands, roach mane, shod all around. Reward for return to Hall Music Company, Abilene, Texas. Phone 586. 17t2pd

PIG FOUND—Strayed pig taken up my place. Owner can have same by paying me for this ad and calling for pig.  
Thos. Largent.

FOR SALE OR TRADE—Buggy, sorghum mill, piano case, organ. Want to trade for milch cow. D. L. Boyd, Nubia, Texas. tf

LOST—Red, whitefaced yearling heifer from my pasture south of town. Will pay for return or information of recovery. Please notify Ennis Reidenbach.

**Notice**

We have opened a Grocery Store first door north of the A.C. Boney Drug Store. Price with us. The Cash Grocery. 12t2pd  
L. J. Bradford & Son, Props.

**A Suggestion Ad**

Don't fail to read Mrs. E. M. Rusts ad in this issue of the Mail. It contains interesting suggestions. Look for it.

**Breeders Notice**

Am standing my jersey bull at Boney wagon yard until April 1. \$1.00 S. S. Brandon. 3t4pd

**Mules For Sale**

Good supply of good mules for sale. See me. Sam Butman. Nubia. 10t3

**A Tip**

Say! If you want any special Xmas present, just see "Mack" he will see that Santa Clause gets the news.

The girls like a box of chocolate. They appreciate it most when its Kings. I handle King's line of fine candies. Mrs. E. M. Rust.

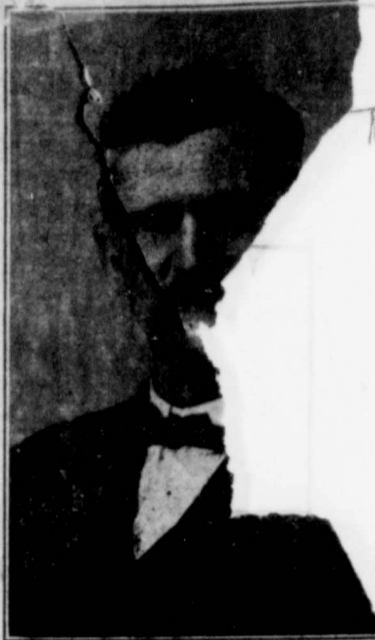
**Notice**

Ladies and gentlemen if you want a good job selling Hosiery, on a salary or commission. For the Riner Manufacturing Co. Write L. C. Gowdy, Representative, Merkel Texas. 1tpd.

The Quinine That Does Not Affect The Head Because of its tonic and laxative effect, LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE is better than ordinary Quinine and does not cause nervousness nor ringing in head. Remember the full name and look for the signature of E. W. GROVE, 25c.

Come to Wetzels Barber Shop.

**LOST SIXTY DOLLARS RECENT**



**"Uncle" Joe Harris**

Noted for his recent trip to Mississippi. While taking part in a jam at Hot Springs, Arkansas, he was relieved of sixty dollars of hard earned money. Whether it was a confidence man or a pickpocket we have been unable to find out. A rush to get his picture in the paper prohibits an account of his residence in this country.

**THE MEEKS FAMILY**

It would be useless to try to give the records of success made by members of the Meeks family now living in and around each and everyone of them made money since they were here a few years ago. In order to give the initials of these ties we would have to take an alphabet and change all the letters around several times. It is said that when the exhausted they used R. as a starter on the stem of naming the family.

**A. W. Hunter of**

A. W. Hunter is a successful farmer who made and paid for well improved farms here and did it by accumulations of the new earnings of Merkel country soil. A well improved farm of over a section well stocked. It is a tribute to the judgement and management of its owner.

**'UNCLE' JAMES BLACKBURN**

It was our intentions to have this space filled with a picture of Mr. Blackburn and we made an unsuccessful effort to get a snapshot of him on one of his recent visits to town. He advised us however he thought the machine was ruined and sure enough it was, every picture we attempted to make thereafter was a complete flash. "Uncle Jim" is one of the most prominent men of his section and alone with F. M. Cordill we hoped to give them a good send only for the above reason.

**WHY YOU ARE NERVOUS**

The nervous system is the alarm system of the human body. In perfect health we hardly realize that we have a network of nerves, but when health is ebbing, when strength is declining, the same nervous system gives the alarm in headaches, tiredness, dreamful sleep, irritability and unless corrected, leads straight to a breakdown. To correct nervousness, Scott's Emulsion is exactly what you should take; its rich nutriment gets into the blood and rich blood feeds the tiny nerve-cells while the whole system responds to its refreshing tonic force. It is free from alcohol. Scott & Bowne, Bloomfield, N. J.

**Advertised Letters.**

Calahan, Mrs.  
Johnson, May  
Jones, Mrs. Pat.  
Kilpatrick, Fred  
Laugley, Mary Lena (2)  
McKay, E. A.  
Nichols, Charley  
Warner, Belle  
Wilkerson, William  
Sanchez, Epifanis  
These letters will be sent to the dead letter office Dec. 25th.  
H. C. Williams, P. M.  
Merkel, Texas.

**Invigorating to the Faint and Sickly**  
The Old Standard general strengthening tonic, GROVE'S FAST-LENS chili TONIC, drives out morbid influences, the blood, and builds up the system. A true tonic. For adults



# Christmas Diamonds and Jewelry

In our store you will find something new and novel; in fact, the NEWEST. Our complete assortment represents the latest in art and manufacture--just that which she will appreciate most.

And then again, this is a house of quality. Every diamond, and to the smallest piece of jewelry, gold or silver, guaranteed as represented.

Invite your visit and investigation and just as a suggestion to awaken your interest, we make mention of the following:

## Some Suggestions

**Persian Ivory Manicure and Dresser Sets; Military Sets.** Every piece engraved with her monogram and enameled in any color. No charge for engraving.

**Silver Tea and Coffee Sets, Cream and Sugar Sets.** Quadruple silver on white metal base.

**Silver Knives, Forks and Spoons,** in different patterns and designs; solid silver and plated.

Be sure to see our **Bracelet Watches,** 7 and 15 jewel pieces. The very latest in patterns!

**LaValiers,** set with diamonds. And everything in a complete jewelry line.

## Diamonds

We have diamonds

**\$10 TO \$1000**

and a Compton Diamond is one of quality--guaranteed to you.

**R. B. Compton**  
Abilene, Texas

## MERKEL POULTRY AND PET STOCK SHOW DECEMBER 22-3-4



The above are photos of prize winning Merkel chickens and hundreds of their kinds will be on show here December 22, 23 and 24.

H. M. Rose, secretary of the Association expects one of the best shows Merkel has ever had and all outside farmers are urged to place their show birds on exhibition during the above dates. The following premiums have been settled upon:

### PREMIUMS

Regular prizes will be paid on all standard varieties as follow:  
**Breeding Pens**—First premium, \$3.00; second premium, \$1.50. third and fourth prizes, Ribbon.  
A pen shall consist of one male and four females.  
**Cock, Cockerel, Hen and Pullet** of Each Variety—First premium, \$1.50; second premium, 75c; third and fourth premiums, Ribbon.  
The terms "cock," "hen," "cockerel" and "pullet" are thus defined: "Cock" a male bird hatched prior to 1915, "Cockerel" a male bird hatched during 1915, "Hen" a female bird hatched prior to 1915, "Pullet" a female bird hatched during 1915.  
**For the Best Display**—First premium, \$5; second premium, \$2.50.  
A display shall consist of ten or more entries of one variety.  
Standard bred pigeons will be admitted for exhibition under the same rules and regulations as poultry, except an entrance fee of 25c per pair only will be charged. Prizes will be awarded as follows: First prize, 50c; second prize, Honors.

### SPECIAL PREMIUMS

(Donor barred from competing in classes in which they offer Premiums or Prizes)  
Best display parti color, \$5 in gold—Farmers & Merchants Natl. Bank  
Best display solid colors, \$5 in gold—Farmers State Bank.  
Best pen in show parti color, \$5 in gold—J. T. Warren.  
Best pen solid color, \$5.00 cash.  
Best female in show, \$2.00 in merchandise—Woodroof Bros.  
Best male in show, \$2.00 in merchandise—W. L. Harkrider.  
Best cock, cockerel, hen and pullet in show, \$5.00.  
Best pen S. C. Reds, \$4 pair shoes or \$4 hat—Parten Dry Goods Co.  
Best pen Orpington, \$3.00 pair of shoes—J. P. Sharp.  
Best pen Wyandottes, \$3.00 in merchandise—Star Store.  
Best female English Class (Cor. Inc.), \$1 in mer.—Bob Martin G. Co.  
Best female Mediterranean Class, \$1.00 in merchandise—J. M. Dry  
Best pen Asiatic Class, Rug—Home Furniture Co.  
Best pen, Mediter. Class, \$2.50 mdse.—Behrens-McMillen Fur. Co.  
Best S. C. Rhode Island Red cockerel, \$2.00 hat—J. T. Dennis.  
Best female in class, \$1.00—T. L. Grimes.  
**Barred Rocks**—Best pen, \$3.00 in mdse.—Anchor Mercantile Co.  
Best female, \$1.00 in mdse.—Burroughs Drug Store.  
Best male, \$2.00 in mdse.—G. F. West Co.  
N. B.—Barred Rocks, both classes, light and dark.

## POST-OFFICE IS ROBBED BY YEGGS

Thursday night of last week yeggmen wrecked the safe of the Sweetwater post office and obtained considerable money and stamps. The following account of the robbery was taken from the Sweetwater Reporter.

The big safe at the Post office was wrecked by explosive Thursday night by yegmen and the loss in money and stamps will amount to several hundred dollars.

The burglary was not discovered until C. C. Prim, one of the clerks at the office, arrive to begin work Thursday morning. He immediately telephoned Postmaster Crane who hurried to the post office. Sherriff Yarbrough and deputies were soon on the scene and a careful examination was made.

The robbers left every evidence that they were experts in the business. The safe was completely wrecked and every part that contained money, stamps and other valuables were left.

Parts of iron and other material of the safe were blown promiscuously throughout the building. A great hole was made in the ceiling by a part of the safe that was hurled against it. Considerable damage was done to the mail boxes but nothing outside the safe appears to have been taken by the burglars.

A large hammer, a small pinch bar or chisel and a sack were left by the safe. Evidently they

left these articles unintentionally in their haste to get away.

When interviewed by a reporter of this paper Friday. Postmaster Crane said he could not tell at that time the exact loss. However considerable money from \$100 to \$200 derived from yesterdays sale of stamps and money kept there to take care of the current money order business, in addition to the money and stamps, a few registered letters were stolen.

A number of people heard the terrific explosion. Ex Sheriff J. H. Bond was sitting up with his sick wife and says he heard the report very forcibly and the hour was 3:20 o'clock this morning. Jim Dulaney, Willis Barbee and L. T. Maner also heard the report. However, no one suspected that the postoffice was being robbed.

Mr. Prim who made the discovery goes to work about 5:30 in the mornig. Until recently a night crew was on duty at the office, but the department failed to make an appropriation to maintain that part of the work and it had to be discontinued.

### TAX PAYERS TAKE NOTICE

To save you a trip to Abilene or a 25c Revenue on Poll Tax orders, I will be at the Farmers State Bank in Merkel Saturday, Dec. 18, 1915, for the purpose of collecting taxes.

Remember if you pay through the bank or by mail a 25c Revenue Stamp must be placed on your poll tax order. I do this to accommodate you.

W. F. Dillard, Tax Collector,

# COMING

## ALL NEXT WEEK

Auspices Merkel Fire Department

### BEGINNING MONDAY

# DEC. 20

## Melville's Comedians

"That Classy Tent Show"

Under the Mammoth  
Waterproof Tent

25 Dramatic Artists 25

Concert Band and Orchestra

Opening Play

"By Order of The Court"

7  
Big Feature Vaudeville Acts  
7

Watch for the Band Monday  
at noon

ADMISSION  
Children 10c Adults



BURROUGHS DRUG STORE

# A House Of A THOUSAND GIFTS

BURROUGHS DRUG STORE

## JONES HERE 31 YEARS

D. Jones has been a Merkel citizen for 31 years, he in his services in this country cowboy on the old ranch where Trent now is and acting in that capacity saw strange things happen in as old timer he was consid- of the young men in the and never was known ssed a dance when he able to fox-trot down times it was nothing to ride thirty miles or nd kick his new boots til three or four o'clock mping while some old wing that Gal, that e, that gal you left t, whos purty in the lim around the waist, ou left behind you!

Yes, J. D. was around the place (excuse the expression) and has danced many a set with the daughters of the early day settlers. Having purchased and raised in all thirty-two head of horses he bought 100 acres of land where he now lives, that was in the year '88 and the year following he was married to Miss Fannie Brandon a daughter of one of the real pioneers. To this union there have been born twelve children all of whom are living. The real possessions of the home have gradually increased with years by the hard work of the father of the house and the productiveness of the soil he has worked, until he now has a well improved place, well stocked and comfortably nestled behind the hills of the upper Canyon. In all J. D. Jones has no doubt made something like \$75,000.00 since he come to the

Merkel country. His living expenses however necessarily must be taken from the amount, but after all he is another one who proves the advisability of planting dollars here and living happily ever afterward.

## J. T. TOOMBS AND "UNCLE JOHN"

In 1888 J. T. Toombs moved here from near Dallas. He purchased 160 acres of land near Nubia at \$3.00 per acre. The deal was consummated when he paid \$50.00 down on the investment, reserving a small amount of money for his needs.

Year after year during Mr. Toombs' residence as a farmer in this country he always made money. Without one single exception he applied a portion of his yearly net earnings to his debts until he acquired and now owns 2250 acres of Merkel country lagd, all of it paid for. To the success Mr. Toombs has made as a farmer he was enabled to give each of his six children 80 acres of land or the value of 80 acres. They are: H. H. Toombs, Mrs. Myrtle Boden, Mrs. M. D. Angus, Mrs. J. C. Walling, J. J. Toombs and William Toombs. The former has increased his holdings to 800 acres at the present and has contracted to buy 146 acres more. J. J. Toombs, yet a young man has increased his acreage to 144; all paid for while the latter a young man of 23 years has 188 acres, all paid for. The increase in possessions of this family has all been made from the soil of land in the vicinity of Nubia and has been accomplished within the last few years.

In '88 Mr. Toombs bought the only stove that was for sale in the town of Merkel, it was a small heater and was sold by Arthur Thornton, then a very young man working in his mother's store. Five years after he came west he enticed his brother J. R. "Uncle John" Toombs to cast his lot here. "Uncle John" purchased eighty acres at \$10.00, and gave in trade a wagon and team of mules and paid down a small amount of cash, the balance was on time, and with plenty of time, hard work and successful management he paid for every foot of the dirt, and then bought more with his surplus money. Having profited sufficiently from his endeavors in our midst he sold a portion of his land and now retains 320 acres, well improved. Should our readers forget "Uncle John" is the gentleman who so politely tipped his hat to a dummy at the Woodroff Bro's Store. His brother is a direct opposite and is the man who made a hundred yards in little less than nothing when he met a man dressed in woman's clothes, evidently the situation was embarrassing. Each of these men are walking advertisements of the good judgement of buying Merkel land and the only reason J. R. Toombs did not acquire as

much Merkel country land is the fact that he let his brother get five years the start. The moral of this is: "The quicker you come to Merkel the quicker you will get rich."

## A TWICE-TOLD TALE

One of Interest to Our Readers

Good news bears repeating, and when it is confirmed after a long lapse of time, even if we hesitated to believe it at first hearing, we feel secure in accepting its truth now. The following experience of a Merkel man is confirmed after three years.

D. J. Dodd, Elm St., Merkel, Texas, says: "For a long time I suffered day and night from kidney trouble. The first symptom was an inability to control the kidney secretions and my rest was broken at night. About three months ago Doan's Kidney Pills came to my notice and after using them, my kidneys and bladder were restored to their natural condition." (Statement given January 15, 1912).

Over three years later, Mr. Dodd said: "Since using Doan's Kidney Pills, I have had no trouble from my kidneys. I know this medicine to be a good one."

Price 50c at all dealers. Don't simply ask for kidney remedy—get Doan's Kidney Pills—the same that Mr. Dodd used. Foster-Milburn Co., Props., Buffalo, N. Y.

## Three Cheers For The Nubia Editor

In the Nubia items the reporter gives a graphic description of the gymnastic department of the "Butman Pedagogical Institute; as well as a grand ovation of the Pedagoguetress' curriculum. While his language is all but uncomprehensible to anyone except one well versed in pedagogism, we are proud of our reporter for without his inundation of knowledge the Nubia commonwealth would fall far behind in literary accomplishments.

We think, however, the correspondent was too periphrastical last week. But his prognostication will never be doubted any more, for we are convinced that his aruspicy is not equalled in all of Mulberry Canyon. Surely he possesses excellent conductivity. We think him worthy of double parquise because of his perspicaciousness.

Now we are wondering which one of the pedagogutresses of the Butman Pedagogical Institute is the Nubia writer's enchantress. Selah.

Why not candy from Burroughs? It's better.

## SECOND HAND AUTOS

We buy and sell second hand Ford automobiles. See us before you buy and see us before you sell. We rebuild cars. The Merkel Garage.

## SEWING NOTICE

All grades of sewing and fitting of garments neatly done. See me at first house north of Lasater home on Kent street.

Mrs. Iva Brummel. 3t2nd

For 3

Three lots, seven bath room, three washhouse, small well, windmill, plenty of pipe, school building in el, Texas. For price call on or address G Merkel, Texas.

## Bull Calves for

I have eight head of hereford bull calves 1 \$50.00 to \$66.00. A registered bull. J. T. Wa

Our Baker Boy flour, sold only by Bob Martin Gro., Co.

## GREETINGS

From Harkrider's Store

take this opportunity of king one and all of our cus- ers for their trade during this and trust that your dealings us have been satisfactory that you may continue to ge our store your shopping e for Dry Goods.

hing each of you a most asant Xmas season and anoth- prosperous year.

Most respectfully

**W. L. Harkrider**  
And  
**Clerks**

t a few Ladies Suits  
Coats left which  
offer at exactly one  
the regular price.

-the ONLY car at its price  
with **40** h.p.



This new Studebaker 4-cylinder car absolutely dominates its field. It has set up new Standards of value for 4-cylinder cars. It has vastly increased the purchasing power of each dollar. It has given MORE power, MORE comforts and size, MORE quality for every dollar of its price than any other car ever offered in the history of the industry.

This Studebaker at \$885 is the ONLY 4-cylinder, 7-passenger car with a 3 3/4-inch bore x 5-inch stroke, FORTY Horse Power motor that has ever been offered in America or Europe for less than \$1000. In POWER and flexibility it equals most of the Sixes now on the market. And in quality it stands ALONE. For while the price has been reduced from \$985 to \$885, the car itself has been GREATLY INCREASED in power, size and quality, and wherever materials have been changed, BETTER materials have been used.

We urge every man in New York who expects to buy a car, to see this Studebaker FIRST. For no other 4-cylinder car offers such dollar-for-dollar value.



**40 horse power  
7-passenger  
FOUR \$885**

Four-Cylinder Models  
Touring Car, 7-passenger . \$885  
Roadster, 3-passenger . . . 885  
Landau Roadster, 3-passenger 1185  
Six-Cylinder Models  
Touring Car, 7-passenger . \$1050  
Roadster, 3-passenger . . . 1050  
Landau Roadster, 3-passenger 1350  
Coupe, 4-passenger . . . 1550  
Limousine, 7-passenger . . 2250  
F. O. B. Detroit

West Brothers, Dealers

Cars on exhibition at G. F. WEST CO. Store



# EXCEPTIONAL OFFERINGS

## SUGGESTIONS

- A Kodak
- Kodak Album
- Chaffing Dish
- Casserole
- Percolator
- Shaving Set
- Cut Glass
- Stationery
- Xmas Boxes
- Xmas Cards
- Xmas Tags
- Xmas Seals
- Gift Books
- Books of Fiction
- Picture Books

I am offering some exceptional values in solid gold lavaliers, with small diamonds. These make exceptional good Xmas gifts. When you buy jewelry from me you know you are getting the best at small prices. Every piece guaranteed. If you consider the goods and the price you will be convinced that by buying from me you save money.

French and Persian Ivory, Toilet and Manicure Sets—beautiful and engraved, just the thing for her dresser. Arrived this week, all new patterns, see them.

## EVERYTHING GUARANTEED

We wish you a merry Christmas and will do our best to help you select a present that you will be pleased with.

## SUGGESTIONS

- IN JEWELRY
- Lavalliers at \$2.75, \$3.00, \$4.00 and up
- Diamond Pins
- Wrist Watch
- Rings, Fobs
- Sewing Sets
- A Conklin Fountain Pen from \$1 to \$5
- Silverware of all Descriptions
- A Box of Cigars for Father

You Will be Welcomed When You Come to  
**Mrs. E. M. Rust's Drug Store**

LOVER OF HEREFORD CAT



JOHN SEARS

Absolutely the only man w tempted to interview and fa Nearly everybody in all west as know him and under on occasion would express I among friends.

On this special occasi seemed indisposed to saying ar thing about himself or about country. In attempting to e the issue, he suggested that write up Chas. West, Joe gins and numerous others. being willing to let him go v out a trial, he was asked i round-about way how much he had in this country and succes had been made o farm property. He repli saying that he did have s five acres but had sold account of bad crops thi

## TOMORROW IS ELECTION

Tomorrow is to be a in Merkel. In additi circus that is coming election day for the e of ticks in Taylor count

Nobody likes a tick a body should go to the vote to oust the me site. Dont forget to election to carry.

## J. A. BOYCE F CO. TREA

J. A. Boyce, one of t of Taylor county, was Wednesday making claims for the office treasurer.

The name of Mr. pears in our announ urns and in making c his candidacy give the from the Abilene Rev

Mr. Boyce knows ar by thousands of peop county. Any introduc would be almost super reputation is solid and er half his lifetime spent with the peop county and his long wide open to all. He and admired for his sq ings and upright char entering the race he dec intention of making a square fight for electio. capable and deserving of consideration of the voter democratic primaries.

Take a picture of the send one to the boy t away. Let him see t that were dear to him hood. Do this with an Kodak and it will be tr will want to come hom lot of Kodaks now on Mrs. E. M. Rusts.

### New Improve

Manager F. J. Ferr Elite Confectionery i plimented on the i he has made to his e A twenty-foot m with full mirror ba the place the air eries found in larg new fountain wa first of last week.

Miss Mae Green a few weeks visit at Brownwood.

MS. JOHNSON  
at of Merkel for the t seventeen years and with a ord in banking that will be equally by few if any bankers in the state. At the organization of the Farmers & Merchants National Bank eleven years ago e was elected Cashier.

Since that time the original directorship of the bank has not changed and the institution remains today on even a more firmer footing that when it started. Being close student of banking and all its branches has given him the reputation of one of the most succesful business men in the west.

## BARBER SHOPS TO CLOSE CHRISTMAS

serve Christmas barber shops of closed next Satur-

ment was reached ay between them, itions were neces outside. Parties orial work done had note of this.

## FIREWORKS CAN BE USED

Mayor Stallings and City Mar Walters propose to inforce ordinance against the shoot of fireworks, roman can- skyrockets, fire-crackers ne like.

y violator of this ordinant e prosecuted if caught and the boys and men are warned against such practice. The full fine for such will be assessed against any and found guilty.

Musical instruments Violins, Guitars, Banjos and Mandolins at prices from \$4.50 to \$12.50 each. Good sounding instruments. A bargain to those hunting high grade goods at Mrs. E. M. Rust.

Remember 8-0, the Bob Martin Gro., Co., for prompt and effici- ent service.

Call us, we'll call for four leaning and pressing. Owen, hone 194.

Our Baker Boy flour, sold only by Bob Martin Gro., Co.

Mrs. J. W. Daniels is visiting relatives in Pecos.

See Bob Martin for your Christmas bill of groceries.

Have Sublett the jeweler fix your watch of clock. Expert workmanship and satisfaction given at all times. At Mrs. E. M. Rust Drug Store.



### ALBERTA CORSETS

Make the most of your figure as well as giving you correct style, comfort and service—\$1.00 up. We'll fit you.

Parten Dry Goods Co. Merkel, Texas

### HOW HE DOES IT

COMES right down the chimney When the Christmas bells are rung.

When little folks are fast asleep And stockings all are hung; All loaded down with pretty things, With guns and dolls and drums; So be sure to hang your stockings Where he'll see 'em when he comes.

YOU might hear him swiftly coming, Riding on the wintry blast; His reindeer team a-jingling, And their hoof beats falling fast. His furs are black with chimney soot, His beard is white as snow, His sleigh is full of pretty toys, You ought to hear him go!

HE lights upon the sleazy roof And doesn't stop a minute; He jumps upon the chimney top, And down he plumps within it; He pauses on the hearthstone, And he takes a little peep To see if all the curly heads Are safe in bed asleep.

HE goes about on tiptoe, Nor makes a bit of noise, He fills up all the stockings With sugar plums and toys; And then he gives a little laugh, Pops up the chimney quick, And off he jingles on the wind, The jolly old St. Nick.

Find out something to make you a smiling, sunny personality around the home. Christmas is a great day for shining.

### CHRISTMAS JOYS.



"I suppose you will have a merry Christmas at your house?" "Oh, yes," replied the sophisticated small boy, "We younger people will endeavor to make it so. You know, so much depends on the tactfulness of children. I always endeavor to make the holidays pleasant by showing an enthusiastic interest in the mechanical toys that afford grown people so much amusement."

Kiss for Every Berry. In olden times a berry was pulled for every kiss under the mistletoe, and when they were all gone, no berry, no kiss!

The Worst Kicker. It is the man who kicks the most about his Christmas cigars who gives the fewest of them to the janitor.

## To Our Laundry Patrons

Beginning with the first of 1916 all laundry work will be strictly cash on delivery. We are compelled to adopt this method and will thank our customers to have money ready when your laundry is delivered.

Wishing for a Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year to all, we remain  
Yours to please

## CHURCH BROTHERS TAILORS

Representative Abilene Steam Laundry

### AN EXPENSIVE INSTITUTION

But Cost of Christmas Pays Big Returns in Joy and Happiness of Children.

Christmas is a very costly institution. It makes deep holes in millions of well-filled pockets. Father's hand reaches into his pocket more often in the few weeks before Christmas than during any other period of equal extent in the whole year. And lots of money goes for presents that, in the hands of happy children, last a very short time. Nightfall of Christmas day sees many toys in mangled heaps that bright and shining and new greeted the little folks as they hopped out of bed Christmas morning. And millions and millions of things are bought that never would be, if it were not for Christmas. But does all this mean that Christmas is not worth the money it costs, that it would be better if the world did not observe the anniversary of Christ's birth in the way it does? Nobody in the whole wide Christian part of the world will say that Christmas does not pay for itself, that it is not worth all it costs, and that it is not a bargain at any price. Where can be found a father and mother who feel that they have been cheated by Christmas, after they hear the gurgling laughter of their children, in ecstasy among their new toys, even if there had to be skipping and saving of pennies to buy the little presents?—Savannah News.

We spend too much time wondering what the new year will bring us. It is better to ask ourselves what we are going to make of it. Life does not come in sealed packages, ready for use when opened. Time is only its raw material, and from it we can make very much what we choose. Instead of waiting for some prize to drop into our hands, let us seize the days as they pass and mold them into forms of usefulness and beauty.

To Hang in Guest Room. Sleep sweet within this quiet room. O thou, who'er thou art, And let no sad, dull yesterday Disturb thy quiet heart. Forget thyself and all the world, Put out each flickering light, His star is shining overhead, Bright Christmas, dear—good night.

The mistletoe could tell some funny tales had it the gift of speech.

Shortest Reference to Christmas. "December 25th—Rained all day." This is the shortest reference to Christmas in any book. It is the only entry under that date in the diary of our old friend Robinson Crusoe.

More Blessed to Give. Because you give a five-dollar bill is no reason why you should expect the same.

### Santa's Secret

I-I-I've got out of bed, just a minute, To tell you—I'll whisper it low— The stockings I've hung by the fire Are for me—not mamma, you know. For mine are so awfully little, Dear Santa Claus, don't you see? And I want, oh, so many playthings, They won't hold enough for me.



So I want you to remember And fill these as full as you can, Cause I haven't been very naughty, And you've been such a nice, kind man I'd like a live doll, if you please, sir, That can talk and call me "mamma," Not one that is full of old sawdust, As all my other dolls are.

Short But Useful. The Christmas tree does not live long, but its short life is a useful and beautiful one.

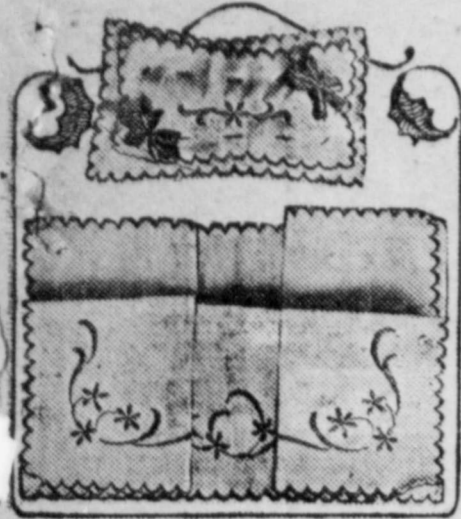
What He Gave Brother. Little six-year-old Harry was asked by his Sunday school teacher: "And Harry, what are you going to give your darling little brother for Christmas this year?" "I dunno," said Harry. "I gave him the measles last year."

Real Luck. "Tommy," said his mother, at dinner on Christmas day, "do stop eating. How can you possibly eat so much?" "Don't know," said Tommy, between bites; "I guess it's just good luck."



**Pretty Things for the Housewife**

**Dresser Set of Embroidered Linen**

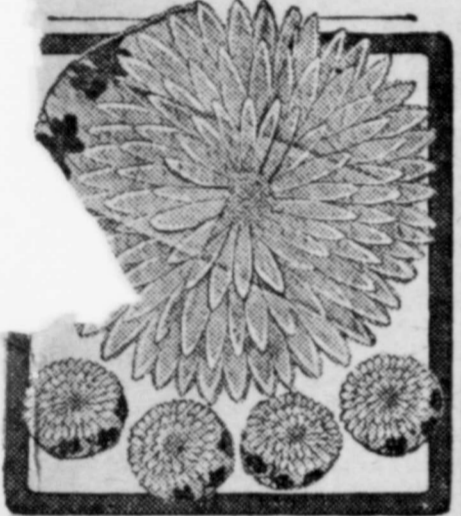


Heavy white linen (or cotton in certain weaves) embroidered with light colored floss, make simple and elegant dresser sets that will delight the heart of the neat housewife. These sets consist of dresser scarf and pincushion cover usually, but glove and handkerchief cases may be made to match and added to them.

The scarf is a length of the linen having scalloped edges buttonhole stitched with light colored floss. A scroll and flower pattern is embroidered at each end and at the center of the scarf, on one side.

A small oblong pincushion is covered with two pieces of linen, one smaller than the other, as shown in the picture. These are buttonhole stitched in scallops about the edges and eyelets are worked in them. A scroll and flower pattern is embroidered in the smaller piece. They are joined by narrow satin ribbon threaded through the eyelets and tied in little bows.

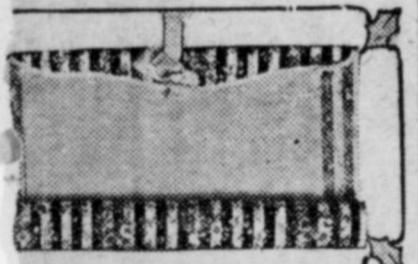
**Luncheon Set of Silk Muslin**



Something new in luncheon sets is made of stiff white silk muslin, very small gilt cord and white and green water color paints. It consists of a centerpiece and twelve doilies to match and is made in a conventionalized chrysanthemum design. The doilies are small replicas of the centerpiece.

A large circle is cut from the muslin for the centerpiece and a few French knots, of dark yellow embroidery silk, are worked in the center to represent the stamens. Three rows of petals are outlined on the centerpiece with white paint and the tiny gilt cord is sewed with yellow silk thread along the outline of each petal. The petals are crowded a little at one side to allow three light green leaves to be painted in. A little white paint is rushed in at the point of each petal to give them a lifelike appearance. The doilies are made in the same pattern but on a smaller scale.

**Patterns for Doilies of Cretonne**



A doily roll makes a pretty gift for the housewife and is useful for many ways than one. It keeps her fingers fresh and easy to get at. Nothing is easier to make, and very few pretty gifts cost so little.

Doilies are usually made in two sizes, one for centerpieces and doilies. To make one of a pasteboard tube, such as mailing is procured. Circular cretonne are stretched over the tube and pasted down on the sides.

The top of the cretonne as wide as the tube is long is then cut off to the width desired. One end of this strip is trimmed in a curve and the other end straight. The curved end of the strip are bound with ribbon.

The right end is pasted to the tube. The cretonne wound once about the tube is then cut down to form a casing. The ribbon ends are sewed to the casing of cretonne to form ties. The doilies are made when the doilies have been made.

The same method is used to make the roll doily. The cretonne is a striped pattern with flowers scattered over a dark background with white. The doilies are made like rolls that do not have ribbon used should have a background of flowers or foliage in the cretonne.

**WE** are this year featuring the most up to date line of Xmas cake material ever handled in Merkel.

**A** genuine high class white white Flour is very necessary for the success of your Xmas baking. Remember **WHITE CREST.**

**E. L. Rogers**  
Auto Delivery

**WHAT NEW ENGLAND MISSED**

Not Until 1670 in the '60s Was Observance of Christmas Festival General.

General as are today both the religious and secular observance of the Christmas festival, it is barely half a century since Christmas was tabooed in large sections of the United States as well as in other countries where the old Puritan element predominated, says an exchange. Even as late as the '60s all through New England Christmas as a holiday was ousted by New Year's, except in Catholic or Episcopal families.

The old hatreds growing out of the wars of the Reformation, both on the continent and in Great Britain, for centuries practically abrogated this annual festival wherever the Puritan element or its posterity was the dominating factor in the community. The following from Edward Eggleston's "Transit of Civilization," will give something of an idea of the eclipse which darkened the joyous holiday history of the United States:

"In 1670 the Massachusetts legislature ordained that the mere abstaining from labor on December 25 should be a penal offense. The observance of Christmas was held objectionable not only because it afforded opportunity for the playing of games and profanity, but because Christmas observance was iniquitous on its own account, for all honoring of days, times or seasons other than the Sabbath seemed to the fine spun Puritan mind a masked idolatry. The strict Puritan Sabbath, first rigidly enforced in England and Scotland, was early transplanted in New England, where its observance was, under similar penalties, made as strictly compulsory as was the nonobservance of Christmas."

One of the old as well as the modern features of the Christmas service was its magnificent music. But during the Puritan eclipse not only Christmas music, but practically all church music worthy the name, disappeared.

As the religious prejudices and hatreds, born in persecutions, softened with time, the Christmas festival grew in favor even throughout the hostile communities of both Great Britain and America.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Subject to the Democratic Primaries of July, 1916

For Treasurer:  
J. A. BOYCE  
AUSTIN FITTS

For Tax Assessor:  
W. T. (TOM) ST. JOHN

For Tax Collector:  
G. B. (BLUE) TITTLE

**A CHRISTMAS VISION**

On Christmas eve 'mid all the joyous glee  
That in my plenteousness surrounded me,  
I happened by some chance to turn mine eye  
Out through a window-wreath that hung  
Near by.

And as I glanced through it into the night  
I seemed to see, lit by some holy light,  
A childish face with wistful, smiling lips  
That thrilled me to my very finger-tips.

Two eager hands stretched forth called,  
As I gazed,  
To me to carry help to Helplessness,  
And in the sad eyes of that child I saw  
In all its loveliness the Christmas Law—  
Not a command, no everlasting Must  
Upon Reluctance for its teaching thrust,  
But just a pleading hint to him who runs  
That all who suffer are God's Little Ones!

And then the picture in the wreath was  
Gone,  
And in its place the Eastern Star-beams  
Shone—  
The same that nineteen centuries ago  
Led on the Wise Men with their heavenly glow;  
And 'e'en as they I wandered through the  
drifts,  
And into lowly places carried gifts  
To cheer, and give release, and pay my  
due

Unto my Lord through them that suffer  
true.  
—John Kendrick Bangs, in Scribner's.

Imprisonment is too good for the thief who steals a Christmas purse.

**A SANTA TRAP.**



First Boy—We've put the bureau in front of the fireplace?  
Second Boy—Yes.  
First Boy—You tied the string to the handle of the door?  
Second Boy—Yes, and I tied the other end of the string to the water pitcher.  
First Boy—Then we ought to find out the real facts about Santa Claus.

**Cheap Christmas Cake.**

Dissolve a level teaspoonful of soda in two teaspoonfuls of warm water, add half a pint of very thick cream, stir for a moment, then add half a cupful of New Orleans molasses, mix thoroughly, add half a pint of brown sugar, three and a half cupfuls of sifted flour, through which has been mixed a tablespoonful each of cinnamon and a tablespoonful each of cloves, spice and nutmeg; add a tablespoonful of grape juice; stir into this a pound of sultana raisins cut into halves and floured, and half a pound of citron. Bake one and a half hours in a moderate oven.

**Cake Candles.**

If you wish to place red or green candles around your cake, take a piece of pasteboard somewhat larger than the cake, cover with fine white paper, set the cake in the center; melt paraffin slightly, dip candles in and set around the cake. This keeps the cake icing whole, and there is no danger of the candles falling over. Little sprigs of holly may be placed between the candles.

**A Merry Christmas**

With Fruits, Candies and Nuts. Make the children enjoy the Holidays all possible. Orders filled now and held for Christmas. Phone us, 249. The Xmas Grocery House.

**G. M. SHARP**

**Christmas Gifts for the Baby**

**A Group of Baby Belongings**



The baby inspires the greatest number of dainty gifts at Christmas time, nearly all of them the handwork of those who welcome him.

A book in which the important affairs of the new arrival are to be put on record, a hanger for safety pins of several sizes, a pair of armlets, and some brightly colored toys suspended by gay ribbons, are pictured above in the group of baby belongings.

The record book is made by covering cardboard with white moire silk. A stork is painted on the front cover, and plain heavy white paper provides the leaves. Satin ribbon in light blue or pink is sewed to each cover to fasten them together.

Pink satin ribbon and white celluloid rings, in three sizes, are used for the safety-pin hangers. One long and three short ends hang from a pretty bow, each terminating in a ring. The pins are fastened over the rings.

Narrow satin ribbon shirred over flat elastic cord forms the armlets. Each is finished with a full rosette.

**Bootees and a Coat Hanger**



The warm looking and dainty booties shown in the picture will be easy to make by those who understand crocheting. They are crocheted of white zephyr and shaped to fit over the knees. A beading is worked in near the top and narrow pink satin ribbon run through it makes it possible to tie the boots so that they will not slip down.

A novel and very pretty touch is given these booties by the tiny pink rose buds that are embroidered on them with silk floss.

Little wooden hangers are covered with cotton for a padding and over this light satin ribbon is shirred. The hook is wound with the ribbon and the hanger finished with a pretty bow.

**Topsy Doll Made of a Stocking**



The rag baby has the reputation of being the best beloved of its little owner's possessions. Here is a Topsy doll made of a black stocking with mouth and nose outlined with yarn and glass beads for eyes. By raveling an old knitted mitten or any knitted article, its head of kinky hair is assured.

The figure is cut out in two pieces, which are machine-stitched together, with an opening left at one side for turning it right side out. It is stuffed with cotton. Rompers and a cap of gayly striped gingham add to the fascination of this Topsy.

**Home Made Gift for Men**

**Record Made of 1**



A record for phone calls is a convenience that every man will value and a gift that will last indefinitely. The details for making a list are shown in the picture.

The cover is made of heavy bleached linen, cut in a strip six inches wide and twelve long. This is edged with buttonhole stitching in black embroidery silk. Four eyelet holes are worked near the center as shown in the picture. A small spray of red flowers, with green foliage is embroidered in one corner and a border, scroll and "Phone Calls" are done in outline stitch in black.

This linen cover encloses a tablet on which names and numbers are written. Narrow red ribbon strung through the eyelets holds cover and tablet together and forms hangers for suspending the record.

**Pin Cushion and Candle Shade**



Certain patterns in Cretonne, suited to dresser scarfs, pincushion covers, slipper bags, candle shades and other little furnishings that are required for men's rooms, are shown in the picture. A dresser scarf is shown with a scarf, pincushion and candle shade.

The cretonne shows a red and green foliage against a blue and white striped ground. So the pattern is to be most useful, and the scarf is there bordered with the cretonne. A square pincushion is covered one side with a small square cretonne sewed smoothly over the other side a considerably larger square is hemmed about the edges and pinned over the cushion.

The candle shade is made over a wire frame and consists of a circular piece stretched over the top and sewed to place. A hemmed strip hangs from the edge of the frame to which it is sewed.

**Pillow Cover and Dresser Scarf**



Cretonne is the most effective of inexpensive materials for making beautiful gifts. It is at its best in furnishings for the bedroom.

A pillow cover of cretonne and a dresser scarf of scrim bordered with it are shown in the picture. The pillow cover is finished with a hem all around, and bound with black braid about the edges. The open end fastens with snap fasteners.

The dresser scarf suggests the way in which these strong, brilliant patterns should be used. A band of the cretonne is stitched along each side, leaving most of the surface white, as a background for the pincushion or other articles that may be covered with the cretonne.





## "A Merry Kitchen A Happy New Year"

*Santa Says:*

Indeed it will be so if a Celebrated Hoosier Cabinet occupies a prominent place in your kitchen on Christmas morning.

THOUSANDS OF HOMES EVERYWHERE WILL BE MADE HAPPY WITH A HOOSIER

OVER 1,000,000 IN DAILY USE

**THIS HOOSIER**

Would Turn Mother's Daily Drudgery into Hours Of Pleasure

Here are some of the labor-saving features in Hoosier Cabinets that cut your work in two.

Housekeepers' Food Guide with hundreds of carefully balanced menus. Simply turn the dial to the meat you want, and your choice of meats is before you.

Condiment cupboard—holds 12 bottles. They won't tip over as they do on the package shelf.

Metal flour bin, absolutely sanitary.

Bill file—a simple, complete kitchen accounting system.

Want list—praised by every woman who uses the Hoosier Cabinet—stops "forgetting."

Cook book holder—keeps your book open or closed at a level with your eye.

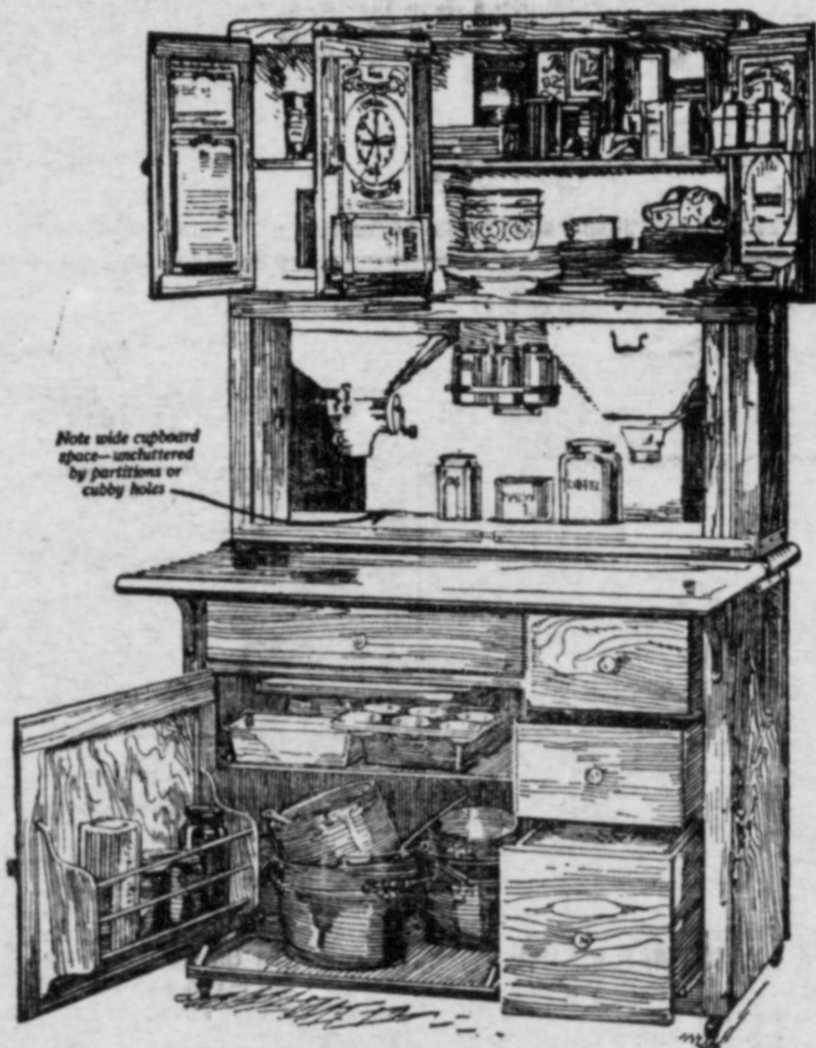
A cupboard for 40 or more packages and 70 or more dishes.

Special shelf for flavoring extracts.

Handy hooks labeled for ice book, milk bottle opener and can opener.

Tray for milk tickets, money, etc.

Pencil holder.



Note wide cupboard space—uncluttered by partitions or caddy holes

"SAVES MILES OF STEPS"

Let us Put One in Your Kitchen

**A HOOSIER**

Will be Placed in Your Home on the Original Hoosier Club Plan of \$1 Down, \$1 Week.

Wonderful shaker flour sifter that cleans the flour it sifts; can't wear out. Air-tight crystal glass containers for tea and coffee.

Handy salt box of crystal glass.

Ingenious sugar bin that feeds down as you use it, sanitary, easily cleaned.

Patented air-tight spice jars of crystal glass—four with sifter tops.

Pure aluminum sliding table, full extension, 42x39 inches, bigger than an ordinary kitchen table, and twice as convenient.

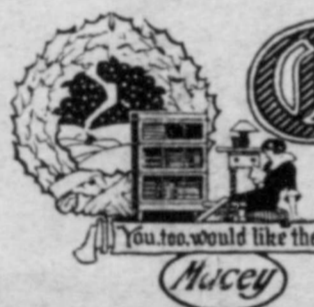
Compartment trays for kitchen tools.

Metal drawer for linen.

Metal bread and cake box with self-closing lid, and extra metal sliding shelf with asbestos bottom, for icing cakes.

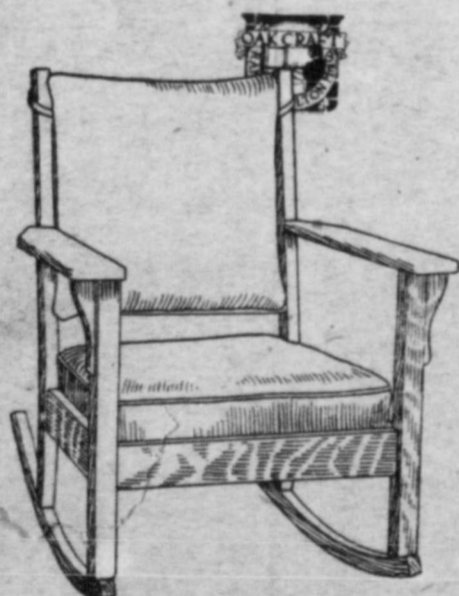
Emergency shelf for unexpected meals. Sliding shelves in base; capacious shelf for pans and lids.

And many other features that help make the Hoosier known as an "Automatic Servant."



## Christmas Gift Suggestions

Most Everyone Dislikes the Idea of Shopping For Several Days in Vain, Searching For Suitable Gifts For Friends and Loved Ones. This Can be Eliminated by a Visit to Our Store. Just Come In And Tell Mack Your Troubles



Nice for Mother

### JUST A FEW TIPS FROM MACK

Give

Mother	Father	Sister	Brother	Baby
A Hoosier	An Easy Chair	A Cedar Chest	A Smoking Tray	A Go-Cart
A Library Table	A Smoking Stand	A Dressing Table	A Chifferobe	A Sulkey
A Rocker	A Desk	An Art Square	A Macey bookcase	A Baby Walker
A China Case	A Macey bookcase	A Writing Desk	A Rocker	A Baby Bed
A Buffet	An Office Chair	A Phone Stand	A Desk	A little Red Chair
A Pullmanette	A Foot Stool	A Music Cabinet		



The original Pullmanette

makes an admirable gift. No living room is complete without it. A comfortable seat in day time and a dandy bed at night

ANY ARTICLE YOU SELECT WILL BE LAID ASIDE AND DELIVERED AT ANY TIME YOU SAY

### WRAPPING DEPARTMENT

For the convenience of those sending parcel post or mail packages, we have created an exclusive wrapping department which will be in full charge of the ladies of the Presbyterian Church. A small fee will be charged for this service and the funds go to the church. You will find this department located at our paint counter just across from the post office

**SAFETY FIRST**  
Make Your Selections Early

*Belmont & Miller Co.*  
*Mack*

**GIVE USEFUL GIFTS**  
**THIS CHRISTMAS**



# THE MERKEL MAIL

VOL. 27—NO. 43

MERKEL, TEXAS, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1915

## A FEW PIONEERS AND THE SUCCESS THEY HAVE MADE IN MERKEL COUNTRY

Some Interesting Facts Concerning Some Old Timers—Not all are Mentioned Due to Our Frilure to Get Their History



CAPT. J. T. TUCKER, in Merkel 37 Years  
Ex-Confederate, Ex-Legislator, Justice of the Peace, Commissioner

These are a few of the most notable things to be mentioned of our esteemed citizen on first thought but with a second consideration we find much more about him worthy of note.

Captain J. T. Tucker (don't know where the "captain" originated but he deserves it) was born in Honey Grove 69 years ago. He was the son of James Madison Tucker, one of the early Texas settlers and a man who braved the terrors of Texas even before gold was discovered in California. At an early age J. T. Tucker moved, along with his father's family, to a place where Dublin now stands, the town having been started by his father, and soon after their advent into that country, then infested by Indians, J. T. Tucker heard the bugle call of the South, and joined Company G of the 30th Texas cavalry, Trans-Mississippi Department, under command of General R. M. Gano who died at Dallas two years ago. In two years service Mr. Tucker mixed in many fights, among the most important was participating in the defeat of General Steel's army near Camden, Ark.

Following the close of the war Mr. Tucker returned home accompanied by his brother, A. J. Tucker, who is also a present citizen of the Merkel country and one of the pioneers of this section. Shortly after his return home Mr. Tucker was married to Mrs. Collins, nee Miss Sarah Ann Woodrome, and to this union two children survive, Mrs. J. W. Daniel of this city and Mrs. Ed Vickers of Pecos. While the present Mrs. J. W. Daniel and Mrs. Vickers were yet small children Mr. and Mrs. Tucker came west and located in the Canyon country thirty-seven years ago. Mr. Tucker says he picked that country as it afforded protection to his cattle, and water could be found. Work of building a log house was commenced and rather than bury his family in a "dug-out" Mr. Tucker hauled shingles from Fort Worth to the Canyon to roof the humble log cabin that his family was to occupy for several years. (The old home yet stands in part we are informed.) Soon after his advent into the Merkel country Mr. Tucker purchased land from the state at \$1.00 per acre and much to his credit he is one man in his section who has owned land in various parts of the state but who has never paid over \$1.00 per acre for any of his purchases. Following the purchase of the Merkel home he was called a "nestor" by the large number of people who practically ruled the country for those days, but he was not a "nestor" in the land of his own. He was the apacitic

turn for it, but could not countenance the seclusion of the cedar breaks after dark with an injured panther hanging around. His early return aroused the suspicion of his good wife, who now enjoys the laugh she had on her husband when she forced him to tell why he was so lonesome in the woods that evening.

Braving the worst of this far west, Mr. Tucker presented his claims to the people of West Texas as a candidate for State Legislator and was elected to that body in 1896 and again in 1898. He served as county commissioner for eight years and was justice of the peace here in the early days.

In all, Mr. Tucker has seen the Merkel country from almost its very first. He has seen it when land was high at \$1.00 per acre, and panthers were thick—up until the present time when \$30.00 and \$40.00 land are considered bargains, and the entire country is settled with progressive farmers who yearly increase the wealth and prosperity of the Merkel country.

### SAM BUTMAN WAS A SAILOR

Sam Butman, one of the best known cowmen in this country and one of the most successful farmers that ever stuck a plow in Merkel country land was a sailor boy on the coast of Maine.

Years and years ago he drifted to Texas and through some hook or crook landed in the canyon country about the time Dolf Clark hit these parts. In those days, it is said of Mr. Butman that he knew so little of what ranch or farm life was that he didn't know how to hitch up a horse and it now remains an established fact that while he was employed as a farm and ranch hand soon after his arrival here that he tried to put the checks of a set of lines on the outside of the harness and when he tried to drive the team they refused to go while being thus drawn together by the short part of the line on the inside of the harness. Before Mr. Butman could get things straight he was forced to walk to a neighbors house and have one of the boys and show him what the trouble was.

The very first job Mr. Butman had in Texas was on a farm when he came west in '82. Jobs were few and he traded with a ranchman and Mr. Butman was to get his board for what he could do around the ranch. After having spent thirteen months of hard work nothing had ever been said about pay and Mr. Butman gave notice of his resignation and no doubt was agreeably surprised when his boss handed him thirteen, twenty dollar gold pieces. Mr. Butman says he was about the greenest greenhorn that ever came to Texas and was only nineteen years old.

After years of hard work and constant hardship Mr. Butman began to get a few cattle together and by continued hard licks he acquired a small bit of land. By year upon year he has grown in knowledge of the west and its ways until now we find him the owner of seven thousand acres of well grassed land in the upper Canyon upon which is many acres of valuable farm land. He has built a private gin on his holdings that he may better gin cotton picked cotton from acres of his land and in addition he can favor his neighbors with the services of his plant. When Mr. Butman came to the Merkel country he herded sheep and did other odd jobs to make a dollar and now if Bradstreet & Dunn knew what he was really worth they would no doubt have the figures up in excess of \$10,000.

It was all made in the Merkel country and Mr. Butman is yet a man of middle years and he acclaims much of his success to the country in Clover.

A man may suffer reverses here as they do in all countries but with the correct amount of perseverance and get-up-and-git the opportunities are here yet.



J. S. SWANN  
Cattleman, Farmer and Banker

The above likeness of this esteemed citizen was taken when he was in that eventful year of '76 or soon after. We would have been very glad to have had a more recent picture but it was not available, and hardly necessary for even the trying times of the west and since he came here have caused little change in his countenance. A casual observer of the photograph remarked in the presence of Mr. Swann that the facial expression had not changed in the least. Mr. Swann answered him by saying: "What in thunder would I want it changed for."

Mr. Swann was born in Smith county near where the town of Tyler now stands. He was a member of a poor family and had to work hard for a living. During one of this extremely hard years the family had only two horses and \$75.00 in money, with which they should make a crop for the coming year. Refugee negroes from Louisiana stole the horses and seeming destitution was about to grip the home. With this \$75.00 a new horse was purchased and another bought on the credit. Some material advances were made and conditions grew some better for the Swann family. An older brother gave Mr. Swann a job driving some horses over the trail in April of '76. He left home with twenty-five cents in his pocket, his brother owed him another twenty-five cents which he collected while out and with fifty cents total capital he summed up courage enough to buy one spur, this put his resources back to twenty-five cents and in August of the same year when he returned home he took an inventory and found his earthly possessions to be the same two bits he had started out with.

In looking back over the past years he now says that if he could have been as careful of all expenditures as he was with that four-bits, that he would have grown rich in spite of himself. His first salaried job was at \$10.00 per month and from his accounts he did more actual labor while drawing this amount than during any other period of his life.

Reaching Merkel in '90 he purchased 1500 acres of land at \$4.00 per acre and paid a little cash down to get possession. Cattle raising, successful farming and conservative business methods have proven beneficial and now Mr. Swann owns some 3000 acres of Merkel country land, over one third of it in cultivation and every foot of it paid for. Officially he is President of the Farmers State Bank and occupies the same position on the school board of the Merkel Independent District. Although he has as-

sumed a responsible position in a strongly fortified financial institution, he does not allow his duties in the bank to interfere with his manipulation of his farms and personally he superintends the work done on every foot of his land and personally he often takes a hand. If you want to talk business with him and fail to find him at his place in the bank you had best look for him next on a disc plow or cultivator a few miles north-west of town.

### J. A. HAMNER A PIONEER

J. A. Hamner, another one of the early settlers in the Merkel country, moved near where the town of Trent now stands in the year '83. He was one among the earliest citizens who are here yet and is exceeded in seniority, by Messrs. G. P. and Jonathan Bradley who made their first camp in the Canyon near where Capt. Tucker squatted and staked out his first claim.

Mr. Hamner was what some of the old timers called a snipe and drove spikes for the Texas & Pacific along in this section of the country shortly after Capt. Tucker decided to bring his family to see their first locomotive.

Following the completion of the railroad through this section Mr. Hamner filed on land near Trent and started paying it out while times were critical in the west and vocations were scarce as hen teeth. He grubbed a few acres of land and cultivated a small amount of feed stuff, gradually increasing the acreage as conditions would permit and later planted a little cotton often selling it as low as three or four cts. per pound. He to, was like Capt. Tucker and was a great hunter, and the family table, the very table the writer stuck his feet under for some ten years, was nearly always laden with wild meats of some description. It was indeed a sad plight around this humble home in those days, say nineteen years ago when "Grandpa" would go hunting and return home with an empty hunting bag. This was not often however for he was a good shot, figuratively speaking in his own words, he was jerked up by the hair of the head and had to rustle for a living and he didn't stop when he reached the Merkel country. The very fact of his ability as a hunter will long remain prominent in the mind of the writer. It was far back when we were just large enough to toddle out at the back gate and see that thing went along O. K. around the old cow-pen. While making one such survey one day our attention was attracted to "Granddad" who was riding like wild-fire across an open stretch of country about a mile from the house. The open country at that point extended for over a mile and one of the prettiest races was on that a hunter may ever expect to witness. Out ahead of the rider were five or six antelope, all running their best to outdistance the man with the gun. The old gun, which was a heirloom until recently was one of the muzzle loading type that dominated in that day and time, it was a double barrel construction and was spitting buck fast and furious at the fleeing antelope. The rider never seemed to check in his race for fresh meat, when both barrels were fired he could be seen to spur up even faster, all the time loading the old muzzle loader with precision and calmness only found in those old timers. In all he must have fired six or eight times before he brought down meat, but the family home was the scene of much enjoyment that night as we crowded around the table to eat of the fresh antelope that "Grandpa" had "killed-a-runnin'". Between fresh beef, antelope, wild turkey and rabbit the home was kept together in much raptitude and as the year counted up that cheap old land increased in value until now it is among the highest priced in the

of dirt in that county.

With little or no money he arrived in the country. Mr. Hamner saw the value of holding to the land he watched it constantly value from \$1.00 and land to excellent farm land worth around \$40.00 per acre in addition to gradually growing possession of over 300 acres of good farm land. He was able to leave the old farm and with proceeds of its tilling, he bought a comfortable home in this county and retired from further active work.



J. T. WARREN  
Cattleman, Banker and Farmer

It was with some effort that we obtained the above picture. Mr. Warren has always been an adverse thinker to the idea of having his picture in a newspaper, and we obtained the above in a rabbit's-foot way. I thought he was posing for daughter at the family home; a little thought of what was in the air.

It was in '91 when Mr. Warren had \$750.00 in possessions. He started a business, forming a partnership, building the first big house in Merkel. It was an iron building 50x90 feet, stories high. With a capital of \$750 Mr. Warren comfortably well fixed himself as a merchant and dealings are yet the talk of the old timers.

When Merkel was a small cotton market in the '90's J. T. Warren and G. F. West were about the only buyers here. When either of them put a bid on cotton, it was the top. The present day auction sales of cotton on the streets was a very uncommon thing.

From '91 up until the present time Mr. Warren has come in possession of some of the most valuable business property in the town. He is the owner of 16 acres of choice land, 300 acres which are in cultivation and improved. He is president of the Farmers & Merchants National Bank and a lover of Ford cattle. Like J. S. Swann the Farmers State Bank, you may have trouble in finding him at his office, but you will have trouble in locating him chasing yearling out of a stack lot ten miles east of this place. If he has succeeded in driving that brute out of the feed you may find him admiring a pen of registered Duroc Jersey hogs, for he is a believer in raising high grade stock.

Mr. Warren is one man who never dabbles in politics and probably would make a "bum" politician but we believe he would make an excellent representative to the Texas legislature if he could only be induced to take the job. It is doubtful, however, if he would consider leaving his hogs and cattle long enough to sit and listen to that notorious body at Austin. For a prospective Taylor county could not find a better one, the only trouble being in getting him to accept nomination.



# Great Excitement GREATEST SALE OF DRY GOODS to Saturday, Dec. 25---10 Days

**W NOW**

**Thousands**

Woodroof Brothers will readjust their entire business for miles and miles around this store to secure a readjusting sale of this giant stock of Dry Goods, of every description for men, women and children

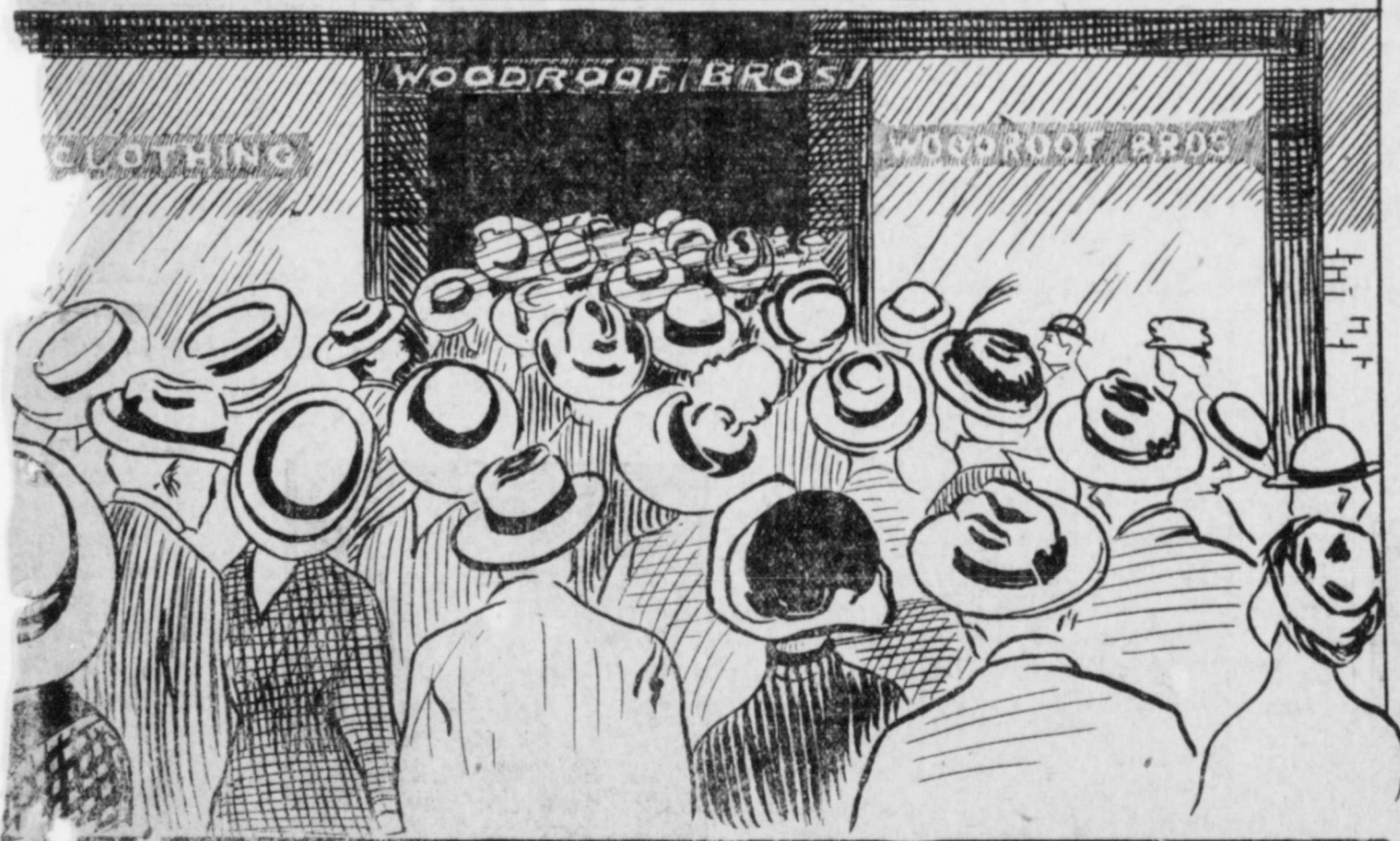
**Of People Will See The 89,000 Bargains on Display**

**ten Selling Days**

**The Greatest Sale of the Known Commercial Age. A Huge Deluge of Irresistable Bargains for all Mankind. Sale positively closes December 25th.**

own, at prices never attempted before in this section of The world's choicest merchandise of standard, established without reservation or evasion of any class, character or kind

**WOODROOF'S DRY-GOODS & MILLINERY**



**GET HERE SATURDAY IF POSSIBLE**

There will be hundreds and hundreds of extra bargains on sale and display Saturday that we cannot list for you in detail. Enough to say that you cannot withstand the startling price inducements pinned upon every item. The Yule-Tide spirit pervades the atmosphere of this store. Many useful Christmas presents for all the family shown and displayed and the price is smashed all to pieces.

**Ten Days Ten Days**

December 15th to December 25th

**Dress Prints, Calicoes---Look**

Miles and miles of dress prints and calicoes while they last, in lights, darks, blues, reds, greys, and shirting prints all included in this Great Ten Days Sale at exactly 4c

**COME HERE EXPECTING TO SEE THE GREATEST BARGAINS YOU HAVE EVER SEEN**

and your expectations will be exceeded in every instance. While you are reading this, every effort is being put forth by us to prevent the slightest disappointment. Every fibre of this great institution is being utilized that everything will be in readiness, clerks busy, scurrying hither and thither getting up displays, marking ticketing, arranging, putting the "cut-price" on every item. Every part, parcel and particle of merchandise in the house will be cut to the core. People will save dollars upon dollars. Armloads of bargains will be a stingy rebuke to all who do not get their share. We warn you to act quick. 10 days. Here are the days. Opening at nine a. m. sharp Wednesday morning December 15th., Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday following, closing date of sale to be Saturday, December 25th.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**—We take this method of letting the people of this section of Texas know that this vast stock of merchandise, owned and known as WOODROOF stock, located in Merkel, Taylor county, will be a vertible slaughter for 10 days. Everything will be sold at a fraction of its real worth at prices that will bring people here.

**It Will Be Worthwhile to Come Miles and Miles**



# Read These Mute and Startling Prices

\$1.00 jumpers and overalls for  
**\$.85**

One lot men's and boys 65c sweaters only  
**\$.39**

One lot of men's \$3.00 hats, extra special only  
**\$1.95**

One special lot of \$7.50 ladies long black coats, extra special  
**\$4.85**

### Suits Slaughtered

Our size men, here are the prices:  
suits, 10 days sale price.....\$6.48  
suits, 10 days sale price..... 8.48  
suits, 10 days sale price.....11.95  
suits, 10 days sale price.....15.48  
suits, 10 days sale price.....19.85

### Men's Belts

48c; 50c belts for 40c and the  
on earth for .....20c  
1-2 hose, all sizes, in black  
worth 50c the world over, 10 days  
.....40c  
unders, very cheap, 50c grade 41c  
kind, 10 days sale price.....19c  
and counterpanes, to close out  
a.  
gloves 7c, 9c and .....19c  
sock pins, tie clasps, cuff buttons  
pins, etc all at .....one third off

### Miscellaneous Bargains for Men, Women, and Children.

One of these—don't miss a single  
d 35c neckwear, 10 days sale  
.....18c  
t 50c neckwear, newest, best  
ons, 10 days sale price.....40c  
e boys caps, worth 25c 10 days  
ce. ....19c

### Blankets!

blankets, \$1.00 value for....\$.85  
blankets, 1.25 value for.... .95  
blankets, 1.50 value for.... 1.19  
nap " 2.50 value for.... 1.98

### Boys Suits! Boys Suits!

10 days sale price.....\$2.98  
10 days sale price..... 3.15  
10 days sale price..... 3.65  
10 days sale price..... 3.95  
10 days sale price..... 4.85  
10 days sale price..... 5.49  
10 days sale price..... 5.98  
10 days sale price..... 7.45

Prices are positively  
in effect until  
opening day

### Shoes! Shoes! Shoes!

Never before in the history of the mercantile business in this section of Texas, have the people been offered such astonishing bargains in shoes for men, women and children. These prices are listed upon the regular stock and include all the shoes of any style, either for men, women or children, at the price given, and these prices are on all the stock, with the exception of many extra special lots; the entire stock represents the finest and newest goods; read these prices and then get here and pick out your size.

\$.50 shoe values, 10 days sale price.... \$.41  
.75 shoe values, 10 days sale price.... .60  
1.00 shoe values, 10 days sale price.... .90  
1.25 shoe values, 10 days sale price.... 1.10  
1.50 shoe values, 10 days sale price.... 1.29  
1.75 shoe values, 10 days sale price.... 1.45  
2.00 shoe values, 10 days sale price.... 1.65  
2.25 shoe values, 10 days sale price.... 1.85  
2.50 shoe values, 10 days sale price.... 2.25  
3.00 shoe values, 10 days sale price.... 2.45  
3.50 shoe values, 10 days sale price.... 2.98  
4.00 shoe values, 10 days sale price.... 3.35  
5.00 shoe values, 10 days sale price.... 3.98

### Towels! Towels! Towels!

10c towels, 10 days sale price..... 7c  
15c towels, 10 days sale price..... 10c  
20c towels, 10 days sale price..... 16c  
25c towels, 10 days sale price..... 21c  
35c towels, 10 days sale price..... 27c  
50c towels, 10 days sale price..... 41c  
\$1.00 towels, 10 days sale price..... 85c

### Corsets! Corsets! Corsets!

These prices are on regular stock, and are the newest goods and are not to be confused with special lots advertised elsewhere in this circular:  
\$1.00 grades, 10 days sale price..... \$.85  
1.50 grades, 10 days sale price..... 1.25  
2.00 grades, 10 days sale price..... 1.65  
2.50 grades, 10 days sale price..... 1.95  
3.00 grades, 10 days sale price..... 2.45  
3.50 grades, 10 days sale price..... 2.85  
5.00 grades, 10 days sale price..... 3.85

### Gloves! Gloves! Gloves!

Get your work and dress gloves now—Look.  
25c gloves, 10 days sale price.....21c  
50c gloves, 10 days sale price.....45c  
75c gloves, 10 days sale price.....60c  
\$1.00 gloves, 10 days sale price.....85c  
\$1.50 gloves, 10 days sale price.....\$1.25

### Boots! Boots! Boots!

\$6.00 high grade boots, 10 days sale price \$5.40  
High grade boots, 10 days sale price.... 6.50

### Staples! Staples! Staples

A. C. A. feather ticking, good patterns, positively and absolutely worth 25c, 10 days sale price.....16c  
12 1/2c mattress tick, Germantown patterns, 10 days sale price.....9c  
Calicoes and dress prints, the yard, .....4c  
Bleach domestic, extra heavy, finest quality, worth 10c, 10 days sale price.....8c  
Extra quality, extra heavy brown domestic, worth 10c, 10 days sale price.....7 1/2c  
Gingham, all kinds, Amoskeags and pilgrims, worth 10c a yard anywhere on earth, 10 days sale price, the yard.....8c  
Every piece of percale in the house will be sold regardless of value, at the yard.....8c  
Finest, heaviest cheviot made, different colors included in this sale, regardless of value, and will be sold out at.....9c  
Round thread, cotton checks, many different patterns, all go in this sale at exactly.....4 1/2c  
Brown and bleached sheeting 9-4, will all be sold out at the ridiculous price..23c  
Fancy oil cloth, 10 days sale price.....15c

### Trunks, Grips and Traveling Bags

Cheaper than manufacturers' cost. The goods must go.  
\$2.50 grade, 10 days sale price.....\$1.95  
3.50 grade, 10 days sale price..... 2.98  
5.00 grade, 10 days sale price..... 3.85  
7.50 grade, 10 days sale price..... 5.95  
\$10.00 grade, 10 days sale price.....\$ 7.45  
12.50 grade, 10 days sale price..... 9.85  
15.00 grade, 10 days sale price..... 12.35

### Ribbons! Ribbons! Ribbons!

Here is the best chance you have ever had to save.  
5c ribbons, 10 days sale price..... 4c  
10c ribbons, 10 days sale price..... 7c  
15c ribbons, 10 days sale price.....11c  
20c ribbons, 10 days sale price.....15c  
25c ribbons, 10 days sale price.....21c  
35c ribbons, 10 days sale price.....27c  
50c ribbons, 10 days sale price.....40c

### Laces and Embroideries

All go—nothing reserved.  
5c grade, 10 days sale price..... 3c  
7 1/2c grade, 10 days sale price..... 5c  
10c grade, 10 days sale price..... 6c  
12 1/2c grades 10 days sale price..... 8c  
15c grades 10 days sale price..... 9c  
20c grades 10 days sale price.....14c  
25c grades 10 days sale price.....17c  
35c grades 10 days sale price.....23c  
50c grades 10 days sale price.....33c

### IFONCLAD HOSE FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

One big lot of hosiery, all sizes, this is one of the best 25c hose that ever sold anywhere, we sell them for 10 days for and away less than wholesale cost, at the astonishing price of, per pair.....20c

### LOOK AT THIS, MEN

One lot men's extra fine, first quality, ribbed shirts and drawers, absolutely finest finish, 10 days sale price, the garment, only.....40c

### ONE LOT OF MEN'S FINE SHIRTS

Not all sizes in the lot but some of many styles, worth up to \$1.25, 10 days sale price.....75c

### ONE LOT LADIES' SKIRTS

Values up to \$7.50. 10 days sale price choice.....\$3.50

One lot ladies \$3.50 shoes, special for  
only  
**2.35**

One lot of children's shoes. \$1.50 grade  
only  
**95c**

One lot of J. E. Tilts Pat. leather shoes  
\$4.00 and \$4.50 grade, special  
**2.35**

One lot of ladies' shoes, \$3.50 grade  
special  
**\$2.35**

to **December 25th**

**10 DAYS**

**10 DAYS**

**10 DAYS**

Bargains, this vast stock will seek its way into the  
and children will all be of the same mind, coming  
and corner of this great store is crowded to the  
tire public.



OUR GUARANTEE—We guarantee each and every statement here made; we guarantee every price and we hereby further guarantee that we will take back, exchange or refund the money on any unsatisfactory purchase for any reason whatsoever, with the exception of goods cut from the bolt. This is positively the greatest bargain feast spread before the people, a glittering galaxy of unprecedented astonishing values; no words are fully adequate to convey to you the slightest idea of the enormous and tremendous savings that will be registered during this wonderful period of terrific selling. We warn you to get here and get your share; let nothing keep you away; pay no attention to hearsay, see the evidence with your own eyes.

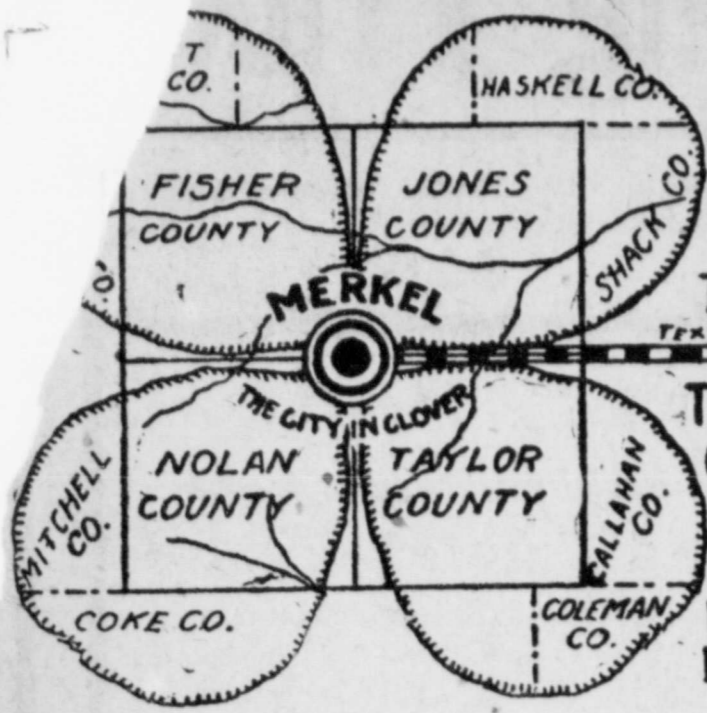
# F BROS.

**WILL AND MUST BE READJUSTED BEFORE DEC. 25**

### THIS IS ENTIRELY NEW

It is very unusual during prosperous times for mercantile establishments to really slaughter prices as we are going to do during these ten days. A hub-dub of noises is often made about great sales but they cannot compare with the offerings we now place at the disposal of west Texas people. We must have our entire stock ready for re-adjustment by January 1st. These prices will do the work.





**MERKEL**  
 GOOD HOMES; GOOD SCHOOLS,  
 GOOD CHURCHES; GOOD PEOPLE;  
 THE CITY TO LIVE IN;  
 THE CITY TO INVEST IN

TEXAS AND PACIFIC RAIL ROAD

**THE MERKEL COUNTRY,**  
 OPPORTUNITY FOR THE YOUNG MAN,  
 GOOD HEALTH FOR THE OLD MAN,  
 EMPLOYMENT FOR THE POOR MAN,  
 INVESTMENTS FOR THE RICH MAN,  
 PROSPERITY FOR ALL.



## Lots of New Goods Arriving

We have just received a full car of Wire and Nails, also car Velie and Reliance Buggies and will have a car of Implements next week, and will say that we are prepared to take care of your wants in the Hardware Line.

### For Christmas Shoppers

we have Silverware, Dishes of all kinds that are suitable for Christmas giving. We have a large line of Express Wagons and Tricycles for the children.

### To The Farmers

We desire to say that we have a well assorted line of Implements, such as are wanted now, also Peter Schuttler and Fort Smith Wagons, and our prices will always be found in line when it comes to figuring on dependable goods. A complete line of Cook Stoves and Heaters to select from.

### Call and See Us

for anything in the Hardware line, you will find the goods here and prices as low as can consistently be made for the class of goods offered. Will appreciate your trade and strive to merit same.

# Crown Hardware Company

## The MERKEL MAIL

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY MORNING  
 THE MERKEL MAIL PRINTING COMPANY, INCORPORATED  
 HOMER L. EASTERWOOD, Editor and Manager

SUBSCRIPTION, \$1.00 PER YEAR, IN ADVANCE  
 Entered at the Postoffice at Merkel, Texas, as Second-Class Mail Matter

Any erroneous reflection on the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation which may appear in the columns of The Mail will be gladly corrected upon its being brought to the attention of the management.

TELEPHONE No. 61

If you have visitors, or if you know any item which would be of interest to readers of the Mail, the editor would appreciate a note or a telephone message to that effect. Or, if an occurrence of unusual interest transpires a reporter will be promptly sent to get the full particulars.

### NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS

Patrons of the Mail who do not receive their paper regularly will confer a favor upon the management by reporting the fact. You should also watch the label of your paper to ascertain when your time is out and renew before your name automatically leaves our list, as all papers stop when the term of subscription expires.

### THE SIZE OF HENRY FORD

Thomas Edison and Henry Ford came, conquered and departed, fresh laurel wreathes of Far Western growth piled high upon their brows. They were honored by special 'days' at the San Francisco and San Diego expositions; they were banqueted, displayed, bespoken and committed, presented with medals and cheered to the echo; they were dismissed and the children conducted to stations for a glimpse of the great men. A triumphal procession across the country marked another chapter to the history of hysterical worship peculiar to the United States; a few days before their arrival one Thaw was the center of excited, cheering crowds.

Thomas Edison is a great inventor. When and so long as the incandescent bulb sheds its radiance, his name will be remembered and honored. To his efforts is due the development of the incandescent electric lamp from its lustreless crude condition through endless improved stages to its present brilliancy. Thomas Edison deserves the full measure of the honors showered upon him even if his accomplishments had been limited to the invention of the device that makes it possible to preserve the vocal pearls of Shumann-Heink and Caruso for all eternity.

But is Henry Ford really a great man? He did not invent the internal-combustion motor; he did not originate the automobile; he did not produce the rubber tire, the carburetor or the magneto. He saw the possibilities of manufacturing one type of motor car on so vast a scale that its price could be reduced until a million families could afford to purchase the conveyance. He did it. He organized a vast factory which, through his clear perception of the value of large standardized production, became immense and profitable. It is to his credit that he paid his workmen exceedingly well, but his own profits were not suffering. He is popularly supposed to have amassed a fortune of a hundred million dollars in a few years.

Edison invented, originated, improved, perfected. Ford merely cheapened. For three or four years his product has not been altered. The same ugly lines that characterized his first machine are still retained. There has been no progressive improvement. His output has not gained in beauty, dignity, strength or utility. Before Ford can lay claim to greatness even in the industrial field he will have to prove that he is a man of more than one idea.—The Sunset Pacific Magazine.

He now has that idea but it is yet to be incubated in the turbulent European countries and the chances are greatly against his peace party. Contrary to his triumphant return from the Pacific coast, his return from the Kaiser and his likes will be brought about by a series of horse-laughs emitted by the war lords across the pond. The Sunset Magazine would have done Edison an injustice to have compared him with Henry Ford.

It is to be hoped that Ford can distinguish himself in his conquest, but we are reminded of the parable of the camel and the needle and when he returns from Europe he will yet have to prove that he is a man of more than one idea.

### BENEFITS

Our observations has led us to the conclusion that the state commissioner of agriculture bears about the same relation to the people of Texas as that energetic little insect, the flea, bears to the canine upon whose back he hustles for a living. If the department has ever been of much real service to the farmers we have been unable to discover it. If there are any farmers in this section who think that the department has been worth a fig to them, they will please say "aye." We want to find out about it and carry the news to Betsy.—Roscoe Times.

The ones who reap the most benefit from such institutions are the ones who seek its aid. The department of agriculture and all other similar institutions are not supposed to run after the farmer and pour instruction into him with a ramrod. Their duty is to teach, and the pupil must be willing before he can be taught. Those who have listened to the department in many matters are not given to swearing at it, but rather praise it as something that has done them much good. People used to sneer at automobiles and modern surgery and aeronautics. Many of them, like the Times, are inclined to sneer at institutions designed to bring blessings on varied lines of endeavor. The department of agriculture will help all who seek its aid, it is firmly established in every nation and is here to stay. Blessed is he who applies.—Abilene Reporter.

Ho, ho Ouch! our lips are cracked.

### CARRANZA AND TUMULTY

Hon. Joseph P. Tumulty is secretary to the President. He has taken it upon himself to vindicate Carranza and his soldiers for their infamous practices and brutal murder of men and women in Mexico. Secretary to the President Joseph Patrick Tumulty may be familiar with conditions in Jersey City, N. J., as well as conditions in general along the North Atlantic coast but what he doesn't know about Mexico would fill all the shelves in one of Dr. Andrew Carnegie's library buildings. This is not a criticism of the Hon. Secretary. He is a politician, and just now he is playing for votes for his party.—Fort Worth Record.

If it is of benefit to you Carranza and Tumulty belong to the same church, perhaps that is "Pat's" reason for attempting to exonerate that whiskered old ape who has made himself notorious through brutality.

Villa is coming back. Villa refuses to eliminate himself. It would be the irony of fate if he triumphed over Carranza, the pet of American oil kings and the tool of American owners of Mexican bonds. Carranza does not represent the people of Mexico. He is the creature of Wall street and the men who control Mexican concessions and the water-soaked bonds of the unfortunate republic.—Fort Worth Record.

Villa is to be congratulated for one thing and one thing only. That is, his fighting tenacity. We would like to know who has backed him all these many months? In all it seems to be dog eat dog and the quicker one of those mongrels is eradicated the better off Mexico will be.

Blanton says it is, Wagstaff says it isn't. Then Wagstaff says it is and then Blanton says it isn't. What we would like to know, is. Which is it?

The printer's devil has just informed us that the editorial column liked three lines being full this week. So, here they are.

Salt Creek has once more been pronounced a navigable stream and many office seekers are getting their boats ready for the rocking.

Keeping house by electricity will be all right when they fix it so you can press the button and pay the bills.

Thanks Mr. Weather man. Call again in a few weeks.

Only eight more days. You had better shop early.

Better Buy it now and not get caught in the rush.

A first room for Merkel. Dotto new

### UNCLE BILLIE JOHNSON

W. W. Johnson, commonly known as "Uncle Billie" bought land near Trent without seeing it. He made his purchase in '94 and came here a few months later. His first experience as a farmer in the Trent community can be figured up in a total of two bales of cotton in '96 and these were awful light bales according to his own statement. Gradually he increased the acreage of his cultivated land until he now owns 900 acres of choice Trent land well worth over \$30.00 per acre.

Sometime along about the middle nineties, he was raising and selling cotton again and hauled it to Merkel to be ginned and for a market. About the only buyers here at that time were Geo. F. West and J. T. Warren, there were others who got their feet wet occasionally but West and Warren were the men who figured most conspicuously. At that time cotton was exceedingly low and when Mr. Johnson sent his son, R. B. (now a druggist at Trent) to Merkel with a bale of cotton, Bob was bid four cents

that he would see if he couldn't get it raised and went to the other buyers including J. T. Warren. When it became known that G. F. West had bid four cents, Bob was advised to go and take it quick before Mr. West backed; but there was no backing out, Mr. West had bid four cents and he stayed with it, a price somewhat above the top at that time.

Mr. Johnson is another of the old timers who purchased property near Merkel and has lived comfortably ever since. Too aged now to personally manipulate the affairs of the old home, he has purchased a quite home in Trent and with Mrs. Johnson enjoys life in the care of a baby grandson while their youngest son, C. C. Johnson looks after the continued success of the farm.

### J. R. LAMAR

In 1904 the price of \$20.00 per acre for land in the Merkel country was considered high, but J. R. Lamar, formerly of Palo Pinto county, cast his lot here at the above figures. He purchased 320 acres of land and the following year made 54 bales of cotton for the first

year with a record of 86 bales. After 1906 the dry years came over the Merkel country but J. R. Lamar was one who profit regardless. From 1906 until 1919 he averaged between forty and fifty bales of cotton per year with two exceptions, and throughout the entire time of what some people called droughts he averaged something like sixty tons of maize yearly, and, according to his own statement, he made good feed crops during every dry year. The Merkel country has evidenced since his residence. During the last two years Lamar has made 133 bales of cotton, over 120 tons of feed stuff finds space enough about his improved farm to raise many of the necessities of life. The Lamar farm would be a bargain at \$40.00 per acre.

### A Tip

Say! If you want any special Xmas present, just see what he will see that Santa gets the news.

### Pedigreed Pigs for

Pedigreed Duroc at 10 if you want to get the news.



# Because

Because it is an Honored Custom  
 but because of the Sincerity of our  
**APPRECIATION**  
 we take this opportunity  
 to thank you for the part you  
 have played in our business  
 prosperity the past  
 twelve months  
 and we wish you a good and  
**A HAPPY NEW YEAR**

*Behrens & Miller Co.*  
*Clark*

# Years Greeting

In the greatest reign of prosperity our section  
 experienced, we thank our patrons and friends  
 for liberal patronage, which has assured our suc-  
 cessfully in your midst. With our continued  
 service you efficiently, we extend to you our  
 thanks for your past favors and wish for you  
 a prosperous year. Our electric service defined  
 prosperity means economy, labor-saving, convenience  
 appreciation.  
 With the closing events of the old year—1915—  
 and eagerly waiting to serve you in 1916. With a  
 to increase our efficiency, we desire your contin-  
 uous cooperation and friendly relations. Wishing you  
 compliments of the season, yours electrically,

# erkel Power Co.

# NEW YEAR GREETING

I count myself in nothing else so happy as  
 in a soul remembering my good friends.  
 —SHAKESPEARE.

Nothing makes us more happy in ap-  
 proaching the new year than to re-  
 member our good friends who have  
 favored us in the past. May New  
 Year bring much happiness and pros-  
 perity to you.—

# I. P. Sharp & Sons

**A New Plumber**  
 When your water pipes need  
 repairing phone me at the H. M.  
 Rose tin shop. I am experienced  
 in all grades of plumbing and  
 can give quick service. E. T.  
 10  
 Remember 8-0, the Bob  
 prompt and

**Mason's thank W. O. W. & I. O. O. F.**  
 The local lodge of A. F. & A.  
 take this method of thanking  
 the Woodmen and Odd Fellows  
 for furniture and stands used in  
 the banquet last Monday night.  
 Wesley Edwards

Why buy a new hat, have the  
 one made by



### Our New Society Editor

The management of the Mail  
 takes pleasure in announcing our  
 new Society Editor, Miss Evelyn  
 Williams.

In assuming this position Miss  
 Williams is especially qualified  
 and with the assistance of her  
 numerous friends should make  
 our society columns highly inter-  
 esting each week. We will ap-  
 preciate the prompt report of  
 any social event to Miss Williams  
 and she will be in absolute charge  
 of this department. Evening re-  
 ports can be phoned to her tele-  
 phone No. 171 and any prepared  
 manuscript can be handed her at  
 the Post Office any hour during  
 the day.

In advance we thank each and  
 every reader of these columns  
 and again ask that they lend all  
 possible assistance in making  
 Miss Williams's work a pleasure.

### Family Reunion

Xmas day was the scene of a  
 jolly family reunion at the home  
 of Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Fergus-  
 son of route 5. The guests were  
 Mr. and Mrs. Louie Farmer  
 and little son, L. H. of Weather-  
 ford, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Farmer  
 and little daughter, Addie Flo-  
 rence, of Fort Worth, Mr. and  
 Mrs. W. B. Fergusson of Strawn,  
 Raymond Ferguson the host and  
 hostess.

### Miss Hamblet Honored

Saturday evening before Christ-  
 mas Miss Elma Sheppard gave a  
 miscellaneous shower in honor of  
 Miss Virginia Hamblet, who be-  
 came the bride of Mr. Robert  
 Eugene Tarver Tuesday, Decem-  
 ber 28th.

The honoree had been invited  
 "to come and have supper and  
 talk over old times." After sup-  
 per she was asked to answer the  
 door bell as the hostess was busy.  
 Here a real surprise greeted her  
 for some dozen or more of her  
 most intimate friends had, by  
 previous arrangement, met at  
 the home of Miss Jewel Pate and  
 had come at the appointed hour  
 with some dainty remembrance  
 for the honored guest. These  
 were showered on her as she  
 opened the door. After all had  
 been admired the honoree opened  
 up a page from memory's store  
 house and gave a sketch of the  
 romance which had its origin in  
 Water Valley, Miss. While the  
 conversation was still filled with  
 important questions, the hostess  
 served hot chocolate and cake.

### Hendrix-Williams

A pretty Christmas wedding  
 was solemnized at 8:30 P. M.  
 December 25 at the home of Dr.  
 and Mrs. G. M. Williams in  
 which their daughter, Miss  
 Eathel, was given in wedlock  
 to Mr. Parker Hendrix of Abi-  
 lene, Eld. Cypert performing the  
 marriage vows.

The ceremony was witnessed  
 by a large number of friends and  
 relatives who participated in a  
 sumptuous feast of cake with  
 punch served immediately after  
 the marriage. Mr. and Mrs.  
 Hendrix left the following day  
 for Abilene where the groom is  
 engaged in business.

Both contracting parties are  
 exceedingly popular in their re-  
 spective home towns and have  
 hundred of friends to wish them  
 a happy new year and offer  
 abundance of congratulations.

### Mays-Pomroy

W. E. Mays of Fort Worth  
 and Miss Lena Pomroy of Stith  
 were married at the home of  
 Rev. L. B. Owen Sunday Decem-  
 ber 19th.

We are informed that the con-  
 tracting parties left for Fort  
 Worth soon after the marriag.  
 They carry with them the good  
 wishes of many friends in  
 which the

ing greet  
 year and

### Twenty Century Questions

Act V Midsummer Nights  
 Dreams.

Explain the temper of Theseus  
 and Hippolyta at opening of the  
 act.

What does it teach of their  
 characters?

What, for instance, would  
 Theseus have thought of the me-  
 chanicals?

How does he justify this choice  
 to Hippolyta?

What is the comic nature of  
 the Prologue as Quince delivers  
 it?

How is he like the great clerks  
 referred to by Theseus?

Define the kind of amusements  
 that the Duke's company derive  
 from the play of the mechanicals?

Is it of the same nature as  
 that felt by a spectator of Shake-  
 speares play?

What does Shakespeare say  
 about plays in general and the  
 spirit in which they should be  
 viewed?

Contrast Hippolyta's intolerance  
 of the play with the spirit shown  
 by Theseus.

Why does he ring changes on  
 moon?

Describe the epilogue spoken  
 by the fairies.

The next meeting will be held  
 January 16th with Mrs. W. Par-  
 ten as hostess.

### Tarver-Hamblet.

On Wednesday evening Decem-  
 ber 28th Mr. Eugene C. Tarver  
 of Water Valley, Miss., and Miss  
 Virginia Hamblet were married.  
 The ceremony was performed at  
 the Methodist church, Rev. W. P.  
 Garvin, the bride's pastor officiat-  
 ing.

At eight o'clock the pre-nuptial  
 song, "Thou'rt like a lovely Flow-  
 er," was sung by Miss Evelyn  
 Williams, immediately after, to  
 the strains of Mendelssohn's wed-  
 ding march, the bridal party en-  
 tered. The bride who is of a brun-  
 nette type was most becomingly  
 dressed in a suit of brown with  
 hat and shoes to match. She  
 walked with her sister, Miss Ven-  
 ona, who wore a silk gown of  
 gray, both bore American beauty  
 roses. These two advanced down  
 the central aisle while Mr. Tar-  
 ver attended by Mr. Ernest Tar-  
 ver of Seymour, Texas, moved  
 down the side aisle to meet the  
 bride and maid of honor at the  
 chancel, where Rev. Garvin read,  
 most impressively, the marriage  
 ceremony.

Mr. and Mrs. Tarver spent the  
 remaining part of the evening  
 until train time in the home of  
 the bride's father with a few  
 friends who accompanied them  
 to the train and showered them  
 with every good wish to bear with  
 them to their future home in  
 Water Valley, Miss.

Mrs. Tarver is one of the Mer-  
 kel's loveliest girls in both form  
 and character her many friends  
 here regret that she will now live  
 apart from them but all join in  
 wishing her and Mr. Tarver, who  
 seems worthy of the jewel he has  
 won, much success and happiness  
 in their future life together.

On Wednesday evening of this  
 week H. C. Williams was host to  
 his entire postoffice force at his  
 home on North Front street.  
 The evening was most pleasant-  
 ly, spent with forty-two, in  
 pleasant conversation, and listen-  
 ing to some excellent musical  
 numbers given by Misses Bess  
 Touchstone and Ina Mae Adams  
 at the piano and Miss Lelia Hill  
 with the violin. Refreshments  
 of various kinds of cake with  
 grape nectar and salted nuts and  
 candies were served. Those pres-  
 ent were Mr. and Mrs. Victor  
 Harris, Mr. and Mrs. F. A. San-  
 ders, Mr. and Mrs. R. L. and O.  
 J. Adcock, Mr. and Mrs. Price  
 Bankhead and their families,  
 Misses Irene Hairston, Leila Hill,  
 Ina Mae Adams and Stanley  
 Mrs. Williams and Miss Evelyn  
 assisted the postmaster in enter-  
 taining his guests.

Messrs H. W. McSpadden and  
 M. Morris were in Abilene  
 Wednesday on

# HERE ALL NEW WEEK AT 60

The Hoyte Wilber Stock  
 playing in repertoire of mod-  
 ern stage productions will be an  
 attraction at the Cozy Theatre  
 next week.

The opening bill "Davy Croc-  
 ett" will be given on Monday  
 night. The curtain going up  
 8 o'clock. Popular prices of 1-  
 25 and 35 cents will be charged  
 and company advertise fun be-  
 tween acts on each evening.

### Byrd-Burchell

The marriage of Mr. Austin  
 Byrd and Miss Addie Burchell  
 was solemnized at the Collins  
 House Dec. 15th, Rev. Owen  
 performing the ceremony.

The marriage was attended by  
 a few personal friends and the  
 host and hostess of the Collins  
 House. Both the contracting  
 parties are members of prominent  
 families of Nubia and have the  
 Seasons Greetings from their  
 many friends.

### A Tax Is Revoked

Austin, Texas, Dec. 15, To  
 State And County Tax Collectors;  
 As you are aware, this office has  
 heretofore ruled in accordance  
 with the decision of the treasury  
 Department, at an order or  
 power of attorney prepared  
 required by the Election Law  
 Texas authorizing one person  
 pay the poll tax of another,  
 taxable as a power of attorney  
 under the Act of Congress  
 Oct. 22, 1914. I am now infor-  
 med by the Commissioner of In-  
 ternal Revenue that the Treas-  
 urer's Decision referred to will be  
 revoked and you are informed  
 an order or power of attorney  
 the kind above referred to  
 subject to the stamp tax  
 by the Act of Congress re-  
 voked.  
 Respectfully,  
 A. S. Walker, C.

### DONATION TO FIREBOYS

Following the fire that all but  
 destroyed the home of Walter  
 Clark early Christmas week, T.  
 J. Toombs handled Chief Ferrier  
 a check for \$5.00 in token of ap-  
 preciated for the work they did.

Mr. Toombs has property near  
 the scene of the fire and under  
 unfavorable conditions would  
 have been extreme danger. The  
 Clark home was a mass of flames  
 before an alarm was given and as  
 result the home was practically  
 an entire loss, only the shell  
 frame of the house being left as  
 monument to the work of the de-  
 partment.

### NEW THRASHER ORDERED

A new Case Thrasher has been  
 sold by the Anchor Mercantile  
 Co., to Beasley Bros., of Noodle  
 to be delivered at an early date.

The new machine is of 30-60  
 gas engine and 36-58 separator.  
 It will be unloaded at Hawley  
 and will be used in the vicinity  
 of Hawley, Hodges and Stith.

### Notice.

Come to see me or ring 286.  
 Try a sack of my Seal flour,  
 Breakfast Delight, Royal, Mana-  
 house and Statesman Coffee.  
 Prepared to make prompt delivery  
 in the city or to country wagons  
 where teams are not safe to come  
 on Front street. Your patronage  
 will be appreciated. Everything  
 guaranteed. W. F. Hamblet.

### No More Sunday Deliveries

Beginning the first of January  
 we will make no more deliveries  
 on Sunday morning. Our cus-  
 tomers will please take notice of  
 this. Respectfully, the City Meat  
 Market.

J. W. Laney, Prop.

### Cotton Seed For Sale

Mebane Triumph cotton seed  
 at \$1.00 per bush or  
 write me



# Because

Because it is an Honored Custom  
but because of the Sincerity of our

## APPRECIATION

we take this opportunity  
to thank you for the part you  
have played in our business  
prosperity the past  
twelve months  
and we wish you a good and

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

*Bellevue Miller Co.*  
*W. Mack*

# Years Greeting

In the greatest reign of prosperity our section  
has experienced, we thank our patrons and friends  
for liberal patronage, which has assured our suc-  
cess "in your midst." With our continued  
service you efficiently, we extend to you our  
thanks for your past favors and wish for you  
a more prosperous year. Our electric service defined  
modern prosperity means economy, labor-saving, convenience  
and appreciation.

With the closing events of the old year—1915—  
and eagerly waiting to serve you in 1916. With a  
desire to increase our efficiency, we desire your contin-  
ued operation and friendly relations. Wishing you  
compliments of the season, yours electrically,

**Merkel Power Co.**

# NEW YEAR GREETING

I count myself in nothing else so happy as  
in a soul remembering my good friends.  
—SHAKESPEARE.

Nothing makes us more happy in ap-  
proaching the new year than to re-  
member our good friends who have  
favored us in the past. May New  
Year bring much happiness and pros-  
perity to you.—

**J. P. Sharp & Sons**

### A New Plumber

When your water pipes need  
repairing phone me at the H. M.  
Rose tin shop. I am experienced  
in all grades of plumbing and  
can give quick service. E. T.  
Buzbee. 10

Remember 8-0, the Bob  
prompt and

### Mason's Thank W. O. W. & I. O. O. F.

The local lodge of A. F. & A.  
take this method of thanking  
the Woodmen and Odd Fellows  
for furniture and stands used in  
the banquet last Monday night.  
Wesley Edwards

Why buy a new hat, have the  
one cleaned and blocked by  
194.



### Our New Society Editor

The management of the Mail  
takes pleasure in announcing our  
new Society Editor, Miss Evelyn  
Williams.

In assuming this position Miss  
Williams is especially qualified  
and with the assistance of her  
numerous friends should make  
our society columns highly inter-  
esting each week. We will ap-  
preciate the prompt report of  
any social event to Miss Williams  
and she will be in absolute charge  
of this department. Evening re-  
ports can be phoned to her tele-  
phone No. 171 and any prepared  
manuscript can be handed her at  
the Post Office any hour during  
the day.

In advance we thank each and  
every reader of these columns  
and again ask that they lend all  
possible assistance in making  
Miss Williams' work a pleasure.

### Family Reunion

Xmas day was the scene of a  
jolly family reunion at the home  
of Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Fergus-  
son of route 5. The guests were  
Mr. and Mrs. Louie Farmer  
and little son, L. H. of Weather-  
ford, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Farmer  
and little daughter, Addie Flo-  
rence, of Fort Worth, Mr. and  
Mrs. W. B. Fergusson of Strawn,  
Raymond Ferguson the host and  
hostess.

### Miss Hamblet Honored

Saturday evening before Christ-  
mas Miss Elma Sheppard gave a  
miscellaneous shower in honor of  
Miss Virginia Hamblet, who be-  
came the bride of Mr. Robert  
Eugene Tarver Tuesday, Decem-  
ber 28th.

The honoree had been invited  
"to come and have supper and  
talk over old times." After sup-  
per she was asked to answer the  
door bell as the hostess was busy.  
Here a real surprise greeted her  
for some dozen or more of her  
most intimate friends had, by  
previous arrangement, met at  
the home of Miss Jewel Pate and  
had come at the appointed hour  
with some dainty remembrance  
for the honored guest. These  
were showered on her as she  
opened the door. After all had  
been admired the honoree opened  
up a page from memory's store  
house and gave a sketch of the  
romance which had its origin in  
Water Valley, Miss. While the  
conversation was still filled with  
important questions, the hostess  
served hot chocolate and cake.

### Hendrix-Williams

A pretty Christmas wedding  
was solemnized at 8:30 P. M.  
December 25 at the home of Dr.  
and Mrs. G. M. Williams in  
which their daughter, Miss  
Eathel, was given in wedlock  
to Mr. Parker Hendrix of Abilene,  
Eld. Cypert performing the  
marriage vows.

The ceremony was witnessed  
by a large number of friends and  
relatives who participated in a  
sumptuous feast of cake with  
punch served immediately after  
the marriage. Mr. and Mrs.  
Hendrix left the following day  
for Abilene where the groom is  
engaged in business.

Both contracting parties are  
exceedingly popular in their re-  
spective home towns and have  
hundred of friends to wish them  
a happy new year and offer  
abundance of congratulations.

### Mays-Pomroy

W. E. Mays of Fort Worth  
and Miss Lena Pomroy of Stith  
were married at the home of  
Rev. L. B. Owen Sunday Decem-  
ber 19th.

We are informed that the con-  
tracting parties left for Fort  
Worth soon after the marriag.  
They carry with them the good  
wishes of many friends in  
which they are engaged in  
ing greet  
year and

### Twenty Century Questions

Act V Midsummer Nights  
Dreams.

Explain the temper of Theseus  
and Hippolyta at opening of the  
act.

What does it teach of their  
characters?

What, for instance, would  
Theseus have thought of the me-  
chanicals?

How does he justify this choice  
to Hippolyta?

What is the comic nature of  
the Prologue as Quince delivers  
it?

How is he like the great clerks  
referred to by Theseus?

Define the kind of amusements  
that the Duke's company derive  
from the play of the mechanicals?

Is it of the same nature as  
that felt by a spectator of Shake-  
speares play?

What does Shakespeare say  
about plays in general and the  
spirit in which they should be  
viewed?

Contrast Hippolyta's intolerance  
of the play with the spirit shown  
by Theseus.

Why does he ring changes on  
moon?

Describe the epilogue spoken  
by the fairies.

The next meeting will be held  
January 16th with Mrs. W. Par-  
ten as hostess.

### Tarver-Hamblet.

On Wednesday evening Decem-  
ber 28th Mr. Eugene C. Tarver  
of Water Valley, Miss., and Miss  
Virginia Hamblet were married.  
The ceremony was performed at  
the Methodist church, Rev. W. P.  
Garvin, the bride's pastor officiat-  
ing.

At eight o'clock the pre-nuptial  
song, "Thou'rt like a lovely Flow-  
er," was sung by Miss Evelyn  
Williams, immediately after, to  
the strains of Mendelssohn's wed-  
ding march, the bridal party en-  
tered. The bride who is of a brun-  
ette type was most becomingly  
dressed in a suit of brown with  
hat and shoes to match. She  
walked with her sister, Miss Ven-  
ona, who wore a silk gown of  
gray, both bore American beauty  
roses. These two advanced down  
the central aisle while Mr. Tar-  
ver attended by Mr. Ernest Tar-  
ver of Seymour, Texas, moved  
down the side aisle to meet the  
bride and maid of honor at the  
chancel, where Rev. Garvin read,  
most impressively, the marriage  
ceremony.

Mr. and Mrs. Tarver spent the  
remaining part of the evening  
until train time in the home of  
the bride's father with a few  
friends who accompanied them  
to the train and showered them  
with every good wish to bear with  
them to their future home in  
Water Valley, Miss.

Mrs. Tarver is one of the Mer-  
kel's loveliest girls in both form  
and character her many friends  
here regret that she will now live  
apart from them but all join in  
wishing her and Mr. Tarver, who  
seems worthy of the jewel he has  
won, much success and happiness  
in their future life together.

On Wednesday evening of this  
week H. C. Williams was host to  
his entire postoffice force at his  
home on North Front street.  
The evening was most pleasanti-  
ly, spent with forty-two, in  
pleasant conversation, and listen-  
ing to some excellent musical  
numbers given by Misses Bess  
Touchstone and Ina Mae Adams  
at the piano and Miss Lelia Hill  
with the violin. Refreshments  
of various kinds of cake with  
grape nectar and salted nuts and  
candies were served. Those pres-  
ent were Mr. and Mrs. Victor  
Harris, Mr. and Mrs. F. A. San-  
ders, Mr. and Mrs. R. L. and O.  
J. Adcock, Mr. and Mrs. Price  
Bankhead and their families,  
Misses Irene Hairston, Leila Hill,  
Ina Mae Adams and Stanley  
Mrs. Williams and Miss Evelyn  
assisted the postmaster in enter-  
taining his guests.

Messrs H. W. McSpadden and  
M. Morris were in Abilene  
Tuesday on

# HERE ALL NEW WEEK AT 60

The Hoyte Wilber Stock Co  
playing in repertoire of mod-  
ern stage productions will be an  
attraction at the Cozy Theatre  
next week.

The opening bill "Davy Croc-  
ckett" will be given on Monday  
night. The curtain going up at  
8 o'clock. Popular prices of 1-  
25 and 35 cents will be charged  
and company advertise fun be-  
tween acts on each evening.

### Byrd-Burchell

The marriage of Mr. Austin  
Byrd and Miss Addie Burchell  
was solemnized at the Collins  
House Dec. 15th, Rev. Owen  
performing the ceremony.

The marriage was attended by  
a few personal friends and the  
host and hostess of the Collins  
House. Both the contracting  
parties are members of prominent  
families of Nubia and have the  
Seasons Greetings from their  
many friends.

### A Tax Is Revoked

Austin, Texas, Dec. 15, To  
State And County Tax Collectors;  
As you are aware, this office has  
heretofore ruled in accordance  
with the decision of the treasury  
Department, that an order or  
power of attorney prepared  
required by the Election Law  
Texas authorizing one person  
pay the poll tax of another,  
taxable as a power of attorney  
under the Act of Congress  
Oct. 22, 1914. I am now infor-  
med by the Commissioner of In-  
ternal Revenue that the Treas-  
ury Decision referred to will be  
revoked and you are informed  
an order or power of attorney  
of the kind above referred to  
subject to the stamp tax by  
the Act of Congress re-  
voked.

Respectfully,  
A. S. Walker, C.

### DONATION TO FIREBOYS

Following the fire that all but  
destroyed the home of Walter  
Clark early Christmas week, T.  
J. Toombs handled Chief Ferrier  
a check for \$5.00 in token of ap-  
preciated for the work they did.

Mr. Toombs has property near  
the scene of the fire and under  
unfavorable conditions would  
have been extreme danger. The  
Clark home was a mass of flames  
before an alarm was given an as  
result the home was practically  
an entire loss, only the shell  
frame of the house being left as  
monument to the work of the de-  
partment.

### NEW THRASHER ORDERED

A new Case Thrasher has been  
sold by the Anchor Mercantile  
Co., to Beasley Bros., of Noodle  
to be delivered at an early date.

The new machine is of 30-60  
gas engine and 36-58 separator.  
It will be unloaded at Hawley  
and will be used in the vicinity  
of Hawley, Hodges and Stith.

### Notice.

Come to see me or ring 286.  
Try a sack of my Seal flour,  
Breakfast Delight, Royal, Mana-  
house and Statesman Coffee.  
Prepared to make prompt delivery  
in the city or to country wagons  
where teams are not safe to come  
on Front street. Your patronage  
will be appreciated. Everything  
guaranteed. W. F. Hamblet.

### No More Sunday Deliveries

Beginning the first of January  
we will make no more deliveries  
on Sunday morning. Our cus-  
tomers will please take notice of  
this. Respectfully, the City Meat  
Market.

J. W. Laney, Prop.

### Cotton Seed For Sale

Mebane Triumph cotton seed  
at \$1.00 per bush or  
write me



**S-T-A-R-T**  
THE NEW YEAR RIGHT

**Only Four More Days**

Only four more days to get the  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram  
and the MERKEL MAIL  
= at the small price of =

**\$3.75**

Subscribe to-day and have your reading matter for a year to come  
Offer positively expires next Wednesday

**Only One More Week**

THE MERKEL MAIL and Dallas Semi-Weekly News  
for one year each

**\$1.50**

After January 8th the price will return to our regular  
charge of \$1.75

**NO HOLIDAY RATES AFTER JANUARY 8, 1916**



## MERKEL FANCIERS WIN ON CHICKENS

Enthusiasm was good and no better show has been held in the state where better birds were shown than at Merkel last week, during the Merkel Poultry and Pet Stock Show of Dec. 22, 23 and 24th.

The following awards were made in the many classes exhibited.

**Barred Rocks.**—Mrs. Joe Higgins. 1, 3 and 4th pullets, hen and cock and first pen. N. S. Wright of Miles, 2, 3 and 4th cockrel, 2nd pullet, hen and pen. H. P. Wilkins, 1st cockerel and 2nd cock.

**S. C. R. I. Reeds.**—R. A. Ellis, Best parti-color display in show, best parti-color pen in show, 1st cock, 2 and 3rd cockerel, 1 and 3rd pullets, 1 and 4th pens. H. D. Jeffries, Abilene; 1st cockerel, 1 and 3rd hen, 3rd cock and 2nd pen. Geo. Holland, 2 and 3th pullets 2nd cock and 3rd pen. E. H. Cordill; 4th cock and 4th hen. Thos. Douglass; 2nd hen and 4th cockerel.

**White Rocks.**—R. L. Young, Abilene; 1st cock, 1 and 2nd cockerel, 1, 2, 3 and 4th hen and pullet, 1st pen and best female in show.

**Buff Orpingtons.**—A. J. Hartley; 1st cock, 1, 2, 3 and 4th hen, pullet and cockerels, 1st pen, 2nd best solid color display.

**White Wyandottes.**—Dr. R. B. Homan, El Paso; 1st hen, 4th pullet and cockrel. R. D. Tyler; 3rd cock and 2nd pen. H. M. Rose, 1, 2 and 4th cock, 1, 2 and 3rd cockerel, 2, 3 and 4th hen, 1, 2 and 3rd pullet. Best display solid color in show, best cock cockerel, hen and pullet. Champion male of show.

**White Orpingtons.**—L. B. ; 1, 2 and 3rd pullet, 1st cockerel and pen.

**Dark Cornish Fowls.**—W. E. ; 1 and 2nd cockrel, 1, 2 and 3rd hen and pullet, 1 and 2nd pen, 1, 2 and 3rd young capons.

**Turkeys.**—Mrs. J. Ben Campbell; 1st old tom, 1 and 2nd young turkeys in mammoth bronz. White Holland turkeys. W. C. Stribling; 1, 2 and 3rd young.

All over two-hundred birds shown here and the quality was such as would be seen at the Dallas Fair. The fanciers in and about Merkel are to be congratulated on their efforts and the good work should be kept going.

### Horses and Mules

22 head of good mules, all broke, for sale at \$150.00 per team. Also bunch of good saddle horses. See or phone me at Trent C. V. Bigham. 1744pd.

**HOUSE WANTED.**—Wanted to rent four or five room house at an early date, will be permanent if location is desirable. Apply at Mail Office. 1tpd

**LOST**—Tuesday afternoon between the Collins House and E. L. Woodroofs, a child's gray fur scarf. Finder please return to F. & M. Bank. It

**LOST**—Either in Merkel or in Abilene a cameo brooch, it is a pink and white cameo mounted in gold, can be worn either as a brooch or on a chain. Finder please return to or notify the Merkel Mail office and receive reward. Miss Lizzie Mae Freeman.

**FOR SALE**—5 work mules, one mare and one mule colt. E. D. Coats. 31t2

Misses Tempie Focht and Ruby Hemby of Sweetwater were guests of Miss Josie Smith Wednesday of this week. On return home Miss Smith invited them.

Me good enroute to Mexico is here Mrs. Ben T.

### In Memoriam

As the world was watching the hour when Christmas should come, a few who had looked forward to its coming with joy had their anticipations stricken as they affectionately tended a bright daughter, suddenly being wafted away from them to the bosom of God.

Willie, a light to the home of W. E. Hamner of Trent was plucked away just as Christmas morning was beginning. To the concourse of relatives and friends who gathered to assist in fighting away the grim monster, death, all were powerless. They could only watch as moments marked the end so near. They were witnesses as a loving mother and father appealed in vain to the attendants that something be done and it was to them to watch as the father held his child, his tear-stained face was drawn in parental anguish as he watched the very last spark of life fade away. His hopes for a turn for the better were shattered and all was over, the call had been answered and God's eternal jewels of heaven, silently watched while the dreary hours of night passed. A home had been broken and the Christmas spirit completely banished from thought.

Burial was given the body Christmas day at 3 o'clock in the afternoon at the Trent cemetery.

### Card of Thanks

We desire through the columns of the Mail to express our thanks to our friends for their many acts of kindness and words of consolation to us in the dark hour of our bereavement in the loss of our little boy.

Mr. and Mrs. Seth Hamilton.

### Card of Thanks

To those who so carefully and affectionately demonstrated their sincere friendship and love for our family during the illness and at the death of my daughter, I take this humble method of thanking each and every individual.

Respectfully,  
Mrs. B. Jinkens and family.

### Card of Thanks

I wish to thank my many Friends through the columns of the Merkel Mail for your support in the recent piano contest at E. L. Rogers. It is my desire to meet you personally and thank you.

But it will be impossible to meet all. So I wish you all a happy and prosperous new year.  
Myrtle Reeves.

### Road Tax Notice

By paying your road tax before February 1st, 1916, the rate is \$3.00, after that date the regular \$5.00 tax will be in force. Pay today and save \$2.00.

B. A. Walter, City Marshal.

### SECOND HAND AUTOS

We buy and sell second hand Ford automobiles.

See us before you buy and see us before you sell. We rebuild cars. The Merkel Garage.

### Breeders Notice

Am standing my jersey bull at Boney wagon yard until April 1. \$1.00 S. S. Brandon. 3t4pd

### Mules For Sale.

Good supply of good mules for sale. See me. Sam Butman. Nubia. 10t3

### Car Load of Jersey Cows

A car load of the best stock jersey cows ever brought to west Texas. All young and will be fresh in short time. See them stables at the Hellums Wagon Yard. Chandler & McAlester, owners. 17t2pd.

### Foil Blood Duroc Pigs

Full blood Duroc Jersey pigs for sale at \$3.00 each. Also two bred sows at \$20.00 each. G. L. Baker, six miles northeast of Merkel. 1tp.

Our Baker Boy  
by Bob Martin Gr

### In Memoriam

On last Friday, December 24th 1915, at 10:40 o'clock P. M. little Horace, eldest child and only son of Mr. and Mrs. Seth Hamilton of Merkel, passed from life's turmoil to the land of perfect day. Born in Merkel, Texas, December 9, 1908, he brought to this home seven years of joy, peace and love, and often the writer has felt the loving touch of that sweet little spirit that has gone, and been, deeply attached to him through the individual traits early manifest in his life, that unselfish spirit and interest in the things of life, always concerned about the welfare and pleasure of others. But that jewel of the home was fashioned for a higher crown than earth. That little flower that bloomed for a season has been transplanted to shed its fragrance throughout eternity's ceaseless cycles, in that land where the lilies bloom forever, where there are no more heartaches, no more tears or farewell partings. Back, far back beyond the everlasting hills his little spirit roams, beckoning to loved ones from fairer shores.

On Christmas day at 2:30 P. M. the last words over the mortal remains of this precious child were spoken in the Methodist church, by its pastor, Rev. W. P. Garvin, who in tender and loving words told of this little fellow's brave struggle through the day. Having undergone a surgical operation for tonsillitis at nine o'clock Friday morning it seemed through the day that there was no cause for alarm, but complications arose after the night hours, yet he remained conscious to the last. As that little spirit was trembling between earth and heaven he left a treasured memory that seemed only a foreglimpse that read the mystic meaning of "the Great Beyond. Turning to his mother, with a smile upon his lips, he said, "little sweet mother, I'm dying" and relaxing his hold upon life, fell asleep in the arms of the world's Redeemer.

The burial took place in the Merkel cemetery where reposes the sacred dust of the departed, to be treasured in memory as a heritage high above the names of earth.

To the bereaved parents and grandparents, it's hard to give the little fellow up, but may, "He who tempers the wind to the shorn lamb" pour consolation into your bleeding hearts in this dark hour of bereavement. Goodbye, little Horace, your sweet spirit has touched this earth and will ever be cherished in loving remembrance till loved ones joins you in that "house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

In loving appreciation,  
William W. Hamilton.

### Dies of Tuberculosis

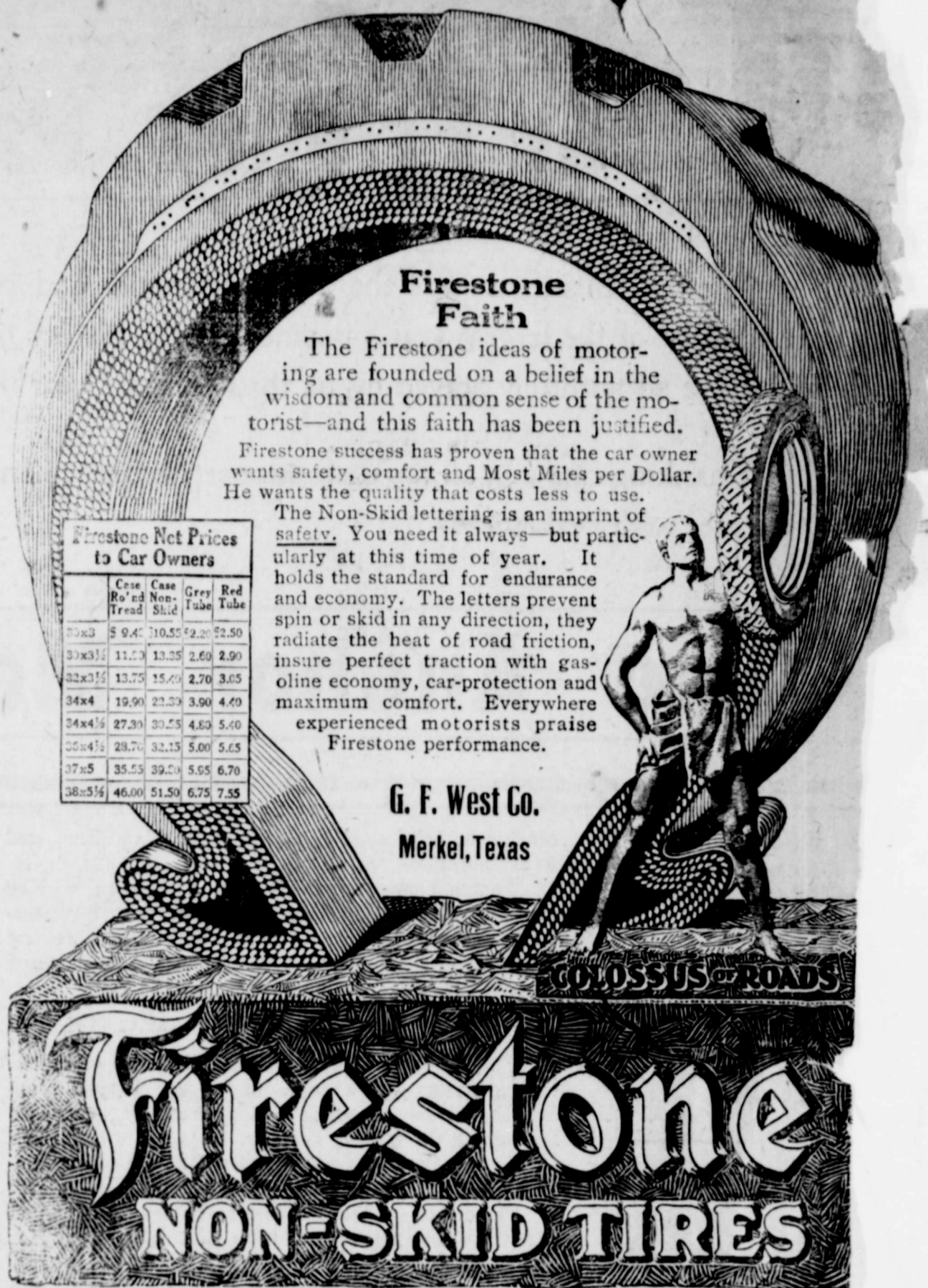
Sunday afternoon, at 6 o'clock, Mrs. Gaither Isenburg died at the home of her step-father, R. D. Allen, in South Merkel.

In passing into the great beyond Mrs. Isenburg left to mourn her loss, a husband, one sister and two half-sisters. She was a member of the Baptist Church and had a host of friends who mourn her loss. In the Stith vicinity, where the family lived for years, friends and relatives were especially numerous and the Mail extends the deepest condolence to the bereaved relatives.

Funeral services were conducted by Rev. L. B. Owen at the Allen home Monday afternoon and burial was given immediately after in Rose Hill Cemetery.

### For Sale

Three lots, seven room house, bath room, three porches, good washhouse, small barn, cistern, well, windmill, elevated tank, plenty of pipe. Situated near school building in town of Merkel, Texas. For price and terms call on or address C. W. Johnson, 1914.



**Firestone Faith**

The Firestone ideas of motor-ing are founded on a belief in the wisdom and common sense of the motorist—and this faith has been justified.

Firestone success has proven that the car owner wants safety, comfort and Most Miles per Dollar. He wants the quality that costs less to use. The Non-Skid lettering is an imprint of safety. You need it always—but particularly at this time of year. It holds the standard for endurance and economy. The letters prevent spin or skid in any direction, they radiate the heat of road friction, insure perfect traction with gasoline economy, car-protection and maximum comfort. Everywhere experienced motorists praise Firestone performance.

**G. F. West Co.**  
Merkel, Texas

	Case Red Tread	Case Non-Skid	Grey Tube	Red Tube
20x3	\$ 9.45	10.55	9.20	12.50
20x3 1/2	11.25	12.25	2.60	2.90
22x3 1/2	13.75	15.00	2.70	3.65
34x4	19.90	22.25	3.90	4.40
34x4 1/2	27.30	30.25	4.80	5.40
36x4 1/2	28.70	32.15	5.00	5.65
37x5	35.55	39.00	5.65	6.70
38x5 1/2	46.00	51.50	6.75	7.55

**Firestone NON-SKID TIRES**

## All Next Week

THE

# Hoyte Wilber Sto Company

In a repertoire of modern Stage Success "fun between acts." Opening bill Monday, Tuesday 3rd

## "DAVY CROCKETT"

IN FOUR ACTS

Admission: 10-25-35. House opens 6:45; curtain 8:

## THE COZY THEATRE

## A New Year Gre

To each and every customer, I extend greetings a happy and prosperous year of nineteen-hundred sixteen. At any and all times during the ensuing year, when in need of sheet metal work, gas, and auto supplies, you will find me ever ready give prompt and efficient service.

# H. M. ROSE, T

AGENT MAGNOLIA OIL PRODU



# To Our Friends, Patrons and The Public

We take this method of thanking our friends and customers for the loyalty, support and influence in the achievement and accomplishment of the largest year's business in the history of the Merkel country. It shall ever be our aim to remember those of you who have so faithfully stayed by us thru the past year that has gone into history and pleasant memories.

Thanking one and all for their support, influence and business relations, wishing one and all a most prosperous New Year, we are, with best wishes

## The Anchor Mercantile Company

### PROFESSIONAL

#### MASTER & GILLILAND

DENTISTS  
Office Phone 154  
Mer Woodroofs Store

#### ARMSTRONG, M. D.

Physician—Physician  
Grimes Drug Store  
Merkel, Texas  
Res. 1-2; Office 1-0-

#### DOCTOR MILLER

Physician and Surgeon  
Mer Woodroofs Store

#### W. WHEELER

Fire, Accident and Tornado  
Insurance Agent  
Notary Public.  
Mer Farmers State Bank

#### C. D. MIMS

Lawyer  
Collections  
Speciality  
Mer State Bank.

#### JOHNSON

Life and Accident  
Insurance  
Business  
Office  
Company

#### PARLORS

Up-to-Date  
IN MERKEL

#### BARBER SHOP

Proprietors

#### DR. N. RAY

PHYSICIAN  
Edg., Pine St.  
1-12 and 2-5  
3—Residence 233  
264pd

continued, with special attention to Exposition and Argumentation.

Fourth Year—Long's English Literature will be used as a basal text, with several other text for reference. Theme Writing will be required, also a review of Grammar the Second Term. Classics to be selected to meet the needs of the class, as directed.

### HISTORY

First Year—Myer's Ancient History with the Crown History Outline and map work. Parallel readings should be encouraged and carefully supervised throughout the History Courses.

Second Year—Myer's Mediaeval and Modern History with the Crown History Note Book and Map work.

Third Year—Cheney's Short History of England with the Crown History Outline and Map work for English History.

Fourth Year—American History by Cousin's and Hill and Ashby's American Government. Outline and Map work, the Crown Outline and Map work.

### MATHEMATICS

First Year—Wentworth's New School Algebra through page 205.

Second Year—Wentworth's New School Algebra through page 285.

Third Year—Wentworth and Smith's Plane Geometry, Books I, II, and III.

Fourth Year—Wentworth and Smith's Plane Geometry, 1st Term. Review of Arithmetic, Second Term.

### LATIN

First Year—Latin for Beginners, D'Oge.

Second Year—Complete and review. Beginner's Latin and read two or three books of Caesar, Gunnison Harleys.

Third Year—Finish Caesar and read three of Cicero's Orations, Gunnison and Harleys's Cicero.

Fourth Year—Cicero, The Manilian Law and two books of Virgil's Aeneid.

### SCIENCE

First Year—Snyder's First Year Science.

Second Year—Ritche's Human Physiology with laboratory experiments, 1st Term. Tarr's New Physical Geography with notes and drawings, 2nd Term.

Third Year—Warren's Elements of Agriculture, supplemented with bulletins from State and National

Departments of Agriculture. Practice work—field and garden, as far as circumstances will permit.

Fourth Year—Carharte and Chute's First Principles of Physics with Laboratory work.

### Literary Society

We consider good literary societies a very important feature of the High School work and shall encourage the development of active, wide-awake societies. Pupils of every grade in High School will be required to take some part in the work of some of the societies that shall be organized. Active interest on the part of the teachers will have much to do—making society work successful.

### Athletics

Well-directed athletic sports and exercises will be encouraged. Exercise in some form of play is necessary to secure physical development and health of all pupils. We hope to be able in the near future to provide ample play grounds for all pupils and do earnestly request the help of all patrons in acquiring additional grounds to meet the needs of our pupils.

### Tuition Rates

The tuition charges in Merkel Public School, until otherwise ordered by the School Board, will be as follows:

Primary Department, including the first four grades, \$2.00 per month, paid in advance.

Intermediate Department, including fifth, sixth and seventh grades, \$3.00 per month, in advance.

High School Department, including eight through the eleventh, \$4.00 per month, in advance.

Only bonifide residents of Merkel Independent District are entitled to free tuition, and transfers for only such time as Board may agree to give them in lieu of money transferred.

People who move into the District for the school term but do not make their permanent home in the district are not entitled to free tuition, nor are pupils who come to reside with their kinfolk for the school term.

### NUBIA

Christmas has come and gone and with it a thousand joys that "flesh is heir to." The hearts of countless beings throbbled with ecstasy, while life's inhumanity—the pinch of poverty—an unavoidable thing with many, made "countless thousands mourn."

As is the annual custom at the year's inception, many are active formulating pledges to alter the course of their trending. Life is what we choose, so let's make the "winters of our discontent glorious summers."

The Christmas tree at Butman was very well attended. Mr. J. W. Latimer acted Santa Claus. Your poor reporter was the "friend remembered not," what he received could be in the hollow of the hand.

Miss Mildred Cook who been attending school at P. is at home spending Christmas with homefolk and friends.

Little Emma Perry, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Perry, fell from a ridie horse she and her other little sister had made and received a broken arm. She is getting well rapidly we are glad to report.

Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Mat. of Merkel have been spending Yuletide with Uncle Dan and Aunt Dollie Matthews.

Mr. and Mrs. Burchell are in Tennessee visiting relatives.

The Baptist are conducting a meeting at Butman which will last all this week. Rev. Robbins of Abilene is presiding.

There was preaching at Cross Roads Sunday morning and at night.

Mrs. Abbie Sloan of Big Springs took Christmas with homefolk at the ranch.

There is a norther blowing at this writing. A little snow would not seem inappropriate for the condition of the weather would justify such a thing.

The writer does not know just how to accept the article which appeared in the Christmas edition of the Mail anent himself. Some have designated that they believe it was purported for satirical cynicism, while others seem to think it was intended as a poneygical encomium. So far as the person who has been made the object of cynosure is concerned it is essentially immaterial. The affair to him is like an issue going on between friends and foes of a certain person who sits placidly by and reaps the benefit of the excitement.

Please allow me to divulge the fact that Mr. Easterwood or whoever pinned the article, sent me to the lexicon in quest, not of the golden fleece, but for elucidation of two words contained

For Eozema, Tetter  
The intense itching  
these ailments  
laid by C  
severe c

### Letter To Teachers

Tuscola, Texas Dec. 13

To the Merkel Mail:

What is known as the University Enterscholastic League was organized in December, 1910, at Abilene. For the first year the League activities were confined to debates among the first class high schools of the State. The following year declamations were added and membership in the League thrown open to all schools of the State below college rank. Afterwards there were also added contests in spelling, essay writing and Athletics.

The purpose of the league is to organize and direct desirable activities and thereby assist in preparing pupils for citizenship. The organization should have the active co-operation of every school teacher in the State and every school in Texas should become an active member.

A few of the schools in Taylor county have been taking an active part in this League for several years but the schools as a whole have not intered into these contests as they should. Every school of the county should enter some, if not all of the contests. Last year the annual Athletic meet was held at Butman

and was, in spite of the fact that some of the largest schools of this county did not participate, a great success. This year promises to be something extra.

During the county institute at Abilene, last Nov., the following executive committee was elected for this county. Director General, A. J. Jones, Tuscola; Director of debate, C. E. Sims, Trent; Director of essay writing (appointed by chairman), M. E. Witt Merkel; Director of declamation and spelling, Mrs. Howard Humphreys, Abilene; Director of Athletics, A. H. Roberts, Abilene; In connection with the final contests there will be an exhibit of school work of all kinds. R. B. Hood of Caps and J. F. Odor of Trent have charge of this department.

As chairman of the executive committee I want to urge that every teacher in this county pay your enrollment fee of one dollar (\$1.00) to E. D. Shurter, Extension, Dept. University, Austin Texas, and become a member of this league. Your school should be represented in these contests and if you fail to get them interested they will miss much. Lets make the contests to be held at Abilene about the first of April, an educational rally and a day of enjoyment and profit that will boost the schools interest of this county for years to come.

Begin preparations now for these contests. Get the patrons of your community interested by having local contests. The essay and spelling contests are new features and ones that all schools can enter. Have a home contest with a prize feature, then select the best for the county exhibit. If you desire information, concerning any of these contests address the director of that dept. or if it be general information address the Director General. All inquiries will be answered and we will be glad to assist you in any way. Arthur J. Jones, Director General.

Why You Should Use Chamberlain's Cough Remedy

Because it has an established reputation won by its good works.

Because it is most esteemed by those who have used it for many years, as occasion required, and are best acquainted with its good qualities.

Because it loosens and relieves a cold and aids nature in restoring the system to a healthy condition.

Because it does not contain opium or any other narcotic.

Because it is within the reach of all.

It only cost a quarter. For sale by all dealers.

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### GREETINGS

To each and every patron of our store: We wish to thank you for every favor shown us in the last year and trusting that we will be able to offer you many more accommodations in 1916 than in 1915 and assuring you that we will be glad to serve you in any way possible. We wish for you a most prosperous New Year.

To the good people who have not seen fit to share their trade with us we wish to say that we will be more than glad to serve you and render every accommodation consistent with a reliable and true Drug Store.

Respectfully,  
Burroughs Drug Store.

Under one management longer than any other drug store in Merkel.

### 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 [Name], [Location], [State].  
Strengthen the stomach digestion. They also [Location] and bowels. They [Location] pills but cost [Location] all dealers.

For Eozema, Tetter  
The intense itching  
these ailments  
laid by C  
severe c



# NEW SCHOOL BUILDING TO OPEN JAN. 10

Following an Unusual Delay Brought About from Various Reasons in Construction of Merkel's New School Building it has at Last been Announced That the Building will Likely be Opened on January the 10th

The Following Instructors Have Been Employed, and the Rules and Regulations Laid Out in This, will Govern the Opening of One of the Most Modern Schools in West Texas.—Supt. M. H. Morris Hopes to have Advance Work of Opening School done by Wednesday or Thursday of Next Week.—Slight Delays in Making Finishing Touches Prohibited its Opening Jan. 3, as Planned

## FACULTY

### HIGH SCHOOL

M. H. MORRIS, Superintendent  
Science and History

M. E. WITT, Principal  
Mathematics and Physics

Miss Nellie Bly Lankford  
Latin and English

Jacob L. Williams  
History and English

### GRAMMAR SCHOOL

MRS. T. M. ROBINSON, Seventh Grade  
..... Sixth Grade  
MISS ZELMA FLETCHER, Fifth Grade

### PRIMARY DEPARTMENT

MISS NELLIE CARR, Fourth Grade  
MISS LENA MARY LANGLEY, Third Grade  
MISS SOPHIA HOWARD, Second Grade  
MISS WILLIE VALENTINE, First Grade

## Primary Department

### LOW FIRST GRADE

Reading—Playmates Primer.  
Spelling—Words from chart, blackboard, Primer and conversation. See suggestions in New Century Speller, pages 4-14.  
Writing—As directed.  
Language—Under direction of teachers. Every lesson should be lesson in language.  
Numbers—First journeys in Numberland, pages 1 to 41, in hands of teacher.  
General Lessons—In Nature Study, Hygiene, Local Geography and Manners.

### HIGH FIRST GRADE

Reading—Arnold's Primer, Hill's Reader, Book 1 and Art Literature 1.  
Spelling—New Century Spelling Book, pages 15-28.  
Writing—New Outlook Writing System, Book one.  
Language—Under direction of the teacher.  
Numbers—First Journeys in Numberland, pages 42 to 82.  
General Lessons—Continue work as in Low 1.  
Drawing—Practical Drawing, Book One.

### LOW SECOND GRADE

Reading—Hill's Reader, Book Two.  
Spelling—New Century Spelling Book to page 36, supplement words from reader and other lessons.  
Writing—New Outlook Writing System, Book Two.  
Language—Our Language, Book One pages 1 to 57.  
Numbers—First Journeys in Numberland, pages 82 to 110.  
General Lessons—Nature Study, Hygiene and local Geography.  
Drawing—Practical Drawing, Book Two.

### HIGH SECOND GRADE

Reading—Art Literature, Book Two.  
Spelling—New Century Spelling Book to page 44, supplement with words from other lessons.  
Writing—New Outlook Writing System, Book Two.  
Language—Our Language, Book One, pages 57 to 95.  
Numbers—First Journeys in Numberland completed.  
General Lessons—As directed.  
Drawing—Practical Drawing, Book Two.

Physiology—First Book of Health, in hands of the teacher; Nature Study.  
Drawing—Practical Drawing, Book Three.

### HIGH THIRD GRADE

Reading—Art Literature, Book Three.  
Spelling—New Century Spelling Book, from pages 52 to 65.  
Writing—New Outlook Writing System, Book Three.  
Language—Our Language, First Book completed.  
Arithmetic—Lower Book to page 123; Hopkins and Underwood's Mental Arithmetic.  
Geography—Frye's First Book in Geography, completed and reviewed.  
Physiology—First Book of Health to page 81.  
Drawing—Practical Drawing, Book Three.

### LOW FOURTH GRADE

Reading—Hill's Reader, Book Four.  
Spelling—New Century Spelling Book to page 75.  
Writing—New Outlook Writing System, Book Four.  
Language—Our Language, second book to page 54.  
Arithmetic—Lower Book, pages 123 to 168; Hopkins and Underwood's Mental Arithmetic.  
Geography—The World Geography, First Book pages 1 to 86.  
Physiology—First Book of Health, pages 81 to 122.  
Drawing—Practical Drawing, Book Four.

### HIGH FOURTH GRADE

Reading—Elson's Fourth Grade Reader.  
Spelling—New Century Spelling Book, pages 75 to 86.  
Writing—New Outlook Writing System, Book Four.  
Language—Our Language, Second Book, pages 54 to 110.  
Arithmetic—Sutton and Bruce's Lower Book, pages 168 to 202; Hopkins and Underwood's Mental Arithmetic.  
Geography—The World Geography, First Book, pages 86 to 143.  
Physiology—First Book of Health, pages 122 to the end.  
Drawing—Practical Drawing, Book Four.

## Intermediate Department

### LOW FIFTH GRADE

Reading—Hill's Reader, Book Five.  
Spelling—New Century Spelling Book, pages 86 to 99.  
Writing—New Outlook Writing System, Book Five.  
Language—Our Language, Second Book, pages 110 to 171.  
Arithmetic—Sutton & Bruce's Arithmetic, Lower Book, page 202 to the end; Hopkins and Underwood's Mental Arithmetic.  
Geography—World Geography, First Book, page 143 to the end.  
Physiology—The Human Body and Its Enemies, pages 1 to 174.  
Drawing—Practical Drawing, Book Five.

### HIGH FIFTH GRADE

Reading—Elson's Fifth Reader.  
Spelling—New Century Spelling Book, pages 99 to 113.  
Writing—New Outlook Writing System, Book Five.  
Language—Our Language, Second Book, page 171 to the end.  
Arithmetic—Sutton and Bruce's Arithmetic, Higher Book, pages 1 to 62; H. & U. Mental Arithmetic.  
Geography—The World Geography, Second Book, pages 1 to 148.  
Physiology—The Human Body and Its Enemies, page 174 to the end.  
Drawing—Practical Drawing, Book Five.

### LOW SIXTH GRADE

Reading—Elson's Sixth Reader.  
Spelling—New Century Spelling Book, pages 113 to 123.  
Writing—New Outlook Writing System, Book Six.  
Grammar—Our Language Grammar, pages 1 to 83.  
Arithmetic—Sutton & Bruce's Arithmetic, Higher Book, pages 62 to 122; H. U. Mental Arithmetic.  
Geography—The World Geography, Second Book, pages 116 to 198.  
History—Rever's History of Our Country.  
Drawing—Practical Drawing, Book Six.

### HIGH SIXTH GRADE

Reading—As directed.  
Spelling—New Century Spelling Book, pages 123 to 135.  
Writing—New Outlook Writing System, Book Six.  
Grammar—Our Language Grammar, pages 83 to 26.  
Arithmetic—Sutton & Bruce's Arithmetic, Higher Book, pages 122 to 178.  
Geography—Hopkins and Underwood's Mental Arithmetic, pages 123 to 168.  
History—The Student's History of Our Country, pages 1 to 244.  
Drawing—Practical Drawing, Book Seven.

### LOW SEVENTH GRADE

Reading—As directed.  
Spelling—New Century Spelling Book, pages 135 to 160.  
Writing—New Outlook Writing System, Book Seven.  
Grammar—Our Language Grammar, pages 193 to 261.  
Arithmetic—Higher Book, pages 178 to 267.  
Geography—World Geography, pages 256 to 395.  
History—The Student's History of Our Country, page 1 to 244.  
Drawing—Practical Drawing, Book Seven.

### HIGH SEVENTH GRADE

Reading—Civics, Texas and Federal, completed.  
Spelling—New Century Spelling Book, pages 160 to 185.  
Writing—New Outlook Writing System, Book Seven.  
Grammar—Our Language Grammar, pages 193 to 261.  
Arithmetic—Higher Book, pages 267 to 344.  
Agriculture—Elementary Principles of Agriculture, continued.  
History—The Student's History of Our Country, page 244 to the end.

## High School Department

The High School Department includes the last four years, or the eighth, ninth, tenth, and eleventh grades, as outlined in the following course of study.

Two courses are offered—the Latin and the Science Course. All pupils who expect to graduate from High School will be required to elect the one or other of these two courses. It will require sixteen weeks to complete either course, a unit being two sessions per week for the entire school term. Year subjects will be considered one unit.

Each pupil will be required to take four subjects a time, but, in exceptional cases, with the approval of the Superintendent, fewer than four subjects than four may be taken.

No credit will be allowed for less than three years' work in Latin or Science. Pupils who elect the Latin Course will be urged to complete their work.

### HIGH SCHOOL COURSES OF STUDY

LATIN COURSE		SCIENCE COURSE	
FIRST YEAR			
English		En	En
Ancient History		Algebra	Ancient His.
Algebra		Latin	Alg
Latin			First
SECOND YEAR			
English		Med. & Mod. History	Med.
Med. & Mod. History		Algebra	
Algebra		Latin	
Latin			Phys.
THIRD YEAR			
English		Plane Geometry	P
Plane Geometry		English History	
English History		Latin	F
Latin			
FOURTH YEAR			
English		Plane Geometry, 1st Term	Plane Geometry,
Plane Geometry, 1st Term		Arithmetic, 2nd Term	Arithmetic, 2
Arithmetic, 2nd Term		Amer. History & Civics	Amer. History
Amer. History & Civics		or Physics	
or Physics		Latin	
Latin			

### ENGLISH

Purpose—It has now been generally agreed that the study of English in High School should make three important results as follows: (1) To enable the student to understand the expressed thought of the author; (2) To enable the student to express his own thoughts effectively; and (3) To cultivate in the pupil an appreciation of good literature. In view of these purposes, the work in the class room will be threefold: (1) a study of the adopted text in Composition, (2) the original composition to culminate in the expression of thought, and (3) the reading of selected Classics to bring the student into contact with the best literature of the ages.

First Year—Herrick and Damon's Composition and Rhetoric, pages 1 to 274. Original composition, at least one carefully written text each week. Classics as directed.

Second Year—Herrick and Damon's Composition and Rhetoric, pages 274-492. Original composition in the eighth grade. Classics as directed.

Third Year—Composition and Rhetoric. Original composition. Pa



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M. E. WITT, Principal  
**Mathematics and Physics**

Miss Nellie Bly Lankford  
**Latin and English**

Jacob L. Williams  
**History and English**

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..... Sixth Grade  
MISS ZELMA FLETCHER, Fifth Grade

### PRIMARY DEPARTMENT

MISS NELLIE CARR, Fourth Grade  
MISS LENA MARY LANGLEY, Third Grade  
MISS SOPHIA HOWARD, Second Grade  
MISS WILLIE VALENTINE, First Grade

## Primary Department

### LOW FIRST GRADE

Reading—Playmates Primer.  
Spelling—Words from chart, blackboard, Primer and conversation. See suggestions in New Century Speller, pages 4-14.  
Writing—As directed.  
Language—Under direction of teachers. Every lesson should be lesson in language.  
Numbers—First journeys in Numberland, pages 1 to 41, in hands of teacher.  
General Lessons—In Nature Study, Hygiene, Local Geography and Manners.

### HIGH FIRST GRADE

Reading—Arnold's Primer, Hill's Reader, Book 1 and Art Literature 1.  
Spelling—New Century Spelling, Book, pages 15-28.  
Writing—New Outlook Writing System, Book one.  
Language—Under direction of the teacher.  
Numbers—First Journeys in Numberland, pages 42 to 82.  
General Lessons—Continue work as in Low 1.  
Drawing—Practical Drawing, Book One.

### LOW SECOND GRADE

Reading—Hill's Reader, Book Two.  
Spelling—New Century Spelling Book to page 36, supplement words from reader and other lessons.  
Writing—New Outlook Writing System, Book Two.  
Language—Our Language, Book One pages 1 to 57.  
Numbers—First Journeys in Numberland, pages 82 to 110.  
General Lessons—Nature Study, Hygiene and local Geography.  
Drawing—Practical Drawing, Book Two.

### HIGH SECOND GRADE

Reading—Art Literature, Book Two.  
Spelling—New Century Spelling Book to page 44, supplement with words from other lessons.  
Writing—New Outlook Writing System, Book Two.  
Language—Our Language, Book, pages 57 to 95.  
Numbers—First Journeys in Numberland completed.  
General Lessons—As directed.  
Drawing—As directed.

Physiology—First Book of Health, in hands of the teacher; Nature Study.

Drawing—Practical Drawing, Book Three.

### HIGH THIRD GRADE

Reading—Art Literature, Book Three.  
Spelling—New Century Spelling Book, from pages 52 to 65.  
Writing—New Outlook Writing System, Book Three.  
Language—Our Language, First Book completed.  
Arithmetic—Lower Book to page 123; Hopkins and Underwood's Mental Arithmetic.  
Geography—Frye's First Book in Geography, completed and reviewed.  
Physiology—First Book of Health to page 81.  
Drawing—Practical Drawing, Book Three.

### LOW FOURTH GRADE

Reading—Hill's Reader, Book Four.  
Spelling—New Century Spelling Book to page 75.  
Writing—New Outlook Writing System, Book Four.  
Language—Our Language, second book to page 54.  
Arithmetic—Lower Book, pages 123 to 168; Hopkins and Underwood's Mental Arithmetic.  
Geography—The World Geography, First Book pages 1 to 86.  
Physiology—First Book of Health, pages 81 to 122.  
Drawing—Practical Drawing, Book Four.

### HIGH FOURTH GRADE

Reading—Elson's Fourth Grade Reader.  
Spelling—New Century Spelling Book, pages 75 to 86.  
Writing—New Outlook Writing System, Book Four.  
Language—Our Language, Second Book, pages 54 to 110.  
Arithmetic—Sutton and Bruce's Lower Book, pages 168 to 202; Hopkins and Underwood's Mental Arithmetic.  
Geography—The World Geography, First Book, pages 86 to 143.  
Physiology—First Book of Health, pages 122 to the end.  
Drawing—Practical Drawing, Book Four.

## Intermediate Department

### LOW FIFTH GRADE

Reading—Hill's Reader, Book Five.  
Spelling—New Century Spelling Book, pages 86 to 99.  
Writing—New Outlook Writing System, Book Five.  
Language—Our Language, Second Book, pages 110 to 171.  
Arithmetic—Sutton & Bruce's Arithmetic, Lower Book, page 202 to the end; Hopkins and Underwood's Mental Arithmetic.  
Geography—World Geography, First Book, page 143 to the end.  
Physiology—The Human Body and Its Enemies, pages 1 to 174.  
Drawing—Practical Drawing, Book Five.

### HIGH FIFTH GRADE

Reading—Elson's Fifth Reader.  
Spelling—New Century Spelling Book, pages 99 to 113.  
Writing—New Outlook Writing System, Book Five.  
Language—Our Language, Second Book, page 171 to the end.  
Arithmetic—Sutton and Bruce's Arithmetic, Higher Book, pages 1 to 62; H. & U. Mental Arithmetic.  
Geography—The World Geography, Second Book, pages 1 to 148.  
Physiology—The Human Body and Its Enemies, page 174 to the end.  
Drawing—Practical Drawing, Book Five.

### LOW SIXTH GRADE

Reading—Elson's Sixth Reader.  
Spelling—New Century Spelling Book, pages 113 to 123.  
Writing—New Outlook Writing System, Book Six.  
Grammar—Our Language Grammar, pages 1 to 83.  
Arithmetic—Sutton & Bruce's Arithmetic, Higher Book, pages 62 to 122; H. U. Mental Arithmetic.  
Geography—The World Geography, Second Book, pages 116 to 198.  
History—Beginner's History of Our Country.  
Drawing—Practical Drawing, Book Six.

### HIGH SIXTH GRADE

Reading—As directed.  
Spelling—New Century Spelling Book, pages 123 to 135.  
Writing—New Outlook Writing System, Book Six.  
Grammar—Our Language Grammar, pages 83 to 261.  
Arithmetic—Sutton & Bruce's Arithmetic, Higher Book, pages 122 to 178.  
History—Beginner's History of Our Country.  
Drawing—As directed.

### LOW SEVENTH GRADE

Reading—As directed.  
Spelling—New Century Spelling Book, pages 135 to 161.  
Writing—New Outlook Writing System, Book Seven.  
Grammar—Our Language Grammar, pages 193 to 261.  
Arithmetic—Higher Book, pages 178 to 267.  
Geography—World Geography, pages 256 to 395.  
History—The Student's History of Our Country, page 1 to 244.  
Drawing—Practical Drawing, Book Seven.

### HIGH SEVENTH GRADE

Reading—Civics, Texas and Federal, completed.  
Spelling—New Century Spelling Book, pages 160 to 187.  
Writing—New Outline Writing System, Book Seven.  
Grammar—Our Language Grammar, pages 193 to 261.  
Arithmetic—Higher Book, pages 267 to 344.  
Agriculture—Elementary Principles of Agriculture, continued.  
History—The Student's History of Our Country, page 244 to the end.

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Each pupil will be required to take for a time, but, in exceptional cases, with the Superintendent, fewer than four subjects than four may be taken.

No credit will be allowed for less than three year work in Latin. Pupils who elect the Latin Course will be urged to complete their work.

### HIGH SCHOOL COURSES OF STUDY

LATIN COURSE		SCIENCE COURSE	
FIRST YEAR		FIRST YEAR	
English		English	En
Ancient History		Ancient History	Ancient His.
Algebra		Algebra	Alg
Latin		Latin	First
SECOND YEAR		SECOND YEAR	
English		English	
Med. & Mod. History		Med. & Mod. History	Med
Algebra		Algebra	
Latin		Latin	
		Phys.	
THIRD YEAR		THIRD YEAR	
English		English	
Plane Geometry		Plane Geometry	P
English History		English History	
Latin		Latin	F
FOURTH YEAR		FOURTH YEAR	
English		English	
Plane Geometry, 1st Term		Plane Geometry,	
Arithmetic, 2nd Term		Arithmetic,	
Amer. History & Civics		Amer. History	
or Physics			
Latin			

### ENGLISH

Purpose—It has now been generally agreed that the study of English in High School should make three important results as follows: (1) To enable the student to understand the expressed thought of others; (2) To enable the student to express his own thought effectively, and (3) To cultivate in the pupil an appreciation of good literature. In view of these three purposes, the work in the class room will be threefold: (1) a study of the adopted text in Composition, Rhetoric to learn correct forms of spoken or written English, (2) the original composition to culminate in the expression of thought, and (3) the reading of selected Classics to bring the student into contact with the best literature of the ages.

First Year—Herrick and Damon's Composition and Rhetoric, pages 1 to 274. Original composition, at least one carefully written composition each week. Classics as directed.

Second Year—Herrick and Damon's Composition and Rhetoric, pages 274-492. Original composition, at least one carefully written composition each week. Classics as directed.

Third Year—Composition and Rhetoric, pages 492-712. Original composition, at least one carefully written composition each week. Classics as directed.



## You Need a Tonic

There are times in every woman's life when she needs a tonic to help her over the hard places. When that time comes to you, you know what tonic to take—Cardui, the woman's tonic. Cardui is composed of purely vegetable ingredients, which act gently, yet surely, on the weakened womanly organs, and helps build them back to strength and health. It has benefited thousands and thousands of weak, ailing women in its past half century of wonderful success, and it will do the same for you. You can't make a mistake in taking

# CARDUI

## The Woman's Tonic

Miss Amelia Wilson, R. F. D. No. 4, Alma, Ark., says: "I think Cardui is the greatest medicine on earth, for women. Before I began to take Cardui, I was so weak and nervous, and had such awful dizzy spells and a poor appetite. Now I feel as well and as strong as I ever did, and can eat most anything." Begin taking Cardui today. Sold by all dealers.

**Has Helped Thousands.**

## To Our Laundry Patrons

Beginning with the first of 1916 all laundry work will be strictly cash on delivery. We are compelled to adopt this method and will thank our customers to have money ready when your laundry is delivered.

Wishing for a Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year to all, we remain  
Yours to please

## CHURCH BROTHERS TAILORS

representative Abilene Steam Laundry

WHEN IN ABILENE

# EAT

AT THE MOZART CAFE  
JACK GILSTRAP, Mgr.

# EAT

Merkel at Latham Brothers  
**BUSY BEE CAFE**

Day and night, hot Waffles each morning 4 to 9 o'clock. **\$5.00 MEAL TICKETS \$4.50**

## NOUCEMENTS

to the Democratic Primaries of July, 1916

Assessor:  
J. A. BOYCE  
AUSTIN FITTS

Assessor:  
W. T. (TOM) ST. JOHN  
JOHN H. VANCE.

Collector:  
G. B. (BLUE) TITTLE

### Stock For Sale

of mare mules and team for sale on good note. good young jack for

A. Saddler. 1713pd

### Full For Sale

outfit complete. See me.

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ne re.



**ALBERT  
CORSETS**

Add beauty, grace and ease of movement to the figure—\$1.00 up. Get the correct model for your figure.

Parten Dry Goods Co.  
Merkel, Texas

Owens Her Good Health to Chamberlain's Tablets.

"I owe my good health to Chamberlain's Tablets," writes Mrs. R. G. Neff, Crookston, Ohio. "Two years ago I was invalid due to stomach trouble. Several bottles of these Tablets since been in the house. For sale by all dealers."



## A Farmer without a Telephone

Takes Long Chances

The services of the Doctor or the Veterinarian are essential to the farmer. Either may be summoned quickly over the telephone in case of accident or sudden illness.

Have you a BELL TELEPHONE connection?

Ask our nearest Manager for information, or write



W. C. Turner, formerly of Grand Saline, is making Merkel his home for the present, being connected with the Texas & Pacific Co., as operator. Mr. Turner is a pioneer in railroad circles in Texas and Oklahoma, having given his brother Avery Turner, former General Passenger Agent of this road, his first start in the railroad world at a small town in Oklahoma in 1871.

Let Wetzel cut your boys hair price 15 cents, all work guaranteed. Coats building.

Lieutenant Sam M. Parker, former graduate of West Point and now a military instructor in one of the foremost military colleges of the Northwest, was in Merkel Tuesday in company with his mother, Mrs. M. A. Parker of Abilene. While here they were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. D. E. Compton of Route 2.

I thank you for your patronage. Wetzel.

Send the boys to Wetzels shop. 10 and 15 cents.

Mesdames H. F. Groene and J. C. Comegys left for El Paso Tuesday afternoon, where the latter goes to make her temporary home. Mrs. Groene will remain there for some time.

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Heflin Bros. Produce Co., pays more for chickens, eggs and ducks that any house in Merkel. Located on front street in building

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Old hats made new at Owens.

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No. 7481



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C. P. WARREN  
HENRY JAMES

G. F. WEST  
ED S. HUGHES  
BEN. T. MERRITT  
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# NEW SCHOOL BUILDING TO OPEN JAN. 10

Following an Unusual Delay Brought About from Various Reasons in Construction of Merkel's New School Building it has at Last been Announced That the Building will Likely be Opened on January the 10th

The Following Instructors Have Been Employed, and the Rules and Regulations Laid Out in This, will Govern the Opening of One of the Most Modern Schools in West Texas.—Supt. M. H. Morris Hopes to have Advance Work of Opening School done by Wednesday or Thursday of Next Week.—Slight Delays in Making Finishing Touches Prohibited its Opening Jan. 3, as Planned

## FACULTY

### HIGH SCHOOL

M. H. MORRIS, Superintendent  
**Science and History**

M. E. WITT, Principal  
**Mathematics and Physics**

Miss Nellie Bly Lankford  
**Latin and English**

Jacob L. Williams  
**History and English**

### GRAMMAR SCHOOL

MRS. T. M. ROBINSON, Seventh Grade  
..... Sixth Grade  
MISS ZELMA FLETCHER, Fifth Grade

### PRIMARY DEPARTMENT

MISS NELLIE CARR, Fourth Grade  
MISS LENA MARY LANGLEY, Third Grade  
MISS SOPHIA HOWARD, Second Grade  
MISS WILLIE VALENTINE, First Grade

### Primary Department

#### LOW FIRST GRADE

Reading—Playmates Primer.  
Spelling—Words from chart, blackboard, Primer and conversation. See suggestions in New Century Speller, pages 4-14.  
Writing—As directed.  
Language—Under direction of teachers. Every lesson should be lesson in language.  
Numbers—First journeys in Numberland, pages 1 to 41, in hands of teacher.  
General Lessons—In Nature Study, Hygiene, Local Geography and Manners.

#### HIGH FIRST GRADE

Reading—Arnold's Primer, Hill's Reader, Book 1 and Art Literature 1.  
Spelling—New Century Spelling Book, pages 15-28.  
Writing—New Outlook Writing System, Book one.  
Language—Under direction of the teacher.  
Numbers—First Journeys in Numberland, pages 42 to 82.  
General Lessons—Continue work as in Low 1.  
Drawing—Practical Drawing, Book One.

#### LOW SECOND GRADE

Reading—Hill's Reader, Book Two.  
Spelling—New Century Spelling Book to page 36, supplement words from reader and other lessons.  
Writing—New Outlook Writing System, Book Two.  
Language—Our Language, Book One pages 1 to 57.  
Numbers—First Journeys in Numberland, pages 82 to 110.  
General Lessons—Nature Study, Hygiene and local Geography.  
Drawing—Practical Drawing, Book Two.

#### HIGH SECOND GRADE

Reading—Art Literature, Book Two.  
Spelling—New Century Spelling Book to page 44, supplement with words from other lessons.  
Writing—New Outlook Writing System, Book Two.  
Language—Our Language, Book One, pages 57 to 95.  
Numbers—First Journey in Numberland completed.  
General Lessons—As directed.  
Drawing—Practical Drawing, Book Three.

Physiology—First Book of Health, in hands of the teacher; Nature Study.  
Drawing—Practical Drawing, Book Three.

#### HIGH THIRD GRADE

Reading—Art Literature, Book Three.  
Spelling—New Century Spelling Book, from pages 52 to 65.  
Writing—New Outlook Writing System, Book Three.  
Language—Our Language, First Book completed.  
Arithmetic—Lower Book to page 123; Hopkins and Underwood's Mental Arithmetic.  
Geography—Frye's First Book in Geography, completed and reviewed.  
Physiology—First Book of Health to page 81.  
Drawing—Practical Drawing, Book Three.

#### LOW FOURTH GRADE

Reading—Hill's Reader, Book Four.  
Spelling—New Century Spelling Book to page 75.  
Writing—New Outlook Writing System, Book Four.  
Language—Our Language, second book to page 54.  
Arithmetic—Lower Book, pages 123 to 168; Hopkins and Underwood's Mental Arithmetic.  
Geography—The World Geography, First Book pages 1 to 86.  
Physiology—First Book of Health, pages 81 to 122.  
Drawing—Practical Drawing, Book Four.

#### HIGH FOURTH GRADE

Reading—Elson's Fourth Grade Reader.  
Spelling—New Century Spelling Book, pages 75 to 86.  
Writing—New Outlook Writing System, Book Four.  
Language—Our Language, Second Book, pages 54 to 110.  
Arithmetic—Sutton and Bruce's Lower Book, pages 168 to 202; Hopkins and Underwood's Mental Arithmetic.  
Geography—The World Geography, First Book, pages 86 to 143.  
Physiology—First Book of Health, pages 122 to the end.  
Drawing—Practical Drawing, Book Four.

### Intermediate Department

#### LOW FIFTH GRADE

Reading—Hill's Reader, Book Five.  
Spelling—New Century Spelling Book, pages 86 to 99.  
Writing—New Outlook Writing System, Book Five.  
Language—Our Language, Second Book, pages 110 to 171.  
Arithmetic—Sutton & Bruce's Arithmetic, Lower Book, page 202 to the end; Hopkins and Underwood's Mental Arithmetic.  
Geography—World Geography, First Book, page 143 to the end.  
Physiology—The Human Body and Its Enemies, pages 1 to 174.  
Drawing—Practical Drawing, Book Five.

#### HIGH FIFTH GRADE

Reading—Elson's Fifth Reader.  
Spelling—New Century Spelling Book, pages 99 to 113.  
Writing—New Outlook Writing System, Book Five.  
Language—Our Language, Second Book, page 171 to the end.  
Arithmetic—Sutton and Bruce's Arithmetic, Higher Book, pages 1 to 62; H. & U. Mental Arithmetic.  
Geography—The World Geography, Second Book, pages 1 to 148.  
Physiology—The Human Body and Its Enemies, page 174 to the end.  
Drawing—Practical Drawing, Book Five.

#### LOW SIXTH GRADE

Reading—Elson's Sixth Reader.  
Spelling—New Century Spelling Book, pages 113 to 123.  
Writing—New Outlook Writing System, Book Six.  
Grammar—Our Language Grammar, pages 1 to 83.  
Arithmetic—Sutton & Bruce's Arithmetic, Higher Book, pages 62 to 122; H. U. Mental Arithmetic.  
Geography—The World Geography, Second Book, pages 116 to 198.  
History—Beginner's History of Our Country.  
Drawing—Practical Drawing, Book Six.

#### HIGH SIXTH GRADE

Reading—As directed.  
Spelling—New Century Spelling Book, pages 123 to 135.  
Writing—New Outlook Writing System, Book Six.  
Grammar—Our Language Grammar, pages 83 to 126.  
Arithmetic—Higher Book, pages 122 to 178.  
Geography—Hopkins and Underwood's Mental Arithmetic, pages 123 to 178.

#### LOW SEVENTH GRADE

Reading—As directed.  
Spelling—New Century Spelling Book, pages 135 to 166.  
Writing—New Outlook Writing System, Book Seven.  
Grammar—Our Language Grammar, pages 193 to 261.  
Arithmetic—Higher Book, pages 178 to 267.  
Geography—World Geography, pages 256 to 395.  
History—The Student's History of Our Country, page 1 to 244.  
Drawing—Practical Drawing, Book Seven.

#### HIGH SEVENTH GRADE

Reading—Civics, Texas and Federal, completed.  
Spelling—New Century Spelling Book, pages 166 to 180.  
Writing—New Outlook Writing System, Book Seven.  
Grammar—Our Language Grammar, pages 193 to 261.  
Arithmetic—Higher Book, pages 267 to 344.  
Agriculture—Elementary Principles of Agriculture, continued.  
History—The Student's History of Our Country, page 244 to the end.

### High School Department

The High School Department includes the last four years, or the eighth, ninth, tenth, and eleventh grades, as outlined in the following course of study.

Two courses are offered—the Latin and the Science Course. All pupils who expect to graduate High School will be required to elect the one or of these two courses. It will require sixteen work to complete either course, a unit being 16 lessons per week for the entire school term year subjects will be considered one unit.

Each pupil will be required to take for a time, but, in exceptional cases, with the Superintendent, fewer than four subjects than four may be taken.

No credit will be allowed for less than three year work in Latin. Pupils who elect the Latin Course will be urged to complete their work.

#### HIGH SCHOOL COURSES OF STUDY

LATIN COURSE		SCIENCE COURSE	
FIRST YEAR			
English		En	
Ancient History		Ancient His.	
Algebra		Alg	
Latin		First	
SECOND YEAR			
English		Med.	
Med. & Mod. History		Phys.	
Algebra		Phys. Geograp	
Latin			
THIRD YEAR			
English		P	
Plane Geometry			
English History		F	
Latin			
FOURTH YEAR			
English		Plane Geometry,	
Plane Geometry, 1st Term		Arithmetic,	
Arithmetic, 2nd Term		Amer. History	
Amer. History & Civics		or Physics	
Latin			

#### ENGLISH

Purpose—It has now been generally agreed that the study of English in High School should have three important results as follows: (1) To enable the student to understand the expressed thought of the author; (2) To enable the student to express his own thought effectively, and (3) To cultivate in the pupil an appreciation of good literature. In view of these three purposes, the work in the class room will be threefold: (1) a study of the adopted text in Composition, Rhetoric to learn correct forms of spoken or written English, (2) the original composition to culminate in the expression of thought, and (3) the reading of selected Classics to bring the student into contact with the best literature of the ages.

First Year—Herrick and Damon's Composition and Rhetoric, pages 1 to 274. Original composition, at least one carefully written each week. Classics as directed.

Second Year—Herrick and Damon's Composition and Rhetoric, pages 274-492. Original composition in the eighth grade. Classics as directed.

Third Year—Composition and Rhetoric. Original composition. Pa



## You Need a Tonic

There are times in every woman's life when she needs a tonic to help her over the hard places. When that time comes to you, you know what tonic to take—Cardui, the woman's tonic. Cardui is composed of purely vegetable ingredients, which act gently, yet surely, on the weakened womanly organs, and helps build them back to strength and health. It has benefited thousands and thousands of weak, ailing women in its past half century of wonderful success, and it will do the same for you. You can't make a mistake in taking

# GARDUI

## The Woman's Tonic

Miss Amelia Wilson, R. F. D. No. 4, Alma, Ark., says: "I think Cardui is the greatest medicine on earth, for women. Before I began to take Cardui, I was so weak and nervous, and had such awful dizzy spells and a poor appetite. Now I feel as well and as strong as I ever did, and can eat most anything." Begin taking Cardui today. Sold by all dealers.

**Has Helped Thousands.**

## To Our Laundry Patrons

Beginning with the first of 1916 all laundry work will be strictly cash on delivery. We are compelled to adopt this method and will thank our customers to have money ready when your laundry is delivered.

Wishing for a Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year to all, we remain  
Yours to please

## CHURCH BROTHERS

### TAILORS

Representative Abilene Steam Laundry

WHEN IN ABILENE

# EAT

AT THE MOZART CAFE  
JACK GILSTRAP, Mgr.

# EAT

In Merkel at Latham Brothers  
**BUSY BEE CAFE**

Day and night, hot Waffles each morning 4 to 9 o'clock. **\$5.00 MEAL TICKETS \$4.50**

## NOUCEMENTS

to the Democratic Primaries of July, 1916

Casuerer:  
J. A. BOYCE  
AUSTIN FITTS

Assessor:  
W. T. (TOM) ST. JOHN  
JOHN H. VANCE.

Collector:  
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If mare mules and team for sale on good note, good young jack for

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# T-O-D-A-Y

**M**ARKS the close of the most prosperous tide yet experienced by Merkel and her people. It marks the close of highly a satisfactory year in all circles, for which we are indeed thankful. To our friends who have enjoyed the prosperity of the past with us, we extend a sincere hope for a gradual attainment of your well directed efforts and on T-O-M-O-R-R-O-W The New Year bebegin. With this new year we extend to our old customers a wish of 365 prosperous days to you and yours. We desire to extend the same wishes to those who have not given us a portion of their banking business. A cordial invitation is extended to one and all to take advantage of our banking connections, promising courteous treatment, prompt service, stability in finances and a "Guaranty Fund Bank."

## THE FARMERS STATE BANK

MERKEL - - TEXAS

### NEWS FROM SHILOH BY MR. JUNIUS

Shiloh, Dec. 27.—The Christmas festivities of 1915 are now numbered with the things of the mystic past and we feel like we are treading the threshold of another year. The turkey dinners and social entertainments were entirely too numerous to admit of separate mention, suffice to say, we all from the hoary-headed patriarch to the guileless and unsophisticated youth had a glorious time. No drunkenness or lawless acts to mar the habitual serenity of our peerless section.

We must not omit to tender sincere felicitations to the editor and publishers The Mail for the superb Holiday edition of your most excellent paper which would have been highly creditable to a city of larger growth, and the numerous biographical sketches of some of the most prominent citizens of Merkel and vicinity were indeed interesting and instructive being reminiscences of the early history of the country, showing the dangers, toils and hardships endured by the brave and arduous pioneers, that we, of more recent date never dreamed of in our philosophy, that issue of our paper is well worth preserving for future references, a veritable "multum in parvo."

Prof. John Thompson and others have formed a literary society here for the purpose of intellectual culture and miscellaneous information, which will be of innumerable benefit to the student, a potent stimulant to mental development. Prof. Thompson, elected president, as secretary, well treasurer, and journal.

Grayson programme committee. The following subjects will be discussed at their next meeting. "Was England justified in banishing Napolian Bonaparte to the Island of St. Helena." "Was the assassination of Julius Ceazar prompted by patriotism, envy or an insatiable lust for power and political prestige" and "If Oliver Cromwell usurped the British throne, was not William of Normandy's conquest a base usurpation too." Several from Merkel and adjacent towns have promised to honor our next meeting with their presence, which will be held in the school house Friday the 7th of January. A box supper will also be one of the pleasant diversions for Friday night December 31st. All are invited to attend, a bountiful repast, social glee and unrestrained mirth will be a most suitable valedictory to the passing of the old and memorable year of 1915.

We attended a superb turkey dinner at the lovely and palatial home of Mr. and Mrs. U. B. Wheeler Sunday, which was indeed an epicurean feast. All the gastronomic delicacies that ever graced the board of a mediaeval prince was spread in rich profusion, which was highly creditable to the refined patrician taste and superior culinary skill of Mrs. Wheeler. J. H. Grayson, Chas. Seago and their families, N. B. Wheeler, Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Wheeler and families were guests and we all did ample justice to the sumptuous repast. Mr. and Mrs. Sam Grayson also entertained a number of their friends at their lovely home Christmas Day with a most excellent dinner that would have satiated the esthetic and epicurean palate of a Lucullus.

We shall leave in a few days for our home in Hamilton and we acknowledge with gratification the many kindnesses extended

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**PIANO FOR SALE**—Will sell on easy terms or will trade. Write Post office Box 549. tf.

**WANTED**—100 customers at Wetzell's barber shop, 10 and 15 cents in Coats building.

**FOR SALE**—8 room house and lot; barn etc; one block of center of town, on Oak street. Price only \$1750; \$250 cash and \$250 per year. Jno. G. Jackson. 3t3

**FOR SALE**—At a bargain my home in Merkel; 5 rooms, bath and two porches; two lots; two barns; separate cow, horse and wood lots; cement sidewalks, shade trees and shrubbery; well and windmill. Cost over \$3000. Price \$2000 for quick sale. Jno. G. Jackson, Abilene. 3t3

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**STRAYED or STOLEN**—from Hall Music Company, Abilene, Texas: Two bay horses about 15 hands, roach mane, all around. Reward for return to Hall Music Company, Texas. Phone 586.

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## A New Year Greeting

**T**O YOU and all our friends, all those whose friendship we would like to have; and everything else, we wish a happy and prosperous new year. -- -- --

## Woodroof Brothers



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