

THE MERKEL MAIL

ALL THE AUTHENTIC OIL NEWS OF THE NOODLE CREEK FIELD

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5c PER COPY

STATE LEGISLATORS CHARGED WITH ACCEPTING BRIBES

Ed's Cafe Open For Business Saturday

In this paper will be found the advertisement of Mr. E. L. Turner, announcing that on tomorrow, Saturday, February 5, he will re-open his cafe, "Ed's Cafe," in his own building next door west of his former location on Front street.

For many years Mr. Turner has conducted a cafe in this city, and has always conducted a nice, clean, up-to-date place, but without doubt he will open tomorrow the most beautiful and attractive places he has ever had in this city. In fact his new place is one of the nicest of its kind in the city, and among the best in this part of the country.

We invite our readers to the reading of Mr. Turner's announcement in this paper.

ABILENE C. OF C. TO SELL PURE-BRED SEED AT COST

The Abilene Chamber of Commerce has secured 10,000 pounds of purebred milo maize seed of the red dwarf variety, for distribution to the farmers of Taylor county. The shipment of seed will be received in Abilene during the middle of February and will be sold at actual cost; officials of the organization say.

The project for supplying the farmers of the county with the best seed obtainable at actual cost is a part of the agricultural program of the Abilene Chamber of Commerce for fostering better agricultural conditions for the entire county.

For the past two years that organization has devoted marked attention to the agricultural problems of this section. It was largely through the efforts of the Abilene Chamber of Commerce that the services of a county agricultural agent and a county home demonstration agent have been made available for this county. Both these agents have worked in cooperation with the organization and every possible assistance has been given them in their efforts to promote better conditions in the rural sections of Taylor county.

The present widespread interest in pure-bred seed, better poultry, dairy stock and other kinds of farm projects, has largely been aroused through the efforts of the extension service representatives in their work with the farmers and their families of this county.

Last year a small quantity of purebred sweet clover seed was distributed by the Chamber of Commerce, and much enthusiasm for that crop and other pure bred seeds of all kinds was stimulated as a result of that project.

In connection with the distribution of the large quantity of purebred maize seed to the farmers of this county, the Chamber of Commerce has announced that a "Food, Feed and Conservation" contest will be sponsored by the organization during this year. The competition will be open to Taylor county farmers.

Full details of the plan under which the contest will be held have not been worked out, but it has been revealed that substantial cash prizes will be awarded to the producers of the largest amount of feed on a set acreage, under certain conditions. In addition to the grand prizes to be given the winners of the county-wide competition, there will probably be awards offered for the winners of various projects in different communities. Other features will possibly be included in the plan of the contest, Chamber of Commerce officials say.

Complete plans in connection with the contest will be announced later. Agricultural authorities declare that Taylor county is as well suited for profitable grain sorghum production (of which milo maize is a variety) as any other part of the state. They say that the amount of attention and work required for the production of ordinary feed crops will produce pure-bred varieties and the value of the better class of grain is much greater than that of the kind generally grown in this part of the country.

Many farmers over the county are showing intense interest in better planting seed and large numbers of them have expressed a desire to secure the best obtainable for this year's planting and the action of the Abilene Chamber of Commerce in securing five-ton shipment of purebred seed is an effort to serve

Austin, Texas, Feb. 2.—Charges of accepting bribes were filed in justice court here tonight against State Representatives F. A. Dale of Bonham and H. H. Moore of Cooper. They were arrested by Ranger Captains Tom Hickman and Frank Hamer, who swore to charges that the legislators accepted marked \$1,000 bills from a Dr. Chamberlain of Houston, a lobbyist interested in an optometry bill.

Dale was arrested as he started to walk into a local hotel lobby. He is alleged to have been handed a roll of bills amounting to \$1000 in an alley by the hotel. Ranger Captain Hamer took \$1,000 from Dale in various denominations.

Moore was arrested in his room in the hotel.

Both tonight declined to give out any statement, except Dale declared with some heat, "there's nothing to the charges."

While district attorney J. D. Moore was preparing the complaints, Moore insisted on being allowed to go. He several times said he would "like to get off to attend a meeting of my committee tonight."

Mr. Chamberlain is said to be an optometrist, of Houston.

Moore's bill, seeking to place a \$50 license tax on stationary optometrists the same tax that now is placed on itinerant optometrists, was scheduled for hearing Wednesday night before the house committee on revenue and taxation, and the committee waited for a time for Moore to appear.

Hearing was held by the committee Wednesday on a bill by Moore and Dale, increasing the gross production tax on oil from two to four cents.

The complaints filed charge Dale and Moore, while "active members of the 40th legislature, accepted a bribe of \$1,000 with the intent then and there to influence legislation pending before the legislature with the further intent to support and influence a certain committee to make a report on a certain bill and purported law"

FIRST LYNCHING OF YEAR HELD IN WILLIS

WILLIS, Feb. 2.—Forty men in automobiles seized Tom Payne, 25, negro sawmill worker, from two officers who were taking him from Conroe, the county seat, hanged him to a tree by the roadside Tuesday night and thereby wrote in the record Texas' first 1927 lynching.

Payne was accused of assault to murder Jack Rogers, white man and sawmill employe. He was en route in the custody of two officers to the State penitentiary at Huntsville for safe keeping.

The mob, according to reports to sheriff Ben Hicks, of Montgomery County, apparently had followed the officers and the negro, and made a detour to head them off. They were waiting in the road, th officers told the sheriff, and demanded surrender of the negro.

Resistance was useless, the officers, said and they surrendered him without a struggle. The mob went about its work methodically and in a few minutes Payne was hanged. Sheriff Hicks said he had conducted an investigation but had failed to find a clue as to the identity of any member of the mob. The officers told him, he said, that they recognized none of them.

Payne was arrested Tuesday after 2 small boys had found Rogers with his throat cut Monday in a pasture near Conroe. He had been clubbed over the head and his watch and a sum of money were missing. The boys told officers they had seen a negro man and woman running from the spot a few minutes previously. Arrest of Payne and his wife, Hattie, followed. She is in jail at Conroe charged with assault to murder.

Rogers is in a hospital at Conroe with a good chance to recover.

Having Home Remodeled

Mr. J. W. Mayfield is having his home on west Elm street remodeled. The interior will have new floors, sheetrock walls, new paint, fixtures, etc., and the exterior will receive a fresh coat of paint and sidewalks and curbing will be laid. Barnes Brothers and Parker have the contract for this work.

Simmons Quartette To Render Program Here Sunday Morn.

Merkel is to be favored Sunday morning by a visit of the famous "Cow Boy Quartette of Simmons University. These young men are rendering great service to the kingdom by using their voices for the Glory of God. Each Sunday they are giving one or more programs in churches over West Texas. The entire hour is given to them and they bring a message in song. There is no music sweeter than that made by human voices carrying all parts of one of the great songs of the Kingdom. These men have voices that blend and harmonize and they are consecrated to the Lord.

A treat is in store for all who will hear them Sunday morning.

The doors of the local Baptist church will be open to all who care to come. There will be no admission fee to this or any other service. It is hoped that many lovers of good music will avail themselves of this treat.

The ushers will welcome all visitors and will do their best to see that each one has a comfortable seat during the program.

PIANO PUPILS OF MISS EDNA MARIE JONES APPEAR IN RECITAL

The piano pupils of Miss Edna Marie Jones appearing in recital last evening at the school auditorium, gave a most pleasing and creditable performance. Pleasing as an entertainment and displaying a thoroughness in training that would have done credit to pupils of much more experience. Miss Jones was assisted in her recital by the High School Choral Club, under the direction of Miss Christine Collins. The girls were highly entertaining in their costumed number, "Kid Days," and for a second number they gave a most laughable impersonation of a monkey in the zoo. Venice Bell, voice pupil of Miss Collins was an added feature of the evening, assisting with a vocal solo, "Out of the Dusk to You," by the girls quartette from the high school met with hearty applause from the audience. The program in its entirety was:

Program

Duet, "The Sleighride," Walter, Helen Booth and Edna Marie Jones. (a) Jolly Trolley Riders, Bilbro. (b) Sleepy Time, Mattingly; Bertie Mae Leslie.

The Clock on the Wall, Grant-Schaefer; Billie Bernice Gambill. The Old Tar's Yarn, Mueller; Mattilou Largent.

Soprano solo, "Four Leaf Clover," Combes; Venice Bell.

(a) Cuckoo, Mayor; (b) Parade of the Scouts, Woodrow; Burnal Scott. Floating Zephyrs, Engelmann; Mary Elizabeth Grimes.

Big Bass Singer, Rolfe; Louise Booth. Frolic of the Frogs, Kern; Ida Mae Derstine.

Quartette, "Out of the Dusk to You," Lee; Venice Bell, Pauline Chinn, Inice Brown, Iris Garrett.

The Meadow Lark, Henlein; Him-alaya Swafford.

(a) Woodland Concert, Bilbro; (b) Under the Mistletoe, McIntyre; Phala Diltz.

The Maiden's Prayer, Badarzewska Mattilou Largent.

Duet, "The Hunters," Gurlitt; Phala Diltz and Thelma Leach.

(a) I'd Love to be a Monkey in the Zoo, White; (b) Kid Days, Wilson; High School Choral Club.

Womanless Wedding To Be Staged Tonight

The stage is all set. Everything is in readiness for the marriage tonight of Mike Mulligan and Winnie Winkle at the Grammar School auditorium at 7:30 o'clock. The public is cordially invited.

Under the auspices of the Parent-Teachers Association a cast of forty-nine local people will impersonate various celebrities and important personages in the presentation of a Womanless Wedding. The name of the person who will impersonate Winnie Winkle, the bride, has been kept secret very successfully, and only tonight's ceremony will reveal the secret.

Several very distinguished guests will attend the ceremony, among them will be several musicians who will entertain. Old man Ganzy is going to be there strong. And the wedding march and ceremony are the grand climax. It's a riot of laughter from the start. Don't miss.

Governor Moody Appoints Judge Ely Highway Commission

With the appointment this week of Honorable W. R. Ely, Judge of the 42nd District Court, as the third member of the State Highway Commission, Governor Dan Moody has undoubtedly filled this very important place with men of the highest character and ability—men who will serve the state with efficiency and distinction.

Judge W. R. Ely, of Abilene, is loved and esteemed by the vast majority of the entire citizenship of this section of West Texas. The other members of the commission, Cone Johnson, of Tyler, undoubtedly one of the state's most honorable and capable men, and Hon. R. S. Sterling of Houston, a millionaire oil man and newspaper man, is well known for his high character and excellent qualifications to ably fill the position with satisfaction to the people of Texas as well as with honor and glory to himself.

That Governor Moody is living up to the hopes and expectations of his friends and supporters may be judged by the most excellent character and qualifications of his appointees thus far made.

DRAMATIC CLUB PRESENTS "THE CHARM SCHOOL" 10th.

The Dramatic Club of Merkel High School presents "The Charm School," a comedy, by Alice Duer Miller and Robert Milton, at the Cozy Theatre, Thursday evening, February 10th, at eight o'clock.

CHARACTERS

Austin Bevans, Maben Rogers. An automobile salesman with ideas, which David MacKensie, Max Roberts a law student, considers unpractical, though George Boyd, Rex Roberts. An expert accountant, is willing to cooperate, and also Jim Simpkins, Clyde Mayfield.

And Tim Simpkins, Charlie Largent, who toil, not and have never seriously considered spinning.

Homer Johns, Tolbert Proctor, is the guardian of Elice Benedotti, Tommie Durham.

The president of the senior class at a school presided over by Miss Hays, Flora Frances Anderson, who is loved and feared by all who know her, including her secretary.

Hiss Curtis, Helen Booth, who is always trying to think well of the senior class, consisting of:

Sally Boyd, Berdelle Adcock, who is George's sister, and Muriel Dougherty, Inice Brown; Ethel Spelvin, Iris Garrett; Alix Mercier, Deshazo Simpson; Lillian Stafford, Elizabeth Hark rider; Madge Kent, Entha Bird; Dot-sie James, Ruby Jo Higgins; Nancy Kent, Dorothy Higgins; Mabel Witcher; Mildred Smith; Anne Snow, Eunice Bird; Maude Phillips, Mildred Williams; Louise Townley, Thelma Copeland; Betty Manley, Obeal Stubblefield; Beth Andrews, Irene Perry; Kitty Warren, Venice Bell.

Ushers and business managers: Ray Spurger, Foy King, Wyatt Miller, W. A. Whitely, Foster Watts, Monte Daniels, John D Coats, Joe Cypert, Haskell Shorter, George West.

Synopsis of Scenes

Act 1: Evening. The Boys' room on the top floor of an old-fashioned New York house.

Act 2: The main hall of the school. Scene 1, Noon. Scene 2, About two weeks later.

Act 3: Scene 1, Midnight, on the road. Scene 2, The next morning at the school.

Tickets for reserved seats will be placed on sale at Merkel Drug Co.

WARNS LAW VIOLATORS

From our very efficient and accommodating County Commissioner, Mr. P. A. Diltz, we learn that parties in or around Merkel have been emptying along the highways trash such as old cans and rubbish, which is in strict violation of the law.

And he issues a warning that same must be stopped or those committing such acts may find themselves embroiled in the toils of the law.

MOTHER 75 PASSES AWAY AT BLAIR

We regret to learn that on Thursday morning of this week, Mrs. Malinda Almstead, an aged and highly respected lady of the Blair community, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Claud Doan.

We understand funeral services will be held at one of the churches in Blair at 1:00 p.m. Friday, with burial immediately after in Rose Hill cemetery Merkel.

MIDWEST'S NO. 2 THORNTON NEXT IN LINE TO REACH PRODUCTION

Meeting of Business Men Is Very Urgent

We must arrange a banquet that will afford an opportunity for every business man in Merkel to meet together with those actively engaged in oil production and exploration so that views may be exchanged and a fixed and definite program of activity arranged not alone for the immediate interests of the town, but for those remote interests that are absolutely necessary to insure the steady growth of the town and its trade territory. This cannot be done by individual effort, but the concerted, organized effort of the business men and leading farmers can accomplish far more for this town and community than has ever been in the mind of the best visionary citizen.

We have been making investment in a hotel for the past four months without having even seriously discussed its location or making an effort to raise a dollar to build it. People often pay for that which they do not get and that is exactly our position in refusing to see the need of a good modern hotel. We are paying for it. With a good hotel here its lobby would be full every night with men who would be trading in leases and royalties, spending money in our stores, and depositing money in our banks.

To say that these men would prefer to stay at Abilene or Sweetwater is pessimistic beyond patience.

If we had a good hotel what advantage would either of those towns have over us? We have better water, we are nearer the field, we have a school with twenty units of affiliation, we have good roads, we have all the conveniences which towns of this size usually have and should have—except we do not have a modern hotel.

We have good hotels and rooming houses and we are proud of them. A good modern fire-proof hotel would greatly increase the business of those we now have.

We have had a hotel committee for some four months, but they have had no cooperation. Let's get busy and try out public sentiment and public enterprise and find out whether or not we are expressing just our own opinion, when we urge what seems to us a most pressing need.

If Merkel fails to get supply houses and other allied oil industries, she can blame it to the lack of cooperation. We have been liberal in raising money to support an organization, but the gift without the giver is dead. The organization needs and must have the moral support of its individual members as well as the active interest of each of them.

Our only fault is that we are dead to our present and future advantages. Some one has said that we cannot get things because we are between two large towns, and we have believed it. If we will get together at once with an ounce of faith and a little enthusiasm we can double our present population and thrive on our present values.

We should have a Retail Merchants' Association organized in connection with the Chamber of Commerce for we know that the secretary wishes to render every service possible to the community and if we but get behind him Merkel will have never made a better investment than when she concluded to express her needs and determine to realize them through the chamber of commerce.

SONS OF OLD CONFEDERATES HOLD MEETING

The annual meeting of the members of the Sons of the Old Confederates held their annual meeting and election of officers in this city one evening last week with Mr. J. C. Mason, camp commander, in charge.

While the attendance was small and this was regretted, the election of officers and transacting of other business matters was carried out and attended to. Practically all the old officers were re-elected for the ensuing year, including the commander, Mr. J. C. Mason.

STORES BEING REMODELED

Among the stores in our city being remodeled, painted and re-arranged we notice the Brown Dry Goods, Bob Martin Grocery, J. T. Dennis, Bragg Dry Goods. All such improvements not only add to the appearance of the respective places of business, but make for comfort and pride as well.

While there is no news of new production in the Noodle Creek field eight miles northwest of this city, there is possibly the greatest activity going on there at this time that the field has yet experienced.

All the producing wells are holding up in production with some actually increasing, and many new rigs are either just completed or work beginning. The Phillips Company alone is starting five new tests as follows: The Walling No. 2, the Thornton No. 1, the Beasley No. 1, the Mason No. 1, and the Winter No. 3, which is an east offset to the original discovery well.

The next well expected to reach the level of the pay sand is the Midwest's Thornton No. 2, which is a south offset to the Mason No. 3, the sensation of the entire field, which is said to be producing around an average of 1,600 barrels daily.

A visit to Noodle Dome and the field will reveal to one the fact that great preparations are being made for one of the largest drilling campaigns ever seen in a field with as little production as the Noodle Creek field. The Phillips Company is now erecting a large storage tank of 55,000 barrel capacity; have already doubled their loading rack capacity for tank cars on the railroad four miles south at Trent. They are also erecting two other large storage tanks at the loading racks.

Drilling was this week resumed on the Cranston after a shut down of several weeks, after a report that an oil showing had been encountered. Drilling has again been resumed at the Haynes well three miles east of town, and operators say it will be rushed to completion without further delay.

The Huddleston well is drilling again following a shut down on account of a fuel shortage. The hole is about 1400 feet deep.

The test on the Henslee place near Castle Peak, south of town, will be started at once, we understand.

The Midwest's No. 1 Mrs. J. F. Smith, five miles east, has been spudded.

The Largent well three miles north was shut down at about 2,250 feet.

Contracts have almost been completed for a test well to be drilled a short distance south of Nubia, we are informed. This would be located about half way between the Butman well and the Henslee well.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY MILBURN LONG URGED FOR DISTRICT JUDGE

To fill the vacancy in the District Judge's office in this the 42nd district, made vacant by the resignation of Judge W. R. Ely, who this week was appointed by Governor Dan Moody to a place on the Highway Commission, the many friends of District Attorney Milburn S. Long are urging him for the office.

Judge Long has the united endorsement of the entire bar in both Calahan and Shackelford counties, the other two counties besides Taylor in the district, and besides the endorsement of many of the leading attorneys in this county, he has scores of business men and citizens who are also urging his appointment.

Besides the fact that Judge Long is eminently qualified and capable of performing in a creditable manner the duties incumbent upon the holder of this important office, he is all that honor and integrity can demand—he is a real man. This paper trusts he may receive the appointment.

FARM BUREAU FAVORS McNARY-HAUGEN BILL

It is the common judgment of the principal farmer organizations of the nation that the McNary-Haugen Bill now pending in the United States Congress provides the most efficient means for controlling American agriculture surpluses. It is their judgment that an essential feature of this Bill is the equalization fee, which is designed to provide funds for the operation of the Farm Board and to reimburse the Board for any losses it may incur in carrying and orderly marketing of a surplus so as to serve as a restraint upon further over-production. Therefore we earnestly urge that Texas Senators and Representatives support this measure and do all they honorably can to affect its speedy enactment. J. C. Mason.

Statement of the Condition of the FARMERS STATE BANK

At the close of business Dec. 31, 1926

RESOURCES

Loans.....	\$418,943.19
Overdrafts.....	5,985.91
Banking House.....	13,600.00
Furniture & Fixtures.....	5,430.00
Other Real Estate.....	6,256.50
Due from Guaranty Fund.....	13,257.69
U. S. Bonds.....	\$80,150.00
Bills Ex. Cotton.....	28,097.54
Cash & Ex.....	230,102.62
Total.....	\$801,823.45

LIABILITIES

Capital Stock.....	\$ 50,000.00
Surplus and Profits Net.....	23,500.00
Dividends Unpaid.....	2,500.00
Rediscunts.....	NONE
Bills Payable.....	NONE
Other Borrowed Money.....	NONE
Deposits.....	725,823.45
Total.....	\$801,823.45

FARMERS STATE BANK

MERKEL

TEXAS

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

J. S. Swann, President	Herbert Patterson,
R. O. Anderson, V. Pres.	Assistant Cashier
J. C. Mason, V. Pres.	
W. L. Diltz, Cashier	Dallas Scarbrough
	David Hendricks

SLICK FORGERY PLOT REVEALED

Girl's Fascination for Ice Machine Helps in Solving Big Crime.

New York.—The cast of "The Great Capitol Theater \$148,000 Check Forgery" includes a sign painter, a Fatty Arbuckle-sized elevator boy, a girl fascinated by an automatic ice-producing machine, an elderly and innocent New Jersey business man of established honesty and several as yet unidentified persons. The elevator boy, who admits, according to the police, that he got \$1,500 out of the \$148,000, is held in the Tombs on a forgery charge. The girl is being detained as a material witness.

William Roedel, the elevator operator, is what detectives call a "sap" or "sucker." He was not, according to the charge against him, unaware of the plot. But he was so naive that he got but a fraction of his share of the loot. The respectable business man was E. P. Ford, sixty-four years old.

Mr. Ford knew nothing of the plot, and when he finally became suspicious, notified the authorities. The sign painter, whose name is either unknown or being withheld, was the "master mind" in a scheme as clever as any that clever criminals have yet evolved. Nancy Kirby, the girl interested in refrigeration, was merely Roedel's sweetheart.

The largest, if not the chief, character in the plot, was Roedel. The elevator boy had been an object of pride, if also of some embarrassment, at the Capitol theater on Broadway. Once he had been a slender chap, but the ease of his life caused him to grow rapidly. Hired eight years ago, he was becoming so large that passengers in the building began to complain that no one else could get into his elevator. He weighed 256 pounds.

The Moredall Realty corporation runs the Capitol theater. One of its rules has been never to discharge an employee who was faithfully performing his duties. Even the most exacting official could not complain that Roedel was doing anything else. If he was growing corpulent it was an act of God and certainly not a cause for discharge. There were no other places vacant in the theater and he could not be transferred.

So Roedel continued operating the elevator, even if casualty inspectors making their periodical examinations of the machinery looked at him with a suspicious eye and intimated that they were going to reduce the number of persons legally permissible as long as he continued to operate the hoist. "Fatty"—so he was called by his phrase-making fellow workers—was paid \$28 a week and seemed contented.

Liked His Job.

His salary may not have been commensurate with his size, but the post at the Capitol carried with it pleasant privileges. He had passes for most of the other Broadway motion picture theaters, for instance. Very frequently he was given seats for legitimate shows. Often he appeared with Miss Nancy Kirby, known along Broadway as "his steady." Miss Kirby, nineteen, or so, and pretty, also gradually acquired the pass courtesy at other theaters.

One day some weeks ago Roedel was operating his car and listening with a somewhat bored look to the occasional gibes from passengers about his size. He was due to go off duty early in the evening and was to take Nancy out. Possibly he was beginning to feel that \$28 a week was a small salary on which to give a girl a good time. It is quite possible that Nancy had started to urge him to earn more. At all events, so his story later related to the police goes, he lent a receptive ear to evil suggestions from a man who had formerly painted signs around the theater.

The artist, Roedel's alleged story goes on, said that he knew of a magnificent trick whereby he had picked up \$12,500 in Springfield, Mass. It was a cinch and now, with several friends, he was anxious to try it on a larger scale. Roedel, the man went on, had the freedom of the building in which is the Capitol theater. He knew of the offices of the Moredall Realty corporation. All that he was to do, in return for \$15,000, was to admit them to the offices of the corporation. The whole thing was to be done on a high plane—no safe-blowing, robbery or gun-play.

"You're the kind of a man that could use money," they told him. "You ought to be a heavy spender—not just a \$28-a-week elevator pusher. With fifteen grand you can have a swell time. Haven't you got a girl that can help you have a good time?"

The picture was too alluring for Roedel, as he thought of the luxury-loving Nancy Kirby, and he gave in. He closed his eyes. The sign painter and his associates went into the Moredall Realty corporation offices one night, got out the company's check book and wrote two checks—each for \$78,500. They used the special machine by which authentic checks of the company are identified, handed Roedel \$1,500 in part payment of his share and departed.

Hire an Executive.

Then they left Manhattan and took up headquarters in Newark. Their first step there was to insert an advertisement in a newspaper saying that they wanted an executive to operate an office. This was in the name

of the Forco Products company. Mr. Ford answered their advertisement and agreed to a salary of \$150 a week and a share of the profits. He was told to open offices in the Military Park building in Newark, engage stenographic help and prepare for a rush of business. One of his supposed employers called himself Howard P. Dwyer and the other went by the name of Graham.

Soon afterward the two men came in with checks that they wished to deposit. They told Ford to open an account, and he did so, in his own name, at the National Newark and Essex Banking company. He was told to deposit two checks, each for \$78,500 each drawn on the Equitable Trust company of New York, and each apparently signed by the Moredall Realty corporation. Dwyer and Graham explained they were the profits from a real estate deal. Ford deposited the checks.

A few days later the two business men breezed in smoking big cigars. Ford had been slightly puzzled by the fact that he had been asked to do nothing at all. But his employers explained all this by saying that a big deal, which was to start everything, was hanging fire. They told him to draw \$88,500 in cash. This he did. The next day they said to draw \$70,500 additional, leaving \$5,000 on deposit. Ford also did this.

From then on, for almost a week, Ford sat in his office and waited for developments in Washington. He became suspicious that his employers were not entirely honest and suggested that the Equitable Trust company investigate the authenticity of the two checks. The drafts, being extremely skillful forgeries, had been passed by the bank without question. But when the Moredall Realty corporation was notified their real nature was discovered.

Manager Eliminated.

Both the National Surety company and the American Surety company had contracts with the Equitable Trust company to protect the bank against forgeries. Ford, naturally, was the first man questioned. So straightforward was his explanation, so ingenious the scheme and so natural his innocent part in it that no one suspected for a moment that he was in any way guilty. He had lived in East Orange for a decade, had been in Paris as the representative of a textile company and had at one time been a vice president of the Durhex Leather company of Newark.

Ford was promptly eliminated as a participant in the conspiracy and went with police and the surety company operatives to examine rogues gallery and private detective agency photographic collections.

Alfred Tyrell, chief claims adjuster for the National Surety company, and Detectives August Mayer and Grover Cleveland Brown took charge of the investigation. Detectives frequented places where criminals were likely to gather, listened to rumors, but finally heard that "Fatty" Roedel had resigned his job at the Capitol.

This was a thin clue to work on. Doing so they heard that Roedel had a girl friend named Nancy and they looked up some of the girl's friends. Where was she living? The friends said they did not know, but some of them remarked that there had been reports that she seemed to be prospering.

"She's living in a flat where there's an ice-making machine," the detectives finally were told.

Fascinated by Machine.

This proved a fertile source of information. It developed that Nancy Kirby was living at No. 7 West Ninth street. A fine new apartment hotel at the corner of Fifth avenue, where there were refrigerating machines in each apartment. Nancy had promised "Fatty" that she would keep quiet about their sudden affluence. But the ice machine was too much for her.

"All you do," she told friends, "is to slip a tray of water in it. In a couple of minutes you yank it out and you have a lot of small cubes of ice. It's just like magic."

Her friends were properly impressed, so much so that when detectives crossed their trail they told of it. Then followed the unhappy evening recently when the operatives called at the Fifth avenue apartment. "Fatty" himself, gorgeous in a brocade bathrobe, opened the door. He looked at the men and knew at once who they were. "Come on in," he said. "I saw you all about it. I'm tired of this Fifth avenue stuff, anyway. Give me Second avenue every time."

The detectives removed their derby hats and went in. They found the place stocked with cigars, candles and fruits. "Fatty" had been partial to these. They also found Nancy, unhappy and bitterly regretting she had told her friends in various motion picture theater ticket cages that she had struck it rich. The rent of the place, it developed, was \$325 a month.

Roedel was taken in charge by the police and so was the girl. He talked freely, the police say, about the sign painter and his friends and about how he had permitted them to enter the offices of the Moredall Realty corporation.

"Fatty" admitted that he had been played for an easy thing. They never paid him more than the \$1,500. He had ten \$100 bills and \$15 in small bills with him. The rest had been spent for the necessities of life on Fifth avenue. He begged the detectives to let him keep the \$15 as a souvenir of his days of luxury.

Dogs Start Fire

South Wears, N. H.—Two dogs fighting in a barn near here caused a \$3,000 fire. They upset a lantern.

"THE OLD RELIABLE"

WILL LOAN YOU

THE MONEY TO

BUY

ONE or MORE GOOD MILK COWS



A GOOD BROOD SQW



A HUNDRED HENS



If you have abundant feed to care for them and sufficient sheds to afford them the necessary protection from the weather.

ASK US

FARMERS & MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK

Merkel, Texas

Since 1904

Beautiful plain white dishes on display at Schindler's Variety Store. Saturday and Monday only at 15c each.

Miss Lillian Watts visited friends in Abilene Tuesday.

All plow and other repairs will be cash. West Co. 1tp

Ford

THE UNIVERSAL CAR

You'll Figure This Out Some Day

You can purchase, delivered in Merkel, a Ford Sedan for \$32.00 less than a Touring of the next lowest priced car.

As a comparison of prices of parts, the starting motor alone there is a saving of 204% between Ford and the next lowest priced car. . . .

Merkel Motor Co.

Authorized Ford Dealers

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS, To the Sheriff or any Constable of Taylor County, Greeting:

You are hereby commanded to summon James Thorn, whose residence is unknown, and the unknown heirs of James Thorn, whose residence is unknown, and the unknown parties, owning or having or claiming any interest in the lot hereinafter described, by making publication of this Citation once in each week for four successive weeks previous to the return day hereof, in some newspaper published in your County, if there be a newspaper published therein, but if not, then in the nearest County where a newspaper is published, to appear at the next regular term of the District Court of Taylor County, to be holden at the Court House thereof, in Abilene, Texas, on the 2nd Monday in April A. D. 1927, the same being the 11th day of April A. D. 1927, then and there to answer a petition filed in said Court on the 17th day of November A. D. 1926, in a suit, numbered on the docket of said Court as No 6307, wherein C. Hall, is Plaintiff, and James Thorn, whose residence is unknown, and the unknown heirs of James Thorn, whose residences are unknown, Abe Berash, and all other parties, owning or having or claiming any interest in the lot hereinafter described, are defendants, and said petition alleging:

On or about the 15th day of November, A. D. 1926, he was lawfully seized and possessed of the following described land and premises, situated in Taylor County, Texas, holding and claiming the same in fee simple, to-wit: Lot No. Twelve, Block One Hundred Thirty Seven, in Abilene, Taylor County, Texas.

That on the day and year last aforesaid, defendants unlawfully entered upon said premises and ejected plaintiff therefrom, and unlawfully withholds from him the possession thereof, to his damage of \$900.00.

Plaintiff would show to the Court that he, and those under whom he claims title, have had peaceful and adverse possession of the above described tract of land, cultivating, using and enjoying the same for a period of more than ten years before the filing of this suit, and this he is ready to verify.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff prays judgment of the Court, that defendants and each of them, be cited to appear and answer this petition, and that plaintiff have judgement for the title and possession of the above described land and premises, and that writ of restitution issue, damages, costs of suit, etc.

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

Given under my hand and the Seal of said Court, at office in Abilene, Texas, this 27th day of December A. D. 1926.

J. K. FULLER, Clerk, District Court, Taylor County.
By Belle Wellborn, Deputy. 21tp

In order to render more satisfactory service we are placing all plow and other repairs on a cash basis. No exceptions to this rule. West Co. 1tp

ABSTRACTS OF TITLE

for prompt and accurate service call on

SECURITY ABSTRACT CO.

Abilene, Texas

Second floor of Court House
Phone 2378

R. W. GRIMSLEY, Manager

Give Us An Opportunity to Please You

Dependable Repairing

When you need repairs it is much satisfaction to know that capable, efficient workmen are doing their best to render absolute satisfaction. You can depend on our mechanics to repair your car just right.

Filling Station

Our filling station service will please you. It is the best.

One-Day Battery Charging

We will charge your battery, repair your old one, or sell you a new one of the best made "the Exide."

EVERY BODY'S GARAGE

Service Plus Satisfaction

MERKEL BAPTISTS

Sunday school at 10 a.m. with a place for all who will come.

No longer is the Sunday School a place to send the children while their parents read the Sunday papers. There is a place in the modern Sunday School for every individual from the prattling three year old child to the oldest member of the family. In the Sunday school of today the adult department is the largest department in the whole organization. This is true in spite of the fact that most of the officers and teachers in every department are furnished by the adult department. Let every one feel that there is a place for you in the Sunday School. If you are a Christian you will find food for your soul in the Bible lessons each week, also you will find opportunities of service in the organized class or in the department work. If you are not a Christian the Sunday School will help you to know "the Holy Scriptures which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus," II Tim. 3:15. Statistics show that ninety percent of the people joining churches in America come from the Sunday school.

The pastor will preach at 7:30 p.m. All B.Y.P.U.'s meet at 6:45.

Workers meeting for all departments of the Sunday school Monday 7:30 p.m.

Womans Missionary society Tuesday at 3 p.m.

Prayermeeting Wednesday at 7:30

The pastor and workers are greatly encouraged at the renewed interest shown in every department of the work. There is a fine spirit manifested by all the membership of the church that are trying to be true to the Lord. Of course we are carrying some dead in our church as most churches do. But among the active membership there is as fine a spirit as the present pastor has ever seen.

In place of the regular Sunday morning sermon we are to have with us the official quartette of Simmons University known as the "Cow Boy Quartette." This quartette is made up of the best voices to be found in the more than one thousand connected one way and another with this great University. The quartette will have the entire hour at 11 Sunday and will bring to us a message in song with their beautifully blended voices. Friends are invited to hear them. All visitors will be welcome in this service as well as in others.

IRA L. PARRACK, pastor.

Intermediate League Program

Subject: How to Strengthen Our young Leaguers.

Leader, Velma Lee Beasley.

Song; Prayer.

Scripture reading: Luke 22:31-34.

Monday's reading: Titus 2:7, Thelma Leach.

Tuesday's reading: Exodus 18:19, W. A. Whitely.

Wednesday's reading, 1 Timothy 4:12, Louise Booth.

Thursday's Reading, Daniel 4:27, Milton Case.

Friday's reading, Exodus 19:12, Lola Mae Riddle.

Saturday's reading, Luke 22:31-34, Jim Patterson.

Sunday's reading, John 21:15-17, Nadine Tippett.

Solo, Ethel Hamilton.

League Benediction.

IDLEWISE CLUB

Idlewise club members were the guests at a valentine party Tuesday afternoon in the home of Mrs. W. W. Haynes. Tables had been arranged for Bridge games and these games progressed happily until a business session was called by the club president, Mrs. Emmet Grimes, after which Mrs. Haynes assisted by Mrs. Earl Baze, served a most delicious refreshment consisting of red jello- whip and whipped cream, angel food squares, proudly displaying their red hearts, and coffee. Plate favors, table appointments and tiny candy hearts resplendant in their red and white valentine colors all helped to make Mrs. Haynes' party one of the prettiest of the season. Mrs. David Wright and Mrs. Yates Brown were club guests and members present were Miss Lucy Tracy, Mary Cleo Booth, Christine Collins, Evelyn and Ruby Hamm, Mrs. Roy Largent, W. S. J. Brown, Emmett Grimes and Earl Baze and the hostess.

CARD OF THANKS

We wish to thank the many friends and acquaintances for their kindness during the recent illness and death of our departed loved one, and for the beautiful floral offering.

Alice Bigham, W. R. Bigham, Mrs. J. E. Young, Mrs. F. E. Allyn and family. Itp

Beautiful Japanese Art Panels, now being given with each \$5.00 purchase. Brown Dry Goods Company. It

Car Domino Coal on track—Swafford, phone 44. It

Profit by the Past

Profit by past experience. Diversify--get away from cotton alone. Now is the time of year to start. Get to the Sow, Cow and Hen, and you will have money in the bank to meet your obligations when the years come like the one just past. Yet we must forget the past and look to the future.

Now is the time of year to start your Incubator for the year if you expect to get your chicks off early in order to command the best prices for your Springers and Fryers. Let us show you our Incubators and explain the why's and wherefores that make us believe we have one of the best ones on the market today.

We have all sizes--80, 150, 250 and 400 Egg sizes---also Brooders, Poultry Wire and all kinds of Poultry Supplies.

Our Stock Is Complete In All Lines

Liberty Hardware Company

If Its Hardware We Have It.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday School 10 a.m.
Preaching at 11 a.m. and 7:15 p.m.
Senior Christian Endeavor at 6 p.m.
Choir practice Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting of session Sunday afternoon at 3:30.

We extend a cordial invitation to the public to worship with us.

CHAS. H. LITTLE.

Junior B. Y. P. U. Program

1. D. O. Huddleston. 2. Margaret Miller. 3. Kathleen Harmon. 4. Willie Evelyn Boaz. 5. Ora Derrick. 6. Thelma Matthews. 7. Sarah Sheppard. 8. Clara Frances Largent. 9. Joyce Wheeler. 10. L. V. Moore.

A 25c classified ad often brings surprising results. It

METHODIST CHURCH

We had a good day last Sunday at the Methodist Church. Some of the classes in the Sunday School were full, others were not so well attended. Hope that every member of the school may be present next Sunday, that we may have a great hour of Bible study.

Worship at 11 a.m. and 7:15 p.m. Intermediate League at 5 p.m.

Special music at the night service by the choir and orchestra.

The public is invited to our services and a warm welcome given to all visitors and strangers who may attend.

W. R. McCARTER

Teaching Class in Piano

I am conducting a class in piano and have time for a few more pupils. See me for appointment. Mrs. George G. Groene.



OIL MEN'S COMPENSATION OUR SPECIALTY IF IT'S INSURANCE

---SEE---

Johnny Cox Agency

Bonds and Insurance

Room 19 Radford Bldg. Phone 2767
ABILENE, TEXAS

Presbyterian Missionary Society

Program for February 8th.

1. Devotional, Mrs. Geo. West.
2. Our Mission in Korea, Mrs. Little
3. Water in th Desert, Mrs. Jones.
4. Minor and Major, Mrs. J. H. West.
5. Here am I, send me, Mrs. Elliott.
6. The Missionary Societies of North Good Luck, Mrs. Henry West.

Elder Cypert Preaches at Trent Next Sunday

Elder W. G. Cypert announces that on next Sunday morning and evening at th usual hours he will preach at Trent. A cordial invitation is extended to one and all to hear him. A special invitation and welcome to all visitors and strangers.

M. E. Missionary Society

Mrs. Virgil Touchstone was in charge of the Missionary Society meeting Monday afternoon. The devotional was led by Mrs. C. B. Smith followed by a program from the missionary Voice and a short business session. For the meeting next Monday the regular monthly business meeting will be followed by the study course in charge of Mrs. McCarter, using the second chapter in "Yet Another Day in Methodist Missions". Eighteen members were present last Monday.

Mr. Tom Brown, a prominent citizen of Lawrenceburg, Tennessee, accompanied by his two sons, who are on a prospecting trip through West Texas, were in Merkel yesterday. While here they were guests of Mr. B. C. Gaithr, an old acquaintance.

Little Bettye Bob McBean, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert McBean, of Dallas, is making an extended visit with her grandparents Mr. and Mrs. George Brown.

L. A. Watts attended court in Anson Monday and Tuesday of this week.

Mrs. W. F. Hamblet is slowly improving from injuries received in an automobile accident some time ago.

Mr. Edward McCrary is among those who succumbed to a slight attack of the flu this week.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Boswell on the 9th a daughter.

Junior Dramatic Club Party

Little Misses Dorris Jackson and Bettye Lou Grimes were hostesses to the Junior Dramatic Club last Friday in a prettily planned party held in the expression room of the high school. The business meeting came first followed by a program and games. Guest favors were pretty little heart shaped valentines hidden in the sandwiches, served with punch for refreshments.

Those enjoying this party were: Horace Boney, Missie Dye, Elma Mae Gamble, Marie Stanford, Louise Kerr, Elizabeth Holloway, Margaret Canon, Willie Evelyn Boaz, Nell Durham, Getty Lou Grimes, Dorris Jackson, Nell Hughes, Modyne Sheppard, Margaret Miller, Miss Lucy Tracy and Mrs. I. L. Jackson.

If you want a good feed, cooked right, go to Tom's Cafe. 4t2

At Schindler's Variety Store for Saturday and Monday only, you can get beautiful, plain white, dishes at only 15c each. 1t

Try a Classified Ad for Results

RESOLUTIONS OF RESPECT

We, your committee on Resolutions on the death of Mrs. J. D. Alexander, beg leave to submit the following:

Whereas, we learn from the secular press of the death of sister J. D. Alexander, therefore be it resolved:

That we publicly express our deep sorrow at the loss of one so efficient and beloved by our order, and so helpful and dear to us personally.

That while we mourn, we emulate her beautiful and loving service to the order.

That we extend our heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved family.

That a copy of these resolutions be spread on the minutes, sent to Mrs. V. T. Lochhead, East Milton, Me., to Good Will Lodge No. 102, Cisco, Texas; to the Cisco Morning News and to the Merkel Mail.

Respectfully submitted,
Pearl Hollingsworth, Dota Garoutte, J. A. Janes. 1t

OIL! OIL! OIL!
Yes we have oil but our prices are the same as before we got oil.—Baker & Wheeler Market. 1t

B. H. LANCASTER

LUMBER and RIGS

Building Material, Cement, Paints

Stains, Enamls, Varnishes

ALL BUSINESS APPRECIATED

No Work too Small for Our Consideration

Nor too Large For Our Capacity

Estimates Furnished With a Smile

PHONE 82

COZY THEATRE

FRIDAY and SATURDAY

Hunt Stromberg Presents
HARRY CAREY

IN
"Prarie Pirates"

—ALSO—

AN ADVENTURE PICTURE

Starring Wallace McDonald and Elsie Brenham
"FIGHTING WITH BUFFALO BILL"

CHAPTER 6

"The Race For Life"

With Fox Comedy

"Matrimony Blues"

BILL LEWIS Presents
"The Pepper Box Revue"
FEATURING

Girls - Girls - Girls

BOB KELLY WITH HIS

SYNCOATED JAZZ HOUNDS

Matinee 10 and 40c Night 10c and 50c

MONDAY and TUESDAY

Metro-Goldwin Presents
BUSTER KEATON

—in—

In His Greatest Laughing Special

"Battling Butler"

—WITH—

An Adventure Picture

Jack Daugherty and Margaret Quimby

—in—

"THE RADIO DETECTIVE"

Chapter 8 "The Truth Teller"

With Educational Comedy

"Felix Scoots Thru Scotland"

Prices 10c and 30c

WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY

Universal Presents ART ACORD in
"The Terror"

—ALSO—

Universal Comedy

"Buster's Hunting Party."

Montreal Man Lays Claim to Labrador

London.—Rev. Isaac de la Penho of the Sephardi congregation of Spanish and Portuguese Jews at Montreal has just submitted to the privy council of the British empire a modest claim to ownership of the whole of Labrador. The land claimed comprises 511,000 square miles—about ten times the area of England.

Penho bases his claim, according to the Jewish World, upon a charter granted to one Joseph de la Penho, a wealthy merchant of Rotterdam, by King William III.

According to Reverend Penho his ancestor on one occasion saved King William and several members of the royal family from drowning when shipwrecked, and the king in appreciation bestowed upon "Joseph de la Penho and his heirs possession of Labrador."

Mystery About Snow File Long Preserved

Some years ago at Minersville, in Schuylkill county, Pa., there was being operated the Wolf Creek washery. The business of the operators was to reclaim the immense banks of culm that have been deposited on the surface during the Civil war. With the aid of modern machinery they were able to obtain thousands of tons of marketable sizes of anthracite at the rate of about 2,000 tons a month.

These culm banks were more like mountains than refuse piles. In some instances they were 50 feet high and covered the surface for approximately a half mile. The culm was taken in conveyor lines to a breaker, where it was washed through revolving screens and the coal reclaimed.

One day in the month of June, when the thermometer registered from 90 to 100 degrees, the operators uncovered in the heart of one of the banks a large quantity of ice and snow. They reasoned that this deposit was covered with culm during the winter, and, thus protected from the air, had been preserved for about 44 years. It seemed almost incredible that such a condition was possible in the temperate zone, and yet no other theory seems satisfactory. The snow was protected, of course, from the elements by the tons of culm 50 feet high and hundreds of yards wide; and yet, if this theory is not tenable, then some scientist may offer a more convincing theory for its remarkable state of preservation.



NEW GOODS Arriving Daily

All the bright new shades in Dresses, Coats, Hats, and Piece Goods. The goods are prettier, the prices are cheaper, the values are better.

Make Our Store Your Shopping Place Jones Dry Goods Co.

W. J. SHEPPARD, Manager

1907--1927 Opens In New Home Ed's Cafe

WE will re-open our cafe in our own building, next door west of our old location, on Front Street, and besides expressing sincere thanks and appreciation for the liberal and loyal patronage extended us in the past, we kindly solicit your continued patronage in the future.

In 1907 I opened my first place of business in Merkel, and have always tried to make my place a credit to the town and community, and this shall be my policy in the future, coupled with a desire to render even better service, if it is possible. Again thanking everyone who in any way has patronized and favored us, we very cordially invite you to call, see our place and try our service.

Yours very truly,

Ed Turner, "The Same Old Ed"

ED'S CAFE

ED TURNER, Prop.

Male Seahorse Does

Work of Incubator

One of the most remarkable egg incubators known in nature is that of the small seahorse, the water creature that gets its name from its remarkable resemblance to the "horse" used as a knight in the game of chess, both resembling the head and shoulders of a horse.

The seahorse father somehow opens up a little pouch somewhat like that of the kangaroo, and the female lays her eggs in this pouch.

Then the old man seahorse travels around with these eggs at the end of his body till he finds they have hatched.

Then the old fellow opens the pouch, and out come several hundred little seahorses, perfectly formed, yet so small that they can be seen only with the aid of a magnifying glass.

California's Prized Gem

Kunzite, the exquisite gem, the most lately discovered of earth's precious stones, is found in Riverside and San Diego counties in California and nowhere else. Extraordinary brilliant, its colors are pink, lavender and various attractive shades of lilac, and it cuts adequately into any desirable gem form you wish. It is one of the few natural pink gems, and as a lilac gem it stands absolutely alone, as the Tiffanys immediately acknowledged by their recognition of its rarity, intrinsic beauty, striking brilliancy and high monetary value. The best stones come from the mines near Pala, but they are also found farther south in San Diego county, often associated with other gems such as beryls, noble garnets, magnificent tourmalines, fine spals and alluring aquamarines.

Highest Tributes to

Value of Friendship

Seneca, a famous Roman, born in 54 B. C., crowned friendship very tenderly:

"Of all felicities the most charming is that of a firm and gentle friendship. It sweetens all our cares, dispels our sorrows and counsels us in all extremities. Nay, if there were no other comfort in it than the bare exercise in so generous a virtue, even for that single reason a man would not be without it; it is a sovereign antidote against all calamities—even against the fear of death itself."

Five centuries later, Euripides, the Greek dramatist, "a master in the handling of the tender and the pathetic," laid down what friendship meant to him. "It is a good thing to be rich," he said, "and a good thing to be strong, but it is a better thing to be beloved of many friends."

Compere News

There has been lots of sickness in this community lately.

The singing school is progressing nicely at the Presbyterian church. Thursday night will be the last night and the Stith singers have promised to be here to help and in return have asked the Compere singing class over to Stith to their singing Friday night.

Mrs. Ola Spurgin has been spending the past two weeks at the bedside of her mother in Merkel, who has been very sick. She was some better at last reports and we hope she is soon recovered.

Mrs. Stout and Alma Stout spent Monday afternoon with Mrs. Allred and family.

Mrs. R. R. Spurgin was sick a few days last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Leo Ragsdell spent last week at Albany.

Mr. Marshall and family and Mrs. Chester Lucas spent last Tuesday with Mrs. Adkins and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Foster and children visited at Mrs. Stout's a while Sunday.

Misses Opal and Virgie spent Wednesday night with Misses Lenora and Ruth Wilburn.

A few from here have been attending the show in Merkel this week.

A large crowd from here attended the fifth Sunday singing at Hodges last Sunday. The next fifth Sunday singing will be held at Compere on the fifth Sunday in May.

Work has been started again on the well here after being shut down for quite a while.

The Compere ball teams, senior boys and girls, lost the games to Noodle Friday, while the Junior boys won from the Noodle team.

C. S. Higgins Garage

Located North of Post Office

General Repair Work Used Parts for sale
All Mechanical Work Guaranteed
Good Work at Absolutely Lowest Prices

Special Sale --on-- HATS

AT

MILADY'S SHOPPE

Friday and Saturday of This Week

1 lot to sell at....\$2.89
1 lot to sell at.... 1.95

20% off on all ready-to-wear
Shoppe Located at Patton Variety Store
on Kent Street.

MRS. W. L. HESTER, Prop.

LOOK

Gasoline - 19c
Oil-Qt. 20c & 25c

Our Service is as Good as the Best

WE DO GENERAL Auto Repairing Welding, Radiator and Battery Service

AND GENERAL BLACKSMITHING

Get Our Prices and Give Us a Trial

South Side Garage

J. Warren Higgins, Vestal Hicks,
J. L. Riddle, Proprietors

Coal on track at Blair—winter is not gone yet. See Hugh Campbell—Swafford, phone 44.

Start the "New Year Right." Save by paying Cash. Brown Dry Goods Company.

West Texas Utilities Urges Safety Rules For School Children

The safeguarding of life and limb and the prevention of accidents and injury to both person and property is being urged this week in the public schools of Merkel, through a series of short safety talks to students by Mrs. E. L. McGintie, a special representative of the safety department of the West Texas Utilities Company.

The hazards of this mechanical age of swift moving machinery and swift moving vehicles which is yearly adding to the dangers of modern existence as indicated by the constantly mounting toll of victims listed in accident records, is being brought forcefully to the attention of school students in the series of talks and common sense safety rules to be observed at home and on the street are suggested as a means to bring about the protection not only of the children but of their elders.

Special emphasis, of course, is being placed by Mrs. McGintie on the safe handling of electrical apparatus and electric wires. By the use of interesting charts and illustrations she points out the dangers involved in the careless handling of such equipment and tells how these dangers can easily be avoided.

One of the great sources of loss, injury and inconvenience to the electric companies of the country, and to the public they serve, is the widespread practice engaged in by small boys, and even by some adults, of shooting insulators from high voltage electric poles, or throwing wires of various kinds over electric conductors. What this costs the public in interrupted and impaired electric service, as well as the great danger involved in breaking down these high tension electric lines, is being impressed upon the school children and their cooperation is being sought in preventing this kind of needless

TO MERKEL HOUSEWIVES

WE have been in business in Merkel three months and our business has grown beyond our expectations, for which we thank our patrons. There are many here who have not taken advantage of our delivery service and quality merchandise. To these we extend a cordial invitation to give us a trial. We sell our merchandise, both Meats and Groceries on a

.... Money Back Guarantee

We sell only Quality Goods and our stock is second to none in Merkel. Our large experience in the meat business qualifies us to be a judge of meat, and we handle only the choicest obtainable. This together with our quick delivery service should be a factor in your giving us a part of your business at least.

Our line of Vegetables is as large as is in Merkel. Give us a trial when in need of good Meats, Groceries and Vegetables.

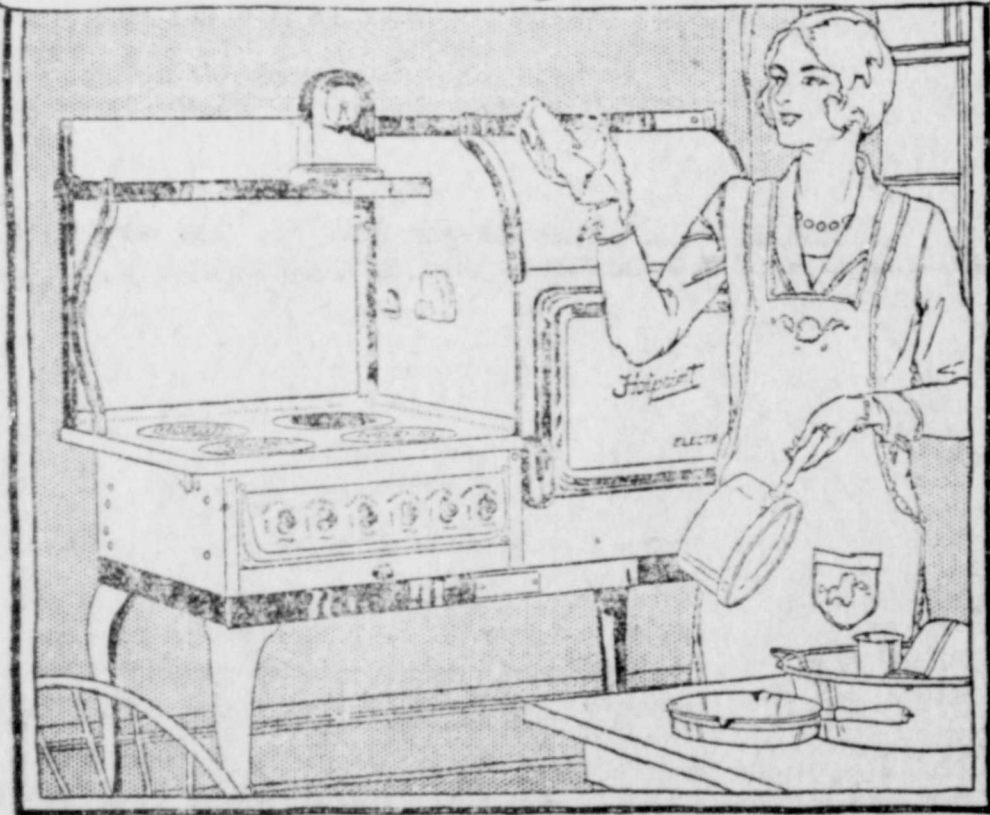
We thank you. As near as your phone

For Prompt Service Phone 249

QUALITY MARKET AND GROCERY



Electric Cookery is Cleaner



Not a Speck of Soot!

THAT'S the beauty of a Hotpoint Electric Range. The cooking utensils are always clean as new. It is less work to wash them and that means less time in the kitchen.

The kitchen walls and ceilings, too, are cleaner. The old smudge that used to appear above the range shortly after re-decorating is no longer present. With a Hotpoint Range the kitchen is as clean as any room in the house—and it is easier to keep clean.



Hotpoint Automatic Electric Timer. Set the hands for the time cooking should start and stop. Then forget it.

Hotpoint
SUPER-AUTOMATIC
ELECTRIC RANGES

Come in and let us tell you about the many other advantages of the Hotpoint Electric Range.



Hotpoint Automatic Electric Heat Control Thermometer. It maintains an exact even heat, as desired, all through cooking.

West Texas Utilities Company

waste.

Mrs. McGintie, who has made a special study of safety problems in the electric field, is being given the full cooperation of school authorities in carrying the message of "Safety First" to the schools of West Texas in the territory served by the West Texas Utilities Company.

Eleven-Cent Cotton and Forty-Cent Meat

Mrs. S. C. Ford
Eleven-cent cotton and 40-cent meat; How in the world can a poor man eat? Flour up high, cotton down low—How in the world can we raise the dough? Our clothes worn out, shoes run down Old slouch hat with a hole in the crown: Backs nearly broken, fingers sore; Cotton going down to rise no more.

Eleven-cent cotton and ten-dollar pants; Who in the world has got a chance? We can't buy clothes—we can't buy meat; Got too much cotton and nothing to eat. We've got no homes, got no wealth; Losing our credit, ruining our health; Can't help each other. What shall we do? I can't solve the problem, so it's up to you.

Eleven-cent cotton and a carload of tax; The load's too heavy for our poor backs. We're a good set of farmers, we all know well, But there's something wrong as sure as—well, We all worked hard, we groaned and sweat; Now we are ruined, we are a blowed-up set. No use talking—any man's beat. With eleven-cent cotton and 40-cent meat.

The Problem Solved

W. E. Lewis
When cotton's low and eats are high It appears to me that to diversify Would be a sane and easy way To bring about a better day. With butter at 50 cents a pound And cream at 40 the whole year round With turkeys high and going higher, Is nough to kindle a great desire To raise more birds and a little less

hell

In a land where opportunities dwell. If we'd give more time to the dairy cow And a better feed to the old brood sow We'd not worry about the price of meat. For we'd have plenty ourselves to eat. With 50-cent eggs and a six-bit hen Why, of why, will the children of men Ruin their fingers and break their backs Picking eleven-cent cotton and dragging sacks?

With corn in the crib and chickens in the yard; With meat in the smokehouse and tubfuls of lard; With cream in the pitcher and honey in the mug; With butter on the table and lasses in the jug— Things to you won't seem so high, For you'll be selling, won't have to buy.

Now stop that grumbling, for the fault's your own. You expect to reap where you haven't

sown.

If you stay at home and help your mate Others—then you won't berate, And you'll live in Paradise This to you is my advice. (From The Farm & Ranch)

Baker & Wheeler will appreciate your business. We handle fresh and cured meats at all times.

Miss Mary Comegys is home after several weeks visit with her aunt, Mrs Courtney Hunt of Haskell.

Miss Vanie Hamblet returned to Abilene where she is attending the Draughon's business college after several weeks visit with home folks.

George H. McDonald of Abilene was in Merkel Wednesday transacting business.

Mrs. Claude Comegys has returned home after several days visit with friends and relatives in Sweetwater.

Miss Maurine Tipton has been quite ill at her home in South Merkel.

COSTS YOU NOTHING PAYS YOU BEST

Our office is maintained to serve you, without cost, in all insurance matters Our policies are written to protect you fully and pay you most in cases of loss.

You will find us equipped to give you all forms of property protection insurance, advise you in all insurance matters and serve you at all times. Consider us pleased to give free consultation whenever desired upon insurance.

W. O. BONEY
REAL ESTATE, FARM LOANS
FIRE INSURANCE
MERKEL, TEXAS

Consult Your Insurance Agent As You Would Your Lawyer

PROFESSIONAL

DR. W. M. GAMBILL
Dentist
—X-Ray Diagnosis—
Office phone 116 Res. phone 108
Office on Front St.; Boney Bldg

M. ARMSTRONG, M. D.
Office Over Farmers State Bank
Res. Phone 12. Office 195.
Local Surgeon T. & P. For Last 10 Years.
Furnish Drugs From Office.

T. C. WILSON
...JEWELER...
116 Chestnut Street Abilene

DR. R. I. GRIMES
Physician and Surgeon
Hours 10 to 12 a.m. 2 to 5 p.m.
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DR. S. W. JOHNSON.
Surgeon Dentist
Office over Farmers State Bank
Office Phone 306

PAULINE JOHNSON
Successor to
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 Hardware Co.

DR. MINTON T. RAMSEY
DENTIST
X-Ray and Diagnosis
3rd Floor Alexander Bldg.
Telephone 177 Abilene, Tex

H. P. HULSEY, D. C.
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WE KNOW HOW
Phones 229 and 285w
Plans and Estimates Furnished

See me before lettin your
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JONES ELECTRIC CO.
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ing and Electrical Work
nt Street Merkel, Texas

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE

FOR SALE—One '25 model Ford Sedan in good shape. Also four wheel trailer. See Hollis Haynes. 1t

FOR SALE—Several lots close in on northeast part of town. Get in on the ground floor. No reason able offer will be refused on one or more. Address J. P. Tillery, 1808 College Ave., Fort Worth, Texas. 4t5

Just received a large shipment of Plain, white dishes. Notice our window full of them, for Saturday and Monday only at 15c each. Schindler's Variety Store. 1t

FOR SALE—100 bushels cotton seed from certified strain of Kasch. Now stored at Swann gin. \$1.00 per bu. Lee D. Williams, Merkel. tf

FOR SALE—Seed oats, clear of Johnson grass, 50c per bushel. R. F. England, 3 1-2 miles southwest of Tye. 28t3p

In order to render more satisfactory service we are placing all plow and other repairs on a cash basis. No exceptions to this rule. West Co. 1tp

Start the "New Year Right." Save by paying Cash. Brown Dry Goods Company. 1t

If you want a good feed, cooked right, go to Tom's Cafe. 4t2

Car Domino Coal on track—Swafford, phone 44. 1t

FOR SALE—My 7-room residence, located 4 blocks south and one east of east railroad crossing. Light and sewage connections. 3 lots, garage, wash house, barn, etc. Price \$2,500. A. M. Giles. 28t3p

FOR SALE—Trent property, 1 to 3 lots on main street in Trent, close to new hotel. \$400.00 each. Would take part trade in good milk cows or hogs. Address box 344, Littlefield, Texas. 28t2p

Beautiful Japanese Art Panels, now being given with each \$5.00 purchase. Brown Dry Goods Company. 1t

Coal on track at Blair—winter is not gone yet. See Hugh Campbell—Swafford, phone 44. 1t

W. O. Boney can make you a loan from 5 years to 33 years at 6% interest. tf

FOR SALE—Garage equipment, and will lease the building to buyer. See Marvin Boney. tf

If it is a house you want built, see a carpenter, but if it is Meats, see Baker & Wheeler Market. tf

FOR SALE—The one story brick building adjoining and east of the Post Office Building in Merkel, Texas, belonging to the W. S. Smelser Estate and occupied by the Merkel Mail.—R. E. McCamant, Executor, 1826 Idlewild, Abilene, Texas.

FOR SALE—A 12-room rooming house with right price if sold at once. Phone 2387. Walter Williams, 142 1-2 Chestnut street, Abilene. 14t4p

HEMSTITCHING

I have my Hemstitching machine at Schindler's Variety Store and will appreciate your work in this line. Prices: 5c per yard for cotton and 7 1-2c for silk. Mrs. L.R. Robbins. tf

FOR SALE—Good span coming 5-year old mules. Cheap if bought at once. Roy Harrell, Merkel, route four. 14t4p

FOR RENT

FOR RENT—Have good farm for rent on the halves. See Robert Hicks at Liberty Hardware. 1t

FOR RENT—4-room house close in on south side. S. F. Haynes. 1tp

FOR RENT—Nicely furnished bedroom, close in, reasonable rent, apply at Cash Tailor Shop, Kent street. tf

LOST AND FOUND

LOST—bunch of keys on a heart-shaped ring. Finder return to the Merkel Mail. 1t

STRAYED—From my place 16 miles southwest of Merkel, 1 mile north of Butman school, one chester white sow pig 8 weeks old. Reward. Please notify L. C. Williams, Merkel, Texas, route five. 4t2p

LOST—A small finger ring; black onyx with small diamond set in white gold. Please return to or notify Mrs. Sie Hamm. 1t

CARD OF THANKS

We wish to express our appreciation for the kindly attention given our precious mother, Mrs. Lucinda Hughes, by Dr. Grimes and many others during her illness; for the assistance of friends and neighbors and their gracious words of sympathy at her death, and for the beautiful floral offerings Her Children. 1tp

Car Domino Coal on track—Swafford, phone 44. 1t

SPECIAL

Chicken Dinner Saturday and Sunday, with all the decorations and home cooking, served family style. Also regular boarders wanted. Good eats every meal. Give us a trial. Price 50c

SUDDERTH BOARDING HOUSE
Kent Street 1t

RHEUMATISM

While in France with the American Army I obtained a noted French prescription for the treatment of Rheumatism and Neuritis. I have given this to thousands with wonderful results. The prescription cost me nothing. I ask nothing for it. I will mail it if you will send me your address. A postal will bring it. Write today. PAUL CASE, Dept. 0-537, Brockton, Mass. 27t4

WHITE LEGHORNS

Day old chicks from M. Johnson special mating hens mated to Imperial cockerels; chicks 50 for \$9.00; 100, \$17.00; 300, \$49.00; 500, \$80.00; 1000, \$150.00. I will do some custom hatching this season on a brand new Newtown-Giant Incubator, the best incubator that money can buy, and the incubator that hatches the old hen's way. The trays hold 150 to 160 eggs. Terms: \$5.00 per tray, 25 per cent cash when set. Order some of this pure bred stuff and the pullets will begin to pay you back in 4 1-2 to 5 months. J. S. TOUCHSTONE, Hawley, Rt. 2, phone 9036F13, Anson, Texas. 8Apr27

Full Set Teeth \$17.50

No Better Plate Made at Any Price
22-k Gold used in all Crown and Bridge work at \$4.50 and Up
Gold Fillings \$1.50 and Up.
I Cure Those Old Bad Gums.



DR. HOUGHTON

All Work Guaranteed
25 Years Experience
SOUTH SIDE DENTIST
116 1-2 Chestnut St. Abilene.

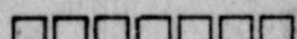
What Is a Diuretic?

People Are Learning the Value of Occasional Use.

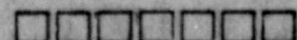
EVERYONE knows that a laxative stimulates the bowels. A diuretic performs a similar function to the kidneys. Under the strain of our modern life, our organs are apt to become sluggish and require assistance. More and more people are learning to use Doan's Pills, occasionally, to insure good elimination which is so essential to good health. More than 50,000 grateful users have given Doan's signed recommendations. Scarcely a community but has its representation. Ask your neighbor!

DOAN'S PILLS

60c
Stimulant Diuretic to the Kidneys
Foster-Milburn Co., Mfg. Chem., Buffalo, N. Y.



THE VALUE of well-printed neat-appearing stationery as a means of getting and holding desirable business has been amply demonstrated. Consult us before going elsewhere



MUST DEVELOP THE RIGHT SORT OF TENANT FARMERS

I feel that in a few years we will be forced to give more attention to this problem of developing a system of tenant farming that will not ruin the land. So far most of our energy has been used up in combating tenant farming. But tenant farming is with us to stay, and it is idle to rail against it. We must develop the right sort of tenant farming.

In this connection, landlords must learn that when they insist on 75 to 100 percent of the land in cotton, they are cutting their own throats. The primary consideration of any good business man who makes an investment to keep his principle intact. The farm is the landlord's principal, and if he grows cotton to the exclusion of a reasonable acreage in soil-building crops, he is reducing its productivity and thereby sloughing off a certain amount of his principal. Keeping the principal intact is more important than the rate of return, and likewise, it is more important to the landlord that he keep his farm productive than it is that he secure large cotton rents for a few years before the farm's productivity begins to decline.

It has been proved time and time again that over a period of years a landlord who keeps one-third of his land in cotton one-third in feed crops and one-third in soil-building forage crops will receive as much cotton for his share as he would if the farm were two-thirds in cotton and one-third in corn and grain sorghums. It follows then that any cash rental at all received from the tenant for land that he puts in hay and pasture will, in the long run, be clear gain, in addition to the better upkeep of the farm. Since this is undoubtedly true, the landlord can well let the tenant have land for hay and pasture for cash rent that is well below the cash rent that the land would be worth for cotton or grain.—Eugene Butler in the Progressive Farmer.

BARBER SHOP NOTICE

I've just opened a barber shop north of the Farmers State Bank, across the street in front of the new Theatre building. Everything is absolutely sanitary in this shop. I've employed F. M. Smith, who has been running the barber shop on Front Street known as "Smith's Shop". Your patronage solicited. KUNKLE'S BARBER SHOP. 1tp

Let Us

Do Your Auto Repair Work

Our Auto Repair Shop is in first-class condition, well equipped to turn out absolutely first-class work. In fact, I am personally looking after this department, and guarantee satisfaction of any work given us. A trial will convince you that we know how.

Good Tire Prices

We handle the well known and durable HOOD TIRES—once you use them always a customer. We also have a guaranteed Cord Tire at only \$8.50. Can you beat it?

-THE-

CORNER GARAGE

F. C. McFarland, Proprietor



Marks of Distinction
made possible by

Volume Production

The Most Beautiful Chevrolet in Chevrolet History

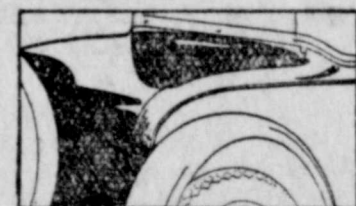
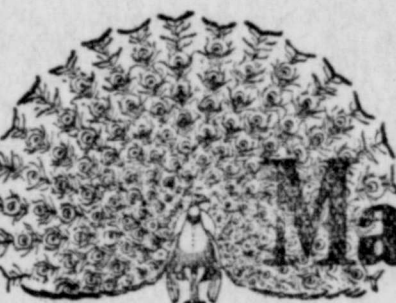
In addition to masterly new bodies by Fisher—in addition to a host of mechanical improvements typified by AC oil filter and AC air cleaner—the Most Beautiful Chevrolet offers certain features heretofore regarded as marks of distinction on the costliest cars. These are made possible at Chevrolet's amazingly reduced prices only because volume production results in definite economies and because Chevrolet now, as always, passes these savings on to the buyer in the form of added value.

No other car, as low in price, offers such features as fish-tail modeling, full-crown one-piece fenders, bullet-type lamps and the like. Come in— and see for yourself!

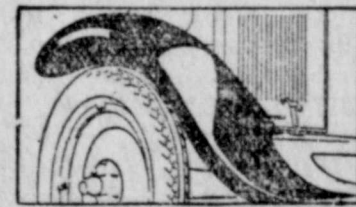
Reduced Prices!

- The Coach \$595
- The Coupe \$625
- The Sedan \$695
- The Landau \$745
- The Touring or Roadster \$525
- 1-Ton Truck (Chassis Only) \$495
- 1/2-Ton Truck (Chassis Only) \$395
- Balloon Tires Now Standard on All Models
- All prices f. o. b. Flint, Mich.

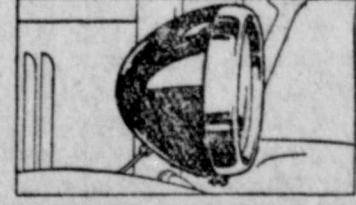
The Sport CABRIOLET \$715
f. o. b. Flint, Mich.



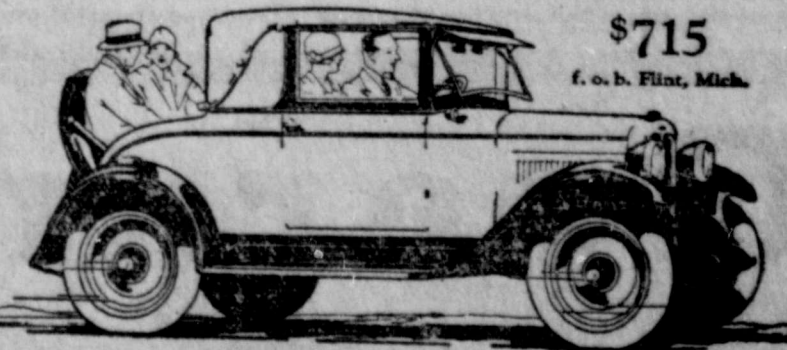
FISH-TAIL MODELING—adds a distinguished sweep to the rear of the Roadster, Coupe and Sport Cabriolet.



BULLET-TYPE HEAD LAMPS—and cowl lamps. Up-to-the-minute in style.



TIRE CARRIER—mounted free from the body; rigidly supported by steel brackets



LOWE-BRACKEN MOTOR CO.

MERKEL, TEXAS

QUALITY AT LOW COST

YEW TREE FROM VIRGINIA IS TAKEN TO WASHINGTON

Experts Engaged for More Than Week in Digging Roots and Arranging for Removal.

Richmond, Va.—A beautiful yew tree owned by Clarence Hicks of Port Royal, Va., has been bought for \$1,000 by the St. Albans guild of Washington and is being taken to Washington to be planted on the grounds of the National cathedral where President Woodrow Wilson is buried. The tree is a very fine specimen of the variety known as Irish yew—a shrub with the pyramidal or columnar habit of the cypress, the branches are mostly vertical, of dense growth and dark foliage. It measures 20 feet in height and 30 feet in circumference.

The removal of the tree has been no simple task. For more than a week experts have been engaged in the work, digging a great hole 40 feet in circumference and removing the roots of the tree with a huge ball of earth around them. A compact wooden frame was then built around the ball to hold the earth to the roots.

A cable was fastened around the framework surrounding the roots of the tree and the other end was attached to a heavy truck. The tree was pulled out of the hole by the truck, then along 50 feet of road and onto a trailer attached to a large truck by which the tree is being transported to Washington.

The picturesque little town of Port Royal was laid out in 1744 on the banks of the Rappahannock and possesses much of the charm of an old world village. Here life is peaceful and unhurried. It has escaped the rush of the highway, for the Tidewater trail passes half a mile from the town.

As one lingers along the grassy streets under ancient sycamores and mulberry trees and observes the quaint houses covered with moss grown shingles, the old gardens with their box bordered paths, one feels transported back over more than a hundred years and can picture the time when Port Royal was really a royal port, and the boats from England came up the Rappahannock as far as Falmouth, above Fredericksburg.

She Makes \$175 a Week; Supports Family of 18

New York.—Mrs. Cornelia Bolster, forty years old and cheerful, is making a success of one of the hardest jobs in New York—the running of a family of 18 on a combined family income of \$175 a week.

The secret, she says, is system. She runs her home in West Two Hundred and Twenty-eighth street like a hotel, with work, meals and sleep regulated like clockwork and a budget to care for the last penny.

The 16 children range in ages from one to twenty-two, with five of the older children helping their father to meet the family budget.

Mrs. Bolster's weekly budget calls for expenses of \$130, enabling her to save something each week. Food costs the family \$70 a week and some of the items are: Twelve loaves of bread a day for \$1; 10 quarts of milk, \$1.10; 6 to 8 pounds of meat, \$4; 5 pounds of butter, \$3; rent \$97 a month.

He "Charms" His Fish Then Lands 'em, Maybe

Fairbanks, Alaska.—A novel tip for anglers may be gleaned from the methods of "Old Ioguk," medicine man and sovereign of an isolated tribe of Eskimo, living on the wind-swept mudflats between the Yukon and Kuskowin rivers in western Alaska.

Every spring before the salmon run up the rivers to spawn, "Old Ioguk" journeys to the river mouths, where he performs queer incantations and magic rites. Wearing a wooden mask resembling a salmon trout, he dances and chants, commanding the fish to swim up the stream to his people.

For this mysterious power "Old Ioguk" exerts over the fish, he visits every home and collects as his share one-fourth of all the fish caught.

Remember

That every added subscriber helps to make this paper better for everybody

New Coats New Millinery

Arriving Almost Daily

If you miss the early showing you miss a real treat. A special line of Ladies' Coats With Fur Collars

Priced \$16.75

All that's new in Ladies' and Misses Hats, a big feature showing at \$4.95

Also pretty new Dresses in all the wanted materials and colors.

Bragg Dry Goods Company

ABILENE EPISCOPAL CHURCH STARTS "THE BISHOPS' CRUSADE" 6th

ABILENE, Feb. 3.—The Bishops' Crusade, a movement within the Protestant Episcopal church for consecration and a quickening of the spiritual life of the membership, comes to the Abilene Parish the week of February 6-11.

This crusade is being held in two parishes of every Diocese and Missionary District of the United States; and in the North Texas Missionary District, embracing about 80 West Texas counties, it is to be held at Abilene and Amarillo.

The crusade opens in the Episcopal church at Abilene Sunday night, February 6, and for the ensuing week there will be three services daily, as follows: 7:30 a.m. Celebration of Holy Communion. 3:00 p.m. Womens meeting. 7:30 p.m. preaching mission, prayers, congregational singing of old time hymns.

The crusaders are Bishop Robert M. Mize, of Sedalia, Kansas; Rev. Phil Porter, of Akron, Ohio; and Mrs. W. P. Telman, of Houston. Bishop Mize will preach every night.

Episcopalians scattered throughout the territory contiguous to Abilene are expected and invited to attend any or all of these services. Max Bentley, general local chairman for the Crusade, announces that these visiting Episcopalians will be given lodging and breakfast in the homes of Abilene members of the

church. Dinner and supper will not be included in the hospitality, as the local committee does not want to keep the Abilene membership of the church from attending the afternoon and night services.

Episcopalians expecting to attend any of these services are requested to report at the Abilene rectory immediately upon arrival, and quarters will be assigned them.

SALT BRANCH NEWS

Health of this community is some better at present.

Grandma Robertson is able to be up most of the time now.

Miss Maggie Whitescarver has had the flu but is better.

Littl Lillian Jaynes who was hit and knocked down by a car in Merkel on last Saturday afternoon is getting along nicely, she was just slightly injured.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Higgins spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Ollie Higgins.

Mr. Cullen Toombs spent Saturday night and Sunday with home folks in Merkel.

Mrs. F. E. Church of Merkel spent Wednesday at her mother's, Mrs. W. U. Beene.

A large crowd attended the B.Y. P.U. and Sunday school meeting Sunday afternoon. Several good speeches and songs were enjoyed.

Intermediate B.Y.P.U. Program

Subject: How we got our english Bible.

Leader, Maurine Davis.

1. The popularity of the Bible, by leader.

2. Bible not written first in English, by Clara Pilcher.

3. The old testament in Hebrew and the New Testament in Greek, by Bernice Vernon.

4. First translation, by J. E. Boaz.

5. First translation into english, by Oleta Moore.

6. The first printed Bible, by Vernie Derrick.

7. The King James Bible, by Oren Tittle.

8. The revised version, by Vera Richie.

Mr. W. P. Duckett, for many years a citizen of Merkel, now residing in Dallas, was here first of the week on business and to look after his property interest here.

Mr. James Shelton of Abilene, representing Shelton Motor Company, was a Merkel visitor Thursday.

Mrs. J. P. Sutphen left this week for a visit with friends at Neogoches, Texas.

Miss Mary Comegys is home after several weeks visit with her aunt, Mrs. Courtney Hunt of Haskell.

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Buford returned home first of the week from an extended stay at Rock Port, Texas. The Colonel reports a very pleasant vacation in the city located in the great southern climate of Texas, but said he was really glad to get back home among his friends.

Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Davis, of Portland, Oregon, were here last week, visiting the latter's mother, Mrs. S. H. L. Swafford and other friends and relatives. They were on a return trip from Kansas City via this city to their home in Portland, Oregon, where Mr. Davis is Pacific Coast manager for the L. M. Thornton manufacturing company. Mrs. Davis will be remembered by her many friends here as Miss Virginia Swafford.

Mr. J. M. Cook, "daddy of the Noodle community," was in Merkel Saturday and gave us a subscription for a niece in North Carolina. Mr. Cook is an old-timer in this section, having built the first school house at Noodle almost forty years ago, and therefore claims to be "daddy of Noodle."

Mr. and Mrs. P. E. Rape of Nolanville, Texas, were visitors in Merkel Thursday.

Beautiful Japanese Art Panels, now being given with each \$5.00 purchase. Brown Dry Goods Company. 11

GRASSHOPPERS, ONCE PEST, NOW MISSED IN WYOMING

Cowboy State Now Ready to Declare Truce With Ancient Enemy and Welcome Them Back.

Cheyenne, Wyo.—Wyoming wants more grasshoppers. The cowboy state is ready not only to declare a truce with its ancient enemy, but to bid the pest welcome home to the Big Horn basin.

In the Wyoming of antiquity the hoppers flew in clouds thick enough to obscure the sun. Five years ago the basin had plenty. The plague did its annual damage to farm crops. Turkeys were introduced to combat the insects, and did so successfully. They routed the hoppers from the farm land and pursued the depleted insect army to mountain terrain.

Now a severe decline the grasshopper crop and lamentations are being heard from the ranchmen, who, in the meantime have discovered that they can reap enormous profits from turkeys, grown half wild on the grasshopper range in the mountain foothills. The turkey growing industry has increased by leaps and bounds; grasshoppers have accordingly declined. Grasshopper preserves for the propagation of turkey food are a possibility of the future.

Big Horn basin turkeys, excelling others because the climate and food conditions found in the basin make it a natural paradise for turkeys, already are famous all over the United States for their superiority. They are sought eagerly by dealers, who pay exceptional prices to the growers, 41 cents a pound being the 1925 rate. Big Horn basin ranchmen can grow rich on turkeys if only they can produce enough fowls. An unlimited number of fowls can be produced if only the grasshopper range bears up. As matters are, production cost is one-third, or less, of the selling price. And turkeys prefer grasshoppers.

Carnegie Hero Works Way Through College

Eugene, Ore.—Although he has access to \$1,000 from the Carnegie hero fund, awarded him in addition to a medal for bravery, Vernon Callaway, University of Oregon senior, is working his way through school by washing dishes. This became known when trustees of the Carnegie fund wrote the university for a record of Callaway's scholastic standing.

Callaway received the awards for attempting to save the life of a schoolmate at St. Joe, Idaho. The ice broke while the boys were skating and the friend fell through.

Callaway jumped in and tried to keep him from sinking until help came. The boy drowned, however, before help came.

One Man Spends Time in Collecting Odd Names

Tacoma, Wash.—Speaking of names, D. W. Clapsaddle declares he has found many others as bad or worse than his own. For twenty-five years he has carried a book in which he jots down names of people whose nomenclature is unusual, and it contains a Whiteleather, Turnspeed, Waggon-wheel, Leathberry, Grindstone, Shears, Brickbat, and Whetstone. The shortest he has heard of is Ek.

Ban Bobbed Hair on Swedish Opera Stage

Stockholm, Sweden.—Only young dancers with long hair will get front-row positions at the Royal opera of Stockholm this season, Mrs. Lisa Steier, the new ballet mistress, has ruled. "Not because 'bobs are unbecoming to young girls," she says, "but because most of the operas antedate the jazz and the slang age, and no ballet dancer can gyrate with the same abandon, ease and grace with a wig on her head as with her own natural locks flowing about."

None of the three premier danseuses of the Royal opera staff—Ebon Strandin, Sir Osterholm or Elly Holmberg—have had their hair shorn.

Mr. Bud Sears and family of Merdard were up first of the week for a visit with home folks and friends.

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