



THE MERKEL MAIL



VOL. 29—NO. 48

MERKEL, TEXAS, FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 1918

4 PAGES

SAM BUTMAN FOR COMMISSIONER

To the Voters of Precinct No. 2: I take this opportunity of offering my name to the voters of Commissioners Precinct No. 2 for the office of Commissioner. I have well defined plans for a more satisfactory disposition of the road funds and believe my plans will meet with favor. I am running against no man, for I have nothing but the best of feelings for every one what is in or expects to enter the race.

For the one time, I purpose, as never has been done, to my knowledge, to apportion the funds of this precinct according to mileage and give every road overseer a square deal and put it up to him to build the very best road his allotment will provide.

Heretofore it has been the custom to spend nearly all the funds on one or two roads, while on other roads the funds have been limited to such an extent that the roads are almost impassable in many instances.

As to my fitness for the work, I can say that I must lay some claim to practicability and believe I know about as much about road building as any man in this district. I was reared in this section, am 26 years of age, and assure the voters that I will overlook no opportunity to give them to the very limit of my ability.

Whatever consideration you may give my candidacy will be highly appreciated.

SAM BUTMAN, JR.

T. R. LASSITER ANNOUNCES FOR COMMISSIONER

To the Voters of Precinct No. 2:

At the earnest solicitation of my friends I have decided to again enter the race for Commissioner of Precinct No. 2. I have endeavored at all times to do the very best I could for the roads of this entire district to the very limit of the funds apportioned to it. It has never come up to my ideal; I wish that much more money could have been provided, but as a larger tax rate might have worked a hardship on the good people of this district, I have refrained from overly urging more funds and have done the very best that could possibly be done for the money in hand.

Under the circumstances I can make no apology whatever for not accomplishing more. I have done the very best I could. No man can say that I have not been on the job at all times and that I have in any manner departed from the path of duty and honesty.

With this statement I confidently place my ambitions in the hands of my friends.

Yours to serve,
T. R. LASSITER.

J. M. GARRETT FOR PUBLIC WEAHER

To the Voters of Precinct No. 2:

Being solicited by a number of my friends to make the race for Public Weigher, I take this opportunity to announce for that office. I believe I can serve the people of this precinct to their utter satisfaction, and assure them that I never will overlook an opportunity to correctly perform the duties that the office involves.

I have a personal acquaintance with nearly every voter in this precinct, but if there are those who do not know me, I frankly refer them to any of my acquaintances as to my ability and integrity.

I have been a citizen of this precinct for over twelve years and am willing that my record here or anywhere else be fully investigated.

I respectfully solicit your consideration at the polls next Monday.
Yours to serve,
J. M. GARRETT.

Bank Officers Elected.

Stockholders of the Farmers Merchants National Bank met last Tuesday and elected the following directors: J. T. Warren, G. F. West, C. P. Warren, Henry James and T. A. Johnson.

The directors then met and elected the following officers: J. T. Warren, Pres., G. F. West and Henry James, Vice pres., T. A. Johnson Cashier, Will Merritt, assistant cashier, J. T. Howard and Booth Warren bookkeepers; DeVerle Johnson collection clerk.

A semi annual Divident of ten per cent was declared.

Christmas Program Rendered

Christmas Eve a good sized crowd gathered at the Methodist Church when the little ones of the Primary Department rendered a most delightful program they had prepared under the instruction of Mrs. Ellis Beene.

The tree and Santa Clause were greatly enjoyed by the little ones.

A Wholesome bag of home made candy and pop corn balls, which was made by their teachers, also a big red apple, was given to each child.

The same treat was given to thirty children outside of the Sunday School.

Rev. Owen Resigns.

At the 11 o'clock service last Sunday morning, Rev. L. B. Owen placed his resignation before his congregation to take effect on February 1. In a few well chosen words, the pastor spoke touchingly of his connection with the church for nearly three years. He will go from here to Petrolia, where he expects to engage in a larger field of usefulness. The church has made no plans for the future.

A BAD MISTAKE

A party came to Merkel the past week and purchased his limit of groceries from nearly every house in Merkel. If he only knew it he is defying the government. Some of these days he need not be surprised if an officer drives up and looks into his store of provisions. Likely a part will be confiscated and he will be looked upon and watched as an enemy to his country.

High Priced Cotton

E. W. Perminter sold 64 bales last Tuesday morning at 30 1/2 cents a pound. He predicted that the market would still increase.

A little later G. M. Sharp sold 17 bales at 30-5-16 cents a lb.

Advertised Letters.

Atkins, Jno.
Mozel, Hawker.
Page, Willie.
Patterson, Bob.
Quells, R.
Pocker, Idfill.
Pruitt, Cora
Smith, Lewis
Vasquez, Gonsales

These letters will be sent to Sent to dead letter office Jan. 23
H. C. Williams, Postmaster, Merkel, Texas.

The services of the janitor for the cemetery has been dispensed with for the present. It is likely that he will be used for part of the time, and in addition will be given the grave digging. It is understood that he will do work for 20 or 25 cents an hour and those needing yard work done know the character of the work he will perform. We are sorry that he could not be maintained in regular service and really believe that an effort to raise funds to keep him there would meet with an instant response. Those who have loved ones in the city of the dead surely must appreciate the work that has been done.

Miss Selena Teaff has accepted a position as teacher in New Mexico and left the past week for that place.

CLASSIFIED ADS

All ads in this department will be 1 cent per word for each time

STEAM VULCANIZING—Modern equipment, experienced, work guaranteed. Location in building with Henry Rose, E. B. Robbins.

my Laundry Agency is now at the Sanders Drug Store.
Warren McSpadden

FOR RENT—Have two farms for rent to parties that can furnish themselves. S. F. Haynes.

WANTED HANDS—To pull cotton bolls. S. F. Haynes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUR RATES

For District offices \$8.00
For County offices 8.00
For Precinct offices 6.00
For City offices 3.00
Subscription price, 1 year 1.00
Always Cash in Advance.

For County Clerk:
H. Holland Teaff.
Henry R. Hicks.
For Sheriff:
J. T. Dodson.
For County Treasurer:
Austin Fitts.
For Commissioner, Precinct 2:
J. M. Toombs.
T. R. Lassiter.
Sam Butman, Jr.
For Public Weigher at Merkel:
J. M. Garrett.
H. M. Mayfield.

Buryl Scott had a couple of hams stolen last Saturday evening. He says he will fight the thief who stole them to the end of the row. Moreover Saturday was a meatless day and the authorities are hot on the trail of the thief.

MULBERRY NEWS

Nothing happens out in this neighborhood ever—Rip Van Winkle had nothing on us. However if you would care for the items of our faint and infrequent activities I will try to send them in from time to time. The Mail is getting more "newsy" all the time and I would be glad to do any thing I can to help out.

Mrs. George Geiger and children of Colorado City spent the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Moore.

Leslie Wells of Camp Bowie visited relatives and friends in this vicinity recently.

Misses Frankie and Maggie Lee Chacy spent Christmas with friends n Clyde.

A family gathering in honor of Smith and Leland Martin of the Great Lakes Naval Training Station was held at the residence of their brother, Mr. and Mrs. S. D. Martin, New Years Day. Those present were:

Mrs. D. W. Martin, Mrs. Mattie Warren, Miss Omega Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Aron Horton, Mr. and Mrs. B. N. Billingsley, Mr. and Mrs. Will Moore, the honorers and host and hostess.
Agenara good time was reported.

Miss Myrtle Rogers of Clyde, visited relatives and friends in this vicinity the past week.

Aron Horton had the misfortune to lose a fine horse one day last week.

Mr and Mrs. John Hancock, of Abilene spent Friday night with their cousins, Misses Maggie Lee and Frankie Chancy.

Ralph Golightly, who has been in Polo Pinto Co. for some time has returned home.

Miss Intha Bird of Abilene spent Tuesday night with her brother, W. T. Bird.

J. D. Daniel, who sold his farm some time ago has bought the Matthew place west of Stith.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Moore entertained a number of relatives to dinner Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Woodard, of Okla., are visiting their cousins the Misses Chancy.

JUANITA

LOST—Between Abilene and Merkel 30X3 1/2 Auto casing and rim, pumped ready for use. Return to W. E. Lowe and get reward.

SERVICE—Durham male at Southside Livery Barn. R. L. Bland.

FOR RENT—Choice business building, 50x65 feet; rent reasonable, on best business street Full details at Merkel Mail office.

IN TROUBLE

We go to press leaving out several valuable letters. They will appear next week in our Thrift War Stamp issue. Our linotype has been out of commission for 10 days causing all the trouble. Bear with us, please.

Bank Stockholders Meet.

The stockholders of the Farmers State Bank met January 8 and re-elected the same board of directors then met and named the same officers for another year. The business of the bank, considering the conditions, has been entirely satisfactory the past year. The usual semi-annual dividend was declared recently.

Miss Blanche Walker, a former Missionary from China, spoke at the Baptist Church Wednesday evening to a crowded house. Miss Walker is well known in this community, and when word was passed out that she was in our city, her many friends flocked out to hear her.

Miss Walker will again enter the field and on the 5th day of March will set sail for China. Miss Walker is a most pleasant speaker, and all who were so fortunate to hear her will never forget her pleadings for the foreign land. The congregation pledged itself to pray for her in that land of darkness. She left Thursday morning for Abilene.

P. L. McCleary has completed erection of Riney school building, and school started there last Monday. The building cost about \$2000 and is thoroughly modern. No community can boast of better buildings in the rural district than can the Merkel country.

The patrons of the Riney school met December 26 and had a log rolling, and clearing away the debris and trees necessary to beautify the grounds of their new school building. This building is said to be the best frame school building in this section.

H. B. Strode, cashier at the depot for nearly two years, left last Tuesday night for San Antonio to take examination for the aviation corps. There is little doubt of his passing. While he goes in a good cause, we are sorry to see him leave. Since coming to Merkel he has won a reputation for sterling qualities that have endeared him to the hearts of the people. We wish him well in doing his patriotic duty.

The merchants, in conformity to food regulations, will sell not more than 100 pounds of flour to the customer. This is done to keep the market normal. There might be a disposition to hoard flour, and many parties have already asked for as much as 1000 pounds at a time. This is a splendid movement on the part of the merchants and everybody ought to cooperate with them.

Miss Gladys Bell returned Friday night after visiting two weeks with relatives and friends in Dallas and Fort Worth. She reports the time of her life.

UNION RIDGE

The winds blow and the sand decends but we have no rain. But all of the old prophets say we will have rain at the end of this drouth.

A baby girl arrived at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jno L. Williams last Tuesday. Mother and baby are reported doing well.

School began last Wednesday with a small increase of attendance. But Sunday afternoon the Doctor came to the principals home and said, "You must not leave here until I give you authority to leave." He found that Mary Lillie the baby of Mr and Mrs. Chas. Young has the Scarlet fever. The baby is doing nicely and if no complications arise will be well in a few days.

The young people of the community enjoyed a singing at Mr. and Mrs. Bynum's last Sunday.

We are indeed sorry to note that Mr. Joe Douglas has decided it will be to his best interest to not go to school anymore. We sincerely hope he will change his mind and come back to school. It is a sorrow indeed to witness a young man cutting loose from an opportunity to gain an education.

Mr. R. S. Cole has decided it will not rain soon, so he will leave for another place to work.

The trustees have postponed school until the quarantine is lifted from the principal.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Harris of Merkel visited Mr. and Mrs. Arch Harris Saturday and Sunday.

Mr. J. R. Pee had the misfortune of having a young calf killed by his dog Sunday afternoon. Monday morning Kenneth dug two graves after the dog died from a premeditated accidental shot.

Miss Mamie McNeas spent Saturday and Sunday with parents in Merkel.

Mr. D. I. Shelton is looking after an immigrant car for C. W. Young who is moving to Okla. Mr. Shelton will visit relatives while in Oklahoma.

Mr. Pike has moved his windmill to another well on his place. The first well does not furnish enough water. Mr. J. M. Dunn's boys, who are good mechanics assisted in moving the mill.

J. W. Gafford left last Monday for his old home at Centrolia, Mo. He will be gone a week or two, until he gets his farm and feed business attended to.

Miss Edith Brown left Wednesday morning for Abilene to enter the Business College.

J. M. TOOMBS ANNOUNCES

J. M. Toombs, who has been cotton weigher in Merkel for the past four years, has announced as a candidate for Commissioner of Precinct No. 2. Mr. Toombs has filled his position with credit, is well known throughout the district and is universally popular. He feels that if the voters have appreciated his services in the past they will feel inclined to favor his candidacy for further political favors. He places his ambitions in the hands of his friends and will confidently abide the results. He is an old timer in this section, having lived in Taylor County twenty-two years. He has achieved a record of devotion to duty, as his friends well know, and doubtless will make a strong race.

T. R. LASSITER IN RACE

T. R. Lassiter has announced his candidacy for re-election to the office of Commissioner of Precinct No. 2. Mr. Lassiter has served in this capacity here, being our present commissioner, and had years of similar experience years ago before coming to this part of the State. He is a man of integrity, loved and respected for his high ideals of human endeavor. He has been a faithful servant of the people of this district. More can hardly be said of him, as he is probably among the best known men in all this section of country.

FOR PUBLIC WEAHER

J. M. Garrett announces for the office of Public Weigher. Mr. Garrett ran a mighty close race for this office once before and is known all over this district. He has long been a resident of this precinct and in all of his dealings he has a splendid reputation for honesty of purpose and practice.

Mr. Garrett is amply qualified to fill the position to which he aspires.

Lloyd Hartley, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. K. Hartley of Plainview and Joe Hartley, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Hartley, near here enlisted in the navy and left Wednesday for the Great Lakes Naval Training Station. The boys are cousins. They have been in Wayland College and would have graduated this year. Joe was president of the senior class.

Tom Toombs Jr. and Mrs. J. R. Toombs visited in Abilene Wednesday.

Magazine Club Bargains

SEND in your cash renewal to our paper now and you can have your choice of any of these splendid magazine clubs at the special prices shown below.

This offer is open to both old and new subscribers. If you are already a subscriber to any of these magazines, your subscription will be extended one year from date of expiration.

Club A. Our Paper . . . \$1.00 McCall's Magazine .75 Today's Housewife .75	Club B. Our Paper . . . \$1.00 Today's Housewife .75 Women's World . . .50	Club C. Our Paper . . . \$1.00 Women's World . . .50 Farm & Fireside . . .25	Club D. Our Paper . . . \$1.00 Today's Housewife .75 Home Life35
Club E. Our Paper . . . \$1.00 Today's Housewife .75 Farm & Fireside . . .25	Club F. Our Paper . . . \$1.00 Women's World . . .50 Home Life35	Club G. Our Paper . . . \$1.00 People's Home Journal .75 Women's World . . .50	Club H. Our Paper . . . \$1.00 McCall's Magazine .75 Farm & Fireside . . .25 Home Life35

PROMPT ACTION NECESSARY
We may be compelled to withdraw this offer in the near future. Magazine prices are going higher. Send in your order NOW and be safe.

GOOD LITERATURE IS ESSENTIAL IN EVERY HOME

Statement of Condition
The Farmers State Bank
 Merkel, Texas
 At Close of Business Dec. 31, 1917

RESOURCES	
Loans	\$241,224.22
Banking House	9,400.00
Furniture and Fixtures ..	3,950.00
Liberty Bonds and Thrift	
Stamps	2,817.11
Interest in Guar. Fund ..	3,003.57
CASH & EXCHANGE	128,507.98
Total	\$388,902.88
LIABILITIES	
Capital Stock	\$ 35,000.00
Surplus Fund and Profits	
(Earned)	33,697.66
DEPOSITS	320,205.22
Total	\$388,902.88

The above statement is correct.
 R. O. ANDERSON, Cashier.

Quarterly Conference Meets.

Last Tuesday evening the First Quarterly Conference of Merkel station and of Abilene district was held in the Merkel Methodist church. Rev. O. F. Sensabaugh, presiding elder of Abilene District, was present and presided at the business session. Also there was present Dr. J. G. Miller, pastor of First Methodist Church, and Dr. J. T. McClure of St. Pauls Methodist Church, both of Abilene.

Besides the business nature of the occasion, the ladies of the church provided a luncheon for the occasion and the above mentioned gentlemen made appropriate addresses. A large crowd was present and an enjoyable time was had.

The church has as fine class of laymen as can be found in the West. They are optimistic to the limit. They see the silver lining to the cloud. They have a big souled class of women who are the salt of the church. They are bringing things to pass.

The pastor of the church here has been in bed with lagrippe

Whenever You Need a General Tonic Take Grove's.

The Old Standard Grove's Tasteless chill Tonic is equally valuable as a General Tonic because it contains the well known tonic properties of QUININE and IRON. It acts on the Liver, Drives out Malaria, Enriches the Blood and Builds up the Whole System. 60 cents.

THE NATIONAL FARM LOAN ASSOCIATION

Will loan you money to buy you a home or to take up indebtedness. Rate 5 1/2 per cent interest and 1 per cent to apply to the principal is paid Semiannually. This amount pays both principal and interest and liquidates the entire debt in 36 years. If your land is in Taylor County you can get a loan here. The United States Government desires that every Farmer own his home and has established the Federal Land Bank for that purpose. Do not wait until your paper is due before you apply for a loan. See or write W. C. Lasley at Buffalo Gap, Texas. —Adv. 4t3c.

nearly a week. He could not be in his pulpit last Sunday, but it was filled by other preachers. The church is prospering, there having been about 30 additions since the present pastor took charge, only a short time ago. The financial system of the church is quite up-to-date.

Keeps Patriotism Alive.

Mrs. H. T. Merritt has just completed and hoisted the third flag since the war started. She says she intends to keep it flying as long as the war lasts. She now claims the distinction of being the only one in Merkel performing this character of patriotism. It wouldn't be a bad idea if more of our people would follow her example.

Boschee's German Syrup.

will quiet your cough, soothe the inflammation of a sore throat and lungs, stop irritation in the bronchial tubes, insuring a good night's rest, free from coughing and with easy expectoration in the morning. Made and sold in America for fifty-two years. A wonderful prescription, assisting nature in building up your general health and throwing off the disease. Especially useful in lung trouble, asthma, croup, bronchitis, etc. For sale by Grimes Drug Store. 30 and 90 cent bottles.

C. W. Roberts, C. P. A. and Auditor

Special attention given War Tax matters in all its phases. Have had many years training. Rev. H. A. Brooks of Gorman State evangelist for the Church of God preached at the Methodist Church last Sunday night. Rev. Brooks is a man of wide experience having traveled in the Holy Land and other points of world wide interest.

For Indigestion, Constipation or Biliousness

Just try one 50-cent bottle of LAX-FOS WITH PEPSIN. A Liquid Digestive Laxative pleasant to take. Made and recommended to the public by Paris Medicine Co., manufacturers of Laxative Bromo Quinine and Grove's Tasteless chill Tonic.

CONDENSED STATEMENT

Farmers & Merchants NATIONAL BANK

MERKEL, TEXAS

At Close of Business December 31, 1917

RESOURCES

Loans	\$237,284.03
U. S. Liberty Bonds	2,050.00
U. S. Bonds—par	11,250.00
Stock in Federal Reserve Bank	1,500.00
Five Per Cent Redemption Fund	312.50
Furniture and Fixtures	3,600.00
Other Real Estate owned	5,700.00
CASH AND EXCHANGE	149,881.32
Total	\$411,577.85

LIABILITIES

Capital Stock	\$ 25,000.00
Surplus and Profits	34,916.92
Circulation	6,250.00
Bills Payable	None
Rediscounts	None
Other Borrowed Money	None
DEPOSITS	345,410.93
Total	\$411,577.85

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

J. T. Warren G. F. WEST C. P. Warren
 Henry James Thos. Johnson

The Merkel Mail

Published Every Friday Morning by THE MERKEL MAIL PRINTING COMPANY, INC. WALTER JACKSON, Editor and Manager

SUBSCRIPTION \$1.00 PER YEAR

TELEPHONE No. 61

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

H. M. MAYFIELD FOR PUBLIC WEIGHER

As an aspirant for the position of Public Weigher, H. M. Mayfield has cast his hat into the ring. Mr. Mayfield is one of our honored citizens, worthy of the consideration of every voter in the precinct. His experience fits him well for the position to which he aspires.

SAM BUTMAN IN RACE

Sam Butman, Jr., has announced for Commissioner of this precinct. Sam is a competent, practical, ambitious young fellow and his candidacy is deserving of the consideration of the voters of this precinct. Few young men are better known, having been reared in this section and known far and near for his strict adherence to what he believes to be right. He expects to canvas the district thoroughly before the date of the primary.

HENRY HICKS FOR COUNTY CLERK

At the behest of a long standing ambition, Henry R. Hicks has announced as a candidate for County Clerk. Mr. Hicks has been a resident of this section of the country for a number of years and is well known throughout this part of the country. He is a man with a clean record, deserving of the consideration of the voters of the county. He is losing no time in meeting every one personally.

Honorable, conscientious, competent, he is willing to abide the judgment of the voters.

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, Inc.

The Brown D. G. Comp'ny

REDUCED PRICES

On Winter Goods

5, 10, 15 & 20 percent

Will be Your Gain

Now is the time to buy a Cloak, Suit

Over Coat and Blanket

We only handle Standard Goods

The Brown D. G. Co.

LOCAL NEWS

Mr and Mrs. Rush Buford are the proud parents of a fine baby girl.

Miss Lillian Watts left for Abilene Tuesday where she will enter Draughtons Business College.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Butman and family of Mulberry Canyon ate old fashion Christmas dinner with Misses Caroutte.

Henry Rose is sporting a new Dodge. He says it is a hummer. Mrs. Rose, he says, keeps the key, and will not let him use it much. We don't blame her.

The postmaster is daily receiving market reports of grain and hay sales. These reports are posted daily on the bulletin hook in the lobby and may be seen daily by those interested.

Mr and Mrs. D. S. Whitlow and two children, of Temple, who have been visiting Mrs. Whitlow's parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Boney, and brother, W. O. Boney and family, returned to their home a few days since.

C. E. Cameron, local manager of the ice and light plant at Sweetwater, was down and spent Sunday at the bedside of his father, Rev. C. S. Cameron, who has been sick, but is now convalescing.

Dr. J. T. Pue left a few days ago for Brownwood where he will practice his profession. Mrs. Pue and the children will remain here until school is out. It is possible that they will not leave at all.

DeVerle Johnson returned from Dallas the past week. He left here recently to accept a position with the City National Bank of that place. A sudden attack of asthma necessitated his return to Merkel. Physicians advised him that it was best for his health to return to a higher altitude. He is again with the Farmers & Merchants National Bank.



The Ideal Beverage with hot or cold dishes

Lobster Pickles Oysters Swiss Cheese Goulash Chile-Con-Carne Sardines Sausage Spaghetti Swiss Cheese Raviola

Bevo
A BEVERAGE

This distinctively new creation in soft drinks is sparkling—snappy—delicious. It is healthful with the wholesomeness of the choicest cereals—appetizing with the bouquet and agreeable bitter tang which only choice hops can impart. It is sure to "hit the spot"—sure to encounter no prejudices. **Bevo—the all-year-round soft drink**

Guard Against Substitutes
have the bottle opened in your presence, first seeing that the seal has not been broken, and that the crown top bears the Fox. Bevo is sold in bottles only—and is bottled exclusively by **ANHEUSER-BUSCH ST. LOUIS**

WALKER-SMITH CO.
Wholesale Dealers BROWNWOOD, TEXAS

The Double Standard Oil and Gas Company

CAPITAL STOCK \$100,000.00

All Common Stock, Full Paid, Non-Assessable

\$100.00 INVESTED IN OIL HAS PAID \$40,000.00 OR MORE, AND IT MAY DO SO HERE

Our holdings are in Wyoming, Oklahoma, Kansas, Kentucky, Colorado, Texas, where wells produce as high as 10,000 barrels daily. One 100-barrel well will pay \$72,000.00 a year, which would enable us to pay 40 per cent dividends, as 50 per cent of net profits are set aside for dividends to stockholders.

We are selling stock to increase holdings, drill more wells and pay dividends. 10c a share for small block of stock. Time payments if desired. Figure what it means should it advance to \$1.00 or \$10.00 a share, as others have done. Buy now before the advance. We have money to drill and expect the drills to be going when you read this.

GENERAL OFFICES
830 Seventh Street
Boston Building
Denver, Colorado

GEO. R. MARKEY President
WM. F. REYNOLDS Secretary

Repairs to Ford Cars

Bring us your crippled Fords
We guarantee a quick and sure cure
Charges Reasonable

The Ford Garage :: **Ira Armstrong, Prop.**

Are Your Lungs Strong?

Do colds go down to your throat? Are your bronchial tubes easily affected? Above all, do colds settle on your chest? Then your lungs may not be as strong as you expected—consumption often follows.

Good Physicians Everywhere Prescribe

SCOTT'S EMULSION
Because its Pure Cod Liver Oil is Famous

for strengthening delicate throats and weak lungs while its glycerine soothes the tender linings and alleviates the cough.

Start on **Scott's Emulsion** today—it is Nature's building-food without drugs or alcohol.

The imported Norwegian cod liver oil used in **Scott's Emulsion** is now refined in our own American laboratories which guarantees it free from impurities.

Scott & Bowne, Bloomfield, N. J.

INTERNAL REVENUE OFFICER TO VISIT TAYLOR COUNTY

H. G. Walker of office of the Collector of Internal Revenue, Third District of Texas, writes:

In a communication received by this paper, Collector of Internal Revenue A. S. Walker, announces that a federal income tax officer will be sent into this county on a date to be announced later and will remain a reasonable length of time. He will have his office at some convenient place, and will be there every day during his stay here ready and willing to help persons subject to the income tax make out their returns without any cost to them for his services.

How many income-tax payers will there be in this county? If you can guess how many married persons living with wife or husband will have net incomes of \$2,000 or over and how many unmarried persons will have net incomes of \$1,000 or over this year, then you know.

Returns of incomes for the year 1917 must be made out on forms provided for the purpose before March 1, 1918. Because a good many people don't understand the law and won't know how to make out their returns the government is sending this officer to do it for them. But the duty is on the taxpayer to make himself known to the government. If he doesn't make return as required before March 1 he may have to pay a penalty ranging from \$20.00 to \$1,000.00, pay a fine or go to jail. So if you don't want to take chances on going to jail, you had better call on the income tax man. If you are not sure about being subject to the tax, better ask him and make sure. Whether you see the income tax man or not, you must make return if subject to tax.

The Collector suggests that everybody start figuring up now his income and expenses so as to be ready with the figures when the officer arrives. Expenses, however, don't mean family expenses, money used to pay off the principal of a debt, new machinery, buildings, or anything like that. They mean what you spend in making your money—interest, taxes paid, hired help, seed, stock bought for feeding, rent, (except for your dwelling), etc. Income includes about every dollar you get.

How's This?

We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Medicine.

Hall's Catarrh Medicine has been taken by catarrh sufferers for the past thirty-five years, and has become known as the most reliable remedy for Catarrh. Hall's Catarrh Medicine acts thru the Blood on the Mucous surfaces, expelling the Poison from the Blood and healing the diseased portions.

After you have taken Hall's Catarrh Medicine for a short time you will see a great improvement in your general health. Start taking Hall's Catarrh Medicine at once and get rid of catarrh. Send for testimonials, free.

F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, Ohio.
Sold by all Druggists, Etc.

A GREAT NEW BOOK

There have been many new books of sermons, but Dr. George W. Truett's new volume, "A Quest for Souls," which was compiled and edited by Dr. J. B. Cranfill, is unique in sermonic literature. Last summer, Dr. Truett, who is recognized as one of the greatest preachers in the world, conducted a revival meeting at Fort Worth, which was attended by thousands, and in which hundreds were converted. This book of sermons contains a verbatim shorthand report of the twenty-four sermons he preached and all the prayers he offered in that meeting, together with the preliminary remarks and exhortations made by this remarkable preacher.

The price of the book is \$1.50, post-paid, and it can be had from **THE TEXAS BAPTIST BOOK HOUSE, 1816 MAIN STREET, DALLAS, TEXAS.**

This Book House carries a large line of books covering all subjects and advertises that it will furnish any book published at the publisher's price. 44-1p

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

To the party who is able to join the Red Cross and has not done so, we can but pity. He is a marked man before his fellowmen. There are reasons why he is looked upon with suspicion. It is known that no real German sympathizer will join such an organization, and further it is known that there is no better test of a man's loyalty to his country. Every right thinking American citizen will in the end become a member of the great organization of mercy.

Private Arthur W. Clark from this city who is now in training at Camp Travis, Texas, has been transferred from Co. 51, 165 Depot Brigade to the Medical Department of the 315 Field Signal Battalion.

Miss Agnes Lassiter, who is attending business college at Abilene, spent the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. R. Lassiter.

Plenty brand and shorts at G. M. Shraps.

STITH RED CROSS WORK

The Stith Red Cross Auxiliary perfected organization the third Sunday in December. When the Christmas drive ended the auxiliary had 110 members. The headquarters for the this auxiliary is at Anson. The following officers were elected: G. L. Baker, chairman; Miss Nora Kelso, secretary; Mrs. Jack Cannon, chairman of the workers committee; Mrs. C. R. Rogers, chairman of the membership committee.

The auxiliary will meet regularly in the Odd Fellows hall. The people are very enthusiastic over the matter, and practically every one is a member. They expect to turn out a good deal of work. We are glad the people all over the Merkel country are taking such active part in the splendid work of helping those at the front.

To Cure a Cold in One Day.

Take LAXATIVE BROMO Quinine. It stops the Cough and Headache and works off the Cold. Druggists refund money if it fails to cure. E. W. GROVE'S signature on each box. 30c.

CARD OF THANKS

We wish to express our thanks to our many friends who in any way contributed to our aid and for all words of comfort and sympathy, all tokens of love extended us during the sickness and at the time of death of our sister, Mrs. Mary Watson. Especially do we thank those who so faithfully ministered to her in her last hours, the faithful physician and pastor whose visits and words of comfort she so much enjoyed. May Heaven's richest blessings attend each of you.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe L. Harris.

Will Bond returned Saturday night from Tucson, Ariz., where he has been employed in copper mining for the past six months. He has not decided whether he will remain here or not.

Cold Pressed cake at G. M. Sharp's.

Pern to Mr. and Mrs. Jno L. Williams a fine baby girl.

Cold pressed cake at Bob Martin's.

Frank Hail, of Shiloh, has been real sick, but at last report was improving.

Drives Out Malaria, Builds Up System

The Old Standard general strengthening tonic, GROVE'S TASTELESS CHILL TONIC, drives out Malaria, enriches the blood, and builds up the system. A true tonic. For adults and children. 50c

BUY GOOD COTTON SEED

It is a very important proposition for the coming crop to consider most carefully the selection of the cotton seed that is to be planted. There are a number of early producing seed known in the cotton world as "Half and Half" that is absolutely unmerchantable and untenable on any contract in the world.

A vigorous campaign was started two years ago against "Half and Half" variety, as it had proved very disastrous to any territory that had planted it. The minute that it became known to the world the "Half and Half" cotton had been planed in certain territories, it was absolutely impossible to sell that territory's cotton for within 1/2¢ to 2¢ a pound of the better staple varieties. This penalty would naturally make anyone realize that it would be foolish to plant the "Half and Half" variety, as it would cost the country hundreds of thousands of dollars in loss of price on account of having that very inferior variety which is worthless to 90% of the spindles of the world, as it is absolutely impossible to adjust spindles to that short a staple.

The value of good staple cotton has been well demonstrated this year, that it pays to plant it regardless of the cost of price of the seed, and it is very important to the whole Western country to buy the very best seed obtainable of the variety known as the East Texas or North Texas staple. In other words, it would be foolish to try to plant long staples because that requires a low climate and lots of moisture. There is lots of seed in North Texas would be adapted to this country, and the value of the staple

Why Wear Dirty, Dingy CLOTHES

Or throw away garments that are almost good.
Try having them Cleaned and Mended.

Mrs. C. L. Cash
At the Anchor Mercantile Co. PHONE 124

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Tablets, Pencils, Stationery
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MERKEL DRUG COMP'NY

Fire and Stovewood -- COAL --

DAWSON EGG and TEXAS COALS
All Coal orders C. O. D.

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FIGARO--Reliable Liquid Smoke

For Curing Meat

Satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded

We pay highest prices for Country Produce

E. L. ROGERS

Merkel Milling Co.

Wants to figure with you on Corn, Crushed Corn and Crushing Corn. Meal and whole grain flour for sale. Having special feed analyzed and will be on the market next week. Scrap iron 45 cents a hundred, received at Merkel and Trent until Jan. 20

Have Purchased Filling Station

From W. E. Britain and will still handle Texas Company Products.

Will appreciate your continued patronage

Prompt and courteous treatment

GEORGE WOODRUM

Specialty in Farm Loans

Inspector on the ground—Quick Service

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W. O. BONEY West of Farmers State Bank

would increase the selling price of cotton from \$5.00 to \$15.00 a bale, so it is quite evident that this good staple will be worth so much to the country that it would pay to handle it at any price.

It is quite important this is not overlooked in considering the planting of the next crop, and steps ought to be taken immediately to obtain the very best seed possible with a view of raising the standard of West Texas cotton instead of lowering it much worse than it has been this year.

It has been considered by Eastern and Southern Mills as absolutely impossible to get any cottons from Western Texas that is not almost valueless. This is brought about by the fact that they consider that the staple was worthless so it is evident that it is going to be absolutely necessary to raise the standard of the staple by buying good seed and the urgent necessity of same should be given most careful thought.

Geo. Finberg, Abilene Tex.



Mrs. Walter Jackson, Editor

Miss Loucile Edwards gave a most delightful entertainment at her home on Elm St., on the night of December 26. The home was beautifully decorated with the national colors, and mistletoe was hanging so as to make it more exciting.

Progressive 42 was the enjoyment of the evening, while later on they played the old games. Mrs. Edwards and Miss Elsie Sharp rendered a number of musical selections.

The following were present: Misses Hazel Dry, Lola Armstrong, Evelyn Hamm, Mary Eula Sears, Mildred Sanders, Lillie Pratt Sears, Maurine Cobb, Deci Sharp, Katherine Pettitt, of Cisco, Hazel Harkrider and hostess, Messrs Milton Pate, Harry Merritt, George Groene, Kenneth Sharp, Cecil Newberry, Newton Cobb and Ira Burns.

Hot chocolate and sandwiches were served. All report a most delightful time.

Celebrates Tenth Birthday

Mrs. Russell entertained in honor of her daughter, Christine's tenth birthday, on last Saturday at her home. Many beautiful gifts were received. Those enjoying the occasion were:

Misses Emma Toombs, Nina Bell Hand, Jewel Russell, Lola Dennis, Hellen Compton, Phala Diltz, Geraldine Cook, Anna Lou Russell and hostess. Refreshments of cake and chocolate were served.

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Hours From 6 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
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And Sewing Machines.
Also Sells Tombstones.
All Work Guaranteed
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Health About Gone

Many thousands of women suffering from womanly trouble, have been benefited by the use of Cardui, the woman's tonic, according to letters we receive, similar to this one from Mrs. Z. V. Spell, of Hayne, N. C. "I could not stand on my feet, and just suffered terribly," she says. "As my suffering was so great, and he had tried other remedies, Dr. — had us get Cardui. . . I began improving, and it cured me. I know, and my doctor knows, what Cardui did for me, for my nerves and health were about gone."

TAKE

CARDUI

The Woman's Tonic

She writes further: "I am in splendid health . . . can do my work. I feel I owe it to Cardui, for I was in dreadful condition." If you are nervous, run-down and weak, or suffer from headache, backache, etc., every month, try Cardui. Thousands of women praise this medicine for the good it has done them, and many physicians who have used Cardui successfully with their women patients, for years, endorse this medicine. Think what it means to be in splendid health, like Mrs. Spell. Give Cardui a trial.

All Druggists

J 72

JUNIOR B.Y. P. U. Program.

The Union has changed their time of meeting to 4 o'clock. Song, Prayer, Song. Subject. The Divided Kingdom.

Rehoboam, Lola Dennis. Jeroboam, Gladys Pue. Ahab and Jezebel, Leoel Merritt.

Hezekiah, Junita Barrow. Josiah, Jessie Pilcher. The Lost King, Godie Richie. Sword Drill, Mrs. Jackson. Memory Verses by each one.

Epworth League Program
Leader, Miss Mamie McNeese. Topic, The Curse of Cowardice Song.

Scripture Reading, Leader. Song, Prayer. Discussion by Leader. Meeting Criticism, Miss Vivian Hutcheson.

Cong. Johnnie Mann. The Test, Miss Vida McNeese. Song, Johnnie Mann. Warning, Miss Lorena Frazier.

The Cure, Claude Riney. Song, Miscellaneous, Song.

A Revival in Progress. Services are being held each evening at the Church of Christ, beginning at 7:30. Elder Jno. M. Rice of Merkel is doing the preaching.

The teachers training class at the Merkel Baptist Church started off nicely last Monday night with 17 in attendance. It is expected that the number will be increased to 25 by next Monday night. At present the class is studying Old Testament history.

My Laundry Agency is now at the Saunders Drug Store. Warren MsSpadden.

Any one wanting good home made quilts, call on Mrs. Dr. Williams. 11t2p.

HENRY R. HICKS

Candidate for County Clerk

TO THE VOTERS OF TAYLOR COUNTY:

As the time is rapidly approaching when you will be called upon to select your public servants for another term, I feel that it is fitting that I take this occasion to acquaint you with my cheerished ambitions. I announce for the office of County Clerk of Taylor County in the full confidence that I can render a public service. My success lies in your hands and I await your disposition at the polls with the greatest interest.

I have been a resident of Taylor County over twelve years, and during this time my experience has covered office work in the nature of bookkeeping, clerking and assessing taxes, with the exception of about two years engaged in farming. Previous to coming to this county I had seven years' experience in teaching school under a state certificate. My experience has been of such a nature as to fully acquaint me with the public, and few men are in position to understand better how to serve in places of this kind.

As to my standing, I have no hesitancy in referring to any of my acquaintances. It has always been the policy of my life to be sober, industrious and of some help to my fellowmen, ever standing for the moral uplift of the community and for Christian principles.

I have always been a democrat, voting the ticket straight and continuously. I have never asked my fellows for an office, have smothered my ambitions for these many years, and now after having been a taxpayer for some twenty-nine years, I present my name to you, believing that when we meet and talk the matter over, you will favor the maturity of my life as a proper candidate for the place to which I aspire.

Trusting that I may be favored with a due consideration by you, I am

Yours to serve

HENRY R. HICKS

Merkel, Texas.

REGULAR TIME For Grocery Deliveries ESTABLISHED

In order to cope with the situation which the war demands and to assist in conserving the resources of the country to the greatest advantage, it is a well known and important fact that the delivery system practiced by the grocerymen of Merkel is defective, failing to serve the greatest economy, and it has been thought wise to adopt a system which will treat all alike and make hardships on none, therefore

Beginning Monday, January 14, 1918
All Grocery Orders Taken up to 10 o'clock a. m. will be delivered PROMPTLY
Orders taken after 10 a.m. will be Delivered after 4:00 p.m.

We kindly ask the co-operation of the people of Merkel in this, which we believe to be our Patriotic Duty and an effort toward Hooverizing in our expense.

Bob Martin Grocery J. T. Dennis Anchor Mercantile Co.
G. F. West Company E. L. Rogers G. M. Sharp
The Star Store Crown Hardware Co.

The above is approved by

The Merkel Commercial Club

LOCAL NEWS

Chas F. Williams spent the holidays with homefolks.

Car of oats just arrived at G. M. Sharp's.

Mrs Mammie Martin left Wednesday morning for Fort Worth where she will doubtless soon accept a position.

Cold pressed cake at Bob Martin's.

Miss Agnes Powell of Leonard, Texas, has accepted a position with the Farmers State Bank.

Bouquet flour is the best. Get it at the Crown Hardware Co.

Rob. Russell left the past week for Dallas, where he underwent a serious operation. His many friends wish him speedy recovery.

Plenty corn meal at G. M. Sharps.

Miss Mary Wilcock, of Lubbock, has returned to her home after a few weeks visit with her aunt, Mrs. J. J. Shelton.

Any one wishing Massage treatments while I am away can get same by calling on Dr. Williams. Dr. J. T. Pue. adv.

Plenty corn, oats, chops, bran and shorts at the Crown Hardware Co.

Miss Zoe West underwent an operation for appendicitis at Abilene the past week. She is doing nicely and if no complications arise, will be able to be removed home soon.

Plenty of cotton seed meal and bran on hand. Bob Martin.

The State Inspector for the rural school buildings was in Merkel last Friday and inspected the buildings recently erected in this vicinity. He stated that he found that all of them conformed to the state law. This makes it possible for all of them to get State aid.

Services for Methodist Church.

Sunday January 13, I will be in my pulpit, both at the 11 o'clock hour and at 7 o'clock.

At 11. A. M. Subject, God's high purpose, how he works in his children.

At 7. P. M. God's Saving mercies. Come. Welcome. All friends and any strangers within our gates. Come! You are welcome. C. S. Cameron, Pastor.

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If we haven't got what you want, we will get it at once.

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SANDERS
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A TEXAS WONDER.

The Texas Wonder cures Kidney and Bladder troubles, dissolves gravel, cures diabetes, weak and lame backs, rheumatism, and all irregularities of the kidneys and bladder in both men and women, regulates bladder troubles in children. If not sold by your druggist, will be sent by mail on receipt of \$1. One small bottle is two months' treatment and seldom fails to perfect a cure. Send for Texas testimonials. Dr. E. W. Hall, 2926 Olive St., St. Louis, Mo. Sold by druggists.

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Cleaning and Pressing
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