

## NOMINATIONS ARE MADE PUBLIC TODAY

### KINDERGARTEN PUPILS IN RECITAL

The Kindergarten pupils will give a program at the Methodist Church Friday evening, December 21, 1923 at 7:30 o'clock. Play—"Entertaining Mrs. Santa Claus."

Characters:—  
Dot, Annie Lee Owens  
Bob, Neil Durham  
Ruth, Pauline Lassiter.  
Jess, Joe Earl Lassiter.  
John, L. V. Moore.  
Jim, L. R. Wilson.  
Mrs. Santa Claus, Mary Olive Simpson

Fairies  
Holly, Sarah Sheppard.  
Mistiltoe, Joy Meadow  
Laurel, Louella Hughes  
Evergreen, Waldrian Huskey  
Poinsetta, Juanita Huskey.  
Goodwill, Ima Ruth Boden.  
Brownies  
Speed, Hail Derstine  
Flip, Bennie Hendrix  
Skip, Harold Reece.  
Trip, Jack Lowe

Readings:—  
1. The Three Little Fir Trees, Annie Lee Owens  
2. The Bad Little Boys, Joe Earl Lassiter  
3. Christmas Secrets, L. V. Moore.

4. The Babe of Bethlehem, Hail Derstine.  
5. Thats Christmas, Bennie Hendrix  
6. Where is Santa, Pauline Lassiter.  
7. The coming of Santa, Harold Reece.

8. Joy Bells, By the Fairies.  
9. Advice to Santa, Jack Lowe  
10. Some body's mistake, L. R. Wilson.  
11. Just Before Christmas, Neil Durham.

### MISS TRACY'S CLASS IN A FINE RECITAL

Miss Lucy Tracy, the most excellent teacher in Expression at the Merkel Public School, presented her younger students in recital on last Tuesday evening at the High School Auditorium. There was a large crowd present and as is usual when Miss Tracy and her class entertains there comes the report of a most excellent and appreciated entertainment from those in attendance.

It is said that each pupil, many of whom had been taking expression only a few weeks exhibited marked progress and excellent ability.

Miss Tracy is one of the most capable and efficient teachers in expression to be found even in the larger cities, and this paper congratulates the local school board upon having secured her excellent services in our public school. And while she is being accorded splendid

### FARM BUREAU SEND OVER \$100,000 HERE

More than One Hundred and Twenty-Three Thousand Dollars of the December 15th distribution was distributed through two banks in a town of 2,500 population in Taylor county, according to J. W. L. Hall, secretary of the Texas Farm Bureau Cotton Association.

"On this basis, every man, woman and child in the community would receive \$49 each if it was pro rated among them. Mr. Hall said. "The benefits of cooperative marketing is certainly appreciated in this community," he said, "and yet this is only the first distribution made by the Association since the initial advance. Others will follow in the near future." Merkle Texas, is the prosperous community.

Other communities substantially participating in the December 15th distribution are Abilene, \$45,733.62; Brownwood, \$31,897.54; Colorado, \$106,847.95; Robert Lee, \$45,293.60, and approximately \$300,000 was distributed direct to the members in the Nueces district.—  
Farm Bureau News

### HENRY R. HICKS FOR COMMISSIONER

In this paper will be found the announcement of Mr. Henry R. Hicks, as a candidate for the office of County Commissioner of Taylor county from this Precinct, subject to the action of the Democratic Primary next July.

Mr. Hicks having been a resident of this county and this community for many years, he is too well and favorably known to most of the voters to need any introduction or commendation at our hands; however, to those who may not have had the pleasure of knowing him, we are pleased to say that he is well qualified in every way to serve efficiently and honestly the people of this community in the office to which he is seeking and if elected to same, he will no doubt serve his constituents with fairness and impartiality towards all.

Read his announcement containing his platform of principles in this paper, and give his claims fair and due consideration in making up your mind as to whom you will vote for for Commissioner.

patronage, we are told, this paper would also be glad to see others take advantage of the opportunity of giving her their children in this line.

### CHRISTMAS TREE METHODIST CHURCH

On Monday evening at the Methodist church in Merkel there is going to be a real old time Christmas tree. Yes, one of those kind where "Old Santa" pays a visit to the little children of this community as he is passing through from the great frozen North. Yes, boys and girls, Old Santa is expected to meet you there, and listen, a special to the Merkel Mail states that Mrs. Santa is coming along with him, so we are requested to invite every little boy and girl—and all the older ones too as for that, for this is going to be a real happy Christmas time, so be present.

It is also announced that the following interesting program will be rendered upon this happy occasion.

PROGRAM —  
Welcome address, Duncan Briggs.  
Song by the children.  
Prayer.  
Thats Christmas, by Annie Love Poombs.  
Reading: Advice to Santa, Jack Lowe.

Joy Bells, by three little girls  
Reading: Just before Christmas, by Neal Durham  
Reading: Then and now, by three little girls.

Pantomime: Star of the East, Rosa Lane and Thelma Leach.  
Song: Low in a Manger, by the beginners.

Reading: The Christmas Babe, by Burrell Chaney.

Reading: The Harvest, by two boys.

Reading: December, by Jim Chaney.

Reading: Somebody's Mistake by L. R. Wilson.  
The Birth of peace, by thirteen children.

A Reading: Christmas Carrol by Dorthea Miller.

### COMPERE BAPTIST DEDICATE CHURCH

Comperre Baptists are happy to announce that they too are to burn notes and dedicate their new building on the same day that Merkel Baptists have their service. Rev. Ira L. Parrack who served as pastor while the house was being built will be at Comperre with the church at that place at 3 p. m. on the 5th Sunday of this month for this service. All Baptists and all other friends are invited to be in this service.

The Comperre Baptist church wishes to thank every one who helped in any way to make possible the building and paying for of this house of worship. Especially do they thank Bro. J. W. Wheeler who rented the church land on which to plant cotton and Bro. Sam Swann who ginned free of charge the five bales of cotton and Bro. Curt Tucker, that weighed same, donating his fees. Time would fail to mention all who have helped but the church appreciates every kindness shown and invites you to come and rejoice with us in the service when the building will be given to the Lord.

### NO RURAL ROUTE MAIL XMAS DAY

Announcement is made that from now and including Christmas Day of this year, that the Postal Department has made a ruling that no service shall be required of the rural carriers of the United States on Christmas Day any more. And Postmaster Comegys has asked this paper to make announcement so that the patrons of office and rural routes especially may know of same and make their arrangements accordingly.

With the addition of Christmas Day as a holiday for the Rural Carriers, they will also observe the following days throughout each year: New Year's Day, Washington's birthday, Memorial or Decoration Day (May 30.) Fourth of July, and Thanksgiving Day.

### BRUNK'S COMEDIANS HERE ALL NEXT WEEK

Glen D. Brunk's Original Show here next week under the auspices of the Merkel Army Association.

Dr. R. I. Grimes, Commander of the Merkel Army has been very successful in securing that ever popular and world-wide known Glen D. Brunk's Original Comedians, which will appear in Merkel for the entire week starting Monday, December 24, under the Auspices of the Merkel Army Association.

It is hardly necessary to say much about this attraction as it has played this city several times before and everyone knows it's reputation and the only thing left to do is to satisfy the public with the news that this is the same attraction that Mr. Glen Brunk has always presented here only that it has been improved upon, made some what larger and at the same time presenting the very latest of the larger successes of the East. Many new plays will be seen and the upto date vaudeville are all special acts that never fail to give the best of satisfaction. The Band and Orchestra is another big feature with this attraction rendering the best in music.

The Opening play, "Granny" is one that is filled with many thrilling situations and as well having plenty of funny situations making it brimful of comedy. A Band Concert will be given Monday afternoon at 4:00 p. m. and other concerts will be given every night at 7:00 p. m.

This is expected to be a "Gala Week" for Merkel as the cause which this is given is a worthy one and along with the class of shows given it cannot fail to give the best of satisfaction.

The Heating of the tent is another big feature of this attraction as they have six large stoves that furnish enough heat to make the Tent theatre just as comfortable as at your home fireside.

This is a guaranteed attraction, clean, moral and bearing the stamp of approval of both press and public for the past ten years. 1tpd

Our good friend W. L. Blair, was in the city recently and favored us with the renewal of his Merkel Mail and Abilene Reporter.

### ACTIVE CANDIDATES ARE SLOW IN MAKING ENTRY

Some Are Candidates So Far In Nothing But Name Only—Many Routes And Districts Without Active Workers—Room For You To Enter This Great Campaign—And Win.

Miss Eva Briley, Tuscola	5000
Miss Ouida Campbell, Merkel	5,000
Mrs. Nannie Casseaux, Merkel	5,000
Miss Eula Culp, Stith	5,000
Miss Iris Garrett, Merkel	5,000
Miss Ruth Holloway, Merkel	5,000
Miss Mabel Jenkins, Noodle	5,000
Mrs. R. L. Jobe, Merkel	5,000
Miss Ruth Jones, Merkel	5,000
Miss Beatrice McLeod, Trent	5,000
Miss Lillian McRee, Trent	5,000
Miss Vera Moore, Blair	5,000
Mrs. Sam Salyers, Buffalo Gap	5,000
Mrs. C. W. Seago, Route 2 Trent	5,000
Miss Clara Lee Tarbutton, Merkel	5,000

The publication of the names of candidates appears in alphabetical order. In next week's issue, when active voting begins, they will be placed in numerical order, the highest first, etc.

If your nomination blank has been sent in and does not appear in the above list, kindly notify the Campaign Manager immediately.

Today it appears—the first list of nominations. Names of nominees received up until Wednesday night, together with their nomination vote of 5,000 are printed today for candidates entered in the Merkel Mail's great "Everybody Wins Something" automobile and such prize campaign.

Nominations are NOT closed. In fact, today there are more prizes than there are active candidates. Opportunity without one handicap is here today for new entrants who will "carry on."

This small list published today must not be misunderstood. The names printed are just nominations. The list also serves to show who is entered. It does not indicate the LIVE, ACTIVE, candidates.

Many who have been nominated have so far failed to turn in one single, solitary subscriber to the Merkel Mail. Some have not even called to get an official receipt book. They are, so far, candidates in name only—noting more.

Candidates who will not produce subscriptions can not hope to win. The more subscriptions you produce the more votes you earn. The free coupons appearing in the Merkel Mail from week to week are valuable only in the degree in which you enhance your vote score by subscriptions. There is absolutely no hope in coupons alone.

Coupons are printed primarily to stimulate interest. Of course they do have some value, but it is questionable when one considers that one subscription alone off sets a whole bundle of coupons.

When the Merkel Mail determined to give away \$1,500 in prizes and cash in the Merkel Mail's great Prize and Cash gift distribution it was thought that the prize list was so liberal that scores would get in and carry on.

The fact that one stands to win up to \$438.00 and that "Everybody Wins Something" ought to have been enough to cause people to get into the campaign and work.

You expected everyone in Taylor and adjoining counties to get in to this election, and every one in Taylor county expected you to get in. The result is that the Merkel Mail Mail is

hardly justified in announcing nominations today.

There ought to be, at least as many candidates as there are prizes offered. Not one of the prizes—the Ford Touring car, and other prizes—ought to go begging. The cash commission of 15 per cent offered to all who win one of the grand prizes ought, in this day, to be inducement enough to cause anyone to get busy.

You talk about money being tight. You talk about not being able to do this or that. You cry because of the alleged "tightness" in financial affairs; yet here is over \$1500 waiting for men and women—married or single—to take it as a gift with out one cent of expense. And what is the result? Everyone is afraid they haven't got the time. Everyone is afraid some one else has more brains and more selling ability and more friends who will rally around them in their effort to win.

The response to the Merkel Mail election is pitiful. Really it would seem that there are enough men and women in Taylor and adjoining counties who have ambition and energy enough to grasp this exceptional opportunity. You must be here. You must have the ability and the friends.

#### Nominations But Start

Simple nomination of a candidate does not mean anything. The nomination is but the first step, the starting point. Any one content to rest after nomination can not get far in this election. Active work, honest effort, constant attention to the business in hand—and that alone—can get votes. And votes win. And subscriptions mean votes.

With so few candidates entered, and so many of those not yet, at least, manifesting any LIFE or ACTIVITY the opportunity is here for some live ones to enter and "carry on" to win.

In fact the more candidates entered the less votes it takes to win.

If two candidates are running for office they must have all the votes between them. The winner must have a majority—over half—of all the votes cast. But if five candidates seek the same office, the winner only needs to have more votes than the next highest candidate.

"Everybody Wins Something" Then, too, in this campaign, "Everybody Wins Something." There is the brand new Ford Touring car and other prizes. There are cash commissions totalling hundreds of dollars. And remember, too, the cash commissions of 15 per cent paid to

(Continued on Page Eight)

**NOMINATION BLANK IN THE MERKEL MAIL'S "EVERYBODY WINS" CAMPAIGN**

**GOOD FOR 5,000 VOTES**

I HEREBY ENTER AND CAST 5,000 VOTES FOR

MISS (MR. OR MRS.) .....

ADDRESS .....

as a candidate in the Merkel Mail's "Everybody Wins" prize distribution.

NOTE—Only one nomination blank accepted for each candidate nominated.

**THE FARMERS STATE BANK**

**THIS BANK**

—is thankful for the many friendships it has made during its existence as a financial institution.

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.

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.

**FARMERS STATE BANK**  
Merkel, Texas

**"There is no Substitute For Safety"**  
Secure your Money by Depositing in a State Bank

**MISS SEARS ENTERTAINS**

Friday evening at seven-thirty Miss Mossie Sears opened the doors of her hospitable home to the Primary teachers of the Methodist church and a few friends.

The evening's program was begun by singing the hymn, "Higher Ground". Mrs. Sears then led the teachers in a word of prayer. Mr. Cox spoke on the subject: "What percent of Failure in the Sunday School is due to the lack of preparedness on the part of the officers and teachers?". This was followed by a round table discussion of the subject. Each one entering with spirit and enthusiasm into it.

Mrs. Sears had as her subject: "What steps can be taken in watching the congregation for prospective members. She brought forth many interesting and helpful ideas.

Miss Rose Laney made a beautiful talk in which she paid a tribute to our retiring secretary Miss Mabel McNeese, who is leaving to make her future home in Abilene. At the conclusion of her talk, she presented Miss McNeese with a pretty cut glass basket, in behalf of the teachers of the Primary department.

Everyone then forgot business and speeches by giving them selves over to the joyment of the dainty refreshments, served by the hostess. These consisted of Jello Fruit Whip topped with whipped cream and cherries, and served with cake and chocolate.

Before leaving for the evening, and while every one was bubbling with the Christmas spirit, some one suggested a Christmas tree for the little folks of the Sunday school. After talking it over the teachers decided to have a tree and invite the entire Sunday school to join with them in making it one happy occasion for the school.

**Fine Way to Keep a Face Looking Happy**

MRS. LARKIN is a little old lady who lives in a red house just over the hill. The children troop by her door-yard every day on their way to school. They always look up at her windows, for Mrs. Larkin is sure to be at one of them, nodding and smiling in the pleasantest fashion.

Mrs. Larkin has cookies in jars and Mrs. Larkin can knit red mittens faster than anybody else in town. Both cookies and mittens find their way to the mouths and hands of half the children in the village.

At Christmas time, the little old lady is busier than ever. But the nicest thing about her is the expression on her face. To say it shines, does not half describe the brightness of it. One day Tilly Tinker said to her:

"What makes your face like a candle, Mrs. Larkin?"

"Bless you, Tilly!" laughed the little old lady. "What do you mean?"

Tilly had difficulty in explaining, but she finally succeeded in making Mrs. Larkin understand what she meant by comparing her face to a candle.

"I'll tell you a secret," said the little old lady in a whisper: "At Christmas time I always pretend I'm looking at a Christmas tree! A tree with a thousand candles, everyone lighted! So perhaps some of them are reflected on my face. It's a fine way to keep a face looking happy. Just try it!"

Perhaps Mrs. Larkin found the best recipe for happiness—she filled her hands with good work and her mind with the brightness of lighted candles. —Martha B. Thomas.

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**Christmas, the Snow and the Sleigh Ride**

IT WAS Christmas night. The moon was shining and the snow sparkled like diamonds more rare and wonderful than are ever seen in a jewelry shop.

The bells jingled, the frosty air seemed to say in its cool, cheery way: "I'm here. I brush against your faces so you can feel me and my cold, bracing ways."

And the sleigh went merrily along. Inside the sleigh were a man and a girl. And they were saying things which may not sound new to you.

"There is nothing in the world like love," was one of the things they said.

"And to be in love, and sleigh-riding on Christmas night after a perfect Christmas day—there is nothing in the world like it."

But it was as beautiful to them as though no one else had ever said these things. For beauty is not dependent upon novelty. It depends on something far deeper and truer.

There is nothing new about love. There is nothing new about Christmas.

But that doesn't make either of them any less wonderful.—Mary Graham Bonner.

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**Beat Beauty Parlor for Christmas Time**

BUY wreathes for the window, tinsel for the Christmas tree, holly for packages and flowers for the table, but what about giving some attention to our faces?

Have you ever thought about that? Dress your face up in a smile. Wear it late and early. It puts the sunshine in your eyes, and makes your hair look curly!

There is an undeniable magic in happiness—it beautifies! Happiness makes holiday in the heart, and the face reflects it. Better than a thousand candles is the light of cheer.

"J-O-Y" is the sign that hangs over the best beauty parlor, and it serves men as well as women. If you would become handsome, become joyous first. And joy comes from living and giving with kindness and good-will.—Martha B. Thomas.

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**BOTH DISAPPOINTED**



He—I expected you'd stand under the mistletoe when I called.  
She—And I expected you'd have an awful of Christmas presents.

**ERASTUS' CHRISTMAS TREE**

"Where's yo' gwine?" was the question, as Erastus passed by with a good-sized Christmas tree. "It's been where I's gwine," was the rather enigmatical answer.—C. G. Hazard.

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**THE FARMERS & MERCHANTS National Bank**

Merkel, Texas

**THE FIRST OF THE YEAR IS APPROACHING**

When you will wish to establish your banking relations for the year 1924.

Nothing is more important to your business success than a connection with a safe, conservative, friendly Bank with plenty of funds to take care of your needs.

**The Farmers & Merchants National Bank of Merkel**

offers such a connection with a service unsurpassed and a history of twenty years of successful management during which time it has

Never missed a dividend—  
Never assessed a shareholder

If you have Liberty Bonds we will take care of them if you have them registered with us and placed under our time lock always keeping them insured against loss.

We have three sections of the latest improved Safety Deposit Boxes in which to deposit your important papers, such as abstracts, notes and wills.

Come in and talk over with us the service we have to offer.

4% Interest On Deposits In Our Savings Department.

**OFFICERS:**  
J. T. Warren, President  
L. R. Thompson, Cashier  
Booth Warren, Asst. Cashier  
Owen Ellis, Asst. Cashier

**DIRECTORS:**  
Henry James,  
Geo. F. West,  
J. T. Warren,  
L. R. Thompson,  
Sam Butman Sr.

**MR. TARPLEY EXTENDS THANKS**

We take this method of extending our sincere thanks and appreciation to the good people of Merkel and the surrounding country, for the very liberal donations given us in order that Mr. Earnest Tarpley might be able to obtain an artificial limb. The fact that we were new citizens in the community; having arrived here on December 2nd, makes this kindness the more appreciated, and which fully demonstrates the big hearted, kind spirit and splendid citizenship of the people of the Merkel country. We would also extend thanks to Mr. S. A. Coats, who took the initiative in securing this kind offering.

May the richest of blessings ever be upon you and each of you, is our sincere wish.  
Earnest Tarpley & family

Read the Classified Column.

**TEACHERS ATTEND STAMFORD INSTITUTE**

The following teachers of the Public School are this week attending the joint institute at Stamford: Miss Marie Williamson, Madge Pierce, Martha Bird Susie Belle Weeden, Mrs. Len Sublett, Mrs. I. L. Jackson, I. L. Jackson, Misses Hattie Conway, Bonnie Duke, Miriam Compere, Mamie Ellis, Julia Martin, Minnie Coats, Eleanor Harrison, Lora Joiner, Julia Anne Scott, Alzada Pogue, Bessie Louise Yates, Mrs. Effie Johnson, and Superintendent, R. A. Burgess. There are eight counties co-operating in this big joint institute. There will be about seven hundred teachers in attendance.

Mr. O. B. Boden is this week making some handsome and commodious additions to his splendid home on Oak Street.

**MAY CHRISTMAS HAPPINESS Like That in the Hearts of Little Children Be Yours**



Because Christmas is one of the happiest days of the year to children, it also brings happiness to all of us.

We hope that Christmas will fill your heart with happiness. May the joy of a happy family fireside, the warmth of re-united friendships and all the good things of the season be with you. And in sending our greetings we feel the message quite incomplete without expression of our sincere appreciation of all patronage of the past year. We want you to know we appreciate you and will be found in 1924 putting forth our best efforts to serve and please you.

**W. W. CAMPBELL GROCERIES**

**Nervous Break-Down**

MRS. ANNIE LANGE, of R. F. D. 1, Burlington, Tex., writes as follows regarding her experience with Cardui: "Some time ago I had a nervous break-down of some kind. I was very weak and so nervous. I had fainting spells and suffered a great deal, but more from the weak, trembly, no-account feeling than anything else. I knew I needed a tonic, and needed it badly. I began the use of Cardui to see if I couldn't get some strength, as I knew of other cases that had been helped by its

use. I soon saw a great improvement, so I kept it up. I used seven bottles of Cardui, and can say the money was well spent, for I grew well and strong. Am now able to do all my housework and a great deal of work besides."

If you are weak, run-down, nervous and suffer from the ailments peculiar to women, it is very likely that Cardui will help you, in the way it helped Mrs. Lange and has helped thousands of others, during the past 40 years. Ask for, and insist on, Cardui.

**CARDUI**  
The Woman's Tonic



# Our Thoughts Go To Our Friends and Patrons at Christmas Time

AND WE FIND PLEASURE AND SATISFACTION IN THE FRAMING OF THIS MESSAGE WISHING YOU AND THOSE YOU LOVE

## The Compliments of the Season

May the Santa Claus of Good Cheer Smile on you and your household more generously this year than ever before and as we pass from the Yuletide season into the dawn of a New Year may you see before you the open road of happiness, peace of mind and heart, contentment and prosperity. Because you have meant so much to us we send this sincere message to friends and patrons everywhere.

We trust that our relations have been as pleasant to you as they have to us, and that it will be our good fortune to serve you in the future.

# Crown Hardware Co.

### MRS. SMITH EXTENDS THANKS

I take this method of extending my thanks and appreciation to my friends and neighbors who so kindly and generously remembered me on my recent birthday. I assure you that I am indeed grateful to each and every one beyond my ability to make appropriate thanks, and will only ask that the good Lord may extend to each of you the richest of blessings, and of which you so generously deserve. Mrs. C. B. Smith.

Mr. C. L. McNeas and family departed this week for Abilene where they have recently completed a nice home in that city, out near Mc Murray College, and where they will reside in the future. Mr. McNeas and family are pioneers in this city and stand among the best citizenship. We join many friends in wishing for them happiness and contentment in our county capitol.

Christmas Cards! New Year Cards! Merkel Mail Office. It.

### CUT FLOWERS FOR XMAS

Carnations, (red \$5.) others \$4. Roses, \$4 to \$6. Cut poinsettias, 35c to \$1.00 each. Gorgeous Chrysanthemums, \$3. to \$10. Glorious blooming plants, \$3 to \$6. Crated to ship, arrival guaranteed. Order by phone. Agent wanted. Abilene Flower Shop, Abilene, Texas.

### CARD OF THANKS

We, the family of W. J. Ozee, wish to extend our thanks and appreciation to the many old friends and neighbors for their kindness and help in the burial of our beloved husband and father. May the Lord's richest blessings rest upon each of you. Mrs. Josie Ozee, Mrs. Sam Sheppard, Mrs. E. V. Croxdale, Olin Ozee, Lon Ozee and Robt. Ozee.

Clay Harris of Ellis county, came in recently for a visit with his sister, Mrs. M. J. Shaw, whom he had not seen in fourteen years. Mr. and Mrs. Shaw were happy indeed to have him pay them a visit.

### PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

In all the services of this Church Sunday, December 23, will be found the spirit of Christmas. Bring all the family to Sunday school at 10 o'clock and stay for the Preaching service. Christmas songs will be sung, and a Christmas sermon preached at the morning hour.

Monday night we will have a Christmas Tree, and a special program. Santa Claus will be there with a present for every child who attends. We will appreciate the co-operation and help of every one who will help us in seeing that Santa Claus visit its every home in Merkel. Every body welcome to the Christmas Tree and program. Fred S. Rogers, pastor.

Mr. Guy Darsey, who has been in California for the past few months is expected home today.

Mrs. F. Y. Gaither left this week for a visit to her parents at Elk City, Oklahoma during the holidays.

### Our Christmas Days as They Used to Be

SOMETIMES 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 to us now.

How the neighbors rode through the snow on horseback to large gatherings! How the pretty girls were muffled in furs 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 thoughts.

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!—Martin B. Thomas.

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### Old Yuletide Hymn Favorite Everywhere

HERE is scarcely a church of any denomination that does not some time during the Christmas season echo to the strains of that beautiful and soul-inspiring 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.

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## Our Sincere Appreciation

ACCEPT OUR BEST CHRISTMAS WISHES

We like to come in the gladsome holiday season to express the pleasure we have derived from our business dealings with our large number of patrons.

It is a pleasure to do business among such a people as we have here and we assure you that we appreciate your business.

We wish you the happiest and best Christmas you ever experienced. And may 1924 bring you 366 days of bright, happy, prosperous days.

### WEST COMPANY

25 years of Better Service.

## COZY THEATRE

Matinee Saturday 2 to 5:30

Friday

"THE MOHICAN DAUGHTERS"  
An American Special  
From the Book by Jack London

Also—

Christie Comedy

Saturday

WILLIAM S. HART  
in  
"THE SHOOTIN' GAMBLER"

Also—

Fox Sunshine Comedy  
And— Mutt and Jeff

Monday and Tuesday, December 24th and 25th

"THE CHRISTIAN"

A 9-Reel Goldwyn Special

From the book by Hall Caine Directed by Maurice Tourneur

No Advance in Admission Prices

# Good Bye Old Year - Welcome to the New

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEART TO OUR LOYAL FRIENDS AND PATRONS

The year just closing seemed short to us, but we presume it passed quickly because we were busy, and the fact that we have been busy prompted us to stop with the sounding of the signal or the passing of 1923 to give thanks for the patrons who have made our business possible.

## -And This Is Our New Year Wish For You

May the sunshine be brighter, the sky more blue, friends more true and your pathway free from any obstructions to hinder your success and happiness. May the opportunity for helpful service come to you and may 1924 bring you new and broad vision of life that will prove helpful and inspiring to you and those about you.

To all of our patrons we send our best wishes and our hearty thanks for patronage, large or small. We want to serve you in 1924.

# Liberty Hardware Company

The Only Exclusive Hardware Store in Merkel

### The Merkel Mail

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

Entered at the postoffice at Merkel Texas as second class mail matter.

ALL ADVERTISEMENTS MUST BE IN THIS OFFICE BY SIX O'CLOCK P. M. WEDNESDAY FOR INSERTION IN THAT WEEK'S ISSUE OF THE MAIL

Foreign Advertising Representative THE AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION

### TURKEY CHASE BRINGS BIG CROWD TO MERKEL

The big "Turkey Chase" on last Saturday, where in the business men of Merkel threw from the tops of the business houses some 25 big fat turkeys, brought an unusually large crowd to town, and the occasion enjoyed and appreciated by all whether they participated in the scramble for a turkey or not.

The idea of having the occasion was originated by the Hon. J. C. Mason, who is a natural born "booster" for any and all things that will bring the people of the town and community together and make happiness, and he is due the credit for the success of same.

### COLORED SCHOOL BEGINS JANUARY 1ST.

The Colored School, we are glad to announce will begin in Merkel on Monday, January 1st, and all colored children are urged to be in attendance.

We also wish to thank our White friends for their interest and help in getting this much needed school established, and which we hope will be of much benefit to the children of our race.

Rev. E. W. Wiley, Quincy Paine.

Christmas Cards? New Year Cards? Merkel Mail Office. It.

### MERKEL FOOTBALL BANQUET

On last Friday evening at Ed's Cafe in Merkel the football squad of the Merkel High School gave a banquet honoring their coach, Mr. I. L. Jackson. In attendance were the members of the squad, and their lady friends, the high school faculty, the board of trustees, and the following especially invited guests: Coaches, Y. P. Kuhn and A. B. Hayes, of Simmons College, L. R. Thompson, Rev. Fred S. Rogers, and Judge Cummings.

Superintendent Roger A. Burgess acted as toast master. Excellent talks were made by each of the especially invited guests, Coach I. L. Jackson, and "orations" were delivered by each member of the squad. At the close of the banquet Buford Smith was re-elected captain of the squad. Under the excellent coaching of I. L. Jackson, the team has been able to make a winning of seven games out of nine played. Great hopes are entertained for a strong team another year, the squad losing but one of their team by graduation.

### A CARD OF THANKS

We wish to thank our friends and neighbors for their kindness shown us during the sickness and death of our dear mother, Mrs. J. E. Gregory and also the ones that brought and sent the beautiful flowers.

Mrs. Ellington and family Mrs. Ford and Mrs. Petterson.

The Merkel Mail has both Christmas and New Year cards. Come in and look them over.

Have you got 'EM? What? Why your Christmas Cards? The Merkel Mail has the best to be found.

About 15 acres of land from which will give wood for the grubbing of same, at my home place. Tom Largent. It.

### 1ST. QUARTERLY CONFERENCE HELD AT THE METHODIST CHURCH

Presiding Elder, W. M. Lane, accompanied by Mrs. Lane, drove over from Abilene Tuesday evening, and while here held the 1st. Quarterly Conference for the M. E. Church in this city.

The Conference was one of the best ever held by the local church; in that all departments made interesting and splendid reports.

The pastor, Rev. T. J. Rea, made his report and same showed splendid and excellent progress had been made to-date with the best of prospects for one of the best, if not the best the church has seen in many years.

Buy that boy an all wool two-pants suit for Christmas. You can get them at a big reduction now at BROWN'S. It

### Senior B. Y. P. U. Program

Doctrinal meeting—Christian Fellowship.

Leader: Lillian Craig. Introduction, by leader.

1. An old testament picture, by Ola Sharp.

2. New Testament fellowship by Floyd Dowell.

3. Church fellowship, the truest, by Nina Miller.

4. Fellowship and Sacrifice, by Selena Teaff.

5. Our duty toward fellowship by Nell Swann.

6. Fellowship in the friendly service, by Grady Collins.

7. Fellowship to avoid, by Althea Boden.

8. Fellowship in service, by Harry McCandless.

Now is the time to buy him that suit or overcoat. A gift that is worth while. Brown Dry Goods Co. It

Have you for gotten those Christmas Cards that you intended buying? Get them at the Merkel Mail office. It.

### MR. H. R. HICKS FOR COMMISSIONER

In coming before the voters of precinct No. 2 asking for their vote and influence for the office of County Commissioner, I realize the great responsibility resting upon the commissioner's court.

The building and up keep of our county roads, bridges and county buildings, making the tax rate, and other duties very important, but the most important of all, is the way they handle the Finance of the county.

It is but justice to the voters that they should know the things for which I stand, before they give me their support.

### I Am Against

I am against graft in any form from the smallest to the greatest.

### I Am For

I am for economy, but not lose a dollar to save a dime.

I am for a square deal for everyone.

I am for value received for every dollar paid out.

I am for going forward and not backward.

I am for good roads kept in good condition.

I am for every thing that will benefit every one, and make our precinct and county a better place in which to live.

If I am elected I promise to give this precinct my best efforts, and will endeavor to get every thing that is due it. If you are in favor of these principles I will appreciate your vote and influence.

Respectfully, Henry R. Hicks

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Grimes on the 19th a daughter; which will no doubt bring joy and happiness to them both.

Have you got 'EM? What? Why your Christmas Cards? The Merkel Mail has the best to be found. It.

### Receiving Christmas Gifts is a Fine Art

OF 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. I heard a young girl remark when a little 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. Sweet.

(© 1923, Western Newspaper Union.)

### 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 tall policeman, however, conveyed 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!"—G. G. Hazard.

(© 1923, Western Newspaper Union.)

Have you for gotten those Christmas Cards that you intended buying? Get them at the Merkel Mail office. It.

SHOES for any member of the family at a great saving NOW.—Brown Dry Goods Company. It.

### PROFESSIONAL

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

Hours 10 to 12 a.m. 2 to 5 p.m.

Phones 105-163 Res. 165

DR. S. W. JOHNSON.

Surgeon Dentist

Office over Farmers State Bank

Office Phone 306

G. W. JOHNSON

Insurance—Notary Public

Over Woodroof—Bragg's Store.

Merkel — Texas

W. W. WHEELER

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

Office over Crown Hardware Co. Merkel — Texas

Read the Classified Column.

## As Father Time Draws the Curtains of Time On 1923 We Pause to Think

And as we look back over the days of the year gone by, we see some things we might have done and some we might have left undone, but one thing we feel is as unchanged as it was the day we entered business, and that is sincere appreciation of our patrons and our earnest desire each day to serve them better. The approach of a new year brings renewed interest in our regular patrons and strengthens our desire to serve others. But in the midst of it all we stop to "take stock" so to speak and we find on hand a generous supply of good wishes, so we pass this one along to you.

## May 1924 Be The Best You Have Known

Bringing to you the joys that come from health, prosperity and contentment. We want to thank you for your patronage during the old year. We assure you that we have striven in word and action to merit your confidence and good will and with the coming of 1924 we anticipate the pleasure of continuing to number you among our friends and customers. This message, we hope, will find its way to those who have helped to make this business what it is today.

WEST TEXAS  
UTILITIES COMPANY



### OUR BEST WISHES

We welcome the season that gives us the pleasure of extending our best wishes to our many customers and friends.

**May the  
Yuletide  
Season Make  
Happy the  
Closing of  
1923**

And may 1924 bring you unlimited portions of the things you most desire to the end that real happiness and prosperity may be yours.

Woodrum Filling Station

#### NOTICE OF BOND ELECTION

Notice is hereby given THAT an election will be held at the Fire Station in the town of Merkel, within the Merkel Independent School District on the 18th day of January 1924 to determine whether the bonds of said district shall be issued to the amount of \$40,000.00 payable serially as follows, to wit:—\$1000.00 on the first day of February, 1925, and \$1000.00 on the first day of February each and every year there after to and including the year 1964 and bearing interest at the rate of 8 percent per annum for the purpose of constructing and equipping a public free school building of brick material, and purchasing a site therefor within said district, and if there shall be \$1000.00 annually levied and collected on all taxable property in said district for the current year and annually there after while said bonds or any of them are outstanding, a tax sufficient to pay the current interest and provide a sinking fund sufficient to pay the principal at maturity.

B. C. Gaither has been appointed manager of said election which shall be held as nearly as possible in conformity with the general election laws of the state.

No person shall vote at said election unless he be a qualified voter under the Constitution and laws of the state of Texas and a tax payer in said Merkel Independent School District.

Those in favor of the issuance of the bonds and the levying of the tax shall write or print on their ballots "FOR THE BONDS AND THE TAX;" and those against the issuance of the bonds and the levying of the tax shall write or print on their ballots, "AGAINST BONDS AND THE TAX."

Said election was ordered by the board of trustees of said Merkel Independent School District by order passed on the 10th day of December 1923 and

this notice is issued pursuant to said order.

Dated this 10th day of December 1923.

Signed:—R. O. Anderson,  
President of the Board of Trustees of Merkel Independent School District.

ATTEST:—W. O. Boney, Secretary of Board of Trustees of the Merkel Independent School District. 1413.

#### RAWELIGH'S PRODUCTS

When in need of any of the celebrated and well known Rawleigh Products call on me at the McGhee Hamburger stand on Main Street or Phone 147. Satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded. E. B. Barnes. 16t8p

#### LAYING HENS PAY

Make 'em Lay and Pay--Feed

MARTIN EGG PRODUCER .

And get more Eggs or your money back

Martin's Roup Tablets, Blue Bug Remedy and Taroline Guaranteed by

SANDERS DRUG STORE

#### Len Sublett

Water well Driller,  
all work guaranteed  
first-class.

Merkel, Texas

#### Constipation

Is the human race's most insidious enemy, being the cause of the majority of our illnesses. A deadly foe to constipation is FORCE Tonic. It regulates the bowels and liver, helping them to function normally and without discomfort.

**Force Tonic**

It Makes You Stronger

There are Many Ways  
to Say It  
But There is Music  
in the Words

**Merry  
Christmas  
Happy New Year**

THAT FILLS OUR  
HEARTS WITH  
JOY

May the cheery grace of this Christmas day bring the smile of satisfaction to your face and may your activities during the new year be a service to the world and a source of rich revenue to your income.

Accept our thanks for your 1923 business. We want you to continue with us in 1924.

**Merkel Lumber Co.**

Wm. P. Carey Company, Owners  
Established 1881

# The Season of Good Cheer and Happiness

Finds Us Mindful of Our Good Friends and Patrons, So We  
Pause to Wish You

## A Real Old Merrie Christmas

and as we do so we like to recall the pleasant dealings of the past year and as the curtains are being drawn on 1923 we find much to feel thankful for. We value the friendship and confidence of the people and will be found always striving hard not to disappoint you in any way.

So we come in this season of happiness and rejoicing to take the opportunity to sincerely thank you for your patronage and good will and to extend to you our sincere wish that yours will be a Merry Christmas and the New Year one of Happiness, Prosperity and Success.

# Max Mellinger

### FORD REPAIR WORK

To my friends and the public I am prepared to do your Ford repairing work, and will appreciate your business. All work guaranteed. Earl T. Pribble, Merkel, Route 3.

Mrs. Kirby Beckett and baby daughter, Bettie Booth, are here to spend the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Warren.

### NEW FEED STORE

We have opened a new feed store on Kent street, and can fill your wants in this line. Will be glad to have your business. Phone 161. Gazzaway and Polly.

Mrs. Roger A. Burgess left Monday morning for Lubbock, where she will spend Christmas with relatives. Mr. Burgess will join her there later.

### STITH SPECIALS

Stith community has been blessed with a few days of pretty fair weather, here lately.

Rev. B. L. Davis filled his regular place at Stith Baptist church Sunday morning at 11 o'clock, and Sunday night also. There being a large crowd Sunday morning, but a small crowd at the night services.

The singing at Stith Sunday evening was very good. A family or two from Hodges were present.

Stith School was out last Friday, and will not start again until after the holidays. The pupils have done a splendid months work.

Mr. A. M. Wimberly and wife of Abilene visited the later parents Sunday.

Mr. J. M. Byrd and family took dinner with Mr. Jim Bridges Sunday.

Mr. B. L. Davis took dinner with Mr. Ira Stanley.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Ford took dinner with Mr. Irvan Burton Sunday.

Mr. Fletcher Jones and family accompanied by Mr. E. L. Kelso spent Monday of this week in Abilene on business. Mr. Jones bringing back a big Gardner car.

Mr. and Mrs. Ted Kelso have moved to their new home one half mile south of Stith, and are giving a musical Saturday night, December 22. And every one is urged to come. Cake is going to be served, and lots of good music to listen at, and fun for all. So come! Come.

It is always better for the borrower and for the depositor to do business with a conservative bank. The Farmers and Merchants National Bank solicits your business on that basis and will have plenty of money to supply the needs of its customers.

The Merkel Mail has both Christmas and New Year cards. Come in and look them over.

*Fordor Sedan*

**\$685**

F. O. B. Detroit



—for Christmas

IT IS not at all surprising that the new Fordor Sedan is proving extremely popular as a Christmas gift. For this handsome closed type body is a truly exceptional value at its present price —\$685, fully equipped. Inspect this new Fordor Sedan at your first opportunity and arrange for its delivery on Christmas morning.

You can buy this car through the Ford Weekly Purchase Plan

**MERKEL MOTOR CO.**

*Ford*

CARS TRUCKS TRACTORS

# 1923

## An Appreciation of Your Gift to Us

You have given us a priceless gift—one that enabled us to build this business to what it is at the present for without YOUR CONFIDENCE we would not enjoy the business we have today. To merit this confidence and to serve you better is our hope and desire. To know that we enjoy your confidence and friendship has raised this business above a place to merely sell merchandise, and has made it an institution built upon a foundation of service.

## Your Confidence---

Is the greatest asset this business has. We thank you for all the past favors and wish you the joys of the Yuletide season and a Happy, Prosperous New Year.

# Merkel Drug Co.

# 1924

# WHY IS IT?

The Merkel Mail is announcing a tremendous gift distribution which it was hoped would help to collect up arrearages and subscription accounts, and possibly secure more readers to this paper.

In planning this advertising event, the Merkel Mail has tried not to be "cheap." A glance at the prize list will verify this statement. Many times as much money has been appropriated for distribution as is usual in towns of this size.

\$1,500.00—Think of it! Fifteen Hundreds of Dollars is to be distributed in a very few weeks to those who participate in their spare moments.

The response to date—the lack of interest—is discouraging. Few persons have entered their names and fewer have even attempted to secure a subscription or a renewal.

Easily more subscriptions have been paid at the office since the campaign was announced—by subscribers in the regular course of business—than most of the participants have brought in.

Now The Merkel Mail is going through with this proposition.

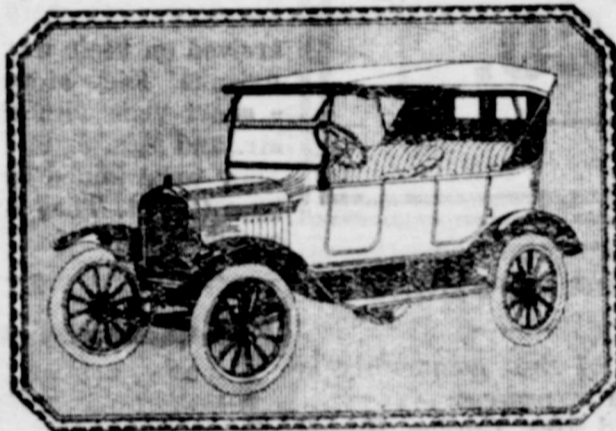
The car and all the hundreds of dollars in cash are going to be given away just as announced. The Merkel Mail will never back down on a proposition or a promise.

But—it would seem that more people, who are just as live as people in other communities—just as wide awake, certainly just as intelligent—would realize that opportunity for profit is here before it is too late.

Consider what your spare time the next few weeks may mean to you. Make up your mind now to participate in The Merkel Mail's \$1,500.00 gift distribution. A little earnest effort now is better than all the regrets and I-wish-I-had's after it is too late.

If you are alive, if you have the spark of business judgment, the least ambition to better yourself financially and add to your income, get in your name. Show a little action and make more money in your spare moments than most people make in a year. You'll never again in this section have such an opportunity, we'll wager you that! Never again will a newspaper in this territory offer such awards.

## Here Are The Valuable Prizes



### LATEST MODEL FORD TOURING CAR

Purchased from Merkel Motor Co.

#### BEAUTIFUL DIAMOND RING

Value, \$150.00

Bought from Sanders Drug Store

#### BEAUTIFUL DIAMOND RING

Value, \$60.00

Bought from Sanders Drug Store

#### LIFE SCHOLARSHIP IN DRAUGHON'S BUSINESS COLLEGE AT ABILENE

Value, \$85.00

#### LADIES' BEAUTIFUL WRIST WATCH

Value, \$30.00

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 candidate 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

5TH SUNDAY SINGING

As the time is drawing near for our next 5th Sunday Singing, which meets at Nubia the 30th of this month, I wish to refresh the minds of all those interested in good singing to be all tuned up for the occasion. So come and bring your dinner and song book, of what ever kind you may have and will. Say! that new Vaughn book will be there and is full to the back of new songs, which are very rich and will be delightful to all and probably just as good as your present book.

I earnestly ask all classes in this union singing to be there in full force and at least to have a representative present, and I sincerely ask the co-operation of one and all, that this convention may meet with the same advancement under my charge as it did under the leadership of my friend, Mr. E. L. Eason. But I feel sure you will give me your full co-operation in this case it can not fail and will add this one word, let's not make any engagements that will conflict or hinder us in any way of being there.

Let us feel that there is something for every one to do to put this over the top as it should be, and I shall leave nothing undone to make it a success and I feel sure that all are going to give me their very best efforts. So I am thanking you in advance for your efforts in this singing move. We invite all singers to be here. Come one, come all and roll the singing ball. Respectfully yours,  
Tom Spears.

Mrs. W. A. Cozart and two sons, Fred and Marvin, of Oklahoma City, accompanied by her sister Mrs. F. C. Frederickson, arrived on their way to Phoenix Arizona. They stopped over for a short visit with their parents Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Frederickson. They were joined by Miss Christena Cozart. They are traveling overland.

THE BUSINESS THAT  
SERVICE BUILT

# Merry Christmas To You



We all welcome the season when the feeling of love abounds and unselfishness finds expression in gifts that are given and kind words that are spoken. It is fine to think of giving instead of receiving. How fine it would be if we could have the spirit of this glorious season with us always. May it come to you this Christmas and remain with you all the days of 1924 is our earnest wish.

Permit us at this opportunity to give thanks to all our loyal friends for the business entrusted to our care in 1923. Favor us with a continuance of your patronage and we will never give you cause to regret.

**MERKEL DRY GOODS CO.**

## In the Spirit of Appreciation

For the Friendship, the Patronage and Co-operation of an Appreciative Host of Friends During the Year 1923, this store, its management and all employes join in

## Sincere Good Wishes for Christmas and the New Year

May your light of hope shine forth with increasing brightness, lighting your pathway to the realization of your most cherished ambitions.

**BURTON-LINGO CO.**

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

## We Greet You

**A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A  
BRIGHT, HAPPY NEW  
YEAR.**

We are more thoughtful at this season than ever. You have been very generous and we are delighted that it seems to us you were pleased with our goods and our service.

With grateful hearts we thank you and wish each one of you a joyous Christmas and a New Year richer in its goodness to you than any you ever before experienced.

**J. T. DARSEY  
Furniture Company**

## We Thank You

### SHILOH HAPPENINGS

Health of the community is very good at present.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Howell spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Weatherby near Trent.

Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Jones visited the home of J. H. Grayson and C. W. Seago Sunday night.

Mr. W. R. and E. H. Grayson and families spent Sunday with R. W. Condor of Merkel.

Mrs. J. H. Grayson is suffering with a sore leg at present.

Mr. Marvin and Bill James and wives, Mr. Hardy and Lovel Rutledge, wives and babies spent Sunday with Mrs. B. T. James.

Bill Brown and wife spent Sunday night with Mr. and Mrs. Tom Green.

The box supper at Shiloh has been postponed for a while.

There will be a Christmas tree at the Shiloh Church on Christmas eve night. Every one come and help make it a success. There will be a real Santa Claus for the amusement of the children, as well as for the grown ups.

There will be preaching at the church next Sunday.

Mrs. F. T. Naron is on the sick list this week.

The cold spell last week was appreciated very much as almost every one killed hogs, and those good old spare ribs were great. Yum! Yum!

—Brownie

### FIRST CLASS LAUNDRY SERVICE

If you want first class Laundry service we do it. Any and all kinds of it. Cleaning and pressing, dyeing at reasonable prices. Semi-Finish, or family washing everything included except Silk goods, at 10 lb. minimum, 10 cents per pound. Phone 218 or leave at Petty's or West's or City Barber Shop.

Read the Classified Column.

# -Greetings- 1924

With the arrival of 1924 our hearts are filled with appreciation of the patronage of our friends for we claim our patrons as our friends.

With hearty Greetings and sincere good wishes for your happiness and prosperity during the New Year, we thank each of you sincerely and trust it will be our good pleasure to serve you in the future.

**Gulf Refining Co.**  
W. F. GOLLIDAY, LOCAL AGENT



COURTESY

SERVICE

## May The Joy Bells of the Yuletide Season Ring Merrily For You and Yours

Because of the opportunity it affords us to extend to you our expressions of good will, we welcome the happy Yuletide season.

To each of you we tender our sincere good wishes for a joyous Christmas and unending happiness and prosperity for the New Year.

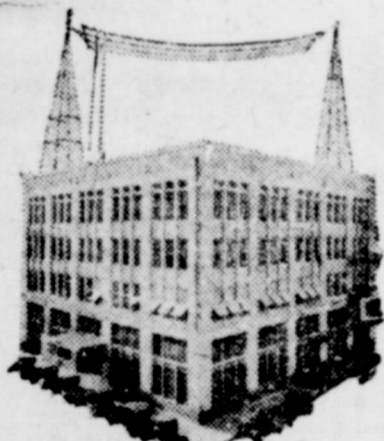
We trust that our relations have been as pleasant to you as they have to us and that it will be our good fortune to serve you in the future.

# Barrow Furniture Co.

PROMPT

RELIABLE

### ANNOUNCING ANNUAL



STAR-TELEGRAM  
Home of Radio WBAP

## BARGAIN DAYS

From Now Until  
December 15th

ON THE

## STAR-TELEGRAM

Fort Worth's Only Texas Owned Newspaper

MORNING EDITION

Correct Produce  
and Poultry  
Prices

COMPLETE  
MARKETS

Quick News  
and Market  
Service

DURING BARGAIN DAYS—Now Until Dec. 15th—  
the Rate Has Been Reduced Daily and  
Sunday one year, from \$10.00 to..... **\$7.45**

Daily Except Sunday one year from  
\$8.00 to..... **\$5.95**

### 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

### AN APPROPRIATE GIFT THE MERKEL MAIL

Let us suggest as a suitable gift for any one, The Merkel Mail. For the small sum of \$1.50 we will send the paper to anyone for a whole year—52 weeks.

And by subscribing for the Mail now you will be permitted to cast your votes for your favorite candidate in our great prize gift distribution "Everybody Wins" campaign which is just starting. This is a rare opportunity to do a real kindness that will not cost you a penny more than you will otherwise pay for the paper. Who knows but what your vote may be the deciding factor in the race?

Do not wait for your favorite candidate to call on you for a subscription, because he or she may not be able to see you before the campaign closes, but bring your subscription to The Mail office and specify at the time to whom you wish to give your free votes and they will be credited to the proper person.

Elsewhere in the paper is printed a list of the candidates for the magnificent prizes that we will award.

### The Sum and Substance

of being a subscriber to this paper is that you and your family become attached to it. The paper becomes a member of the family and its coming each week will be as welcome as the arrival of anyone that's dear. It will keep you informed on the doings of the community and the bargains of the merchants regularly advertised will enable you to save many times the cost of the subscription.

### REAL SPIRIT

IF 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 fullness of our hearts and because of the joy that giving brings us, instead of from any other motive. So to get the real joy of giving and to receive the richness of the Christmas spirit in its fullest measure, give because your heart prompts you to and forget all else.—Katherine Edelman.  
(© 1922, Western Newspaper Union.)

### "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 gift 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? Remember, it is more blessed to give than receive.—F. H. Sweet.  
(© 1922, 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 trying, to straighten them out. "Hiram," said 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 aunt the next day, "what was the matter with you yesterday morning, you looked sourer 'n pickles."  
"Nothin' was the matter with me," said 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 relented, and when the day that shines away all unpleasantness came round, Aunt Mehitable had a new nightcap! —C. G. Hazard.  
(© 1922, Western Newspaper Union.)

## CLASSIFIED ADS

### FOR SALE

FOR SALE—A good double row cultivator, at a Bargain. Also 3 airdale puppies for sale. J. W. Teaff. 1tp

FOR SALE—120 acres land 60 in cultivator. R. L. Bland, Abilene, Texas. 1tp

FOR SALE—160 acre farm, 8 miles north of Merkel. \$27.50 per acre. Good terms. J. C. Mason, Merkel. 1tp

FOR SALE—120 acre farm, 2 miles South East of Trent. \$32.50 per acre. Good terms. J. C. Mason. 1tp

FOR SALE—About 12 large work mules from 4 to 8 years old. Call at the Home State State Bank, Trent. L. C. Murray. 21t2p.

FOR SALE—Wood. I have some cord wood to sell in French Pasture. CSee T. J. Amazon, Route 4. 7t4p

FOR SALE—Farm of 220 acres and one of 90 acres, all well improved and not rented. So can give immediate possession. J. M. Williamson, route 2. 21t2p

FOR SALE—Three sections of land four miles South of Abilene on pike road. Tracts cut large or small to suit purchaser. Terms easy. See W. C. Lasley—Abilene, Texas. 7t4.

FOR SALE—My home which is well improved. 5 room house well and windmill, good cistern. Barn and other buildings. 134 acres of good level land. No Johnson grass. 115 in cultivation, all tillable. 1-2 mile of good school; 10 miles north east of Merkel; 12 miles north west of Abilene. \$65.00 per acre. See Goods Co. 1t

J. D. Andrews, Merkel Route, 4. 21t2p

FOR SALE—Wood at \$3.00 per load. See E. B. Barnes, Phone 147. 21t2.

FOR SALE—Best quality Half and half Cotton Seed. Made record of better than 45 percent Lint last year. Write for prices. Rhodes Bros. Huron, Tenn. 21t4

### WANTED

WANTED—Man with family, with experience for farm work. Place within half mile of good school. S. F. Haynes. 1tpd.

### LOST

LOST—Checked dress coat between Merkel and John Toombs place. Initials inside are H. B. Finder return to Walton Barber Shop and receive reward. 1tp

### ANOTHER HOLIDAY WEDDING

Eld. W. G. Cypert, in his usual appropriate and happy manner, pronounced the words that bound in holy wedlock, Mr. N. H. Eoff, of Noodle, and Miss Beatrice Patton, at the former's home on Wednesday afternoon at three o'clock.

Both the contracting parties are fine young people; being of the best families of the community, and have a host of friends, with whom this paper joins in extending congratulations and good wishes.

Our good friend J. T. Vantrees, of route four, was here recently and made this office an appreciated visit.

Sam Swann, splendid local gin man was in Dallas this week on business.

Now is the time to buy him that suit or overcoat. A gift that is worth while. Brown Dry Goods Co. 1t

## CHRISTMAS CHEER AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

From this good old town of  
Merkel  
Where the latch string's out  
for you,  
Comes this Merry, Merry  
Christmas,  
And a happy New Year, too.

## QUALITY BAKERY

### TO OUR CORRESPONDENTS

In this issue of the Merkel Mail there are several new correspondents, and the management of the Mail is indeed grateful for same, and we urge that you continue to send in items from your community and there by help us to make the paper better in every way possible.

We would also urge that a number of our former correspondents from other communities. We want to make the Merkel Mail better than ever before the coming year, and with your aid we can do so.

We have the largest and best list of subscribers the paper has likely ever had, at least that is the case during the last four years under the present management.

Dr. W. V. Cranford leaves this week for a visit with friends and relatives in the state of Louisiana, over the Christmas holidays.

### METHODIST SUNDAY SCHOOL NOTES

Let every body be on time next Sunday at the Methodist church and full of the Christmas spirit. Our Sunday school is getting along nicely with good attendance, but there is always room for improvement.

Next Sunday there will be a special "Address" at the opening service, so don't fail to be on time and hear this message as it will be worth your hearing. And best of all we are going to have a Christmas tree. See this weeks paper for program. L. W. Cox, Supe.

Mr. O. B. Hutchison and family left this week for Decatur, where they will reside in the future. They are fine people and have a host of friends here who regret to see them leave our city, and with whom we join in wishing for them health, happiness, and prosperity in their new home.



## CHRISTMAS RATES AGAIN!

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

SEE YOUR LOCAL AGENT FOR DETAILS  
OR WRITE

GEO. D. HUNTER,  
General Passenger Agent  
DALLAS

### MRS. J. E. GREGORY DEAD

Mrs. J. E. Gregory or Grandma as she was generally known died December 4 at 12:5 o'clock after a long illness. Grandma has been a cripple for many years, having been bed fast since last June at which time she fell off of the porch and hurt her self, after which time she never was able to be up only as she was lifted out of bed into a chair to rest. At her death she only liked a few months of being 78 years old. She leaves a sister, Mrs. Horn of Noodle, 4 children all of whom was with her. Her children are: Mrs. Ellington, Mrs. Ford, of Stith, Mrs. Peterson of Hamilton Co. and D. L. Gregory of Cisco. Grandma has been a member of the Baptist church since she was about 20 years of age. She was a member of the First Baptist church at the time of her death. Grandma did not fear death as she told her daughter, Mrs. Ellington about a month ago that she was ready any time when the call came. We ought not to grieve after her as we know she is better off up yonder, where there is no death.

We can only say to the loved ones to weep not for our loss is Heavens gain and we should all strive to meet her up yonder on that beautiful shore where all is peace and love. A friend

Merkel Ku Klux Klan No. 137 will hold regular meeting in this city tonight, Friday, December, 21. A special Christmas program is being arranged, and all members throughout the city and surrounding country are urged to be present. Itp.

Mr. A. M. Daniel, Noodle, One, one among the many new readers of the Merkel Mail, was here one day recently and besides having the paper come to him, also sends it to relatives in Mississippi.

## AUSPICES MERKEL ARMORY -- MERKEL, TEXAS

ALL NEXT WEEK STARTING MONDAY, DEC. 24. SPECIAL CHRISTMAS WEEK ATTRACTION



GLEN D. BRUNK  
Owner

### SPECIAL NOTICE

Band Concert At  
4 O'Clock Monday  
And  
EVERY NIGHT  
At 7:00 P. M.

### REMEMBER

This will be the only visit of this Great Show this season, making six days of wonderful entertainment.  
It's the Cleanest Show on Earth

GLEN D. BRUNK . . . Presents . . . THE ORIGINAL

# BRUNK'S COMEDIANS

THE WORLD'S GREATEST REPERTOIRE SHOW

PRESENTING

THE BEST PLAYS of the SPOKEN STAGE

OPENING PLAY "GRANNY" A FOUR ACT  
MONDAY NITE Comedy Drama

Up-to-Date VAUDEVILLE Between Acts

FEATURE BAND and ORCHDSTRA

EVERYTHING NEW THIS YEAR

BUT THE NAME

Larger and Better Than Ever Before

Plays and Vaudeville Changed  
EVERY NIGHT

We wish Every Man, Woman Child and Baby "A Merry Christmas" and "A Happy New Year". Glen D. Brunk

UNDER THE BIG NEW WATERPROOF TENT THEATRE

Especially Heated by Large Stoves, Making It Just as Comfortable as Home.

PRICES: Adults, 35c; Children, 10c  
WAR TAX PAID



VIRGIE BRONSON  
Leading Lady

### BARACCAS TAKE NOTICE

As next Sabbath is so near Christmas and we have the Christmas lesson, "Christ Universal Reign", we would be glad to have our room full. You boys who have been away so long from the class come back Sunday, will you? There are boys in this town who have just been to our class once, and they are not coming back. It may be we did not make it interesting enough for them, but we are going to do better.

There are boys in Merkel who are not in Sunday School at all, so I trust the membership committee, also the absentee committee will get busy. Mr. Leach will have the historical part of the lesson or the prophecies from Isaiah and the Psalms, and your humble teacher will tell the story of the Christ Child, the best of her ability. Boys don't forget the ones who have not been in some time, and urge that they be there Sunday. Let us fill our room next Sunday, and be ready to start the New Year off with a new determination to do more for the Master than we have ever done before.

Mrs. L. A. Watts, Teacher

### CHRISTMAS CANDY

We have a nice line of fine Home made Christmas candies, and nuts, apples, oranges and Bananas. Also when you get hungry and want a nice fresh Hamburger, call and see us. We will appreciate your business. W. H. (Henry) Eason. Itp.

### NOTICE

Grady Collins announces that his high chairs for the babies, are in the hands of furniture stores and any one who is in the market for a nice Christmas gift of this kind, should call at Darsey Furniture Store. It

Christmas Cards! New Year Cards! Merkel Mail Office. It.

Bud Sears was up first of the week from his ranch in Menard county. Mr. Sears reports splendid success in the ranching business this year, and we join his many friends here wishing for him continued success.

### NOTICE TO FARMERS

I have just received a car of KASCH Cotton seed direct from Kasch. All those who have seed ordered in this car will please call and get them Friday or Saturday. Have a few bushels not sold, any one desiring to buy can get them now. Sam Swann.

### NOTICE TO FARM BUREAU MEMBERS

If you bring cotton after December 22nd bring it to the upper platform, as tags, marking ink etc., will be left with the local depot Agent.

C. W. Simpson, Sec.

### EPWORTH LEAGUE

### Intermediate League Program

Subject: Our Christmas Gift of Love.

Leader: Gladys Milliken.

Song.

Scripture lesson by Leader.

The Fathers Gift, Eva Mae Johnson.

Our Gift of Love, Elfe Chaney.

Special Christmas Story.

The other wise man, Mary Hutcherson.

Reading: Lola Dennis.

Announcements.

League benediction.

SHOES for any member of the family at a great saving NOW.—Brown Dry Goods Company. It.

Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Grimes of Winters, were up this week for a visit with their son, Mr. R. L. Grimes and family. The latter Mr. Grimes being the new Cashier of the Farmers State Bank.

Subject: Lessons of the Nativity of our Lord.

Leader—Lorena Frazier.

1. Song.

2. Scripture (Matt. 2 1-2; Heb. 2 10-11.

3. Prayer.

4. What the wise men found, Cyrus Pee.

5. The Supreme expression of Love, Murphy Thomas.

6. The Savior of the world, Ganevera Middleton.

7. What this day means to us, Joe Ridenbauch.

8. Our Christmas gifts, Adrian Rea.

Special music.

Business.

Benediction.

Mrs. W. G. Cypert came in first of the week from her visit with relatives at Port Arthur.

Mrs. Ruth Darsey, of McGregor, came in this week for a visit during the holidays with her son, Mr. J. T. Darsey, splendid local furniture dealer.

## 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.

## Another Butcher Shop

Preparatory to making a change in my business the first of next year, from November up to X-Mas I am going to butcher prices on All Goods.

## IF YOU WANT GROCERIES

Dishes, Crockeryware, Churns, Stoves, Men's Work Shirts, Dress Shirts, Pants, Overalls, Jumpers, Ladies' and Men's Hosiery, etc., COME AT ONCE.



A. L. JOBE  
MERKEL

NOODLE NEWS

FORMER MERKEL CITIZEN BURIED HERE

out of town teachers of the Merkel Schools have departed for their homes to spend Christmas with home folks.

Miss Williamson has gone to Victoria to spend Christmas with her father who is pastor of the First Methodist church there.

Miss Pierce is at Alvin with her parents.

Miss Weeden is north of Brownwood with her folks for Christmas.

Mr. and Mrs. I. L. Jackson are spending Christmas with Mrs. Jackson's parents at Stamford.

Misses Duke, Harrison and Compere are spending their holidays at Abilene.

Miss Conway is on her father's ranch near Colorado.

Miss Yates is at McCauley.

Miss Joiner is at home near Tye.

Supt. and Mrs. R. A. Burgess are spending holidays at Lubbock with home folks.

Health of this community is good at present. And we are glad to report that our Sunday School is progressing nicely. We are glad to see so many young people taking interest in the Sunday School work. Bro. Campbell of Abilene filled his regular appointment Sunday at the First Baptist church, and rendered a fine sermon. Bro. Campbell was elected pastor of the Baptist church here for the coming year and we are very much pleased to have this good man with us. Bro. Campbell is one among the finest young men that the good people of Noodle has ever heard preach and we are lucky to have him with us. Let every body take an interest in the Christmas Tree at Noodle and make it a success.

Miss Roxie Sharp of Merkel was the week end guest of Miss Quinnie Roundtree.

Mr. and Mrs. Homer Herring are rejoicing over the arrival of a little girl.

A Merry Christmas to all—Black Eye.

Old friends were shocked Monday when a message was received from Fort Worth, saying that W. J. Ozie was dead. He and his family spent a number of years in Merkel and had much to do with the upbuilding of the town. They moved to Fort Worth in 1902.

Mr. Ozie was 71 years of age at the time of his death, which occurred at his home on Ross Ave. Fort Worth. He attended services at the First Presbyterian church, of which he was an active member and elder. At the close of the service he always prayed the closing prayer. He went home to dinner and was stricken at the table and was unconscious until the end came at 4:40 Sunday afternoon. He leaves a wife and five children, Olive, Lon, Bob Ozie and Mrs. Sam Sheppard and Mrs. Vernon Croxdale.

Funeral services were held at the Presbyterian church, by his pastor, Rev. Duggans, assisted by Bro. Fred S. Rogers.

The floral offering was large and very beautiful.

His body was laid to rest in Rose Hill Cemetery, where he has three children who preceded him in death.

Many friends join the loved ones in sorrow, and extend sympathy and love. May his consecrated, useful life be an inspiration to all who knew him.

Miss Mary Cleo Booth is at home for the holidays. She attends Simmons College.

UNION RIDGE

Sunday, December 23, at 10 a. m. Sunday school; 11:00 a. m. Preaching service. 7:45 preaching service. Will take collection in the interest of the Methodist Orphanage at Waco at the 11:00 O'clock hour.

I am going to get your number, if you are not present at one of these services.

Will preach at Blair in the afternoon at 3 p. m. Thanks for your presence. M. R. Pike, Pastor.

Merkel Ku Klux Klan No. 137 will hold regular meeting in this city tonight, Friday, December, 21. A special Christmas program is being arranged, and all members throughout the city and surrounding country are urged to be present. Itp.

Mr. Bill Atkins of Honey Grove, is here this week for a visit with his sister, Mrs. J. Ben Campbell.

May Christmas Mean Much to You

And may Health, Happiness and Prosperity become more and more enriched with the passing of time and may you and those whose happiness depends upon you enjoy the best of health and a full measure of prosperity and true happiness.

We are grateful to all for patronage of 1923 and pledge you that during 1924 we will put forth our best effort to serve you even better than in the past.

SANDERS DRUG STORE  
The Rexall Store Store. PHONE NO. 93 Merkel, Texas

Our Christmas Thoughts

IF HUMAN NATURE is the combination of self-seeking, ambition and greed which some materialistic philosophers assert it is; if life is a contest in which all finer sentiments are subordinated to self-advancement and success at any price, how is it that the spirit of Christmas has not only endured but grown in power during nearly 2,000 years? If the pessimists are right, it would seem that the light would have been extinguished long since and with it the spirit would have departed.

Were history and our daily lives not replete with evidences—noble evidences too—of the unselfishness in men's hearts, we might be impressed with the teachings of the sordid and the carpings of the morbid. Christmas is the symbol and a celebration of love—love which is synonymous with charity and which our purest teaching tells us is the finest attribute of the soul. We, who during the past few weeks have watched the Yuletide preparations, are prepared to say that they represent a beautiful manifestation of that attribute.

We have noted the working girl taking home at night her parcels; contributions wrung from the dole of her necessities, in order that she may testify to her love and bring a measure of cheer to some child, some relative, some friend. Tired from her daily toil mayhap, but in her eyes that something which transcends all fatigue; transcends, in fact, everything else in the world and comparable only to that which shone from a mother's eyes upon the Babe in Bethlehem. Friends, in the face of these and so many other manifestations which we are all witnessing during this season, what night has one of us to say that the Light of the World grows dimmer?

Our hearts tell us there is no dimming. Let us be thankful for the extra radiance of Christmas. Let us seek to carry it into our daily lives. Our wish is, that this occasion, at least, will help all of us to forget our tribulations and sorrows, our complaints and animosities, and that it will be to all a day of cheer and everything which Yuletide typifies. The words of Tiny Tim have never been improved upon and we here invoke them: "God bless us all!"

THE PUBLISHERS

(Copyright, 1923)

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Mrs. L. D. Gaither of San Antonio, arrived this week and will spend the holidays with her mother, Mrs. Dr. W. V. Cranford, while the doctor is away for a visit in Louisiana.

Dallas Man Recovers From Paralysis

"I was stricken with general paralysis followed by impact bowels on April 16th. Hiccoughs set up, which continued for seven days. I tried every remedy suggested to me without results. I started taking FERRASAL, and the first dose stopped the hiccoughs for two hours. I repeated the doses and the hiccoughs had entirely stopped by morning and I have not had them since. I kept taking FERRASAL night and morning and was able to be up in two weeks and had regained the use of all my faculties in one month. I have had no trouble with my stomach or bowels since and my general health is improving daily. D. Hardie Cox, R. 8 Box 640, Dallas, Texas.

Acid Stomach and Constipation caused Mr. Cox's trouble. They are health's greatest enemies. FERRASAL gets at the source of the trouble by neutralizing the excess acid in the stomach and expelling it from the system. TAKE FERRASAL NOW. 50c per box. It will help you or your money will be refunded.

**Ferrasal**  
THE ACID NEUTRALIZER  
STOPS INDIGESTION NOW!

50c per box at Merkel Drug Co.

-OUR-  
Hearty  
Christmas  
WISH FOR YOU

If our wish for you comes true you will have the full joys of the happiest Christmas you have ever known, not only now, but on through the days of a Bright, Prosperous, Happy New Year.

ACCEPT OUR THANKS

For your very generous patronage during 1923, and give us the continued pleasure of your 1924 business.

McFarland Garage

F. C. McFARLAND, Prop.

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 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 carelessly 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, according to a story that Booth Tarkenton 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'Hoolahan, 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, cheeriest 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 the seal on her beauty. Without it she loses much of her power of attraction. But many a person has turned away from a pretty girl because of her laughter. There is laughter so loud that it ceases to be hearty and becomes vulgar, so shrill that it gets on the nerves, so strident that it suggests hysterics, and so inane and cackling that the listener concludes that only an empty-headed woman could laugh so.

Many girls do not realize the effect of their laughter, and continually laugh and giggle needlessly. Thus they destroy their chances of making a favorable impression upon people they meet.

Yet a low, musical laugh is a great attraction, the greater because it is so rare. Do you possess it? If not, with patience and perseverance you can achieve it. First listen to yourself whenever you laugh. You will probably be very disagreeably surprised, and realize how ugly laughter can be. You must lower the pitch of your voice. Practice laughing in your own room when you are alone. Banish the cackle 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 still a mile to walk just to deliver one 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 aggrieved 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 Goids and their country cousins?"

"Why, when she was visiting them she made a terrible blunder by asking if the family crest in the tablecloth was the laundry mark."

**Cause for Divorce.**  
In Turkey, during the Seventeenth century, to refuse or neglect to give coffee to one's wife was a cause for divorce. The men made promises when marrying never to let their wives be without coffee.

Busy Mailmen Add to Our Christmas Cheer

FROM house to house they go with cards and calendars of cheer, presents and surprises. Always cheery, never complaining, how much they add to our Christmas joy and pleasure!

If cross expressions were worn by those who brought us our Christmas presents it would not be the same. And yet they work so hard, so overhard, they carry so much, and all to others!

Our mailmen are a pretty wonderful lot and our Christmas time is added to by them to a very big degree.

It seems as though we should do our part to give a little cheer to our mailmen in gratitude and appreciation of the spirit in which they do their work.—Mary Graham Bonner.

(© 1923, Western Newspaper Union.)

THE RIGHT COSTUME, O. K.



Hubby—So you're going to take part in the Christmas Eve entertainment. What part do you take?

Wife—I take the leading part. I'm Christmas Eve herself.

KEEP A CHRISTMAS RECORD

Why wouldn't it be fun for a family to keep a record book in which to preserve the interesting things about the annual 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 interest.—C. F. Wadsworth.

(© 1922, Western Newspaper Union.)

Looking Forward

INTO 1924



We think we see many good things in store for our patrons for we are always planning and thinking for you. We want to serve you better in 1924 than ever before in the history of this business.

In the future, as in the past, we will appreciate your criticisms and cooperations to make our service more nearly what you would have it be.

In our program for 1924 we are ambitious to surpass all past records and with your continued loyalty we can do so.

Accept our sincere thanks for all patronage of the past.

May 1924 Bring You Peace, Plenty and Happiness

Woodroof-Bragg Company

"The Place Most People Trade"

1924

OUR NEW YEAR MESSAGE

We feel it fitting, with the dawn of a new year that we should lay aside the claims of business for a moment and thank the people of this city and vicinity for their generous participation in the growth of this business during 1923. Not only do we owe our thanks for the progress of the past but for the confidence inspired for the future.

We would have you know that we are sincerely grateful to each of you. We extend our sincere wishes with the hope that 1924 will fulfill your highest hopes and fondest aspirations.

Brown Dry Goods Co

Quality Merchandise

(Continued from Page One)

WHO WILL HEAD THE LIST?

all active prize-winning participants.

In an election for office but one candidate wins. In the Merkel Mail election "Everybody Wins"—YOU WIN.

You who are "IN" get busy, work, carry on. You who are still "thinking about it," "GET IN." GO AFTER 'EM. YOU WIN.

Clip or tear out the nomination blank in to-day's Merkel Mail. Bring it or send it to the Merkel Mail office. Then spend the next few weeks more profitably than any like weeks of your life were ever spent before. GO IN AND WIN.

Candidates, get your subscriptions in to the campaign department at the Merkel Mail Office by 9 o'clock, Wednesday and Saturday nights.

NOTICE STOCKHOLDERS MEETING

Notice is hereby given of the regular annual meeting of the stockholders of the Farmers State Bank, of Merkel, Texas to be held in its banking rooms on the second Thursday in January viz January 10th 1924, between the hours of 2:00 and 5:00 p. m. for the purpose of selecting a board of directors for the ensuing fiscal year, and for the transaction of such other business as may come before said meeting. Respectfully,  
John Sears, Pres.  
2113.

STRAYED—A small red cow, been de-horned and is in thin condition. Left home about Dec. 5. If you know of this cow, please notify Emmett A. Patterson, or leave word at the Patterson Drug. ltp

Mrs. J. D. Hogg and daughter Lucille will leave this week for Placious where they will join Mr. Hogg in making that place their home.

Nicknames Such as "Dad" and "Pa" Not Express Affect.

What is in a name? Why, everything, of course. Get a bad name and you will find it out. Call a man a fall-bird 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, because he is so precious and sweet, and because he will carry it through life. The baby has nothing to say as to the choice. It is, therefore, all the more important that a name be given him which he will be pleased with when he becomes a man. Unfortunately, few boys and girls are entirely pleased with their names, and in many cases they seek to change them.

There is another question which arises later on, and that is the question as to what a boy will call his father. A variety of designations have been assigned to the paternal head of the household. By some he has been called "the governor." This is an official term and smacks of rulership. It can scarcely be called a term of disrespect, but the objection to it is that it lacks 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 respectful 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." "Dad-die" is the term many girls employ, and it is much more tender and affectionate. But, what better name can we find in our Anglo-Saxon vocabulary to call our father than "Father?"

MILLIONS OF BOOKS PRINTED

On an Average of 200,000 Volumes Are Published Each Year Throughout the World.

Have you ever wondered how many books there are in existence? On the 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 produce all these books is absolutely incalculable.

The three largest libraries in the world are the British Museum Library, in London, which has 4,000,000 volumes; the Bibliotheque Nationale, in Paris, 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 kinds.

**She Skipped Trains.**  
In this fast-moving world, transportation takes new forms over night. The fair century of steam railroading in the United States has not yet passed. Young men remember the first motor car. We are just beginning to fly. There arrived in New York from Pennsylvania not long ago an elderly woman. Her home was on a farm near a city in the hard coal region. Her 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.

**Rainbow Trout Eat Mice.**  
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 trout do not go prowling over the fields cattle, but lie among the cutbanks of rivers and lakes until mice come running along, then jump at them, and gulp down the delicacy.

While cleaning large fish for a camp of workers along the Alaskan railroad, 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 going 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."

**Location.**  
"Where is Fordy spending his vacation?"  
"From what he writes he seems to have landed in the Black Hole of Calcutta."