



WHY JOIN THE RED CROSS NOW

There has never been a time when the work of the Red Cross was needed more than it is at the present time. Thousands of our soldier boys are returning home from the battle field, some wounded, but all out of employment. Positions must be secured for those out of employment and care must be taken of the wounded soldiers. This is part of the work that the Red Cross is doing today.

Across the waters the demand for the Red Cross work is much greater now than it has ever before. Hundreds of thousands of refugees, prisoners, women and children are homeless, without food or clothing and with no place to go for shelter except they are aided by the Red Cross.

The Red Cross is doing a great work for the people of France and other countries. The soldiers and people of France, Belgium and our other allies have borne the brunt of the great battle, and had it not been for the heroic deeds of those people, we today might have been facing the Huns on our own soil.

In what better way could we show our appreciation to them, than by coming to their relief through the Red Cross Society. Do not think because the fighting has ceased that there is no need for work of the Red Cross. It is true fighting is over, but under the reconstruction of these devastated countries the need is much greater for this work.

The campaign for 1919 membership will begin Dec. 16th, and end Dec. 23rd. If you have both heart and a dollar, join.

No Americans executed For Military Offenses.

Washington, Dec. 9.—Not a single member of the American Army has been put to death since the beginning of the war because of the commission of a pure military offense, Major General Crowder, Judge Advocate General, declared in his annual report today to Secretary Baker. General Crowder said this fact is the outstanding feature of his report.

"Very few death sentences have been imposed," he said, and none of those imposed for purely military offenses had been carried into execution.

Records of the Judge Advocate General's office show that 12,337 officers and men were brought before general court martial, of whom 10,873, or 888 per cent, were convicted. More than half the charges against officers were listed under three heads:

Absent without leave, drunkenness and conduct unbecoming an officer.

Convictions of enlisted men for desertion, the General said, were actually less than in the previous year, although the strength of the army had increased many fold.

The report shows that one enlisted man was tried and convicted of "being a spy" and that 773 were convicted of sleeping on post.

For Eczema, Tetter and Salt Rheum.

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

Highest prices paid for good fresh eggs. Metropolitan Bakery and Cafe.

Srgt. J. E. Cole, of Camp Barrow Field, Ft. Worth was a visitor at the home of J. A. Duckett Monday.

BULGARIAN KULTUR.

New York Times: The account of the massacre perpetrated at Vranja, in Serbia, by the Bulgarian army of occupation, sent by Mr. Ward Price, is indeed, as he says, "A story of cold-blooded butchery without equal, even in this war." The systematic massacre of some three thousand men, taken out in parties of fifty or so every night, and butchered in a mountain ravine—all for the crime of being Serbians in a country which Bulgaria wanted—is supplemented by the wholesale outrage of women and by the roasting of peasants over slow fires to make them reveal the whereabouts of hidden arms. It is without equal indeed; but the fragmentary news which we have had from other regions occupied by theulgars makes it seem not unlikely that there will be others to equal it when the full truth is known.

Stories of these events are what the Bulgarian Minister, in a letter recently published, sees fit to call "hackneyed vituperations". Such tales, he says, have been spread about the Bulgarians in previous wars. But the evidence of Bulgarian cruelties in this war, coming from many sources, including British correspondents such as Mr. Price, and American correspondents such as Mr. William G. Shepherd, can hardly be dismissed by this argument; indeed, the evidence now available makes it seem likely that the old stories were true, that the Bulgar in 1913 was what he is today.

It is a horrible story, but Americans may read it with profit. Correspondents have told us that the Bulgarians refuse to admit that they were beaten in the war; though they surrendered only when their army was on the verge of destruction, they seem to think that the allies should give them as a present the conquests could not win by arms. Their attitude is very much the same as Dr. Solf's but their propaganda is more energetic in this country than anything at Dr. Solf's command. When the peace conference comes they are going to claim as much if not all of Macedonia as Bulgarian; and they have tried to make it Bulgarian by butchering the men and violating the women who were inconsiderate enough to be Serbians in a territory where the Bulgarian propagandists have argued that there is no Serbian population.

William Troy Campbell Dead

Friends and acquaintances of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Campbell, of the Canyon, were pained to learn of the death of their son, William Troy, which took place at 12:30, Wednesday, in Merkel. He took sick at Ranger Thanksgiving night and started for home. He was able to go no further than Merkel. The malady rapidly developed into pneumonia.

This young man was born March 28, 1900. He was just reaching young manhood, the pride of his parents. He was energetic and full of ambition. We greatly sympathize with the parents and friends in this their sad hour.

Burial took place Thursday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock, interment taking place in Rose Hill cemetery. Rev. E. E. Dawson officiated at the grave.

Mrs. L. Brown Dead.

Word reached Merkel Tuesday announcing the death of Mrs. L. Brown of Fort Worth. She was formerly Miss Belle Hudson. Her husband was formerly with the Eust Drug Store. Pneumonia was the cause of death.

FOR SALE—Hamburger stand. See N. Hancock. 12t2c.

Geo. Ferrier has secured his discharge from the army and reached home Thursday.

ALLIES REFUSED FOOD

Copenhagen, Dec. 11.—According to reports from Berlin the Entente Governments intend to refuse to send foodstuffs to Germany until a demand they are said to have made for the dissolution of the Soldiers and Workmen's Councils is carried out. The Allies, the reports add, will reserve the right to march into Germany.

Highest prices paid for good fresh eggs. Metropolitan Bakery and Cafe.

Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Henderson and son, Tom, of Crandall, visited Mr. Henderson's sister, Mrs. West Edwards Sunday and Monday.

E. L. Rogers has plenty of corn chops, oats, barley chops and corn. Figure with him for your feed bill.

For That Dull Feeling After Eating.

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

Chas. Henderson of Sweetwater spent Modnay with his aunt Mrs. West Edwards.

FOR SALE—Typewriter ribbons at the Merkel Mail office.

FOR SALE—Work mules and mares. Hand and disc plows, harrows, ect. My land all rented.—M. Armstrong.

Few Escape

There are few indeed who escape having at least one cold during the winter months, and they are fortunate who have but one and get through with it quickly and without any serious consequences. Take Chamberlain's Cough Remedy and observe the directions with each bottle, and you are likely to be one of the fortunate ones. The worth and merit of this remedy has been fully proven. There are many families who have always used it for years when troubled with a cough or cold, and with the very best results.

ABOLISH CONSCRIPT ARMIES

Elimination of compulsory military service on the European Continent is necessary before a permanent peace may be confidently arranged, Premier Lloyd George said today.

"If you want peace you want a permanent peace," said the Premier. "If you want to prevent the horrors of war being repeated, you must put an end to conscript armies on the Continent of Europe."

Lloyd George, who was speaking at Bristol, said that conscription was introduced in Great Britain to meet a great emergency and that when the emergency was passed, the need which caused the passing of the act would lapse and there was no immediate intention to renew it.

Whether some kind of conscription would be required in the future, he added, would depend entirely upon the peace terms.

The Navy is a defensive weapon and not an offensive one, the Premier declared to give it up.

Referring to the question of an indemnity, Lloyd George said: "It is indispensable that a person who is in the wrong and has lost should pay more than a person who has been declared in the right and has won."

Just received car cow feed and cotton seed meal. Bob Martin.

E. L. Rogers has plenty of corn chops, oats, barley chops and corn. Figure with him for your feed bill.

Cecil Dean of Dallas visited his aunt, Mrs. J. S. Swann, last Sunday.

Buy your groceries and grain from G. M. Sharp and save enough to buy war saving stamps

E. L. Rogers, who has been down with pneumonia is up again and at his post fo duty.

Plenty of oats and cowfeed at Bob Martin's

Try a sack of Peace Maker flour. G. M. Sharp.

Captain and Mrs. Roy Bradley of Abilene visited his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. McDonald this week.

Cotton seed meal at G. M. Sharps

Just received car of flour. Bob Martin.

GERMAN REDS ORDER HINDENBURG'S ARREST

Copenhagen, Dec. 4.—The soldiers and workmen's Council at Leipsic has decided that German General Headquarters shall be dissolved and Field Marshal von Hindenburg arrested, according to the Lokal Anzeiger of Berlin.

Says He Urged Peace in 1914.

Oosterland, Holland, Dec. 3.—"I have not renounced anything and I have not signed any document whatever," the former German Crown Prince declared to the correspondent today.

"I am convinced," the former Crown Prince said to his interviewer, "that we lost the war early in October, 1914. I considered our position hopeless after the battle of the Marne, which we should not have lost if the chiefs of our general staff had not suffered a case of nerves."

I tried to persuade the general staff to seek peace then, even at a great sacrifice, going so far as to give up Alsace-Lorraine. But I was told to mind my own business and confine my activities to commanding my armies. I have proof of this."

Sargeant Alfred Costephens returned home Tuesday night from Fort Oglethrope, Ga., where he was discharged from the army, and is visiting home-folks. He is suffering with the "Flu," but is getting along fine.

RED CROSS WORKERS

The following have been appointed by its local chairman, W. A. McSpadden, as co-workers in its Red Cross Christmas Roll Call, Dec. 16 to 23.

General Assistants
R. L. Bland.
Fred Groene.

Publicity and Speaking
Rev. E. E. Dawson.
Walter Jackson.

Roll Call Cashier
Miss Mossie Sears.

Captains
Mrs. Fred Groene

Business District
Mrs Jim Black.
Miss Maude Martin.

North Side
Miss Lura Adkisson.
Mrs. J. T. Browning.
Mrs. Ross Ferrier.

Mrs. L. B. Howard.
Mrs. Ralph Henson.
Mrs. M. D. Angus
Miss Lillian Ayers.

South Side
Captains for the Country
Mrs. Amy Sears
Mrs. R. O. Anderson.
Miss Dovie Teaff.

Mrs. John Sears.
Mrs. Tom Largent.
J. T. Browning.
E. M. McDonald.
Dee Grimes.

Membership Booths
Farmers State Bank.
Farmers Merchant Nat. Bank.
Grimes Drug Store.
Merkel Drug Store.
Sanders Drug Store.

Captains for Country Schools
Miss Mage Payne, Elm Grove.
Duskin Snow, White Church.
R. J. Miller, Salt Branch.
Miss Sandusky, Castle Peak.
R. B. McRee, IXL.
Joe Bickley, Butman.

Miss Annie L. Nelson, Blair.
Miss Garoutte, Union Ridge.
Miss Jennings, Mt. Pleasant.

Notice To Merkel People
I am running a city delivery, and will appreciate any thing you can do for me.

I will treat you right.
W. P. Duckett. 22t4c

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC
I will be ready to buy cream Saturday at A. L. Jobs grocery store.—C. E. Connor. 13t1p

Mrs. E. W. Kelley entertained with a candy pulling Tuesday night. Those in attendancet were Misses Elsie Sharp and Ida Meeks.

ANOTHER OIL LEASE CONTRACT LET

Interest is growing in the Great Merkel Old Field. Another contract has been let—this time in the vicinity of the Morrison well. C. W. Moore, an extensive oil driller of Wichita Falls, and now drilling several wells in Burkburnett Field, succeeded in leasing about 1200 acres of land from S. G. Houston, J. L. Barker, Rev. G. W. Parks, Brit Chambliss, Allen and others. Mr. Moore proposes to start operations with just as little delay as possible, but not later than 90 days. He will use a rotary rig and will go to a depth of not less than 2000 feet. He thinks a much shallower depth will show oil. There are several gas escapes on the property, and one well of shallow depth is so strong with oil that the water is not fit for use. Mr. Moore is enthusiastic over the proposition.

Gradually the net is being drawn about Merkel. Soon we are to know if daily we are treading over untold wealth. The proposed location of the new well will be about six miles a little north-east of Merkel.

Let them come, as many as desire, and begin plugging away in the to be greatest oil field in the world.

DERRICK COMPLETED AT SEARS WELL

The derrick has been completed at the Sears well. It is said to be one of the best structures of the kind in all the country. Mr. Underwood left a few evenings ago for Tulsa, Ok., to rush the drilling outfit, which has been delayed on some unaccountable reason. They hope to have it here right away.

The oil people are hopeful of completing arrangements to start another well within the next few days. The prevalence of influenza all over the country has hampered this part of the work to a large extent.

Piles Cured in 6 to 14 Days
Druggists refund money if PAZO OINTMENT fails to cure Itching, Blind, Bleeding or Protruding Piles. Instantly relieves Itching Piles, and you can get restful sleep after the first application. Price 60c.

If you are going to want a loan on that farm you had better see W. O. Boney at once.

THIS IS CERTAIN

The Proof That Merkel Readers Cannot Deny.

What could furnish stronger evidence of the efficiency of any remedy than the test of time. Thousands of people testify that Doan's Kidney Pills have brought lasting results.

Grateful endorsements should prove undoubtedly the merits of this remedy. Years ago people right in this locality testified to the relief they had derived from the use of Doan's Kidney Pills. They now confirm their testimonials. They say that time has completed the test.

Mrs. W. C. Shaw, 773 Lo St., Abilene, Texas, says: back was so lame I could hardly get up in the morning and my nerves acted irregularly. This medicine had bothered me for years, finally got Doan's Kidney Pills and they quickly cured me. The box was all I needed and I felt better in every way."

Over three years later Mrs. Shaw added: "I still have great confidence in Doan's Kidney Pills, for he cure they gave me has been permanent."

Price 60c, at all dealers. Don't simply ask for a kidney remedy—get Doan's Kidney Pills—the same that Mrs. Shaw had. F. Ter-Milburn Co., Mfrge., Buffalo, N. Y.

OUR COMBINATION

Subscription Rates

SAVE YOU MONEY

Merkel Mail, one year	\$1.00
Merkel Mail and Dallas Semi-Weekly News one year	\$1.75
Merkel Mail one year and Farm and Ranch two years	\$1.75
Merkel Mail one year and Hollands Magazine two years	\$1.75
Merkel Mail and Abilene Morning News-Reporter 1 year	\$4.00
Merkel Mail and Star-Telegram (daily except Sunday) until December 1, 1919	\$5.50
Merkel Mail and Star-Telegram (daily with Sunday) until December 1, 1919	\$7.00

You save by dealing with us—and then we are responsible for errors

We take subscriptions for all newspapers and magazines, giving all possible when taken with the Merkel Mail, and as cheap as any other when taken alone.

MERKEL MAIL PRINTING CO.

THE FARMERS STATE BANK

☐ You insure your Home and your Life; why not your Money?

☐ This Bank is a Guaranty Fund Bank and offers you the protection afforded by the State Guaranty Fund of Texas.

We Pay The Premium

Capital and Surplus Fund
\$65,000.00

A THOUGHT

If this world was free of sensational grist grinders, Of tattling and gossip and general faultfinders, 'Twould be a heaven indeed. If long tongued women and longer tongued men Would cease to talk about their neighbor's great sin 'Twould be a heaven indeed.

There are too many acts of the great human throng That's made to appear to be awfully wrong, By a tattler, an enemy indeed, And the man or the woman who claims they are your friend. But delight in telling they heard you had sinned, Are not your friend indeed.

They delight in telling they've heard from, They-Say, How he had done wrong and she had gone astray, Are low-minded persons indeed. When you can't say something to make the heart light, Don't circulate rumors, sensational spite, 'Twill be much better indeed.

The ministers and lawyers, the doctors and all Would do very well to heed this call And stop this gossip indeed. Old women join in, call the girls to your aid, The young and beautiful and the prudish old maid, And make earth a heaven indeed.—T. L. G.

WE BUY OLD FALSE TEETH

We will pay up to \$21.50 per set (broken or not). Send now. Cash sent by return mail. Package held 10 to 15 days subject to sender's approval of our offer. Highest prices paid for Old Gold Jewelry, Gold Crowns, Bridges, Platinum and Silver. United States Smelting Works, Inc. 1084 Goldsmith Bldg., Opp. Post Office, Milwaukee, Wis. Aug 23t20.

LOCAL NEWS

Miss Ora Stevens, who has been on a vacation at DeLeon, and is again at her post of duty at the store of J. T. Dennis. While away, Miss Stacy Adkisson filled her position at the store.

Rogers has everything you could want, fresh or canned. Come get our prices.

Van Hines McSpadden has been confined to his bed for the past week, suffering with the "Flu", but at last report he was able to be up and about in his room, and hopes to soon be well again.

Highest prices paid for good fresh eggs. Metropolitan Bakery and Cafe.

Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Nixon and Mrs. Nixon's brother, Comer Haynes, left Wednesday night for California, where they will spend the holidays with, Mr. Nixon's mother.

W. O. Boney is still making farm loans, better hurry.

Roy E. Armstrong of Camp Travis secured his discharge from the army and returned home.

Mrs. Pearl Hollingworth visited in Trent this week.

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.

THE NEW YEAR

☐ The time has come when all commercial interests halt in their fight for trade and take a retrospective view of the year's business.

☐ In taking your inventory, are you taking into account your banking service? Is it such that you can list it as an asset?

☐ If you are not already one of our customers, we should consider it a privilege to be permitted to see you regarding carrying your account with this bank in the future.

FARMERS & MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK

Merkel :: Texas

J. T. WARREN
PRESIDENT

THOS. JOHNSON
CASHIER

TO DEAR OLD SANTA

The following letters have been received, and will receive prompt attention.—Old Santa.

Merkel, Texas, Dec. 9, 1918. Dear Santa Claus:—As it is getting about xmas I will tell you what I want: I want a big doll, some apples, oranges, candy and

nuts, and any thing else that you want to bring.

Yours truly,
VERA ELY.

Plenty of fresh groceries at G. M. Sharps.

Tye, Texas, Dec. 9, 1918. Dear Santa Claus:—Christmas

is about here and I thought I would write you and tell you what I want for xmas. I want a big doll, some bananas, candy, apples, oranges, and any thing

else you can bring for me. I will be a good girl so you will bring me something.
Yours very truly,
NELIA HENDERSON.

CHRISTMAS CHEER

Most every one likes to be cheerful, and as most of us have not lost a "dear boy over the seas" is a sufficient reason for EXCEEDING JOY--CHEERFULNESS

The War is Over, Drouth is Smashed, and here is hoping that our Oil Field is the Biggest in Texas

IF YOU ARE A "CROAKER" STOP IT TO-DAY--BUY A XMAS PRESENT for some one if you can, but if you can't then smile on some one who can

Gloves, Handkerchiefs, Hosiery, Cuff Buttons, Ties, Ladies Shirt Waists, Mens Coats, Fancy Bed Comfortable, Blankets, Table Damask THESE WILL MAKE GOOD GIFTS Silk Shirts, Hats, Caps, Sweaters, Suspenders, Ladies, Misses and Childrens

See our \$5.90 Ladies' Boots

SHOES

Men's Brown Shoes at \$5.00

Ladies Cow Lot Shoes \$1.95 and \$2.95
Are heavy and stout
Ladies Dress-Up Shoes \$3.50 to \$7.50
Baby's Fat or Lean \$1.00 to \$2.00

Mens fine dress Shoes \$5.00 to \$8.50
Brown, Tan and Black
Service Field Shoes \$3.50 to \$6.00
Boys Shoes, sizes 1 to 5, at \$2.85 to \$5.00

Men's and Boys' Suits

WE ARE SAVING YOU \$2.00 TO \$10.00 ON MOST EVERY SUIT IN OUR HOUSE

We thank you in advance for the good business given us, and sincerely pledge you that we are ever on the alert to give you honest service

WE WISH YOU A HAPPY X-MAS

THE BROWN DRY GOODS COMPANY

THE FARMERS STATE BANK

☛ You insure your Home and your Life; why not your Money?

☛ This Bank is a Guaranty Fund Bank and offers you the protection afforded by the State Guaranty Fund of Texas.

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THESE WILL MAKE GOOD GIFTS

Silk Shirts, Hats, Caps, Sweaters, Suspenders, Ladies, Misses and Childrens

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Nice assortment of choice selections just received. We cordially invite you to visit our store and will take great pleasure in showing you through our stock



Jewelry Sets

- Manicure Sets
- Ivory Goods
- Perfumery
- Fountain Pens
- Wrist Watches
- Stationery
- Kodaks
- Pens

MERKEL DRUG COMPANY

CALLED HER FAMILY TO HER BEDSIDE

Six Years Ago, Thinking She Might Die, Says Texas Lady, But Now She Is a Well, Strong Woman and Praises Cardui For Her Recovery.

Royse City, Tex.—Mrs. Mary Killman, of this place, says: "After the birth of my little girl... my side commenced to hurt me. I had to go back to bed. We called the doctor. He treated me... but I got no better. I got worse and worse until the misery was unbearable... I was in bed for three months and suffered such agony that I was just drawn up in a knot... I told my husband if he would get me a bottle of Cardui I would try it... I commenced taking it, however, that evening I called my family about me... for I knew I could not last many days unless I had a change for

the better. That was six years ago and I am still here and am a well, strong woman, and I owe my life to Cardui. I had only taken half the bottle when I began to feel better. The misery in my side got less... I continued right on taking the Cardui until I had taken three bottles and I did not need any more for I was well and never felt better in my life... I have never had any trouble from that day to this."

Do you suffer from headache, backache, pains in sides, or other discomforts, each month? Or do you feel weak, nervous and fagged-out? If so, give Cardui, the woman's tonic, a trial.

J. 71

Miss Venona Hamblett resigned her position with the Anchor Mercantile Company and accepted a position with Titcher-Goettinger of Dallas. We hate to see Miss Hamblett leave Merkel, but congratulate her upon her success. She is employed by one of

the largest firms in the State. Wm. A. Bourn, brother of Mrs. A. C. Rose and Mrs. R. L. Proctor, was killed in action on August 16, according to reports just received. He was previously wounded.

RED CROSS FAMILY REMEDIES

Many able Chemists and Doctors were called into service in perfecting this line of Red Cross Remedies. This is an age of Specialists, and while one may have distinguished achievements to his credit in one particular line, another is excelling in something else. That very thing makes it possible for us to have a Red Cross Remedy for each ailment, and enables us to give the consumer more than we promise or charge for. Each formula is compounded with as much care and precision as if our entire success depended upon that one Remedy. That's why NEUROSTONE repairs shattered nerves, and Red Cross STONE ROOT and BUCHU puts your kidneys in a normal and healthy condition. Red Cross Remedies are not "patent" medicines. The formula is printed on each carton in plain English, so you know what they are composed of and what you are taking. Each of our one hundred Red Cross Remedies and Toilet Preparations are sold and guaranteed only by Grimes Drug Store

The Merkel Mail

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The people should not forget to do their Christmas shopping early. Only a few days remain before Krits Kringle will begin his merry jingle. Nearly all Christmas goods have arrived and nice assortments are in stock.

German propoganda in this country cost \$7,500,000. They played high stakes and lost. Before they get through, we bet they will be glad to get some of this sum back. Mighty poor business is this, in our opinion.

It is high time our citizens were thinking about the measures that must confront the next session of the legislature. The prohibition and woman suffrage bills are expected to receive first attention. Then no time should be lost in seeking a revision of the State constitution. We need most of all to kill the infernal homestead law that has done more to wreck and ruin West Texas than most any other agency. We see the evil fruits of this law today. Many a man could borrow enough on his land to make another crop if he just had his land for collateral. Then, who does this law protect? This one question is the greatest argument to influence us to join hands with the Abilene Reporter in a suggestion for the division of this great State.

Mrs. Isley's Letter

In a recent letter Mrs. D. W. Isley of Litchfield, Ill., says, "I have used Chamberlain's Tablets for disorders of the stomach and as a laxative, and have found them a quick and sure relief." If you are troubled with indigestion or constipation these tablets will do you good."

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Baker and babies of Canyon visited Mrs. Baker's parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Merritt, this week. They go on to other points, where they will visit friends and relatives and expect to return here for the holidays.

Stomach Trouble

"Before I used Chamberlain's Tablets I doctored a great deal for stomach trouble and felt nervous and tired all the time. These tablets helped me from the first, and inside of a week's time I had improved in every way," writes Mrs. L. A. Drinkard, Jefferson City, Mo.

Less than two months now left. Get busy on your War Savings Stamp Pledge.

DRAUGHON'S PRACTICAL Business College ABILENE, TEXAS. 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.

Elery Smith—who has been making his home in Little Rock, Ark., for several months, has returned to Merkel.

RED CROSS STONE ROOT AND BUCHU COMPOUND Of unexcelled value for the treatment of kidney diseases. Pains in the back and burning sensations are symptoms of kidney troubles, which are quickly overcome by use of this remedy. This and more than one hundred other Red Cross Remedies sold and guaranteed only by Grimes Drug Store

Sam Swann has received his discharge from the service and has returned home.

The Quinine That Does Not Affect The Head Because of its tonic and laxative effect, LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE (Tablets) can be taken by anyone without causing nervousness or ringing in the head. E. W. GROVE'S signature on box. 30c.

Mrs. W. J. Largent has returned after an extended visit with her parents at Plainview, Texas. She was accompanied home by her mother, Mrs. Saffel.

CLASSIFIED ADS

WANTED—Good second hand wind-mill, stand, tank and tower, or separate. Write particulars to H. M. McBeath, Hawley, Texas. 6t2p.

FOR RENT—Brick building for rent after Jan. 1st, across street front of P. O. at Merkel, Texas. Apply to—W. J. Armour, Trent, Texas. 6t2p.

WANTED—A man with small family to work with cattle. See C. M. Largent.

FOR TRADE—Practically new Velie buggy and harness for milk cow. T. L. Shepard, Grimes Drug Store. t1

LOST—Ladies short, dark green coat, in Merkel on Nov. 11 Please leave with the Merkel Mail. — Mrs. Annie Bowers, Trent Texas. 13t1p

LOST—Ladies plaid coat, between Methodist church and Kent St. Finder please leave with Merkel Mail and receive reward. R. P. Peterson. 13t2c

FOR RENT—100 to 200 acres of good land 5 miles north of Trent, on 1/3, 1/4 or the halves. Address Box 552, Quanah, Texas.

Mrs. W. R. Walker of the oil fields of Texas is visiting her friends in Merkel.



Lieut. Geo. Smith returned home from the service. He is in the reserve corps.

For Croup

"Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is splendid for croup," writes Mrs. Edward Hassett, Frankfurt, N. Y. "My children have been quickly relieved of attacks of this dreadful complaint by its use." This remedy contains no opium or other narcotic, and may be given to a child as confidently as to an adult.

Mrs. J. B. Bell is visiting her son, Alvin, who is sick in Dallas.

Grove's Tasteless Chilli Tonic restores vitality and energy by purifying and enriching the blood. You can soon feel its Strengthening, Invigorating Effect. Price 60c.

PROFESSIONAL

—D-E-N-T-I-S-T—

Dr. F. N. Reynolds

Office Hours 8—12 AM; 1—5 PM Over Woodroof-Bragg's Store.

DR. J. E. ADKISSON

Physician and Surgeon

Hours From 6 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Office over City Barber Shop Phones: Of. 163, Res. 187. Nov 9

DR. MILLER

Over Woodroof-Bragg Company Physician and Surgeon Eyes Tested and Glasses General Practice

W. W. WHEELER

Real Estate, Fire, Accident and Tornado Insurance Agent. Notary Public.

Office over City Barber Shop. Merkel —:— Texas

G. W. JOHNSON

Insurance—Notary Public Over Woodroof—Bragg's Store. Merkel —:— Texas

W. P. MAHAFFEY

Attorney at Law Merkel and Abilene, Texas Merkel Office in rear Farmers State Bank. 22Sept17

SHAVING AND BATH PARLORS

The most Up-to-Date SHOP IN MERKEL CITY BARBER SHOP CHAS WEST Proprietor

GROCERIES



Groceries at Better Prices---at prices you can afford to pay. Come in and let us show you.

- One doz. cans No. 2 Tomatoes \$1.50
- One doz. cans No. 1 Tomatoes 1.20
- One doz. cans No. 2 White Swan Corn..... 2.00
- One large bucket Cooking Oil..... 1.80
- 25c Health Club Baking Powders..... 20c
- Good Peaberry Coffee, per pound..... 25c
- Good Coffee per pound..... 20c
- Large package Oats 30c
- Pint bottle Catsup..... 20c
- Small bottle Catsup..... 8c

Michigan Salt—Price Right

Fruits, Nuts and Candies

Anchor Mercantile Co.



Mrs. Walter Jackson, Editor

Birthday Party.

Mrs. Jas. West, entertained a few days since in honor of the sixty-first birthday of her father, G. A. Rister, and her son, James H., Jr., who was three. Her birthday was on the following day.

The table was lighted with candles and otherwise decorated. In the center was a cake "61" frosted, and three candles. Several courses were served, and those present will long remember the delightful occasion.

Those in attendance outside of the immediate family were Miss Alma Wells and Jack Dawson West.

Offer good Missouri ear corn, at \$1.63, choice peagreen Alfalfa hay, \$31.50, all delivered. Arrival draft inspection allowed. Weights guaranteed within 2 per cent.

These prices are net, half freight deducted. Guaranteed delivery at these prices. Wire order as half freight may be withdrawn at any time. Ask for prices on oats and corn chops. W. C. Erwin, Waco, Texas. 6

The Strong Withstand the Winter Cold Better Than the Weak

You must have Health, Strength and Endurance to fight Colds, Grip and Influenza. When your blood is not in a healthy condition and does not circulate properly, your system is unable to withstand the Winter cold.

GROVE'S TASTELESS CHILLI TONIC Fortifies the System Against Colds, Grip and Influenza by Purifying and Enriching the Blood.

It contains the well-known tonic properties of Quinine and Iron in a form acceptable to the most delicate stomach, and is pleasant to take. You can soon feel its Strengthening, Invigorating Effect. 60c.

The Very Best and Most Timely CHRISTMAS GIFT

☞ You are racking your brain for something nice to give a member of your family, or a friend.

☞ You have read the papers daily for the latest news, yet in such shape that you could not get the full news.

☞ I am selling for immediate delivery a history of the war; reputable authors; good binding; timely; interesting; 600 pages; 100 illustrations; all for \$2.00

☞ Order today and the book will be delivered without delay

E. D. COATS, Merkel PHONE NO. 7

Practical Christmas Gifts



Only a few of our splendid Phonographs left. Until Christmas, these musical instruments go at a

Reduced Price

You can make no Christmas gift that will be more appreciated. You can add no more elegant influence to the home than the loftiest thought of the deepest thinkers given through the Phonograph.

Our show window carries a nice assortment of

Cedar Chests

Matting Boxes

Chairs and Rugs

all of which are classed as useful gifts and they are

Reduced in Price



Only a limited supply of childrens chairs. Come early and make choice

A. B. Barrow Furniture Company

Holiday Eats

FISH OYSTERS

Good Coffee - Good Pastry

Good Chilli

Select Bakery Products

A Merry Xmas to All

Metropolitan Bakery
and Cafe



CHRISTMAS

Oranges

Apples

Cakes

Choice Canned Goods

Make your Christmas

Grocery and Feed

bill with us

Bob Martin
Grocery Co.



CHRISTMAS SHOPPERS

We have a full line of Oranges, Apples, Candy, Nuts, Cranberries, etc., for Xmas. Besides we carry at all times a full stock of Groceries and Feed, and will appreciate a call when you need anything in the above lines

See us for Heaters, Cook Stoves, and in fact, anything in the Hardware and Grocery lines

Crown Hardware Co.

Victory X-Mas Sale

This is of course a Victory Xmas and should be the most glorious one ever for all the world. We offer you in this sale our entire stock of holiday goods, hosiery, underwear, work shirts, overalls, threads and dry goods, notions, together with our queensware, Glassware, enamelware, express wagons, tablets and pencils. We quote you prices on the following items:

\$2.50 Mens union suits	\$1.69	60c Ladies hose, white and black	49c
2.00 Mens 2-piece underwear	1.69	\$1.25 Ladies hose, black	1.00
2.00 Mens overalls	1.89	25c Childrens hose	20c
2.25 mens overalls	2.00	35c Childrens hose	29c
1.00 mens work shirts	92c	Crochet cotton in white and colors	3 for 25c
1.35 mens flannel shirts	1.55	Talcum and face powders	15c to 25c
75c Boys and misses unions	55c	\$2.00 cups and saucers, real china set	\$1.65
65c Ladies vests	49c	\$2.25 cups and saucers, real china set	\$1.75
\$1.50 Ladies union suits	1.00	Good as anybodys express wagon for	\$1.00 to \$2.75
25c mens half hose	19c	School tablets 6 for	25c
60c mens half hose	49c		
25c Ladies hose, black	20c		
50c Ladies hose, black	35c		

These are just a few of the many values offered in this "Victory Christmas Sale," which begins now and lasts throughout December. If you fail to buy from us we both lose money. Yours for business,

THE RACKET STORE

WE KEEP NOTHING, BUT SELL EVERYTHING

J. M. DRY, PROP.

BUY YOUR

**Christmas Fruits, Nuts
Apples, Oranges
and Candies**

Also Fresh Cigars

Best Prices on Patent Medicines

A. C. BONEY

**PLUMBING AND WINDMILL
WORK**

I will appreciate your Patronage and
Guarantee my Work

B. T. (Tye) SUBLETT At Crown Hardware Co.

Specialty in Farm Loans

Inspector on the ground—Quick Service

Real Estate and Fire Insurance

W. O. BONEY West of Farmers State Bank

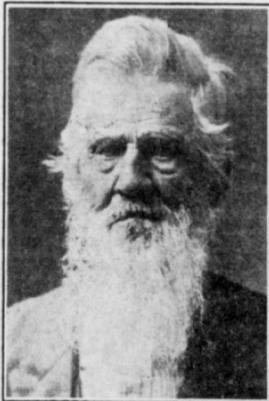
Government Says Buy Coal Now

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.

J. W. BANNER

On His Ninety-Eighth Birthday.



On Tuesday, June 12, John Wesley Banner reached his 98th birthday, still hale and hearty, and able to go where he chooses and when he chooses to do so.

"A ripe old age is the reward of a well spent youth." After a long useful life rich with romance, and in rewards Mr. Banner is reaping his reward of a well spent youth.

Three score years and ten is life's allotted span of years; four score years is a rare attainment; and four score years and ten looked upon as extraordinary. But here is a man who, after four score years and ten are passed, still retains his powers of physical strength as well as mental balance. Eyes that have not yet lost their luster and limbs that have failed not in strength are evidence that Mr. Banner will likely reach the century mark.

J. W. Banner was born June 12, 1820, while Mexico was yet an unfreed province of Spain and when Texas was a land of free booters yet undreamed of as a place of habitation; when the American nation was just emerging from the second war with England and while tales of the revolution were still to be told by those who had had the experi-

ences. He was born in Russell county, Va., went with his parents to Scott county where he grew to manhood, and in about 1843 was married to the daughter of one of his father's neighbors, Miss Martha Jane Broadwater.

Together the young couple joyously embarked upon their life's voyage and during the next twenty-five years began to accumulate property and began to see their children growing to man and womanhood.

To them eight children were born, all of whom are living today save one, as follows; Jefferson Banner of Dryden, Texas, Chas. Banner, deceased; Wm. Banner of O'Brien, Texas; Jake Banner of Merkel, Texas; Mrs. Logan of San Bonita, Texas; Mrs. Frank Clark, Mrs. Wash McCollum and John Banner of Comanche.

In 1870 the desire to seek out a new country struck Mr. and Mrs. Banner and they traded a part of their Virginia property for a tract of land in Collin county, Texas, without seeing the land, and in that year set out for their new home.

Dissatisfied in that section they sold their property there and in 1872 moved to Comanche county, settling on Salt Branch where Mr. Banner cleared out a home and settled down for a life as a Comanche county farmer.

Here he resided for ten years and decided to again try moving, going this time to Coleman county. From there he went to the Indian Territory, then called "the Nation" and from there to Florida and returning to his old home in Comanche county. It was soon after this that Mrs. Banner died, and before long he was again on the move, this time to the mountains where he took up a claim in New Mexico.

Since perhaps 1890 most of his life has been spent with his children, the last ten years, practically all of which he has spent with his "baby girl," as he calls Mrs. Clark.

More or less all his life Mr. Banner has been an adventurer for Indians were plentiful when he came to Comanche county and much more so when he lived in the Indian Territory.

He "did his bit" in the Civil War, serving in the cavalry but seeing but little real service; and "we were glad not to be in the worst," he said to the writer.

In answer to the query as to how the people in Virginia regarded the settling of Texas, and the Texas Revolution, Mr. Banner said he never supposed good people came to Texas when he was young. When a man was always heard of "in Texas," which he then supposed, was as large as Scott county.

Mr. Banner, unlike most of the older men, never spoke of "hard times" while young; though the reader can suppose that the traveling he did between 1870 and 1885 would not be a life on flowery beds of ease.

To the query, were there bad men in Texas and in the Nation when he was "pioneering." He said, "some awful bad and most awful good."

That Mr. Banner has lived a long career and suffered untold hardships of course is palatable, but that it is not these things that shorten life is by him made evident. Regularity and moderation have marked his life. Regular eating of substantial food have marked his many years. Regular hours and regular habits and work also show their work. He is an early riser, always up before the sun and about his business. He has never been a man of violent disposition, but was rather calm in any excitement; never permitting himself to become "wrought up" so to speak. His long years may be said to be the result of temperance in all things.

Mr. Banner's memory is still clear and when in a talkative mood can relate history that reads like romance.

He is still erect, goes as he pleases and is always in high spirits.

Each year his children and his children's children and their grandchildren (there are five generations) assemble for a re-

Suitable
Presents



Before buying your Christmas presents, be sure and over our choice selection of suitable presents. Our new, the designs the very latest, the quality the

Ladies Wrist Watches
Diamnod LaValliers
Cameo LaValliers

Watch Chains
Ladies Wate
Gents W

Bracelets

Solid Gold Rings

Tie Clasps

Cuff Buttons

Stick Pins

Lodge Emblems

Watch Charms

Watch Fobs

Fountain Pens

Waist Pins

Cameo Broo

Be sure and pay us a visit, whether you buy or not. We anxious to please, and will take pains to show you our

T. L. GRIME

Nature's Remedy Better Than
REG. U. S. PAT. OFFICE For Liver
NR-TABLETS-NR Get a 25¢ B

T. L. GRIMES, Merkel, Texas

union to meet with and be with the father they love and respect and whose daily life before them led them to be men and women of of character, success and stability.—Comanche-Chief.

Colds Cause Grip and
LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE
cause. There is only one
E. W. GROVE'S signature on bo.

Cow feed at G. M. Sharp's.

FRUIT CAK

We are specializing on Fr
Cake in quantities of from

1 TO 5 POUNDS

Order now and we will
away and ready for delive
December 24th.

We make it in quan
choice materials and can
you cheaper than you can

When your soldier b
remember we make

Christmas, Wedding an
to ord

METROPOLITAN

WITH OUR CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

We feel that it is in keeping with the spirit of the occasion to gratefully

THANK YOU

for the patronage extended us the past year, and here is hoping that our pleasant relations will continue into the hopeful new year.

C. L. Rogers

Groceries and Feed Fruits and Candies

CLEAN CLOTHES

Am back on the job. Bring in your clothes and let me fix them up trim for Christmas.

MRS. C. L. CASH

CHURCH NEWS

The Presbyterian Church Don't forget to be on hand for Sunday School at 10 a. m. We have been crippled by sickness, but conditions seem to be improving and we hope for a larger attendance.

Preaching service is at 11 a.m. and 7 Sunday evening. You are always welcome.

Our mid-week prayer service is at 7 o'clock every Wednesday evening. Your presence will help us in the work.

Strangers are given a cordial welcome.

S. R. Standefer, pastor.

League Program, Dec 15. Reforms That Need Our Aid. Leader, Agnes Rister. Song, League read responsively, Psl. XIV.

Scripture references, Russell Pike.

Leaders, Talk. Reform Movements of Our Day, Wallace Bragg.

Present State of Temperance Reform, Chester Hutcheson. Discussion.

Song. Benediction.

The Philathea class of the M. E. church will have a bazar at Sanders Drug Store on Saturday Dec. 14, from the hours of 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Following are the committees: Sales ladies, Mrs. J. W. Hill, Mrs. Sanders and Mrs. Morgan.

The committee to gather presents, Essie Tucker, Mary Eula Sears, Hazel Harkrider; decorations, Vivian Hutcheson, Annie Mae Costephens; cashier, Velma Hill.

Each one appointed is urged to meet at Sanders Drug Store, Friday to help make arrangements.

At The Baptist Church Every service as usual next Sunday. The pastor will be at home and make report on the Convention and the Billy Sunday meeting. He is full of the subject.

At eleven o'clock the theme



Gift Hints

A NICE SELECTION OF XMAS PRESENTS

12 Pairs of Shoes that must be sold in the NEXT 6 DAYS

Buy your Xmas Groceries of us and save money. We have them for Less

FEED FEED FEED

See us for Corn, Corn Chops, Barley Chops and Oats. Let us figure your feed bill, we Can Save You Money

The Star Store

Dry Goods and Groceries

The True Christmas Spirit

The spirit of rejoicing, of the giving of gifts, will find expression this Christmas as never before in the history of the world

HOLIDAY GOODS READY AND WAITING FOR YOU

we are Special Sale on the goods being a as follows

MENS OVER SHIRTS

30 Grade Sale price . . . \$3.18
75 Grade on sale at . . . 2.98
50 Grade on sale at . . . 2.73
40 Grade on sale at . . . 2.23
30 Grade on sale at . . . 1.98
20 Grade on sale at . . . 1.48

SWEATERS

Trade on sale at . . . \$7.68
Trade on sale at . . . 6.78
Trade on sale at . . . 5.34
Trade on sale at . . . 4.33
Trade on sale at . . . 3.98
Trade on sale at . . . 3.58
Trade on sale at . . . 2.98
Trade on sale at . . . 2.47
Trade on sale at . . . 1.90
Trade on sale at . . . 1.68
Trade on sale at . . . 1.23
Trade on sale at78

BOYS SUITS

\$15.00 Values on sale at . . \$12.28
12.50 Value on sale at . . . 9.98
10.00 Value on sale at . . . 7.89
9.75 Value on sale at . . . 7.64
9.50 Value on sale at . . . 7.37

LADIES SILK AND SERGE DRESSES, COAT SUITS

One half regular price. Our price cut one half.
All ladies hats 1/2 price.
All ladies coats 1/4 off price.
All Mens hats 25% off price.

UNDERWEAR

\$1.00 Grade 2Pc on sale . . .88
.85¢ Grade 2Pc on sale at . . .74
\$2.00 Mens Union suits for \$1.68

ings, sale price per yard . . . 22 1/2 c

DRY GOODS, Abilene

are That Strives to Please

will be, "One Hundred Per Cent Christians." The evening hour will be given to a special Boy Scouts service. All the Scouts will be on hand, and the Camp Fire Girls have special invitation to attend.

It looked mighty good to see Merkel Baptist Sunday School listed with the forty-two A-1 Sunday Schools of Texas. We are getting somewhere in Sunday School work. Let's keep it up and go on to higher things.

Get this on your program: The Fifth Sunday Meeting of Sweetwater Association will be held at our church December 27 and 28. We will have a fine crowd. A good program has been prepared.

Waletr Jackson, Supt.
E. E. Dawson, Pastor.

Methodist Missionary Society Following are the question to be studied this week in the book of Ruth.

Who was Eimelech?
Why was Naomi in Moab?
Of what nationality was Ruth?
Repeat Ruth's reply to Naomi when urged to return to her people?

When did Naomi and Ruth reach Bethlehem?

How did Ruth undertake to support herself and Naomi?

What prominent Bethlehemite did Ruth marry?

What was Ruth's relation to David?

B. Y. P. U. Program Dec. 15
Leader, Ruby Campbell.
Scripture, 1 Cor. 11:23-34.
Introduction.

The Institution of the Supper. Edna Swann.

The Purpose or Meaning of the Supper, Holland Teaff.

Special Music.

The Observance of the Supper, Lula Sharp.

Methodist Church Every Sunday our Sunday school starts at 9:45 a.m. Ralph Henson is superintendent, and it is his desire, and should be the desire of every member to see

our entire membership present at each service. Preaching at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. For the morning service the subject will be, "Shall We Have a New Theology After the War?" Come! There is a cordial welcome to all.

The Ladies Aid Society of the Baptist church will meet with Mrs. Ceausseaux next Monday afternoon at 2:30. Every member is urged to attend.

Peace Maker flour is the best. G. M. Sharp.

Mrs. L. D. Gaither of San Antonio is visiting her father and mother, Dr. and Mrs. Cranford.

Plenty corn and corn chops at G. M. Sharpe's

Mrs. Lytton Howard is still confined to her bed, though she is much improved.

Plenty of oats and cowfeed at Bob Martin's

A Tonic Laxative that will remove the bile from the Liver and cleanse the System THOROUGHLY without griping or disturbing the stomach is truly a Perfect Laxative.

LAX-FOS WITH PEPSIN is the name of a Reliable and Perfect Laxative which soon relieves Sick Headache, Dizziness, Indigestion, Stomach Trouble, Gas and Piles caused by a Torpid Liver and Constipation. Always use a Reliable Laxative in the treatment of Colds, Grip and Influenza.

LAX-FOS WITH PEPSIN is a Liquid Digestive Tonic Laxative excellent in its effect on the System, both as a tonic and as a laxative. It is just as good for Children as for Adults. Pleasant to take. Children like it. 50c. Made and recommended to the public by Parle Medicine Co., St. Louis, Mo., manufacturers of Grove's Tasteless chill Tonic.

New Tailor Shop

☞ Beg to inform the public that I am again in the business of Tailoring, Cleaning, Pressing, Altering and Mending.

☞ Order that new suit now. See my latest samples and designs.

☞ Bring in those old duds and let me make them look new.

City Tailor Shop

Jess Fergusson, Prop.