

THE BANNER-LEDGER

VOLUME NO. 49.

BALLINGER, TEXAS, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1929.

NUMBER 15.

Valera Bank is Robbed of \$2,274

Clinic to Organize Here; All Doctors

A majority of the local doctors and dentists responded to an invitation extended them by the management of the Ballinger Sanitarium, to be present on Monday night, December 23rd, at a banquet given in their honor.

The object of the banquet was two-fold: first, to become better acquainted second, to formulate plans for a better working understanding between the two professions and the management, thereby putting all in a position to render better service to the public. Both objects, apparently, were accomplished.

Round-table talks were indulged in by all present and an organization of the doctors and dentists perfected.

In connection with this it was unanimously agreed, by all present, to organize and put in operation a general clinic. This organization is to be perfected immediately after the first of the year. A committee for this purpose was named, composed of Dr. A. S. Love, chairman; Dr. J. W. Macune, Dr. O. R. Lasater, Dr. Chas. Bailey, and Dr. Chas. W. Cheatham.

Dr. E. C. Baskin and Dr. Lasater were appointed a committee to draft a constitution and by-laws governing the organization. Dr. S. B. Raby was elected chairman of both organizations which will meet the first Tuesday night in each month. Dr. Chas. Bailey was elected secretary.

As soon as possible, after the holidays, Dr. Love will make a tour of inspection of some of the leading clinics, getting the latest ideas and methods along that line and putting them before the organization. At that time the plans for the clinic are expected to be completed and the work put in operation, the sanitarium being used for that purpose.

Further plans and details will be made later. It is unnecessary to say that such an organization will be of much benefit to Ballinger and surrounding country.

This report would be incomplete without mentioning the choice menu prepared by Mrs. Joe Simmons, efficient dietician, and presided over by Mrs. Nelson, the charming hostess. Each one present will be waiting in anticipation of a repetition of the occasion.

RED CROPS ARE BIG HELP TO BRADY FARMERS

BRADY, Dec. 20.—Good feed crops played an important part in the agricultural prosperity of McCulloch county during the past year, B. F. Gray vice president of the Farmers and Merchants Bank, states.

Gray has recently been appointed as Banker Chairman of this county to work in co-operation with the agricultural extension service of the state.

The state bank examiner at his recent tour of inspection of the banks of this county declared that McCulloch county "is in the best shape of any of the counties in his district," Mr. Gray said.

F. A. Cameron went to Abilene Tuesday morning to attend to business.

46,291 Bales Pass Through Compress

Cotton receipts at the Ballinger plant of the Texas Compress Company for 1929 are approximately 14,000 bales short of the total 1928 receipts. In 1928 this compress handled 59,954 bales as compared to 46,291 bales so far this year.

Cotton is coming in slower this year than last year. Manager W. B. Woody declared Friday afternoon. There are about 2,000 bales in the local yard yet to be pressed, and in the surrounding territory it is estimated there are about 15,000 bales more to come through the plant here.

Work at the plant has slowed down for the holidays and only necessary labor is being performed, a short crew being employed.

Merchants Urging Pay Up Campaign

The Retail Merchants Association of Ballinger is busy compiling new lists, and every firm in Ballinger will be asked to give new ratings on every account on their books. These lists will be ready to be placed in the hands of the merchants soon after the first of the year, and customers who have overdue accounts at various establishments will help their ratings by paying their accounts before that date. The association hopes that many accounts which have been running for considerable time will be cleaned up by January 1st.

Services of the Retail Merchants Association have been used more and more in the past few years and merchants who are careful with their open accounts are learning to call the secretary for the rating before extending credit to a stranger.

The new list will give a rating on every citizen in the county so far as possible for the association to secure same. The list in use is large and if local business men will cooperate with the secretary many other names can be added to the new list. Lists of ratings furnished by the merchants will be treated strictly confidentially. Each firm is asked to give the standing of the debtor exactly as the account appears on the books. The reason for this is that others may base their judgment as to allowing credit from the report of the first creditor. Members of the association think the new list will be issued about January 1st and will largely determine the credit to be extended customers for the ensuing year. For this reason it is important that every account possible be paid before the new list is finally made up and the customer given an A1 rating.

A committee which was in session this week issued a statement declaring that many persons who are able to pay are letting accounts "ride." This works a hardship on the firm carrying the account and will give the party a bad rating if an accurate report is made by the firm.

It is the intention of the R. M. A. board to make the organization more useful all the time and one way this can be accomplished is to have a full report on all citizens residing in Ballinger's trade territory. New citizens will be investigated by the organization in the town whence they came and a record made as soon as they make permanent homes here.

Ballinger business men are requested to use this organization. It is maintained by a social chamber of commerce to aid merchants and those who ever used its services are staunch for the association forever after.

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One Enters Plea of Guilty in Gas Theft

In city court Monday morning investigation was continued into the filling station robberies which have been reported here for some time in which quantities of gasoline have been taken. The investigation was started when one youth was caught Saturday night in the act of taking gasoline from a local garage. He was taken to jail and Monday morning after entering a plea of guilty and giving his keys to the mayor he was released after paying a fine of \$21.70.

These robberies have been going on for some time and there are several in Ballinger who have skeleton keys which they use to take the gasoline. Names of several of these are in the hands of authorities and another investigation will be held soon with several being questioned concerning their possession of the keys.

With the bringing to a head of the many robberies during the past few weeks and the investigations started it is thought that this kind of petty theft will soon be stopped here, and with several more arrests in view it is thought that all the keys will be given over to the authorities.

Parties returning from Abilene Monday at noon stated that Corkill Motley, injured recently in an automobile crash, was still improving and would soon pass what was considered the danger period. Sunday afternoon he was able to be completely examined. His head was X-rayed and physicians stated Monday that there were no places where the fracture was giving any pressure. This will likely eliminate the necessity of an operation and will make his chances for complete recovery much better.

The examination was made just one week from the time of the accident and during that week he showed wonderful signs of recovery. Both other Ballinger boys have been removed from the Abilene hospital and are reported to be doing well at present.

Guy Jones is much improved, but Otis Jacobs will have to remain in bed for some time on account of an injury to his back.

Physicians have not said just how long Motley will have to remain in Abilene. His mother and father have been with him in all the time since the tragedy with the exception of one afternoon when Mr. Motley came to Ballinger to transact some business matters.

School Inspection Finished Tuesday

A complete inspection of the rural schools of Runnels county has just been completed, and is the basis of one of the best reports ever given on the county educational system. Miss Georgia Walker, state rural school inspector, began the work here on Monday December 9th, completing same on Tuesday, December 17th. Thirty-six rural schools which receive state aid were visited by Miss Walker and R. E. White, county superintendent.

After finishing the inspection Miss Walker was very complimentary of the Runnels county educational system. In regard to equipment and condition of property she stated that the Runnels schools ranked well with any in the state. She was enthusiastic in her praise of the trustees of the various districts. At each school visited she was met by the entire board of trustees to hear her criticism of the school and how, if any, it could be bettered. Appropriations under the new law for rural schools of the county will amount to \$15,198 for the ensuing year.

Supt. White stated that scholastic enrollment at this time is exceptionally good, approximately 90 per cent of the census enumeration being present in the classrooms daily. Very few children are working in the fields and for this time of year the enrollment is the largest it has ever been.

The largest rural school in the county is a seven-teacher institution, operating full nine months. There are only six one-teacher schools still maintained in communities where enrollment is low and thinly settled conditions prevent consolidation with other districts to provide better equipment.

All schools in the county will dismiss for the Christmas holidays on Friday of this week, and with the exception of one school, only one week will be given. One board has been requested by the teacher to allow two weeks in order that she may visit her home several hundred miles away.

Mr. White declared that very little sickness has been reported in the schools, and attendance has not been reduced appreciably on this account.

Motley Examined; No Pressure Found

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LIVESTOCK LOAN COMPANY IS OPENED AT UVALDE

UVALDE, Dec. 21.—The Uvalde Livestock Loan Company, an organization which has for its purpose the financing of livestock men in this section of the state, has been organized here, and a charter applied for. The company will have a capital stock of \$100,000 and a loan capacity of \$1,000,000.

Rotarians Discuss Program for 1930

The Rotary Club met in an early luncheon Monday at noon at the Central Hotel. The weekly meeting was changed from Wednesday to Monday as it would have been impossible to get an attendance on Christmas day. Attendance was short Monday but those present were enthusiastic and a very good meeting was held.

Several matters of business were attended to, including a donation of \$5 to the Goodfellows and \$15 to the local charity board.

Several weeks ago the president of the Rotary Club sent out a questionnaire to the membership for suggestions as to a definite program for 1930. The president reported that to date only about 40 per cent of the membership had made a report but that those reporting had entered upon a park and playground. A committee has been appointed to look into the feasibility of starting such a move, the location, the expense, how to finance the proposition and other matters, and will soon report to the club. At that time the matter will be opened for discussion and some definite action taken. Dr. J. W. Macune, Rotarian and commander of the American Legion post, stated at the Monday meeting that the question of a park, playground and swimming pool had been discussed by the Legion post and that he felt the Legionnaires would be willing to co-operate in putting over such a program if it were possible.

Several other speakers spoke on the question and all seemed impressed with the question of a municipal park. O. L. Parish, Rotarian and city commissioner stated that such a matter had been discussed in the commission and that that body is favorable to such a move and will co-operate.

The second item favored by the Rotary program for 1930 was the building up and maintaining of the Student Loan Fund. This movement is already a part of the club program but has never been extended to all the members of the club so that the fund would grow to a workable size. About the first of the year the question will be discussed at another meeting and some action taken.

Schedules for the districts have been made and all must have been completed by February 6, the coach said. At that time the county playoff will begin.

Ballinger and Miles are already laying plans for the games in district one. Other teams have not officially signified their intentions, but it is understood that no difficulty will be found in arranging games. The schedule for district No. 1 follows:

January 17—Ballinger and Miles; February 7—Ballinger and Bethel. Return games with these schools are to be scheduled later.

This schedule is only tentative. Coach Davis stated that in all probability a new schedule would be made up after the holidays when some of the small schools will have decided to place teams in the race.

BALLETTIES CHAMPION GOLFER WITH 39 SCORE

Two great golf champions met on the Ballinger Country Club course Monday afternoon in one of the most brilliant contests played so far this year. Joe Forman, winner of all trophies at recent tournaments here and conceded to be the pride of the course was unable to cope with the expert driving and putting of Dr. W. H. Halley, and the best he could do was to finish the ninth hole with a tying score of 39.

Forman took his usual lead on the first hole, 4 to 3. Two and three was a tie, 5 each; and the surgeon lost on No. 4, 7 to 6, making it appear just another victory for Forman. Halley threw fear into the banker's heart on No. 5, however, making it in two, while Forman was swaying three times to send the ball in the cup. No. 6 proved a tie, 4 each, and Dr. Halley swung back to a tie-all with the champ on No. 7, making it in 4 while Joe took five strokes.

Each player made Nos. 8 and 9 in four, and the contest ended as it started.

FIRE DEPARTMENT GETS CHECK FOR \$20

The Ballinger fire department received a check for \$20 from W. L. Brown Thursday, as a token of appreciation for the firemen's efforts in saving his home last week when the J. D. Coulter home burned only a few feet from the Brown residence. The company did excellent work and only slight damage was done to the Brown home.

Enell Arthur is here from Fort Worth visiting with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Arthur. Mr. Arthur is employed in the head office of the Hardin Lumber Co.

Basketball Starts After Holidays

With the closing of the football season last week schools over the county have turned to basketball as the next sport. Cage tilts will occupy the spotlight for practically all the winter term, games being matched soon after the holidays. Runnels county has been divided into three districts this season instead of the usual four.

These three districts will have separate schedules and will play off for the championship of each district. After the district winners are determined the three teams will meet and hold a round robin tournament for the county championship. Playoffs in the districts will also be conducted on the round robin style of play. Districts two and three will play first to determine who will meet the winner in district one.

Ballinger will be in district one, and prospects now point to a good team. The biggest problem now facing officials is the obtaining of a building in which to work out and hold practice sessions. There is not a building available in Ballinger with a ceiling high enough to use as a court, but efforts are being made to get a building that will answer to accustom the boys to the feel of a floor under them.

An indoor game is faster and more taxing than the outdoor variety, but without work on a court to become accustomed to play a Ballinger team would have little chance. The weather in the winter is so disagreeable that it is also necessary that a court be obtained for this reason.

Ballinger high has good prospects for a club this year, with several experienced men as a nucleus. Coach Davis said Friday that he had First, Underwood, Coker and several others around which to build a team this year, and a host of new material.

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DEAUVILLE TO OFFER REGATTA NEXT YEAR

DEAUVILLE, France, Dec. 18.—A first class international regatta will be added to the man attractions of cosmopolitan Deauville next season.

This has been made possible at last by the extension and transformation of the outer basin into a yachting harbor, affording 1,500 feet of good wharf space.

Work has already started on the improvements and is being pushed, so that everything will be ready before the summer of 1930.

G. M. Garrett, state highway engineer, left Sunday for points in East Texas, where he will visit relatives during the holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. Crawford Lemburg of Mason, came in Saturday night for a visit with Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Skinner. Mr. Lemburg returned Sunday afternoon to look after pressing business.

Two charges of swindling were filed in district court here Monday by Sheriff R. E. McWilliams, but no disposition of the cases has been made yet.

Neal McAlpine left Monday afternoon for Dallas to spend Christmas with friends and relatives.

VALERA, Dec. 20.—Locking two clerks and a customer in the vault, three men robbed the First State Bank of Valera of \$2,274 this morning.

The vaults had just been opened and the currency prepared for the day's business when the trio entered the bank with pistols drawn and ordering the clerks and the customer into the vault. Scooping up all the available currency, the robbers closed the vault door. Twenty minutes later other employees opened the vault.

Federal Building Bill is Passed by Lower House

The Elliott bill which passed the House this week, carrying an appropriation of \$115,000,000 for the construction of federal buildings in towns where postal receipts are more than \$20,000 annually, has created quite a bit of interest in Ballinger. The extra appropriations carried in the measure brings the total building fund for outside the District of Columbia to \$363,000,000 for the year.

The bill has yet to be passed by the Senate and signed by the president, but press comment seems to point that it will meet with no difficulty on either hand. A large number of Texas towns were named by Associated Press reports Wednesday as possible beneficiaries of the bill. Ballinger was near the head of the list with annual receipts of more than \$20,000, and unprovided for.

Towns with sites would be given preference in the Elliott bill. Ballinger provided a site for a federal building on the court house lawn several years ago, when agitation was being made for such a structure here.

Recently the postal department entered into a five-year lease here and at present a new building is being erected by Henry Jones to house the local office after January 1st. This building will have new equipment and adequate room for handling the business here. This recent contract is thought by some to preclude the construction of a new building in Ballinger in the immediate future.

In case the bill passes the Senate and is approved by President Hoover, further steps will be taken by Ballinger civic and commercial interests.

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According to local reports received by The Ledger two strangers entered the First State Bank of Valera Friday morning shortly before 10 o'clock, ordered two employees and a by-stander into the vault, and escaped with currency amounting to between \$2,500 and \$3,000. The men departed in a big master-six Buick coupe towards Coleman without any interference.

Theo Griffin, cashier of the bank, was in Ballinger at the time the robbery took place, being notified by telephone a few minutes later and left in his car for Valera at once. Glenn Mitchell and a Mr. Brown were the bank employees on duty when the bandits entered the institution. One of the hold-up men was masked but the other's face was not covered. At the point of a gun the two bank employees and customer were ordered vault. They complied with demand, and the vault door was turned but it did not lock.

Valera citizens who speed out of town there were three men. It is believed one man in the car with the money inside and committed the robbery. The news spread rapidly several men from a nearby district apparently vacated instituted a search. They heard sounds from the vault and discovered the door was not locked, turned the handle and let the three men out. Telephone messages were immediately sent to all officers in this section of the state. Roavits were being closely watched and many motorists were stopped for questioning.

Sheriff R. E. McWilliams and Deputy Sheriff John White left Ballinger less than fifteen minutes after the robbery was reported to watch highways east of Ballinger in case the bandits swung around and came back this direction.

This is the third time the Valera bank has been robbed in the past few years.

Dee Oliver and Percy Crimm are at work this week getting volunteers to aid them in doing farm work for one of their neighbors, J. D. Adams, who lives on a farm four miles west of Ballinger.

Mr. Adams has been ill for a long time and friends of his are arranging to meet at his place on the first Monday in January and break his land, make any repairs necessary, and do any other work about the farm that is wanted.

These two men have asked the aid of others and several have expressed themselves as ready for the work and they are now attempting to get others to aid so the work can be accomplished as soon as possible.

Anyone who can leave his own work for that day is asked to come to the Adams farm and help with the work.

Thoughts at Midnight

When the three-hundred-and-sixty-fifth day of the old year drops off into the nowhere, and the first minute of the New Year ticks its way into history, we shall be thinking of you, loyal patrons—re-creating our many pleasant associations, hoping that we have made life a bit sweeter for you, and wishing, in our heart of hearts that your future will be blessed with everlasting contentment.

The Winters State Bank

Winters 1-1 1-1 1-1 1-1 1-1 Texas
"The Dependable Bank"

The Banner-Ledger

Published Every Friday by The Ballinger Printing Company... Office of Publication, 711 Hutchings Avenue, Ballinger, Texas

Subscription, the year \$1.50... Stockmen in this section were put to work under pressure Thursday and Friday, feeding sheep and cattle while the earth was covered with snow.

Snow makes most people feel elated but a poor way to show this feeling is by reckless driving on the highways. During the storm Thursday many wrecks occurred in Texas and several paid the penalty for not being more careful.

January 1 will see a number of business changes in Ballinger. Some employees will make various changes, men will be let out, others taken on and a number of businesses will move from one building to another.

The Runnels county court house is becoming a busier place each day as people from all parts of the county start coming in to pay taxes and get their car plates.

Most towns have trouble with a certain element during the holidays as some apparently have to celebrate in a noisy manner. It is difficult for our officers to watch everybody and loyal citizens should help them every cooperation in enforcing the law on such occasions.

Miss Mabel Brewer, who is teaching in the Wingate school this winter, is at home for the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jas E. Brewer.

Rev. and Mrs. T. E. Bowman returned during the week-end from Memphis, Tenn. where they had been to attend a Sunday school meeting called by the Methodist Church, South.

Woodrow Wilson came in from Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Friday morning to spend Christmas with his parents and friends.

Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Striplin and son, James Jr., will leave Monday morning to spend the holidays with friends and relatives in Waco and McGregor.

Miss Louise Kirk will arrive here Saturday night to spend the Christmas holidays with her mother, Mrs. Jennie Kirk.

All of January to Buy Number Plates

According to a new law recently enacted and now in effect, automobile owners in Texas will have the entire month of January to buy and place on their cars the new 1930 license plates.

The last few days in December have witnessed great rushes at the tax collector's office, many attempting to get their new plates at one time.

The rush this year has not been appreciably lessened and the county collector's office is filled daily with people seeking their automobile licenses so they will be ready to drive on January 1st.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Moutz and family are here from Pharr to spend the holidays with relatives and friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Stallings left Tuesday for Brownwood to spend Christmas with their parents and other relatives.

Dr. D. Walter Green of Mulis, S. S., killed two deer with one shot.

Mr. and Mrs. E. V. Bateman left Tuesday morning for Cleburne, where they will spend Christmas visiting with friends and relatives.

Tommy Hall left Tuesday for Killeen to join his wife and baby in spending Christmas with relatives.

Ernest Nance, Clarence McCarver and Earl Schumann have returned from Brownwood for the holidays. They are attending Howard Payne College.

John Currie is confined to his home with a case of influenza which developed Sunday afternoon. He was resting fairly well Monday but will have to remain at home for several days.

Frank Reese, a student of Texas University, Austin, is at home to spend Christmas with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Reese, and will work at Weeks Drug Store during the holidays.

Miss Inez Lilly and children, of Amarillo, are visiting in the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. K. Lilly here. Mrs. Harry A. Keyes, of Mission, is the guest of Mr. and Mrs. W. K. Lilly during the holidays.

Children Like this Safe Prescription

Coughs and Sore Throat Relieved Almost Instantly. Stop children's coughs and sore throats before these ailments lead to dangerous ills. Thoxine, a doctor's prescription, now assures relief within 15 minutes to children as well as adults without the danger in the use of patent medicines containing harmful drugs.

Thoxine works on a different principle goes direct to the source of trouble and relieves the irritation which causes the coughing and sore throat. Ideal for children because it is safe and does not have the usual "nasty-medicine" taste. No gargling. Just ask for Thoxine, put up ready for use in 35c, 60c and \$1.00 bottles.

CHARGES OF ASSAULT MADE IN WRECK CASE

Earl Witt and Homer Morris paid fines in corporation court Monday morning of \$25 and costs, each, on charges of aggravated assault. The case arose from a wreck on streets Sunday of last week when Cleo Hutchens, filling station employee, was struck and his leg broken.

It was feared for some time that amputation of Hutchens' leg would be necessary, but attending physicians stated later that this could be avoided. Hutchens is recovering in the Ballinger Sanitarium. The case against the two youths was postponed for a week to determine the condition of the crash victim.

City Hall Moves To New Location

Work was started Thursday morning moving the city hall furniture and records from its present place to the new headquarters in the rear of the Ballinger State Bank building. It was thought that all moving would be completed by night and work would be resumed in the new home Friday.

The move was brought about because of the building to which they are moving has a fireproof vault in which to keep all records. This guarantees safety to all documents and other valuables of the city.

City Secretary K. V. Northington said Thursday that he wished all citizens to remember the move and when the first of the month arrived to come to the new site to pay their bills.

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CONTENT NEWS

The Christmas holidays are here, and on every hand the spirit of Christmas is felt. School closed for one week on Friday, the afternoon being given over to the celebration in each room where presents were exchanged, and suitable programs given.

At 7:30 on Friday evening a very enjoyable program was given at the church. This program consisted of songs, readings, drills, and a very pretty Xmas pageant. The community tree was sponsored by the Sunday school. It was prettily decorated and was laden with gifts for young and old.

The first quarterly conference of the Methodist Church, Novice church, met at Content church on Wednesday the 18th. The school children and their teacher assembled at the church for the eleven o'clock service.

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Card of Thanks. We wish to thank the many good friends, the Bethel school, and especially Dr. Love and the nurses for their kindness and sympathy shown us during the sickness and death of our little Darling.

C. H. Dobbs has returned from Dallas, where he went to attend a convention of the Aetna Life Insurance Company.

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husband at Abilene. Miss Blackwell went home to Wingate; Miss Ruth Cook to Lawn, and Miss Blanch Johnson left Monday for Rotan to be with her brother and sister.

Beginning Wednesday night, December 25, a series of services will be held by the Baptist pastor, Bro. King, assisted by one of his friends and classmates at Simmons University. We hope the weather may moderate sufficiently that the meetings may be well attended, and that much good may be accomplished.

The Brights all celebrated Christmas by spending a part of the day and eating dinner with their sisters, Mrs. Cordie Hamons and Mrs. Carrie Dale, at the home of Mrs. Dale in Winters. The house was beautifully decorated, and a splendid Christmas dinner was enjoyed by all.

Mrs. Charlie Simmons prepared a Christmas dinner for Mr. and Mrs. Walter Nichols, and their children, all of Brownwood. It has been some time since they visited friends and relatives here, and many enjoyed seeing them again.

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CHRISTMAS IS QUIET IN BALLINGER; ONE DRUNK

Christmas was a very quiet day in Ballinger, with only one drunk jailed. Sheriff R. E. McWilliams arrested one man Wednesday and ordered another home Tuesday night for the same offense.

Nature Thought of Everything. Nature thought of everything when the human body was made. When the body is about to become ill, nature planned danger signals to warn us.

Card of Thanks. We wish to thank the many good friends, the Bethel school, and especially Dr. Love and the nurses for their kindness and sympathy shown us during the sickness and death of our little Darling.

C. H. Dobbs has returned from Dallas, where he went to attend a convention of the Aetna Life Insurance Company.

Miss Louise Kirk arrived Saturday from Austin to spend Christmas with her mother, Mrs. R. P. Kirk. Miss Margaret Kirk, who is attending school in Dallas, came in Saturday to spend the holidays with her mother.

John Currie is confined to his home with a case of influenza which developed Sunday afternoon. He was resting fairly well Monday but will have to remain at home for several days.

Frank Reese, a student of Texas University, Austin, is at home to spend Christmas with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Reese, and will work at Weeks Drug Store during the holidays.

Mrs. Inez Lilly and children, of Amarillo, are visiting in the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. K. Lilly here. Mrs. Harry A. Keyes, of Mission, is the guest of Mr. and Mrs. W. K. Lilly during the holidays.

Miss Louise Kirk will arrive here Saturday night to spend the Christmas holidays with her mother, Mrs. Jennie Kirk.

CLASSIFIED

FOR SALE-141 acre farm, 100 acres in cultivation, good improvements, 7 miles from Ballinger, northwest. G. H. Sturm. 29-2w*

FOR SALE-Registered Delaine, Bargain if sold at once. Bryan Clayton, Talpa, Texas. 20-2w*

FOR SALE-125 acre farm 6 miles north of Winters. \$40 per acre, improvements. Address Box 584, Winters, Texas. 27-1w*

FOR SALE-White Leghorn hens, hogs and pigs. Phone 832-112, Harry Mapes. 26-1td-2w*

TALPA COUPLE MARRIED HERE TODAY AT NOON

Jack L. Jones and Miss Maude Jane West, of Talpa, were united in marriage today at high noon. Rev. J. Edwin Kerr performed the ceremony at the manse. The young people will make their home in San Angelo.

A Home Owned Store. Operated for and by Home People. Despite any reports to the contrary-Smith's M SYSTEM is a home owned and home operated grocery and market-striving to satisfy the local demand for TOP QUALITY AND LOWER PRICES.



The First National Bank of Ballinger

TO OUR FRIENDS AND CUSTOMERS: With the passing of the year, there comes a desire to express to you, who have so faithfully added to our progress, a deep appreciation for what you have done to make this year of pleasant associations.

According to our custom for the past 23 years, we will have for distribution, commencing Thursday, Jan. 2nd, 1930, our New Calendars. Calendars will not be mailed. Children must have written order from parent or guardian.

As long as the supply lasts they are yours for the asking whether you do your banking with us or not.

There are not many opportunities during the brief moments of busy days of service, to tell you how much we thank you for your good will and loyalty and the business you have given us during the past year. But we wish to do so now.

To all our friends, old and new we wish a very Happy New Year.

Your friends, THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BALLINGER

A Substantial Foundation. From the yawning chasm of time is quarried the stone of years that goes into the building of the masonry of achievement, upon no other foundation can a lasting success be constructed. HIGGINBOTHAM FUNERAL HOME. 601 PARK AVE. Phone 1248.

Everyone Has Wished You a Merry Christmas, but We Wish for You a Special Pleasure that You Do Not Feel Any Ill Effects the Morning After the Day Before. CAMERON'S GARAGE. Frank H. Cameron, Harris Russell, Charlie Forbes, Oran Neely, Owen Boone.

Rural

NORTON NOTES

The music recital given Tuesday night was enjoyed by all present.

T. J. McCaughan had business in Abilene Tuesday of this week.

Mrs. L. B. Manor had as her dinner guests Sunday, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Cope, Mr. and Mrs. George Cope and Mrs. Ruben Cope, Mr. and Mrs. Ira Turner and Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Priddy.

Joyce Roper, little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roy L. Roper, is ill.

Mrs. Gregory is also very ill, we are hoping these people will soon be out again.

Tom Bryson is seriously ill again. He has been taken to Dallas for treatment.

Mrs. J. W. Black of Marie visited her mother, Mrs. Gregory, Monday.

Rev. and Mrs. Swartington visited in the Wilmeth community Tuesday.

Rev. and Mrs. Steele have left for Mullin where they go to spend the holidays with relatives.

"REPORTER."

BRONCHITIS

At bedtime rub the throat and chest thoroughly with VICKS VAPORUB OVER 17 MILLION JARS USED YEARLY

MEETING TOPICS

The past week has been a very cold one.

The school had their Christmas tree Friday morning. The teachers left in the afternoon for their homes to spend the holidays.

Miss Thora Brevard is at home for the holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Brevard were in this community Friday to attend the funeral of Mrs. Brevard's cousin, Alford Kerby.

Mrs. Ira Hale, of Ballinger spent Sunday with home folks.

Mr. and Mrs. Eldon Avent and Miss Ozella Avent, visited relatives in San Angelo last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Brandon left Saturday for Wichita Falls to spend Christmas with their daughter, Mrs. Peetre.

Our community was made very sad by the death of our friend Mr. Alfred Kerby, who died in Electra. For the past 10 years before moving there he lived in our community and is a land owner.

He was known to everybody as Uncle Alford. He was a very active church member and was a member of the Crews Baptist church at the time of his death. He was also a member of the First Baptist Church at Electra.

Mr. Kerby was 77 years of age. He spent 51 years of his life as a Christian and was a deacon. He has been an invalid for several years and went about in a wheel chair. When he went to church he was rolled in his chair. He is survived by his wife and three children, two daughters, Mrs. Tom Miller and Mrs. George Johnson and one son Silvester, all of Electra. All were present at the funeral.

Mr. Addie Grace and Mr. and Mrs. J. Grace of Floydada are visiting Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Miller.

Mr. and Mrs. Grady Miller of Ballinger, Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Faulbon and family, Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Miller, Mrs. Addie Grace and Mr. and Mrs. J. Grace of Floydada, all spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Brevard.

"REPORTER."

NINE-TENTHS PREVENTABLE

Nine-tenths of all the diseases of the American people can be averted directly to constipation, doctors say. Constipation throws into the system poisons which taint a man's every organ of the body and make them easy victims for any germs which attack them. Prevent constipation and you will avoid nine-tenths of all diseases, with their consequent pain and financial losses. Herbine, the good old vegetable cathartic, will prevent constipation in a natural, easy and pleasant way. Get a bottle today from Weeks Drug Store.

R. L. Stephenson came in from Waco Sunday to spend Christmas with his wife and daughter and other relatives.

HAGAN NEWS

Bro. Wiley of Cappa, preached for us Sunday morning and Bro. Ribble lectured Sunday night on the budget plan. A large crowd attended both services.

Miss Maurine Carroll of South Ballinger spent Saturday night with Miss Floy Drake.

Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Seipp spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Aug. Seipp of Mann.

A shower was given in honor of Miss Alpha Lou Sparks, and Mr. Charlie Owens, Friday night at the Lawler home. Many nice presents were received and cake and cocoa was served.

Miss Alpha Lou Sparks and Mr. Charlie Owens were united in matrimony Saturday evening at Rev. M. C. Golden's home in Ballinger, with Rev. M. C. Golden officiating.

Mr. and Mrs. Dick Embry were visitors to San Angelo Monday.

Bro. Wiley and two daughters and little son and Bro. Riddle and son, spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. I. M. Turner.

Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Seipp, Mrs. Otto Wood and son, P. M. and Willis Sparks, shopped in Abilene Tuesday.

"REPORTER."

HATCHEL NEWS

Well, Christmas is over for the year 1929. Everything went off fine for our community. No one that we have heard of was hurt in anyway and every one seemed to have a good time. We are all looking forward now to the new year. Of course we have no idea what is in store for us but one thing we all try to see is the bright side. We are expecting great things for us all. Old Santa was rather poor this season for the most of us, but maybe next year it will be all together different.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Coppage and Mrs. Jewel McKemey, our three teachers, are spending this week at their homes. Mr. and Mrs. Coppage going to San Antonio and Mrs. McKemey to Brownwood.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Reams, of the Plains country are visiting R. R. Reams and family during the holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. Blair, who recently moved to Ballinger from Paint Rock, spent Christmas with Mrs. W. A. Guin and family. Mrs. Blair will be remembered as Miss Callie Guin, whom everyone at Hatchel is well acquainted with.

Earl Caudle, Jack Walker and Grady Walker, spent a few days last week visiting Grady's parents. Mr. and Mrs. Billie Walker who lives near Kerrville. Mr. Walker is employed in a state fish hatchery at that place.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Mathis spent Tuesday night with S. A. Mathis and wife.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewin McWilliams are visiting in the home of Mrs. McWilliams' parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Tucker for a day or so.

Mr. Odie Mathis is spending Christmas in San Antonio with relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Furgerson and Mr. and Mrs. Mord Tucker, visited T. F. Davis and family Christmas night.

We are very sorry to report that Mr. and Mrs. Horace Davis are leaving our community, going to the Clayton ranch near Benoit. We regret very much to lose them from our community but where we lose others gain, so we can say that their new community will be helped very much by their co-operation.

Mr. and Mrs. Marcus Bales spent a very pleasant evening in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Davis Christmas evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Chester Davis of Ballinger visited in the home of his father Mr. T. F. Davis, Wednesday.

"REPORTER."

BARNETT NEWS

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Nelson and Carl Nelson left last week for Ellaville, Texas. They will spend an indefinite time with an uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Dewitt Ashinburst.

Mr. and Mrs. Bowman and Mrs. Beane of Beane were united in matrimony Friday evening at Hatchel, by Rev. M. C. Golden. They were accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Pat Tyree. After several days visit with Mr. and Mrs. Tyree, Mr. and Mrs. Bowman will be at home at Beane.

Miss Mabel Edka, who is teaching school at Garden City, came to spend the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Sides.

Medical given by Mr. and Mrs. Roy Parks, Saturday night, was well attended and every one enjoyed the good music.

Mr. E. S. Gaudusky, of Weslaco, and Mr. and Mrs. Austin Sanguity of Brown, were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Tyree, Sunday.

L. W. Brady and family, of Brown, are visiting friends in this community this week.

The musical Monday night was well attended. Every one enjoyed the music immensely. We were especially glad to have Mr. E. Adams, of Brown, with us.

BETHEL NEWS

Miss Zoza Chenoweth left for Winters to spend the Christmas holidays.

Miss Jessie Lee Brooks left for Dallas, Sunday, to spend the Christmas holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. Buster Crockett, visited in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Crockett, Sunday.

Mr. J. H. Nail left Friday to spend Christmas with his parents.

Mr. Grady Cotton has returned from Temple where he underwent an operation.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Williams and family are spending Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. Kemper Shelburne.

Miss Sallie Shelburne is a convalescent after a very serious illness.

A party was given in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Haynes Monday night. Everyone reported a pleasant time.

Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Nunley, of Rockwood, are visiting Mr. Nunley's parents.

Mr. and Mrs. John Adams were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Shelburne Saturday night.

The Paint Rock basketball team came over last Tuesday to play the Bethel team. We lost to Paint Rock by a score of 22 and 14.

The Happy Home Makers club met at Mrs. Tom Crockett's Thursday. Only a few members were present, nevertheless, an enjoyable afternoon was spent. The Christmas motive was carried out in every respect.

Refreshments were served to five members.

NORTON NOTES

Mr. and Mrs. Troy Gaston, of Littlefield, are spending the holidays with Mrs. Gaston's parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. S. Walker.

Mrs. C. Patton, of North Norton, and Mrs. J. F. Priddy, of Norton, left Monday for Coleman, where they go to spend Xmas with their father. Mr. Patton and Mr. Priddy were to go Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Whittenburg are spending the holidays with their parents at Gatesville.

Ray Stark is spending the holidays with his parents at Goldthwaite.

Misses Marie and Bernice Wilmeth left Friday for Mullin, where they go to spend Xmas with their parents and other relatives.

Miss May Stubblefield is spending Xmas at Happy.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Brewer are spending the holidays with Mrs. Brewer's parents, Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Mitchell.

B. F. Curry Jr., of San Angelo, spent Sunday with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ben F. Curry.

Noel Fagan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fagan, was operated on for appendicitis Monday of this week. He is in the Ballinger Sanitarium. We hope for his speedy recovery.

Misses Halland Murphy and Ruth Morgan are spending the holidays with their parents.

Oglesby, Texas. Miss Mamie Rae Preston is spending the holidays with relatives and friends at Hillsboro.

Mrs. Faust of Sweetwater Says, "It Did the Work"

took Orgatone for Seven Years Trouble—Is Now in Better Health than for Years.

"After I had gotten so much relief by taking Orgatone I began telling my friends and acquaintances about it and have been surprised at the number of them that told me they also been benefited by using it," said Mrs. J. D. Faust of Sweetwater, Texas, who lives on star route while in conversation while in Brown Drug Store recently.

"I was in a bad fix from stomach and nervous indigestion," continued Mrs. Faust. "And this trouble had been with me for seven years. I didn't have any appetite to speak of and what little I did eat just seemed to sour on my stomach and form gas and I would suffer terribly afterwards. Sometimes it looked like everything I would eat would just lodge in my stomach in a hard lump and feel heavy like lead and I was awfully nervous and didn't seem ever to have a particle of energy about me. I was troubled a lot with constipation too and had to be taking something all the time for this trouble and at times I would suffer with terrible headaches and have dizzy spells. I used to have such awful trouble until I just couldn't rest at night and finally got to where I felt all fagged out and no account that it just seemed like a drag for me to try to do my work."

"I was feeling in just this shape when I got to reading where some of the people around here had gotten relief by taking Orgatone so I decided to try it myself. I didn't have much faith in it to start with but I certainly changed my mind in no time because I hadn't taken more than about four doses of the medicine till I could notice a difference. My appetite picked up and the first thing I commenced to relish was I would eat and didn't suffer so much with gas on my stomach and now my system is in fine shape and I can eat just anything and never troubled a bit with my stomach afterwards, and as for my appetite well it hasn't been so good in seven years. I have been relieved of constipation entirely. My nerves have been straightened out in fine shape and I can sleep like a log at night and don't get up in the mornings feeling all worn out like I used to in fact, I am in better general health right now than I have been in years. Orgatone surely did the work for me and I'm glad to speak a good word for it."

Genuine Orgatone may be obtained in Ballinger at the Weeks Drug Store.

The Best Purgative for Colds. Relieves the congestion, reduces complications, hastens recovery.

BOY INJURED WHEN TWO CARS CRASH ON TENTH

Parter Kemp was injured early Tuesday morning when the milk truck he was riding was struck by an automobile on Tenth Street. The Kemp milk truck was following a cross street when it collided with a car driven by Earl Webb. When the two machines hit the Kemp lad was knocked from his perch on the rear and when he struck the ground his nose was injured and his forehead slightly scratched. No one else in either car was injured and only slight damage was done to the truck, which was turned onto its side by the impact. Mr. Webb's car was badly wrecked but is not beyond repair.

Mr. C. H. Dobbs has returned from a few days visit with friends and relatives in Brownwood.

J. D. Forman is here to spend Christmas with his brother and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Forman.

BUILD them up for WINTER! GROWING children need health protection against winter's wet and cold. Build them up with cod-liver oil. They'll like it best this tasty way—like cream. SCOTT'S EMULSION. COD-LIVER OIL MADE EASY.

Following the custom established several years ago the West Texas Utilities Company held its annual Christmas tree program here Friday night in the American Legion auditorium. The social was held in connection with the regular safety meeting which is held every month and there were over 150 people at the party, coming from over the entire district and from Abilene.

The safety meeting was held first with all the men attending, and at the same hour members of the ladies' auxiliary held a session. After the two regular meetings the social hour started.

The first part of the program was devoted to a Christmas pageant, and this showed the true Christmas spirit, telling of the many ways that Christmas is celebrated, and bringing forward vividly the true meaning of Christmas, its origin, and relating to the first Christmas. The playlet opened with a mother and daughter discussing the holiday. The mother, portrayed by Mrs. Guy Swann, was attempting to explain to the daughter, Mrs. Marcus Turner, the true meaning of Christmas. Mrs. Turner, who had made her explanation and retired, Mrs. Creager of Winters, entered, representing "the true Christmas Spirit," as the divine word of Christ. She carried "the light of truth" in her hand and told the young lady the correct conception.

Part of the playlet was ushered in by a quartet of male voices singing off-stage, which harmonized with the action. After the drama had been enacted the same quartet continued to sing Christmas carols for some time. A xylophone solo was presented by James Couch, of Abilene. He was encored several times. Among the numbers he offered was "The Wedding of the Painted Doll," "Indian Love Call," and several other popular airs.

Felton Underwood announced that he had received a telegram from Winters saying that Santa Claus was en route to the party.

and soon after the old gentleman entered. Presently the large tree for everyone present, and all the children received little gifts along with a stocking full of fruit and nuts. Many presents of value were given to those present and some took the opportunity offered to give presents to friends.

Paul Rothermel received a big milk bottle filled with the correct fluid, and Ernest Mullican received a radio, while Charley Coombs received a pair of rubber unmentionables.

After the program had been distributed, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Morley were given a beautiful present from the entire force of District G, as an appreciation of the work that they had done through the year, and for the system in which they are held by the employees.

Following the distribution of the presents hot chocolate and pipas were served the assembled employees, their families and guests.

There were many out-of-town people present, among them members of the Santa Anna, Coleman, Eden, Menard, Winters, Bronco, and other offices. Included in the guests was Mayor W. E. Baxter, of Santa Anna, who missed very few of the Utilities parties.

Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Gardner of New Castle, are here to spend Christmas with Mrs. C. C. Ganaway.

Joe Frazier is here to spend the holidays with his family and presented his wife with a new Pontiac car for a Christmas gift.

Body of Ray Parker Arrives

The body of Ray Parker arrived Thursday at noon from Fort Worth, where he was slain Tuesday night. The remains were met at the Santa Fe station by a King-Holt hearse and taken to the chapel in the undertaking department of this store, where they will be held until some time Friday when funeral services will be held and the body interred in the "Rest Home" cemetery.

Two sisters, Mrs. Jewel Couch and Miss Pansy Parker, will arrive from St. Louis either Thursday night or Friday noon to attend the funeral. Brothers who will be present are: J. B. Parker, Dallas; John John, and Pate Parker, Ballinger.

President had been living elsewhere for the past three years, most of the time residing at Fort Worth and Dallas. His father, J. B. Parker, lives about a mile and a half north of Ballinger on the old Abilene road, having made that place his home for a number of years.

Ray, as well as other members of his family, is well known in Ballinger and vicinity, having resided here many years prior to 1923.

The Greyhounds wish for you a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Christmas Greetings. May Yours Be To All Men Good Will and Peace For These are Heaven Tho Earth Should Cease. We hope your cup of joy and happiness may be filled to the brim at this Christmas season. The Ballinger Cotton Oil Co., Inc.



The Red Lamp

BY MARY ROBERTS RINEHART

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WNU SERVICE

For I do remember that in a sort of panic I got down on my knees to feel for the connection and that at that moment, whether due to overstrained nerves or not I cannot say, I distinctly heard a soft movement in the library. Trying to analyze that movement today I find it difficult. It was as though the linen coverings in the library had been set in motion, a soft and quiet motion like that of a woman with a fan, and above that the faint clink of the prisms on the chandelier, like the ringing of small bells. But whatever had caused it, it was dying away when I noticed it. As if somehow the extinction of the light had taken away the source of power.

(Once) It is to be covered that we secured this phenomenon later, during the summer. As no explanation of it has ever been given, it remains a portion of that unsolved factor in our equation to which I have referred previously.

I know there, my face covered with a cold sweat, staring in the direction of the library door. I felt that if I looked away, if I were to lower my guard for an instant, something would come through that door.

I was in effect, holding it back with my eyes.

And Halliday had made no sound. He, too, I now know was listening. This, as a matter of fact, I can now recall. It was the situation last night when the next morning the house was absolutely still again. Halliday was upstairs, and I was watching the door into the library, where the location of the sounds changed. Protected by my eyes, in truth, I was attacked from the rear, so to speak. At the window above and behind me, something was trying to get in. I could hear it sliding silently over the wood shutter, keeping on that blind of red wood, grasping, until finally the door was shaken. That's poor Bethel's house. That's poor Bethel's house. The Morrison girl was not killed in the house.

"I'm not sure she wasn't. At any rate, he was. And I believe the same hand killed them both."

"You're not going to say—"

"Oh, I admit that," I said. "But there are a lot of curious things. If you think the house is normal, spend a night there and see."

"Normal?" he snarled. "Of course the house is normal. It's the people in it who aren't. And warning of his subterfuge, you and Cameron should be locked up together. And Pettigill, too."

Which brought him to Cameron, and his errand.

Immediately on Cameron's return from the Adirondacks he had come to bed with an infected hand, which had been torn by a splinter, and had been too ill to look at the accumulation of mail. But the day before, through Mr. Bethel, dated late in July.

In this letter Bethel recited various "abnormal conditions in the Twin Hollows house, and asked Cameron, at the earliest possible moment, to go out and investigate them."

"And he wants to come!" I asked Lear.

"I tell you he's been sick," Lear said impatiently. "He wants to know about showing it to the police. He doesn't want to be dragged in, if he can help it."

"You've seen it?"

"Yes. There's nothing in it except what I've told you."

"He doesn't describe these abnormal conditions?"

"No. But he said he had made some experiments of his own, and was anxious to have his results verified."

"Experiments? Using a red light?"

"I, didn't say," Lear said with some hesitancy. "A red light! What's a red light? A red light to do with the immortal soul?"

He entered on that savagely. Halliday, he said, had been off in a corner saying, "um, um" to herself half the summer, and when she'd done off in so doing, would walk to claim that her astral body had been off on some excursion or other.

"I can't appeal to her reason," he said with a shrug of his thin shoulders. "but I have appealed to her desire. I've asked her if it is fair to intrude into the privacy every human individual is entitled to at times. But it's no good. She keeps a record, and I'm convinced it would jail her."

The only advice I could send Cameron was to use his own judgment concerning the letter. Personally, I do not see what value it has, save to corroborate my own ideas concerning the house. But it has suggested to me the advisability of asking Cameron to come here quietly and look the matter over.

at one of the shore hotels, and has bobbed her hair. And a small boy with adenoids delivers our milk and chickens; I caught him this morning chalking up a triangle within a circle on one of the pillars of the gate.

The mail house shut and empty, a new assistant keeper at the lighthouse, and perhaps a closer room an ariel at the Morrison farmhouse—these are the only apparent scars left to mark our summer's sojourn.

I saw Larlin this morning. He believes that we will be able to sell this property as a hotel site, as this would involve destroying the house, it seems the best thing.

But one other change I have not recorded. Watching Halliday as I do affectionately and not too acutely, I saw a very considerable change in him. He is like a man fit from within by some flame of vengeance perhaps, or realisation certainly. And he is usually at times, his old gaiety is gone. He has put me out of his confidence, no he has because he does not trust me, but he has because for some reason he is afraid of me.

And the same, I think, is largely true of Edith in the last day or two. It is as though he said, in effect: "Keep out. It is dangerous. I am willing to take a chance, but I want to know that the rest of you are safe."

Now and then, however, I gather something. Thus, yesterday he said "You have to remember this—we are not dealing with a criminal, but with an idea."

Again, he has asked me for Uncle Horace's letter, and has been apparently making a study of it.

Only along the lines of what I call the supernormal phenomena of the summer does he show his old openness, and there he is frankly puzzled. My decision not to cut in Cameron's loss, I think disappointed him. But my reasons are sound. Cameron's coming might result in unpleasant press publicity for us, and more than that, puts me where I do not intend to be placed, among the believers in spiritism.

He accepted that decision without comment. But shortly after he asked Edith for the letter from Evanston, and sat thinking over it for some time.

"Of course, it's a little imagination," he said, "you might figure that these people were somehow let in on what happened here last year. But why Evanston?" And after a pause, following a train of thought:

"Of course I suppose, if you grant a spirit world, you have to grant that where time and space do not exist and only 'vibrations' count—whatever that may mean—you could tune in Evanston as well as—well, as easily as you can on the radio."

But he got up soon after, saying that he was all crazy and he himself was the maddest of the lot, and went away.

August 27.

Livingstone is a curious chap; dapper, fatidulous and taciturn. He is almost too much of a gentleman; I have had the feeling, and I think Jane has also, that a part of his reticence is evasion, that he is always watchful, subconsciously at least, lest the veneer crack and something secretly vulgar be exposed.

I am still wondering why he came to see me today, he was sitting, gloved and spatted, in our small living room when Clara brought his card to me in the garage and I hurried in. Sitting, too, staring at our ridiculous parlor organ, with an odd look on his face.

"Haven't seen one for years," he said, in his clipped and yet deliberate manner. "Where'd you happen on that one?"

"It was here when we came," I explained.

He gave it another glance before we sat down, and then apparently dismissed it. But not entirely. Now and then he looked toward it, and once I saw a slight smile, as though back in his mind was some equally fair humorous memory. But he came to the point with a certain directness.

"You're a man of sense," he said. "I came because you've got a head on you."

"I used to have," I admitted modestly. "Lately, of course—"

"Law, it," he said. "Don't let this spirit bunk get you. Easiest stuff in the world to fake."

"I don't intend to let it get me."

He brushed that aside, and glanced once more at the organ. "You take a thing like that," he said, "and start it in the dark. It gets you creepy in no time. They all use it; it used to be organs like that; now it's phonographs. They say it starts the vibrations. Well, I'll tell you what it does; it gets you worked up. Some times it covers something the medium wants to do."

"So I imagine," I agreed. His vehemence suddenly left him then, and he seemed rather at a loss.

"Let it alone," he said. "Let well enough alone." After a pause: "There may be something, but let it alone."

And that, so far as I can make out, was the purpose of his visit. He showed a certain relief, as if he had got rid of something momentous to him, and soon after he took an abrupt departure.

Thomas tells me that another attempt was made to get into the house last night. He had left his pruning ladder outside under a tree, and found it upright against Gordon's window this morning.

Later, Halliday corroborates Thomas' story, with further details. He was on the lower floor, reading, when he was disturbed by the crash of a pane of glass above. He ran upstairs, but was evidently leared. There was no one on the ladder when he got there, and a thorough search showed no one in the house.

The window was the one through which we had watched Gordon leave the house by the rope.

August 28.

It is impossible for me tonight to draw any conclusion from last evening's discovery; I have not my old faith in circumstantial evidence. I can only say myself if an innocent man hides in his own house, Jane had one of her bad headaches

Football Boys Feast Is Successful Affair

The banquet for the high school football team Friday night at the Central Hotel did not in any way lessen the success of the local football season. The affair was one of the most successful ever held in this city and the noise and pep displayed showed that everyone present was enjoying himself and did not want to close the program.

When the guests entered the dining room the decorations caught their eyes and started the gathering off with a bang. Just above the two long tables was a football gridiron with the sidelines, ten-yard lines and everything done in a realistic manner. At each end were the goal posts in colors of various schools. The enemy goal posts had large figures "159," which were the points scored by the Bearcats in conference competition and at the other end the posts were wrapped in red and black with many colobes on them and a big "0" hung in the center. When the players and pep squad saw this they gave forth their first big screams of delight.

Noise-makers were placed at each plate and as soon as the 200 banquetees wearing crepe paper caps, were seated, they brought the horns and whistles into action, and for a time it was impossible to hear anything but noise; conversation with the adjoining person being impossible.

W. C. McCarver, acting as toastmaster, asked for order for the program and introduced the High School Orchestra under the direction of Miss Katherine Todd. Several musical numbers were rendered and each one drew big applause from the crowd.

The Girls Glee Club was next introduced and a group of numbers was sung. The club is composed of about 20 girls and it is well balanced.

The toastmaster introduced three visitors and guests at the banquet. Coach Joe Bailey Chaney of Howard Payne College; Assistant Coach Bill Wright, of San Angelo high school; and "Nig" McCarver, most valuable player in the Texas Conference this past season.

The entire Ballinger squad was introduced, and as each player stood to his feet he was greeted with thunderous applause. It was regretted by the entire crowd at the spread that a few of the mainstays of the team the past year were unable to be present.

Six two-minute speakers were called upon for talks, first of whom was Coach Wright, speaking on "Building a Team." The love of the players and the fifty-odd girls for the coach was demonstrated as he stood up and waited several minutes for the ovation to cease so he could begin talking. He praised the 1929 team highly, as well as expressing great appreciation for the "twelfth man"—the pep squad. His emotions were almost too much for him as he attempted to thank the local fans for the Christmas gift of \$200 presented him just before the banquet.

Estes M. Lynn spoke on "How We, as Fans, Can Better Cooperate." Mr. Lynn brought a real football speech to the gathering. He suggested that space be provided this summer and all adults of Ballinger under Coach Wright be taught to scrimmage so that useless questions would not be asked at the games.

Assistant Coach Harley Davis outlined the prospects for 1930, which are not so encouraging, as most of the men this year, including many substitutes, are finishing school.

Miss Elizabeth Parker had been assigned as a subject "Our Pep Squad." During her talk she told how she loved the girls and how they had been trained not only to yell but to be good sports. During the entire year, she declared, as much work has been done by the "peppers" for the opponents as for their own club. When Miss Parker had finished, Claudia Smith, leader of the pep squad, was given the floor and spoke the appreciation of the girls for Miss Parker, and as a token of their love she presented the teacher with a beautiful bracelet with diamond settings.

In the absence of Capt. Jervis Robinson, who is in Oklahoma on business, his co-captain, "Smookey" Robert Lusk talked on "Smookey of the Fans as Seen from a Player." "Smookey" talked with ease and made the fans present feel that they had had a part in the season by supporting the team and being present at the games.

Supt. H. C. Lyon closed the talks with a subject "Our 1929 Record." Supt. Lyon referred to the year from a football standpoint and made the assertion that such a record might never be duplicated again in the history of the school. The main thought in his remarks was very complimentary to the boys of the team—the superintendent stating that no one single time during the entire season had officials of the

Deaths

Alfredo Rodriguez, age 3 months and 10 days, died at the family home on the Fowler farm north of town Friday afternoon.

Funeral services were held from St. Mary's Church at 2 o'clock Saturday afternoon, with interment in the Mexican Catholic cemetery.

Undertakers from the Higginbotham Funeral Home were in charge of arrangements.

Lois Edna Hodges, age 13 years, 8 months and 12 days, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Hodges, of the Bethel community, died in the Ballinger Sanitarium Thursday morning at 1:25 a. m. following an operation.

Miss Hodges was rushed here Monday morning for an emergency operation, but the infection had spread beyond control.

She had only been ill since last Friday. She leaves to mourn her going, besides her mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Hodges, two brothers, Newell and Charles.

The body was prepared for burial by the Higginbotham Funeral Home and will rest in the stateroom of the funeral home until 2:00 p. m. Friday, when services will be held from the funeral home. Rev. G. T. Reaves, pastor of the First Christian Church, will officiate.

Interment will be made in Evergreen Cemetery.

FORMER BALLINGER WOMAN WINS PRIZE FOR ESSAY

Mrs. E. L. Rasbury, mother of Mrs. A. P. Lockett, 239 South David Street, was awarded one of the major national prizes in the idea contest on "Why Fifty Degrees is the Danger Point" conducted by the National Food Preservation Council. It was announced Thursday at headquarters of the council, in New York. She won \$100 for an essay which grouped with 24 others ranked between eleventh and thirty-fifth of the many thousands submitted from all parts of the United States.

Mrs. Rasbury, although a native of Virginia, has lived in Texas practically all her life. Before her marriage she was a teacher in Texas schools.

Mrs. Rasbury explained that she had been inspired to keep abreast of the times in her home by a wish that "grandmother's home" might be a safe and attractive place for her three grandchildren to visit.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Martin and baby left Wednesday morning for Dallas to attend a state convention of photographers of Texas and to buy new supplies for the Martin Studio.

J. F. Nunn, of Stiles, is here for a visit with relatives and friends during the Christmas season.

Lloyd Herring went to Lampasas Tuesday to spend the holidays with relatives and friends.

St. Kaitaves C. 1 to 3 C. Days

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"After All," He Said, "Give the Poor Devil His Due."

Would You Know One If You Saw It?

If you ever came face to face with a germ, would you recognize it? Of course it is not likely that you ever will see a germ, unless you own a tremendously powerful microscope, for you would have to magnify one over a thousand times to make it as big as a pin head. But you should recognize the fact that these tiny germs can get into your blood streams through the smallest cut, and give you typhoid fever, tuberculosis, lockjaw, blood poisoning, and may more dangerous and perhaps fatal diseases. There is one sure safeguard against these dangers—washing every cut, no matter how small, thoroughly with Liquid Borozone, the safe antiseptic. You can get Liquid Borozone at Weeks Drug Store.

NEW HEADLIGHT TESTING STATION IS ESTABLISHED

Sid Sides has established a headlight testing station in a building on the corner of Seventh Street and Strong Avenue at the southeast corner of the court house. The station will be of the drive-in and drive-through variety. It is one of the most modern and convenient in this city. Its location, in the neighborhood of the court house, also makes it a desirable place to have your lights tested.

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Cards of Thanks

We wish to thank our dear friends and good neighbors for their kindness and sympathy shown us during the sad hours of the death of our son and brother. And for the beautiful floral gifts. May God's richest blessings be upon you.

Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Parker Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Parker, Dallas Mrs. Terrel C. Peter, St. Louis Mrs. Russell Croak, St. Louis Oscar Parker John and Fate, twin brothers. 23-1td-1tw

Miss Opal Pogue, of Muskogee, Okla. is here to spend Christmas with her mother, Mrs. J. P. Pogue