

JUNIUS ELOQUENT; ALSO A HISTORIAN

We were especially interested in your editorial comment on the excellent truck patch of Mr. Thomas Smith's of Merkel, and glad that you informed us that it was no fairy tale, etc. We, too, have won a modicum of unpleasant notoriety in our field of endeavor, through the laborious vocation of truck farming. Our narrative is also tinged with a modicum of romance, which bears some resemblance to Robinson Crusoe, the Arabian Nights or the Utopian dream of a romantic lunatic. We landed in the picturesque town of Shiloh last summer and in order to help build up the country and to replenish our depleted coffers, we purchased two old roosters from Mrs. Sam Grayson and an antiquated hen from Mrs. Bill Tyner and a turkey gobbler from Mrs. J. H. Grayson. That sapient gobbler and those two old Plebian roosters were on to their job and seemed to fully realize the dire necessity of their owner for they would leave home at daylight every morning and return about 10 or 12 o'clock each night, bringing home with them every kind of turkey and chicken and occasionally a few ducks from which we have sold \$387 worth of fowls and from the acre of cotton we bought from Captain J. H. Grayson we have sold seven bales of cotton, and would have had a healthy bank account now, but these envious and suspicious rock-ribbed Jeffersonian Democrats got to shooting at us at night and we had to subside.

Mr. Edgar Grayson reports the party at Mr. and Mrs. Bill Cogburn a most pleasant and delightful social affair.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Seago left Friday for a week's stay with relatives at San Saba.

Mr. Bill Tabor and his charming daughter, Miss Carrie are visiting friends at Burleson.

Mr. Bill Tyner has been slightly indisposed the past week.

The youths of our town are looking forward with gleeful anticipation to the Christmas tree at Shiloh Saturday night. We hope that their fondest hopes of a Merry Christmas will be fully realized.

Mrs. W. B. Beavers has just returned from a visit to her sister, Mrs. Maggie Floyd east of Fort Worth.

Capt. J. H. Grayson is now sporting a fine new auto.

Mr. Ira Armstrong, an old and valued friend of Merkel was in our town Monday. Mr. Armstrong used to be a prominent merchant of China Springs, a kind and an honorable man and a prince of a good fellow.

Mr. Marvin James and Miss Eula Maynard were married last Sunday. These two of our most popular and prominent people have plighted their troth "until death do us part." Both of the contracting parties are leaders in our most exclusive social set and we with our accord wish them lengthened years of unalloyed bliss.

Phone Sharp & Haynes No. 184 to get your laundry and tailoring work.

Good old East Texas Ribbon Cane Syrup. E. L. Rogers.

The way to prosper is to save money, you can do that by buying your Christmas eats at the Merkel Bakery.

Phone W. E. Lowe, at the Metropolitan Cafe for service car day or night.

Holly boxes at Burroughs.

Returns From Grand Lodge

Victor Harris, Worshipful Master of the A. F. & A. M. Lodge here returned from Waco Saturday, where he attended the Grand Lodge of Texas in session at that place.

Mr. Harris remained after the regular lodge work was completed to be examined as to his proficiency in the ritual work. On completion of the examinations he was given his certificate, a thing coveted by all Masons, it being emblematic of that degree of knowledge of the work not acquired by all who claim membership to this ancient and honorable body.

FIRE DESTROYED A HOME LAST FRIDAY

Early Friday evening of last week the home of Oscar Walker was completely destroyed by fire. The family was at a neighbor's house at the time. When the fire was discovered it had made such headway, the department was helpless to save anything but the cellar. Insurance covered the household loss but we have not learned whether or not any insurance was carried on the house.

Another alarm was sounded early Tuesday morning of this week. A blaze was raging on a high board fence at the C. D. Mims home. The loss sustained was small.

NIGHT RIDERS AT HASKELL, TEXAS

Proclamation

To the American citizens of West Texas: We the undersigned white citizens of West Texas hereby notify all landlords that we will not permit negro tenants to supplant white tenants, taking homes away from native born white Texans. We further warn all farmers to get their cotton gathered as soon as possible and ship all negro pickers back, so that they will not remain here to compete with white labor.

The landlord who has negroes on his place is warned to get them off as soon as possible to save their own chips.

For the sake of our wives and children, we demand homes and places to make a living, and we will not tolerate the unfair competition of negroes and their taking away our homes.—The White Renters' League.

The above is a copy of a document deposited beneath nearly every door in Haskell on Tuesday night of last week. "The White Renters' League was signed and all actions concerning to printing and circulation remains a mystery.

Liquor Election in Scurry

An election has been called for Dec. 30th, by the Commissioners Court of Scurry county, to determine whether or not the sale of intoxicating liquors will be permitted in that country.

It is safe to say that this county will stand by the way it has been living for years and we have little fear that the wets will be victorious.

Don't forget to visit our vegetable refrigerator before planning your Christmas dinner. E. L. Rogers.

A new line of diamond rings and necklaces just received. See us before you buy. Burroughs.

Fancy assorted cakes of all kinds at the Bakery

COW BOYS "SHOOT UP TOWNS" COMING BETTER HIDE IN CELLAR--NEWSPAPERS

The Parsons Daily Sun, a Foremost Newspaper of Parsons' Kansas, Published the First Following Paragraph About the Texas Overland Dealers Trip Through There

The special Overland train which passed through Parsons Sunday afternoon en route to Toledo, Ohio, from points in Texas will go through Parsons again tomorrow morning on a return trip from the big meeting attended by Overland agents. The boys from Texas will probably be asleep when the train passes through this time, so there will be no attempt to "shoot up the town" such as took place last Sunday when the train stopped here to change engines.—Parsons Daily Sun.

Trip Was a Grand Success

The Parsons Daily Sun was wrong in their supposition. The Texas delegation was as wide-awake as ever on their return trip, and the town of Parsons knew of their coming before the train had stopped, for a big part of three hundred and sixty-one revolvers, loaded with blank cartridges, were being brought into play by the three hundred and sixty-one Texas dealers and newspaper men who were returning.

Our Trip to Toledo and Return

A special train delux "Overland Special" made up at Dallas, some three hundred and fifty dealers were along and a few newspaper representatives making a total of three hundred and sixty-one. Each man was dressed in proper cowboy regalia and all carried their shooting irons. The Overland Company furnished blank ammunition but people living along the route didn't know this and the bombardment which started the second morning out lasted until after the bunch had completed their stay in Toledo and were on their return home. As a result of this young army's march through the country, a few doors are broken from their hinges, some new records for sprinting have been hung up by negroes, policemen and others who met the Texas lads just in time to be welcomed by a salute from any number of guns that happened along.

It was fun to us, and on instructions of those in charge of the Texas "Overland Special" the boys played their parts in fine shape. Probably a little too real to suit some, for when the crowd fired a salute to President Willys of the Willys-Overland Company in the Administration building at Toledo, plaster from the roof of the spacious reception hall showered down on the heads of many, who realized that some darn fool, or several of them, had unfortunately run out of blank ammunition and were using the real things. But, then, our leader said for us to raise H— when we got there, and this same leader afterward said that his expectations were greatly exceeded by the show the Texas boys pulled off. Toledo, with its 250,000 people, absolutely belonged to the boys from the Lone Star State, and they helped themselves to it in great style. Sedalia, Missouri, is another town along the line, together with hundreds of other smaller places, is no doubt still wondering what they had done to deserve such treatment. Crowds gathered in many small places to see and inquire of the cause of such a long train—nineteen pullmans, two dining cars and a baggage car named the "Bloody Bar". It all was unusual, but those who had curiosity forgot about it when some chap would open fire on the bunch. Windows were broken in, some would not take time to open doors, others crawled or fell into the first shelter found.

At Parsons, Kansas, on the return trip, some lad who was thoughtful enough, or unthoughtful enough, to take a catch rope along, neatly sailed a loop over the head of a negro woman and started dragging her toward our train. A few six-shooters turned loose about the same time brought prayers in abundance from this colored woman as she cast her eyes to the Lord in the sky and prayed that she not be taken to Texas.

The Visit in the Factory

Arriving at Toledo eight hours late, we ashared ourselves—didn't need any help—to the Administration building of the Willys-Overland Company, where John North Willys welcomed us in true fashion. It took this master of finance about thirty minutes to get a hearing for the boys were so glad to see him they bombarded the air in a fashion unheard of in that town. Following a short talk, Mr. Willys whipped out a forty-five Colts and with a parting shot, told the boys the town

was theirs, but to see the factory first.

17,500 employees in this one factory which covers 103 acres. Over one thousand of these are office help in the magnificent building, the first place visited. Our tour then was through the company's garage, where all new models were shown. A sumptuous dinner was served in the administration building and following was a minstrel show by the Overland Glee Club, which amused the entire bunch. The show was in a class, or above, that often offered by the Majestic shows in this state and only Overland employees participated. The building was fitted with barber shops, a regular hotel in service, auditorium and such.

The following morning we saw the Overland factory, some larger than this town and run more orderly. Our eyes stuck out on sticks, so to speak, as we trodded along with our crowd and saw the sights. We saw a machine capable of exerting ten thousand tons of pressure to the square inch, which would press cold steel into place like you would crumple paper in your hand, and when the operation was over you would see the steel frame of a car. This machine, we were told, had a capacity of two thousand frames per day. Other mighty machines stamp out the bodies of cars, the radiators, the fenders, and the doors, etc.

Some fellow, with massive tongs, would take a red-hot piece of metal from a furnace and, with the aid of a drop forge hammer, the firey piece of steel would be shaped into a front axle before the red heat had left the metal. You take off your hat to this fellow, while some factory man laughs at you and remarks about the poor rube who has come to town. This, however, was about the only time the laugh was on us, but in the factory the Texas boys were so enthused they forgot they even had guns on, or if they remembered it they were afraid to shoot.

The entire description of this, one of the greatest, if not the greatest, single auto plant in the world, is almost impossible. Here they make everything, or at least everything that goes in their regular cars. A rough motor cast block is taken and in one operation a machine bores eighty-one holes in the steel, all threaded.

The assembly plant, at one end, looks like a repair garage. Long moving chains, a quarter of a mile or less in length, and before you reach the end of this chain you realize how easy it is for five hundred or a thousand Overland cars to be shipped in one day. They are put together so fast you hardly realize it is possible, and next you see a driver jump in and with a smooth hum the motor starts and the car is driven out for its first actual test. Apparently they are all ready to go for they seem perfect from the first time their engine fires.

A surprise greeted us when we came across the company's hospital—a real, thoroughly equipped hospital within the walls of the factory. No matter if you only knock a little skin off of your hand, you are rushed to the hospital, and the attending physicians exert the greatest care in the attention they give. Some of the Texas bunch inquired if they had any snake medicine but the nurses and doctors did not see the joke. Seemingly, the Overland Company is exerting every effort possible to give value received for their products and from the attention they give to all classes of work their endeavor

MERKEL BIRDS AT EL PASO WINNERS

Messrs. H. M. Rose of this city and T. O. Mobley of Trent both received handsome awards at the recent El Paso Poultry Show.

In the showing of White Wyandottes, Mr. Rose was given the following premiums. 1st cock and pen, 2, 3, 5, cockerel 3 and 4th hen. \$10 merchandise for best group cock, cockerel, hen and pullet, and fountain for best cock in show. Championship Cup of show awarded, must be won twice for permanent ownership. \$5 in gold for best cockerel, \$3.50 in merchandise for second best pen.

T. O. Mobley, who was competing against a large field in the S. C. Rhode Island Red class, won 1, 2 hen, 2 cock, 1, 5 pullet, 1 pen, cup for best pen.

This is indeed an excellent showing and if local birds can be sent to El Paso with such results, why can't the local poultry shows be continued? Let the Merkel Poultry and Pet Stock Association be revived, it is certainly worth while.

Parents Day

Friday, December 22, is set a part as "Parent's Day" for the school children of the Merkel Public Schools. All the parents and friends of public education are cordially invited to come out on the above date and inspect the work of the teachers and pupils. The high school department will be "at school" to their parents and friends from 10:40 to 12:00 a. m.. The primary department from 1:00 to 2:20 p. m. and the intermediate department from 2:40 to 4:00 p. m.

Buy your Christmas fruits and candies from the New Confectionery on Kent Street at Cream Station. C. E. Conner.

More fruit, better health. We have the good old healthy sort. E. L. Rogers.

Seymour's Best Flour. G. M. Sharp.

vors can not but be crowned with success, and the Overland car will win because its makers will stand behind it.

Geographically located, Toledo is on Lake Erie, one of the largest of the five Great Lakes. It is eighty cents from Detroit, Michigan, and sixty cents across the lake to Canada. This is how much we liked getting out of the United States—a very narrow escape. There is something wrong with the country up north though. It is dark there before five o'clock and street lights are snapped on on cloudy days a few minutes after four. The sun is sorter slow about getting up and no doubt the Ruler of the Universe doesn't think any too well of the frigid north or he would bless them with a lot of Texas sunshine. We inquired of "one of the native sons if he lived there. He replied in the affirmative, and we in return asked him why he didn't move. He was sorter keen of comprehension and got mad at our insinuation.

Coming home Kansas developed the only sensation. At Parsons a lot of the boys wanted to buy some ready-made cigarettes or cigarette papers, but nothing doing up there. They don't sell such stuff, according to their good laws, and the entire state is dry, and the only way a person can get a drink is to get snake bit. At Parsons there is only one snake and it is booked for service seven weeks ahead.

Statement of Condition

Farmers State BANK

MERKEL, TEXAS

As Reported Nov. 17, 1916

RESOURCES

Loans	\$172,045.22
Banking House	9,500.00
Other Real Estate	2,500.00
Furniture and Fixtures	3,950.00
Interest in Guaranty Fund	2,726.96
CASH AND EXCHANGE	294,272.06
Total	\$484,994.24

LIABILITIES

Capital Stock	\$ 35,000.00
Surplus and Profits	22,089.54
DEPOSITS	427,904.70
Total	\$484,994.24

The above statement is correct.

R. O. ANDERSON, Cashier

Commence Business January 1912

Comparative Deposits Since Organization

November 1912	\$116,587.26
November 1913	139,051.44
November 1914	150,229.12
November 1915	311,710.68
November 1916	427,904.70

There is a Reason

Do Your Business With a State Bank

NUBIA PARAGRAPHER IS A GLASSY WRITER

We have been experiencing a varied series of weather almost as heterogenous as the different kinds of fruit which Burbak has been known to develop on the self same tree.

Mr. Burehell and son, Wylie, are contemplating spending yuletide with their relatives in Tennessee.

Mr. Sam Butman says that trade has been unusually good lately, amounting to about \$50 per day. We are expecting him to conduct a closing out sale soon "at and below cost," so cheaply that you will feel ashamed of yourself before you get home, thinking you had purloined your goods surreptitiously, yea, goods at your own price, and we are opining that the hereinbefore mentioned quotation will approximate almost in its entire exactness, one of the excerpts from the caption of his extravagant announcement.

Mr. and Mrs. B. Finley visited Mr. and Mrs. Jim Pardes Sunday.

The writer bets that Mr. Eastwood came back from Toledo with an egotistical air of supreme lordliness, and apt as not he failed to recognize the identity of his associates in the Mail office. I'll bet, too, that he has already told his friends that St. Louis, Louisville, Cincinnati and Columbus (and perhaps Dayton and Toledo) are at least counting all their suburbs, ten times as large as Merkel with Trent, Blair and Tye all thrown in for good old Methodist measure. Doubtless he repaired to Maumee Bay and cast his eyes wonderingly across the mighty Erie toward Ontario, while he thanked his stars of destiny that he was not a Canadian soldier in the cold trenches "somewhere in France."

The proximity of Christmas reminds the writer; he wonders who'll be the first to make glad his poor aching heart with some nice present given as a sincere token of their regard for his eccentricity. Now, don't all act at once for that would make it impossible for me to take care of the gifts with facility. But what if no one feels a pressing inclination to give me anything? What then? Won't I feel bad after making the request? Yes, I will, but I will migrate my mind by chanting:

Blow, blow, thou winter wind,
Thou art not so unkind as
man's ingratitude.

Thy teeth are not so keen
Because thou are not seen,
Although thy breath be rude.

Freeze, freeze thou little sky,
That does not bite so nigh,
as benefits forgot.

Though thou the water's warp,
Thy sting is not so sharp,
As friends remembered not.

And I am sure that this little sorrow assuaging poem would afford my miserable mind a modicum of mollification.

Here's wishing everybody a hale and hearty Christmas. I trust that well instead of woe shall be yours. Here's wishing joy not only to the old and young but to the middle aged (between 30 and 45.) This is my Christmas benison, my earnest orison.

For all kinds of fruits, cigars, candles and fireworks. Call on A. C. Boney.

Mrs. D. J. Dodd Dead

Mrs. Artie Dodd, age 72, wife of Rev. D. J. Dodd of this city died at their home at an early hour Monday from an illness of several weeks.

This aged and esteemed lady has suffered a severe rheumatic trouble for some time, the extent of which gradually increased.

Born in Alabama, Oct. 11, 1884 Mrs. Dodd moved to Texas with her parents at an early day. She was married to Rev. Dodd

Aug. 3, 1871 and to the Union 3 children survive, a daughter Mrs. Gentry of Abilene was present during the mothers illness and at her death.

The deceased was a staunch member of the Baptist church and had been active in her religious worship for years. She was converted at the age of 14. Her death brings an actual loss to her congregation and a great sorrow to her numerous friends who extend the deepest of sympathies to the bereaved husband.

A. Whisenhunt Dead

All that was earthly of A. Whisenhunt, age 72 years, 11 months and 16 days was laid to rest with tender hands in the White Church cemetery Tuesday of last week.

Necrological mention was omitted last week and we should have received a full life obituary for this publication but same has failed to reach us from some reason. Mr. Whisenhunt is survived by a number of relatives in this section and through his residence in this country which has dated back for nearly thirty years, he has established a friendship of all who knew him. He has throughout the time he lived here, been one of the most prominent farmers of all the Canyon country.

PECK'S BAD BOY

The ever-popular laugh producing farce comedy, Peck's Bad Boy, with fourteen musical numbers, will be the attraction at the Cozy Theatre, Wednesday night, Dec. 27. This is not a motion picture, but a sure enough 3-act comedy in the hands of real flesh and blood actors who promise the theatre goers of Merkel an evening's entertainment which is a treat of fun from initial to final curtain. In fact the show is one of those "your money's worth or your money back" attractions which is playing to immense business everywhere, and more than pleasing its patrons. The book of Peck's Bad Boy has been translated into 19 different languages, and is now in its twenty-third edition. Pretty good evidence of its popularity. The play is even more funny than the book and needs no introduction or recommendation. Seats now selling at the Elite Confectionery. Prices 25, 35, 50 and 75c.

NOODLE

The Christmas spirit is very high in this community at present. Everybody is expecting a grand time during the holidays.

The literary society program Friday night was well rendered and enjoyed by a large crowd. Everybody is invited to come and take part. The meeting nights are Friday nights before the 1st and 3rd Sundays in each month.

Mrs. T. E. Goode visited at the home of W. K. Horn of Abilene the first of the week.

R. C. Goode and wife returned home from Abilene Friday evening where they were married a week ago.

The entertainment at the home of R. W. Green was well attended, all reported a good time.

H. N. Newsom is the owner of a new piano purchased last week.

Mrs. Myrtle Paul, Mrs. Winter and family of Paducah are visiting relatives at Noodle this week.

C. R. Horton has purchased the Hamlet home in Merkel and will move to the home within a short time.

Mrs. A. B. Ely is visiting her son J. W. Ely of Bradshaw.

W. O. W.

Merkel Camp No. 719 meets second and fourth Friday nights of each month.

T. F. Compton, C. C. S. Hamilton, Clerk

Company E. 101 Reg. of U. R.

W. O. W. Merkel Camp 719 meets every Wednesday night

SEASON'S GREETINGS

WHILE extending best wishes for the season to you, we are not unmindful of the fact that the wonderful growth of this bank is largely due to the co-operation of our depositors who never fail to speak a kindly word for this institution when occasion permits.

We are deeply grateful for such favors and wish to give assurance that we will continue to merit such confidence on your part.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year—

F. & M. NATIONAL BANK

Member Federal Reserve Bank

THE ELEVENTH HOUR

Your friends have visited our place, they have made purchases and have been pleased

You have only until Saturday night. What are you going to do about it? Why not come here and get the gift you want instead of compromising on some gift not just what you want?

We have the very thing you want. Come down today and then your Xmas will be a better one

COMPTON'S

ABILENE

Cut Glass, Jewelry, Diamonds, Silverware

The Brown Dry Goods Co.

SUCCESSORS TO W. L. HARKRIDER

Come and Let us Help You Select a Gift

We Suggest Some Practical Gifts Below

MEN'S Fancy Hose Supporters 25c	MEN'S Dress Kid Gloves \$2 \$1.75 \$1.50	LADIES' Silk, swiss and crepe dechine handkerchiefs, all prices 5c, 10c, 15c, 25c	LADIES' Fancy Collars and sets, lat- est things out 75c	FANCY Trimming buttons, all sizes 15c per card
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Ladies, Mens, Boys, Misses and Children's Shoes

Men's Silk Half-Hose at 75c per pair	Ladies Kid Gloves \$1.15, \$1.40, \$1.60	Fancy Towel Sets \$1.10, 85c	Silks Fancy Shirtwaist Silk \$3.90 pattern	Silk Hose Ladies black 90c Boot Silk black 45c
New Ties For everybody, come see 25c, 50c, 75c, \$1	Golf Gloves For ladies, misses, children 25c and 35c per pair	Pappoose Baby Robes \$1.15	Taffeta Silk in black, green, navy, red \$1.40 per yard	Also Good Stock of hosiery for the baby and miss 8c to 27c per pair

Ladies' Silk Shirt Waists

Silk Sweater Coats : Silk Petticoats

Ladies and Misses Suits and Coats

New styles, new colors, at small profit

GET THE BOY A CHRISTMAS SUIT AT \$4.45

Mens Suits of National Class

THE KIRSCHBAUM MAKE

Young men's Sport Suits and Over Coats

Childrens and Misses Warm Sport Coats

Remember Everything is at a Cut Price

Until Saturday Night December 23rd

YOURS TO SHOW GOODS AND PLEASE

The Brown Dry Goods Co.



Buy Your Xmas Gifts at Our Drug Store



Family Dr. and Santa Claus are coming to our Drug Store for their Christmas Gifts.

Useful Christmas Presents

Our gift goods are now ready for your inspection and selection. We have splendid gifts for everyone in the family—pretty, yet sensible; beautiful, yet useful.

Come in and see our big line of Christmas things you can buy at a low price. You will find just what you want for your family and many friends, and at our prices your Xmas money will go far.

To make shopping easy, mark this sheet and bring it with you

Make their Holidays Happy with our Handsome Gifts.



FOR MOTHER

Perfume
Hair Brush
Manicure Set
Fancy Candy
Face Cream
Brooch Pin
Ring
Cut Glass
Bracelet

FOR FATHER

Box Cigars
Pipe
Shaving Brush
Fountain Pen
Clothes Brush
Hair Brush
Watch Chain
Cuff Links
Stick Pin
Tie Clasp

FOR BROTHER

Pipe
Fountain Pen
Box Cigars
Watch Chain
Cuff Links
Tie Clasp
Safety Razor
Ring
Watch Fob
Watch

FOR SISTER

Perfume
Box Stationery
Box Candy
LeVallieres
Wrist Watch
Bracelet
Manicure Set
Cut Glass
Lingere Set
Brooch
Ring

FOR HIM

Box Cigars
Bill Folder
Fountain Pen
Safety Razor
Cuff Buttons
Watch
Tie Clasp
Watch Fobs
Coat Chain
Stick Pin
Rings

FOR HER

Bottle Perfume
Manicure Set
Hand Painted China
Cut Glass
La Valliere
Box Stationery
Wrist Watch
Brooch Pin
Box Candy
Bracelet
Ring

Grimes Drug Store

The most Practical of ALL Gift-Shops

Electrical Christmas gifts are both useful and ornamental—and their novelty adds to their appropriateness.

Here are a few suggestions from our varied assortment.

Percolator
Grill
Toaster
Vibrator
Electric Range
Sewing Machine Motor
Vacuum Cleaner

Have Electricity installed in your home

Merkel Power Co.

THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS GIVING

Gifts lavished without regard are to a degree wrong. In our midst we see those whose hopes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year are already shattered beyond hopes. We can imagine their dejected spirit as they look upon the more fortunate ones in this, the nearing hour of Yuletide.

Why not be more thoughtful?
Why not give gifts that will please?
Why not give something to the needy?
Why not make some sad heart glad?
Why not do a thing that will make your own Christmas a greater pleasure?

Indeed, it is good cheer to know that you have assisted or made glad some aching heart. Try it this year. Think of some poor soul whose very existence is a monotony to their life; whose thoughts are constantly of their wretched financial or sick condition. Take one such person into your mind and buoyantly spirited with the season's greeting, make haste to give to them who need. And give something of value, something they will cherish, something that will brighten a home—and on Christmas morning your own Christmas will be all the brighter, for a cheerful giver is one of the most contented persons on earth.

Do your part in your own frank way with a quietude of action that makes a man feel that he is a man.

METROPOLITAN CAFE

(OWL CAFE)

Open Day and Night

To Our Friends and Patrons

We have purchased the Owl Cafe and are now open for business on Front street, where we will be glad to see you and to serve you in the same old way. We wish you a Merry Christmas and extend a hearty welcome to all in our new place of business

Metropolitan Cafe

LATHAM BROS., PROPS.

W. E. Lowe's Service Car Runs Day or Night—Phone No. 4

A Merry Christmas to all
AARON BRYAN

The Merkel Mail

Published Every Friday Morning by THE MERKEL MAIL PRINTING COMPANY, INC

Entered in the post office at Merkel Texas as second class matter.

SHILOH

(Too late for last week.)

Rev. W. K. Horn of Abilene filled his regular appointment here Saturday and Sunday.

Mr. Bud Brown who has been sick the past week is better at this writing.

J. W. Tyner is the purchaser of a new buggy this week.

Rev. Charles Seago preached a fine sermon for us last Sunday

night. Mrs. W. B. Beavers and little son Paul returned home Monday night from a visit to relations at Burleson.

S. L. Grayson and wife spent Friday with W. L. Boyd and family of Trent.

There were several in this community killed hogs Friday.

Messrs. Sam and Hugh Grayson returned home Thursday from a business trip near Lamesa.

Mrs. Fogleman is here on a visit to Mrs. Brown.

Several from here were business visitors to Merkel Monday.

Mr. Marvin James and Miss Eula Maynard were united in

marriage at the bride's home Sunday afternoon. Miss Maynard is the charming daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Maynard, while Mr. James is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Bright James. We wish for them a long and happy wedded life.

Miss Vennie Grayson spent Saturday night with Miss Corine Stone near Sweetwater Creek.

Grandma Bennett spent the past week with Mrs. G. B. Wheeler.

Miss Alpha McCright of Big Springs has been visiting her uncle, Archie McCright and family.

Geo. Wright and wife of Trent visited the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. McCright.

Vernon Barclay of Comanche visited friends here last week.

All toys and dolls 1/2 off. Come early while goods are in stock. Burroughs.

Phone W. E. Lowe, at the Metropolitan Cafe for service car day or night.

Well Drilling—See R. D. Tyler, or M. D. Daniel. 22tf

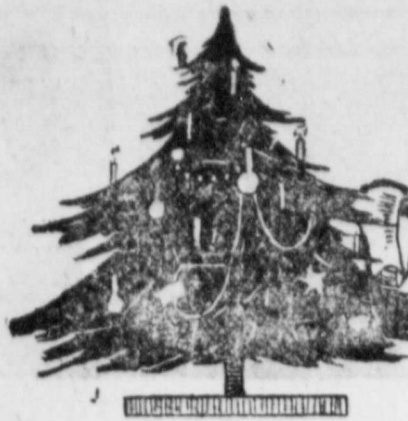
Phone Sharp and Haynes, No. 184, to get your laundry and tailoring work

Make it a home Christmas for home people by buying a fruit cake from the Merkel Bakery.

All kinds of fruits and nuts at the Anchor. Get our prices.

Always as cheap as the cheapest on groceries. G. M. Sharp.

Get her a box of fine candy from Burroughs.



The Store of Practical and Inexpensive

Christmas Gifts



FROM THE LARGEST STOCK THE BIGGEST ASSORTMENT EVER SHOWN HERE

THE PLACE OF CHRISTMAS GIFTS--ONLY THREE DAYS LEFT--LET US SHOW YOU FROM **Our Mammoth Christmas Stock**

Come here during the last moments and be satisfied with the very best stock Merkel has at present

Things You Might Forget

GET

A Box of Oranges for the Home
A Box of Apples for the Children
A Big Supply of Assorted Nuts
Their Santa Claus Gifts Here

Plenty of extra help from now on to wait on you

THINGS WE HAVE--Toys, Silverware, Cut Glass, Ornamental Lamps, Chinaware, Fruits, Nuts, Candies and then Everything in Groceries and things to wear that are good gifts

The Anchor Mercantile Comp'ny



A Box of Candy For Mother Sister, Daughter, Sweetheart

Surely it is the best and most enjoyed gift of all. A large line of beautiful Christmas boxes of finest chocolates made. Many new designs and variety of kinds for you to select from. It would be hard to select a gift that would be more appropriate. If you will visit this store and see them, you will readily agree with us.

HOME-MADE CHRISTMAS CANDIES
"Made in Merkel"

Buy your Christmas candies, nuts, fruits, etc. here, and you are sure of getting the freshest and best made. Everything for the season.

A Woman's Gift to a Man

Women who are seeking Christmas gifts for men cannot do better than to let their presentation take the form of a box of cigars. Make this place your Christmas headquarters.

ELITE CONFECTIONERY
"The Christmas Candy Store"



MISS EVELYN WILLIAMS, EDITOR

A Surprise Wedding

Taking her friends by surprise Miss Florence Holmes was married to Jesse H. Berry of Detroit, Saturday evening in the home of Rev. L. B. Owen. Besides the minister's family Misses Ida Meek and Vera Jenkins were the only friends present to witness the wedding.

Miss Florence, daughter of Mr. Joe Holmes has made her home in Merkel since girlhood but a childhood sweetheart now comes to take her back to her former home.

Mr. and Mrs. Berry will leave shortly for Detroit and the many friends' loving wishes follow this sweet young bride to her new home.

Dinner Party

Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Howard were most cozily at home with dinner for a few friends Monday evening of this week. A menu daintily and deliciously prepared was served by this young hostess and that it was enjoyed by the guests was evidenced by their hearty appetites.

After dinner the evening was spent in conversation with a few musical selections by Mrs. Howard. The guests were Misses Murtice Huifaker of Greenville, Winnie Warren Evelyn Williams and Mrs. H. C. Burroughs, Jr., Messrs. Dee Grimes and H. C. Burroughs, Jr.

20th Century Club

Mrs. W. Parten was hostess last Thursday afternoon to the XXth Century Club. Proximity to the holidays made the club at tendance light, but a pleasant social afternoon was enjoyed after the program. Those present for the afternoon were Mesdames

L. R. Cypert, P. R. Owen, John T. Pue and Wm. M. Gambill. Visitors: Mesdames W. B. Foster, L. B. Howard, Misses Lassiter, Warren and the hostess. The refreshment plates passed at the evening's close bore fruits as entree with cakes, sandwiches and chocolates.

Married at Dora

Claude Jenkins, son of Mrs. B. Jenkins of Merkel, and Miss Era Poole of Dora, were married last Sunday at the residence of Rev. Dunlap at Dora. The bride is a sister of Mrs. Tom McCoy of Dora and with whom she has made her home.

Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins will live near Dora, but they are expected to be in Merkel the latter part of this week to spend the Christmas holidays with the groom's mother.

The Mail joins with all other friends in extending wishes for success and happiness.

Burfiend-Shipp

Last Thursday evening Mrs. Lou Burfiend and D. A. Shipp were married, Rev. L. B. Owen performing the ceremony.

While the groom is of Houston, Mr. and Mrs. Shipp are at home to their friends in Merkel and will probably remain here, for some time.

Mrs. Burfiend has until recently resided on her farm in the upper Canyon where she has been very successful in the management of her interests. The newly wedded have the best wishes of their friends here.

Expression Recital At Cozy

Miss Fuller's Expression Class will give a program at the Cozy Theatre Friday night December 22nd. The program as follows:

- Miss Wiltshire, reading.
- Evelin Badley, reading.
- Shepherds Lad's Pantomime.
- William Armstrong, reading.
- Vocal solo.
- Nearer my God to Thee--Pantomime.
- Mary Eula Sears, reading.
- Miss Fuller, reading.
- Miss Widner, reading.
- Mossie Sears, reading.
- Stella Pearl Watts, reading.
- Lucile Walters, reading.
- Vocal solo.

Good music. Everybody bring your 25 cents and come. Will be well worth your while. Children under 12 years of age 10c. Adv.

Auction Sale

"ADILADE SQUIRE"

German Hackney Stallion will be sold to the highest bidder at 2 o'clock Saturday afternoon December 30th near T. & P. depot. Cash only

MERKEL HORSE COMPANY

CAKES CAKES CAKES

Santa Claus headquarters for all kinds of

Stocking Cakes

Fruit Cakes

California Raisin Cakes

Old Fashion Pound Cake

Layer Cakes

BREAD-BREAD-BREAD

MERKEL BAKERY

O. S. BURNS, Merkel

Dodge Service Car

Goes Day or Night—Anywhere

Phone 6, Elite Confectionery—Nite Phone 136

Automobile Livery

Phone No. 4—Metropolitan Cafe

Calls answered Day or Night

Phone me when you want to go somewhere

W. E. LOWE :: Service Cars

WEAR A CLEAN SUIT

LET

FERGUSON & RENFRO, The Tailors

AT THE CITY BARBER SHOP DO

Your Cleaning and Pressing

Ennis Grimes is here from Houston to visit his parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Grimes. He will remain here during the holidays, after which he will return to Houston to resume his studies in dentistry.

You may not know it but there are lots of good cakes of all kinds at the Merkel Bakery.

J. L. Banner has recently returned from a trip to New Mexico, having made the trip overland in his car.

See me for feed stuff before Christmas, G. M. Sharp.

Don't waste time peeling pecans and walnuts. Buy the peeled ones at the Anchor.

J. D. McKinney of Tye, Route 1, has sold his home in that section and at a near date will start westward over the country for his wife's health. Mrs. McKinney has been in ill health for several months.

Reduce the high cost of living by giving your children more fruit and less fire works. E. L. Rogers.

Dr. J. E. Adkisson made a professional call to Farris, Dallas county, to see one of his former patients Saturday, returning Monday.

All toys and dolls 1/2 off. Come early while goods are in stock. Burroughs.



COME IN

We started to advertise our business right the first day we were in business and we have kept it up every day since.

Our method is: to give every customer the fullest value for every dollar they spend in our store. To give everyone a square deal. To advertise and tell the people who we are; where we are; what we've got; when we've got it; and the price we ask for it.

Just now we are showing some real bargains that we know you want to see—Come in.

THANKS

We thank you for the biggest season we have had in many years. Make a good resolution for the New Year. Resolve now that you will do more business with The Star Store during the coming year than ever before. Remember that our greatest desire is to satisfy you. We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

LOWEST
PRICE

The Star Store

HIGHEST
QUALITY

LOCAL NEWS

Christmas tags and seals at Burroughs.

Just received fresh prairie hay Bob Martin Grocery Company. Eat Texas Ribbon Cane Syrup. G. M. Sharp.

Mrs. Ben T. Merritt is visiting relatives in Dublin this week.

Well Drilling—See R. D. Tyler, or M. D. Daniel. • 22tf

Phone W. E. Lowe, at the Metropolitan Cafe for service car day or night.

Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Ferguson and little son visited Fort Worth Saturday.

Santa Claus has made Burroughs his headquarters. See them before you buy.

All toys and dolls 1/2 off. Come early while goods are in stock. Burroughs.

Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Sheppard are the proud parents of 13-pound daughter.

We have all the Christmas fruits, nuts, and candies. E. L. Rogers.

Phone W. E. Lowe, at the Metropolitan Cafe for service car day or night.

Shelled pecans and walnuts at the Anchor.

Phone Sharp & Haynes, No. 184, to get your laundry and tailoring work.

Just received fresh prairie hay Bob Martin Grocery Company.

Buy your Christmas fruits and candies from the New Confectionery on Kent Street at Cream Station. C. E. Conner.

Mrs. O. R. Duff left this week to visit relatives in Ferris, Texas. Mr. Duff will join her later to spend the Christmas holidays.

Make war on the high cost of living and buy your bread from the Merkel Bakery.

We will save you money on your Christmas purchases. See us. Burroughs.

Phone W. E. Lowe, at the Metropolitan Cafe for service car day or night.

A suggestion—Get her a box of stationery or bottle of perfume from Burroughs.

All toys and dolls 1/2 off. Come early while goods are in stock. Burroughs.

Will Butman of beyond Nubia was here Tuesday. When seen he was loaded to the brim with neatly wrapped Christmas packages. It is quite evident that Will is certainly going to be Santa Claus to somebody.

All toys and dolls 1/2 off. Come early while goods are in stock. Burroughs.

Six Per Cent Money

On good improved farms. 25 years in the business. Write us what you have and find out what we can do for you before you place your loan. Compere & Compere, District Managers, Abilene, Texas.

Everything for everybody at Burroughs.

Notice

If you want to borrow money or have your notes extended, wire, write or come to see me. Can loan you money at 8 per cent. T. C. Weir, Abilene, Tex.

Light Crust flour \$4.75 per cwt. at the Anchor. Just the thing for him—a box of fine cigars—Burroughs.

Holiday Jewelry NEW IN OUR CASES

New in Merkel and Absolutely of the Latest Possible Purchase

Fancy Stationery

New Box lots, Cover designs and latest patterns. Pleasing to the eye. Use our Stationery for your correspondence.

Musical Instruments

Mandolins, Violins, Guitars, Banjos, Hawaiian Ukuleles. Hand Painted China in new designs. Just the thing for a nice present

Candies

Brown's Assorted Chocolates

Every lady is entitled to register her name in Brown's Candy Register. A 5-pound box of candy will be given away free

Kodaks

Candies

Kodaks

THE MERKEL DRUG CO.



We wish our friends and patrons all the pleasures and blessings of a joyful Holiday Season. At this happy Yuletide we want to express our deep appreciation to our loyal friends and customers that has enabled us to grow from a small beginning with larger business from year to year, to the business of the past year, which has reached the climax of our business career to date. We wish for one and all a most joyous Christmas and a prosperous and peaceful New Year. We are in better position to serve our customers in 1917 than ever before and will strive to merit your business during the new year with larger stocks, good service, and at prices as low as merchandise can be sold. We want to solicit the continued patronage of our old customers, and shall be indeed glad to see as many new ones as may see proper to come our way. With sincere appreciation and grateful hearts for your past favors, we are,

Very truly,

CROWN HARDWARE COMPANY

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE—Green cord wood, on ground, 4 miles northeast of Trent. \$2.25 per cord. E. Howell. 15t2

COTTON SEED FOR SALE—I have a car of Mebane Triumph Seed for planting. Better speak for them before all are gone, they are going high. J. C. Mason. 15t2p

A SECTION on the plains for sale or trade for a good farm. S. F. Haynes. 1t4pd

FARMS FOR SALE—Well located, and some houses in town. S. F. Haynes. dec22pd

FOR SALE—Good sandy land farm, 180 acres, 100 in cultivation, 4-room house, cribs and out buildings, good well of water, windmill, cistern, good tank, 12 miles northwest of Merkel, near good school. Cheap for cash. J. H. Grayson, Trent, Rt. 2. 15t2pd

FOR SALE—95 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres well improved extra good farm land at Blair, Texas. Will sell for half cash, balance on time. W. H. Gilliam, Merkel, Texas. 8t4pd

FOR RENT—5-room house for rent after January 1, 1917. G. M. Sharrp.

FOR SALE—Good work mare. Merkel Bakery.

FOR SALE—Mare and colt. For cash or good note. C. L. Tucker. 8tf

FOR SALE—Mule colt. Mrs. R. B. Rains. 1tp

NO HUNTING—On this place. Mrs. R. B. Rains. 1tp

FOR SALE—Or trade for good horse one good rubber tired surry with set of single harness. See me quick—it's a bargain. Bob Allen.

FOR SALE—Some choice hay, Johnson grass and prairie, also some straw, to close out next week. T. J. R. Swafford, phone 318. 1tp

FOUND—Musical instrument in case. Was picked up near east crossing of Tee Pee tracks in this city. Owner call at this office, describe it, and pay for this ad.

Card of Thanks

We wish to thank the people for their kindness to us and our mother during her illness and death. Also for their liberal offering.

Mrs. Martha Hines,
Mrs. Lee Salmons,
Robt. Smith.

UNDERTAKING SUPPLIES

Day Phone
54

Experienced Funeral Director
Call us When in Need

Night Phone
151

THE HOME FURNITURE COMPANY

Home Furniture Hearse Service Caskets and Robes

Coal Buyers Read This

We have lots of coal bought but are unable to get deliveries. Mines will not even make prices until coal is shipped, and in turn we will not be able to make sales on contract at any set price until we know what our coal is going to cost us and same is shipped.

WARREN BROS. :: COAL DEALERS

Hand Painted Pictures

Beginning Saturday, Dec. 15, I will have a number of hand-painted pictures on sale at the Behrens-McMillen Co.'s store, the sale to continue till Christmas. See them before you buy your presents. Miss Eva Brady. 8t3

No Hunting Allowed

on my farm one mile south of town, nor shooting into from the road. (15t4p) Mrs. T. F. Compton

No Hunting Here

This is to notify all parties that no hunting will be permitted on my premises. John Sears. 27tf

Jones County Jail Full

Anson, Dec. 8.—The largest number of prisoners ever incarcerated in the Jones county jail are now in the custody of Sheriff Register.

Twenty-two are served with meals and the jail is crowded to its capacity. Should it be necessary for others to be cared for by Sheriff Register, he will be compelled to go outside of Anson.

Auto Licensed

L. C. Frederickson, Ford, No. 1617. R. D. Allen, Chevrolet, No. 1618.

Glaze pineapple and cherries at the Anchor.

Stockholders Notice

The stockholders of the Farmers State Bank of Merkel are hereby notified of a meeting of the share-holders of said bank to be held at the above mentioned bank at 3 p. m., January 9, 1917, for the purpose of electing directors for the ensuing year and attending to any other such business as may come before the meeting.

R. O. Anderson, Cashier.

DRAUGHON'S PRACTICAL BUSINESS COLLEGE

Only well-known Business College in West Texas. Thousands of firms nearer our Employment Department than any other. Money-back contract guarantee position. Catalogue FREE.

Mrs. J. A. Buford of Merkel was called to Nolan last week to attend the funeral of her mother Mrs. MsKee. The deceased had often visited her daughter's family here and has many friends who regret to learn of her death.

The Philathea girls of the Methodist church will have charge of the services Sunday night. An excellent program will be rendered.

Residence for Automobile

Four room house and two lots in town of Rising Star. Will trade for second-hand auto. Preferable a Ford. Must be in good condition. S. W. H. Buzbee. 22t4p

Posted

No hunting permitted on the Lee Moore place between Trent and Merkel on north side railroad. D. E. Teadford 22t2pd

Mules and Wagon For Sale

Good team of work mules and 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ inch wagon for sale or trade. See W. L. Diltz. 22tf

Elder Schultz Delivered Lecture

One item missed last week was an account of a lecture at the North Side Christian Church, by Elder W. A. Schultz, a man of the ministry, who has spent a number of years in Merkel.

His subject as announced was: "The Catholic Church and Mexico."

The speaker first confined himself to the resources of Mexico, showing that in peaceful times this country produced far more than enough of minerals, oils and agricultural products than her people consumed. He emphasized the fact that the country was abundantly blessed by mother nature and that her troubles lay not here, but were due to bad government.

The history of Mexico was then reviewed by him from the time of which we have no record down to the present, vividly presenting the oppression imposed upon these people by the Spanish government and the Roman Catholic Church. The various rebellions were briefly touched on. In no uncertain terms did he saddle the responsibility for the poverty and ignorance of Mexico upon the priests of the Roman Church. In conclusion, he stated that the Roman Church was the "most complete, most gigantic grafting machine which had ever been invented in the world."

The speaker was very much opposed to intervention on the part of the United States. In both speech and manner he showed that he was deeply interested in the people of our sister republic and possessed a desire to help them.

It was an instructive lecture and at the close many went forward and expressed their appreciation of same.



Make your Christmas Selections at our Big
Sensational Holiday Sale

OUR BIG SALE POSITIVELY CLOSSES SATURDAY NIGHT DECEMBER THE 23RD

Make your purchases this week while you can save money. You will find in every department of our store many useful Christmas gifts suitable for every member of the family at a great saving in price



Ladies Silk and Wool Dresses

Ladies dresses \$ 6.50 for	\$ 5.45
Ladies dresses 7.50 for	6.45
Ladies dresses 10.00 for	8.65
Ladies dresses 12.50 for	9.85
Ladies dresses 15.00 for	12.45

Ladies Coat Suits

\$40.00 Wool suit	\$29.85
30.00 Wool suit	24.85
25.00 Wool suit	19.85
18.50 Wool suit	14.95

Childrens Wool Dresses

Very latest styles in serge with fancy cuffs and collars

\$8.50 Dress for	\$6.85
6.50 Dress for	5.45
4.50 Dress for	3.85

Ladies Coat Specials

We have a few extra good values in carried-over ladies coats, all on good value

One \$25.00	\$12.50	One \$15.00	\$4.95
Two 25.00	10.00	One 12.50	4.95
One 18.50	9.25	One 10.00	5.00
One 15.00	7.50	One 10.00	3.95
One 15.00	6.85	One 7.50	4.25

MEN'S CLOTHING

Our entire stock of mens clothing consisting of the well known makes, Hart Schaffner & Marx, Henry Sonneborn, all reduced.

\$25.00 Fancy Suits	\$19.95
20.00 Fancy suits	15.95
18.50 Fancy suits	14.95
15.00 Fancy suits	12.45
12.50 Fancy suits	9.95
10.00 Fancy suits	8.65

All Men's Overcoats
Specially Priced



BOYS' CLOTHING

We have a very complete line of boy clothing, all reduced during this sale

Last Chance to Buy Staples at These Low Prices

Extra Special
A good heavy smooth finish gingham in all colors for **9c**

Extra Special
Best grade gingham, consisting of Red Seal and other standard makes for **11c**

Extra Special
Standard grade calicoes in light gray and blue patterns for per yard **5c**
20 yd. **\$1.** Not over 20 yd. to a customer

Extra Special
An exceptionally good value in ladies sweaters in red and navy, regular price \$3.50, sale price **\$2.95**

Extra Special
A good 27-inch percale in all colors for per yard **7 1/2c**

Extra Special
Good heavy grey coat sweater \$1.50 grade **\$1.20** \$1.25 grade **98c**
65c grade **48c**

Extra Special
A good quality of mattress ticking for **10c**



MILLINERY

One half price on all pattern hats. Some extra bargains. Don't fail to see them

One Table

Ladies' \$4.50, \$4.00 and \$3.00 hats for **\$2.50**

One Table

Ladies' \$2.50, \$2.00 and \$1.50 hats for **\$1.00**

Last Chance to Buy Staples at These Low Prices

Extra Special
A good heavy cotton cheviot, suitable for shirts, in dark patterns, for **11c**

Extra Special
Extra heavy grade brown canton flannel, a good value **9c**

Extra Special
A good 36-inch bleached domestic free from starch, for **9c**

Extra Special
Men's heavy underwear \$1 grade **90c**
50c grade **45c**

Extra Special
A good heavy grade bleached sheeting 9-4 wide for **27 1/2c**
Not over 10 yards to a customer

Extra Special
Extra good grade cotton check, yd. **5c**
20 yards **\$1.00**
Only 20 yards to customer

Extra Special
A good first grade outing in dark and light colors, a good value for **8 1/2c**
12 yards **\$1.00**

Store of Quality

WOODROOF'S

Store of Service