



HOLIDAY GIFTS

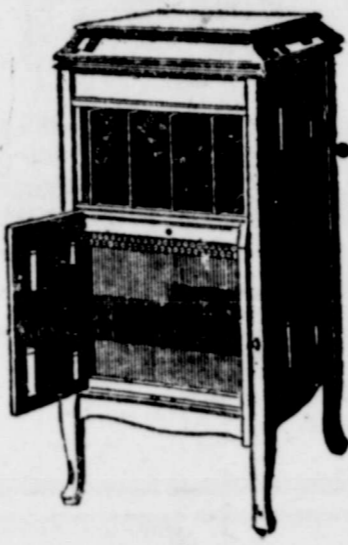


We are indeed thankful for the liberal patronage that we enjoy. We are sparing no pains nor expenses in making our establishment complete for service. Do your Christmas shopping here



JEWELRY

We have on hand a complete line of choice guaranteed jewelry, consisting of watches, lavalliers, rings, fobs, silver cigarette cases.



COLUMBIA AND PATHE PHONOGRAPHS



GIFTS FOR LADIES

Choice Toilet Articles, High Grade Perfumery, Nifty Stationery, Rings, Bracelets, lavalliers; various other beautiful articles.

Toys Kodaks Films Candies Cigars Safety Razors Pipes Cut Glass

The MERKEL DRUG COMPANY

GET MORE EGGS—

By feeding "Martin's Egg Producer" DOUBLE your money back in eggs, or your money back in cash. "Martin's Roup Remedy" Cares and Prevents Croup. Guaranteed by Sanders Drug Store. April-15.

If you have Plumbing work to do call for Orien Higgins, own Hardware Co. He does his work. 10t3

CASH NOTICE

The undersigned places of business will be compelled to operate on strictly cash basis after Jan. 1st 1921.

Our customers are respectfully asked to take due notice and prevent undue embarrassment and inconvenience by being ready to pay for all work when delivered.

C. L. Cash.
Renfro and Adams
17t2.

Christmas is not just a day of tree-trimming and toy-giving for the kiddies—not just a holiday for youngsters to outgrow. Its spirit is of the heart, the soul—communal between us and all those whom we hold dear as our friends. It changes not, however we may. May its glow be reflected for you through all the coming year.

Christmas All the Year!
Every time that Christmas comes around again we wonder why we haven't cultivated the Christmas spirit all the year.

FRUIT TREES, BERRIES, FLOWERING SHRUBS

No better trees were ever grown than we have this year. We have the sure bearing varieties for the different sections in all fruit and berries, and the best shades, shrubs and—
Our LEONA peach beats

Our SMITH peach has missed but one crop in 25 years. Our NONA and other Piums are wonderful.

Let us make your HOME GROUNDS FOREVER BEAUTIFUL, comfortable and valuable with hardy climatic-proof standard and native flowering shrubs and bulbs ect., arranged in natural masses.

Plant a background for your home, or a norther-breaker, of the glossy leaved evergreen Japanese Ligustrum, like those growing on our State Capitol grounds.

To still further improve our Landscape Department, we have associated with us Mr. F. W. Hensel, who for years has been the head of the Division of Landscape Designing and Engineering of Texas A. M. College. He is a graduate of A. and M. College, and of Cornell University, and better still a native Texan who knows Texas.

We want honest, energetic men and women to sell our stock Local or general, temporary or permanent.

We pay express. Ask for a free catalogue.
The Austin Nursey,
F. T. Ramsey & Son, Austin Texas.

GEM CONFECTIONERY

We are headquarters for, cold drinks, ice cream, fresh fruits, cigars, cigarets and candies.

We also have secured the agency for the Acme Graphophones and records and will have same on exhibit at the Gem.
AGENTS FOR ABILENE STEAM LAUNDRY

LONE STAR PLANTING SEED FOR 1921

Austin, Texas, Oct. 2, 1920

SEED CO., Austin, Texas
Gentlemen:— Referring to yours regarding the Lone Star seed I bought of you and planted this season will say:— We hundred acres of Lone Star will make about four hundred bales and so far, all of it has been one and one eighth inch cotton. It has made a better yield per acre than my other hundred acres of Kasch and Mabene cotton, besides being a better staple.

Everything considered, my Lone Star is making me twenty thirty dollars per acre more than my other cotton, in the same field under the same cultural methods. A special feature of the Lone Star Cotton is its short which enables it to put on about one third more forms and bolls during the growing seasons are favorable for hold-form, it will make a third more to the acre. I need have no hesitancy in recommending Lone Star to Texas growers as it certainly is one of the best, if not the best, money getters we can grow. Its roots go down deep withstands drouthy conditions better than most cotton. Giving you the very great success in your seed business I believe you deserve, I beg to remain, Yours very truly
(Signed) J. J. Smith

Lone Star Seed sold by
Anderson, Merkel. B. C. Moore, Trent.

A Christmas Dinner!

THE HOLIDAY SEASON is at hand and practically every home in Merkel and the surrounding country will want to serve what is called a

Special Christmas Dinner

We are prepared to fill your every want in this respect. Give us your order early. And let us also express to you our most sincere thanks for the very liberal business extended us during the year about to end. We have tried to serve you satisfactorially and to your interest.

We are better prepared to serve you next year, and earnestly trust that happiness and prosperity will be yours through the entire year.

Bob Martin Grocery Company

Merkel Mail
 Published Every Friday Morning by
MERKEL MAIL PRINTING COMPANY, INC.
 MAS BURHAM, Editor and Manager
 DESCRIPTION \$1.50 PER YEAR

TELEPHONE No. 61

the postoffice at Merkel
 and class mail matter.

Advertising Representative
AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION

serious reflection on the char-
 acter or reputation of any
 firm or corporation which may
 be published in the columns of The Mail will
 be gladly corrected upon its being
 brought to the attention of the man-
 ager.

PATRONS OF THE MAIL, who do
 not receive their paper regularly will
 confer a favor upon the management
 by reporting the fact. You should also
 watch the label of your paper to ascer-
 tain when your time is out and renew
 before your name automatically leaves
 our list, as all papers stop when the
 term of subscription expires.

If you have visitors, or if you know
 any item which would be of interest to
 readers of the Mail, the editor would
 appreciate a note or a telephone mes-
 sage to that effect. Or, if an occur-
 ence of unusual interest transpires a
 reporter will be promptly sent to get
 the full particulars.

Corn and Corn Chop, at G.
 Sharp's tf

Just look how those goods are
 selling at Jobs Store. 17t2

Let Orien Higgins do your Plum
 work. He knows how. Find
 at the Crown Hardware Co.
 work guaranteed. 10t3

Room for rent—house, wood
 shed, and good pasture. First
 class reference required. See S.
 Haynes. tf.

Hand and Shorts at G. M.
 Sharp's. tf

THE BIRDS' CHRISTMAS TREE.

To make a birds' Christmas tree,
 take an evergreen, if possible, but any
 kind of tree will do if you tie sheaves
 of wheat, corn-stalks and evergreen
 branches all over it to make it dense.
 If it is a large tree, plant it securely
 in a partially protected place. A small-
 er tree can be put on the feeding shelf
 outside your window. Hang on it wire
 baskets filled with suet, boxes with
 fronts removed, containing nut meats,
 millet, sunflower-seeds, wheat, cracked
 corn, bread-crumbs, rolled oats, etc.
 Coconut shells cut in half and filled
 with dainties that the birds love can
 also be hung from the branches. Have
 several shelves on which place apples,
 lettuce, cabbage and vegetables.

In all cold districts, have at least
 one or two deep boxes almost filled
 with cotton where the half-frozen birds
 can find shelter and warmth. Many
 birds suffer from thirst during the win-
 ter. Heat a brick or large stone and
 place a pan of water on it.

The Real Christmas.

The real Christmas is an invisible
 presence, a joyful glance of the eye, a
 wonderful expansion of the heart, a
 sense of comradeship with all man-
 kind. It is an abandonment of our-
 selves to all good impulses and an al-
 most reckless waste of good feeling
 and generosity and love, and no army
 of pessimists can banish that kind of
 Christmas from our hearts.

Under the Holly Bough.

Ye who have scorned each other,
 Or injured friend or brother,
 In this fast-fading year;
 Ye who, by word or deed,
 Have made a kind heart bleed,
 Come gather here!

Let sinned against and sinning
 Forget their strife's beginning,
 And join in friendship now.
 Be links no longer broken,
 Be sweet forgiveness spoken
 Under the holly bough.

—Charles Mackay.

Selling out at and below cost,
 until Jan. 1st. A. L. Jobs. 17t2.

Want to buy a second hand
 wagon in good condition.
 S. F. Haynes. tf.

The Stat
 Sheriff
 Taylor C
 You

—To the
 stable of
 ing:
 commanded
 to summon H. L. Taylor by mak-
 ing publication of this Citation
 once in each week for four suc-
 cessive weeks previous to the
 return day hereof, in some news-
 paper published in your County,
 if there be a newspaper publish-
 ed therein, but if not, then in the
 nearest County where a news-
 paper is published to appear
 at the next regular term
 of the District Court of Taylor
 County, to be holden at the Court
 House thereof, in Abilene, on
 the first Monday in January A.
 D. 1921, the same being the 3rd.
 day of January A. D. 1921, then
 and there to answer Plaintiff's
 first Amended petition filed in
 said Court on the 29th day of
 November A. D. 1921 in a suit,
 numbered on the docket of said
 Court No. 4461, wherein Mrs.
 Ola Taylor is Plaintiff, and H. L.
 Taylor is Defendant, and said
 petition alleging that plaintiff
 is a bona fide resident of Taylor
 County, and has been for more
 than six months next preced-
 ing the filing of this petition,
 that plaintiff and defendant were
 duly and legally married on the
 17th day of April 1920, and lived
 together as husband and wife
 until about June 20th 1920. That
 defendant began toward plaintiff
 a course of cruel and harsh
 treatment of such nature as to
 seriously impair her health and
 render their living together long-
 er wholly insupportable and un-
 bearable. Plaintiff sues for di-
 vorce, for restoration of her maid
 en name and for costs of suit.

Herein Fail Not, but have be-
 fore said Court, at its aforesaid
 next regular term, this writ with
 your return thereon, showing
 how you have executed the same.
 Given Under my Hand and the
 Seal of the said Court, at office
 in Abilene, this the 30th day of
 November A. D. 1920.

J. N. Routh, Clerk
 District Court, Taylor Co.
 3t4.

Peace Maker Flour, at G. M.
 Sharp's tf



**To Our Friends
 And Patrons :**

Once more we are nearing the season of Santa Claus, Good Cheer
 and such like—And we want to take this opportunity to wish a
 Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year.

We have tried to merit your confidence and patronage, and while
 prospects ahead do not look as bright as we may wish for, yet
 we have many things to be thankful for. Business during the
 past twelve months has been quite satisfactory to us, for which
 we are sincerely grateful.

With the coming of the new year we wish to number you as a
 friend and customer.

Silverware, Aluminum Ware, Pocket Knives, Guns, Clocks, Safety
 Razors, Tricycles and Childrens wagons.. Also Oranges, Candy,
 Nuts, etc.. Many and Sundry things you will find in our stock
 suitable for Xmas presents. Call and look.

**Crown Hardware
 COMPANY**



Season's Greetings



The spirit of Yuletide is with us and the few days left for shop-
 ping are fast flying by.

We are glad to tell our customers and friends that we have done
 a nice business the past year We have accomplished this only
 by hard work and by being continuously on the lookout for what
 ever would be to the advantage of our customers, by changing
 our stock and keeping it new and fresh, and at the same
 time rendering you a service unexcelled in our line.

We have done our best to make your buying from us not only
 pleasant but profitable. And now that the old year is soon to
 come to close let us hasten to thank each and every one for the
 past business, and to say that we are better prepared to care for
 your Grocery wants during the next year

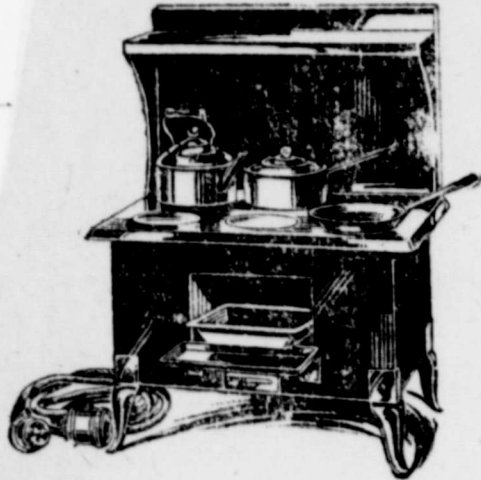
And don't forget that we can fill your every need for that Christ-
 mas Dinner

We wish you the merriest Christ-mas and the Greatest Prosperity
 throughout the coming New Year.



BRADSHAW & SUBLETT

Yuletide Greetings



Electrical Gifts for Christmas

What can be more appreciated for a nice clean, good, serviceable Christmas gift than something in the Electrical line? Electrical household utilities are the women's best friends. Among the many electrical selections may be mentioned:

Sewing Machine Motor, Percolator, Range, Curling, Pump Set, Disc Stove, heater, Drink Mixer, Washing Machine, Vacuum Cleaner, Iron, Toaster, Samovar, Warming Pad, Table Lamp, Floor Lamp:



Be sure that your Resolutions for the New Year include Electrical Facilities

Henceforth electricity will be a greater factor in the world's progress. Not only will electric current turn the wheels of industry but the home will be cheered and warmed by this marvelous power

Merkel Power Company

Christmas Chimes

By O. F. PFEIFFER

(Copyright)

THE village chimes rang out a mellow strain clear and vibrant as golden beads dropped into a crystal dish, but Adam Marsh drew his worn fur cap down closer about his ears and scowling took a shortcut towards his desolate home. He had neither chick nor child, only money. He hardened his soul against yuletide suggestions and tried to glory in scouting the humanizing influence of home, social friendship and "the folly called love!" Then he came to a sudden halt and sprang behind a tree. There was a light in the room where he slept. Against the lamp light there was outlined the figure of a roughly dressed man standing at an open bureau. Marsh stole to the kitchen, took down an ancient horse pistol,

looked crestfallen, rather than sullen. "I—I was looking for something to eat," he stammered out.

"That's likely outside of the kitchen, isn't it, now?" snarled Marsh derisively.

"Well then, finding nothing in the kitchen I hoped I could pick up some little trifle that would bring me a meal. Say, I'm not a genuine had one. I never touched a cent that was not my own until this very day. And this has so shamed me, that all I ask is strength to carry back what I took."

"Yah!" jeered Marsh. "Sort of robbing Peter to pay Paul, hey? Now then, I'll run no risks of your turning on me. Empty your pockets," and the man disgorged a rusted jackknife and something that glowed with the glint of gold.

"Back to yonder corner," ordered Marsh resplingly. "What's this?" and his nimble fingers clutched a locket and chain the other had placed on the table.

"It isn't yours, nor mine!" burst out the intruder. "Say, I must take that back where it belongs. Listen to me, it was ten miles down the road, in a wretched little hovel. In the front room was a pale, wearied woman attending to her sick husband. In a back room was a little angel of a girl



child, asleep on a turn thin blanket. I noticed the chain and locket around the child's throat. I sneaked up and took it. I've a wife and two little tots in the city; lost my job and was tramping, looking for work. I was frantic as I thought of their wretched Christmas and I hurried away to sell the trinket and steal a ride home on

the bumpers. Don't shoot!" for Marsh, opening the locket and scanning the portrait within shook from head to foot, and with glaring eyes viewed the locket as though it were some boding wraith.

Ah! how it recalled to him the bright, sunny-faced daughter he had shut out from heart and home the day she eloped with Rodney Blair. He had never sought to learn of her fate. And now the locket she had worn he had strangely found, cherished and protected by her little child with his picture still in it.

"My man," he said, "if you will take me to where you found the people you tell of, your dear ones shall have a Christmas, indeed."

"I'll do that for nothing," half sobbed the penitent fellow. Little Cora Blair was sobbing in her mother's arms as Adam Marsh reached the doorstep of the home of the unfortunate. He heard her say: "Oh, mamma, don't we search for my pretty locket? Every night when I say my prayers and ask a blessing for the dear grandfather I have never seen, I shall miss seeing his picture."

"Merry Christmas and—forgiveness!" spoke Adam Marsh, pushing the door open. "Alice, I've come to make up for my cruelty and neglect."

And when the penitent had faithfully returned from the village stores with a heaping basket full of Christmas cheer and gifts for the little one Marsh had ordered, he started for the city with a warm, snug roll of bank notes in his hand.

"Now for my own home and the Merry Christmas of my dear ones!" he jubilated. "Oh, I'll never stray away from the straight path and them again," and in a wild ecstasy he sang in accord with the chiming bells: "Peace on earth and good will towards all men!"

Just look how those goods are moving at Jobs Store. 17t2



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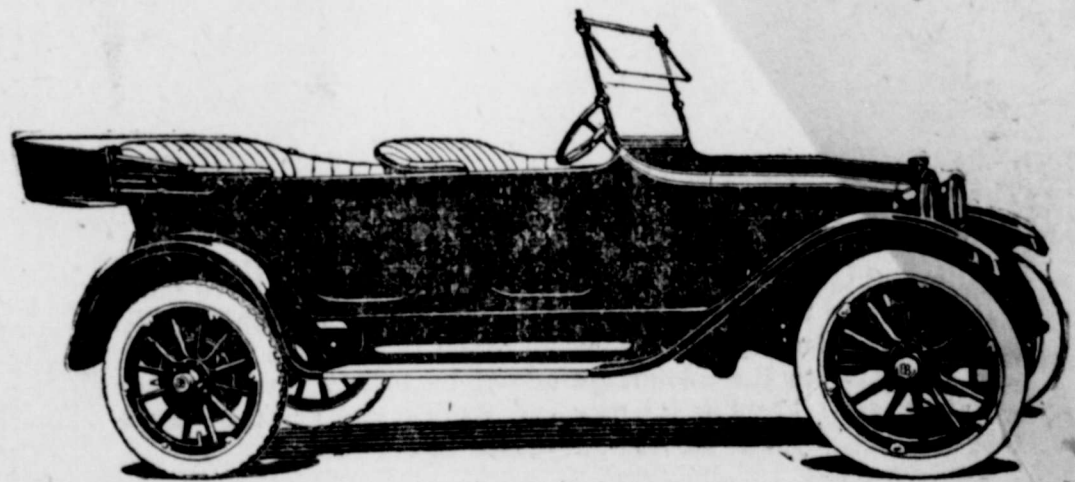
operate on strictly cash basis after Jan. 1st, 1921.

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and inconvenience by being ready to pay for all work when delivered.

Mrs. C. L. Cas Renfro and Adams 17t

DODGE BROTHERS MOTOR CAR



During the past year we have enjoyed a splendid business at the hands of the people of Merkel and surrounding country, for all of which we are indeed grateful.

We can make immediate delivery on most any kind of Dodge Car, any of which would make a Christmas gift which would bring much happiness and pleasure as such.

Again we thank you, and sincerely trust that the New Year has in store for you perfect health, prosperity and much genuine happiness.

McDONALD MOTOR COMPANY

Christmas Gifts and The AMERICAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY Cumulative Preferred Stock

Why not give securities this Christmas?

There is as much sentiment attached to the gift of a Stock Certificate as to the less substantial gifts, and quarterly dividends are frequent reminders of the donor.

A Stock Certificate for one share of American Public Service Company Cumulative Preferred Stock costs \$87.50, and pays the individual to whom it is given \$7.00 a year.

A Certificate of Purchase for one share may be secured upon payment of \$5.00. Give a Certificate of Purchase to your son, and give him \$5.00 each month with which to complete the payments. Then, with your gift, you will be giving also the invaluable lesson of saving.

A postcard, telephone message, or a call at our office will secure for you full particulars, and no obligations on your part will be incurred.

MERKEL POWER COMPANY
Phone No. 202

Merkel Mail
 Every Friday Morning by
MERKEL MAIL PRINTING COMPANY, INC.
 W. S. BURHAM, Editor and Manager
 DESCRIPTION \$1.50 PER YEAR
 TELEPHONE No. 61

the postoffice at Merkel
 and class mail matter.

Advertising Representative
CAN PRESS ASSOCIATION

serious reflection on the char-
 acter or reputation of any
 firm or corporation which may
 be published in the columns of The Mail will
 be corrected upon its being
 brought to the attention of the man-
 ager.

PATRONS OF THE MAIL, who do
 not receive their paper regularly will
 confer a favor upon the management
 by reporting the fact. You should also
 watch the label of your paper to ascer-
 tain when your time is out and renew
 before your name automatically leaves
 our list, as all papers stop when the
 term of subscription expires.

If you have visitors, or if you know
 any item which would be of interest to
 readers of the Mail, the editor would
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 sage to that effect. Or, if an occur-
 rence of unusual interest transpires a
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 the full particulars.

Corn and Corn Chops, at G.
 Sharp's tf

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 being at Jobes Store. 17t2

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 work. He knows how. Find
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 work guaranteed. 10t3

Room for rent—house, wood
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 Haynes. tf.

Shirts and Shorts at G. M.
 Sharp's. tf

THE BIRDS' CHRISTMAS TREE.

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 branches all over it to make it dense.
 If it is a large tree, plant it securely
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The Stat
 Sheriff
 Taylor C
 You

—To the
 stable of
 ing:
 You
 commanded
 to sum H. L. Taylor by mak-
 ing publication of this Citation
 once in each week for four suc-
 cessive weeks previous to the
 return day hereof, in some news-
 paper published in your County,
 if there be a newspaper publish-
 ed therein, but if not, then in the
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 of the District Court of Taylor
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 D. 1921, the same being the 3rd
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 and there to answer Plaintiff's
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 that plaintiff and defendant were
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 until about June 20th 1920, that
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 how you have executed the same.
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 November A. D. 1920.
 J. N. Routh, Clerk
 District Court, Taylor Co.
 3t4.

Peace Maker Flour, at G. M.
 Sharp's tf



**To Our Friends
 And Patrons :**

Once more we are nearing the season of Santa Claus, Good Cheer
 and such like—And we want to take this opportunity to wish a
 Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year.

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**Crown Hardware
 COMPANY**



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 a nice business the past year We have accomplished this only
 by hard work and by being continuously on the lookout for what
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 time rendering you a service unexcelled in our line.

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 pleasant but profitable. And now that the old year is soon to
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And don't forget that we can fill your every need for that Christ-
 mas Dinner

We wish you the merriest Christ-mas and the Greatest Prosperity
 throughout the coming New Year.



BRADSHAW & SUBLETT

THEATRE

The House of Good Pictures

Program for Week Beginning Friday Dec. 24

Friday—

OLIVE THOMAS
in
"THE FLAPPER"
A select Feature
"Undressed Kid"
Billy Francis Comedy

Monday—

HARRY MYERS
in
"REVENGE"
A mexican Border Drama
FATTY ARBUCKLE
in
"THE VILLAGE SCANDAL"
2 reel Comedy and Pathe News.

Wednesday—

"THE LOST CITY"
The greatest Universal serial
ever produced. Made in the
Jungles of Africa.
HELEN GIBSON
in
"THE FORBIDDEN TRAIL"
BILLIE WEST
in
"GOING STRAIGHT"
two reel Comedy

Saturday—

HARRY CAREY
in
"WEST IS WEST"
A Universal western special in
5 acts.

RUTH ROLAND
in
"RUTH OF THE ROCKIES".

Tuesday—

GERALDINE FARRAR
in
"THE WOMAN AND THE
PUPPET"
A Goldwyn Special Feature.
Guaranteed to please the most
critical.

Also a Fancy Comedy

Thursday—

ROY STEWART
in
"Learning of Jim Benton"
A very exciting Western drama
in 5-acts. One of the most pleas-
ing Western Characters of the
screen today.

Extra "Facts and Follies."

We Appreciate Your Patronage

CHRISTMAS

L. Parrack) but an idle fancy I write on so fast. But to me it any should set a task of putting proper light. In lay there is the prohibition has Christmas Spirit. Inings associated re entirely fore- that ought to stmas. What ould a heathen eached shore and our re- and in our Christmas hol- powding Je- mas as he that first time to give yourself to Him who is able and willing to be your Saviour. If you are a Christian give your life anew to service to Him. Reconsecrate your life to Him. Then if you want to make a material offering to Him you can find some poor unfortunate and spend fellow being that needs what you are able to give. If you do not find such a person in your immediate vicinity you can always find them in some orphanage.

Then when someone did ask for him, as they were departing, no one could tell where he was. Search being instituted they found him smothered under the wraps of the guests that had come supposedly to do him honor. He had been sleeping on a lounge in the reception hall and the wraps had been carelessly discarded and had covered the forgotten prince while the people gave themselves to revelry. Oh! how Jesus has been forgotten and smothered out of Christmas. If Christmas is anything for a Christian to heed it is a time to honor Christ. If it is kept in remembrance of His birthday we ought to give Him something worthy. What can we give ourselves. If you are not already a Christian this is your best time to give yourself to Him who is able and willing to be your Saviour. If you are a Christian give your life anew to service to Him. Reconsecrate your life to Him. Then if you want to make a material offering to Him you can find some poor unfortunate and spend fellow being that needs what you are able to give. If you do not find such a person in your immediate vicinity you can always find them in some orphanage.

Let us make this a real Christmas for the Glory of Christ.

Let no Christian do anything that will bring reproach on His name in whose honor we celebrate.

WHAT ONE MITCHELL COUNTY FARMER DID

W. A. Oliver out at Westbrook has 500 bushels of these seed guaranteed absolutely pure and will sell them at \$3.00 per bushel. This year Mr. Oliver sold 38 bales of cotton raised from these seed, middling basis 16c, and he sold for 23c. The seed is now stored in the Bell & Oliver warehouse here in Colorado and you must place your order at once as I have about 300 bushels already sold.

W. A. Oliver 1tp

Of course there are a great many evils to cause a country and people trouble, but in our opinion most of our troubles are due to bone-heading, down-sitting, belly-aching, boot-legging and pussy-footing.

The most distinguished achievement in life is to be able to take care of one's own self.

MRS. VANTREESE DEAD

It is with regret that the Mail chronicles the death of Mrs. Vantrees, wife of J. T. Vantrees, one of the pioneer and best citizens of the Stith Community, which occurred at the family residence in that community Monday morning at an early hour. Funeral services were conducted by Rev. W. G. Cypert, that afternoon, at Hope church, after which the remains were laid to rest in the Stith cemetery, amid a large crowd of sorrowing friends and relatives.

Besides a kind and loving companion, deceased leaves 7 children, all grown and married to mourn her going away. Also one sister, Mrs. Alice Burgess, who was present, and four brothers.

The Merkel Mail joins a host of friends in extending deepest sympathy to the bereaved loved ones.

AFTER JAN. 1, 1921

On and after Jan. 1, 1921 we will conduct our business strictly on a cash basis, and kindly ask that our patrons and the public be governed accordingly.

We appreciate all business given us, but we are compelled to pay cash for all our goods and are not able to sell on time, to anyone.

McFarland's Garage. 3t.

CITY TAILOR SHOP EXTENDS THANKS

We take occasion at this merry Christmas time to extend our thanks and appreciation to the people of Merkel and surrounding community, for their patronage in our line during the year now about to end.

May you enjoy a happy Christmas and much prosperity be yours throughout the New Year. City Tailor Shop.

There are nearly two more weeks of leap year. Do your Christmas proposing early Those who wait until the last may catch a fellow who can't pay for the license.

GOLLADAY EXTENDS HIS THANKS

On behalf of the patrons of the Gulf Refining Co. I take this method of extending thanks to one and all our patrons; also to wish for you a happy New Year W. F. Golladay, Local Agent.

The ill wind always blows in a little good somewhere. If a fellow can manage to rake up enough money now to make a railroad journey he can have two seats for himself and one for his baggage. This time last year he could hardly find room enough in the coach for his feet.

TOMORROW THEIR PATRONAGE PORT AND INFL DURING THE PAST AND WHILE COND ARE NOT AT ALL WOULD WISH. HERES ING THAT 1921 HAS GOOD THINGS IN FOR ALL. WISHING AND ALL A MERRY YE AND A HAPPY NEW YE MERKEL DRY GOODS

WILL MOVE 1st OF JAN

Will move 1st of January the corner building formerly cupied by W. P. Duckett have a complete stock of G ies and will pay the Mark for all the eggs you have small amount of Butter. before you buy or sell. W handle your cream. I app your patronage and hope continuation. Wish you a m Christmas and a prosperous N Year. W. F. Hamblet.

There is always need for authority. In no phase of one's business life is the need for authoritative guidance in judging one's length The advice o might help.

Both to be trimmed: and the Christmas tree.

Greetings and Good Wishes

— TO OUR —

CUSTOMERS AND FRIENDS

May the coming year bring each and every one of you abundant prosperity

THE FIRST STATE BANK

TRENT

"A Guaranty Fund Bank"

TEXAS

NO GOODS CHARGED

Notice is hereby given our patrons, friends and the public that, from the appearance of this notice in this paper we will absolutely charge no goods what ever, to anyone.

This ruling is made owing to existing conditions, and which we feel sure will be best for us and our friends alike, and we trust that each and every one will understand the matter as it is meant and be governed accordingly.

We sincerely thank each and all for your past patronage and wish for you a merry Christmas and prosperous New Year. Merkel Dry Goods Company.

Mrs. Hunt and Children of Haskell came in Sunday to spend Christmas with relatives.

Miss Annie Mae Swann is home from Simmons College to spend the Christmas holidays.

N. E. Wood and family moved to Merkel last week from Callahan County. Mr. Wood purchased a home in Merkel last Summer and they pleasantly domiciled in same. He is the father of our fellow citizen and merchant, W. W. Wood.

Mrs. G. W. Moore is among those renewing for the Merkel Mail and Telegram this week, and for which we are thankful.

Rev. Elmer Landreth came in last week from Dumont, and will here with rela-

Miss Leol Merritt is in Ranger for the holidays with her sister Mrs. J. C. Baker.

Miss Fannye Moore is spending the holidays in Merkel with home folks.

Mrs. J. R. Pee left Tuesday for Bagwell, Texas where she will visit a son. She was accompanied by her son Russell.

G. W. Elliot and family visited relatives in Hamlin last Sunday.

Dr. Frank Armstrong, who is attending the Medical University at New Orleans, came in first of the week to spend the holidays with his parents, Dr. and Mrs. M. Armstrong.

W. P. Moore, one of the pioneer and substantial citizens of route three, has our thanks for his renewal to the Merkel Mail and Abilene Reporter.

The law of supply and demand is being observed by all boot-leggers.

Good Coal

We now have on hand plenty of GOOD COAL

Dawson Fancy Egg
Dawson Domestic Lump
Swastika and Colorado Coal

All Orders Cash on Delivery

H. M. Rose and Son

Burton - Lingo Co.

The Building Store

Where we offer you

Service and Satisfaction

Thanks and a Merry Xmas

We wish to thank our many friends and customers for business we have received in the past year.

We want to serve you better in 1921.

We realize that if we make a success in business, as we hope to, we must give the people what they want in the hardware line as cheap as the other fellow, or cheaper.

We will appreciate any business you may see fit to give or send us.



We will try to carry a complete line of General Hardware at all times, including: Shelf and Builders' Hardware, Implements, Wagons, Windmills, Pipe and Water Supplies, Stoves etc.

Mr. W. L. Burns is located with us and is a well known plumber. If you have any plumbing to do leave your orders with us and we will notify him at once.

Wishing one and all a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year.

LIBERTY HARDWARE CO.



PROFESSIONAL

DR. GAMBILL
—Dentist—

Office Hours 8—12 a.m.; 1—5 pm
Over Woodroof-Bragg Co.
Office Phone 116

DR. MILLER

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

G. W. JOHNSON

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

W. W. WHEELER

Real Estate, Fire, Accident and
Tornado Insurance Agent.
Notary Public.
Office over Crown Hardware Co.
Merkel —:— Texas

W. P. MAHAFFEY

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

CITY TAILOR SHOP

Ladies and Gents Work.
All Work Guaranteed
Will call for and deliver work
Phone 189 Front Street

DR. R. I. GRIMES

Physician and Surgeon
Hours 10 to 12 a.m. 2 to 5 p.m.
Phones 105-163 Res. 165

DR. S. W. JOHNSON.

Surgeon Dentist

Office over Farmers State Bank
Office Phone 306

DR. CHAS. F. WILLIAMS

Chronic Diseases a Specialty.
General Practice
Office Phone 280, 105 Res. 270

E. D. COATS

Real Estate, Oil Stock, And
Notary Public
Represent Pocahuntas Lease and
Royalty Co. of Dallas
Office Front St. over Geo West.
Building

T. J. R. SWAFFORD

Coal
Wood
Feed
Phone 291

WANTS YOUR WORK

John Mc Donald
Contractor & Builder.
Plans Drawn and Estimates made on short notice.
Merkel, Texas

If it is Syrup you want get it
at A. L. Jobs—get a case. 17t2

MAKE SOME SAD HEART GLAD

Christmas the Time for Remembering
Those Not as Fortunate
as You Are.

Christmas is a sad time in some households, among the older members who miss familiar faces always associated with family gatherings—a list of missing ones which increases as the years go by. But if it is impossible to be happy one's self, it is always possible to make some one else rejoice—this is an easier task than some people imagine. So many are so foolish as to think that because they cannot give beautifully that it is not worth while to give at all. They forget that what seems very little to a person in comfortable circumstances may appear very large to those who have virtually nothing at all; while among friends a small gift, bearing some sign of thoughtfulness, is often more acceptable than a costly but ill-chosen present. This is an excellent time to go over the children's toys and select those which can be spared to go to some less fortunate little ones. Do not select only those which are too battered to be recognizable; such, of course, are not to be despised, but a little glue and a few stitches or freshen up a broken doll or torn book add much to the pleasure of a second-hand gift—for all children love fresh-looking things and it is, besides, scarcely generous to give away only such articles as would otherwise be thrown in the ashes.

THE CHRIST CHILD

Across the snow the home lights glow
From the myriad hearts alight,
And through the street with noiseless
feet
The Christ-child walks tonight.
At silent gates, outside he waits,
To find a fitting spot,
He thins the shame, if through thy
—blind
The Christ-child enters not.
Where joyous notes from children's
throats
The old glad song begin,
Where love impels and kindness dwells,
The Christ-child enters in.
Where hate has room, pride sits in
throned,
And wrong invokes unrest,
Though green the walls and bright the
—paths
He cannot be a guest,
But where the thought that angels
brought
To earth's enraptured ears
Good will to men and peace, again
The Christ-child, listening, hears.
He turns His feet with welcome sweet,
Enters, and there abides.
Angels know best how such are blest
Through all the Christmastides.

Let Us Save You THE TROUBLE

The Joyous Christmas Holidays are fast approaching and a busy housewife is usually taxed to the utmost without the hard work of preparing a big Christmas dinner. On Christmas day we expect to serve our patrons and friends.



TURKEY DINNER

And we will be glad to furnish you with Fruit Cakes, Pies, and in fact every kind of Pastry you will need. And don't forget that our stock of Candies, Fruit, etc., is the most complete in the city. Everything for the Kiddies. We also wish you a happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Hancock Bros. Cafe & Bakery

LET US HAUL IT

WE HAUL
"Anything Anywhere"
Long Hauls A Specialty

Here

Season approaches our hearts are filled with living and giving, which is the true Christmas.

There will be thousands of Christmas happy this year through the use of the "Ford." Families will be united who otherwise seen Christmas slip by without a visit to the folks. For sensible and practical buying service there is no near competitor to

ORD CAR

and the
rdson Tractor

Friends and customers the very merriest season's greetings.

Merkel Motor Co.

WOOD AND WONT

Lufkin News: Of course if you don't burn coal in your home you are not worried about the prevailing prices of that commodity, but how about wood? Sure that subject is giving you some concern.

Why should anybody at Lufkin worry over firewood? There are millions of acres of timber within walking distance of Lufkin. Anybody with an ax can get all the firewood he wants, by agreeing to pile the brush after felling the trees and cutting into cord lengths. The disinclination to wield the ax is what worries Lufkin.

The pioneer settlers of Anderson County were not so squeamish about manual exertion. They not so absterge in regular exertion. They cleared

land and builded homes with axes. And now their successors the heritors of their civilization, hate like hek to even chop enough wood to burn in a fireplace. Everybody wants to hire his work done, and if times are so he can't pay he groans and grumbles like a bear full of bee stings. The city clerk wants to hire his shoe shines and his automobile greased, and the tenant farmer wants to hire his cotton picked and his coal delivered—for even the tenant farmer has got in the way of burning coal. It is all right as long as one can afford it, but there is not now and never was on this imperfect earth a country in which the people could perennially prosper by passing the buck.—State Press.

The Mail \$1.50 year in advance

DR. MILLER TO BE AWAY

I will leave about January 1st, to be gone several weeks to attend a course of Medical Clinics. It has been reported that I am moving away. This report is absolutely false and comes from the same source that other false and malicious reports have come in the past.

Patients under treatment will please see me before I go. Those who have not yet settled their accounts will favor me by doing so this month.

Dr. Geo. Miller. 10t3.

A certain city parson has said that a man can't be made to stay at home with a woman who don't think enough of her figure to wear a corset.

FAMILY G

Sons and daughters will complete the family circle again, don't miss the opportunity of having a nice photograph while they are together. They may never be here for another Yuletide celebration.

Sittings on Christmas Day and Sunday by appointment only.

"PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE BETTER KIND"

THE COZY STUDIO

PHONE 314

JNO. C. REINHARD, MGR.

A WALLOP FOR THE FARMER

And how it is announced that the lower house will shortly give attention to a measure reviving the wartime finance corporation. The resolution under which it would be done was reported out by the banking committee of the house by a majority of one vote. This resolution does not carry with it the demand of the senate bill. The senate bill tells the federal reserve board that it is the opinion of congress that "liberal credit should be extended to farmers." The house committee on banking eliminated this recommendation. Republicans control the congress. The wheat and corn growers of America, or the vast majority, voted for a change. They should place the responsibility on the shoulders of the Republican leaders. It is useless to damn Wilson. Republicans are in control.—Record.

HOW IT HAPPENED

Senator Poindexter of Washington, with a membership of twelve in the senate, called up and had passed his anti-strike bill. Its penalties are heavy. It carries a fine of \$10,000 and ten years' imprisonment for interference with interstate commerce. There were a dozen senators in their seats when Poindexter called up his bill, and without discussion or roll call it was passed. Senator LaFollette demanded reconsideration. As 80 per cent of the workers of America in the labor centers from Sandy Hook to the Golden Gate voted for the Poindexter national ticket, they

should be willing to take just what the Poindexterites hand to them. They demanded a change Poindexter and his fellow Republicans are giving them the change.—Record.

ATTENTION FARMERS

Why worry with churning butter when you can get much more money for your butter fat.

On Saturday, January 1 we will be ready to buy Cream and pay you CASH. Come in and see us talk about this cream. Yours Truly, W. W. WOOD CASE.

MILLING & MILLING

Years of experience in Drugless Healing

Dr. R. G. Milling of Cisco, Texas, is now located with

Dr. H. H. Milling at Mineral Wells, Texas

1 block north and 4 blocks east of depot

Consultation Free

NEW FORDS

From now until the first of January, 1921, we can deliver your new Ford touring cars for \$25.00, coupe and sedans at \$50.00 less than the list price. This difference will buy lots of gas. These are brand new cars. We will also give 40 per cent off on Ford casings, sizes 30 x 3 and 30 x 3 1-2, all guaranteed casings. These prices are for absolutely cash. We recharge your batteries and carry a stock of Willard batteries for sale. We are headquarters for all kinds of accessories, also lubricating, differential and transmission oils and cup grease, made by the Texas Co., the best yet; still, the best is not too good to go into your motor. We also have some cheaper grades of oil, which we can furnish you, if you like. We are headquarters for service, so if you want to be treated with courtesies, come to see us, or phone 123. Remember, "Service and Satisfaction" is our motto.

Thanks And A MERRY CHRISTMAS

At this time when all men should be happy and thankful, we wish to extend our thanks and appreciation of any and all business extended us during the year 1920, and to solicit your future orders during the New Year 1921; assuring you of every courtesy and accomodation we are able to extend.

May the New Year bring to you health, prosperity and happiness.



H. L. PROPST ROSS FERRIER
MERKEL GARAGE

The night-watchman at Plympton, possessed of a due sense of his importance, was called "Sergeant" Moore. He had become aware that the distinctive title was one in general vogue with metropolitan police systems and he was proud of the designation.

The day preceding Christmas was always looked forward to by the sergeant, for it was upon that occasion that his conscience allowed him to accept little marks of approbation.

"Hey, there, sergeant!" generally prefaced the bestowal of something in the shape of a gift.

"It's duty I have to attend to all night long," he told his wife. "They

...there's a regular band of burglars to the move."

Now two problems of fate were to be solved on a strange series of circumstances, in the Christmas eve events pertaining to the redoubtable sergeant.

The first was that the little I had burned down the week before.

The second was that a new home was to be moved to town early in December.

The Wayne family—father, mother, and young children—were to be placed in a new home, all dark, the family problem at some local entertainment, he caught the echo of a rumbling the tipping over of a chair, furniture. Then from under a sofa a form protruded.

"I" muttered the sergeant, "dash for the presumable

"I" spoke the latter excitedly, "I right."

"I" purred Moore derisively, "hat?" and he made a grab for the pocket of the young burglar.

"allow me to explain," he said, "I know the people

"y particular friends! I you to break into the house of the night! And suffer and a pair of you come with me," and he arched his captive from

"nly let me explain," he said, "ng man, but Moore was but... Fifteen

...captive found him a stone cellar, and the key to his wife.

...ss in a jug of water bread to my catch. It's got no sash again soon."

...retirement was dark and anathema to the captor when Mrs. reached the window.

...water and a little and, "so you won't suffer," he passed the things in shriek and crouched. Two men had sudden real burglars this

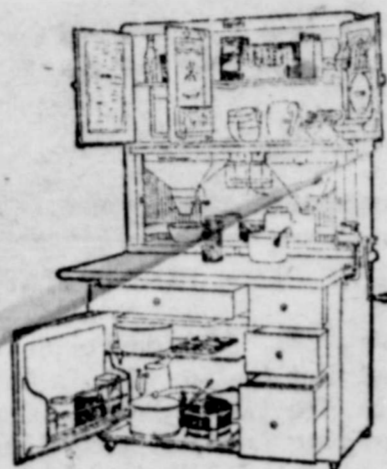
...ered the woman ndow, "they may hen there's all pay in the bureau! Here's the key to the something tinkled on thing else then trans- censed captive located wn and tied hand and ler within the house, awares upon the armed he toppled him over, helpless, and seemed to tement of it all.

...ge Walden and I am en- ethel Wayne," he explained later to the bewildered ser- r the latter had transferred ninals to limbo. "This is time I have visited their new but I got in surreptitiously to present on the Christmas tree prise to my lady love. I don't s Wayne to know I am in until after she finds it."

...rare spice of adventur- for pretty Ethel in her anique experience when same the next morn- time Sergeant Moore ilarity and the com- ill by detailing his signalized Christ- on of two ni for him, re towns at

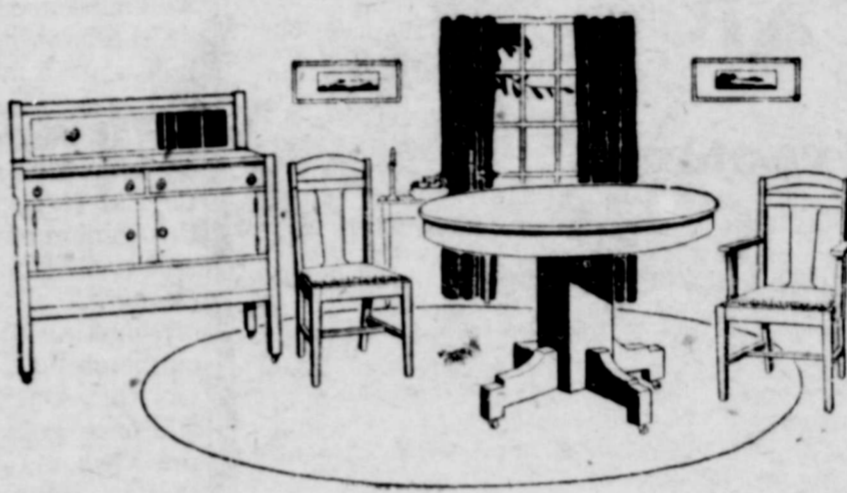
Furniture For Christmas

Merkel people are giving lasting gifts of furniture this year as evidence by our increased sale few days. Furniture for gifts is indeed a sensible solution of the problem. Every item in our stock will be sold at wonderfully low prices from now until Christmas.



We wish each and every one of our friends and customers a Merry Christmas and a Happy and prosperous New Year and we want you to stop and think of Darsey for just a moment—long enough to resolve to call on us more during 1921 than ever before.

Our Stock of Rockers is very complete and a rocker is always an acceptable gift for wife, mother, father or friend as no home ever has too many rockers. All specially priced this week.



Nothing is more Mother than a Home Kitchen Cabinet in several prices and

The dining room is probably the most important room in the home during Christmas as it is around the table that the family gather that day to make merry. We have the complete suits as well as old tables, chairs and buffets. Make the whole family happy with a gift for the dining room. You will be surprised at the low prices and we will be glad to take the old furniture as part pay on the new.

Yours for a Merry Christmas



J. T. DARSEY & CO.



BIG SALE

GET IN TO-DAY

ON OUR BIG SALE

MOST OF GOODS ARE GOING OUT AT
COST and LESS

Happy Xmas to You

The Brown D. G. Company

QUALITY

CELEBRATES 85th YEAR

Sunday, December 19th this children, grandchildren, other relatives and a few friends can to the home of Rev. and Mrs. W. D. McDonald to celebrate the Eighty-fifth birthday of Rev. W. D. McDonald.

His daughter Mrs. Addie Bradley, who has lived with her parents for several years planned to have a surprise for her parents by having all the children home on this occasion, but just a few days before the time appointed for this home coming she was notified that some could not attend on account of sickness. All were very much disappointed by the absence of four children and a number of grandchildren, but six children and sixteen grandchildren with nieces, nephews, cousins and friends spent a happy day with the dear old people.

All present brought something to add to the sumptuous dinner prepared by Mrs. Bradley. At the close of the day all returned to their homes glad they had been with grandpa on his birthday.

Mrs. Alice Burgess of Machie, was among the relatives from a distance called here to attend the funeral of Mrs. Vantrese; which occurred on Monday of this week. Mrs. Burgess was an only sister of the deceased.