



EX-PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT DEAD

Oyster Bay, N. Y., Jan. 6.—Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, twenty-sixth President of the United States, died at his home on Sagamore Hill early today, will be laid to rest without pomp or ceremony in Young's Memorial Cemetery in this village Wednesday afternoon. He will be buried on a knoll overlooking Long Island Sound, a plot which he and Mrs. Roosevelt selected soon after he left the White House.

In the words of the clergyman who will conduct the funeral service, "America's most typical American," known in every corner of the earth, will go to his grave as a "quiet, democratic, Christian country-gentleman, beloved by his neighbors."

After prayers at the Roosevelt home at which only members of the family were present, the funeral service will be held at 12:45 o'clock in Christ Episcopal Church, the little old frame structure where, for years, the Colonel and his family attended divine worship.

No Flowers or Music

At the request of Mrs. Roosevelt, no flowers will be sent. The altar will be decorated only with laurel placed on it for the Christmas season. Also in conformance with Mrs. Roosevelt's wishes, there will be no music and no eulogy, but only the simple service of the Episcopal Church, conducted by the pastor, Rev. Geo.

The church, founded in 1705, built in 1878, will accommodate more than 500 persons, so admittance will be by card. These cards, it was said, will be issued from the Colonel's office in New York, and will be given only to relatives and intimate friends.

He was hastened by grief for the death of Colonel Roosevelt, relieved by the physicians who attended him to have been hastened by grief over Quentin's death, coupled with anxiety over serious wounds suffered by the main Archie Roosevelt, while fighting in France.

He was proud of his soldier and devoted heroism, but he was a devoted father and he grieved for the one who gave his life for his country, as well as for the other who was wounded, and hid his suffering from the world, however, in the hope that he might set an example for other fathers and mothers who have given their sons to the Nation.

YOUR LIBERTY BONDS

Your Government asks you earnestly not to sell these bonds unless you have to. Do not part with your Liberty Bonds means giving up your right of patriotism and citizenship, and handing your responsibilities and privileges over to someone else.

Liberty Bonds will be worth much more presently and it is a good business to hold them.

If you Must Sell

Get the full market price. Go to a responsible banker and let him give you information and advice. Do not sell to just anyone who may not treat you fairly. Bonds issued by Treasury Department Bureau of Publicity Dallas, Tex.

CEDAR WOOD

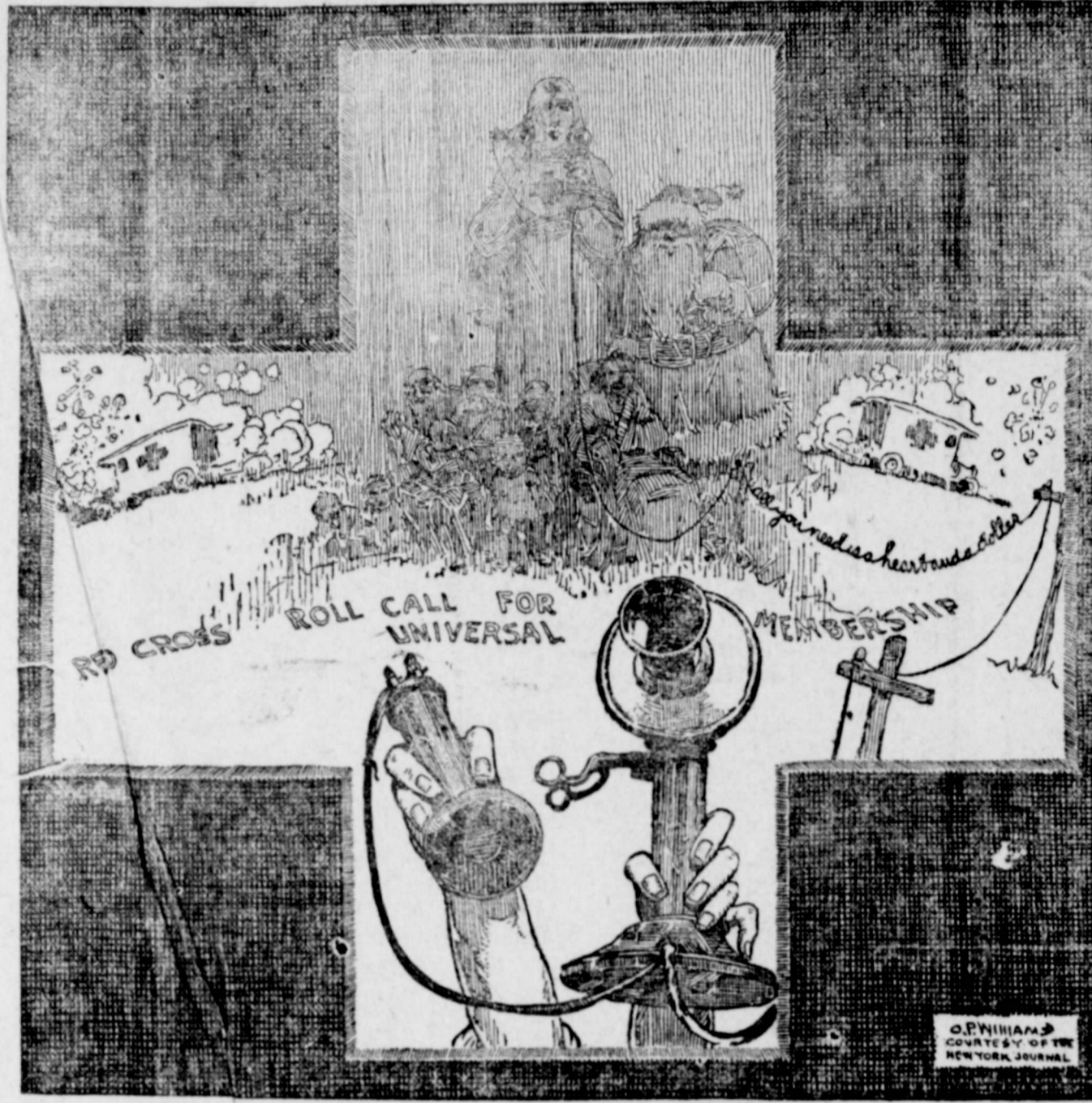
Cedar wood for sale at my place at \$2.75 per cord. Good days will be Tuesdays and Fridays.

C. F. SEARS

Your discount by paying bills on or before Saturday 11th.

Pounds of Breakfast Duffee at G. M. Sharp's.

Dear Reader, You're Wanted on the Phone



THIEVES BROUGHT TO JUSTICE

As a result of theft at the Anchor Mercantile Company, and through the energetic effort of H. L. Propst and W. H. Laney, a nice bunch of thieves were broken up at Lubbock. They had been operating successfully in their home town for many months and began to think they were pretty smooth. Their haul at the Anchor was one too many. They were quickly traced to their home town, where, it seemed, even the officers connived with them. In spite of this Messrs Propst and Laney caused their arrest.

They were billed by the grand jury and following are the results:

One, the leader of the gang, is now serving a two year sentence, with charges hanging over him for his rearrest as soon as his time is up.

The second has a suspended sentence hanging over him.

The third is in the navy and is subject to arrest upon his release.

Our fellow townsmen did highly creditable work. Hurrah for them!

While on their visit here the thieves broke into the home of W. N. Hall and stole a carpet, a highly prized quilt and a silk dress pattern, and some other minor articles.

Merkel Store Robbed.

Between Saturday night and Monday morning, December 21 and 23, the place of business of A. L. Jobe was entered and a number of articles taken. The safe was opened and all money found therein taken, except some checks and a small amount of silver. One check for \$3.75 was taken with the cash, and Mr Jobe would count it a great favor if the giver call and make it good, as he feels sure the thieves will not attempt to cash it.

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

FOR SALE—Typewriter ribbons at the Merkel Mail office.

CLASSIFIED ADS

1 cent a word for each insertion. No ad. taken for less than 15c.

FOR RENT—Modern 7 or 8-room residence on Oak St., No better place in Merkel. See Merkel Realty Company.

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

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

FOR SALE OR TRADE—\$65. Bausch & Lomb view camera, with full equipment. Would trade for good violin.—Earl Thornton, R.F.D. No. 4. 10t3p

FOR RENT—Farm in Fisher county, near Sylvester. S. F. Haynes. 10t2c

DEACON DUBBS AT TRENT

The play, "Deacon Dubbs," will be given at Trent Saturday night, January 11. It was given Christmas week at the school auditorium and made such a hit that it has been called for again. We would like to give an outline of the play, but time forbids. It is interesting from start to finish. The admission is 10 cents, and Superintendent F. A. Cary hopes to see a house full of people.

CARD OF THANKS

We wish through your paper to thank our kind friends for the service and favors given us during the long illness of our daughter and sister, Leola. Words fail us to express our gratitude. May God bless you all.

Mr. and Mrs. Thos Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Cal Hammer
Mr. and Mrs Ed Henderson.
Mr. and Mrs H. B. Griffith.
Rose Norris.

RAINFALL IN MERKEL FOR THE PAST YEAR

January, snow,63 inches.
February, rain,16 inches.
March, rain,56 inches.
April, rain,66 inches.
May, rain,	3.12 inches
June, rain,	2.67 inches.
July, rain,39 inches.
August, rain,	1.92 inches.
September, rain,64 inches.
October, rain,	3.90 inches.
November, snow and rain,	1.25 inches.
December rain,	2.98inches.
Total for 1918	18.88 inches.
Total for 1917	8.09 inches.
Total for 1916	15.17 inches.
Total for 1915	13.74inches.

We are indebted to J. J. Stallings for the above record. He has carefully compiled this record after the most painstaking care.

PARENTS-TEACHERS CLUB

At 3:30 o'clock, Tuesday afternoon, a large number of parents and all the teachers met in the High School auditorium to perfect the organization of a Parents-Teachers Club.

The meeting was called to order by Supt. Parker, who stated the purpose of the meeting, going into details as to the many things that can be accomplished through the organization.

Miss Sophia Howard addressed the audience on the social side of the work.

Miss Annie Laura Smith read a paper on "Needful Playground Apparatus and Equipments."

Permanent organization was effected with the election of the following officers: Mrs. M. Armstrong, President; Mrs. T. A. Johnson, Vice President; Miss Sophia Howard, Secretary and Treasurer; Miss Emma Houston, Press Reporter.

The chairman appointed the following program committee: Miss Ruby Campbell, Chairman, Mrs. W. A. McSpadden, Mrs. H. A. Sanders and Mrs. J. T. Browning. The purpose of this committee is to prepare a program to be rendered at the presentation of the High School service flag, which is to take place within the next two weeks. Every one is urged to attend.

The organization will meet again Friday afternoon at 3:30.

A TOWN CLUB NEEDED

It has been suggested that a town club be organized. Many strangers will be expected in Merkel during the next few months, and some means should be taken to give them proper entertainment. It has been further suggested that home talent be used largely in affording entertainment. There is no club or meeting place here where a town club can be organized. Plans will have to be worked out, and if the proposal finds favor, doubtless further details will be published in an early issue of the Mail.

OIL MACHINERY HAS NOW ARRIVED

Now laugh, you wise guys who have been poking fun at us for having faith in the oil game. We told you it would come and you would turn and wink your eye. We are on to your racket. It is our time to laugh now. The drill machinery arrived and has been hauled to the Sears location. The boiler is here and is being moved out. The casing is expected on every train. The well will be spudded in just as soon as the machinery can be set.

Briefly, this is the oil news for the week. Interest will increase from now on. It is whispered around that contract has already been let for two more wells, but Senator Boggs says he thinks this is about all the news the Merkel Mail can carry in one issue, and we quite agreed with him. He has joined the tin bucket brigade and has gone to work and says he no longer poses as a press reporter. This consoled us mightily, for we knew if Boggs had gone to work, there surely "was something doing."

Prospects are the brightest yet. We have the utmost confidence in the drilling of a well in every block and that without delay. Business will be so rushing in a short while all over this section that we will be amazed. At last our time for development is at hand and we veritably believe that better days are in sight.

SHILOH NEWS

Here is hoping that all have enjoyed a merry xmas and a happy New Year.

Parties have been enjoyed by the young folks this week at the home of Sinclair Phillips and wife, Walter Smith and wife, John Lawler and wife, Jim Ponway and wife. All report a fine time.

A. M. McCright was in Merkel Monday.

Fred Dupree of Merkel is quite sick at the home of Jim Grayson.

Mrs. G. N. Wright of Nashville, Tenn., is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A.M. McCright.

Miss Mattie Jones received a telegram Friday that her brother had received gas burns in Germany.

Earnest McCright and wife are real sick with the "Flu".

Jess Baker returned home Tuesday from Hamilton County, where he has been to spend the holidays with relatives.

Harlow McCright, who is attending school at Eastland, is spending the holidays with the homefolks.

Tom Swafford spent the holidays with homefolks at Merkel.

Misses Jennie and Mary Trimble of Tenn., are visiting at the home of their uncle, Will McDonald.

Miss Florens Cade of Denton is visiting relatives and friends.

J. W. Green and wife of Eastland spent xmas with her parents.

J. D. Barnes returned from Winnsvoro to his home Wednesday night.

Clarence Eoff of Merkel, was out at his place here Sunday.

NOTICE

To Whom It May Concern. This is to certify that J. T. Browning has withdrawn from The Merkel Realty Company. Merkel Realty Company.

THAT NEXT HAIR CUT

Where?
Pates Barber Shop
Denzel Cox of the ...
visiting ...
FOR RENT ...
—C. M. L.

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
\$35,000.00

learn some... Willburn, who is with the overseas forces. C. R. Hutcheson of Trent, called to make inquiry in behalf of Mr. Abbott. The last heard from the boy was some time before the signing of the armistice, and a short time ago his name appeared among the wounded. If any one has heard from him directly or through some of the boys over there it will be counted a great favor if they will confer with Mr. Hutcheson or write to Mr. Abbott.

A good remedy for a bad cough is Ballard's Horehound Syrup. It heals the lungs and quiets irritation. Sold by Sanders Drug Store

CAN CLEAN OIL SPOTS, TOO

Remember that no job in the cleaning and pressing line is too difficult for me. You oil enthusiasts will have lots of work, but please rest assured that I can and will give entire satisfaction.

Mrs. C. L. Cash, Cleaning, Pressing and Mending. Phone 124. At Anchor Mercantile Company.

10t2e.

Misses Julia Martin, Louise Warren, Lucy and Nell Tracy, left Wednesday to re-enter Simmons. Miss Ona Faye Bland also entered Simmons after xmas.

Plenty of oats and corn—G M. Sharp.

Arl Sharp visited homefolks during the holidays.

Save your discount by paying Electric Bills on or before Saturday the 11th.

Plenty of fresh groceries at G. M. Sharps.

W. C. Calvert and family of Sweetwater visited his mother, Mrs. M. L. Calvert, last Sunday.

Cow feed at G. M. Sharp's.

for \$3.75 was taken with some bills. Will the person who gave me that check in payment for groceries, please call at my store to see me.—A. L. Jobe.

See J. T. Dennis for bulk ribbon cane syrup.

Miss Geneva Brown has returned to school at Beiton.

Card of Thanks

We want to thank our friends and neighbors for their help and kindness during the sickness and death of our little daughter.

May God's richest blessings rest upon each one of you.

Mr. and Mrs. Geogre Crow.

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

HELP THE KIDNEYS

Merkel Readers Are Learning The Way.

It's the little kidney ills—The lame, weak or aching back—

The unnoticed urinary disorders—

That may lead to dropsy and Bright's disease.

When the kidneys are weak, Help them with Doan's Kidney Pills,

A remedy especially for weak kidneys.

Doan's have been used in kidney troubles for 50 years.

Endorsed by 50,000 people—endorsed by citizens of this locality.

W. J. Hauk, retired farmer, Anson, Tex., says: "Doan's Kidney Pills always relieve me when I use them. When my kidneys are disordered or need attention I get a box of Doan's Kidney Pills and they never fail to benefit me. Another in my family has found just as beneficial results from their use."

Price 60c, at all dealers. Don't simply ask for a kidney remedy—get Doan's Kidney Pills—the same that Mr. Hauk had. Foster-Milburn Co., Mfgs., Buffalo, N. Y.

STATEMENT

FARMERS & MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK

MERKEL, TEXAS

As Made Comptroller of Currency at Close of business December 31, 1918

RESOURCES

Cash	\$154,920.50
U. S. Bonds and Certificates	43,359.35
War Saving Stamps	406.72
Stock in Fed. Res. Bank	1,500.00
Other Real Estate	3,132.00
Furniture and Fixtures	3,600.00
5 per cent Redemption Fund	312.50
Cash and Exchange	92,331.72
Total	\$299,562.79

LIABILITIES

Capital Stock	\$ 25,000.00
Surplus and Profits	33,331.08
Circulation	6,250.00
Due Federal Res. Bank	25,000.00
Bills Payable	6,000.00
Deposits	203,981.71
Total	\$299,562.79

YOUR BANKING BUSINESS IS INVITED

Every accommodation granted in line with good business methods and conservative Banking

J. T. Warren President
G. F. West Vice President
Henry James Vice Pres.
Thos. Johnson Cashier
Booth Warren Asst. Cashier
DeVerle Johnson Asst. Cash.

LOCAL NEWS

Warren McSpadden spent the holidays in Cisco with relatives.

Plenty of oats and cowfeed at Bob Martin's

Little Paul Riney, son of Mr. and Mrs. B. H. Riney, has just recovered from an attack of pneumonia.

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

Mrs. H. Kelley of Maryneal visited Mrs. D. J. Kelley during the holidays.

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

E. D. Coats has moved to the suite of offices over the Crown Hardware Company, where he will be glad to have his friends call.

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

Mrs. J. E. Kelley left last Thursday for Abilene where she visited a while before going on to her home in Oklahoma.

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

Mr. and Mrs. Barney Garrett of Douglass Arizona visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Garrett the past week.

No Worms in a Healthy Child

All children troubled with worms have an unhealthy color, which indicates poor blood, and as a rule, there is more or less stomach disturbance. GROVE'S TASTELESS chill TONIC given regularly for two or three weeks will enrich the blood, improve the digestion, and act as a General Strengthening Tonic to the whole system. Nature will then throw off or dispel the worms. The Child will be in perfect health. Price 50c per bottle.

FOR TWO WEEKS

Commencing Saturday January 4

10 CENTS OFF

ON EVERY \$1.00

THAT YOU BUY IN WINTER GOODS OF THE FOLLOWING

Underwear, Blankets, Ladies Coats, Mens Suits, Misses Coats, Sweaters, and all other strictly winter goods

WE WISH YOU A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

The Brown D. G. Co.

LOCAL NEWS

Wm Cox has received his discharge from the army and returned home.

Just received car of flour. I Martin.

Miss Amanda Curtis is just recovering from a very severe attack of pneumonia.

Brer Rabbitt syrup at G. Sharp's

Mrs. J. T. Pue's brother, who is in the army, visited her the past week.

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

Mrs. Hattie Boden has returned to her home in Dallas after spending the holidays with her mother, Mrs. Ada Walker.

Plenty of oats and cowfeed at Bob Martin's

W. N. Hall, who has been making his home in Detroit for seven months, is back home again. He looks natural and seems mighty glad to be back. He intends to remain a few weeks. Mrs. Hall is still in Detroit. He says it is uncertain as to when he will again make their home here.

Grove's Tasteless chill Tonic restores vitality and energy by purifying and enriching the blood. You can soon feel its Strengthening, Invigorating Effect. Price 50c.

Miss Elsie Sharp left for Abilene Monday, where she will study music.

Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Howard visited in Dallas during the holidays, while there Mrs. Howard underwent a slight operation and is now visiting in Hillsboro.

Colds Cause Grip and Influenza. LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE Tablets relieve cause. There is only one "Bromo" E. W. GROVE'S signature on box. 50c.

O. A. HORTON WRITES

Continued from last week
Every thing is very high, eggs one dollar per dozen, any kind of fruit, twenty cents a piece. Sugar, they don't know what it looks like. The cheese are so strong you have to wear a gas mask while you eat them.

We took over a section on the front last summer and we were stationed in a little village just behind the front lines just a few days before the Germans had driven the people from their homes and they did not take any thing with them, as they were lucky to get away alive. The Germans had scattered every thing all over the place, broken the beautiful china and pictures, and the shells had torn the buildings which once were happy home and beautiful Cathedrals to pieces. This was enough to make any man with a heart, go mad to get at those dirty Germans.

This sector was a pretty lively place, the enemy was dropping shells in our trenches all the time, and they also sent gas over pretty often. I saw some airplane battles on this front. I have seen as many as forty airplanes fighting in the air at the same time, and I have seen many of them fall to the ground. I saw a Frenchman bring a Hun down, as they were up about twelve thousand feet, and the huns machine made a straight shoot for the ground, all in flames, and it fell right close to me.

My experiences in the front trenches:
After we arrived in this little

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.

FOS WITH PEPSIN is a Liquid Digestive Laxative excellent in its effect on the bowels as a tonic and as a laxative. It is Food for Children, as for Adults. Pleasant Children like it. See and recommended to the public by Paris S. Co., St. Louis, Mo., manufacturers of Tasteless Chill Tonic.



French port, in two weeks we were on our way to a training camp near the front. There we spent about five months training for the work we had before us, but it was not a hard job to lick those Germans after the Americans got after them.

In October we got ready to go into the trenches for the first time. We traveled all day and half the night in some trucks, quit the trucks and hiked about eight miles, could hear the roar of the big guns miles away and it sure makes a fellow think of home the first time he marches into the trenches. We were the first American troops to go into the trenches. After 10 days we went back to our old camp and began drilling again until in January, when we received orders to pack up and start for the front. From then on we were going in and out of the trenches pretty often. The longest that we were exposed to shell fire, was seventy two days, and we sure were glad to be relieved for a while.

Well after a long ride on the train and several hard days hiking we got to the front again, there we took over a sector, which was called death valley, and believe me it had its right name.

One of our duties in the trenches was to make patrols into "No mans land", and a fellow just has to guess the way on a dark night, if he gets lost he has a hard time finding the way back to his line. When the star-shells go up and burst we would have to lay flat on the ground for sometimes the Germans would see us and turn their machine guns loose on us, then we would hug the ground for sometime. A man couldn't say that he was coming back when he went into

"no mans land"

When they relieved our division from this front, we were sent a few miles back for a long needed rest, but the second night the enemys airplanes come over and dropped three large bombs right on us, and the rest of our happy nights were spent in the wheat fields. A few days and we are back in the trenches again. I spent the fourth of July in the trenches, but we celebrated anyway, for our artillery sent over several hundred high explosive shell to let Fritz know that we were celebrating the 4th.

We went back near Paris after a long ride on motor trucks and on the next day after arriving, orders came to get ready to start for the front in thirty minutes, so they put us on some trucks and we traveled all night, and endless string of motor trucks loaded with French soldiers, hundreds of large guns and wagon trains were passing us all night it looked like every thing in France was on the move, late in the morning we came to a forest, stoped there for the day and late in the afternoon everything was moving forward again, we all were tired, hungry and half dead for sleep, but all night we hiked and early in the morning we came to another forest and there the cook wagons overtook this tired, hungry bunch and gave us a good warm meal, and with a few hours rest we started again on our last march to the front, but before starting the Captain made a little talk in which he told us we were going in the front lines that night, and would go over the top in the morning at 4 o'clock, and informed us of the big job we were going into in a few hours. Our division then moved out at dark and I will never forget that dark and stormy night. I never saw so much transportation and so many men trying to get over the same road at the same time in all my career. It was just pouring down rain and so dark we had to hold to each other to keep from getting separated from each other, the lightning was flashing, Fritz was throwing shells over us, and it rained hard all night. We hiked and hiked, tired and sleepy as we were, had now been on the road for five days and nights, and there was not a man who fell out of ranks. After a long and muddy old hike we came to the front line trenches, arrived just a few minutes before the zero hour to go over the top. Our part of the line was in a wheat field, and the enemy saw us and opened up with their machine guns, but could not do much harm, for they were using indirect fire, but in a few minutes their artillery put a barrage down on our trenches and then things began to look gloomy believe me, but in about ten minutes our artillery got started and I think every gun that was behind us opened up at the same time, the earth trembled as though an earth quake was in progress.

Going over the top is nothing compared with the time you are in the trenches waiting for the orders, for after a person starts

You must have endurance to fight Colds, Grip and Influenza by Purifying and Enriching the Blood.

GROVE'S TASTELESS CHILL 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.

across "no man's land" there is so much excitement that he has not got time to worry.

We started across, going very slowly trying to keep out of the shell holes and wire entanglements, which our barrage had torn to pieces. At this time the enemy sure was playing on us with their machine guns, high explosive shells and sharpnells were bursting all around us, while the airplanes were dropping over our heads and the artillery who were putting down a heavy barrage just in front to break down the wire entanglements so we could get through, also, blow up their dugouts and trenches, and at the same time the large French tanks are just ahead of the front wave and are putting machine gun nests out of commission, also blowing up the trench motor batteries.

A person sees his comrades fall, some killed and some wounded, but those who are able still go forward fighting the enemy. At this time we took several hundred prisoners, and about three miles of territory and captured some heavy artillery. We could see the enemy retreating to the rear, and then they began to shoot at us point blank with artillery, which hit one of the tanks and killed ever one except the officer in charge. A few minutes after this happened I was knocked down by a shell and put out of commission.

This is just a very small idea of what a man see when he goes over the top, and across "No Man's Land."

Your loving son,
O. A. HORTON.

Joints that ache, muscles that are drawn or contracted should be treated with Ballard's Snow Liniment. It penetrates to the spot where it is needed and relieves suffering. Sold by Sanders Drug Store.

RED CROSS DRIVE COMPLETED ON TIME

The Red Cross drive is over. The membership received in Merkel and Merkel country amounted to 630. This is a fair average of the entire country. It is a little below what we hoped to attain, but ranking, as it does, with centers that was far better favored, we are justly proud of the record.

We are just a little chagrined, however, to learn of reports that have become current in this locality, which we learn from Chairman W. A. McSpadden, summarized as follows:

"German propoganda still exists in this community. It has been under cover all along, but crops out once and awhile. It has come to my ears indirectly that the local Red Cross workers were being handsomely paid for their services. This is false and the tongue that started this infamous lie is from a German sympathizer and one who is not a decent subject to live in this patriotic community.

"As local chairman in the Red Cross drive, I want to say to these Hun lovers that we do not want or need your dollar, because your money is not good enough in the Red Cross.

"This local branch of the Red Cross is going to continue to exist and these Hun lovers will never be able to make a dent in it.

"To those who have helped in the campaign I wish to thank personally from the bottom of my heart for their loyalty and support. It is good to associate with such noble, patriotic hearts. The pleasure you have given me far more than off sets the infamous reports scattered abroad by hidden Hun lovers.

"W. A. McSpadden, Local Chairman Red Cross Roll Call."

Cream meal—G. M. Sharp.

AMERICANS FIGHT GERMS IN ITALY

Tuberculosis Experts Sent by Red Cross Will Use Latest Methods.

Included in the unit of medical and lay workers which the American Red Cross has sent to Italy are a number of the leading anti-tuberculosis workers of the country, sponsored by the National Tuberculosis Association. Dr. William Charles White, who heads the unit, is medical director of the Tuberculosis League of Pittsburgh, and Dr. Robert H. Bishop, the assistant director, is secretary of the Anti-Tuberculosis League of Cleveland as well as health commissioner of that city. Dr. John H. Lowman of Cleveland, a former president of the National Association, is another prominent member of the unit. Others are Dr. Robert G. Patterson, secretary of the Ohio Tuberculosis Association; Seymour H. Stone, until recently secretary of the Massachusetts Anti-Tuberculosis League; Dr. Gertrude Sturgis, secretary of the New York City Association of Tuberculosis Clinics, and N. A. Nelson, superintendent of the Cincinnati Anti-Tuberculosis League.

These men and women, at the request of the Italian government, will co-operate with that country in applying the latest approved American methods for combating the spread of tuberculosis. Some of them will be charged with the establishment of clinics where people of all ages may be examined and treated; others will devote their attention particularly to preventing tuberculosis among children, and a third group will develop health publicity and education.

It is to the credit of the anti-tuberculosis campaign in America that it has produced specialists of such international standing that Italy wishes to call them into her service temporarily. But the campaign will be continued unrelentingly here at home. Its support during the ensuing year will be derived not as heretofore from the sale of Red Cross Christmas Seals, but by a special appropriation made by the Red Cross to the National Tuberculosis Association. Tuberculosis workers on their side will line up with the Red Cross in its Christmas Roll Call for universal membership.

CONTEST FOR THE JUNIORS.

A special feature during the Red Cross Christmas Roll Call will be a Junior Red Cross Four-Minute Men Contest on "Why You Should Join the Red Cross." The contest will be similar to those previously conducted by the Division of Four Minute Men of the Committee on Public Information. It will be held on Friday, December 20th, in all of the School Auxiliaries, and friends and parents of the pupils will be urged to attend.

Pierce Oil, Gas, Lubricating Corporation

We are grateful for the patronage and support of the people of Merkel and surroundings. We have tried to give you a square deal, as we expect to do in the future. We have been here several years and expect to stay a little while longer.

M. D. Angus, Agent.

Mrs. D. S. Whitlow and daughter, Hallie of Temple are visiting Mrs. Whitlow's parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Boney.

Wm Brown, Bill O'Briant, and DeVerl Johnson attended a dance given at the Elks Hall in Abilene, during the holidays.

EASING THE CARES OF SOLDIERS' FAMILIES

The ten thousand Home Service Sections of the American Red Cross, in their work of looking after the families of the enlisted men, are doing wonders for the morale of the army. Our fighters are not men who are going to worry about themselves, but if they do not get cheerful letters from home, or if anything goes wrong there, they are going to worry, and that delicate thing the army men call morale is going to be disturbed. It is to safeguard against this and also to prevent needless suffering and to promote that spirit of neighborliness and kindly aid that binds each community into an organic whole that the Home Service was organized.

Over 50,000 workers are serving on these ten thousand committees, which reach into every corner of the country, however remote. Not a town or village or crossroads that is not within reach of the Red Cross; not a wife or child or mother of a man in service who cannot claim the ready aid of the Red Cross workers.

More than 300,000 families of American soldiers and sailors have been relieved of money troubles, legal difficulties and worries of all sorts by the protecting arm of the Red Cross. If the allowances of allotments under the War Risk Insurance law do not come the matter is at once referred to Red Cross Headquarters, taken up with the proper government bureau and promptly straightened out. If, through the delay, the family finds itself in need of money sums are advanced to tide it over until the allotment arrives. During July over sixty thousand inquiries of this kind were received, and more than a third of these were taken care through to headquarters before they could be straightened out.

FOR ITALY'S BABIES.

Motherhood in Italy just now is not the joy that it might be, for the poor women are at their wits ends to clothe the children already in the family, not to mention the preparation for the little newcomers. Perhaps the most appreciated gifts of the American Red Cross at this time are the layettes which are being given to the mothers of Italy. Each layette consists of twenty-four pieces and includes four bright colored swathing bands, so dear to the heart of the Italian woman. Twenty layettes a week are needed at Chioggia alone.

- WHEN YOU ENROLL:
Be sure to get your button,
Be sure to get your flag,
Be sure to get your stamps,
Be sure to use them all.

Advertised Letters.

These can be redeemed upon payment of one cent.
Beard, Roy.
Eggelston, Mrs. J.
Hull, Mrs. T.
Mann, J. L.
Tompson, Mrs. B.
Wright, W. W.
These letters will be sent to the dead letter office on January 15th.

H. C. Williams, Postmaster. Merkel, Texas.

J. M. Boney has returned to his home in Carthage Mo., after spending the holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Boney, and brother, W. O. Boney and family.

SPECIAL Subscription RATES

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—To take advantage of this reduction in price you should place your subscription with this office at once as it cannot and will not be continued long. At this price you are buying a Daily paper including the Sunday issue together with your local paper for less than you can buy any other Daily paper, and you are buying the two for the regular price of one.

HOMER L. EASTERWOOD
WRITES

Cable Received Same Day Sent
Tells Of Surroundings
In London.

The following are some extracts taken from a letter recently received by Mrs. Easterwood. She also received a cablegram from him, on the same day it was sent, which was Christmas greetings to her. The extracts are as follows:

Monday Dec. 9th.

Three letters came this evening, the first news from home in sixty-five days and you state your first letter from me came in thirty-five, you can sympathize with me in the delay of suspense, and I am overjoyed that you are well and have escaped the "Flu" I had worried for reports were circulated over here that it was raging in the State and only a day or so ago had read in an English paper a report that over 80,000 deaths had occurred in the States from "Flu." In India the deaths have gone into Millions, from it and England has suffered greatly, in the northern part of the country. I understand it is still very bad, more especially around Manchester where I was for some time.

All this mail coming at one time made me refuse to go in to dinner tonight and the Medical Officer in charge, noted my absence and came into the billiard room to inquire of my good health. He had looked all over the place for me, even climbing three stairs to my room before he found me. My explanation was highly satisfactory.

In my last letter to you, I expected to be gone before now, but I'm still here and may be here until after Xmas, not that I think I need to stay, for don't think I do. Before one can leave here orders must be issued through the M. O., headquarters and then headquarters in to issues orders when persons get go and these various orders come slow. Some men who have been here two weeks after being ready to go have not gotten their orders yet. I suppose it is all caused by the rush of clearing work now being done at headquarters in getting officers and troops place to meet the new conditions.

After one gets well here they feel like this is no hospital at all, it is so unusual, and visitors who come here say there is none other in England to compare with it. The place is in the country some 26 miles, the private home and estate of Col Spencer Clay. His wife a former American, Miss Adeline Astor, the daughter of William Waldorf Astor of New York, gave it over as a convalescent hospital for American Officers. She still remains here, a most gracious lady to the guests, and though the place is a Red Cross Institution, she takes a personal interest in seeing that all are well cared for.

The home "a mansion beyond my ability to describe" is comfort in every respect, and far better attention is given us here than I received in either of the English places.

Being a "Flu" patient, my first evening here was a surprise. When I went to my room I found every convenience, a lovely bed, a dressing gown, nice soft pajamas, an extra sweater and citizens trousers, bed room slippers, an individual wardrobe for your personal use, private bath, bed light for night reading, in fact everything. The extra sweater and trousers were perfect fits and are issued so that one does not have to be in uniform unless an occasion demands. This is only once per day, at dinner, all other meals are unofficial so to speak and the place has the record of only having lost but one patient since it opened in February, and that poor fellow must have been almost gone when sent here for one just can't think of getting sick, you are not given time. One thing forgotten, every night I find a hot water bottle snugly tucked away underneath the cover and there also are my pajamas, all nice and warm. Can you imagine such.

Its a pity every sick and injured man over here cannot come here to convalesce, but as the place can only take care of one hundred officers, the ones who are fortunate enough to be sent here are considered by all other officers who know of the place, as being "lucky dogs" and I am one of the lucky ones. I will never forget the kindness of Col and Mrs. Clay, their every effort is to provide for your continued comfort and at the same time give you entertainment, as illustration, Saturday night a dance was held, a masquerade, costumes were furnished to those who could dance, by Mrs. Clay and though I had missed those previously held, by not feeling fit to take part, I was in this one and thoroughly enjoyed it. In fact one dance is held nearly every week and I've been here since Nov. 14th. Many notables were here, including some with titles, a Duke and Duchess, Army officers of every imaginable rank up to General, some very fine visiting ladies from various places, then Mrs. Vernon Castle was here, two bands from London and the evening went merrily along until past three in the morning. Yes, I danced one with the very noted Mrs. Castle and must say, she is a wonderful dancer and deserves much if not all of her notoriety. While on the subject can say that while I greatly enjoyed the occasion, the splendor of the affair of the presence of so many prominent people has not once caused me to fail to dream every day and evening of my loved ones at home and to wish I was with them.

On Sunday General Biddle was here to lunch and in the afternoon pinned Red Cross Medals on all the Red Cross Sisters, "V. A. D's," they are called, so I had the honor if it be styled such of lunching at the same table with this esteemed man of Military affairs. He made everyone feel very much at ease while here for he took advantage of the surroundings to lay aside his formal military bearing for a few moments and heartily enjoyed his short stay here. He motored back to London soon after lunch, then since Saturday, Captain John Jacob Astor has been here with his wife. They are most sensible people. He has had the misfortune of losing his right limb so goes about the place on crutches, his leg was amputated just below the knee and when well enough he can use a cork limb and not be much the worse.

Each night ones shoes are to be placed just out side the door, where the orderlies can get them and next morning you again find them there all shined and cleaned. Some life this ending up of my spell of "Flu", but after all I guess I went through a test of the funny disease sufficiently to entitle me to the pleasant surroundings I am now in. Am sure would not have had all these luxuries accorded me had it happened that I should have been sent to some other place after leaving Manchester.

You spoke of my letters being cut up something awful I guess the Censor decided to chop out that part which told of our submarine experience at sea. I might have known it would have been marked out but just did not think of it. I also wrote some to mother, so that is what happened to her letter, so I suppose about half a dozen post cards did not reach you at all for believe me I made some mention on them that "we met a sub at sea. "Poor old sub", thing that is the way I put it on the card, and knowing what I do now, would never tried to send them. Sent one to Dee, R. O. Zora, Elma, Dr. Hollis, Lester, and one to about every member of yours and my families. We had opportunity to get all such things at Manchester as a girl came around to every bed, every morning with papers, postcards, stamps, writing pads pencils ect, so I didn't have any thing else to do and enjoyed writing home to friends.

Now that it is all over can say without fear of a censor that we had a very thrilling experience, on a beautiful moonlight night, the sea was calm and first detected the submarine right in the middle of our convoy, and can

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MERKEL REALTY CO.
W. O. Boney Walter Jackson

thank my stars, also, the navy, more especially one particular U. S. Submarine Destroyer that I was not treated to a cold Irish Sea on the night of October 16th.

Will always remember that night, the day and the hour and will give a clear clean cut account of it to my last day. It is quite different to talk and think about submarines when you are on land, and to meet one out in the briny deep. The sensation one gets from the two view points has a very hair raising contrast and your first thoughts are whether or not you are going to be able to get your particular life boat "at least the one you have been assigned to" safely away from your ship, with that one thought, one is content for they are ready to trust to luck about what happens afterwards, and the main thing is getting your boat safely launched. It so happened that my stateroom was on the port side of our boat just about midship, while the life boat I happened to be assigned to was on the starboard side and forward of all other life boats. I happened to be assigned to this boat through my own shortsightedness.

The Adjutant to the Commander of Troops aboard had the first boat drill called early in our voyage. I was standing on deck close by when he asked who among that particular small gathering around him ever rowed a boat. I promptly stuck up my hand and as quickly jerked it down for I regained my senses at this stage of the game and

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After you have taken Hall's Cataract Medicine for a short time you will see a great improvement in your general health. Start taking Hall's Cataract Medicine at once and get rid of Cataract. Send for testimonials, free.
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remembered that my boat rowing had been confined to placid waters on Clear Fork or the E. zos. My change of heart came too late however for the Captain had seen my hand. "You man an oar in my boat, forward, starboard side" was his snappy orders. After picking his crew and giving instructions to other officers who were to take other boats he called all his crew forward to our particular boat, where he gave more explicit instructions. Now so far as I know, members of the ship crew at least two or three of them were assigned to all other life boats, but to ours none of the ship crew were assigned. The Captain seemed to think that as he was directing the destiny of the entire troop body, he should take more chance than the others, and I think he did. Arriving at our positions we found our boat to be the smallest life boat on the ship, plainly burnt in its side were the words "for 15 men," all others were marked "36 men or more".

The first morning drill did not amount to much, we just knew what boat we were to make for in case of an alarm. The next morning found us hitting it in the face of a heavy sea, heavy breakers were washing over the deck, and we were facing the same storm which caused the end of the transport Otranto, with several hundred lives lost when she went on the rocks off the coast of Scotland. This sad accident happened Oct. 6th. I believe the day we sailed and as we neared England we encountered the same disturbances in mid-ocean.

On this second morning for boat drill I found myself hanging on to anything I could find nailed down and made my way forward to my boat step at a time. Our fourteen men soon gathered and we were assigned our positions by the Captain. He told us in a non-assuring voice that as we had no available ship crew members to help us we must in case of need fight it out ourselves. Four men were assign-

ed to the duty of lowering the boat, five others and I were to get into the boat before it was lowered and cut away the binders and on being lowered to hold the boat away from the ships side while the others were coming over the sides, down the roap ladders and into our egg-shell looking sea tub. We six were admonished in the very strongest language that the safety of our party first depended on us keeping the boat clear of the ship and were told that if we ever let a big wave wash us against the sides of the ship that our boat would be crushed, our chances of escape practically gone. One only had to look at the life-boat view the size of the waves then breaking over the ship to realize that every word he said was true. Nice thoughts come in ones mind under such circumstances for while going through the drill more than one breaker had cleared the boat and drenched us. More pleasant thoughts came when the captain told his crew that owing to the smallness of our craft, the absence of any ship crew to help us the chances were about ninety to one that we could manage the boat in a very heavy sea. I still believe all he said.

After drill was over our crew got together, the captain absent, and our situation was reviewed, each man recited his duties that we might avoid mistakes. We found one man in our crew who had been at sea before, but he knew nothing of handling a life boat. Lucky for us we were not called upon, at least I was not, for when our submarine excitement did come I was entertaining the "Flu" in grand shape. No alarm was sounded calling troops to their places, but the first depth charge gave us such a shock, every man who could got to his place.

A Field Clerk who was in my room at the time this happened jumped and ran, telling me he would return for me if I needed to get out. It seemed some thirty minutes had passed before he came back to report that we had not been torpedoed, that the shock we got was from exploding depth charges. While he was gone, I half assured myself of our safety, for I could hear the ship's engines running in the same smooth drumming way they had been going for some eleven days previous.

I do not know just how close we were to the submarine. The shock was so great however, the Aderatic, one of the largest ships in our convoy immediately put out the S.O.S., that she had been torpedoed. The reports reaching us were a bit confusing about this boat. I later talked with persons who were on her at the time and they stoutly maintained that a torpedo hit them. After they put out the S. O. S., the destroyer which came to our rescue came back with the wireless that they had not been hit, but were suffering from effects of the two depth charges let go by the said destroyer. A Mayor on our ship "The Lancashire," was on the bridge during the time all this was occurring, reported that the effects of the charges were sufficient to lift the Aderatic completely out of the water. It was said that the charges were both let go about fifty yards from the Aderatic, so evidently the sub was very close to that ship when the destroyer got in its work.

Whether the Aderatic received a torpedo or not, or whether the shock of depth charges were sufficient, it is an established fact that this big ship made the rest of her voyage with a very bad list. It seemed a popular belief that the submarine must have fired one or more torpedos, but to hit a ship which is sailing in a zig-zag, it is largely guess work.

Surgeons agree that in case of Cuts, Burns, Bruises and wounds the first treatment is most important. When an efficient antiseptic is applied promptly, there is no danger of infection and the wound begins to heal at once. For use on man or beast, Borozone is the ideal antiseptic and healing agent. Buy it now and be ready for an emergency. Sold by Sanders Drug Store.

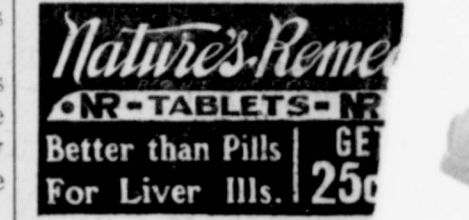
This is Better Than Laxatives

One NR Tablet Each Night For A Week Will Correct Your Constipation and Make Constant Dosing Unnecessary. Try It.

Poor digestion and assimilation mean a poorly nourished body and low vitality. Poor elimination means clogged bowels, fermentation, putrefaction and the formation of poisonous gases which are absorbed by the blood and carried through the body. The result is weakness, headaches, dizziness, coated tongue, inactive liver, bilious attacks, loss of energy, nervousness, poor appetite, impoverished blood, sallow complexion, pimples, skin disease, and often times serious illness.

Ordinary laxatives, purges and cathartics—salts, oils, calomel and the like—may relieve for a few hours, but real, lasting benefit can only come through use of medicine that tones up and strengthens the digestive as well as the eliminative organs. Get a 25c box of Nature's Remedy (NR Tablets) and take one tablet each night for a week. Relief will follow the very first dose, but a few days will elapse before you feel and realize the fullest benefit. When you get straightened out and feel just right again you need not take medicine every day—an occasional NR Tablet will then keep your system in good condition and you will always feel your best. Remember, keeping well is easier and cheaper than getting well. Nature's Remedy (NR Tablets) are sold, guaranteed and recommended by your druggist.

F. L. GRIMES, Merkel.



whether the torpedo is strike what it is aimed This should reach changed, and is probably the censor saw fit to eliminate from my previous letter. I saw Marshall Foch in London Tuesday from a very close view.

Heartburn, indigestion or distress of the stomach is instantly relieved by Herbine. It forces the badly digested food out of the body and restores tone in the stomach and bowels. Sold by Sanders Drug Store.

Remember: Peace or War the United States Government has to pay its debts and consequently expects you to pay that W. S. pledge.

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

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A BILLING, TEXAS
Only well known Business College in Texas. Thousands of firms nearer our Department than any other. Most contract guarantee position. Catalogue

STOMACH TROUBLE

Mr. Marion Holcomb, of Nancy, Ky., says: "For quite a long while I suffered with stomach trouble. I would have pains and a heavy feeling after my meals, a most disagreeable taste in my mouth. If I ate anything with butter, oil or grease, I would spit it up. I began to have regular sick headache. I had used pills and tablets, but after a course of these, I would be constipated. It just seemed to tear my stomach all up. I found they were no good at all for my trouble. I heard

THE FORD'S

BLACK-DRAUGHT

recommended very highly, so began to use it. It cured me. I keep it in the house all the time. It is the best liver medicine made. I do not have sick headache or stomach trouble any more." Black-Draught acts on the jaded liver and helps it to do its important work of throwing out waste materials and poisons from the system. This medicine should be in every household for use in time of need. Get a package today. If you feel sluggish, take a dose tonight. You will feel fresh tomorrow. Price 25c a package. All druggists.

ONE CENT A DOSE

WEST TEXAS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FORMED

BUSINESS INTERESTS ORGANIZE TO PROMOTE WESTERN RESOURCES OF WEST TEXAS.

West Texas is to have a Chamber of Commerce to represent this section of the state as a whole, just as a local commercial organization represents a particular city. Representatives from fifty West Texas cities met in Fort Worth last week and formed the West Texas Chamber of Commerce and appointed a committee to raise the necessary funds and complete final organization. The meeting was the most representative West Texas gathering ever gotten together and was attended by more than one hundred leading business men and city builders from every part of the western section of the state.

The West Texas Chamber of Commerce will be incorporated under the laws of Texas at once. Its purpose, as announced in the by-laws which were adopted, will be to foster, promote and develop the agricultural, livestock, mineral, manufacturing, commercial and other resources of West Texas.

The organization is to be non-political and will take no part in the election or defeat of any candidate or party. Membership will be open to any individual, firm, corporation or organization interested in the development of West Texas.

Will Raise \$250,000.

It is planned to raise a sum of \$250,000. Membership dues will be based upon the financial ability of the proposed member, with a minimum of ten dollars. Officers will include a president, treasurer, vice presidents and general manager. Each West Texas county will select its own representative to serve on the board of directors. The board of directors shall elect the president, treasurer, and vice presidents from among their own number and shall also select from their number an executive committee of not less than five, which will employ a general manager. The board of directors will be the governing board and will have the authority to carry out the purposes of the organization.

A committee will start an immediate campaign for funds necessary for preliminary work. This committee consists of H. P. Breisford of Eastland, Marion Saneom of Fort Worth, J. A. Kemp of Wichita Falls, P. H. Landerger of Amarillo, C. C. Walsh of San Angelo, Brooks Smith of Brownwood, Frank S. Hastings of Stamford, and W. W. Turney of El Paso.

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I will appreciate your Patronage and Guarantee my Work

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

Specialty in Farm Loans

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Real Estate and Fire Insurance

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W. L. DILTZ WRITES

Nov. 17, A. E. F.

Dear Dad:

I'm prompted to write you today by the Stars and Stripes, our weekly paper, published by the A. E. F., who have designated to-day as a day for all the boys of the A. E. F. to write their Fathers a Xmas letter.

I love you as a Father. I enjoy you as a Buddy and I'm appreciative of the many many good things you have done for me, the way you taught me to live and the good advice you have given me. It is true enough that I did not always take your advice, but never-the-less what you have said and done has had its influence all along and has helped me wonderfully to make me a better, stronger man, so let me wish for you a very, very merry xmas, and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Again turning to the One to whom we must all look and asking Him to take care of you, I will close, expecting to see you in a few weeks.

With a heart full of love, I am,
Your son,
W. L. Diltz, Jr.

Luxembourg, Dec 5, 1918.
Dear Father and Mother:

I'm still feeling fine and dandy and still on my way to the Rhine. We are having a wonderful trip and seeing some very beautiful country. These people in Luxembourg were not in the war but the Germans took everything that they could eat or wear away from them so now every thing is so high they can't buy it. Coffee \$4.00 per pound, tobacco \$6.00 per pound potatoes 25¢ per pound, and clothes are so high they can't think of buying a suit. I wish I had some of the butter you use to fry my eggs in, as it is only worth \$6.00 per pound here. The people are living on turnips and dry black bread.

This is a very beautiful country, the City of Luxembourg is the most beautiful city I have ever seen. I'm sending you some pictures of it today. I also mailed a helmet a few days ago, but I don't have much hopes of it ever reaching you.

I saw Choc and Rosco a few days ago and Luther is here with me. He got a letter from Emmitt and Jim Brown, written the 14th and they said the boys in the Ft. Worth bunch were OK, so I guess the Merkle bunch came out fine.

Our next move will be on the Moselle River. I will try to write again when we stop.

I must get on the job, take care of your self and write when you feel like it.

With a heart full of love, I am,
Your son,
"Dub"

The liver loses its activity at times and needs help. Herbine is an effective liver stimulant. It also purifies the bowels, strengthens digestion and restores strength vigor and cheerful spirits. Sold by Sanders Drug Store.

Tease Beasley has received his discharge from the army and returned home.

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

Miss Alma Wells spent the holidays in Anson.

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

Mrs. Fred Latham of Houston is visiting her mother, Mrs. Calvert.

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.

KEPT PLEDGE TO SEND BREAD

American Nation Maintained Allied Loaf Through Self-Denial at Home Table.

AVERTED EUROPEAN DESPAIR.

With Military Demands Upon Ocean Shipping Relieved, World is Able to Return to Normal White Wheat Bread.

Since the advent of the latest wheat crop the only limitation upon American exports to Europe has been the shortage of shipping. Between July 1 and October 10 we shipped 65,980,305 bushels. If this rate should continue until the end of the fiscal year we will have furnished the Allies with more than 237,500,000 bushels of wheat and flour in terms of wheat.

The result of increased production and conservation efforts in the United States has been that with the cessation of hostilities we are able to return to a normal wheat diet. Supplies that have accumulated in Australia, Argentina and other hitherto inaccessible markets may be tapped by ships released from transport service, and European demand for American wheat probably will not exceed our normal surplus. There is wheat enough available to have a white loaf at the common table.

But last year the tale was different. Only by the greatest possible saving and sacrifice were we able to keep a steady stream of wheat and flour moving across the sea. We found ourselves at the beginning of the harvest year with an unusually short crop. Even the most optimistic statisticians figured that we had a bare surplus of 20,000,000 bushels. And yet Europe was facing the probability of a bread famine—and in Europe bread is by far the most important article in the diet.

All of this surplus had left the country early in the fall. By the first of the year we had managed to ship a little more than 50,000,000 bushels by practicing the utmost economy at home—by wheatless days, wheatless meals, heavy substitution of other cereals and by sacrifice at almost every meal throughout the country.

In January the late Lord Rhonda, then British Food Controller, cabled that only if we sent an additional 75,000,000 bushels before July 1 could he take the responsibility of assuring his people that they would be fed.

The response of the American people was \$5,000,000 bushels safely delivered overseas between January 1 and July 1. Out of a harvest which gave us only 20,000,000 bushels surplus we actually shipped 141,000,000 bushels.

Thus did America fulfill her pledge that the Allied bread rations could be maintained, and already the American people are demonstrating that, with an awakened war conscience, last year's figures will be bettered.

+++++
+ Our exports since this country +
+ entered the war have justified a +
+ statement made by the Food Ad- +
+ ministration shortly after its con- +
+ ception, outlining the principles +
+ and policies that would govern +
+ the solution of this country's +
+ food problems. +
+ "The whole foundation of de- +
+ mocracy," declared the Food Ad- +
+ ministration, "lies in the indi- +
+ vidual initiative of its people +
+ and their willingness to serve the +
+ interests of the nation with com- +
+ plete self effacement in the time +
+ of emergency. Democracy can +
+ yield to discipline, and we can +
+ solve this food problem for our +
+ own people and for the Allies in +
+ this way. To have done so will +
+ have been a greater service than +
+ our immediate objective, for we +
+ have demonstrated the rightfulness +
+ of our faith and our ability +
+ to defend ourselves without be- +
+ coming Prussianized." +
+++++

Sending to Europe 141,000,000 bushels of wheat from a surplus of apparently nothing was the outstanding exploit of the American food army in the critical year of the war.

GREATEST OPPORTUNITY WOMEN EVER HAD.

It was given to the women of this country to perform the greatest service in the winning of the war vouchsafed to any women in the history of the wars of the world—to feed the warriors and the war sufferers. By the arts of peace, the practice of simple, homely virtues the womanhood of a whole nation served humanity in its profoundest struggle for peace and freedom.

+++++
+ FIRST CALL TO FOOD ARMY. +
+ This co-operation and service +
+ I ask of all in full confidence +
+ that America will render more +
+ for flag and freedom than king +
+ ridden people surrender at com- +
+ pulsion.—Herbert Hoover, Au- +
+ gust 10, 1917. +
+++++

A year ago voluntary food control was a daring adventure in democracy; during the year an established proof of democratic efficiency.

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WHAT WOMEN ARE DOING FOR SOLDIERS IN FRANCE

Fight in the Ranks of the Red Cross Against Pain, Disease and Death.

They have known very well the risks they were taking—the two thousand and more women who have gone to France for varied services under the American Red Cross, and the more than nine thousand nurses whom the American Red Cross has assigned to foreign duty under the United States Army and Navy Nurse Corps.

They went under orders, as soldiers do; prepared for any emergencies, as soldiers do; they assumed many strange and unforeseen tasks, as soldiers do. Literally, they went as fighters, against pain, disease and death.

A "mobile surgical unit" of nurses—those words don't mean very much, perhaps, the first time we hear them. But see such an unit follow an army up to an advanced post; see how the nurses work with steady hands beside the surgeons as the stretchers with the newly wounded are brought in. See thousands of them in evacuation hospitals, base hospitals, convalescent hospitals, tuberculosis hospitals; some of them in French military hospitals where sometimes our men are sent; see them with their specialized skill in head surgery, or fracture work, or psychiatry—all these women who keep head and hand cool and steady, when the ambulances unload great harvests of wounded. Then we say the words "Our Nurses," as we say "Our Soldiers," "Our Sailors," "Our Marines."

On the night of March 25th, when the Germans were fast advancing, and already within six kilometers of Annel, an outpost of Compiègne, two American doctors remained, who under order of the French government, had sent the patients and personnel of their hospital farther back the night before. The artillery was deafening, but the American Ambulance sections kept bringing their wounded to Annel. These doctors said that as long as the American boys brought them wounded they would operate. Two nurses volunteered from Compiègne, and so in the deserted chateau the two surgeons, the two nurses and the ten drivers worked calmly on, while the buzz of aeroplanes shook the air, and the blasting guns shook the earth.

Through three takings of Belgrade, first when the city was taken by the Austrians, again when it was retaken by the Serbians, and still again when it was taken back by the Germans and Austrians together, an American Red Cross nurse, Mary Gladwin, worked in the operating room. In that first capture, when nine thousand wounded crowded the wards and halls and yard of the thousand-bed-hospital and doctor and nurse worked together for day and night without stopping, giving to each operation an average of six minutes, and employing emergencies inspired by the desperate need of the moment, they did not know that the city had been taken until all the stretchers brought Austrian wounded, and Austrian doctors came to their relief.

Several hundred women are working over there in the American Red Cross canteens. There are about two hundred of these canteens along the French and American lines of communication, all the women are working under great pressure, feeding thousands of soldiers. The Red Cross is also establishing canteens by military request at a number of Aviation Camps. American women conduct these stations, comprising canteen, club and reading room. Everyone of these canteens has something of the genius of home about it; and it is because of this, no less than the facilities for cleanliness and rest and refreshment, that the French government has given the responsibility for maintaining canteens for both armies to the hands of the American Red Cross.

In large numbers women are going abroad as hospital hut workers, also, and as social workers for trained service among the refugees and the repatriated. At each base hospital the Red Cross is equipping, as fast as they can be built, recreation huts for convalescent soldiers.

Clerical workers have steadily increased in number for the administrative offices. From that original group of eighteen, which as the first American Red Cross Commission to France sailed about June 1st, 1917, the organization has grown to a working force of more than 5,000 men and women.

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