



SENIOR NOTES

Among the interesting things which happened last week in high school was the receipt by the Seniors of the following important document, which we shall print verbatim ad litteratam.

To whom it may concern---  
**ANTI-FLOWER MOVEMENT**  
 We the undersigned JUNIORS absolutely refuse to furnish the funds for which to purchase the Senior graduation flowers. If flowers you must have you can furnish your own or accept sun-flowers which we will gladly give. Our chief reason for not furnishing the flowers is: It is the candid opinion of the whole Junior body that there is some thing rotten in High school and by some small misfortune is in the English room. We know your cry will be, "we bought the Senior flowers last year," but times are changing, my dear Seniors and you being a "crump" is no fault of ours. So if you can get blood out of a turnip, shoot Luke, or give up your gun."

Obtained and established by the undersigned Juniors of Merkel.  
 Lewis Giles, Roy Elliott, Hallie Pike, Godie Richie, Sallie Bown, Emma Toombs, Homer Oliver, Dean Murray, Weldon

**COZY**

Not Occasionally but always  
 A Good Show

Wed. & Thurs. Dec. 24 & 25

We are proud to offer to the People of Merkel and this Community

OUR BIG CHRISTMAS SPECIAL



Springs to the screen to stir—grip—inspire! Daring—Courage Romance—All blend here in the unforgettable revelation of a man who had to prove a man against a thousand odds.  
 Extra—"Sad but True" Comedy

**Santa Claus is Coming**

-T O-

**BROWN'S**

SEE OUR SHOW WINDOWS

Come in and see what he left for **DAD**

Come in and see what he left for **MOTHER**

Come in and see what he left for **SISTER**

Come in and see what he left for **BROTHER**

**NOTE--** Store will be open every night till 9:00 p. m. beginning Saturday.  
 We will close at six after January the first.

Wells, Boyd Dobbs, T. J. Beid-  
 leman, Audrey Witcher, Peach-  
 Sutphen, Neoma Avery, Lola  
 Dennis, Anna Lou Russell, Ju-  
 nita Beene, Mary Derstine, Eva  
 Mae Johnson, Jessie Golightly,  
 Lila Bird, Mary Hutcheson,  
 Flossie Campbell, Jimmie Reece  
 West, Dolly Toombs, Pearl Skid  
 more, Lillian Rider, Foster  
 Watts, James Toombs, Sybil  
 Smith, Dorris Russell, A. J.  
 Tucker, Nora Rape, Mary Alice  
 Johnson, Edith Baker, Lernon  
 Chaney, Vernon Chaney, Irene  
 Golightly.

This is to be read to the whole Senior body at a class meeting. It is our wish that this be read before the whole Senior Class so they may see our sentiments toward them.

On Monday of this week the Seniors performed the last sad rites for our friend and departed classmate, the Juniors at 12:40. The corpse was removed from the Senior room by the pall bearers, followed by the hired mourners. A few stanzas of "Ivory Soap" were sung by the mourners at the side of the grave.

Adrian Rea preached a very fitting and impressive sermon, in which he explained the anti-flower movement and why there were no flowers used to decorate the grave.

The Seniors then sang: "The Juniors lay down by the sewer and by the sewer they died. And when the Seniors found them, they called it Sewer-side."

Followed by one stanza of, "Say it with flowers."

Before the crowd left the grave, Adrian extended thanks to Miss Pierce for her kindness shown the Juniors in their short life and last days.

**Mrs. W. A. Tittle Entertains**

On last Friday evening at three o'clock the Alathean Class of the Baptist church met in a business and social meeting in the home of Mrs. W. A. Tittle. The house was decorated with pot flowers and a lovely Christmas tree. Mrs. Tittle greeted her guests with a hearty welcome as they entered. After all had arrived each was asked to register and write some thing in the little book which was presented by the hostess to some member of the class before the afternoon of pleasure came to a close. Then those present drew names and placed their gifts on the Christmas tree. Much fun and laughter was had over this. The teacher of the class, Mrs. E. N. Brown acted as Santa and passed out the gifts.

Following the social hour, the president, Mrs. E. S. Cummings took charge of the business meeting. A committee was appointed to select the new officers for the class. Mrs. Cummings then presented Mrs. Tittle with a few gifts of remembrance from the members, since Mrs. Tittle is to soon move away.

Refreshments of hot chocolate, whip cream, pie, and sandwiches were served.

**A GOOD POSITION**

You can do it if you will take up the world-famous Draughon Training, January 1. Ten times as many positions as graduates make it easy to place you, at good salary. Write today for special Holiday Offer on scholarships good at any time. Draughon's College, Abilene and Wichita Falls, Texas. 19t2p

Combination sets, both "Handkerchief" and "Towel" in Xmas. boxes. Brown Dry Goods

**HIKE TO CASTLE PEAK**

A hike and picnic was much enjoyed by a crowd of young people last Monday afternoon, when Mrs. Dan Matthews chaperoned them to Castle peak for an outing.

Climbing and hiking up the peak was a special feature, as well as kodaking. About five o'clock a picnic lunch was served, consisting of sandwiches, soda pop, pickles and olives. Marshmallows were toasted over the camp fire afterwards. Games of various kinds were played until it was time to return home.

Enjoying this outing were: Misses Gladys Mayfield, Dorris Durham, Melba West, Mildred Matthews, Ona Fae Rose, Thelma Condon, Margaret Eckerd, Gladys Acuff, Mrs. Matthews, and Messrs. Clyde Matthews, Marvin Mayfield, James Swann, Ray Garrett, Mabin Rogers, Chas. Sutphen, Buford Smith, Clesby Patterson.

**LAUNDRY SERVICE**

Send to the Laundry and be convinced. Regular family washing. Everything included except stiff collars, silk and woolen goods at ten pounds for one dollar. Phone 218. Alfred H. Ligon.

Try a Classified Ad in The Mail.

**1925 GREETINGS 1924**

TO OUR CUSTOMERS, OLD AND NEW WE EXTEND BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR AND SINCERELY THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND FAVORS IN 1924.

**L. J. Renfro**

**New Equipment**

**--Car Painting--**

We are now prepared to do first class Car Painting. All work Guaranteed First Class

Tourings an Road-  
 sters, Ford **\$12.50**

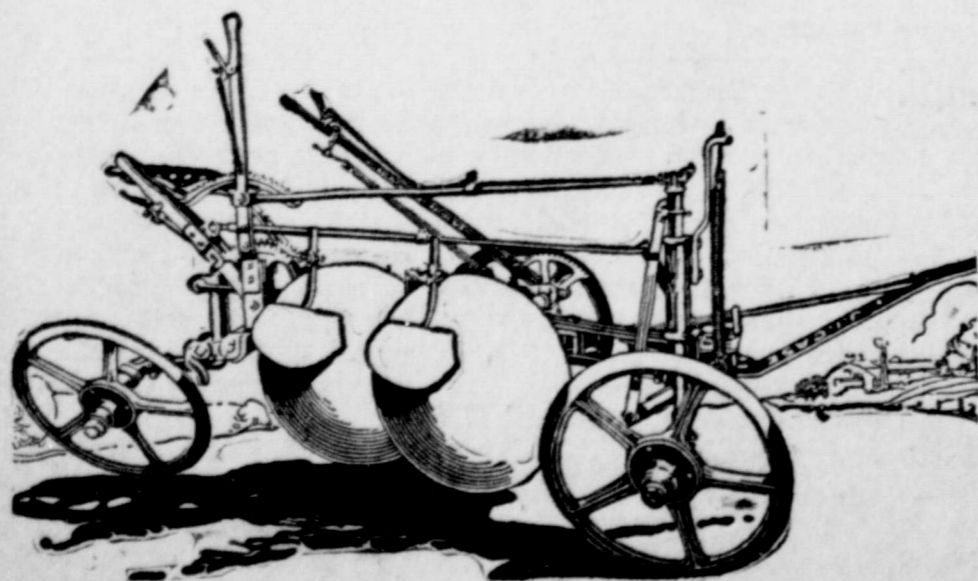
Coupe, **\$20.00**

Let us Show You Some  
 of Our Work.

**Merkel Motor Co.**

Authorized Ford Dealers

**J. I. CASE HORSE DRAWN Disc Plows**



The Plow that Locks in the Ground

We have a Complete Stock of Case Implements and Repairs

Write, Wire or Phone us.

Your Nearest Dealer

**Lion Hardware Co.**

Just East of Post Office

ABILENE

Phone 1360

# THE MOST REMARKABLE YEAR IN THE History of the World WILL SOON CLOSE

Remarkable principally because of the civilization that was ushered in more than nineteen hundred years ago. What wonderful progress we have made! From the OX CART---to the AUTOMOBILE---to the AIRPLANE---to the GIANT ZEPPELINS! From DOTS and DASHES to HUMAN VOICES around the world through air! From the old DAGUEROTYPE to RADIO PICTURES sent across the seas! Yet we have seen only through a pin hole in the great curtain which conceals the achievements yet to be.

"Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."

None of these marvelous achievements are so near to us as our friends, to whom we send the season's greetings with the wish that at this Christmas-tide they may be very happy and very thankful to the Author of all happiness. That the coming year may be full of joy and prosperity, or should grief and adversity visit them, may they have strength to bear it and faith to look into the future with a bright face.

## Farmers & Merchants National Bank

J. T. WARREN, President-Director.

G. F. WEST, Vice-Pres.-Director

HENRY JAMES, Vice-Pres.-Director

L. R. THOMPSON, Cashier-Director.

Sam Butman, Sr., Director.

Booth Warren, Assistant Cashier.

Owen Ellis, Assistant Cashier.

Castle B. Ellis, Bookkeeper.

Willie Toombs, Bookkeeper.

Rosie Laney, Stenographer

**FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF OUR CUSTOMERS WE WILL INSTALL  
NEW FIXTURES SOME TIME IN JANUARY**

**Merry Christmas**

# The Hamm Drug Company Announces

That Mr. A. M. Jones of Miami, Texas, who is a Registered Druggist is moving to Merkel and will be in charge of the Prescription Department at this store.

We also list a few items for your selections for Xmas

- |                   |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| TOILET SETS       | BELT BUCKLES      | CIGARETTE CASES   |
| MANICURE SETS     | BAR PINS          | BEADED BAGS       |
| SHAVING SETS      | RINGS             | GOLD KNIVES       |
| BUD VASES         | PEARLS            | PERFUMES          |
| RAZORS            | CLOCKS            | PERFUME BOTTLES   |
| SILVERWARE        | MESH BAGS         | CANDLESTICKS      |
| XMAS DECORATIONS  | EVERSHARP PENCILS | XMAS CANDY        |
| CUT GLASS         | IVORY             | XMAS BOXES CIGARS |
| TOILET WATERS     | IVORY SETS        | XMAS CANDLES      |
| CURLING IRONS     | CASSEROLES        | TESTAMENTS        |
| MARCELLE WAVERS   | KODAKS            | XMAS CARDS        |
| DIAMONDS          | KODAK ALBUMS      | POST CARDS        |
| WRIST WATCHES     | XMAS STATIONERY   | FOUNTAIN PENS     |
| BELT & KNIFE SETS | BIBLES            | BOBBY COMB SETS   |
| MENS WATCH CHAINS | PIPES             |                   |

AND LOTS OF OTHER ARTICLES TOO NUMEROUS TO MENTION  
A VISIT TO THIS STORE WILL CONVENCE YOU

## Hamm Drug Co.

BRING US YOUR PRESCRIPTIONS  
Phone No. 93

### CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE—1921 Model Ford Coupe for \$200.00 Cash. New paint, new tires, in good condition. Jack Durham at Mail office.

FOR SALE—My farm 164½ acres. Teams, tools and feed. Price, \$70.00 per acre. Half cash, rest easy. W. E. Petty. 4t2

FOR SALE—My 304 acre farm, 275 in cultivation, 3 sets of improvements, located one-half mile west of Shiloh church, 12 miles north-west of Merkel. A choice home for sale for next thirty days. For prices and terms see owner. J. H. Grayson, Trent, Texas. 5t3p

FOR SALE—Cheapest place in Merkel. Terms to suit. Reason for selling, leaving country. Also 320 acres near Trent. Will give from one to 20 years time. H. D. Simpson. 5t4.

FOR SALE—One of the best improved and best located farms in Jones county. If interested see A. J. Canon at the Crown Hardware at once. 19t2

### THE LAST OPPORTUNITY

For the Individual Christmas Gift

**"Your Photograph"**

Give Something Different This Year.

Sitting made by Dec. 23  
Finished Xmas Day.

**RODDEN STUDIO**  
Merkel, Texas

FOR SALE—A real bargain. 160 acre farm; 140 in cultivation, located on highway. Well improved. G. W. Branch. 1tp.

FOR SALE—My farm of 164½ acres. Teams, tools and feed. Price, \$70.00 per acre. Half cash, rest easy. W. E. Petty. 1tp

## Christmas 1924 Christmas

Santa Claus' headquarters for Gifts, for the whole family, that last. Make our store your first stop and you will buy when you stop, for we can fix you up for Dad, Mother, Sister and Brother. We will mention a few articles, but the best thing is to come see.



- SAFETY RAZORS
- BICYCLES
- TRICYCLES
- AUTOMOBILES
- WAGONS
- FOOT BALLS
- PUNCHING BAGS
- BASKET BALLS
- TENNIS RACKETS
- BASE BALL FIELDER'S GLOVE
- POCKET KNIVES
- BASEMANS MITTS
- TOY POP GUNS
- AIR RIFLES
- CAP PISTOLS
- FLASH LIGHTS
- SCOUT AXES
- TARGETS
- SHOT GUNS
- HUNTING KNIVES
- HUNTING COATS

- PUTTS
- SHOP MADE BELTS
- CARVING SETS
- CLOCKS, WATCHES
- MOPS, O'CEDAR
- STOVES, IRONS
- INCUBATORS
- SILVERWARE
- CUT GLASS
- FANCY GLASSWARE
- CAKE PLATES
- FLOWERED BOWLS
- BREAKFAST SETS
- SERVING TRAYS
- CANDLE STICKS
- BUD VASES
- ALUMINUM WARE
- REAL PERCOLATORS
- BATH ROOM FIXTURES
- CARPENTERS TOOLS
- TOY TOOL SETS
- CROQUET SETS

Come on, we will have what you want if you don't see it listed here.

## Liberty Hardware Co

"If It's Hardware We Have It"

Give more gifts by buying your Xmas presents at 'Brown's'

WANTED—A man to do some grubbing. Lizzie Keny. 19t2p

FOR SALE—Span of good work mules. Also second hand John Deere Pony Disk plow; second hand planter and cultivator. See Clyde Reed, mile and half east of Merkel. 1tp

FOR SALE—Good phonograph with 70 records, priced right. H. A. Sanders. 1tp

FOR SALE—Second hand Moline Double disc plow—\$35.00 J. T. Warren. 12t2

FOR SALE—Two good milk cows. F. M. Mullens, Merkel, Route 1, Box 5. 19t2p

FOR SALE—Quilts. See Mrs. S. P. Martin, on north side of town. 1tp

FOR SALE—Farm. 79 acres; 65 in cultivation, good sandy land, on clayed road, 5 room house, cistern and well, orchid, wood, barn and lots. Priced \$26 per acre, \$500 cash, balance to suit you at 8 percent interest. The Wilsonville school house is on the southeast corner of this place, is 12 miles east of Anson See W. C. Mattingly, 2 miles east of Noodle, Route 2, Merkel Texas. 19t2p

FOR RENT—Two furnished Light housekeeping rooms. Call No. 35. 1tp

WANTED—Your sewing. We solicit your patronage. Call first house south of J. M. Garretts residence. Miss O. N. Hughes. 19t4

WANTED—Single row J. I. Case high wheel, self-drop planter. G. H. Tucker, Merkel, route 4. 1tp

LOST—Brown Corduroy coat and leather sleeve vest on road between Merkel and Mulberry Bridge. Return to Merckel Mail Office for reward. 1t

DISAPPEARED—From my residence on Rose St. a small model of an Intenational speed truck, painted red. Shall appreciate any information leading to its recovery. Henry C. West.

## COZY

Not Occasionally but Always a Good Show

FRIDAY ONLY, Dec. 19.

Jacqueline Logan, Antonio Moreno and Walter Iers in "FLAMING BARRIERS"

High-g geared, high-class melodrama, fired with spine-tling thrills and rib-tickling comedy.

EXTRA— "Room 23" 2-reel Mack Sennet Comedy

SATURDAY ONLY, Dec. 20.

TOM MIX

the Hero of the plains and Tony the Wonder Horse in "THE HEART BUSTER"

WARNING! This is a mile-a-minute thriller. The management will refuse admittance to patrons with weak hearts. We do not hesitate or stutter when we say this is Tom Mix's Best Western Thriller.

ALSO— "Stay Single" 2-reel Comedy

MONDAY and TUESDAY, Dec. 22-23

THOMAS MEIGHAN and THEODORE ROBERTS in "IF YOU BELIEVE IT, IT'S SO"

The soul stirring drama of a fallen man's battle for love and happiness.

AND— "Under Cover" Comedy

WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY, Dec. 24-25

OUR BIG CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

Harold Bell Wright's Powerful Novel One of the World's Best Sellers "WHEN A MAN'S A MAN"

With John Bowers, Marguerite de la Motte and Robert Frazier

A great, powerful drama of a man who had to prove his birthright. See other ads in this issue.

EXTRA— "Sad But True" 2-reel Fox Comedy Riot

FRIDAY only, Dec. 26. "The Question of Honor"

SATURDAY, Dec 27 Wm S. Hart in 'Wild Bill Hickock'

"That Man Mayfield" Says  
**SIX BIG DAYS**

THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY  
 MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY

**A PRE-CHRISTMAS  
 Selling Masterpiece of  
 HUBBARD'S  
 "SALE OF SALES"**

**Your Christmas Store  
 is Ready!**

**DRASTIC PRICE CUTS  
 PREVAIL!**

"READ OUR BIG 4-PAGE, 2-COLOR CIRCULAR"

**HUBBARDS**

Sweetwater

Prices cut deep on BLANKETS, Miss Eleanor Harrison is during our Xmas Sale. Brown spending the holidays with her Dry Goods Co. It parents at Abilene.

**COZY**

—NOT OCCASIONAL BUT ALWAYS A GOOD SHOW—

Wednes. and Thurs. Dec. 24-25

We are proud to offer to the people of Merkel and this community

Our Big Christmas Special

**"When a Man's  
 a Man"**



with John Bowers, Marguerite De La Motte, Robert Frazier and others of note.

Extra— "Sad But True"  
 2 Reel Fox Comedy

Remember only 2 days, Wednes. and Thurs. Dec. 24 & 25.

**Maize and Corn**

Have 2 cars of Maize and car of Ear Corn For Sale.

Maize..... \$35.00 per ton at car  
 Corn..... \$1.50 per bu. at car

See Sam Swann or Artie Lloyd

**City Furniture Co.**

New and Secondhand Furniture Bought, Sold and Exchanged.

Large Shipment of Dishes on way

Trunks, Rugs, Carpets, Tents, Cook Stoves, Heaters, Army Goods, Suits and Overcoats.

Cross Street from P. O.

JOE GARLAND, Proprietor

F. N. Cogburn, wife and daughter, of Oklahoma, were here this week the guest of Mr. and Mrs. W. I. Cogburn.

**"G-E-M"**

TUESDAY and WEDNESDAY, Dec. 23-24  
 United Artists Present  
 CHARLES RAY

-in-  
 "THE GIRL I LOVE"  
 With The Comedy "CRY BABY"

THURSDAY and FRIDAY, Dec. 25-26  
 Warner Bros. Presents  
 "MAIN STREET"

-with-  
 FLORENCE VIDOR and MONTE BLUE  
 Containing the biggest and most popular cast of screen players that has ever been assembled for a motion picture.

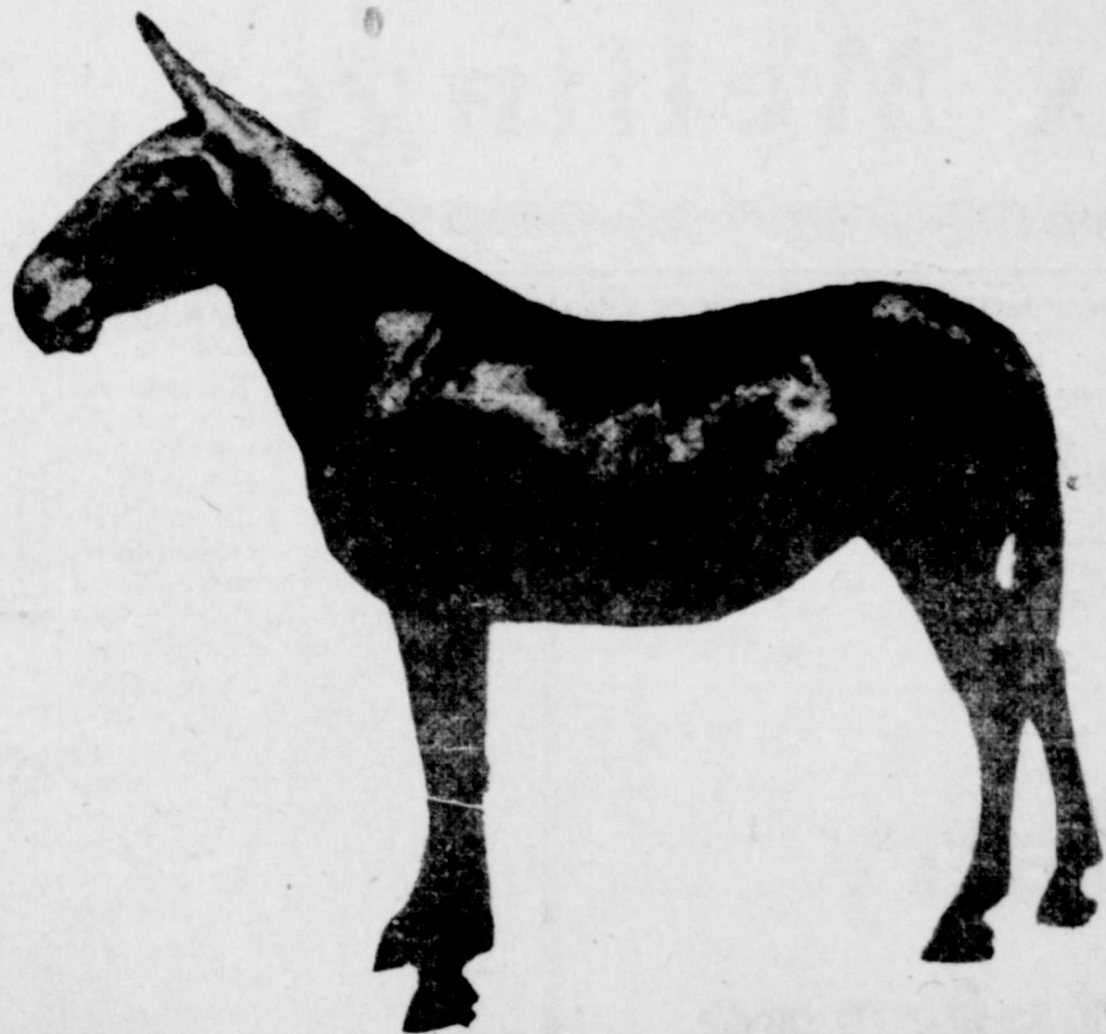
The manager selected this great picture drama especially for Christmas. The great cast consists of 25 noted stars, such as Florence Vidor, Monte Blue, Harry Myers, Robert Gordon, Noah Berry, Alan Hale, Ann Shaefer, Otis Hrlen and others.  
 The Comedy "FELIX TURNS THE TIDE"

SATURDAY, Dec. 27th.  
 TOM MIX in  
 "WAGON TRAILS"  
 One of Mix's Best Westerners  
 With the Comedy "MONKYLING AROUND"

The "GEM" Theatre has selected a wonderful line of Pictures for the coming season from Warner Bros. Classics of the screen and Al-Lichtman Corporation.

**Missouri Mules**

56 Mules at Auction



56 Mules at Auction

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20<sup>th</sup>**

**At HELMUM'S WAGON YARD  
 MERKEL, TEXAS**

**Sale Starts At One-Thirty P. M.**

WE WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER 56 HEAD OF MISSOURI MULES, 3 TO 5 YEARS OLD, WEIGHING FROM 1,000 TO 1,300. THEY ARE ALL SOUND AND BROKE TO WORK. THESE ARE MULES THAT WE HAVE WORKED ON OUR FARM, MOSTLY AT LIBERTY, MISSOURI.

**EVERY MULE MUST SELL Regardless of Price**

LISTEN, MR. FARMER—YOU WILL PROBABLY NOT HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE TO BUY THESE KIND OF MULES AT AUCTION AGAIN. WE ESPECIALLY INVITE MEN WHO THINK THEY DON'T WANT ANY MULES, AND DEALERS WHO BUY AND SELL AGAIN.

**This is a Real Auction--No By-Bidding**

**Don't FORGET the Date--this Coming Saturday**

**MIDLAND STOCK FARM, LIBERTY, MO.**

**J. G. LUTZ, Manager**

# A Store Full of Christmas Gifts

The gift beautiful  
The gift practical  
The gift enduring

Each and all may be found at its best here

We can only hint at the immensity and variety of our large assortment of valuable and appreciable gifts for Christmas presents, hence we invite you to come to the store in person, where our sales force will be glad to show you and help you to make your selections.

And we would also have you remember that our **BIG CHRISTMAS SALE**

is still on and in buying here you get the benefits of these reductions. Come early before our stock is picked over.

Yours for a Merry Christmas,

## Max Mellinger

### Our Accomplishments— What Have They Been?

I HAVE always found, even in youth, quite as much interest in looking back as in looking forward. It is good to plan for the future, but there is quite as much to be gained from reviewing the past and in seeing how far we have come, how much we have accomplished, in what ways we have developed.

I was talking to Foreman about the year that is so nearly at an end. He was dissatisfied with his progress and uncertain as to whether or not the time and money he had expended had been worth while. He had learned little, it seemed; for all he could see, he wasn't different than when he had left the little country town nine months ago. But I could see that he was a little more self-possessed, a little surer of himself, a little less crude in his manners. He was learning to think, learning to meet people, and developing a little wider range of interest than when he left home.

As you come to the end of the year and look back, how far have you come? It is an easy question to ask, but possibly not so easy to answer.

When we were little children at home, mother used to teach us after we had said our prayers at night to go over in our minds for a minute or two the events of the day and try to determine whether it had been a good day for us or a bad one. Often we dropped off to sleep before we had gone far, but it was a good experience, this looking over our accomplishments in the face and trying honestly to estimate them. It is something like this that I should like to put before you as this year is closing. What has the year meant to you? New friends? New powers? New ideals? Have you done something worth while? Are you better, stronger, more able to fight the battles of the world than you were a year ago? Are you wiser with a wisdom that is clean, healthy and uplifting? If so, the year is ending happily for you.—Thomas A. Clark, Dean of Men, University of Illinois.

(© 1924, Western Newspaper Union.)

### Light in the Steeple on Christmas Morning

IF above the sleeping city, like a low and leading star, like a watchful and kindly eye, like a beacon of assuring hope, a promise of Christmas morning, beamed the light in the old church steeple.

It shone down through one of the church windows and smiled upon the pictured shepherds who found a morning at midnight; and upon the stately wise men who knew the joy of making gladness out of gifts. Its rays lighted up a garret, where two very hopeful youngsters were sleeping upon a very small bed, after making sure that the light was there. In the street below a passer looked up, saw it and smiled; another paused under the glow and spell of it and dropped a coin into the poor box at the church door. The Salvation Army lass came out from the church porch and thumped her tambourine merrily because some genial influence had filled the basket so full, almost dancing down the street as the bells saw by the gleaming light that it was time to ring.

And so with cheering glory and with chime  
Came in another happy Christmas time.

While the old steeple, still pointing upward, remained as a witness to things high and splendid.—Christopher G. Hazard.

(© 1924, Western Newspaper Union.)

### A REAL SANTA CLAUS

SINCE we must have our Christmas trees the chief problem is how they are to be obtained. The cutting, shipping and selling of Christmas trees has developed into an established business, extending over the entire country. One large shipper of New England has been in the business forty years and in that time has sold many thousand carloads of trees. Some of these have been shipped as far south as Texas and as far west as Chicago. This pioneer in the industry is now eighty-two years of age, but he is still active, and curiously enough he is a real Santa Claus in appearance.—Frank Herbert Sweet.

(© 1924, Western Newspaper Union.)

### Perhaps Little Stars

#### Knew About Christmas

THE stars shone brightly overhead. Below, the snow was covering up the hard ground, which did not seem to understand Christmas. It was much too hard for that. It was better that Old King Snow should come along and cover it up, giving the people a white Christmas.

The stars shone down upon a little farm house. It was not a palace. It was not even a beautiful house. But the stars shone very brightly.

Perhaps they knew, bright little stars that they were, that in that house, as in many another house which is neither a palace nor a beautiful residence, there was great happiness and glorious celebrating of the beautiful Christmastide.—Mary Graham Bonner

(© 1924, Western Newspaper Union.)



## Electric Gifts for Xmas

UNIVERSAL PERCOLATOR \$12.50	ARE GIFTS	ARMSTRONG TABLE STOVE \$10.00
UNIVERSAL TOASTER \$6.25	WORTH WHILE	BOUDOIR LAMP \$3.00 Each
OAK LEAF IRON \$5.50		CLAMP-LAMP \$2.25
	REELITE LAMP \$4.00	

## West Company

We are thankful to Mr. A. J. Hartley and his son, Mr. Joe Hartley, splendid citizens on route one and four, respectively, for their renewal to the Merkel Mail.

Combination sets, both "Handkerchief" and "Towel" in Xmas boxes. Brown Dry Goods Company.

Try a Classified Ad in the Mail.

## The Old Year is Gone

and its opportunities went with it but the experience of the days of '24 remain with us and we trust we may profit by them to the end that we may serve you better.

## The New Year is Here

with new hopes, new ambitions and new opportunities. I hope that it will bring you new riches and greater joys. I want to serve you when you need anything in my line.

ON JANUARY 1ST. WILL MOVE TO KENT STREET  
NEXT DOOR SOUTH OF J. H. McDONALD

## E. L. ASH

THE SHOE MAN

## Dull, Sluggish Feeling

"BLACK-DRAUGHT is our household stand-by," says Mrs. Thomas H. Kell, who lives near Ellijay, Ga. "We have been using it years and years. My mother's family used it and we do here and my four sisters do, too. I could not run my house without Black-Draught. I give it to the children whenever they need a purgative, and both Mr. Kell and myself take it. As a medicine for sluggish liver and headache, and the ills that come with constipation, Black-Draught is fine. "Lots of times I have felt dull and sluggish, my head would ache and I had to make a great effort to do my work. A little dose of Black-Draught would correct this feeling. We always keep it on the medicine shelf." Be sure that you get Thedford's, the old, reliable Black-Draught powdered herb liver medicine. At all dealers'.

Thedford's  
**BLACK-DRAUGHT**  
Over Ten Million Packages Sold a Year

—THINK AS WE MAY  
—WE CAN'T GET AWAY  
FROM THE OLD,  
OLD WISH

A  
**Merry  
Christmas  
AND A  
Happy  
New Year**

AND IF OUR WISH COMES TRUE AS WE  
SINCERELY HOPE IT WILL DO  
—WE'LL BE SATISFIED—  
—WON'T YOU?

## Watkins & Vaughn Market

### Miss Erma Lee Rea Hostess

Miss Erma Lee Rea was the charming hostess to a few friends at her home last Tuesday evening, when she entertained with a "Funny Paper Party". Every guest came dressed to represent some character in the funny papers. Much excitement and fun was had over the clever costumes and funny faces. Games of suitable nature were indulged in for a time. Then the hostess surprised her guests with a pretty little Christmas tree, on which there were gifts for all, left by old St. Nick.

Refreshments of sandwiches, hot chocolate and cakes were served. Those enjoying this evening of merriment and pleasure were: Misses Stella Wilson, Lola Dennis, Lucille Guitar, Opal Patterson, Sallie Brown, Intha Bird, Velma and Mildred Holloway, Elizabeth Harkrider, Messrs. W. L. Harkrider, Ray Garrett, Robert Mayfield, Bill Hutchins, Lewis Giles, Adrian Rea, Raymond McAdams.

### NOTICE TO AUTOMOBILE OWNERS

Notice is hereby given that on and after the 22nd of December 1924 owners of Automobiles and motor vehicles will be required to comply with the law within the corporate limits of the city of Merkel. This means that you shall have two headlights and a tail light when driving at night.  
W. N. Hall, City Marshal.

Bring your Farm Bureau Cotton to the Farmers & Merchants National Bank.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* PARAMOUNT KODAK \*  
\* FINISHING \*  
\* Best Service in Southwest \*  
\* Special Attention Given to \*  
\* All MAIL ORDERS \*  
\* Films in by 9 a.m. Will Be \*  
\* Finished by 5p.m. Same Day \*  
\* RODDEN STUDIO \*  
\* Merkel, Texas \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

# GREAT XMAS REDUCTIONS

Your last chance to buy merchandise at our great  
**End of the Year Sale**

We have enjoyed a splendid business during our entire sale and now comes the climax.  
**EVERY THING FURTHER REDUCED FOR XMAS SELLING.**

In our ready to wear department we have grouped our entire stock in the following prices.

One lot former values up to \$22.50 now .....	\$12.75
One lot former values up to \$27.50 now .....	\$16.75
One lot former values up to \$30.00 now .....	\$19.75
One lot former values up to \$40.00 & \$45.00 now .....	\$24.95

All men's Hart Schafner & Marx \$50 suits now **\$39.75**  
 All Hart Schafner & Marx \$45.00 suits now - **\$35.00**  
 All Hart Schafner & Marx \$40.00 suits now - **\$29.75**  
 All \$37.50 men's blue serge and striped worsted suits now  
**\$29.75**

One lot young men's suits \$30.00 values with 2 pair of pants **\$23.95**

Remember Wednesday December 23rd is the closing of our sale and after that all goods go back to regular prices. Buy now and save the difference.

## A. C. ROSE, Dry Goods

**WE WISH YOU MATERIAL  
PROSPERITY AND SPIRIT-  
UAL HAPPINESS FOR 1925**

May each milepost

On your journey

thru 1925

Point You on to Greater

Happiness each suc-

ceeding step

Until finally you reach

The Goal you most

Desire

and we thank you too, for 1924 business and ask for your 1925 patronage.

**J. M. GARRETT**

COAL AND FEED  
Phone 155

### HONOR ROLL

The following pupils of the Merkel Public schools have been neither tardy or absent, have made at least 90 percent in department, have not made less than 75 percent on any subject, and have made a general average of 90 or more. Having met these exacting requirements, they have had their names placed on the Honor Roll of the school for the six weeks period ending December 5, 1924.

Low 1st. (Miss Russell)  
James Pilcher, 94; William Hughes, 93; Burneal Scott, 93; Ona Faye Tittle, 93; Guy Reagan, 92; Billie Gambill, 92; Ethelda Tucker, 92; Opal Buzbee, 91; Juanita Bishop, 90.

High 1st. (Miss Dean)  
Isabel Popst, 91; Alice Russell, 90; Billie Robins, 92.

Second Grade (Miss Pogue)  
La Vene Holden, 92; Jim Chaney, 91; David Gamble, 91; Waldeline Huskey, 91; Thomas Jones, 91; Neil Durham, 90; Vivian Lasater, 90.

Second Grade (Miss Harrison)  
Mabel Morton, 92; Julia Proctor, 91; Raymond Wilson, 90; Jack West, 90; Sarah Sheppard, 90.

Third Grade (Miss Martin)  
Lucille Campbell, 92.  
Third Grade (Miss Coats)  
Ibah Mae Tipton, 94; Florene Rider, 92; Imogene Middleton, 92; Gordon Murray, 91; Meyer Mellenger, 91; Joyce Wheeler, 91; Mildred Richardson, 90.

Fourth Grade (Miss Joiner)  
Lela Patterson, 94; Lola Mae Tittle, 94; Roy Robins, 93; Alvin Skurlock, 93; Isadore Mellinger, 92; Howard Johnson, 90; Maurine White, 90.

Fourth Grade (Mrs. Teaff)  
Ida Mae Derstine, 94; Nell Durham, 93; Mary E. Grimes, 92; Howard Albertson, 91; Willie E. Boaz, 91; Mary C. Campbell, 91; Dorothy Deutschman, 91.

Fifth Grade (Miss Ellis)  
Mary Ligon, 93; Elsie Lasater, 92; Fannie V. Jones, 91; Beth Hamm, 91; Louise Booth, 91; Joel Darsey, 90; Eris Ash, 90.  
Fifth Grade (Miss Hearn)

Leo Tucker, 94; Mabel Pilcher, 93; Elvin Richardson, 93; Lynn McSpadden, 90; Vera Richie, 90; Benjamin Sheppard, 90; Virgie Matlock, 90.

Sixth Grade (Miss Flanigan)  
Edith Smith, 96; Clarence Sharp, 95; Nina Vantrees, 95; Nadine Tippett, 95; Leora Parks, 95; Pauline Toombs, 93; E. L. Turner, 93; Hazel Robinson, 92.

Sixth Grade (Miss Blair)  
Frances Frederickson, 95; Missie Dye, 94; Florence Ligon, 94; Jettie Howard, 94; Milton Case, 93; Tracy Campbell, 93; Maybelle Ligon, 93; Hettie Howard, 92; J. D. Ashby, 91; Fred Guitar, 90.

Seventh Grade (Mrs. Jackson)  
Lillian Hughes, 93; Raymond Earthman, 93.

Seventh Grade (Mrs. Sublett)  
Addie Fae Patterson, 95; Jim Smith, 93; Norma Shannon, 93; Ruskin Smith, 93; Bernice Lasater, 93; Alice Reed, 91.

Eighth Grade (Miss Weedon)  
Sterling Sheppard, 95; Tolbert Proctor, 94; Sally Mary Campbell, 94; Flora Frances Anderson, 94; Fred Yandell, 93; Mildred Hamm, 93; Elizabeth Hark rider, 93; Paul Casseaux, 92; Burnis Tucker, 92; Berdelle Adcock, 92.

Ninth Grade (Miss Bird)  
Mora Thompson, 94; Tommie Durham, 94; Aileen Childress, 93; Maben Rogers, 92; Floy Ash, 90; Thelma Deavers, 90; Dorothy Higgins, 90; Mary Hughes, 90; Una Belle Provine, 90.

Tenth Grade (Miss Pierce)  
Lila Bird, 95; Boyd Dobbs, 94; Mary Derstine, 93; Eva Mae Johnson, 93; Emma Toombs, 92.

Eleventh Grade, Seniors  
Lucille Guitar, 95; Clyde Matthews, 94; Mary Butman, 91; James Harris, 90; Evelyn Curb, 90; Ona Fae Rose, 90.

Mr. W. R. Grayson and family left this week for Friona, on the Plains, where they will reside in the future. They have lived in the Shiloh community for many years and have many friends who regret to have them leave.

Subscribe for the Merkel Mail Try a Classified Ad in The Mail.

## Season's Greeting 1924-1925

MAY YOU RECEIVE A FULL  
MEASURE OF HEALTH  
AND ENJOYMENT

To the vast number who have entered the door of this business in the past and to those we hope will enter in the future, we send this New Year message.

In 1925 we have plans for the improvement and enlargement of this business to better serve the people of this city and section.

Favor us with your 1925 patronage and we will never give you cause for anything except a full measure of satisfaction.

THE CLOCK WAS WOUND  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16  
WATCH THE CLOCK

**W. D. Ramsey Co.**  
Groceries

# J. T. DENNIS

## MONEY SAVING SALE CONTINUED

We take this opportunity to thank all of our friends and customers for the patronage given us through the year. It has been our aim to please. We trust our business transactions with you has been pleasing in every manner, and hope we may have the pleasure of serving you throughout the coming year.

Our Sale will be continued to Wednesday, December 24th. Our stock of Dry Goods has been reduced in price. We extend to you an invitation to come and see. Our prices continue the same as last week. We have our Sweaters greatly reduced. One lot men's sweater coats worth \$6.00 on sale at **\$4.98**. One lot men's sport coats worth \$3.00, on Sale at **\$1.98**

HOSIERY	DRAPERIES	GINGHAMS
We have a complete stock of hosiery. A few prices on silk hose.	Two-Tone Terry Cloth, former price \$1.25, now... 98c	All our 27 inch Gingham, a good grade, former price 25c on sale at ..... 16 2-3c
\$2.50 Silk Hose ..... \$1.98	50c grade Marquisete ..... 39c	Red Seal Gingham ..... 20c
\$1.50 Silk Hose ..... \$1.25		
\$1.25 Silk Hose ..... 89c		
OUTING	We have any thing you needin Lingerie. Just the thing to make for Christmas. A good assortment of Sateen and Bloomer Charmense at a Bargain. _____	All our 32 inch Kalbunia and Toile Du Noid, former price 30c, on sale at ..... 25c
A special on the best grade 27 inch outing st. 16 2-3c		Chambray Gingham ..... 29c

Beginning Saturday, December 20, and continuing until December 24 we are offering some very attractive prices on our line of groceries. We submit to you for your approval the following:

25 lbs. pure cane Sugar \$2.25    Spuds 1 pk. 15 lbs. 40c    8 lb. pail S. J. Compound \$1.35.  
 Old Mary's Pure Ribbon Cane Syrup 90c    6 lb. Pail Crisco \$1.35    P. & G. Soap 24 bars \$1.00

A COMPLETE LINE OF FRUITS FOR CHRISTMAS

# J. T. DENNIS, Merkel Texas

## Automotive Gifts For Christmas

### ARTICLES FOR \$1.00 to \$2.50

- Dash Lamp
- Luggage Carrier
- Pedal Pads
- Jack
- Bar Cap    Motor Meter Light
- Mirror    Parking Lamp
- Spot Light    Lock
- Step Plates    Foot Feed
- Stop Signal.
- Tire Chains
- Tire Gauge
- Windshield Wiper

### ARTICLES FOR \$2.50 to \$5.00

- Side Lamps
- Clocks
- Ford Alemite Set
- Horn
- Visor    Jack
- Tire Lock    Radiator Cover
- Motor Meter    Braces
- Step Plates    Pumps
- Stop Signals
- Tire Cover
- Steering Wheel
- Radiator Cap

### ARTICLES FOR \$5.00 to \$10.00

- Automatic Windshield Wiper
- Steering Wheel Lock
- Spot Light
- Motor Meter
- Steering Wheel
- Visor    Clock
- Radiator Cap    Bumpers
- Robe    Jack
- Drum Lamps    Horn
- Seat Covers
- Water Pump
- Tire Chains
- Alemite Gun

### ARTICLES FOR \$10.00 and UP

- Lock Steering Wheel
- Carburators
- Shock Absorbers
- Bosch Ignition    Speedometer
- Chevrolet Cutout    Bumpers
- Snubbers
- Alemite System
- Balloon Tires

LOOK OVER THE LIST, then come in and let us show you the items you have in mind. You'll find our stock complete, our prices the lowest and our service unexcelled.

## WEST COMPANY

THE HOUSE FOR  
**DEPENDABLE AUTO NECESSITIES**

## A Message To Xmas SHOPPERS

You have only five more days to do your Christmas shopping. Let us help you make your selections--give something useful. You can find nothing more lasting, and nothing that will be appreciated more than a piece of furniture. We have hundreds of appropriate gifts. Come in and let us help you.

Below we make a few suggestions:

- Bedroom Suits, Livingroom Suits,
- Hoosier Cabinets, Chifforobes, good comfortable Rockers, Smoking Sets, Floor Lamps, Card Tables, and etc.

Make Our Store Your Headquarters These Next Five Days.



## Barrow Furniture Company



SPECIAL CHRISTMAS NUMBER

# THE MERKEL MAIL

36—NO. 43

MERKEL, TEXAS, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1924

28 PAGES



“Twas the Night Before Christmas”



# CHRISTMAS SALE



## OF PRACTICAL GIFTS CONTINUED

Bring your gift list, visit our holiday booth, you'll like our display of dependable merchandise, you'll also like our prices.



A Fur neck piece as a Xmas Gifts is a "Joy for ever" the price is right.

Our Ladies Coats and dresses are cheaper than ever before. Get the size and let us hang your selection back until Xmas.

Corduroy bath robes and silk kimonos are on sale for Xmas selling

In our men's section you'll find besides suits and overcoats, sweaters, hats, caps, gloves, hose, ties, handkerchiefs, shirts, hand bags, suit cases, and all of them under priced for Xmas selling.

One Hundred Dolls, 75c, \$1.00, and \$1.25 values to sell at - - - 49c

COME TO SEE US FOR REAL BARGAINS

MAKE OUR STORE YOUR XMAS STORE

# Bragg Dry Goods Company



## COMFORT SLIPPERS For Christmas

Just the thing to give, you will exclaim when you see them. Include several pairs on your list—they are very inexpensive.

We have them for Children too.

Silk hose for men and women are very acceptable.

You'll find all colors and prices.

## OUR WISH FOR "YOU"

As we see the holly wreaths and observe folks rushing here and there, buying presents and showing other signs of Christmas we pause to think "its a pretty good world after all" and right away we catch the spirit of the season and this moment we are thinking kindly of our friends and take pleasure in sending out this message of good wishes.

JOY TO YOU AT CHRISTMAS TIME

PEACE AND PROSPERITY FOR THE NEW YEAR

We thank you for the good patronage given us in 1924 and ask for your 1925 trade.

## Motor Mecca

KENT STREET  
WALTER WARNKEN and WADE DARSEY

### PLAYING SAFE IN CHRISTMAS GIVING

BANKER CHISHOLM refused accommodation to persons who seemed the most successful merchants in town, and to some of the wealthiest citizens. An account over-checked by even a dollar received quick notice. It was as if Banker Chisholm had a finger on the pulse of the town, and whenever a pulse faltered he withdrew. He was not running a hospital.

So he became known as "Stony Face," "Frost," "Bloodless," and the like. Even the many solicitors of charity went to him without expectation.

Each Christmas mysterious turkeys were left at doors whose owners were not expecting to have any. Loads of wood and tons of coal appeared in the same way. Banker Chisholm could have told something about them.

Only one person in town really understood, and that was Andy Searles, an old seatmate at school. Andy was a failure, and indifferent about it, but he was a close-mouthed participant in his friend's secrets.

One day the banker called him into his back room.

"Here is a thousand dollars, Andy," he began, nodding at a roll on the table. "I want you to slip it into your pocket and distribute it where you feel it will make the most Christmas."

"In your name this time, Bill. I don't like what they call you."

Banker Chisholm reached for the money.

"Then I won't give anything," he said. "You remember how my predecessor, Mr. Wade, almost ruined himself and the bank by his reckless generosity and accommodation to unsafe borrowers. If I became known as an easy giver, I would be attacked by a horde of friends, and—I'm afraid I'm too soft-hearted to play safe. The only way is to keep up my reputation of 'Stony Face.' It is my salvation. I'm sorry you—"

"Oh, all right," interrupted Andy gruffly. "Give me the money. I'll distribute it where I see need, and want of a Merry Christmas."—Frank Herbert Sweet.

(© 1924, Western Newspaper Union.)

### A New Kind of Pincushion

A pincushion is always a useful and appropriate gift, and here is one that is most satisfactory. Fill a small wooden, pasteboard or metal box not over an inch deep, as full of steel wool as possible. Cover the top neatly with a bit of ribbon or any pretty goods at hand. Pins and needles stuck onto the cushion are kept bright and free from rust by the steel wool, and the bottom of the box keeps them from working downward.

## SERVICE! QUALITY!

We take this method of calling your attention to the fact that we handle and keep in stock a good supply of that

### Good Gulf Gasoline and Supreme Auto Oils

and of urging upon you to give same a fair trial. If you are not already using this gas and oil we will say that GOOD GULF GASOLINE and SUPREME AUTO OIL is absolutely backed up by our guarantee. All of which means that Good Gulf Gasoline and Supreme Auto Oil is clean and powerful, and free from mixture and foreign matter. Its use insures a sweet running engine and more power than any other product on the market. Supreme Auto Oil is a Summer and Winter lubricant. It leaves less carbon and flows freely at zero. These features help avoid many troubles.

We also handle the goodrich tires and tubes, and Anti Freeze for the radiator.

## Woodrum Filling Station

The Place Where You Get Service and don't have to Wait.

# Half Sugar and half Coffee Would Make it too Sweet

SO WE COME WITH NOT TOO MANY FLOWERY  
WORDS TO SPOIL OUR  
AIM.

IN SIMPLE WORDS—OUT OF SINCERE HEARTS  
WE BUY AND UTILIZE THIS SPACE  
TO SAY—

MERRY CHRISTMAS

—and—

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

## MERKEL GARAGE

Merkel, Texas  
Ross Ferrier PHONE 123 H. L. Propst

### AUNT LIZZIE ANN'S CHRISTMAS LETTER

Now, if Aunt Lizzie Ann had only written for Christmas, the family agreed as they sat around the big fire that blazed upon the open hearth, everything would have been just perfect. As it was, things were awfully nice and everyone was having such a good time, but Aunt Lizzie Ann's Christmas letter had failed to come—the first miss since they all remembered—and its absence cast a little cloud over them, try as they would to hide it.

Aunt Lizzie Ann had always written the dearest Christmas letter—gifts she had none to send since Uncle Ed died several years ago—but always there had been that wonderful letter, that breathed so deep the very spirit of Christmas that it had almost become a part of the very time itself for the Dermott family. And although none of the family had yet framed the thought that Aunt Lizzie Ann must be ill, or something dreadful must have happened, it lay heavy upon them all. So when George announced that he was going down to the telegraph office to wire they all agreed that it was the best thing to do.

A soft, powdery snow was falling as he opened the door to step without. He had been gone only a short time when a shout from him brought them all to the doorway. And there, with the snowflakes falling around her, was the dearest little old lady, laden with bundles, which George tried in vain to help her with.

"It's Aunt Lizzie Ann!" they all cried in unison. And sure enough it was Aunt Lizzie Ann, coming this year herself instead of sending her usual letter, and she had the dearest and loveliest gifts for them all.

And when the excitement of her coming had died down and they all sat around the blazing logs again, Aunt Lizzie Ann explained how she had been able to come. Uncle Ed had taken out an endowment policy for her several years ago; it had now matured and she was free to do the things she had wanted to for so long. "You have been giving to me for so many years," she said, "it makes me feel real good to be able to make some return at last."

But the family assured her in all sincerity that it was she who had given the most to them always—for her wonderful Christmas letter had helped them more than they could ever tell her.—Katherine Edelman.  
(©. 1924, Western Newspaper Union.)

### THE "SANTA SACK" GAME FOR KIDDIES

SANTA CLAUS is a real problem to some mothers. Shall their children be told the truth about

# CHRISTMAS SALE

The  
Best  
Servant  
In  
Your  
House



The  
Cabinet  
With  
The 14  
Famous  
Features

## SELLERS KITCHEN CABINETS

From now until Xmas we are giving a Special Sale on Seller's Cabinets. We give you a 32 piece dinner set and an eight piece Cutlery Set with these cabinets in addition to a 10% discount on any Sellers or McDougal Kitchen Cabinet in our store. Something any one would appreciate as a gift, and something lasting.

Give Furniture for Lasting Gifts.



J. T. Darsey  
&  
COMPANY



# As the Sun in its Glory Dispels

the Clouds  
so May the New Year

DISPEL ALL YOUR CLOUDS AND TROUBLES  
AND OPEN BEFORE YOUR PATHWAY A CLEAR  
VISION TO THE GREATER JOYS AND PROSPERITY.

FOR ALL PATRONAGE OF THE PAST WE OFFER  
OUR SINCERE THANKS. WE TRUST IT  
WILL BE OUR PLEASURE TO SERVE YOU IN 1925.

## Dr. Gambill, Dentist

OFFICE PHONE 116

RES. PHON

Santa Claus, or shall they think of him as sliding down the chimney with reindeer and sleigh? This idea may help some mother who is puzzled over this question:

Before our little folks were old enough to understand about the existence of Santa Claus, whenever we saw a picture of the jolly old man, we called him Sunny, or Smiling Santa, because he looked happy. And he looked happy because he was good and kind to everyone. So when the children quarreled or pouted we would try to have them smile and look jolly, like Santa, whose picture we had among others we referred to, as moral or myth pictures.

As the children grew to understand more fully the meaning of the Christmastide we played a game, "Santa sack," which meant that if they allowed each other or their playmates to play with their toys or gave them of their apples or cookies, they were playing Santa Claus, because Santa Claus was unselfish and divided whatever he had from his sack.

Sometimes when their playmates came, we would say, "You'll want to play 'Santa Sack' and away they would skip to distribute their toys like Santa. They delighted to play and be called Santa when they ran errands, smiled or did something kind.

Santa was a make-believe creature, as characters in poems which we read to them, such as "The Raggedy Man," "Children's Hour," "Jack Sprat," "Hiawatha." Anyone who gave a gift at any time of year was a Santa. And whenever Santa Claus distributed gifts at school or at any public place, they were delighted that someone was playing Santa as they played "bear," "doctor" or "teacher." In the home with their little friends. For anyone who is unselfish, kind and cheerful is to them a Santa Claus to someone else.

As they grew older the Santa sack was woven into a lesson story with the thought that each of us has something in smiles, kind words and deeds to give to another all the time. For the real Santa gave much—all he had—from his sack of treasures in Bethlehem long ago! So Santa Claus means unselfishness, cheerfulness, kindness—many things that are worth while to our children.—Gertrude Walton.  
(©. 1924, Western Newspaper Union.)

### Toys Best for Children

"Manipulation" toys are best for children between the ages of two and four; "dramatic" playthings best between four and six, and "construction" playthings, such as radio outfits, games or toys that teach the simpler branches of exact sciences and those which exercise and train the hands and brain in a somewhat advanced way are best.—George Newell Moore

# MAY THE SMILE of Good Cheer Be Yours Sincere

AND THE FOND RECOLLECTIONS OF THE  
JOYS OF A MERRY CHRISTMAS LIGHT YOUR  
WAY DOWN THE ROAD OF 1925 TO SUCCESS.

—WE THANK YOU  
—WE GREET YOU

AND AS WE APPROACH 1925 WE ARE  
THINKING, BUILDING, PLANNING TO MAKE  
THIS BUSINESS MORE WORTHY OF YOUR  
CONFIDENCE, ESTEEM AND PATRONAGE.

## Merkel Lumber Co

Partners with P. CAREY COMPANY, OWNERS

J. E. Richardson, Manager

Established 1882

Merkel Drug Co.

# On Christmas Day and all Through the New Year May Happiness Surround You and Yours

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It is a pleasure to us and we gladly avail ourselves of the opportunity which Christmas offers for the expression of good wishes and messages of appreciation to those who make possible our business.

The year now drawing to a close brought many new patrons and we had the pleasure of serving many old ones. We thank you ---old and new and trust that we have so served and pleased you that you will be with us in the future.

We wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and for the New Year just those things your heart most desires.

## SAM SWANN

Telephone 107

### When You See Tolly Wreaths and Christmas Bells

AND OTHER SIGNS OF CHRISTMAS LET IT REMIND YOU OF THIS MESSAGE OF CHRISTMAS GREETINGS AND HAPPY THOUGHTS FROM THIS STORE TO YOU.

IF YOU WILL DO THIS WE KNOW YOU WILL BE IMPRESSED WITH OUR SINCERITY OF PURPOSE IN SENDING THIS WORD TO YOU THRU THE MEDIUM OF THE PRESS.

AND EVERY TIME YOU WRITE IT "1925" INSTEAD OF "1924" LET IT SERVE TO REMIND YOU THAT WE ARE ANXIOUS FOR YOUR BUSINESS DURING THE NEW YEAR.

### G. M. SHARP Grocery

#### Christmas Invitation an Insult to Mabelle

"A LOVELY Christmas present—an invitation to the opera—an insult! The beast! Oh, the beast! And to think I had grown so fond of him. How could he be so rude?" Mabelle clenched her fists and paced the floor, a deep red flush suffusing her face. She walked to the mirror over the mantle and looked at herself intently. "A bearded woman!" she said in contempt at herself. "I am bearded, of course—but the nerve of him! I've always intended to have that frightful hair removed from my upper lip. It is hideous, isn't it, mother?—But oh, how could he be so unkind?"

"Why, daughter, what are you talking about? I don't understand. It seems to me if I were given an invitation to the opera as Christmas greeting I should be only too delighted. And what has hair on your upper lip to do with opera, anyway?"

"Oh, because, because," she sobbed; "the opera—it's—it's the 'Barber of Seville.'"—Marion R. Reagan.

(© 1924, Western Newspaper Union.)

#### REFLECTORS

IF WE could reflect the spirit of Christmas cheer half as brilliantly as a piece of tin will reflect the rays from a lamp, we should help to light the world to an amazing degree.

Who can hold out against a smiling face that radiates fun and kindness? Who is cold enough to resist the melting warmth of real friendliness?

Let's pretend, this Christmas, that we are very bright, and imitate the modest tin reflector of the lamp of unquenchable good-fellowship! — Martha Banning Thomas.

(© 1924, Western Newspaper Union.)

#### Buddhists Have Christmas

"Hana Matsuri," or the fete of flowers, is the oriental and Buddhist holiday season that corresponds to the Christmastide of the occidental Christian nations. Curiously enough, it is the celebration in honor of the founder of the Buddhist religion, who was Gautama Buddha, lord of grace and infinite compassion. A great deal of attention at the season is given to the youth of the Buddhist land. It comes in April. Buddha was born 565 years before Christ.

#### Trimming the Tree

Some people hang everything on the Christmas tree but themselves! That is later when the bills come.

## Holiday Greetings and Good Wishes

AS THE CURTAIN IS DRAWN BACK AND WE WELCOME 1925. WE ARE HOPING TODAY THAT IT WILL BE A GOOD YEAR FOR YOU AND IF, BY ANY ACT OF OURS WE CAN MAKE IT A BETTER YEAR FOR YOU WE SHALL BE GLAD OF THE OPPORTUNITY.

THE OLD YEAR WAS GOOD TO US IN MANY WAYS AND AS WE RECOUNT THOSE EXPERIENCES OF 1924 WE FIND MUCH FOR WHICH TO FEEL THANKFUL.

TO ALL OUR PATRONS, WHEREVER YOU MAY BE, WE EXTEND OUR THANKS AND EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT 1925 WILL BE ONE OF GREAT HAPPINESS, HEALTH AND PROSPERITY.

### BOB MARTIN GROCERY COMPANY

# A Merry Christmas

**Christmas Time--The Season of Happiness and Good Cheer**

AT THIS SEASON OF JOY WE COME TO YOU IN THE SPIRIT OF GOOD WILL TO EXPRESS OUR GOOD WISHES FOR YOUR HAPPINESS AND FROM THE DEPTHS OF OUR HEARTS TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR LOYALTY TO THIS BUSINESS DURING THE 12 MONTHS NOW DRAWING TO A CLOSE.

TOWARD 1925 WE LOOK WITH PLEASANT ANTICIPATION IN THE HOPE THAT WE MAY BE AFFORDED THE OPPORTUNITY OF GIVING YOU FULL BENEFIT OF OUR PROGRAM OF BETTER SERVICE AND GREATER VALUES.

**McDONALD & STITH**

GINNERS  
J. S. BIRD, MANAGER  
Noodle, Texas

# A Happy New Year

Subscribe for the Merkel Mail Try a Classified Ad in The Mail.

## CORDIAL Christmas GREETINGS

WE EXTEND TO OUR CUSTOMERS THE SEASON'S BEST WISHES AND DESIRE AT THIS TIME TO EXPRESS OUR APPRECIATION FOR BUSINESS OF THE YEAR NOW DRAWING TO A CLOSE.

**WE WANT TO SERVE YOU IN 1925**

AND PLEDGE ANEW OUR BEST EFFORTS TO MEET YOUR EVERY REQUIREMENT IN OUR LINE. OUR AIMS FOR 1925 ARE FOR A BETTER SERVICE.

**CHAS. WEST Barber Shop**

### CHRISTMAS SPIRIT MAKES CHRISTMAS

IT WAS Christmas morning; the ground was covered with snow, just right for a real Christmas. It was early morning and the Gaylord household was astir.

"Now, not a single package on that tree touched until I get the turkey in the oven."

This from the busy Mother Gaylord as she hurriedly poked into the already overstuffed turkey one more spoon of dressing.

"All right, old dear," shouted Hugh, the eldest of the three sons—"a tree wouldn't be a tree, nor a gift a gift without you."

"Thank you, son," said mother as she dried her hands and joined the boys. "Father is sorry, I know, to miss all this joy with us—but business first. That largest package is from him. His letter said possibly he couldn't be here for a month."

"Well, mother, let's save the tree until he does come, and not touch a package, for a tree is not a tree, nor is a gift a gift with Dad away."

A familiar step was heard; the bell rang and in stepped Dad, shouting "Merry Christmas to all! My package not opened yet! By Jo! Glad I'm just in time."

Four voices in unison: "How did you get here?" "Blew in?" asked Mother.

"Well, I guess I did. Christmas couldn't be Christmas without you four, so I came by airplane. Golly! the turkey smells good; let's open our packages."

The tree was truly a tree; the packages were sure-enough gifts; the turkey was honest-to-goodness turkey, and Christmas was perfect, too, for the whole family was assembled with true love in their hearts for each other and Christ was in the midst.—Emily Burks Adams. (©. 1924, Western Newspaper Union.)

### Let Us Make Greetings Ring With Good Cheer

GOOD MORNING!  
Merry Christmas!  
Happy New Year!

These are greetings which everybody uses, and which we hear from the lips of all alike—"rich man, poor man, beggar man, thief, doctor, lawyer, merchant, chief." But to how many of us do the words live? Are they not for the most part a mere meaningless formula without even the inspiration behind them that usually prompts our spontaneous "hello"?

Let it be different this year. Let us back these joyous greetings with hearty enthusiasm. As a man may be judged by his handshake, so may he be judged by his salutations. Let these time-worn phrases take on new life and become genuine greetings

### Christmas Sleighing in Days of Long Ago

OF COURSE the children had a sleigh ride during the holidays. But more and more as their parents talked over what they would give the children when they came home from the sleigh ride, more and more as they planned the good hot supper, they thought about the sleigh rides there had been when they were young.

What sleigh rides those had been! What fun! What a nice thing it was that now the children could enjoy these sleigh rides.

And yet—and yet—why not? They talked it over with each other and then with the neighbors. Then it was decided upon.

And the grown-ups, too, had a sleigh ride during the Christmas holidays just as they had had when they were young. Afterward there was a hot supper and then there were games.

Why put aside a sleigh-ride party when one's spirit is the same, even if a few years have been added?—Mary Graham Bonner.

### Christmas Spirit Prevail Through Year

WHAT a world it would be if all of us kept up the Christmas spirit all through the year! How much of unhappiness, or discontent, or unrest, would we all be spared? How many foolish quarrels and useless bickerings would never be if our hearts held the message of love and trust and peace that they do today? How many homes would be unbroken and how many men and women would work together in a new and deeper bond of love and service? How trivial and small would appear some of the reasons that estrange us from each other? How petty and mean the little jealousies and misunderstandings that hamper our way and our vision? How different our fellow-men would appear in our eyes—their little weaknesses and failings would be things to stir our hearts to pity, instead of to scorn and contempt. Well it would be for the world and for each one of us as individuals if the spirit of peace, of love, of goodwill toward all men burned in our hearts through all the year with the fervor it does today.—Katherine Edelman. (©. 1924, Western Newspaper Union.)

### For the Christmas Turkey

When your turkey has been stuffed and you are ready to close the opening, try using small toothpicks such as can be purchased for five cents a box. Skewer it together with these instead of the old-fashioned, tedious, greasy way of sewing it together, and see how much better satisfied you will be with this method. The toothpick-skewers may be easily removed after the turkey is roasted and hold more firmly, besides being less unsightly.

LET'S ALL

# SMILE

AND BE HAPPY

For Christmas is the season for good cheer and good will—for peace and for kindness.

We are happy Because:—

—We live in a good town

—We deal with good people

—1924 was good to us

—We look forward to 1925 with pleasure.

We trust you have had a good year and better one is near at hand.

—That's just the way we feel about it.

We Thank You

**DR. J. P. HOWARD**

SCIENTIFIC MASSEUR

COLLINS HOTEL

PHONE 73

## GIVE JEWELRY THIS CHRISTMAS



Jewelry Lasts. That's one of the good reasons for selecting it for gift purposes. Another is the ease with which a successful choice may be arrived at.

Let us also call your attention to our general line of Christmas goods, such as Dolls, Kodaks, Smoking Sets, Manicure Sets, Candies, Xmas Cards, Xmas Boxes. Just a visit to our store will make you realize that old Santa has made his Headquarters with us.

**Merkel Drug Co.**

1924

GREETINGS

1925

May you have a Happy New Year that will bring the fulfillment if every cherished desire and the richest blessings any twelve months ever bestowed on your life.

—AND TO THIS WISH LET US ADD—

Our grateful appreciation for all patronage of the past year and give you the assurance that during the new year we will bend every effort to serve you in such a way as to give complete satisfaction.

HAMILTON & CASE

**A  
Very  
Merry  
Christmas  
TO ALL**

MAY YOU ENJOY A CHRISTMAS THAT WILL FILL YOUR HEART WITH JOY AND A NEW YEAR THAT WILL FILL YOUR POCKETS WITH MONEY.

AND TO MAKE THESE THINGS COME TRUE WE WILL BE FOUND AT THE POST OF DUTY TO SERVE YOU IN OUR LINE.

THANKS FOR 1924 BUSINESS.  
MAY WE SERVE YOU IN 1925?

**N. A. Dowell**  
THE TOP AND SHOE MAN

CITATION

The State Of Texas

To the Sheriff or Any Constable of Taylor County —Greeting:

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to summon J. C. Dingler by making publication of this citation once in each week for four consecutive weeks previous to the return day here of, in some newspaper published in your county, to appear at the next regular term of the district court of Taylor county, to be holden at the Court House thereof, in Abilene, Texas on the 1st. Monday in January A. D. 1925 the same being the 5th day of January A. D. 1925, then and there to answer a petition filed in said court on the 12th day of November A. D. 1924 in a suit numbered on the docket of said court No. 5636, wherein Hattie Dingler, is Plaintiff, and J. C. Dingler, is defendant, and said petition alleging in substance that plaintiff is a bona fide inhabitant of the State of Texas for one year and of the county of Taylor for six months next preceding the filing of her petition; that plaintiff, a single woman, married defendant in Kaufman County, Nov. 5, 1907; that plaintiff and defendant lived together as husband and wife until on or about the 28th day of March, 1923 when the plaintiff by reason of excesses, cruelty and outrages practiced and committed upon her by the defendant was forced and compelled to separate from the defendant and did separate from him on or about said date; that defendant was guilty of studied outrages, excesses and cruelties towards the plaintiff which covered a period of about five years; that the defendant cursed and abused plaintiff and applied to her the vilest of profane and indecent epithets; all of which is fully set out and specifically alleged in plaintiff's original petition on file in this cause which is here referred to as a

part hereof. That the treatment of defendant towards plaintiff was of such a character to impair her health and to permanently further living with the defendant unbearable and in supportable; plaintiff prays that upon final trial she have her judgement for separate from the bonds of matrimony with the defendant; that the court restore to her her maiden name of Hattie Thompson and for costs of suit and such other and further relief in law and in equity as she may show herself entitled.

HEREIN FAIL NOT, but have before said Court, at its aforesaid next regular term, this writ with your return thereon, showing how you have executed the same.

WITNESS, J. K. Fuller, Clerk of the District court of Taylor county.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND and the Seal of said Court, at office in Abilene, Texas this the 6th day of December, A. D. 1924.

J. K. Fuller, clerk  
District court, Taylor county  
By Belle Willborn, deputy  
12t4

GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS

Why not give pretty stationery for Christmas gifts? When making out your gift list, don't forget to see my beautiful line of stationery before deciding. Comes in neat Christmas Boxes. Samples on display at Merkel Mail Office. Or call me and I will visit you at your home. Phone 64 or 61. Blanche Durham.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Christmas cards can be purchased at lower prices than else where, at the Merkel Mail office. We take your orders, so let us have yours soon. Your name printed on the cards are included with cards, if bought from us. MERKEL MAIL Printing Co.

**NEW YEAR  
GREETINGS**

TO OUR MANY FRIENDS AND PATRONS

Prompted by our sincere appreciation of the loyalty of our patrons during 1924 we extend greetings and good wishes for the New Year and in so doing give you the assurance of our intention to make 1925 a great year for this business and for those who trade here.

LET US PULL TOGETHER

To make our city a better city and our people a more prosperous, contented people. To this end let us work together in 1925.

**City Meat Market**

Phone 77

Front Street

Try ed Ad in the Mail



**Beautiful Gifts For Christmas**

**TOYS - DOLLS - TOYS - DOLLS TRICYCLES! TRICYCLES!**

The following lists will help you to make your selections:

**For Women--**

- Toilet Sets
- Ivory Sets
- Pangburn's Candies
- Piece Ivory
- Bob Sets
- Pearls
- Bridge Sets

**We Have On Display**

A very complete line of Wrist Watches on any thing in Jewelry that will be appropriate for any member of the family.

**For Men--**

- Smoking Stands
- Xmas Cigars
- Traveling Kits
- Military Sets
- Shaving Stands
- Bill Folds
- Card Cases

**GRIMES-SMITH DRUG CO.**

Prescription Druggists  
"THE HOME OF SERVICE"

Res. Phone 1042 J; Office 90  
**DR. CHAS. F. WILLIAMS**  
All Chronic Diseases  
Piles a Specialty  
120 1-2 Chestnut St.  
ABILENE, TEXAS

**ST. GEORGE HOTEL**  
Dallas  
Where you will feel at home  
If only to spend the day in  
Dallas, make our large lobby  
and our spacious parlors  
your resting place.  
170 Rooms, 60 baths.  
\$1.50 per day and up.  
In the center of the business  
district.  
CHAS. HODGES,  
Proprietor.

**RHEUMATISM**  
The powerful, healing warmth  
of Hunt's Lightning Oil gives  
instant and positive relief from  
throbbing, nerve-racking pains  
of Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Sciatica,  
Headache, etc. Put it to the test!  
**HUNT'S LIGHTNING OIL**  
For sale by MERKEL DRUG CO.

**ITCH!**  
Money back without question  
if HUNT'S GUARANTEED  
SKIN DISEASE REMEDIES  
(Hunt's Salve and Soap), fail in  
the treatment of Itch, Rosacea,  
Ringworm, Tetter or other itching  
skin diseases. Try this  
treatment at our risk.  
For sale by MERKEL DRUG CO.

**BLAIR'S No. 7**

**HERB TONIC**  
FOR  
Stomach, Liver  
Kidney and Blood  
Sold For Over 20 Years  
All Good Druggists  
**BLAIR & SON MEDICINE CO.**  
Sherman, Texas  
MERKEL DRUG CO. Sells it.

**F. J. MURRAY'S MEDICINE**

Vegetable blood purifier, lung  
Balsam, and Catarrh cure. Pre-  
pared by Mrs. S. J. Freeman, of  
Sylvester. For Sale at Merkel  
Drug Company and the Hamm  
Drug Company. 5t4p.

Bring your cotton checks to  
the Farmers & Merchants Na-  
tional Bank. tf

FOR SEWER Connections—See  
Sid Criswell. tf.

**Len Sublett**

Water well Driller,  
all work guaranteed  
first-class.

Merkel, Texas

**SOUTH PLAINS LAND**  
Easy crop payment \$5 per acre  
cash, assume school debt due  
1950, balance like rent 1-3 and  
1-4 of crop. Write today, The  
Blalock Co. Littlefield, Texas...

**THE ONE GIFT THAT ALWAYS PLEASURES**

\* Far or near, rest assured  
\* that father, mother, sweet-  
\* heart, sister, brother, wife  
\* or friend will truly appreci-  
\* ate the thoughtful spirit  
\* that inspires the giving of  
\* your photograph. Give pho-  
\* tographs this Christmas.  
\* Appointments should be  
\* made now.  
\* **RODDEN STUDIO**  
\* Merkel, Texas

**Tutt's Pills**

The first dose astonishes the invalid,  
giving immediate relief, clearing  
bowels and digestive.

We have a phone for the use  
of our customers as well as our-  
selves. Use it when you give  
checks to cotton pickers who are  
strangers. Use it if we can serve  
you during the busy season.  
Farmers & Merchants National  
Bank. tf

**American Telephone & Tele-  
graph Company**  
141st Dividend  
The regular quarterly div-  
idend of Two Dollars and  
Twenty-Five Cents per share  
will be paid on Thursday,  
January 15, 1925, to stock-  
holders of record at the close  
of business on Saturday, De-  
cember 20, 1924.  
H. BLAIR-SMITH,  
Treasurer.

**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 West Company—Front St.  
Merkel — Texas

**W. W. WHEELER**  
Real Estate, Fire, Accident and  
Tornado Insurance Agent.  
Notary Public.  
Office over Crown He...  
mills or the...  
ber of weeks.

**Canned Christmas May Bring Welcome Things**

THE art of giving may be culti-  
vated and Christmas may be as  
a serial story, each month un-  
folding a sequel of surprises; or the  
Christmas spirit may be so abundant  
that it is not all used in one day or  
one month, but as goodies, it may be  
canned in love packages, ready to  
open and use any time in the year.  
When Mother or some shut-in opens  
her Christmas remembrances she finds  
twelve packages, each labeled with a  
rhyme so that one will be opened on  
the first of each month. The January  
package may contain a personal bit  
of finery with handwork for winter  
evenings—something she would never  
get for herself; for February there  
may be kodak snapshots; a current  
magazine; poems; a story clipped  
from a paper; filing cards with rec-  
ipes; in March are bulbs and seeds  
with hints for growing them. Seeds  
are always appreciated, particularly if  
they are of tested variety from home  
gardens. In another month's package  
are useful notions, as pins, needles,  
shoe laces, hairpins, thread, tape or  
cosmetic articles; June may have an  
invitation for a visit or a day's outing  
to a favorite haunt. What a joy to  
anticipate! November will reveal a  
supply of Christmas tags, seals,  
stamps, cards, etc.; December's gift  
may be a "love letter of wishes" and  
a motto, framed to hang where every  
hour it gives a cheery message to you.  
—Gertrude Walton.

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**A "Special Delivery" for the Old Postman**

**LD BILL**, the postman, was near-  
ing home after his day's trudg-  
ing, trudging in the snow deliv-  
ering Christmas mail. So many letters  
for so many people—would there be  
one for him? He brushed the snow  
from his mail box and held his breath  
while he looked. No—there was none;  
and a great lump came in his throat.  
Thirty, forty envelopes bearing Christ-  
mas cheer he had delivered at a single  
house, but not one letter greeted him  
at his own door on Christmas Eve.  
He entered the tiny house disconsol-  
ate. It was so lonely there since  
"she" had died—and their only son  
was far away and had not even writ-  
ten—no, not a single letter.  
Bill shuffled into the kitchen and  
sank into a rocker near the stove.  
"Not one letter," was his only thought,  
"and yet I deal in letters."  
Just then the doorbell rang, and a  
"special delivery" was thrust into his  
hands. With tears of joy he tore it  
open and read. His son, his only son  
would be home on the "midnight"  
train.—H. Lucius Cook.

(© 1924, Western Newspaper Union.)

With all our hearts we wish you a

**Joyful Yuletide**

We give glad thanks for the opportunity to serve and to try, in our humble way to spread good cheer as we journey through life.

We are thankful for friends and for opportunities to do good.

Adhering to the policy of progressiveness, fair dealing and value-giving which has built this business from a modest beginning we plan to give you a greater service in 1925. Please accept our thanks for all past patronage and grant us the opportunity to serve you in 1925.

**W. F. Hamblet**

**HEARTY GOOD WISHES**

**To the people Who Have Made This Business What It Is Today**

TO YOU WE OWE OUR SUCCESS. TO YOU WE ACKNOWLEDGE OUR OBLIGATIONS—TO YOU WE SEND THIS CHRISTMAS MESSAGE AND IN THE TRUE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON, EXTEND CHRISTMAS GREETINGS AND GOOD WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR.

THERE IS MUCH PLEASURE IN DOING BUSINESS IN A COMMUNITY OF SUCH FINE PEOPLE AS WE HAVE HERE. WE EXPECT TO GIVE YOU EVEN BETTER SERVICE IN 1925 THAN EVER BEFORE AND SINCERELY TRUST WE MAY HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROVE THIS TO YOU.

**W. F. Golladay**

Local Agent, Merkel, Texas  
GULF REFINING COMPANY

ITH, TEXAS  
Jendricks, Manager

# Santa Claus Headquarters



At this store you will find the most wonderful array of gifts for men, women and children it has ever been our privilege to show you. Any attempt to list the many articles to be found here would be a hopeless task. Below we give a few suggestions and we cordially welcome you to come here and see the balance.

- |               |                 |               |                |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Guns          | Pocket Knives   | Coleman Lamps | Electric Irons |
| Aluminum Ware | Carpenter Tools | Tricycles     |                |
| Wagons        | Steel Coasters  | Cut Glass     | China Ware     |
| Silver Ware   | Carving Sets    | Water Sets    | Dishes.        |



## Crown Hardware Company

All kinds of pleating done. Also make buttons. Send scraps and state size. Work back by return mail. Prices right. Mrs. C. W. Bapthead, Snyder, Texas, Box 8.

### WE ARE IN THAT BUSINESS

If it is cleaning and pressing you want, that is one of our specialties. Phone 218. Ligon, the Laundryman.

### Moon and Ice Honored as Christmas Guests

THEY planned to have a moonlight skating party during the Christmas season. All of the young people, and a number of the hearty older ones, too, had been interested. So the party was planned. And then everyone hoped the two honored guests would not fall them. For without the two honored guests there could be no moonlight skating party.

What would a moonlight skating party be without a moon and without ice?

Nothing at all. But the moon came and the ice froze solid. And the crisp, clear air seemed to have a special Christmas vim about it, too.—Mary Graham Bonper

### Christmas Tree Worth More Than Small Cost

ARE we justified in sacrificing some five million trees for the annual Christmas festival?

There has been much discussion in the past few years over this question of Christmas trees, in view of the rapid depletion of our forests and the increase in the waste land area.

There are those who stoutly contend that it is a foolish custom of pagan origin, not worthy of perpetuation in this enlightened Christian age, and that it is a senseless destruction of millions of young, thrifty trees that are so much needed to supply the timber requirements of the country.

But strangely enough, the foresters as a class, those who are most interested in conserving tree growth, do not share this concern about the Christmas tree. They are interested in growing trees and having them used for their highest good. If a ten-year-old tree, of which 2,000 or more can be grown upon a single acre, can give so much joy, what better use can be made of the trees?

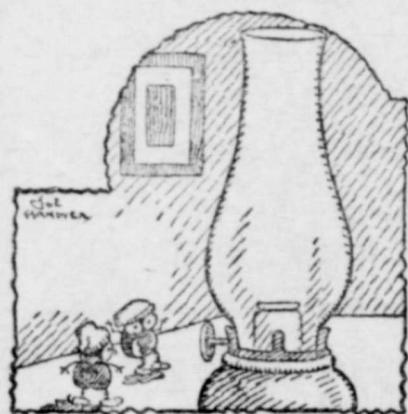
The custom is so well established that it will never be pholly discarded, and why should it be? Is it not the Christmas tree that gives the setting for the celebration? What is more delightful to children than the Christmas tree with its candles or electric lights, silver trimmings, tinsel and the other things that go with it? Take away the Christmas tree and you have removed the chief charm. It is something that is eloquent of sentiment and that has a much higher value than the cost of the tree. It is not to be measured by economic considerations or commercial computations.—Frank Herbert Sweet.

### Lost and Found While Christmas Shopping

LITTLE MARIE, jostled from one side to the other of the pavement by the hurrying Christmas shoppers, became suddenly panicky. What if she would never, never see her mamma again? How, in all that mob of hurrying, brusque people could she ever find her? The streets and sidewalks were a black mud color from the snow trampled down by the thousands of people and vehicles passing over them. What if she should slip and fall and cover herself with that dirty slush? No one would ever recognize her. She would be lost; she would have to walk the streets like this forever and ever—oh! oh! Two large tears trickled down her cheeks and a great sob shook her little frame. A large-nosed Santa Claus in a red flannel suit grinned at her and shook a little tin cup which tinkled with many coins. On the corner a small group of blind beggars were singing Christmas carols in cracked, ugly voices. Marie stopped in front of them, watched them for a while, then suddenly remembering her loneliness, burst into a loud shriek. Several people stopped pityingly and inquired her name and where she lived, but she could not tell them, for the sobs were choking her throat.

A large, excited lady pushed her way through the crowd. "Marie! Oh, mamma thought you were lost!" The woman swept the little girl off her feet, clutching her eagerly. Marie held on to her most tightly, but continued to cry with bitterness. It was a way of relieving her feelings, and so comforting to have dear mother's shoulder to cry on. Oh! oh! It was going to be a glorious Christmas after all!—Marion R. Reagan.

### Perhaps It Is



Bugs—I wonder if that's the chimney Santa is coming down?

## Good Bye 1924

## Hello 1925

### We Greet You

Welcome to the new year—Good Bye to the old year. The old year was good—we hope the new year will be better. We are going to do our best to make it a BETTER year for our patrons.

Our hearts are filled with gratitude as we recount the dealings of 1924 with our patrons. We appreciate you and we wish sincerely that

THE NEW YEAR WILL BRING NEW HAPPINESS

to you and to your entire household. If we can add to your pleasure it will be a joy for us to do so.

## Middleton's FILLING STATION

PHONE 254

B. P. Middleton, Mgr.

## I Want to Sell you Your Christmas Candies

### APPLES, ORANGES AND NUTS

- Largest size Buded Walnuts ..... 40c per lb.
- Smaller size Buded Walnuts ..... 30c per lb.
- Nigger Toes ..... 25c per lb.
- Almonds ..... 30c per lb.
- Mixed Nuts ..... 30c per lb.
- Filberts ..... 30c per lb.
- A Good Mixed Candy 20c per lb. .... 6 lbs. for \$1.00
- Fancy Wine Sap Apples, Box ..... \$3.50
- Washington Naval Oranges, Box ..... \$4.50
- Delicious Apples, Box ..... \$4.50
- 5-lb. Hand dipped extra high grade Chocolates, box \$2

ANY KIND OF CANDY YOU WANT —AND THE PRICE IS RIGHT

Leave your orders here now, so we can pack them nicely, and have them ready to hand out to you. Pay me when you get your package.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS

## J. N. Carson Grocery

# A Merry, Merry Christmas

## To the Big Family of This "Old Reliable" Cafe

Reaching back through the space of years our "family" of patrons looms up as a big one. Some of you have grown to riper ages and even some have children who have grown up in the friendship of this business and they too are our patrons.

To know that we have given you the best of our ability in conscientious service and true values always brings peace of mind and satisfied hearts.

As we look to the New Year we are thinking and planning of better means to please you and to enlarge our "family circle" and please our patrons of 18 years.

# ED'S CAFE

Phone 226

"Service"

Front Street



# HEARTY GREETINGS

**WITH CORDIAL WISHES FOR  
YOUR HAPPINESS**

It affords us sincere pleasure to send out to our friends and patrons the compliments of the season. Believing that friendly business is the best business we like to think of our customers as our friends and for our friends there is nothing too good so that is why we come now to wish you the greatest joys of the Christmas season and success and lasting happiness for the new year, 1925.

## GUITAR GIN COMPANY

Phone No. 247

FRED GUITAR, MANAGER

Merkel, Texas

### Christmas Greetings

at this time, when the whole world seems happy because it is Christmas, we wish to express our earnest appreciation of the patronage accorded us by loyal patrons during 1924.

**Many  
Good  
Wishes**

to you this glad Christmas season and may it be yours to enjoy contentment and prosperity during the year ahead.

**Dr. S. W. Johnson**

**"WE MUST BE GLAD;  
WE MUST BE KIND"**

IT WAS the usual day-time street car crowd.

The tired-looking girl—overworked and underfed—and beside her the girl of leisure with her vanity case; the weary business man, with his paper before his eyes, and the rollicking crowd of boy scouts. The banker who had had an accident with his car, and resented the fact that he had to go home in the street car. The overdressed matron, and the fat woman who filled the space for two—and was mad at all the world because of it. The grouchy old man in front of us, who growled at the street car system and the universe in general.

Beside me sat a woman with two children—one a baby of three and the other a lad of six; they were poorly dressed.

The baby began to whimper and the mother hastily soothed her, while the grouch in front glowered at her.

"Talk to lil' sister," whispered the mother. "Make her to be interest."

And the six-year-old, hardly more than a baby himself, turned to baby sister. "Not cry, not fret!" he said cheerfully. "This time to be ver' glad. This time of holy day because Christmas mos' come. You get orange, one baby doll, if ver' good—perhaps red balloon."

People were listening now, but the little group beside me were unconscious of it. The baby had fixed her black eyes on big brother, and when he paused she said briefly—"More!"

And he hastened on—"Lights in the shops—many toys—Christmas tree in church, and ever' body kind to ever' body—stockings to hang up for candy—"

"More!" demanded the baby.

The girl had put away her vanity box and was listening; and the banker across the aisle smiled at the child.

"And ever one be happy—yes—because of those Christ Child," finished the boy, as their mother rang the bell, and hurried out carrying the baby and her many bundles.

People exchanged smiles, and the grouchy old man who was getting off, too, turned to help her with the children and the bundles.

And the words went with me, repeating themselves over and over—"We must be glad, we must be kind—because of those Christ Child."—Anna Deming Gray.

(© 1924, Western Newspaper Union.)

Claimed that the breath spent in political argument during a campaign would turn the windmills of the country for a number of weeks.

### THE SANTA CLAUS OF GOOD CHEER

### Christmas Cheer

**In Abundance for  
Our Good Friends**

AND YOU—OUR PATRONS—ARE OUR FRIENDS. THIS GLAD YULETIDE SEASON AFFORDS US AGAIN THE WELCOME OPPORTUNITY OF EXTENDING GREETINGS AND GOOD WISHES.

IT WILL BE OUR HOPE AND AMBITION TO CONTINUE TO MERIT YOUR GOOD WILL, YOUR CONFIDENCE AND YOUR PATRONAGE IN THE FUTURE AS IN THE PAST.

WE THINK OF YOU OFTEN—WE THANK YOU—WE WISH YOU WEL. MAY CHRISTMAS BE GOOD TO YOU AND THE NEW YEAR BRING YOU WEALTH AND HAPPINESS.

### Hendricks Gin

STITH, TEXAS  
David Hendricks, Manager

# 1924--1925 SEASON'S GREETINGS

WE WOULD LIKE TO MEET YOU FACE TO FACE  
AND TELL YOU IN A FRIENDLY SORT O' WAY  
THAT WE APPRECIATE YOU NOT ONLY AS A  
PATRON BUT AS A FRIEND AND TO TELL YOU  
THAT WE WISH YOU A FULL MEASURE OF THE  
COMFORTS THAT COME FROM HEALTH AND  
PROSPERITY IN THE NEW YEAR AND THAT  
IT WILL BE OUR JOY TO CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR  
HAPPINESS IF WE ARE AFFORDED AN OP-  
PORTUNITY.

## Burton-Lingo Company

WE WISH YOU A

# JOYFUL CHRISTMAS

AND A NEW YEAR FILLED  
WITH HAPPINESS

TO THE MANY GREETINGS WHICH WE KNOW  
HAVE COME TO YOU LET US ADD OUR'S. EACH  
PERSON CONNECTED WITH THIS BUSINESS  
JOINS IN THE SEASON'S GREETINGS TO ALL  
WHO HAVE PATRONIZED US OR SPOKE TO A  
FRIEND IN THE INTEREST OF THIS BUSINESS.

WE APPRECIATE OUR FRIENDS

AND WE STRIVE EVERY DAY TO SHOW SOME  
MARK OF APPRECIATION OF BUSINESS EN-  
DUSTED TO US. IF GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY  
WE WILL TRY TO MAKE EACH DAY OF 1925  
HAPPY FOR YOU.

## J. D. PORTER Groceries

HE WAS WITH A RUCKUS and a giddy  
whirl, but the carols went over him  
and passed him by. In the splendid  
church great organ harmonies swept  
up to meet the moonlit benediction of  
the starry heavens, carrying rapt souls  
to heights of fuller vision of the glo-  
rious gladness of the Christmas time,  
but Philetus was in bed.

A mere lad, however, rejoicing in  
his new radio set that night, tuned in,  
saying, "Give me Heaven"—and got it!  
—Christopher G. Hazard.

(© 1924, Western Newspaper Union.)

### Jingle Bells



Happy, glad some Christmas time  
Should almost drive away our ills;  
If it wasn't for the awful mess of  
Bills, bills, bills, bills.

### Saint Nicholas Tired of His Own Children

IN HIS book called "A Tramp  
Abroad" Mark Twain gives the  
legend about Santa Claus or St.  
Nicholas. While the author was trav-  
elling from Lucerne to Interlaken he  
passed by the house of the children's  
Christmas saint. There, the story  
goes, at fifty St. Nicholas became tired  
of his own children and decided to be  
a hermit. Their noise distracted him,  
so he sought out a dreary refuge far  
from the world. Here, it is said, he  
had the leisure to ponder and reflect  
upon pious things. What became of  
his wife and ten children is not men-  
tioned. But as a penance the old  
saint is obliged forever to climb down  
"sooty chimneys Christmas Eve con-  
ferring kindness on other people's  
children, to make up for deserting his  
own."

In any event the old fellow looks  
pretty jolly, and we hope he enjoys it  
as much as the children enjoy him!—  
Martha Banning Thomas.

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Uncle Eben's Wish  
"Santa Claus comes around once a  
year," said Uncle Eben "an' de lawd

### As Two Aged Men Saw Approaching Yuletide

HE WAS feeding the pigeons at the  
end of one of the park benches  
when two old men sat down.  
One, ruddy-cheeked and jolly looking,  
made me think of a whisap apple;  
the other, thin, dyspeptic, and with  
a frown between his eyes.

"Well, sir, almost Christmas!" be-  
gan the ruddy one cheerfully. "Funny  
how a body can begin to feel it in the  
air this time of year."

"Don't believe in Christmas!"  
snapped the other crossly.

"What about gifts?" asked his  
friend. "How do you get around them?"

"Don't believe in this swapping of  
presents, either."

"And Christmas trees and children—  
can't very well wipe them off the face  
of the earth."

"Don't believe in any of this hulla-  
baloo about Christmas—what's it all  
amount to?"

"Well, John," said his friend, "you  
are losing a lot, I can tell you that,  
and I'm glad you are not my grand-  
father. If you don't look out you'll  
get old; yea, sir—old!" Why, you  
haven't left yourself anything but the  
Monroe Doctrine! Back of this 'swap-  
ping gifts,' as you call it, human hearts  
are getting closer to each other than  
they do at any other time. And back  
of it all are the Three Wise Men, and  
the Star in the East. No, sir, you are  
missing out on the whole business—  
you mark my words. The world needs  
Christmas—downright needs it, and  
whether you believe it or not, I reckon  
we'll go on getting it!"—Anna Dem-  
ing Gray.

(© 1924, Western Newspaper Union.)

### The Heavenly Song at Merry Christmas Time

PHILETUS PHONE was a lover  
of music, but he had his limita-  
tions. His collection of records  
represented his taste, but also the  
taste of the young masters. His piano  
rolls embraced all the jazz variations  
without due attention to harmony.  
The wave lengths of his radio set were  
too short.

It has been said that all the heav-  
enly orbs sing in their motions, but  
Philetus had never heard them, even  
in imagination. His ears were long,  
but they had never reached that far.  
There were conceptions so delicately  
beautiful that they could not get into  
his mind. He had been heard to say  
that the story of the Christmas song  
was doubtless an oriental invention.  
Had he been among those wondering  
Bethlehem shepherds it is probable  
that he would have neither heard nor  
seen anything that night.

So the Christmas singing was too  
high for Philetus. He spent Christ-

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You alone have the real vision of its future  
success.

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to have to start all over again.  
Fire, accident, the force of nature, can wipe  
out in a few minutes the work of years. In-  
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Have you enough insurance? Have you the  
right kind.

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# All the World Stops at Christmas Time

AND AS WE STOP IN THE MIDST OF THE SEA-  
SON OF GOOD CHEER OUR HEARTS GROW TEN-  
DER AS WE ARE CARRIED BACK IN THOUGHT  
TO THE REALITY OF CHRISTMAS DAY AND  
WHAT IT MEANS.

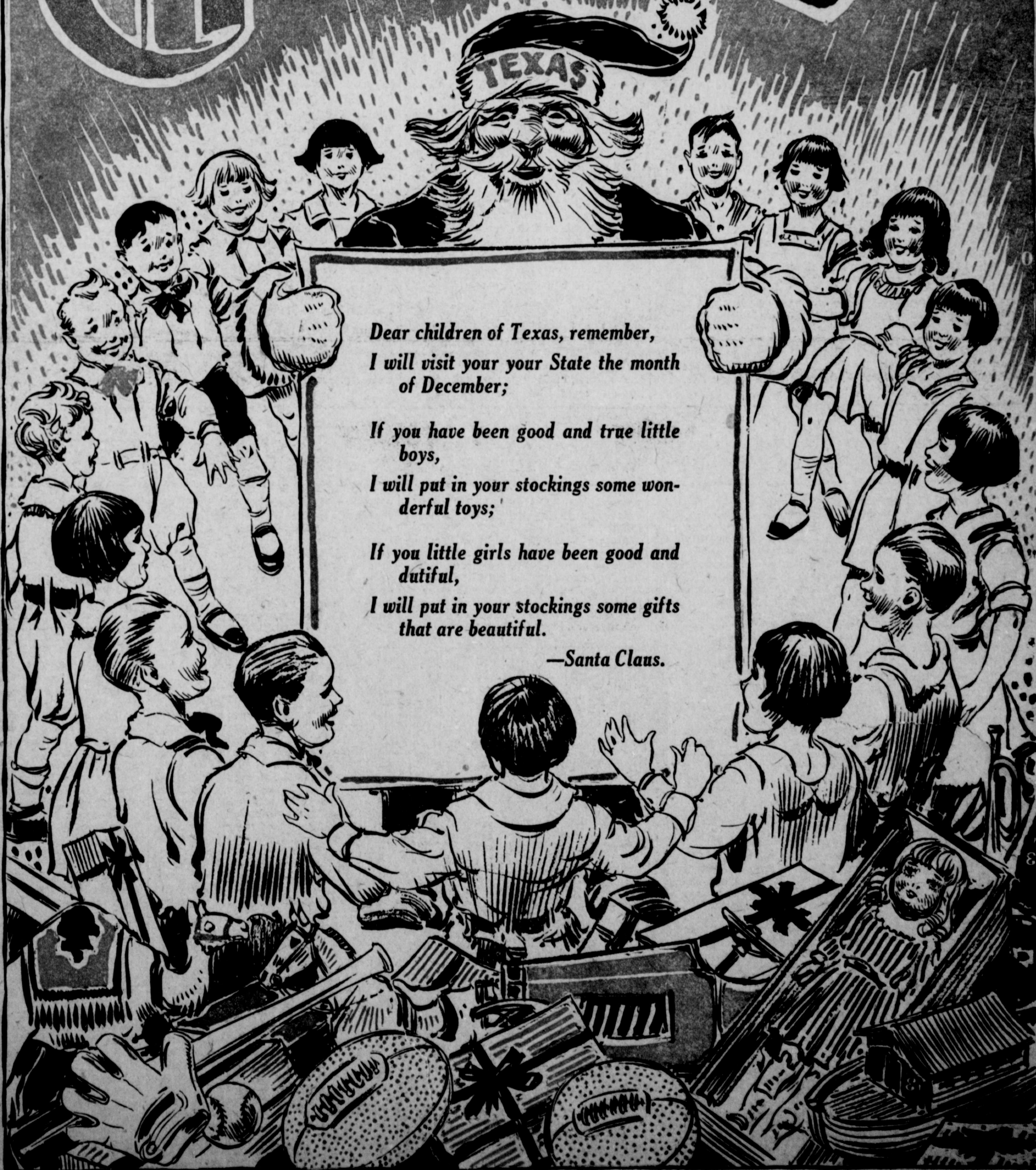
IMBUED WITH THOUGHTS OF KINDNESS  
AND FRIENDSHIP AND OUT OF THE DEPTHS OF  
OUR HEARTS, FOR ALL THE BLESSINGS THAT  
HAVE COME TO US DURING 1924, WE HERE AND  
NOW SEND GREETINGS AND ACKNOWLEDGE  
THE DEBT OF GRATITUDE WE OWE TO THOSE  
WHOSE GENEROUS PATRONAGE AND MORAL  
SUPPORT HAS MADE OUR BUSINESS POSSIBLE.

IN SINCERETY WE GREET YOU AND WISH  
YOU A DELIGHTFUL HOLIDAY SEASON AND A  
SUCCESSFUL NEW YEAR.

## W. W. Campbell

# THE MERKEL MAIL

# Greetings



*Dear children of Texas, remember,  
I will visit your your State the month  
of December;*

*If you have been good and true little  
boys,  
I will put in your stockings some won-  
derful toys;*

*If you little girls have been good and  
dutiful,  
I will put in your stockings some gifts  
that are beautiful.*

*—Santa Claus.*

# CHRISTMAS IN THE OPEN

An Old-Time  
West Texas  
By AUSTIN CALLA.

Our old-time Texas hunting trips were not spasmodic affairs, planned between suns and sent happily and speedily on their way from some filling station. They were "events" that we talked about for many weeks in advance and looked forward to with the keenest anticipation.

The first frost of the season had hardly left its impress upon the green groves around Coleman, Texas, converting the foliage of the trees into all the wonderful shades of autumn, when John Downs began scrubbing up the old camp outfit and cleaning his rifle. Every day he would come down to Frank Rose's livery stable—that's where the crowd gathered—and remind the boys that the time was drawing closer for the big outing on Mustang creek, where it was reported that the antelope were not only plentiful, but fat because of an abundance of grass.

There were to be six in this party, and each one was regarded as above the average at bringing down big game. Gus Roquemore mounted about twenty-five deer heads each season, and he could recite to you just how far he was from each one of the deer when he pulled the trigger. Gus was a dead shot and his knowledge of guns was regarded as superior to that of any other man in the community. This year he had put a new sight on old "Meat Hog," and there was a lot of speculation as to whether he would be as successful as usual.

It was just a week before Christmas the party finally got off. The start would have been made ten days earlier, but it was necessary to wait on Greene, whose wife had presented him with a pair of ten-pound boys. He said he would have to wait until things got going right again.

## Off for the Big Hunt.

I shall never forget that morning. There was the wagon with the big grub box in the back end and rolls of bedding piled between it and the front seat. Two lanterns were hung beneath, a water keg was fastened on the side and there were saddles and other equipment. It looked like half of the town had come down to see the boys off, and Ben Pittman, the town wag, was there with his usual hurrahing, promising to eat the deer's hair and tallow of every antelope that might be "fetched back."

If you never went on a deer hunt, or an antelope hunt in the distant past, when the world hadn't been brought so close together by faster modes of transportation and a hundred miles from the scene seemed like some far away region of mystery and enchantment, you have

no idea how it thrills to start on a trip like this one. I am sure that "hopping off" on an aeroplane trip around the world is only tame by the side of it.

As Charley and Buck, the spirited team, set their heads southward and we began to move out, each fellow with his gun in his hands except Pete, the driver and cook, an envious group was left behind. There were hardly half a dozen men in Coleman who would not rather have gone with us than have been given a free trip to Europe.

We passed the grocery store and John Downs told the driver to stop, while the boys checked up to see if they had everything that was needed in the line of eats. This was a bit of fortunate precaution on Downs' part, because the molasses jug had not been filled, and there was Jim Wright, the life of the party, who had as soon be at a dance without a fiddler as in camp with no molasses. This was quickly attended to and then we were on our way.

## Camping on the Colorado.

The first night we camped on the Colorado river, thirty miles from town. To the impatient traveler of today such progress would seem pokey. We are now accustomed to jumping in our flivvers, running out seventy-five or a hundred miles, and getting back in time for the movies. If we happen to stay all night, we set up our radio and pick up the news of the day or listen in on a bedtime story that is being relayed across the continent.

But we enjoyed the trip from Coleman to the river. About twenty-five quail were killed along the way and broiled for supper. The boys sat around camp until a late hour that night, telling stories of the old frontier. Tom Snyder said that the first introduction he had to the Colorado river was when the Indians ran him into it on a little pony that knew very little about swimming. "And she was from bank to bank," he declared. Continuing, Tom said: "There was a man named Bronaugh with me; he was just down from the North and that poor fellow got wet all over and the scare of his life. He

made it safely to the opposite bank just as the red devils rode up, and, looking back at the river, exclaimed at the top of his voice: 'By jingles, boys, she's deeper than she looks!'"

It was about noon the next day when we reached the antelope country. Out near the head of a dry draw of Mustang creek, where there was quite a clump of live oak brush, which we thought might be needed for shelter from the north winds, we pitched camp. The boys got busy dragging up wood and picking out places to make down their beds, but as soon as this was hastily done several of them struck out for the surrounding ridges. They were anxious to try their guns on an antelope and wouldn't even wait to eat dinner.

The sun was sinking behind the corner of a bank of blue clouds that ex-

whole heavens were overcast with a black cloud, and it was snowing. We tied the deer across the horse as securely as we could and started upon the return trip, leading the horse.

After tramping until we were almost fagged out, in the direction we believed the camp to be, we came upon a high bluff overlooking Mustang creek, and were convinced that we were then farther from camp than we had been at any time since leaving it. Not only that, but the ground was now well covered with snow and the storm was growing more severe.

It was pretty cold and we raked up some leaves and dry limbs and made us a fire. After resting for a time and smoking—the one thing a fellow always does when he is in trouble—we decided that we would hit the blinding snow



"With a red blanket thrown across the horse, which he rode bareback, he lit out over the ridges."

and find that warm camp. Once as we trudged along we thought that we saw the gleam of a light through the fleecy flakes that were now falling thick about us, and Gus declared that it was the camp fire. But he must have been mistaken, for it was several hours later when we did find it.

I shall never forget how good and warm the camp bed felt that night, as we lay there in the open, with the whole earth covered by a white blanket. Occasionally we put our heads out from under

the blankets to get fresh air, and when we did so the falling flakes would quickly melt as they struck our faces. It was real Christmas weather, beyond any doubt, but we had been so late getting into camp that daylight came altogether too soon.

The clouds cleared away early the following day and the sun shone out as beautiful as if it were springtime. We spent the whole morning putting the camp in comfortable shape for a ten days' stay, bringing up a lot of wood and raking the snow back so that it would not make a slop when it melted.

## John Downs Makes a Big Killing.

That afternoon we hunted for a while, but no one had any luck. Some of the boys reported having seen quite a number of both antelope and deer, but they were not successful in bringing any of

them down. It was the day of Christmas that John Downs first big killing. He decided to let his father told him that always hunted antelope. A blanket thrown across the horse he rode bare-back, he lit out over the ridges, some two miles from camp. About an hour we heard a barking in that direction, and John returned with one antelope across the shoulders of his horse.

"I thought you were going to get the whole bunch in with amount of powder you remarked one of the boys might have, but I need the hook it up and go back after the antelope before it gets dark."

"Sounds fishy to me," declared Roquemore, "but if it's true, we Ben Pittman eat so much antelope that his stomach will think it's a mattress factory."

We found the antelope a lot of them—and some of the best animals. But he said that they were enjoying the sight of the blanket he indulged in a little practice. "I'm not going to do that however," he continued, "how close came to me before I shot."

"I guess you followed General son's advice," retorted Gus Roquemore, "and waited until you could see whites of their eyes."

The next day we had antelope cooking in every way imaginable. Pete was of the best camp cooks in the West he covered himself with glory on occasion. Broiled antelope steaks are superior in flavor to venison steaks. When cooked the meat of antelope is near so dry as the meat of venison.

A clear sky greeted us Christmas day. It was cold, but delightful. The sunshine spread out before a soft yellow glow across the earth. That peace which understanding seemed to fill and sky.

And how we did enjoy it! There were no finger-prints on the hands to mark the biscuits; there were no cranberry sauce or pumpkin pie. But we had at least there in the open, under a blue sky, that was a climax of colorful events of the Old West fading, and almost gone. Of course, we can still have a sort of fashion, but the best of civilization have made ways of the once wild and West. We shall never again see antelope in great herds on the open range.

# Christmastime in the Piney Woods

Peach Tree Village and Its  
First Christmas Tree

Years ago the pine lands of East Texas were practically virgin groves. It is nearly a century has passed since the first came into Texas and built their rude huts of hewn logs, covering the sides with split boards. But the lumber industry did not start to develop commercially until after the Civil War, the giant trees of those great groves were still virgin timber, raising their green plumes high to the heavens in countless numbers until the advent of roads at a much later date.

The early settlers of "the piney woods" were sturdy frontiersmen, who neither feared panthers, wolves, nor an untamed wilderness. They answered the call of the West—for East Texas was West to the Tennessees and the Kentuckians and the Carolinians and the Georgians who came to make their homes there—before the Indians had hardly moved their wigwams on toward the setting sun. These settlers built homes and tilled little tracts of land, but there was a very meagre measure of either prosperity or comfort in that part of that vast area which has been made to flourish as a result of setting its timber into lumber and tiling lands into farm products.

## Labored With Faith.

Christmas season of 1876 found a simple, hard-working, rugged people in the woods still poor from the effects of the great Civil War which had lasted seven years earlier. But they were faint-hearted in any respect: they labored with faith, were thankful for that portion with which they had been rewarded and never forgot God. It may truly be said of them that at this season of world-wide joy and mirth they drew their share of Christmas gifts chiefly out of the contentment of their own hearts.

There were no fire-works, no tinsel, no expensive jazz-bands, no joy-riding, no theatre parties and no white mule. But the Star of Bethlehem shone down through the treetops and the music of childhood's sweet laughter rang through the autumn woods this Christmas Eve. One of the popular gathering places in the pine forests half a century ago was the old Peach Tree Village School House, not far from Tyler, in Tyler

county. That was near where the Alabama Indians had a settlement in early days. They called the place something in their strange language which meant Peach Tree, and it has gone by that name since the whites first settled there.

On this particular Christmas Eve the neighbors for miles around Peach Tree School House decided to have a Christmas tree. There were many boys and girls in that part of the country who had never seen a Christmas tree, and, as the season approached, their hearts beat in happy anticipation of what old Santa Claus might put on that tree for them.

## Simple Little Gifts.

It is superfluous to add, however, that they did not expect a great deal. They were not accustomed to any of the fine toys like the average child gets at Yuletide season nowadays. Some simple little gift and a bag of nuts and candy were the most any one of them had ever received and was as much as any of them had ever hoped for.

The men of the community put the tree in place at the small board structure used for a schoolhouse and church. Then the women came from miles around to decorate it. Some of them walked, some rode in wagons and some came horseback. They were the belles of the piney woods of a great past, who depended more on their simple virtues and cheeks made rosy by the sunshine, to charm the opposite sex, than on store-bought cosmetics. But there was no girl in the group who could not bake an apple, make mincemeat pies, or dance the old Virginia Reel.

It was a day's work to decorate the tree; that is, the girls took a day for it, because they enjoyed every minute of the time as thoroughly as if they had been in the heart of Fifth avenue, New York, where thousand-dollar sables rather than pine plumes may tickle you around the neck. They had an abundance of holly with red berries, and autumn leaves of every color found in the virgin forests. And there was the mistletoe, not cut with the golden sickle of a Druid, but prepared by some of the

young men of the community, who in that day were as gallant as any armored knight.

Most of the gifts placed on the tree were articles of usefulness; many were made at home. There were cravats for the young fellows and here and there a pair of yarn socks knitted with red and blue thread and conveying to the recipient that most sacred of earthly things—a mother's love. There were also bags



"Most of the gifts placed on the tree were articles of usefulness."

of molasses candy, tops, pop-guns and even a nightcap for some dear old grandpa.

## A Live, Fat 'Possum.

But that tree had one present on it, such perhaps as no one ever saw or any other Christmas tree before. It was a 'possum, a real live, fat 'possum. This was a gift from an old, ve negro who lived in the neighborhood of John Thomas Kirby, one of the best loved

pioneers of that section. "Ah pusionally seed to hits fattenin' myself," pleaded old Mose to the committee in charge of the tree, "an' ef it ain't too much to ax de privilege of swingin' 'im to a lim' in a poor nigger's name, den do it in de name ob de community. Ah knows dat de whole community lubs Massah John."

The children yelled with amusement and delight when they saw the 'possum hanging on the Christmas tree; they were also delighted at their inexpensive and simple gifts, and the whole affair was one not soon forgotten in that primeval forest.

## Rang With Merriment.

The woods, for miles around that night before Christmas, rang with shouts and laughter and merriment. Through great trees, standing at attention in a sentinel-like pose, there came the gleam of lights and the soft notes of the violin. This seemed to be echoed back with a thumping banjo and the back-step knocking of feet, off to one side, where the darkeys, too, were enjoying themselves. Around a fire that threw its bright beams far up into the boughs of stately monarchs of the woods darkeys could be seen dancing jigs and singing:

"Roast dat 'possum good an' done,  
'Taters am on a-bakin',  
Move dem feet, mah lovin' one,  
Keep each leg a shakin'."

Those who were unable for one reason or another to attend this Christmas tree at Peach Tree Village, received personal visits from dear old Santa later in the night. There were many huge fireplaces at that time, where great logs burned and bright flames threw shadows of stockings hanging from rudely constructed mantels. Sometimes these stockings would be filled with hickory nuts, or pecans, and candy made at home out of home-made molasses, and frequently a boy in pulling that candy out of his stocking, after it had been softened by the heat from the fireplace, would find it wearing a coat of wool.

Indeed, the early Christmas celebrations in the piney woods of old East

Texas were unpretentious, yet they were joyous. The people were poor in the days and they only knew the paths that lead along simplicity's way. The boy who received a Jew's harp to twang among the forest shades, or who was given a day off to trail coons through the bottoms of Caney creek or along the Neches river, was a king for the hour in an empire of delight that all the money of the world could not buy.

An old negro mammy, who is now one of the few really slave-time mammies living, told this to the writer about the piney woods people of half a century ago: "Dey nebbber had nuffin' to celebrate Christmas wid, 'cepting de Lawd an' hearts dat wuz white. Why, man, I'ze gwine to tell yo' dat Job's gobbler wuz fat as kumpared to some o' dem folks' pussies. It's de trufe; dis nigger knows. But dey sho' had families, ole-fashion families, nigh to a dozen chilun, and dey wuz honest and dey eben if dey wuz pore."

The rugged virtues of those Texas pioneers were pillars upon a great citizenship and common have been reared. Their simple notions of Christmas were in keeping with the surroundings of Old Earth in a stable, and later said, His sermon on the Mount: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

**SELF DENIAL:**—Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross, and follow. For whosoever will save his life, he will lose it; but whosoever shall lose it for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.—Mark 8: 34, 25.

Real love in our hearts and a sympathetic understanding of those whom we wish to remember will turn the sea into one of real joy and the Christ of childhood will come back to us.

## A CHRISTMAS RESOLUTION.

To be honest, to be kind,  
To earn a little and spend a little less,  
To make upon the whole  
A world happier for my presence.

# CHRISTMAS REFLECTIONS

By J. H. LOWRY

## NO ROOM

While the birth of Jesus Christ brought more joy to the world than all other events of history combined, no one can read the sacred account of the Savior's advent without a tinge of sadness coming over him or her. In truth, if the reader is one whose heart gives sympathetic beats for the misfortunes and the sufferings of others, he or she will shed tears of sorrow over the cruel fate of the young mother and the tiny babe. Heartless old Caesar, to whom human beings were nothing more than dumb cattle, for sacrifice upon the altars of self and power, wanted more money to push further his conquest of the world, and hearing not the groanings and the pleadings of the oppressed, he issued a decree that all people under the dominion of mighty Rome be taxed, and that all his subjects report at the place of their nativity for taxation. No provision was made for those who must subject themselves to suffering, and hazard their lives to make a long journey, that they might be taxed at their homes, or send a report of their possessions by others. The decree was plain and without provision for the unfortunate, and every subject understood that he or she must report at the place of nativity for taxation, or suffer the wrath of a powerful king for failure to do so. And so as the day drew near, thousands of Jewish peasants, some bent with age, some lame, and some weak from disease, wended their weary way through the winter's biting cold to their old home town, there to be taxed according to the decrees of a tyrannical and avaricious king. Amongst those who journeyed over the rough hills of Galilee and Judea, and the swamps of Samaria or Perea, was a lovely young woman of the little town of Nazareth, the wife of a sturdy carpenter and an expectant mother. With many fears and many forebodings she began what seemed a useless and cruel journey in answer to the decree of a cruel king. Much she suffered in mind and body as the slow-going beasts moved over the rough roads which wound around the steep hills or plunged through the bogs of the lower country. But finally, after much weariness and suffering, the white cottages of Bethlehem, on a distant hill, were sighted, and the hearts of the tired travelers were rejoiced because the end of the journey was near.

There were visions of a comfortable lodge, where boreal winds and pitiless rains could not chill; visions of a warm fire to thaw out the numbness touched into the body by December's cold; visions of a comfortable bed upon which to rest, and of ministering servants to aid and soothe while the sufferer went

down into the valley and shadow of death to bring a new life to the world. New strength for the remainder of the journey, new hopes of ease and rest came with the sighting on a distant hill the white cottages in the City of David. At last, the line that divided the country from the town was reached and crossed, the tired beasts passed through narrow streets lined with white houses, and finally paused in front of an inn. How comfortable, how delightful the cozy hostelry looked to the tired travelers, so weary from the long journey and so numbed with the winter's cold; how cheerful the fires that burned upon the hearth of the inn. The beasts were tied, and the anxious husband assisted the suffering woman to the door of the inn. But at the door they were met by the landlord, who gruffly informed them there was NO ROOM IN THE INN.

We are not told by the pages of Holy Writ, consequently we will never know, whether there was really no room in the hotel for the weary travelers, or whether the landlord saw in them undesirable guests, told them a falsehood and held his room for others. Possibly he was a cold, shrewd business man who divined that entertainment of these Nazarenes would call forth protests from regular patrons, and perhaps provoked them to such wrath that they would stop at his place no more. I have known, and no doubt you have also seen, in our own good time and in our own great State, people turned away from hotels because they were ill—have known of them going from place to place in search of lodging, only to be told at each place that there was no room for them—and their only crime was sickness. To be sure, no hotel proprietor wishes to be troubled by a sick guest, and certainly those who go to a hotel for rest do not wish to be disturbed by the groans of the suffering or the confusion attendant upon the care of the sick; furthermore, there is always a chance that the disease may be contagious. "Sick people ought not travel," and "there are hospitals for the sick," are excuses many of us have heard given for refusal to receive and shelter the suffering. I suspect that if the divine writer had hunted up full particulars of the incident, as newspaper reporters of the present day do, he would have found that Mary was turned away from the Bethlehem inn because landlord and guests were unwilling to have their rest disturbed by the groans of a suffering woman or the cries of a babe. But anyway, THERE WAS NO ROOM.

Even if the inn at Bethlehem did have its full quota of guests on this eventful evening, I am sure room could have been made

for tired, suffering Mary if the landlord and guests had so desired. I have seen room made in inns for guests when the rooms were full. Of course, it meant a little trouble for the hotel forces, a little confusion, and a slight discomfort and annoyance for the guests, but room was made, and the late-comers were sheltered and fed. Many times have I seen room made for late-comers in the little home of my childhood, back in western Tennessee, when it seemed that every square yard of space was already occupied. I have seen that old home filled from porch to loft many times, but I never saw it so full that any comer was turned away, or even given to understand that he or she was not welcome. Sometimes they came in droves, when the relatives and friends got in a good way of visiting or the summer revival meeting season came on, but there was always room, though the home was by no means large. It meant much shifting of beds and mattresses, diplomatic grouping of sleepers, pallets without pillows for the children and very little rest for the old folks of the home—but there was room, and the old folks found joy in making the room, even though they rested their weary frames on an improvised bed in the kitchen. The happiest remembrance that comes to me of that crude old Tennessee home is that no one who sought its shelter and its hospitality was ever turned away. The old-fashioned rose bushes and the alpha bushes that grew around the old home have long been dead; the spreading shade trees of its yard have fallen from age, and those who made the home have joined the great majority many years ago, but I know there was room for them in the mansions above because they made room for all who came to their cottage below.

No Room! What an opportunity the inn at Bethlehem lost! It might have become famed in song and story. It might have been the birthplace of the world's Redeemer—but there was no room! No writer has given us the name of the inn, because neither the inn nor its name was of any importance. Had it given shelter and hospitality to tired, suffering Mary, its name would have been written in glittering, glowing letters on the pages of the Book of Books, and in its honor hostelries in cities, towns and hamlets in the six grand divisions of the world would have been christened. But there was no room, and the inn at Bethlehem fell into decay, with history only recording its lack of true hospitality, and poets holding the ghost of its neglected opportunity before generations in rhyme and song. Many persons who would view the scenes that met His gaze, and walk in the paths He trod, visit the Holy Land. They stand in awe and reverence by the

Lake of Galilee, where he spoke the winds and waves into silence; they lovingly touch the waters of the Jordan, where He was baptized; they walk the streets of Jerusalem, they kneel in prayer at the pool of Siloam, where He healed; they search for the foundations of the shop at Nazareth, where the Lord of Lords learned a trade; and of course they go to Bethlehem, city of David, where the star held its radiant torch, guiding the wise men of the east to the new-born King. If they could find the stable where Mary lodged, they would bow before it in lavish homage; if they could find the manger in which the infant Redeemer was laid, they would cover it with kisses of love; but no one asks about or cares for the Bethlehem inn, and even if its very site were made known, it would be pointed to with scorn, unworthy of reverence or association with the name and life of Him who went about doing good. If a brick should be flung at its walls, there would be no protest over its profaning—because in it there was no room when the suffering mother of the Lord of Hosts appealed to it for shelter.

And what an opportunity the guests of the inn let slip. Fame, renown and glory knocked at their doors, but they opened not. Imagination tells us that as the guests sat in comfort around the fire discussing the issues of the day and repeating the latest smutty jokes, they warned the landlord that his inn was already full, and he should not crowd in others to the discomfort and disturbance of his regular patrons. What an opportunity for these selfish guests to write their name on the scroll of glory and link them with the precious name of Jesus of Nazareth, Savior of the world! Suppose one of the men sitting there and hearing the landlord tell the weary travelers there was no room had looked with sympathy upon suffering Mary and said, "Give the lady my room! I am well and, if needs be, I can miss a night's repose?" In the room sacrificed by him the Savior of the world would have been born, and the golden book of Time would have told the story of his sympathy and unselfishness. But the guests looked on without protest or offer of aid when the suffering travelers were turned out into the biting cold, and the world does not even know who were the guests of Bethlehem inn on that eventful night when the magazines of the skies burst upon Judean hills and the choir of Heaven chanted, "Peace on earth, good will to men." Poets have woven into song the nobility of Joseph of Arimathea, who opened his sepulchre to the broken body of his Lord, but the Bethlehem inn and its guests are mentioned only in disrepute—because no room was made for the mother of the Prince of Peace.



Christmas stories we have had for many years. Much has been written on how we should observe the day; there's nothing new to say. Perhaps we could not do better than read again the story of Mary and Joseph and the Bethlehem inn, and ask about the room in hearts and lives. These hearts and lives, like the inn at Bethlehem, are crowded, and perhaps there isn't room for the things, the people, the deeds, the hopes and the passions that befriend us most. In many homes there isn't room for a baby. The bric-a-brac, the social functions, the expense of living, leave no room for the cooling darling, its care and its rearing, and so in loneliness lives are lived on, possibly to be broken on the altars of the divorce court.

There may be no room in the heart for the nobler thoughts and passions. There is the desire for gain, there is the longing for leadership in the affairs of men, the coveting of power, fame any position, but no room for oneself to burgeon and bloom becomes a cold, cruel act with each day a return to routine, and our ideals and are shattered.

There may be no room in the program of life for the tender, friendly handclasp, the romp children, the chat on the porch with the neighbor on a summer's day, the katydid are singing their Every room in life's inn is full. A stranger would gladly know us, a hap touch sweetness into our lives there is no room for him. All are those who need a friendly word of cheer. There are babies who would give the world a song of if they were caressed; there are the infirm who would tell stories of passing interest, if we would listen; there are dogs that would lesson of gratitude most beautiful would pat their heads; there are poems that would thrill us, and into our lives a love for the true, if we would read. But there is no room in many lives for these things, and so the aged, the flowers, the dogs and the fine poems are driven away like mother of our Lord, and their and glory lost forever in our mirror hearts.

My wish for us all this Christmas is that we may, now and make room in our lives and the thoughts, and deeds and ho minister unto our better parts, to us higher and nobler aspirations to endow the world with fragrance of unselfishness and kindly kindness—the sweetest flower bloom on earth.

# Getting the Christmas Spirit

When the Full Tide of Christmas Sweeps Into Your Life

The Christmas spirit. One has it, or one doesn't. If one hasn't it—ugh!—same old, food, same dull people on streets, same deadly routine, same rheumatic twinges and the same old nerve-racking noises. But if one has it—life is glorified and full of glamor. Fairies hide in the hedges and brownies tweak one's ears. "Anything may happen and everything come true." Sometimes it's 'most Christmas Eve before it gets you. "Not much thrill about Christmas this year," you mutter; "after all, Christmas is a good deal of a nuisance. A few checks will cover the occasion this year for me. Sentimental tommyrot, anyhow. Christmas is just for kids, and they make too much fuss about it." Stifling a yawn you go forth and—Get the Christmas spirit. A little darky comes along, whistling gaily and hitching up his over-size trousers; a sprig of mistletoe on the peak of his cap gives him a festive touch. Such shining eyes and litting walk. He has the Christmas spirit! "Santa Claus," gurgles a lumpy youngster, as he spies a fat figure in the shop window, and the tension lessens around your heart. Could you be mistaken about this Christmas business? Perhaps it isn't such a bother after all. Perhaps. Just perhaps.

**An Echo of the Past.**

A few snowflakes flutter down, away off in the distance you hear the tinkle of bells, or perhaps it is only an echo of years and years ago when you confidently hung your stocking before the wide fireplace and were tucked into bed. The snowflakes fall faster and faster; fat folks and little folks, rich folks and poor folks are pushing and shoving good-naturedly. All are laden with bundles and Christmas greens. Girls' noses need powdering, but the girls are gaily un-

conscious of it. Stout old men come trudging along with hats knocked askew by bulky packages they are carrying; nor care they for the loss of dignity. On the corner an eloquent young man with a thin face is relating the remarkable qualities of the "beat-'em-all" fountain pen, "only seventy-five cents for this elegant fountain pen, ladies and gentlemen, and your money back if you're not satisfied. Only seventy-five cents, just three-fourths of a dollar, for this E-L-E-G-A-N-T pen. Sold to this gentleman here!"

**At Last the Christmas Spirit.**

With a shock you discover "this gentleman" is yourself. Carefully you tuck the pen in the inside pocket, sheepishly you glance over the crowd in fearful search of possibly jeering eyes. "Holly wreaths!" a hoarse voice besleges you. You buy four, swing them jauntily on your arm, with utter disregard for appearance. A tin horn sounds beside you. You jump like a rabbit. There is a delighted chuckle from the fat little boy close by, and you are reminded of Billie, little Billie!

With a rush you change your mind about many things. Billie shall have the train he has been chattering about, and Alice shall have the silly vanity and the perfume and the tea cart. The twins would be broken-hearted without a Punch and

Judy show; the twins must not be broken-hearted. And the crippled fellow next door—something for him! and his gentle mother. With a pang you remember the little grandmother who so loved Christmas, such a child she was; how glad you are you humored her that last Christmas and gave her the woolly toy lamb.

head is whirling, you and your tie has slip. Your nose—it is scarily glorious inside. YOU CHRISTMAS SPIRIT.

## The Tree

This poem by Joyce Kilmer, the poet, written but a short while before he was killed in action on the battle front during the World's War, is most appropriate at this season of the year:

"I think that I shall never see  
A poem lovely as a tree;  
A tree whose hungry mouth is prest  
Against the earth's sweet-flowing breast;  
A tree that looks at God all day  
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;  
A tree that may in summer wear  
A nest of robins in her hair;  
Upon whose bosom snow has lain;  
Who intimately lives with rain.  
Poems are made by fools like me,  
But only God can make a tree."

**Glorified and Happy**

In and out you go, dizzily negotiating revolving doors. You are laden to the chin, but you must get the book of poems for the old man across the street, and a pair of gloves besides. He will cry a bit over some of the poems, it is true, but he wants them—the only argument that appeals to you now. And the blind street merchant there! You have been searching for him. He is thanking you, and you are wishing him a happy Christmas. How do you mean it!

The street lights are shining now; and the snowflakes are coming down faster and faster. They shine like stars.

No more packages can you—Your last!

**ORIGIN OF CHRISTMAS**

Christmas is derived "Christes masse," the commemorating the birth of Jesus during the first few centuries. no ceremonial observance of but in the fifth century the church ordered it to be celebrated of the old Roman feast of Sol.

This coincided with the festival of the winter solstice. In the Roman empire the death of the martyr Stephen and the death of Saint John had been celebrated previous to Christmas. Christ's birth was the first birth to be celebrated, as it had always been the case, seemed to be worthy of celebration. When a definite date had been set aside for the celebration of Christmas the feasts of the martyr Stephen and Saint John were combined with it, bringing about the occasion of a three-day feast. Some of the old Romans celebrated this feast very devoutly.

**A CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCE:**

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.—Matthew 6: 19-21.

"Good Christian men, rejoice," and then "God rest you merry, gentlemen." They sang

# A Review of the Passing Year

By W. N. BEARD

In this brief review of the passing year in Texas not all of the many notable achievements of its citizens can be recorded. Whole chapters could be written on some of the big things that have been accomplished—industrially, educationally and spiritually. Much progress in Texas was noted in 1923, but the year of 1924 shows even greater progress. As a matter of fact, the more you study and compile figures on just what Texas has done progressively during the past twelve months, the more are you astonished and thrilled by her rapid advancement in all lines of endeavor. More homes and better homes have been built, more churches and better churches, more schools and better schools. Dallas has about completed a new high school building which cost one-half million dollars, Houston a new church building which cost one-half million dollars, and Fort Worth is leading other cities of Texas in the construction of new homes. The smaller cities of Texas have shown similar progress in building. From all over the State come reports of new bank and mercantile buildings, new school and buildings, new residential and buildings. It is pleasing also to hear of many Texas farmers having new homes and new schools and churches.

## Economically Sound.

Therefore safe to assume that the building progress now going on in the State, the heavy deposits in State and National banks, more than 4,000,000-bale cotton crop, etc., that our State, as a whole, is prosperous. Even where crops have not measured up to the crops of last year, there are still healthy economic conditions. No section of the State is in distress as a consequence of crop failure, and the abundant crops of the greater portion of Texas will result in a distribution of money to less sections. It is hardly a state in the Union that is economically sound than Texas. The conditions throughout the State as reported in the November number of "The Nation's Business," an official publication of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, that Texas is leading the entire and Southwest in crop, trade and economic conditions. Therefore, Texans can be thankful, because of the fact that crops and trade

and general business are now better in Texas than any of the other Southern or Southwestern States.

The State and National banks of Texas are in healthy financial condition. Deposits, of many banks, are greater than at this time last year. One little Texas bank, with but \$25,000 capitalization, recently purchased from Fort Worth banks \$63,000 worth of securities.

Texas continues to advance educationally. Each year, and especially the year of 1924, has been notable for marked improvements in curriculum, scholarly advancement and student attendance. From the report of the Texas Educational Survey Commission there are now enrolled in the high schools of Texas about 100,000 students. The schools and colleges of Texas are accredited with being the equal, and in many respects the superior, as a whole, of many of the schools and colleges throughout the United States. The excellent rural high schools in Texas are to be commended, and it is to be hoped that there will be more of them each succeeding year.

## Splendid Health Record.

The splendid health and mortality record of Texas during 1924 is cause for congratulation. While sporadic cases of measles and flu have been reported, yet no disease approaching an epidemic form has menaced the life of our citizens. Fort Worth is rated as the third healthiest city in the United States. Even the foot and mouth disease, which broke out this fall among several herds of cattle near Houston, has been brought under control, and a recent statement by the Chairman of the State Livestock Sanitary Commission gives assurance that no fear need be entertained of a widespread outbreak of this disease in Texas in the near future.

The majority of folks living in Eastern and Northern States still regard Texas as a land of longhorn cattle, inhabited by wild Indian tribes. They hardly believe that there can be educated men and women in Texas, or that one of these might write a book. But a girl graduate from the Paris high school has astounded these Eastern folks by writing a book that is easily one of the best sellers of the passing year. This girl's ambition and her past literary achievement are arousing interest among the literateur throughout the United States.

The year of 1924 in Texas has shown

marked progress in the construction of graded and paved highways. Millions of dollars' worth of bonds have been voted by counties for road improvement. Some counties already have a splendid system of paved highways. This is a kind of progress most praiseworthy, for that State which continually improves its highways is making great strides forward.

Manufacturing was an unknown quantity in Texas a few years ago, but now Texas is competing with the East in many lines of manufactured products. A recent bulletin cites the fact that Texas has over thirty textile mills and that many more mills of this kind are in prospect. As factories continue to locate in Texas, from time to time, we should remember to patronize them liberally, all things being equal. It is very discouraging to manufacturers who build expensive plants in Texas and who turn out well-finished products, not to receive the support of the people of this State.

## 111,373,000 Barrels of Crude Oil.

The passing year has been eventful in crude oil and productive of many gushers. The Texas oil field has expanded to such an extent that the bringing in of a gusher well creates but mild surprise. Three new notable fields have made their appearance this year—the Reagan county field, the South Vernon field and the Wortham field. In addition to these spectacular fields, there have been many shallow well fields developed. Thus far Texas has produced, since January, 1924, 111,373,000 barrels of oil, compared with 104,373,000 barrels for the same period last year.

While our cotton crop this year did not bring the prices it brought last year, yet the more than 4,000,000 bales raised, at prevailing prices, netted the farmers, including the cotton seed, over five hundred million dollars—a big sum of money that is bound to stimulate all lines of business this fall and next spring. In addition to cotton, our basic crop, Texas also produced 16,289,000 bushels of wheat and 50,000,000 bushels of oats. And another crop figure, not less interesting, probably, is our citrus fruit crop. The lower Rio Grande valley, this year, shipped 70,595 crates of grapefruit, lemons, oranges and mixed fruits, the equivalent of 208 freight cars, valued at \$280,000. California is boastful of her citrus fruit crop, but Texans are so busy producing crops of all kinds that they hardly know their State

produces citrus fruit the equal of California in flavor.

## Farmers Keep Step With Texas Progress

Texas farmers are manifestly keeping step with the march of Texas progress. They are studying soil improvement; selection of better seed, and co-operative marketing. No longer does the farmer of Texas depend entirely on cotton as a money crop. He is turning to other money crops, as has been proven by Parker county watermelon growers, who sold this season \$300,000 worth of watermelons, and the Smith county blackberry growers, who sold this season approximately \$325,000 worth of blackberries. There was a remarkable movement of fruit and vegetables out of Texas this year to Eastern markets—over 27,000 cars up to August 16—amounting in money paid to growers more than \$17,000,000. It has not been very many years since Texas did not ship a single car of vegetables to Eastern markets. What greater proof could we have that Texas is going forward by leaps and bounds than the fact that in the year of 1924 we shipped 27,000 cars of fruits and vegetables. Seems unbelievable—27,000 cars—but this report is authentic, and was issued recently by the Bureau of Markets and Warehouse Division of the State Department of Agriculture.

Horticulture and floriculture are coming to the front in various sections of Texas. At Winona, in Smith county, is a pecan orchard of 1,100 acres; the trees are from ten to twelve years old and very productive. An Arlington, Tarrant county, horticulturist, has developed a commercial peach orchard which comes into bearing each October, and is never killed by frost or freezes. A prominent Dallas florist grows nearly all of the plants and roses in Texas that he formerly purchased and had shipped in from other States.

## Dairying and Poultry.

We are pleased to note that dairying is now recognized as one of the coming big industries of Texas. Prosperity prevails in all States where dairying is the chief industry. There is a staple market in Texas for all butter fat, and some dairymen now ship their butter fat to Texas creameries from a distance of 400 miles. Better cows and bulls are being substituted for scrub stock, more feed is being raised each year, and it can be said without exaggeration that

the outlook for dairying in Texas is very promising. Two Texas cows have recently broken all State records on milk and butter production. A Jersey cow of the Mistletoe Farms, near Fort Worth, produced, in a 305-day test, 13,500 pounds of milk and 628 pounds of butter fat. A Holstein cow of Holtex Farms, Dallas county, produced, during a 365 days' test, 26,794 pounds of milk and 922 pounds of butter fat.

One of the outstanding industries of the passing year has been poultry. Texas is fast becoming a great poultry breeding State. Better breeds have taken the place of scrub stock, and better egg production is thereby assured. A general awakening among all classes of our citizens to the value of poultry is discernible. What is claimed to be the largest poultry farm in the United States is located about 80 miles north of Fort Worth. A Mitchell county farmer, according to the Colorado Chamber of Commerce, realized a net profit of more than \$100 per month for nine months from 200 standard bred chickens.

Texas breeders of cattle, sheep and hogs are continually improving their herds and in competitive livestock exhibits win prizes over other States. The grand champion fat steer, at the American Royal Live Stock Show, held in Kansas City, November 21st, was sold at auction for \$2,530. The owner was C. M. Largent of Merkel, Taylor county, Texas.

This review of the passing year in Texas shows unmistakable progress. It denotes that our State, as a whole, is still going forward. While our measure of prosperity was not filled to overflowing, yet we have been reasonably blessed and have sincere cause for thankfulness. If we keep faith with ourselves, and continue to believe in the matchless resources of Texas, all will go well. On the other hand, if we falter or become skeptical, we will not only do injustice to our better selves, but will retard development of the greatest State in the United States, which is Texas. Here in an empire vaster than we dream of now—an empire of agricultural production, livestock production, mineral riches, latent power and wealth in stream and forest, untold natural resources yet to be discovered as generations come and go. May we, as Texans, at the dawn of the New Year, more fully appreciate this great heritage, and deep in our hearts be truly thankful for the temporal and spiritual blessings and physical comforts of 1924.

# How Foreign Races Celebrate Christmas

IN TEXAS  
By  
DAVID J. MORRIS

Christmas time is celebrated by every nationality the world over. Celebrations are not all in the same way, for each nation has many customs and different ways of celebrating the birth of our Saviour. In the case of the Danes, the emigrants to the United States take away certain customs which are practiced here. The Danes of Texas are several nationalities who, while celebrating Christmas like certain of their native Yuletide customs. Nothing more than some of these customs have their origin dates back to the time when all citizens of the world, whether native or foreign, are celebrating Christmas with thanksgiving, good will, and activities, the giving of gifts.

As time, as celebrated by the Danes, contains resting customs which go a long way toward the fostering of joy and love. The Swedes originally celebrated Christmas from Christmas Eve until after New Year's day, in the old country, but in Texas they have taken on the American way almost entirely. Long before the time for old Santa Claus to visit the little children, with the help of their fathers and mothers, write letters to Santa, indicative of what they wish for a Christmas present. The Christmas tree is celebrated both at home and in the church. The children hang up their stockings and the presents therein. The Swedes do not, however, use as many fireworks as the Americans do in their celebrations. In Georgetown, Round Rock and other places in Texas where Swedish churches are located, a special service is held very early in the morning of Christmas day. This service begins about five o'clock in the morning and is held in the native tongue. This is a very beautiful custom, and worthy of more general adaptation. The service opens with prayer, then the singing of songs, among which is that popular and beautiful song, "Silent Night, Holy Night." A program of recitation follows, including a sermon by the pastor, recounting the story of the birth of Christ.

til the sun begins to peep over the eastern horizon, when the people leave the church and go to their respective homes, or to the homes of friends. A great friendliness and thanksgiving is maintained by the Swedes throughout Christmas day, together with many excellent things to eat, as the Christmas dinner is abundantly prepared far in advance.

## Danes.

The Danes of Texas begin their celebration on Christmas Eve and continue it through the entire week until after New Year's day. Especially do they follow this old custom where they have been colonized. The time is spent in feasting, social visiting, merrymaking and a general good time with very little manual labor being performed.

An early Christmas morning service, similar to that of the Swedes, is held in which songs, recitations, storytelling, etc., is carried out. Among their Christmas songs is "Silent Night, Holy Night," which they love to sing many times, and the words and tune are the same as the Americans know it. The Danes decorate their church for the occasion, using the Christmas tree; the church is also beautifully illuminated by candles. The little children get their full share of all the Christmas cheer and presents, except that the Danes do not believe in fireworks as a means of aiding in the Christmas celebration, and they do not indulge in fireworks in any manner.

All Texans try to include turkey in their Christmas dinner menu. Not so with the Danes—when they can get a goose—and as most of them live on farms and raise geese, their table always presents the goose as the piece de resistance on Christmas day. The reason for this custom is because the goose is a native bird of Denmark. But, in the case of the Danes, the fat goose, baked nice and tender, is served with a variety of accessories,

almost, if not entirely, rivals the turkey in tempting one's appetite.

It was a young man in the postal service of Denmark who first thought of using Christmas seals on packages sent through the mails during the Christmas holidays. These little seals are sold for the purpose of collecting a fund to help sufferers of tuberculosis. It was the wonderful giving spirit of the Danes that started this custom.

## Germans.

The German population in Texas celebrates Christmas over a period of three days—Christmas Eve, Christmas day and the day after Christmas—which is called the Second Christmas. On Christmas Eve a large evergreen tree is placed



Among their Christmas Songs is "Silent Night, Holy Night."

in the church early after dark. The tree is beautifully decorated and is lighted before the children are allowed to enter the church to view it. On the tree are many presents and the heavy packages are placed under the tree on the floor. The presents are then given out to the rightful owners, and the people go home, where a smaller tree awaits the children. These trees are also lighted before the children are allowed to view them. The fun and delightful surprises of this nature last far into the night.

Then on Christmas morning service is held in the churches, followed by Christmas dinner in the homes. Many invitations are sent out beforehand by families to their friends to take Christmas

dinner with them, and the good things they have to eat are mutually enjoyed. The baked turkey is on the table along with other dishes peculiar to the German people, as well as many American dishes.

On the Second Christmas day church services are held and the joyousness and social activities continued. The use of fireworks is general, but children do not hang up their stockings for old Santa to fill.

## Bohemians.

The Bohemian, Moravian and Czechoslovakia races live principally in South Texas, although there is a small colony of Bohemians living near Ennis, North Texas. Racially, they are near to kinship, and they celebrate their Christmas together in a quite similar manner. Texas has probably more Moravian people within its borders than any one of the other foreign types of this class.

The Bohemian celebrates Christmas for four days—Christmas Eve, Christmas day, the day after or St. Steve, and the day after that, which is called St. John's.

Christmas Eve day is a day of fasting, and no meat of any kind is eaten; however, any other food may be eaten, and is indulged in to the fullest extent. At the supper table on Christmas Eve night the entire family is brought together and after the meal the family go into the front room, where the children see the home tree for the first time loaded with all kinds of toys and fruits. After presents have been passed around, the children usually go outdoors to shoot fireworks. The children sometimes hang up their stockings and believe in Santa Claus.

At midnight, or at some hour before daylight on Christmas morning, a service is held in the church house, after which the people go home for the Christmas day to indulge in social activities

and feasting.

The community tree is held in the school house at Granger, Texas, on the second day after Christmas, or St. John's day. It is on this day that the children see the big tree for the first time, and their presents are given out to them by the priest. Church services are also held on this day. When duties are not too pressing, these celebrations are usually carried on throughout the entire week, or until after New Year's day.

## Spanish.

Central, Southern and Southwestern Texas have many persons of Spanish descent. The Spanish in Texas are divided into two classes, in relation to their methods of celebrating Christmas.

One class has the method of the Catholic Spanish and the other class the method used by the Protestant Spanish. The Protestant Mexican celebrates his Christmas largely as do the Americans, due to the fact that he is largely under American teachers. Dr. David W. Carter, a retired Methodist missionary, now living in Georgetown, Texas, has two Mexican missions, one in Taylor and the other at Georgetown.

The children in the mission prepare a Christmas program of songs and recitations. A tree is put up and decorated only with what presents can be bought with a fund raised by popular subscriptions among the Mexican families, and those of the Americans who desire to contribute. No presents outside of these are put on the tree. The Spanish, as a rule, do not give many presents, very seldom hang up the stocking, or write letters to Santa Claus. The Christmas time is largely one of good cheer and feasting.

The Roman Catholic Christmas celebration is similar to the one staged in San Antonio every year. This is a very beautiful play called the "Las Pastoralas," or "The Shepherds." The play is very skillfully run through with, beginning with the shepherds in the field, the visit of the angel, and on through the entire story of the birth of Jesus Christ. It is a story acted out instead of being told by the priest.

The Spanish section of San Antonio is, indeed, a beautiful sight on Christmas day. Much street decoration is used, feasting is unlimited, and good cheer proverbial. Fireworks are indulged

(Continued on Page 5, Column 4.)

## TEXAS HOTELS

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## THE CANDLE IN THE WINDOW.

The tradition of the candle in the window seems to be very acceptable to Americans. Just why it was not introduced earlier is not known. The fact is that a few persons from the old countries, where the custom has long been observed, must have been burning candles in their American homes on Christmas Eve for some time, but the custom did not become general here, if, indeed, it is general now, until the last few years.

Tradition says that "a lighted candle set in the window on Christmas Eve will guide the Babe of Bethlehem to your home, that He may bring you happiness." John H. Stedman, a gentleman of Rochester, N. Y., gave the movement an urge a few years ago in a little pamphlet which was rather widely distributed, urging all to light the "Christ Candle" on Christmas Eve. In this he said:

"The Irish will tell you that the Christ candle was lighted in their homes in the Emerald Isle as it has been for years and years in Norway and Sweden. Boston has had it for a decade. In Rochester, 1916, was our third celebration—the first year a few houses shone—the second over a thousand—the third nearly everyone; and it has spread to town, village and country over a forty-mile radius. Many far-away homes, Wisconsin, Maine, California, Florida, kindled their candles from ours and when you have lighted yours you will appreciate why."

And it is true that the lighting of this candle in the window has lighted a taper in many a soul in this United States, which hurries about in a mad rush of preparation for the holiday season. The lighted candle in the window and the Christmas carol on the outside, beneath the window, or in the church of God across the way—these are things that make America stop to remember that almost two thousand years ago there was born "in the City of David a Savior which is Christ the Lord," and that to the shepherds abiding in their fields at night near the little town of Bethlehem there appeared a host of herald angels, singing, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men!"

WENT ABOUT DOING GOOD:—And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of diseases among the people.—Matthew 4: 23.

Probably there is no one living who does not know many who are worse off than they. There are thousands who would be glad of a heartfelt call of "Merry Christmas." A few flowers will keep the cheer of the day.

Why not try to be as simple as children in our joys? Why not learn the lesson of simple giving and practice it to our little ones?

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FRONT FENDER BRACES  
REAR BRACE AND BUMPERS  
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We buy old cars and tear them up for the parts. We have parts for almost any make.  
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DALLAS, TEXAS

## "And as Ye Give--"

It is Christmas again! Cashed away in closet and drawer are packages in gay wrappings, awaiting their hour of opening. We have remembered our loved ones. We have prepared packages or checks for those who have smoothed our way throughout the year with their services. We have remembered those less fortunate than ourselves. And so, feeling satisfied that what we have done covers all possible avenues of giving, we settle back, waiting for the moment when the Christmas bells will ring out their message of good will to all the world.

To ALL the world? I wonder! What a tiny circle, really, our giving has made when we consider that phrase, "To ALL the world." A purely personal one, that's all. Our thoughts have gone only to our family, our friends, those with whom we work, and for purposes of charity.

To ALL the world! What a lot of folk we have omitted from our Christmas list. But, you say we couldn't buy perfume for every woman in the world, or ties and handkerchiefs for every man, or toys for every child. Of course not. And who would want to? For after all, such gifts as these, pleasing as they may be at the time, soon go the way of all material things and vanish into nothingness. And it is well, for otherwise we might place too high a valuation upon them?

To ALL the world! What is the gift then which we may make to all the world? The Wise Men in that long ago came bearing precious gifts and laid them at the Master's feet, the value of these gifts lying not in their material worth, but in what they symbolized. And so we, too, may bring the gold, the frankincense and the myrrh of the spirit and lay it beneath the world's great Christmas tree, where every heart may find a gift awaiting him.

To ALL the world! "Gifts of the spirit"—you say that is indefinite. What is a gift of the spirit and how may one give it to all the world? Well, do you know a man who is undertaking a new task, one that is most difficult, one that perhaps never has been done before just the way he is attempting to do it? Will you say, "He's foolish to waste his time. It can't be done?" Or will you give him the gift of faith and say, "It must be possible or he couldn't have conceived the idea." Will you add to this the gift of expectancy and KNOW that he will accomplish it?

To ALL the world! Has someone said or done something that has hurt your feelings—and it's usually pride that's hurt? Are you going to be injured and hold a grudge and pay him back when you get the first chance, or will you give him the gift of understanding and say, "I know he did not mean to hurt me. He was sick or troubled or he would not have done it." Someone has said, "The

person who cannot forgive any mortal thing, is a greenhorn at living." Give him the gift of understanding for if you understand, you will forgive. And forgiving in its real sense means to give back to him the place he held in your heart before the thing happened.

To ALL the world! And here in the crowded cities of Texas there is a gift of the spirit that is needed. We can all give this one gift, however, if we but try, and if we would continue to give it throughout the year how it would help our congested traffic. This one gift is the gift of courtesy. If we were all giving the gift of courtesy, men wouldn't smoke in jitneys, women wouldn't jostle one another in the stores and try to be served ahead of those who were there before them. We wouldn't all be so afraid of doing a small service for those with whom we come in daily contact. If we were giving this gift of the spirit, the things we wouldn't do and the things we would do would make many a book, I believe.

To ALL the world? And then, there's the greatest thing in the world. That high virtue which the One whose birth we celebrate at this season said was the "fulfilling of the law." We can give love to all the world. If you are not sure what such love means, here is its measuring rod to use: Are you just as glad when the other man succeeds as if he were you? Are you willing to be last that someone else may be first? These are only two of love's finger prints and she has many. You can learn the others.

To ALL the world! The angels gave the gift of peace and good will almost two thousand years ago. We can do the same things in 1924. There is no one so poor that he cannot give a gift of the spirit to all. What are YOU giving to the world this Christmas? The gold of love, the frankincense of faith or the myrrh of courtesy." Whatever it may be, send it forth wrapped in joy, sealed with appreciation for life's gifts to you, and bound with the flaming cord of good cheer. "And as ye give, so may ye freely receive."

## HOW FOREIGN RACES CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS IN TEXAS

(Continued from Page 4.)

in to a large extent, when permitted by the police. The noted Spanish dances, performed by pretty señoritas dressed becomingly in all the gay attire characteristic of the Spanish and the Mexican peoples, lends a colorful scene to the Christmas liveliness of these two races.

'Twas Christmas Eve and hearts were gay  
And folks were thinking of the day  
That dawn would bring, and faces bright  
Shone everywhere with joyous light.

## Christmas Tree Decoration

Have you planned everything for your Christmas tree decorations?

There are two sorts of Christmas trees. One is trimmed with all sorts of things—usually with an accretion of knickknacks that is added to year by year, tinsel ornaments, china angels, crystal balls, glass slippers and wooden toys—all sorts of things that are made for the purpose.

The other kind of Christmas tree carries out a definite scheme in its decoration. It may be, this year, a white tree, or a red tree, or a silver tree. For such a tree you buy or make the trimming anew, with your color scheme in mind.

Each kind is attractive, and children are sure to be delighted whatever your choice.

Suppose, now, that you plan a white tree. You can buy snowballs and white fluffy Christmas fairies and many white ornaments. You can dip the tip of each branch in thin gum arabic and then sprinkle it with artificial snow. You can use those old standby strings of flaky popcorn. You can make white paper cornucopias sparkling with paper snow, and you can make net stockings, sewed with white wool, and filled with popcorn and white mints.

A red tree—and paper poinsettias may be made and fastened to the tips of the branches. Red cornucopias may be bought and filled. You can find all sorts of Christmas ornaments in red, and you can use a string of electric lights all with red bulbs.

For a silver tree all the silver tinsel and lead shavings that the tree will gracefully hold may be used, as well as the dozens of charming silver ornaments that you can buy. You can dress tiny celluloid dolls in silver net and hang

them about the tree. You can get silver paper for cornucopias, or buy silvery cornucopias already made.

As for trimmings in general, there are many attractive and inexpensive things to make. For one, there are little parrots made with peanuts and tissue paper. You paint the peanut red, with black at the pointed tip for a beak. Then from red and green and yellow and blue crepe paper you cut long tail feathers and shorter ones to cover the body. These you paste, as realistically as possible, into place. And you dangle the parrot from a string tied to the tree's branches, or else you place him on a little swing made of a match-stick. You use a pipe cleaner for his legs, fastened deftly to his body by twisting, and again twisted like two feet around the match-stick.

Then cornucopias of all sorts are not difficult to make. Cut the cornucopia out of all sorts of red and green and silver paper—you can buy it, with holly and pine cones and snow scenes and Santa Claus on it. Twist them into shape, paste them securely, and trim their top edge, if you wish, with some of that furry silver tinsel that is so easy to buy. You can, of course, buy these cornucopias all made, and so save yourself the trouble.

There are many things in the favor shops or at the favor counters that sell for five and ten cents apiece that are really charming for Christmas tree decorations. These, tied on with a bit of colored cord or ribbon, add much to the gaiety of the tree—tiny animals, little carved wooden toys, diminutive dolls dressed in a bit of ribbon and many other little odds and ends that you can find.

**To Our Friends and Patrons**  
We Extend Heartiest Wishes for a Happy Christmas Season.  
**It Is Our Desire to Serve You Even Better in 1925 Than in Past Years.**  
**HUB FURNITURE COMPANY**  
Manufacturers of Quality Furniture and "Dreamland" Mattresses.  
FORT WORTH.

**ALL AGES MEET IN TOYLAND.**  
"Toyland!" the elevator boy bellowed as the car stopped at the magic floor. Young and old crowded out. The dazzling scene of Toyland made them stop in wonder.  
"Mother!" a little girl cried, unable to check her astonishment, "Isn't it wonderful?"  
"It's a real fairyland," the mother replied.  
The scene was a fantastic one—a glittering palace of light and shadows—a veritable Lilliput. People stopped at the very entrance of the elevator unable to decide in which direction to go or what section to inspect first. Mysterious sounds lured them from all points. From one came the soft tinkling of music-box toys and miniature pianos. From another the rattle and rumbling of diminutive electric trains and scenic railways beckoned to the men and boys, while women and little girls were instinctively drawn in the direction of the doll department, where tiny electrically controlled dolls enacted plays.  
As I walked from booth to booth treading my way through the crowd of people representing all ages, I realized these pulsing, joyous people proved the fallacy of the saying, "Christmas is only meant for children." All around me there were as many men and women as children. Men and boys elbowed each other for a little space around the tracks of the electric trains and other mechanical toys, while women were crowding little girls in the doll booth, around the doll-houses, play dishes and other toys appealing to the feminine.  
Children predominate only around the gorgeous decorated throne of St. Claus and the beautifully trimmed and luminated Christmas tree.  
This was the grownups' self-consciousness in the presence of the kindly tieman whose good and apparent intention the folk makes his lar with them.  
While I was watching the play on the miniature, I overheard a conversation between two elderly women which made me realize a tonic the wonders of Toyland at Christmas grown-ups.  
"You know," said one, "I've visited every Christmas tree display every fifteen years, or so, and I've never seen one they have made in the way that they have made it here. It excites scarcely know what first. Lately even seems to be alive with electricity. It makes doll animals walk, trains operate scenic merry-go-rounds, cranes and goodie-what else—tonishing!"  
"Yes, and just improvements made in display. Toys look like stuffed with hunks of the colored electric everything glorified by its light."  
"It just looks like a dertful paintir sishel."

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When You Want QUICK Movement FROM AMERICAN OIL CAKE AND FEED  
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Use "CHICO" Lime  
Raise Bigger Crops  
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Holly grows in almost every country, and because of its thorns and its blood-red berries was associated, centuries ago, with the Passion of Christ.

THE LAWYER'S QUESTION.—Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

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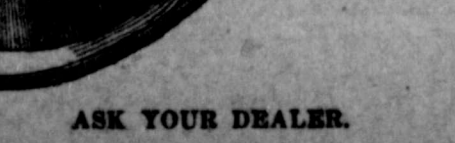
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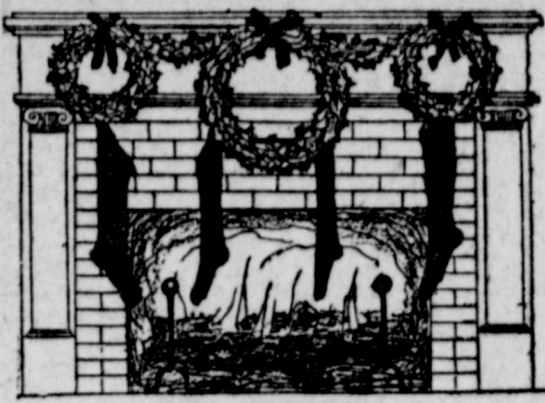
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For Our Boys and Girls

By AUNT MARY.



MERRY CHRISTMAS.

Here Christmas is again, and it will find all of us very busy, I hope. First, I want to wish all of my little readers a very merry Christmas, and a very happy one, too.

We will start the New Year next month, and I want your aid in making this page during the year of 1925 the biggest and the best in the history of this newspaper.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL! AUNT MARY.

LITTLE GIRL'S COOK BOOK.

I think my little readers will enjoy the delicious candy recipe sent to me by Lois Duderstadt, of Mt. Home, Texas.

- 3 cups sugar. 1/2 cup hot water. 3 egg whites. 1 teaspoon vanilla. 1 cup Karo syrup. Pinch of salt.

Put the sugar, syrup and water together in a pan and boil until "hairs" when dipped with a spoon. Then pour slowly into the stiffly beaten egg whites.

WILLING LITTLE HANDS.

Jo Burn was but one of seven children of a very poor widow, and Jo helped his mother with the work on the vast estate of the rich Mr. Dunworthy.

Jo slowly opened his eyes and looked about. His lips formed the word, "Mother." "Yes, my son, I am here, and the midnight bells are ringing at the church. Sleep on, my boy, as did the Christ Child so many years ago at this holy hour."

A PUZZLE.

What goes around the house in the day time and sits in the corner at night?



THE FIRST LETTER OF THESE FIVE OBJECTS WILL SPELL THE ANSWER.

- Apple, Cat, Dog, Egg, Fish.

(Solution Will Appear Next Month.)

A DOLL HOUSE BUILT FOR THE CZAR OF RUSSIA.

Wouldn't you love to own a miniature doll house which is an exact duplicate of some exquisite home, only very, very tiny, though perfect in detail?

Peter the Great, while living in Holland as a young man, saw a miniature house with lavish furnishings, and wished to buy it. The owner told him he would not sell it at any price.

glassware were made in Holland. Paintings two inches square adorned the walls. After twenty-five years of labor he at last sent the Czar word that the gift was ready.

WHERE WE GET OUR CHRISTMAS CAROLS.

In pagan days dancing was usually accompanied by singing, and later dancing and singing continued to go together, even in Christian churches.

Take no thought saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Where-withal shall we be clothed?

If you know of but one lonely person, make every sacrifice that may have to be made, but in some way remember that person.

LAYING HENS PAY Martin's Egg Products



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**THE GOLDEN RULE:**—  
As ye would that men should  
do to you, do ye also to them.  
—Luke 6:31.

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**NATIONAL'S BEST  
MACARONI**  
BECAUSE  
There's None  
Better

**WOMAN'S PAGE**  
MRS. MARGARET STUTE

**THE CHRISTMAS TABLE.**

Nowhere is the wife able to show her artistic ability so well as in table decorations for the Christmas dinner. The very artistic one shown here can be added to or made less elaborate, just as the occasion and the means of the individual may suggest. Lighted candles are always good to use in any way. If there is danger of the tallow dripping, it is permissible to blow them out, after the guests are seated. Of course, it is best for the



candles to burn, if so placed that the drippings will not get on the table cloth and spot it. The silverware on this model is for a four-course dinner. The three forks are for the main dinner, the salad course and the pie course. The large spoon at the right is for the soup course. Some families like the salad served with the meat course, and this is perfectly correct. The small knife at the right of the plate is for the butter tumbler, or glass, is at the point of the knife. When a maid is serving, the host carves the meat and serves the plate in front of him; the maid takes it when it is ready from the right side and, after removing the plate in front of the first lady to the host's right, sets the served plate in front of her. The maid returns the plate she has removed to the host, which he serves, and she repeats the same service, serving the ladies first, as they come in order to the right of the host. With the exception of the hostess, which she serves last, the men are then served in the same order. When one has no maid the first course is set on the table before the guests are seated. The hostess eats the course with the guests. When they have all finished, she removes the soiled

dishes, and serves the next course. However, instead of passing the plates as before described, it is the best form to ask guests to pass the plates to one another, serving the lady at the furthest end of the table from the host, and the hostess last, and then the men. It will be noted that the place cards are plain, with only the name and a Christmas seal. They are placed at the upper left hand side of the plate. It is

also permissible to place them on the napkin. Coffee spoons are served on the saucers when the coffee is served. If ice cream, or a dessert, requiring a spoon with which to eat, is served, place between the butter knife and the meat knife, the fork for pie being omitted. The center piece of this model is very simple, but is quite effective. A single rose or chrysanthemum, used with candles, is very pretty. A small Christmas tree should be used as part of the decoration scheme. The individual nut or candy dishes are not set on the table, but little baskets filled with goodies are hung on the tree, a tiny Christmas ribbon tied to the handle and the other end tied to the place card. Another nice way to entertain, while the courses are being changed, is to have appropriate verses and a small souvenir done up in tissue paper and tied like a gift placed on the little tree or in the folds of the napkins. They can be opened and read while the different courses are being served. Colored linen table cloths and napkins are very popular and will make the Christmas table look very attractive.

**CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENT.**

There are so many delightful ways of entertaining that I can only give you a few suggestions. It is always a well remembered hostess who has at her finger tips various means of amusing her guests, whether they are "grown-ups" or children. The guest who can be discreetly suggest forms of entertainment is always sought after as a valuable member to any party. After a heavy Christmas dinner, one does not always feel like playing cards or dancing (the principal diversion of modern times) but even the most blasé will find amusement in the games suggested below. Some of them can be played by adults and children alike.

**Christmas Stocking.**  
Paint or draw a miniature fireplace on a piece of cloth and tack to the wall. Blindfold each person in turn, give them a stocking made of some cheap material, turn them around several times and start them in the direction of the painted cloth. The fun is in seeing the foolish places they will pin the stocking. The rule is that the stocking must be pinned to the first thing the person touches. The person who comes the nearest to pinning the stocking in its proper place beside the fireplace wins the prize, which can be anything, from something elaborate to some little trifle that will create amusement.

**Christmas Candle.**  
Place a small miniature Christmas tree on a low table on which there is arranged lighted candles. Blindfold each person in turn. Have them stand on one foot a short distance from the tree with the back turned toward the tree. They are then told to take three steps forward, turn around three times, then walk four steps and blow as hard as they can. The person who succeeds in blowing out the most candles is awarded the prize.

**Fortune Telling.**  
The following game will give a great deal of amusement at a young, unmarried people's party: The fortune teller provides the person who is to have his or her fortune told with pencil and paper pad. Then tell them to write the answers to the following:  
1. Write yes or no.

**CHRISTMAS RECIPE.**  
**Cranberry Sauce.**  
My family is very fond of cranberry sauce and we have it often when the berries are in season. I consider cranberries a very healthful and delicious food. To prepare, I wash them carefully, discarding the bad ones. Then I cook them with about a cup of water to the pound of berries, some like a little less water, until they all have

2. State the lady's or gentleman's name, as the case might be, always calling the opposite sex to the one of whom you are writing.
3. Give a number.
4. Length of time.
5. Yes or no.
6. Yes or no.
7. Yes or no.
8. A color.
9. A color.
10. Yes or no.
11. Yes or no.
12. A shape.
13. A measure.
14. A sum of money.
15. A sum of money.
16. A virtue.
17. profession.
18. The name of a place.
19. A lady's or gentleman's name (as the case might be).
20. The name of a place.
21. A number.
22. Yes or no.
23. State a date, in the near future.

It is best to have several persons writing answers at the same time. Ask each guest to write their name at the head of their page and exchange the page with the one next to them. Start at the head of the line and ask the person to read the name of person whose slip they have. Then request that they give answer to the following questions, in the order asked:  
1. Have you a lover?  
2. What is his or her name?  
3. How old is he or she?  
4. How long have you known him or her?  
5. Does he or she know you love him or her?  
6. Is your affection returned?  
7. Have you or has he proposed?  
8. What color is his or her hair?  
9. What color is his or her eyes?  
10. Is he or she handsome?  
11. Is he or she comely?  
12. What is the shape of his or her nose?  
13. What is the size of his or her mouth?  
14. What is his or her fortune?  
15. How much will he or she allow you?  
16. What is his or her chief virtue?  
17. What is his or her profession?  
18. Where did you first meet?  
19. What is your rival's name?  
20. Where do you intend to live?  
21. How many other proposals have you had, or made?  
22. Will the marriage be a happy one?  
23. When will you be married?

This game will give no end of fun for young persons and will prove very entertaining. Write me about YOUR Christmas party and tell me WAS it a Success? Address: Mrs. Margaret Stute, 1941 Dartmoor Ct., Fort Worth, Texas.

**FASHIONS FOR THE HOLIDAYS.**

This beautiful doll lamp is easy to make and is quite inexpensive when made out of even the best of materials. The doll light frames can usually be purchased for about a dollar to a dollar and a half. The material can be bought for about a dollar, if sales are watched. Sometimes one has an odd bit of material left from a dress. Taffeta is the best to use for the outside. An underskirt, of a light, rather stiff material, is the best to use. Be sure and wrap the wires with tape of a harmonizing color before dressing.

How I would like to see this dainty frock made up in dainty colored taffeta worn by some young girl just home for the holidays. Its gathered tunic and cape collar is distinctly youthful. It closes under the left arm and the bodice is open in front with a dainty pointed vestee. The lovely motif in the front lends a distinctive air to the costume. Size sixteen requires 2 1/2 yards of 36-inch taffeta. Also 2 yards of 40-inch lace.



**TWO MODERN  
FIREPROOF  
HOTELS**  
That offer you  
and yours a cordial  
welcome and  
comfort at no  
greater cost than  
charged else-  
where.  
East Rooms for  
Ladies; Lounge  
Rooms for Men. No  
Charge.  
The Raleigh, Waco, Tex.  
The Blackstone, Tyler, Tex.  
**ENJOY THE BEST—IT COSTS NO MORE.**

**Service De Luxe**  
ON YOUR  
**Interurban Lines**  
BETWEEN  
**Fort Worth and Dallas**  
  
**SPEED WITH SAFETY**  
—BAGGAGE CHECKED—  
**Northern Texas Traction Co.**  
FORT WORTH, TEXAS.

**"Good to the Last Drop"**  
  
**Merry Christmas**  
**OUT** yonder in the open spaces a man can have just as flavory cup of coffee as you at your spotless white table, for he too can obtain Maxwell House. Sold only in sealed tins, which guard the inimitable flavor!  
**MAXWELL HOUSE  
Coffee**

**HEAR IT WITH A  
DAY-FAN OEM  
RADIO SET \$90.00.**  
If your dealer can't supply you write us. Dealers wanted.  
**SOUTHERN RADIO CORPORATION OF TEXAS**  
Distributors  
San Antonio, Texas.

**NOTICE**  
If you desire to hold cotton for a higher market ship it to us and we will store same in our covered warehouses for your instructions.  
We will advance you liberally at a low rate of interest.  
No shipments too large or too small.  
**HYMAN SAMUELS CO.**  
HOUSTON, TEXAS.

**OUR BEST BRAND MACARONI**  
"FOOD FOR THOUGHT"  
For Your **Christmas Dinner**  
TRY A PACKAGE  
**WHOLE WHEAT MACARON**  
Demand it of Your Grocer  
You and Your Guests Will Enjoy It  
**Fort Worth Macaroni Co.,** Fort Worth, Texas.

You'll enjoy **ADMIRATION** Coffee "as you like it" 100% Pure

# Happy Memories of 1924 Bring Inspirations and Higher Ideals for the New Year

1  
9  
2  
4

As we finish the journey of 1924 and reach the peak of the old year, ready to pass over into the New Year, we cast our eyes back and think of pleasant memories of the dealings we have had with the patrons of this business. As we see it now we could have perhaps done better---as we saw it then we acted in what we believed to be the best interest of those whom we were serving. The memories of 1924 fill our hearts with gratitude and inspire in us new hopes, new ideals and new ambitions. Because of the confidence imposed in this business by the people of this city and section of the state and because of a generous patronage during the past year, we come now, at the close of the old year facing the dawn of the New filled with determination to serve you better and make it more delightful to you to do business with us.

1  
9  
2  
5

May the New Year be a Good Year to You and Yours is the Wish of

## WEST TEXAS UTILITIES COMPANY

### THE DAWN OF THE NEW YEAR

brings us again to a starting place when it is fit and proper that we pause to count the blessings of the past, to profit by the errors gone by and to make better resolves for the days ahead. This being true we come in the early hours of the New Year to

WISH YOU SUCCESS AND PLEASURE  
IN 1925

And we also take advantage of this opportunity to thank you for your 1924 patronage and to solicit a continuation of the same throughout 1925.

**J. H. McDONALD**  
GROCERY  
KENT STREET

#### MAKING CHRISTMAS REAL CELEBRATION

MR. AND MRS. BROWN agreed not to have any Christmas celebration. They would just be sensible, and have a restful holiday without any of the worry of trying to outdo each other and their friends in the exchange of gifts.

Their friends had consented not to give them any presents, and as they had no children, it would be easy to carry out their intention of having just an ordinary holiday.

Christmas morning arrived and Mr. Brown looked at Mrs. Brown through blinking eyes.

"Merry Christmas," he said; "Merry Christmas," echoed his wife.

They were both startled. That was not the way to begin an ordinary holiday. They had begun it just as they had begun every other Christmas.

"But then," Mrs. Brown explained, "it wouldn't be right not to say it, would it, dear?"

Mr. Brown quite agreed with her, and they went down to breakfast.

At Mr. Brown's place were some packages.

"What are these?" he asked, with pretended harshness.

"Oh, dearie," said his wife, "you won't be angry, will you? I just couldn't help giving you something. It wouldn't be Christmas without some surprises. And as we weren't giving any presents, I thought it was a good opportunity to get you some things you have needed a long time.

Mr. Brown tore open the packages, which to his great delight contained a velvet lounging robe, some Russian leather slippers and a box of his favorite cigars.

"You dear!" he cried, and kissed his wife ardently.

Then he drew from his pocket a small box which he handed her. Her eyes sparkled.

"For me?" she exclaimed.

"For you," he said, and added, as she lifted from the box a beautiful necklace of pearls. "I thought since we weren't giving any presents this year, it was a good opportunity to buy you these pearls you have wanted so long."

"You dear," said his wife, and kissed him joyously.

Just then the doorbell rang. A messenger with flowers and candy was at the door. "I thought it wouldn't be Christmas without these," said Mr. Brown.

"And you were right," agreed his wife. "You can't have Christmas without candy and flowers, and presents and surprises, which show how people really love you."—H. Luctus Cook.

(© 1924 Western Newspaper Union.)

## McFarland Garage



Listen, when your car won't start on cold mornings, call us and let us draw out the crank case and fill it with the correct grade of MOBILOIL. If you don't have the correct grade of oil in your car these cold mornings your car will be hard to start and you will run your battery down trying to start it.

Buy oil that has a Zero test, it will not be thick and heavy on these cold mornings.

We have a complete line of Balloon tires with wheel and rim, correct fabric. We can fit your car or truck with any size tire.

And we now have that good gulf gas pierce gasoline and pennant auto oil.

Give us a chance.

Guaranteed Satisfaction

F. C. McFarland

**BROADCASTING NEW YEAR**

# **Greetings and Appreciation to Our Patrons**



We hope that all the people who entrusted patronage to this business, large or small as it may have been, are "tuned in" for this message. As the curtain draws on the old year and we see the dawn of the new we pause for a moment and look back and as we do we see so many things for which to feel thankful that we feel inspired to broadcast this message to as loyal a people as ever favored a business with their patronage. To each of you we tender our sincere thanks and express the hope that the New Year will unfold to you greater measures of prosperity, contentment and true happiness than you have ever known before.

And we would have these good wishes go beyond our family circle of patrons. If you are not a member of our happy "family" of customers we greet you nevertheless in the true spirit of the season.

## **Standing at the Threshold of 1925**

We pledge anew our best efforts in your behalf and earnestly solicit a continuation of the patronage of our old friends and renew our ambition to win new friends.

# **Farmers State Bank**

**Merkel, Texas**