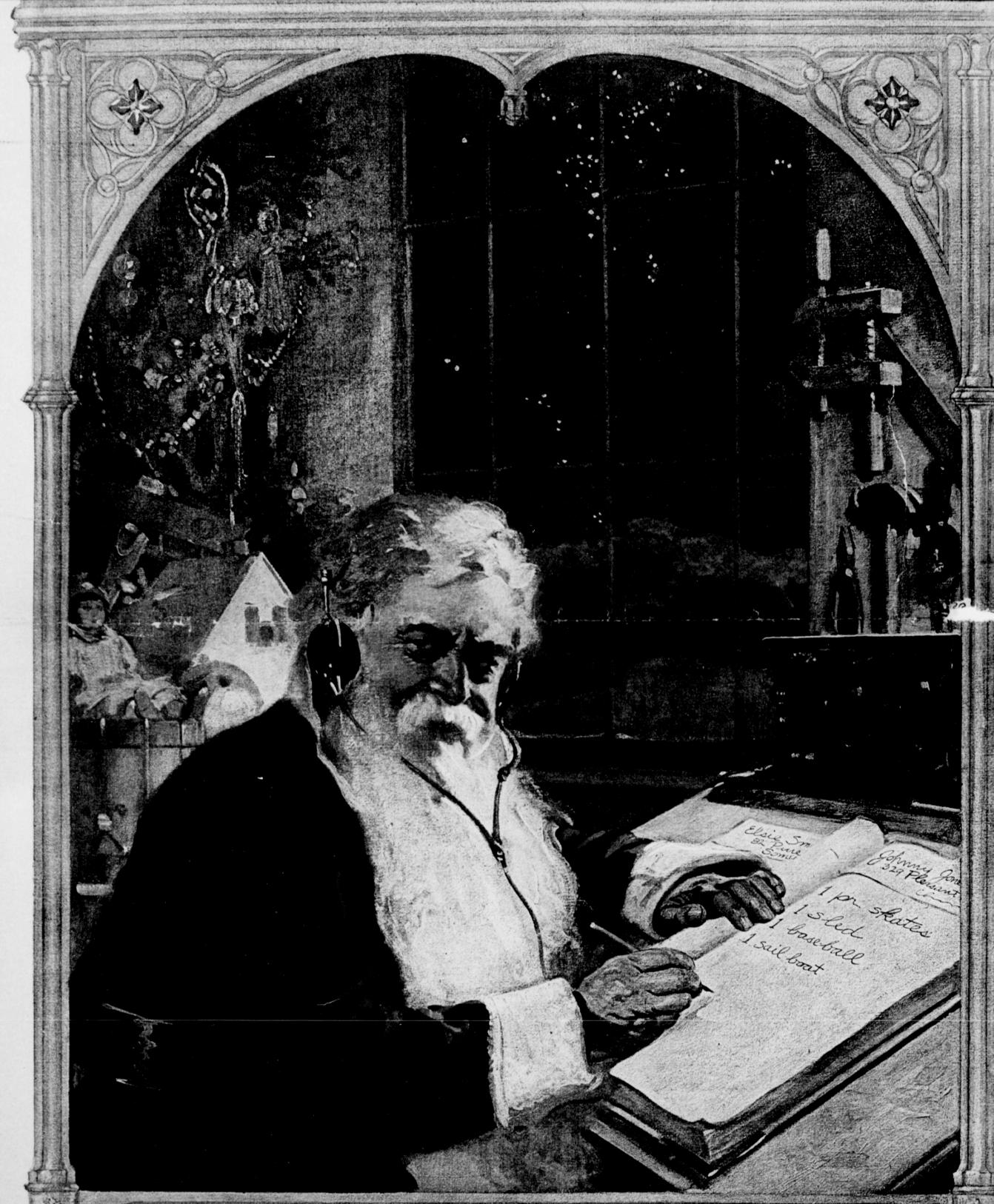
THE MERKEL MAIL

VOL. 35-NO. 42

MERKEL, TEXAS, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1923

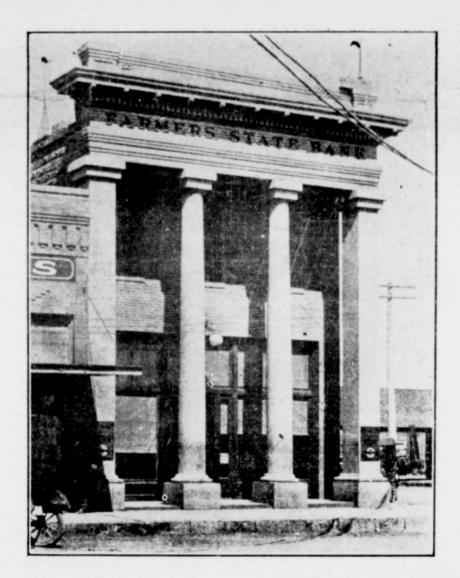
28 PAGES



Receiving Orders



It Means More to Us Than The Dawn Of a New Year



It means the beginning of another year of service to the people of this section. It gives us pleasant memories as we turn back the hands of time and recount our past experiences. You have helped this business to grow and as we grow we have tried to increase our usefulness in our sphere.

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We thank all of our loyal patrons and assure you that each day of 1924 will find us planning and and building for you to make this Bank the institution you want it to be.

Accept our best wishes for a New Year of good times, good health and contentment.

Farmers State Bank

The Bank of Guaranteed Deposits.



A Happy New Year

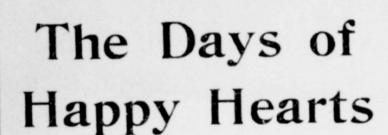


Cold type cannot carry the warm message that is in our hearts for our patrons, but as we are deprived the pleasure of meeting all face-to-face, we send a message thru the medium of the press.

We are genuinely sincere when we thank you for your business in 1923. For your loyal support, your confidence and for the many evidences of good will shown throughout the past year, we are indeed very grateful. These manifestations are a great incentive to us for the future and we assure you that with that friendly spirit ever in mind, we strive even more to excel that which is attained.

May the New Year be good to you in health and true happiness.

Fred Guitar Gin



Christmas 1923

May it find you at your best so that the sweetest and best sentiments of the time will be in your heart. It is a day that derives its particular charm by the deeds of service done to others.

May you, in the fullness of your heart, have an ample portion of the joys of the season that will abide with you on through peaceful, contented days of a new year of real prosperity.

With sincere appreciation of your past patronage we tender our greetings.

Dr. S. W. Johnson DENTIST

◆◆◆◆◆◆ MUSIC AND EXPRESSION DEPARTMENTS GIVE EXCELENT RECITAL

> On last Friday evening a large crowd gathered at the High School Auditorium to hear the pupils of Misses Lucy Tracy, Expression teacher; Ona Fae Bland, Voice teacher, and Roberta Gay, Piano teacher, in re-

From the first number to the last, each was very enjoyable and interesting. The program was well planned and worked out. There was splendid vocal, and Piano numbers and very interesting readings, making the program varied and different.

Every pupil in the recital show ed excellent training, and improvement. There was not a single one on the entire pro-@ gram that lacked spirit or enthusiasm. Indeed, it was a very splendidly rendered program.

May the teachers and the pup ils of these departments know that their efforts were highly appreciated and enjoyed, and that they may again favor the public with another such evening of pleasure.

The proceeds from the recital went to the P. T. A. and amount ed to \$45.35.

NEW MEXICO FARM FOR SALE

320 acres Patented land, fenced and cross fenced. 80 acres in farm; all good land 10 miles of county seat; 1 mile to school, on public road. Four room house, large porch, nice shade trees, big dugout, well of fine water. Water piped to house, ot, and pasture. 120 feet good barns, Blacksmith Shop, smoke house. Can have all for \$2,000. \$1500 Cash, 5 years to pay balance. Must sell. See E. D. Coats

David, small son of Mr. and Mrs. S. D. Gambell, underwent an operation for toncillitis and adnoids at an Abilene Sanitarium last week, and is now at ◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆ home getting along nicely.

Buy Useful Gifts



Get him or her something that will be of some benefit throughout the year.

We also have Tricycles, Little Autos, Wagons, Air Rifles, Pop Guns, Cap Pistols, Foot Balls, Basket Balls, Base Balls, and Base Ball Supplies for the kiddies.

Start your wife's Bank Account by giving her an Incubator for Christmas.

Silverware, Cut Glass, Imported China, Colored Glassware, Aluminum Ware, Carving Sets, Oil Stoves in Cook and Heaters, Fire Place Grates, Perculators, Electric Irons, Thermos Bottles and Jugs, Coleman Lights and Lanterns, Razors, Pocket Knives, Scissors, Daisy Churns, Guns, Amunition, Hunting Coats, Sewing Machines, Bath Tubs, Kitchen Sinks, Lavatories.

Oh! If you don't want any of these, come on around here, we have what you want.

Liberty Hardware Company

The Only Exclusive Hardware Store in Merkel

PRE-INVENTORY AND X-MAS SALE

CLOSES MONDAY

NIGHT, DECEMBER 24TH

CONTINUED

CLOSES MONDAY

NIGHT, DECEMBER 24TH

Because of the bad weather we feel that a great many people have been disappointed in not being able to attend the best Sale we have ever put on in Merkel. We want every man, woman and child in our trade territory to make our Store a visit during this Continued Sale, which closes December 24.

Don't Forget the Place is WOODROOF-BRAGG Store

Extra Special

- -All pure Table Linen, extra wide, worth \$3.00, on sale at \$1.39
- -All Ladies Sweaters at ACTUAL COST
- -All Wool Goods at Wholesale Prices.
- -Ladies and Mens Underwear at Greatly REDUCED PRICES.
- -One Lot Mens \$1.50 Outing Night Shirts

Extra Special

- -Ladies Ready-to-wear Prices Reduced to please the Customer.
- -One Lot of Ladies Pumps and Oxfords worth \$2.50 and \$3.50, reduced to clean
- up at \$1.00
- -Ladis \$1.50 Silk Hose 98c
- -Boys and Girls \$1.25 Union suits on sale at 95c
- -Good Grade Outing 15c

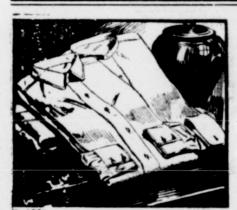
Extra Special

- -We have had a most wonderful Shoe trade. Price and Quality did it. Look over the odd lots on tables with price cards.
- One Lot Mens \$7.50 to \$10 Shoes at. . \$3.95 One Lot Mens \$6.00 to \$8.00 Shoes at \$2.45
- One Lot Mens \$2.50 to \$5.00 Hats at . . \$1.00
- One Lot Mens \$1.50 to \$2.50 Shirts at \$1.00
- One Lot of Mens Odd Vests to clean up at

GFTS for EVERYONE



X-mas comes but once a year, bringing its message of peace and good will to all, and as the wise men of old gave gifts to the babe in the manger, so do we commemorate his birth by giving remembrances to our loved ones and to those less fortunate than ourselves. Make this the happiest X-mas you've ever known by giving practical gifts bought at this Store.



PUT SHIRTS

ON YOUR

GIFT LIST

Mens'

Pajamas

And House Shoes are on sale. Both make acceptable gifts.

-A big shipment of mens and boys Ties and Linen Handkerchiefs were added to our Xmas showing this week.



DAINTY NEW Handkerch'fs and LADIES'

HANDBAGS



-Make useful gifts that last a whole year. Put these on your list and come to this store for a big selection. -Ladies and Childrens felt House Shoes are practical gifts, on sale at...... 95c and \$1.25

ate one from our new stock that will not fade.

-No man ever had too many-especially will he appreci-

REMEMBER! Sale closes Monday, December 24th. If you fail to take advantage of this Sale, you have lost money.

The Woodroof-Bragg Co.

"The Place Most People Trade"

THE

MERKEL MAIL

VOL. 35. NO. 42.

MERKEL, TEXAS, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1923.



A Christmas Hunt and Dinner Deer, Turkey, Quail, Cooked and Served Christmas Day in the Hills of Southwest Texas By AUSTIN CALLAN.

pipe better than anything else. It had a short stem, a black bowl and a strong scent, and no one could endure it as well as Tom, yet it was not altogether a love for the weed that kept him so busy puffing away at that antique briarroot. Along in the fall of the year, when the winter-winds would begin to winnow the fallen leaves across the old lanes, this old hunter would hunch down with his pipe in his mouth and as he sent blue rings up towards the sky would see a camp-fire out under the tars and a big buck hanging up in a That was what he liked in life

Just about a week before Christmas I happened to drop in on Tom, who, by the way was the watch-maker and gunsmith of the community. He was seated before his work-bench probing into the vitals of an Ingersoll which had something the matter with the carbuerator, or some other part of it, and

"What you doing, Tom?" I asked.
"O, piddling' with an old worn-out biscuit that couldn't keep time if a brass band were to play for it," he an-

wouldn't run.

'Been out this season?" "Nope, but I'm getting ready," he replied. "Come an' go along. Three of us calculate spending ten days out on the divide twixt Bear Creek and the forks of the Llano river, in Kimball county, Texas. We'll make our camp at Niger Head hill; Old Bench says deer and turkey both are plentiful in them

I jumped at the chance, and about noon the next day Tom, McCoy, D. G. Benchoff, Charley Graham and myself were off. My contribution to the "munitions of war" was a sixteen guage shotgun and several boxes of shells. The high-power rifles appealed to me and I wanted to kill a buck just as bad as any one of the outfit, but at the same time I was hungry and in case we fell down on getting venison, I intended to slip around and make a shock-formation charge on a covey of Bob Whites.

In addition to the armament, we carand along a complete cooking outfit and a generous supply of coffee, flour, ba-con, spuds and Mary Jane syrup. Tom, who always acted as quartermaster, explained that he did not distrust the hunting ability of the boys, especially "Old Bench," but that the powder might get wet, and besides he liked a change occasionally when in camp.

Ideal Camping Spot.

It was late when we reached the chos-

Tom McCoy seemingly enjoyed his been selected for such a camp. In fact, nothing was missing but water, and it was less than a mile to where we could go and fill our keg from a clear, bubbling spring.

A big fire was built and supper prepared, after which we lounged around in camp until midnight, telling stories of other hunts, discussing the merits of certain rifles and digressing occasionally to pass judgment on the ability of friends of ours to get the right kind of a kick in their juvenile experiences with home brew.

bedding and "tarps" were pulled up over us so that no discomfiture whatever was experienced. A snow storm is rare in that section of Texas. Perhaps the ground is not covered with snow on an average of once in three years. Daybreak, however, brought to us the recollection of a certain poem written in the long ago by James G. Whit-We were truly snowbound, some six or eight inches covered the surface of the earth, and every limb or blade of grass was beautifullly upholstered in

Immediately after partaking of breakfast, consisting of strong black coffee steaming hot, camp biscuits.

pure white.

make good the old story that "the early bird catches the worm." Not over three hundred yards from camp I saw deer tracks, and was assured that at least up one slope of the peak I could see for to the lowlands. en place, and a blue bank of clouds piled | miles in every direction, and I noted

No prettier picture ever met the gaze of a mortal. Nature was at her best and robed in her grandest garments, and occupying a central position on the "screen" was this beauty of the wilds.

"Cracked Down."

For a time I looked on in admiration, forgetting that there was such a splendid limb back at camp to hang meat on. The virgin charm of the scene, the wild Shortly after we retired it began creation, these fairly captivated me. snowing, but we had an abundance of But after a while my "animal instinct"

monds to twinkling, a big buck walked and commenced training his Long Tom out into the open space. and commenced training his Long Tom on my buck, I knew that somebody's shooting record was going to smash, and that it wouldn't be his. I was in hopes, however, that he would miss for I did not relish the "guying" I knew would follow. But Tom didn't miss; in fact "miss" wasn't his name. The buck ran for a short distance and fell. We reached him about the same time. Apparently the big fellow was dead, but when Tom thrust a knife into his neck he threw his horns up with such great force that they almost broke that veteran hunter's leg.

Tom went back to the camp and got

were satisfied; that night as we sat around the fire we planned to remain over and cook our Christmas dinner in camp. Benchoff declared that it would not seem like Christmas without eggnog, and Charley said that he could do without the egg-nog but that we had to have a turkey to keep him from getting lonesome.

Having made a failure at getting venison, I decided to redeem myself in a conquest against the turkeys, and the next day I shouldered a shotgun and went out to look for a roost. A pecan grove about two miles from camp rewarded me. At a glance I knew some of the great American birds had roosted there the night before, so I concealed myself, and lay in wait for them.

Just about dusk the turkeys commenced flying into the trees and I "knocked down" four, one of which we named the Sultan and decided to bake for our dinner.

Primitive Christmas Dinner.

When Christmas day arrived we had five bucks hanging up in camp, besides the turkeys and a large number of quail, and we had something else, too. Tom had found a bee tree and brought in some fine looking honey. The only thing that puzzled us was how to cook the turkey; the dutch oven we had was not half big enough. Charley suggested that we wrap it up in a wet sheet and roast it like you do a calf's head by burying it in the hot ashes and coals. This proved very successful, and dressing was made to go with it. Tom found some pecans when he went to cut the bee tree and these we added in with the onions and sage and corn bread.

Some of the venison was also baked and some of it was broiled Bill Cody fashion; that is done by throwing big thick slices into a hot skillet and letting it sear on both sides, driving the juices, to the center. When you are reasonably sure that it is done through and through, you scrape off the charred sides and put the steak into a platter with plenty of butter on it and keep in a warm place until the butter is melted or absorbed.

A dozen quail, too, were made into a pot pie and served steaming hot. It was such a meal as would have satisfied a king. Even the biscuits were fluffy and fine and served as a desert with our wild honey.

It was a great hunt we had-a great) hunt and a great feast served on a great "It's the amunition," I declared. "You can't hardly get a good cartridge since hope, freedom and good will. When we fresh, and in keeping with an occasion ave gotten into the factories." and the blue rings of smoke, as they Benchoff and Charlie returned at rose above the camp table, grew wider



"Four Hunters Gazed into the Dying Campfire, Silent and Thoughtful."

of the high-power rifles and set out to that buck defiantly standing up there bucks I had ever seen and the two of us with his nose in the air breathing the fresh aroma of the morning, seemed to say to me: "Crack down!

Well, I "cracked," but I only succeedwe were in a big game country. Nig-ger Head hill was not far away and I mal. My bullet went astray, and that directed my steps in that direction buck simply folded his rocking-chair The snow had ceased falling. Climbing antlers back on his weathers and took

up along the north warned us to hustle that there was a wooded point only a yards off in the valley when I fired and the war. Some German spies must had finished, Tom lighted his pipe again for shelter. Fortunately we found a short distance across a deep ravine. It the deer seemed to run directly toward have gotten into the factories." thicket which had an opening to the was covered with cedar trees, and while him, but stopped within shooting dissouth, where there were a few big trees I was standing there watching the oc-

broiled bacon and molasses, I took one | returned; I felt hungry for vension and | a horse. It was one of the biggest could not have packed him. It was while we were walking along leading the horse with "our" prize tied across him that the ordeal came, which I knew was coming sooner or later. "What made you miss?" Tom asked. "You hunt and a great feast served on a great hunt and a pretty shot and that is said day. Everything was simple, cle

night empty handed. They had spent and thinner, floating away on the winds, along near the center and plenty of casional sun-glints as they shot from ly see both the hunter and the deer, the day in the hills without even seeing while four hunters gazed into the dying wood. No more ideal spot could have behind the clouds and set a million dia and when Tom laid his pipe in the snow a deer. But we had made good and all camp fire, silent and thoughtful.

The Tournament in Texas

Once Staged as a Red-Blooded Contest During Christmas Week Celebrations.

It was before the advent of the autonobile, or the moving picture, or the radio, that the tournament played a prominent part in Texas Christmas celebrations. In those days a man talked about his favorite saddle horse, rather than his Stutz or Henry, and the screen star of his choice was neither Norma Talmadge, Marion Davies, Mary Pickford nor any of the rest of the now famous moving players of America. It was some shy little lassie with dazzling eyes flashing from beneath a sunbonnet, on whose brow he hoped to place the laurels won by his skillful riding in a red-blooded tournament contest.

Back a Quarter of a Century.

We will have to go back at least a atter of a century to find the tournaent a popular part of the Christmas ogram in civilian life, although the cavalry branch of the army still stages it occasionally. The contest is for real horsemen, for men of the saddle who must learn to master the art, poise and daring while riding at full speed.

The auto has its advantages in shortening distance, in expediting business and in making travel more convenient and comfortable. But it certainly sounded taps for the old fashioned tournament contest, because it turned our saddle ponies out on the range and gave us a citizenship which has permanently abandoned the stirrup for the clutch and the bridle reins for a steer-

ing-wheel. The last big tournament Christmas celebration I remember, under the old order of things, took place in 1897 at Menardville, a beautiful little town in Menard county, in the stock country of Southwest Texas. Men participated in it who afterwards came to be known as cattle kings and who were rated at the banks as "seven figure financiers."

They led in the thought and influence and social life of the city; they were real builders. But their most skillful accomplishment was riding and the tournament afforded them the best public opportunity to show how well they

The way to stage a tournament -test, was by erecting high

smooth course, for 100 or 200 yards, the a bright hope vanished when some undistance to be determined by those persons most interested. A cross-piece or arm was nailed to the post and a ring suspended-from this arm at a height along about a man's breast as he sat on a horse. Then each participant was furnished with a long lance, and, at a given signal, he would dash down the track full speed catching as many of the rings as he could on the point of his lance. He had to make the distance in a time agreed upon by the judges, and the one who secured the greatest number of rings was decorated the winner.

The game originated in France about the twelfth century and was a favorite with the royalty. All through history it has been popular, but more especially during those days when Knighthood was in Flower. It came to America with the Pilgrim Fathers and Washington's soldiers amused themselves with such contests that bleak winter spent at Valley Forge. Col. Robert E. Lee is said to have been the first man to introduce it into Texas.

To an onlooker the game seems easy enough, but, indeed, it takes a cool head and a steady arm to lift a single ring when the horse is running. Only those who are redblooded and experienced have a chance to win. The uninitiated and the "faint-hearted" had just as well stay out of the game.

In many of the contests of the old days the successful man was not only given a handsome purse for who was chosen before the con-

test was staged, and it was customary for the winner to gallantly place this wreath upon the brow of his best girl. This often-times made the riding more spirited. Two fellows contending for the favor of the same girl would become rivals and exert as that of being chosen caller for the every energy "string the most beads" quadrin. e ber smiles. Ma

fortunate aspirant lost his goal.

In ancient times one side would be matched against another and blunt swords or spears were used instead of the poles of later days. The kings would attend such events and they were held all the way from the Black Forest of Germany to the banks of Loch Lomond, where a MacAlpin rode against a MacGregor.

Winner Leads the Grand Narch

The tournament held Christmas day, at Menard, 25 years ago, was for a purse



"With a Long Lance, He Would Dash Down the Track at

his dexterity, but he was presented a of one hundred dollars to the winner, wreath as a favor, by "the queen of beauty," or "lady of the tournament," ed that the one contestant who captured the purse, and the girl chosen to wear the wreath, should lead the grand march at the Christmas ball. No program of those days was considered com-plete without this feature, and to have the distinction of leading the grand

> the contestants we o is now a member

ecutive committee of the Cattle Raisers' Association, Frank Wilhelm, Jesse Burnam, Max Russell, Will Wilkerson and others whose names are very familiar in the cattle kingdom of Texas. Mears rode Red Bird, as pretty a saddle horse as ever graced the open prairies, and the black and gold which adorned the lance Ed carried was also worn by one of the prettiest belles of the city. That night these two led the grand march, made up of the frontier's fairest and bravest, while Phillippi's orchestra play-

ed the Washington Post march. For lack of better accommodations, the public dances of that period were always held in the courthouse and on special occasions a big sup-per would be served. This partic-ular night, Mrs. Ed Sieker arranged that part of the program and the main delicacy of the feast consisted of roast turkeys killed by Mr. Sieker on Saline creek, in the south edge of Menard county.

It cost just one dollar a couple to participate in all of the joys of this celebration, including the ban-quet, while such an amount today would be nothing more than one insignificant tip, several of which might become necessary during the course of one evening. In fact, no part of the Christmas entertainment of that time was expensive. If you rode in the tournament the entrance fee was never over \$5.00, and if your girl was present and you made any kind of a showing, it was well worth it.

Turkey Shoots Were Popular.

"Turkey Shoots" was another one of the sports which figured prominently in the Christmas celebrations of the early days. You did not shoot at turkeys, however, but at a target, either with a rift or a pistol, the scorer of the most "yes" winning the turkeys. Cor this kind drew a large re were always any num-ots, especially with the most of the fron-

Besides the tournament, the dance and these turkey shoots, which formed a part of that last big Yuletide celebration, back there when the cowboys were on the range instead of in the Rodeo, the Christmas tree served a gladdening purpose and all kinds of presents adorned its green bowers from a sparkling piece of cutglass to a pair of home-knit yarn socks. And I do not mention this last article with any disdain. Sometimes those yarn socks carried with them a mother's love which is the holiest gift that can be given.

But really the Christmas tree of the day and time, when in fruitful regr was a funny looking concern. As a a committee would decorate the and the decorations would be all hou made. Cranberries and pop-corn were strung on strong cords and a lot of colored crepe paper, cut into ringlets by deft hands comprised the principal part of the ornamentation. And there was another committee to see that no child in the community should fail to be remembered by good old Santa Claus, for even then the old man seemed to have a longer and a stronger arm when he stopped in front of a castle than when he stopped in front of a

The presents would generally be something useful. The girls would make their "beau-lovers" neckties out of black ribbon, which gave the tree the appearance of one great gibbet where a lot of unfortunates had been hung, while the boys would pick such presents as might prove useful in after years— wall-pockets, picture frames, photo albums and the like, and maybe there would be a wash-board for mother and a pipe for dear old dad.

of course it would be considered "tacky" today. Even in the remotest regions we have learned "the big town stuff," and if the parents of today were to take their children to the same kind of a tree they would doubtless be told where to "get off." We have moved up and on into a more expensive atmosphere. But as more modern Yuletides come 'round that we celebrate in a come 'round that we celebrate in a

(Continued on Page 4, Column 5)

MERRY CHRISTMAS



said in a perfunctory way. There's nothing mechanical about it. I don't say it as matter of rote, as a careless or indifferent performance duty or custom. I mean it. Whoever you are, wherever you may be, I wish you a merry Christmas.

confess that there are a few people in this world of whom I am not very fond. There are some whose ways of saying

things and doings things nettle me. Some there are who are so unlikable, so despicable, and whose acts have been so low and mean that at times I have felt that if it were in my power I would have Heaven drop fire on them and consume them; but now I wish them, and all others, a Merry Christmas. There is in this wish a bit of selfishness, but it's a case of pardonable selfishness. I want to have a Merry Christmas, and I the trees of springtime without bud have lived long enough to learn no per- or leaf. My mind goes back to the early son can have a Merry Christmas who would deny a Merry Christmas to any of God's creation.

A dull Christmas is the tragedy of all tragedies. It would be a tragedy indeed if the skies above us should lose their amethystean glow. It would be a tragedy if the stars that gem night's radiant brow should put out their holy lights to shine no more forever. It would be a tragedy if the sun should the dead into the lives of the living lose its warmth, lose its golden glow, and never again send forth its straight and level beams to gladden and bless the earth. An unhappy bride is a trag- lived and sung in our beloved Texas, and edy; the death of a beautiful child, with the dews of beauty and innocence upon its brow, is a tragedy that tears the heart; but the greatest of all tragedies is a dull, sad Christmas. And who News. But his great soul lived in a will have a dull Christmas? All who frail body, and nine years ago the their grudges, all who recount their dis- a western town with the hope that the

This is not to their baser desires. Who will have his wasted strength; but alas, the fangs other such bricabrac you have aca Merry Christmas? Those who grasp the great truth that joy is a condition of the heart and mind, and not the gratification of an appetite or the triumph of a selfish desire. A Merry Christmas cannot be purchased with gold, it cannot come in the possession of goods or chattles, or high position. It comes from within, burgeoning and blooming in the life which has been purged of the tares of selfishness and low aspirations. He who forgets ambition for gain or power, and gives of his store of smiles and good cheer, will reap the reflex as surely as the mirror reflects the golden lights of the sun. And neither poverty, nor affliction, nor sorrow can cheat such a one out of a Merry Christmas. And so, as the great day draws on, may it be given unto all of us to put away all selfishness, all strife, all envying, and wish every heart a full measure of happiness and every creature well.

> Many HANGING THE beautiful customs STOCKING. cluster Christmas around -customs we always think of when we think of the glad anniversary of the Savior's birth. One of these beautiful customs is the hanging of stockings as receptacles for good old Santa's gifts. Christmas without stockings suspended from the mantels or walls would be as days in the country where I was reared, where the custom was for each child to drive a nail in the mantel or wall upon which to hang the stockings on Christmas eve. The nail was never withdrawn, unless the grim monster invaded the home and the silent boatman rowed its owner to the other shore. If death came to the child the nail was withdrawn and buried, that there might be no vacant nails to touch sorrow for when Christmas came again. This custom makes me think of Harry Marriner, one of the sweetest singers who has especially of one of the last poems this sweet singer wrote. Each day for several years Harry Marriner contributed a gem of verse to the Dallas

of disease had struck too deep, and slowly but surely it sapped the life of Harry Marriner away. The sick poet wrote on, even to the day of his death, and some of his sweetest verses came from the couch upon which he was dying. Christmas eve came on. With only two more days to live, Harry Marriner caught the spirit of the glad day. He looked at the old mantel, in the old home which he had rented to spend his last days in, and he saw there the nails which had been driven long ago as supports for the children's stockings on Christmas eve. Though the bugler from the dim shadows was sounding to Harry Marriner the summons of an unrelenting fate, he gazed upon those nails, mute messengers of the joys of Christmas tide to those he knew not, and he thought of the days when a nail was driven for his stocking, and of the later days when nails were driven for his children's stockings, and, while propped in bed, wrote these lines:

'This is just a home we've rented, but tonight we tasted tears,

Looking back to days departed, when, forgotten in the years, Tacks showed in the old wood mantel, telling us their tale at last,

Of the limp, expectant stocking that once swung there in the past.

They were driven in so firm-sure and safe against a fall-You could almost see the babies as they

hammered on the wall, Driving tacks to hold their stockings just where Santa Claus could see,

Just where now some other stockings on those hard-nailed tacks will be." Who can deny a love for simple verses like these-verses that carry us back to rosy youth, when we drove nails in the mantel or wall to hang our stockings on; or to the even happier days when we saw our own children, so happy

in the expectancy of Santa's coming, drive nails and hang their little stockings? Read the simple verses of the dying man again. They will draw you closer to the children of today and breathe into your life more of the Christmas spirit.

ABOUT GIVING No person can PRESENTS. safely give advice

in the matter of making holiday gifts; that is no one remain with their ledgers when the white plague claimed the sweet singer can safely tell you what to give. But great day comes. All who remember as a victim. The sick man was sent to from experience many of us can give valuable advice along the line of what appointments, all who draw their purse- high altitude and balmy airs would to give. First let me say, don't give strings a little tighter, all who minister | drive the destroyer away and restore any of the surplus cups and saucers, or small boy make a dangerous combina- things.

cumulated as gifts from previous holiday seasons. This is dangerous. Memory is treacherous, and no person can remember who gave the presents received a year or two years ago. A good woman within my acquaintance found herself in possession of many cups, saucers, pitchers. etc., which she had received as presents and didn't need. The happy thought came to her that she would give these to her friends instead of purchasing other gift goods from the stores. It was a fine stroke of economy, but it blasted a beautiful friendship of many years standing. To one close friend a beautiful cup and saucer, received the Christmas before, was sent. But alas and alack! She sent the pretty cup and saucer to the lady who had sent it to her only a year before. In a few days this good lady received a curt note from the former friend saying she appreciated very much the return of her cup and saucer. And again. I warn all men against selecting as gifts for their wives such things as hats, dresses, wraps or other wearing apparel. Men are very smart along some lines, but when it comes to selecting a becoming hat, gown or wrap, they are as dense as the most benighted heathen of darkest Africa. If you must give the fairy queen of your home a hat, dress or wrap, by all means let said fairy queen do the selecting, and don't attempt the dangerous experiment of trying to do "female shopping." Once upon a time there was a Texas man who had stayed out all night with a "sick friend." Knowing what awaited him at home, the man worked out a plan which he hoped would lessen the fury of the storm, and so as he passed by a dry goods store on his way home next morning, he purchased for friend wife a very flashy wrap. When the flashy cloak was laid at the feet of the queen of the home she threw it on the floor and inquired why he had brought home a horse blanket. Poor hubby was told that "the thing" couldn't stay in the house, but if he would give her as much money to buy a real cloak as he lost the night before playing poker, the dog might sleep on his purchase. course the poor fellow was broke. What became of the flashy cloak, I don't know, but I do know that for a time the

smiles and caresses. Another don't. In all seriousness, when you select a present for your small

man got very poor meals and very few

tion. All over the country there are maimed and crippled children because of the companionship of small boys and guns, and in the cemeteries there are many hallowed mounds that would not mark the resting places of the dead if small boys had not been given guns. You owe it to your child, and to your neighbor's children, and to the birds that sing in the trees and destroy harmful insects not to give your small boy a gun.

THE CLOSING The good year of YEAR. our Lord 1923 is rapidly drawing to a close.

Perhaps I should say that with Time, as with men, there is no death. What seems so to us is merely transition-a moving forward. The diurnal journeys of the sun, the waxing and waning of moons, the coming and exit of seasons, mark the periods that we call years, and when the round has been made the calendar is marked up and we say the old year is dead. But, in a few days 1923 will be numbered with the years that were but are not, and take its place in the musty halls of the Past. Taken as a whole, the year brought our nation and people good. The seasons were gracious, the soil yielded well, and the boll weevils left us enough to give a glimpse of prosperity's lights. We have more money in the banks than we had when 1923 came. We have a great many more Ford cars and much better roads. What more could we ask material things? Better than this, have been at peace with the world have done something towards bring peace to others. And, as a people have not been selfishness or st We have sent bread to Russia and tria and China. We are helping Ja, rebuild her ruined cities. We are ev sending food to the hungry children of Germany, the country that tried to destroy the world a few years ago. All in all, 1923 has been lovely in its ministration, and will be precious in memory. But the year grows old and soon must pass. It totters with age and the sands in the glass run low. As we gaze upon the dying embers let us breathe a prayer of gratitude for what the year has done for us, and for what it has given us the ability and the will to do. And let us read in the flickering light of the smouldering heap the death of all our fears and the renewal of hopes that befriend us most and nerve our arms and boy, don't select a gun. A gun and a steel our souls for greater and bette

Fishin' Tales of Me and Jim

Catching Bream and Bass a Week Before Christmas at Lake Park, Near Tyler. By JACK MAXWELL.

I hope you folks who reads these here fishin' tales whut Me and my sidekick is a ritin' git's a whole doggone lotta fun outta them, fer the follerin' reeson: It's sho funny to Me fer to set down with my stubb lead pencil an' try to sew this dope tugether fer you all to read—an' besides, the editur whut got Me and Jim into this mess, is a payin' us rite hansomely fer the wurk; in fact, I bought Lindy Lou a pair uv stockin's with my part uv the pay we got fer the last tale.

Now, don't fail to rite an' tell us how you like the tales-so that I can show the leter's to the editur, as thet will enkourage him to keep rite on a payin' us sum uv his hard-earned dolars.

As I wus a sayin', it's grate to go off on a fishin' trip and jest lazy round fer a few days, a ketchin' fish, fightin' miskeeters an' a goin' a swimmin'. Of coarse, if a feller is a fishin' down here in Texas in the winter he cain't be expected to go swimmin' an' freze hisself to death. But if the weather is sorter cold, an' a feller has gotta sleep under a pair uv blankets why, he can still have lots uv fun a fishin' an' a wanderin' round in the woods, a kickin' up the brown leaves an' a listnin' to whut the leetle folks out in the "open" have gotta say. Yep, the leetle folks uv fur and feather can sho talk, an' if a feller understans their langwidge he can have a rite smart bit uv fun a listnin' to whut they's poping off 'bout.

Fall of the Year Best.

Durin' the years whut Me and Jim has fished tugether we has kum to the konklusun thet we likes the fall-o'-the year, the best uv all, fer fishin' an' a trampin' round out in God's big out o' doors, when the leaves is fallin', the black-hawes is ready to eat an' everythin' has got on hits fall suit an' the mornings are nice an' crispey.

Of coarse, down here in Texas we has

purty nigh the same kind uv weather in the month uv Desember as the folks up North have in October-jist cold nuff to put pep in a feller an' make him step round like a jack-rabbet walkin' in plowed ground.

Nope, Me and Jim don't stop a fishin' jist bekaws hits winter, an' a guy has gotta have a fire to keep warm. No, endeed, we never let's up on our piska-toreal art—whut konsists uv feedin' wums, minnies an' artifishul bugs an' flies to the unsofistikated lack the best fish whut sy ns an' fralia!



"We Likes the Fall-'o-the-Year the Best uv all fer Fishin' an' a Trampin' 'round in God's Big Out o' Doors."

knowin' this to be a solumn fact, why the editur uv the Magazine Section uv Me and Jim to tell a tale about fishin' fer whut he called "bream," down in East Texas. Yep, that's whut he said, an' by gosh, he's gonna git his wish, fer Me and Jim is well ackquainted with the fishin' kundishuns down about the little city uv Tyler-havin' fished down thar more'n onct.

The trip whut I have on my mine is one we tuk a year ago this Christmas, a comin', an' I must say thet we had one deeliteful time an' ketched a hole lot more fish than we could eat; cooked 'em rite at the water's edge-so to speek-an' slept out in the woods whar we cud hear the owls hoot an' see the stars twink'in' thru the dark.

As afore stated, bout the fust week in Desember last year, Me and Jim gotta figurin' on goin' down to Tyler fer a few days uv fishin', an' Jim rites to a frend uv his, whut lives down thar, thet we would likes to run down, say 'bout a week 'fore Christmas, pervided he wud be at home. Well, in two er three days here cums a leter telin' us to cum rite on, everythin' wus a set-tin' purty, an' he'd be in frum off the rode an' wud go with us to Lake Parkan' we'd have wun grand sweet time.

When the week 'fore Christmas rolled 'round hit foun' Me and James with our fishin'-tackel, cookin'-utinsuls an' whut not loaded into Jim's ol' lizzie an' headed fer Tyler; when we got thar Mr. Taylor—(yep, hit wus Chas. S., an' I bin a nowin' him fer over 20 years, an' a durned fine skout, too) -wus a lookin' fer us, an' we soon wus on our way to Lake Park, a body uv water whut is so purty that hit makes you wantta rite a poem or hit's beautey.
"Lake Park" is to Tyler,

an' has gotta lotta round hitsweet-gum, hickry

Texas lakes, rivers an' cricks. An' usin' a oyster-pot fer to cook 'em in. an' I'll tell the wurld, thet Jim knows Well, when we gits to the lake Mr. Taylor sez to Me and Jim: "Boys, whut your Home Town paper, said he wanted kind uv bate air ye a goin' to use? An' I up's an' tell's him thet, so fer as I am persunally kuncerned, I'm a gonna try fer bass with my castin'-rod, an' if he an' Jim wantta fish fer brim why, have at hit; then and thar each uv us got bisy a riggin' up his poles.

"Chas. S." an' Jim got 'em a boat an' went after the brim, an' I took my castin'-rod an' meanderd off down the shore-line to try my luck with ol' bruther bass-thet fightin' son-uv-a-gun whut Dr. Henshall speaks so highley uv in his book "The Black Bass," whut tell's why a black-bass is the seckond kusin' to a sun-perch, an' a whole lotta other things pertainin' to the piskatoreal art.

A Real Fish Fry.

Talk about fishin', boy, Me and Jim have bin over the grater part uv two counties, in Arkansaw, an' have fished over the most uv Texas, but honest-togudness, we had the best time down thar at Tyler on this fishin' trip, thet we ever had in all our fishin' in the hole state uv Texas. We fit 'em an' fought 'em, an' we caught 'em an' we lost 'em—an' best uv all, we sho did cook 'em! Did I say cook 'em? Yes, endeed, an' I'll say hit agin, fer we cooked 'em rite out in the woods, whar all natcher is at 'er best, whar the brown leaves wus a playin' hide-an'-seek, an' the kool Desember brezes tuched a felle's cheek, jist like a kiss frum his best gal at a corn shuckin'.

Fer three days an' nites, we camped 'side the riplin' water's uv Lake Park, jist out away from the shore, in the edge the cookin', fer he knows how to make a pot uv mulligan, plank a 4-pound bass, broil a squirel or fry a mess uv brim to an' black whut the editur speaks uv as a "de-rld to cook lishus brown." Folks, yer know thar is a rite an' a wrong way to cook fish;

the RITE way to turn the trick-pervided, you give him a ol' oyster-pot, an' then see thet he's got wood a plentey to keep the fire goin' while Jimmie does

Feller's, I guess lot's uv you guy's know how to "stink-the-skillet," an' have cooked meny a fish, but take hit frum a frend uv Jim's, if you wantta know how the real stuff uv fixin' fishfood, jist stand by, while I lites the fire an' put's the kittle on. Now, jist imagin' thet you air as hungrey as a ole she kiote an' bin fishin' sense early in the mornin', an' have had durned leetle to eat, an' now, the day is dun an' hit's time to cook super. All rite, let's go frum here an' git super ready. "Mr. Taylor, you clean the fish, an' I'll git a armfull uv black-jack sticks fer the

When I gets the fire a goin' good why, here cums ol' Jim an' his oyster-pot, with jist the rite amount uv greese in hit fer the ockashun. An' when the greese gotta cuttin' up like corn in a popper, James has the fish all rolled in corn-meal, an' after puttin' 'em in the leetle wire baskit he set's 'em down in the pot uv hot greese whut wus a doin'

the shimmey over the fire. Now, fellers, do you get me? I don't like to disputate with a lerned gent like Noah Webster-but when he tries to tell you guy's whut the word BROWN means why, he's absolootely off his nut. Whut he calls BROWN may be all rite when he's a talkin' bout paint an' the shade uv a gal's hair; yep, thet's one thing, but talkin' 'bout the color uv a nicely cooked brim—well, thet's nother thing.

When Jim got thru a cookin' them uv the woods. An' we let ol' Jim do all brim, an' sorter lifted the little wire baskit up outta thet sizlin' greese why, then wus the time a feller seed and smelled a real "delishus brown." People, I'd love the best in the

forbids; therefour, let's eat supe Jim's got everythin' ready an' gittin' a leetle bit lait.

The fish is all cooked to a "de brown," an' with other good thi eat, is spread on top of a ole sav tree stump. "Jimmy, says I, ai cooked too meny fish," but Jim lafed an' kep pilin' 'em hier an' hier on the tin plates. I counted 8 brim an' 4 bass, all purty good size, but we eat each an' evry one, down to nothin' but the boney fragmints. Then we had packed away, to take home, as meny more; not bad wurk for three ole fishermen.

Voices of the Night.

As we three set 'round the bountefut repass, out thar in God's grate out-o'doors, we hears sounds uv wild wood life all 'bout us; frum some whar kums the swish uv wings, as a flock uv mallards hurry past to circle agin an' finerly settle down over on the fer side uv the lake. Frum out the growin' darkness thar kums 'nother sound, hit's the voice uv a nite-bird a singin' to hit's maif over thar in the branches uv the ol sweet-gum tree.

At last, the meal over, dishes is ed an' put way. Me an' li-Taylor bring out our ole 'em fer the evenin' smo set thar clost to the camp into the fitful tongues uv each uv us travel onct a familer trails uv other da have long sense bin nug

things thet's gone beyond An' as we set thar 'fore a gazin' into hit, I kinder a comin frum out the nite-time stilness, the voices uv ol' fishin' pal's, who long ago started on the long trail whut reached icross the Big Divide up to the Heat Camp—out that beyond the blue depths, where all followers uve the loved Izaak Walton will sum day after we have fished an' wished our walton with the love of along the ever- changin' stream uv li

CHRISTMAS ALONE.

. A fellow that is far away from his home folks on Christmas day may make an effort to be gay, but doesn't have much luck, says a writer. For though he occupies no chair, cross the miles his heart is there, with mother, dad and six to share the Christmas dinner. The nan whose hair is turning gray, the

ughing youth, so bright and gay as the homefolks Christmas de rever they may roam.



forward to a Merry Christmas and They have been blessed during 1923 with fairly good crop yields,

with increased, business activity in practically all lines and with a health record far ahead of

This year's cotton crop, produced at less cost than in several years and marketed at prices which brought a profit to the farmers, has ushered in a period of unusual prosperity throughout the state. Much ready money has been placed in circulation, merchants report a heavy fall trade and banks show a large gain in deposits and a

corresponding decrease in loans.

County banks, by reason of the paying power of farmer customers, have been able to liquidate their indebtedness. Rural deposits are now larger than at any time since 1919, the year of inflation and abnormal prosperity. County banks have lowest ratio of local loans compared to deposits in many

Government gin statistics show that Texas produced this year 40 per cent of the entire cotton crop of the United States, and the crop, including the seed, sold at prices that have already put in the pockets of our Texas farmers over \$600,000,000.00.

The best evidence of prosperity is the paying of old debts. The year of 1923 vill go down in history as a year in which Texans materially reduced their debtedness. Some merchants report ebts paid by customers who have been arrears from five to ten years.

And what is even more beneficial, our people have learned a lesson in economy. The lean years of the past, following several years of world war inflation, have taught them to conserve their resources, to eliminate waste, to spend less and to save more.

Not only did Texas produce the best cotton crop in the south, but other crops as well. Estimates forecast by the United States Department of Agriculture, puts the Texas cotton crop production of 1923 at 3,800,000 bales, wheat crop 16,375,000 bushels, corn crop 151,750,000 bushels, oat crop 49,-824,000 bushels, barley crop 2,400,000 bushels, rye crop 348,000 bushels, tame hay crop 987,000 tons, wild hay crop 201,000 tons, broom corn crop 5,700 tons, rice crop 5,143,000 bushels.

South Texas has planted a spinach crop of 10,315 acres, 1,635 acres more in bonds during the so than last year, and the crop will move ing August 31, 1923. in carload lots to eastern markets from January to March, 1924.

While on the subject of crops, it is

better cotton seed, better corn seed, etc. A farmer near Tyler has captured a prize for raising eight bales of cotton from five acres of fertilized and well cultivated land.

Agricultural possibilities are so infinite in Texas that we may expect many won-derful yields of field and truck crops as intensive cultivation is more generally adopted.

This has been a \$1,000,000,000.00 crop year for grand old Texas, and we now lead all other states in value of farm crops for 1923.

West Texas doing her part in adding to the wealth of Texas agriculturally by cutting up her large ranches into small farms and by extending the cotton belt into the upper Panhandle. A gin has been recently erected at Dalhart, 81 miles from Amarillo and miles from Fort Worth.

This brief review of the progress of the farm-

ing interests of Texas during 1923 cement, asphalt or gravel. Nothing | portunity awaits them to advertise is important, in that the prosperity and can contribute more to the happiness the greatness of Texas by promoting wealth of Texas comes mainly from the and contentment of our citizens than a centennial exposition. soil, and her people cannot become permanently prosperous and happy with- highways.

The people of 1,800 gallons of ribbon cane syrup be- churches, more new and better schools purpose of developing the gold and Texas can well look fore he had completed the making of and colleges, more new and better homes. The school districts of our state issued approximately \$10,000,000 in bonds during the scholastic year end-

> Millions of dollars in bonds also have been voted and issued for good roads, and much progress made this year in interesting to know that our farmers are giving more attention to seed selection and fertilization than formerly—
>
> good road building. Some counties in ties. New lignite fields have been discovered and old fields are being worked more actively.

> > THE ABSENT ONE

Where the light on your pathway is shed?

Under skies that are darkened or blue:

Oh, the bells o'er the wide world are ringing.

And the skies bend in beauty of blue;

In the Christmas I'm thinking of you!

well constructed and well maintained

By FRANK L. STANTON

"I'm thinking of you in the Christmas,"

It rings like a tender refrain;

Like the dear eyes of you,

"I'm thinking of you at Christmas."

The halls with the holly are red;

Do the lilies bloom for you, dearest?

Does some tender kind hand

But a thought from the past

Liveth with me at last;

Lift a flower of Christmas to you?

And still do the lilies remain.

And where do you stay

On this beautiful day,

In a far-away land

The sky is so blue,

platinum mine located five miles from Llano. This mine has been idle for the past fifteen years, but now it is to be worked under the name of the Llano Gold and Rare Metal Company. The potash deposits near Odessa has interested eastern capitalists and core tests reveal these deposits in paying quanti-

> The State Compment puts the total 1923 at 77,530,382 barrels, valued at \$ 1 3 4, 586, 000.00 Appro xi mately sixty-five new oil fields have been brought in since January 1, 1923, includ in g the Powell field, near Corsicana, which at peak production, was flowing 300,000 barrels of

crude oil per day. In this limited review no account is taken of the advancement in fine livestock breeding and raising, fine poultry breeding and raising, dairying, horticulture,

It is now sug-gested that Texas should celebrate one-hundreth by anniversary a centennial exposition. Much interest has been man if ested throughout the state in this movement, and the newspapers have given freely of their space in an endeavor to remind all Texans that a glorious op-

Texas also heads all other states in the creation of new wealth from farms, tons, rice crop 5,143,000 bushels.

Besides the foregoing crops, our farmers have had fairly good crops of sweet and Trish potatoes, ribbon cane, sorg-

and preventing unnecessary waste in gas and oil production.

These notable achievements of the passing year should inspire all Texans to face the New Year with supreme confidence and faith-faith in our unlimited resources and in our workmen —whether the workmen be tillers of the soil or tillers of the lathe and trowel, whether the workmen be dealers in merchandise or directors of schools and colleges, public officials, or ministers of the gospel. All Texans should believe in Texas and its matchless possibilities, should unite and stand shouldyield of crude oil er to shoulder in forwarding the in-in Texas during terests of their respective counties and communities, to the end that Texas may grow and continue to prosper and hold

its commanding place among the great states of the United States.

Texas folks, therefore, both children and grown-ups, should look forward to the holidays with joy and thankfulness because of our splendid progress in the past, our abundance in the present, and our promise in the future. We truly, and in all sincerity, have reason to re-joice with grateful hearts, and be merry, at this glad Yuletide season of the year or our Lord, nineteen hundred and twenty-three.

THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS.

The magic of the Christmas season is the element of suspense that enters into it. The beauty of it—all the fun of it—would be spoiled were all the packages to be opened the week before Christmas or even the day before Christmas.

Isn't that the greatest philosophy of all? asks a writer in the Philadephia Ledger.

While we have our hazy dreams of the golden treasures we hope some day to attain, we don't want to know all that is in store for us until we actually realize them. Anticipation is ever so much better than realization. Familiarity breeds contempt when the treasures of life become commonplace.

What we want is more of the old-fashioned Christmas spirit; less of fact and more of faith, "the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

Somewhere in a magazine story occurs this phrase: "It's all that keeps us going—the belief there's something better waiting if we can only catch up with it."

Let's not insist on knowing all the gifts in store for us.

hum, peanuts, garden vegetables, ber- affords greater satisfaction than the mines and the forests of Texas. A tion, consider conserving these natural when the days lengthened, they used ries, etc. A Cass county, East Texas, progress spiritually and educationally. \$500,000.00 corporation has been or- resources by replanting our cut over to rejoice because the sun was coming farmer contracted to sell his output of We have built more new and better ganized at Llano, Llano county, for the forests, rebuilding our depleted soils back to them.

THE PRINCE OF PEACE

By An American Mother

Diplomats and statemen, sitting in their high places, may theorize, and military leaders may sound their dark warnings. But if civilization civilizes, if education educates, we should know by this time that war is stupid, wasteful and unnecessary. We, the average men and for Universal Peace. Madame women of America, should insist that de Costa has received the two the institution of war be abolished forever and that nations find some saner, safer way of settling their differences.

This is a season when all the world should be thinking of peace. It is a time of good will among men. It is a time when we will be most ready to ing than this of the erection of accept the new rendering of an old and this figure of the Prince of

accept the new rendering of an old and a very beautiful sentiment: "Peace on earth to men of good will!"

The method of settling international disputes by arbitration has been tried and found not wanting. Argentina and Chile at one end of the world, Norway 'Sweden at the other, have settled utes by arbitration. Denree treaties with Italy, Por-

The Netherlands withhold however vital, from reason's way. The Casa Blanca disance and Germany, ela question, the North Atlance ase, the Alabama clair all these have been settled by abitration. In fact, within the last century two hundred and fifty international disputes have been settled in this control of the latest models, and a tax of 5 per cent was levied to provide the cost. The dispute had already cost the contestants great sums of money, and much thought and energy had been put into it. Such contestants great sums of money, and much thought and energy had been put into it. ional disputes have been settled in this

And there is a case near home, a perfect object lesson in the methods by which international peace may be se-ed and maintained, a political wisdom

hat has created a transcontinental boundary between the United States and Canada nearly 4000 miles long, in which for many years there has been ano need of a single fort, a single soldier or a single gun.

This agreement has stood every test—it has withheld the strain of politics as well as the threat of big business interests. It works. It is working to-

Perhaps the most majestic symbol of peace in the world is "The Christ the Andes." Standing as it does snow-crowned crest of the Andes

Angelina de Oliveira Cesar de Costa, founder and president of the South American Association highest orders from Holy See, one of them the order "Pro Ecclesia of the "Societe Academique d'Histoire Internationaille" of Paris. No story can be more beautiful or more inspir-Peace, dominating with its gesture of reconciliation. And certainly none is more fitting at this Christmas season.

Argentine and Chile had had serious differences concerning certain boundaries and the two countries were on the verge of war. European shipyards were troversies not only breed blind and unreasoning hatred, but di-vert the mind and heart of nations from constructive and wholesome things.

At last is was agreed that arbitration should be left to His arbitration should be left to His Majesty King Edward VII of England, and the terms decided upon by the commission of distinguished men appointed by him were happily accepted by both Argentine and Chile. By the terms of the treaty armaments were reduced and the shiphyilding program was helt. shipbuilding program was halt-ed. The money thus saved was turned to more practical and

he civilized world wants peace. on the border line between Chile and ships were dismantled and added to the ed on the border line of the two coundozen one-ton bombs loaded with Lew-Argentine, it makes a peculiarly im- commercial flotilla. Disarmament was tries, not only as a symbol of permanent pressive appeal for universal peace. It real, friendships began to take the place peace between Argentine and Chile, but was inspired by a woman, Madame of hatreds.



constructive purposes, and many public ntilities were benefited and improved. ing of this treaty that Madame de be done in transformed her largest arsenal of Christ the Redeemer should be erect-

suggestion was made to the presidents of the two countries, who welcomed the idea cordially, and so enthusiastic was the response that in a very short time the young sculptor of Buenos Aires, Sr. Mateo Alonso, had finished the work.

The occasion of the dedication was remarkable. Chilean bands played the Argentine national hymn, and the Argentine band played the national hymn of

"These mountains will reverse themselves," said one of the speakers, "before Chileans and Argentines will forget their promise of peace sworn at the feet of Christ the Redeemer." Madame de Oliveira did not

stop her magnificent work in the interest of world peace with the erection of this statue in 1904. She went to Europe and through her efforts a reproduction of the Christ of the Andes, by M. Lagas, was erected at The Hague in 1913.

Men have been fumbling at this job of ending war long enough. The first Hague conference was called in 1899 by Nicholas II of Russia, to the end that war might cease. In 1907 the second Hague confer-ence was held. Between this and the recent Washington conference we have had conferences and councils and commissions at numerous times, and still war

isite gas could eliminate all life in

Shall we not then turn, at this beautiful Christmas time, toward South America where that majestic figure of the Prince of Peace stands as a beautiful reminder of universal friendliness. He alone realized this sublime thought of fraternity which should over-shadow all bitterness, and eliminate all hatreds. His indeed is a creed, for all classes, and for all time—"Peace on earth to men of good will."

THE TOURNAMENT IN TEXAS (Continued From Page 2)

grander way-appreciating every new and better gift and believing that in spite of it all this is the golden age of history—we cannot help looking back occasionally and "kinder half-way" longing for some of the plain old-fashioned things of a quarter century

We cannot bring back the past, and we do especially care to do so, but sometimes we find ourselves pushing open the gate that leads into the Garden of the Past and looking around among the half-dead shrubbery and unkempt vines, where shadows fall on a broken caprock and wild birds flit through fading leaves; as we stand there in memory's land, we feel the loss of a simplicity which marked without marring old time Christmas celebrations.

WHY DO WE DECORATE OUR CHRISTMAS TREE?

Ancient sun worshippers used to decorate trees, because they thought a spreading tree was like the sun rising, higher and higher, in the heavens. They And what a war the next will be if predictions are half fulfilled. Mr. Edison was asked if it were true that the entire population of London could be killed by gas within twelve and eplied, "The thing could hours." It is said that the interest of the said half the said higher and higher, in the heavens. They used lights to signify the lightning; apples, nuts and balls to signify the sun, moon and stars, and figures of animal sacrifices which were made to their gods. The angels, cross, etc., which we added were put in by Christians to commemorate Christ. The star is a symbol of the star which led the Wise Men to Bethlehem.

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Biggs' "Cash-in-hand" Plan gets your fur check to you before you sell. Highest fur prices guaranteed Free Souvenir 10,000 marks real Foreign Mocey FREE with \$1 or more Trapper's Supplies. Order Sow while marks last

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It is not generally known that, besides Christians, MAGNET LITE there are many other people who keep December 25 as a festival for different reasons. The Persians, the Hindus, even the Egyptians, do so, and even among the Arabs the "beardless rider" moves about in disguise, playing amusing pranks and collecting gifts.

The celebration of Christmas is strangely erratic from a geographical standpoint, Thus, in Northern Europe the Scandinavian people keep it religiously, but their nextdoor neighbors, the Rustle attention to it, reserving their rejoicings for New Year's Day and still more states Magnet-Lite better than for Easter.

To Latin nations, how- fit every make car. ever, Christmas has not the significance which nations made up of the people of German stock attach to it. tivities do not compare in heartness and cheer with the English or Scandinavian Christmas.

PREPAID

When you receive your light and you do not think it the most wonderful invention and the most useful auto accessory you ever saw you make the compared to the most useful auto accessory you ever saw you make the compared to the compar

QUALITY Chicks & Eggs 45,000 PURE BRED BREEDERS. 16 varieties. Best laying strains. Incubate 25,000 eggs daily. Catalog Free. Prewar prices. Free live delivery.

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UNION MADE FINCK'S DETROIT SPECIAL WEAR LIKE A PLG'S NOSE

Largest Stock Work Clothing in the Southwest.

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both waterproof and regular. Also belt accessories. Fully equipped to do all kinds of repair work. No order too large or small for our capacity. Pioneer Belting Co., Inc.

Although the festival of Christmas is Christian, it has borrowed many rites from the old pagan festivities.

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Holds firmly to any metal consians, pay comparatively lit. enamel or paint, flat or round Released by switch surface. button.

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AT HOME

A BOX OF

Adolphus Chocolates TO KEEP HER CONTENT DURING YOUR ABSENCE

A CONSTANT REMINDER OF **YOUR THOUGHTFULNESS**

Adolphus Chocolates



Christmas Giving



Christmas festivities and Christmas ideals, more than all others, should be kept unchanged from year to year. We cannot hope to im-

splendid old customs which have been handed down to us thru the ages. It has always been a time of rejoicing a time for giving as well as receiving.

The Christmas spirit fell among black times during the long, weary years of the war. The holiday season came to be dreaded more than the dullest and hardest of worktimes. It was quite impossible for those at home to give gifts and be gay when the boys were in the trenches. It seemed like sacrilege to use the precious sugar for making Christmas cakes and candies. So we changed our Christmas customs to suit the exigencies of the times.

There are many ways of presenting a gift. First of all, be on time. A Christmas gift should be presented on Christmas and not two or three days afterward. Start early enough to make your gifts so you will be thru on time. Start some time before Christmas and save every bit of pretty and attractive paper that comes in the house. Also save all the gay little pictures you can, and hunt for more. You will be surprised at what pretty packages you can make from brown wrapping paper

tied with bright ribbon. If you haven't any attractive paper in the house, invest a few cents in some bright-colored tissue paper. Then buy some gold passepartout binding. Wrap your gifts in bright red or green tissue paper and bind them round with the gold or silver paper. But first cut the binding down thru the center or it will be a bit too wide.

with a bright picture on top and all

The making of gift boxes is a fascinating business. If you are going to give a little gift you will be giving a double gift if you present it in a box that can be kept on the desk or dressing table as a trinket box. Take an ordinary box and cover it with either brown wrapping paper or any fairly heavy paper of a bright color. Paste a pretty picture on the top of the box and paste a little border of good paper about it.

Of course these times are expensive, and most certainly we should save our pennies! But don't you really agree that taking thought for our relatives and best friends just once a year is not too often? And that any less would amount to none at all.

Savings count for nothing when weighed in the balance with the Christmas joy to both giver and receiver of the simple and thoughtfully planned Christmas gift.

"Christmas giving is too much of a strain on me. I haven't the strength to worry over a lot of gifts."

Do I hear you say that? Well, dear reader, let me argue with you. I do not ask that you worry over your gifts. I merely ask that you plan them carefully. Nor does that mean such a great deal. Give only to those who are without loved ones.

For Christmas without Christmas giving would not be Christmas.

When one takes thought for one's friends at Yuletide, one not only saves money and gives useful things, but at the same time gives part of one's own

When you think over what to send Mary, remember that she is just starting out housekeeping and that you noticed there was a shortage of neat little chambray aprons in the immediate vicinity of her kitchen. Then send her an apron instead of a piece of frippery sent just so you had "something" to send and which will only suffer total inattention and uselessness the whole year thru while it is collecting dust in some obscure spot.

Christmas giving is a very balanced proposition. There are three things that enter into it-thought, patience and money. Skimp on one and you will have to add just that much more of the other. The wisely chosen gift uses these three things in just the right pro-

Emerson had the right idea when he said that the only gift is a portion of one's self, reflecting the individuality

of the giver.

Let us make this Christmas a "Saneand-Simple Gift" one. Giving is a gracious art and one which is put to the test at Christmas time. In these days of strain and hurry and unrest, let us not forget that gentle art, which really is the art nearest and dearest to the heart of Merry Christmas!

Workbag Chat Making Clever Gifts With Needlecraft

MOLLIE THIMBLE



Well, I hope you have a Merry Christmas-I wish it to you with emphatic good-will -and I trust that all the many stitches taken in your needlework gifts will be ap-

It's a very hackneyed preciated. saying that no one appreciates the time spent upon needlework gifts but the one who makes them, and I really don't think that's so. It's like a lot of other bromides that sound true but really aren't. We mustn't consent to believe things just because someone has said them over and over again before we were born. In this day of rush and hurry and so many outside interests lots of girls and women have little time, too little time, for making with their needles the pretty things they would like to have. One has only to price hand-made things in the shops to know that women appreciate them or they wouldn't pay the prices the shops are compelled to ask for anything that takes so large an amount of labor. All or which is to say that anything you needle-lovers have sacrificed in time to make during the pre-holidays I just know will give double the pleasure of many a bought gift.

A Family Gift. I wonder if it's possible that there is yet a gift or two which you haven't had time to make, possibly a family gift. If that is so, you will want to make something that will take very little time, won't you? Had you ever thought of the possibilities of curtain net? It makes so many delightfully gifts and is so decorative in itself that one doesn't have to do a lot of stitchery upon it.

And let me whisper something to you: Many of the things can be made from old curtain net, too. If it is in good condition it will look just as smart as the new when it is made up into the gifts. For example, if you have a pair of net curtains you aren't using, one side will make a charming bureau scarf and you may like to make a boudoir pillow from the other. Cut the scarf the size you wish and place a one-inch hem about the edges. At the top of the hem run a narrow ribbon -French blue or old rose will be effective-and place about three tiny pink

ribbon roses, the kind bought by the yard, in each corner. If you do not wish to go to all this expense, simply run a long basting stitch of rose, or blue wool, about the top of the hem. A double row of the wool about half an inch apart will look even better. Be careful, if the double row is used, to have the stitches the same length and placed exactly one under the other.

The boudoir pillow can be made to match. If it is round it should be shirred about the edges with about an inch or two-inch frill of the nct and the ribbon or wool placed over the line of shirring. A bow of several loops of the ribbon can be placed in the center of the round pillow to cover the terminal of the shirring there. The pillow may have a colored covering under the net, if you wish, as may also the bureau scarf, but neither is necessary. The scarf, per-haps two scarfs, and the pillow make a nice set, but they can be given separately if you are rushed for time, and added to upon other gift days. A little oblong pillow is, of course, simplier to make and takes less material. Leave a straight one-inch flange all about the edges and place a line of the wool or ribbon over the stitching; lacing the ribon in and out.

Let me whisper something to you: if you have an old black satin frock that isn't good for wearing any more, make some simply fascinating cushions from it. A black satin cushion (you may use black silk, if you haven't satin) is just the most effective thing in a room, no matter what the color scheme. Black in interior decoration, you see, always serves to emphasize whatever scheme it is added to. The square cushions are good, and are smart; but personally, I prefer the round, shirred ones. A touch of gold somewhere on a black pillow makes it doubly effective. I would not advise combining it with any color if you would have it keep all its smartness. In this way you could make an inexpensive Christmas

I really must tell you about the most amusing of collar button boxes I have seen. It is five inches high and is of hand-painted wood. It is filled with two gold-plaited collar buttons and the the following verse is attached:

"Here comes little Sally Sutton
To help you out when you need a Button."

LAWSON RUBBER & MANUFACTURING CO. DALLAS, TEXAS.

S. BLOWOUT SHOES, SKIVED AND SELF-VULCANIZING PATCHES, RELINERS, COLD PATCH AND TUBE REPAIR,
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Send us your orders.
WE BUY YOUR OLD TIRES AND TUBES.

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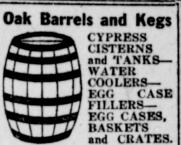
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New Beaufort saxaphones, silver-plated, soprano, \$95.00; alto, \$110.00; C Melody, \$120.00; C Melody, \$120.00; tenor, \$125.00.

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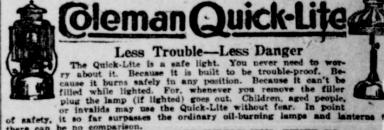
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and these, all together, will feed the family. This tion is a mortgage lifter and thousands of farmer

Sell cream to our local cream station or write us

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CHRISTMAS **ENTERTAINMENTS**

three times, then used to the continues the story until he passes the snowball to the person next to him who continues the story until he passes the fatal red button, is to the ball is passed and the story grows at the fatal red button, is to the ball is passed and the story grows at the fatal red button, is to the ball is passed and the story grows at climaxes, mys.

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ring a tall ruff, short coat, and tall peaked is the master of the is. In his train come in Plum Pudding, very and important in a brown to and a hood. Sir Loin seef, also in brown with tall hat from which a bown feather waves. Robhood in forest green, and tall peaked is the master of the is. In his train come is the master of the million acres of grazing, agricultural and timber lands, some formerly held in the million acres of grazing, agricultural and timber lands, some formerly held in million acres of grazing, agricultural and timber lands, some formerly held in million acres of grazing, agricultural and timber lands, some formerly held in million acres of grazing, agricultural and timber lands. FREE HOMESTEAD LAND, several million acres of grazing, agricultural and timber lands, some formerly held in million acres of grazing, agricultural and timber lands, some formerly held in million acres of grazing, agricultural and timber lands. FREE HOMESTEAD LAND, several million acres of grazing, agricultural and timber lands in the million acres of grazing, agricultural and timber lands. FREE HOMESTEAD LAND, several million acre seef, also in brown with tall hat from which a brown feather waves. Robn Hood in forest green, and

sy demonstration, join in

s then told to take teps forward, turn three times, then ur steps toward the and blow it out. It

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TEXAS PHONOGRAPH REPAIR CO.
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LOCATION WANTED number of other worthy

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But, after all, entertainments depends more on the spirit than on the trappings of the room in which they are held and the first thought of the hostess should be to engage a number of friends to assist her in welcoming the guests and carrying out the program of the entertainments.

An attractive corner may be arranged in the living-room where a fruit punch may be served to all comers.

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will handle deal; would consider automobile as part payment. For particulars write G. A. NALL, Lockesburg, Ark.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS, BOYS AND GIRLS

FROM AUNT MARY.

DANNY'S CHRISTMAS.

"Danny" as he was affectionately called by all his "regular" customers, was a queer little fellow. Very little was known about his life, not even his real name. As for a father or mother, he didn't know the meaning of the words. Back as far as he could remember he had been selling newspapers on the corner of Sixth and Main. Although, eleven years of age, he was small for his age and the saddest thing in all his life was his "hump back." Just how this had come about no one knew. Like everything else about him, it just happened, was all he knew. Many a man and woman went blocks out of their way home to buy their evening paper from him, because

even with his detormity and hard life he always wore a smile and had a cherry word for every passer-by. His home was an attic phy's House." Here Danny shivered in cold weather and sweltered

in hot weather. This particular evening was a cold and biting one. The snow had been falling all day and with the lowering of the sun a fresh norther had come up. Danny was wet and His few scanty clothes appeared to add more to his misery than comfort. Every one had been in such a hurry to get home out of the biting cold, very few had stopped to buy a paper. By five o'clock it was dark and the street lights and blazing windows only seemed to mock him. He had sold only five papers this afternoon instead of his usual large number. Howhe struggled ever. bravely on trying to make a few more sales. By seven o'clock he could stand it no longer, and turned to go in the corner store for a few minutes to get warm. The throngs

bustled past him in

their mad rush to finish their last min-

because of the holiday.

utes shopping. Dan-ny looked wistfully into an artistically deco-rated window where a large Santa Claus surrounded with little "wax" children was seemingly happy. Suddenly the thought passed thru his, head "this is Christmas eve." However, it meant little to him as he had no one to share it with. In fact, he would be only the more lonely

Stepping inside the swinging doors he crept over to one corner near a big steaming radiator. He thrust his hand into his pocket and brought out a few nickles and pennies. He slowly counted them and found he had just enough for a warm supper and a scanty breakfast. He was hungry, too, having had only a cup of coffee and a doughnut to eat that day. After he had warmed his hands, he tucked his remaining papers under his arm and started for the nearest lunch-counter. As he came close he could smell the-cooked food and steaming coffee. How glad he was that he had at least made enough for a warm supper. Just as he turned to enter the door he saw an old, old man sitting on the edge of the sidewalk. He was scantily clad and seemed about ready to faint from the cold. Danny rushed to his side and said "Smatter, Pop?" The old man raised his head slowly and Danny saw, great tears streaming down his face and falling into his long white beard. The man replied, "I am sick and cold. I am an old man and can hardly work. I was trying to sell some papers but my hands got so cold that when some one in the crowd shoved me I dropped them in the dirty street so no one will buy them now. My little lame daughter at home is crying, I know, because she hasn't eaten since yesterday. I am now too cold to go on." Danny hesitated a moment, he was so hungry, then he thrust his hand in his pocket and pulled out his few cents, these he put in the old man's hand and said: this will buy you a little food. I have a few papers left which I can still sell." The old man slowly rose and placed his hand on Danny's shoulder and said: "It is more blessed to give than to receive, and God bless you my boy, you shall have your reward.'

Danny was too tired and cold to sell any more papers so he crept to his attic room and tried to find comfort under the few rags that served

him as cover. "Tomorrow is Christmas, and I have no one, he thought. How hungry I am, and tomorrow, well—, but I am glad I gave the old man my pennies----- He was so old." Over and over again, these thoughts passed thru his head. Christmas with its joys to others meant nothing to him.

He thought of the great brown house on the hill, of its wide spreading lawns and beautiful trees enclosed behind the forbidding wall. He had seen it one time when he went on a special errand for the paper. As he was leaving he caught a glimpse of a pale hand waving to him from an upper window. He had waved his cap in return and then went out again thru the great gates. That was Christmas a year ago. He had been given a bright shining dollar by the butler for a Christmas present. But this year would be different. He didn't even have the

price of a cup of coffee.

How long he had been asleep he did not know, but he awakened to find the sunlight stream-ing into his room and a gentle hand on his head. When he had rubbed the drowsiness out of his eyes he looked up and saw standing beside him an old man in fine clothes and a long white beard. "My boy," he was saying, "Merry Christ-mas to you."

Danny hardly knew what to do or to say. "Merry Christmas," he managed to mutter. "I have come to take you home with me to live. I need you; and my little lame girl, who can only sit by the window loves you already."

"But who are you? I can't go misterm so-___." Danny had started to cry._ "There, there, my little man. I am the owner of the brown house on the hill. I need some one for company for my little girl, she is so

lonely since her dear mother left us and went to live with God. Last night, I determined to test you to see if you were worthy of a good home, so I disguised as a poor old man and begged you for your pennies for food.

"Oh," said Danny. "So, you are the man who had dropped his papers in the dirty street and no one would buy them." "Yes, I will come, will come, if you want me." AUNT MARY.

THE CHILD AND YOUNG MANHOOD OF CHRIST.

Wouldn't you have liked to have known Him when he was here on earth as a boy? I would love to have been there and have seen Him that first Christmas Morn.

well as the mighty.

a lamb. In his sight,

though, the gifts were wonderful as they were

makes any gift accept-

The star also guided the Three Wise Men of the East. They

brought expensive gifts, which no doubt,

were no more acceptable to Him than those

A few days after His birth, Herod, who was

then the King of that

country, hearing that

of the Shepherds.

babies.

THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS.

Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the

Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hope that St. Nicholas soon would be there;
The children were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of sugar-plums danced through their

heads;
And mamma in her kerchief, and I in my cap,
Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap,
When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter
I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter.

Away to the window I flew like a flash,

Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash,
The moon, on the breast of the new-fallen snow,
Gave luster of mid-day to objects below;
When, what to my wandering eyes should appear,
But a minature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer,
With a little old driver, so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.
More rapid than eagles his courses they came,
And he whistled, and shouted, and call'd them by name:
"Now Dasher, now Dancer, Now Prancer, now Viven,
On Comet, on Cupid, on Donder and Blitzen,"
To the top of the porch, to the top of the wall,
Now, dash away, dash away, dash away all.
As dry leaves that before the wild hurriance fly,
When they meet with an obstacle mount to the sky.

So, up to the house-top the coursers they flew,
With a sleigh full of toys, and St. Nickolas too.
And they then in a twinkling I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of each tiny hoof.
As I drew in my head, and was turning around
Down the chimner St. Nicholas came with a bound.
He was dressed all in fur from his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all tarnish'd with ashes and soot;
A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,
And he looked like a peddler just opening his pack.
His eyes how they twinkled, his dimples how merry,
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry,
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
And the beard on his chin was as white as the snow.

As tump of a pipe he had tight in his teeth.

And the smoke, it encircled his head as a wreath.

He had a broad face and a little round belly
That shook, when he laugh'd like a bowl full of jelly.

He was chubby and plump—a right jolly old elf—
And I laugh'd when I saw him, in spite of myself.

A wink of his eye, and a twist of his head,
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.

He spake not a word, but went straight to his work.

And filled all the stockings; then turn'd with a jerk
And laying his finger aside of his nose,
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose.

He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistla,
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle;
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight,
"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good-night."

"a new King was born," sent his soldiers to kill all the little children under two years of age.

Joseph had been warned of this by an angel in a dream and had taken Mary and Jesus into

A very beautiful story is told of how during this journey the family stopped to rest beneath a fig tree. Mary desired some of the fruit as she was hungry. Joseph was too tired to climb the tree and get it for her, and the bough was to high to reach. So Jesus commanded a bough to bend down. He was so pleased with the obedience of the tree, that he promised, because of this, that one of its branches should be carried by the angels and planted in his Father's Paradise.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph did not stay long in Egypt but returned to Nazareth to His father's house. Here Jesus grew to be a man. He worked in His father's shop. His father was a carpenter. It was during this time he learned the sweet lessons of home life. His parents were poor and could give him no advantages. But the bible tells us that he daily grew in wisdom. God was his teacher.

Every year He made the journey to Jerusalem to the feast of the Passover, with His parents. In the twelfth year after His birth, during their return from the feast, Mary noticed that her Son was not with people making the journey home. She hastened back to Jerusalem and searched for Him three days and nights. At last she found Him in the Temple talking with a group of wise old men. They were atonished at His great knowledge and wisdom. Mary, was so happy to find Him and she asked Him, "Son, why hast Thou dealt with us? Behold, Thy father and I have sought Thee sorrowing?" He answered her and said, "How is it that Ye sought me? Wist Ye not that I must be about My father's business?" He returned with His parents to Nazareth to work again in His father's carpenter shop. Thru the succeeding years he was a good student and an obedient child.

When John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness, Jesus came from Galilee to Jordon to John to be baptized. John did not want to baptize Jesus, as he knew Jesus was greater than he. But Jesus said, "Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fullfill all righteousness." Jesus was well past childhood

now, as he was near thirty years old.
Up to this time he had labored in his father's shop, but now since he was grown-up, he must go to preach the gospel of His Heavenly Fath-

CHRISTMAS CAKE-COOKIES.

These delicious cakes and cookies you can help mother make. They are dandy and I hope you'll

enjoy them, and naren enjoy them.

1 cupful brown sugar the cupful ended or eitron to temporare enjoy them. The cupful baking powder to the cupful ended or engo pecification or engo pecification.

2 teaspoonful cinamon ange peel
½ teaspoonful grated nutmeg 2 egg yolks
½ teaspoonful mace 8 egg whites
Sift together the flour, baking powder and spices. Sift again after adding the sugar. Then make a hollow in the center of the sifted ingredients; add the eggs, umbeaten, and stir in the mixture a little at a time. Beat well for about five minutes. Add the orange juice and grated rind and chopped fruit last. Make into balls the size of a large walnut, dipping the fingers into pulverized sugar. Bake on a ciled or butter paper, an inch apart, in a hot oven.

A CHRISTMAS RESOLUTION.

Let us all pledge ourselves to be "kind;" and in being kind we will find happiness and be of service to our fellowman. Let us all follow the footsteps of the Master and walk in the road of "Unselfishness."





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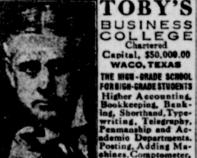
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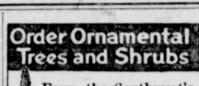
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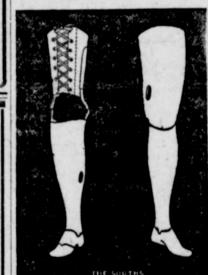
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WOMAN'S PAGE

MRS. MARGARET STUTE



THE CHRISTMAS TABLE.

The center of interest for Christmas (outside of the Christmas tree) is the dining table. Mother's interest is principally the dinner itself, then the decorations. With a little planning and foresight the most modest home may present an artistically arranged table with little ex-

Simplicity is the keynote to a well arranged table. Never over-do the thing.

The best linen and silver are always in evidence. First a "silent cloth" is used, then the table cloth. An embroidered center piece can be used also.

Silver must be placed correctly in order to be attractive. For the ordinary dinner the following des-

cription is sufficient: To the right of the plate is placed the knife, sharp edge towards plate, then as many tea spoons as are needed, coffee spoon next to knife, then salad fork (if to be served after soup) last from plate is placed soup spoon. On the left of the plate is placed fork for pie or cake (if to be served) then fork for the main dinner. The butter knife is laid on butter plate if they are used; if omitted, knife is also.

All of the plates are placed in front of who ever is to serve; except where service plates

Glasses are placed at the right of the plate

near the point of the knife. Napkins are placed at the left of the forks, if first course is served before seating the guest. If not served until seated, then napkin is placed between knife and fork or on service plate, if

Dinners today are served with much less formality than formally. There are several reasons for this, namely, because the scarcity of reliable help, and then during and following the war people became less formal in every way.

Flowers (never artificial ones on a table) can be used to good advantage for decoration. If tall flowers are selected only a very few are used. Usually a bud vase or a very small vase for the center piece.

Narrow strips of green and red paper can be fastened to the base of the vase and let them radiate symmetrically to the edge of the table and fall over the edge. Cotton may be "fluffed" and sprinkled with artificial "snow" and placed at the base of the vase. Colored candles in pret-ty holders may be used with this decoration.

Another novel way of decorating the Christmas table is as follows:

A Santa Claus doll that will stand is placed in the center. Cotton used as snow is put around the feet. Colored ribbons are attached to a present, that is placed at each plate, with a card bearing the name of the guest and other end fastened in the doll's hand:

Still another is where a minature Christmas tree is made of a single bough and fastened in crossed piece of wood (the same as a large tree) and tiny candles placed here and there. These were lighted just before the guests came into the dining room. Place a paper thick enough to catch the dripping tallow. Cover with a white cloth or cotton.

Another very artistic decoration is accomplished by using a basket of fruit as a center piece. A pretty basket is selected and filled with the best fruit available, the finest red apples, beautiful oranges, bananas, green and Malaga grapes, kumquats, if they are on the market, and often a ripe pineapple is used for the center of the basket and the rest of the fruit placed around it. The basket can be trimmed

with rhododendron leaves, or any other fall leaves, or sprays of pine and little cones. Here is wishing you the most successful Christmas dinner of your life.

HOUSE DECORATIONS

To give a hearty welcome to all who enter our doors on Christmas day is the chief aim of every good housewife. No other season of the gives her such an opportunity to display her talents and radiate good cheer and happiness. To commence with, each member of the family

must join hands and work together in order to assure success. For there is mistletoe to gather, apples and oranges to prepare, and all the jolly duties for a "Merry Christmas." Most people in Texas are exceptionally fortu-

nate in one respect. As about all they have to do is to go out into the country and they can gather all the mistletoe needed for decorating. Of course, the "early bird" always gathers the best mistletoe. So lay in your supply early, be-cause no Christmas is complete without it. The keynote of decorations should be found in

the living room, or parlor, which ever is to be used the most during the day. With a few cents spent wisely and a little

fore-thought, any house can present a glowing and hearty welcome. In the living room a center of interest must be chosen. Perhaps it will be a centrally suspended chandelier, perhaps an open fire place, or the Christmas tree. Which ever it is, lay the most emphasis at this spot. Red and green being the favorite colors for Christmas decorations, many

beautiful ideas can be worked out. One artistic room I have in mind was where the chandelier was used as the center of interest.

A large red ball was suspended from it (but a pretty bunch of mistletoe can be used as well). Cotton was fluffed and sprinkled with artificial snow. This was banked on top of the bell (or mistle se) and little flakes placed here and there on the lights and cord. Two streamers of red and two of green Christmas cords were run from the top of the bell to the four corners of the room, the colors alternating. Tiny bits cotton were placed on these. In the corners pretty bunches of mistletoe were fasten-ed to the wall with tiny tacks (so as not to spoil the wall) and were flecked with cotton. By the fireplace a pretty tree was placed and decorated with the usual Christmas tinsel There were pretty candles, red apples and yellow oranges suspended on colored twine and all the other various and sundry things used. Dried red peppers were placed here and there

among the green to give a colorful effect. Small limbs with autumn leaves were placed in the corners and over the pictures and mantle. Holly can be used at almost any place. red bells and minature Santa Claus may be hung

in the windows or holly wreaths. The dining room must present a bower of loveliness and hospitality. Here holly, mistletoe, pine boughs, cones and any other "natural" dec-oration can be used in profusion. However, the table is the center of interest and other decorations must blend with it or the effect will be Less red is used on the walls and in the windows as it will detract from the table which should be the most conspicious

Don't forget a bunch of mistletoe above each door. It will look pretty and afford much merriment for the old as well as the young.

A last word of warning, don't forget to put away carefully after the holidays all decorations that are not perishable. Wrap in colored tissue paper. They are best put in a covered wooden box that can be fastened securely, so as to keep away from rats and mice. Camphor or moth balls are good to use. Don't let children see them again until next year and they will be as good as new ..

A CHRISTMAS THOUGHT.

Who seeks for heaven alone to save his soul, May keep the path, but will not reach the goal; While he who walks in love may wander far, Yet God will bring him where the blessed are.

CHRISTMAS RECIPES. ROASTED TURKEY.

A turkey should be killed two or three days before used if the weather is cool or ice is available for use. Do not truss for twenty-four hours, only remove the craw. Always singe before 'drawing" the bird. When ready to cook-after it has been singed and trussed wash thoroughly inside and out; salt inside and out. Fill with dry dressing. Rub flour over turkey, place a piece of salt pork on breast and brown flour slightly. Pour two cups of hot water over turkey. Baste often and turn over in pan. Bake in a moderate oven.

Dry Dressing.

11/2 to 2 loaves of white bread, cut in cubes, add one small onion, chopped fine, season with salt, pepper and sage, add two or three hard boiled eggs (chopped). Over this pour 1/4 pound of melted butter. Toss all together and fill tur-key. Sew turkey up. Place balance of dressing around turkey.

SWEET POTATO PIE.

or 4 medium size sweet potatoes teaspoon nutmeg

tablespoon flour (sifted)

orange (juice)

CHRISTMAS MENUS.

"NO. 1."

Celery stalks stuffed with peanut butter

Olives

Thin Meat Broth

Roast Turkey

Brussels sprouts, sauce piquante

Cranberry Sauce

Fruit Cake

Coffee

"NO. 2."

Half Grapefruit with cherry garnish

Stuffed or Roast Pork

Gravy

Potatoes on the half-shell

Baked squash

Grape jelly

Rolls-Butter balls

Jellied fruit salad with whipped cream

Mince Pie-Cheese

Coffee

Olives

Rolls-Butter balls

Mashed Potatoes

Fruit Cocktail

2 or 3 eggs, yolks (well beaten) 2 tablespoons butter (melted)

Sweeten to taste (usually about 1 cup)

Boil potato until thoroughly done, pare and press through collander. To this add the other ingredients in the order nam-

Pie Crust.

114 cup sifted flour 14 cup lard % teaspoon salt

tablespoons waten teaspoon baking powder

Sift dry ingredients, add the lard and thoroughly mix. To this add water and toss on slightly floured board and roll to desired thickness. Before putting into oven puncture several times with fork tines so as to release air under crust. Bake in a hot oven until crust begins to brown. Then put filling. Cook for fifteen or twenty minutes in a moderate oven or until nicely

browned. Beat the whites of the eggs. until stiff, add 1 tablespoon sug-

ar for each egg and a little orange juice. Spread over top of pie and brown in a slow oven.

CHRISTMAS FRUIT CAKE

This recipe is one handed down in our family for generations. As my mother gave it to me, I am pasing it on to you. It will not hurt the most delicate stomach.

1 cup bread sponge cup sugar

½ cup butter
Mix these all thoroughly, then add:

cup dates cup raisins and figs

cup nuts cups flour

teaspoon cinnamon teaspoon allspice

teaspoon soda dissolved in 3 tablespoonfuls

Stir mixture thoroughly. Do not make too thick as the cake will be too dry. Pour into a pie pan and let rise one hour. Bake in moderate oven for forty minutes. If pan is lined with greased brown paper the cake will not stick.

RAISIN FUDGE.

2 squares of unsweetened chocolates 1 tablespoon butter
1/2 teaspoon vanilla
1/4 cupful Sun-Maid raisins 2 cups sugar 1/2 teaspoon salt cup milk Melt chocolate, add sugar, salt, milk. Stir until mixture boils and sugar is dissolved.



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> Merry Christmas



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THE MERKEL MAIL

VOL. 35. NO. 42.

MERKEL, TEXAS, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1923.

Eva. If you have veen good children 9 will put something in your stockings to make you happy. I love you and wish all of you a Mery Christmas. Affectionately Yours, one washing in Jeras christmas

A Christmas Hunt and Dinner Deer, Turkey, Quail, Cooked and Served Christmas Day in the Hills of Southwest Texas By AUSTIN CALLAN.

Tom McCoy, seemingly enjoyed his been selected for such a camp. In fact, nonds to twinkling, a big buck walked and commenced training his Long Tom on my buck, I knew that somebody's pipe better than anything else. It had a short stem, a black bowl and a strong scent, and no one could endure it as well as Tom, yet it was not altogether a love for the weed that kept him so busy puffing away at that antique briarroot. Along in the fall of the year, when the winter-winds would begin to winnow the fallen leaves across the old lanes, this old hunter would hunch down with his pipe in his mouth and as he sent blue rings up towards the sky would see a camp-fire out under the stars and a big buck hanging up in a tree. That was what he liked in life

Just about a week before Christmas I happened to drop in on Tom, who, by the way was the watch-maker and gunsmith of the community. He was seated before his work-bench probing into the vitals of an Ingersoll which had something the matter with the carbuerator, or some other part of it, and wouldn't run.

"What you doing, Tom?" I asked. "O, piddling' with an old worn-out blscuit that couldn't keep time if a brass band were to play for it," he an-

swered. 'Been out this season?"

"Nope, but I'm getting ready," he replied. "Come an' go along. Three of us calculate spending ten days out on the divide twixt Bear Creek and the forks of the Llano river, in Kimball county, Texas. We'll make our camp at Niger Head hill; Old Bench says deer and turkey both are plentiful in them

I jumped at the chance, and about noon the next day Tom, McCoy, D. G. Benchoff, Charley Graham and myself were off. My contribution to the "munitions of war" was a sixteen guage shotgun and several boxes of shells. The high-power rifles appealed to me and I wanted to kill a buck just as bad as any one of the outfit, but at the same time I was hungry and in case we fell down on getting venison, I intended to slip around and make a shock-formation

charge on a covey of Bob Whites. In addition to the armament, we carried along a complete cooking outfit and a generous supply of coffee, flour, ba-con, spuds and Mary Jane syrup. Tom, who always acted as quartermaster, explained that he did not distrust the hunting ability of the boys, especially "Old Bench," but that the powder might get wet, and besides he liked a change occasionally when in camp.

Ideal Camping Spot.

was less than a mile to where we could go and fill our keg from a clear, bub-

bling spring. A big fire was built and supper prepared, after which we lounged around in camp until midnight, telling stories of other hunts, discussing the merits of certain rifles and digressing occasionally to pass judgment on the ability of friends of ours to get the right kind of a kick in their juvenile experiences with home brew.

Shortly after we retired it began

bedding and 'tarps" were pulled up over us so that no discomfiture whatever was experienced. A snow storm is rare in that section of Texas. Perhaps the ground is not covered with snow on an average of in three years. Daybreak. however, brought to us the recollection of a certain poem written in the long ago by James G. Whit-We were truly snowbound, some six or eight inches covered the surface of the earth, and every limb or blade of grass was beautifullly upholstered in

pure white. Immediately after partaking of breakfast, consisting of strong black coffee steaming hot, camp biscuits,

hundred yards from camp I saw deer say to me: "Crack down!" the horse with "our" prize tied across tracks, and was assured that at least Well, I "cracked," but I only succeed- him that the ordeal came, which I know we were in a big game country. Nigger Head hill was not far away and I
directed my steps in that directionThe snow had ceased falling. Climbing antlers back on his weathers and took

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The snow had ceased falling the pose of the noble animates the order or later. "What was coming sooner or later. "What hunt and a great feast served on a great hunt we had—a great falling was coming sooner or later. "What hunt and a great feast served on a great hunt we had—a great feast served on a great hunt was coming sooner or later. "What hunt and a great feast served on a great hunt was coming sooner or later. "What hunt and a great feast served on a great hunt was coming sooner or later. "What hunt and a great feast served on a great hunt was coming sooner or later. "What hunt and a great feast served on a great hunt was coming sooner or later. "What hunt and a great feast served on a great hunt was a great hunt was coming sooner or later. "What hunt and a great f It was late when we reached the chosen place, and a blue bank of clouds piled miles in every direction, and I noted Tom McCoy

No prettier picture ever met the gaze of a mortal. Nature was at her best and robed in her grandest garments. and occupying a central position on the "screen" was this beauty of the wilds.

"Cracked Down."

For a time I looked on in admiration, forgetting that there was such a splendid limb back at camp to hang meat on. The virgin charm of the scene, the wild setting untouched by anything of man's Shortly after we retired it began creation, these fairly captivated me. snowing, but we had an abundance of But after a while my "animal instinct"

shooting record was going to smash, and that it wouldn't be his. I was in hopes, however, that he would miss for I did not relish the "guying" I knew would follow. But Tom didn't miss; in fact "miss" wasn't his name. The buck ran for a short distance and fell. We reached him about the same time. Apparently the big fellow was dead, but when Tom thrust a knife into his neck he threw his horns up with such great force that they almost broke that veteran hunter's leg.

Tom went back to the camp and got

were satisfied; that night as we sat around the fire we planned to remain over and cook our Christmas dinner in camp. Benchoff declared that it would not seem like Christmas without egg-nog, and Charley said that he could do without the egg-nog but that we had to have a turkey to keep him from getting lonesome. Having made a failure at getting ven-

ison, I decided to redeem myself in a conquest against the turkeys, and the next day I shouldered a shotgun and went out to look for a roost. A pecan grove about two miles from camp rewarded me. At a glance I knew some of the great American birds had roosted there the night before, so I concealed myself, and lay in wait for them.

Just about dusk the turkeys commenced flying into the trees and I "knocked down" four, one of which we named the Sultan and decided to bake

for our dinner.

Primitive Christmas Dinner.

When Christmas day arrived we had five bucks hanging up in camp, besides the turkeys and a large number of quail, and we had something else, too. Tom had found a bee tree and brought in some fine looking honey. The only thing that puzzled us was how to cook the turkey; the dutch oven we had was not half big enough. Charley suggested that we wrap it up in a wet sheet and roast it like you do a calf's head by burying it in the hot ashes and coals. This proved very successful, and dressing was made to go with it. Tom found some pecans when he went to cut the bee tree and these we added in with the onions and sage and corn bread.

Some of the venison was also baked and some of it was broiled Bill Cody fashion; that is done by throwing big thick slices into a hot skillet and letting it sear on both sides, driving the juices to the center. When you are reasonably sure that it is done through and through, you scrape off the charred sides and put the steak into a platter with plenty of butter on it and keep in a warm place until the butter is melted or absorbed.

A dozen quail, too, were made into a pot pie and served steaming hot. It was such a meal as would have satisfied a king. Even the biscuits were fluffy and fine and served as a desert with our wild honey.

It was a great hunt we had-a great marking the dawn of a world's light of hope, freedom and good will. When we and the blue rings of smoke, as they Benchoff and Charlie returned at rose above the camp table, grew wider night empty handed. They had spent and thinner, floating away on the winds,



"Four Hunters Gazed into the Dying Campfire, Silent and Thoughtful."

broiled bacon and molasses, I took one | returned; I felt hungry for vension and | a horse. It was one of the biggest of the high-power rifles and set out to that buck defiantly standing up there bucks I had ever seen and the two of us make good the old story that "the early with his nose in the air breathing the could not have packed him. It was bird catches the worm." Not over three fresh aroma of the morning, seemed to while we were walking along leading

Tom McCoy was several hundred up along the north warned us to hustle | that there was a wooded point only a | yards off in the valley when I fired and for shelter. Fortunately we found a short distance across a deep ravine. It the deer seemed to run directly toward have gotten into the factories." thicket which had an opening to the was covered with cedar trees, and while him, but stopped within shooting dissouth, where there were a few big trees I was standing there watching the octance. From my position I could plain-

while we were walking along leading the horse with "our" prize tied across

"It's the amunition," I declared. "You can't hardly get a good cartridge since the war. Some German spies must had finished, Tom lighted his pipe again

along near the center and plenty of casional sun-glints as they shot from ly see both the hunter and the deer, the day in the hills without even seeing while four hunters gazed into the dying wood. No more ideal spot could have behind the clouds and set a million dia- and when Tom laid his pipe in the snow a deer. But we had made good and all camp fire, silent and thoughtful.

The Tournament in Texas

Once Staged as a Red-Blooded Contest During Christmas Week Celebrations.

mobile, or the moving picture, or the distance to be determined by those perradio, that the tournament played a prominent part in Texas Christmas celebrations. In those days a man talked about his favorite saddle horse, rather than his Stutz or Henry, and the screen star of his choice was neither furnished with a long lance, and, at a Norma Talmadge, Marion Davies, Mary given signal, he would dash down the Pickford nor any of the rest of the now famous moving players of America. It was some shy little lassie with dazzling eyes flashing from beneath a sunbonnet, on whose brow he hoped to place the laurels won by his skillful riding in a red-blooded tournament contest.

. - Back a Quarter of a Century.

We will have to go back at least a quarter of a century to find the tournament a popular part of the Christmas program in civilian life, although the cavalry branch of the army still stages it occasionally. The contest is for real horsemen, for men of the saddle who must learn to master the art, poise and daring while riding at full speed.

The auto has its advantages in shortening distance, in expediting business and in making travel more convenient and comfortable. But it certainly sounded taps for the old fashioned tournament contest, because it turned our saddle ponies out on the range and gave us a citizenship which has permanently abandoned the stirrup for the clutch and the bridle reins for a steer-

The last big tournament Christmas order of things, took place in 1897 at days the successful man was not "With a Long Lance, He Would Dash Down the Track at Menard county, in the stock country of his device; to but he between the contests of the old "With a Long Lance, He Would Dash Down the Track at Full Speed." cattle kings and who were rated at the banks as "seven figure financiers."
They led in the thought and influence and social life of the city; they were accomplishment was riding and the tournament afforded them the best public opportunity to show how well they could ride.

It was before the advent of the auto- smooth course, for 100 or 200 yards, the a bright hope vanished when some unsons most interested. A cross-piece or arm was nailed to the post and a ring suspended from this arm at a height track full speed catching as many of the rings as he could on the point of his lance. He had to make the distance in a time agreed upon by the judges, and the one who secured the greatest number of rings was decorated the winner.

> The game originated in France about the twelfth century and was a favorite with the royalty. All through history it has been popular, but more especially during those days when Knighthood was in Flower. It came to America with the Pilgrim Fathers and Washington's soldiers amused themselves with such contests that bleak winter spent at Valley Forge. Col. Robert E. Lee is said to have been the first man to introduce it into Texas.

To an onlooker the game seems easy enough, but, indeed, it takes a cool head and a steady arm to lift a single ring when the horse is running. Only those who are redblooded and experienced have a chance to win. The uninitiated and the "faint-hearted" had just as well stay out of the game.

Southwest Texas. Men participated in wreath as a favor, by "the queen of and in addition to this, it was announcit who afterwards came to be known as beauty," or "lady of the tournament," ed that the one contestant who capturwho was chosen before the contest was staged, and it was customary for the winner to gallant- march at the Christmas ball. No proly place this wreath upon the real builders. But their most skillful brow of his best girl. This often-times made the riding more spirited. Two fellows contending for the favor of the march was an honor practically as great

fortunate aspirant lost his goal.

In ancient times one side would be matched against another and blunt swords or spears were used instead of along about a man's breast as he sat on the poles of later days. The kings would attend such events and they were held all the way from the Black Forest of Germany to the banks of Loch Lomond, where a MacAlpin rode against

a MacGregor. Winner Leads the Grand March The tournament held Christmas day, at Menard, 25 years ago, was for a purse



ed the purse, and the girl chosen to wear the wreath, should lead the grand gram of those days was considered complete without this feature, and to have the distinction of leading the grand

ecutive committee of the Cattle Raisers' Association, Frank Wilhelm, Jesse Burnam, Max Russell, Will Wilkerson and others whose names are very familiar in the cattle kingdom of Texas. Mears rode Red Bird, as pretty a saddle horse as ever graced the open prairies, and the black and gold which adorned the lance Ed carried was also worn by one of the prettiest belles of the city. That night these two led the grand march, made up of the frontier's fairest and bravest, while Phillippi's orchestra play-

ed the Washington Post march.

For lack of better accommodations, the public dances of that period were always held in the courthouse and on special occasions a big supper would be served. This particular night, Mrs. Ed Sieker arranged that part of the program and the main delicacy of the feast consisted of roast turkeys killed by Mr. Sieker on Saline creek, in the south edge of Menard county.

to participate in all of the joys of this eelebration, including the banquet, while such an amount today would be nothing more than one insignificant tip, several of which might become necessary during the course of one evening. In fact, no

"Turkey Shoots" was another one of the sports which figured prominently in the Christmas celebrations of the early days. You did not shoot at turkeys, however, but at a target, either with a rifle or a pistol, the scorer of the most "bulleyes" winning the turkeys. Contests of this kind drew a large crowd and there were always any numlic opportunity to show how well they could ride.

The way to stage a tournament control of the first stage and stage at the same girl would become rivals and exert every energy to "string the most beads" as that of being chosen caller for the every energy to "string the most beads" as that of being chosen caller for the every energy to "string the most beads" as that of being chosen caller for the every energy to "string the most beads" as that of being chosen caller for the every energy to "string the most beads" as that of being chosen caller for the every energy to "string the most beads" as that of being chosen caller for the every energy to "string the most beads" as that of being chosen caller for the every energy to "string the most beads" as that of being chosen caller for the every energy to "string the most beads" as that of being chosen caller for the every energy to "string the most beads" as that of being chosen caller for the every energy to "string the most beads" as that of being chosen caller for the every energy to "string the most beads" as that of being chosen caller for the every energy to "string the most beads" as that of being chosen caller for the every energy to "string the most beads" as that of being chosen caller for the every energy to "string the most beads" as that of being chosen caller for the every energy to "string the most beads" as that of being chosen caller for the every energy to "string the most beads" as that of being chosen caller for the every energy to "string the most beads" as that of being chosen caller for the every energy to "string the most beads" as that of being chosen caller for the every energy to "string the most beads" as that of being chosen caller for the every energy to "string the most beads" as that of being chosen caller for the every energy to "string the most beads" as the most beads as

Besides the tournament, the dance and these turkey shoots, which formed a part of that last big Yuletide celebration, back there when the cowboys were on the range instead of in the Rodeo, the Christmas tree served a gladdening purpose and all kinds of presents adorned its green bowers from a sparkling piece of cutglass to a pair of home-knit yarn socks. And I do not mention this last article with any disdain. Sometimes those yarn socks carried with them a mother's love which is the holiest gift that can be given.

But really the Christmas tree of that day and time, when in fruitful regalia, was a funny looking concern. As a rule, a committee would decorate the tree and the decorations would be all home made. Cranberries and pop-corn were strung on strong cords and a lot of colored crepe paper, cut into ringlets by deft hands comprised the principal part of the ornamentation. And there was another committee to see that no It cost just one dollar a couple | child in the community should fail to be remembered by good old Santa Claus, for even then the old man seemed to have a longer and a stronger arm when he stopped in front of a castle than when he stopped in front of a

course of one evening. In fact, no part of the Christmas entertainment of that time was expensive. If you rode in the tournament the entrance fee was never over \$5.00, and if your girl was present and you made any kind of a showing, it was well worth it.

Turkey Shoots Were Popular.

Turkey Shoots was another one of sports which figured prominently the Christman achieves a christman achieves a the christman achieves a the christman achieves a christman achieve a christman achiev The presents would generally be

and a pipe for dear old dad.

Of course it would be considered "tacky" today. Even in the remotest regions we have learned "the big town stuff," and if the parents of today were to take their children to the same kind of a tree they would doubtless be told where to "get off." We have moved up and on into a more expensive atmosphere. But as more modern Yuletides come 'round that we celebrate in a

(Continued on Page 4, Column 5)

MERRY CHRISTMAS



said in a per-There's nothing say it as matter rote, as a careless or indifferent performance duty or custom. I mean it. Whoever you are, wherever you may be, I wish you a merry Christmas.

confess that there are a few people in this world of whom I am not very fond. There are ways of saying

things and doings things nettle me. Some there are who are so unlikable, so despicable, and whose acts have been so low and mean that at times I have felt that if it were in my power I would | think of the glad anniversary of the have Heaven drop fire on them and consume them; but now I wish them, and all others, a Merry Christmas. There receptacles for good old Santa's gifts. is in this wish a bit of selfishness, but it's a case of pardonable selfishness. I want to have a Merry Christmas, and I have lived long enough to learn no per- or leaf. My mind goes back to the early son can have a Merry Christmas who days in the country where I was reared. would deny a Merry Christmas to any where the custom was for each child to of God's creation.

all tragedies. It would be a tragedy indeed if the skies above us should lose their amethystean glow. It would be a tragedy if the stars that gem night's radiant brow should put out their holy lights to shine no more forever. It lose its warmth, lose its golden glow, and never again send forth its straight and level beams to gladden and bless the earth. An unhappy bride is a tragthe dews of beauty and innocence upon its brow, is a tragedy that tears the heart; but the greatest of all tragedies strings a little tighter, all who minister | drive the destroyer away and restore | any of the surplus cups and saucers, or | small boy make a dangerous combina- | things.

This is not to their baser desires. Who will have his wasted strength; but alas, the fangs other such bricabrac you have aca Merry Christmas? Those who grasp way. the great truth that joy is a condition of the heart and mind, and not the gratification of an appetite or the triumph about it. I don't of a selfish desire. A Merry Christmas cannot be purchased with gold, it cannot come in the possession of goods or chattles, or high position. It comes from within, burgeoning and blooming in the life which has been purged of the tares of selfishness and low aspirations. He who forgets ambition for gain or power, and gives of his store of smiles and good cheer, will reap the reflex as surely as the mirror reflects the golden lights of the sun. And neither poverty, nor affliction, nor sorrow can cheat such a one out of a Merry Christmas. And so, as the great day draws on, may it be given unto all of us to put away all selfishness, all strife, all envying, and wish every heart a full measure of happiness and every creature well.

> HANGING THE Many beautiful STOCKING. customs cluster

around Christmas -customs we always think of when we Savior's birth. One of these beautiful customs is the hanging of stockings as Christmas without stockings suspended from the mantels or walls would be as the trees of springtime without bud drive a nail in the mantel or wall upon which to hang the stockings on Christ-A dull Christmas is the tragedy of mas eve. The nail was never withdrawn, unless the grim monster invaded the home and the silent boatman rowed its owner to the other shore. If death came to the child the nail was withdrawn and buried, that there might be no vacant nails to touch sorrow for would be a tragedy if the sun should the dead into the lives of the living when Christmas came again. This custom makes me think of Harry Marriner, one of the sweetest singers who has lived and sung in our beloved Texas, and edy; the death of a beautiful child, with especially of one of the last poems this sweet singer wrote. Each day for several years Harry Marriner contributed a gem of verse to the Dallas is a dull, sad Christmas. And who will have a dull Christmas? All who remain with their ledgers when the white plague claimed the sweet singer frail body, and nine years ago the great day comes. All who remember as a victim. The sick man was sent to from experience many of us can give their grudges, all who recount their dis- a western town with the hope that the valuable advice along the line of what appointments, all who draw their purse- high altitude and balmy airs would to give. First let me say, don't give

of disease had struck too deep, and slowly but surely it sapped the life of Harry Marriner away. The sick poet wrote on, even to the day of his death, and some of his sweetest verses came from the couch upon which he was dying. Christmas eve came on. With only two more days to live, Harry Marriner caught the spirit of the glad day. He looked at the old mantel, in the old home which he had rented to spend his last days in, and he saw there the nails which had been driven long ago as supports for the children's stockings on Christmas eve. Though the bugler from the dim shadows was sounding to Harry Marriner the summons of an unrelenting fate, he gazed upon those nails, mute messengers of the joys of Christmas tide to those he knew not, and he thought of the days when a nail was driven for his stocking, and of the later days when nails were driven for his children's stockings, and, while propped in bed, wrote these lines:

This is just a home we've rented, but tonight we tasted tears, Looking back to days departed, when, for-

gotten in the years, Tacks showed in the old wood mantel, telling us their tale at last. Of the limp, expectant stocking that once swung there in the past.

They were driven in so firm-sure and safe You could almost see the babies as they hammered on the wall,

Driving tacks to hold their stockings just where Santa Claus could see, Just where now some other stockings on those hard-nailed tacks will be."

Who can deny a love for simple verses like these-verses that carry us back to rosy youth, when we drove nails in the mantel or wall to hang our stockings on; or to the even happier days when we saw our own children, so happy in the expectancy of Santa's coming, drive nails and hang their little stockings? Read the simple verses of the dying man again. They will draw you closer to the children of today and breathe into your life more of the Christmas spirit.

ABOUT GIVING person can PRESENTS. safely give advice in the matter of making holiday gifts; that is no one can safely tell you what to give. But

cumulated as gifts from previous holiday seasons. This is dangerous. Memory is treacherous, and no person found herself in possession of many cups, saucers, pitchers. etc., which she that she would give these to her friends a gun. instead of purchasing other gift goods from the stores. It was a fine stroke of economy, but it blasted a beautiful friendship of many years standing. To one close friend a beautiful cup and was sent. But alas and alack! She sent the pretty cup and saucer to the lady who had sent it to her only a year before. In a few days this good lady received a curt note from the former friend saying she appreciated very much the return of her cup and saucer. And again. I warn all men against selecting as gifts for their wives such things as hats, dresses, wraps or other wearing apparel. Men are very smart selecting a becoming hat, gown or wrap, they are as dense as the most benighted heathen of darkest Africa. If you must give the fairy queen of your home a hat, dress or wrap, by all means let said fairy queen do the selecting, and don't attempt the dangerous experiment of trying to do "female shopping." Once upon a time there was a Texas man who had stayed out all night with a "sick friend." Knowing what awaita plan which he hoped would lessen the fury of the storm, and so as he passed by a dry goods store on his way home next morning, he purchased for friend wife a very flashy wrap. When the flashy cloak was laid at the feet of the queen of the home she threw it on the floor and inquired why he had brought home a horse blanket. Poor hubby was told that "the thing" couldn't stay in the house, but if he would give her as much money to buy a real cloak as he lost the night before playing poker, the dog might sleep on his purchase. Of course the poor fellow was broke. What became of the flashy cloak, I don't know, but I do know that for a time the man got very poor meals and very few

smiles and caresses. Another don't. In all seriousness, when you select a present for your small boy, don't select a gun. A gun and a

tion. All over the country there are maimed and crippled children because of the companionship of small boys and guns, and in the cemeteries there are can remember who gave the presents | many hallowed mounds that would not received a year or two years ago. A mark the resting places of the dead if good woman within my acquaintance small boys had not been given guns. You owe it to your child, and to your neighbor's children, and to the birds had received as presents and didn't that sing in the trees and destroy harmneed. The happy thought came to her ful insects not to give your small boy

THE CLOSING The good year of YEAR. our Lord 1923 is rapidly drawing to a close. saucer, received the Christmas before, Perhaps I should say that with Time, as with men, there is no death. What seems so to us is merely transition-a moving forward. The diurnal journeys of the sun, the waxing and waning of moons, the coming and exit of seasons, mark the periods that we call years, and when the round has been made the calendar is marked up and we say the old year is dead. But, in a few days 1923 will be numbered with the years that were but are not, and take its along some lines, but when it comes to place in the musty halls of the Past. Taken as a whole, the year brought our nation and people good. The seasons were gracious, the soil yielded well, and the boll weevils left us enough to give a glimpse of prosperity's lights. We have more money in the banks than we had when 1923 came. We have a great many more Ford cars and much better roads. What more could we ask in material things? Better than this, we have been at peace with the world and ed him at home, the man worked out have done something towards bringing peace to others. And, as a people, we have not been selfishness or stingy. We have sent bread to Russia and Austria and China. We are helping Japan rebuild her ruined cities. We are even sending food to the hungry children of Germany, the country that tried to destroy the world a few years ago. All in all, 1923 has been lovely in its ministration, and will be precious in memory. But the year grows old and soon must pass. It totters with age and the sands in the glass run low. As we gaze upon the dying embers let us breathe a prayer of gratitude for what the year has done for us, and for what it has given us the ability and the will to do. And let us read in the flickering light of the smouldering heap the death of all our fears and the renewal of hopes that befriend us most and nerve our arms and steel our souls for greater and better

Fishin' Tales of Me and Jim

Catching Bream and Bass a Week Before Christmas at Lake Park, Near Tyler. By JACK MAXWELL.

I hope you folks who reads these here fishin' tales whut Me and my sidekick is a ritin' git's a whole doggone lotta fun outta them, fer the follerin' reeson: It's sho funny to Me fer to set down with my stubb lead pencil an' try to sew this dope tugether fer you all to read—an' besides, the editur whut got Me and Jim into this mess, is a payin' us rite hansomely fer the wurk; in fact, I bought Lindy Lou a pair uv stockin's with my part uv the pay we got fer the last tale.

Now, don't fail to rite an' tell us how you like the tales-so thet I can show the leter's to the editur, as thet will enkourage him to keep rite on a payin' us sum uv his hard-earned dolars.

As I wus a sayin', it's grate to go off on a fishin' trip and jest lazy round fer a few days, a ketchin' fish, fightin' miskeeters an' a goin' a swimmin'. Of coarse, if a feller is a fishin' down here in Texas in the winter he cain't be expected to go swimmin' an' freze hisself to death. But if the weather is sorter cold, an' a feller has gotta sleep under a pair uv blankets why, he can still have lots uv fun a fishin' an' a wanderin' round in the woods, a kickin' up the brown leaves an' a listnin' to whut the leetle folks out in the "open" have gotta say. Yep, the leetle folks uv fur and feather can sho talk, an' if a feller understans their langwidge he can have a rite smart bit uv fun a listnin' to whut they's poping off 'bout.

Fall of the Year Best.

Durin' the years whut Me and Jim has fished tugether we has kum to the konklusun thet we likes the fall-o'-the year, the best uv all, fer fishin' an' a trampin' round out in God's big out o' doors, when the leaves is fallin', the black-hawes is ready to eat an' every-thin' has got on hits fall suit an' the mornings are nice an' crispey.

Of coarse, down here in Texas we has purty nigh the same kind uv weather in the month uv Desember as the folks up North have in October-jist cold nuff to put pep in a feller an' make him step round like a jack-rabbet walkin' in

plowed ground. Nope, Me and Jim don't stop a fishin' jist bekaws hits winter, an' a guy has gotta have a fire to keep warm. No, endeed, we never let's up on our piskatoreal art-whut konsists uv feedin' wums, minnies an' artifishul bugs an' flies to the unsofistikated



"We Likes the Fall-'o-the-Year the Best uv all fer Fishin' an' a Trampin' 'round in God's Big Out o' Doors."

knowin' this to be a solumn fact, why the editur uv the Magazine Section uv your Home Town paper, said he wanted Me and Jim to tell a tale about fishin' fer whut he called "bream," down in East Texas. Yep, that's whut he said, an' fishin' kundishuns down about the little city uv Tyler-havin' fished down thar more'n onct-

The trip whut I have on my mine is one we tuk a year ago this Christ- shore-line to try my luck with ol' bruthmas, a comin', an' I must say thet we er bass-thet fightin' son-uv-a-gun had one deeliteful time an' ketched a hole lot more fish than we could eat; cooked 'em rite at the water's edge-so to speek—an' slept out in the woods whar we cud hear the owls hoot an' see the stars twink'in' thru the dark.

As afore stated, 'bout the fust week in Desember last year, Me and Jim gotta figurin' on goin' down to Tyler fer a few days uv fishin', an' Jim rites to a frend uv his, whut lives down thar, thet we would likes to run down, say bout a week 'fore Christmas, pervided he wud be at home. Well, in two er three days here cums a leter telin' us to cum rite on, everythin' wus a settin' purty, an' he'd be in frum off the rode an' wud go with us to Lake Parkan' we'd have wun grand sweet time.

When the week 'fore Christmas rolled 'round hit foun' Me and James with our fishin'-tackel, cookin'-utinsuls an' whut not loaded into Jim's ol' lizzie an' headed fer Tyler; when we got thar Mr. Taylor—(yep, hit wus Chas. S., an' I bin a nowin' him fer over 20 years, an' a durned fine skout, too)-wus a lookin' fer us, an' we soon wus on our way to Lake Park, a body uv water

wantta rite a poem on hit's beautey.

"Lake Park" is clost to Tyler,
an' has gotta lotta woods around hit—

Texas lakes, rivers an' cricks. An' usin' a oyster-pot fer to cook 'em in. an' I'll tell the wurld, thet Jim knows Well, when we gits to the lake Mr. Taylor sez to Me and Jim: "Boys, whut kind uv bate air ye a goin' to use? An' I up's an' tell's him thet, so fer as I am persunally kuncerned, I'm a gonna try fer bass with my castin'-rod, an' if by gosh, he's gonna git his wish, fer he an' Jim wantta fish fer brim why, Me and Jim is well ackquainted with the have at hit; then and thar each uv us got bisy a riggin' up his poles.

"Chas. S." an' Jim got 'em a boat an' went after the brim, an' I took my castin'-rod an' meanderd off down the whut Dr. Henshall speaks so highley uv in his book "The Black Bass," whut tell's why a black-bass is the seckond hit's time to cook super. All rite, let's kusin' to a sun-perch, an' a whole lotta other things pertainin' to the piskatoreal art.

A Real Fish Fry.

Talk about fishin', boy, Me and Jim have bin over the grater part uv two counties, in Arkansaw, an' have fished over the most uv Texas, but honest-togudness, we had the best time down thar at Tyler on this fishin' trip, thet we ever had in all our fishin' in the hole state uv Texas. We fit 'em an' fought 'em, an' we caught 'em an' we lost 'em-an' best uv all, we sho did cook 'em! Did I say cook 'em? Yes, endeed, an' I'll say hit agin, fer we cooked 'em rite out in the woods, whar all natcher is at 'er best, whar the brown leaves wus a playin' hide-an'-seek, an' the kool Desember brezes tuched a felle's cheek, jist like a kiss frum his best gal at a corn shuckin'.

Fer three days an' nites, we camped 'side the riplin' water's uv Lake Park, jist out away from the shore, in the edge whut is so purty that hit makes you | uv the woods. An' we let ol' Jim do all the cookin', fer he knows how to make a pot uv mulligan, plank a 4-pound bass, broil a squirel or fry a mess uv brim to sweet-gum, hickry, post-oak an' black whut the editur speaks uv as a "de-jack, the best stuff in the wurld to cook lishus brown." Folks, yer know thar

the RITE way to turn the trick-pervided, you give him a ol' oyster-pot, an' then see thet he's got wood a plentey to keep the fire goin' while Jimmie does

Feller's, I guess lot's uv you guy's know how to "stink-the-skillet," an' have cooked meny a fish, but take hit frum a frend uv Jim's, if you wantta know how the real stuff uv fixin' fishfood, jist stand by, while I lites the fire an' put's the kittle on. Now, jist imagin' thet you air as hungrey as a ole she kiote an' bin fishin' sense early in over thar in the branches uv the ole the mornin', an' have had durned leego frum here an' git super ready. "Mr. Taylor, you clean the fish, an' I'll git a armfull uv black-jack sticks fer the

When I gets the fire a goin' good why, here cums ol' Jim an' his oyster-pot, with jist the rite amount uv greese in hit fer the ockashun. An' when the greese gotta cuttin' up like corn in a popper, James has the fish all rolled in corn-meal, an' after puttin' 'em in the leetle wire baskit he set's 'em down in the pot uv hot greese whut wus a doin' the shimmey over the fire.

Now, fellers, do you get me? I don't like to disputate with a lerned gent like Noah Webster-but when he tries to tell you guy's whut the word BROWN means why, he's absolootely off his nut. Whut he calls BROWN may be all rite when he's a talkin' bout paint an' the shade uv a gal's hair; yep, thet's one thing, but talkin' bout the color uv a nicely cooked brim -well, thet's nother thing.

When Jim got thru a cookin' them brim, an' sorter lifted the little wire baskit up outta thet sizlin' greese why,

to tell you sum more 'bout our trip miss the homefolks Christmas day, fish whut swims an' frolicks in our fish with-espeshally, if a feller is a is a rite an' a wrong way to cook fish, down in the Tyler diggin's, but space | wherever they may roam.

forbids; therefour, let's eat super, fer Jim's got everythin' ready an' hit's a gittin' a leetle bit lait.

The fish is all cooked to a "delishus brown," an' with other good things to eat, is spread on top of a ole sawed-off tree stump. "Jimmy, says I, ain't yer cooked too meny fish," but Jim lafed an' kep pilin' 'em hier an' hier on the tin plates. I counted 8 brim an' 4 bass. all purty good size, but we eat each an' evry one, down to nothin' but the boney fragmints. Then we had packed away, to take home, as meny more; not bad wurk for three ole fishermen.

Voices of the Night.

As we three set 'round the bounteful repass, out thar in God's grate out-o'doors, we hears sounds uv wild wood life all 'bout us; frum some whar kums the swish uv wings, as a flock uv mallards hurry past to circle agin an' finerly settle down over on the fer side uv the lake. Frum out the growin' darkness thar kums 'nother sound, hit's the voice uv a nite-bird a singin' to hit's mait sweet-gum tree.

At last, the meal over; dishes is washed an' put way. Me an' Jim an' Mr. Taylor bring out our ole pipes an' fill 'em fer the evenin' smoke. As we set thar clost to the campfire a lookin' into the fitful tongues uv flame why, each uv us travel onct agin the ole familer trails uv other days-days thet have long sense bin numbered 'mong things thet's gone beyon'.

An' as we set thar 'fore the open-fire a gazin' into hit, I kinder hear comin' frum out the nite-time stilness, the voices uv ol' fishin' pal's, who long ago started on the long trail whut reaches 'cross the Big Divide up to the Head Camp-out thar beyond the blue depths, where all followers uv the beloved Izaak Walton will sum day meet. after we have fished an' wished our way along the ever- changin' stream uv life.

CHRISTMAS ALONE.

A fellow that is far away from his home folks on Christmas day may make an effort to be gay, but doesn't have much luck, says a writer. For though he occupies no chair, cross the miles his heart is there, with mother, dad and sis then wus the time a feller seed and to share the Christmas dinner. The smelled a real "delishus brown." man whose hair is turning gray, the People, I'd love the best in the wurld laughing youth, so bright and gay all



Texas can well look forward to a Merry Christmas and Year. They have

been blessed during 1923 with fairly good crop yields, with increased

business activity in practically all lines and with a health record far ahead of last year.

This year's cotton crop, produced at less cost than in several years and marketed at prices which brought a profit to the farmers, has ushered in a period of unusual prosperity throughout the state. Much ready money has been placed in circulation, merchants report a heavy fall trade and banks show a large gain in deposits and a corresponding decrease in loans.

County banks, by reason of the pay-ing power of farmer customers, have been able to liquidate their indebtedness. Rural deposits are now larger than at any time since 1919, the year of inflation and abnormal prosperity. County banks have lowest ratio of local loans compared to deposits in many

Government gin statistics show that Texas produced this year 40 per cent of the entire cotton crop of the United States, and the crop, including the seed, sold at prices that have already put in the pockets of our Texas farmers over

\$600,000,000.00. The best evidence of prosperity is the paying of old debts. The year of 1923 will go down in history as a year in which Texans materially reduced their indebtedness. Some merchants report debts paid by customers who have been in arrears from five to ten years.

And what is even more beneficial, our people have learned a lesson in economy. The lean years of the past, following several years of world war inflation, have taught them to conserve their resources, to eliminate waste, to spend less and to save more.

Not only did Texas produce the best cotton crop in the south, but other crops as well. Estimates forecast by the United States Department of Agriculture, puts the Texas cotton crop production of 1923 at 3,800,000 bales, wheat crop 16,375,000 bushels, corn crop 151,750,000 bushels, oat crop 49,-824,000 bushels, barley crop 2,400,000 bushels, rye crop 348,000 bushels, tame hay crop 987,000 tons, wild hay crop 201,000 tons, broom corn crop 5,700 tons, rice crop 5,143,000 bushels.

Besides the foregoing crops, our farmand Irish potatoes, ribbon cane, sorghum, peanuts, garden vegetables, berries, etc. A Cass county, East Texas,
farmer contracted to sell his output of ers have had fairly g

the syrup.
South Texas has planted a spinach

crop of 10,315 acres, 1,635 acres more than last year, and the crop will move ing August 31, 1923. in carload lots to eastern markets from January to March, 1924.

better cotton seed, better corn seed, etc. A farmer near Tyler has captured a prize for rais-ing eight bales of cotton from five acres of fertilized and well cultivated land.

Agricultural possibilities are so infinite in Texas that we may expect many won-derful yields of field and truck crops as intensive cultivation is more generally adopted.

This has been a \$1,000,000,000.00 crop year for grand old Texas, and we now lead all other states in value of farm crops for 1923.

West Texas is doing her part in adding to the wealth of Texas agriculturally by cutting up her large ranches into small farms and by extending the cot-ton belt into the upper Panhandle. A gin has been recently erected at Dalhart, 81 miles from Amarillo and miles from Fort Worth.

This brief review of the progress of the farm-

is important, in that the prosperity and can contribute more to the happiness wealth of Texas comes mainly from the and contentment of our citizens than a centennial expositionsoil, and her people cannot become permanently prosperous and happy with- highways.

The people of 1,800 gallons of ribbon cane syrup be- churches, more new and better schools purpose of developing the gold and fore he had completed the making of and colleges, more new and better homes. The school districts of our state issued approximately \$10,000,000 in bonds during the scholastic year end-

> Millions of dollars in bonds also have while on the subject of crops, it is and much progress made this year in

> > THE ABSENT ONE

Where the light on your pathway is shed?

Under skies that are darkened or blue;

Oh, the bells o'er the wide world are ringing,

And the skies bend in beauty of blue;

In the Christmas I'm thinking of you!

well constructed and well maintained

By FRANK L. STANTON

"I'm thinking of you in the Christmas," '

It rings like a tender refrain;

Like the dear eyes of you,

"I'm thinking of you at Christmas."

The halls with the holly are red;

Do the lilies bloom for you, dearest?

Does some tender kind hand

But a thought from the past

Liveth with me at last;

Lift a flower of Christmas to you?

And still do the lilies remain.

And where do you stay

On this beautiful day,

In a far-away land

The sky is so blue,

platinum mine located five miles from Llano. This mine has been idle for the past fifteen years, but now it is to be worked under the name of the Llano Gold and Rare Metal Company. The potash deposits near Odessa has interested eastern capitalists and core tests reveal these deposits in paying quantiinteresting to know that our farmers good road building. Some counties in are giving more attention to seed selection and fertilization than formerly— entirely through them, built of solid more actively.

The State Comptroller's department puts the total yield of crude oil in Texas during 1923 at 77,530,382 barrels, valued at \$ 1 3 4, 586, 000.00 Appro xi mately sixty-five new oil fields have been brought in since January 1, 1923, including the Powell field, near Corsicana, which at peak production, was flowing 300,000 barrels of crude oil per day. In this limited

review no account is taken of the advancement in fine livestock breeding and raising, fine poultry breeding and raising, dairying, horticulture,

It is now suggested that Texas should celebrate its one-hundreth anniversary by a centennial ex-position. Much interest has been man ifested throughout the state in this movement, and the newspapers have given freely of their space in an endeavor to remind all Texans that a glorious op-

ing interests of Texas during 1923 | cement, asphalt or gravel. Nothing | portunity awaits them to advertise the greatness of Texas by promoting Texas also heads all other states in

the creation of new wealth from farms, out abundant field crop yields.

While looking backward, with unassuming pride, upon the general progress

The mineral and forest resources of ranches, mines, oil, forests, and fishers the state continue to attract investors eries. While these sources of new wealth irom farms, ranches, mines, oil, forests, and fishers wealth are seemingly inexhaustible, yet

and preventing unnecessary waste in gas and oil production.

These notable achievements of the passing year should inspire all Texans to face the New Year with supreme con-fidence and faith—faith in our unlimited resources and in our workmen -whether the workmen be tillers of the soil or tillers of the lathe and trowel, whether the workmen be dealers in merchandise or directors of schools and colleges, public officials, or ministers of the gospel. All Texans should believe in Texas and its matchless possibilities, should unite and stand shoulder to shoulder in forwarding the interests of their respective counties and communities, to the end that Texas may grow and continue to prosper and hold its commanding place among the great states of the United States.

Texas folks, therefore, both children and grown-ups, should look forward to the holidays with joy and thankfulness because of our splendid progress in the past, our abundance in the present, and our promise in the future. We truly, and in all sincerity, have reason to re-joice with grateful hearts, and be merry, at this glad Yuletide season of the year or our Lord, nineteen hundred and

twenty-three.

THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS.

The magic of the Christmas season is the element of suspense that enters into it. The beauty of it-all the fun of it-would be spoiled were all the packages to be opened the week before Christmas or even the day before

Isn't that the greatest philosophy of all? asks a writer in the Philadephia

While we have our hazy dreams of the golden treasures we hope some day to attain, we don't want to know all that is in store for us until we actually realize them. Anticipation is ever so much better than realization. Familiarity breeds contempt when the treasures of life become commonplace.

What we want is more of the oldfashioned Christmas spirit; less of fact and more of faith, "the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Somewhere in a magazine story occurs this phrase: "It's all that keeps us going—the belief there's something better waiting if we can only catch up with it."

Let's not insist on knowing all the gifts in store for us.

Before Christianity came in peopel used to fear that the sun was dying

THE PRINCE OF PEACE

By An American Mother

Diplomats and statemen, sitting in their high places, may theorize, and military leaders may sound their dark warnings. But if civilization civilizes, if education educates, we should know by this time that war is stupid, wasteful and unnecessary. We, the average men and for Universal Peace. Madame women of America, should insist that the institution of war be abolished forever and that nations find some saner. safer way of settling their differences.

This is a season when all the world should be thinking of peace. It is a time of good will among men. It is a time when we will be most ready to ing than this of the erection of accept the new rendering of an old and a very beautiful sentiment: "Peace on earth to men of good will!"

The method of settling international disputes by arbitration has been tried and found not wanting. Argentina and Chile at one end of the world, Norway and Sweden at the other, have settled their disputes by arbitration. Den-mark's three treaties with Italy, Portugal and The Netherlands withhold no clause, however vital, from reason's peaceful sway. The Casa Blanca dispute between France and Germany, the Venezuela question, the North Atlantic fisheries case, the Alabama claims—all these have been settled by abitration. In fact, within the last century two hundred and fifty international disputes have been settled in this

And there is a case near home, a perfect object lesson in the methods by which international peace may be se-cured and maintained, a political wisdom that has created a transcontinental boundary between the United States and Canada nearly 4000 miles long, in which for many years there has been no need of a single fort, a single soldier

or a single gun. This agreement has stood every test -it has withheld the strain of politics

pressive appeal for universal peace. It real, friendships began to take the place

was inspired by a woman, Madame of hatreds. Angelina de Ofiveira Cesar de Costa, founder and president of the South American Association de Costa has received the two highest orders from Holy See, one of them the order "Pro Ecclesia of the "Societe Academique d'Histoire Internationaille" of Paris. No story can be more beautiful or more inspirthis figure of the Prince of Peace, dominating with its gesture of reconciliation. And certainly none is more fitting at this Christmas season.

Argentine and Chile had had serious differences concerning certain boundaries and the two countries were on the verge of war. European shipyards were busy with orders for gigantic battle ships of the latest models, and a tax of 5 per cent was levied to provide the cost. The dispute had already cost the contestants great sums of money, and much thought and energy had been put into it. Such controversies not only breed blind and unreasoning hatred, but divert the mind and heart of nations from constructive and

wholesome things. At last is was agreed that arbitration should be left to His Majesty King Edward VII of England, and the terms decided upon by the commission of distinguished men appointed by him were happily accepted by both Argentine and Chile. By the terms of the treaty arma-

as well as the threat of big business interests. It works. It is working to-day.

Perhaps the most majestic symbol of peace in the world is "The Christ of the Andes." Standing as it does on a snow-crowned crest of the Andes, just into a school of arts and sciences. War-like the treaty armaments were reduced and the shipbuilding program was halted the threat of big business interests. It works. It is working to-day.

Majestic Symbol of Peace, on the Crest of the Andes, Inspired be if predictions are half ful-filled. Mr. Edison was asked if it were true that the entire population of London could be killed by gas within twelve ing of this treaty that Madame de Oliveira suggested that a bronze statue of Christ the Redeemer should be erect-like into a school of arts and sciences. War-like into a school of the sign-like into a school of arts and sciences. War-like into a school of the sign-like into a school of arts and sciences. War-like into a school of arts and sciences. War-like into a school of arts and sciences in the threaty armaments were reduced and the shipbuilding program was halt-maked in the Crest of the Andes, Inspired if it were true that the entire population of London could be killed by gas within twelve in the creation of the sign-like into a school of the sign-like into a sc

The civilized world wants peace on the border line between Chile and ships were dismantled and added to the ed on the border line of the two coun-Argentine, it makes a peculiarly im- commercial flotilla. Disarmament was tries, not only as a symbol of permanent peace between Argentine and Chile, but

Berlin. as a plea for universal peace. The suggestion was made to the presidents of the two countries, who welcomed the idea cordially, and so enthusiastic was the response that in a very short time the young sculptor of Buenos Aires, Sr. Mateo Alonso, had finished the work.

The occasion of the dedication was remarkable. Chilean bands played the Argentine national hymn, and the Argentine band played the national hymn of Chile.

"These mountains will reverse themselves," said one of the speakers, "before Chileans and Argentines will forget their promise of peace sworn at the

feet of Christ the Redeemer." Madame de Oliveira did not stop her magnificent work in the interest of world peace with the erection of this statue in 1904. She went to Europe and through her efforts a reproduction of the Christ of the Andes, by M. Lagas, was erected at The Hague in 1913.

Men have been fumbling at this job of ending war long enough. The first Hague conference was called in 1899 by Nicholas II of Russia, to the end that war might cease. In 1907 the second Hague conference was held. Between this and the recent Washington conference we have had conferences and councils and commissions at numerous times, and still war threatens.

And what a war the next will be if predictions are half ful-

Shall we not then turn, at this beau-

dozen one-ton bombs loaded with Lew-

isite gas could eliminate all life in

tiful Christmas time, toward South America where that majestic figure of the Prince of Peace stands as a beautiful reminder of universal friendliness. He alone realized this sublime thought of fraternity which should over-shadow all bitterness, and eliminate all hatreds. His indeed is a creed, for all classes, and for all time—"Peace on earth to men of good will."

THE TOURNAMENT IN TEXAS (Continued From Page 2)

grander way—appreciating every new and better gift and believing that in spite of it all this is the golden age of history—we cannot help looking back occasionally and "kinder half-way" longing for some of the plain old-fashioned things of a quarter century

We cannot bring back the past, and we do especially care to do so, but sometimes we find ourselves pushing open the gate that leads into the Garden of the Past and looking around among the half-dead shrubbery and unkempt vines, where shadows fall on a broken caprock and wild birds flit through fading leaves; as we stand there in memory's land, we feel the loss of a simplicity which marked without marring old time Christmas celebrations.

WHY DO WE DECORATE OUR CHRISTMAS TREE?

Ancient sun worshippers used to decorate trees, because they thought a spreading tree was like the sun rising, higher and higher, in the heavens. They used lights to signify the lightning; apples, nuts and balls to signify the sun, moon and stars, and figures of animal sacrifices which were made to their gods. The angels, cross, etc., which we added were put in by Christians to commemorate Christ. The star is a symbol of the star which led the Wise Men to



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It is not generally known that, besides Christians, MAGNET LITE there are many other people who keep December 25 as a festival for different reasons. The Persians, the Hindus, even the Egyptians, do so, and even among the Arabs the "beardless rider" moves about in disguise, playing amusing pranks and collecting gifts.

The celebration of Christmas is strangely erratic from a geographical standpoint, Thus, in Northern Europe Holds firmly to any metal conthe Scandinavian people keep it religiously, but their nextdoor neighbors, the Russians, pay comparatively lit. tle attention to it, reserving their rejoicings for New Year's Day and still more states Magnet-Lite better than

To Latin nations, however. Christmas has not the significance which nations made up of the people of German stock attach to it. In South America, France, Spain and Portugal the fes-Spain and Portugal the fes-tivities do not compare in and you do not think it the most heartness and cheer with wonderful invention and the the English or Scandinavian

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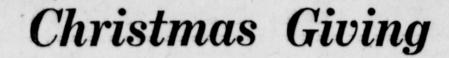
AT HOME

A BOX OF Adolphus Chocolates TO KEEP HER CONTENT

DURING YOUR ABSENCE

A CONSTANT REMINDER OF OURTHOUGHTFULNESS

Adolphus Chocolates





Christmas festivities and Christmas ideals, more than all others, should be kept unchanged from year to year. We cannot hope to improve upon the

splendid old customs which have been handed down to us thru the ages. It has always been a time of rejoicing a time for giving as well as receiving.

The Christmas spirit fell among black times during the long, weary years of the war. The holiday season came to be dreaded more than the dullest and hardest of worktimes. It was quite impossible for those at home to give gifts and be gay when the boys were in the trenches. It seemed like sacrilege to use the precious sugar for making Christmas cakes and candies. So we changed our Christmas customs to suit the exigencies of the times.

There are many ways of presenting a gift. First of all, be on time. A Christmas gift should be presented on Christmas and not two or three days afterward. Start early enough to make your gifts so you will be thru on time.

Start some time before Christmas and save every bit of pretty and attractive paper that comes in the house. Also save all the gay little pictures you can, and hunt for more. You will be surprised at what pretty packages you can make from brown wrapping paper with a bright picture on top and all tied with bright ribbon.

If you haven't any attractive paper in the house, invest a few cents in some bright-colored tissue paper. Then buy some gold passepartout binding. Wrap your gifts in bright red or green tissue paper and bind them round with the gold or silver paper. But first cut the binding down thru the center or it will be a bit too wide.

The making of gift boxes is a fascinating business. If you are going to give a little gift you will be giving a double gift if you present it in a box that can be kept on the desk or dressing table as a trinket box. Take an ordinary box and cover it with either brown wrapping paper or any fairly heavy paper of a bright color. Paste a pretty picture on the top of the box and paste a little border of good paper about it.

Of course these times are expensive, and most certainly we should save our pennies! But don't you really agree that taking thought for our relatives and best friends just once a year is not too often? And that any less would amount to none at all.

Savings count for nothing when weighed in the balance with the Christmas joy to both giver and receiver of the simple and thoughtfully planned Christmas gift.

"Christmas giving is too much of a strain on me. I haven't the strength to worry over a lot of gifts."

Do I hear you say that? Well, dear reader, let me argue with you. I do not ask that you worry over your gifts. I merely ask that you plan them carefully. Nor does that mean such a great deal. Give only to those who are

without loved ones. For Christmas without Christmas giving would not be Christmas.

When one takes thought for one's friends at Yuletide, one not only saves money and gives useful things, but at the same time gives part of one's own self.

When you think over what to send Mary, remember that she is just starting out housekeeping and that you noticed there was a shortage of neat little chambray aprons in the immediate vicinity of her kitchen. Then send her an apron instead of a piece of frippery sent just so you had "something" to send and which will only suffer total inattention and uselessness the whole year thru while it is collecting dust in some obscure spot.

Christmas giving is a very balanced proposition. There are three things that enter into it-thought, patience and money. Skimp on one and you will have to add just that much more of the other. The wisely chosen gift uses these three things in just the right pro-

Emerson had the right idea when he said that the only gift is a portion of one's self, reflecting the individuality of the giver.

Let us make this Christmas a "Saneand-Simple Gift" one. Giving is a gracious art and one which is put to the test at Christmas time. In these days of strain and hurry and unrest. let us not forget that gentle art, which really is the art nearest and dearest to the heart of Merry Christmas!

Workbag Chat Making Clever Gifts With Needlecraft

By MOLLIE THIMBLE



Well, I hope you have a Merry Christmas-I wish it to you with emphatic good-will -and I trust that all the many stitches taken in your needlework gifts will be ap-It's a very hackneyed

saying that no one appreciates the time spent upon needlework gifts but the one who makes them, and I really don't think that's so. It's like a lot of other bromides that sound true but really aren't. We mustn't consent to believe things just because someone has said them over and over again before we were born. In this day of rush and hurry and so many outside interests lots of girls and women have little time, too little time, for making with their needles the pretty things they would like to have. One has only to price hand-made things in the shops to know that women appreciate them or they wouldn't pay the prices the shops are compelled to ask for anything that takes so large an amount of labor. All or which is to say that anything you needle-lovers have sacrificed in time to make during the pre-holidays I just know will give double the pleasure of many a bought gift. A Family Gift.

I wonder if it's possible that there is yet a gift or two which you haven't had time to make, possibly a family gift. If that is so, you will want to make something that will take very little time, won't you? Had you ever thought of the possibilities of 'curtain net? It makes so many delightfully gifts and is so decorative in itself that one doesn't have to do a lot of stitchery upon it.

And let me whisper something to you: Many of the things can be made from old curtain net, too. If it is in good condition it will look just as smart as the new when it is made up into the gifts. For example, if you have a pair of net curtains you aren't using, one side will make a charming bureau scarf and you may like to make a boudoir pillow from the other. Cut the scarf the size you wish and place a one-inch hem about the edges. At the top of the hem run a narrow ribbon -French blue or old rose will be effective-and place about three tiny pink

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ribbon roses, the kind bought by the yard, in each corner. If you do not wish to go to all this expense, simply run a long basting stitch of rose, or blue wool, about the top of the hem. A double row of the wool about half an inch apart will look even better. Be careful, if the double row is used, to have the stitches the same length and placed exactly one under the other. The boudoir pillow can be made to

match. If it is round it should be shirred about the edges with about an inch or two-inch frill of the net and the ribbon or wool placed over the line of shirring. A bow of several loops of the ribbon can be placed in the center of the round pillow to cover the terminal of the shirring there. The pillow may have a colored covering under the net, if you wish, as may also the bureau scarf, but neither is necessary. The scarf, per-haps two scarfs, and the pillow make a nice set, but they can be given separately if you are rushed for time, and added to upon other gift days. A little oblong pillow is, of course, simplier to make and takes less material. Leave a straight one-inch flange all about the edges and place a line of the wool or ribbon over the stitching; lacing the ribon in and out.

Let me whisper something to you: if you have an old black satin frock that isn't good for wearing any more, make some simply fascinating cushions from it. A black satin cushion (you may use black silk, if you haven't satin) is just the most effective thing in a room, no matter what the color scheme. Black in interior decoration, you see, always serves to emphasize whatever scheme it is added to. The square cushions are good, and are smart; but personally, I prefer the round, shirred ones. A touch of gold somewhere on a black pillow makes it doubly effective. I would not advise combining it with any color if you would have it keep all its smartness. In this way you could make an inexpensive Christmas

I really must tell you about the most amusing of collar button boxes I have seen. It is five inches high and is of hand-painted wood. It is filled with two gold-plaited collar buttons and the the following verse is attached:

"Here comes little Sally Sutton To help you out when you need a Button."

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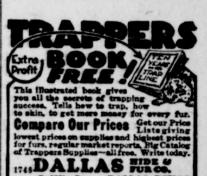
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CHRISTMAS **ENTERTAINMENTS**

ENTERTAINMENTS

But, after all, cuterainmane, it very much resemmusts depends more on the
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stationed with his back to

the candle, about a foot from it.

He is then told to take three steps forward, turn around three times, then walk four steps toward the candle and blow it out. It

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where steps forward the walk four steps toward the players' attempt to carry out these directions.

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Old Father Christmas wearing a tall ruff, short red coat, and tall peaked TEXAS PHONOGRAPH REPAIR CO.

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branches and sprigs of laurel upon the Christmas fire. If the leaves crack and curl, then good luck is coming, but if they do not, the thrower should beware.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS, **BOYS AND GIRLS**

FROM AUNT MARY.

DANNY'S CHRISTMAS.

"Danny" as he was affectionately called by all his "regular" customers, was a queer little fellow. Very little was known about his life, not even his real name. As for a father or mother, he didn't know the meaning of the words. Back as far as he could remember he had been selling newspapers on the corner of Sixth and Main. Although, eleven years of age, he was small for his age and the saddest thing in all his life was his "hump back." Just how this had come about no one knew. Like everything else about him, it just happened, was all he knew. Many a man and woman went blocks out of their way home to buy their evening paper from him, because

even with his derormity and hard life he always wore a smile and had a cherry word for every passer-by. His home was an attic room at "Mis' Murphy's House." Here

Danny shivered in cold weather and sweltered in hot weather. This particular evening was a cold and biting one. The snow had been falling all day and with the low-

ering of the sun a fresh norther had come up. Dariny was wet and His few scanty clothes appeared to add more to his misery than comfort. Every one had been in such hurry to get home out of the biting cold, very few had stopped to buy a paper. By five o'clock it was dark and the street lights and blazing store windows seemed to mock him. He had sold only five papers this afternoon instead of his usual large number. However, he struggled bravely on trying to make a few more sales.

By seven o'clock he could stand it no longer, and turned to go in the corner store for a few minutes to get warm. The throngs bustled past him in their mad rush to finish their last minutes shopping. Dan-ny looked wistfully into an artistically deco-rated window where a

large Santa Claus surrounded with little "wax" children was seemingly happy. Suddenly the thought passed thru his head "this is Christmas eve." However, it meant little to him as he had no one to share it with. In fact, he would be only the more lonely because of the holiday.

Stepping inside the swinging doors he crept over to one corner near a big steaming radiator. He thrust his hand into his pocket and brought out a few nickles and pennies. He slowly count ed them and found he had just enough for a warm supper and a scanty breakfast. He was hungry, too, having had only a cup of coffee and a doughnut to eat that day. After he had warmed his hands, he tucked his remaining papers under his arm and started for the nearest lunch-counter. As he came close he could smell the cooked food and steaming coffee. How glad he was that he had at least made enough for a warm supper. Just as he turned to enter the door he saw an old, old man sitting on the edge of the sidewalk. He was scantily clad and seemed about ready to faint from the cold. Danny rushed to his side and said "Smatter, Pop?" The old man raised his head slowly and Danny saw. great tears streaming down his face and falling into his long white beard. The man replied, "I am sick and cold. I am an old man and can hardly work. I was trying to sell some papers but my hands got so cold that when some one in the crowd shoved me I dropped them in the dirty street so no one will buy them now. My little lame daughter at home is crying, I know, because she hasn't eaten since yesterday. I am now too cold to go on." Danny hesitated a moment, he was so hungry, then he thrust his hand in his pocket and pulled out his few cents, these he put in the old man's hand and said: "Here, this will buy you a little food. I have a few papers left which I can still sell." The old man slowly rose and placed his hand on Danny's shoulder and said: "It is more blessed to give than to receive, and God bless you my boy, you shall have your reward."

Danny was too tired and cold to sell any more papers so he crept to his attic room and tried to find comfort under the few rags that served him as cover.

Tomorrow is Christmas, and I have no one, he thought. How hungry I am, and tomorrow, well—, but I am glad I gave the old man my pennies-- He was so old." Over and over again, these thoughts passed thru his head. Christmas with its joys to others meant

He thought of the great brown house on the hill, of its wide spreading lawns and beautiful trees enclosed behind the forbidding wall. He had seen it one time when he went on a special errand for the paper. As he was leaving he caught a glimpse of a pale hand waving to him from an upper window. He had waved his cap in return and then went out again thru the great gates. That was Christmas a year ago. He had been given a bright shining dollar by the butler for a Christmas present. But this year would be different. He didn't even have the

price of a cup of coffee. How long he had been asleep he did not know, but he awakened to find the sunlight streaming into his room and a gentle hand on his head. When he had rubbed the drowsiness out of his eyes he looked up and saw standing beside him an old man in fine clothes and a long white beard. "My boy," he was saying, "Merry Christ-mas to you."

Danny hardly knew what to do or to say. 'Merry Christmas," he managed to mutter. "I have come to take you home with me to live. I need you; and my little lame girl, who can only sit by the window loves you already." "But who are you? I can't go mister, m so ____." Danny had started to cry.

"There, there, my little man. I am the owner of the brown house on the hill. I need

lonely since her dear mother left us and went

to live with God. Last night, I determined to test you to see if you were worthy of a good home, so I disguised as a poor old man and begged you for your pennies for food.

"Oh," said Danny. "So, you are the man who had dropped his papers in the dirty street and no one would buy them." "Yes, I will come, will come, if you want me." AUNT MARY.

THE CHILD AND YOUNG MANHOOD OF CHRIST.

Wouldn't you have liked to have known Him when he was here on earth as a boy? I would love to have been there and have seen Him that first Christmas Morn.

well as the mighty.

though, the gifts were

makes any gift accept-

gifts, which no doubt,

were no more acceptable to Him than those

then the King of that

country, hearing that

of the Shepherds. A few days after His birth, Herod, who was

babies.

Jesus, the Christ THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS. child, was born in the manger, in Bethlehem of Judea. I am sure all Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the of you know what a manger is. He came

Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care.
In hope that St. Nicholas soon would be there;
The children were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of sugar-plums danced through their
heads;
And names.

heads;
And mamma in her kerchief, and I in my cap,
And just settled our brains for a long winter's nap,
When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter
I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter. Away to the window I flew like a flash,

Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash,
The moon, on the breast of the new-fallen snow,
Gave luster of mid-day to objects below;
When, what to my wandering eyes should appear,
But a minature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer,
With a little old driver, so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.
More rapid than eagles his courses they came,
And he whistled, and shouted, and call'd them by name:
"Now Dasher, now Dancer, Now Prancer, now Viven,
On Comet, on Cupid, on Donder and Blitzen,"
To the top of the porch, to the top of the wall,
Now, dash away, dash away, dash away all.
As dry leaves that before the wild hurriance fly,
When they meet with an obstacle mount to the sky.

So, up to the house-top the coursers they flew,
With a sleigh full of toys, and St. Nickolas too.
And they then in a twinkling I heard on the roof.
The prancing and pawing of each tiny hoof.
As I drew in my head, and was turning around
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.
He was dressed all in fur from his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all tarnish'd with ashes and soot;
A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,
And he looked like a peddler just opening his pack.
His eyes how they twinkled, his dimples how merry,
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry,
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
And the beard on his chin was as white as the snow. to the house-top the coursers they flew,

And the beard on his chin was as white as the snow.

A stump of a pipe he had tight in his teeth,
And the smoke, it encircled his head as a wreath.
He had a broad face and a little round belly
That shook, when he laugh'd like a bowl full of jelly.
He was chubby and plump—a right jolly old elf—
And I laugh'd when I saw him, in spite of myself.
A wink of his eye, and a twist of his head,
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.
He spake not a word, but went straight to his work.
And filled all the stockings; then turn'd with a jerk
And laying his finger aside of his nose,
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose.
He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle;
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight,
"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good-night."

"a new King was born," sent his soldiers to kill all the little children under two years of age.

Joseph had been warned of this by an angel in a dream and had taken Mary and Jesus into Egypt.

A very beautiful story is told of how during this journey the family stopped to rest beneath a fig tree. Mary desired some of the fruit as she was hungry. Joseph was too tired to climb the tree and get it for her, and the bough was bough to bend down. He was so pleased with the obedience of the tree, that he promised, be-cause of this, that one of its branches should be carried by the angels and planted in his Father's Paradise.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph did not stay long in Egypt but returned to Nazareth to His father's Here Jesus grew to be a man. He worked in His father's shop. His father was a carpenter. It was during this time he learned the sweet lessons of home life. His parents were poor and could give him no advantages. But the bible tells us that he daily grew in wisdom. God was his teacher.

Every year He made the journey to Jerusalem to the feast of the Passover, with His parents. In the twelfth year after His birth, during their return from the feast, Mary noticed that her Son was not with people making the journey home. She hastened back to Jerusalem and searched for Him three days and nights. At last she found Him in the Temple talking with a group of wise old men. They were atonished at His great knowledge and wisdom. Mary, was so happy to find Him and she asked Him, "Son, why hast Thou dealt with us? Behold, Thy father and I have sought Thee sorrowing?" He answered her and said, "How is it that Ye sought me? Wist Ye not that I must be about My father's business?" He returned with His parents to Nazareth to work again in His father's carpenter shop. Thru the succeeding years he was a good student and an obedient child.

When John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness, Jesus came from Galilee to Jordon to John to be baptized. John did not want to baptize Jesus, as he knew Jesus was greater than he. But Jesus said, "Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fullfill all righteousness." Jesus was well past childhood now, as he was near thirty years old.

Up to this time he had labored in his father's

shop, but now since he was grown-up, he must go to preach the gospel of His Heavenly Fath-

CHRISTMAS CAKE-COOKIES.

These delicious cakes and cookles you can help mother make. They are dandy and I hope you'll enjoy them, and have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Marble Cakes. Cakes.

½ cupful candled orangepeel or citron

1 teaspoonful orange juice
½ tablespoonful grated orange peel
2 egg yolks
8 egg whites 1 eupful brown sugar 2 cupsful flour I teaspoonful baking powder 2 teaspoonful cinamon teaspoonful grated nutmer teaspoonful mace

Sift together the flour, baking powder and spices. Sift again after adding the sugar. Then make a hollow in the center of the sifted ingredients; add the eggs, unbeaten, and stir in the mixture a little at a time. Beat well for about five minutes. Add the orange juice and grated rind and chopped fruit last. Make into balls the size of a large walnut, dipping the fingers into pulverized sugar. Bake on a oiled or butter paper, an inch apart, in a hot oven.

A CHRISTMAS RESOLUTION.

Let us all pledge ourselves to be "kind;" and in being kind we will find happiness and be of service to our fellowman.

Let us all follow the footsteps of the Master and walk in the road of "Unselfishness."





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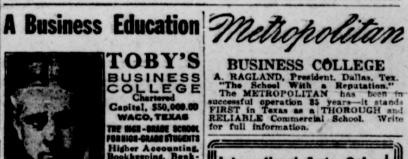
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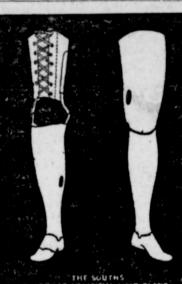
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WOMAN'S PAGE

MRS. MARGARET STUTE



THE CHRISTMAS TABLE.

The center of interest for Christmas (outside of the Christmas tree) is the dining table. Mother's interest is principally the dinner itself, then the decorations. With a little planning and foresight the most modest home may present an artistically arranged table with little ex-

Simplicity is the keynote to a well arranged table. Never over-do the thing.

The best linen and silver are always in evidence. First a "silent cloth" is used, then the table cloth. An embroidered center piece can be used also.

Silver must be placed correctly in order to

For the ordinary dinner the following description is sufficient:

To the right of the plate is placed the knife, sharp edge towards plate, then as many tea spoons as are needed, coffee spoon next to knife, then salad fork (if to be served after soup) last from plate is placed soup spoon. On the left of the plate is placed fork for pie or cake (if to e served) then fork for the main dinner. The butter knife is laid on butter plate if they are used; if omitted, knife is also.

All of the plates are placed in front of who ever is to serve; except where service plates Glasses are placed at the right of the plate

near the point of the knife. Napkins are placed at the left of the forks, if first course is served before seating the guest. If not served until seated, then napkin is placed between knife and fork or on service plate, if

Dinners today are served with much less formality than formally. There are several reasons for this, namely, because the scarcity of reliable help, and then during and following the war people became less formal in every way.

Flowers (never artificial ones on a home table) can be used to good advantage for decoration. If tall flowers are selected only a very few are used. Usually a bud vase or a very

small vase for the center piece. Narrow strips of green and red paper can be fastened to the base of the vase and let them radiate symmetrically to the edge of the table and fall over the edge. Cotton may be "fluffed" and sprinkled with artificial "snow" and placed at the base of the vase. Colored candles in pretty holders may be used with this decoration. Another novel way of decorating the Christ-

mas table is as follows: A Santa Claus doll that will stand is placed in the center. Cotton used as snow is put around the feet. Colored ribbons are attached to a present, that is placed at each plate, with a card bearing the name of the guest and other end fastened in the doll's hand.

Still another is where a minature Christmas tree is made of a single bough and fastened in crossed piece of wood (the same as a large tree) and tiny candles placed here and there. These were lighted just before the guests came into the dining room. Place a paper thick enough to catch the dripping tallow. Cover with a white cloth or cotton.

Another very artistic decoration is accomplished by using a basket of fruit as a center piece. A pretty basket is selected and filled with the best fruit available, the finest red apples, beautiful oranges, bananas, green and Malaga grapes, kumquats, if they are on the market, and often a ripe pineapple is used for the center of the basket and the rest of the fruit placed around it. The basket can be trimmed with rhododendron leaves, or any other fall leaves, or sprays of pine and little cones.

Here is wishing you the most successful Christmas dinner of your life.

HOUSE DECORATIONS

To give a hearty welcome to all who enter our doors on Christmas day is the chief aim of every good housewife. No other season of the year gives her such an opportunity to display her talents and radiate good cheer and happiness. To commence with, each member of the family must join hands and work together in order to assure success. For there is mistletoe to gather, apples and oranges to prepare, and all the

jolly duties for a "Merry Christmas. Most people in Texas are exceptionally fortunate in one respect. As about all they have to do is to go out into the country and they can gather all the mistletoe needed for decorating. Of course, the "early bird" always gathers the best mistletoe. So lay in your supply early, because no Christmas is complete without it.

The keynote of decorations should be found in the living room, or parlor, which ever is to be used the most during the day. With a few cents spent wisely and a little

fore-thought, any house can present a glowing and hearty welcome. In the living room a center of interest must be

chosen. Perhaps it will be a centrally suspended chandelier, perhaps an open fire place, or the Christmas tree. Which ever it is, lay the most emphasis at this spot. Red and green being the favorite colors for Christmas decorations, many beautiful ideas can be worked out.

One artistic room I have in mind was where the chandelier was used as the center of interest. A large red ball was suspended from it (but a

pretty bunch of mistletoe can be used as well). Cotton was fluffed and sprinkled with artificial snow. This was banked on top of the bell (or mistletoe) and little flakes placed here and there on the lights and cord. Two streamers of red and two of green Christmas cords were run from the top of the bell to the four corners of the room, the colors alternating. Tiny bits of cotton were placed on these. In the corners pretty bunches of mistletoe were fastened to the wall with tiny tacks (so as not to spoil the wall) and were flecked these with cotton. By the fireplace a pretty tree was placed and decorated with the usual Christmas tinsel There were pretty candles, red apples and yellow oranges suspended on colored twine and all sundry things used. Dried

Rolls-Butter balls the other various and Jellied fruit salad with whipped cream Mince Pie-Cheese red peppers were placed here and there among the green to give a colorful effect.

Small limbs with autumn leaves were placed in a little orange juice. Spread over top of pie and

the corners and over the pictures and mantle. Holly can be used at almost any place. Tiny red bells and minature Santa Claus may be hung in the windows or holly wreaths.

The dining room must present a bower of loveliness and hospitality. Here holly, mistletoe, pine boughs, cones and any other "natural" decoration can be used in profusion. However, the table is the center of interest and other decorations must blend with it or the effect will be lost. Less red is used on the walls and in the windows as it will detract from the table which should be the most conspicious.

Don't forget a bunch of mistletoe above each door. It will look pretty and afford much mer-riment for the old as well as the young.

A last word of warning, don't forget to put away carefully after the holidays all decorations that are not perishable. Wrap in colored tissue paper. They are best put in a covered wooden box that can be fastened securely, so as to keep away from rats and mice. Camphor or moth balls are good to use. Don't let the children see them again until next year and they will be as good as new ..

A CHRISTMAS THOUGHT.

Who seeks for heaven alone to save his soul, May keep the path, but will not reach the goal; While he who walks in love may wander far, Yet God will bring him where the blessed are.

CHRISTMAS RECIPES. ROASTED TURKEY.

A turkey should be killed two or three days before used if the weather is cool or ice is available for use. Do not truss for twenty-four hours, only remove the craw. Always singe before "drawing" the bird. When ready to cook—after it has been singed and trussed wash thoroughly inside and out; salt inside and out. Fill with dry dressing. Rub flour over turkey, place a piece of salt pork on breast and brown flour slightly. Pour two cups of hot water over turkey. Baste often and turn over in pan. Bake in a moderate oven.

Dry Dressing.

11/2 to 2 loaves of white bread, cut in cubes, add one small onion, chopped fine, season with salt, pepper and sage, add two or three hard boiled eggs (chopped). Over this pour ¼ pound of melted butter. Toss all together and fill tur-key. Sew turkey up. Place balance of dressing around turkey.

SWEET POTATO PIE.

3 or 4 medium size sweet potatoes teaspoon nutmeg

cup milk tablespoon flour (sifted) 1/2 teaspoon allspice

Gravv

CHRISTMAS MENUS.

Celery stalks stuffed with peanut butter

Olives

Thin Meat Broth

Roast Turkey

Brussels sprouts, sauce piquante

Cranberry Sauce

Fruit Cake

Coffee

"NO. 2."

Half Grapefruit with cherry garnish

Stuffed or Roast Pork

Gravy

Potatoes on the half-shell

Baked squash

Grape jelly

Coffee

Olives

Rolls-Butter balls

Mashed Potatoes

Fruit Cocktail

"NO. 1."

orange (juice) or 3 eggs, yolks (well beaten) 2 tablespoons butter (melted)

Sweeten to taste (usually about 1 cup) Boil potato until thoroughly done, pare and press through a collander. To this add the other ingredi-To this ents in the order nam-

Pie Crust.

114 cup sifted flour 14 cup lard % teaspoon salt

tablespoons cold waten 1/2 teaspoon baking powder

Sift dry ingredients, add the lard and thoroughly mix. To this add water and toss on slightly floured board and roll to desired thickness. Before putting into oven puncture several times with fork tines so as to release air under crust. Bake in a hot oven until crust begins brown. Then put in filling. Cook for fifteen or twenty minutes in a moderate oven or until nicely

browned. Beat the whites of the eggs until stiff, add 1 tablespoon sug-

brown in a slow oven.

CHRISTMAS FRUIT CAKE

This recipe is one handed down in our family for generations. As my mother gave it to me, I am pasing it on to you. It will not hurt the

cup bread sponge cup sugar 1/2 cup butter

most delicate stomach.

Mix these all thoroughly, then add: 1 cup dates cup raisins and figs cup nuts

cups flour teaspoon cinnamon

teaspoon allspice teaspoon soda dissolved in 3 tablespoonfuls cold water. Stir mixture thoroughly. Do not make too

thick as the cake will be too dry. Pour into a pie pan and let rise one hour. Bake in moderate oven for forty minutes. If pan is lined with greased brown paper the cake will not stick.

RAISIN FUDGE.

2 squares of unsweetened chocolates 2 cups sugar 1 tablespoon butter 1/2 teaspoon salt ½ teaspoon vanilla ½ cupful Sun-Maid raisins 1/2 cup milk 1/2 cupful Sun-Maid raisins Melt chocolate, add sugar, salt, milk. Stir until mixture boils and sugar is dissolved.



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Good to the Last Drop

> Merry Christmas



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One Dish Meal

Contains everything that a meal should have-fine meat, fat beans, a dash of seasoning and plenty of good rich gravy.

Heat it in the Can. Duplex Fork for removing cans and food from boiling, water, a, convenient kitchen tool, free for six labels and 25c to pay postage and packing charges. Regular price 50c. NERIJOLES

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WISH YOU A MERRY XMAS and PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR Fort Worth Macaroni Co.

Why say Cossee? Say Admiration"



To you and all your household The folks we love so well Our cheery Christmas Message Again we're glad to tell.

We wish you most Sincerely A Christmas full of Cheer And perfect health and Gladness Througout the coming Year.



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Kodaks Safety Razors Shaving Sets Automatic Pencils Fountain Pens Box Stationery

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Flash Lights Christmas Cards

Christmas Stickers Packed in Chrismas Boxes



A Merry Christmas to All

-AND IT WILL BE A MERRY CHRISTMAS IF YOU DO YOUR SHOPPING AT OUR STORE

At this time of each year one's thoughts turn to the thoughts of kindness, rememberance and to the grand thought of giving cheer to others. "It is more blessed to give than to receive." During the year's struggles that have passed our thoughts have been but in a singl vein, "To Receive," yet there comes a time in every year when our thoughts turn to givinggiving to our friends, our relatives, our loved ones, and e'en our enemies, for at this time our happiness lies in giving-cheerful giving.

The spirit of Christmas seems to be reflected in every article in our store. Never before have we had such a Yuletide showing of suitable Christmas Gifts.

You may search the entire city but nowhere will you find better quality, more value for your money, or more helpful service in the appropriate selection for your gifts than here.

We have prepared for you, we are expecting you, we are looking for you, don't fail us or we will be disappointed. If you need anything now phone us; phone calls receive our personal attention.

SANDERS DRUG STORE PHONE NO. 93. MERKEL, TEXAS

Put Christmas Wreath in Its Rightful Place

HEY were putting up the community house with happy anticipations. Meanwhile two little folks and a dog were en-

joying themselves on a big ice cake along the bay shore. As the ice moved off with the tide the children laughed with delight, but Pluto, after dropping his tail and thinking a moment, surprised them by giving a running leap into the water and striking out for the

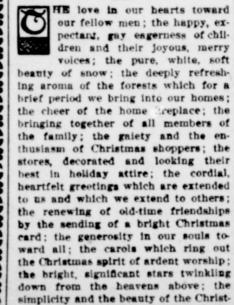
Not long after, Sim Gannett opened the door of his boat house to see what the dog was barking about and was greeted with a shower as Pluto shook himself. Then the dog ran in, stood upon his hing legs and begged, cocking his eyes towards the open door. As Sim did not understand this Pluto caught hold of his coat and pulled him towards the doorway. Thinking that the dog meant something, Sim, finally looked out and saw the ice floating seaward with the two small figures

It did not take the old fisherman long to get his boat down to the wa ter and push it out through the floating ice, and soon two youngsters and a happy dog were huddled up in the bow of the returning boat.

After the carols were sung that night, they put the holly wreath that had graced the top of the tree upon Sim Gannett's neck, but Sim took it off and put it upon Plute and he acted as though he knew that he deserved it.-Christopher G. Hazard.

Gay Christmas Thrill the Greatest of All

(6. 1911, Western Newspaper Union.)



mas season; all form a part of the

great Christmas thrill. There is no thrill in the world like unto it!-Mary

A MERRY, MERRY

Christmas

The Joyous Season Is Welcome

What joy Christmas brings to the world. It fills our hearts with higher, nobler thoughts and inspires the best that is in us. May it be real to you, bringing happiness that will endure for time to come-that is our wish for

We cannot pass the season without an expression of our deepest lasting appreciation for the patronage given during 1923. May it be our privilege to serve you through a happy, prosperous New Year.

White House Cafe

Lutie Sanders Shorty Holloway

quired on the south side.

There was a large crowd in into the residence he recently ac- town Saturday and all merchants did a fine business.

FREE VOTING COUPON IN THE MERKEL MAIL "Everybody Wins" Grand Prize Distribution

I hereby cast 100 FREE VOTES to the credit of

This coupon, neatly clipped out, name and address of the candidate filled in, and mailed or delivered to the Election Department of the Merkel Mail, Merkel, Texas, will count as 100 FREE VOTES. It does not cost any-thing to cast these coupons for your favorite candidate, and you are not restricted in any sense in voting them. Get all you can and send them in. They count. Do not Roll or Fold. Deliver in Flat packages.

This coupon must be voted before December 22

NOT WHAT HE

EXPECTED TITTLE DICK was too young sound. Consequently he suf-fered a great disappointmnt on Christmas morning. When he Christmas morning. When he beheld his Christmas tree he said solemnly: "You said it would be a fur tree, daddy!"

"It is a fir tree," answered "But I thought it was going to look like my kitty!" wailed Dick.—Martha B. Thomas. (C), 1928, Western Newspaper Union.)

A Late "It" Arrival

CHARLES CONTRACTOR

Came Just in Time VERYONE was watching, waiting, hoping. They all hoped "it" would surely arrive on

They hoped "it" would not "It" helped the Christmas season

Everyone and everything loved "it." The children loved "it," the grownups loved "it."

The trees of the forest loved "it." And then "it" arrived. "It" arrived late-almost when everyone was giving "it" up. But even though "it" was a late arrival "it" was not too late for Christmas day. "It" came late Christmas eve.

And haven't you guessed what "it" SNOW of course!-Mary Graham

(c). 1923, Western Newspaper Union.)

THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT

Christmas spirit necessarily finds many men and women stranded on the shoal, off somewhere, far from the general happiness.

Nevertheless, words of Chandos are vital. "The faculty for happiness is a gift, in any temperament, whose wisdom and whose beauty this world too little recognizes." Chandos' thought is not easy for a certain type of mortal to cultivate, but the holiday spirit may to an extent help out. Self-recognition was soundly urged by Marcus Aure-Hus many centuries ago, and writings of other Stoics preach tranquillity and harmony through the philosophy that mys, "It may all be for the best."

A shipwrecked sailor, buried on th Bids you set sail!

Full many a gallant barque, where he Weathered the gale.

Give Something Electrical



The day-after-day convenience of an Electrical Appliance Gift adds to the appreciatian of the recipient, so why not make sure your Gift will meet this approval by choosing from our present showing.

West Texas Utilities Company

AUTOMOBILE SERVICE

We are prepared to give to the Automobile owner as good as the best in Auto Repair work -and we are Specialists in

QUICK TIRE AND RADIATOR WORK

We sell the famous MICHELIN TIRE AND TUBE, absolutely guaranteed. Also Gas and Accessories.

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MERKELDRUGCO

Do Your Christmas Shopping Early

(Of course you've heard this before, but its your interest to do so)

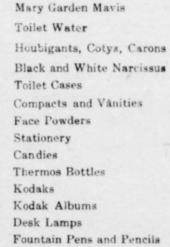
You will be able to get just the gifts you want while our stocks are complete, and too, you will avoid being in that PUSH and RUSH that is always at the last.

Our stock of gifts as heretofore, consists .of only . USEFUL and SUBSTANTIAL remembrances. This year we are prepared to serve the Christmas Shopper better than we have in the years past. Our stock is MORE COMPLETE; there is a GREATER VARIETY; and above all priced lower as compared to previous

SUGGESTIONS:

We submit a partial list of our stock as suggestions for gifts for the entire family:

For Ladies: Perfumes Toilet Sets Toilet Water



Fountain Pens and Pencils Bud Vases Incense Burners

Ivory Comb and Brush Sets Assortment Ivory Manicure Sets Dolls

Silverware Glassware

For Children Testaments Bibles Flash Lights Games Kodaks Candies Stationery Comb and Brush Seta

Vanities Purses Perfumes Toilet water Toilet Sets Fountain Pens and Pencils For Babies

Infant Sets Toilet Sets

For Men: Pipes Cigars Cigarettes Cigar and Cigarette Holder Smokers' Sets and Stands Humidors Flash Lights Thermos Bottles Fountain Pens and Pencils

Compact Traveling Sets Military Sets Shaving Sets Toilet Water Razors Shaving Brushes

Toilet Sets

Purses and Bill Folds Kodaks Bibles Testaments

Hot Water Bottles



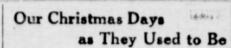












COMETIMES It seems as if the "elder days" were the best. Think of their Christmases! Where is the grace and generosity of those times? The warm welcome, the large cordiality, the mellow fun of innocent celebrations?

Perhaps we look back through the softening glow of distance, but there is a romance, a delicate, fine flavor of something which indeed seems lost

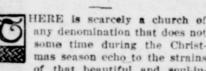
How the neighbors rode through the snow on horseback to large gatherings! How the pretty girls were muffled in rugs and furs, skimming over the road in sleighs! How the bells rippled and rang! And how the wide doors flew open to greet these guests!

Light of candles . . . breath of pine wreaths . . . sprigs of holly and the high thrill of holiday

Laughing faces . . . graceful and the Virginia reel in the evening. It is a heartsome thing to think about. Let us try to insert some of this gentle beauty and spirit into our Christmas day. We have not the leisure and spaciousness of those times, but hearts can reflect just as truly the invisible yet invincible power of love and loveliness !- Martha B. Thomas.

(@. 1925, Western Newspaper Union.) - 一

Old Yuletide Hymn Favorite Everywhere



some time during the Christmas season echo to the strains of that beautiful and soul-in-

spiring hymn, "O, come all ye faithful." It seems to be a favorite at Yuletide in every land and in every clime, whether it is sung as above referred to, or in its original form as the "Adeste Fidelis." The hymn was first given to the

world in the Thirteenth century by a Franciscan monk, but did not gain world-wide popularity for a long time after. The English translation was made by Canon Frederick Oakley over sixty years ago. Since that time the hymn has been translated into the language of every nation and the sweet and lofty words ring out at Christmas time in many remote places.

But while the English translation has superseded the original Latin to a great extent, yet the beauty of the original composition is such that there are many who still prefer to hear it even though the language is not their own.-Katherine Edelman.

We Send Our Warmest

-to those loyal and true friends who have made it possible for us to do business.

May the glow of the lights of Christmas shine brightly in your place of abode and when old Father Time rings back the curtains

May The New Year Start You to Higher Success

and continue you on this road until you have achieved the degree of success you desire.

We thank one and all for business of the past.

ED'S PLACE

E. L. TURNER, Prop.

(2, 1923, Western Newspaper Union.)

Freedom of Worship

Baptist congregation of Merkel their conscience they much prefor a great day with them in fer to go their way as they this city, on December 30, when want, rather than as they they will dedicate their hand- ought.. There is room in Amersome church building and burn ica for freedom of worship, and the note which will have been paid in full by that time. It is also expected that Rev. Ira L. Parrack, who was the able and can count on it, that there is gopopular pastor before and after ing to be such bitterness that the new building was built will be here and have charge of the services of that day. It is also hoped that the new pastor, Rev. Albertson will arrive in the city by that time and be here to take part in the celebration .- Merkel Mail.

dictates of one's conscience. The trouble is, however, that most Plans are being made by the people don't follow the lead of when the tme arrives when people are orderd to worship in this church or that church, then you the nation will be torn asunder. -Abilene Reporter.

CORN! CORN!

I will have two car loads of good ear corn between now and January 1st. See J. C. Ma-

Without the churches, Amer- Miss Mary Katherine Campica would collapse. This nation bell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. is founded on the church, not J. Ben Campbell who has been one church but on the right to teaching at Wingate, Texas will worship God according to the be home today for the holidays.

RESERVENCERRE

REAL SPIRIT

J F THE real spirit of Christindeed, find that it is more blessed to give than to receive, ness of our hearts and because of the joy that giving brings us, instead of from any other moless of the Christmas spirit fullest measure, give because your heart prompts you to and forget all else.-Katherine Edel-

(@). 1923. Western Newspaper Union.) lennannannannanna CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF THE

"It Is More Blessed to Give Than Receive"

HIS has nothing to do with banks or savings accounts; but nore money is saved at Christmas time than any other time of the year. Yes, saved. That may sound absurd to a lot of people who have spent all their money buying presents for their families and friends and neighbors, but it is true just the same. How? Why, because giving is the finest sort of saving, and not only saving, but investing. Every good gift is a permanent gain to the giver; it is better than a bank book carrying the same amount, for a gift is more truly a saving than credit account on bank ledger. If you want to save our money, give it away-wisely. Does that sound unreasonable? Remember, it is more blessed to give than receive .- F. H. Sweet.

(@. 1923, Western Newspaper Union.) AUNT MEHITABLE'S PRESENT

Aunt Mehitable had a powerful and active imagination that often kept her awake. She was ever creating difficuities by imagining them and making things crooked by tryin, to straighten them out. "Hiram," said she, "I can't think what has got into George;

this morning." "Probably he was thinking of somebody else," answered her brother. "George," began his aunt the next day, "what was the matter with you yesterday morning, you looked source

I didn't like the way he looked at us

n pickles. "Nothin' was the matter with me," sald the boy, "I was puzzlin' over your Christmas present." Then he added, "Since you're so mighty suspicious, I guess I'll give it up." But remembering her goodness of heart, George reiented, and, when the day that shines away all unpleasantness came round. Aunt Mehitable had a new nightenp -C. G. Hazard

WE TENDER

TO OUR GOOD FRIENDS AND PATRONS

GREETINGS

AND WISH YOU THE COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON

May the Yuletide season be one of real joy and comfort to you and may the New Year open your pathway to a pleasant and profitable experience each day.

We come with thankful hearts to tender our greetings and thanks to our friends and patrons wherever you may be. We hope we may serve you during 1924.

> Sam Swann **GINNER**

HAVE TAKEN Cardui for run-down, worn-out condition, nervousness and sleeplessness, and I was weak too," says Mrs. Silvie Estes, of Jennings, Okla. "Cardui did me just lots of good—so much that I gave it to my daughter. She complained of a soreness in her sides and back. She took three bottles of Cardui and her condition was much better.

"We have lived here, near Jennings, for 26 years, and now we have our own home in town. I have had to work pretty hard, as this country wasn't built up, and it made it hard on us.

"I WISH I could tell weak women of Cardui-the medicine that helped give me the strength to go on and do my work." This card fulfils her wish.



LAYING HENS PAY Make 'em Lay and Pay---Feed . MARTIN EGG PRODUCER

And get more Eggs or your

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celebrated and well known Raw bank. The Farmers and Mer- Merkel Public Schools have neimoney back
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anteed by

money back

Chart Roup Tablets and Merather Fubic Schools have held the been tardy nor absent, have made at least 90 percent in Deportment, have not made at least 90 percent in Deportment, have not made at least 90; Meyer Mellinger, 90; Son, 95; Berdelle Adcock and Wellinger, 90; Meyer Mellinger, 90; Meyer Mellinger Main Street or Phone 147. Satwill have plenty of money to less than 75 percent on any subBoaz, 93; Nell Durham, 92; 7th Grade (Mrs. Jackson)
Burrell Chany, 91; Ward Berry Sterling Sheppard, 97; (H refunded. E. B. Barnes. 16t8p supply the needs of its custo- ject, and have made a general Burrell Chany, 91; Ward Berry Sterling Sheppard, 97; (High-

It is always better for the borrower and for the depositor to When in need of any of the do business with a conservative The following pupils of the

Water well Driller,

all work guaranteed

first-class.

Merkel,

ber 30, 1923. Len Sublett

2nd Grade (Miss Harrison) Texas Mardell Shouse, 90.

HONOR ROLL

tf average of 90 percent or more man, 90; Dorothy Deutschman, est in entire School) Vera Matfor the period ending Novem- 90; Ida Mae Derstine, 93;

High First (Miss Yates) Jack Stanford, 94: Frances Adcock, 94; Howard Stanley, 93; Vivian Lassiter, 93; Mabel Mor ton, 93; Ira Marshall, 92; Allen Edwards, 90.

3rd Grade, (Miss Coats) terson, 90.

4th Grade (Miss Scott) Joel Darsey, 95; Louise Booth, Pauline Chinn, 96; Tommie Dur Imogene Middleton, 92; Joyce tie Lou Largent, 94; Mary Lig-Bird, 92; Mary Hughes, 92; Wheeler, 91; Guinn Tipton, 90; on, 94; Fred A. Baker, 92; Fan-Clyde Mayfield, 92; Joe Cypert,

2nd Grade (Miss Pogue)

4th Grade (Miss Joiner) Leo Tucker, 95; Elvis Richard- 9th Grade-Louise Miller, 91, Ruby Lee Edith Baker, 91. Slater, 90.

5th Grade (Miss Ellis) Selma Jones, 90.

5th Grade (Miss Compere) Edith Smith, 95; Florence Lig- 11th Grade (Seniors) E. L. Turner, 90.

6th Grade (Miss Duke) pard, 90;

6th Grade (Miss Conway) Imogene Agnew, 95; Irene extra ordinary in scholarship en Compton, 92; Frances Col-next grade period.

92; Eleanor Hamilton, 91; Duncan Briggs, 92; Lucille 7th Grade (Mrs. Sublett) Campbell, 92; Myrtle Dyess, 91 John Dee Coats, 96; Iris Gar-Opal Huskey, 91; Nell Hughes, rett, ,96; Flora Frances Ander-

son, 95; Berdelle Adcock, 94; Eunice Bird, 93; Ruby Fae Gol

lock, 96; Burnis Tucker, 95; Elizabeth Harkrider, 95; Ribijo Edna Marshall, 91; Alvin Skur-Higgins, 94; Roy Propst, 94: lock, 91; Roy Robins, 91; Isador Mildred Hamm, 93; Mildred Mellinger, 91, Maurine White, Holloway, 93; Durwood Owens. 90; Buck Wilson, 90; Lelia Pat- 91; Deshazo Simpson, 90; Irene Perry, 90.

8th Grade 94; Hazel Highsmith, 94; Mat-ham, 94; Hazel Coats, 93; Intha nie V. Jones, 92; Elsie Lassater 91; Dorothy Higgins, 91; Van 91; Thelma Jones, 91; Beth Hines McSpadden, 91; Joe Ben Hamm, 91; Velma Lee Holden, Ashby, 90; Helen Booth, 90; Linnie Wilson, 90: Dennis Wilkkins, 90.

son, 94; Marie Stanford, 93; Eva Mae Johnson, 95; Ruth Jen Ola Smith, 93; Holley Perry, 92 kens, 93; Ona Tatum, 93; Haz-Vera Richie, 92; Byron Patter- el Bell, 93; Lola Dennis, 92; son, 92; Thelma Price, 91; Ka-Emma Toombs, 92; Isla Mae thleen Mashburn, 91; Clara Hughes, 91; Mary Derstine, 91

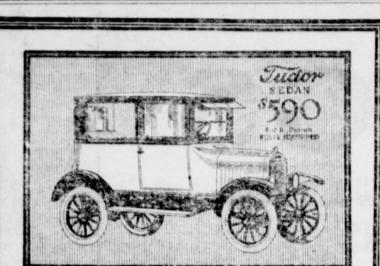
10th Grade-

Lucille Guitar, 96; Doris Dur-Frances Frederickson, 94; Trac- ham, 94; Effie Grayson, 93; ev Campbell, 93; Weldon Coats, Ona Fae Rose, 93; Lois Higgins 93; Missie Dye, 92; Fred Gui- 92; W. L. Harkrider, 92; Clyde tar, 91; Milton Case, 91; Mild-Matthews, 92; James Harris, red Bird, 91; J. T. Darsey, 91; 91; Hallie Pike, 91; Clesby Patterson, 91; Mary Butman, 90; Lucille Hogg, 90.

on, 94; Nadine Tippett, 94; Johnnie Sears, 96; Spencer Clarence Sharp, 93; Mabelle Li- Bird, 93; Merrill Collins, 93; gon, 93; B. P. Middleton, 92; Maurine Tipton, 93; Gladys Middleton, 92; Harry McCandless, 90; Nell Swann, 90.

Addie Fae Patterson, 95; Les- There are 142 names in the ter Patterson, 94; Norma Shan- above list, and this is the period non, 92; Bernice Lasater, 90; which includes the examination Elsie Richie, 90; William Shep- grades. The standard for the honor roll is high, and those reaching this standard must be Campbell, 94; Mary Ellen Ash- and perfect in attendance. Let's by, 93; Mary Comegy, 93; Hel- see that the list is even larger

lins, 92; Raymond Earthman, Yours, Truly, Roger A.Burgess



Give One For Christmas

The Tudor Sedan is a gift radiator, broad cowl, sun every member of the family will share. It adds to daily happiness. It will extend the joyous spirit of Christmas to every day of

visor, and large windows make it stylish in appearance. Yet it is sold at the lowest price ever asked for a Sedan-only \$590 f.o.b.

This new Ford type is of The rich, permanent luster an exceptionally pleasing of its finish, the quiet good design. Wide doors open- taste of its upholstery, and ing forward, folding right the ornamental treatment front seat, and a roomy of its full-nickeled hardinterior make it a conven- ware, all help to make it a ient car to use; its high car you are proud to drive.

This Car can be obtained through the Ford Weekly Purchase Plan.

MERKEL MOTOR CO.



REAL ESTATE, FARM LOANS FIRE INSURANCE

There is just one day when it is wise to insure. Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow may be too late. Today, the day Before you may suffer a loss by fire, or Theft, is the one wise day to cover yourself fully with insurance.

Today we can protect you from tomorrow's possible loss. Today is the only day you can be sure you are in time. Call on us today - be insured in time.

W. O. BONEY

MERKEL, TEXAS

Consult your Insurance Agent as you would your Lawyer.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1-Campaign is now open and will extend over a period of about six weeks-closing Saturday, January 19. 2-Any reputable man, woman or child in Taylor or adjoining counties is eligible to enter this election and compete for a prize. Nominations may be made at any

time during the election. 3-No employee or near relative of any employee of the Merkel Mail is eligible to enter this distribution. The Merkel Mail reserves the right to reject any nomi-

nations. 4—Candidats are not confined to their own particular town or community in which to secure votes and subscriptions, but may take orders anywhere in this State or United States.

5-Cash must accompany all orders where votes are desired. There will be no exceptions to this rule. Candidates will be allowed to collect subscriptions and renewals as well as entirely new subscriptions, and votes will be issued on both alike.

6-Votes are free. It costs the subscribers nothing extra to vote for their favorite. Subscribers should ask for votes when paying subscriptions; otherwise they waive this privilige.

7-Votes cannot be purchased. Every cent accepted through Election Department must represent subscrip-

8-Votes are not transferable. Candidates cannot withdraw in favor of another candidate. Should a candidate withdraw from the race his or her votes will be cancelled. Neither will it be permissible for candidates to give or transfer subscriptions to another candidate. Votes on such transferred subscriptions will be subject to disqualification, at the discretion of the management.

9-Any collusion on the part of the canidates to nullify competition, or any other combination arrangement or effort to the detriment of candidates or this newspaper will not be tolerated. Any candidate or candidates entering into or taking part in such an agreement or effort will forfeit all rights to a prize com-

10-Any ballots issued on subscriptions may be held in reserve and voted at the discretion of the candidate. The printed coupons appearing from day to day in the paper must be voted before the expiration date appearing thereon.

11-In the event of a tie for any of the prizes, a prize identical in value will be given each tying contestant. 12-No statement or promise made by any solicitor, agent or candidate varying from the rules and statements published through the columns of this newspaper will be recognized by the publisher.

13-In case of typographical or other error, it is understood that neither the publisher or the campaign manager shall be held responsible, except for the necessary correction upon the same.

14-Every candidate is an authorized agent of the Merkel Mail, and as such may collect subscription payments from present as well as from new subscriber. 15-It is distinctly understood and agreed that candidates will be responsible for all moneys collected, and that they will remit amounts in full at frequent intervals or on demand to the Campaign Department.

16-There will be several big prizes awarded, besides a 15 per-cent cash commission to all ACTIVE nonprize winners, but it is distinctly understood that in the event ANY candidate becomes INACTIVE, failing to make semi-weekly cash reports, he or she will, at the discretion of the management, become disqualified and thereby forfeit all right to a prize or a commission. This rule is absolute.

17-To insure absolute fairness in the awarding of prizes, the race will be brought to a close under "sealed ballot box" system, and will be under the personal supervision of two or more judges selected from within Taylor County. During the entire last period of the election, the box-locked and sealed-will repose in the vaults of a local bank, where candidates and their friends will deposit their final collecions and reserve votes. And not until the race has been declared closed will the seals be broken, the box unlocked, and the judges begin the final count. In this way not even the campaign manager can possibly know the voting strength of the respective candidates, which precludes any possibility of favoritism and insures fairness to the minutest degree.

18-The Mrkel Mail reserves the right to amend or add to the rules of this election, if necessary, for the protection of the interests of both the candidates and this newspaper The right is also reserved to increase and add to the list of prizes.

19-The Merkel Mail guarantees fair and impartial treatment to all candidates, but should any question arise the decision of the management will be absolute and final. In accepting nomination, candidates agree to abide by the above conditions.

TO THE PUBLIC The Merkel Mail is giving this mamoth prize election, and the management of this newspaper positively guarantees absolute fair and impartial treatment to all who participate.

This is easily the most worthy and most liberal prize offering ever made the newspaper-reading public of this territory, and it now rests with the enterprising hustlers to get busy and get their share of the good things offered. This is YOUR opportunity to secure without one penny of cost prizes that would ordinarily take months, even years, of self denial and saving to acquire-and here they are offered to you in exchange for just your spare time and efforts the next six weeks. It will behoove prospective participants to enter their names NOW and be among the first in the field. Remember, EVERYBODY WINS in this great distribution, and your prize will be just as great as you wish to make it. It is truly the best spare-moment prop osition ever offered our readers.





Home of Radio WBAP

From Now Until

December 15th

ON THE

STAR-TELEGRAM

Fort Worth's Only Texas Owned Newspaper **MORNING EDITION**

Correct Produce and Poultry

COMPLETE

Quick News and Market

DURING BARGAIN DAYS-Now Until Dec. 15ththe Rate Has Been Reduced Daily and Sunday one year, from \$10.00 to.....

Daily Except Sunday one year from \$8.00 to.....

Political Campaign Next Year During the coming exciting political campaign

in Texas, a metropolitan Texas owned newspaper which will report the entire race, completely and impartially, is a necessity if you wish to be as well informed as your neighbor.

TEN LEASED WIRES

The big Sunday paper prints many exclusive clean features suitable for all the family. Be sure and include it in your order.

Circulation Largest in Texas. Over 95,000 Daily-110,000 Sunday Now Higher Than Ever Before.

Save Money — Order Today



Service

Courtesy

GREETINGS

THE ARRIVAL OF THIS SEASON BRINGS RENEWED APPRECI-ATION OF OLD ASSOCIATIONS AND THE **VALUE OF NEW FRIENDS**

The spirit of the season prompts us to extend greetings and good wishes to our faithful old friends and cherished new friends and those whose good will and friendship we strive earnestly to deserve. The opportunity is taken to express to you this feeling of friendship and to acknowledge the pleasure derived from our business relations during the year about to close.

May Christmas be merry for you and yours and may the joy of the season light your pathway to peace, happiness, prosperity and contentment through the New Year.

Hamilton @ Case

Prompt

Reliable



AT THIS SEASON OF THE YEAR

Our thoughts turn to those whose loyalty in patronage and otherwise supporting this Cafe by their kind words of commendation has helped us to grow and make progress in a business way, so we come to thank you and to ask for

a continuation of our pleasant relations.

We wish you-A JOYOUS YULETIDE SEASON AND A HAPPY, CONTENT ED. PROSPER-OUS NEW YEAR.

THE CITY

B. C. Hancock

D. L. Shepard

In a race between Buicks, kind, Paiges, and Fords, in the Bap- We have a toast for you! tist Sunday School, the Buicks The Buicks then all arose. one o'clock luncheon, Tuesday, in the basement of the church.

Mrs. A. E. Brown, Driver of you: the Fords, met the guests at And now that the race is o'er. the entrance to the basement, and conducted them into the you! main auditorium.

The basement was beautifully couraged, decorated in red and green festoons, Christmas bells, and bowls of Narcissus and on the tab-the victory, les were hand-painted candles, in Mahogany candle sticks, and baskets of Chrysanthemums.

The guests found their places by prettily appointed Christmas gather, place cards.

The tables were presided over by Mesdames Earl Lassiter, Earl Lassiter rendered a vocal Twyman Collins, Ollie Dye, and duet, "In the Garden of Your ing three-course luncheon, con- Mesdames Lytton Howard and sisting of: Roast turkey, dress-Burl Scott, who responded to ing, cranberry sauce, gravy, an encore, with "Whispering pickles, celery, English peas, Hope." name on the radiator.

ing well chosen words:

out-ran the rest, Even tho' we did our very best, guests took their departure. For we ran so hard, and we ran so fast,

out of gas!

First thing we knew, we were

er for the Buicks, responded, Miller and daughter will visit in with the following:

"We thank you for your ber 20th. kind words,

Your toast and good "eats'

And since you are so very

won, so the Paiges and Fords and holding their glasses, toastentertained the Buicks with a ed the Paiges and Fords with: "Here's to you, ole' friends-We're mighty glad to greet

We're mighty glad we beat

But we're glad you're not dis-

And hope to hear you sing: That tho' this once you lost

You still are in the ring! So let us all work the harder, And make the race complete, For perhaps next time we

We'll give YOU the treat!"" Mesdames A. R. Booth and A. R. Booth, who served a tempt Heart", followed by a duet by

wheat bread, fruit salad, cherry After a business session of pie a-la-mode, and hot coffee, the T. E. L. Class, in which they The plate favors were little tin voted to put on another contest, automobiles, with the Buick to culminate the Sunday before Geo. Washington's birthday and At the conclussion of the lun- the losing side to entertain the cheon, Mrs. Sam Swann repre- winners, on the evening of the senting the Paiges, arose and 22nd of February, the Buicks in her most gracious manner, gave yells to the Paiges and toasted the Buicks, in the follow Fords and Mrs. Burl Scott, in behalf of the Buicks expressed "Buicks, here's to you who appreciation for the entertainment, and about twenty-five

NOTICE

Dr. Miller and family will be So that is the reason you won away for the Hollidays. The Doctor is going east topurchase And are now holding the hon-some electrical apparatuses and other office equipment and to Mrs. Ergeal Meador, as Driv- attend Hospital clinics. Mrs. San Antonio. They leave Decem

The Merriest Day Ever

That's Our Wish for You for Christmas

The Brightest Year Ever

That's Our Wish for You for the New Year

We are proud to live in such a city as ours and to do business with such a people. Please accept our thanks for the good business given us in 1923. We solicit a continuation of your trade with the assurance that we will try to serve von even better than in the past.

Burton-Lingo Co.

Dealers in Lumber, Builders Hardware, Window Glass, Paints and Oils

1924 GREETINGS

STORES CONTINUES CHARGE CHARGE COMMIND COMMIND COMMIND READING

We wish to thank our many friends from the fullness of our hearts for their patronage during the year just closing and wish each and every one a

New Year Filled With Many Rich Blessings

> L. J. Renfro The Tailor

YOUNG COUPLE EARN \$10,000 A YEAR

ABILENE, Texas .- A young Sunday will be our day at man and his wife, sweethearts White Church. We are very eag in Draughon's College a few er that a good attendance be on years ago, now have combined hand for themorning service. incomes of nearly ten thousand This will be our last service bedollars a year as a result of the fore Quarterly conference in Jan world-famous Draughon Train- uary. A collection will be taken ing. Many similar instances in the interest of the Methodist could be given, it is stated. The Orphanage at Waco. Services at College guarantees good begin-eleven in the morning. Sunday ning positions, and its thorough chool and preaching services in training insures rapid promot- the evening also Epworth Leagion to ambitious young men and ue. women. Its free catalog No. 10 M. R. Pike

We Pause Today

And Look Back

And as we recount the experiences of the days

and vears we have been in business we find but

little to regret and much to be thankful for.

We are deeply grateful that so many have shown

As we look to the future we are thinking of

how we can serve you better and we hope we

JOY TO YOU FOR

CHRISTMAS

PEACE, HEALTH AND PLENTY

FOR THE NEW

YEAR

Bob Martin Grocery

their confidence in us.

will be given the opportunity.

home folks here.

Falls, Texas.

METHODIST DAY AT WHITE CHURCH

will be an inspiration to you. Write for it and Guarantee Con-There are men, some of them tract, today, addressing J. D. fathers, in the world, (some Miracle, Supt. Box 38, Abilene who live in Merkel) who would upon the table each one was to put Texas, or Box 1593, Wichita sneakingly wreck and ruin the in his thumb and pull out a plum in lives of their neighbors fair the shape of a twisted motto; there daughters, but who would rant they were, all around the sides of the Miss Anna Bickley who is and go into a murderous rage teaching in the Mount Pleasant should some other beast and he read off the pit of it and, as it to school spent the week end with brute bring to their own door shame and disgrace.

How Four Old Maids Have Real Christmas

HEY were a family of old maids

-four sisters. But the the jolliest, nicest old maids I ever knew. I always swore it. and now I know it. What do

you think they did for Christmas? pressed the hope that they would be Did they have a tree for themselves and exchange costly presents with each other, and then eat a turkey with dressing and pies, alone in their to. Yet they came to his school uncharming white dining room? Not a willingly and went home from it gladbit of it. They know what Christmas was meant for, and they acted on the ing. knowing. Their friends tell me they have done it every year; but since I'm only a new acquaintance, comparatively, I couldn't know that.

They invite in a dozen children who wouldn't ordinarily have a Christmas tree at all and give their presents to them. And then those twelve, poor little mites sit down at the table in the old maids' charming white dining room, and the old maids themselves serve them with turkey and all the fixings. And they don't do it for charity either. They do it because they adore children, and making them happy is to them a treat. You see, from their cradles, these four old maid sisters were blessed with the Christmas spirit, a spirit that lasts all the year around when it is genuine.

But why should I call them "old maids?" That term is in such disrepute? They are four angels! And knowing that, I am going to try my luck, some time when I can get the courage, and ask one of them, the one I happen to be in love with, to "have me." Perhaps if I make the proposal within the Christmas season she'll remember she's a Christmas angel, and take me. Don't laugh at my audacity. Anything may happen at Christmas time! For Christmas is a magical time. Even a child can tell you that .- Ethel Cook Ellot.

(@), 1923. Western Newspaper Union.)

That Plum Pudding and Some Twisted Mottoes



OUISE loved jokes. She caught people with questions and puzzled them with conundrums. So she had arranged a program that centered about the Christ

mas plum pudding. When that came platter.

Father was first, unfolding his plum moderate the coming merriment, said 'All is not laugh that titters."

Then mother read hers: "It's a wrong turkey that has no turning." As this did not apply to the bird that had just disappeared, the self-satisfied smile of the cook behind the door

Then Aunt Mary: "A hitch in time saves mine." This reference to Bob's trousers asserted his independence of suspenders, but caused his relative to remind him that he was not as needess of stitches as he thought upon which he replied that he could depend upon that taflor who had advertised pants a dollars and a half a leg. eats free.

Then Susan: "We never miss the swatter till the flies go by." This was a fly paper upon a dead subject and was filed for future reference.

Bob's plum was also laid on the able after he had read: "A strolling boy catches no horse." A sentiment that he was inclined to think a little too personal.

Louise had the last plum and declared; "All's well that ends swell." Expressing the traveler's satisfaction with terra firma, less terror and more

But the pudding was cooling and that was no joke, so, as the temperature fell, they fell to .- Christopher G. Hazard.

(C. 1923, Western Newspaper Union.)

A CHRISTMAS THOUGHT

The greater happiness of the Christmas season is a direct result of the greater participation of men and women in the spirit of Christ. For then veakness has a power over strength; and then the laughter in the eyes of little children seems a better thing than our own good; and then the tired routine in the lives of those around us looks out upon us through enigmatic eyes, and we understand better, we pity, we cease to condemn-we would even ameliorate, we would show that we see and understand-and so we offer the dumb gift which mutely tells what our words could never tell; and then in our hearts, in our households, in our little world, there is Christmas joy and peace-earth's highest happiness .- Sister M. Fides Shepperson in Pittsburgh Dispatch.

THE GENUINE SPIRIT

The genuine holiday spirit consists not only in wishing a merry Christmas, but in making one.

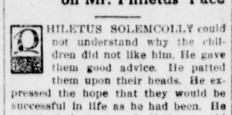
MOTHERS' CHRISTMAS

After receiving her gifts, mother's Christmas will be devoted largely to washing an extra number of dishes.

NEVER TOO HIGH

It might be different with a lot of things around Christmas, but the mis etce is never too high

That Mask Which Grew on Mr. Philetus' Face



successful in life as he had been. He promised them rewards if they would behave themselves as he wanted them ly. They were respectful, but unsmil-

It was with hope, but not without difficulty, that a friend persuaded Philetus to officiate as Santa Claus at the Christmas festival and to assume the traditional garb of the part. Philetus did not see much use in such fanciful doings, but yielded to solicitation and appeared upon the occasion with as much grace as a feeling of foolishness would allow. His spare form was now rotund, his sober garments had become gay, and the jolly mask that had been adjusted to his ong face gave him quite a new ex-

As the joy among the children progressed and the spirit of fun and frolic mounted high Philetus began to experience a change of heart. To his amazement he began having a good time himself and to feel like a real Saint Nicholas. For this reason, perhaps, he overexerted himself to such an extent that his mask fell off and it was revealed to the surprised audiace that it had been contradicting he face of Mr. Solemcolly.

This was really the best feature of the evening, and it proved to have a lime, the Philetus phiz shortened, and 22nd, at 7:30 p. m. proadened, and fattened, and colored p, until it came to look a good deal ke the face of that old fairy who always young and kindly.

So the mask that fell off left its aprint and stayed on, and Philetus, ble to be merry, became the familiar riend of the children .- Christopher G.

(c) 1928, Western Newspaper Union.)

SACAKARARARARARARARARARARARA

THE THREE "F'S" HE important thing about

Christmas is the way you feel. Not bodily feeling, but heart-And the heart-feeling should be one of fun, faith and frolic. Fun for as many as you can

Frolic with the nearest and

A Christmas filled with these happiness on many a day to

There is too much running about to find pleasure . . . when the greatest joy can be on our own thresholds if we are determined to

CARTONIO DE TRANSPORTA DE LA CARTONIO DEL CARTONIO DEL CARTONIO DE LA CARTONIO DEL CARTONIO DE LA CARTONIO DEL CARTONIO DE LA CARTONIO DEL CARTONIO DEL CARTONIO DEL CARTONIO DEL CARTONIO DE LA CARTONIO DE LA CARTONIO DEL CARTONIO DE LA CARTONIO DEL C



ood idea to hang up some mistletoe? She-Christmas is several weeks

He-Yes, but we could be practic-

HER CHRISTMAS TRIP

The family were going away for Christmas to their old home in the beautiful country which they loved so much. They hadn't gone back at Christmas time for ever and ever so

They said, at first, they would give their faithful, wonderful cook a check and a holiday, and then they asked her if she would like the Christmas

trip as her Christmas present. Would she indeed? Just because she was no longer a child it didn't mean that she couldn't enjoy as a

She went and she loved it all-even the over-crowded trains, the hurrying masses of people in the jammed stations-for wasn't it her Christmas

She, too, was a part of the great holiday travel !- M. G. Bonner. (6, 1923, Western Newspaper Union.)

SPEAKING OF FUEL

A Christmas gift for the man with the average domestic supply of coal: A magnifying glass, a pair of tweezers and the framed motto, "Keep the home fires burning."-Louisville Courier-Journal.

THE RIGHT SPIRIT

Put the Christmas spirit into your politics and keep the partisan spirit out of your Christmas.

THOSE SLIPPERS

Grandfather is pretty sure it will be a pair of slippers. All that remains be decided is how many pairs.

To Our Friends and **Patrons**

A CHARLES AND THE PROPERTY OF THE

We Extend Our Sincere

Greetings

of the Season

W. B. PETTY

BARBER SHOP

GOLAN TO HAVE BOX UPPER DEC. 22ND.

There will be a box supper at the Golan Methodist Church permanence about it, for, from that Saturday evening, December

> Everyone is cordially invited 2. to come with pockets full of Dye.

We want to get money to pay for our new piano that has just been bought for our church, and we're going to get it that very Read the Classified Column. night. You are urged to be pres

Bettie Byrom

Miss Ganevera Middleton who is on of the excellent teachers at Mount Pleasant School was at home Saturday and Sunday visiting relatives and friends.

FOUND-A leather glove, for right hand. Owner may get same at Merkel Mail office by paying for this notice.

Senior B. Y. P. U. Program

Topic:-Some common temptations of teday.

Introduction-Leader 1. Beware the Wiles of Sat-

an, Mae Lassiter. Purposelessness, Valerie

3. Neglect, Coma Haynes.

4. Pleasure, Milton Deavers.

5. Doubt, Lola Joiner. 6. Inacticity, Dovie Teaff.

ShakyNerves

Jangling nerves and quiv-ering muscles are quickly calmed by FORCE Tonic. It quiets and sootheenerve

YULETIDE Greetings

TO OUR LOYAL PATRONS AND FRIENDS

May the sound of Christmas bells bring glad tidings to you and may the holly wreath prove a symbol of happiness for you. We wish you the happiest sort of a Christmas and a New Year full of health, happiness and prosperity.

We are sincerely thankful for the business entrusted to us the past year and ask for a continuation of same during 1924.

W. F. Hamblett **Groceries**

\$1,500 GIFT DISTRIBUTION

FREE—New Ford Touring Car—FREE

In a six weeks' circulation-building and vote-collecting campaign announced in last week's paper, all prizes, Automobile, cash and other nice prizes, are open to men and women—married or single—and boys and girls of the more ambitious sort, residing in Taylor and adjoining counties. It costs nothing to win the valuable prizes offered. It is not even required that you be a Merkel Mail reader or subscriber; and you POSITIVELY CANNOT LOSE. Every active participant will be rewarded for his or her efforts. Read this page carefully, every word of it. Then clip the coupons in this paper and then send them in for your friends or for yourself. Do it now—TODAY. A good start is a battle half won. Begin gathering votes and ride in your own new automobile within a few weeks. The campaign office at the Merkel Mail office is open every day and night until 9 o'clock. The telephone number is 61. Call us up right now.

WE WANT A REPRESENTATIVE IN EVERY TOWN AND COMMUNITY IN TAYLOR AND ADJOINING COUNTIES.

Here Are The Valuable Prizes



LATEST MODEL FORD TOURING CAR

Purchased from Merkel Motor Co.

BEAUTIFUL DIAMOND RING

Bought from Sanders Drug Store

BEAUTIFUL DIAMOND RING

Bought from Sanders Drug Store

LIFE SCHOLARSHIP IN DRAUGHON'S BUSINESS COLLEGE AT ABILENE

LADIES' BEAUTIFUL WRIST WATCH

Bought from Merkel Drug Co.

Eight Hundred Dollars Cash

A special fund of \$800 in cash has been appropriated to be distributed in the form of salaries among non-prize winners on a fifteen per cent basis. Any candidates who remains active through the campaign, making regular report, but fails to win one of the prizes offered will participate in this commission feature. Think of it! Fifteen per cent of every subscription you collect goes into your own pocket if you fail to win a prize. This arrangement assures compensation to. all candidates and means there will be no losers in this race. Can anything be more fair or liberal than this? Get into the campaign early while votes count the most and subscriptions are easiest to secure, and win one of the valuable gifts

For Further Information Call, Phone or Write Campaign Manager

THE MERKEL MAIL

TELEPHONE 61

MERKEL, TEXAS



CHRISTMAS RATES AGAIN!

Our Holiday Excursion Tickets to all points in Louisiana and Texas will be on sale Dec. 20 to 24 inclusive, good until Jan. 7th to return.

SEE YOUR LOCAL AGENT FOR DETAILS OR WRITE

GEO. D. HUNTER,

General Passenger Agent

DALLAS

THE STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF TAYLOR

this citation once in each week month, and Plaintiff has stored for four weeks previous to the said stuff for a period of 12 from Ann. The girls waited expectantreturn day hereof, in some Newspaper published in your county, if there be a newspaper published there in, but if not, but here in formation from the she is now due the plaintiff \$72.00 for storage.

Herein fail not, but have you money to send things to other people that they did not want," rattled off that they did not want, "rattled off that they did not want," rattled off that they did not want, "rattled off that they did not want," rattled off that they did not want, "rattled off that they did not want," rattled off that they did not want, "rattled off that they did not want," rattled off that they did not want, "rattled off that they did not want," rattled off that they did not want, "rattled off that they did not want," rattled off that they did not want, "rattled off that they did not want," rattled off that they did not want, "rattled off that they did not want," rattled off that they did not want, "rattled off that they did not want," rattled off that they did not want, "rattled off that they did not want," rattled off they did not want, "rattled off they did not want," rattled off that they did not want, "rattled off they did not want," rattled off they did not want, "rattled off they did not want," rattled off they did not want, "rattled off they did not want," rattled off they did not want, "rattled off they did not want," rattled off they did not want, "rattled off they did not want," rattled off they did not want, "rattled off they did not want," rattled off they did not want, "rattled off they did not want," rattled off they did not want, "rattled off they did not want," rattled off they did not want, "rattled off they did not want," rattled off they did not want, "rattled off they did not want," rattled off they did not want, "rattled off they did not want," rattled off they di lar term of the Justice thereon, showing how you have Court of Precinct No. 5 in Tay- executed the same. lor County, Texas, to be holden | Given under my hand, this at the Court house, thereof in the 21st day of Nov. A. D. 1923. Merkel, on the 4th Monday in December 1923, the same being the 24th day of December A.

D. 1923: Then and there to an-

CITATION BY PUBLICATION swer a petition filed in said What made me feel good was that Court on the 21st day of Nov. you had been thinking of me.' Then 1923, in suit, numbered on the she took hold of my hand to caress it Docket of said Court No. 37, and said, 'It was not any kind of a IN JUSTICE COURT OF wherein J. N. Shelton is Plain- Ann, but your love and companionship TAYLOR COUNTY TEXAS tiff and Mrs. Izella Logan is de- and sympathy. I have been hungry for TO THE SHERIFF OR ANY fendant, said petition alleging you, Ann, and you had no right to CONSTABLE OF TAYLOR that defendant contracted with COUNTY TEXAS, GREETING plaintiff for a house to store You are hereby commanded her said household goods, junk, hard-boiled, cried right on the street. to summon Izella Logan, Feme and sundries of every kind and what do you think of that, girls?"

Sole, by making publication of nature, at a rental of \$6.00 per "The day of miracles is not past,

then in the nearest county before said court on the said that they did not want," rattled off where a newspaper is published first day of the next term there ing of Christmas since my most loyal to appear at the next regu- of, this writ, with your return friend has asked me only for my love

W. W. Wheeler

J. P. Prect. No. 5, Taylor Ireland Hunts Wrens County, Texas.

With Christmas Love Came Understanding

ELL, girls, I have made it up with Beatrice." Ann, "the hard-boiled" of the office,

yanked off her coat and hat and placed them in the locker ranged across the end of the

No one paid much attention to Ann usually. She was of such an explosive nature, and said such irresponsible things, that she was not taken seriously. But the break between Ann and Beatrice had been of long standing and had been commented upon so much by Ann that her announcement caused the other girls to look up questioningly.

"That's a fact," continued Ann, "and I am so ashamed of my treatment of her this long time."

"How did it come about?" asked Sadle, assistant to the department

"Well," exclaimed Ann, "I will have to confess my beastly nature, before I can tell you how it happened. In a spirit of spite I sent Beatrice a Christmas present, which no one but good little Bea could ever have accepted as anything but an insult. It makes no difference what it was. Today noon I met her on the street and she stopped me to thank me for the pres-

"'It was not the present so much, Ann, that came by mail,' said she. present that I wanted most from you, take yourself away from me. I give you my love for Christmas-will you give me yours?' And little Ann, the

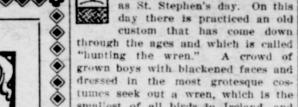
"The day of miracles is not past, it "And now do you know what?" This

and she sure is going to get it."-C. F. Wadsworth.



day after Christmas) is known

Day After Christmas N IRELAND Boxing Day (the



custom that has come down through the ages and which is called A crowd of grown boys with blackened faces and dressed in the most grotesque costumes seek out a wren, which is the smallest of all birds in Ireland, and arrying it with them go from house house all over their particular part f the country, asking, or rather singng a request for a little help with the elebration which takes place in the village that evening. There are several verses which they use, the following being a sample of their kind:

The wren, the wren, the king of all t. Stephen's day, she was caught in

Although she is little her family is please try your pocket and give Sing holly, sing ivy, sing ivy, sing

Just a drop to drown melancholy, And if you draw it of the best I hope in Heaven your soul will rest and if you draw it of the small It will not agree with the wren boys

And so much is the spirit of hospiallty and good will in evidence at Christmas time that they very seldom meet with a refusal and by evening the pile of small silver pieces has grown into large enough proportions to warrant a big celebration at which all the young folks in the district make merry.-Katherine Edelman.

CHRISTMAS CANDLES

It is a pleasant custom, when the Christmas tree is lighted and its many candles fall to give all the needed cheer, to light a candle from its fires and give the taller candles on the shelf and on the table a share in the happy illumination.—C. G. Hazard.

THE OPTIMIST'S VIEW

The optimist reflects that the shopping rush would be much more uncom fortable if Christmas came on July

IT TAKES COURAGE

The true diplomatist is one who can say "Just what I needed" while speculating on his chances at the exchange

THE POSTMAN SETS THE PACE

There would be merriment enough for all if everybody worked as hard in distributing beliday cheer do the MAY THE CHRISTMAS BELLS SOUND

Happiness to You and Your Household

O'er every home throughout this peaceful and prosperous nation the benign spirit of Christmas settlelike a benediction. Gladness prevails, generous acts and kindness is seen on every hand. How we all welcome the Yuletide days.

In the true spirit of the season we send our greetings to friends and patrons and wish you a New Year that will be better than you have ever before experienced. We thank each of you for business of the past and hope we are privileged to serve you during 1924.

F. P. HAMM GINNER

Receiving Christmas Gifts Is a Fine Art

F COURSE, every gift given F COURSE, every gift given means also a gift received. Christmas always has two Son. sides, and certainly there is great joy in receiving the tokens of love and friendship that come to us, not because of their money value, for most gifts are bought for small W. L. Jr. at the Farmers State sums, but because they convey to us an heard a young girl remark when a little gift came to her, "Well, that didn't

expression of someone's affection. I break anyone's bank." What a pity. As if Christmas could have in it great joy for anyone who looked for the price tag on a gift. Our character is likely to be revealed by the spirit of our receiving quite as well as by the spirit of our giving. It is this fine art of receiving well that will not only make Christmas the more joyous, but will also be an all-year virtue, if it is cultivated in our hearts.-F. H.

(@. 1923, Western Newspaper Union.)



"She says her husband attends church regularly." "Yes, he goes with her to the Christmas service every year."

SAFETY FIRST

The Christmas shoppers hesitated at the crowded street crossing. To try to get over seemed like an attempt to dodge fate. Automobiles dashed by in a continuous procession. The tail policeman, however, convoyed a group across like a battleship leading a flock of schooners. But one old lady lingered, afraid to launch away, until courage came with the policeman's assurance: "Come right along, ma'm, you're just as safe with me as if you was in God's pocket!"-C. Q. Hasard.

I will have two car loads of good ear corn between now

FOR SALE-Span of good work Phone 161. Gazzaway and mules. See W. L. Diltz Sr. or Polly.

We have opened a new feed and January 1st. See J. C. Ma- store on Kent street, and can 1t fill your wants in this line. Will be glad to have your business.

tf. Read the Classified Column.

You Are Cordially Invited

Ford Display Week

From December 10th to 15th

TWO NEW MODELS

During this entire week all Ford Models will be on display, and the show rooms will be attractively arranged. Musical program each evening from 8:00 to 10:00. Orchestra and Radio. A change each evening.

We want every person in Merkel community to visit our show room this Display Week. We will endeavor to make it worth your while

Merkel Motor Co.

Ford Dealers

WE TAKE THIS MEASURE OF Thanking You For Your Business During The Past Year, Be It

We Appreciate Our Friends

Large or Small.

1923

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

TO ALL

1924

And will always try to treat you in such a way that you will know our appre-

ciation is sincere

May 1924 Bring You True Happiness and Lasting Prosperity

> CHAS. WEST Barber Shop

It Has Been a Pleasure For Us to Serve You

We take this method of expressing our thanks to the citizens of this community for the business entrusted to us this year, and to assure you it has been a pleasure to serve you.

Accept our sincere wish for an Enjoyable Christmas and a New Year to Your Liking.

E. L.-ASH

1924 AUTO SEALS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED

The law requires all Autos and Trucks to be registered by

recover and return to school.

M. E. SUNDAY SCHOOL NOTES

We are indeed pleased to note January 1st. In order to regis- that with each Sunday our Sun that with each Sunday our Sunday school is growing nicely, and on last Sunday morning there were 272 present, but still there are many who do not meet with us regularly. Let us urge that all be present next Sunday and help to make the number 300 or engine number, also Highway number. I cannot register without this information. Please bring the necessary information to avoid delay in registering.

D. T. Harkrider, Collector.

Itp

That with each Sunday our Sunday our Sunday school is growing nicely, and on last Sunday morning there were 272 present, but still there are many who do not meet with us regularly. Let us urge that all be present next Sunday and help to make the number 300 or better. And then next Sunday is "Orphans Day", so we urge that every father and mother come and bring every member of the family, and let each one, old or young bring a small offer ing so that we may all have a part in sending a nice offering from the Merkel Methodist

Mysterious Kindness

Mysterious Kindness

1tp from the Merkel Methodist church. Yes, let's help to make home from attending school at the little orphan children—Me-Rice Institute, Houston, Texas, this Christmas time Let's show the blazing booth for We learn that Kenneth had to our appreciation of the health return honte on account of weak and prosperity, with which we doctor to tell them a story. eyes. We hope that he may soon have been blessed. L. W. Cox, Supt.

California Adopts Gay Christmas Berry

OYAL to its own products, California has adopted the "Christ-

mas berry" as its holly, and from some points of similarity it makes a very good substitute for the well-known holly of the eastern states.

The California holly-Christmas berry-toyon-is not very similar to the regular holly in structure, but the tint of the leaves and of the berries approximates the colors afforded by the regular sort.

The leaves of the California holly are not of the form of holly leaves, but the berries easily suggest the regular species. To make the effect seem more real, some florists of coast cities mix the berries of the California bolly with the prickly foliage of the live oak.

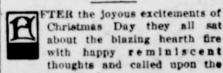
The shrubs of the California holly grow 4 to 25 feet tall, and the flowers appear in July and August, and the berries, which grow in large clusters similar to cherries, are ripe by Thanksgiving and remain on the trees for some time; although they do not keep well after being plucked.

The plant is common in most of the southern half of the state, and at Christmas time the rich cardinal berries contrasted with the full green of the foliage adds a gay note to the florists' windows and the baskets of the street vendors.

The berries have a rather pleasant taste, somewhat acid and astringent. and are "sometimes eaten by the Indians with great relish," according to Mary Elizabeth Parsons Cunningham,

in "Wild Flowers of California." Such has been the wild scramble for

Bound Up in a Bundle



"I will," he said, "upon one condidition; each one of you must throw a



Christmas Rug

Sale

Why not give a Congoleum Rug for Christmas? Something the whole family will enjoy. Specially priced from now until Christmas, 9x12 size, new patterns, \$14.95 Floor Lamps, Special, 15 per cent discount on all lamps.

SEWING BASKETS, a beautiful assortment specially priced for the Holidays ..

CEDAR CHEST, an exellent gift.

Smokers, baby chairs, tricycles, jingle cars, and many more useful gifts for the little folks. Make our store your headquarters during Christmas week.

REMEMBER, December 22, we sell the Dining Suite for only \$1.00. Ask for your coupons.

Barrow Furniture Company

May Your Stocking of Hope Be Filled to Overflowing

AND YOUR FONDEST DESIRES BE **REALITIES IN 1924**

To our large circle of Friends and Patrons:-

We come now as the old year is passing and the dawn of a New Year is before us to tell you how we appreciate your layalty to this business and to wish you a full measure of Health, Happiness and Prosperity.

Let us all work together to make our city shine in 1924 as a star in a cloudless sky.

Let us serve you during 1924.

Merkel Ice Company

E. E. LESLIE, Manager

ing interest went round until the turn came to the doctor.

"Well," said he, as he threw a larger fagot into the fire, "my story is not yet a day old, and still it is not a little one, for, as I went my round of calls this morning I was surprised to see a large bundle lying in front of the door of a cottage by the roadside that looked as if it were in need of paint and everything else. Curious to understand the matter, I stopped to investigate it and discovered by a card that was pinned upon the wrapper that the bundle was designed for Mrs. Cafferty. Knocking upon the door, I at last induced the woman herself to open it. Reading the card to her, I lifted the bundle into the room, whereupon she called out in a loud voice: 'Here, you, Mike, Nora, Rose, Timothy, Patrick, Bridget and Kate, come here you spalpeens and se phwat the leprechauns

have brought ye.' "They came, from above, below, and from all sides they came, and it is many a day since I have seen as much joy as came out of the mysterious kindness that was bound up in the

good things of that bundle." Before they went to bed they voted the doctor's story the best Christmas story of them all.-Christopher G. Hazard.

CHRISTMAS ALONE

A fellow that is far away from his home folks on Christmas day may make an effort to be gay, but doesn't have much luck, says a writer. For though he occupies no chair, across the miles his heart is there, with mother, dad and sis to share the dressing and something in his throat grows tight and makes him dream of home.

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS CAROL

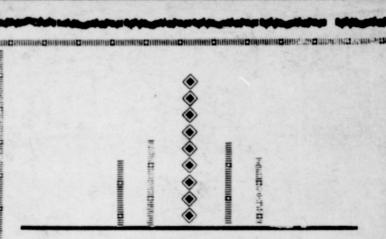
Fear not, for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

Chorus:
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good-will toward men.
—St. Luke's Gospel.

SOME PEOPLE

Some grownups are so childish that they do not even believe in Santa

ON SHOPPERS' LIST



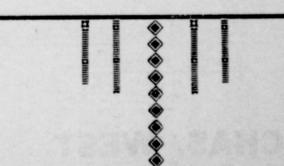
1923--1924

We are appreciative for all that came our way in 1923 at the hands of what we believe to be the best st of patrons in the state and we come now to thank you and to wish you the richest and best set of patrons in the state and we come now

We hope we will be honored by your continued patronage, good will and co-operation.

Planters' Gin Co. J. M. TOOMBS, Mgr.

Merkel, Texas.



MERKEL THE

VOL. 35-NO. 42

MERKEL, TEXAS, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1923

28 PAGES

SUBSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN STARTS SLOWLY

MISS TRACY'S PU-PILS IN RECITAL

charge.

Grimes.

Clara Louise Miller.

Frances Anderson.

by Nell Durham

Turner.

7. Song of the New Year, by Riley, Tommie Durham.

8. Play-"On Christmas Eve' by Constance Mackay,

Wendy Clara Louise Miller 20th. Alice in Wonderland, Margarette, . . Turner.

Robinson Curso, Jack Patterson Girl from the North Wind, Lunell Lamar

Traveler from Bagdad, E. L.

Hansel, Jim Patterson. Gretel, Betty Lou Brimes. Tush-A-Bye-Lady, Flora Frances Anderson.

Santa Claus, Harold Boney. The Mother, Tommie Durham

9. On Going Home for Christmas, by Edgar A. Guest, Lunell Lamar.

BIG TURKEY DAY ON

As per announcement in this paper last week, there is going to be a big "Turkey Trot Day" here on Saturday, December 15. Yes, the business men of Merkel have bought some twenty or ness streets, and the person who Merkel Mail Office. catches one may have it. It is The Abilene Reporter's price Room. These rooms will accom- Book Rooms, and Toilet Rooms, the West end.

entertainment, and one of the them in a club. friends and neighbors.

Fancy Egg due next week-Get make them both for one year at it off the car and save money. \$7.80. Renew now. Swafford-Phone 44. South Side.

NEW HIGH SCHOOL NEXT LYCEUM AT COZY DEC. 20TH BUILDING PROPOSED

they did not know existed.

4. In the Pantry, Mabel Dixon ments to make concerning the given herewith, along with a day. Fred S. Rogers. Pastor. art of Kater. Here is what he photo of the proposed building. 5. Poem, At Christmas, by said: "Kater is great—he does The building plans have been Edgar A. Guest, Lester Patter- more than the usual four-people worked out by Hon. David S. town Saturday and all mer- es is the time to cash in, to get ion headquarters of the Merkel company. His illusions are de- Castle, of Abilene, who is one chants did a fine business. 6. Musical reading, The Boy lightful and unlike most pro- of the best architects in the who Stuttered and the Girl who grams of magic, there is abso- state. Lisped, Margarette and E. L. lutely no tricking. That is one The bond issue will be for for a Steroptican.

the Cozy Theatre.

NEXT SATURDAY FORD OISPLAY WEEK Home Economics, which will student. The Merkel Mail Campaign automobile. By the use of the locker sys Here is an opportunity, surely office is open each evening un-W. Kitchen, and Bed Room.

going to have these turkeys. that Newspaper Bargain Days Banking.

It is also stated that there both to you for one year at \$4.- ture. The Lecture Room will ior walls to be of vitrified face quirements for many years to will likely be other features of 50. You save 65 cents by getting

biggest crowds ever before com- The Fort Worth Star-Teleing to Merkel is expected here gram is \$7.45 for the daily and on that day. Come, bring your Sunday and the Merkel Mail is \$1.50 per year, making a total of \$9.95 to take them separate-Dawson Coal Satisfies. Carly, but to get them together we

1t. Read the Classified Column.

NOMINATION BLANK IN THE MERKEL MAIL'S "EVERYBODY WINS" CAMPAIGN

GOOD FOR 5,000 VOTES

I HEREBY ENTER AND CAST 5,000 VOTES FOR

ADDRESS as a candidate in the Merkel Mail's "Everybody Wins" prize dis-

NOTE-Only one nomination blank accepted for each candidate

PRESBYTERIANS TO HAVE XMAS TREE

of the Merkel High school will a pretty good sleight-of-hand Merkel Public Schools are crowd planning a community Christgive a Christmas Program at artist to fool his brothers in the ed to overflowing it being nec-mas Tree on Christmas Eve the High School Auditorium on profession. Some time ago, Kat- essary to use the Old Christian night. We do not want to think Tuesday evening, December 18, er, the noted magician who will church frame structure for two of Christmas time as an occas-1923, beginning at 7:30 o'clock, appear here on December 20th of the grades, and which does sion for exchange of presents, Mail putting up over \$1,500 in a point, and who arrives at a con-There will be no admission at the Cozy Theatre, gave one not care for the crowded conof his programs before a gather- dition, the members of the came to minister. We want to 1. A Sled Playlet, Harold Bon- ing of fellow artists on an an- school board realizing that minister. To this end we will prize, the great campaign has way it appears to them as a busi ey, Jim Patterson, Lester Pat-nual "get-together" meeting, something must be done to re- seek to provide a Christmas terson, Clara Louise Miller, Kater uncorked his inexhaust-lieve the situation for another gift for every child in Merkel Artie Lee Agnew, Margarette ible supply of sleight-of-hand year, have upon the petition of who is not provided for. We will Turner, E. L. Turner, Ola Smith tricks of prestidigitation. The many qualified voters ordered be glad to have the help and co-Nell Durham, and Bettie Lou fellow tricksters blinked their an election for the voting of operation of every man and wo- prizes are so stupendous that sition? eyes in admiration, for Kater bonds with which to buy a site, man in Merkel, who desires to one can hardly believe it all. 2. A Christmas Story by had a new line of stuff which built and equip a new and upto- be a servant of "Good Cheer." date building suitable to care Sunday, December 16 all the someone, maybe you, is losing a starting, is open to any reput-3. Musical reading, "Little One of the editors of 'Sphinx' for the school children of this regular services of the day. We wonderful opportunity. Old Fashioned Girl" by Flora official magazine for magicians, city and adjoining community, will be glad to welcome all our had a few interesting state- and a description of which is friends at the services next Sun made, no matter whether there that is necessary to enter the

manifested in the appearance of bond each year. We are also inHigh School will be assigned one
Kater in this community, good formed that the voting of the of these leakers for his indiviseats will be at a premium on bonds will not raise the tax of duel use. This lockers will be Thursday evening. December sufficient tax has already been suf

possibly a model Dining Room, seats in the study hall for approximately one-half of the A Commercial Department students enrolled and thus af- brick trimmed with stone trim- come, and in keeping with moconsisting of two or three rooms fect a material saving in the mings. day, in the afternoon, they are of our readers and the public Shorthand, Typewriting and study hall. In other words, with Plant will be provided for. this system the study halls can It is the intention to re-arlive turkeys, thrown from the are now in full sway, and that The Science Department will be made about half of the size range the upper story of the top of the business houses a- you can save money by subscrib be equipped with two Laborat- required by the former practice. present school building and conlong some of the principle busi- ing for your daily papers at the ories and One Lecture Room, al- In addition to the above de- vert same into a large, well light students of this school all the

all FREE and everybody is wel- for the Daily and Sunday is \$3.- modate courses in Chimistry, The building proper will be The completion of these imcome to make an effort to catch 65 and the Merkel Mail alone, is Physics, Biology, Physical Geog constructed with a concrete provements will give Merkel a

Recent Rains and Cold Weather Prevents Candidates Entering, and Those Entered Have Been Unable To Do But Little

MORE CANDIDATES WANTED

The Expression Department It must be admitted it takes Owing to the fact that the Presbyterian Church is There is Much Interest in the Campaign, But Very Few Candidates Have Entered. Everybody Wins in This Campaign

> Why it is? With the Merkel at a thing from a business stand not seen candidates entering as ness proposition. Some person they should.

Perhaps it is because it is during the next five weeks.

Anyway, no matter why,

didate.

There was a large crowd in Now, with very few candidatone with real ambition and pep, or the person whom you nominate raised seats and equipped can take a lead that will be hard nate to 5,000 free votes, and giv

Little Girl, ... Articlee Agnew Thursday evening, December any taxpayer in the district, as dual use. This locker will be hole in the doughnuts, while the Thus equipped, you have but sufficient tax has already been come what is termed the Studoptimist—well, you know the to see your friends and neigh-

pictures. The house will open semi-fire proof construction. or classes at least one half of to you. In a few short weeks al. promptly at seven o'clock, and The School Board has in mind a the school day, the seats used as from now the Merkel Mail will The names of the candidates the program by Kater will be modern building in every restine School day, the seats used as from now the Merkel Mail will be modern building in every restine School day, the seats used as from now the Merkel Mail will be modern building in every restine School day, the seats used as from now the Merkel Mail will be modern building in every restine School day, the seats used as from now the Merkel Mail will be reward all the energetic hust-who have been entered will be practice, were vacant this lers of this country, and the oppublished in next weeks paper. Admission without season tick- which can be enlarged from portion of the day, at the same portunity existing for more Thus far very few presons have et will be 20, 40 and 60 cents. time to time as the growth of time the student was accupying "live wire" campaigners to en- been nominated considering the Remember the date—Thursday, the city requires.

Remember the date—Thursday, the city requires.

a seat in some of the other determination and make thempartments in the building. With selves important factors and to be distributed. There is plen-Complete department for seats in the building for each anybody's opportunity for the ates.

Sewing and Fitting room, and tem it is possible to provide for a man or woman who looks til 9 o'clock.

more big fat turkeys and on this We are glad to call attention for instruction in Bookkeeping, seating space required in the A modern Steam Heating

so Dark Room and Apparatus partments there will be Offices, ed Auditorium, with stage at advantages to be found in

\$1.50, but we can send them raphy and Vocational Agricul- foundation to grade. The exter- school plant adequate for re-

can earn upward of \$85 a week **Election Just Starting**

The Completion, which is just

able man or woman or child in Awards will positively be Taylor or adjoining counties. All are 100 candidates, or one can-race is to clip the nomination blank, appearing in this issue, fill in your name and address, and mail or bring it to the electa lead. It is easy now. A worker Mail. This coupon entitles you lutely no tricking. That is one reason why Kater goes big."

The bond issue will be for Recessed Lockers will be pro-ch. More votes are given on sub-to success. Upon recepit of the vided in the Corridors of Build-scriptions now than later. That nomination coupon at the office pro-chessed Lockers will be pro-c a complete working outfit, together with detailed informat-

dern educational ideals.

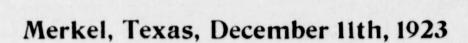
It is the intention to beautify the grounds and provide Basket Ball, Tennis Courts and Experimental Gardens and give

GAIN DAYS HERE

This writer is pleased to acknowledge the recepit of an invitation to attend the "Ford Dsplay Week", during which time the public will have the privilege of viewing all the newest and latest model Ford cars, and not only that, but all who attend this "Open House" reception between the hours of 8:00 p. m. and 10:00 p. m. will have the privilege of enjoying a fine orchestra and radio program.

It's going to be a big thing and manager Scott is going to see that every one who attends has a good time And listen, folks, the beautiful, new, 1924 model Ford Touring car that is going to be given away by the Merkel Mail on January 19, will be on display, so we would be glad that you gvie it the once over while viewing the other popular model cars.





To the People of Merkel and Merkel Trade Territory:

We are approaching the close of the old year and we would not wish it to pass without thanking the loyal patrons of the Bank for their confidence, loyalty and support, and to acknowledge their part in the fine prosperity that has come to this institution in the year 1923.

We wish each and every one of the people of the Merkel Territory a very Happy Christmas, and we trust as you sit about your firesides and make a summary of the happenings of 1923, that you may find much to be thankful for and little to regret; nor would we want the New Year to be ushered in, without wishing you a full measure of prosperity and a fine contentment of mind in the knowledge that you are determined to do your best, in that every act that you shall perform shall have some relation to the future.

We are lending the influences of this Bank towards economy and thrift; and are offering its resources toward increasing the material wealfth of this part of Taylor County. Each officer and employee of this institution is anxious to have a share in the material, spiritual and moral welfare of this community.

May all the apparent calamities of the Old Year be translated into blessings in the New. This Bank will continue to handle its affairs in such a manner as to merit your confidence, and be worthy of your loyalty, we invite you to consult us freely, to make our Banking house your headquarters when in town and to take advantage of the splendid service which we hope to offer.

Sincerely yours,

Farmers & Merchants. Nat. Bank

J. T. WARREN, President-Director. HENRY JAMES, Vice-Pres.-Director. G. F. WEST, Vice-Pres.-Director.
L. R. THOMPSON, Cashier-Director.

Sam Butman, Sr., Director.

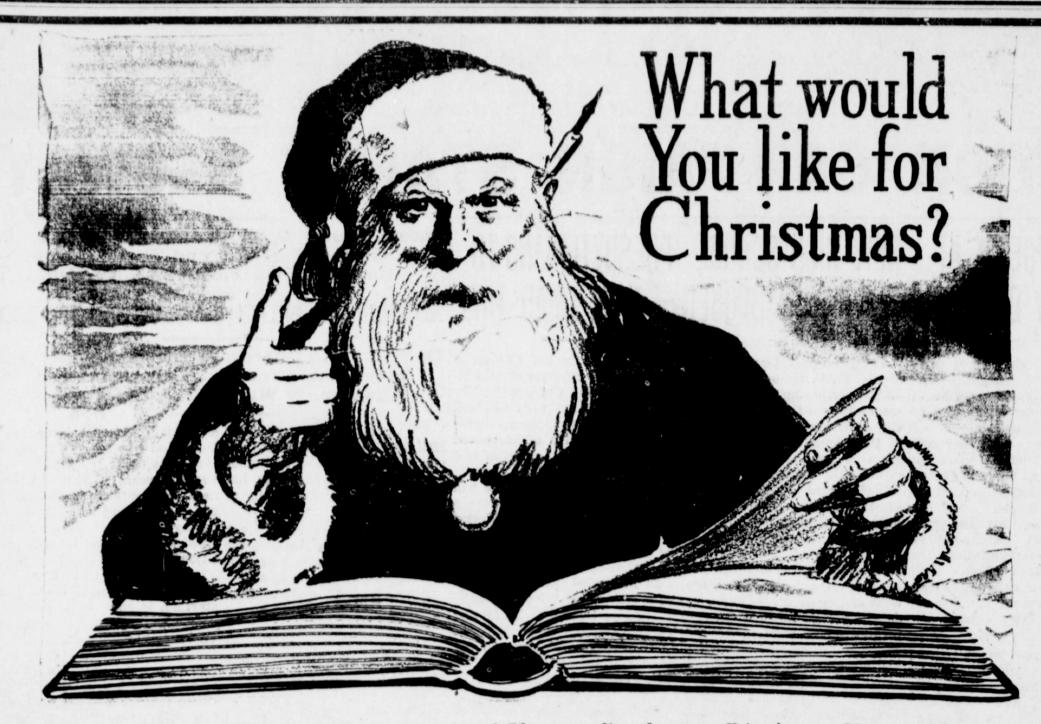
Booth Warren, Assistant Cashier.

Owen Ellis, Assistant Cashier.

J. T. Howard, Bookkeeper.

E. Yates Brown, Bookkeeper.

Rosie Laney, Stenographer.



We now have a Large Stock of X-mas Goods on Display. You will find in our showing something for all members of the family, consisting of Toys for the Children. For the older boy, Guns, Tricycles, wagons, etc. For the older girl, Ivory Sets, Cut Glass, Water Sets, and the latest thing in Novelty Glassware, and other goods that will please Father and Mother. We will be pleased to have Everybody come and see our stock. We will have plenty of help to wait on you.

Since closing out Groceries, we are now enlarging our Hardware stock. It is our intention to carry a more complete stock of Hardware in the future than we have in the past. Before buying Hardware elsewhere, get our prices as we at all times keep our prices as low as like goods can be bought. You trade appreciated at all times.

Yours for business,

Crown Hardware Company

returned last week from a trip J. A. Janes. to the Plains wwhere he visited friends and relatives.

Lassiter.

from his visit to relatives in J. E. Hill of Midland was Bell county. We are glad to here last week a guest at the learn that he has improved very home of Mr. and Mrs. Earl much in health since going Tim. iv 1-5. down there.

Mr. A. J. Hartley, route one, If you want to buy land see

Ed. Teaff came in last week Minister.

Rugs and Linoleums

Most **Practical** of Gifts



If you would choose a Gift for your home that is decidly practical as well as economical, plan to inspect our showing of Floor Coverings, soon

The utmost in value giving is represented in our complete display of these needed home articles that buying what you need is easily arranged

At Very Lowest Price.

J. T. Darsey Co.

Senior Epworth League

Subject-The Mission of the Leader-Julia Martin.

Hymn. Scripture—John xx 21-23;

Hymn ts minister-Loring Hamblett. Ashby.

minister, Sie Hamm. Preacher's salaries, Blanche Booth.

Durham. What do I owe my Pastor? Iarie Williamson.

Reading-Lola Dennis Business League Benediction.

Remember the Time-5:30 BUYS MRS. C. L. CASH

TAILOR SHOP

Mr. J. W. Schindler, of Shiner er, Texas, last week closed a deal for the purchase of the Ray Garrett. Mrs. C. L. Cash Tailor Shop and Monday of this week took char- and Seamen and Tubercular duct their respective duties in a ge of same.

Mr. Schindler, we are told is an experienced and first class gical seminiary, by Durwood Winters Enterprize. Tailor and also comes to our city Owens. as a good citizen and business man. We welcome him and his unions, by Lucille Owens. family to our city. We also regret to learn that Mrs. Cash is planning to possibly leave Mer- 13. Layman's missionary kel, but join her many friends movements, by Alfrde Tittle. here in wishing for her health, Tucker. happniess, and prosperity where She left first of the week for a Yates Brown. prospecting trip to the Plains.

Intermediate B. Y. P. U.

Subject: The Southern Baptist Convention. Leader, Gladys Deutschman. Introduction by leader.

convention, by Clyde Mayfield.

Chilie, and Argentna, by Helen ily will follow in a few days.

Slavia, and Hungary, by Delbert best. He has labored faithfully 5. Roumania, Russia, and Sy-

ria and Palestine, by Thelma Condor. 6. Home Mission board by

Fannie Bell Boaz. 7. Co-operative Missions, enlistment and evangelism, by

Eunice Bird. 8. Mountain school, Foreigners, Indians and Negroes, by ion of Mr. Henslee. Thus the re-9. Cuba and Panama, Soldiers

sanatorium, by Agnes Sanders. 10. Southern Baptist Theolo-

11. The Woman's missionary 12. Sunday School Board by Charlie Largent.

14. Educaton Board, by Lewis

15. The ministerial relief and ever she may decide to locate. annuities Board, by Mrs. E

by Mr. E. Yates Brown. Read the Classified Column. 17. Closing song and prayer

R. L. GRIMES GOES TO MERKEL BANK

R. L. Grimes, who has been with the Winters State Bank for nine years, has resigned his 1. Spirit of Southern Baptist position as active vice-president of that institution to ac-2. Foreign mission Board, cept the cashiership of the What the church expects of China, and Japan, by Joe Ben Farmers State Bank of Merkel, and he is now on the job in his What the church offers the 3. Mxico, Brazil, Urugay, new location. Mr. Grimes' fam-

Thus Winters loses a citizen 4. Africe, Italy, Spain, Jugo, who is in every way one of the with the Winters State Bank. working up to his high position from bookkeeper and he has the full confidence and esteem of everyone who has had any dealing with him.

Carl Henslee has stepped up to the position vacated by Mr. Grimes and H. W. Robinson Jr. in turn takes the former positsponsible positions readily found men to fill them who will conmanner becoming this, the leading bank in Runnells county .-

Buy that boy an all wool twopants suit for Christmas. You can get them at a big reduction now at BROWN'S.

Mr. Lee Acuff, returned first of the week from a trip to Lubbock, where he was called last Saturday on account of the serious illnness of his mother. We 16. Inter-Board commission, are glad to learn that she had improved very much when Mr. Acuff departed for home.

THE PLOTTER

By JANE JORDAN

M RS. CALICOT leaned back in her

chair and sighed. "It is most disappointing," she told ner friend. "I must confess, when I invited Rowena to pay me a visit I had Rupert in mind. He is such a dear, worthy brother. So I planned to bring two desolate hearts together?

'Why, Aunt Cora,' she said-I had begged her to call me aunt-'I don't believe your brother has ever had a girl in his life. He is so terribly grateful for a little kindness.' Of course I was angry at Rowena's obtuseness and lack of fine appreciation." Mrs. Mills laughed. "Forgive me, Cora," she begged. "You must feel badly indeed when you drop into the

sentimental. I'm going to advise you, by proxy, if you still desire this silly young person for a sister-in-law. I have a little friend stopping here who is well versed in the ways of love. and, alas, in its management. Prudie-Prudie-Peach, my boys wickedly call her, has captured from other of my indignant young friends their supposedly assured suitors. She is engaged berself to a man in Boston."

Prudence Wharton was called in consultation. Prudence came. Rupert's sister, seeing her, drew a breath' of admiration. Prudie was like fresh sweet pinks in an old-fashioned garden; impish, yet kindly little soul. She spread her silk accordion skirt and istened to the confidence. Then she nodded her small head with its quaint, high coiffure.

"I know just how Rowena feels," she said. "We all like to think there has been competition, else how can. we be sure that we may retain that which we have won? Don't you see? If we have vanquished, we may ever

The elder ladies looked their inde dsion. Prudie went on:

"I recall having met Mr. Rupert Flemming at a reception. He was in attendance upon a really lovely girlyour Rowena, no doubt. She seemed, now I recollect, languidly aware of his preference. Mr. Flemming had eyes for no one else. I know, for I tried to charm him for a half hour in the library; heard of his fame as a deep writer. He followed Miss Webster about as one hypnotized. And she flirted, to torment him, because of his dog-like devotion; yes, she did." Prudlelaughed back at her listeners.

Suddenly a pucker knitted her brows. "Do you suppose," she asked Rupert's sister, "that your brother is calling this afternoon on Miss Row-

"He will be at our home for dinner

"All right and good," the reader of human hearts answered. "You will excuse me now, please." She flashed placating smile and vanished. "Leave the problem to Prudie,"

Mrs. Mills advised. Dinner was about to be served in e Calicot home that evening when Mr. Rupert Flemming was called tothe telephone. Miss Rowena handed the receiver over to her lover. She had first been asked for, and a pleasng feminine voice had explained to her announcing Miss Webster speaking. "Thank you, I wanted to locate

Mr. Flemming through you." Therefore, it may have been absently or it may have been purposely that Rowena waited in the neighborhood of the telephone. Rupert took up the receiver briskly and the vibrant girlish voice that called him reached Rowena as distinctly as though she also were receiving the message:

"This is Miss Wharton-Prudie Wharten. You remember meeting me at the Merton reception, Mr. Flemming? You could give me so little time because Miss Webster happened to be with you. And I wanted so toknow about your wonderful book-and we have a mutual acquaintance in Boston who will insist on hearing all about you at first hand. So won't you promise me a call very soon? I am a guest at Mrs. Mills this time. Auntie Sue is in New York. I usually visit there. Can you come here tomorrow afternoon for tea? Mrs. Mills will send her car. She does not like her guests to be disappointed when they have set their hearts upon a thing. You will come, Mr. Flemming?"

Rupert stood, frantically trying to recall Miss Wharton, who remembered him so well—who was so astonishingly enxious to see him. Trying to think "who in thunder" the mutual friend in Boston might be, he answered famely: "Just a moment please, Miss Webster is here." That sounded strange, and he hastily added: "I have several engagements with Miss Webster; she will know if I am free temorrow afterneon." He turned confusedly to the woman he loved. His glance was coldly received.

"Go, if you want to," said Rowena is an unnatural tene. Rupert was hopelessly troubled. Women were queer. Here was Rowwas Rowena, her usually calm eyes

eep with represen. "De you want me to

"If you'd rather be with that girl than me, Rupert," she said His arms went around her. ering. Rowena's head drepped on

Prudle, at the other and of the wire "It's all right," she told Mrs.

THE FARMERS STATE BANK

THIS BANK

-is thankful for the many friendships it has made during its existance as a

As we view the growth and development of our surrounding community we are indeed thankful that we have been able to be one of the active factors in this great advancement.

financial institution.

And again we are thankful that the coming years will bring new friendships in addition to the old, and an even greater desire to carry on our share of the active duties that make us singly better citizens, and collectively a better commonwealth.

21.5

FARMERS STATE BANK Merkel, Texas

"There is no Substitute

Secure your Money by Depositing in a State Bank

For Safety"

Published Every Friday THE MERKEL MAIL PRINTING COMPANY, INC. THOMAS DURHAM, Editor and Manager

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Foreign Advertising Representative THE AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION

men often make remarks regard ies were strangers in the city, er in the town and community. by both word and action. And they were passing from business house to business BIG RODEO HERE ON house presenting their cause to the tax payers, yes just going about among those who should Malone Brothers, expert and whre your wife, my wife-yes who make Merkel their home, meet courtesy, where she should and 25 there will be a big Rodeo feel that she could go withthe bronc busting, steer riding etc. assurance that not only was she in Merkel, and it is expected among friends, but among those that there will be a large crowd who would really protect her. present to witness the perform-But what we started out to ance. them, were prone to make re-complete announcement of the marks about a passing girl or a affair. woman that was unjust to them and unmanly of a gentleman SCHOOL CLOSES FOR THE Yes, often in his thoughtlessness make remarks about the tha twould in the future help to city today for the holidays.

The Merkel Mail make better men and women of Katherine Edelman. the girls and boys of today. And while they were talking and presenting their proposition to one man, yes one of the best and SUBSTRIPTION \$1.50 PER YEAR most influential citizens of the community, another man, a ? good man, a man who is not only who can believe the twisted apagood citizen, but a man who has a nice family, a man who is ALL ADVERTISMENTS MUST a church member, yes an official BE IN THIS OFFICE BY SIX in that church, and this good O'CLOCK P. M. WEDNESDAY man did not recognize the ladies FOR INSERTION IN THAT so he stepped over to a friend WEEK'S ISSUE OF THE MAIL standing by and asked this question "Who are those Janes". And this friend, happened to be the husband of one of the ladies, and of course it hurt. The Thoughtless man-Yes many man no doubt thought the lading young girls and ladies who and no doubt meant no real dischance to pass along the street respect anyway, but the episode from day to day. Just recently just illustrates how often we two ladies of this city were on make remarks that are impropthe streets which had for its er and often hurt. How can we quently the rugged and grotesquely purpose the up building of the fathers expect the younger gencity and the promotion of the erations to respect and reverfuture interst of the boys and ence and respect the women and girls of every father and moth-girls unless we set the example

be their friends and neighbors; nationally known Rodeo men, Yule-song began with: the wife of any man should announc that on December 24

show was that, man, many of Watch for cirular making

HOLIDAYS

other fellows wife or daughter On account of the law comthat would cause him to feel pelling all public scool teachers like committing murder if the to attend County Institute for same remark should be made one week in the year, and the about his wife or daughter. And fact that the teachers of the while these ladies above men- Merkel School will go to Stamtioned were making the rounds ford to attend the district inof their mission, yes believing stitute which meets there next that they were doing something week, theschools closed in this

Beauty of the Snow

HE beauty of snow is not on wide, glaring expans level, unbroken plains. The eye could not endure, nor the heart accept, the blinding monotony

of such conditions. The beauty of snow lies in contrast. Who has not seen long, bluish shadows creep over it at sunset? Or marked with delight, the thin pencilings of bare branches shifting over its surface by moonlight? Snow requires changes, Interruptions, so to speak, to bring out its character. The ruggedness of hills makes the valleys yet more peaceful. The stark, rough "glory of the trees" lends decision to a landscape; the thinnest, wind-whipped edges weave patterns of indescribable frailty on the pages of the snow.

So It is with Christmas. We could hardly live up to Christmas every day in the year. The whole meaning would become worn and threadbare through constant association. When It does come, it should stand out by contrast, in great and shining beauty. The worries, fruits, failures and disappointments of the months just gone should lend the proper "shadowing." so that the purity of the day stands out in white distinction.

And if the heart must ache a little. as all hearts do no matter how great the happiness, let the pain be the pencilings of branches on the matchless page of Christmas, giving it added beauty and character.-Martha B.

1923. Western Newspaper Union.) C. Description (1)

Magic of Christmas Sweeps Entire World

HE magic of Christmas lies over the world today the dreary commonplace events of yesterday into things of wonder and delight and filling the earth with happiness and joy and cheer. It permeates the whole earth from end to end and mankind in every land and in every clime responds to it in the fullest measure. For into our hearts at this time there comes a beautiful something that raises us above ourselves and brings us to greater heights than we ever reach at any other time. For with the magic of Christmas time man burles self in trying to promote the happiness and well-being of others and in doing this finds greatest happiness for himself also. For it seems as if the more we give of love, of service and of ourselves the fuller grows the store from which we draw upon and the richer we grow in the things that make for our own happiness. Let us then allow the magic of Christmastime to fall upon us so deeply that it may not only stay with us at this time but through all the days to follow .-

6. 1921 Western Newspaper Union.)

UNDER THE OUTSIDE

(6 RASS keeps green under the hide away in ugly seeds. ple-tree will be lost in a surf of pink petals in the spring?

There must be many a warm and true heart cased in a frosty exterior.

If we believed more in the vered, and less in the covering, we should make Christmas a day truly bright with peace and good will.-Martha B. Thomas. (Q. 1923, Western Newspaper Union.) STATE OF THE STATE

Eringing in the Yule Log for a Merry Feast

- All Shapes of the same

NE of the most delightful of the ing in the Yule-log. According to an English writer, this was a massive piece of wood, fremarked root of a tree. It was drawn through the forest with shouting and laughter, while each wayfarer reverently saluted it, since he knew it to be full of good promises and that in its flames would be burnt out old wrongs and heart-burnings. As it came into the great hall, the livingroom of the old castle, each member DEC. 24 AND 25 of the family sat upon or saluted it in turn, and sang a Yule-song, after which all drank to a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. A favorite

Welcome be ye that are here Welcome all, and make good cheer,

Welcome Yule. -F. H. Sweet.

----A FAIR EXCHANGE

. (@. 1923, Western Newspaper Union.)

Laura and Tommy often had im portant discussions on serious subjects. Christmas evening found them in grave colloquy. There seemed to be a slight ambiguity about who gave them gifts. God or their father. It was a matter which could not be settled. Finally Laura said in a superior

"You know. Tommy, that daddy isn't our only father; we have two." Tommy appeared surprised. "Who's, the other one?" he asked.

"God!" answered Laura succinctly. Tommy gave the occasion much reflection. Then he said earnestly:

"Well, I wish Daddy would go to heaven for a while and let God come down and stay with us-I'd like to get acquainted!"-M. B. Thomas. (@. 1923. Western Newspaper Union.)

STRANGE WAYS OF SLEEPING

at the Yule Season Every Kind of Animal Adopts Some Particular Posture in Which to Rest.

> Every kind of animal, including man, seems to have adopted some particular posture in which to sleep. Long legged birds, such as storks and gulls, have been observed to sleep balanced on one leg. Most birds, however, sleep with their heads turned round over their backs. Often their beaks are hidden among the feathers between the wing and the body. Some curious exceptions to this rule is the owl which sleeps sitting on a branch, and certain Indian parrots and bats which sleep only when suspended from a tree. The duck is the most unconventional of all. This bird sleeps on the open water, and during its slumbers paddles itself with one foot in circles to avoid drifting to the

> Such a bulky animal as the sloth sleeps upside down, hanging by its four feet and with its head tucked between the forelegs. The posture of the domestic cat is typical of many other animals. Foxes and wolves sleep curled up with their noses and the soles of their feet all close together and often covered by their tails. Some animals sleep with their eyes open, others with them closed. A og, especially an old one, occasion-Hy sleeps while standing; a horse ten does, while an elephant never s down to sleep. Salmon and goldfish are said never to sleep.

ERULE PIONEER IN WILDS

Explorer Is Now Credited With Dia covery of Superior and the Other Lakes.

Although his name is not enshrined history along with those of Chamain, LaSalle, Radisson, Marquette, loliet, and many other explorers, Et'enne Brule (with an acute accent n the initial E and on the final e of ie surname) is said to have been the cal discoverer of the Great Lakes of America, including Superior, the largest body of fresh water in the world. Ernle antedates most of these great scoverers by many years. He is said to have discovered the Great kes more than 300 years ago,

Brule had no gift of writing, and o personal account remains of what must have been one of the outstandng careers of adventure this adventurous continent has produced. In late life Brule was denounced by Champlain as "abandoned," as one who "lived without religion." It is believed by some persons that the judgment of subsequent historical writers as been warped by Champlain's riticism of Brule's morals. They say that if Brule succumbed to the custoras of the native Indians, it was be arise he was sent among them at a ender age by Champlain himself.

Having It Both Ways.

The head of a girl with red hair, ainted with charm and great dexterty, caught my eye. The picture was in that interesting gallery, the Rue da la Boetie, and I was tempted to inter the shop and asked the price. The price was so high that I remarked

The dealer smiled in agreement. But you see," he explained, "the minter is dead. Finished. There can be no more of his work, and therefore t costs much/

I made a tour of the wails and and another picture, this time a andscape, very simple but true and eautifully composed. It was signed Grosjean." I asked the price of it ilso, and as with the other the price vas so high that I remarked on it. The dealer smiled in agreement.

But you see," he explained, "the painter is alive, and living is expensive. It is necessary therefore to harge much."-Punch.

Rival to Monte Carlo.

Helgoland, the little island in the North sea, seeks the laurels and income of Monte Carlo.

The Island resort is about to build a gambling casino, which, it is hoped, will bring sufficient earnings to the local government to make all the island folks free from taxation, just us the residents of Monaco, the principality where the Monte Carlo casino is located, are free from taxes.

This is to all intents and purposes declaration of war by Germany gainst France, so far as getting the ourist gambling business of Europe

s concerned. Helgoland has always been a favorite resort, largely patronized because of its beach. Now, in addition, the local government plans to erect a casino which will draw a new and wealthier class to its shores .- Cleveland Plain Dealer.

A Difficult Task.

"You know Wombat, the author?" "We are acquainted."

"That baby of his has some cute expressions. "Yes. Wombat confided to me the

other day that Mrs. Wombat wanted it "So Wombat taught 'em to the baby,

and he says he had a deuce of a time

doing it, too." Contradiction of Terms.

"You say our friend has a queer record ?"

"Rather," replied Senator Sorghum. "Can't we put him across as a dark

"Perhaps But you'll have to white

wash him first."

The Way We

Feel Toward

Patrons Our

We never have considered a transaction closed with the mere exchange of our goods and service for money. We prefer to think that business means more than buying and selling-that it means the opportunity for making and holding friends.

And this being true we come now to express our appreciation of the friendly spirit you have shown us and to extend to you our best wishes for a Christmas of joy and a new year in which vour laudable undertakings may each be crowned with success. And may we hope to receive your patronage during 1924.

J. T. DENNIS

Receiving Christmas Gifts Is a Fine Art

F COURSE, every gift given means also a gift received. Christmas always has two sides, and certainly there is great joy in receiving the tokens of love and friendship that come to us, not because of their money value, for most gifts are bought for small sums, but because they convey to us an expression of someone's affection. 1

heard a young girl remark when a !!ttle gift came to her, "Well, that didn't break anyone's bank." What a pity. As if Christmas could have in it great joy for anyone who looked for the price tag on a gift. Our character is likely to be revealed by the spirit of our receiving quite as well as by the spirit of our giving. It is this fine art of receiving well that will not only make Christmas the more joyous, but will also be an all-year virtue, if it is cultivated in our hearts .- F. H.

(@. 1921, Western Newspaper Union.)

- COMP - - FREEZE LIKE MANY OTHERS



"She says her husband attends church regularly.' "Yes, he goes with her to the

Christmas service every year."

SAFETY FIRST

The Christmas shoppers hesitated at the crowded street crossing. To try to get over seemed like an attempt to dodge fate. Automobiles dashed by in a continuous procession. The tali policeman, however, convoyed a group across like a battleship leading a flock of schooners. But one old lady lingered, afraid to launch away, until courage came with the policeman's assurance: "Come right along, ma'm, you're just as safe with me as if you was in God's pocket!"-C. G. Hazard.

(@. 1923, Western Newspaper Union.)

MERCHANICA CHARACTER

REAL SPIRIT

J F THE real spirit of Christmas is within us we will, indeed, find that it is more blessed to give than to receive, and we will give out of the full-ness of our hearts and because of the joy that giving brings us, tive. So to get the real joy of giving and to receive the richness of the Christmas spirit in fullest measure, give because your heart prompts you to and forget all else .- Katherine Edel-

(@. 1921, Western Newspaper Union.) できませいというとうという

"It Is More Blessed to Give Than Receive"

HIS has nothing to do with banks or savings accounts; but more money is saved at Christmas time than any other time of the year. Yes, saved. That

may sound absurd to a lot of people who have spent all their money buying presents for their families and friends and neighbors, but it is true just the same. How? Why, because giving is the finest sort of saving, and not only saving, but investing. Every good gift is a permanent gain to the giver; It is better than a bank book carrying the same amount for a sift is more truly a saving than credit account on a bank ledger. If you want to save your money, give it away-wisely. Does that sound unreasonable? Re member, it is more blessed to give than receive .- F. H. Sweet. (8, 1933, Western Newspaper Union.)

----AUNT MEHITABLE'S PRESENT

Aunt Mehitable had a powerful and active imagination that often kept her awake. She was ever creating difficulties by imagining them and making things crooked by tryin, to straighten them out. "Hiram," sald she, "I can't think what has got into George; I didn't like the way he looked at us this morning."

"Probably he was thinking of somebody else," answered her brother. "George," began his nunt the next day, "what was the matter with you

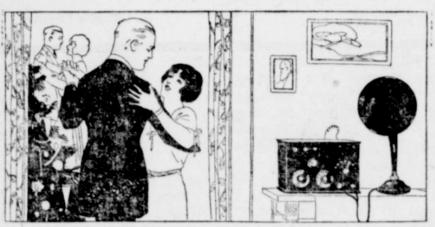
yesterday morning, you looked source 'a pickles."

"Nothin' was the matter with me," said the boy, "I was puzzlin' over your Christmas present." Then be added, Since you're so mighty suspicious, I guess I'll give it up." But remembering her goodness of heart, George relented, and, when the day that shinen away all unpleasantness came round, Aunt Mehitable had a new nightcap!

-C. G. Hazard, (C. 1923, Western Newspaper Union.



Here is the logical place to buy your gifts. Every department of our stock is resplendent with articles suitable for Christmas giving--useful gifts--gifts that will be appreciated by the recipient.



RADIO IN THE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

Radio has dispelled the dread of long winter nights, has brought into the home the world's best music and the speeches of great men. What more appropriate gift for the home? You'll find in our store such sets as Crossley, Westinghouse, Federal and Murad. If he should like to make his set, let us fit you up an assortment of parts. We know just what you need.

SOMETHING FOR THE CAR FOR CHRISTMAS

What more appreciable Gift for the Car Owner than some much needed, highly appreciated Accessory for the car. You'll find our Accessory Department brimfull of useful Gifts. Look over the list and come in and let us show you.

OUR GROCERY DEPARTMENT

-Bids you add to the enjoyment of the season by selecting your grocery needs from our choice stock of Quality Groceries. Here you will find all the nationally advertised products, and a number of necessary articles not ordinarily stocked by others. You'll find our Grocery Department clean and Sanitary, and our Service first class.

We have in stock everything for cake making or for any extra cooking. Our Christmas Celery, Lettuce and fresh Vegetables are the very best attainable.

We will specialize in Fruits, Nuts and pure, wholesome candies for the Christmas

Make your orders early, thereby insuring first choice of our specials and assisting us to give you the service you deserve.

See the big stick of candy in our window and don't fail to make a guess at its weight. You may be the winner.



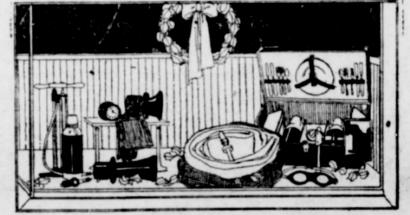
ELECTRICAL GIFTS

Gifts Electrical make ideal Gifts for women. We have just those appliances that will be most appreciated.

Boudoir Lamps, Curling Irons, Table Stoves, Sad Irons Toasters, Percolators, Portable Lamps

SOMETHING FOR THE CAR FOR CHRISTMAS

Speedometers, Clocks, Spot Lights, Visors, Chains, Motometers, Lock Caps, Locking Wheels, Klaxon Horn, Alemite Lubricators, Pumps, Camp Stoves, Thermolware Jugs, Step Plates, Dash Lamps, Pedal Pads, Accelerators, Gasolene Gauges, Exhaust Horns, Foot Warmers, Windshield Wipers, Jacks



"Twenty-five Years of Better Service"







FOUND

HOG KILLINB TIME

Mr. G. M. Sharp, one of this

city's pioneer business men and

paying for this notice.

John S. Hughes.

time ago by fire.













FOR SALE

See J. I. Ford, Stith, Tex. 7t2p

FOR SALE-A-1 Jersey Milk Casseaux.

FOR SALE OR TRADE-Eight WANTED-Hands to grub 30 room house. Phone 18. Possess- acres of land. S. F. Haynes. 1tp ion immediately if wanted. 1tp

some cord wood to sell in Fren- ey. E. D. Coats. ch Pasture. CSee T. J. Amason, Route 4.

FOR SALE-New, fresh tires, Merkel. A. M. Giles. all the popular sizes, at the WANTED—Men to clear land Buy now and save money. All health or your druggist will relowest prices ever offered on by the acre or cord. Sam But- other goods as good as the fund your money. 50c per box. quality products. Our reputat- man Sr. ion is your guarantee.-West Company.

FOR SALE—Three sections of experience. Sam Butman Sr. land four miles South of Abilene on pike road. Tracts cut large or small to suit purchaser. WANTED—Two ladies, high most excellent citizens returned

room house, good well water.

If sold by January 1st, \$1,000 commission. Inquire for Miss will buy it. Might take good Aline Moody at the Woodrum team in on it. See W. I. Avery, Hotel, Friday only. 7t2p Merkel.

FOR SALE-My home which is

and and windmill, good cistern. Luxe for Overland car, in Mer-Barn and other buildings, 134 kel. Finder leave at Merkel Mail acres of good level land. No office. W. T. Bird. Johnson grass. 115 in cultivat-

WANTED

Cow. Fresh. See Mrs. Annie WANTED——A Good milk cow FOUND—A leather glove, for pounds in the last two weeks. proprietors are experienced ho-1tp See J. P. Sharp. 1tp right hand. Owner may get

WANTED-Good second hand

FOR SALE-Wood. I have Piano. Must be worth the mon-

the acre, 2 miles south east of let us tell you about it.

7t2 best and as cheap as the cheapest. J. D. Porter, successor to 1t. WANTED-Farm and Ranch

Terms easy. See W. C. Lasley— school graduates for educational his father who resides at Ste-Abilene, Texas.

7t4. school graduates for educational work; only few hours weekly; no selling. Guaranteed salary plus commission. No experience es east of Lawn, Texas. 30 or necessary. Also two ladies for necessary. Also two ladies for permenent traveling position.

1 bours good well water convented salary expenses and the first salary to be some to

well improved. 5 room house well LOST-A mud chain, weed De- FERRASAL RELIEVES MAN LOSEING POSITION

> And now I haven't felt better in and upto date shape. several years, and gained seven We are informed that the new

> > A. Dee Phelps.

Excess acid causes indigeston. ner. FERRASAL neutralizes this We hav a big stock of the tem. If neglected, excess acids fact that the turkey is free to for the putting down and pre-chronic bowel disorders, catarrh son gill get five gallons of gas WANTED—Grubbing done by serving of your meat. Call and constipation, kidney trouble and free. Magnolia Filling Sation. 1t rheumatism. Take FERRASAL 1t. Also a fresh supply of Hor- regularly night and morning for mell Hams, at wholesale prices. a month. It will improve your much rain—in West Texas, and Office over Farmers State Bank



50c per box at Merkel Drug Co.

COTTON IS TOO HIGH.

tresss, bring them in and have as to spend the winter. them made new, the sanitary It. office.

OPENS HOTEL HERE

Messrs. R. M. Dulin and W. O. "About three weeks ago I Walker, of Roby, have leased was nearly down with indigest- the Crenshaw building on Kent ion, all tillable. 1-2 mile of good LOST-An Elgin, seven jewel, ion and almost unable to hold street, known as the old Lone school; 10 miles north east of open face watch, in the city of my position. Have been bother- Star Hotel, and which building Merkel: 12 mies north west of Merkel last Saturday night ed with indigestion, gas, etc., was purchased by the Fulwiler FOR SALE-1 double Disc plow Abilene. \$85.00 per acre. J. D. Finder, please return to J. T. for years, started to taking Motor Company of Abilene, last practically new. Sanders make. Andrews, Merkel, Route 4. 1tp Dennis' Store. Robert Den-FERRASAL and began to im-fall, and which they have had 1tp. prove from the very first dose, remodeled and put in good clean

tel men, and will no doubt consame at Merkel Mail office by 517 Liberty St. Dallas, Texas. duct same in an up to date man-

acid at the source and aids nat- Listen folks! Watch for that Hours 10 to 12 a.m 2 to 5 p.m. ure in passing it out of the sys- Magnolia Turkey. Besides the Phones 105-163 It best Meat Salt, Spices, Sage etc. often result in ulcers, cancer, the person catching it, that per-

> Rain! Rain! we never saw so while it gives this country the best season possibly ever known here at this time of the year, there has been so much of it the past few weeks, months, we are almost 'tempted to wish for just a little spell of dry weather, for that has always been one reason we liked West, Texas-so Over Woodroof-Bragg's Store. much more sunshine and bright days than rainy, cloudy ones.

Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Morton, of Oklahom City, were here this week guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Warren. Mr. and Mrs. Morton Don't discard your old mat- are on their way to South Tex-

SHOES for any member of way. Ticks furnished, \$4.80 and FOR SALE-Span of good work It the family at a great saving up. The Sanitary Mattress Fact- mules. See W. L. Diltz Sr. or NOW .- Brown Dry Goods Com- ory, opposite the Merke Mail W. L. Jr. at the Farmers State 1tp Bank.

PROFESSION

THOS. C. WILSON The Jeweler Watches, Clocks and Jewelry Repaired

All Work Guaranteed Located at Merkel Drug Co.

DR. R. I. GRIMES Physician and Surgeon

Res. 165

DR. S W. JOHNSON. Surgeon Dentist Office Phone 306

G. W. JOHNSON Insurance-Notary Public

Merkel -:- Texas

W. W. WHEELER

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

Office over Crown Hardware Co. Merkel --: Texas

tf. Read the Classified Column.

1923 -:-1924

GOOD WISHES TO **OUR FRIENDS**

Our friendships are our greatest asset, and the spirit of the holidays, with its time-honored customs, provides opportunity for us to greet you.

We extend our most cordial greetings and best wishes for your peace, prosperity and happiness, and for those whose happiness depends upon you.

PATTERSON & BAKER

City Meat Market

FOOTBALL BOYS WITH COACH EXTEND THANKS

The members of the Merkel this city a sure enough foot friends. ball team.

for many years.

FARM BUREAU MEMBERS

You are requested to bring ness. son, Secretary.

WHO APPRECIATES to him, saying: "Oh poor dupe of YOUR TRADE

their able coach, I. L. Jackson, next issue, our readers will find there none who need but cannot have amount of \$40,000.00 payable tax payer in said Merkel Indehave asked this paper to extend many Christmas and New Year in this great city? Are there no hope serially as follows, to wit: __ pendent School District. their thanks and appreciation to Greetings from the various busi ful children who will creep down to the local business men and citi- ness and professional men of Power of light and heat, of truth and this year in their effort to give of thanks to the patrons and heart is shriveled up into nothing-

And this paper takes this op- have bought and paid for space | Was it a dream? Who can say? But portunty to commend the boys in this paper to so express they found him there the next morning. and Mr. Jackson for their able their thanks, shows that they and earnest efforts, in that they sincerely appreciate the business that was so empty!-Christopher G. have really made the best record you have given the past year Hazard, of any team the school has had just coming to a close. So, this paper hopes that our readers. every one of them, will look care fully through the paper this week and next and see how our merchants appreciate your busi-

all cotton by the 22nd of Decem | Now is the time to buy him br, as Platform manager will that suit or overcoat. A gift quit on that date. C. W. Simp-that is worth while. Brown Dry 1tp Goods Co.

READ THE ADDS AND SEE

High School Foot Ball team and In this week's paper and the

The fact that these firms

CARRELARE REPRESENTATION OF THE PROPERTY OF TH

Story of a Stocking

That Was So Empty

COB SCRIM was accounted a prosperous man. Early in life

he had adopted a motto of getthere-ativeness that had ap-

parently served him well. He could survey premises that yielded

good rentals to him, mortgages that were a first claim upon good farms.

stocks and bonds that were called gilt-

edged. Sitting in his dingy office he

ild not appear to have any very exact ing business, but his clients found that

there was plenty of exaction before

they were done with him. It was a

favorite amusement with him during

the intervals of occupation to go over his books, gloat over his securities,

and refinger a stock of gold that he

kept to assure himself of the reality

of his power and the possibilities of

his life, should he ever care to use

them. This glittering illusion he

strangely kept in an old stocking, hard

by another in the massive safe, the second containing a collection of

gems that he lived to handle without letting any of them slip through his

He was thus amusing himself one

hristmas Eve. all unconscious of the

radioed and radiant hopes and purposes that filled the atmosphere out

de and ever surged through his room which he sat, and all unable to tune

and to hear a voice that interpreted it

falsity! When will you hang up a

make an investment in real happiness?

When will you serve love, that it may

present you with his best gifts? Are

ness. You have lost your income and

must leave your principal. Come with

old with a new coldness and grasping

with a futile hand the full stocking

(G. 1933, Western Newspaper Union)

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

JN A SMALL village every of the little church and some of the girls and boys of the choir go forth and sing carols.

They go to homes where there are older people, perhaps where they cannot get out during the winter time, and they give their Christmas concert. And they sing under the win-

dows of these homes so that their voices sound truly as carols sung under the stars on the night before Christmas. A simple enough thing to do. perhaps, but very lovely. It brings pleasure to those who

hear the carols and those who sing them love this Christmastime festival of their very own.

—Mary Graham Bonner.

(2) 1923, Western Newspaper Union.)

THE TRADE



Christmas gift she gave to From it I ne'er will part. gave her a diamond: And she gave to me her heart.

DESERT HOLLY

Though not profuse enough for general gathering at Christmas time, and not as suitable as the regular holly for wreath-making purposes, the desert holly (Perezia nana) of the Southwest is a peculiar little plant with stiff, smooth, dull bluish-green leaves with prickly edges, like holly leaves, but not so stiff. The plant bears one light purplish-pink flower, the head about an inch long, with purplish bracts. The plant grows but two or three inches high, and looks somewhat like a little sprig stuck in the sand. Another plant with bluish-white leaves and erroneously called "desert holly" is sometimes used for wreaths on the Pacific coast.-C. F. Wadsworth. (©. 1923, Western Newspaper Union.)

THE REASON OF REINDEER

"I know why Santa Claus has reindeer," announced little Mary. "Why?" asked her mother. "'Cause they have Christmas trees growing on their heads!"-M. B.

Thomas. (©, 1923, Western Newspaper Union.)

IT'S A GOOD TRYOUT

The man who has tried to hide some gifts from the wife or kids knows how futile is the attempt to secrete the jewelry from burglars.

A GENEROUS PRAYER

There is no finer Chris ment than the words of "God bless us, every one.

COZY THEATRE

Matinee Saturday 2 to 5:30

Friday

MARTIN JOHNSON'S JUNGLE PICTURES

The pictures of the kind on the screen Made in the Wilds of Africa Also-

Christie Comedy

A GOLDWYN FEATURE

And-

Monday and Tuesday

Capitol Comedy

Saturday

WILLIAM S. HART

"THE SOUL OF HATE"

Also-Fox Sunshine Comedy

And-Mutt and Jeff

Wednesday and Thursday

And-

Christie Comedy

A PARAMOUNT FEATURE

Junior B. Y. P. U. Program

Notice is hereby given THAT which shall be held as nearly as tary of Board of Trustees of the in with any of them, when he seemed an election will be held at the possible in conformity with the Merkel Independent School Dissee upon the wall a handwriting Fire Station in the town of Mer-general election laws of the trict. kel, within the Merkel Independ state. ent school District on the 18th No person shall vote at said stocking emptied by benevolence and day of January 1924 to deter- election unless he be a qualified mine whether the bonds of said voter under the Constitution and 1. Introduction, by Harold district shall be issued to the laws of the state of Texas and a Boney \$1000.00 on the first day of Feb Those in favor of the issuan- 3. Nathan learns Adonijah's ing of brick material, and pur- AND THE TAX." chasing a site therefor within Said election was ordered by 8. David's farewell address, said district, and if there shall the board of trustees of said by Kenneth Mayfield. be \$1000.00 annually levied and Merkel Independent School Dis- 9. David gives Solomon the collected on all taxable proper-trict by order passed on the plans of the Temple, by William ty in said district for the cur- 10th day of December 1923 and Sheppard. rent year and annually there this notice is issued pursuant to Every one come. A hearty after while said bonds or any of said order. them are outstanding, a tax suf Dated this 10th day of Decem ficient to pay the current inter- ber 1923.

maturity.

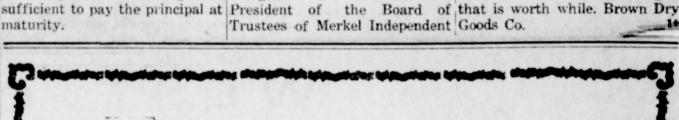
NOTICE OF BOND ELECTION B. C. Gaither has been ap-School District. pointed manager of said election ATTEST:-W. O. Boney, Secre

Throne, by Benjamin Sheppard.

ruary, 1925, and \$1000.00 on the ce of the bonds and the levying Plans, By Clara Louise Miller. zens in general, who have aid- Merkel, who extend the season's love, of purest happiness is in these first day of February each and of the tax shall write or print 4. David plans a feast for ed and co-operated with them greetings as well as expressions baubles that you handle, but your every year there after to and on their ballots "FOR THE Solomon, By D. O. Huddleston. including the year 1964 and BONDS AND THE TAX;" and 5. Solomon is annointed king, bearing interest at the rate of those against th issuance of the by Thelma Miller. 8 percent per annum for the pur bonds and the levying of the 6. Adonijah takes refuge in pose of constructing and equip-tax shall write or print on their the Tabernacle, by O. B. Boden. ping a public free school build-ballots, "AGAINT BONDS 7. Solomon pardons Adonijah, by John Frazier.

est and provide a sinking fund Signed:—R. O. Anderson, that suit or overcoat. A gift

welcome to all. Now is the time to buy him



We Have---

a little institution around here on the corner called The Merkel Garage, and we want you, our patrons to know that you are at home here, at our place of business, and that you have co-operated with us by your Loyalty and Patronage until now we feel that we owe you an expression of Thanks and Good-will, so

Here's Hoping That You and Yours May Have a



Joe Ridenbauch, Ed Gant, Frank O'Briant, Mechanics Davis Jones, Sid Coats, Floyd Chaney, Front Men

Merkel Garage

Ross Ferrier

Phone 123

AND THE RESERVE OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERT

H. L. Propst

we will give five gallons of gasoline and drain and refill your crank case with Magnolia FORD OIL

FREE!

Call 159!

for Kerosene, Gasoline or

Magnolia Ford Oil.

To the one catching the Mag-

nolia Turkey December 15th

Magnolia Filling Station

STYLE, FAD or FANCY WILL NEVER DECREE A BETTER EXPRESSION THAN THE GOOD OLD WISH-

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

To those who have patronized us in the past we come with this message of appreciation and good wishes. We try always to show our appreciation, large or small.

As we make our entry into the New Year may we do so with confidence and kindnesss warmed with the fire of good will which this Christmas has kindled in all our hearts. May we live in the belief that "That Best is Yet to Come."

SOUTHSIDE ELECTRIC GIN

L. L. MURRAY, Manager J. P. SHARP, Bookkeeper

Remember next Sunday is Orphans day and bring an offer ing and help to take care of God's little ones.

The Church conference has done its work as best it knew Four hundred and thirty members. We may have made some mistakes but we did the best we could. Come now and lets make it five hundred members by Conference. What do you Christmas tree. Then demure Helen, say? We can do it.

The congregations have increased with every service and we are having almost a house full every time, but some are not coming. We will look for you next Sunday and have a seat for you. Will you come and oc-

Our Sunday School has also increased with every Sunday but we haven't reached our three hundred yet. We must do this before the year is out, provided we have any weather

cupy it?

The Leagues are doing some fine work and want your help Are you a youngster? And have you been attending? They are looking for you next Sunday afternoon to help swell the crowd, "BE A BOOSTER" for your league.

Our First Quarterly Conference will convene next Tuesday evening, December 18th, at the church. Let's have every thing ready for a great conference.

DO YOU MISS THE Church? A Man misses a closed bank according to the amount he has on deposit in it. The CHURCH will be missed little by those who put little into the CHURCH the pleasant things of life and that "Let the good work go on."

Listen folks! Watch for that Magnolia Turkey. Besides the fact that the turkey is free to the person catching it, that person gill get five gallons of gas free. Magnolia Filling Sation. 1t

T. J. Rea Pastor

If you want to sell land see ham Boute. 14t2p. J. A. Janes.

Christmas March Was Played by Minister

HE minister had hung up his stocking, too. The sprites that put into it a candy cane, a lollipop, a ball, an apple and a motor car that would go, had added a mouth organ, most approprihow and we find that we have sate and perhaps most needed of all gifts, for what other mouth should so dispense harmony?

Then, after breakfast, came the procession into the parlor and unto the wonderful tree. First, little Sarah, with the early and aided steps of her one year and the big eyes of her first blowing her own horn for once, then big Sarah and all the uncles, aunts and cousins, then father and mother, and then the minister, playing his new march upon his new organ.

When they were all seated in the happy circle they asked for the words of that new tune and here they are:

If birds could sing in Christmas trees, If they could hum with happy bees, If they were sweet with all the spice Of all things beautiful and nice. They could not altogether be More full of love than this, our tree. Chorus .- March. march to the Christmas tree.

It has a loving gift for thee. Then they all sang it, after which the beautiful tree yielded its fruit. -Christopher G. Hazard.

(C. 1923. Western Newspaper Union.)

-Christmas Telegrams Add Yuletide Cheer

E WAS always busy, always rushing, always hurrying. He always had so many things to attend to and so many people were constantly pressing it

his time with this demand, with that, which required attention, He wished he could see more of his friends. His frieds wished they could see more of him. He was the sort they would like to see more of and at times they were a little annoyed that he was se busy.

He was busier than was really normal. They said he had no time for he could neither enjoy things himself nor could be be enjoyed because be was always having so much to de.

But he took time for one thing. He

never falled to take time for it. Every Christmas he sent all his friends beautiful Christmas telegrams of cheer. He thought of them and he remembered them and every Christmas morning as his friends opened their gay Christmas telegrams they

would say: "He always finds time to think of me on Christmas mething, enyeay! What a pleasure this is!"—Mary Gra-

Who Is Your Neighbor? A Good Christmas Game

HIS is a very lively Christmas game, and one especially useful in an emergency, for it can be played without preparation of any kind. Arrange as many chairs as there are players in the form of a circle. When this has been done the party must divide into sides, one side being blindfolded and taking possession of the chairs in such a way that each has a vacant chair

at his right hand. The other side then move silently into the middle of the circle, and at given signal they must all mysteriously and noiselessly seat themselves in the vacant chairs. At the word "sing" the unblindfolded players must all start singing. A well-known tune may be arranged beforehand, or they may all sing anything that happens

to occur to them at the time. All endeavor to disguise their voices as much as possible. The blindfolded players must listen attentively, the object of each being to guess correctly who his singing right-hand neigh-

bor is. Those whose guesses are correct have their bandages removed, and change places with their singing neighbors. The unsuccessful guessers must try again. One guess only is allowed each time.-F. H. Sweet.

(6. 1922, Western Newspaper Union.)

There Is Satisfaction in Trust in the Future

HE was shabby and old and stooped. As she walked the streets people turned and looked after her with pitying eyes and thought to themselves what a hard lot hers must be. Yet, had they but known the truth she needed no pity, for, although poor in material wealth, she was far richer in other things than many of those who looked upon her with compassion. For her heart was full of contentment, she had a childlike faith and trust in the future and she was content with her lot in life, realizing that while she lacked many of the things which wealth could buy, God had given her many other gifts instead: The fullness of years, good health, a little fireside to call her own, an income which, if very meager, was enough to supply her with necessities, and, hest of all, the ability to see and enjoy the things which were hers. So, while the merry Christmas throng looked at her pityingly as they passed, she went serenely on her way as happy and as much at peace with

everything as if all the earth was here.—Katherine Edelman. (2) 1925, Western Newspaper Union.)

"Merry Christmas," the Big Policeman's Wish

THE big policeman standing in the middle of the road there where two streets cross isn't just a part of the street furniture like the hydrant or the

oridge, of course; but I had seen him there so many times a day, week in, veek out, season in, season out, I had quite forgotten that he was human like myself, perhaps a little more tired, but perhaps a little happier. But I woke up on Christmas day last year to his reality as a human being.

I was crossing the street with a very gloomy heart. Everything with my life seemed to have gone wrong. nd the crisis had been reached this hristmas day. My eyes were downast at the dirty, slushy snow underoot, and I gave a glance at no one.

Then suddenly, out of the sky, out of the nowhere, came a deep-voiced, opeful, "Merry Christmas!" Yes, here was the big policeman merry t back heartily, "Merry Christmas,

And with that cheerful spoken word a miracle for you! Not out of he New Testament, but out of today, this day of policeman and hydrantsace. In what form it came does not matter. That is my heart's secret. not lifted my eyes to return the big with me until I reached that curb.

The policeman this Christmas is to e a symbol. Never again will he be

THE KINDLY STAR

HE little boy was afraid of out through the low window, upon the panes of which Mr. rost was making his pictures he saw a bright star that was winking at him with a most friendly and assuring light. It shone through his tears and seemed to say that it would watch over his sleep. So he shut his eyes, and, stilling his sobs the better to hear the carol sing-ers across the street, was safely away to slumber and a dream. The dream lady looked like his mother, all dressed in a robe that glistened and sparkled like snow and she was bringing him the hope of his heart, the sled that was to take him so delightfully down the hill. And when he so early had come true!-Christopher G.

(6), 1923, Western Newspaper Union.) SARAKARIKA KARIKARIKA KARIKARIKA KARIKA

MODERN SIMPLICITY



At Christmas time, I do not wish For costly gifts, or rare; Just bring a bit of mistletoe And place it in my hair-Of course I'd want the "follow-up"

To be a solitaire. A PAINFUL EXPERIMENT

Having his Christmas joke, Harry Simpkins changed the road sign just a little, to more perfectly express his holiday sentiment. The reading had been, "Go Slow. School Ahead," but when Harry left it the wording ran, "Go Slow To School Ahead." But afterwards the teacher taught Harry that this was too much .- C. G.

(@. 1923, Western Newspaper Union.) THAT MONEY QUESTION

Unfortunately, those who have the most Christmas spirit to make others happy are shy of funds; and probably if they had the funds, they'd be shy of the spirit. The reason lots of folks have piles of money is because they are careful about spending

A PRESENT FOR KITTY

"I'd like to give my kitty a radie," declared small Lucy. 'What for?' inquired her father.

"So she can enjoy all the cat-concerts over the world!"- M. B. (@. 1928, Western Newspaper Union.)

ALWAYS SOMEONE THERE

When a man tries to meak a few gifts into the house it seems that the family is always congregated around

A PLEASURE

It is our pleasure to wish you The Season's Greetings and a New Year Overflowing with happiness and prosperity.

> YOURS FOR SERVICE IN 1924

Alfred H. Ligon,

Agent, Abilene Steam Laundry

PARENT TEACHER CLUB

The Parent Teachers Club did not have their regular meeting Christmasing me, and as though he on last Wednesday afternoon on meant it, too. In my surprise, I gave account of the weather condit-

There will not be another Tucker. ursting automatically from my sur- meeting of the P T. A's until rised lips the day changed. There the regular meeting time in son.

January. We wish to extend thanks and the Christmas spirit. On the op- and apprecation to the express-Lee Tarbutton. posite curb I met happiness face to ion, music and voice departments who gave us such an ex- Bird. But it came! And this I know, it cellent program on last Friday would not have come, or coming, I evening. Many of the large rould have surely missed it, had I crowd who attended this prooliceman's "Merry Christmas," and gram have expressed their apad not the surprised smile stayed preciation of it and also express ed a wish that that we may have more of this kind of entertainpart of the street furniture.-Ethel ment. The proceeds, \$45.35 went pants suit for Christmas. You

BAPTIST ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. And we thank you.

Sunday School at 10:00 a. m. Preaching at 11:00 o'clock and at 7:00 in the evennig. All B. Y. P. U.'s meet at 6:00

Visitors welcome to all services.

Intermediate League Program

Subject: Living Heroes. Leader: Erma Lee Rae.

Scripture lesson (Heb. 11 1-2 Dr. J. C. C. Newton-Louis

Robet A. Hardie—Stella Wif-

Dr. D. L. Mumpower—Clara

Miss Rebeca Toland-Intha

James L. Kinnedy, Mary Ellen Smith.

Announcements League Benediction

Buy that boy an all wool twoto the Library Fund of the P. T. can get them at a big reduction now at BROWN'S.

313 EGGS IN 365 DAYS

313 eggs in 365 days, the record of a Single White Leghorn Hen, owned by P. E. Payne of Stephenville, Texas. This is official record and makes this the CHAMPION hen of the South. Mr. Payne has 38 other hens that have laid from 250 to 292 SHOES for any member of eggs in the year. These hens the family at a great saving were fed Superior Feeds exclus-NOW.—Brown Dry GoodsCom- ively. These Feeds handled by 1t. T. J. R. Swafford. Phone 44. 1t

the GULF REFINING COMPANY products

····

KEROSENE, GASO-LINE AND SUPREME AUTO OIL

will give you setisfactory service in your COOK STOVE,

> in your AUTOMOBILE,

> > in your TRACTOR,

in fact, in any way where such Products are used and needed.

E-----

W. F. GOLLIDAY Local Agent

BY THE SLEEPING SEINE

So Still It Lies Before Dawn That Its Course to the Sea Seems to Have Stopped.

You will have to stay out late or get up very early to catch the silver Seine asleep. And even then you might find it waking, wind-ruffled and restless, for the Seine seldom goes to sleep. But when, by some good fortune, you surprise it slumbering then you truly find a sleeping beauty. So still it lies sometimes in the hour before the dawn that it would seem for once to have stayed its course to join the sea. Not the tiniest ripple disturbs its polished surface.

And sleeping, it would seem to be dream-haunted. It dreams of the city through which it flows. Above it hangs the starlit sky; tall buildings seem to peep into its depths, and the bridges stretch across it almost caressingly as though protecting a child that had gone to sleep.

And the dream of the river is of these same stars that shine above, of the tall buildings that are peeping down, of the bridges that stretch their arms above its bosom. For in the mirror of its shining surface you will see all these things more beautiful perhaps than their reality, and, looking down into this dream city, you will speak quite softly lest haply you might wake the sleeping Seine.-London Mail.

MARIE GREAT HELP TO HER

Mother Could Do Washing for Eleven So Easy When Girl Played a Ukulele.

Unselfish mothers too often make or permit their daughters to be selfish, more's the pity. One such mother, acfording to a story that Booth Tarkington likes to tell, was bending industriously over the washtub when a neighbor said to her. "Hard at it as usual, ain't ye?"

"Yes," replied the mother cheerfully. "Yes, this is wash day, Mrs. O'Hoolagan, and washin' for eleven don't leave you much spare time on your hands," "Is that Marie I hear singin' to the ukulele in the parlor?"

Marie, by the way, was in infancy christened Mary and in early youth was always known as Mollie.

"Yes, Mrs. O'Hoolahan, that's her. The help she is to me! Oh, dear! Oh, dear! I don't know how I'd get along without that girl! Every Monday morning she gets out the ukulele or opens up the piano, and while I'm scrubbin' the clothes she sings the nicest, cheerin'est pieces, like 'Mother's Day,' or 'Dear Mother, in Dreams I See You,' or 'Lighten Mother's Tasks With Love,' and the work just rolls off like play. I tell you, Mrs. O'Hoolahan, there ain't many girls like our Marie." -Youth's Companion.

Laughter.

A low, musical voice is one of the greatest charms of woman. It sets tion. But many a person has turned world. away from a pretty girl because of her laughter. There is laughter so loud that it ceases to be hearty and on the nerves, so strident that it sug- have six of them. gests hysterics, and so inane and cackling that the listener concludes that only In empty-headed woman could laugh so.

Many girls do not realize the effect of their laughter, and continually they meet.

Yet a low, musical laugh is a great attraction, the greater because it is so achieve it. First listen to yourself whenever you laugh. You will probably be very disagreeably surprised, and realize how ugly laughter can be. room when you are alone. Banish the cuckle on a single note; laughter is almost a scale harmonious and attractive.

Would Like To.

An absent-minded country vicar met the village postman trudging along a dusty road on a hot summer afternoon. The postman remarked that he had newspaper.

"My goodness!" exclaimed the sympathetic clergyman, "I'd never walk all that distance for such a trifle. Why don't you send it by post?"

Not Entirely Alone. "Yes, your honor," said the ag-

grieved woman, as she dabbed her eyes, "he neglected me shamefully. Why, he never was at home." "And I suppose you had to spend your evenings all by yourself, with no

companionship whatever?" "W-w-well," she sobbed, "I had two goldfish."

Terrible Faux Pas. "What caused the coolness between the De Golds and their country cous-

If the family crest in the tablecloth was the laundry mark."

be without coffee.

The Best is The Right Test

Buy the Best and See the Test

We Strive Every Day to Show Our Trade That It Pays

Just a good looking Cow will not match a Registered

WE ARE OFFERING YOU

Good to Best Shoes Made at Special Low Price

On Every Pair Under Our Roof

Mens' KIRSCHBAUM Tailored Suits, \$4.00 to \$6.00 Off

AND OTHER GOOD MAKES AT A LOWERED PRICE

LADIES! We Have GOOD COATS. DRESSES, TAILORED SHITS AND SKIDTS TAILORED SUITS AND SKIRTS PRICES CUT LOW THE BROWN D. G. CO.

HAS SIX GRANDMOTHERS

In Star-Telegram, by Curtis A Keen

many, and every one of them The Jungle pictures wil be at are actve and never forget the Cozy Theatre Friday night And yet they work so hard, so over-Christmas or Birthday. And and Saturday afternoon-with hard, they carry so much, and all to everyone of them think they no advance in admission prices. the seal on her beauty. Without it have the sweetest and smartest she loses much of her power of attrac- little grand-daughter in all the Dawson Coal Satisfies. Car

becomes vulgar, so shrill that it gets your grandmothers when you Side.

Little Miss Pansy is visiting her Grandmothr Acuff at Merkel now, and is having a hard time deciding jujst which one of her grandmother's will have the dry service we do it. Any and they destroy their chances of making best "fixings" for Christmas so all kinds of it. Cleaning and a favorable impression upon people she can decide which one to vis- pressing, dyeing at reasonable

ter of Mr. and Mrs. V. V. Smith except Silk goods, at 10 lb. minpatience and perseverance you can On her mother's side there is imum, 10 cents per pound. Grand mother Lee Acuff, 49, of Phone 218 or leave at Petty's Merkel, and Great-grandmoth- or West's or City Barber ers, N. M. George, 70, of Electra Shop.. You must lower the pitch of your and M. J. Acuff, 95, of Lubbock, voice. Practice laughing in your own the granddest grandmother of all of them.

> Grandmother, C. F. mith, 48, of Swafford-Phone 44. South Whitney and grandmother A. D. Side. Smith, 73, also of Whitney, and E. V. Long, 70.

Little Pansy can not even start to tell how many aunts, still a mile to walk just to deliver one uncles, cousin Johns and other store on Kent street, and can relatives she has-but there are fill your wants in this line. Will oodles and oodles of them and be glad to have your business. they everyone love her and re- Phone 161. Gazzaway and member her every birthday.

And Old Santa Claus has to carry an extra pack for her on Christmas, she says.

The Turkeys will not be thrown from any building on Front Street, on account of being on the Highway and would be too dangerous on account of cars passing on the highway. But Look for Grady Collins or one all traffic will be stopped on the of his representatives, Saturday "Why, when she was visiting them other streets, and Turkeys will December 15, and you will not she made a terrible blunder by asking be thrown from other buildings. only find but will take home

Listen folks! Watch for that have ever seen. In Turkey, during the Seventeenth Magnolia Turkey. Besides the It is unique in design, a novel hold goods, and now Mr. Grimes free. Magnolia Filling Sation. 1t satisfaction.

JUNGLE PICTURES

The people of Merkel and community will have an oppor-Lubbock, Dec. 9.—Could you tunity to see genuine pictures imagine the wonder of having of animal life in the African six grandmothers at one time? Wilds, made by Martin Johnson, Pansy Irene Smith, 2 years the world famous hunter of big to our Christmas joy and pleasure! and 4 months, has just that game in the African Juncles.

Fancy Egg due next week-Get gree. And just think how much fun it off the car and save money. it is to start out to visit all of Swafford- Phone 44. South

FIRST CLAS LAUNDRY SERVICE

If you want first class Launprices. Semi-Finish, or family Miss Pansy is the only daugh- washing everything included

Dawson Coal Satisfies. Car Fancy Egg due next week-Get On her father's side, there is it off the car and save money.

NEW FEED STORE

We have opened a new feed Polly.

Dawson Coal Satisfies. Car Fancy Egg due next week-Get it off the car and save money. !NOTICE-TURKEY DAY! Swafford-Phone 44. South

SOMETHING NEW FOR CHRISTMAS

with you the best and most ap- es, the new Cashier at the

century, to refuse or neglect to give fact that the turkey is free to ty as a gift and a necessity in and family are permanently lo-hatched young are most common from coffee to one's wife was a cause for the person catching it, that per- the home. Mr. Collins manufact- cated with us, and we are glad the middle of August until November, divorce. The men made promises can gill get five gallons of gas ures it himself, and guarantees to number these splendid people and the young, in various stages of de-

AT THE COZY THEATRE Busy Mailmen Add to

Our Christmas Cheer ROM house to house they go

with cards and calendars of cheer, presents and surprises. Always cheery, never complaining, how much they add If cross expressions were worn by those who brought us our Christmas

presents it would not be the same. ful lot and our Christmas time is

added to by them to a very big de-It seems as though we should do our part to give a little cheer to our

mailmen in gratitude and appreciation ily collapsed. of the spirit in which they do their work .- Mary Graham Bonder. (4) 1923, Western Newspaper Union)

-THE RIGHT COSTUME, O. K.



part in the Christmas Eve entertainment. What part do you take? Wifey-I take the leading part. I'm Christmas Eve herself.

KEEP A CHRISTMAS RECORD

Why wouldn't it be fun for a fam ily to keep a record book in which to preserve the luteresting things about the acqual Christmas celebration from year to year? Some people keep a record of the important happenings of their everyday lives, but it is rather inconvenient for the average person to take the time to make it complete enough to be more than a date and a line or two. A Christmas record would give all the details of the family's Christmas presents, the names of the guests, the menu of the Christmas dinner, the amusements and games, and maybe a tracing of the baby's first little shoe! Every succeeding year would add to its value and ip terest .- C. F. Wadsworth. (@. 1939. Western Newcosper Unten

The family of Mr. R. L. Grimpropriate Christmas present you Farmers State Bank, arrived this week, as did also the house among our citizenship.

Edward Simmons, Painter Who Lived

In House Made Famous by Haw. therne, Tells of Incidents. Mr. Edward Simmons, the painter, ived during part of his youth in the

house that Nathaniel Hawthorne made famous as the "Old Manse." In his book of reminiscences entitled "From Seven to Seventy" Mr. Simmons gos sips entertainingly about the house:

The Old Manse was built in the manner of the Eighteenth century, entirely of wood; the oaken timbers were held together with oaken pegs. We boys found it quite easy to draw them from place, and we used them for tholepins in our dory. Fortunately, the grown-ups "got on to us," or I believe the house would have eventual-

There was a gabled roof with chimnevs at both ends and of course all sorts of wonderful nooks and cranules to hide away in. It was up in that attic that a caller found Grandmother Ripley rocking a cradle with her feet and holding a book that she was in- passed. Young men remember the first tently reading. It was written in Sanskrit. She apologized because she needed a dictionary to read the language. That was not so of Latin and Greek; she read them fluently; but a city in the hard coal region. Her she used to say. "I cannot think in Sanskrit!"

Concord was a historical spot and in the summer was overrun with tourists who, not content with viewing the scene of the "shot heard round the world," and so forth, would invade the Old Manse. They were allowed to go all over the house, much to the discomfort and the amusement of the occupants. One day when I was still a young man there was a party of people upstairs nosing round while Uncle Gore (Judge Ripley) and I were in the sitting room. My sister had brought in not long before a long. draggly bit of Spanish moss and had put it on the chimney shelf. While the tourists were upstairs my uncle rose and, taking the moss, went to the front door and, climbing upon a chair, hung it there. It trailed down three or four feet. When the party came down and started to go out the moss was in the way. Lifting it so that the door would open without catching it, my uncle bowed and with his best manner as chief justice of the Minnesota Supreme court remarked: "The moss of which he wrote!"

Every jaw fell; their eyes rolled upward, and in dead silence they marched to their carryall.

WAYS OF WOODLAND ROACH

Usually a Household Pest, but Enters Homes in Search of Paste.

The female of the form of animal

life known as the woodland cockroach, because it lives in the woods, carries its eggs in an egg case, which projects from the end of the body and consists of two cells, divided by a partition. Within each of these cells is a row of pouches, each containing an egg. The egg cases are carried until the eggs are about ready to hatch. Newly-

DEFENDS THE NAME FATHER

Hicknames Such as "Old Man", "Pater", "Dad" and "Daddy" Do Not Express Affection.

What is in a name? Why, everything, of course. Get a bad name and you will find it out. Call a man a jailbird and he is doomed. A great deal of time is consumed by parents in finding a name for a new baby which comes into a home. Much thought is given to the selection of a baby's name, ecause he is so precious and sweet, and because he will carry it through ife. The baby has nothing to say as to the choice. It is, therefore, all the more important that a name be given im which he will be pleased with when he becomes a man. Unfortucately, few boys and girls are entirely pleased with their names, and in many ases they seek to change them.

There is another question which rises later on, and that is the question as to what a boy will call his faher. A variety of designations have been assigned to the paternal head of the household. By some he has been alled "the governor." This is an offilal term and smacks of rulership. It can scarcely be called a term of disrespect, but the objection to it is that it kacks affection.

"Pater" is another designation for father. It sounds classical, for it is the Latin name for father. It, however, seems cold and formal. Occasionally we hear a boy speaking of "the old man." This is, of course, the smart Alec who considers he is acting cleverly. There is a swagger about an attitude of this kind which is not admirable. Here is another lad who calls his father "dad." He means to be repectful and even affectionate, but this name is not dignified, to say the least of it. A good father deserves a better designation than that of "dad." "Dadlie" is the term many girls employ, nd it is much more tender and affeeionate. But, what better name can e find in our Anglo-Saxon vocabulary o call our father than "Father?"

MILLIONS OF BOOKS PRINTED

On an Average of 200,000 Volume Are Published Each Year Throughout the World.

Have you ever wondered how many ooks there are in existence? On the IMPRESS SIGHTSEERS average 200,000 volumes are published each year throughout the world, and as 8,500,000 appeared last century, one can obtain a fairly good idea of

the size of the world's bookshop. Adding together the number of volumes published in each country since printing was invented, the astonishing total of 60,000,000 is reached. The amount of energy, time, paper and printers' ink which have gone to prore all these books is absolutely is alculable.

The three largest libraries in the world are the British Museum library, in London, which has 4,000,000 volumes; the Bibliotheque Nationale, in l'aris, which has 3,000,000, and the Library of Congress, in Washington, with half a million less. Thus, between them alone, these three great institutions possess 9,500,000 books of all inds.

She Skipped Trains. In this fast-moving world, transpor-

tation takes new forms over night. The fair century of steam railreading in the United States has not yet motor car. We are just beginning to fly. There arrived in New York from Pennsylvania not long age an elderly woman. Her home was on a farm near trip to New York was by automobile, and what makes it unusual was that she had never ridden in a steam train. She had skipped a generation of transportation, so quickly do things come. There are hundreds of small communities in the country which made the jump straight from oil lamps to electric lights without ever seeing gas. They had their water-made lights long before the cities, using coal for gas. They, too, skipped a generation.

A new fish story has come out of Alaska, where it has been discovered that large rainbow trout weighing from two to seven pounds eat mice in July, August, and the first half of September. The treut do not go prowling over the fields catlike, but He among the cutbanks of rivers and lakes until mice come running along, then jump at them, and gulp down the

While cleaning large fish for a camp of workers along the Alaskan ratiread, kitchen helpers discovered mice and rats in various stages of digestion in the stomachs of many. Old woodsmen have long known of the trout's peculiar summer appetite.

A New Difficulty.

"I understand Crimson Gulch is go ing to have a baseball team." "We tried it," said Cactus Joe, "but we couldn't get enough players. Most of the boys is naturally so scrappy they wanted to be umpire or nothin."

Large Investment. "My face is my fortune!" quoted the

deliberate charmer. "I can appreciate the fact," answered Miss Cayenne. "These beauty treatments are terribly expensive."