

Keeping Up With Texas

Harry Knox, Jr., former Brownwood merchant and state adjutant general, Monday began a six-year term as a member of the state board of control, to which he was appointed by Governor W. Lee O'Daniel. Shortly after he took office, he was elected by the board as its chairman for the next two years.

Andreas Gonzales, 20, Crystal City, was killed Sunday night when his truck was in collision with an electric pole.

Joe Hawkins, 35, was burned to death in a fire which destroyed a service station and garage at Cameron Saturday night, and Eddie Paul Moore, 25, died Sunday of burns received in the same fire which resulted when a gasoline truck exploded. Six others were injured.

Overcome with grief, Mrs. Sarah Martha Fitz-Charles, 75, Fort Worth, collapsed at the conclusion of her son's funeral Monday afternoon and died a few minutes later.

Captain William E. Underwood, 66, retired army officer, who was with Teddy Roosevelt in the Spanish-American war, died Saturday at his home in Dallas.

Augustin Olivare, 35, Alamo, was killed Sunday night when the sedan he was driving collided with a truck two miles north of Weslaco. He was the lower Rio Grande's 44th traffic victim of 1939.

Deputy Sheriff Bob Speed of Presidio county was shot to death Monday at Shafter, mining town about 50 miles south of Marfa. Sheriff J. D. Bunton said a liquor store proprietor in Shafter made a statement admitting the slaying. The suspect was lodged in jail at Marfa.

Flying Cadet Charles B. Patton, 22-year-old student of Kelly field, San Antonio, was killed and his companion, Flying Cadet Thomas Clyde Kelly, Jr., also 22, was injured in an automobile accident Saturday near Waco.

Maurice Brush, Jr., 16, died in a Houston hospital Sunday of injuries he suffered late Saturday when the motorcycle he was riding collided with an automobile.

Deputy Sheriff J. W. (Buddy) Killingsworth of Gregg county died in a Longview hospital Friday of wounds he suffered in a gunfight in which J. R. (Buster) Mitchell, 20, was also fatally wounded.

George White, 15-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd White, San Marcos, was found dead Monday, with a shotgun charge through his right chest.

Consuelo L. Hanna, 40, attorney of Luverne, Kossuth county, Iowa, was fatally injured Saturday when struck by a Missouri Pacific passenger train two miles west of Corpus Christi. Miss Hanna was walking along the right-of-way when she apparently stepped in front of the approaching train.

A westbound Texas & Pacific passenger train demolished a truck at a Weatherford railroad crossing last Friday morning, killing one man and critically injuring a second. Tip Dobbs, about 45, was killed instantly.

Judge C. S. Slatton of San Antonio was sworn in Monday as a member of the supreme court commission of appeals, succeeding A. B. Martin of Amarillo, resigned.

Named as District Deputy Grand Master

O. B. (Buck) Leach, a past worshipful master of Merkel Lodge No. 710, A. F. & A. M., was distinctively honored at the meeting of the Masonic Grand lodge at Waco in December in being appointed district deputy grand master of the 75th Masonic district.

The territory embraced in the district includes nine Masonic groups viz., at Abilene, Tuscola, Lawn Ovalo, Hamlin, Anson, Stanton, Stith and Merkel.

January Meeting Of P.-T. A. Unit Thursday, Jan. 11

January meeting of the Merkel Parent-Teacher association will be held next Thursday evening, Jan. 11, at 7 o'clock in the High School gymnasium.

With Miss Mary Lou Ashburn as leader, music will be furnished by the Grammar School Choral club and class demonstrations will be staged by the High School physical training classes.

Fourth grade room mothers will be hostesses.

'Your Home Town Newspaper'

THE MERKEL MAIL

VOL. 50.—NO. 43.

MERKEL, TEXAS, FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 1940.

On the "Broadway of America"

5c PER COPY

DEATH CLAIMS BELOVED WIFE OF R. L. ADCOCK

Funeral Services to be held at 2 P. M. Friday from Church of Christ; Two Daughters and One Grandchild Survive.

Mrs. Myrtle Williamson Adcock, beloved wife of R. L. Adcock, passed away at 4:40 Thursday morning at the family home. She had been ill for several years, her condition having been considered serious since the first of September.

Funeral services will be held at 2 o'clock Friday afternoon from the Church of Christ, with Minister E. W. Key officiating, assisted by Rev. John H. Crow, pastor of the Methodist church. Burial will follow in Rose Hill cemetery, with Barrow Funeral home in charge.

Mrs. Adcock was born in Coryell county on July 30, 1887, and was married at Fort McKavitt on Dec. 26, 1909, to R. L. Adcock, then teacher in the North Side school here. They returned after their marriage to make their home in Merkel.

Besides the husband, survivors include two daughters, Berdelle Adcock and Mrs. Harold King, both of Merkel; one granddaughter, Frances Nan King; her father, A. A. Williamson of Menard, and four brothers and three sisters.

The brothers are Travis Williamson, Fort McKavitt; Herbert, Carroll and Alvin Williamson, all of Menard; the sisters, Mrs. Mae Murr Fort McKavitt; Mrs. A. M. Duke Waco, and Barbara Williamson, Menard. Her oldest brother, Dutton Williamson, now deceased, was the father of Dutton and Bob Williamson, who made their home for several years with their aunt here.

National Cotton Consumption Shoots To All-Time Peak

Austin, Jan. 4.—In the face of inflated prices, national consumption of cotton by Dec. 1 shot to the all-time peak of 2,659,000 bales, Dr. A. B. Cox, University of Texas cotton marketing expert, said last week.

The first four months of the 1939 season also saw booming exports totaling 2,338,000 bales, or more than 800,000 above the similar period last year.

Despite rising domestic and export business, supplies continued to increase above previous years, standing on Dec. 1 at 19,876,000 bales, a million bales above last year's figure, the University Bureau of Business Research director said.

Price of cotton in December gained more than 2 points above December 1938, rising to about 10.50 cents for middling 7-8 inch staple, while the buying power price went up to 13.26 cents compared to 10.76 last year.

Nearest approach to the 1939 national consumption was in the fall of 1927, when this country consumed 2,508,000 bales, he said. Exports however, remained below the 1938 total and much under the five-year pre-depression figure.

List of Petit Jurors Called for Next Week

The jury panel in 42nd district court for next week includes the following names:

H. Stallo, N. T. Hodge, Eli Case E. P. Mayes, J. L. Baker, J. L. McLean, A. B. Patterson, Merkel; D. A. Blackburn, J. M. Orsborn, J. F. W. Axe, Gene Galbraith, F. Digbey Roberts, J. F. Thomason, Sam L. Dryden, R. M. Meand, Dallas Ward (colored), W. F. Matheny, W. R. Kirk, L. L. Cheatham, P. H. Patton, F. D. Middlebrooks, G. C. Hill, B. J. Rogers, J. N. Bristler, Johnnie Brooks, O. B. Stanley, J. J. Robertson, W. C. Sikes, C. E. Davis, J. E. Price, J. D. Akin, W. A. Ferguson, Walter Mitchell, D. G. Barrow, E. M. Bryan, F. T. McMeans, A. F. Smith, Cliff Anderson, W. F. Wetzel, W. J. Frazier, A. M. Giles, E. H. Lyon, Abilene; R. M. Beasley, R. B. McRee, Jr., L. E. Adrian, Trent; M. D. Richards, Tye; A. G. Mahaffey, I. L. Gotcher, Bradshaw; T. Kiser, Wingate; T. E. Hunter, View.

RE-ELECT SCHOOL HEAD FOR TERM TWO MORE YEARS

Supt. Connor Robinson, now serving his third year as head of the Merkel schools, was re-elected for a term of two years from July 1, date of expiration of his contract, at the monthly meeting of the board on Tuesday night.

Rex Myers, principal of the High school, I. W. Walling, principal of the Grammar school, and C. H. Collinsworth, vocational agricultural teacher, were also elected for two more years after the expiration of their present contracts July 1 of this year.

At the same meeting Carl Black was again named census enumerator for the schools and Fred A. Baker, Sr., tax assessor.

Reports Project "A" Completed; Project "B" Well Started

Johnny Cox, co-ordinator for Taylor County Electric Co-Operative, Inc., reported Thursday that the engineering work on project "A" had been finished. Maps will be completed in a few days and will then be sent to Washington for final approval.

Project "B", he says, is well started, with nearly 100 already signed up.

Four Bills Returned By 42nd Grand Jury

Grand jury in 42nd district court, impaneled Tuesday morning, returned four indictments Wednesday, then recessed until later in the term.

Two indictments were for drunk driving, one for failure to stop and render aid and the fourth for automobile theft.

Two Merkel men, T. H. Russom and H. B. Robertson, are on the inquisitorial body, of which H. R. Roberts of Guion was named foreman. Other members are Grover Nelson, J. E. McKenzie, V. R. Allen, Herman F. McDaniel, J. A. Pecheack and Ralph Antilley, all of Abilene; A. P. Warford, Lawn; M. G. Byrom, Trent; Fred Perry, Tye.

Stolen Car of Orient Higgins Recovered

The Ford Model-A coach, belonging to Orient Higgins, which was taken from downtown here Saturday night Dec. 23, was found abandoned in the Brazos river bottoms in Fort Bend county, officers were notified Saturday.

On Wednesday of this week, Deputy Sheriff P. A. Diltz, accompanied by Orient Higgins and Houston Robertson, left for Fort Bend county to get the car.

Officers are of the opinion that the car was stolen by a negro who is also wanted for investigation in connection with several burglaries in this part of the state.

Nine Children Present At Reunion of Elliotts

Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Elliott attend an enjoyable family reunion and dinner last Sunday at the home of a brother, G. W. Elliott, 1417 Orange street, Abilene, when their mother, Mrs. J. A. Elliott, had the privilege of being surrounded by all of her children except one—five sons and four daughters. The absent daughter was Mrs. May Kingsland, who lives in Minnesota.

Thirty-four were included in the group. Present were Mrs. Elliott and her daughter, Jewel Elliott, of 1231 North Seventh street, Abilene; Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Elliott, J. C. and Frances; Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Elliott, Dewayne, Julian and Tom Earl, Stamford; Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Elliott and Ella Bland, Stamford; Mr. and Mrs. Harry Elliott, Lubbock; Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Elliott, Merkel; Mrs. Dug Simms, Mineral Wells; Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Weaver and Joe Ben Hobbs, N. M.; Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Owens, Russell, Christine and Macie, Electra; Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Elliott, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Fudge and David Arnold, Abilene; Mrs. Alvie Elliott and her two children of Big Spring, and one visitor, Miss Joyce Grable of Abilene.

LIONS CLUB PLAN ANNUAL LADIES' NIGHT, JAN. 16

Committees on Arrangements Appointed at Tuesday's Luncheon; Two New Members, One Guest Welcomed.

Committees on arrangements were appointed at Tuesday's luncheon of the Lions club for annual ladies' night on Tuesday, Jan. 19.

C. H. Collinsworth is chairman of the program committee, to be assisted by Dr. L. C. Zehnpfennig and Booth Warren. On menu and decorations the committee consists of R. T. Gray, chairman, Stanley King, Earl Watts and Wrenn Durham.

As chairman of the attendance committee, Nathan Wood has as his helpers: Clyde Bartlett, Meyer Mellinger, Ray Wilson and Paul Douglass.

Two new members, E. Y. Bailey and F. M. Simpson, who had been previously elected, were welcomed and one visitor, Chas. L. Bowman, new liquidating agent here for the Farmers State bank, was present as a guest.

As chairman of the Goodfellows committee, Ted McGehee submitted final report, showing distribution of bags of fruit to 207 families at the Christmas season. A net deficit of \$7.47 resulted, as disbursements were \$113.60 and donations amounted to only \$106.13. After application of residue of another fund, the Lions club voted to pay the difference.

Opening singsong was led by Supt. Connor Robinson, with Gay West at the piano. Invocation was given by Ted McGehee.

Pioneer Couple of Area Observe Their 50th Wedding Date

Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Gibson, highly esteemed pioneer couple who have lived on the same farm about two miles southeast of town to which Mr. Gibson brought his bride after their marriage at Weatherford on Dec. 24, 1889, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on Christmas Eve. Mrs. Gibson was the former Ona Walling.

The observance was quietly celebrated, with only the children and their families present. Children are Mrs. Albert Peterson of Abilene, Mrs. George P. Smith of Levelland, J. P. Gibson of San Angelo, Mrs. Oran Brewer of Merkel and Dent Gibson of Abilene.

Hospital Notes.

Amon McMillon of Lubbock, injured in the automobile crash on Dec. 24 that claimed two lives on the highway west of town, was dismissed from Merkel hospital last Saturday.

Earl Bright of Trent entered the hospital on Dec. 27 for an appendectomy.

Mrs. R. L. Newman of Stith was admitted Jan. 2 for a blood transfusion. Mrs. Bill Herring of Noodle was admitted Jan. 3 for observation.

Mrs. D. C. Herring of Noodle, who suffered a fractured hip when she fell at her home, Dec. 20, was reported as doing nicely Thursday.

Sustains Broken Collarbone.

As she walked through a door from one room to another, Mrs. H. D. Clark fell at her home on Tuesday, Dec. 26, sustaining a broken collarbone. She was reported as resting well Thursday morning.

Mrs. Gladys Hampton, Emmett Ayres Wed

Marriage of Mrs. Gladys Hampton and Emmett Ayres took place at 7 o'clock last Sunday evening at Sweetwater, at the home of Justice of the Peace S. H. Shook, who officiated for the ceremony.

Both of the contracting parties are well known in the business world here. Mrs. Ayres, formerly of Sweetwater, is one of the owners of the Economy grocery and the groom is the efficient manager of Merkel Co-Op Service station No. 1.

The couple are temporarily located in the home of their brother-in-law Mr. and Mrs. T. O. Neill.

TAX COLLECTOR TO BE HERE TWO DAYS, JAN. 19-20

For the convenience of tax-payers of Merkel and West Taylor county, C. O. (Pat) Patterson, county tax assessor-collector, announces he will be in Merkel two days, Friday and Saturday, Jan. 19 and 20, to collect taxes and accept renditions.

He will be in Trent on Saturday of next week, Jan. 13.

Local Moutray Agent Receives Broken Rib In Highway Accident

H. W. Lemens, Moutray agent sustained a broken rib when one of two cars involved in a collision on Highway No. 1, about three miles west of Baird, struck the Studebaker pick-up he was driving, knocking it into the bar pit.

The accident occurred on Tuesday night, Dec. 26, as Mr. and Mrs. Lemens and daughter, Jan, were returning from a holiday visit with relatives in Red River county.

Mr. Lemens was given first aid at the Baird hospital. Mrs. Lemens and daughter sustained only minor injuries.

To Preside When Breck Pastor Is Installed

Rev. R. A. Walker, pastor of Grace Presbyterian church, attended a called meeting of Abilene presbytery held at Breckenridge Tuesday afternoon for the purpose of receiving Rev. V. K. Aubrey from the Amarillo presbytery as pastor at Breckenridge. He will succeed Rev. H. G. Markley, well known here, who has accepted another pastorate.

Rev. Mr. Aubrey will be installed Sunday night, at which time Dr. E. B. Surface, pastor of Central Presbyterian church, Abilene, will preach the sermon. The Merkel pastor will preside, ask the questions and charge the pastor. E. L. Finley of Abilene is to charge the congregation.

Southwest Zone of Jones County Meets With Noodle Church

Pastors, Sunday School officials and Sunday School members of the southwest zone of Jones county are reminded of the next regular meeting with Noodle Baptist church on Sunday, Jan. 7.

Baptist churches represented in this zone are Amity, Comper, Golan, Hebron, Hodges, Prairie View, River side, Truby, Shiloh and Stith.

Copy of program was not received by the zone reporter in time for publication, but there is no doubt that Riverside Sunday School will present a worthwhile program.

"As this is our first meeting of the New Year," said one of the leaders "let us have a record attendance with grades from each Sunday School. Let us all resolve to attend each monthly meeting and make this the best year in service for Christ."

Merkel 20 Years Ago

(From the Files of Merkel Mail, January 2, 1920.)

SEARS WELL FLOWING OIL.

According to reliable reports the Sears well, ten miles north of Merkel, which struck oil at 2,590 feet, indicates a 500 barrel flow.

MERKEL SCHOOL CROWDED.

The compulsory attendance law, which went into effect on December 29th, swelled our attendance to six hundred, necessitated raise of teachers' salaries and other expenses—places board in hard position to finance school.

17,300 Bales Up to Thursday night, Merkel is now a commercial center, leading West Texas cities in the number of bales already received. There are five big gins running at full speed with three to five thousand bales yet expected to be ginned.

Miss Lynn Thompson, Junior in the University of Nebraska, spent the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Thompson.

BANK DEPOSITS AT END OF YEAR UP OVER \$100,000

Loans Slightly Under Same Date in 1938; Postoffice Receipts Show Small Decrease, Compared With Previous Year.

Deposits the Farmers & Merchants National bank, as of Dec. 30, 1939, were \$118,878.52 more than at the close of business in 1938, it was disclosed by statement of the bank released at the close of the year. Loans and discounts, however, were slightly off from the same date in 1938.

As of Dec. 30, the bank declared a semi-annual dividend of four per cent, having previously declared the same dividend in June, making 8 per cent distributed to stockholders during the year. The December dividend was the 60th semi-annual dividend voted by the bank.

Loans and discounts as of Dec. 30, 1939, were \$178,199.52; deposits were \$573,833.42, and total resources \$652,450.19. Loans and discounts as of Dec. 31, 1939, were \$180,203.68; deposits \$454,954.90, and total resources \$529,855.33.

POSTOFFICE RECEIPTS.

Postoffice receipts for 1939 were slightly less than in 1938, falling short only \$10.24 of the previous year's figure. In 1938 receipts were \$9,616.02, it was reported by Postmaster Wrenn Durham, while the 1939 receipts were \$9,605.78. The third quarter of 1939 was off more than \$200 as compared with the same period in 1938, while the last quarter of 1939 exceeded the same period in 1938 by nearly \$250.

GINNING FOR YEAR.

Last tabulation by the Mail of ginnings in the area embracing the Merkel gins and those at Blair, Stith and Noodle, accounted for 6,658 bales of the 1939 crop. Not many more bales were ginned since that date, but later information is not available. The 1938 crop was 7,234 bales.

ANNUAL RAINFALL.

Snow that fell here Thursday of last week was estimated at 2 inches and yielded moisture of one-eighth of an inch, according to the gauge of Volunteer Weather Observer Grover Hale, bringing the final rainfall figure for 1939 to 18 1-4 inches.

County-Wide Road Project Receives Federal Approval

Federal approval has been given a \$260,200 county-wide road project for 1940, County Judge Carl P. Hulsey was advised in a telegram from Senator Tom Connally Monday.

The sum will be split four ways, according to County Commissioner Jack Canon, each precinct receiving over \$65,000.

Grubbing, clearing, drainage, widening of roadbed and paving will be included in county road work in 1940, the telegram from Connally advised.

Clifford Rose has returned from an extended trip to Fort Worth, Dallas and Stephenville.

TURNER CHILDREN DEAD.

Death is a dreaded foe. It is grievously painful to give up a single one of our loved ones but the misfortune that befell Mr. and Mrs. Ed Turner in the loss of two of their little children the past week, calls forth a great deal of fortitude on their part. Little Frank Adams died first and, a day or two later, little Frances Mildred followed. Burial was together in Rose Hill cemetery.

THE MERKEL MAIL CHANGES HANDS.

Our successor, Mr. Thos. Durham, formerly of De Leon, comes to us highly recommended as a Christian gentleman and business man—Mr. and Mrs. Walter Jackson.

THE MERKEL MAIL

Published Every Friday Morning
C. J. GLOVER, Editor

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

Taylor and Jones Counties.....\$1.00
Elsewhere.....\$1.50
(In Advance)

Advertising Rates On Application
TELEPHONE No. 61.

All obituaries, resolutions of respect, cards of thanks, etc., are classed as advertising, and will be charged for at 1 cent per word with a minimum of 35 cents.

**QUEEN THEATRE
CALENDAR**

Friday and Saturday—Double feature, continuous showing from 1 p. m. till 11:15 p. m.—No. 1, The Three Mesquiteers in "New Frontier;" No. 2, Pat O'Brien, Olympie Bradna in "The Night of Nights," cartoon and final chapter, "Lone Ranger Rides Again."

Saturday preview, Monday and Tuesday—Bette Davis and George Brent in "The Old Maid;" cartoon and News included.

Wednesday and Thursday—The "Dead End" Kids "On Dress Parade;" shorts and News included.

Next week—"Dust Be My Destiny."

**Setting for "Night
Of Nights" Exhibits
Priceless Gallery**

On the walls of the Paramount set reproduction of the famous Lambs' club, used in "The Night of Nights," which stars Pat O'Brien, Olympie Bradna and Roland Young and shows Friday and Saturday at the Queen theatre, were thirty camera portraits lent to the studio by Pat O'Brien.

In the gallery were Kyrle Bellow, Raymond Hitchcock, Forbes Robertson, John Drew, William H. Crane, E. H. Southern, Tom Meighan and many other celebrities. O'Brien cherishes them for their sentimental value.

"Paramount has insured them for \$3,000," he told Young and Director Lewis Milestone.

"Think of that," exclaimed the director.

"I believe it," said Young. "Impossible to duplicate them. Original and different. They are not autographed!"

"The Night of Nights" tells a dramatic story of Broadway behind-the-scenes that covers twenty years of a man who knew all the answers.

**Queen Opens New Show
Season with Miss Bette
Davis in "The Old Maid"**

One of the outstanding motion picture productions of the new season will be featured as the inaugural production of the Queen's new show season celebration—Bette Davis and Miriam Hopkins in "The Old Maid," which shows Saturday night preview, Monday and Tuesday at the Queen.

"The Old Maid" is Warner Bros. screen version of Zoe Akins' Pulitzer prize-winning stage play.

The picture was produced by the same producer-star director-writer combination that made "Dark Victory"—namely, Warner Bros., Bette Davis, Edmund Goulding and Casey Robinson.

Miss Hopkins, after more than a year of voluntary inactivity, is co-

starred with Miss Davis. Other members of the cast who have important parts are George Brent, Jane Bryan, Donald Crisp, Cecelia Loftus and Louise Fazenda.

The story deals with two cousins, Charlotte and Delia Lovell, who live in the same old house in aristocratic Philadelphia in the period between 1861, when the Civil War broke out, and the 1880's. Despite the luxury and wealth with which they are surrounded they hate and envy each other for twenty-odd years.

**"Dead End" Kids on
"Dress Parade" Next**

The appellation of "Dead End Kids" is a misnomer in "Dress Parade," coming to the Queen Wednesday and Thursday; they are as unlike the east side New York ragamuffins they portrayed in "Dead End" as were the "Rover Boys" of another generation. The sharp-tongued, cigarette-stunted, beer-drinking character that was Leo Gorcey seemed destined to remain. At the start of "Dress Parade" his was the only part reminiscent of the "Kids" earlier films. But at the end his transformation is the most complete of all.

The setting is a military school, a school, incidentally, that may leave many a former or current cadet slightly giddy with the wonder of it, not to mention the sentimentality cloying the hallowed halls. Neither drill nor sports play a part in the action. The competitive phase emerges on the scholastic side as "Slip Duncan" (Gorcey) crams like mad to lead the school.

"Slip" comes to the school a rebellious character. Partially responsible for an accident that injures "Rollins" (Halop), he is ignored by the other cadets. He sets out to excel in studies and does, but still his schoolmates present the cold shoulder. At the summer maneuvers—the scenes resemble newsreel shots of regular Army sham battles—"Slip" rescues a cadet from a burning ammunition dump, and gains the devotion of the students.

Condition Slightly Improved.

Mrs. Allie Green, who has been seriously ill at the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. I. W. Walling, was given a blood transfusion Wednesday. She is reported slightly improved Thursday morning.

**Offer All-Hollywood
Talking Picture for
John Deere Program**

Bullock Hardware, local John Deere dealer, is sponsoring a big John Deere Day Program at their store Wednesday, Jan. 10, for farmers and their families in this and neighboring communities.

According to Harry Bullock, an all-Hollywood talking picture entitled "Joel Gentry in Hollywood" will be the feature attraction of the day. This appealing new picture was produced especially for farmers by the John Deere organization, and from all reports, it's a picture that will long be remembered for its rich sentiment, amusing situations and charming romance.

In the cast of Hollywood players are John King, Rosina Lawrence, Marilyn Knowlden, Gene Morgan, Sarah Padden, Robert Homans, Charles Judels, Johnny Arthur, and many others.

The picture tells the story of Joel Gentry, a farm boy who wins \$1,000 and a trip to Hollywood. Joel's experiences in Hollywood and why he went back to the farm is a story



FOR SALE

MY FARM for immediate sale; reasonably priced; cash. Mrs. A. H. Thornton.

FOR SALE—Several fresh and heavy springers; see these cows before you buy. R. A. Walker or Booth Warren.

FOR SALE—80 head of calves; weigh about 400 pounds; also 50 head of aged cows. Sam Butman.

FOR RENT

FOR RENT—Furnished apartment on Oak street. Mrs. Ed Turner.

FOR RENT—Furnished room. See Pete White. Phone 159.

FOR RENT—Southeast bedroom, one or two gentlemen. Mrs. J. F. Walker, 528 Oak Street.

FOR RENT—Furnished rooms; all conveniences. Mrs. Gertrude Pea.

FURNISHED two-room apartment and bedroom. all conveniences. Mrs. A. H. Thornton.

LOST AND FOUND

LOST—Dark wool jacket with zipper; pair of glasses in pocket. Return to Merkel Mail office.

LEGAL NOTICE

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 9th day of January, 1940, at 5 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.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS
POLITICAL**

(Subject to the action of the Democratic Primary in July.)

For County Commissioner, Precinct No. 2:
H. B. (Hob) ROBERTSON.
A. J. CANON (Re-election.)

every farmer will enjoy.

Four Other All-Talking Pictures.

In addition to "Joel Gentry in Hollywood" four other all-talking pictures will be shown. They include: "Making Tractor History," an interesting picture on the development of the farm tractor; "Horses and Mules for Sale," a picture that points the way to the elimination of animal power on the farm; "A Short Cut Through Harvest," an educational picture on the ability of the combine to save time, hard work, grain and money on both large and small farms, and a short newsreel on "What's New in Farm Equipment."

Bullock Hardware cordially invites every farmer, farmer's wife and farm boy in this area to come to this big farmer day program promising a good time to everyone who comes. Admission to the John Deere Day Program will be by ticket only. Any farmer who has not received tickets can get them by inquiring at the store before the day of the show.

**Hob Robertson Enters
Race for Commissioner**

To the Voters of Precinct 2:
I take this method of placing my candidacy for the office of commissioner of Precinct No. 2 before you for your consideration.

I have lived in Taylor county since 1903. I am married, have wife and two children.

In asking you for your support for this office I feel that I am fully capable of handling the affairs of the office in an efficient and satisfactory manner. I feel that my experiences in other lines of work have given me necessary experience in looking after the financial interests of the county.

If you people see best to elect me to this office it will be my desire to render all the service to the citizens of the precinct, which the finances of the precinct will permit, and to do this with fairness to all concerned. It will also be my aim and desire to help look after the financial interest of the whole county in helping to handle its funds in an economical and efficient way.

I have never before asked for a public office and if you see fit to elect me to this office I assure you that I will put forth my best efforts to make you a good commissioner.
I thank you.
H. B. (Hob) Robertson.

Condensed Statement
The Old Reliable
FARMERS & MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK
Merkel, Texas
Close of Business December 30, 1939

| RESOURCES | | LIABILITIES | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Loans, Time and Demand | \$178,199.52 | Capital Stock | \$ 50,000.00 |
| Overdrafts | 678.93 | Surplus | 21,000.00 |
| Real Estate | 1.00 | Undivided Profits | 5,616.77 |
| Furniture and Fixtures | 2,500.00 | Dividend (4% Semi-Annual) | |
| Stock in Fed. Res. Bank | 2,100.00 | Payable December 30, 1939 | 2,000.00 |
| Bills of Exchange—Cotton | \$ 3,047.53 | | |
| Gov. Loans on Cotton | 84,039.38 | | |
| Bonds and Warrants | 58,525.30 | | |
| Cash and Sight Exchange | 323,358.53 | | |
| AVAILABLE CASH | 468,970.74 | DEPOSITS | 573,833.42 |
| Total | \$652,450.19 | Total | \$652,450.19 |

The above statement is correct.
Booth Warren, Cashier.

JOIN NOW
CHRISTMAS SAVINGS CLUB FOR 1940
Deposit 25c — 50c — \$1.00 — \$2.50 — \$5.00
Regularly each week during the year.

LOCAL NEWS BRIEFS

Alterations in the Farmers and Merchants National bank now under way provide for a balcony in the rear, to be used as a directors' room, and re-arrangement of the telephone booths under the balcony.

Among Merkel spectators at the High School championship football game at the Cotton Bowl, Dallas, last Saturday, were Supt. Connor Robinson, Rex Myers, Bob Grimes, Wrenn Durham, Meyer Mellinger and Vernon Mansfield.

Charles L. Bowman of Dallas, formerly with the Home Owners Loan corporation, took charge as liquidating agent of the Farmers State bank here on Jan. 1, succeeding L. L. Adams, who moved to Sweetwater and was elected vice-president of the Texas Bank and Trust company there. The Pete Whites have moved into the Oak street home formerly occupied by the Adams family.

Clyde Shouse sustained a most painful injury Tuesday when the forefinger of his left hand was cut off by the fan blade of his motor as he was working on the engine of his car.

J. Ben Campbell has received news of the death of a cousin, Daniel L. Campbell, of Honey Grove, which occurred Friday of last week as the result of a stroke of paralysis. Mr. Campbell was well known to a number of Merkel residents who came from the East Texas section.

White Church News

We surely have been having some winter the past ten days, with two fine snows. Every one is very glad of the moisture, as we were beginning to need rain.

Every one has enjoyed a very Merry Christmas and is beginning the New Year with resolutions.

We had a number of visitors in and out for the holidays, with almost every home entertaining some visitor.

Quarterly conference met at the church Saturday, with a good crowd, considering the bad day. Rev. John B. Stewart, the pastor, preached here Sunday morning to a good congregation and we visited Nubia Sunday night for the "get-together" and prayer services. Our league rendered their program at Nubia Sunday night.

Guests in the E. E. Conley home the past week included Mr. and Mrs. Preston Conley and small son, Preston Wade, and Mr. and Mrs. Elgin Riggan and two sons, all of Big Spring. E. E. and Curtis Conley, from here, Preston Conley of Big Spring and Houston Conley of Abilene visited during the holidays with their mother at Burnett, Texas.

Order your chicks now, so you can get them when you want them. Of course, you want the chicks that live and grow—hatched at Dunn's Hatchery, DeLeon, Texas. John Dunn.

C. M. PRESLEY
Jeweler
Watches—Diamonds—
Silverware
209 Pine Street
Abilene, Texas

**WHEN NIGHT COUGH
UPSETS WHOLE HOUSE**

**Take "One Dose" Relief For
That Cough From That Cold.**

This "One-Dose" relief for coughs due to colds is Mentho-Mulsion, the medicine that has relieved the misery, muscular strain, and loss of sleep for thousands of families in the United States.
Mentho-Mulsion is the fast-acting, scientific compound of nine important ingredients that pleasantly and joyously ease your cough from colds quicker, faster and better. Just as you open the big bottle of Mentho-Mulsion you notice the soothing vapors, and as you swal-

low a spoonful you feel the soothing, easing, nerve-tension-lessening results that are accomplished without narcotics or opiates. Get Mentho-Mulsion today... See how it helps you tonight.

Money-Back Guarantee
Remember this... When you buy Mentho-Mulsion you get a cough medicine that has accomplished so much for people that the manufacturers state: "If the first dose does not give you speedier relief than you have ever felt, your druggist will refund your money."
Mentho-Mulsion is endorsed by your neighbors and guaranteed by Lee-Bailey Drug.

**NEW YEAR...
Greetings**

- With a New Store at
NOODLE
- FLOUR**
LIGHT CRUST, 48 lbs. \$1.60
LIGHT CRUST, 24 lbs. 85c
LIGHT CRUST, 5 lbs. 14c
- SHORTS, 100 lbs. \$1.45**
CEREAL, All-Jersey 6c
JELLO, 5c
KRE-MEAL Dessert, 2 for 5c
MATCHES, crt. 16c
SUGAR, 10 lbs. Cloth Bag .48c
SORGHUM, gal. 56c
RIBBON CANE, gal. 51c
TOMATOES, (No. 2) 7c
TOMATOES, (No. 1) 5c
GREEN BEANS 3 No 2 cans 25c
CORN, 3 No. 2 cans 25c
- CLAUDE SMITH**
NOODLE
At Sloan's Place

ON CASH BASIS

- We take this method of serving notice to friends and customers, both old and new, effective now, that circumstances have forced us to adopt a 100% CASH business policy and that from here on every purchase must be accompanied by its equivalent in cash money.
- We wish to thank each and all of our patrons for your loyal patronage of the past and especially welcome the continuation of same.
- Our store is being completely re-stocked and it will be our pleasure and a privilege to serve you better and more completely in the future.
- Come in regularly and often—remembering that we now offer you better quality at lowest prices through our "Strictly Cash," to everybody, policy.

Thanking you sincerely,

ECONOMY GROCERY

T. O. NEILL
On Highway 80 — West Part of Merkel

Free to Farmers
ANOTHER BIG
JOHN DEERE DAY

FEATURING
**"JOEL GENTRY
IN HOLLYWOOD"**
AN ALL-HOLLYWOOD PRODUCTION

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10th
BULLOCK HARDWARE
Merkel, Texas

4 OTHER ALL-TALKING PICTURES

NOODLE NEWS

We have been neglecting to let our neighboring community hear from us, so beginning 1940 we want to try to let you visit with us through our local paper.

The Sunday night singing in our High School auditorium the last day of 1939 was a great success; a large attentive audience enjoyed real class singing, quartets from a number of nearby towns. Old timers of the singing class enjoyed a very interesting talk from John Thompson of Dallas, a one time Noodle resident.

We are proud of our community and our Sunday night singing. We are glad to be able to furnish entertainment of this kind that will attract attention from all surrounding communities. There will always be a welcome for you from our president, W. J. Bicknell, and the Noodle singing class.

Classes have been resumed at the Noodle High school after a period of holidays. We are hoping all our boys and girls will put forth every effort to make this a very successful school year.

We welcome to our little town, Claude Smith of the Goodman community, who has purchased the Norman Sloan grocery. We wish for him a very successful year.

Professor Read and his wife, teachers in Noodle school, spent the holidays in Fort Worth and Paradise; while there Mr. Read bought a new basketball for the Noodle basketball team, thereby hoping to capture some of Jones county games.

Carl Bramlett of Texas Tech spent the holidays with his wife, who is a teacher in the Noodle Grammar school. He returned to school Tuesday, accompanied home by Kirby Steadman and Granville Byrom, who also attend school in Texas Tech, at Lubbock.

Miss Carol Louise Cox, of the Shannon Nursing school at San Angelo, spent the week-end in the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Waldo Cox. Miss Cox reports that her work is very interesting and enjoyable and it is a joy to be able to try to make her patients comfortable and happy. We wish for Miss Cox a very happy and successful year.

We are glad to report the continued improvement of our good friend, Mrs. D. C. Herring, who has had the misfortune to fracture her hip some time ago. A speedy recovery is certainly hoped for her.

Visitors in the C. B. Jinkens home Monday were Mrs. Everett Pool and daughter, Imogene, and Miss Mildred McCoy all of Divide.

Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Bird and children visited relatives in Fort Worth the past week.

Burneal Crow and wife were visitors in the George Crow home of Hawley over the week-end.

T. E. Goode is able to be up after being confined to his bed for some time with several broken ribs.

Mrs. Otto Bicknell and daughters were visitors in the Waldo Cox home Saturday and Sunday.

We are sorry to report Mrs. J. M. Winters ill at this writing and hope she will soon recover.

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Winter have returned to their home in Brownfield, after spending the holidays with their respective parents.

Charles Clark, coach in the Noodle school, spent the holidays at Alpine.

Miss Evelyn Ezell Horne, former high school teacher of the Noodle school, was a house guest of Mrs. Maude Cade this week-end.

We are indeed glad that our former reporter, Mrs. A. C. Sosebee, who has recently been ill, is able to be about. She accompanied her son, Roger, to the Merkel theatre Friday night.

Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Bicknell, the former Mrs. Asha Steadman, were guests in the home of her mother's at Trent Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Louie Herring and daughter, Janis, returned home from Robstown where they spent the holidays with Mrs. Herring's parents.

Donald Cade visited James Cox Thursday, and the two young men enjoyed an afternoon of table tennis.

A. J. Barbee, Sr., accompanied by his daughter, Dorothy, visited relatives in El Paso over the week-end.

Mrs. W. M. Thompson and children returned to their home in New Mexico Monday.

Norman Bicknell accompanied his sister-in-law, Mrs. Ted Bicknell, to Lubbock, Tuesday to go to work.

Glen Cantrell and family of Abilene were visitors in the A. C. Sosebee home Sunday.

Miss Geraldine Sloan spent the holidays with her parents, Miss Sloan is a student in A. C. C. at Abilene.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Reece of Odessa were in Noodle for the holidays.

Misses Erma and Bettie Lou Herring visited their mother at Dallas the past week.

Gerald Wendell and La Creasia Eason of Fort Worth were guests of their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. E.

TRENT NEWS AND PERSONALS

Returning Wednesday to Roxton in Lamar county were Mr. and Mrs. Mike Brannum and daughter, also Richard Hale, who had been visiting Mrs. W. H. Hale of Eskota and Mrs. M. B. Jones of Trent. Mrs. Hale and Mrs. Jones accompanied them and plan to visit there quite a while.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Strawn and James returned Wednesday from Greenville where they spent the Christmas holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Jones and three children returned home Monday after visiting Mrs. Jones' mother in Lamesa.

Miss Lois McLeod is spending a few days with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bob McLeod. Miss McLeod is a teacher in the El Paso schools.

Carter Dyer returned to his home in Lawn after visiting in the J. P. Roberts' home for a few days.

Mrs. Frank Martin is recovering from injuries received in a car wreck Christmas evening. Others in the car were only slightly injured.

Returning to their home in Texaco were Mr. and Mrs. Jodie Bright and Florene Bright, who have been visiting friends and relatives for several days.

Miss Carleta Hood spent a few days in the home of her uncle, Clay Jones, of Newman.

Mr. and Mrs. Algie Steen and children returned to Central City, Colo., after spending several days with relatives.

Jean Scott of Abilene was visiting in Trent Monday.

Emmett Holt of Waco visited in the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Strawn.

Louise Smith and Johnnie Roberts visited Viola Smith in Abilene several days last week.

Leonard Scott visited Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Fortune Monday. Mr. Scott is a teacher at Seagraves.

Jordan Campbell and Ruby Campbell of Coleman have been visiting his daughter, Mrs. Harvey Jones.

Leo Reynolds, a student in Trent school, is suffering from injuries received when a gun, with which he was hunting, accidentally discharged. Injuries were confined to his arm.

BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT.

Jan. 5 and 6 are the dates which have been set for the Trent boys invitation basketball tournament in the Trent High school gymnasium. Playing will start Friday evening and continue through Saturday and Saturday night. Teams already answering invitations are: Lawn, Bradshaw, Lueders, Sylvester, Sweetwater Junior High and Noodle. Many other teams are expected.

WOODMEN CIRCLE.

According to Guardian Agnes Burks of Trent Grove, meetings will be held each Wednesday afternoon. Previously meetings have been held each Thursday afternoon.

SCHOOL CAFETERIA.

Monday, Jan. 1, was the opening date for the school cafeteria. Miss Dorothy Hood is in charge. The cafeteria has been closed lately because of the illness of its former operator. It is located on the school campus and furnishes warm lunch for the school children and faculty members.

Eason.

Moving seems to be in order. We regret losing any of our good neighbors, but welcome all new people to our town.

Now you keep an eye on Noodle. We think its a fine place to live.

Letters from the People

OUR FAILING DEMOCRACY.

Are the democratic principles of government as propounded by Jefferson and Jackson, being replaced by political expediency in order to perpetuate the party in power? Let's take a look at the record for a moment.

The orthodox teachings of the leaders of the democratic party for the past one-hundred years have been "tariff for revenue only," while the republican party has been content for "tariff for protection."

Knowing the hardships this high tariff was imposing on the agricultural South we felt sure that when the democrats got control at Washington the wrongs would be righted in conformity to the age-old tenets of the party. But, alas, we have been ingloriously disillusioned.

After six years of complete control of governmental affairs, not a voice has been raised, nor a bill offered for the purpose of lowering this wall though it is now the highest in its history.

Why ignore the thing that has been sapping the lifeblood of agriculture for a century?

We answer: political expediency will not permit any tampering with the tariff, lest they alienate the democratic vote of the North and East. In other words, the party must perpetuate itself in power, though the agricultural states remain the "goats,"—ignoring the fact that our democratic theory has ever been: Equal rights to all but special privileges to none.

It has long been potent to students of our economic system that this high tariff is at the bottom of most of our economic troubles.

Surely we have paid "tribute to Caesar" long enough. No, rather than lose a few of the industrial votes, they prefer to try to appease the farmers with a doler from the treasury. So we must continue to pay tribute.

In the words of Washington, on learning of Arnold's treason, "Whom can we trust now?" Not the republicans, to be sure. We expect to remain democrats, though we will probably not feel quite so enthusiastic, or be able to throw our hats quite so high over a democratic victory in the future.

Our democratic leaders say they are opposed to the present high tariff, but that it would not do to molest it at this critical time as it would disturb our foreign trade, and financial relations with other countries.

What a sop! Yes, they expect us to believe that, for they know that the rank and file of our people understand very little about our world trade and international finance.

The truth is that congress did not wish to agitate the matter, at least till after the approaching election, lest they lose the vote of the industrial sections of the country.

A clear case of the people serving the party, instead of the party serving the people.

NOTICE

Interest earned to December 31st, 1939, will be paid on consumers' deposits. Customers desiring payment at this time may receive same if they will bring or mail deposit receipts to our district office at Sweetwater, Texas
COMMUNITY NATURAL GAS COMPANY

Butman News

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Butman spent Christmas day with Mrs. Butman's parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Reneau, of Trent.

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Counts and two of Mrs. Counts' brothers, Rex and Herbert Green, spent Christmas with their sister, Mrs. John Jameson, of Silver, Texas.

A great number enjoyed the Christmas tree and party at the school house Friday night before Christmas.

The L. J. Renfros and Clovis Harisons were guests of the Ruble Johnsons Sunday, enjoying a New Year's dinner.

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Counts made a business trip to Sweetwater Monday.

The burdens our people have been staggering under so long must continue in order to keep our party in power. Hence we should not be surprised that party lines are weakening. It is freely predicted that "men and measures" will govern the voters in the future.

When people lose confidence in their party they will, in self-defense, seek other affiliations.

If our democracy is to survive it must become democratic in deeds as well as in name. Otherwise it will not be long until patience will cease to be a virtue with the rank and file of those in the lower brackets of agriculture and they will be shouting the slogan: "To hell with the party, we want bread."

J. O. McMinn.

WARREN NEWS

Visiting Mr. Harvell and Claudean last Friday were Mr. and Mrs. Voyt Williams and son, Sonny Boy, of Hollywood, Calif., also Mr. and Mrs. George S. Harvell and Mrs. Harvell's mother, Mrs. White, all of Abilene.

Mr. and Mrs. Otis Foster entertained a group of relatives and good friends in their home last Friday night, Dec. 29. Several games were played and apples and candy served to Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Patterson and son, Truett; Claudean Harvell Joe Hartley, Nora Foster, Tom Harvell and Mr. and Mrs. Foster and daughters, Bobbie Fern and Betty.

A group of boys and girls were entertained in the home of Mr. and Mrs. T. B. Hobbs on Christmas night. Games of "42" and dominoes were enjoyed and ice cream and candy was served to Beatrice and Odessa Reeder, Lyla Hobbs, Winnie Cross, Cleo Chancey, Claudean Har-

vell, Earl Cross and Bennie Hobbs and Mr. and Mrs. T. B. Hobbs and daughters, Louella and Barbara Ann. The young folks expressed their thanks to the host for the grand time and hope they repeat it soon.

Saturday night's entertainment was held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. U. S. Reeder. Games too numerous to mention were played and greatly enjoyed by all. Those present were Winnie Cross, Loyce Chancey, Orval Ely, J. R. Baker, Claudean Harvell, Earl Cross, Cleo Chancey, Roy Berry, Frank Mundy and Mr. and Mrs. U. S. Reeder and daughters, Beatrice, Odessa, Glinnie Mae and Hortense.

Constipated?

"For years I had occasional constipation, awful gas bloating, headaches and back pains. Adlerika always helped right away. Now I eat sausage, bananas, pie, anything I want. Never felt better." Mrs. Mabel Schott.

ADLERIKA
MERKEL DRUG COMPANY

PROFESSIONAL

CYRUS PEE
INSURANCE AGENT
Old Line Company
FIRE, AUTO, CASUALTY

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

SEMI-WEEKLY FARM NEWS
and
Merkel Mail
Both Papers Now One Year
\$1.50



SPECIALS

for FRIDAY-SATURDAY

JANUARY 5-6, 1940

- WINESAP APPLES, dz. 15c
- LETTUCE, 2 heads 7c
- CELERY, lg. stalk 15c
- SPUDS, 10 pound 19c
- CARROTS, 3 bunches 10c
- ORANGES, doz. 15c
- GRAPEFRUIT, 6 for 10c

SUPREME
Salad Wafers, 1 lb. box 17c

RED & WHITE
Tea, 1/4 lb. pkg. 19c

Red & White
COFFEE 25c

CLOTH BAG
Pure Cane
SUGAR 50c

STANDARD
Tomatoes, No 2 can 3 for 25c

OUR VALUE
Peas, No. 2 can 10c

Blue & White
TAMALES 25c

Large
OXYDOL 19c

MUSTARD OR TURNIP
Greens, No. 2 can 10c

RED & WHITE
Pineapple, No. 2 can 17c

WHOLE
Green Beans, No. 2 can 15c

RED & WHITE
MEAL, 5 lb. bag 17c

RED & WHITE
Preserves, 1 lb. glass 23c

R&W FLOUR
6 lb. 29c; 12 lb. 52c
24 lb. 85c; 48 lb. \$1.63

BIRD BRAND
SHORTENING 4 lb. crt. 39c

Market Specials

- Pure Pork Sausage, 2 lbs 25c
- SLICED BACON, lb. 22c
- CHEESE, lb. 25c
- BRICK CHILI, lb. 19c

WEST COMPANY, Merkel
D. C. HERRING & SON, Noodle

A. W. WOOD, Trent
E. BRADLEY, CO., Stith

SERIOUS MINDED ...

...Property Owners



Who realize a tomorrow's uninsured loss may wipe out today's bank account, will be interested in an insurance survey prepared by this agency.

At no cost or obligation.

W. O. BONEY

MERKEL, TEXAS

FARM LOANS AND ALL KINDS OF INSURANCE
Consult Your Insurance Agent as you Would Your
Doctor or Lawyer



ABILENE TRAVELER TALKS TO STUDY GROUP.

The home of Mrs. G. W. Wilbite was opened to Fortnightly Study Club members on Tuesday afternoon in a program on "Hawaii."

Mrs. S. D. Gamble was leader for the afternoon, presenting an interesting geographical sketch of the country and its customs. Mrs. Ina Wooten Jones of Abilene was interviewed by Christine Collins. She had visited the Islands one winter and gave a travelogue, illustrating her experiences with curios she had purchased at various stops. Mrs. Jones is a well known contralto and while in Honolulu studied the native language so that her part of the musical program was again authentic in that she sang in the native tongue. A sextette of girls, Misses Frances Higgins, Pearl Mathews, Anne Blake Lorraine and Annie Mae King and Betty Lu Higgins, gave a group of Hawaiian songs in the modern manner. Nine members were present.

JOLLY NEIGHBORS.

Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Bird entertained members of the Jolly Neighbors club in their first meeting of the New Year on Tuesday evening. Snapdragons were used as house decorations and games of "84" furnished diversion for the evening. At the refreshment hour a dainty sandwich plate was served with coffee. Clever snow men fashioned of marshmallows and candy were plate favors. The club guests were Miss Mary Eula Sears, Jack Morris, Mr. and Mrs. John West. Members were Messrs. and Mesdames Robert Hicks, Raymond Ferguson, Herbert Patterson, Forrest Gaither, Spencer Bird, Mrs. Johnny Cox, Miss Christine Collins and C. J. Glover.

YOUNG-FOX.

Congratulations are being received this week by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Young, whose marriage was solemnized in Abilene on Dec. 22. The couple returned to Merkel Tuesday. The Rev. C. A. Powell, pastor of the University Baptist church, read the ceremony in the home of the bride's mother, Mrs. W. D. Fox, at nine o'clock Friday morning. Immediately following the wedding, the bride and groom left by automobile for Dayton, Ohio, where they visited Mr. Young's sister, Mrs. F. F. Kothman. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Hoyt Young of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, met them at Dayton for the Christmas holidays.

Mrs. Young was formerly Miss Wanda Fox of Abilene, a most attractive and talented young lady, while Mr. Young is one of the most popular men in Merkel already. He is a splendid musician; both Mr. and Mrs. Young are students in Hardin-Simmons university where they will receive their bachelor of music degrees this spring. He is our High

School Band director and they will be at home in the Cyrus Pea apartment, commuting to Abilene to attend classes.

THREE "F" GIRLS ENJOY ROUND OF PARTIES.

Members of the Three "F" club celebrated during the holidays with a dinner on Friday evening, Dec. 22, with Miss Betty Reid acting as hostess in her home.

A seasonal menu of chicken, ham, dressing and gravy, sweet potatoes, green string beans, pineapple and cheese salad, rolls, pie and coffee was served, after which members enjoyed a Christmas tree, for which they had drawn names.

Those present were Snookie Mashburn, Sis Gamble, Rachel Patterson, Hollis Perry, Frances Higgins, Grovener Ford, Mattie Lou Wozencraft, Johnnie Chadwick, Jane Ferguson, Fannelle Boney and the hostess.

On Thursday, Dec. 28, members spent the day in the Gamble home for their annual home-coming luncheon. The newly fallen snow furnished plenty of fun and sport for the girls and the day was spent snowballing and kodaking.

Lunch, served buffet style, consisted of tuna fish and pimento cheese sandwiches, potato chips, olives and pickles, with pie, cake and coffee. Members present were Jane Ferguson, Rachel Patterson, Hollis Perry, Betty Grimes, Frances Higgins, Fannelle Gray, Grovener Ford, Mattie Lou Wozencraft, Betty Reid, Snookie Mashburn and the hostess and one visitor, Mebs Henington.

SEWING CLUB.

Members of the Sewing club met Wednesday afternoon with Mrs. Herbert Dunn. During the business meeting, Mrs. Connor Robinson was elected president; Mrs. David Gamble secretary-treasurer, and Mrs. N. D. Calloway, reporter.

After a social hour of sewing and chatting, refreshments were served to these members: Mesdames Pat Davis, Connor Robinson, Byron Patterson, Nolan Palmer, L. V. Moore, Max Swafford, N. D. Calloway, George T. Moore, Stacy Bird, Spencer Bird, Earl Beech, Earl Watts and the hostess.

Next meeting will be with Mrs. Spencer Bird on Jan. 17.

ALATHEAN CLASS PARTY.

Mrs. W. F. Patterson entertained the Alathean class of the First Baptist church on Wednesday afternoon. Mrs. J. M. Meeks led the opening prayer and Mrs. J. M. Williamson brought the devotional on the 14th chapter of St. John. Mrs. Chas. West, class president, had charge of the business meeting, at which several plans were adopted for the year of 1940. Mrs. J. O. Castles, class teacher, closed the meeting with prayer.

Sandwiches, cake and hot coffee were served to Mesdames W. L. Johnson, W. L. McCandless, Pick Allen, W. O. Boney, J. M. Ashby, F. A. Baker, Sr., E. O. Carson, G. M. Sharp, A. H. Zollinger, F. A. Polley, J. M. Williamson, J. O. Castles, Chas. West, J. M. Meeks and the hostess.

Next meeting will be with Mrs. W. L. Johnson and Mrs. W. A. McCandless.

The average horse lives to be about 20 years old if properly taken care of and normally worked.

RURAL SOCIETY

UNION RIDGE CLUB.

The Union Ridge Home Demonstration club met Friday, Dec. 22, in the home of Mrs. Patton for their Christmas party, with the president, Mrs. Denzel Cox, in charge of the meeting.

Christmas stories were read by Mesdames McAninch and Cox and a singing of Christmas carols followed, with Norma Patton at the piano. Gifts were presented from a beautifully decorated tree.

Refreshments of hot chocolate and cookies, with candy cones as plate favors, were served to Mesdames Dale Burleson, Corsicana, Wynona Scroggins, Abilene, Denzel Cox, Houston Clark, O. R. Douglas, W. C. Lee, Pierce Horton, Lee Tipton, Weldon McAninch, Kenneth Pee, Chester Bond, Clem Watts, Clarence Church, Frank Carr, Lige Harris, M. L. Douglas; Misses Norma Patton and Mabel McRee and the hostess.

Next meeting will be with Mrs. O. R. Douglas on Friday, Jan. 12, at 2:30 p. m.

BLUEBONNET CLUB.

The Bluebonnet Home Demonstration club met in the home of Mrs. Joe Swinney on Tuesday, Jan. 2, with the president, Mrs. Allie Toombs, in charge of the business session, after which an interesting program on "Magazine Helps" was given.

New standing committees appointed were Mrs. W. C. Perkins, Mrs. J. B. Stewart and Mrs. Joe Swinney.

A refreshment plate was served to the following members: Mesdames Allie Toombs, Lola Butman, Fannie Keith, Verdie Patterson, Beulah Thompson, Mary Stewart, Joe Swinney, Ila Mae McLean, Joe Seymour and Essie Farmer and Miss Loueen Butman and two visitors, Miss Lottie Butman and Miss Amelia Ford.

CHRISTMAS PARTY.

Members of the young people's Sunday School class at Blair were entertained on Friday evening, Dec. 22, in the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Sandusky.

Games were played and candy drawn until time to draw number and receive gifts from the Christmas tree. Apples and popcorn were passed to 30 guests: Sarah Malone, Neva Malone, Nina Orsborn, Annie Clara Doan, Fannelle Lou Jackson, Lou Ella Hughes, Nell Scogins, Gwindoline Sandusky, Mildred Maddera and Pauline Maddera; J. D. Sandusky, Harrison Malone, Hobart Smith, Elmer Lee Sandusky, G. W. Hughes, Wallace Doan, Desmond Doan, C. R. Peterson, Earl Peterson, John Mack Grant, Buddie Derrington, Sammie Doan, Jimmie Campbell, James Ear Stevens of Trent, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Spratlan and Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Sandusky, and the hostess, Joy Doan and Lena Fay Orsborn.

League Activities

The League did not meet on Christmas Eve; no meeting—no program—no news—no League activities. On the Eve of the New Year, however, we did meet for a program on "How to Live Every Day," with J. V. Patterson as leader. Plans were discussed for ways to improve our organization during the coming year.

Following is the program outline for Jan. 7: Subject, "The Quiet Hour;" hymn, "Sweet Hour of Prayer," (sung softly); Scripture reading, Luke 11:1, Mark 14:37, 38, W. A. Whiteley; introduction by leader, Juanita Huskey; talk, "The Meaning of Silence," Mary Lu Higgins; talk, "How to Use the Quiet Hour," J. V. Patterson; hymn, "In the Garden;" sentence prayers, offering, League benediction.

This will be our first program for 1940. Let's make it an example for the remaining fifty-one.

Happy New Year, everybody. Juanita Huskey, Reporter.

There are only five towns of more than 2,500 population in the state of Nevada.

Let us book your order now for baby chicks that live and grow and pay you a profit—hatched at Dunn's Hatchery, DeLeon, Texas. John Dunn

Happy New Year

Start the New Year off right by buying your groceries here. Come in Saturday and get a FREE CUP OF COFFEE!

J. Y. Melton's

Grocery

EAST FRONT STREET

PERSONALS

In the homes of Mr. and Mrs. O. B. Boden and Mr. and Mrs. Earl Baze for Christmas were Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Morris and children, Wichita Falls; Mrs. J. B. Davenport, Duncan, Okla.; Mrs. W. L. Dowdy, Fort Worth; Fay Marie Fronbarger, Washington, D. C.; H. C. Fronbarger, Fort Worth, and Mike Fronbarger, Abilene.

Misses Maurine and Johnnie Hardin and Miss Zelma Lee Frazier of Big Spring spent the holidays with the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Hardin. Johnnie will stay for an indefinite visit here. Mr. and Mrs. W. V. Rose and daughter, Lendora, of Big Spring were guests in the Hardin home Sunday.

Palace Barnes from Washington, D. C., spent the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Meeks. C. A. Lamb of Westbrook, brother of Mrs. Meeks, was also a guest during the holidays in the Meeks' home.

Mr. and Mrs. Truett Meeks have returned from Post City after having visited a few days with Mr. and Mrs. W. N. Williams.

Mrs. F. E. Birkhead and Mrs. William Jessup and son of Eastland and Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Lay and daughter of Big Spring visited during Christmas week with their mother, Mrs. M. F. Bell. Another daughter, Mrs. M. R. McDonald, and Mr. McDonald were also over from Abilene.

Guests during the holidays in the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. V. Henslee were her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. I. Cogburn, and sister, Mrs. Ray Cox, and husband and daughter, Ona Fay, of Fort Worth, and a cousin, Mrs. Essie Pope, and husband, of El Paso. Mr. and Mrs. Cox also visited with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Cox.

Howard Stanley, nephew of Mrs. S. A. Coats, and Mrs. Stanley of Breckenridge were visitors during the Christmas holidays in the Coats home. Miss Minnie Lee Coats, who teaches in the Coleman schools, was also home for the holidays, returning Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Kerns and family returned Thursday of last week from a holiday visit to Phoenix, Ariz.

Among those who attended the Butman birthday Christmas party at Big Spring were Miss Pauline Blackaby and Miss Dorothy Dix of Coleman.

Rev. and Mrs. H. Noel Bryant of Sparenburg, who were accompanied by her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. W. U. Beene, returned Friday from a visit with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Church at Corpus Christi. The visit of Mr. and Mrs. W. U. Beene, parents of Mrs. Church, was arranged as a surprise for their Christmas, by the Bryants who went on to their home last Friday from here.

Miss Effie Bell Pannell and nephew, David Zercher, of Dallas spent a few days during Christmas week with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Pannell.

Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Terry, Jr., of Lubbock, visited over the week-end and New Year's holiday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ira Moore.

Mrs. Yates Brown and three children visited ten days during the Christmas holidays in Odessa and Midland. At the latter place she visited her mother, Mrs. B. A. Wall, and her husband is now located at Odessa. Mrs. E. N. Brown spent the holidays in the home of a son, Tom Brown, at Fort Worth.

Mrs. R. A. Walker, Mr. and Mrs. Delma Compton and Mr. and Mrs. Comer Patterson returned Monday from Paris, where they went to attend the Binion family reunion.

Miss Mabel Murray of Southland, who is attending West Texas State Teachers college at Canyon, was a visitor last week-end with Misses Dorma Lee Shelton and Comora Hughes.

After a visit with home folks, Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Seymore and daughter returned Wednesday to Madera, Calif., accompanied by their nephew, Jimmy Lee Latimer, who had visited his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. M. P. Latimer, and who was returning to Chowchilla, Calif.

Laverne Harwell, student at Texas State College for Women, Denton, returned to school Tuesday after spending the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. O. E. Harwell.

Mrs. O. E. Harwell spent the New Year's holidays with her mother, Mrs. Dora Wharton, at Wichita Falls.

Mrs. J. M. Collins has been visiting the past two weeks with her son and daughter-in-law, Rev. and Mrs. Paul Collins, at Vinson, Okla. Cleo Callaway, of Bartlesville, Okla., youngest son of Mrs. H. D. Clark, is here to visit his mother, who sustained a fractured collarbone when she fell at her home on Tuesday of last week.

Miss Billie Gardner, joined by

Jack Canon Asks for Re-Election to Post

Stating that his formal statement would follow, Jack Canon has authorized The Mail to announce his candidacy for re-election to the office of county commissioner of Precinct No. 2.

His name appears in the regular announcement column elsewhere in this issue of The Mail.

Miss Janet Hedrick of Abilene, visited several days during Christmas with Miss Sue Morrow at Stamford.

Murphy Dye, who is now employed in the Midland office of Burton-Lingo company at Midland, visited a few days here during Christmas week.

L. B. Whitaker made the trip to Slaton Sunday, returning with Mrs. Whitaker and children who had spent the past week with her parents and other relatives there.

Visitors in the home of Odell Eoff for New Year's Eve were Mr. and Mrs. Mack Jordan, Overton; Mr. and Mrs. B. L. Ross and Miss Uberta Jordan, Dallas, and Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Eoff and son, Merkel.

Evelyn Garvin of Midland, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Angus Garvin, spent three days at home during the Christmas holidays.

Mrs. W. H. Laney and two grandsons, Robert and J. M. Bickley, returned Sunday from a holiday visit to Wills Point with Mr. and Mrs. Joe Bickley, parents of the Bickley boys. Mrs. Bickley is a daughter of Mrs. Laney.

Mr. and Mrs. John D. Jones and their sons, R. D. and Vernon and wife, and Levi and Walter Riney spent New Year's Eve at Abilene with Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Clark and daughter, Mrs. Clark being the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John D. Jones.

Mrs. Amy Sears and Miss Mary Eula Sears had as their guest last week Miss Claire Tate of Abilene.

Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Simpson and four sons returned Monday from a holiday visit with Mr. Simpson's parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. D. Simpson, at Harlingen.

Mrs. A. W. Black is at home after having stayed several weeks at Dr. Branon's sanatorium at Cisco.

EXPRESSES THANKS.

To my many friends: I wish to thank you for the wonderfully appropriate holiday greetings you so generously bestowed upon me. You can never know how much I do appreciate your thoughtfulness unless you were a shut-in for five years. Thanking you again kindly and may God bless you.

Mrs. Seth Hamilton.

Georgia is the largest state east of the Mississippi river.

In The Churches

SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE. There were 557 present at the six reporting Sunday Schools here last Sunday, as compared with 385 the previous week. On the same Sunday a year ago the attendance was 607.

METHODIST CHURCH.

At the evening hour Sunday, an accordion band concert will be given under the direction of Mrs. W. H. Broughton of Sweetwater. The band includes five girls, four from Sweetwater and Becky Gaither, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Forest Gaither. One of the Sweetwater girls is Peggy Mayfield, daughter of the late Ora Mayfield, who was well known here.

The program, which begins at 7:15, following the usual song service, will include several solos.

Other services will be held regularly Sunday and through the week. John H. Crow, Pastor.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH.

Sunday School at 10 a. m. Preaching at 11 a. m. and 7:15 p. m. B. T. U. at 6:30 o'clock. Prayer meeting Wednesday evening at 7 o'clock.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

Sunday School at 10 a. m. Preaching at 11 a. m., followed by a communion service. Offering for Reynolds home. No evening service, as the pastor goes to Breckenridge for installation of new pastor there. Prayer meeting Wednesday at 7 p. m. Every one is cordially invited to these services. Strangers welcome. R. A. Walker, Pastor.

CHURCH OF CHRIST.

Sunday services: Bible classes 9:45, preaching at 10:45, young people's meeting 6:00, evening at 7 p. m. Wednesday evening Bible study at 7:00 o'clock.

You are invited to attend. E. W. Key, Minister.

FUNDAMENTALIST BAPTIST CHURCH.

Rev. R. U. Rister, supply pastor, will fill the pulpit Sunday, morning and night. All other services Sunday and during the week as usual. J. L. Massey, Supt.

NAZARENE CHURCH.

Sunday School 9:45 a. m. Preaching 11 a. m. and 7 p. m. Prayer meeting Wednesday evening at 7 o'clock. Every one is cordially invited to these services. R. T. Smith, Pastor.

NEW LIVE OAK CHURCH.

Rev. Ted McGehee will preach at the New Live Oak Baptist church of Butman at 11 o'clock Sunday. Come and attend. Mrs. Dennis Counts, Church Reporter.

FLOWERS

For ALL OCCASIONS
MISSIE'S FLORAL SHOP

QUEEN THEATRE

"Showing the Pick of the Pictures for Less"

Friday-Saturday, Jan. 5-6

—DOUBLE PROGRAM FOR PRICE OF ONE—
Continuous Showing from 1 P. M. till 11:15 P. M.

Feature No. 1—Three Mesquiteers in
"The New Frontier"

Feature No. 2—Pat O'Brien, Olympe Bradna

"The Night of Nights"

Cartoon and Final Chapter, "Lone Ranger Rides Again"

Saturday Preview, 11:15 p. m., Mon.-Tues.

Another Big Hit from Bette Davis and George Brent

"The Old Maid"

Cartoon and News Included

\$\$ Wednesday-Thursday \$\$

The "Dead End" Kids

"On Dress Parade"

Shorts and News Included

Next Week—"Dust Be My Destiny"