

THE MERKEL MAIL

VOL. 48—NO. 40.

MERKEL, TEXAS, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1937.

On the "Broadway of America"

5c PER COPY

DATES ANNUAL POULTRY SHOW SET FEB. 3, 4, 5

R. A. Ellis Re-Named President of Poultry Association; Committees Appointed for Putting on Show and Auction Sale.

At a meeting of the Merkel community poultrymen held last Saturday night at the city hall plans were made for the 8th Annual show. The dates set were Feb. 3, 4 and 5.

Election of officers resulted in the naming of R. A. Ellis as president; E. H. Cordell, honorary vice-president; Will Sheppard, active vice-president; Clifford Eoff, superintendent, and Arl Sharp, secretary-treasurer.

The committees appointed by the president are: Ollie Dye and E. H. Cordell, local solicitors; Grover Gilbert and Dave Shelton, out-of-town solicitors; Roy Miller and J. R. Baze, housing; Will Sheppard and Andrew Barbee, coops; Arl Sharp and Yates Brown, publicity; Dave Shelton, feeding and watering; Byers Petty and Bob Mayfield will manage the Auction Sale.

President Ellis urges that all committees go to work in earnest, immediately after Christmas.

J. W. Pritchett of Stamford was elected as judge.

Pastor Walker Host For Venison Supper

A group of fellow-deer hunters and their wives and a few other friends were guests Thursday night of last week for a venison supper, for which Rev. R. A. Walker, pastor of Grace Presbyterian church, and Mrs. Walker were hosts, assisted by the ladies of the church. The supper was served in the basement of the church.

Rev. John H. Crow gave the invocation and, following the supper, a program of special songs included "Silent Night" by Delma Compton, with Christine Collins accompanying; "Star of the East" by Miss Collins, with Mrs. Connor Robinson at the piano, and two numbers by Mrs. Homer Patterson, "There's a Song in the Air," and "Homing," with Miss Collins accompanying. Later, with Mrs. Booth Warren at the piano, group singing, quartettes and an octette furnished further pleasing entertainment.

The principal talk was made by Rev. John H. Crow, pastor of the Methodist church, and several of the deer hunters responded briefly in appreciation of the courtesy extended by one of their number.

The venison was barbecued by Brooks Patterson, past master, with the gravy prepared and cooked by Ed Turner, also a culinary expert.

Guests, besides members of the church organization, included: Rev. and Mrs. John H. Crow, Dr. and Mrs. L. C. Zehnpfennig, Messrs. and Mesdames Booth Warren, Brooks Patterson, Homer Patterson, Paul Douglass, Comer Patterson of Abilene, Dr. W. T. Sadler, Messrs. R. E. Wiman and W. L. Fugate.

IMPRESSIVE PRE-CHRISTMAS UNION SERVICE

For the union Christmas service at Grace Presbyterian church Sunday night—one of the most impressive services of the kind ever held in Merkel—the auditorium was practically filled, and all those present enjoyed to the fullest the beautiful program of Christmas hymns and anthems rendered so effectively by a choir of voices from the several churches, and the sermon by Dr. E. B. Atwood, so appropriately timed, which expressed in touching words the true meaning of Christmas as the season especially for the enjoyment of children.

With Rev. John H. Crow in charge of the service, the invocation was given by Rev. J. W. Saffle, scripture reading was by Rev. R. A. Walker, who also gave the benediction. Mrs. C. B. Gardner directed the choir numbers, arrangements for the musical program having been in charge of Miss Christine Collins. Mrs. Yates Brown gave the prelude and was pianist for the choir numbers.

At the close of the service, a "love offering" yielded a considerable sum for the Merkel Goodfellows fund.

Full Inch Rainfall Wednesday Morning

With steady rainfall beginning late Tuesday night and continuing until about 7 o'clock Wednesday morning, the Merkel section had enjoyed a full inch of moisture, as recorded by Volunteer Weather Observer Grover Hale up to noon Wednesday, when the sun was making a brave effort to come out.

The rain report in last week's issue of The Mail covered only up to noon Thursday, Dec. 17, while a half-inch more was added during the afternoon hours that day, bringing the total of the two spells to 2 1/8 inches.

On Dec. 1, one-eighth of an inch precipitation was recorded here. Total for the month of December is 2 1/4 inches, for the year, 19 3/16 inches.

White Church School Plans Christmas Tree

The White Church school children are having a tree Thursday night, Dec. 23. Before the tree, the pupils will be presented in a play, "Uncle Abel Adam's Christmas," followed by some Christmas readings, carols and drills. Santa Claus will be there with apples, candy and gifts for all the neighborhood kiddies. Music will be furnished by the Chapman Brothers. The program will begin at 7 p. m. Then school will be dismissed for the Christmas holidays.

Practice Program. Mrs. G. W. Wilhite will present a portion of her pupils in a practice program Thursday evening, Dec. 23, at 7:30 o'clock at the Grammar School auditorium. The public is cordially invited.

CHRISTMAS CHEER FOR FORTY-TWO FAMILIES HERE

Goodfellows to Distribute Baskets of Toys, Groceries, Fruit and Candy; Fund Raised by Voluntary Subscriptions.

Forty-two families, representing 193 people in all, will be remembered with Christmas baskets of toys, groceries, fruit and candy, according to plans announced Wednesday by S. M. Hunter, chairman of the Merkel Goodfellows committee for the distribution of Christmas cheer to the needy families of the city.

Not counting the volunteer donations of toys, clothing or other articles left in the barrels or delivered to the fire station, a total of \$54.55 was estimated as the expenditure needed for provisioning the baskets according to specifications agreed upon by the general committee, which has the co-operation of a committee of ladies from the various churches, headed by Mrs. F. C. McFarland as chairman.

Of this sum, the "love offering" at the union church service last Sunday night yielded \$22.46, while the Lions added \$12.64 at their luncheon, besides other voluntary subscriptions to the fund.

It is planned for Jack Higgins, driver of the fire truck, and the fire-boys to make deliveries of these baskets on Christmas Eve under the direction of Joe P. Self, president of the Merkel Firemen's association.

Lions Make Merry About Christmas Tree

With a color-bedecked Christmas tree, colored lights and all, centering the banquet board, members of the Lions club let merriment reign at their Tuesday's luncheon at Woody's cafe.

Each member had been asked to bring an inexpensive gift, which were allotted by the drawing of numbers, and, to add to the gaiety, the recipient was expected to name what he would do with his gift or pay a forfeit. Kewpies were plate favors.

Details of the Christmas tree feature were in charge of Yates Brown, chairman of the program committee, and Charlie Jones and Wrenn Durham, assisted by Supt. Connor Robinson. The tail twister, Carleton Vick, was given free rein as to fines, etc., his receipts being finally contributed to the Goodfellow fund. The invocation was given by Supt. Robinson after the singing of a verse of "America," led by Yates Brown.

Miss Iris Garrett, former sweetheart of the club, now attending North Texas State Teachers college at Denton, and Roy Reid of Santa Anna, past president, were special guests along with the honor students from Merkel High school: Mildred McLean and Evelyn Bigler, ninth grade; Joy Doan and Mary Jo Russell, tenth grade, and Jannell Black, Doris Coats and Fredia Farmer, eleventh grade. (Becky Gardner, eighth grade honor pupil, and Dorothy Horton, who tied with two others in the tenth grade, were not present.)

As chairman of the Goodfellow Christmas Cheer baskets, S. M. Hunter gave a summary of the donations and how these baskets were to be distributed, and individual members contributed liberally to the fund as a hat was passed.

On motion, the club voted to sponsor Merkel's 8th Annual Poultry show, the president being instructed to name a committee of two to co-operate with the association in raising funds.

Corsicana Elder to Preach Here Sunday

Rev. Herndon Robinson, presiding elder of the Corsicana district, will preach at the morning hour Sunday at the Methodist church. Rev. Mr. Robinson, who is a brother-in-law of Charlie Jones, will be a Christmas holiday visitor in the Jones home.

Mrs. Ernest Old of Abilene, daughter of Mr. Jones, will sing at the same service.

Reunion of '34 Seniors. The Senior class of '34, Merkel High school, will hold their annual reunion at the home of Miss Bessylea Church on Monday evening, Dec. 27.

"THE BETHLEHEM ROAD" FEATURES P. T.-A. PROGRAM

Choral Club Under Direction of Mrs. Comer Haynes Presents Christmas Pageant; Evening Includes Carol Singing.

Three hundred friends and patrons of the Merkel schools gathered in the gymnasium Monday evening to hear the presentation of "The Bethlehem Road" by the Choral club of High school, under direction of Mrs. Comer Haynes, and to join in the singing of well known Christmas carols.

The program consisted of loved songs of the Christmas season sung by the girls chorus and readings by individual members of the group. The carol singing was led by Rev. John H. Crow and Yates Brown, assisted by Miss Emma Joyner.

The program was under the sponsorship of the Merkel Parent-Teacher association.

The next meeting of the association will be the night of January 13, in the Grammar School building, according to Mrs. Connor Robinson, local association president.

Large Number Patrons Attend Open House

Approximately 500 patrons and friends attended open house held in the Merkel Public schools Friday evening of last week. The buildings were opened for inspection with each teacher in place at 7:30. Each room was decorated with work done by the pupils so that the parents might see some of the work their children are doing, meet their teachers and see each room their children have for the day.

At 9 o'clock all were assembled in the gymnasium-auditorium where the following program was presented by the students of the High School Choral and Dramatic club:

"Love's Old Sweet Song," Dorothy Shannon; "Sweet and Low," Choral club; "Night," (duet), Don Wood and Bonnie Church; "Juanita," (quartette), Frances Higgins, Doris Clyde Miller, Bonnie Church and Pearl Mathews; "Pais of my Cowboy Days," Choral club; Christmas Story, (duet), Dorothy Shannon, Pearl Mathews.

Then was presented a one-act play, "Miss Fannie's Bomb." The characters were Frances Higgins, Hollis Perry, Ben Robert Hicks and Horace Browning. The program was closed with two numbers by the Elementary School Choral club: "Silent Night" and "Joy to the World."

Mrs. Comer Haynes directed the High School group, while Misses Frances Marie Church and Himalya Swafford directed the Elementary group.

BAND AT CHAPEL. With 45 members in uniform, the Merkel Badger Band under the direction of D. W. Crain rendered a program of Christmas numbers and other selections at chapel at 10:30 Monday morning at the gymnasium.

The band sweetheart, Miss Jannell Black, was presented by Bobby Woodrum, president of the band organization.

"Silent Night" and "Hark, Herald Angels" were followed by two marches and a waltz, "March of the Marines" and "Naval Reserves" and "Summer Nights" waltz, concluding with the Merkel High School song and "Jingle Bells."

General Holiday as Usual on Christmas

As customary every year, all the business houses in town, (with the exception of drug stores, filling stations and cafes,) the banks and the post office will be closed for Christmas Day, which comes on Saturday this year.

Postmaster Wrenn Durham announces that the post office will be closed all day, with no delivery to be made by rural route carriers.

The public schools dismissed Wednesday afternoon to resume Monday, January 3, 1938.

The college set began arriving with the week-end and all were expected by Wednesday. As a rule the colleges and universities are allowing two full weeks holiday.

BADGER SQUAD ENTERTAINED BY PEP SQUAD

Members of the football squad of Merkel High school were honor guests at the annual Pep Squad-Football banquet held Wednesday evening of last week at the High School gymnasium. Other guests included members of the Merkel band, High School faculty members and their wives, members of the school board and Supt. and Mrs. Connor Robinson.

Dr. E. B. Surface, pastor of the Central Presbyterian church, Abilene, was principal speaker for the affair. The gymnasium was attractively decorated in school colors of purple and gold, with balloons, streamers and miniature pennants, football shoes and headgears hanging in festive arrangement. Tables were centered with goal posts and a miniature gridiron. Favours were referee's whistles.

Women of the Methodist church, with Mrs. Tom Largent as general chairman, prepared the meal, which was served by the home economics class.

Besides the address by Dr. Surface, other outstanding features of the program were: presentation of the 1938 yell leaders, Dorma Lee Shelton, Verne Moore and Evelyn Latimer, and presentation of a letter jacket to Coach Pat Davis, a surprise gift from the team.

Hollis Perry, Pep Squad leader, introduced program numbers. Herbert Patterson, president of the school board, gave the invocation, after which toasts were drunk to the team, the coach, and the team and the Pep Squad. Songs were sung by a quartette and readings were given.

Arrangements for the banquet were in charge of Miss Mildred Burnett, High School English teacher and Pep Squad sponsor.

Says a Merkel Fire Department Rookie—

Those nice toys and clothes are still coming into the station. Sometimes we are prone to overlook a lot of folks, who love to give and do give freely. Stars for the crown, you know!

A pumper would have been the very thing for George Smith's car Saturday night.

Who said our station couldn't be decorated up fit for royalty? There's talent, or somethin' up them stairs.

A lot of our neighbor counties are co-operating with city councils through their county commissioners' court to buy low-priced, used truck chassis, equip them with a tank and pump, the unit being available in town or nearby towns, farm houses, wheat fields, and automobiles. Five hundred gallons of water applied right is cash saved, you know!

An alert fireboy prevented a big fire the other nite. Goodie!

—From a M. F. D. Rookie.

15 TURKEYS TO BE GIVEN AWAY CHRISTMAS EVE

Climaxing Series Trades Days, \$25 in Cash and Ten Merchandise Prizes to be Given Away Friday With 15 Turkeys.

Climaxing a series of five pre-holiday trades days—a program in which 60 turkeys, \$80 in cash and more than 40 merchandise prizes are being given away absolutely free—Friday of this week, Christmas Eve, the last day of the series, will find 15 turkeys, \$25.00 in cash and ten merchandise prizes offered free by the Merchants Trade Extension association.

As on last Saturday, they will be given away in five lots at the following hours and places:

MORNING PROGRAM.
10 a. m.—In front of Economy grocery.
11:30 a. m.—At E. M. McDonald corner.

1 p. m.—In front of Queen theatre.
2:30 p. m.—At alley intersection next to Adcock's Dry Cleaners.
4 p. m.—In front of Campbell grocery.

Winners in Wednesday's turkey chasings will be published in next week's issue of The Mail.

SATURDAY'S WINNERS. Fifteen turkeys, \$25 in cash and ten merchandise prizes were given away in five lots in Saturday's "turkey chasing," with many ties. The (Continued on Page Nine.)

Knee Badly Bruised When Run Over by Car

Dave Carson, 12-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. E. O. Carson, was badly cut and bruised about the left knee when he fell down and was run over about 6 p. m. Saturday by a car driven by Lloyd Melton at the intersection of Edwards and Elm streets. The accident was unavoidable, it is reported by those who saw it.

He was taken to the Merkel hospital for first aid, but was removed later Saturday night to the home of his parents.

Donate \$5 to TB Cause.

At their Christmas party on Thursday evening, Dec. 9, the Merkel Home Demonstration club voted to give \$5 to the Taylor County Tuberculosis association.

Record of Births.

Girl, to Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Davis, Route 4, Thursday, December 16, 1937.
Boy, to Mr. and Mrs. D. E. Humphries, Mt. Pleasant, Tuesday, December 21, 1937.

MERKEL 20 YEARS AGO

(From the Files of Merkel Mail, December 21, 1917.)

The first member of our honor roll to pay the extreme sacrifice of war was Willie Leo Miller, whose body reached home last Saturday from Camp Bowie, where he succumbed to a complication of measles and pneumonia.

Mr. Clarence A. Howard came in Monday on a furlough from Charleston, S. C., to visit his parents.

W. A. Scott and family are visiting their mother and sister, Mrs. R. C. Ponder and Mrs. C. L. Cash and families.

Mrs. Beene, wife of J. L. Beene, died at 12:30 o'clock last Saturday morning at her home near Noodle.

Herbert Patterson, who lives 5 1/2 miles northeast of Merkel, made a good record in raising 53 pumpkins off of two vines and something over 100 cantaloupes off of seven vines. He also raised about two or three hundred cucumbers on about ten vines. This is a pretty good record for a year such as this.

Mr. and Mrs. Austin Boyd left Thursday morning for Houston where Mr. Boyd has accepted a position with the Southland Lumber company. He

has been the manager of the Burton-Lingo properties in Merkel for over seven years.

Ed Ash is in receipt of a letter from Charlie Fitzgerald, stepson of Dad Wilson, telling of his various experiences on a trip to England and France. He is in the navy.

J. W. Haas of Stephenville visited Sidney Coats and N. C. Palmer the past week.

G. A. Guthrie of Whitewright, who recently purchased 202 acres of land from Dr. Armstrong, loaded his household effects for shipment to Merkel last Monday.

Ensign Robt. B. Parker, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Parker, has been promoted to lieutenant, junior rank, in the United States navy. He is on the U. S. S. Arkansas, a superdreadnaught, supposed to be in the war zone. The promotion, made by Congress on December 7, was dated to take effect since October 15.

Mr. Yates and Miss Geneva, son and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. N. Brown, are expected home for the holidays. He is attending the Seminary and she is attending High school at Cleburne, Texas.

December 31--Last Day FALL BARGAIN RATES

Until December 31, bargain rates will continue on all the daily papers, (except the Dallas News,) the Semi-Weekly Farm News and special magazine clubs in combination with the Merkel Mail.

Do not let the opportunity pass to supply your reading for next year at these money-saving club rates.

THE MERKEL MAIL "Your Home Town Newspaper"



CHURCH SERVICES

Will Present Program Of Christmas Anthems

At the evening hour Sunday the choir of the Methodist church under the direction of Mrs. C. B. Gardner will render a special Christmas program including the following numbers: "Oh, Come All Ye Faithful," hymn, and "Joy to the World," "Unto Us a Saviour is Born," and "The King of Glory," anthems. The three anthems are arranged by J. T. Edwards. Miss Opal Buzbee is pianist.

All other services as usual Sunday: Sunday School at 9:45 a. m. Preaching at 11 a. m. Young people's meeting at 6:15 p. m. Prayer meeting Wednesday evening at 7 o'clock.

METHODIST YOUNG PEOPLE'S PROGRAM.

For Sunday, Dec. 26, 6:15 p. m.: Subject, "Three Kings of the Orient"; leader, Etyl Church; opening meditation, by leader; song, "Joy to the World"; scripture, Matt. 2:1-12; solo, Dorothy Shannon; speaker, L. S. Tipton, "Background of the Story of the Wise Men"; second speaker, Dorina Lee Shelton, "The Other Wise Man"; song, "Come All Ye Faithful"; benediction.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.

Total attendance at the six reporting Sunday Schools here last Sunday was 301, as compared with 588 on the previous Sunday. On the same Sunday a year ago 667 were present.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

Sunday School at 10 o'clock. At the Sunday School hour the children of the beginners and primary department will have a Christmas tree and program in the basement.

As the pastor will be at Baird, there will be no preaching service Sunday, morning nor night.

R. A. Walker, Pastor.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH.

Dr. Atwood of Hardin-Simmons university will preach at 11 a. m. and 7:15 p. m. Sunday School at 10 a. m. B. T. S. at 6:30 p. m. WMU at 3 o'clock Monday afternoon. Prayer meeting Wednesday evening at 7:15 o'clock.

Nazarene Revival To Close Sunday

The revival in progress at the Church of the Nazarene continues with increasing crowds and interest, according to Rev. R. T. Smith, the pastor.

Thursday evening there will be the annual Christmas tree and program, together with the evangelistic service as usual.

Friday evening Evangelist Herschel Murphy, in charge of the services, will give his "Sermon in Overalls," which is the story of his life and will be full of humorous and pathetic incidents.

Saturday evening, "The Great Judgment Day" will be the sermon subject. "The Tobacco Evil" stereopticon pictures will be shown. Made by Mayo Brothers.

Sunday morning at Sunday School the speaker promises to show something he bought downtown and never saw it; the clerk also not seeing it; no one has ever seen it; yet he will exhibit it Sunday morning and put it where no one will ever see it again. A photograph of the speaker will be presented to the one bringing the largest number to Sunday School.

Stereopticon pictures will be presented nightly beginning at 7:30 o'clock.

FUNDAMENTALIST BAPTIST CHURCH.

Preaching at 7 o'clock Saturday night, Bible study 10 a. m. Sunday. Preaching at 11 a. m. and 7 p. m. Prayer meeting Wednesday night at 7 o'clock, Bible study Friday night.

J. L. Burleson, Pastor.

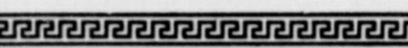
CHURCH OF CHRIST.

Bible Study Sunday 9:45 a. m. Preaching 10:45 a. m. and 7:00 p. m. by Raymond Kelsey of A. C. C. Young people's program 6:00 p. m. Wednesday evening at 7:00 o'clock a service of song, prayer and Bible study.

Come to our services.

The Elders.

We fill all doctor's prescriptions. Vick Drug company.

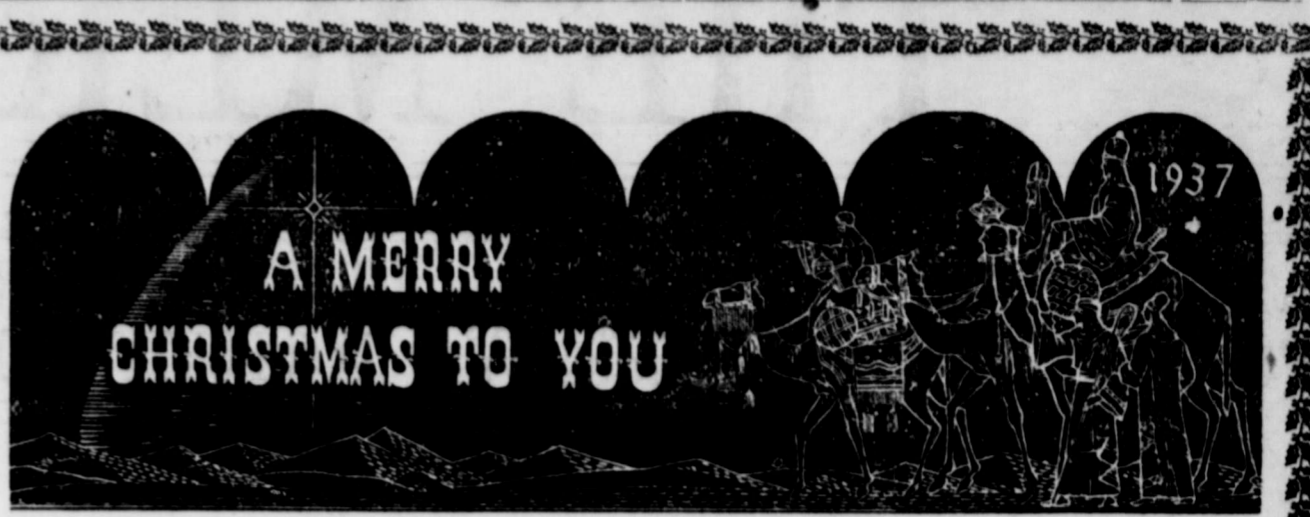
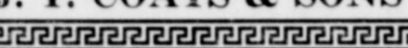


CHRISTMAS 1937



Thanking our friends for their liberal patronage during the year that is just closing, and with best wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

J. T. COATS & SONS



At this joyous Holiday Season, the Officers, Directors, and Staff of this bank join in extending to you, your family, and friends warm greetings and sincere wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a New Year of good health, great happiness, and prosperity. May the best of everything be yours!

Farmers and Merchants National Bank

Merkel, Texas

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS

—and—

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

To You

We thank you for favors of the past. We will consider it an opportunity to be able to serve you during 1938

WEST'S AUTO SUPPLY STORE

"Department Store for Car Owners"
Merkel, Texas Phone 222

Announcing

LOW LONG DISTANCE RATES



ALL DAY CHRISTMAS ALL DAY NEW YEAR'S

Lower night and Sunday rates will be kept in effect ALL DAY Christmas and ALL DAY New Year's Day this year. Instead of having to call Christmas Eve to get lowest rates, you can call all Christmas Day, and all the next day, Sunday. The same lower rates will apply for a similar period at New Year's.

SOUTHWESTERN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY

(U. S. A. and Canadian Points Only)



'CALLING ALL CARS'

That have leaky tops; we seal them with

E. B. S. REAL SEAL

If your car doesn't start good in wet weather, let us check it and seal the ignition system.

Also have plenty of

Zerone Anti-Freeze

by Dupont—also a few Sleet Masters left, get yours now.

We specialize in car trouble, starter, generator, etc. For better service bring your car to us.

JOE'S GARAGE

J. J. BARRON, Mgr.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

MERRY CHRISTMAS



JOYOUS HOLIDAY

Sheppard & Shelton
ICE and PRODUCE
Phone 141

GREETINGS . . . AND THANKS TO YOU

We wish to thank you for friendly business relations during 1937.

WE WISH FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS, JOY AND GOOD CHEER AND FOR YOUR NEW YEAR MUCH HAPPINESS

MERKEL MOTOR COMPANY

OUR KIND THOUGHTS AND BEST WISHES ARE FOR YOU

May This Yule Season Be One of Happiness for you and 1938 truly a glorious one for you.

BRAGG DRY GOODS COMPANY

THE BADGER WEEKLY

Published weekly by the students of Merkel High School and Sponsored by the Senior Class of '38—Rez Myers, sponsor

The Staff:

Editor-in-Chief—Hollis Perry. Society Editor—Jannell Black.
 Assistant Editor—Frances Higgins. Sports Editor—James Russell.
 Joke Editor—Charles Andy Shouse

"CHRISTMAS."

"Long ago, there was born
 In the city of David
 A sweet, holy Babe
 Who is Jesus our King.
 Angels sang at His birth
 Lullaby peace on earth,
 Angels sang at His birth
 Lullaby peace on earth."

"For unto us is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is the Christ Lord.

"And suddenly there was with the angels a multitude of heavenly host praising God and saying:

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and good will toward men."

So let us all join together and do whatever we can in order to spread the Christmas cheer to others.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

PERSONALITIES.

Grovene Ford.

Shorty or Static will really be missed next year because we can always tell that she is around. Grovene is a good worker in the Pep Squad, Dramatic club, Home Eco. club, Spanish club, and Senior Girls' club. She wishes to go to college and become an interior decorator.

Frank Dye.

Frank is sorta quiet but he will be missed just the same. Frank is a member of the Senior Boys' club and played baseball. He desires to go to college and major in business administration.

CHORAL CLUB.

We were very happy last Monday night, Dec. 20, 1937, to present our Christmas pageant, "The Bethlehem Road," in the gym for the P. T. A. It was certainly an honor for us and we hope that they enjoyed it.

SENIOR NEWS.

Last Wednesday afternoon after a short program the Senior class of 1937-38 enjoyed a Christmas tree. The presents were passed out and nuts, candy, and fruit were distributed. This was certainly one more enjoyable time together. We're wishing you a merry, merry Xmas and a happy, happy New Year.

JUNIOR NEWS.

Santa Claus is really coming to town and are we happy!
 Here are a few things the Juniors are hoping for:
 Margie wants something from either Noodle or Denton.
 Mary Nell wants something from Goodman.
 Mary Jo wants Santa Claus again.
 Joyce F. thought Santa came Saturday night. (But sure enough he didn't.)
 Rachel wants another Teddy Bear.
 Bersha Mae wants a doll with red hair.
 Miss Burnett wants a toy drum.
 Vernq wants a new date book.
 Archie wants a fountain pen.
 Edgar wants some stick candy.
 Dorma Lee wants to know where some one goes on Sunday evening.
 Pearl wants a football.
 Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

SOPHOMORE NEWS.

The Sophomores wish to take this

SEASON'S GREETINGS TO OUR PATRONS

We are appreciative at all times of the year for your patronage and we are glad this season gives us an opportunity to thank you for favors granted us in the past. May we have your continued support.

OUR WISHES ARE FOR A DELIGHTFUL CHRISTMAS AND A NEW YEAR OF HAPPINESS

DOUGLASS DAIRY
 Phone 9049

opportunity to wish everyone the very Merriest Christmas and Happiest New Year.

We wonder—
 If those initials on Clyde Deavers' notebook (U. F.) could be Uvalda Fox.

If Miriam Diltz doesn't like to steal Freshmen's beaux.

Why it is so important for Syble to see Willie Jo each morning.

If Billy Largent always "cuts-up" in church.

If the number 215 means anything

special to Loudale.

Why Billie McGehee hates to see her name in the Badger Weekly so badly.

Why Mickey is all "puffed up" at Gay.

FRESHMAN NEWS.

Believe it or Not—

There is a Santa Claus.

Two Freshman girls changed their names to June and Patsy.

Betty Lu spent the week-end in Abilene. (Wonder why?)

Mildred Nixon is back to school.

Earl M. wasn't tardy Monday. (He was just absent.)

Some people blush when they see some people.

If you have any visitors. Phone 29 or 61.

The merchants who advertise in this paper will give you the best values for your money.

Office supplies—Mail office.



Merry Christmas 1937



BELL & BUFORD BARBER SHOP



YULE TIDINGS OF JOY

COTTON'S CAFE

Greetings and Best Wishes

We hope that the year to come will add to you rich stores of blessings and experiences.

We are anxious to serve you and prove in deeds as well as words that we would like a part in adding to your happiness for the year 1938.

Max Mellinger

To Our Friends Both Old and Young

Friends have been compared with silver and gold. New Friends are as silver and old friends are as gold. We value our friends more than we do these precious metals because of their value and worth to us. As gold and silver shine in the Christmas lights and make a beautiful glow, the smiles of our friends make a glow in our hearts. May happiness and good fortune be yours for Christmas and the New Year.

Farmers State In Merkel

MEMBER FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION



At Your . . . SERVICE

At this Yuletide as well as during the rest of the year we are at your service to do what we can to aid the betterment of the community, our friends and patrons.

You can count on us to serve you to the best of our ability. And now, we wish for you in all sincerity a Christmas of Joy and Cheer.

Woozy's Cafe

TRENT NEWS AND PERSONALS

Miss Blanche Carey is reported resting very well, following an appendectomy Wednesday of last week. She has at her bedside her mother, Mrs. W. M. Carey, also Miss Alice Carey and Mr. and Mrs. Carl Carey.

Rev. R. O. Bailey attended the funeral of a relative held in Sweetwater Friday. The deceased was David N. Garner of 1102 Buttgenut street, Abilene. He was a retired carpenter and minister. The rites were said by Rev. J. H. Hamblen, pastor of the First Methodist church, Abilene, assisted by Rev. L. B. Smallwood, Sweetwater pastor. Mr. Garner was 67 years of age.

Mr. and Mrs. Buddie Burks of Louisiana arrived Sunday to spend the Christmas holidays with Mr. and Mrs. Ed Burks and Mr. and Mrs. Will Hamner. They will reside again at Buchanan Dam, Burnet, Texas, after the first of the year.

Mrs. Cecil Steen of Denver, Colo., who has spent several weeks in the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Strawn, was called Monday to the home of her parents in Detroit, Mich., upon receipt of news of the death of her father there. She will remain there indefinitely.

Mrs. C. M. Stribling departed last week for Big Spring and Jacksboro, where she will visit relatives throughout the winter months.

Mr. and Mrs. Halbrooks and two children of Lamesa arrived last week to spend the holidays with Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Bright and Mr. and Mrs. John Halbrooks. Mr. and Mrs. Bright are expecting all of their children home for a family reunion Christmas.

Mr. and Mrs. Mr. M. G. Scott and daughter of Abilene spent Sunday here attending church services and visiting friends.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Y. Steen of Clyde

were Sunday guests of Postmaster and Mrs. John Strawn.

Hazel and Dow Williamson and Edgar Lee Mangum of McMurry college are home to spend the holidays with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Williamson and Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Mangum, respectively.

Mrs. Sallie Campbell, Mrs. Cynthia Hall and Mr. and Mrs. Shorty Swafford and son, Bobby Jo, all of Blair, visited with Mr. and Mrs. Ed Sherman Sunday. Mrs. Hall, Mrs. Campbell and Mrs. Sherman are sisters.

Mrs. B. C. Hamner and children of Wink arrived Sunday to spend the holidays with her mother, Mrs. Flora Brown, and Miss Winnie Brown.

Mrs. Grace Cooper and children of Houston are here to spend Christmas with relatives.

4-H CLUB ORGANIZED.

A 4-H boys club was organized at Trent last week by Leon Ransom, assistant Taylor County agricultural agent and club leader.

The meeting was attended by 35 boys, with about 20 signifying their intention of taking up the work. Elery Smith was selected president; Ed Bowers, vice-president; Kirby Steadman, secretary, and Cull Currington, reporter.

PAGEANT PRESENTED BY METHODIST PEOPLE.

A crowded house was present for the presentation of the pageant, "Light of the World," by Frank Dearing. Mrs. Earl Strawn and Miss Beatrice Cooley were co-directors for the play.

Gloria Weiser gave a special Christmas reading. The arrival of Santa Claus climaxed the program and gifts were delivered.

SPECIAL SERVICES AT CHURCH OF CHRIST.

Ted Norton, minister of the Church of Christ, Huntsville, will deliver a

sermon Sunday at the morning worship hour at the local church.

Singing has been announced for the afternoon, beginning at 3 o'clock, also at the local Church of Christ. The public is invited to take part in this special service.

Mr. Norton is a graduate of Abilene Christian college, Abilene. His wife is the former Rita Adrian, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Adrian.

Plays With Tarleton Symphony Orchestra

Stephenville, Dec. 22.—Norman

King, son of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley King of Merkel, played Saturday on a broadcast presented by John Tarleton college on the regular College Hour program over WBAP. King, a junior in architecture at Tarleton, is a member of the Tarleton Little Symphony orchestra, which played under the direction of Albert T. Luper.

Programs presented by students and faculty members of John Tarleton college go on the air once each month from KTAT, and once about every five weeks from WBAP. The next Tarleton broadcast is scheduled for Monday afternoon, Jan. 17, at 5:15 o'clock.



MERKEL ICE COMPANY W. B. THOMAS, Prop.

ABILENE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

The most appropriate gift you can give your family for Christmas is a LIFE INSURANCE POLICY. It is something they will cherish every day and will be comfort to them after you are gone.

T. S. ROLLINS, Sec'y J. T. ROLLINS, Asst. Sec'y 208-9-10 Citizens Bank Bldg., Abilene, Texas



Christmas Cheer Throughout the Year

ADCOCK'S DRY CLEANERS

Phone 68 Merkel, Texas



BUCK'S SHOE SHOP

CHRISTMAS CHEER TO ALL 1937



E. M. McDONALD GROCERY & FEED STORE

CHRISTMAS JOY 1937



BLACK'S RADIO SHOP

Sales and Service

1937 JOYOUS CHRISTMAS 1937



FERRIER SERVICE STATION

We Greet You With Best Wishes For The Season And Hope The New Year Will Be One of Prosperity and Happiness

A. R. BOOTH GROCERY



CHURCH MOTOR COMPANY

De Soto

Plymouth



G. W. BOYCE, Real Estate and Rentals

Merry Xmas and Happy New Year PATTERSON GROCERY & MARKET

A JOYOUS YULETIDE

A wish to show appreciation for your patronage during the past year by wishing you a joyous Yuletide and a New Year of Satisfaction and Contentment.

VICK DRUG COMPANY

Front Street Phone 93

GREETINGS TO OUR FRIENDS AND PATRONS

Our business has been a pleasure during the past year because of your loyal support. We express the hope that our service to you may be continued during 1938 May Your Christmas Be Merry and Your New Year Prosperous

MAGNOLIA PETROLEUM CO.

W. A. Stockbride, Agent Merkel, Texas Phone 15

BEST WISHES FOR THE SEASON GREETINGS TO ALL

The spirit of Christmas makes us want to express our sincere appreciation of your friendship during 1937. Best wishes for a season of cheer and a New Year of happiness.

A. J. CANON

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND WELCOME TO 1938

The New Year will bring with it a new chance to create and to serve better than we have ever done before. If we work together for the general welfare of our community we are assured of success in making 1938 a glorious year in the improvement and the contentment of ourselves and our community.

LET US WORK TOGETHER BEST WISHES TO OUR FRIENDS

TOM'S WRECKING COMPANY

East Broadway Phone 149

MERKEL MAIL WANT ADS FOR RESULTS

**Rites Held for
J. C. Horton, 75**

A brief service was held at 2:30 Saturday afternoon at the graveside in Rose Hill cemetery for J. C. Horton, 75, who died at Slaton at 5 o'clock Friday morning. Rev. E. L. Redden, Baptist pastor at Salt Branch, officiated.

The body was brought overland Saturday from Slaton where funeral services had also been held Friday.

Grandsons served as pallbearers. They were Jack Meeks, Charlie Brown, Arthur Wilson and Ed Dye. Flower girls were Mrs. Herman Dobbs, Miss Mary Alice Martin, Mrs. C. A. Hair and Mrs. Dale Calvert.

Born in Alabama, Mr. Horton came to Texas in 1900, settling in Taylor county near Merkel, where he resided until 1923 when he moved to Garza county. His first wife, Miss Rebecca Cawthon, to whom he was married when 21 years of age, died Jan. 2, 1919. To this union six children were born, all of whom survive: J. A. Horton, Merkel; Mrs. Eppie Wells, Post; Henry Horton, Mrs. Emma Williams, Okemah, Okla.; Roscoe Horton, McFarland, Calif., and Mrs. Ruby Rogers, Tulare, Calif.

In 1922 he was married to Mrs. Nettie Steele, who died in 1930. In 1933 he was married to Mrs. Winnie Kemp, who survives him.

Mr. Horton was converted at an early age and joined the Baptist church. His father and one brother were Baptist preachers. He has one living brother and one living sister, both of whom reside at Andrews, Navarro county.

A TRIBUTE TO J. C. HORTON.

More than thirty years ago the writer was permitted to meet this estimable character. He was a man who always identified himself with those things which were for the good of his community and country, which required men of honesty, ability and courage.

Mr. Horton was a member of the Baptist church—had been for many years—and was a thorough believer in the religion he professed. He was always ready to do what he could in the service of his Master and for the advancement of the cause of Christ. With such a character no eulogy is needed. He wrote his own epitaph in the lives of his associates and in the affairs of the place where he lived so long.

It is almost impossible for the loved ones to reconcile themselves to giving him up. But God knows best and his memory will remain as a beautiful spot in the hearts of those who knew him best. The passing of Mr. Horton is an indescribable blow to his loved ones and an irreparable loss to his many friends.

May the God of Peace speak peace to the hearts that are sorely tried.
—A Friend.

Adding machine rolls 15c or two for 25c; regular retail price everywhere. For Sale at Merkel Mail office.

RURAL SOCIETY

UNION RIDGE P-T. A.

The Union Ridge P-T. A. met Wednesday night, Dec. 15, for their regular meeting, which opened with a song, "The Nail-Scarred Hand," led by Frank Carr. The invocation was given by Leq Ponder.

Following a short business session presided over by the president, Mrs. J. H. Clark, the program with Mabel McRee as leader opened with the "President's Message — Keeping Christmas," by the leader.

A letter was read by Mrs. O. E. Harwell from Mrs. Holland Holt, president of the county council, telling about her trip to Beaumont where the state convention was held.

Other numbers were: "A First Christmas," by five boys; a talk on "What Christmas Means to Us," by Mrs. Frank Carr; song by the school children; a reading by Charles Harwell; a poem on "Christmas" by Mrs. Denzel Cox; "Silent Night" sung by the group.

The next meeting of the association will be held Jan. 14.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM.

The juniors of the Hebron Baptist church were entertained with a program and Christmas tree at the home of Mrs. J. R. Murdock on Dec. 19.

Those present were: Mrs. Quince Traylor and Mrs. J. R. Murdock, B. Y. P. U. leaders of the juniors; Mrs. Houston Clark, junior Sunday School teacher; James Reece, Doris Story,

Don, Patty Nell, Delphine and Joe Cooper, Bennie Rogers, Brono, Tate and Lassie Freeman, Norris Dean, Jimmie Ruth and Quincy Ray Traylor, Johnnie Murdock, Joyce Irvin, Willie Jo and Patsie Gean Clark, Doyle Lee and Donald Wayne Ponder, Pauline and Ronald Gene Burleson, Geneva and Sanford Leq Carr, and Moody Pannell.

Other guests were Messrs. E. B. Reece, M. Cooper, L. Burleson and Miss Teria Mae Murdock.

**MOTHER OF ALLEN KING
COMPLIMENTED.**

Mr. and Mrs. Allen King entertained with a turkey dinner last Tuesday evening honoring the former's mother, Mrs. H. D. King, of Bloomfield, N. J.

Mrs. King left Wednesday for Chattanooga, Tenn., where she will spend the holidays, then return to her home in New Jersey early in January. She has been visiting her two sons and their families in Texas the last three months.

SPRADLEN-PROVINE.

On Wednesday afternoon of last week, Miss Nola Provine, daughter of Mrs. Mary E. Provine, and Lewis Spradlen of Noodle, son of J. O. Spradlen of Lueders, were united in marriage at the office of Justice of the Peace Scudder in Abilene, with Judge Scudder officiating.

The bride was born and reared in Merkel, having graduated from the Merkel High school and later attended McMurry college. The groom was

reared in the Noodle community, where he is engaged in farming and where the couple will make their home.

**Announces Christmas
Savings Club for 1938**

In an advertisement elsewhere in this issue of The Mail, the Farmers & Merchants National bank announces a Christmas Savings club for 1938, whereby those who join will deposit regularly each week for fifty weeks a stipulated amount, payable in a lump sum before Christmas next year.

These savings accounts will not be subject to check, but will bear interest if payments are made regularly for the fifty weeks.

Try a Classified Ad in The Mail.



ORCHID BEAUTY SHOPPE

Phone 18

Merkel, Texas

THE RED & WHITE STORES

CHRISTMAS SPECIALS, DEC. 23-24

- Apples, 72 size, Delicious, Dozen 50c
- Apples, 138 size Delicious, Dozen 25c
- Apples, 113 size Winesaps, Dozen 25c
- Oranges, 100 size, doz. 50c
- Oranges, 216 size, doz. 25c
- Oranges, 288 size, doz. 19c
- Cranberries pound 15c
- Celery, Jumbo, bunch 12c
- Fresh Cocoanuts, 2 for 13c
- Lettuce, head 5c
- Spuds, washed Idaho, 5 pounds 19c
- Spuds, No. 1 Idaho, 10 lbs 23c
- Supreme Salad Wafers, 1 lb. box 17c
- Mixed Christmas Candy, lb. 15c
- 32-Piece Set Dearborn China, per set \$2.98
- Red and White Cake Flour, large pkg. 25c
- Red and White Tomato Juice, 3 cans 25c
- Dole Pineapple Juice, per can 10c
- Lime Rickey or Ginger Ale, 24 oz. bottle 15c
- Red and White Vanilla Extract, bottle 19c
- Red and White Meal, 5 pounds 19c
- Emerald Walnuts, pound 19c
- Shelled Pecans, 1-2 lb. 24c
- Red and White Marshmallows, 1 lb. bag 15c
- Red and White Pears, No. 2 1-2 can 19c
- Red and White Pumpkin, No. 2 can 10c
- Texas Blackberries, per can 12c
- Red and White Corn Starch, 1 lb. pkg. 10c
- Red and White Mince Meat, package 9c
- Sun Spun Salad Dressing, pint jar 25c
- Quart 37c
- Red and White Mayonnaise, pint jar 27c
- Red and White Peaches, No. 2 1-2 can 19c
- Red and White Peas, No. 2 can 19c
- Red and White Cranberry Sauce, can 15c
- Red and White Strawberry Preserves, 1 lb 27c
- Red and White Flav-R-Jell, 2 pkgs. 9c
- Red and White Coffee, 1 lb. can 29c
- Del Dixi Pickles, sour or dill, qt. 17c
- Red and White Pineapple, No. 1 can 10c
- Red and White Spinach No. 2 can 15c
- Red and White Catsup, 14 oz. bottle 17c
- Red and White French Style Soup, 2 cans 25c
- Pure Cane Sugar, cloth bag, 10 lbs. 55c
- Old Virginia Apple Butter, 12 oz. jar 10c
- Star Hams, half or whole, pound 24c
- Sausage, pure pork, lb. 19c
- Cheese, pound 25c
- Sliced Bacon, pound 25c

\$889⁰⁰

IS ALL YOU PAY FOR A
BIG 117-INCH WHEELBASE—95 H. P.

NASH

DELIVERED IN MERKEL
Federal Tax Included

WORLD'S FIRST **CONDITIONED AIR** FOR WINTER DRIVING
An Exclusive Nash Feature Available at Slight Extra Cost

FERRIER SERVICE STATION
Merkel, Texas Phone 210

MERRY CHRISTMAS
And Happy New Year
To Our Friends and Patrons
E. O. CARSON GROCERY

Christmas
1937

YULETIDE CHEER

MERKEL CREAMERY
JOE STALLS, Operator

**A KINDLY WISH
FOR YOU AND YOURS**

MAY CHRISTMAS With its SPIRIT OF CHEER
Carry You and Yours Into a NEW YEAR OF
PEACE AND CONTENTMENT

CAMPBELL'S GROCERY & MARKET

Merkel, Texas

Phone 173

Merry Xmas to All

WEST COMPANY, Merkel

A. W. WOOD, Trent

D. C. HERRING & SON, Noodle

E. BRADLEY MER. CO., Stith

GOSDIN BROS., Blair

BLAIR ITEMS

Cold, fair weather still prevails and a big Jack Frost Monday morning gave evidence of the Yuletide season drawing nigh; beautifully decorated Christmas trees in the homes and business houses emphasize the Christmas spirit that prevails. Many visitors are expected in and out of town.

Rev. Lloyd Hamilton will fill his regular appointment at the Methodist church Sunday, Dec. 26. Every one is invited to attend these services. You should reverently dedicate this day to the Lord's service and to the Beloved Source of Hope and Inspiration of Peace—the greatest gift God ever gave to man.

The Christmas program that was rendered at the Baptist church Sunday night was a credit to any community. The house was comfortably filled, and the local talent appreciate the outside talent that helped to make the program what it was.

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Latimer and baby of Nubia attended services at the M. E. church Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Tipton of Merkel visited the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fate Scoggins, recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Marcina Doan of Abilene visited their mother, Mrs. Su-

sie Doan, and other relatives here the past week-end.

Health department vital statistics show an average of 304 children born daily in Texas and 179 persons die.

Typewriting and carbon paper at Mail office.

Has your subscription expired? Come in and renew it next time you are in town. Special club rates on Semi-Weekly Farm News, Pathfinder and several Magazine Offers.

ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS MEETING.

Notice is hereby given: That the annual meeting of the stockholders of The Farmers and Merchants National Bank of Merkel, Texas, will be held at the office of said bank on Tuesday the 11th day of January, 1938, at 6 o'clock p. m., for the election of directors and the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting.
Booth Warren, Cashier.

Use The Mail Want Ads.

OUR WISH FOR YOUR FUTURE IN 1938

The past is behind us, the future before us. As for us we shall strive to make this a year of service. We hope to contribute to your happiness by serving you in the best way possible.

We hope it will be a good year for you and yours filled with **HEALTH, HAPPINESS and PROSPERITY**

HUNTER & SUBLETT

Night Phone 43 Day Phone 48

We Extend Our GREETINGS

We feel that you have helped in a large way to make our business a success. We feel it is a privilege to serve you and with deep appreciation to you we extend our greetings for the season.

Merry Christmas and Happy, Prosperous New Year To All

MERKEL CO-OP STATION

Octane Gas and Kerosene, Parany Oil
Leon Toombs, Mgr. Phone 212

YOU ARE SELECTED

Patrons you are selected to receive our best wishes for the Christmas season. Wishes for your happiness, contentment and prosperity throughout the year. We feel that you are worthy of these wishes because you have judged our service in the past and feel that it is worthy of your patronage.

CROWN VARIETY STORE



GRIFFIN MATTRESS FACTORY



Our Christmas Present to This Community

A XMAS SAVINGS CLUB FOR 1938

So many friends and patrons of this bank have indicated their desire to save systematically for next Christmas, depositing regularly each week for fifty weeks a stipulated amount, we are announcing this week our Christmas Savings Club for 1938—beginning December 27th—We have arranged to handle these "Clubs" in five different brackets and members may join either at their option, depositing 25c, 50c, \$1.00, \$2.50 or \$5.00 weekly—for fifty weeks.

25c CLUBS PAY	\$12.50
50c CLUBS PAY	\$25.00
\$1.00 CLUBS PAY	\$50.00
\$2.50 CLUBS PAY	\$125.00
\$5.00 CLUBS PAY	\$250.00

Interest will be paid ONLY on those accounts which are completed by regular deposits for fifty weeks.

Every man, woman and child in this trade territory is invited to join one or more of these "Clubs" and prepare to know the joy of giving generously next Xmas without financial embarrassment.

These Savings Accounts will not be subject to check, will be handled in separate ledgers and will not conflict in any manner whatsoever with your regular checking account.

Checks for lump sum deposited thru the year will be mailed to each member in ample time to "Do Your Christmas Shopping Early."

Ask for further details at—

The Old Reliable

FARMERS & MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK

Merkel, Texas

Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation



JOYOUS CHRISTMAS

- J. C. Jones
- Homer Newby
- Scharlene Allen
- Vincent Barnett
- Bob McDonald

BOB McDONALD'S BARBER & BEAUTY SHOP

LOOK FORWARD TO 1938

We hope that you will look forward to this Christmas season as one of the happiest you have ever spent and anticipate the New Year with a great deal of pleasure.

New Po-Po Sandwich Shop

YOUR REWARD

Because We appreciate your Support during the past year we reward you with our very best wishes of Happiness and Prosperity for the Coming Year

MAGNOLIA SERVICE STATION

C. H. JONES Prop. Phone 159

Modern West Depicted In Gene Autry Film, "Public Cowboy No. 1"

The Great West is coming to town this week. Not the "Wild" west, but a new, modern and streamlined West, whose badmen break the law by means of short wave broadcasts from airplanes.

Gene Autry's current Republic musical western, "Public Cowboy No. 1" opens Friday at the Queen Theatre for a run of two days, and promises to be a No. 1 attraction.

Gene Autry is the champion of the old-time sheriffs in the picture. He defends their means of apprehending cattle rustlers, in direct opposition to the local public opinion, molded by lovely Helen Morgan, the editress of the newspaper, played by Ann Ruthersford.

Through her influence a band of city slickers are imported to solve the cattle rustling mystery, and the sheriff, Gene, and Smiley Burnette are all deposed ignominiously. But they don't stay down for long. Autry, with the aid of Burnette, conceives an ingenious method of beating the rustlers at their own game, and the plot is brought to a skillful and entertaining climax.

William Farnum, an old-time favorite, is cast as the sheriff. Others in supporting roles are James C. Morton, King Mojave, Frankie Marvin, Maston Williams, House Peters, Jr., and Arthur Loft.

Artists and Models Features Radio Stars

Radio, generally considered the "baby" among entertainment mediums, has just discovered that instead of being the child, it can justly claim to be the daddy of the new Jack Ben-

ny film musical, "Artists and Models," which shows at the Queen Theatre Saturday prevue, Monday and Tuesday, with a cast headed by Benny, Ida Lupino, Gail Patrick, Richard Arlen, Ben Blue, Judy Canova, Louis Armstrong's Swing orchestra, Martha Raye, Connie Boswell, and Andre Kostelanetz' Orchestra.

Benny, starring in the film, is heard regularly every Sunday over a coast-to-coast hookup. Misses Lupino and Patrick, and Arlen, have appeared many times as guest stars on nationally-broadcast programs. Judy Canova, hillbilly comedienne, gained her tremendous popularity, which led to the offer to appear in "Artists and Models," on the air, and Connie Boswell is a member of the famous Boswell Sisters, radio songstresses.

Martha Raye, familiarly known as the "Ultra-Violent Raye," disports herself on the air every week—Andra Kostelanetz and his orchestra are a regular weekly feature—and Louis Armstrong's Swing Orchestra has swing devotees hanging over the loud speaker, oblivious to everything but Ol' Louis' trumpet blaring away!

Romance, Music Add To Historical Drama

A cast of more than 1000 persons, requiring more than 5000 separate costumes, a setting covering miles of rolling hill country, a book written from actual history by Oscar Hammerstein II, and a lovely score by Jerome Kern, all contribute to the perfect background of a thrilling love story in Paramount's "High, Wide and Handsome," which comes to the Queen Theatre Wednesday and Thursday.

The story is laid in the days of the first American oil boom in Titusville, Pennsylvania, in 1859, and contains many stirring dramatic scenes. The picture was directed by Rouben Mamoulian.

Irene Dunn and Randolph Scott head the cast which includes Dorothy Lamour, Elizabeth Patterson, Raymond Walburn, William Frawley, Akim Tamiroff, Ben Blue, Irving Pichel and many others.

We fill all doctor's prescriptions. Vick Drug company.



GRABLE MOTOR CO.

Chevrolet Sales and Service

Merkel, Texas

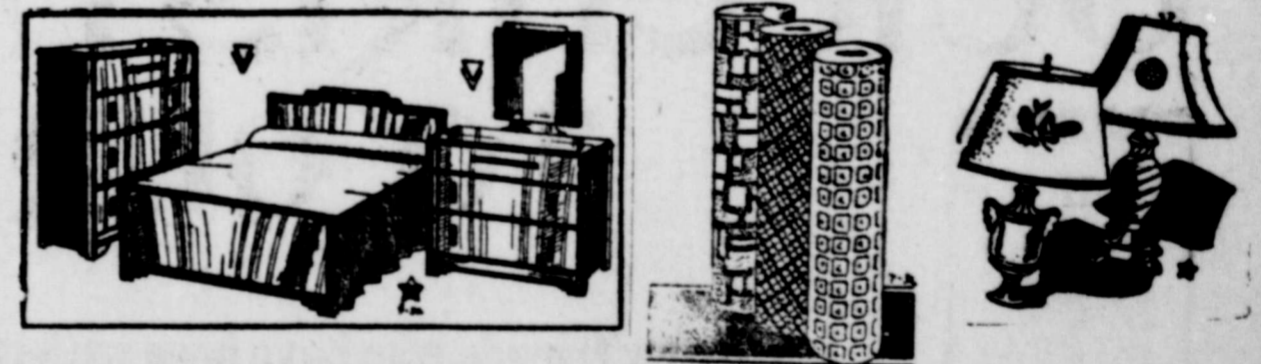
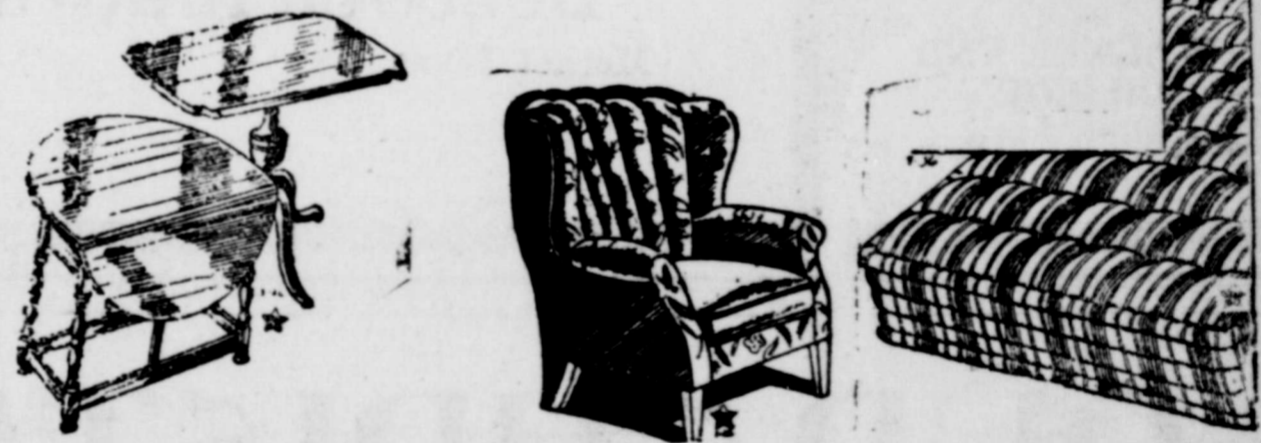
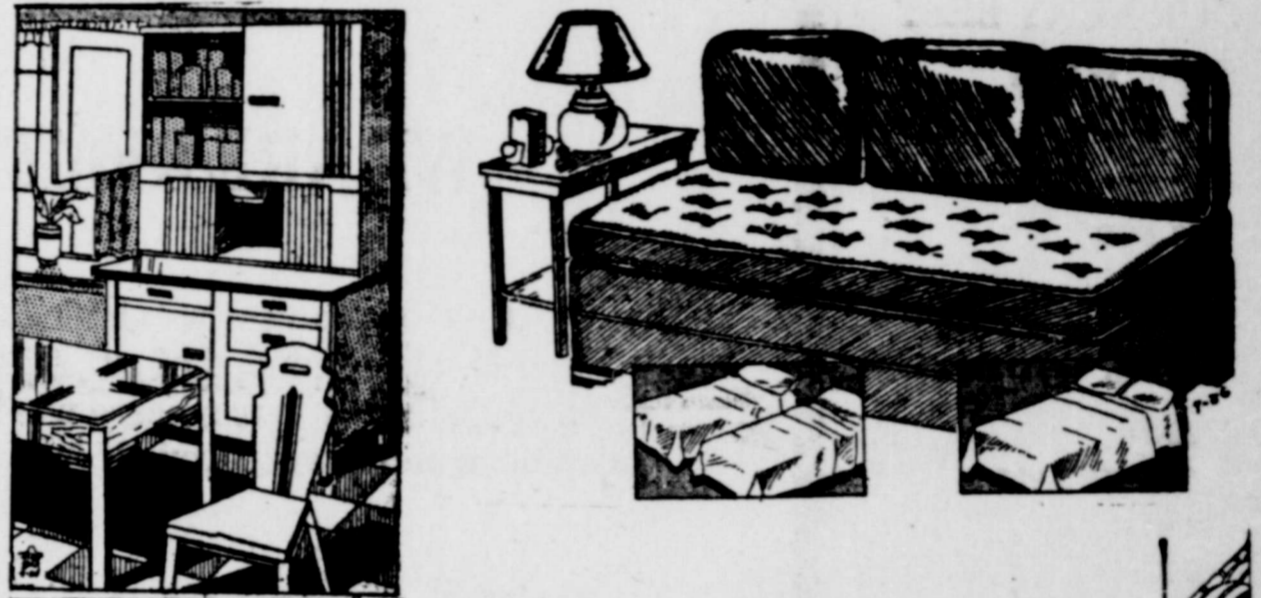
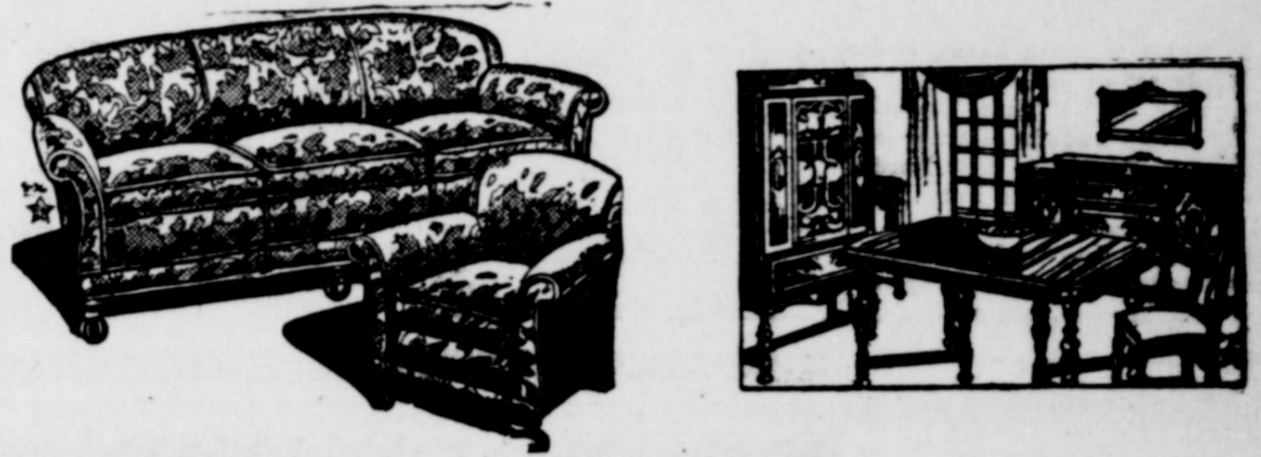
GREETINGS— AND— THANK YOU

We appreciate greatly your friendliness and your patronage during the past year.

We extend greetings at this time and wish for you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

WOOD'S STORE IN MERKEL

THE STORE OF Practical Xmas Gifts



ALL SPECIALLY PRICED FOR CHRISTMAS

A Merry Christmas

---and---

A Happy New Year

Let Your Christmas Gift Be Furniture

Barrow Furniture Co.

Merkel, Texas

MERRIE CHRISTMAS



MAURINE'S BEAUTY SHOP Phone 19



Judge N. D. Cobb



Wheeler's Market

GREETINGS: May We Say MERRY CHRISTMAS —And— HAPPY NEW YEAR In The Good Old Fashioned Way DANDY BAKERY Merkel, Texas Phone 56

GIVE AN Ingersoll



There's an Ingersoll for every member of the family — watches for pocket, wrist or handbag at prices from \$1.25.

You can buy them at stores right here in town.



RIST-ARCH — \$3.95

YANKEE — \$1.50

MAKE YOUR TEETH shine like the stars!



CLEAN AND WHITEN TEETH with Calox, the Oxygen tooth powder which penetrates to the hidden crevices between the teeth. Pleasant, Refreshing, Protects the gums and is economical to use.

TRY CALOX AT OUR EXPENSE What Calox will do for your teeth is easily demonstrated by you in your own home at our expense. Simply fill in the coupon with name and address and mail it to us. You will receive absolutely free a test can of CALOX TOOTH POWDER, the powder more and more people are using every day.

FREE TRIAL COUPON McKesson & Robbins, Inc., Fairfield, Conn. Dept. A. N. P. Send me a 10 day trial of CALOX TOOTH POWDER at no expense to me. I will try it. Name: Address:

HELP KIDNEYS To Get Rid of Acid and Poisonous Waste Your kidneys help to keep you well by constantly filtering waste matter from the blood. If your kidneys get functionally disordered and fail to remove excess impurities, there may be poisoning of the whole system and body-wide distress. Burning, scanty or too frequent urination may be a warning of some kidney or bladder disturbance. You may suffer nagging backache, persistent headache, attacks of dizziness, getting up nights, swelling, puffiness under the eyes—feel weak, nervous, all played out. In such cases it is better to rely on a medicine that has won country-wide acclaim than on something less favorably known. Use Doan's Pills. A multitude of grateful people recommend Doan's. Ask your neighbor! DOAN'S PILLS

John G. Hardin, Texas Philanthropist, Dies In Dallas Hospital

Dallas, Dec. 22.—John G. Hardin, who spent the last years of his life trying to give away \$5,000,000, died here Thursday night, Dec. 16, at 6:15.

He died at Baylor Hospital, to which he had given \$400,000, and which has been his part-time home for several years. He also maintained a home in Burkburnett, where he amassed his fortune as a farmer and oil operator.

Many of the philanthropies of Hardin and his wife, Mrs. Mary Hardin, who died two years ago, were anonymous, but those that were known amounted to millions.

Baylor university received \$1,250,000, including \$850,000 to the main university at Waco, and \$400,000 to Baylor medical school and hospital here.

Other gifts of the couple included \$400,000 to Mary Hardin-Simmons university at Abilene; \$160,000 to Abilene Christian college; \$250,000 to Howard Payne university at Brownwood, and gifts to thirty-four young men and women whom the couple aided in getting college educations.

Hardin was 22 years old when he came to Texas from Tennessee in 1876 and settled near Cleburne. Three years later, with his wife and their baby, he moved to North Texas, where the family set up housekeeping in a dugout near Wichita Falls. The baby died in infancy and Mrs. Hardin died a few years later. In 1888 Hardin married Miss Catherine Funk who died two years ago.

Those early days in North Texas were difficult, but by farming, operating a general store, and making ju-

dicious investments, Hardin amassed something like \$1,000,000. Then oil was discovered on his land and the fortune grew.

Hardin did not make as much from oil as he could have made, however. Soon after he started out in business, Hardin had found it necessary to borrow \$1,000. The interest was 10 per cent. He had a hard time paying it, and vowed that if he ever had money to lend he would put it out at cheaper interest.

As a result when oil was found in Burkburnett, he held mortgages on approximately half the property in the town.

But instead of using this situation to increase his wealth he released every mortgage so that property owners could develop the land themselves.

He also donated \$142,000 to the public schools of Burkburnett and gave the city an electric plant.

Merchants Sales Books 5c, six for 25c or 25 for \$1.00, at Merkel Mail office.

CARD OF THANKS.
We want to thank our neighbors and friends for their kindness to our dear little mother during her last illness; also we appreciate the lovely floral offerings sent.
Mrs. W. A. McSpadden.
Mrs. G. A. Roberts.

MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS.
We will appreciate the privilege of sending in your subscription to the leading magazines. On a great many of them, if you want to include your subscription to The Mail, we are in position to make special clubbing offer. See us before you renew.

Mail Classified Ad for Results.

NOTICE OF STOCKHOLDERS MEETING.

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the stockholders of the Farmers State Bank in Merkel, Merkel, Texas, will be held at the office of said bank the second Tuesday in January, 1938, being the 11th day of the month, for the election of directors and the

transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting. Polls open between 8 a. m. and 5 p. m.
Joe P. Self, Cashier.



Modern Beauty Shop
At Merkel Drug



Missie's Floral Shop



BOB FOWLER, Builder

OUR VERY BEST WISH

OUR VERY BEST WISH IS FOR

Your Happiness During Christmas

AND CONTINUALLY THROUGH THE NEW YEAR

WALKER AND ORSBORN

Front St. Phone 245

WE ARE REMINDED

At this time of the year we think of the good things of life and we are reminded of our friends and patrons. We want you to accept our sincere wishes for a joyous holiday season and a prosperous New Year for you.

BULLOCK HARDWARE CO.

Merkel, Texas

Phone 158

GUIDE TO GIFTS

Christmas is just around the corner. Only two shopping days left.

We call attention to the following gift suggestions:

For Women and Girls:

- Coty Toilet Sets
- Evening in Paris Toilet Sets
- Manicure Sets
- Vanities
- Dresser Sets
- Wrist Watches
- Diamond Rings
- Ear Rings
- Fitted Bags

For Men and Boys:

- Pipes
- Tie Sets
- Wrist Watches
- Billfolds
- Sheaffers Pens
- Pen and Pencil Sets
- Comb and Brush Sets
- Shaving Sets
- Traveling Sets
- Cigars

Miscellaneous:

- Candies—Kodaks—Book Ends—Diaries

"Do Your Christmas Shopping in Merkel"

MERKEL DRUG CO.

Phone 105

Merkel, Texas

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

PROFESSIONAL

BEN M. DAVIS

Certified Public Accountant

Attorney-at-Law

Income Tax Consultant

Mims Bldg.

Abilene, Texas

DR. JNO. W. NEWSOM

The Drugless Physician

Office in the Banner Residence

OFFICE HOURS

8:00 A. M. to 5 P. M.

Saturday: 8 a. m. to 12 p. m.

PAULINE JOHNSON

Successor to

G. W. JOHNSON

INSURANCE—NOTARY PUBLIC

Next door to Eli Case and Son

Grocery and Market

Merkel, Texas

Ernest Walter Wilson

ATTORNEY-AT-LAW

Insurance Law a Specialty

General Civil Practice

125 1/2 Pine St. Abilene, Texas

MERKEL MAIL WANT ADS FOR RESULTS

OUR CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO OUR PATRONS

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To our friends who have been with us through the years and have been kind and considerate and to our new friends who have not been with us long we extend the season's greetings. We do not look upon you merely as customers but as friends we are all one big family of friends. We like to feel that our business is essential to you and that we are rendering worthwhile service. It is our pleasure to serve you.

We Wish for you the best that Christmas holds of mirth and cheer and a New Year of happiness and prosperity.

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Higginbotham-Bartlett Co.

Corner Elm and Kent Streets

RAYMOND FERGUSON, Mgr.

Telephone 62

Santa Pays Visit To Circle Members

A happy group of Woodmen Circle members met at the Woodmen hall Thursday afternoon to enjoy a Christmas party.

A musical program was furnished by the Spinks Quartette who play over KRBC station in Abilene each week.

After a knock at the sentinel's door, Old Santa was admitted. Names were drawn and after Santa had greeted every one he delivered the gifts.

On Jan. 6, a joint installation of the W. O. W. and Woodmen Circle officers will be held at the W. O. hall.

Bereavement acknowledgement engraved cards, with envelopes to match, 50 cents per dozen at Merkel Mail office.

Has your subscription expired? Come in and renew it next time you are in town. Special club rates on Semi-Weekly Farm News, Pathfinder and several Magazine Offers.

Try a Classified Ad in The Mail.

TELEPHONE THE MAIL

The Mail will be glad to receive news of entertainments or visitors in Merkel homes, as well as other news items of a general nature. If you have company, entertain friends or return from a trip please telephone 61 or 29.

Turkey Days

(Continued From Page One.)

winners of the turkeys and prizes awarded with the turkeys were:

Jake Martin — A turkey; Homer Reynolds, case of five quarts of Parana oil from Merkel Co-Op station.

Elbert Hickman—A turkey and \$5 cash.

A. A. Connell and G. F. Woods—Decided to eat the turkey together and cast lots for the alarm clock from the Merkel Drug company.

Hollis Horton—A turkey; Laverne Moore, a plate lunch at Woozy's cafe.

C. R. Peterson and Obe Patterson—Split sale value of turkey and quart of oil from Carl Mathews' Filling station between them.

Don Swafford—A turkey and \$5 cash.

P. A. Diltz, Jr.—A turkey; Raymond Brewer, a 24-lb. sack of Kimbell's best flour from Eli Case and Son.

W. A. Daniel—A turkey and quart of oil from Gulf Service station.

N. C. Palmer—A turkey; O. R. Ashford and Mrs. J. H. Maddera divided the \$5 cash prize.

J. Hamp Campbell—A turkey; Hollis McCoy, a year's subscription to the Merkel Mail.

Mrs. H. B. Robertson—A turkey;

Mrs. Clarence Newton, \$5 in cash. (This was for ladies only and two tied.)

W. S. Maserang—A turkey; Frankie Shults, choice of a butcher or slicing knife from Bullock Hardware company.

T. O. Brown—A turkey and a six cup dripolator from the West company.

L. T. Wiley (colored)—A turkey

and a cleaning and pressing job from Adcock's Dry cleaners.

J. H. Swinney—A turkey and \$5 cash.

LOST ANYTHING? A little ad in our Lost and Found column may bring it right back.

Complete line of office supplies at Mail office.

Read Merkel Mail Want Ads.

BEFORE CHRISTMAS GOES BY

May We Express Our Appreciation for You who Have Made Our Business Possible by Your Loyal Support. Our Best Wishes Are for a Christmas and a New Year of Joy and Contentment.

MERKEL HOSPITAL

William T. Sadler, M. D.
L. C. Zehnpfennig, D. D. S.

GREETINGS FOR THE HOLIDAY

The holiday season is here and with a deep feeling of appreciation of friends and patrons and of their value to us. May this be truly a happy Christmas and the New Year Bright and Prosperous.

MODERN SERVICE STATION
GEO. WEST, Jr., Mgr.



C. M. PRESLEY JEWELER
209 Pine Abilene, Texas

WE APPRECIATE YOU 1937

Our business relations with many patrons and friends have given them a high place in our esteem. We appreciate the opportunity of serving you and feel that you are satisfied customers because of value received.

We thank you for your patronage and trust that we may serve you during a New Year of prosperity.

1938
Frank Golladay
CONOCO DEALER

OUR WISH TO YOU
Our wish for you is a Christmas filled with good cheer and a New Year of Health, Happiness and Prosperity
Clesby Patterson Service Station
TWO STATIONS
Across from Fire Station
Across from Burton-Lingo Co.

GREETINGS AT YULETIDE
May Your Christmas Be Jolly and Your New Year Bountiful
FRONT STREET GROCERY
Merkel, Texas Phone 167
MERKEL MAIL WANT ADS FOR RESULTS



MAKE IT A Merry Christmas EVERY DAY IN THE YEAR FOR MOTHER — GIVE HER A BEAUTIFUL, LABOR-SAVING

AUTOMATIC GAS RANGE

THE Gift MOST DESIRED — THE Gift OF A LIFETIME

Glittering knick-knacks won't do for Mother! What she wants, and really needs, is easier work, more leisure! And what gift would be more helpful, more labor-saving than a sparkling automatic gas range?

Today's gas range, with its many extraordinary features of convenience, is a wonder-worker in easing mother's never-ending work of daily meal preparation. One makes all cooking operations surer, easier. There's a new high-speed grill that broils in practically half the time. Automatic oven heat control puts an end to oven-watching. Simmer burners provide the exact heat needed instantly. Insulation of oven keeps heat inside to do more cooking on same amount of gas. These and many more features will be a delight to mother every day in the year and for many years.

So, dad, talk it over with the children tonight and plan now to pool your Christmas money for a gift mother really wants.



- Easy Monthly Terms!
- Small Down Payment!
- Generous Trade-in Allowance!



Community Natural Gas Co.
LONE STAR GAS SYSTEM

WHEN YOU BUY TODAY, YOU BUY TOMORROW

J. Walter Hammond Back from Chicago

After more than a week of listening to speeches and riding trains, J. Walter Hammond returned to his home in Tye last Friday from the Farm Bureau convention in Chicago.

Hammond left home the week before, attended the convention of the Texas Agricultural association in Fort Worth as a member of the resolutions committee, then moved on to Chicago for a three-days meeting there.

He was one of 28 farmers from Texas attending the session in Chicago, which drew 2,500 representatives from 38 states. Voting delegates from Texas were H. G. Lucas of Brownwood and Cliff Day of Plainview.

Leaders in the Taylor County Agricultural association are arranging for meetings of farmers at which Hammond will report on the convention.

Read the advertisements in this paper. There's a message in every one of them that may enable you to save money. At least you will know where to find what you want without doing a lot of hunting and asking questions, and you also know the merchants appreciate your patronage because they solicit your business and make special offering of their goods.

Authorized strength of the U. S. army is 165,000.

Texas spends \$45 per child each year for public education, compared with \$65 in Pennsylvania, \$76 in Illinois and \$127 in New York, says the state department of education.

Advertise in The Merkel Mail.

Second sheets for sale at Merkel Mail office.

Standard Typewriter Ribbons 75c each at Merkel Mail office.

Use The Mail Want Ads.



Queen Confectionery
D. A. COMPTON, Prop.



Dr. J. P. Howard
Chiropractor

May Your Wishes Come True Is Our Wish To You For Christmas And The New Year

PETTY & WEST
SANITARY BARBER SHOP

Bronte Captures Title At Divide Tournament

Bronte emerged winner in the Divide basketball tournament last weekend, defeating Divide 16-14. Charles (Baby-Face) Todd, unanimous all-tournament choice, hit the basket for the tally that broke the 14-all score.

The smooth-working Trent five, which lost to Highland 32-31 in the first round, won consolation honors by downing Bradshaw, 30-20. Work of the Trent stars, Terry and Tittle, which had been outstanding during the meet, was exceptionally good in the final.

The all-star team, as named by coaches, was composed of Todd of Bronte, Sidney Jones of Westbrook, Preston Lucas of Divide, Leonard Huff of Divide and Max McElmurray of White Flat.

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON, D. C. Published every week right at Washington, D. C., the capital of the nation and news center of the world, the Pathfinder has a tremendous advantage over all other magazines. That is why we are happy to offer the Pathfinder in combination with the Merkel Mail at the big bargain price of only \$1.00. Leave your order at our office or mail it in promptly. We will gladly show you a sample copy of the Pathfinder if you wish, but the important thing is, don't let this chance slip!

Office supplies—Mail office. Adding machine rolls 15c or two for 25c; regular retail price everywhere. For Sale at Merkel Mail office.

We fill all doctor's prescriptions. Vick Drug company.



MERKEL PRODUCE
E. E. DUNN, Mgr.

Elect Carl Sellers Red Cross Chairman

Carl C. Sellers of Abilene is the new chairman of the Taylor county chapter, American Red Cross. He was elected Friday afternoon in the annual business meeting held in the court house at Abilene and will succeed Robert B. Wylie.

Walter Jarrett was chosen as vice-chairman; Mrs. Fred Hoppe will succeed Mrs. W. R. Ely as secretary, and E. E. Hollingshead was re-named treasurer.

Adding machine rolls at Merkel Mail office.



WOODRUM SERVICE STATION

MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR

ED'S CAFE
In Business Since 1907

MAY THIS CHRISTMAS BE A HAPPY ONE FOR YOU

May This Season With Its Mirth and Cheer Be A Happy One for You. May the New Year Lavish Its Richest Blessings on You. We Give You Our Best Wishes Because We Feel That Your Loyal Support and Good Will Deserve the Best We Have.

W. O. BONEY
MERKEL, TEXAS

Farm Loans and all kinds of Insurance
Consult Your Insurance Agent as you Would Your Doctor or Lawyer.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

1937

1938

BEST WISHES FOR CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR OF 1938

To Our Customers and Friends:

We appreciate your business in the past.

We sincerely hope we have added something to make your life happier.

We desire to continue our service to you.

We wish you a glorious holiday season and a prosperous New Year.

GULF OIL CORPORATION
C. F. CURB, Distributor

1937

1938

HAPPY NEW YEAR

WE DON'T KNOW WHAT THE NEW YEAR HOLDS FOR US BUT WE DO KNOW...

It will be what we make it, to a great extent.

We believe that if we work hard, are alert and anxious to serve to the best of our ability we will achieve success in our efforts to progress.

OUR GRATITUDE—We are grateful to you for the opportunity of serving you. We have endeavored to give you the best of service at the lowest possible cost.

BURTON-LINGO CO.

"Where quality not price is criterion"
North Front and Lamar Phone 74

TO OUR CUSTOMERS

The New Year means that we have another year in which to serve our customers. Another year in which we may add our part in the welfare and betterment of our patronage. Another time to wish our friends happiness and prosperity through the New Year.



HI-WAY SERVICE STATION

SINCLAIR GAS & OILS

P. H. DOUGLAS, Dealer

BERTIS LANG, Agent

Front Street

Phone 288

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE

ECZEMA RELIEF: Paracide Ointment is guaranteed to relieve any form of eczema, itch, athlete's foot, itching piles within 24 hours, or money promptly refunded. Large jar 60c at Merkel Drug Co.

FOR SALE—20 acres, 1 1-4 miles of Merkel; 2-room dwelling and small outbuildings; good well and mill. W. O. Boney.

See me before you sell your Maize; will pay top prices at all times; you will find me or some one of my men at Hi-Way Service Station.

Sinclair Gas and Oils
Washing and Greasing
A full line of Brunswick Tires (guaranteed) and Tubes

HI-WAY SERVICE STATION
P. H. Douglas & Son
Phone 288 Merkel, Texas
Open all night

FOR SALE OR TRADE—F-20 Farmall tractor, good condition; also want to buy maize heads. A. D. Fulton.

SOME GOOD Oil and Wood Ranges, at bargains; all kinds of heaters for less; good 4-room house for rent. City Furniture. Joe Garland.

GOOD MILK COW, with young calf, for sale. J. T. Coats. Phone 274-W.

FOR SALE—Several good young work mules and mares; also black hull seed wheat. Pierce Horton.

FOR SALE

FOR SALE—Costly home place in Merkel, also two small houses, block south of school buildings. For further information, address W. R. Costephens, Sweetwater, Texas.

CHEAP FARMS
CHEAP CHRISTMAS APPLES
120 acre Süth \$3,500, only \$500 down.
240 acre Clyde, \$20 a.

100 acre Eula \$30, \$500 down.
20 acre improved Clyde, \$900.
Fine Delicious Apples at wholesale for Christmas, at our nursery, 1-2 mile north of Clyde.

Shanks Land and Loan Office
Room 1, Penney Bldg. Phone 20180
Abilene, Texas

FOR SALE—Teams and tools; moving, quitting big farming; until Jan. 1st, can be seen at Fayette Bland's place, northeast of Trent. R. H. Cooley, Route 2, Trent, Texas.

FOR SALE

FOR SALE—small barn, brooder house, 1 Cockerel and 8 pullets, Silver Spangled Hamburgs, 1 Cockerel and 4 pullets, Rose Comb Black Minorcas. O. R. Dye, Merkel, Texas.

WANTED

BRING us your Produce; highest market prices guaranteed. Sheppard & Shelton Produce, Independent Operators. We pay cash. Phone 141.

WE WANT a few thousand bundles of good cane or higeria. C. M. Largent & Sons.

LOST ANYTHING? A little ad in our Lost and Found column may bring it right back.

MERRY XMAS

and a

HAPPY NEW YEAR

from the

ECONOMY GROCERY

T. O. Neill D. D. Davis



H. A. MARTIN
GROCERY

HOLIDAY GREETINGS



DR. CURLEY'S PLACE

Plymouth Service Front Street

FAREWELL TO 1937

We appreciate the happy association with our patrons during the past year and look forward to the New Year with its opportunity to serve again those who have been so kind.

We thank you one and all and extend our warmest wishes for your happiness during Christmas and the New Year.

CITY DRY CLEANERS

Kent Street Phone 189

MAY WE EXPRESS OUR HEARTIEST WISH

For This Yuletide and The New Year

MAY WE EXTEND OUR APPRECIATION

For Your Patronage during the year just past.

REID'S VARIETY STORE

Merkel, Texas

Christmas Greetings:- friends

1937

1938

Our Christmas is made joyous by our friends. Their desires and needs are our chief interest all the year round and at Christmas time especially. We are happier in knowing that our friends are happier.

May the New Year bring you peace and joy and may we be privileged to serve you to the end.

WEST CO.

"48 Years in Merkel"



J. T. DARSEY



A Bright Merry Christmas

A Happy New Year!



Brightness and Cheer throughout the year! This Your Electric Servant wishes for you, uttering a wish that can come true! These are our gifts to your home and community. Well-lighted homes create a holiday spirit the year 'round; good light brings comfort and eyesight protection; and electric power supplies safe refrigeration, easy cooking and all the many services that are yours at the touch of a switch. Just as each Christmas finds West Texas—the Land of Opportunity—enjoying an advanced standard of living, so it finds Electric Servants contributing more to the happiness and comfort of the quarter-million people in the 161 communities served by this company. And every Christmas finds the unit cost of this service diminishing. To make 1938 a happier year, use more Electric Service at today's low rates.

West Texas Utilities Company



COMPTON-WALKER.

The marriage of Miss Vera Walker and Delma Compton was solemnized in a pretty twilight setting at the Presbyterian manse on Wednesday evening, December 22, at six o'clock, the Rev. R. A. Walker, father of the bride, officiating, in the presence of only the immediate members of the two families.

Mrs. Compton is the oldest daughter of Rev. and Mrs. R. A. Walker. She is at present teaching school at Castle Peak. Having lived in Merkel for ten years and being the possessor of a most friendly personality, she has won for herself an enviable place in the social and religious life of this town. She was most attractively gowned for her wedding in a duobonnet suit with fur trim of Astrakhan. Accessories were in all black.

Delma Compton is the son of Mrs. S. M. Compton; born and reared in Merkel, by his geniality he has made friends in all walks of life. He is best known for his wonderful voice and recently he has gone in business for himself, having bought the Queen confectionery in the fall. Immediately following the ceremony they left for a short automobile trip.

Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Walker and little daughter from Paris were here for the wedding and will remain for the Christmas holidays. Mr. and Mrs. Comer Patterson of Abilene were also present.

FORTNIGHTLY STUDY CLUB'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY.
Christmas appointments and decorations made the annual Christmas party of the Fortnightly Study club a festive occasion for the club members and their honor guests, the members of the Junior Study club.

The party in the form of a program tea was given in the home of Miss Johnnie Sears Tuesday afternoon, Dec. 21.

Program artists were Mrs. Larry Adamson, soprano, with Mrs. Raymond Bynum accompanist; Miss Ora Fae Hefley, violinist, with Miss Alice Bentley accompanist; all of Abilene; and Mrs. G. W. Wilhite, reader.

Members of the house party who received guests were Mrs. W. W. Haynes, club president; Mrs. Henry West, past president; Mrs. W. T. Sadler, Mrs. Norman Hodge, Miss Johnnie Sears and Mrs. Connor Robinson.

Mrs. Connor Robinson introduced the artists for the following program: "Hark, Hark the Lark," (Schubert-Spalding); "The Last Rose of Summer," (folk song), and "Ave Maria," (Schubert), by Miss Hefley; "Villanelle," (Eva Del' Acqua); "Paria," (Arditio), and "Lesson With a Fan," (Guy D'Hardelet), by Mrs. Adamson; "Ave Maria," (Gounod), Mrs. Adamson and Miss Hefley, and "Christmas with Five Generations," a one-act play, Mrs. G. W. Wilhite.
At the tea hour a refreshment plate in Christmas colors of red and green accented other decorations of poin-

settias, lighted candles and the mantle snow scene.

Arrangements for the party were in charge of the social committee with Mrs. S. D. Gamble as chairman, assisted by Miss Johnnie Sears and Mrs. Connor Robinson.

Guests were Mesdames Weston West, George West, Bill Sheppard, Wrenn Durham, Chester Collinsworth, Pa. Davis, L. C. Zehnpennig, Lou Farrow, J. E. Boaz, Jr., J. A. Grable, Raymond Ferguson, Misses Wanda Hunter, Mary Collins, Juanita Stroud, Helen Reddell, Frances Marie and Bessylea Church, Lois Whiteley and Mildred Burnett.

Club members were Mesdames Stanley King, Joe Self, W. W. Haynes, Connor Robinson, Henry West, W. T. Sadler, Norman Hodge, Tom Largent, S. D. Gamble, F. C. McFarland, T. E. Collins, W. S. J. Brown, G. W. Wilhite, Johnny Cox, J. T. Warren, Miss Johnnie Sears, Mammie Ellis, Julia Martin and Christine Collins.

ANNUAL LOG HUNT.

The "Lodge," ranch home on the John Sears estate, is the scene of the gayest of Christmas parties each year. Clever and unique are the stunts employed in the "Log-Hunt" and in games played around a roaring bonfire. Inside the huge living room, a long table is piled with viands symbolic of the holiday season and a lighted tree dispenses pretty gifts to each guest.

Mr. and Mrs. Victor Tippet of San Angelo time their visit each Yuletide in the home of Mrs. Tippet's mother, Mrs. E. N. Brown, to coincide with the date of the "Log Hunt," also Mrs. Roy Largent brought as her guest D. L. Stevens of Brownwood. Local people who enjoyed the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. W. S. J. Brown last Friday evening were Messrs. and Mesdames Johnny Cox, Yates Brown, Lige Gamble, Tom Largent, Booth Warren, Dee Grimes, Elmer Lowe, Mrs. Warren Smith and Charlie Jones.

YULETIDE PARTY FOR JOLLY NEIGHBORS.

Mr. and Mrs. John Grable opened their home on last Thursday evening to members of the Jolly Neighbors club, entertaining with a Christmas party. In a beautiful Yuletide setting games of "84" progressed until the arrival of Santa, then gifts were distributed from the beautiful tree.

A dainty refreshment plate carried miniature Santa Claus stick-ups as favors for Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hughes of Abilene, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. White and Harold Miller, club guests, and the following members: Mrs. F. E. Church, Messrs. and Mesdames Herbert Patterson, Forrest Gaither, Raymond Ferguson, E. Clyde Smith, Johnny Cox and Robt. Hicks.

HOLIDAY BANQUET.

Members of the Fidelis Matrons were guests for a lovely Christmas banquet in the basement of the Baptist church last Thursday evening. The entertaining room were profusely decorated with Yuletide symbols, climaxed with a lighted tree, around which a program was given. A seasonal menu was served and gifts were distributed from the tree.
Mrs. Sam Swann gave the devotion-

al and Christmas stories were told by Mrs. W. T. Sadler and Mrs. Comer Haynes. Mrs. Byers Petty read various scriptures and carols, appropriate to each scripture, were sung by Misses Frances Higgins, Pearl Mathews, Rachael Patterson and Grovone Ford.

The following names were registered: Mesdames Warren Smith, Ted McGehee, Byers Petty, Lendon Coats, Bonnie Griswold, Florence Berry, Nim Teaff, Jarrett Pinckley, Salena Teaff, Buck Leach, Bill Fugat, Fred Baker, Jr., Earl Baze, T. L. Kerns, Max Swafford, Bill Haynes, Irl Walker, Allen McGehee, Charles Largent, Nell Lee, Comer Haynes, Dent Gibson, Sam Swann and W. T. Sadler.

WILLING WORKERS PARTY.

The Willing Workers class of the Grace Presbyterian church met with Mrs. W. M. Elliott on Tuesday afternoon of last week for a Christmas program.

The devotional was given by Mrs. L. L. Murray, with prayer by Mrs. J. J. Russell. The tree was beautifully decorated with gifts for each member.

Refreshments were served to Mesdames L. L. Murray, R. A. Walker, J. J. Russell, Marvin Smith, Selma Russell, W. T. Curb, J. E. Tucker, Misses Mary, Lizzie and Jenny Keny and May Warnack.

The class will meet with the Misses Keny on the second Tuesday in January.

BIRTHDAY PARTY.

Little Peggy Joyce Hampton was honored with a birthday party on her eighth birthday given by her mother, Mrs. S. A. Hampton, on Wednesday afternoon, Dec. 15. Games were played and prizes given to the winners, who were T. J. Bird, Jr., and Patricia Douglas.

Refreshments were served to the honoree and the following: Mattie Lou Bicknell, Patricia Douglas, Idell Suber, Beth Ann Day, Petty Jean Mathews, Billie Morris Baze, Carl Causeaux, T. J. Bird, Jr., G. H. Suber and Lewis Dell. Others present were Mrs. Ima Jean Suber, Faya Hampton and Lucille Hampton.

Has your subscription expired? Come in and renew it next time you are in town. Special club rates on Semi-Weekly Farm News, Pathfinder and several Magazine Offers.

Advertise in The Merkel Mail.

We fill all doctor's prescriptions. Vick Drug company.

Merkel Hospital Notes

E. M. Dean, who entered the hospital Dec. 10 for surgery, was dismissed last Friday.

Mrs. Claude Young of Abilene entered the hospital Saturday for surgery.

Douglass McCoy, son of Floyd McCoy, brought Saturday with a fractured leg, was dismissed Monday.

Paschall Bishop of Trent, who was admitted Monday with a badly fractured arm, both ulna and radius bones, was dismissed after eight hour.

W. R. Scott, also of Trent, who fell from a horse and fractured his jaw, knocking out several teeth, was hospitalized Tuesday.

PERSONALS

Jack C. Tucker, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Tucker, is home for a 15-day furlough from the quartermaster's corps, Beaumont hospital, at El Paso.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Guitar, Jr., left Saturday morning on the Sunshine Special for Detroit, Mich. They expect to be gone about ten days and will visit in Chicago and several other cities of interest, going on to Canada. On their return they will visit Carleton, Mo., his father's home town, and Mrs. Guitar's brother, Rev. J. W. G. Hill, in Montrose.

Mrs. E. A. Angus of Fort Worth is guest this week of Mrs. Sallie Angus.

Mrs. W. B. Graham arrived last week-end from Kilgore for a holiday visit with her mother, Mrs. J. H. McDonald. Mr. Graham and Joe Earl are expected Friday.

Emory Jones and little son, Marvin Estes, will leave Friday to spend Christmas with their wife and mother at Sanatorium.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Holmes, Jr., of Wickenburg, Ariz., are spending the Christmas holidays with his father, Joe Holmes, and other relatives.

Messrs. C. M. and Willie Joe Largent left Tuesday to attend the Davenport Hereford sale at Uvalde, expecting to return Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. E. B. (Dock) Seymour and little daughter, Mabeline, left Saturday for Chowchilla, Calif., to make their home. They were accompanied by Doyle Blair.

Has Completed Eleven Years Navy Service

W. R. Barnett, pharmacist's mate first class, U. S. navy, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Barnett, is home visiting his parents for the holidays.

Mr. Barnett is now stationed in San Diego, Calif., being attached to the U. S. S. Holland, submarine defender. He completes eleven years of service this year, and his intentions are to stay 9 more years, completing 20 years before retiring.

TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY.

LOST—Ladies' black leather purse Tuesday morning, back of Campbell's Grocery; contained \$4.82 in money and other items. \$1.00 reward for return to Campbell's Grocery.

TAKEN UP—A sorrel filly, now in city pound. See D. H. Vaughn, city marshal.

FOR RENT—3-room apartment, furnished or unfurnished, or entire 5-room house, furnished. Mrs. J. F. Holloway.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL.. 1937

Bananas, large fruit, doz.	15c	Complete assortment Xmas Tobaccos & Cigarettes	
Oranges, med size, doz.	19c	Xmas Mixed Candies	
Delicious Apples, nice size, doz.	23c	Lb.	17c
Our Stock of Oranges and Apples are complete—all sizes large or small		Stick Candy 1-2 lb. pkg.	Each 10c
Popular Prices on all Nuts		Chocolate covered Cherries	1 lb. box 25c
Fancy pinks Tomatoes, pound	10c	Chocolate Candy Xmas wrapped	5 lb. box 89c
Fresh dug New Potatoes, pound	7 1-2c	Stick Candy Peppermint or Peanut Butter Filled each	5c
Nice and tender Green Beans, 2 lbs.	25c		
Snowball Cauliflower, pound	10c		
Large crisp heads Potatoes, each	5c		
Well bleached Celery, stalk	15c		
Small round Radishes, bunch	5c		

Cranberry Sauce, 17 oz. cans 18c
Powdered Sugar, white, brown 3 lbs 25c
Syrup, White Karo, 3 lb. can 25c

Jello All flavors Pkg. 5c	Cake Flour Swans Down or Softa Silk Pkg. 33c	Peas Del Monte No. 2 can 19c
Peaches No. 2 1-2 Syrup packed 2 for 35c	Dates Pitted 1 lb. pkg 25c	Grape Juice None better Pints 20c
Cocoanut Long shred Lb. 25c	Pineapple Crushed 3 for 25c	Marshmallows Angelus 1 lb. pkg. 19c

Cherries, Marschino, red, green, 5 oz. 15
Olives, 24 ounce jar, each 46c
Pickles, sour or dill, 24 oz. jar 15c
K. C. 25 oz can 18c | Flour, K B 48 lbs 1.79
Tomatoes, No. 1's 5c | Milk, 7 cans 25c
Catsup, 14 ounce bottle, 2 for 23c
Post Toasties, regular pkg. 10c

Sugar Cloth bag 10 lbs. 55c	Steak, fancy chuck, lb. 19c
Coffee Folger's 2 lb. can 55c	Roast, chuck, lb. 17c
Shortening Mrs. Tucker's 8 lbs. 89c	Sausage pound 19c
	Olec, all sweet, glass free 20c
	Roast, rib, pound 12 1-2c
	Cheese American, 2 lb box 60c
	Sliced Bacon, lb. 33c
	Steak, T-Bone, lb. 23c
	Buttermilk, Sweet Milk and Whipping Cream

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FRIDAY-SATURDAY—MATINEES DAILY 1 P. M.
Gene Autry—Smiley Burnette
"PUBLIC COWBOY NO. 1"
Added: Dick Tracy Chapter No. 2; Also 2-Reel Comedy, "Should Wives Work?" and Cartoon
CHRISTMAS PREVUE 11 P. M., MONDAY-TUESDAY
Jack Benny—Gail Patrick—Richard Arlen
In "ARTISTS AND MODELS"
Specialties by Martha Raye, Louis Armstrong and Others
Added: Floyd Gibbons' True Adventure and Color Cartoon
WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY
Irene Dunne—Randolph Scott
"HIGH, WIDE AND HANDSOME"
With Dorothy Lamour—Akim Tamiroff—Charles Bickford
Also Selected Short Subjects

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