



THE MERKEL MAIL



VOL. 30—NO. 12

MERKEL, TEXAS, FRIDAY, MAY 3, 1918

8 PAGES

OUR PUBLIC SCHOOL CLOSES

School has closed. The long corridors in our splendid school building are now silent. The tread of hurrying feet no longer speak of young America and "writ and rule and rod" of the school mam are laid aside to be woven into time's dark and dusty web. The shackles are loosened, the lid is off, and "the call of the wild," with its sublime music is ringing through the multitude of young minds. It is another prominent milestone on life's journey. To some it has been a mountain peak; to others it has been a low lying valley. In some hearts the throbs of vital ambition is spurring them on to more lofty efforts; to others it only means the loosening of the shackles of thraldom releasing them from where they had no love nor sympathy. Some have departed in full anticipation of returning and gathering from the fountain of knowledge a full share of its offerings; others will never return.

The Baccalaureate Sermon.

The past week has been given fully over to the school program. The baccalaureate sermon was preached at the Methodist church last Sunday evening by Rev. J. C. Burkett, pastor of College Heights Baptist church of Abilene. His theme was one to inspire the young men and young women on towards other goals in life's great battle. A large congregation was present.

A Southern Cinderella.

Inspired in the path of duty, the Seniors desired to do their "bit" in the world's bitter struggle, so Monday night they rendered "A Southern Cinderella." The scene was laid in an old Southern aristocratic home. Myrtle Reeves played the part of Madame Charteris, an old aristocrat advanced in age and feeble. Filled with the pride of noble dignity of proud ancestry, she played her roll to the utmost perfection. Ora Bryson played well the part of Cinderella. Her natural beauty blending so strikingly with her quiet and dignified manner fitted her best for this select part. In every phase of the play she proved herself to merit the name of Charteris and thoroughly won the Madame to her heart. Essie Tucker, as Miss Rosie Winterberry, famous as a settlement worker, lent spice and touching interest to the act. Sympathy and reason and wit found in her a spokesman that fitted in with marvelous precision. Ona Fae Bland, as a little coquette, delighted the audience with her very pretty manners brought out in all her striking loveliness. Dixie Howard was just as mean as she could be in personating Katherine Hawk, an English nurse, and Edna Watts was just a little meaner as Caroline Hawk, her sister. Two girls could not have carried out these unpopular roles to better effect. Both of them were just as pretty as they could be and both were artists, for it takes an artist for sweet-tempered girls to play roles so vitally different from their natural make-up. All the above played their parts to perfection, but "Laws a mercy, honey, jis you wait until Mammy Judy Johnson comes onto the stage." This feature was reserved for Virginia Duckett. Talk about your stars, she simply "delivered the goods." So popular was the production that it is staged again for Friday night at the Cozy. The proceeds last Monday night from the crowded house netted

(Continued to page 5)

BOY SCOUTS ORGANIZED

C. C. Sellers, commissioner and scoutmaster of Abilene came up in automobile last Friday afternoon with seventy-five boy scouts. They paraded over town for some hours in the late afternoon, repairing to the Cozy at 8:30.

Mr. Sellers delivered a very interesting address, one that every parent in Merkel should have heard. He outlined first the boy's duty to God; second, their duty to the government; third, their duty to mankind. Dr. R. A. Maddox, scoutmaster of Abilene, gave a splendid talk on the Scouts. Another talk was made by Emmett Chandler also scoutmaster of Abilene, his subject being scoutdom. W. P. Mahaffey spoke on the good of Scouts. Rev. Knox of Abilene, told of many good things that can be done by the Boy Scouts and of vital necessity of the helpful co-operation of the parents. The welcome address was made by J. T. Browning.

Commissioner Sellers touched forcibly upon the respect of the Sabbath. He explained that it is very necessary that when boys were out on a hike that they arrange to get in by 12 o'clock Saturday night and under no circumstances be out on Sunday.

Uncle Bill Sheppard was appointed scoutmaster. About eighteen boys applied for membership, and since the meeting other applications have been received. A strong organization is expected here, and it is conceded by all that a very enthusiastic start has been made.

Miss Gladys Byers of Baylor College, Belton, visited Miss Geneva Brown last Sunday. She came to Abilene as a delegate to a College society at Simmons College. Her home is at Cleburne.

Get my prices before you buy your groceries. A. L. Jobe.

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 Clerk District Court
J. N. Routh
For County Judge:
E. M. Overshiner.
H. Rob Keeble.
For County Clerk:
H. Holland Teaff.
Henry R. Hicks.
J. D. Hilton
J. L. Mingus
G. R. Pain
Miss Fannie Tippet
For County Attorney:
W. E. Martin.
W. H. Sewell.
For Sheriff:
J. T. Dodson.
John Bond.
For County Treasurer:
Austin Fitts.
For Tax Collector:
G. B. Tittle.
For County Tax Assessor:
John H. Vance.
For County School Supt.
J. S. Smith.
C. E. Sims
For Commissioner, Precinct 2:
T. R. Lassiter.
Sam Butman, Jr.
J. L. Banner.
E. D. Coats.
For Public Weigher at Merkel:
J. M. Garrett.
H. M. Mayfield.
James Patterson, Jr.
W. R. Britton
Justice Peace, Precinct No 5.
W. W. Wheeler.
Jones County Candidates
County Clerk.
T. L. Lollar
For Sheriff:
T. P. (Tom) Hudson
For Tax Collector:
W. C. Cutrell.

The Banner of the World's Salvation



Provided You Do Your Share

General Haig said to his men, just before the last great German offensive: "I call upon every man to conduct himself as though the result of the battle depended upon his personal efforts alone."

No deeper or more significant message was ever delivered to men entering a life and death struggle. This was the philosophy of the Soldier—it must be the philosophy of the Civilian. It is impossible to over-emphasize the very real and deep personal responsibility of every man and woman in the great National crisis. Every American faces a lifetime of satisfaction or regret for the part that he plays in this war. Experts in figures assure us that the average American is called upon to set aside about one-fifth of his income for the use of the Government, the money to be handed over to the Government in the form of taxation or the purchase of Liberty Bonds. It is not only one-fifth of your neighbor's income, but yours, that is called for. Have you done your share?

A SOUTHERN CINDERELLA

PROGRAM

Madame Charteris, an old Aristocrat..... Myrtle Reeves
"The Pride of Seventy Years Will Not Bend"
Enid Bellamy, a Southern Cinderella..... Ora Bryson
"This Life Seems to be a Dream"
Miss Rosie Winterberry, Famous Settlement Worker. Essie Tucker
"Better Break Your Word than Break Your Heart"
Miss Johnnie Bell Randolph, a Little Coquette..... Ona Fae Bland
"Three Strings to a Bow"
Katherine Hawk, an English Nurse..... Dixie Howard
"Leave it All to Me"
Caroline Hawk, Her sisler, an Adventuress..... Edna Watts
"But if it Should be Found Out"
Mammy Judy Johnson, a Black Widow..... Virginia Duckett
"A Widow Four Times Removed"

At Opera House Friday evening at 8:30
In the interest of the Red Cross
Admission 15, 25 and 35c
Tickets on sale at Grimes

Anxious to do their "bit" the High School Seniors, with the able assistance of Mrs. J. G. Hale, are donating their efforts entirely to the Red-Cross. The play is a beautiful one, touching the aristocracy of the beloved Old South. Those who attend will be contributing to one of the army's strong arms, the Red Cross, will give encouragement to the splendid efforts of our own dear girls and will share in an entertainment well worth the time and price.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

FOR RENT—Large, cool office room for \$5.00 a month, over Woodroof-Bragg store. See the Merkel Mail. tfc.
FOR SALE—A second hand windmill. See H. L. Propst. 3t3c
ICE CREAM
Or anything else in the confectionery line at A. C. Boney's.
Land For Trade
I have a good farm of 160 acres in Red River County, also 108 on the Coast, near Brownsville. Will trade for land out here. If you want to trade see me. J. C. Mason. t2p
PIGS FOR SALE—Five each. See or phone, J. S. Hutson.
Lost—Elgin open face watch, with small leather strip attached. Finder please return to the Merkel Mail office and receive reward. J. H. Ensminger. 3t2p
Laundry Agency
I have accepted the agency for the Abilene Steam Laundry. Will call for and deliver your packages. Cash on delivery. Phone residence 149, or call the City Barber Shop. W. F. Hamblett. 3t2c
SEIL OR TRADE—For milk cow or young stock, work mare and mule. Mrs. Causseaux.
FOR SALE—Six good jersey milk cows, all fresh. Cash or good note. W. H. Stamps, Trent, Texas., Route 1. 26t3
FOR SALE—A new Oliver Typewriter. A bargain if sold at once. Herbert Patterson t2c.
FOR RENT—150 acres bedded and ready for planting, good 4-room house and plenty of water. Some pasture. F. Z. Turner, Merkel, Route 5, Box 61. 3t4p.
Varnish, paint and enamels at A. B. Barrow & Co.
TYPEWRITER RIBBONS & CARBON PAPER—At Merkel Mail office.
FORD CAR—For sale, in good condition, at a bargain. C. P. Stevens. 3tf
FOR SALE—What will you do for bacon now? Your neighbor has sold his last sow. She's gone to feed the boys in France. Buy a pig, its your only chance in Merkel Saturday, May 4th. Lee D. Williams.

A LIST OF NEW RED CROSS MEMBERS

Pribble, T. M.
Propts, H. L.
Patterson, W. F.
Porter, J. D.
Pearce, J. P.
Pate, Jno.
Perry, M. E.
Propst, Roy
Propst, Mrs. H. L.
Parker, Houston.
Patterson, E. A.
Pee, T. M.
Patterson, J. A.
Price, J. H.
Price, Mrs. J. H.
Perminster, E. W.
Pike, Jno A.
Patterson, Mrs. Pames.
Palmer, R. S.
Powell, Miss Agness.
Porter, W. H.
Petty, Miss Annie.
Pates, Ealy.
Pee, P. R.
Pee, Mrs. J. R.
Pate, Miss Jewel.
Pate, Mrs. J. M.
Pomroy, Miss Irene.
Penn, Miss Susie.
Penn, Mrs. P. G.
Polly F. A.
Palmer, Mrs. R. S.
Parker, R. M.
Parker, Mrs. R. M.
Ponder, Mrs. R. C.
Roberts, Sam.
Russel C. K.
Russel, Mrs. C. K.
Rose, H. M.
Rose, Mrs. H. M.
Robins, E. B.
Richie, W. T.
Robertson, Austin.
Robertson, Mrs. Austin
Robbins, Mrs. B. B.
Riney, Roy
Rainbolt, Miss Berdine
Reed, Homer Swann.
Reid, C. F.
Robertson, W. B.
Robertson, Mrs. W. B.
Reidenback, Mae.
Reidenback, Mrs. N. E.
Reidenback, George.
Reidenback, F. W.
Reeves, J. W.
Richie, Mrs. Geo.
Richie, Mrs. J. P.
Ragan, Mrs. T. E.
Ragan, T. E.
Rainbolt, H. M.
Riney, Claud
Ragan, Mrs. Eva
Rogers, Earnest.
Rogers, Mrs. Earnest.
Roberts, E. B.
Reed, Mary.
Rose, Ona Fae.
Riney, B. H.
Rister, G. A.
Reynolds, B. B.
Riney, Mrs. B. H.
Rister, Mrs. Jno.
Rose, Clifford
Rains, Albert.
Reid, Mrs. Sallie.
Reid, Alton
Reid, J. W.
Sears, Miss Eula
Sears, Mrs. Frank
Sherrell, W. T.
SherrellMas. W. T.
Sherrell, Margie.
Sherrell, Bonne.
Shelton, D. J.
Shelton, Mrs. D. J.
Swann, Miss Willie
Stanford, P. A.
Sheppard, Mrs. Asa
Swann, Miss Edna
Stewart, G. W.
Sharp, Kenneth.
Sharp, Mrs. J. P.
Sharp, Arl.
Swafford, T. J. R.
Swann Majr, Jas.
Seago, C. G.
Stanford, W. E.
Swann, Lewis.
Sharp, Parker.
Sharp, J. P.
Sears, Jno.
Sharp, Miss Elsie.
Shannon, E. C.
Stephens, Miss Ora.
Sheppar, H. K.
Smith, Ford.
Smith, Mrs. Ira Mae.
To be continued next week.

GOOD NEWS FROM THE FRONT

As the Third Liberty Loan raised its head to leap well over the top, as a veil of suspense hung over the land as regards the great battle in progress, as doubtless many of our own boys are approaching the scene of action, the glad and welcome news came to hand a few days since that Germany's most spectacular attack had been met with a wall of fire and that the enemy had wilted. The field was left covered by dead Germans. In the first great assault 15 German divisions, about 200,000 men, were hacked to pieces. Surely Germany can not stand the strain long.

Truly grateful are we that indications point to the people doing their full duty at home. No matter what we do, we are not making half the sacrifice our boys are making.

RED CROSS NEEDS

The women of Merkel are not responding to the Red Cross as much as formerly. Surely they are not getting tired of this noble work. Those who work seem to be doing their full duty, but there are many women who rarely if ever darken the door. Remember, good women, that fully one-third of all the war's efforts are made in the Red Cross rooms. If we do not take care of our boys, then how can our boys go out to give their lives for an unappreciative people. Let us not be negligent of our supreme duty in this perilous hour.

Mrs. C. S. Cameron returned home Wednesday from an extended visit to Cleburne and worth.

Corporal Horton Writes

March 14—Dear mother: I will answer your most welcome letter, which was received with great pleasure. Words can not express how glad I am to get a letter from home. It sure makes a fellow feel good, believe me. The boys sure make a home run when they hear that the Mail has arrived. Some will get so many letters and packages from home, and some will be forgotten.

We have been over here in France several months. Spring is beginning to come and such pretty spring weather they have here. They have plenty of snow in the winter, but it does not get as cold as it does in West Texas. I would give anything in the world to be there with you now, if for only just a short while. I could tell you much experience I've had since I left home. We are getting along about as good as a person could wish for. We have the Y. M. C. A. with us every where we go, and we sure do appreciate the good which it is doing for us. We also have the Salvation Army people, which are doing all they can to make us feel at home over here.

The prices of things are sure high in this country, but the people think that the American are all right. When we get our money changed into French money, we have a pretty good size purse. Our money is worth a little over five times as much as theirs. When a man gets a hat full of francs he thinks he is rich and he has not enough to buy a good meal.

The trenches are not as bad as I thought they would be. I like to go. We have so much excitement.

We sure are having some pretty spring weather. Everything beginning to look green.

Your loving son, Cpl Horton, Co. D., 16th Texas F.

Statement of Condition

The Farmers State Bank
Merkel, Texas

At Close of Business March 4, 1918

RESOURCES

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Loans | \$235,867.77 |
| Banking House..... | 9,200.00 |
| Furniture and Fixtures .. | 3,950.00 |
| Bonds, Cert. and Stamps .. | 3,004.26 |
| Interest in Guar. Fund.... | 3,003.57 |
| CASH & EXCHANGE.... | 88,388.02 |
| Total..... | \$343,413.62 |

LIABILITIES

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Capital Stock | \$ 35,000.00 |
| Surplus and Profits..... | 31,660.25 |
| DEPOSITS | 269,547.37 |
| Rediscounts | 7,206.00 |
| Total..... | \$343,413.62 |

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

Engineer Employed
It is our understanding that the Commissioners Court has employed an engineer to prepare plans for the improvement of the east and west road as provided in recent election. He is expected on the ground within a few days and will lose no time in having the plans ready to submit to the proper authorities.

In this connection we might state that Judge Overshiner has rendered us splendid service. It was almost entirely through his persistent efforts that he induced the national government to agree to donating the \$20,000 for this highway. The Judge is now doing everything within his power, ably assisted by the commissioners, to get the plans completed so that the funds may be available for use while the people here are so much in need of them. They mean to see that every dollar possible will be expended for home labor.

Be sure and figure with us before you buy your bran and oats, Bob Martins Grocery Company.

Miss Sophia Howard, who is teaching near Essie, accompanied by a number of people of that section came in Monday evening to see the school play.

Send in those spring clothes and have them cleaned and pressed to look like new ones. Mrs. C. L. Cash.

Miss Mae Burkett visited her sister, Mrs. L. B. Howard this week, assisting Mrs. Howard at the musical recital of her pupils Tuesday evening.

Varnish, paint and enamels at A. B. Barrow & Co.

A. M. Wimberly and G. L. and Fred Baker, all of whom reside north of Merkel, have returned from a trip to Fort Worth and Cleburne. They visited Camp Bowie and saw the Merkel boys, one of whom is Brit Baker, son of G. L. Messrs Baker visited relatives in Cleburne. Mr. Wimberly went on to Midlothian where he visited his sister, Mrs. Ida Sanford, and brother-in law, E. L. Cavender, and his brothers. He spent one day at Waxahachie among old friends and acquaintances. Waxahachie is Mr. Wimberly's old home town. Fred Baker remained in Cleburne where he will follow the carpenter's trade for a while. They all report a delightful trip.

Buy your groceries and grain from G. M. Sharp and save enough to buy war saving stamps. A. M. Wimberly reports a good season on his place, but the late winds have pretty well dried the land out. He says the men on his place will dry plant anyway.

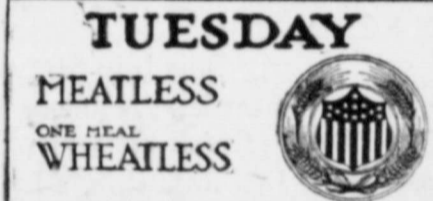
Don't forget to go to W. P. Duckett with your eggs. He will buy everything.

Mr. Bonnie Berry's wife, who lives west of Stith, is very low, following the birth of a baby. The baby is not doing well, either. A speedy recovery is hoped for both of them.

See the new pretty cedar chest at A. B. Barrow & Co.

Mr. and Mrs. Blair, who have been operating the Commercial Hotel for the past few months, have moved into the residence of Mrs. E. Hall on Oak Street.

We weigh our oats to you; don't guess at them. Bob Martin.



THE FARMERS & MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK

will observe the new schedule and beginning April 1 will set the clock up one hour. At that time we will begin opening at 9 o'clock a. m. and will close promptly at 4 p. m. according to the new time

Great Liberty Bond sale begins on the 6th of April. War Saving Stamps for sale at all times. Let us take your subscription.

We invite your banking business, promising the best of service. Call and see us

THOS. JOHNSON, Cashier

LOCAL NEWS

F. Z. Turner of Nubia came in last Tuesday and placed a subscription for his son, W. F. Turner of Eunice, N. M.

Linseed oil, turpentine and floor oil at A. B. Barrow & Co.

Mrs. P. C. Forrester Route 1, Trent, called and renewed her subscription to the Mail Monday. She also subscribed for the paper to go to her son, Berry, at Mare Island, Cal.

Buy a new refrigerator from Barrow's Furniture Store.

Mrs. H. A. Houston of Stanton visited her uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Harris several days this week.

See the new pretty cedar chest at A. B. Barrow & Co.

J. F. Abernathy of Noodle called in Saturday and placed a subscription with the mail. He says everybody is busy planting crops out his way.

Wall Paper; we have a big stock. A. B. Barrow & Co.

Oran Edwards of Midland is visiting his mother, Mrs. Lula Edwards, and sister, Mrs. G. M. Sharp, and brother Wesley Edwards, a few days ago.

Glass, glass, glass, all sizes. A. B. Barrow & Co.

Mrs. J. E. Kelly, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Lamar, who has been visiting her parents for the past several weeks visited her sister, Mrs. R. C. Tyler, in Baird a few days ago, and will remain here a while longer.

Varnish, paint and enamels at A. B. Barrow & Co.

Some Real Snaps

WHITE DRESSES

For children and misses. They are as cheap as the material will cost you now. Prices run 50c, 90c, \$1, \$1.50 to \$2.40

Good Line of Fancy Lawns

Prices are about half of today's wholesale cost. Prices 10c, 12½c, 15c, 20c and up

SEE OUR NEW SILKS

For Dresses, Skirts and Waists, at 90c, 1.15, 1.45, 1.70 & 1.95

MEN AND BOYS SUITS

Now is the time for you to save \$5 to \$7.50 on a man's suit and \$2.00 to \$4.00 on boys' suits.

MEN AND BOYS HATS

Every one is under-priced

UNDERWEAR

For men and women, boys and girls. Our prices are very low, in most cases are lower than today's wholesale price.

The Brown D. G. Comp'ny

Change In Hotel.

Misses Ada and Sadie Woodrum again have the management of The Commercial Hotel and have changed the name to The Woodrum Hotel. Both of these splendid young ladies practically have been reared in the hotel business and know every phase of the work. They formerly had charge of this hotel until a few months ago, when they decided to retire from the business. They are making plans to operate the hotel on a more modern plan than ever before.

The building is to be repapered and repainted and a sewerage system is to be installed. The improvements will greatly assist them in carrying out their plans for better service. Their efforts in the hotel line have always met with favor and we predict for them a full share of patronage.

Buy a new refrigerator from Barrow's Furniture Store.

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.

Mrs. W. H. Bullock of Strawn and S. A. Duckett of Snyder visited their parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Harris this week, both leaving for their respective homes Tuesday morning.

Wall Paper; we have a big stock. A. B. Barrow & Co.

Miss Fannie Tippet of Abilene has been in Merkel the past few days in the interest of her candidacy for County Clerk. She says she feels greatly encouraged over the prospects.

Glass, Glass, Glass, all sizes. A. B. Barrow & Co.

WAR SAVING SOCIETIES

The following war saving societies were organized April 25, in the Merkel Public School as follows:

Room 1—Sterling Sheppard, president; Maurine Tyler, secretary; Rex Roberts, four minute speaker; Miss Hattie Mae Smith, teacher.

Room 2—Dennis Wilkins, president; Maude Highsmith, secretary; Charles Largent, four minute speaker; Miss Alice Burns, teacher.

Room 3—George Cox, president; Opal Fatterson, secretary; Hollis Bankhead, four minute speaker; Miss Lorena Dry, teacher.

Room 4—Chester Hodge, president; Evelyn Woodroof, secretary; John Mann, four minute speaker; Miss Amber Lewis, teacher.

Room 5—Lewis Giles, president; Lena Bond, secretary; R. L. Burns, four minute speaker; Miss Alma Wells, teacher.

Room 6—Floyd Hutcherson, president; Belle McDonald, secretary; William Woodroof, four minute speaker; Miss Ruby Campbell, teacher.

Room 7—Gaston Bond, president; Grace Cook, secretary; Weldon Wells, four minute speaker; Miss Emma Houston, teacher.

Room 8—Mary Eula Sears, president; Margie Sherrill, secretary; Herman Bond, four minute speaker; Miss Lillian Allen, teacher.

Room 9—John Wheeler, president; Evelyn Barbee, secretary; Ruth Wells, four minute speaker; Mrs. A. Sheppard, teacher.

Room 10—Paul West, president; Abbie Ruth Darsey, secretary; Doyl Garrett, four minute speaker; Miss Flora Wright, teacher.

Room 11—Roy Lendsey Holmes, president; Nell Eula Britain, secretary; Ralph Hicks Swafford, four minute speaker; Miss Annie Laura Smith, teacher.

Room 12—Claude Riney, president; Dixie Howard, secretary; Bourdon Smith, four minute speaker; J. M. Chandler, teacher.

A certificate has been issued to each of the four minute speakers.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Grafford left Thursday for Missouri, where they will remain about a month.

TIME TO ACT

Don't Wait for the fatal stages of kidney illness. Profit by Merkel people's experiences.

Occasional attacks of backache, bladder disorders, headaches and dizzy spells are frequent symptoms of kidney trouble. It's an error to neglect these ills. The attacks may pass off for a time but generally return with greater intensity. Don't delay a minute. Begin taking Doan's Kidney Pills, and keep up their use until the desired results are obtained. Good work in Merkel proves the effectiveness of this great kidney remedy.

Mrs. J. V. West, Merkel, says: "An attack of the grip several years ago left my kidneys weak and disordered, causing severe pain. As Doan's Kidney Pills had been taken with good results in my family. I used them. They reached the seat of the trouble, completely curing me. I have had no return of the suffering since."

Price 60¢ at all dealers. Don't simply ask for a kidney remedy—get Doan's Kidney Pills—the same that cured Mrs. West. Foster-Milburn Co., Mfgs., Buffalo, N. Y. Adv.

New Holiday

The postoffice closed on last Friday. Many people asked why. The answer is that it was Liberty Loan Day, and was recommended by President Wilson.

Drives Out Malaria, Builds Up System
The Old Standard general strengthening tonic, GROVE'S TASTELESS CHILI TONIC, drives out Malaria, enriches the blood, and builds up the system. A true tonic. For adults and children. 60c

Wall Paper; we have a big stock. A. B. Barrow & Co.

Plenty corn at G. M. Sharps.



GROCERIES

We have just added to our line a complete stock of Staple Groceries and are in position now to supply your wants in most anything you may need in this line. We will make deliveries free to any part of town and will appreciate an order, for we shall strive to please you and send you reliable goods at as low prices as can be afforded, and they will be found as low as goods can be sold on legitimate basis.

We have on hand a full line of feed, in Corn, Oats, Bran
Cow Feed and Cotton Seed Meal

Call on us for your needs in
Hardware, Feed and Groceries

and we believe you will be satisfied with the
goods, prices and service we render

Crown Hardware Co.

Accommodation and a Curse

AN ACCOMMODATION

☐ Credit is a good and a bad thing.

☐ To the man who will and does pay, it is a great convenience and an accommodation.

☐ There have been times when the extension of credit has saved a man from financial ruin, when a helping hand has kept his head above water.

☐ And again, a man whose word is as good as his gold, is in a tight and the extension of credit by those who honor and respect him is not only an accommodation to him but it is a pleasure to those who give him credit, for they feel SAFE for their debtor is a man of HONOR.

☐ The business men of today are lined up with the Retail Merchants Association and they can get your record at a moment's notice. It is not their wish to turn down a GOOD MAN, and if you have some unpaid bills, settle them or go to your creditors and make satisfactory arrangements. They will help you in any way possible, for it is to everyone's benefit to have an A1 record.

☐ Let us ALL put our shoulder to the wheel and PUSH TOGETHER.

CREDIT A CURSE

☐ With all its good points, the more CREDIT you get the less you have, for once you get the habit it is an easy matter to fall deep in debt—so deep that you can not see your way out.

☐ How many good men have failed in business because they gave Credit to those who COULD but WOULD NOT PAY?

☐ Are you among that number who have forced some honest hardworking man to the wall because he HONORED you by giving you credit? If so, can you walk the streets and look him in the face?

☐ MEN, it is time to GET RIGHT, for the days of the "Dead Beat" are numbered. When he has gone his limit he stops.

THE RETAIL MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION OF MERKEL, TEXAS

MULBERRY NEWS

Mrs. Bettie Chancey and the children spent Monday with her parents Mr. and Mrs. Whitescarbough.

J. W. Childers was an Abilene visitor Sunday.

Mrs. Lavinia Horton spent Sunday with her sister Mrs. Mattie Warner.

Mrs. Ruby Buford and children of Fort Worth are visiting her parents Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Moore.

Mr. and Mrs. Curren Daniel of Stith spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Will Moore.

Mrs. J. D. Daniel spent Monday with Mrs. W. C. and W. D. Moore.

Roy Isom, Henry Prather, Hamilton Chancey and Jim Burns visited the latter's brother, John Burns, who is very low at a Sanitarium at Abilene, Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. B. N. Billingsley spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Sam Martin.

Aron Horton visited in the Canyon last Sunday.

Miss Omega Martin and some friends whose names we did not learn, spent Sunday with her sister, Mrs. Ruby Moore.

Crops are fine in this vicinity—so very fine that it's difficult to locate them. What little bit of stuff that is up looks like it had met with a very cold reception in a most unfriendly world. It has been so bowed and battered by the sand that most of it is about dead—and what isn't dead looks like it wishes it were. JUANITA

GREEN'S AUGUST FLOWER has been a household remedy all over the civilized world for more than half a century for constipation, intestinal troubles, torpid liver and the generally depressed feeling that accompanies such disorders. It is a most valuable remedy for indigestion or nervous dyspepsia and liver trouble, bringing on headache, coming up of food, palpitation of heart, and many other symptoms. A few doses of August Flower will relieve you. It is a gentle laxative. Sold by Grimes Drug Store. 30 and 90 cent bottles.

Brothers Meet After 40 Years.

Mr. and Mrs. James A. Giles is visiting his brother, John A., who recently moved here. The former is from Alabama and the brothers had not meet in over 40 years or more. The latter met the train, expecting to meet a son with the same initials. When the former got off the train he had to make inquiry, as they failed to recognize each other. Both are over 68 years of age, separating away in Alabama when both were young men. It was indeed a happy meeting and doubtless will take weeks to go over their boyhood experiences, scenes, and escapades. They are having a great time. James A. said "John, it won't be 40 years until we meet again, though the meeting take place up yonder."

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.

Rev. Wells of Anson, who recently accepted the pastorate of the Baptist church of Stith, preaches there every first Sunday and Saturday preceding. Rev. Wells is the father of Miss Alma Wells, one of our faithful and efficient teachers in the public school here.

For Indigestion, Constipation, Biliousness, etc. **WELLS' PEPPERMINT CURE**
Just try one 50-cent bottle. Sold by all druggists. Quinine

A Natural Fortification

If you catch colds easily, if troubled with catarrh, if subject to headaches, nervousness or listlessness, by all means start today to build your strength with

SCOTT'S EMULSION

which is a concentrated medicinal food and building- tonic to put power in the blood, strengthen the life forces and tone up the appetite.



No alcohol in SCOTT'S.
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 & Downe, Bloomfield, N. J. 17-13



A Business Should be as Big as Its Job

If bigness is of benefit to the public it should be commended.

The size of a business depends upon the needs which that business is called upon to serve. A business should be as big as its job. You do not drive tacks with a pile-driver—or piles with a tack-hammer.

Swift & Company's growth has been the natural and inevitable result of national and international needs.

Large-scale production and distribution are necessary to convert the live stock of the West into meat and by-products, and to distribute them over long distances to the consuming centers of the East and abroad.

Only an organization like that of Swift & Company, with its many packing plants, hundreds of distributing houses, and thousands of refrigerator cars, would have been able to handle the varying seasonal supplies of live stock and meet the present war emergency by supplying, without interruption:

First—The U. S. soldiers and the Allies in Europe by shipping as much as 800 car-loads of meat products in a single week!

Second—The cantonments in the United States.

Third—The retailers upon whom the American public depends for its daily supply of meat.

But many people ask—Do producers and consumers pay too much for the complex service rendered?

Everyone, we believe, concedes the efficiency of the Swift & Company organization—in performing a big job in a big way at a minimum of expense.

Swift & Company's total profit in 1917 was less than 4 cents on each dollar of sales of meat and by-products. Elimination of this profit would have had practically no effect on live stock and meat prices.

Do you believe that this service can be rendered for less by any other conceivable method of organization or operation?

These questions and others are answered fully and frankly in the Swift & Company 1918 Year Book sent free on request.
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SCRAP IRON, BONES AND RAGS

Plenty Ear and Shelled Corn

Rags per 100 lbs. \$1.00 Bones 70c

Scrap Iron 50 cents per hundred

at Merkel and Trent

Custom Milling

Bring in your wheat—will buy or grind it

Merkel Milling Company

Specialty in Farm Loans

Inspector on the ground—Quick Service

Real Estate and Fire Insurance

W. O. BONEY West of Farmers' State Bank

Piles Cured in 6 to 14 Days
Your druggist will refund money if PAIN OINTMENT fails to cure any case of itching, Blind, Bleeding or Protruding Piles in 6 to 14 days. The first application gives Ease and Rest. 50c

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. H. W. GROVE'S signature on each box. 30c.

TOUCHSTONE IN CHINA

SOME CHINESE TEMPLES

There are many temples, large and small, in Soochow, as well as several pagodas, which are also places of worship of a little different nature, and of quite different architecture, being in the form of high towers. Yesterday several of us visited the largest pagoda in Soochow, which is also the second largest in China. It is nine stories high, octagonal in shape, with a balcony at each floor all the way round. We had no way of measuring it, but it is about thirty feet across and 175 or 200 feet high. It is built of brick and stone and has some ornamentation, but its interest lies chiefly in its great height. There are a few gilded idols on the first two or three floors, but I have seen so many hundreds of them in the last three months that they have little interest for me. The pagoda has an ordinary temple of moderate size in connection but we did not go in it. From the top balcony we could look right down on the tops of near by houses, and in fact the only thing we could see in the main part of the city was the roofs of the houses. The streets are so narrow that they looked like little cracks in a great pavement of tiles that is when we could see them at all. Of course at a distance it was impossible to distinguish streets at all. The city within the walls is about three miles wide and four miles long. Of course it was all in plain view as no spot of ground is as much as ten feet higher than the general level. The view was well worth the climb.

On China New Year Day I went with two Chinese young men to the principal Buddhist temple in Soochow. It stands in a large square fronting the principal business street of the city. The temple proper is a building about eighty or one hundred feet square and with walls about twenty-five or thirty feet high, covered with a moderately steep roof which has the curving eaves and corners like you see in all pictures of Chinese buildings. There are three principal images, representing the Buddhist Trinity (I am sorry I cannot tell something of the theory of this religion, but it is so complicated and so vague in its philosophy that it is very hard to get a clear conception of it), and any number of smaller images which are worshipped at various times of the year. A person born in one month worships one image, one born in a different month worships a different image. There are images worshipped for different years, for different seasons of the year, images worshipped to secure a long life, children, etc. etc.

New Year Day being the one special day for ancestor worship the square and the temple were crowded, so much so that we had to force our way among the people, old and young, rich and poor, male and female. The air was stifling from the smoke or incense, and there was hurry and confusion everywhere. Many people were worshipping, but in a very hurried, get-through-yith-it sort of way. They bowed low before one image after another without straightening up. They pushed and crowded, laughed and talked, and gave little evidence, as I saw it, of real earnestness. I saw one fellow drop his burning stick of incense into the fire (tha was his prayer) and pick up a stick that some one else had put in and light his cigarette with it. That may have been an extreme case, but will give you some idea of the reverence they do not have. It was a sad sight and at the same time one hard to comprehend, that people, many of them well dressed and intelligent, should bow down to worship images made by the hand of man. However religion is at a very low ebb in China at present. People have begun to get enough enlightenment to see that their old religions are false and have not yet embraced Christianity. The fact that many, many temples are falling into decay, and that real

opposition to Christianity has practically disappeared, is sufficient evidence of the decay of the old religions.

The square around the temple itself. At any time it is full of small shops, quick lunch counters, barber shops, bird stores, various sort of gambling devices, fortune tellers, story tellers, "punch-and-judy" shows, beggars, they are every where so far as that is concerned, a matter of "education." We went to a show, which in its elaborateness and cleverness of operation far outclassed any "punch-and-judy" ever seen in America. There was a regular stage about four feet wide and two feet deep, on which dolls about fifteen inches high performed a regular Chinese play. There was no attempt made to conceal the strings by which they were worked, but it was none the less interesting to see them walk out, bow, raise their hands and salute, sit on chairs, fight with crowds, dance, turn somersaults, and cut all sorts of capers. They represented royalty, servants soldiers, entertainers, executioners, etc. and the comedian was a monkey doll. All movements were to the time of music or rather the beating of drums and cymbals. I stood on the wet, cold ground for a full half hour watching this. We then went into a curtained off space where some flesh-and blood actors were pretending to give a play, but it was a very crude affair from every standpoint. Not even my Chinese friends could understand anything that was said, so we did not tarry long. It was interesting to notice that a number of children were up on one end of the stage, and sometimes pushed up till there was hardly room for the actors. Pushing them back didn't seem to do much good.

A few days later we went to a temple outside the city walls known as the "Temple of the Five Hundred Gods." There are five hundred images, each one numbered (I know enough of characters to read the numbers but I don't know all the characters yet as there are 32,000.) Some are gilded, some are merely painted black, some are not even painted. And there was where we saw what they are made of—just ordinary mud or clay. These five hundred images do not really represent gods, but are "Saints", something after the order of the Saints of the Catholic Church. Some were noted for one virtue (or vice), some for another, and it is easy to tell what some of them represent by the expressions of their faces, if they are made of mud.

AJAX TIRES

GUARANTEED IN WRITING 5000 MILES

"More Tread on the Road"

HERE is the Ajax Road King—master mile-maker of them all. The tire for endurance and abuse on all roads in any weather. Made doubly strong where the road strain comes. It has more tread on the road—more rubber where it should be—more grip to grip with—because of the special patented feature—

Ajax Shoulders of Strength

These rugged supporting shoulders of the tread mean longer wear. They cushion against shocks. Shoulders of Strength distribute road wear evenly. It cannot come in one spot and quickly grind through to the fabric.

97% Owners' Choice

This big percentage of all Ajax Tires goes to individual motorists who select them to take the place of tires that came with their cars. See them here at the Ajax Tire Supply Depot, headquarters for Ajax Tires and Tubes.

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MERKEL GARAGE

Merkel, Texas.

"While Others Are Claiming Quality, We Are Guaranteeing It"



One Hundred and Forty-Two Years of Labor and Struggle

THE American people fought their first battles for liberty and the rights of self-government one hundred and forty-two years ago.



At that time, and for many years thereafter, their realization of their national aspirations and of the goal toward which they were really striving was vague and indistinct. But step by step they struggled onward and upward toward a light which grew clearer as their eyes and minds slowly opened to its significance. Today, as a result of their struggles and their sacrifices, we possess and enjoy our priceless American institutions.

The immediate need is the investment of our money in LIBERTY BONDS!

These institutions must be preserved. The structure so laboriously reared in these one hundred and forty-two years will be utterly destroyed if we do not spring to its defense with every atom of our energy and determination. This is not a situation which may be trifled with, or evaded, or put off. It is one which must be met now—today—no matter what sacrifices it may entail, or what the cost may be.

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Wood, Coal and Auto Accessories

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Is the owner of valuable oil leases in Kansas, Oklahoma and Wyoming, and has recently added a valuable lease in the new Electra-Burkburnett Oil Field, Texas, with 8 producing wells together with pumping plant, tanks and full equipment, connected with the pipe line, and selling oil. Price was \$2.00, now \$2.50, and expect soon to be getting \$3.00 per barrel for this high grade oil. The Company is pushing drilling operations in this new field, as rapidly as possible.

Stock is Now Selling At 10c a Share

You can join us in an exceedingly profitable business enterprise, and in doing so, help increase the oil output, which means, help win the war.

Write us for free map and further particulars. Special inducements to live, active salesmen.

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Others are very grotesque and horrid to look at. To say the least of them, it takes no mean artist to produce one of them. The building that contains the 500 saints is at one side of the court (all the temples have a court or square), while the temple proper is just like all the Buddhist temples in having its trinity of images, surrounded by numberless small ones.

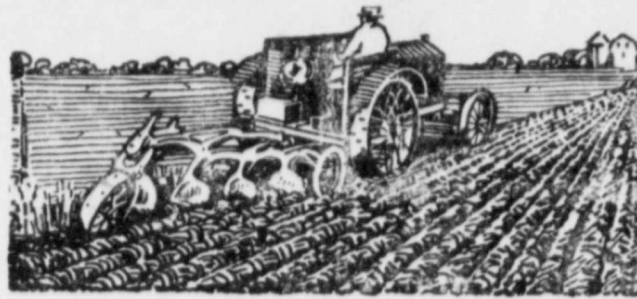
Connected with the temple is a small garden or park, though not like our own parks. But we visited a much larger one that day where we ate our lunch and rested for quite a bit as we had quite a long walk to reach the temple. Both of these gardens have an artificial lake as their central feature. The larger one is really a number of small pavilions, large pavilions, small tea rooms, larger ones, and one or more large halls or parlors where large parties can be entertained. They are purely artificial but large rough stones have been brought from a distance and piled up and cemented together in a way to give a very natural, rustic appearance and many different flowers and blooming shrubs and trees are planted in the most artistic way 'the ponds or lakes have lilies and gold fish. I am sure that when spring comes it would be hard to find a more beautiful place, and I am told that such places are plentiful, many rich individuals having them surrounding their homes, though on a smaller scale perhaps. But one walk ing down the narrow streets shut in by high walls would never suspect that anything decent, much less beautiful could be seen on the other side of the black and mouldy wall. The Chinese do not display their wealth to the gaze of the public, and there is much more privacy about a Chinese well-to-do home than in the average western home, though the homes of the poor often open right on the street and it is a common thing just before night to see them standing on the streets eating their bowl of rice. That saves having a light inside for one thing. But I am

Texas Farm Tractor & Truck Manufacturing Association

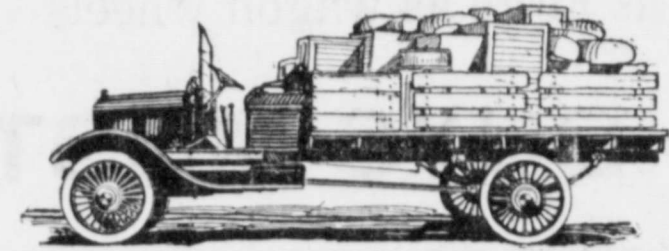
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Thus increasing production and hurrying up transportation, at reduced cost—the greatest needs of the commercial world, present and future.



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PRAETORIAN BUILDING

DALLAS, TEXAS

THE DIXIE HIGHWAY

Officials of the Dixie Overland Highway Association will be in Merkel Wednesday, May 8, 3:00 p. m. and will speak at the Commercial Club Rooms. This highway is the shortest and only year-round ocean to ocean highway that has yet been promoted, reaching from Savannah, Ga., to Los Angeles, Cal. It works in nicely with the Ozark Trails plan and is urged as a military highway. No finer work can be done in Merkel than to do her part in securing these splendid highways. It is the duty of every citizen to come out and get acquainted with the plan so that in future they may be able to deal with it intelligently.

Ozark Trails Meeting.

A meeting is to be held in Abilene on May 9 in the interest of the Ozark Trails route. Representatives of the southern route from Lawton, Ok., to El Paso are expected to be present. Curtis Hancock, chairman of the State Highway Commission will be present, and Col. Harvey has been urged to be present. Members of the association at Merkel are urged to attend.

Linseed oil, turpentine and floor oil at A. B. Barrow & Co.

Mr. and Mrs. Or Dye of Abilene visited relatives and acquaintances in Merkel the past week. Mr. Dye only remained a short time, but Mrs. Dye is spending the week here.

See the new pretty cedar chest at A. B. Barrow & Co.

A. J. Hartley, expert raiser of Buff Orpingtons (we bet that honor belongs to Mrs. Hartley) called and placed a subscription for the Mail to go to his son, Joe Thomas, who is in the navy at Great Lakes, Ill.

If you want good bran see G. M. Sharp.

I-C-E

☞ The Greatest Food Preserver. ☞ No article can help you to better comply with the spirit of war time food regulations. ☞ DO NOT WASTE—Ice saves every ounce of food, saves your butter and milk, and lessens kitchen drudgery. ☞ BUY AN ICE BOOK TO-DAY—and let our wagon stop at your door every day

THE MERKEL ICE CO.

WE CARRY A FULL LINE OF

Tablets, Pencils, Stationery and a complete line of Drugs and Sundries
We appreciate your business

MERKEL DRUG COMP'NY

Government Says Buy Coal Now

A coal famine will follow this fall. Our ships are to be supplied at any cost. You save money and insure your coal supply by buying now.

WARREN BROS. All Orders C.O.D.

getting off the subject.

Last Saturday afternoon I got to see a funeral, a real stylish one, and that is perhaps the most interesting sight to be seen to many foreigners. The different paraphernalia that I mention are all furnished by the undertaker, who also furnishes as many mourners as the family is able, or cares, to pay for. I might say too that some of the mourners are "mournful" enough looking, to change the meaning of the word a bit, for they are just ragged boys and men that are picked up on the streets to carry certain things that I don't know how to describe in the procession. At the head was a military band, and if I had not been told it was a funeral I might have taken it for a circus parade. Then followed a long procession of people, some on foot, some on horse back, those on foot carrying banners of different kinds, and a sort of umbrella kind of arrangement, made of cloth and highly ornamented, some one thing and some another. Those on horseback were mostly relatives of the deceased, and could be distinguished as near or distant relatives by all who know the customs. There were floral designs after a fashion, small trees like unto family Christmas trees in appearance, some people carried bowls of food as offerings to the gods, etc. After

There is more Catarrh in this section of the country than all other diseases put together, and for years it was supposed to be incurable. Doctors prescribed local remedies, and by constantly failing to cure with local treatment, pronounced it incurable. Catarrh is a local disease, greatly influenced by constitutional conditions and therefore requires constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Medicine, manufactured by F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, Ohio, is a constitutional remedy, is taken internally and acts thru the Blood on the Mucous Surfaces of the System. One Hundred Dollars reward is offered for any case that Hall's Catarrh Medicine fails to cure. Send for circulars and testimonials.
F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, Ohio.
Sold by Druggists, 75c.
Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

quite a crowd had passed down the narrow street, there came a large party of people dressed in sack-cloth, and partly protected from the view of the crowd by men bearing a wide strip of cloth on each side of them. After they crossed each bridge (we were standing near a bridge) they stopped, turned, and made a low bow as a form of worship. These were the immediate family of the deceased. Then came the coffin, a very large wooden affair all draped in cloth, and carried suspended on poles by ten or twelve men. It was fixed up to represent a dragon and sticking out in front on a neck as long as a giraffe's was the dragon's head. It also had a tail something like a hen's tail spread out. I was told that one man's funeral cost \$250,000 last fall. I imagine however that the undertaker made a fair margin of profit. I hope the next one I see I can describe more accurately. Cary

Accepts Principalship.

Miss Minnie Graham of Tuscola, A. B. of Baylor University, holding life certificate and with six years experience, has accepted the principalship of the High School for next term. She never left a situation only of her own accord and for betterment and then under protest. She is highly recommended by Dr. J. D. Sandefer of Simmons College; Dr. Brooks of Baylor, and Dr. and O. S. Cooper of Simmons.

Jasper M. Tucker, who has been teaching school in Hutcheson County, in the Panhandle, reached home last Saturday morning. He is in Class 1 and expects his call at an early date

Glass, glass, glass, all sizes. A. B. Barrow & Co.

WHEN IN ABILENE EAT AT

The Metropolitan Cafe

JACK GILSTRAP, Mgr.

One per cent of Gross Receipts donated to the RED CROSS

WHY EAT ELSEWHERE

Quit Laxatives, Purges; Try NR

NR Tonight—Tomorrow Feel Right

It is a mistake to continually dose yourself with so-called laxative pills, calomel, oil, purges and cathartics and force bowel action. It weakens the bowels and liver and makes constant dosing necessary.

Why don't you begin right today to overcome your constipation and get your system in such shape that daily purging will be unnecessary? You can do so if you get a 25c box of Nature's Remedy (NR Tablets) and take one each night for a week or so. NR Tablets do much more than merely cause pleasant easy bowel action. This medicine acts upon the digestive as well as eliminative organs—promotes good digestion, causes the body to get the nourishment from all the food you eat, gives you a good, hearty appetite, strengthens the liver, overcomes biliousness, regulates kidney and bowel action and gives the whole body a thorough cleaning out. This accomplished you will not have to take medicine every day. An occasional NR tablet will keep your body in condition and you can always feel your best. Try Nature's Remedy (NR Tablets) and prove this. It is the best bowel medicine that you can use and costs only 25c per box, containing enough to last twenty-five days. Nature's Remedy (NR Tablets) is sold, guaranteed and recommended by your druggist.

T. L. GRIMES, Merkel, Texas

Nature's Remedy
NR-TABLETS-NR
Better than Pills GET A
For Liver Ills. 25c Box

After closing her school work at I. X. L. Miss Mabel Dunn, visited Miss Maggie Wheeler a few days before returning to her home at Odessa.

The pupils of I. X. L. school entertained their parents and friends on Friday evening Apr. 26th, with a play entitled a "Prairie Rose." Those who took part in the play acquitted themselves in every respect, and made the play a success.

Plenty of fresh groceries at G. M. Sharps.

Tan-No-More THE SKIN BEAUTIFIER

The most scientific and most wonderful facial preparation of the modern age. It imparts to the skin a velvety softness and delicacy which is delightful in appearance and pleasing in effect. Used during the day it is a protection from the Sun and Wind. In the evening its use assures a faultless complexion. Tints: White and Flesh. All dealers, 25c, 50c and \$1.00, or sent post paid on receipt of price. Sample for the asking.

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