

GIRLS BASKET BALL COUNTY SCHEDULE

During the teachers institute of Taylor County, the teachers of several schools met after announcements before the Institute to arrange a girls' basket ball schedule for Taylor county. This schedule was made to determine the county championship in girls' senior basket ball, and no games except "scheduled games are rounded. The results of each of these games should be reported to P. E. Shotwell, Abilene as soon as played. Have the referee sign the statement of the results of the game. The schedule follows—

February 4th—
Trent at Merkel, Petosi at North Park, Ovalo at Lawn, Guion at Bradshaw, Iberis at Wylie.

February 11th—
Petosi at Abilene, Iberis at North Park, Tuscola at Ovalo, White Church at Trent, Lawn at Bradshaw.

February 18th—
Abilene at Wylie, Petosi at Iberis, Guion, Lawn at Tuscola, Merkel at White Church.

February 25th—
Abilene at Iberis, Wylie at North Park, Bradshaw at Tuscola, Guion at Lawn.

March 4th—
North Park at Abilene, Wylie at Petosi, Ovalo at Bradshaw, Tuscola at Guion.

March 11th—
Winners of section three and one play.

County Meet—
Winners of March 11th and section 2 play.

For purposes of playing off this schedule, Taylor county was divided into three districts. District one consists of Abilene, North Park, Iberis, Petosi, and Wylie; district 2 of Ovalo, Lawn, Guion, Bradshaw, Tuscola; District 3 of Merkel, Trent, and White Church. The championship of each one of these districts will be determined by March 5th. Then on March 11th the champion team of district 3 will play the champion of district 1. The winner of the March 11 game will then play the champion of district 3 at the county meet at Abilene.

Please report the results of these games promptly at P. E. Shotwell of the Abilene High School. Whenever possible the officials should be persons that are competent and not connected with or directly interested in either contesting team. This will avoid much trouble. Another way to avoid the quibbling on the field for interested parties to read the rules of the game and also the eligibility rules as contained in the League Constitution on pages 25-28.

Whenever at all possible, play the games on the date scheduled. If the weather should be unquestionably too inclement to play the game on the date scheduled, then the contending teams should arrange another date as soon thereafter as possible, if during the week following the date on which it was scheduled to be played.

Be a sport. Agree before hand on impartial officials, and then accept their decisions. If you are beaten, admit it, and take it like a sport should. Respectfully, Roger A Burgess, Director General Taylor county.

B. Y. P. U. PROGRAM

Subject: "That life of yours."
Leader—Alma Wheeler.
Scripture lesson James 4:13-16.
Introduction by Leader.

1. The qualities of your life tested by its qualities: Dixie Howard
2. Piano solo by Lorena Frazier.
3. The qualification test, one and two by Grady Collins.

BAPTIST ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday School 10 a.m. with a place for all. Come find your place and keep it filled. Preaching by the pastor at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p. m. Morning subject is "Respectable Sins". Evening subject "Making light of sin."

B. Y. P. U. and Junior Unions at 5 p.m.

Training classes Monday 7:30.

Ladies meeting Tuesday 2:30

Prayermeeting Wednesday 7:30

We had more men than women at prayermeeting last Wednesday evening. We also had one of the best prayermeetings we have had in some time. It is a joy to the pastor that there is deepening of the spirituality of those who are attending the prayermeetings.

Come find a welcome in all of these services. Ira L. Parrack.

CHURCH BUILDING FOR THE COLORED PEOPLE

The colored people of Merkel and vicinity have secured a site near the oil mill and propose the location of a church. They were able to purchase a building suitable to their needs, which they will move to the location and remodel. The building is costing the sum of \$60 and the material needed will cost \$115. These two items with other necessary expenses in the moving of the building will require \$200. They will do the work. They are going to need help in making the necessary payments, and as the cause is a good one they hope not to be turned away empty handed. They are going to raise every cent they can possibly raise. They already have about \$50 raised. They will appreciate any help given them. They have a definite plan, and if they can obtain a little assistance, will soon be happily located in a house of worship. The building committee is composed of L. T. Turner and J. S. Smith.

WOOD-McDONALD

At the parsonage, on last Saturday evening, Rev. W. M. Murrell, pastor of the Methodist church, pronounced the words which made man and wife Mr. Nathan E. Wood and Miss Julia McDonald.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. McDonald, has been reared and educated here, having finished high school last year and has a host of admiring friends who extend congratulations and good wishes.

The groom is a brother of gracyman W. W. Wood, and has been connected with this firm since its beginning last spring. By his affable and courteous manners, honesty and uprightness he has won as his friends all with whom he has become acquainted.

We wish for the happy couple much happiness and prosperity throughout their married career.

HOME DESTROYED BY FIRE

On last Sunday afternoon while the family were away, the home of A. V. Lawrence, residing in the country south of Merkel, was destroyed by fire and with it practically all household effects. As there was no insurance on either the residence or household goods the loss is quite heavy on Mr. Lawrence and family as well as the party who owned the farm on which the home was located.

Friends and neighbors came to the aid of the family and have helped them considerably with cash, groceries etc.

J. N. Shelton recently returned from a trip to Lexington, Oklahoma, where he had been to attend the bedside of a sick relative, and whom we are glad to learn was improving rapidly when

MERKEL DONATION TO THE STARVING

Since Herbert Hoover has figured that a \$10 spot will save a tot", the good people of Merkel will have the pleasure of knowing that by their generosity about 22 of Europe's unfortunate starving children will be saved.

This fund here has been raised by a "Free Show", at the Cozy Theatre on last Wednesday afternoon and night, when we are informed that about \$80.00 was contributed. And it was hoped and expected that this amount would have been much larger, and doubtless would have, had it not been for the fact that a cold norther, accompanied by snow most of the day Wednesday kept many from attending. Manager Groene had spent considerable time, and money advertising same.

And we also learn from Pastor Parrack of the Baptist church that the membership of his church has contributed the sum of \$150.00, making a total of \$230.00, which according to Hoover's estimate will save 22 of the starving children.

M'CAULEY AND ROBY CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

On last Saturday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock McCauley and Roby High School basketball teams met in Merkel to play the game that was to decide the championship of Fisher County. Superintendent Burgess, who is athletic director for the Abilene district consisting of ten counties, had them come here so as to be on neutral ground, the teams having disagreed on a place and time to play off the championship of that county. Coach P. E. Shotwell of the Abilene High School very ably refereed the game to the satisfaction of all concerned. Coach Bill Stevens of Merkel kept score.

The game was a little one-sided, the Roby team being out classed by the larger and better playing team from McCauley High School. The score was 26 to 15, McCauley taking the big end of the score. McCauley won next Monday afternoon to decide the championship of that section consisting of Fisher, Kent and Stonewall counties. Then all will be set for the inter-sectional games on February 4th and 5th. Then the district game will be played on February 11th or 12.

PRESBYTERIAN AUXILIARY

The Auxiliary met on last Monday afternoon at the home of Mrs. L. D. Leevy. Usual business was attended to. Mission topics and Bible lessons were rendered by members present. Next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Dr. Johnson Monday afternoon, February 7.

METHODIST CHURCH NOTICE

All the regular services at the Methodist church next Sunday. Sunday School at 10 a.m. Preaching at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. by the presiding elder, Rev. W. M. Lane. Come to church. W. M. Murrell.

AT NORTH SIDE CHURCH

Elder W. G. Cypert will preach at the North side church next Sunday at eleven o'clock. All are invited to hear him.

If you need any hauling see these 18.

BILL FAILS TO PROTECT TAXES DUE

Austin, Feb. 2.—The bill recently passed by the Legislature and signed by Governor Neff postponing publication of delinquent tax lists until October, 1921, and reducing the penalty for failure to pay 1920 taxes on time from 10 per cent to 5 per cent does not affect the penalty for failure to pay 1920 taxes due Feb. 1, 1921, according to a ruling by the attorney general's department.

The bill did not pass the Senate by the necessary two-thirds majority to make it effective on being signed by the Governor and therefore does not go into effect until ninety days after adjournment. Up until that time the penalty for nonpayment of 1920 taxes will be 10 per cent, according to the opinion. The opinion was given at the request of Lon A. Smith, state comptroller, who said that he had received large numbers of queries from over the state as to whether the reduction was now applicable.

BUILDING BURNS ON SUNDAY NIGHT

An old building located on Kent Street just north of the Merkel Lumber Company was destroyed by fire early Sunday night. The building had only been used for several years, as a storage house, having at the time of the fire, an old merry-go-round and some feed stored in it. In years gone by it was the home of the Merkel Evening Telegram, which publication has long since ceased to be published. The building and contents were a total loss as there was no insurance, and the origin of the fire is unknown.

EPWORTH LEAGUE PROGRAM

Leader—Joel Counts.
Subject—"Fellow Leaguers, what are we doing for each other."
Song; prayer; song.
Lord prayer in concert.
Scripture reading—Psalm 111
Recitation by a Junior.
Song by Juniors.
Talk by a Junior.
"Fellow Leaguers" by leader.
"What are the younger members doing for the older"—Joe Reidenbach.
"What are the older Leaguers doing for the younger"—Bess Tucker.
Song; Epworth League Benediction.

OFF TO EASTERN MARKETS

Mr. and Mrs. T. G. Bragg left Thursday for the great Eastern Markets, where they will spend ten days or two weeks selecting spring and summer stock for their firm.

Having had many year experience in buying and selling goods they will no doubt look after the wants of their customers very carefully.

PROGRAM OF BAPTIST MISSIONARY UNION

Song.
Devotional—Mrs. H. T. Merritt.
Leader—Mrs. General Jones.
Reading—Mrs. Walter Jackson.
Contest.
Reading—Mrs. Judson Sheppard.
Contest—To be held at the home of Mrs. General Jones, afternoon of February 15.

THURSDAY CLUB

Of particular enjoyment was the meeting of the Thursday Club this last week, when the members with a few friends were entertained by Mrs. Forrest Gaither and Mrs. Ross Ferrier at the home of the latter. After a few games of 42, the hostesses tried their guests wit, as well as their skill, with two very interesting contests, one "a stitch" in which Mrs. Lytton Howard proved to be the quickest thinker and was awarded a beautiful pair of embroidery scissors, the other "a Bias button hole" in which Mrs. Tom Largent showed her skill with the needle and was presented a dainty apron and rap. These charming ladies served a delicious salad plate to the following members: Mesdames J. B. Ferrier, Arrington, Robert Grimes, Gamble, James West, Scott, Largent, Howard, McFarland, Leevy, Miller, Meador, Bates, Weaver, Case and Jones.

METHODIST WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

On last Monday afternoon the Womens Missionary Society was entertained at the parsonage by Mrs. Murrell and Mrs. Pat Jones. On Sunday previous, Bro. Murrell announced from the pulpit that every lady member of the church whether a member of the Missionary Society or not, was not only invited but urged to be present at 2:30 o'clock at the parsonage and each lady to bring along a needle and thimble. He also hinted that refreshments might be served. As women naturally are very curious, this announcement aroused their curiosity to the extent of bringing them out to see what could be wanted with the needle and thimble, so promptly at 2:30 the ladies began to arrive in bunches and soon the rooms were filled to overflowing. Some seemed to be ashamed to confess curiosity had brought them out while others openly confessed they were curious to know what they were expected to do. Our curiosity was soon satisfied though for Mrs. Jones gave to each one present a tiny apron cut from gingham and a tiny pocket pinned in place and we were told to whip the pocket on the apron. After the pocket had been securely sewed on we were handed a card which read:

Into this little apron pocket,
Shoot your savings like a rocket,
A penny for each inch around your waist,
And return to us in greatest haste.

Each woman did her own measuring but was told to give "Methodist measure" which means "full up and running over". Quite a jolly good time was had fixing the pockets and filling them with pennies.

Our hostess then very delightfully served us with a delicious salad course consisting of fruit salad on lettuce, wafers, olives, pickles, lovely white cake and hot tea. Our plate favors were a bunch of lovely violets. After the refreshments, Mrs. Martin gave a very impressive talk on the importance of the Missionary Society and explained just how and where the money is used. The money obtained on this afternoon is to go to the fund for the new seats. A canvass for new members was also made and about 15 new names were added to our roll. We certainly do appreciate these new members and hope they, as well as all members may profit by their having joined the society. There were 41 present at this meeting and quite a pleasant and profitable time was had. Let us hope for many more meetings like this one.

The Society will meet next Monday afternoon at 2.30 at the church in business session. Let every member, old and new be present. Press Repr.

MAIL-ORDER BUSINESS IN SECTION

The writer noticed the mention of the mail order business in a neighboring exchange as related to that town, and took it upon our selves to make some inquiry of the amount of business these concerns are taking from this country, which the local merchants is really entitled to. And from the figures we obtain, it seems that the amount sent out to the mail order houses from Merkel will vary from \$5,000 to \$20,000 per month, and that during the year there is more than \$100,000 sent away for goods which might just as well have been purchased from the home merchants.

And as our neighboring exchange goes on to say: "It is not our purpose to censure anybody for spending their money with mail order houses. They think they can get merchandise cheaper that way. As a general thing we think they are honestly mistaken. Perhaps occasionally they do get a bargain from a mail order house, but that we believe, is the exception and not the rule.

How can the local merchant effectively check this large cash outflow? That indeed, is a problem worth the consideration of any merchant. We believe the major part of this money can be kept at home. There is a way we hope our local merchants will find the way.

Of course, rural mail routes, and parcels both make it mighty convenient for people to order from a big catalog, but the local merchant can supply at least three fourths of the goods ordered from these big concerns and rural routes and parcels post give the local man a decided advantage over the larger city concerns. Time and distance are in his favor.

Try a little mail order business on your own hook. Encourage rural customers to order by mail and fill their orders the same day. Go after your share of this \$100,000 cash business that is now going away from home. You can get it and ought to have it."

I. C. FRIER PASSES AWAY

After an illness lasting several months, Mr. I. C. Frier, a splendid citizen of this city passed away at the family residence in the north part of the city, Wednesday evening at 9:15 o'clock. Deceased had reached the ripe old age of 78 years. He was born in Pike county, Missouri, and came to Texas at the age of nine, and although he took up arms during the Civil War with the Union Army, he always claimed Texas as his home. He was a splendid character and was loved and esteemed by all who had formed his acquaintance, and besides an aged companion, leaves four children, all of whom, with the exception of one, arrived to attend the funeral. The son who did come resides in Oklahoma and could not be reached in time. The other children are: Mrs. R. Brooks, of Coleman; G. M. Frier, of Thalia; Mrs. J. B. Franklin, Big Spring.

Funeral services were conducted at the family residence by Elder W. G. Cypert, of the North Side Christian church, immediately after which interment took place in Rose Hill Cemetery. We join a host of friends in extending deepest sympathy to the bereaved.

Miss May Helman gave a birthday dinner last Sunday and had as her guests Misses Nell Hollaway, Gladys Middleton, Jeell Burns, Lorena Gazzaway, Fairy Orr, and Alma Barbee.

STATEMENT OF CONDITION
THE FARMERS STATE BANK

Merkel, Texas December 29th, 1920

RESOURCES

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Loans and Discounts | \$625,475.43 |
| Banking House | 7,850.00 |
| Furniture and Fixtures | 5,200.00 |
| Bonds and War Savings Stamps .. | 8,301.11 |
| Asst. and Int. Guaranty Fund..... | 4,068.79 |
| Cash and Exchange | 192,724.78 |
| | \$843,620.11 |

LIABILITIES

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Capital Stock | \$50,000.00 |
| Surplus Fund | 50,000.00 |
| Reserved for taxes | 1,263.46 |
| Undivided Profits | 12,717.05 |
| Deposits | 689,304.16 |
| Rediscounts | 40,335.44 |
| Bills payable | None |
| Other Borrowed Money | None |
| | \$843,620.11 |

**ONLY GUARANTY FUND BANK
IN MERKEL**

SAFETY AND SERVICE

T. J. TOOMBS President
JOHN SEARS Vice President
R. L. BLAND Vice President
R. O. ANDERSON Cashier
F. Y. GAITHER Asst. Cashier

FIGURED IN HISTORIC PAST

Representation of Monarch of the Time of Abraham Now in Pennsylvania Museum.

In the dim old days of the patriarch Abraham people looked very much as they do now, judging from the oldest representation of human figures unearthed by the toiling brotherhood of archeologists. Two striking figures, one standing and one seated, are included in the elaborate design of the clay seal, or "postage stamp," which has excited the enthusiasm of Dr. Legrain, curator of the Babylonian section of the University of Pennsylvania museum.

Dr. Legrain has figured out the inscriptions of the little tablet as indicating that it dates from the period when "Ur of the Chaldees," mentioned in Genesis in connection with the history of Abraham, was a flourishing kingdom. And he finds reason to believe that the seated figure, decorated with flourishes of beautiful accordeon plating, is a portrait of his majesty Ibi-Sin, the last king of Ur and possibly an intimate friend of the Father of Israel.

To the modern eye both figures are remarkably well drawn and lifelike in attitude, especially considering the fact that they were modeled in clay on a very small scale. Dr. Legrain thinks the tablet served the double purpose of a seal and a postage stamp on a sack of money forwarded to a banker named Shulpaie by his reverence the high priest of the temple of Ur, at which Abraham worshipped.

A TEXAS WONDER

For kidney and bladder troubles, gravel, weak and lame back, rheumatism and all irregularities of the kidneys and bladder. If not sold by your druggist, by mail \$1.25 Small bottle. Send for testimonials to D. E. W. Hall, 2926 Olive Street, St. Louis Mo. Sold by druggists.

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" Cures and Prevents Roup. Guaranteed by Sanders Drug Store. April-15.

Expecting a car of Marechal Neal Flour, Brand and Shorts. Bob Martin Grocery Co. tf

TOO HEALTHY FOR MEDICINE

People of Tristan da Cunha Throw Supply Left by British Cruiser Into the Sea.

The island of Tristan da Cunha is described as "an unspoiled haven of rest for the weary soul, a mecca for those who long for relief from worries of life," by the chaplain of the British cruiser Dartmouth, which has just returned from a visit to that isolated spot.

"No need to worry over money there, for there is none," said the chaplain. "There are no taxes, no doctors, no lawyers, no clergymen, no policemen, not even a head man. Newspapers and mail arrive, with luck, about once every two years.

"There is not even any medicine, for the latest supply of remedies was thrown into the sea by the inhabitants, who are remarkably healthy. Epidemics are unknown.

"Tristan is a British possession in the south Atlantic, between South Africa and South America. Its snow-capped peak towers nearly 8,000 feet above sea level. It is only 21 miles in circumference. The nearest inhabited place is St. Helena, 1,200 miles away. The only habitable portion of it is a tongue of fertile land at the foot of the precipitous cliffs."

FRUIT TREES, SHRUBS, EVERGREENS, ROSES

A fine stock of fine trees of sure bearing sorts selected out of seventeen hundred varieties we have tested since our first Texas orchard was planted in 1858. (Nursery established in 1875.) Peach, Plum, Pecans, Berries, etc.

Our stock of Evergreens, shades, and hardy ornamental shrubs is unequalled. Let us make your home grounds beautiful forever. Plants and suggestions made for grounds large or small.

We can use more salesmen and saleswomen, temporary or permanent, local or general. Catalog free. We pay express. THE AUSTIN NURSERY, F. T. RAMSEY & SON, Austin, Tex.

VIOLIN AND PIANO

I could handle a few more pupils in either Piano or Violin. Rates reasonable. Mrs. Rose Miller, or call at Rose Barber Shop. 2874



CREDIT IS BUSINESS CONFIDENCE
(AN ACCOUNT HERE WILL HELP)

Somebody is always depositing your money in the bank.

Is it you who are saving part of your income and putting it where it will work for your benefit?

Or is it all slipping through your fingers into the pocket and bank account of some one who appreciates its value more than you?

A savings account with us will solve that problem.

THE BANK THAT BACKS THE FARMER

THE FARMERS & MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK

MEMBER FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Merkel, Texas

THE MAN MUST BE RIGHT

Buying a purebred dairy cow with a good record, or a purebred hog or any other animal of aristocratic breeding, does not insure a successful beginning either in the dairying or livestock business. The animals purchased as foundation stock may be the very best, but if the man who made the purchase is not all right, the investment will not pay.

There are many instances on record in Texas and other Southwestern States where farmers have attended some stock show, or have some article on purebred livestock and have become enthused to the point of paying a high price for some well bred animals, only to make a miserable and pitiful failure. There are also other instances where the purchaser has developed the animal into greater producers, or improved their condition to a point where they rank higher in the eyes of judges than they did before.

Even scrub livestock respond to proper shelter, proper feeding and proper attention and pay the owner more money on his investment. Purebred animals will respond more quickly to good care than the scrub, and being of higher breeding, will display the ill effects of lack of attention in less time than the scrub which has been more accustomed to rustle for itself.

Every farmer who contemplates improving his financial condition by making a start with purebred stock of any kind must bear in mind that to succeed he must not only provide comfortable quarters but he must know how, what and when to feed. There is an old saying that "when a cow thinks as much of the person who cares for her as she does of her calf, she will respond to the best of her ability in the production of milk."

Good shelter proper feeding and kindness are three requisites in making a success in any kind of livestock farming.—Farm & Ranch.

The Brown D. G. Company
COMPARE QUALITY AND PRICE---THEN COME

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| Yard-wide Brown Domestic 12½c | Sea Island Domest. yard wide..... 18c | Outings 15c and 25c | Brown Canton Flannel..... 20c |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|

Yard-wide Bleached Domestic, special at 20c

Full 9-4 bleached Sheeting, extra at 44c

| | |
|---|---|
| Great bargains in 36-inch Percale 45c grade now 25c | Ginghams Cut Half. They are going fast now at..... 15, 20 and 25c |
|---|---|

Men's Suits at slaughtered price \$19.65, 23.70, 34.85

| | |
|--|---|
| Sheep lined Coats and moleskin Vests, \$22.50 values now \$11.25 | All wool pants cut to 10 per cent..... Less Than Cost |
|--|---|

Blankets and Comforts, your choice HALF PRICE

Shoes, Shoes, Shoes, all go at Cost and Less

Ladies Coats and Suits, your choice HALF PRICE

This Sale ends February 15th.

Seeing is Believing

The Brown D. G. Company

Quality Merchandise

THE MORNING AFTER THE NIGHT BEFORE

The business men of the country who have a reputation for foretelling the future have announced better times in sight. The country is gradually recovering from the results of a "spending jag" the life of which was never seen before on this side of the Atlantic. High prices reigned supreme, but the higher they went, the faster was money thrown to the winds. Luxuries were more in demand than necessities and nothing was too good or too expensive for the workmen as well as the business men who were gathering in more cheap dollars per day than they formerly made in a week. Following the jag came the "morning after". Everybody had a bad taste in the mouth. The dizzy whirl had given place to sullenness and buying suddenly ceased. This brought about cuts in prices and a determination to accept losses in order to get back to normal.

Now the Nation is recovering. The effects of dissipation are passing away. The old "pep" is again in evidence and men are looking ahead with confidence. The United States is yet the richest Nation in the world. The individual citizen is the best fed and the best dressed of all the earth's inhabitants. He has greater opportunities and less to discourage him than his brothers across the sea. He has no reason to be downcast, and every reason to smile. It is now the "afternoon of the Morning after" and the sun is shining where there were shadows.—Farm & Ranch.

PLENTY of COAL

Dawson Fancy Egg Domestic Lump And Swastika Coal

THE SUNLIT WAY

By AGNES BROGAN.

(© 1921, Western Newspaper Union.)

Jasmine rode every morning, down the sunlit way. The park surrounding her big shabby home was gloomy in its wealth of trees. The house was gloomy, too; so in her hour of recreation, Jasmine chose the sunlit way. Jasmine, seated on her white horse Bonnie, loved to dream, at the water's edge, of that other world so far away, and yet near, where other young people laughed and talked, and sang together.

Since her mother's death, when she had been too young to remember, the girl had known little companionship save that of Ursula, the housekeeper, and James Rhodes, her father, James Rhodes, aged prematurely by disappointment and sorrow, was a severe man.

The one friend who continued to bear with his humors was John Westwood of Westwood place, next door. And as James Rhodes, in his broken-hearted isolation—for he had never ceased to mourn his wife's loss—grew poorer, John Westwood, energetic and successful in business, grew ever richer.

Now, the one stubborn desire of the old thwarted man was to make that wealth his daughter's, through her marriage to his friend.

John Westwood admired Jasmine very much; he loved her, he said, and would make her happy. So Jasmine, grievously disturbed, rode every morning down the sunlit way, trying to think out an escape from the impending fate. The girl in absorbing tenderness for her father, could not bear to deny his heart's one desire, and yet—

A stranger sat at the end of the sunlit road one day, a young and idle stranger, with arms clasped behind his head against the tree on which he leaned, and brown hair blown by the breeze from his high, white forehead. As the young man's frank blue eyes came back from their survey of the river, they rested upon Jasmine—seated there on her horse, in a kind of joyous wonder.

"You?" asked the young man, dreamily, "who are you?"

And also smilingly wondering, the girl replied: "I am Jasmine."

The stranger nodded.

"Of course," he said, "I might know that you would be Jasmine—when you came. A white flower."

Strangely acquiescent, she allowed him to take the bridle from her hand and lead her to a seat on the grass at his side.

"You come from the old house, Jasmine?" the young man asked.

"You see, I know that there are but two houses, and John Westwood lives in the other."

"Yes," she answered slowly, "from the old house."

"And you are?" he hesitated over his question.

Then Jasmine smiled.

"I am," she told her questioner, "occupied there as—companion."

She was away before the stranger could detain her, flying on Bonnie's back, up the sunlit road. In the somber silence of the park trees, the girl calmed, and her eyes grew wistful. Had it not all been a dream? Yet she went again, and still again, and every coming found him waiting. Then firmly Jasmine told herself that the meetings must end. It was the white horse who carried her there.

"I did not mean to come," she told the young man, decidedly. "Bonnie brought me."

"And your heart led Bonnie," he answered laughing softly, in confident assurance.

"But now that I have come," the girl went on, "I shall stay only to confess my deceit, and then—good-by. I am Jasmine Rhodes, and I am to marry John Westwood."

"You!" gasped the young man, "to marry my crabbed old uncle? You, my little white flower!"

"Your uncle," she faltered confusedly.

The lover impatiently nodded.

"I came down to visit my uncle," he said. "He is putting me through college. Through all his crustiness, my uncle has an affection for me. But if you think that I shall let you marry him—"

Young John Westwood broke off abruptly.

"There is only one way to straighten it all," he said, "and we must hurry. My roadster will carry us quicker than Bonnie. It's on the river road. First, we will have to get a license. Then you shall come back here as my wife. Wealth can mean nothing to you as compared with love. Come, dear heart."

But Jasmine lingered.

"Some day," she said, "I will go with you. But first, I must be honest with both my father and his friend."

From behind the shelter of a tree came suddenly old John Westwood.

"I would advise you, my dear," he said quietly, "to obey now the dictate of your heart. This lad is a good lad, and true love is more than money. I, myself, shall see your father, and after all, I am sure he will be well pleased with my nephew as son-in-law, when he learns that I shall make him my heir."

"Oh," murmured Jasmine, "how can you be so generously kind!"

Old John Westwood smiled.

"Until this morning," he said, "I has been many long years since I glimpsed the Sunlit Way."

NOTICE

I have almost a complete line of the J. R. Watkins products, such as

Medicines, Extracts and Flavors
Toilet Articles

You can find me at the Merkel Garage each afternoon.

I also have plenty of Watkins Calendars, which have a list of all articles on back, and if you don't get a copy, write—

N. A. DOWELL, Box 121 Merkel, Texas

LET US HAUL IT

WE HAUL

"Anything Anywhere"

Long Hauls A Specialty

HIGGINS & DARSEY

GEM CONFECTIONERY

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

We also have secured the agency for the Acme Graphophone and records and will have same on exhibit at the Gem.

AGENTS FOR ABILENE STEAM LAUNDRY

Colds & Headache

"For years we have used Black-Draught in our family, and I have never found any medicine that could take its place," writes Mr. H. A. Stacy, of Bradyville, Tenn. Mr. Stacy, who is a Rutherford County farmer, recommends Black-Draught as a medicine that should be kept in every household for use in the prompt treatment of many little ills to prevent them from developing into serious troubles.

THEDFORD'S BLACK-DRAUGHT

"It touches the liver and does the work," Mr. Stacy declared. "It is one of the best medicines I ever saw for a cold and headache. I don't know what we would do in our family if it wasn't for Black-Draught. It has saved us many dollars . . . I don't see how any family can hardly go without it. I know it is a reliable and splendid medicine to keep in the house. I recommend Black-Draught highly and am never without it."

At all druggists.

Accept No Imitations

At The Same Old Place

| | |
|---|--------|
| Spuds | 45c |
| Three Bottles Snuff | 95c |
| Cartoon Camel Cigaretts | \$1.80 |
| Lard | \$1.25 |
| Syrup | 60c |
| 12 Gauge Shells | 85c |
| Sugar | \$9.75 |
| Tobacco | \$1.00 |
| Extra High Patent Flour | \$5.65 |
| Meal | 73c |
| Big Oats | 30c |
| Meat | 19c |
| No. 3 wash tub | \$1.45 |
| 5 gallon oil can | \$1.10 |
| Wash board | 65c |
| Everything at bargain prices. First class line of dry goods all at bargain prices. See the fellow that makes them all howl. | |

RAY at BLAIR
We deliver in Merkel

OBITUARY

Our beloved sister McDonald wife of Rev. W. D. McDonald and mother of Rev. Ed McDonald of San Antonio, now pastor of Prospect Hill Baptist church of that place, died at her home in Jones county, Texas, January 22, 1921.

Sister McDonald was born in Tennessee May 5th, 1843, coming to Texas with her father when she was seven years old and settled in Hopkins county. One year there and then they moved to Grayson county, living there until January 1, 1904, when the family moved to Jones County, where she lived until her death January 22, 1921 making her age 78 years.

She was the mother of 14 children. Four are dead the rest are living. Her mother died when she was but a child of 8 years, hence sister McDonald is survived by her husband, ten children, two sisters, one brother two half sisters and three half-brothers.

For sixty years she was faithful wife of Bro. McDonald, and for 58 years they served the Lord together, as members of the Baptist church. During this long period their lives seemed to grow more harmonious as each life became more like the master.

She was one of Texas greatest mothers. Her best efforts were for her children and her church. Her mother heart ran out for their spiritual life as well as temporal life, patient, watchful, kind and loving. A good mother, a heaven qualified mother, a mother that her children can joyfully raise up and call her blessed.

As a christian her faith was unwavering, her home ever open for those who preach the gospel I was Bro. and Sister McDonald pastor for 14 years which was the first part of my ministry. No hearts and hands cheered and helped me more than theirs. A blessing indeed to be in their home. Her husband was ever ready to help the needy, her heart ever ready to comfort and cheer the down cast, and heart broken about her.

Thus ended a loving and fruitful life, awaiting the judgment where Jesus will say, I was hungry and you fed me; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you took me in. Because you did it unto these my brethren.

Her body was shipped from Merkel to Whitewright, accompanied by Bro. McDonald and the children, then was carried to the old home for one night. The old home is occupied by Mr. and Mrs. John Williams, Mrs. Williams being her daughter. Then her body was carried to the old Bethel church, where they were members so long, and at 10 o'clock gathered children grand-children great-grand-children, other relatives and hundreds of friends.

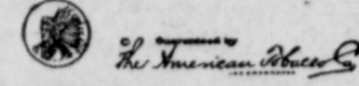
All of her living children were present at her funeral except Mrs. C. O. Bradley who was not able to attend. So after the funeral her body was carried to the old Pilot Grove grave yard and her body was placed to rest under the great cedar trees that were planted there over forty years ago by the hand of this, then young, strong couple, preparing for this event.

So no two ever more carefully prepared for death while living. Wisdom, honor, love, faith and

Do you know why it's toasted

To seal in the delicious Burley tobacco flavor.

LUCKY STRIKE CIGARETTE



hope bloomed about her door. Her life passed quietly into the home above where she will praise God for ever and ever. Weep not for her as one who has no hope. J. M. Harder.

MT. PLEASANT NEWS

Who said Mt. Pleasant was either dead or slumbering? It was surely those who didn't know. What community could die with so many good people to say nothing of a lively Sunday School growing every Sunday. Baptist and Methodist preaching twice a month and prayer meeting and singing on Sunday night. Not speaking at all of the young people's social affairs during the week which reminds me that a great time was enjoyed by all who attended the candy breaking at Wash Maggonagall's Saturday night.

Mr. E. M. Massey and daughters spent Sunday with Mr. C. R. Roland.

Mr. Jim Ingram visited relatives over on Salt Branch Sunday morning returning in time for Sunday School Sunday afternoon.

We are glad to note that our people are getting so interested in Sunday School that they will so long their visits to attend.

Mr. G. C. Sargent and family spent Sunday with his son Clyde also returning in time for Sunday School Sunday afternoon.

Mr. Elsa Roland and Miss Etta Jones took supper Sunday night with Miss Jessie Belle Sargent.

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Sargent are the happy parents of a bouncing baby girl born the 20th.

Mr. Jim Chandler of New Mexico who has been visiting his uncle, Mr. E. M. Massey, returned to Abilene Sunday where he will re-enter Simmons College.

Mr. Eugene Roland and Mr. Leo Lilly were the guests of the Misses Massey at Supper Sunday night.

Mr. Marion Logan and wife revisited relatives at Tuscola Saturday. These young people have recently moved back to our community where we give them a hearty welcome to join in making Mt. Pleasant step to the front.

Miss Zetta Jones is spending the week with her Aunt, Mrs. Robertson on Salt Branch.

Mr. G. C. Sargent and daughter Jessie Belle motored to Abilene Friday on business.

Every one come to the box supper Saturday night the 12th.

If you don't believe 'Mounty' is progressing visit us and see. You will receive a hearty welcome. A hob-goblin.

Geo. Richie, one of the pioneer and well fixed citizens of Taylor county, who settled in Mulberry Canyon along about 1884, made this office an appreciated visit one day this week. Mr. Richie's family has been making Merkel their home for a number of years, on account of the school, he coming in from the ranch occasionally, but during last August he sustained an injury from a fall, which has caused him to give up the ranch work to some extent, and he too has been staying with the family.

Listen Farmers I received a telegram for 500 Nice Hens. Can't you help me fill the order. W. W. Wood Grocery.

A STILLER GUEST

By FLORENCE MELLISH.

(© 1921, by McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)

It was a rainbow wedding—a pink maid-of-honor and blue and canary and lavender and pale green bridesmaids. Evelyn looked so sweet and childlike in her white gown and veil that I just curled into my corner of the pew and cried. I had loved her from her babyhood. I had made her first short frocks and rompers and her graduation gown, but my fingers had grown too stiff to be trusted with wedding garments.

Maurice Penfield, looking more dignified and self-possessed than ever, was none the less handsome for his graying temples.

"Isn't he fine looking?" Luella Bates whispered, "and so talented, and rich, too! But aren't you sorry he's a widower—a warmed-over man?"

"No," I whispered back, "he has been tested, and he has borne the test. He was all devotion to his invalid wife."

Luella was silenced, but down in my heart I was a little sorry. I wanted our Evelyn's marriage to be ideal in every way.

But, after all, it was not the lovely bride or the stately bridegroom who held the eyes of the little company that sat stiffly upright in the fourth pew of the west wing. They were whispering to each other:

"Who is the lady in gray?"

Doctor Landphear began the service in his quiet, penetrating tones. When he came to the words: "If any one knows any reason why these two should not be joined in marriage, let him speak now, or forever hold his peace," and I held my breath for an instant as I always did. I always had a nervous feeling: "What if some one should come forward and speak?" I had been a guest at 24 weddings, and no one had come forward.

This time some one did. It was the lady in gray.

"I know a reason," she said in a deep voice that could be heard in every corner of the church.

Doctor Landphear looked surprised, but he kept his usual dignified poise.

"Will you state your reason?" he asked quietly.

"My sister Muriel is Maurice Penfield's wife, and my sister Muriel is here."

The pink maid of honor flushed with anger. The lavender bridesmaid was in tears. The canary bridesmaid lifted her chin haughtily. The blue and pale green bridesmaids clung together tremblingly. Evelyn herself was deathly pale. Maurice Penfield threw a strong arm about her.

"It is my sister-in-law. The poor woman is insane." He turned to one of the ushers. "Can you take her out quietly?"

Evelyn turned instantly and looked behind her. I could see how violently she was trembling. Maurice drew her gently back.

"Try to be calm, Evelyn. The poor mad woman is not worth minding."

"But Muriel is there. I saw her myself," she shivered.

"Evelyn," he said, sternly, this time, "you must be calm." Then speaking to Doctor Landphear: "I think we may go on now."

Months after the dear girl came to me in that same little shabby room and told me the whole story.

"I am happy now, Miss Buffum," she said. "But I was very unhappy at first. Maurice was very patient and tender with me, but I could not make him understand. He would not believe that Muriel did come. He thought it was simply a case of nerves."

"But, Evelyn, I saw no one."

"But she was there. She came again. She came three times. I used to feel so guilty and frightened. You see, it was the locket."

"The locket, Evelyn?"

"Yes, the dearest, loveliest, quaintest silver locket you ever saw. It contained a lock of Muriel's hair. He had given it to Muriel, and she always wore it night and day underneath her gowns. Before she died she gave it back to Maurice and charged him never to let anyone else wear it. He showed it to me once, and I was childishly jealous. I wanted to wear it, and I worried Maurice until he gave it to me. I had it on under my wedding gown in church when Muriel came."

"But, Evelyn—"

"She did come. She came again three times and stood beside my bed. It was in the early morning when it was just beginning to be light. Maurice was always asleep and he would not believe it. But I saw her plain—her eyes were so sad and reproachful. The third time she stood with her eyes fixed on the chain that held the locket. It came to me what she wanted and I unclasped it and gave it to her. She smiled then and she didn't go out by the door. She just seemed to fade away and was gone. She never came again. I have lost my foolish jealousy of poor, sweet, gentle Muriel, and I am happy now."

"Did you tell Maurice about it?"

"Yes, I knew he felt some compunction over giving me the locket, and I wanted him to know that Muriel had it back. But he never could believe me. He said I must have dropped it into the fur rug and one of the chambermaids had found it."

"But, Evelyn, are you quite sure you didn't drop it into the rug?"

"Yes, I am sure. I gave it into Muriel's hands and she looked happy and satisfied. Now I am at peace."

STUBBORNNESS

By ADDIE GRAVES.

They had not spoken to each other for twenty-two years, and during that time nine children had been born to them. When the first child was two years old they had had a bitter exchange of words—taunts that could not be forgiven on either side. But a short time after the fierce quarrel the second child entered this world, so, although both had sworn never to speak—until their dying day—they continued to live together as man and wife. This happened years ago, when a divorce was a very rare proceeding and a home was seldom deserted, even by the greatest provocation.

When they were married he was nineteen and she sixteen. So, at the end of twenty-two years both were still young. It was strange that youth could be so stubborn. This was explained by their Puritan ancestry, from which they inherited the iron-bound obstinacy they termed principle. The spoken word must be kept at any cost.

It was a strange life, but during all these years the tragedies, accidents and comedies of existence had not broken the silence. It was an exceedingly odd but not unpleasant experience to visitors to enter into such a home life. Contrary to expectations, the family were exceptionally entertaining, all being fine musicians and persons of culture, making them agreeable companions. In fact, the household was noted for its charming hospitality.

Any information required or which was desired given by the parents was transferred through the children by word of mouth, or, if too young, the subject matter was written and delivered in that form. It was quite convenient, there were so many children. Neither parent tried to lower the other in the estimation of the children; it was simply a case of each keeping his dignity preserved and his word intact. There were weddings and death in the home, but even these did not alter the situation. If the house had burned it would still have been the same.

All the children "turned out" exceedingly well, the eldest developing into a skillful surgeon. One day in summer he and his wife were visiting the old homestead, which was situated in the country. The weather was exceptionally hot—so hot that no one had been able to sleep well for several nights. The doctor made some lemonade and took it out to the family, who were all sitting under the twin maples in the front yard. In a short time it was noticed that the father was sleeping. Not until supper was ready did anyone try to wake him. When it was tried he could not be roused. Alarmed, they carried him to the house and laid him on a couch in the living room. The doctor's son stayed with him until the others finished the hurried meal, when the sleeper awoke. He looked at his son and inquired what had happened.

"I think, father, your heart may be a little wrong—don't you think—in case anything should happen—you had better tell mother your wishes?"

A surprising look of gladness—for a dying person—flashed over the father's face.

"Yes, son, bring mother."

But mother's face was twisted with grief as she threw herself upon the prostrate form.

"Mary!"—"John!"—simultaneously. The doctor left the room and appeared to the astounded children with a wide grin on his face.

"They are having a heavenly time in there," directing his thumb toward the door he had just emerged from—"the sweetest honeymoon—they are the mistiest, spoonest couple you could imagine. I gave father a stiff dose of bromide in his lemonade; there's not a thing ails him. I just took advantage of a good opportunity. Pretty rough treatment to cause a man to think he might be dying, but I thought the case needed and deserved it."

Replanting North Woods.

There are people who have never been above Troy, N. Y., who nevertheless speak wistfully of the north woods. They have been expecting to visit that inspiring wilderness for years and will plan for it for years to come, whether they ever go or not. If they knew how dangerously those reaches of forest, though they seem almost endless, have been threatened by fire and the pulp mill's maw they would rejoice to hear that Quebec now is planting two pine or spruce trees for every one that is destroyed.

So the north woods will still be there when at last your hunting trip is made. Three million pines and spruces have been planted this year.

Beavers Multiply Rapidly.

Beavers in the national forests have increased rapidly within the last few years, a count made by rangers of the forest service, United States Department of Agriculture, shows. Two years ago in the Cochetopa forest in southwestern Colorado there were 200 beavers, estimating four or five inhabitants to each house, a conservative estimate. This year there are 12,000 of the animals. This rapid increase of family among the beaver tribe insures plenty of the popular fur for milady's wear for an indefinite time if the laws which now protect the animal are not relaxed too much.

REAL ART PICTURES

PARAMOUNT PROGRAMS

COZY THEATRE

Big Special for Matinee Saturday 2 to 5:30

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| Friday Feb. 4 "Bride 13" in "The Craft of Despair" (Episode No. 3) | Admission 10-20-30 DOUGLASS FAIRBANKS in "The Matrimoniac" | Slim Summerville in "The Once Over" |
| Saturday Feb. 5 Wanda Hawley in "Miss Hobbs" Mutt & Jeff in "Stung Again" | Admission 10-20-30c Charlie Chaplin in "A Jitney Elopement" | Tuesday Feb. 8 Elsie Ferguson in "His Parisian Wife" Pathe Review |
| Monday Feb. 7 William Duncan (Dick Daring) in "Fighting Fate" | Admission 10-20-30c WALLACE REID in "Excuse My Dust" | Admission 10-20-30c George Ovey in "For Keeps" Fox News |
| Wednesday Feb. 9 Gladys Walton in "Risky Business" Bray Comics | Admission 10-20-30c Carter De Haven in "One Dollar Down" Bray Comics | Thursday Feb. 10 "Little Women" A Paramount special, from the book by Louis May Alcott Bray Comics Snub Pollard |

Coming "Home Spun Folks"

FOX ENTERTAINMENTS

METRO PRODUCTIONS

The Merkel Mail

Published Every Friday Morning by
MERKEL MAIL PRINTING COMPANY, INC.
THOMAS DURHAM, Editor and Manager
SUBSCRIPTION \$1.50 PER YEAR
TELEPHONE No. 61

Entered at the post-office at Merkel Texas as second class mail matter.

Any erroneous reflection on the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation which may appear in the columns of The Mail will be gladly corrected upon its being brought to the attention of the management.

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 ascertain 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 message to that effect. Or, if an occurrence of unusual interest transpires a reporter will be promptly sent to get the full particulars.

Foreign Advertising Representative
THE AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION

The farmer who plans and plants so as to make possible to produce more of the necessities of life for the next year or two is not going to be one of those who will be crying about hard times.

A seventeen year old boy at Fort Worth charge with robbery with fire-arms, was this week convicted and given twenty-five years. Another evidence that this country is going to be controlled by a vast majority of law-abiding liberty-loving people.

The suspended sentence law may be repealed, and our advice to the boy with criminal inclinations, it that, unless he feels that he would like to serve time in prison, he had better change his route, go to work and become a good citizen.

The farmer who has plenty of feed, milk and butter, meat etc., and averages marketing about \$2.00 worth of eggs a day, such as is the case with a number of farmers residing in the Merkel territory, is going about happily planning his 1921 crop with the view of raising the things which when the harvest is over, will put his bank account on the right side of the ledger.

Mr. and Mrs. A. V. Lawrence request us to express their thanks and appreciation to all who have in any way assisted them since the loss of their household effects by fire Sunday. They are indeed grateful to one and all who contributed in any way.

- ☛ If you are newly arrived in town, if you are a stranger in this community, we want you to feel at home at our store.
- ☛ Whenever we can serve you call on us even if necessary, outside of our line.
- ☛ In any event consider this store your friend and accept from us the hearty welcome that we feel for you.

WE RETURN A HOUSE INTO A HOME
J.T. Darsey Co.
FURNITURE
PHONE 196 MERKEL, TEXAS

Red Rust Proof Seed Oats for Sale—W. L. Diltz, Sr. 28t2

FOR RENT—Nicely furnished bed-room, close in, with stove. Telephone 145. 1tp

COAL—COAL—\$10.00 per ton See O. W. Walker, Blair, Texas. 21t4

FOR SALE or Trade—It will be impossible for me to operate my cotton seed culler this season and I will sell cheap, or trade it to some one. It not only pays the operator, but it pays the farmer to have their seed culled. J. C. Mason. 28t2p

LOST—a Level, possibly in the city of Merkel or on the road to Mount Pleasant. C. E. Jacobs. 1t

LUDLOW COAL—Will have another car Ludlow Colorado coal in a few days. T. J. R. Swafford, phone 291. 1t

LOST—A bunch of Keys in a Leather Buxton Key-Kase, with Carey's Blue Ribbon paint sign on side. Finder please leave at Merkel Mail office. 1t

FOR SALE—Ferguson No. 71 Texas Red, Rust Proof Oats. E. Barnes, Merkel, route 5. tf

FOR RENT—80 acres 60 or 65 in cultivation, balance pasture. Near School, 3-room house and out buildings with shed. W. G. Gilliam, Merkel. 4t2p

Red Rust Proof Seed Oats for sale—W. L. Diltz Sr. 1tpd

FOR SALE—Team for cash or credit. E. Barnes, Merkel, route five. tf

FOR SALE—Some fresh milk cows, also some springing. See Earl Lassiter. tf

Folgers Golden Gate Coffee, Large size for \$1.25 at W. W. Wood's Grocery. 1t

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

FOR SALE—12 or 15 tons of good bright maize. S. G. Russell, phone 271. 4t2p

Explanation Briefly Made. Harold Knutson, Republican whip of the house, tells a yarn about an old fellow up in his country who has a job carrying the mail from the depot to the postoffice, for all of which he gets \$1 a trip.

Some of the boys around the grocery store the other night got to kidding the old chap about his job and, eventually, they asked him how much he made out of it.

"I make \$1 a trip, three trips a day, \$125 a month, or \$3,000 a year," he said.

These figures not sounding just right, one of the boys sought to pin him down on his calculations.

"How do you make \$3,000 a year?" he asked.

"A carryin' the mail," responded the carrier, and with those few words he departed.

Saturday Change. Many storekeepers begin their Saturdays by shopping in the neighborhood for small change—dimes, nickels, and pennies. Seven customers out of ten at the butcher's, baker's and grocer's on Saturday pay for their purchases with \$10 and \$5 bills. Not one in twenty counts out the exact amount.

One storekeeper has found that \$50 in subsidiary coins is none too little to carry him through.

Transit lines and automatic vending machines receive tons of coins in a day. Within 48 hours these coins are back in circulation.

Dimes, nickels and pennies are the most active elements of our circulating medium.

Cat Evidently Was Offended. A yellow cat called Shimmy, of no particular breed, but lately a cherished mascot of the Aberdeen (Wash.) fire department, left her home there suddenly. Shimmy, according to the fire laddies, who hunted three days without success for their vanished pet, made her nest in a coil of hose which is used to wash the floor of the fire hall. On the morn of Shimmy's disappearance a careless fireman turned the water into the coil. Shimmy was catapulted toward the ceiling and shot by the stream of water into the street. The cat has not yet come back.

Financial Backing. "Your friend the reformer seems to be enjoying great prosperity these days."

"He had a stroke of luck."

"What was it?"

"He ran across a very rich person who had a troubled conscience."

Accept
No Substitutes
for
Thedford's
BLACK-DRAUGHT
Purely
Vegetable
Liver Medicine

PROFESSIONAL

DR. GAMBILL
—D-e-n-t-i-s-t—
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 Farmers
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 Pochantuns Lease and
Royalty Co. of Dallas
Office Front St. over Geo West.
Building

CISCO FLORAL COMPANY
Cisco, Texas
Blooming Plants, Ferns, Bed-
ding and Vegetable plants,
Nursery Stock, Spring bulbs
Send for Price list
Funeral designs always open

CITY BARBER SHOP
On Front Street
A Clean, Sanitary Shop
First Class Service
Clark and Baird Proprs.

It is a powerful and scientific combination of sulphur and other healing agents for the relief and cure of diseases of the skin. It is especially effective in the ITCHING VARIETIES; giving instant relief from the itching and smarting sensations and by its germ-destroying properties it exterminates the microbe which is the cause of the eruption, thus curing the disease completely.

Littell's Liquid Sulphur Compound is used in all cases of Eczema, Tetter, Barber's Itch, Psoriasis, Herpes, Rash, Oak and Ivy Poisoning, also for relieving the annoyance caused by chiggers and mosquito bites.

In the treatment of ECZEMA—the most painful and obstinate of all skin diseases—it is one of the most successful remedies known.

Small size 50 cents bottle. Large size \$1.00
JAMES F. BALLARD, Prop. St. Louis, Mo.

THE SUNLIT WAY

By AGNES BROGAN.

(© 1921, Western Newspaper Union.)

Jasmine rode every morning, down the sunlit way. The park surrounding her big shabby home was gloomy in its wealth of trees. The house was gloomy, too; so in her hour of recreation, Jasmine chose the sunlit way. Jasmine, seated on her white horse Bonnie, loved to dream, at the water's edge, of that other world so far away and yet near, where other young people laughed and talked, and sang together.

Since her mother's death, when she had been too young to remember, the girl had known little companionship save that of Ursula, the housekeeper, and James Rhodes, her father, James Rhodes, aged prematurely by disappointment and sorrow, was a severe man.

The one friend who continued to bear with his humors was John Westwood of Westwood place, next door. And as James Rhodes, in his broken-hearted isolation—for he had never ceased to mourn his wife's loss—grew poorer, John Westwood, energetic and successful in business, grew ever richer.

Now, the one stubborn desire of the old thwarted man was to make that wealth his daughter's, through her marriage to his friend.

John Westwood admired Jasmine very much; he loved her, he said, and would make her happy. So Jasmine grievously disturbed, rode every morning down the sunlit way, trying to think out an escape from the impending fate. The girl in absorbing tenderness for her father, could not bear to deny his heart's one desire, and yet—

A stranger sat at the end of the sunlit road one day, a young and idle stranger, with arms clasped behind his head against the tree on which he leaned, and brown hair blown by the breeze from his high, white forehead. As the young man's frank blue eyes came back from their survey of the river, they rested upon Jasmine—seated there on her horse, in a kind of joyous wonder.

"You?" asked the young man, dreamily, "who are you?"

And also smilingly wondering, the girl replied: "I am Jasmine."

The stranger nodded.

"Of course," he said, "I might know that you would be Jasmine—when you came. A white flower."

Strangely acquiescent, she allowed him to take the bridle from her hand and lead her to a seat on the grass at his side.

"You come from the old house, Jasmine?" the young man asked.

"You see, I know that there are but two houses, and John Westwood lives in the other."

"Yes," she answered slowly, "from the old house."

"And you are?" he hesitated over his question.

Then Jasmine smiled.

"I am," she told her questioner, "occupied there as—companion."

She was away before the stranger could detain her, flying on Bonnie's back, up the sunlit road. In the somber silence of the park trees, the girl calmed, and her eyes grew wistful. Had it not all been a dream? Yet she went again, and still again, and every coming found him waiting. Then firmly Jasmine told herself that the meetings must end. It was the white horse who carried her there.

"I did not mean to come," she told the young man, decidedly. "Bonnie brought me."

"And your heart led Bonnie," he answered laughing softly, in confident assurance.

"But now that I have come," the girl went on, "I shall stay only to confess my deceit, and then—good-by. I am Jasmine Rhodes, and I am to marry John Westwood."

"You?" gasped the young man, "to marry my crabbed old uncle? You, my little white flower?"

"Your uncle," she faltered confusedly.

The lover impatiently nodded.

"I came down to visit my uncle," he said. "He is putting me through college. Through all his crustiness, my uncle has an affection for me. But if you think that I shall let you marry him—"

Young John Westwood broke off abruptly.

"There is only one way to straighten it all," he said, "and we must hurry. My roadster will carry us quicker than Bonnie. It's on the river road. First, we will have to get a license. Then you shall come back here as my wife. Wealth can mean nothing to you as compared with love. Come, dear heart."

But Jasmine lingered.

"Some day," she said, "I will go with you. But first, I must be honest with both my father and his friend."

From behind the shelter of a tree came suddenly old John Westwood. "I would advise you, my dear," he said quietly, "to obey now the dictate of your heart. This lad is a good lad, and true love is more than money. I, myself, shall see your father, and after all, I am sure he will be well pleased with my nephew as son-in-law, when he learns that I shall make him my heir."

"Oh," murmured Jasmine, "how can you be so generously kind?" Old John Westwood smiled.

"Until this morning," he said, "it has been many long years since I glimpsed the Sunlit Way."

NOTICE

I have almost a complete line of the J. R. Watkins products, such as

Medicines, Extracts and Flavors
Toilet Articles

You can find me at the Merkel Garage each afternoon.

I also have plenty of Watkins Calendars, which have a list of all articles on back, and if you don't get a copy, write—

N. A. DOWELL, Box 121 Merkel, Texas

LET US HAUL IT

WE HAUL

"Anything Anywhere"

Long Hauls A Specialty

HIGGINS & DARSEY

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 Graphophone and records and will have same on exhibit at the Gem.

AGENTS FOR ABILENE STEAM LAUNDRY

Colds & Headache

"For years we have used Black-Draught in our family, and I have never found any medicine that could take its place," writes Mr. H. A. Stacy, of Bradyville, Tenn. Mr. Stacy, who is a Rutherford County farmer, recommends Black-Draught as a medicine that should be kept in every household for use in the prompt treatment of many little ills to prevent them from developing into serious troubles.

THE DRAUGHT'S BLACK-DRAUGHT

"It touches the liver and does the work," Mr. Stacy declared. "It is one of the best medicines I ever saw for a cold and headache. I don't know what we would do in our family if it wasn't for Black-Draught. It has saved us many dollars. . . . I don't see how any family can hardly go without it. I know it is a reliable and splendid medicine to keep in the house. I recommend Black-Draught highly and am never without it."

At all drugists.

Accept No Imitations

At The Same Old Place

| | |
|-------------------------|--------|
| Spuds | 45c |
| Three Bottles Snuff | 95c |
| Cartoon Camel Cigaretts | \$1.80 |
| Lard | \$1.25 |
| Syrup | 60c |
| 12 Gauge Shells | 85c |
| Sugar | \$9.75 |
| Tobacco | \$1.00 |
| Extra High Patent Flour | \$5.65 |
| Meal | 73c |
| Big Oats | 30c |
| Meat | 19c |
| No. 3 wash tub | \$1.45 |
| 5 gallon oil can | \$1.10 |
| Wash board | 65c |

Everything at bargain prices. First class line of dry goods all at bargain prices. See the fellow that makes them all howl.

RAY at BLAIR

We deliver in Merkel

OBITUARY

Our beloved sister McDonald wife of Rev. W. D. McDonald and mother of Rev. Ed McDonald of San Antonio, now pastor of Prospect Hill Baptist church of that place, died at her home in Jones county, Texas, January 22, 1921.

Sister McDonald was born in Tennessee May 5th, 1843, coming to Texas with her father when she was seven years old and settled in Hopkins county. One year there and then they moved to Grayson county, living there until January 1, 1904, when the family moved to Jones County, where she lived until her death January 22, 1921 making her age 78 years.

She was the mother of 14 children. Four are dead the rest are living. Her mother died when she was but a child of 8 years, hence sister McDonald is survived by her husband, ten children, two sisters, one brother two half sisters and three half-brothers.

For sixty years she was faithful wife of Bro. McDonald, and for 58 years they served the Lord together, as members of the Baptist church. During this long period their lives seemed to grow more harmonious as each life became more like the master.

She was one of Texas greatest mothers. Her best efforts were for her children and her church. Her mother heart ran out for their spiritual life as well as temporal life, patient, watchful, kind and loving. A good mother, a heaven qualified mother, a mother that her children can joyfully raise up and call her blessed.

As a christian her faith was unwavering, her home ever open for those who preach the gospel I was Bro. and Sister McDonald pastor for 14 years which was the first part of my ministry. No hearts and hands cheered and helped me more than theirs. A blessing indeed to be in their home. Her husband was ever ready to help the needy, her heart ever ready to comfort and cheer the down cast, and heart broken about her.

Thus ended a loving and fruitful life, awaiting the judgment where Jesus will say, I was hungry and you fed me; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you took me in. Because you did it unto these my brethren.

Her body was shipped from Merkel to Whitewright, accompanied by Bro. McDonald and the children, then was carried to the old home for one night. The old home is occupied by Mr. and Mrs. John Williams, Mrs. Williams being her daughter. Then her body was carried to the old Bethel church, where they were members so long, and at 10 o'clock gathered children grand-children great-grand-children, other relatives and hundreds of friends.

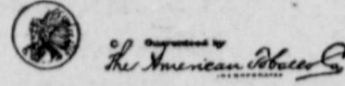
All of her living children were present at her funeral except Mrs. C. O. Bradley who was not able to attend. So after the funeral her body was carried to the old Pilot Grove grave yard and her body was placed to rest under the great cedar trees that were planted there over forty years ago by the hand of this, then young, strong couple, preparing for this event.

So no two ever more carefully prepared for death while living. Wisdom, honor, love, faith and

Do you know why it's toasted

To seal in the delicious Burley tobacco flavor.

LUCKY STRIKE CIGARETTE



hope bloomed about her door. Her life passed quietly into the home above where she will praise God for ever and ever. Weep not for her as one who has no hope. J. M. Harder.

MT. PLEASANT NEWS

Who said Mt. Pleasant was either dead or slumbering? It was surely those who didn't know. What community could die with so many good people to say nothing of a lively Sunday School growing every Sunday. Baptist and Methodist preaching twice a month and prayer meeting and singing on Sunday night. Not speaking at all of the young people's social affairs during the week which reminds me that a great time was enjoyed by all who attended the candy breaking at Wash Maggonagall's Saturday night.

Mr. E. M. Massey and daughters spent Sunday with Mr. C. R. Roland.

Mr. Jim Ingram visited relatives over on Salt Branch Sunday morning returning in time for Sunday School Sunday afternoon.

We are glad to note that our people are getting so interested in Sunday School that they will so long their visits to attend.

Mr. G. C. Sargent and family spent Sunday with his son Clyde also returning in time for Sunday School Sunday afternoon.

Mr. Elsa Roland and Miss Etta Jones took supper Sunday night with Miss Jessie Belle Sargent.

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Sargent are the happy parents of a bouncing baby girl born the 20th.

Mr. Jim Chandler of New Mexico who has been visiting his uncle, Mr. E. M. Massey, returned to Abilene Sunday where he will re-enter Simmons College.

Mr. Eugene Roland and Mr. Leo Lilly were the guests of the Misses Massey at Supper Sunday night.

Mr. Marion Logan and wife revisited relatives at Tuscola Saturday. These young people have recently moved back to their community where we give them a hearty welcome to join in making Mt. Pleasant step to the front.

Miss Zetta Jones is spending the week with her Aunt, Mrs. Robertson on Salt Branch.

Mr. G. C. Sargent and daughter Jessie Belle motored to Abilene Friday on business.

Every one come to the box supper Saturday night the 12th.

If you don't believe 'Mounty' is progressing visit us and see. You will receive a hearty welcome. A hob-goblin.

Geo. Richie, one of the pioneer and well fixed citizens of Taylor county, who settled in Mulberry Canyon along about 1884, made this office an appreciated visit one day this week. Mr. Richie's family has been making Merkel their home for a number of years, on account of the school, he coming in from the ranch occasionally, but during last August he sustained an injury from a fall, which has caused him to give up the ranch work to some extent, and he too has been staying with the family.

Listen Farmers I received a telegram for 500 Nice Hens. Can't you help me fill the order. W. W. Wood Grocery. It

A STILLER GUEST

By FLORENCE MELLISH.

(© 1921, by McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)

It was a rainbow wedding—a pink maid-of-honor and blue and canary and lavender and pale green bridesmaids. Evelyn looked so sweet and childlike in her white gown and veil that I just curried into my corner of the pew and cried. I had loved her from her babyhood. I had loved her first short frocks and rompers and her graduation gown, but my fingers had grown too stiff to be trusted with wedding garments.

Maurice Penfield, looking more dignified and self-possessed than ever, was none the less handsome for his graying temples.

"Isn't he fine looking?" Luella Bates whispered, "and so talented, and rich, too! But aren't you sorry he's a widower—a warmed-over man?"

"No," I whispered back, "he has been tested, and he has borne the test. He was all devotion to his invalid wife."

Luella was silenced, but down in my heart I was a little sorry. I wanted our Evelyn's marriage to be ideal in every way.

But, after all, it was not the lovely bride or the stately bridegroom who held the eyes of the little company that filled the pews. It was the lady who sat stiffly upright in the fourth pew of the west wing. They were whispering to each other:

"Who is the lady in gray?"

Doctor Landphar began the service in his quiet, penetrating tones. When he came to the words: "If any one knows any reason why these two should not be joined in marriage, let him speak now, or forever hold his peace," and I held my breath for an instant as I always did. I always had a nervous feeling: "What if some one should come forward and speak?" I had been a guest at 24 weddings, and no one had come forward.

This time some one did. It was the lady in gray.

"I know a reason," she said in a deep voice that could be heard in every corner of the church.

Doctor Landphar looked surprised, but he kept his usual dignified poise.

"Will you state your reason?" he asked quietly.

"My sister Muriel is Maurice Penfield's wife, and my sister Muriel is here."

The pink maid of honor flushed with anger. The lavender bridesmaid was in tears. The canary bridesmaid lifted her chin haughtily. The blue and pale green bridesmaids clung together tremblingly. Evelyn herself was deathly pale. Maurice Penfield threw a strong arm about her.

"It is my sister-in-law. The poor woman is insane." He turned to one of the ushers. "Can you take her out quietly?"

Evelyn turned instantly and looked behind her. I could see how violently she was trembling. Maurice drew her gently back.

"Try to be calm, Evelyn. The poor mad woman is not worth quiding."

"But Muriel is here. I saw her myself," she shivered.

"Evelyn," he said, sternly, this time, "you must be calm." Then speaking to Doctor Landphar: "I think we may go on now."

Months after the dear girl came to me in that same little shabby room and told me the little story.

"I am happy now, Miss Buffum," she said. "But I was very unhappy at first. Maurice was very patient and tender with me, but I could not make him understand. He would not believe that Muriel did come. He thought it was simply a case of nerves."

"But, Evelyn, I saw no one."

"But she was there. She came again. She came three times. I used to feel so guilty and frightened. You see, it was the locket."

"The locket, Evelyn?"

"Yes, the dearest, loveliest, quaintest silver locket you ever saw. It contained a lock of Muriel's hair. He had given it to Muriel, and she always wore it night and day underneath her gowns. Before she died she gave it back to Maurice and charged him never to let anyone else wear it. He showed it to me once, and I was childishly jealous. I wanted to wear it, and I worried Maurice until he gave it to me. I had it on under my wedding gown in church when Muriel came."

"But, Evelyn—"

"She did come. She came again three times and stood beside my bed. It was in the early morning when it was just beginning to be light. Maurice was always asleep and he would not believe it. But I saw her plain—her eyes were so sad and reproachful. The third time she stood with her eyes fixed on the chain that held the locket. It came to me what she wanted and I unclasped it and gave it to her. She smiled then and she didn't go out by the door. She just seemed to fade away and was gone. She never came again. I have lost my foolish jealousy of poor, sweet, gentle Muriel, and I am happy now."

"Did you tell Maurice about it?"

"Yes, I knew he felt some compunction over giving me the locket, and I wanted him to know that Muriel had it back. But he never could believe me. He said I must have dropped it into the fur rug and one of the chambermaids had found it."

"But, Evelyn, are you quite sure you didn't drop it into the rug?"

"Yes, I am sure. I gave it into Muriel's hands and she looked happy and satisfied. Now I am at peace."

ONE DAY

By MARY J. HITCHCOCK.

(© 1921, by McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)

Oliver Bryne ran his car down to the turn in the woodland road. Then his horn barked a greeting to the blue clad figure hurrying toward the car. The woman waved her hand in response.

"Come, help me over the fence," she called.

With a conscious quickening of pulses the man lifted her over. She laughed up into his face.

"Did I keep you waiting? I tried to be on time."

"I was afraid—"

"For me—or of me?" With the question her laughter rang out. Her eyes challenged him.

"The Queen rides out today," he quoted softly as he helped her into the car.

"Where?" as she snuggled down beside him.

He named an inn some miles away.

"But why go there?"

"Well, one must eat; and I remember that you love to dance—"

"You wouldn't like it?"

He leaned to her. "Not for a single minute, but—"

"We won't go, then."

"Well, where?"

She told him and he stared at her, wondering.

"You told me you never wanted to see that place again—that you wanted to forget—"

"That was more than a month ago."

"You mean that now you don't—?"

"What would you forget if you could?"

"First of all that my wife has decided to divorce me."

"You're sorry?"

"As the devil!" explosively. "And for all the sins of omission and commission that made her think she would be happier without me."

And now she could not look at him, though she tried. "You say these things—and to me!" she managed in smothered tones.

"To you first of all! Allie—"

He leaned to her again, his breath hot on her cheek.

"There's the place!" she cried, conscious even as she spoke that it was a mistake. Then, in a rush of swift confusion: "Perhaps you can't help being yourself, but, I should think you'd get tired of your own wilfulness at times."

"Do I need to confess it?" She glanced at him with slant eyes. "I got tired long before you showed me—"

"That your wife was tired of finding you always cross and impatient. You can be awfully crabbed!" she interposed.

"I haven't a doubt of it!" The new air of humility sat well upon him.

"But it's the nature of a crab to present a hard outside—they get softer and sweeter the deeper you go."

She smiled through humid eyes. "It's because I've begun to realize that—that I am running away with you like this."

"Are we running away—?"

"Don't you know—?"

"There!" He slowed for the stop as she leaned forward, seeking out with eager glance the little rustic house among the trees. "It looks just as if did that first time we came here. But you've taken the name down!"

"Why not? Honey-moon Camp doesn't seem fitting—now."

"But it looks as if it might be related to a honeymoon even now."

"Open the door, please. I'm going in."

"Don't you realize that you can't—you ought not?"

"Are you going to prevent it?"

"All right, but I warned you," said Bryne.

"We'll have lunch," she said, tugging at the side hamper. "Take them in, please."

"We'd better start back as soon as possible," he said, as they pushed back their chairs.

She looked up quickly. "I'm not going back."

"But you can't stay here—alone!"

"I planned on having you for company."

He checked the impulse to draw her into his arms.

"If that's all—we must get back before dark."

"You—you—want to go?"

"Only for your sake," as quietly as his bounding pulses would allow. "I'll wait outside if you'll hurry."

She let him go. Then, picking up a magazine—relic of their former visit—she sat down at the window, pretending to read. Presently, she looked up, smiling, as she met the accusing look in his eyes. He did not suspect that she had let him stand in the doorway, while she appeared to be absorbed in the story.

"The gasoline—it's all run out!" His tone accused as well as his eyes.

"You—"

"And, if I did?" she asked, shamelessly.

"But, why—?"

Almost, he knew what her answer would be. But he listened eagerly, breathlessly, thirsting for her broken utterance as the desert thirsts for rain.

"Because I—I—wanted to end our misunderstandings."

"Then you really don't want to divorce me?"

But he did not need to ask. Her eyes were saying wonderful things.

"I'm the happiest—!"

"No, I am!" she corrected.

And this time he did not resist the impulse that moved him. His arms reached for her—held her close.

Closing out Paint Stock

In order to reduce our stock of paint, we have decided to confine our line of paint to only one line, which will enable us to carry a more complete assortment, with a smaller investment, than is possible to do by handling several different lines.

After a close study of the Paint business for the past several years, we have come to the conclusion that

THE SHERWIN-WILLIAMS

line of paints is by far the best and most economical paint on the market today, consequently we are going to close out —

AT REDUCED PRICES

all the paint we now have on hand except the—

SHERWIN-WILLIAMS LINE

and will continue to carry a complete assortment of every thing in the paint line under the label and Guarantee of the—

SHERWIN-WILLIAMS PAINT CO.

If you contemplate painting in the near future let us save you money on your paint. We also have a very complete line of wall paper, and can sell you paper as cheap as you can buy anywhere.

We have remarked our entire stock of furniture, and priced it on the basis of the present factory cost, where there has been a decline in the price of any article at the factories, we have changed the price on our goods, to compare with the present wholesale prices.

You can feel assured when you buy from us that you are not buying on last year's prices, but absolutely on today's market.

We have taken our loss the same as every one else, and are now ready to forget the past, and begin the new year of 1921, full of courage and with a strong desire to serve our patrons better than we have in the past. Yours for Business,

Barrow Furniture Company

UNCLE JOHN BROWN IS DEAD

Our citizenship was made sad Tuesday morning when the news came to town that Uncle John Brown, one of Taylor county's best and oldest citizens who came to Mulberry Canyon in the 80's, had died at ten o'clock the night before.

Uncle John, as he was familiarly known, was born in Tennessee and had reached the age of 66 years when the summons came. Besides a loving wife deceased leaves nine children to mourn his going away, all of whom were present at the funeral but one. He was a man who lived a life which made for him many friends and no enemies.

The remains were laid to rest Tuesday afternoon in the White church cemetery amid a large concourse of sorrowing friends

and relatives. We extend deepest sympathy to the bereaved loved ones in the loss of one so dear.

NOTICE

New shoe shop just opened for business in the Sears block just north of the Commercial motor Co. We do all kind of fine shoe repairing. All work guaranteed. We will appreciate your patronage. 4t2p

BRIDGES & BYRD

Jersey Male

I have at my wagon yard a fine Jersey Male, for service, at \$2.00. W. A. Hellum. 4t4p

Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Leach were called to Sweetwater last Sunday on account of the death of a relative, returning Sunday night.

H. F. Groene, genial manager of the Cozy Theatre, left Thursday morning for Dallas, where he will book some of the best and latest pictures now before the screen.

Mr. and Mrs. R. Brooks, of Coleman, were here Tuesday having been called here by the death of the latter's father I. C. Frier. They returned to their home Thursday morning.

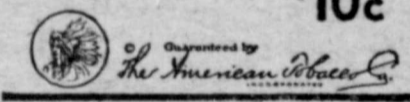
Onion sets, both red and white at Bob Martin Grocery Co. 4t

We understand Geo. Woodrum has begun the erection of a handsome new five-room residence on the north side, which he and family will occupy as soon as completed.

Peace Maker Flour, at G. M. Sharp's 4t



GENUINE
"BULL"
DURHAM
tobacco makes 50
good cigarettes for
10c



Johnnie Ray, postmaster, merchant and general boss, of the city of Blair, over on the Sante Fe, was in Merkel first of the week, and left with this paper another advertisement concerning the bargains he has to offer. He believes in printers ink, and we are sure that his patrons find bargains of interest at this place of business.

NOTICE

We bought twenty cases of country eggs on last Saturday and want that many more this week. W. W. Wood Grocery. It

T. L. Harris who has been here for a visit to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Harris, left with his family this week for Eliasville, where they will reside in the future.

John Meeks of route five, was here recently making this office an appreciated visit. He stated that his crop this year would not be all cotton by any means. We'll say he is wise.

Read the Merkel Mail everyday

BLAIR NEWS

Miss Dosa Doan who has been sick is able to be at school again. Mr. Rains, our new merchant, is improving his store a little this week.

There was quite a crowd gathered at Misses L. V. and M. E. Rains Saturday night and were entertained with a party.

Mr. Earl Hughes spent Sunday night with home folks.

We regret to say that several pupils are having to miss school on account of Chicken pox.

Mrs. Clark of Merkel visited our school Friday.

Mrs. Ora Mayfield spent Friday with her mother, Mrs. W. Walker.

Mr. Earl Hughes, Mary Hughes, Lena Hester, and Eula Faye Blakburn spent Sunday with Mrs. Carl Hughes.

Miss Bessie Brooks called on Mrs. Richard Medton Sunday.

Well as we have had so much pretty weather and the farmers are so busy we haven't had time to find out much news.

Tom Henderson, one of the splendid citizens residing on route two, made this office a pleasant and appreciated call today, renewing the Merkel Mail for the next year. Mr. Henderson is among those gathering a big cotton crop this year, and which he says amounts to but little, especially as compared to the 1919 crop. He says he received three times as much for the sixteen bales he produced in 1919 as he will for the 35 or 36 bales he has and will gather this last year.

C. L. Daniels on Route one, is a new reader of the Merkel Mail this week, and for which we are grateful.

If there is any oil news we have not heard it.

TO EXPLORE OCEAN'S DEPTHS

British Government Contemplating an Expedition for the Gathering of Scientific Information.

The British government is contemplating the dispatch of a deep-sea exploring expedition which is expected to gather much valuable scientific information.

Most people imagine that the depths of the ocean have been pretty thoroughly explored, but this is very far from being true. As a matter of fact, only a very small fraction of the whole area of deep sea bottom has been surveyed. Attention is particularly called to a vast subaqueous region around the Falkland islands and up as far as Montevideo, which is almost unknown, and which, having a depth of less than 100 fathoms, may offer opportunities for the development of lucrative fisheries.

The first deep-sea exploring expedition, that of the famous Challenger, was set on foot just 50 years ago. The ship left port in 1872, and ideas on the subject were in those days so primitive that there was dispute as to whether she should use wire or hempen rope for soundings. It took a whole day to make one sounding, or a single cast of the dredge for bringing up fishes and other animals.

Since then deep-sea sounding apparatus has been much improved by cable ships, and fishing gear has been greatly modified by steam trawlers, which use dredges. Besides, a great deal that is of value has been learned by oceanographic expeditions subsequent to that of the Challenger. Hence the new exploring vessel will start out with a prospect of accomplishing a very great deal of work of real importance.

TOO MUCH FOR SMALL MINDS

Childish Messengers Have Hard Time Remembering Names of Books They Are Sent For.

"I want 'Resurrection in the Parks,'" demanded a little chap of the librarian at the West Indianapolis branch library. "My brother said for me to get it for him."

The librarian did not wish to let the little chap know she was puzzled. She knew it was something that went on in the parks that the boy wished. The "resurrection," she decided, might be "recreation," and that was what she suggested. "That's it," smiled the little chap, "I knew I had that word wrong."

Librarians often deal with little brothers and sisters who are running errands for big brothers and sisters in high school. When one of the tots asked the librarian at the West Indianapolis branch for "Europe's Fables," the librarian smiled, for that was simple to translate into "Aesop's Fables." It was different when another asked for "Out of the Twist," the librarian then had to inquire diligently before she found that the child patron meant "Oliver Twist."—Indianapolis News.



We Have Received a Car Load of John Deere Implements

Consisting of the Following---

Disc Plows, Disc Harrows, Sulky Plows,
Single Row Cotton Planters, Double Row Cotton Planters
Single Row Cultivators, Double Row Cultivators

When you are in the market for any of these Implements call and see us, as we have them in stock ready for you. ☞ We also have Water Hose, Rakes, Garden Plows, Sprinklers, and all such things as you may need for your garden. ☞ Our stock of Hardware in all lines is in good shape. ☞ If in need of plowgear, such as Bridles, Lines, Collars, Hames, Chains, in fact anything in the leather goods line call and see us.

GROCERIES We carry a full stock of Groceries **GROCERIES**
at all times and prices are right

Whether it be Hardware or Groceries, we will appreciate your trade

The Crown Hardware Company

HIGH SCHOOL NOTES (By Bill Stevens)

This has been an interesting week. Tuesday the Seniors showed their "pep." At eight o'clock a Senior flag was flying from the flag pole, celebrating Senior day.

The girls all wore short aprons and carried dolls, while the boys wore knee trousers and blouses and rode stick horses. And all the time were eating on striped sticks of candy. At nine o'clock the Seniors marched upon the stage "to show off" and to listen to a program given for them. Mrs. Howard sang "From the land of the sky blue water" and "Just her way." Then under Miss Tracy's direction, Majorie Bland read "Miss Angelina Johnson," Miss Durham gave "The Tramp's Philosophy" and Mary Cleo, Maurine and Hattie gave an original pantomime. The program being ended, the Seniors rushed outside, accompanied by Mr. Burgess and made pictures. We were granted a half holiday and, accompanied by Miss Smith, went to visit the Trent Seniors. We were cordially welcomed by the Superintendent and entertained with a program.

Wednesday night the whole school enjoyed a great game of basket ball between Baird and Merkel. It was in this game that the Purple and Gold was held supreme and Merkel won by a score of 41 to 23, using ten different men on Baird. Thursday Mr. Miller boosted the team for their brilliant fight and introduced the best basket ball team in West Texas to the whole High School.

Here's to the basket ball team The cyclone of the west

They can defeat other teams and then not play their best. There's the coach,

Which we all call "dad" He carried to Ovalo all he had.

Then there is Wade Who was captain made.

He started for victory to win, But now looks like a piece of rusty tin.

Then around the ground,

Jumping like a wound-up toy We all looked and it was Roy. Don't forget Raymond Who works in the center. He hops around in summer Just like it as winter. Yes! Don't leave out Petty, He covers the ground And can run like a hound When he gets the ball, it is homeward bound. Then last comes Jerome The best forward of all When he gets the ball Two points fall.

Finally came Friday, the greatest day of all the week for it was the day the Abilene Huskers and the Purple and Gold were to clash. With one of the largest crowds ever at a basketball game in Merkel. The game was called by Coach Easterday of Simmons College. The uproar was terrific when the whistle blew for the start of the game. The boys played for all they were worth, the first half ending seven and seven, but when the last half ended, such rejoicing you never heard, while Abilene passed away with long and sad faces.

Friday evening at 7:30, at the home of Mr. Miller, the faculty entertained the Seniors with all the fun that goes with candy making, forty-two and "spoof."

Mr. Burgess (in Arithmetic) How many inches in a foot?

J. J. Russell—It's owing to how big your foot is.

Of all sad words of tongue or pen, the saddest are these: I must stay in again.

Miss Whorton pleased herself by spending the week-end with her father and mother at Roscoe.

Birthstones

Freshman—Emerald.
Sophomore—Blarneystone
Junior—Grindstone.
Senior—Toombstone.
Faculty—Moonstone.

A Freshman knows not, and knows not he knows not; a Sophomore knows not and knows he knows not; A Junior knows and knows he knows not he knows; a Senior knows and knows he knows.

The Wrong Number.

Mrs. New Auto owner, all excited, called her husband over the telephone at his office, and announced: "The auto tags came by mail, but we will have to send them back. They sent the wrong number." Business of considerable questioning from the business office end of the telephone.

Then: "Well, they're not the same numbers we had last year, so I thought they had made a mistake."

Explanatory: The machine had come into possession of the family late in the year, a license number was obtained that had six figures and the husband got in early for a 1921 license hoping to obtain a smaller number and he got it.

Anyway, the wife had a good laugh at her own expense when the husband arrived home that evening. And she is learning something each day about autos.

Pellagra and Income.

After a three-year study of pellagra in the cotton-mill villages of South Carolina, the United States public health service shows that pellagra varies inversely with the family income in this locality. As the income fell the disease was found to increase and to affect more members of the same family. As the income rose the disease decreased, and was rarely found in families that enjoyed the highest incomes, even though this highest was still quite low.

A recent statement given by one of the large life insurance companies indicates that the food standards of Southern wage earners must have improved remarkably of late, for the death rate from pellagra has fallen from 6.7 per 100,000 in 1915 to 2.3 in 1919.

Much Gasoline Wasted.

About one-third of the gasoline used in automobiles is wasted. This is the conclusion reached by A. C. Fleidner of the United States bureau of mines, from experiments under traffic conditions to determine the air pollution of the vehicular tunnels under New York city. The waste is chiefly due to too rich gasoline mixture. It is estimated that an improved and practically automatic carburetor might save American automobilists \$34,000,000 a year.

Free Medicine.

A prominent city man, who is as parsimonious as he is wealthy, is very fond of getting advice free. Meeting a well-known physician one day, he said to him:

"I am on my way home, doctor, and I feel very seedy and worn out generally; what ought I to take?"

"Take a taxi," came the curt reply.

—Tit-Bits, London.

The Mail \$1.50 year in advance

Our Measure is Full

On January 18 the State Inspector of Weights and Measures was in Merkel and checked up our Visible Filling Pump. It showed that when you bought Gasoline from us you received five ounces over the amount you were paying for, or that much more than enough to come up to the requirements of law. We will leave the pump just as it is, and our customers will continue to receive the benefits of same. ☞ Full measure, prompt and courteous treatment is what you get here.

Give us your Next Order

21t4

Woodrum Filling Station

THE SPENDERS

San Augustine Tribune—Foolish spending is the father of poverty. Do not be ashamed of hard work. Work for the best salaries and wages you can get, but work for half price rather than be idle. Be your own master, and do not let society or fashion swallow up your individuality—hat, coat and boots. Do not eat up or wear out all you earn. Compel your selfish body to spare something for profit's sake. Be stingy to your own appetite, but merciful to others' necessities. Help others and ask no help for yourself. See that you are proud.

The spendthrift when he is not an actual fool, as many such are, has the idea that only in getting rid of his money is there any fun. He can not be taught to understand that there is more fun in having money than in

spending it, more actual good times in saving than in squandering. There is, for a fact no happier young man than the one who has a fairly lucrative employment, whether on salary or on his own account, and who sees himself month by month and year by year laying up store of substance which, in due time must make him economically secure and bring him the distinction of success. A man who has not got that much ambition has got hardly enough inside pride to save his face from dog tracks. Success does not consist of publicity. Success consists of economic independence. Call it materialism if you want to, or nominate it something else supposed to be opprobrious, but that will not change the essential condition, i. e., that the man is a success whose board and clothes and shelter are not subject to some other man's whim. It is

usually the proud who are successful, because their pride forbids them to pay tribute to those who have the power to hold the rod over them. To love pleasure better than independence is the sign of a thoughtless, immature character. Come to Texas.—State Press.

It is said that it will take about 13,000,000 bales of cotton for this year's consumption, and that the production for 1920 throughout the world is estimated at more than 20,000,000 bales. Then where is there a chance for a big price for the 1921 crop even though the production should fall half that of 1920. Plant some cotton, but arrange to produce more of the necessary things for life and be safe.

Brand and Shorts at G. M. Sharp's.

FRIENDSHIP'S PERFECT GIFT

There's no gift like a good portrait—nothing so distinctive and sure to please.

We have a wide range of styles and prices to suite everyones taste and pocket book.

"PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE BETTER KIND"
—Prompt Kodak Finishing Service—

THE COZY STUDIO

PHONE 314

JNO. C. REINHARD, MGR.

NUBIA SPEAKINGS

We are beginning a new month now and expect to accomplish much, though the month be so short.

The progress of the community toward 1921 crops is very flourishing owing to the fact that everyone is tilling the soil.

The health of this community is much beyond usual, except grandpa Dudley and Mrs. W. C. Neil, who are to be among those reported on the sick list. Improvement was the last report received. It is hoped that they will soon be well.

We are real glad to place the Trent people on our list of visitors Sunday.

We are, however, ready to take down our sign: "Bring over your friends to see us we will do the rest", all caused on the part of Trent visitors. They didn't only visit us but the friends they brought were good singers, so gave us a real interesting program at the afternoon services. Come again Trent.

The Mount Pleasant community can also tell you about Nubia

we have said enough for ourselves, ask some one else.

On the non-service Sunday afternoons, the Nubia Bronk peelers Club, which has lately been practicing, not exactly organized gives everybody a hearty welcome. They agree to intertain you.

Mr. K. Blackburn, wife and daughter spent Sunday with H. Horton.

Mr. Louis Butman and wife have gone to Breckenridge where Mr. Butman expects to open business later. We regret his departure but hope him great success in his new home.

It is reported that Mr. Hayne Hughes, who has been one of Nubia and Blair's old community settlers has just returned from Ala to make his home between Blair and Nubia.

There has been a rumor that some young fellow is soon to be on his way to the county Clerk's office.

It will pay you to watch the columns of the current paper for a newly married couple—some rumors prove to be true.

Mr. Whit Richie and family

spent Sunday with Mr. B. B. Reynolds and family.

Next Sunday is First Sunday "nuf" said.

All kinds of Garden and Flower Seed at Bob Martin Grocery Company.

The snow which fell over this section all Wednesday morning replenishes the splendid season already in the ground, and makes it possible for the sowing of more spring Oats.

Just received \$1,500 stock of new Casings. McFarland Garage.

TAKE NOTICE

We want your eggs, and will pay all the market will afford, makes no inference how many or how few you have, the same price will be payed to all. See us before you sell. W. W. Wood Grocery.

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

NOTHING BUT HARDWARE

Hardware is our business, and it's our business to have and get what the Merkel and Merkel trade territory want in
HARDWARE

Just Received---

Shipments of Galvanized Roofing, Fence Wire, Poultry Wire, genuine Mr. Bill Sweeps, Doubletrees, Singletrees, Cleavices, Etc. We carry a complete line of Shelf and Builders' Hardware.

We want to please you in both
Quality and Price.

Try us if it's Hardware you want

Liberty Hardware Co.

Third door west of Postoffice

STOCK CLEARING

BARGAIN SALE

ON

Electric Ranges

Prices Cut to Rock Bottom
Less Than Cost

Only 21 Days

LIBERAL TERMS

Call at our Salesroom and Investigate

MERKEL POWER CO.

PHONE 202

GOLAN ITEMS

The men have begun to prepare their land for another year. A large crowd from here attended the all-day singing convention at Newman Sunday.

All report good singing a nice time and last but not least a real good dinner.

Mr. and Mrs. G. M. Byrom and daughter Bettie and Miss Clonnie St. Clair were guests of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Duncan Sunday.

Mr. Otho Thompson returned home Sunday evening from Wichita Falls, where he has been working in the glass factory, but doesn't intend to stay here very long.

Miss Clonnie St. Clair took supper with Miss Bettie Byrom Sunday.

Everyone is invited to Robert Chandler's farewell party Tuesday night at the home of Mr. J. T. Williams, as he is going to leave for his home in Arkansas Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. V. P. Byrom and sister Miss Bettie Duncan, ate supper with Mr. and Mrs. Byrom Lane, Sunday night.

Misses Hallie Green and Stella Ely of Noodle spent Friday night with Miss Bettie Byrom.

We thank the boys for coming out and buying the boxes Saturday night.

We got \$71.00 to pay in on our new Library of Books we received a few days ago.

The Literary didn't amount to much Friday night. We will do better next time.

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Williams motored to Merkel Saturday.

Messers Elmer Davis and Duncan McClain and Misses Esther Herron and Birdie Jeffrey and Mr. Hugh Jeffrey and Miss Vida Williams motored to Sylvester to the movies Saturday night.

Misses Jewel and Pearl Skidmore of Kale and Miss Ruth Thompson spent Sturday night with Miss Gertrude Byrom.

Every one enjoyed the singing Sunday night at the home of Mr.

and Mrs. M. R. Dean.

Bettie Byrom spent Saturday night with Miss Edith Thompson Mr. and Mrs. Byrom Lane spent Friday night at the home of Mr. D. R. Thompson.

Mr. and Mrs. F. Jeffrey and daughter Miss Birdie and Mrs. Mary Chatman and Mr. and Mrs. Holton Janes were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Med Herron Sunday.

COW FEED

Plenty Meal, Hulls, Alfalfa and Johnson grass. T. J. R. Swafford, Kent St. 4t2

SHILOH DOTS

The health of this community is very good at this writing.

Gordon Howell has been sick with a light case of the "Flu", but is better now.

Guy Cade is at home now and seemst o be improving which we

are glad to hear.

Grandma Phillips is able to be up now.

Most of the people have their cotton gathered and have started to farming, for we have had spring like weather.

Quite a lot of the Shiloh people attended the all-day singing at Newman Sunday.

Mrs. Riley Walling entertained the young people Friday night with a candy breaking, and it was enjoyed by all present.

Wilmer Grayson of Big Spring has moved back to Shiloh to live.

Mr. Riley Walling's nephew of Waco, is here visiting now.

Mr. Rapp Greene and Miss Elvira Hurspeth were united by the Holy bonds of matrimony on January 16.

Mr. Barnes has his new home almost completed, as his old one was destroyed by fire January 7 and they have asked me to thank the community for their help kindness. Kandy-Kid.

REAL ESTATE--INSURANCE

Farm Loans and Notary Work

Let us insure your property against loss by Fire Cyclone and Hail. Our facilities are the best obtainable for farm and city property.

We insure Autos against loss by fire, theft and cyclone at a nominal cost.

Cotton Insurance a Specialty

Merkel Realty Co.

Merkel Realty Bldg., Front Street

W. O. BONEY

WALTER JACKSON

1.—It and by one of the rural inspectors, Miss Elveda Littlejohn, to spend the past two weeks visiting the rural schools of the county. Although I realize that the public at large is not as deeply interested in the rural school condition as I am, I am sure there are many who would like to hear some details relative to our rural schools, and I am glad to have this space.

Miss Littlejohn is one of the visitors of State Aid schools, and our best was one of inspection of, rather than an investigation of class room work. This State Aid represents general condition of heating, ventilation, sanitation, care of property, etc. The two million dollars appropriated by the Legislature for the rural schools this year, and for the first time, all of this amount was conditionally granted in November, with still other schools asking for consideration. Unless the county is naturally rich in oil resources of the like, until the passage of the school Amendment in November last, whereby a common school district may vote what is needed for the support of its school, it is a compliment for a school to be a State Aid School. To be so classified a school must vote a fifty cent tax, must have reasonable good equipment, a good heating system (jacketed heaters,) good sanitation, not less than a six months term, and teachers with first grade or permanent certificate or with additional work on second grade certificate toward a higher certificate. We are proud of the fact that all of the schools of this county except 2 may be classed, and of these two one of them meets many of the requirements and the other mean to raise its classification soon, because of the fact that the county was not inspected last year and some schools were granted more aid than was really necessary it was found that all the conditional grants given this county were not needed this year. A State Aid School is not supposed to have a balance, but some trustees and others had not fully understood this before. It is my hope and desire for all of the schools of this county if we are so fortunate as to have State Aid granted a little longer time by the Legislature to come to feel more and more that "State Aid" is a reward for merit and not their "piece of pie." New requirements are made each year, whereby the efficiency of these schools may be increased. This year the qualifications of the teachers and better sanitation are the chief points stressed.

In general, I wish to say that the attitude of the trustees and teachers is excellent. Personally, I want to express my deep appreciation of this good spirit in our schools. Trustees with practically no exception, waited hours, often, all of them, for our arrival, though we did our best to arrive at the time due, but with driving from sixty-five to a hundred miles per day we could not always be on time. They always told Miss Littlejohn that they are ready and willing to make what improvements the Department, says should be as a representative of the State made. The teachers with practically no exceptions, are co-operating admirably with the Department and with their patrons in seeing that free-text-books and school property are properly cared for. To learn the proper care of property is a necessary part of an education, of course, and such care can not be over emphasized. In general the pure rural schools, most of them two-teacher schools, with work through the seventh or eighth grades and most of the schools of this county are of this type, are cleaner and more pleasing than the small town schools though the schools are all to be commended in one way or another. Most of the two-teacher schools have new frame buildings and their age is an advantage. While it is an unfortunate condition in one way for the teacher to have to direct the jan-

New Arrivals in Ladies Ready-to-Wear for Spring

- ☛ Replacing the reckless extravagance of past Seasons, comes a spirit of economy in buying.
- ☛ Purchases today are made not through desire alone, but more through need.
- ☛ Real economy calls for care in selection, the buying of high quality goods; and certainly this is true of women's wearing apparel.
- ☛ With the thought of economy uppermost in our minds, we have made a few select purchases of Spring Goods, of which we are showing some advance models in

SUITS, DRESSES AND MILLINERY

- ☛ Replacements are uncertain, it is advisable to buy early. We certainly do not want you to be disappointed in the selection of your Spring Dress, Coatsuit, or whatever is your desire to buy.
- ☛ We guarantee to give you Latest Styles and Best Values.
- ☛ Come in often and see the new things as they come in.

THE WOODROOF-BRAGG COMPANY

Place Most People Trade

itor work of the school and do a part of it probably. I believe that the small schools where this is the arrangement show more pride and care and are neater and more inviting than any others. A teacher's school-room and school building and grounds under normal condition reflects the ideals of the teacher and these ideals make deeper impressions on the children and the community than is sometimes realized.

I could name a great many schools that should have "honorable mention, because of attractiveness and clean grounds, but lack of space forbids my mentioning more than two in this particular, Wylie (Sambo) and Neill, (Commonly called "Mud Hill School") These two seem to me to tie in regard to work on the part of all concern-

ed to be thoroughly clean, the former having done more work on its building, which is much larger, and the latter having worked on both building and grounds. White Church, a two-teacher school, way up in the mountains southwest of Merkel, has an interesting feature in that the principal, a young married man, finding that he would have to board three miles from school, bought and installed on the school ground an army tent, the only teacherage of the county, which is as clean and comfortable as can be and seems to me, in this case, to be a very clever idea. The Elm Grove school certainly the most interesting school of the county. We went to this school via the Lake Abilene road, stopping at Bethel, our kindergarten school which is taught by two well-trained but

inexperienced young ladies. This is seven miles west of the Lake; there we were told we could go no farther in a car, but later found that cars had gone to Elm Grove and so we went on a distance of eight miles, crossing and recrossing Elm creek and passing through considerable sand. We were sure we could go no further, and so welcomed gladly the sight of the school house, a tiny, old-fashioned structure of one room, with not a piece of really modern school furniture, but with fourteen fine boys and girls and one of the best teachers of the county, a young woman of college training and possessed of real love for school work. I wish every citizen of the county could have seen that little school as it appeared to me for I did not realize that any school of its type

was left, though Miss Littlejohn told me there are still a great many that she visits. Of course, it can not ask aid next year without some equipment, for State Aid can be used only for equipment and teachers' salaries, but as this is its first request, is it granted aid because of the fact that the district votes a fifty cent tax, the school has a well qualified teacher, and will have a six-months term. The enumeration of this district is only twelve; two of the fourteen children are boarding in the district to attend school, living still further on and away from a school altogether, and one of these is a little eight year old girl. Last year these children had only two months school, but this year they are attending school six days a week. Here is certainly one of the difficulties

of consolidation. I wish to mention and that is Colony Hill. school building is one, or was, as most of you know, an old structure with no modern equipment. Recently through the earnest efforts of some of the good citizens of the community, bonds the amount of seven thousand dollars were voted. Over a thousand dollars worth of new furniture was bought with the hope of selling the bonds and erecting a new building. When this plan was found impossible for this school year the furniture was installed in the old building. These new supplies gave added interest to the work, of course, and I was especially delighted at the spirit of the trustees, the teachers, and the pupils, who were justly very proud of their new furniture. It had been installed only a few weeks when the building burned last night from some unknown cause. Of course, this situation is very discouraging, but it will not dishearten for as long as surh folks as we have backing the school proposition at Colony Hill. They are helping to arrange to borrow or rent some school furniture and continue the school in the church.

The following grants of State Aid which will be made, if passed on by the State Board at its meeting the middle of February, may not be understood fully without an investigation of finances, but they are all made in such a way there will not be a balance at the end of the year and all schools have been given the same consideration. The grants are:

| | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Hamby | \$500.00 |
| Cedar Gap | 600.00 |
| Rogers | 500.00 |
| Tuscola and Mt View | 950.00 |
| Moro | 305.00 |
| Valley Creek | 600.00 |
| Elm Grove | 220.00 |
| Buffalo Gap | 600.00 |
| White Church | 380.00 |
| Salt Branch | 225.00 |
| Wylie | 700.00 |
| Cedar Creek | 285.00 |
| Ovalo | 1,085.00 |
| Oak Lawn | 450.00 |
| Shep | 60.00 |
| Guion | 620.00 |
| Pleasant Hill | 450.00 |
| Bradshaw | 825.00 |
| I. X. L. | 225.00 |
| Butman | 170.00 |
| Elmdale | no aid needed. |
| Lisman | 400.00 |
| Blair | 320.00 |
| Union Ridge | 445.00 |
| Cross Roads | 250.00 |
| North Park | 1,000.00 |
| Mulberry | 470.00 |
| Hillside | 260.00 |
| Rainey | no aid needed. |
| Mt. Pleasant | 300.00 |
| Bethel | 350.00 |
| Neill | 390.00 |
| View | 515.00 |
| New Hope | 345.00 |
| Lawn | 630.00 |
| Trent | 1,900.00 |
| Caps | 670.00 |
| Tye | 985.00 |
| Potosi | 1,700.00 |

Reports will be made later on Colony Hill, Iberis, and Bluff Creek. It is intention to visit the schools again about the middle of February, at which time I wish to give particular attention to the grade of work being done.

Yours very truly,
Ada D. Pearce

The Hicks Weather Book 1921

This famous and unique book is now ready. The 1921 edition is the best yet; contains all the old popular and many new features. It is worth its weight in gold to those whose occupations or pleasure trips, are affected by the weather. The predictions of storms, tornadoes, blizzards, floods and earthquakes are a marvel of accuracy.

Price by mail, 50 cents. The same publishers also issue the monthly magazine, World and Work, a family magazine with the weather forecast as a leading feature. Subscription price of World and Works is \$1.50 a year with the Hicks Almanac to each subscriber. Send orders to The Hirks Almanac and Publishing Co., 3401 Franklin Ave., St. Louis, Mo. 1tpd

January is Now Gone!

☛ And spring will soon be here. Then a new set of Casings will be in order for the Spring and Summer run. And we call your attention to the fact that we have one of the largest and most complete stocks of **Good Year Casings and Tubes** to be found in all the West. And if you want Quality, which means **Service**, which means that you get more for your money by buying the **BEST** article on the market.

☛ We have a full line of Accessories and are thoroughly equipped to do all kinds of mechanical work, which will be looked after by Messrs. Joe Reidenbach and Len Sublett.

☛ We are agents for the J. I. Case and Rumley Tractors. We also handle the Chalmers and Maxwell Cars.

Storage Room for Cars, in or out, Day or Night

☛ If you need Oil, Gas, etc., drive to the front and Mr. C. B. Barnes will gladly serve you. If you have trouble at night after 9:30 o'clock call for C. B. Barnes at the Fire Station.

Our Telephone Number is 1-2-3

THE MERKEL GARAGE

ROSS FERRIER

H. L. PROPST