

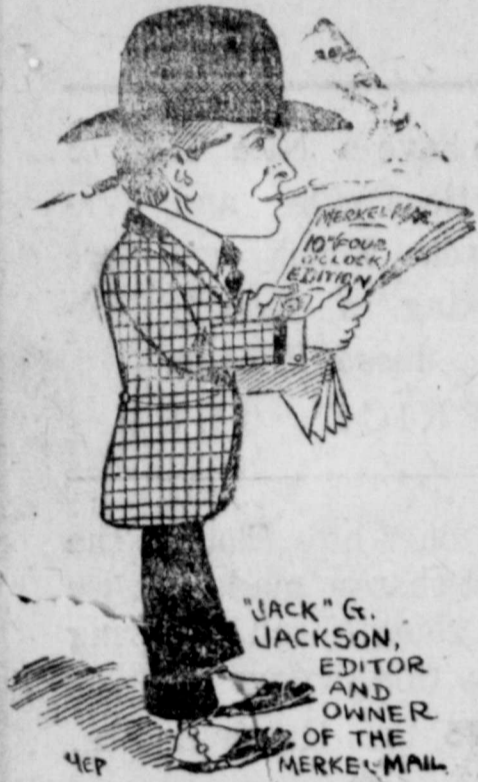
MERRY CHRISTMAS

VOL. 25—NO. 44

1889—THE MERKEL MAIL—1913

DEC. 19 1913.

THE OLD



JACK G. JACKSON,
EDITOR
AND
OWNER
OF THE
MERKEL MAIL

Hamlet & Rogers Greetings.

To the good people of Merkel and the Merkel Country allow us to thank you for your liberal patronage for this year as it is the close of 1913 toil and rustling to run a business.

We have tried to accommodate every good and worthy person that asked our favors and are proud to say that we have a lot of good customers that appreciate our past favors. We have a large stock of groceries and want to reduce same by the first of January. Give us your cash in the winter so it will enable us to furnish you when your money is out.

We have been in business six years and now is the first time we have had the pleasure of getting on our knees and drinking water out of springs seeping from the hills like we did back in Mississippi where they never fail to make a crop. We are here to stay and want to see every good customer in our store.

We have a few customers that have forgotten where we are this fall they seem to not know we sell for cash, when they need any thing to eat.

With best wishes and a big 1914 crop, we are

Very respectfully,
Hamlet & Rogers.

Hon. C. D. Mims is in Galveston this week looking after business matters. While in the coast country the Judge is also taking a look at Houston and the other flooded country in those parts.

COTTON RECEIPTS OVER 5400 BALES

The cotton receipts to date for Merkel are 5400 bales, over half as many as were marketed here last year.

Throughout the country there is some cotton yet to be ginned and in many places farmers have held their cotton for better prices. A very conservative estimate for our total receipts this year will be close to 6000 bales and at a price as compared with what last years crop was marketed at the Merkel country has derived almost as much benefit from the cotton crop this year as was received by our farmers for their last years crop.

MERKEL MAIL CHANGE

The editor is pleased to make announcement to the friends, readers and patrons of this paper, of the sale of the controlling interest of the capital stock of the Merkel Mail to Mr. Homer L. Easterwood who will with the beginning of the New Year assume the management and control of the paper and business.

This is our pleasure for we believe that it is a change that will be for the continued good and improvement of our paper. The new manager is no stranger to our people for he is a native son of the country for which he will labor with paste and pencil and has for the past two years been connected with the paper. He is admirably qualified for the work and has had sufficient experience to make a success, with your continued friendship and support. We ask for him this help on your part and assure you that he is worthy of every confidence and favor.

The writer will continue his interest as an investment for we would prefer it to any investment within our knowledge, knowing its value and the business of the Mail.

A PAPER WITH A PURPOSE

The Mail will continue its efforts for the moral and material progress of town and country and the writer may contribute some development articles and editorial suggestions on propositions which I honestly believe for the betterment of our town and country which I ask that you read in the future, as in the past, in a friendly and considerate spirit and let us reason and work together for our mutual good.

In the six years of our management we have made a continued effort to be of some service to those from whom we received such a liberal support and know that we have made many good friends. If we have made any enemies it was unintentional and we are most thankful that we have not used our space and influence for any personal revenge.

The Mail represents the mutual and undivided interests of our entire town and country and is many times greater and bigger than any individual. Several editors before have contributed their best efforts and there will be many more to follow, for this paper will be marking time and writing the history of this town and country many years after all of us now have ceased our labors on this earth.

It is a paper for the people, an enterprise for this town and country and will continue in its good work and with my prayers for its success and the progress, prosperity and happiness of its readers and friends.

Yours very sincerely,
JNO. G. JACKSON.

THE NEW



HOMER L. EASTERWOOD
The new Editor and Manager.

Resolution of Respect.

The Almighty Ruler of the Universe having seen fit to come in to the family of two members of our department and take from the home Leslie L. Burns a young man of untiring energies and one who was liked and loved by all members of our Fire Department as well as all who knew him. In his daily labors he was one who had advanced rapidly in his pursuits of life. The death of so esteemed young man is regretted by every member of our department and therefore, we present the following resolutions for the adoption of our department at their next stated meeting.

First: Be it resolved the sympathy of the entire membership of the department be extended to Firemen W. L. and Osie Burns and our condolment offered them for their late bereavement.

Second: Be it resolved that a copy of these resolutions be spread upon the minutes of the department and adopted and that a copy of same be presented to the family of the deceased. Also that a copy be furnished to our home paper for publication.

Committee
Robt. Hicks
J. C. Comegy
G. M. Cauthen

Turnips! Turnips!

For sale at the patch for 60 cents per bushel. C. L. McNeas.

WOODMEN ELECT NEW OFFICERS

The local Woodmen of the World met in regular session Friday night and elected officers for the ensuing year as follows:

W. M. Elliott, C. C.; Jno. Pate, Adv. Lieutenant; F. A. Sanders, Banker; Seth Hamilton, Clerk; Jno. Morgan, escort; O. F. Rogers, watchman; O. W. Williams, manager; J. H. Riney, sentry.

The only other business coming up was item of charity for a deceased members widow. This matter was subscribed to very liberally by those present. All members are requested to be present at the installation of officers on the second Friday night in January.

A Thought for Others

Amid all the happiness and joys of the merry Christmas season think of those less fortunate—of those on whom the sun of plenty has failed to shine during the past twelve months. Think of the heartaches that will be theirs on Christmas morning; think of the tear stained eyes of the little children weeping because Santa Claus could not call at their homes. Half of your pleasure at Christmas will be derived from making others happy, by sharing your good fortune and sowing seeds of kindness wherever you happen to be on Christmas day. Give something, be it ever so trifling, to the little child to whom Christmas otherwise would mean nothing. You can keep tears of sorrow from those eyes and brighten the day a hundredfold for yourself. Try it.

Returns From Waco.

V. N. Ellis returned from Waco last week where he had been sent by the local Masonic Lodge as a delegate to the Grand Lodge of Texas.

Mr. Ellis reports the trip one of the most interesting trips he has ever made and is highly elated at having the honor of delegate from a subordinate lodge placed upon him.

Dead Letter List.

The following letters remain in the post office at Merkel, Texas, for the week ending Dec. 20 1913:

Giles, A. M.
Doughless, Mrs. R. E.
Jones, Felix

If not called for will be sent to dead letter office Jan. 3, 1913.

H. W. Derstine, P. M.

Jewelers Notice.

In connection with my watch, clock and jewelry repairing I have a nice selection of jewelry which I can fully guarantee to my friends and customers and my prices are right. Satisfaction guaranteed. F. H. Dennis.

Shoes! Shoes! Shoes!

We have now on a counter all sizes from 3 to 6, cost \$2.25 to \$3.25 to close out at \$1.00. Come in and take your choice. Hogue Hamilton Co.

The Latest Thing Out.

Cameo Rings are the latest things out in jewelry and make the most desirable presents for a lady. See the line at Rust & McCauley Drug Store.



Single Comb White Orpington Prize Winning Pullet. Records of winnings: Champion Pullet of all breeds at Stamford, Champion Pullet of all breeds at Merkel. 1st. pullet at each show. Owned by O. W. Williams of this city.

Subjects for the Methodist Church.

My subjects for next Sunday: 11 a. m.—“A World-wide Prophecy Unfulfilled—Jerusalem, the Coming World Capital.” Isaiah 2: 1-5

7:15 p. m.—“The White, Red, Black and Pale Horses and their riders.”—Revelations 7: 1-8.

If you will study with me these subjects, I will promise you some interesting points to take with you all the way.

Ed. R. Wallace.

Neck chains and La Vallieres are among the best presents that you can get for a lady. See the line at Rust & McCauley's Drug Store.

Milk Users Notice.

Please keep all empty bottles belonging to the Merkel Dairy on your front porch where I can get them easily. Having to call at the door every day for the empty bottles and then wait until they can be brought from the kitchen is quite a delay. Please keep this in mind and I will greatly appreciate it. H. N. Mashburn.

T. J. Coggin and C. K. Russell left for El Paso Thursday evening last week in the interest of cattle business they have in those parts. Mr. Coggin going on to Douglas, Ariz. while Mr. Russell returned to Merkel Monday morning, bringing a shipment of cattle from the border country.

W. O. W.

Merkel Camp No. 719 meets second and fourth Friday nights of each month.

W. L. Burns, C. C.
S. Hamilton, Clerk

We Want Your Grocery Business

And to Show You How Bad we Want it, We Quote You a Few of The Prices we Are Going to Make For The Next 15 Days

10 lbs Cottolene..... \$1.25	15c cans Pine Apple..... .10	<p>With Each One Dollar Cash Purchase We Will Give One -- -- Package</p> <p>UNEEDA BISCUIT FREE</p> <p>Just As a Christmas Present</p>	10c Shoe Polish..... 7c	<p>We have a Nice Line of Bottle Pickles and Preserves Which we are making a Greatly Reduced Price on PRICE THEM</p> <p>Cotton White Flour is the Best that is made but we are going to sell it during this 15 days for \$2.85 Per Hundred Lbs.</p>
10 lbs Kneedit Lard..... 1.10	25c cans Pine Apple..... .20		7 pkgs 5c Gold Dust..... 25c	
10 lbs White Cloud..... 1.05	25c Bitter Chocolate..... .20		7 pkgs Borax Wash Pwd.. 25c	
3 25c KC Bak. Pwd..... .50	10c Bitr. Chocolate 3 for. .25		7 pkgs Sopade..... 25c	
5 lbs Quaker Oats..... .20	1 galon can Krout..... .25		6 lbs good bulk Coffee... \$1.00	
2 lbs Oat Meal..... 7 1/2c	12 cans Hominy..... .80		4 1/2 lbs Pea Bry. Coffee.. 1.00	
12 c Red Salmon..... \$1.75	12 boxes Matches..... .40		50c Brooms..... .40	
12 c Pink Salmon..... .95	Good Dried Peaches.... 8 1/2c		35c Brooms..... .30	
12 c Good Corn..... .90	9 pkgs Post Toasties... \$1.00		100 lbs Texas Salt..... .60	
12 c Good Toms..... .90	1 bkt Bremond Coffee... .85		18 lbs Pink Beans..... 1.00	
12 c Nims Pork & Beans.. .90	Bob White, Clariette, Clean Easy & Crystal White		18 lbs Navy Beans..... 1.00	
4 pkgs Mince Meat..... .25	Soap 7 bars for..... 25c		10 lbs Royal Syrup..... .40	
4 pkgs A & H Soda..... .25	7 Bag Bluing..... 25c	All Articles Marked Down.		
4 pkgs Coconut..... .25				

We Have to Move And Want to Sell As Near All Of Our Stock As We Can Before The Frst Of The Year

THE CASH GROCERY

MERKEL - - TEXAS

MERKEL MAN ON STATE COMMITTEE

The Southwest Independent, a paper published at San Antonio in interest of the Texas Retail and Jobbing Trade and Manufacturers of the State of Texas, comes out under date of Dec. 6th' giving an account of the Associations recent meeting at Fort Worth, to which G. E. Comegy and James Black local members of the organization were sent as delegates.

On adjournment of the meeting President Myers appointed various committees for the handling the work of the association throughout the state and on one of the committees, that of deliberating on Trades Relations, our local groceryman James Black of the Cash Grocery was appointed in connection with R. L. Penick of Stanford and J. H. Meade of Abilene.

A TEXAS WONDER.

The Texas Wonder cures kidney and bladder troubles, dissolves gravel, cures diabetes, weak and lame backs, rheumatism and all irregularities of the kidneys and bladder in both men and women, regulates bladder troubles in children. If not sold by your druggist, will be sent by mail on receipt of \$1. One small bottle is two months treatment and seldom fails to perfect a cure. Send for Texas testimonials. Dr. E. W. Hall, 2926 Olive St., St. Louis, Mo. Sold by druggists.

When you are in town see our line of Cameo Rings. Absolutely new and up-to-date. Rust & McCauley Drug Co.

HARDWARE ANNOUNCEMENT

As this is the close of another year and the new year is about here we want to thank our customers for their past patronage and take this opportunity to tell you that we want your business during the new year, **CASH AND CREDIT.**

We are going to try to make the cash price so interesting that you can better afford to pay cash for your hardware and implements than to buy them on time.

All that We ask is that you come in and let us figure with you. We have got the goods and want to sell them. If you don't figure with us you will miss something worth your while.

Wishing you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year, we are yours for business.

WEST TEXAS HARDWARE COMPANY

Who Suffers Pain?

Those who suffer pain should try Hunt's Lightning Oil, the world's greatest liniment. It is the finest thing for Rheumatic Pains, Neuralgia, Sprains, Cuts, burns, Backache, etc. All Druggist sells it.

A man in British West Indies writes: "Wherever I am I find Hunt's Lightning Oil indispensable. It is truly a wonderful remedy for pains. In cases of Rheumatism, Neuralgia Headaches, Sprains, etc., you should just try it and be convinced. Your druggist sells it."

Hunt's Lightning Oil.

This is the liniment which has caused so much talk. So many people are telling how it has relieved them of pain that one can no longer doubt that it is truly a wonderful remedy. Every druggist handles it.

OLD HOME-COMING PARTY XMAS EVE

An old style home-coming party is to be had at the Presbyterian church Christmas Eve.

The arrangement is to be a correct imitation of grandma and grandpa at home in the country with their daughter and husband. On this noted day they are visited by other country relatives and a party of city folks all of whom are of the same family. Old Aunt So-and-So or somebody who is also making her home in the country is a prominent member of the party and from all reports will add much joy to the occasion. A small Christmas tree such as a large family would use will be one of the attractions of the home and a source of pleasure to all the children who are taking part in the play as well as other Sunday School members who will share equally the pleasures derived from getting presents off'n the Christmas tree.

How's This?

We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure.

F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O. We, the undersigned, have known F. J. Cheney for the past 15 years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions and financially able to carry out any obligations made by his firm.

NATIONAL BANK OF COMMERCE
Toledo, Ohio.

Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Testimonials sent free. Price 75 cents per bottle. Sold by all druggist.

Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

SANTA CLAUS HEADQUARTERS

MERKEL'S VARIETY STORE

LOOK OUT FOR SANTA CLAUS CHILDREN,

HE IS COMING EVERY DAY AND NIGHT NOW

LARGEST VARIETY TO SELECT FROM

THE VERY LOWEST PRICES ON CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

XMAS TREE IN OUR WINDOW

SEE IT

DOUGLASS AND SEARS

Studebaker
Electrically Started.
Electrically Lighted.
Five Passenger.

\$1725 F. O. B.
ABILENE, TEXAS

**NO OTHER "SIX" IN THE WORLD
NEAR THIS PRICE**

The new Studebaker "Six" stands absolutely alone and apart in the entire field of six-cylinder cars.

At its price of \$1725—less by hundreds than the price of any other "Six"—it brings you vastly more than the operative advantages of the "Six."

It brings you the advantages emphasized and enhanced because this "Six" is not only a manufactured "Six" but a Studebaker-manufactured "Six."

CARRIES SEVEN IN COMFORT

It brings you passenger capacity for seven. It brings you the manifest advantages of electric lighting and starting through a two-unit system that has proved itself on thousands of Studebaker cars.

You have never before been able to buy such a car, at \$1725.

Today you cannot find such another car, at this price, in the entire world.

SIX THOUSAND MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS

How completely the Studebaker "Six" is the product of the great Studebaker plants you will realize when you know that its construction requires more than 6000 manufacturing operations.

We build its motor, from the raw iron and steel, down through the numerous processes of casting, machining, grinding and assembling to the finished product.

We build its full-floating rear axle; stamp the light through tremendously strong housing from the sheet steel; we forge, cut and machine the axle and transmissions gears.

Throughout the rear axle and transmission, and in the front wheels we use 13 Timken roller bearings for quite, easy running.

ECONOMICAL OF FUEL AND TIRES

In fuel consumption we believe the "Six" will match if not surpass, the economy of any car of equal horsepower. Its motor size is 3 1-2 x 5 inches.

It is economical because, in spite of its 121-inch wheelbase it is light, and easy on its 33x3 inch tires; yet it is wonderfully strong.

It is generously roomy and richly upholstered and carries its seven passengers in utmost comfort.

In design and line, the "Six" acknowledges no greater beauty and grace.

SEPERATE ELECTRICAL UNITS

The starting and lighting system is the Wagner two-unit starting motor and generator separate.

Lamps are Gray & Davis' highest quality, parabolic type.

In short the "Six" lacks nothing in style, beauty or comfort.

Studebaker
Electrically Started.
Electrically Lighted.
Seven Passenger.

\$1150 F. O. B.
ABILENE, TEXAS

**THIS "FOUR" THE FINAL WORD AMONG
FOUR-CYLINDER CARS**

This Studebaker "Four" has been developed from our experience in building 110,000 "Fours."

Its price, \$1150, represents the outside limit you should pay for the "Four", because no "Four" can give you more, in actual value or performance, than this one does.

So its price is right. Its capacity is right. Its power is right. It is the right type—the last word among four-cylinder cars.

A POWERFUL LONG-STROKE MOTOR

Nothing that we can say here will give you an adequate idea of the power possibilities of this car—or of the things of which it is actually capable.

The motor presents the latest approved engineering practice—cylinder cast en bloc values enclosed, exhaust and intake manifolds integral.

The intake is very short and direct, placing the carburator in a most advantageous position.

In fuel, both oil and gasoline, it will give long mileage.

Thirteen Timken bearings reduce friction and wear to the minimum at every point in the transmission and rear axle and in front wheel hubs.

A CAR PLEASING TO THE EYE

The "Four" presents the beautiful continuous stream-line effects, with hood sloped upward to a deep cowl.

Running boards are clean and free, with foot plates of aluminum.

The gasoline supply is under the cowl, giving a short direct gravity feed to the carburator.

Its rear axle is of the full-floating type, and completely accessible.

The rear springs are full-elliptic, very long and easy, and with the lower member suspended beneath the axle.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING AND STARTING

It has left hand steering and center control. The electrical starting and lighting equipment is the Wagner two-unit system—two units for greater efficiency and greater dependability.

Headlights are Gray & Davis' best quality parabolic lamps.

The windshield is of new design, ventilating, clear vision and rain vision.

MOST MODERN AND COMPLETE EQUIPMENT

Rims are detachable demountable, with one extra rim and tire carriers at the rear.

Studebaker-Jiffy curtains are always ready for quick lowering from within the car.

The dash equipment includes illuminated speedometer, oil feed and electric current indicator.

Electric horn, robe rails, tools and tool box are also furnished with the four.

The car can now be seen at the Studebaker store, and a demonstration arranged.

Extra tire tube and mud chains.

**"Buy it
Because
It's a
Stude-
baker"**

**Not because of the price
mark; but because
of the trade mark.**

**Not because of the good
looks; but because
of the good name.**

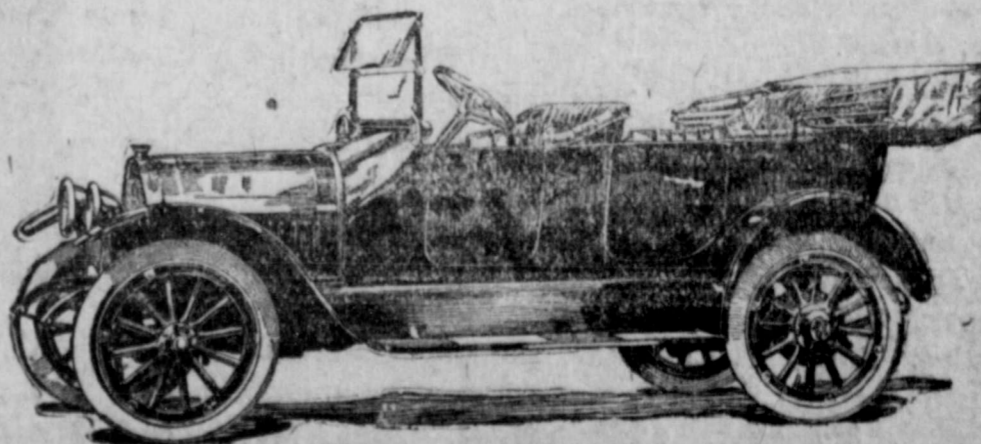
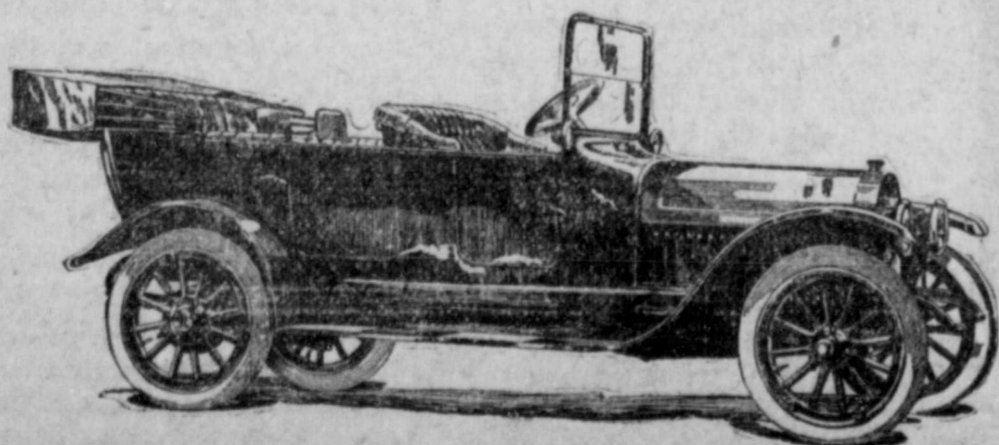
**Not because of the out-
side; but because of
the inside.**

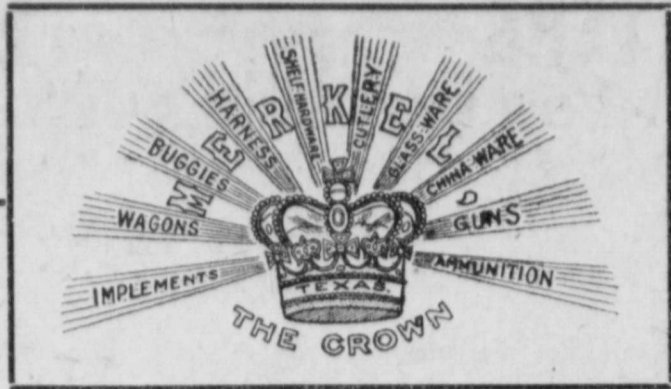
ED. S. HUGHES-CO.

ABILENE

TEXAS

AGENTS





Special Announcement

We desire to call your attention to the fact that we are exclusive agents for the famous
JOHN DEERE IMPLEMENTS AND VEHICLES

Consisting of Cultivators, Planters, Disc Plows, Disc Harrows, in fact their complete line of Implements, Waggon Buggies etc.

THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST DEPENDABLE

Lines on the market and we shall be glad to supply the public with them. We handle the famous line of DARLING COOK STOVES and will say that for durability and real Peace-makers in the home, they cannot be excelled. Come and see them.

A COMPLETE LINE OF SHELF HARDWARE

Queensware, Tinware, etc., usually kept by first-class hardware stores, constantly in stock at attractive prices to the purchaser.

WE ARE HERE TO STAY

And intend to build a business on square dealings and liberal treatment to our customers. WE THANK ALL WHO HAVE STAYED WITH US DURING THE YEAR and solicit their future business as well as many new ones who may see fit to share a part or all of their trade with us. Our prices are always the lowest possible. We are always glad to wait on you.

CROWN HARDWARE COMPANY

POULTRY SHOW IS A GREAT SUCCESS

The second annual Merkel Poultry and Pet Stock Show ended December 6th with laurels all their own in comparison with other poultry shows held in smaller towns of the state.

Judge Scaggs of Paint Rock, who has been judging shows all over the state of the late, stated that the Merkel show was a better show and had more high class birds than he had seen at any other show during the late. The outside competition was stronger than at last years show. Entries being here from various parts of the state. The following awards were made on respective entries:

Barred Rocks—Mrs. Joe Hig-gine, Merkel, 2nd Ckl. 1st and 2nd hens, 1st and 4th pullets, 1st and fourth pens. H. P. Wilkins, Merkel, 1st, 3rd and 4th cockerel third and fourth hens, second and third pullets, 2nd and 3rd pens.

White Rocks—All to Miss Maggie Foster, Merkel.

Silver Wyandottes—All to T. O. Mobley, Merkel.

Columbian Wyandottes—All to Olly Sharp, Merkel.

White Wyandottes—H. M. Rose, Merkel, 2nd cock, 1st 2nd and 3rd cockerel, 1st, 2nd 3rd and fourth hen, 1st and 2nd pullets, 1st and 3rd pens and 2nd display. Thos. Douglass, Mer- kel, 1st cock, 3rd and fourth pullet, 2nd pen. Jno. W. Elliott Trent, fourth cockerel. R. L. Bland, Merkel, 3rd cock, 4th pen.

S. C. R. I. Reds—R. L. Penick



Single Comb White Orpington Prize Winding Cock. Records of winnings: 1st. Cockerel at Stamford, 1st. Cockerel at Sweetwater, 1st. Cockerel at Merkel. Bred and owned by O. W. Williams of this city.

Stamford, 1st, 2nd and fourth cock, 2nd cockerel, 3rd and fourth hens, 2nd and fourth pullets, 2nd and 3rd pens. R. A. Ellis, Merkel, 3rd pullet. G. F. Holland, Merkel, fourth cockerel. J. M. Allen, Sweetwater, 3rd okl, 1st cockerel, 2nd hen, 1st pullet, 1st pen. D. H. Jefferies, Abilene, 3rd cockerel, 1st hen, fourth pen.

R. I. Whites—All to T. M. Pribble, Merkel.

S. C. White Leghorns—All to Will Curb, Merkel.

S. C. Buff Leghorns—All to G. E. Comegy, Merkel.

S. C. Black Minorcas—All to W. R. Walker, Merkel.

S. C. Buff Orpingtons—Dr. P. C. Wray, Jayton, 1st cock, 1st cockerel, 2nd pen. A. J. Hartley, Merkel, 2nd cockerel,

1st and 2nd hens, 1st and 3rd pullets, 1st pen. Mrs. J. P. Sharp, Merkel, 3rd cockerel, 2nd and fourth pullet.

S. C. White Orphingtons—W. O. Williams, Merkel, 1st cock, 1st, 2nd and 3rd cockerel, 1st 2nd, 3rd and fourth hens, 1st, 2nd, 3rd and fourth pullets, 1st and 2nd pens, best display.

Mottled Houdans—All to Chas. Orr, Merkel.

White Indian Games—All to J. C. Comegy, Merkel.

Red Cuban Games—All to Talley Holloway, Merkel.

Guin Grey Games—J. E. Petty Merkel, 1st cock, 1st, 2nd and 3rd hen. W. C. Mathis, Merkel, 1st cockerel.

Buff Orpington Ducks—Mrs. Ernest Daniel, Sweetwater, 1st drake, 1st, 2nd and fourth duck. Frank Sears, Merkel, 2nd drake 3rd duck.



Champion Cock of Merkel show White Wyandotte Cock, owned by H. M. Rose. Champion male bird over all breeds at Merkel show.



Prize Winning White Wyandotte Pullet. Bred and raised by H. M. Rose of Merkel. 1st pullet of Wyandotte class at Stamford show.

White Pekin Ducks—All to Mrs. J. Ben Campbell, Merkel.

White I. R. Ducks—Mrs. J. Ben Campbell, Merkel, fourth drake, 1st and 2nd ducks, 2nd pen. Robert Hicks, Merkel, 1st 2nd and 3rd drake, 3rd and fourth duck, 1st and 3rd pen.

Fawn and White I. R. Ducks—Mrs. W. E. Douglass, Merkel, 2nd drake, 3rd and fourth duck, 2nd pen. Robert Hicks, Merkel, 1st and 3rd drake, 1st and 2nd duck, 1st and 3rd pen. W. C. Mathis, Merkel, fourth drake.

Special Premiums

Best Display (any variety)—O. W. Williams, Merkel.

Best Parti color Display (any variety)—H. P. Wilkins

Best Solid Color Display (any variety)—O. W. Williams.

Best Gock, Cockerel, Hen and Pullet—H. M. Rose, Merkel.

Best Male Bird (any variety)

H. M. Rose, Merkel.

Best Female Bird (any variety) O. W. Williams.

Best Pen Plymouth Rocks (any variety) Mrs. Joe Higgins, Mer- kel.

Best pen Wyandottes (any variety) H. M. Rose.

Best Pen R. I. Reds—J. M. Allen, Sweetwater.

Best Pen Orphingtons (any variety) O. W. Williams.

Best Pen Ornamentals—Chas. Orr, Merkel.

Best Plymouth Cockerel—H. P. Wilkins, Merkel.

Best R. I. Red Male—J. M. Allen, Sweetwater.

Best R. I. Red Female—J. M. Allen, Sweetwater.

Best Fishel Bred White Wyandotte Cockerel—R. L. Bland, Merkel.

Best Pen Ducks, (any variety) Robert Hicks.

2nd best pen Ducks—Robert Hicks.

Best Drake (any variety) Robert Hicks.

Best Duck (any variety) Mrs. J. Ben Campbell, Merkel.

Best Display Ducks (any vari- ety) Robert Hicks.

Best Pen F. & W. I. R. Ducks Robert Hicks.

Cured of Liver Complaint

"I was suffering with liver complaint," says Iva Smith of Point Blank Texas, "and decided to try a 25c box of Chamberlain's Tablets and am happy to say that I am completely cured and can recommend them to everyone." For sale by all dealers.

For Eczema, Tetter and Salt Rheum.

The intense itching characteristic of these ailments is almost instantly allayed by Chamberlain's Salve. Many severe cases have been cured by it. For sale by All Dealers.

Thousands Of Dollars Worth Have Been Sold

SINCE THE BEGINNING OF OUR

GREAT EXPANSION AND CLOSE OUT SALE

Hundreds of Appreciative Customers Have Taken Advantage of The Monstrous Bargains we Are Offering And Have Thronged Our Store From Early Until Late, Making This The Most Phenomenal Dry Goods Movement in Our Whole History

ONLY A FEW DAYS REMAIN

Only a few days until the close of this Great Bargain Event. Only a few days before that Great and Glorious Day—XMAS—When the Festive Days begin and Every Respectable Person will want to look his best and thereby add more to the importance of the event than by expending the requisite amount of money in some other direction. We offer you this opportunity in a way that you will not have to spend your last dollar in rigging your self up. Trade with us for the next few days and you will have money left to buy that handsome Xmas present that Mother, Father, Sister, Brother and the Children ought to have and will be greatly disappointed if they do not get

A WORD OF THANKS TO OUR CUSTOMERS

For the Past five years we have conducted a Successful dry goods business in the little, prosperous city of Merkel. We have not made money fast but each year we have added a little to our capital until our present store room has become inadequate for the handling of our voluminous business and we are forced to seek larger quarters. We know that this success in the face of hard times could not have been accomplished without the aid of a host of staunch customers and we take this opportunity to express publicly our hearty appreciation of your liberal patronage and wishing for you in the years to come a most successful and happy career, promising to do all in our power to aid you by supplying you with the best goods the worlds markets produce at the smallest price.

\$25.00 FOR THE BEST PLAN OF OUR NEW STORE

We make this offer to all boys and girls under the age of 15. All plans must be handed in at our store by Monday, Dec. 22nd. Hundreds of boys and girls are working on this plan and we would be glad if every boy and girl in the country would work on it and do their very best, as we want good plans. We want to have the prettiest and most convenient store in West Texas and we want to get our ideas from all the plans we get.

THIS WILL BE CHRISTMAS MONEY FOR YOU

Your idea may be just the one we want, so don't fail to hand it in. You stand as good a chance as any one and may win one of the cash prizes—\$10.00 to the best, \$7.50 to the next best, \$5.00 to the next best and \$2.50 to the next best. This money will be given Xmas eve, December 24.

Expansion Sale Notions

10c Pearl buttons.....5c
10c garter webbing.....5c
5c lead pencils two for.....5c
25c big can Talcum two for.....25c
Best gold eyed needles.....2 1-2c
25c face powders.....15c
15c ladies hose.....10c
15c misses hose.....10c
12 1/2 misses hose 3 pair for.....25c
10c childrens hose.....7 1-2c
25c misses ribbed hose 3 for.....50c
50c boys ribbed hose 3 pair.....50c
5c ladies handkerchiefs.....2 1-2c
Big lot 12 1/2c ribbons.....5c
Big lot 20c and 25c satin and silk ribbons.....10c
25c misses and childrens wool school gloves.....18c
25c Turkish bath towels, bleached and unbleached.....18c
35c rushings.....25c
7 spools best thread.....25c
75c new hand bags.....49c
\$1.00 hand bags.....98c
\$1.50 hand bags.....98c
Short space will permit but few. Many others will be in evidence.

Expansion Sale Staples

All Calicoes.....3c
7 1/2c Apron Gingham.....5c
10c apron gingham.....7 1-2c
10c percales.....7 1-2c
7 1/2c yard wide brown domestis now.....5c
10c heaviest grades suiting.....8 1-2c
10c yard wide brown Sea Island domestic.....8 1-2c
20c yard wide India Head Domestic.....15c

10c extra heavy brown drilling.....8 1-2c
30c full width bed sheeting 10-4 pepperell.....25c
15c yard wide draperies.....10c
7 1/2c huck toweling.....5c
10c crash toweling.....8 1-2c
12 1/2 linen toweling.....10c
10c 27 inch draperies.....7 1-2c
12 1/2c Cambric muslin.....10c
10c brown and bleach canton flannel.....8 1-2c
Big lot 15c to 20c embroideries.....5c
75c per set napkins.....39c

Expansion Sale of Dress Goods

10c dress gingham.....7 1-2c
12 1/2c dress gingham.....9 1-2c
15c dress gingham.....10c
15c dress pongees.....10c
12 1/2c dress suitings.....8 1-2c
20c cotton suiting.....15c
15c 36-inch brown linen suiting.....105
25c dress pongees.....18c
35c dress goods all kinds.....25c
50c yard wide wool dress goods various weaves.....35c
65c and 75c 36-inch wool dress goods various weaves.....45c
\$1.00 best grade silk massalines all new shades.....75c
\$1.25 yard wide silk messalines all latest shades.....89c
Black brocaded velvet.....98c
36-inch brocaded dress silks all newest shades.....48c

Expansion Sale of Ladies and Misses Coats and Skirts

\$15.00 new style coats.....\$8.95

\$12.50 new style coats.....7.50
\$10.00 new style coats.....\$6.95
\$7.50 new style coats.....\$4.95
\$6.50 new style skirts.....\$4.95
\$5.00 all wool skirts.....\$3.95
\$2.50 all wool Jerseys.....\$1.75
Come and see. No competition can meet these prices.

Expansion Sale of Mens and Boys Clothing

Must make a clean sweep
Big lot mens suits in odd sizes nothing larger than 37.....\$5.00
\$10.00 new style mens suits.....\$6.25
\$12.50 new style suits.....\$7.50
\$15.00 new style blue serge all wool mens suits.....\$8.95
\$20.00 all wool high grade solid black suit.....\$10.00
Big lot boys long pant suits sizes up to 17.....\$2.95
Boys knee pant suits all wool sizes 14 to 16 worth \$5.....\$2.50
Boys woodbine knickerbocker full peg pant suits \$3 kind.....\$1.95
\$3.50 boys suits as above.....\$2.45
\$4.50 boys suits as above.....\$3.50
\$5.00 boys suits as above.....\$3.85
\$7.50 boys suits as above.....\$4.95
\$10.00 mens corduroy suits.....\$7.50

Expansion Sale of Mens Furnishings And Hats

\$5 John B. Stetson Hats.....\$3.50
\$2.50 regular stock.....\$1.95
\$2 regular stock.....\$1.25
\$1.50 regular stock.....98c
75c new style cays.....48c
50c underwear for men.....35c
50c blue work shirts.....35c

\$1 dress shirts.....75c
\$2.50 all wool over shirts.....\$1.75
50c silk ties.....35c

Expansion Sale of Ladies Shoes

Best solid leather old ladies comfort shoes.....\$1.25
\$2.00 kid lace shoes.....\$1.45
\$2.50 button kid shoes.....\$1.75
\$3.00 button kid shoes.....\$2.25
\$3.50 button kid shoes.....\$2.75
\$3.50 tan button shoes.....\$2.75

Expansion Sale in Boys Shoes

\$2 Gun metal button.....\$1.45
\$1.50 kid lace.....98c
\$2.25 box calf lace.....\$1.75
\$2.75 gun metal button.....\$2.25
\$3 tan button.....\$2.45

Mens Pants

Best Overalls.....79c
\$1 work pants.....89c
\$1.25 work pants.....98c
\$1.50 work pants.....\$1.25
\$2.00 work pants.....\$1.45
\$2.50 work pants.....\$1.95
\$2.50 dress punts.....\$1.75
\$3.00 dress pants.....\$1.95
\$3.50 dress pants.....\$2.45
\$4.00 dress pants.....\$2.95
\$5 dress pants.....\$3.85
Big line boys dress pants just received that will be sold at big bargains. Don't miss this sale.

Expansion Sale of Mens Shoes

\$6 Packard Shoes.....\$4.60
\$5 Packard Shoes.....\$3.85
\$4 Packard Shoes.....\$3.35
\$3 mens dress shoes.....\$2.25
\$3.50 work shoes.....\$2.75
\$2.50 work shoes.....\$2.25

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS AT PARTEN'S

We have many a beautiful, serviceable article that will be just the thing for an inexpensive Xmas Gift to any one of the family. These consist of House Shoes, Clothing, Purses, Ladies Beautiful Handkerchiefs, Men's Hats, Men's and Boys' Shoes, Beautiful Dress Goods, Hats, Gloves and a host of other articles. The prices on these are far below normal and will not require the money usually put into Xmas presents. We have just received a handsome lot of Xmas Handkerchiefs and Hand Bags that will be sold at sale prices, just right for your Gifts.

Parten Dry Goods Company

A Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year

A MOST HEARTY GREETING

We extend to Taylor and Jones County and their good people the greetings of the season. Our business has been a great success and has grown from the beginning and we again want to thank the good people of Taylor and Jones County for the generous patronage bestowed upon us. Assuring you that your face will always be welcomed to our store whether you care to make a purchase or not, we want you to feel like our store is your store and make yourself at home with us. We wish you, one and all a Merry, Merry Christmas and a Happy and most Prosperous New Year.

W. D. WOODROOF & CO.

OUR CORRESPONDENCE

Salt Branch

Brother Walker filled his regular appointment here Saturday and Sunday.

Austin and Houston Robertson and Ed Shipley have returned from the plains where they have been for the past month.

J. P. Petty made a business trip to Clyde Saturday.

S. W. Taylor and J. W. Higgins with their children returned Friday night from McCauley.

Jess Higgins and family spent Sunday with Will Barker near Abilene.

Miss Mae Rainer spent Saturday night with Miss Lyda Beavers.

W. M. Hays and family took dinner Sunday with Will Higgins and family.

Misses Eunice Higgins and Maggie Foster of Warren spent Saturday night with Misses Lula and Gardie Higgins.

Jim Ingram and wife of Mt. Pleasant spent one day last week with W. B. Robertson and wife.

Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Petty and sister took dinner with Wesley Hardy and wife Sunday.

There was a singing party at Jess Higgin's Saturday night. Those present report a very enjoyable time.

Garland Teaff and wife of near Tye were visiting the family of J. W. Teaff one day last week.

Grandma Hays and Alma, Nava and Fay Hays spent Saturday with Mrs. Beavers and daughter, Lyda.

Mr. Buford of Merkel has been making some extensive improvements on his place near here.

Mrs. S. W. Taylor and daughter Omer spent Monday night of last week with Mrs. Etta Petty.

Geo. Harris of Hall county visited the family of W. E. Petty, Friday of last week.

S. W. Taylor and Clint Allen killed hogs Monday.

Misses Willie and Mollie Hardy were visiting Miss Lyda Beavers Monday afternoon.

J. P. Petty has purchased a nice home near Clyde and will move there in the near future. We regret very

much to see this good family leave our section of the country but wish them success in their new locality.

Miss Laura Taylor was the guest of Miss Annie Petty Sunday.

Mr. Editor:—You will perhaps think this a lengthy communication but it being my last from here wish to make the news as thorough as possible. My new home will still be in the Merkel country but not in this neighborhood. Thanking the editor for his past kindness in publishing my communications each week, I beg to wish you and all the good readers of the Merkel Mail a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Butman

Dec. 16—The people of our community are plowing their land for another crop.

Many of the young people of the Canyon enjoyed a party given at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Clintons Wednesday night in honor of the newly wed couple, Miss Amber Neighbors and Mr. Bonnie Mathews of our community.

Mrs. Butman left Saturday for El Paso where she will visit relatives and where she expects to attend the marriage of her brother.

A singing given at the home of Mr. Sewells Saturday night was greatly enjoyed by those present.

Sunday School and prayer meeting was well attended Sunday.

For that Dull Feeling After Eating.

I have used Chamberlain's Tablets for some time, and can testify that they have done me more good than any tablets I have ever used. My trouble was a heavy dull feeling after eating.—David Freeman, Kempt, Nova Scotia. These tablets strengthen the stomach and improve the digestion. They also regulate the liver and bowels. They are far superior to pills but cost no more. For sale by All Dealers.

FOR SALE—A good work mare a bargain. Guaranteed safe for family use. W. W. Wheeler.

FOR SALE—Two slightly used Yale Motorcycles. Cheap for cash or good notes if sold at once.

Our Lone Stockholder



TOM J. COGGIN

One by one our stockholders have disposed of their certificates of interest in the Mail until at the beginning of the New Year only one remains with us.

In passing let us say all of them have been true and helpful friends and we have reluctantly purchased their holdings. All were original investments just for the good of our paper, town and country.

It was our desire to have a later and better photograph of the above victim but this is so admired by his good wife we reproduce it at her request. At any rate it is no other than T. J. Coggin, pioneer, cow-puncher, ranchman, farmer and friend of this country. He claims that he has bought and paid for lots of stock but the Merkel Mail is the only investment that ever happened to think about paying back any of the principal or dividends. Therefore, he desires to keep it as a memento. He is a stayer. This may be our last opportunity so we reproduce the above

Special Sale

ON

Groceries And Feed For The Next 30 Days

I am Going to Give Some Special Prices And it Will Pay Every Farmer to Buy Their Supplies While These Prices Last

Strictly No. 2 Corn.....	92 1-2c
Pure Corn Chops.....	\$1.80
Good Rich Mill Run Bran.....	\$1.50
Trico.....	95c
Cotton Seed Meal.....	\$1.70
Best Flour Boquet.....	\$2.75
Good Pearl Meal.....	75c
10 Pounds Cotlene.....	\$1.25
10 Pounds Diamond D Syrup.....	50c

And Have Lots of Other Bargains That I Don't Mention. It Will Pay You to Buy Enough to Last You Awhile as These Prices Wont Last All Winter, It Will Last as Long as What I Have Bought Lasts. You Had Better Come And Get Your Part.

Walter Clark

to even up some very damaging misrepresentation he has done us in the past, then we wish for him a happy time this jolly season and many more years of his interesting life for he has been one of our best friends.

Butter Worth 20 Cents per Pound. I will give 20 cents per pound for all good butter brought to me within the next fifteen days. Bring me all the butter and eggs and get the top market price for them. W. P. Duckett.

BUILDING BUSINESS

The history of my Real Estate and Loan Business is known to most of the readers of the Merkel Mail, and beg pardon for reviewing same at this happy season, but my excuse is a heart full of gratitude to those who have contributed to my success.

RECORD OF MY SALES

Six Months, 1911.....Over **\$100,000.00**
Twelve Months, 1912.....Over **\$200,000.00**
Twelve Months, 1913.....Over **\$150,000.00**

TOTAL NEARLY ONE-HALF MILLION EVERY DEAL FAIR; EVERY CLIENT A FRIEND

In addition to my Real Estate work for my town and country, I am building a good Loan Business. I have secured an agency for my town and have placed about \$200,000 worth of good loans in this section of the state on the best contracts made.

MY GRATITUDE

This success was only possible by the kind words, good help and friendly patronage of my clients and friends and I am appreciative. I have done my best to give honest service and fair dealing and although all the above commissions have been collected and disbursed for the benefit of my creditors, I will make good and refund the commission on any deal where there was any misrepresentation on my part. My only ambition is to make money fairly and honestly for myself and clients and contribute something to the development of my country. This is the foundation of my business. I knew at the beginning that this was a good country, with a good future and full of legitimate opportunities for the investment of money. My business is to find these opportunities and show them to men with money looking for a home or investment.

MY PREDICTION

It is with a realization of the chance for me to be called a dreamer that I state as my honest and conscientious belief that in less than two years every farm and ranch in this section will be worth more than double its present cash valuation. My knowledge of this world and conditions is not confined to this country for I have traveled over most of our United States and have studied the conditions and opportunities of other sections. Our country, like others, has suffered but we are convalescent and a little time will make our recovery complete and permanent. It is a good country and offers you a good opportunity to secure for yourself and loved ones a home where you may enjoy health and life and receive as great a reward for your labors as anywhere else under the shining sun.

MY PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

In this issue is the announcement that I have sold one-half interest in my newspaper business and in order that I may devote all of my time, my energies and my little ability in the interest of my Real Estate and Farm Loan business. There is going to be something doing or I am going to put my eyes out looking for real genuine bargains and break the main advertising spring in my business hunting buyers. If you have something to sell or want to buy a home or make a loan or an investment I will make it exceedingly interesting to you if not profitable to see me.

MY CONTRACT

My plan of work and action is original and exclusive—just my way of doing business for myself and clients: exclusive bargains on exclusive contract. I reiterate that I do not desire to inconvenience any of my competitors and believe there is more land in the world than we can all sell in our short lives and all I want is just my share—the best bargains for cash, on an exclusive contract. It is the only fair way, for then I can afford to make a special effort and spend my money working for you and I do not get my pay unless I earn it. That sounds fair and is good enough for anybody. Come in and let's talk it over.

NEW YEAR SPECIALS

I have about one-half dozen bargains on my list which I will guarantee to be real genuine opportunities and if you have money to invest in dirt, let me tell you about them.

Now, I thank every friend, every client and every real estate agent who has helped me. Here is hoping that you have a good time during the holidays and all of the rest of your life and live so long in good health that we have the mutual pleasure of many profitable deals.

Yours Genuinely Grateful,

JNO. G. JACKSON

HONEST SERVICE AND FAIR DEALING

FAITH IN OUR FUTURE | PROGRESS

CONFIDENCE IN MY TOWN AND COUNTRY!

Everyth
To Make

Home Comfortable

For
Everybody

THE MOST UP-TO-DATE

Furniture Store Between Fort Worth and El Paso

E. P. McMILLEN
Secretary and Treasurer



"MACK"
Wishes You a
Merry Xmas



W. J. BEHRENS
President



MR. BEHRENS
Wishes You a
Happy New Year

With Larger Quarters and More Ample Stock we can offer you better service,
quality, greater saving and increased satisfaction

OUR GUARANTEE

We guarantee absolute satisfaction. Promptly return us any unsatisfactory purchase, or notify us of same, we either fix or exchange it for what you want, or return the amount you have paid for it.

HEADQUARTERS

For Gifts for the home. Something that is everlasting in
being remembered.

Visit Us During Your Christmas Buying

BEHRENS-McMILLIN FURNITURE COMPANY

Be sure you get the best Oil in your lamp.
"Crystal White"
 Texas product.
 Guaranteed good as the best. Ask price on 5 gallons

LIGHT CRUST FLOUR

Is the copyrighted successor to "Upper Crust" Flour. It is made in Fort Worth by the Burrus Mill and Elevator Co. They pay the freight to Merkel, they pay for this ad., they win out with all who try "Light Crust." Terms cash, and free delivery in the city.

KENT STREET GRAIN AND GROCERY COMPANY

Highest CASH price for Chickens, Eggs and Turkeys in Money or Goods. Market your eggs offer.

R PAGE OF MERKEL COUNTRY NEWS

Written by Our Regular Correspondents

Mound Community.

1909.—The people of community have enjoyed a snow this week.

Some of the farmers of our community have most all of their land broken.

Arthur Clark has his land broken and is now going to school. George Clinton has been breaking land for him.

Moze Brown of Merkel, was out at his farm the latter part of last week.

There is to be a Christmas tree at Center Point for the Sunday school. Everybody that is interested in the Sunday school come and bring their children and presents.

Those from the Canyon that attended the Clark-West wedding last Wednesday at Merkel were Miss Hattie Hunter, Miss Maude West and A. J. West.

Curt Tucker of the White Church community passed through our community last Tuesday en route for Merkel, where he will haul lumber for the building of the Valley community school house.

The Two Sisters.

Live Oak.

Dec. 21, 1909.—J. H. Ensminger and wife of our community visited H. West and wife last Thursday.

Grand Pa Burrous is making preparations for going to New Mexico in the spring with his son Lee Burrous of the White Church community.

George Clinton and wife are visiting Mr. Neighbors and family this week.

Miss Hattie Hunter, Miss Maude West and A. J. West of Valley community attended the Clark-West wedding at Merkel last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Trout of the Valley community were in our community last week for the purpose of making up a box for Buckner's Orphan's Home.

Mr. Franks and family will live next year on W. M. Brown's farm in the White Church community. Forgetfulness.

Salt Branch Items.

Dec. 18, 1909.—As I haven't seen any thing from this part of the country in some time I thought I would come and bring news, which is very scarce with me.

visited by a light and it still looks

community is

g-

visiting

ow.

om Moro

ay with

mily vis-

e Sunday

d Miss

shop-

el king

A crowd of boys were making music for cake last Saturday night. Come again boys and maybe Susan will have some cake next time.

J. Walter Hal's sister, name unlearned, came in from Hill county Thursday.

Miles Watts and wife visited his brother of Hodges Wednesday.

Willie Shelly has purchased him a ready built house.

Jno. Montgomery and family spent Wednesday night with Jap Rodgers of Mulberry.

Ralph Golightly and wife spent Sunday evening with D. H. Glover and family.

John Whitescarver has gotten him a sunny face for Christmas. Going to shine.

Will Hays and family attended the Clark-West wedding Wednesday night.

Newt Roe came in from the west Sunday 19th.

I guess you are all looking for Santa Clause. I am, merry Christmas to all.

Gray-Eyed Susan.

News from Live Oak.

Dec. 19.—Our community was visited by a light norther and a large snow last week.

W. W. Potts left Sunday for Georgia, where he will make his future home.

Adrin Phillips and wife of the Butman community have moved to the Divide. Miss Ticy Jones will make her home with Mrs. Phillips, her sister.

Miss Maud Williams went out last Saturday morning to find a pumpkin, but the pumpkin turned out to be Webster Jones. They were married in Abilene

Sunday evening and leaving that night for Virginia where they will make their future home.

D. S. Jones and family have moved to Virginia.

J. A. Dulin was in Merkel last week.

E. E. Patterson transacted business in Merkel last week.

Miss Ada Franks and Mrs. Darison was shopping in Nubia last Saturday.

A merry Christmas to all.

Black Eyes.

Nubia Dots.

This place was visited by a snow Friday and Saturday night.

Ed Blackburn and Jim Richey were in town Monday.

J. B. Deavenport, wife and baby will leave today for Big Springs where they will visit Mrs. Deavenport's father.

Hubert Armstrong was a pleasant caller at J. S. Blair's Friday night.

Luther Franks and sister of White Church were the guests of Miss Stanley Sunday.

W. Mathews, wife and baby visited Rollen Toombs and wife this week.

Lawrence Dowdy and Jonas Deavenport went to Mt. Comfort Monday.

Rev. Statten of Buffalo Gap was in town Saturday and Sunday.

Dinah.

A Few Lines to Santa.

Dear Santa: Christmas will soon be here. I would like to have a ring and also a doll. Bring Curtis a rocky horse and little brother a rubber doll. Bring us candy, apples, wax, peanuts, oranges, fire crackers and fire cannons. Mamma

wants a kitchen cabinet.
 Nina McAninch.
 P. S. I live on Route 1, Box 42 by the bridge on Bitter Creek.

Mashburn Home Destroyed.

(Crowded out of last issue.)

The residence of H. N. Mashburn in the south part of Merkel was completely destroyed by fire Monday night about 2 o'clock.

Mr. Mashburn awakened and found the house burning except the room which they were sleeping in. The room in which the fire started was in solid flames

when discovered and every thing in that room was burning. They opened the door and rushed through the flames in order to save their lives.

Mr. Mashburn's hair was singed and hands badly burned. The household goods were also destroyed with the exception of a small trunk and a baby buggy.

There was \$800.00 insurance on the residence and household goods combined which would about cover the loss of the household goods.

Mr. Mashburn is a good citizen of our little city and is in the restaurant business, running the Palace Cafe on Front Street. They have the sympathies of all of their good friends in Merkel.

Hubert Armstrong was a pleasant caller at J. S. Blair's Friday night.

Luther Franks and sister of White Church were the guests of Miss Stanley Sunday.

W. Mathews, wife and baby visited Rollen Toombs and wife this week.

Lawrence Dowdy and Jonas Deavenport went to Mt. Comfort Monday.

Rev. Statten of Buffalo Gap was in town Saturday and Sunday.

Dinah.

Snow Falls Over Country.

The smiles worn by our citizens and farmers for the past have not been just snow grins for the prevailing weather is the kind which promises bumper crops and they are the smiles which cannot be worn out.

The snow amounted to a couple of inches and will be of untold benefit to growing wheat as well a sod-soaker.

Hubert Armstrong was a pleasant caller at J. S. Blair's Friday night.

Luther Franks and sister of White Church were the guests of Miss Stanley Sunday.

W. Mathews, wife and baby visited Rollen Toombs and wife this week.

Lawrence Dowdy and Jonas Deavenport went to Mt. Comfort Monday.

Rev. Statten of Buffalo Gap was in town Saturday and Sunday.

Dinah.

Clark-West.

Wednesday evening of last week at 7:30 o'clock at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. V. West, Mr. J. Houston Clark led to Hymen's altar Miss Mae West, Rev. J. W. Saffles of the First Baptist church officiating, Mr. Elbert Dean and Miss Ethel Jenkins acting as waiters.

It was a beautiful home wedding only the near relatives and a few close friends of the bride and groom being present.

The bride is one of Merkel's fairest flowers and a jewel to the man who has won her heart and hand, while the groom is a young man of many noble traits of character.

The bride was attired in cream silk while the groom wore the conventional black. They were the recipients of many beautiful and costly presents consisting of silver, cut-glass, hand-painted ware and many other useful articles.

Last but not least was the grand and glorious feast on the table which was groaning under the weight it bore of good edibles, everything that could be called for from turkey to pumpkin pie. (Ask Bro. Saffle the rest.)

On Thursday we were all asked to the hospitable home of H. D. Clark, father of the groom where another great repast was to be held and we found another table loaded to the uttermost with every thing to eat that man could wish for.

To be present at that supper and dinner was a genuine treat and social pleasure.

May each day of their lives be brighter and we wish for them a long voyage over life's troublesome sea.

One Present

Several interesting items were made and announced at the meeting.

Several interesting items were made and announced at the meeting.

Several interesting items were made and announced at the meeting.

Several interesting items were made and announced at the meeting.

Several interesting items were made and announced at the meeting.

Several interesting items were made and announced at the meeting.

Several interesting items were made and announced at the meeting.

Several interesting items were made and announced at the meeting.

Several interesting items were made and announced at the meeting.

Several interesting items were made and announced at the meeting.

Several interesting items were made and announced at the meeting.

Several interesting items were made and announced at the meeting.

Several interesting items were made and announced at the meeting.

Christmas Greetings!

We Now Have on Display Up-to-Date Christmas Attractions

Our new Holiday stock contains the very best for Christmas, 1909, and is easy to select from because it offers new things and everything to make people happy whether they are old or young.

PRICES REASONABLE

If you are asking yourself where you can buy best and cheapest this Christmas, you will get your answer if you look through our superior line of HOLIDAY ATTRACTIONS and compare quality and prices with others.

J. H. Hammans & P.

MERKEL :: ::

Merkel Lodge, K. of

At a special meeting of Merkel Knights of Pythias at the hall Monday night it was voted to consolidate with the Abilene S.

of West Lodge for the purpose and an article of agreement signed by the local officers.

O. P. Thomas, P. S. and Mr. Kay, of the

Several interesting items were made and announced at the meeting.

Several interesting items were made and announced at the meeting.

ROBERTS BUSINESS COLLEGE

MERKEL AND WEATHERFORD, TEXAS



Surrounds

the pathway of success. A millionaire railr says: "No young man can enter the counting room and hope for success without special training." Do you want that "special training?" If you do, you can acquire it right here.

THIS BUSINESS COLLEGE stands for methods that fit you at once for the counting room. Tuition is reasonable and entry can be made any time. Decide now and commence at once.

It is with pleasure we announce the completion of arrangements for the opening of a college at Merkel and know the news will be cheerfully received by our many prospective pupils in West Texas. The Merkel school will receive the same attention which has made our Weatherford college such a brilliant success and any of our pupils may enter either college and receive our regular course.



A Good Position

is assured to all of our graduates who are as anxious to learn as we are to teach. Our instructors are specialists in their various lines, and those who attend the

ROBERTS BUSINESS COLLEGE become thoroughly equipped for a successful business career. You will find our terms of tuition moderate. Send in at once your application for enrollment.

YOUNG MAN!

Now is your opportunity to receive a thorough practical business training which will fit you properly for the battles of business life. Secure a scholarship in one of our colleges and upon completion of your work as we direct we will assist you in getting a permanent and paying position. Read what others have done and resolve to act now.

Roswell, New Mexico, March 4, 1907.

Mr. Jno. T. Roberts, Weatherford, Texas.

Dear Sir: Referring to yours of the 20th ult., young McClung has arrived and we have him placed at Portales.

Now, we want a combination bookkeeper and stenographer not over nineteen years old. As a matter of information, we expect to work the above man under Fred Lee and do not want a man older than he is for that position.

However, we might use an older man at another point, and would ask that you have both the young men mentioned in yours of the 20th write to us. Judging from the specimens you send out, you must have a fine set of young men and we feel disposed to take your judgment on the boys.

We would be willing to pay the combination bookkeeper and stenographer anywhere from \$50.00 to \$60.00 per month, according to his ability.

Awaiting your reply, we are, Yours very truly,
KEMP LUMBER CO.
Per Robt. H. Kemp.

We would use the young man here as an assistant bookkeeper and stenographer.

YOUNG LADY!

It matters not—if you do not expect to make your own way through this world—a course in our college will at least acquaint you with the principles of business and better fit you for the duties of home as well as office, and if you are among that great number of girls who are upon their own resources we can help you.



DON'T FAIL

REFERENCES:---Any banker, merchant or representative citizen of Merkel or Weatherford or any pupil who has mastered either of our courses.

Any parent or pupil interested will please write to either college for catalogue and special information desired.

MERKEL COLLEGE OPENS JAN. 10th



Ever Think

how much depends on your future success as to how your start in life is made? There does, and you have to "think hard" and use best efforts to reach the top round of the success.

COMMERCIAL
obtained here is after
leases the bolt that
that opens up to pro
you master comm
our diploma opens
the entry into best

ROBERTS, Jr.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

VOL. 25—NO. 44

1889—THE MERKEL MAIL—1913

DEC. 19, 1913.

MERRY XMAS, HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

When our good wishes for 1914 reach you through the columns of The Merkel Mail, the old year will be nearing a close, and we shall be looking forward with confidence in the new year.

The present year has been somewhat mixed, crops have been a little short yet we have no complaint to make, but feel grateful to our many customers for the generous patronage given us during the year. Therefore looking forward to bountiful crops in the coming year, and hoping for prosperity at home and peace with the whole world we ought to be happy to live and proud to be hardware men, able and glad to serve our customers.

We shall continue our past record, of square and honest treatment to all and will render efficient service next year to our friends.

We wish to solicit a continuation of patronage from our old customers and hope to number many new ones as customers for the new year.

Thanking all for the liberal patronage given us, we desire to impress upon you that we have been, and shall continue to be in the future, real friends to our customers,

Respectfully,
Crown Hardware Co.

Harkrider's Christmas Greeting.

At the close of this the eighth year of our career as a merchant in this beautiful "city of clover" surrounded by the most fertile lands in West Texas and populated by as good a class of people as could be found anywhere in this Grand old Universe, it is with a thankful heart that we again have the pleasure of extending our Xmas Greetings to our many good friends and faithful customers. Thanking each one for your trade and hoping that the great tidal wave of prosperity is turning in our favor and that the coming year may be a most prosperous one for all of us.

Now we wish all a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year and please remember that we want your trade during 1914.

Most sincerely,
W. L. Harkrider.

Guarding Your Health.

For the past few weeks there has been considerable kick made to the Mayor and Marshal of our town on the condition the out-houses in some districts of the town were allowed to stay open.

There is an ordinance regulating the cleaning of all out-houses and further that they shall be kept closed up. This latter regulation of keeping them closed is the one most violated and Mayor Stallings request that the matter be looked after more closely as such unsanitary conditions are not going to be permitted.

Jewelers Notice.

I have moved to the Rust & McCauley Drug Store and ask that my friends call on me.

Sublet the Jeweler.



The Mail is glad that this is the paper the people read in our town and country and we are sincerely grateful to every friend, subscriber and patron. It means to us the realization of our ambition—to publish a readable paper, deserving the friendship and patronage of every patriotic citizen.

The Merkel Mail is nearly a quarter of a century old and has enjoyed an increasing patronage from a very modest beginning. Your home paper has grown and prospered during the hardest years in the history of our country and has been a business success during times and trials when banks and more promising enterprises have fallen by the way. It is with modest truthfulness we say there is no better business success and all attributable to the good people of our town and country.

The history of our paper is but a history of our town and country and our people and its pages simply reflect the town and community we represent. We believe that we have the best country newspaper plant and weekly newspaper business in the state simply because we believe that we have the best town and country.

We sincerely appreciate every kind word and every favor and more than all the regular and dependable friendship of nearly 1000 good readers and we assure you that our efforts in the future will be to publish a paper that will in a small way at least contribute to the development of our town and country and the peace, progress and prosperity of our people.

We will begin our labors for the New Year with nothing but love and friendship for every man, woman and child in Merkel and the Merkel country and wish for all a happy Christmas and a New Year with many blessings and no misfortunes.

Resolution of Respect.

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethern of Merkel Lodge No 710 A. F. and A. M. :—

Death once more has entered our Mystic Circle and removed our beloved brother, P. B. Causeaux, and with bowed heads we submit to the will of the Supreme Architect who does all things well, "The young may die, the old must die and the wisest knoweth not how soon."

Brother Causeaux was an honorable, christain gentleman, a true and staunch friend, a kind and loving husband and father, and above all a Mason whose life and works reflect credit on our order.

Therefore be it resolved:

First: That in the death of our esteemed brother, Merkel Lodge has lost one of its most devoted members and we greatly deplore the loss of one whose loyalty and fidelity has endeared him to our hearts. To the family of our deceased brother we extend our heart-felt sympathy in their bereavement. Second: That as a mark of respect to our deceased brother, this Lodge be draped in mourning and the brethren wear the usual badge of mourning for thirty days. That these resolutions be spread upon the minutes, and a copy be furnished the family and our local newspaper be requested to publish same. Respectfully Submitted,

A. A. Baker
N. D. Cobb,
W. N. Hall.

Dental Notice.

My office will be closed between the dates of December 22nd and January 2, my business having called me away for those dates.

Wishing all my friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, I remain. Yours truly,
S. L. Davis.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM OLDEST NOTARY IN COUNTY

I take this method at the closing up of the year 1913, to express my thanks to my many friends for their patronage in a business way during the past.

I now renew my pledge by saying that any business intrusted to my care will be looked after in the future, as in the past in a safe, sound and business way. I am ready at all times to place your Insurance with the very best Old Line Companies, who will settle all honest losses promptly, and without discount. My notary work has stood the test for the last seventeen years.

Wishing one and all a joyous Christmas, and a happy New Year, I beg to remain.

Yours very truly,
W. W. Wheeler

Home Party Christmas.

The home of J. T. Howard of the F. & M. Bank will be the scene of a joyful homecoming of all his children during Christmas.

Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Middleton of Stamford came in Wednesday and will remain here until after the holidays. The other members of the family Mrs. Rufus Grisham of Hamlin, Miss Sophia Howard of McCauley and Dr. Geo. Howard of the City Hospital of Dallas will reach here the latter part of this week and will remain until about the first of the year.

Insurance Greeting

Here's a greeting to our friends and those to be. We appreciate the business you have given us and wish for you a very prosperous year. Now is a good time to have us write that fire policy for you. Fires have no regard for Xmas.—Williams & Johnson.

Milk Users Notice.

Please keep all empty bottles belonging to the Merkel Dairy on your front porch where I can get them easily. Having to call at the door every day for the empty bottles and then wait until they can be brought from the kitchen is quite a delay. Please keep this in mind and I will greatly appreciate it. H. N. Mashburn.

Mrs. S. W. H. Busby left Tuesday for Rising Star to spend Xmas with her daughter, Miss Hattie Busby, who is attending school at that place.

Above all. See Burroughs stock of staple jewelry.

Best box chocolates made, at Burroughs Drug Store.

A Piano For Christmas.

Did it ever occur to you what a desirable, everlasting present a piano would make for your daughter.

Get her one for Christmas, see and select from my line, one of the most renowned makes for sale today. Leave the price and payments to me. Just you make your home more cheerful by the presentation of a piano to some of your family.

Do it now, before Xmas.

E. D. Coats.

Hunters' Return.

E. D. Teaff and Geo. Ferrier who have for the past month been hunting deer, bear, panther and other varments in the Davis mountains returned home last week with some evidence of a successful trip. They bagged four deer and report good luck in their other pursuits, that is to say they were lucky in not meeting up with any members of the bear or panther family.

Turnips! Turnips!

For sale at the patch for 60 cents per bushel. C. L. McNeese.

ANCHOR HARDWARE CO'S. CHRISTMAS GREETING

This epoch marks the close of our seventh year in business and while we have many things to be justly proud and thank our customers, we cannot claim for it our banner year in a financial way, we can say that we have gained many loyal customers over the years that have past and gone and have done everything in our power to hold the good will and confidence of those who have been doing business with us since our beginning in business. It is these that we particularly want to thank for it has been through your good influence and confidence that have enabled us to accomplish what we have. It shall always be our aim to make a satisfied customer of every one that enters our door whether your purchases be great or small.

We feel very optimistic over the recent outlook and we hope ere another year has rolled around that Merkel and the Merkel country will again be as the garden spot of the world. Again thanking you for past patronage and influence, Wishing one and all a Merry Xmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year, we beg to remain,

Very Respectfully,
Anchor Hardware Company.

A Card of Thanks.

In accordance with our custom for a quarter of a century there will be no issue of the Mail next week and the Mail force thanks you now for this vacation which is your treat. It is our only rest of the year and we are glad to get it and will resume our labors at the beginning of the New Year with renewed energies.

We offer no apologies for our issue this week for it is our very best and in volume anyway makes atonement for the failure of our paper next week. We will try to make good to our advertisers for the regular rate of two issues by mailing a larger circulation and promise that every family in this country will get a copy of this issue with our and your compliments of the season.

Here's hoping that Christmas week each year is the only week you ever miss your home paper.

The Merkel Mail Force:

Homer L. Easterwood
Jno. G. Jackson
Fannie P. Moore
Mrs. W. H. Dickson
Jno. T. Morgan
A. L. Barnes
Carl Richards
Clarence Hamm
Correspondents.

New Banker in Town.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Johnson was visited Friday morning by the Christmas Stork and a fine baby boy was left with the parents. The banker father served notice on the world of the new comer's arrival in a happy way with a smile that has worn off yet. The mother child are reported doing fine.

Neck chains and La V are among the best prices you can get for a lady. line at Rust & McCauley Store.

MERKEL'S MOST POPULAR DRUG STORE

Some Bargains And Our Business Methods

WATCH THESE BARGAINS In Mens Watches

Hampden Gold Case Watches,
20 and 25 year cases.

17 jwl. size 16, huntin' case **\$20**
15 jwl. size 12, " " **\$17.50**
21 j adj. size 16, open face **\$33.00**
15 jwl. size 18, silver case **\$6.50**
Elgin 15 jwl. silver, 18 size **\$12.75**

We are in the Drug Business to Please

and place our personal guarantee that any article purchased of us that does not give absolute satisfaction will be redeemed by us without the slightest of a kick. Your money back if you are not pleased. Come to see us.

MORE WATCH BARGAINS In Ladies Watches

Hampden 15 jwl. size 8, 25 year hunting case, only **\$21.00**
Hampden 7 j. s 6, 25 year hunting case, remarkable price **\$13.50**
Elgin 15 j s 6, 25 yr. gd. cse. **\$20**
Elgin 15 j s 0, 25 yr. gd. cse. **\$19**
Elgin 7 j s 0, 20 yr. gd. case. **\$14**

HEADQUARTERS for all GOOD TOILET PREPARATIONS

Our Prescription Department under the Pharmacist Charles R. Baxendale is at all times managed to the absolute satisfaction of those who are being served by us. Are you one of the served? Thanking you for past business we wish to solicit your continued trade during the new year. Wishing you a merry Xmas.

GRIMES DRUG STORE

IN THE MIDDLE OF MERKEL

TRUE ECONOMY AND THE OPEN DOOR

This Sermonett is Written Specially for Our Holiday Edition
By Req. Ed. R. Wallace, Methodist Pastor.

This is the best age the world ever saw. I had rather live to-day than any day gone before. I had rather launch out on life's voyage to-day than to have marched out to earth's uttermost bounds at the bright dawn of any other era that has blessed human lives. Boys, there is an open door. Girls, there is an open door for you.

We have a wonderful inheritance to begin with. Our fathers and elder brothers have left to us a rich field. The field of literature, commerce, social, economic, scientific, and religious—these fields are all rich and open. The wealth of the world is ours—we, of this wonderful day, have fallen heir to all that has gone before. With what this generation has to begin with, what wonders may we see and do?

Economy: It is very necessary that you study and practice economy in order to be able to do the most that is demanded of you. There are lessons of economy to be read, pages of human experience councils of wisdom everywhere. Let's read and run life's race with our eyes open.

The Great Teacher of man gave to the world the most striking lesson of economy, when He gave instruction that the fragments be gathered up at the feeding of the thousands, "that nothing be wasted" If He who could feed the multitudes with a few loaves and fishes has an eye to economy why should we not look well to this lesson at every step in life?

There are many lives almost lost to the world for want of a wise practice in economy. Where is there wisdom in the wasteful tobacco using? There are fathers who have chewed up a home. Most of people are not enough to know what in-

terest amounts to, and a reasonable tobacco bill will buy a home in fifteen years, or twenty at most, if put out at the rate of interest you pay the bank.

What shall we say of the economy of the table? Perhaps one half of the people shorten their days by some form of table excess. Intemperance is a great sin for which we will not fall to suffer.

What can be said of economy in dress? You wear a fifty dollar hat for a season, and pay ten percent to the bank, and think you are too poor to help the poor and needy. In this, there are three things to cause you to blush; The hat, the debts, and the unfed widow or sick man.

I speak of economy, for some of us can not enter the open door because we will not practice habits of saving, that nothing be lost. "Count up the cost," and add the interest.

There are doors before you and they are open.

Do you want to be a farmer or fowl raiser, the door is open. Why, even the hens have the New York and Chicago cities astrir. The farmer, at last, has put a price on his cotton, and is going to govern the Oil Mills. He has taken the wild weed of Ireland and made of it the good of the nations. He has taken the wild apple of the swamps and hillsides and pleased all men with an Arkansas Blach. He has taken the unsightly, unholy, worthless pest of the desert and made it produce a pear that would tempt an Adam. We are just beginning to farm. Some day I will not mind to be called "Farmer Ed."

Do you want to practice Law; the most widely known representative of the highest ideals of today is a lawyer, W. J. Bryan! "Prince of Peace" has been heard by more nations than

any sermon or lecture. And our loved President is the product of a Presbyterian Manse. God bless the law students. This door was never more glorious, nor wider open.

Do you want to practice Medicine? Our pill bag men are just getting ready for real work—they have been practicing now they have sharp knives, and lights enabling them to see clear through a man of four hundred, and locating the trouble—they are most ready to do things. They take out an old eye and put in one with which you can actually wink, and fool the very lect. The implements are ready for use. The Anaesthetics enable you to sleep while your arm is cut off. The Antiseptics are at hand with death for the germ, and life for the patient.

The door is open, if you will enter, you may practice as you wish, you may treat the suffering patient with a magnetic rub, an electric shock, or role the howling pills—the door is open for men—real men. The dentist is not to be overlooked, as good teeth sometimes means good health, and bad teeth means death. He fixes up your old stubs with a gold crown till you can gnaw a bone like a hungry lad. When the worst comes he takes out the old stumps and gives a woman a set of teeth all her own, that moves back the calendar of her life twenty years.

Commerce: If you will enter the open door of the commercial world, there are opportunities never before dreamed of. The seas are plowed from shore to shore, and we are now trading with the nation farthest away. We talk to him across the sea, and tear down the wires and give Marconi a chance. But let's use economy as we enter these open doors. The first thousand is hard to get.

Do you want to be a scientist; the schools and colleges are throwing wide open their doors that Riches and Honor may be placed within the reach of all. A greater era than the Bessimer era that gave to the world steel for Olympic Ships, railroad belts, and fire-press cities greater era is here with its open doors. The

science that transforms crudest iron into finest steel is only the beginning of real scientific revelations. The best wine is for the last.

Religion: Do you want to enter the door that opens into the most glorious experiences in the realm of human operations? The fields are white unto harvest. Workers are needed. Young J. Allen and his contemporaries worked their way through bolted doors into China's walled cities, but to-day all China is astir in an effort to look into the open door of religious experience. We are now ready to go to doing things in the religious fields.

David Livingston spent a lifetime in opening up a work in darkest Africa. It is left for this generation to take the greatest continent of the world—Africa. When we take it for the Lord we take it for the enterprises of all the open doors for man in his happy glorious achievements.

But another word! there is an open door to Eternal Life. All who will may enter. To enter this door by Christ-way is to have access to all that there is in the Universe of God. To refuse to enter this open door will eventually close all other doors, and consign your being to a darkened dungeon of death, with all that the term "Death" means.

To enter this open door of religious life in Jesus Christ is to have forever open to you every door of riches, glory, honor and immortality. Enter the open door.—Ed. R. Wallace.

How to Bankrupt the Doctors.

A prominent New York physician says: "If it were not for the thin stockings and thin soled shoes worn by women the doctors would probably be bankrupt." When you contract a cold do not wait for it to develop into pneumonia but treat it at once. Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is intended especially for coughs and colds, and has won a wide reputation by its cures of these diseases. It is most effectual and is pleasant and safe to take. For sale by all dealers.

\$1250 worth of Jewelry at McClain's

Resolutions of Respect.

Whereas, death came to the family circle of our beloved sovereign Roy Meeks and took from that circle his little child; and whereas Sov. Meeks is our esteemed and worthy member of Lone Mesquite Camp. No. 1983 W. O. W. Noodle, Texas, and whereas we a lodge and individual members, do deeply sympathize with our worthy sovereign and loved ones in their deep bereavement and afflictions, be it Resolved that we do extend our brother our heart felt sympathy of our camp and that we direct him and loved one to our Heavenly Father for strength and sympathy in this hour of sorrow.

Resolved further that we do implore our Heavenly Father to support and comfort our brother and his loved ones; that a copy of these resolutions be furnished Sov. Meeks and family, a copy spread on the minutes of our camp and a copy be furnished the Merkel Mail for publication.

Respectfully submitted,

L. G. GOODE,

A. B. ELY,

J. E. JONES,

Committee.

BUY & USE



RED CROSS CHRISTMAS SEALS

One cent each and thus aid in the movement to secure a County Hospital and Dispensaries in this County for the care of the sick and afflicted. Every Seal you buy helps to provide hospitals, dispensaries and visiting nurses for the care of the sick and the prevention of disease.

CHRISTMAS SEAL CAMPAIGN
For Sale at all Drug Stores.

Deposits	October 21st, 1911	\$ 41,933.99
Deposits	October 21st, 1912	\$108,043.16
Deposits	October 21st, 1913	\$146,450.12

The Constant and Rapid Growth of This Bank Reflects the Confidence of the Public. Through the Adverse times of the Past Three Years this bank has make Steady Progress as Shown by the Above Comparison of Deposits = - - - - -

EXPERIENCED OFFICERS

PRACTICAL DIRECTORS

AMPLE RESOURCES



DIRECTORS

JOHN SEARS M. ARMSTRONG J. S. SWANN B. C. MOORE R. O. ANDERSON

We Extend Hearty Greetings and Good Wishes For a Merry Xmas and Happy New Year

A State Bank = = The Safe Way

Christmas Suggestions And Special Sale Of Gift Watches

GUARANTEED WATCHES AT A GREAT DISCOUNT

Waltham 18 size 17 jewel, adjusted movement 20 year open face gold case, was \$31.10, now **\$21.75**
 Waltham 18 size, 15 jewel, 25 year hunting case was \$25.00, now **\$17.10**
 Waltham 16 size, 15 jewel, Silver Rode open face case, was \$15.25, now **\$10.25**
 Waltham 16 size, 7 jewel, open face, Silver Rode case, was \$8.40, now **\$5.75**

South Bend 18 size, 15 jewel, 25 year Swing Ring case was \$52.30, now **\$34.85**
 Hamilton 18 size, 19 jewel adjusted movement, in 5 position, 20 yr Swing Ring case, was \$55.00, now **\$45.00**
 Illinois 16 size, 15 jewel, 20 year open face gold case, was \$19.10, now **\$16.50**
 Elgin 7 jewel, open and hunting case watches, all 20 year cases, sizes 18, 16, 12 and 0, was \$12.00, now **\$10.00**

Ladies Chateline watch, size 0, open face gold cases Was \$16.00, now **\$12.50**
 One solid gold ladies bracelet watch Elgin movement 7 jewel, 25 year case. A most desirable present for a lady, was \$26.00, now **\$20.00**
 Bracelets and LaVallieres, Lockets, Chains and Pendants. you will find in our place the most complete line ever brought to Merkel. They make exquisite Christmas Presents for Mother, Sister or Sweetheart.

JUST A FEW GOOD SUGGESTIONS FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE

- | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| <p>For Husband</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Card Cases Meerschaum Pipes Watch and Chains Bag Tags Cuff and Collar Button Boxes Shirt Studs Shaving Sets Desk Sets Ink Wells <p>For Wife</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bracelets Broaches Celery Dishes Cut Glass Fruit Bowl Chafing Dishes Olive Dishes Baking Dishes Ice Tea Glasses Mesh Bags Necklaces Toast Racks Salt and Pepper Condiments Sets Lemon Dishes Silver Ware Sugar Racks | <p>For Father</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ash Receiver Eye Glass Holders Drinking Cups Eye Glasses Stamp Boxes Match Boxes Dress Pins Soap Boxes Veil Pins Card Cases Shirt Waist Sets Sewing Sets Bracelets Chains Key Chains Fountain Pen Pipes Desk Sets Watch and Chain Watch Charms Belt Buckles Handy Pins Toilet Sets Silver Chests Hat Pins Cuff Pins Drinking Cups Cuff Links <p>For Mother</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brooches Handy Pins Silver Chests Hat Pins Shirt Waist Sets Cut Glass Bowl Drinking Cups Cuff Links <p>For Children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bracelets Chains Drinking Cups Cuff Links | <p>For Brother</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ash Receiver Bag Tags Shaving Sets Silver Key Chain Hair Brushes Cuff Links Neck Tie Clasps Fountain Pens Watch and Chain LaVallieres Sewing Sets Signet Rings Book Marks Dockets Watches Manicure Sets Book Marks Mirrors Stamp Cases Traveling Sets Desk Sets Scarf Pins Manicure Articles Hat Brushes Match Safes Umbrellas Match Boxes Belt Pins <p>For Sister</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Belt Pins | <p>For His Sweetheart</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Card Cases Diamond LaVallieres Hat Pins Watch and Chain Birthstone Rings Vanity Cases Chafing Dishes Gold Umbrellas Shirt Waist Rings Cuff Pins Hat Pin Holder Thimbles Vases | <p>For Her Sweetheart</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diamond Ear Screws Handy Pins Toilet Sets Silver Cigar Cutter Military Brushes Icy Hot Bottles Gents Manicure Articles Shaving Sets Cigar Jars Society Emblems Shirt Studs Tie Clasps Baby Pins Safety Pins Bracelets Talcum Boxes Silver Cups Knife, Fork and Spoon |
|---|--|--|--|--|

Rust & McCauley Jewelry Co.

MRS. E. M. RUST

THE MERKEL FIRE DEPARTMENT

OF VOLUNTEER MEMBERS

Was organized in March, 1908 with B. C. Gaither as chief and N. C. Sinclair as assistant chief. At that time Merkel was without water works and depended upon the efforts of the volunteer firemen to cope with all flames, using only the small chemical engine a hand drawn hook and ladder wagon and having the hardest fighting bucket brigade of any town in the state.

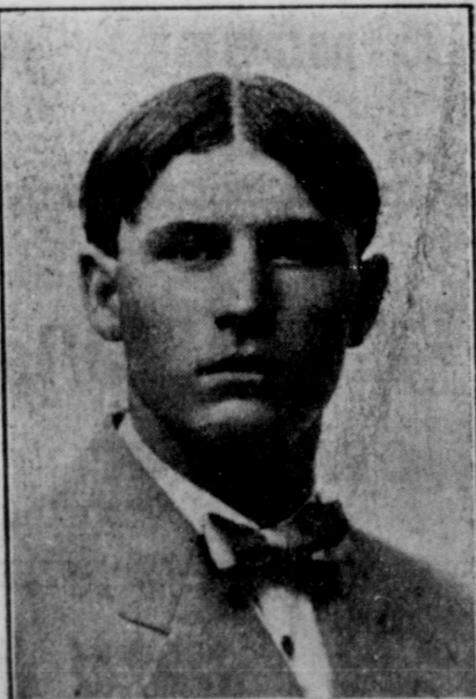
In the year 1909 Chief Gaither was re-elected as Chief and held the office until January 1910 at which time G. M. Cauthen was elected, he being succeeded by Will F. Evans in 1911. Again in January of 1912 Merkel's first Fire Chief B. C. Gaither was elected to head the Merkel fire-fighters and was succeeded by the present chief Frank J. Ferrier upon the resignation of Chief Gaither when business matters called him away. Chief Ferrier being elected by the department again at the beginning of the present year.

During the year 1910 the city of Merkel purchased 1000 feet of hose and two hand drawn hose reels which were added to the ready small amount of apparatus, after this purchase it was found that more hose was needed and not until the beginning of this year were the wants of the department justified, when the city ordered 500 additional feet of

much needed equipment being added to the apparatus by the city on August the 19th, of this year.

During the last year the records of the department show that the volunteer men have responded to 13 alarms two of which were false. 8400 feet of hose were laid by the company and the chemical engine discharged 9 times. In answering the alarms during the past year 301 firemen appeared ready for work, an average of 23 men to each alarm. These figures are exceptionally good and are in excess to the records of our sister city which has paid members and much better equipped fire-fighting companies.

Taken as a whole there is no



CHIEF FRANK J. FERRIER

who holds the distinction of being the youngest fire chief in the state of Texas. Among the home boys he is an "Old Head"

town in the state of Texas that shows a better record today, wherein only a volunteer company of fireman are working. The enthusiasm shown by our company's members is the best that could be expected and deserves credit from every citizen. With the present equipment which is far better than we have ever had, the firemen are prepared to show good reasons why addition apparatus should be placed at their disposal. New hose is badly needed to replace that first purchased by the city of Merkel, for late work demonstrating that it is becoming weak under the high pressure of the twin pressure engines at the water plant and at any time a disastrous fire may see sections of this old hose burst when immediate action would be necessary. Another need of the town is the extension of the water mains in order that the work of the volunteer firemen may be more evenly distributed to all property owners of Merkel. Many of whom at the present are without any protection whatever except what could be given by use of the chemical engine.

Chief Ferrier, one of the most enthusiastic members the department has ever had and who probably holds the distinction of being the youngest fire chief in the state asks the assistance of citizens in the unprotected districts of Merkel in getting the much needed extension of fire mains and in securing new hose for the department. The Mer-



CHIEF B. C. GAITHER

This likeness was made by Hep Blackman and is a special favorite of the fire boys just because it is so natural.

kel firemen receive no pay for the dangerous work they are at time engaged in and ask every citizen of the town to help make the fire company a better company during the coming year than it has been during the present year.

A TEXAS WONDER.

The Texas Wonder cures kidney and bladder troubles, dissolves gravel, cures diabetes, weak and lame backs, rheumatism and all irregularities of the kidneys and bladder in both men and women, regulates bladder troubles in children. If not sold by your druggist, will be sent by mail on receipt of \$1. One small bottle is two months treatment and seldom fails to perfect a cure. Send for Texas testimonials. Dr. E. W. Hall, 2926 Olive St., St. Louis, Mo. Sold by druggists.

Cut glass for Christmas Presents at Burroughs Drug Store.

Watch Fobs at McClains.

RAINFALL DURING THE YEAR 1913

The record of our rain gauge shows that in total we have 29.16 inches of rain during the year and present indications are that more is coming.

The record of the fall by months for the year is as follows: Jan. .32 inch, February .50, March 1.28, April 2.03, May 4.67, June 1.28, July .33, August .70, Sept. 5.45, October 5.60, November 4.40 with a fall in December to date of 2.40.

This record is above the average of West Texas during the past ten years but the absence of rain in the mid summer season served to shorten our cotton crop to a marked extent. But with the present season and prospects a more bountiful year of 1914 is expected for in all the recollections of old timers, there has been no such a winter season as this country is now enjoying.

Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Williams are in receipt of a message from Kansas City stating that their daughter Mrs. R. T. Pence of Marshal, Mo. who has lately been operated on, is resting well and indications show that she is rapidly improving. The many friends of Mrs. Pence who was formerly Miss Mae Williams of this city will be very glad to know that she is out of danger and improving.

Noel Reid returned to his home at Winter Tuesday after spending several days with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Jno. Eoff.

KODAKS

Of All The Gifts
That Fit The Christ-
mas Day None So
Timely As The One
That Provides the
Picture Story of
that day

A Kodak

All the Up-to-Date
goods from Kodak
City are in our stock

IF IT ISN'T AN EASTMAN IT
ISN'T A KODAK

RUST & McCAULEY DRUG CO.
With each Kodak
sold from now un-
til the first of the
year, January 1, we
will give \$1.00 in
Merchandise, not in
Films

Free-Show Tickets-Free

FROM NOW UNTIL JAN. 1, 1914

With Any Purchase to the amount of 25 cents at our
store, Except Cigars and School Books

TICKET ABSOLUTELY FREE

Which Entitles The Holder to Admission to The
FRONT STREET THEATRE

RUST & McCAULEY DRUG COMPANY

Being Some Reason Why We Merit Your Drug And Drug Sundries Patronage

Unwarranted Substitution is Practiced
by many retailers who seem to think
this the right thing to do.

When you come into the Rexall store
you will get what you ask for unless it
happens to be out of stock--In our large
and complete stock this is a very
Rare Occurrence

So carefully do we conserve your best
interests that our clerks may suggest
something they know or believe to be
better than the article called for

Our customers have thanked us for
taking such interest in their personal
needs in such transactions

You owe it to yourself and family to
patronize a store which serves its cus-
tomers with as much care as do the
NYAL AND REXALL STORES

CANDIES

Norris And Texas
Girls' Chocalates the
Sweetest in 48 States
Ask About Them.

Nyal & Rexall

Remedies are all
Backed by our guar-
antee. Your Money
back if dissatisfied

Milk's Emulsion

Take 6 bottles home
of this noted remedy
with you, and re-
ceive one of our
Conklin Fountain
Pens FREE, both
guaranteed or money
back without ques-
tion. Try it
Make Our Store
Your Headquarters
for Xmas goods

SEE OUR HOLIDAY LINE

A Complete Holiday Assortment

PRICES ALWAYS RIGHT

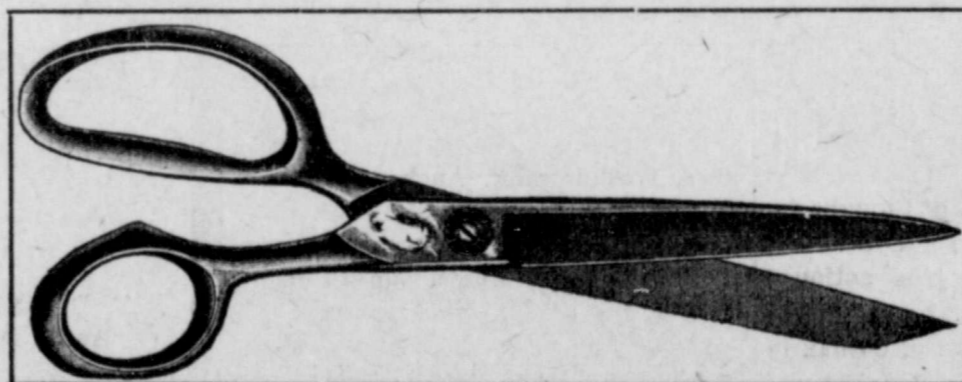
FREE

With Each And Every Dollar Bottle of Hair Tonic of Any Line or Name. We Will
give a 25c bottle of Rexall Hair Shampoo "Free," or any 25c can of Talcum Powder

FREE

REXALL SCISSORS FREE

WITH EVERY \$1.00 PURCHASE OF NYAL OR
REXALL REMEDIES ONE PAIR OF REXALL
SCISSORS WILL BE GIVEN ABSOLUTELY
FREE FREE



WITH EVERY \$1.00 PURCHASE OF NYAL OR
REXALL REMEDIES ONE PAIR OF REXALL
SCISSORS WILL BE GIVEN ABSOLUTELY
FREE FREE

FREE

With bill of Paint, Oils and Window Glass to the amount of \$25.00, we will give one
half dozen of, Podolax Lax. syrup, Laxfoss, Sr. Figs, nerve oil or poultry & stock food

FREE

We Appreciate your visits to our store whether you buy our goods or not. Come
to see us and make yourself at home

Rust & McCauley Drug Company

QUALITY

SERVICE

COURTESY

COMPLETE STOCK



MRS. W. H. DICKSON, EDITOR

Juniors Entertain Seniors.

Friday evening Dec. 11th the Juniors of the Merkel High School honored the Seniors with an entertainment at the home of Mrs. J. W. Jennings on Oak Street. The reception rooms were beautifully and artistically decorated in purple and gold, the High School colors. Music and games were delightful features of the evening. The animal show was a real treat as well as being very beneficial to all. The opportunity of viewing, at close range, some of the queerest animals known to Natural history was given to those present. An interesting contest "proved all to be school children." The answers were all similar. Delicious hot chocolate and wafers were served to the Seniors and Juniors present and to all of the High School Teachers (?) All reported a real enjoyable and profitable time.

Vaughn-Russell.

Sunday evening at seven o'clock Miss Lillie Russell of this city and Mr. George L. Vaughn of Coronado, Arizona, were married at Highland Park, El Paso. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Russell and is a lovely young woman. The groom is also well known here having made this his home for a number of years. The Merkel Mail joins their many friends in extending hearty congratulations. Mr. and Mrs. Vaughn left El Paso Monday morning for their home in Arizona. Mrs. Sam Butman of Nubia accompanied the bride to El Paso.

The E. Love Hawkin's Literary Society A. Division, held a very interesting meeting Friday afternoon. The President Miss Carroll Rister presided over the meeting. Only a part of the program was rendered owing to the limited time and the reluctance (?) in which some of the members performed their duties. The president had occasion to call on the Sargent of Arms to bring one of the timid ones in—"A man it must have been for all of the gentler sex are just waiting for a chance to talk."

Saturday afternoon Mrs. S. L. Davis entertained the members of the Century Club at their regular business meeting at her home on Locust street. Seven members responded to roll call. Miss Maude Jenkins was elected to membership. Miss Agnes Hall will substitute for Mrs. Dickson during the remainder of the Club year. The lesson was conducted by Mrs. R. A. Martin. At the conclusion of the Club meeting the hostess served a delicious salad course to Miss Una Hall, Evalyn Williams and May Valentine. Mesdames Adams, West and Martin.

On Monday afternoon Mrs. W. M. Gaddy charmingly entertained the Baptist Aid Society in her home on South Oak Street at the regular monthly meeting. During a short devotional and business meeting plans were perfected for the circle meetings. Many other matters were discussed for the advancement of the work. Before adjourning the hostess served hot chocolate and cake to about eighteen members.

Among the new Clubs recently organized we have the T. K. C's. whose membership list includes the names of several young matrons who act as chaperones to the young ladies. This is purely a social club. The meetings are held each Saturday evening.

Farewell Dance.

On Monday evening Mrs. Davenport Gaither gave a dance and Five Hundred party at her home on Yucca St., in honor of her recent guest, Miss Frankie Mimms, who returned to her home at Ennis on the following evening. The guests were Mr. and Mrs. R. O. Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Coggin, and Mrs. G. L. Miller, Mesdames V. Crawford and E. M. Rust, Miss Agnes Hall, Genevieve Rust, Miss Mimms, Messrs. H. L. Easter-Dee Grimes, Otis Coggin, Forest the host and hostess. Punch was served in the dining room from a cut glass bowl. A hand em- broidered cloth was used on the

The XX Century Club.

The Senior Club of Merkel was organized by Mrs. F. R. Leonard of Abilene (now of Eugene, Arizona) at the home of Mrs. W. H. Dickson on October 24th 1903. The membership was limited to fifteen. Self culture being the object of the organization. The first year was devoted to the study of Current and American Literature and Current Authors. Afterwards the Chautauqua course was adopted with the reading of some of the Shakesperian plays, eventually the study course drifted into the study of Shakespeare. The charter members were mesdames: George S. Berry, G. E. Comegy, J. W. Daniel, W. H. Dickson, C. E. Evans, Hairfield, J. C. Hamm, Jeffie Hibbitts, F. B. Hoople, T. A. Johnson, J. K. Pittard, W. P. Thurmond, J. T. Warren, Misses Laura Evans, and Opal Harkrider. The first officers President Mrs. W. H. Dickson, Vice President Mrs. C. E. Evans, Recording Secretary, Mrs. George S. Berry, Corresponding Secretary, Miss Opal Harkrider, Treasurer, Mrs. Jeffie Hibbitts with Mesdames G. E. Comegy and J. K. Pittard members of the Ex-Board. Early in March in 1904 need of a Public Library was felt. The Club members were constantly reading reference books. On March 24th by unanimous vote it was decided that the members should organize a library known as the Merkel Public Library the membership to be \$1.00 per year in advance to everyone in Merkel and surrounding country. Many books were donated. Funds were raised by giving a series of entertainments the proceeds being used to buy more books and pay a librarian and rent. At the present time we have 771 in the Library which is now located in the Rust and McCauley Drug Store. We have raised our club membership to twenty one members. Our ex-members are scattered throughout many states. One having sent greetings from Scotland. The present membership of active and associate members: Mesdames G. H. Adams, Fred Bigham, J. W. Daniels, S. L. Davis, R. A. Martin, W. Parten, A. C. Rose, W. A. Scott, G. F. West, Otho Williams, J. A. Adkisson and T. J. Coggin, Misses Duncan Browning Evelyn Gaddy, May and Willie Valentine, Evalyne Williams, Una Hall, Mary Gunn, Maude Jenkins, with Miss Agnes Hall substituting for Mrs. W. H. Dickson.

Merchant of Venice, Act. IV & V.

Explain Antonio words at the beginning of the trial.

What appeal of mercy does the Duke make to Shylock?

By what oath does Shylock show the inflexibility of his purpose?

Is there possibly more than personal animosity in Shylock's reply to the Duke?

How does Antonio like Hamlet's desire after his death to be remembered by his friends?

What was the philosophy of Pythagoras?

Before the entrance of Portia what balancing of the claims of mercy and justice has the second scene presented?

How is climax attained in Portia's speech on the quality of mercy?

What dramatic effect is attained by Portia's delay in coming to the point of foiling Shylock?

How does the current of thought for a moment drift into the channels cut by the various correlatives actions? Who diverts the current?

Indicate the exact point of climax in the play.

What are the final struggles of the Jew?

How are horror and aversion changed to pity for the plight of the Jew?

Why does the play not end with the exit of the Jew?

How is a good deed compared to the beard of a candle?

How does the Spirit of comedy come to repair the suffering of Antonio?

Mrs. J. C. Calvert entertained with a dinner party December 14th in honor of her daughter Eva's birthday. The dinner list included Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Martin, and Mrs. Charley Russell, Bernice Rainbolt, Mr. and Mrs. E. M. McDonald, Nell and Lucy Tracey, Lizzie Calvert, Julia Martin, little Miss Anna Lou Russell, the honoree and hostess.



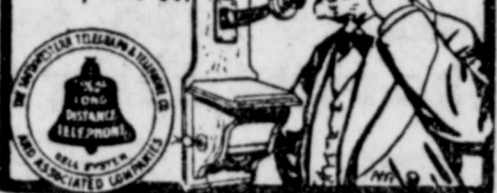
Farm Telephone Saved Child's Life

One of the Children fell into a water tank and was rescued unconscious and apparently lifeless.

The frantic mother telephoned to the doctor six miles away, and he started at once. In the meantime his assistant telephoned instructions and the mother restored the child to consciousness before the doctor arrived.

The telephone service saved the child's life.

THE SOUTHWESTERN Telegraph and Telephone Co.



Birthday Dinner for Eleven

One of the most enjoyable dinners the writer has had the pleasure of attending in some time was spread for eleven at the home of Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Coggin Sunday at noon in honor of O. M. Coggin's 24th birthday.

The occasion of the day was made notable by the stewardship of the host in management of the cuisine problems for the day. Mr. Coggin was ably assisted by his mother and sisters in serving. The dinner being a two course affair was illuminated by special Mexican dishes especially prepared for the occasion by O. M. Coggin. The personnel of the party was as follows. Messrs. Dee Grimes, R. O. Anderson, Claud Sears, Oscar Pate, Ed Pike, Jim Black, Minor Goode, Sam Roberts, Homer Easterwood, Tally Holloway and the host.



FOR SALE—Oliver typewriter No. 5, in good condition. Price \$50.00. Jno. G. Jackson. 28-dh.

STENOGRAPHER—Letter writing and special work; charges reasonable. Fannie Moore, at Merkel Mail Office.

FOR SALE—A limited number of my famous Wyandotte chickens. H. M. Rose, Merkel, Texas. Spt

FOR SALE—Work horses, mules and farming implements. F. J. Smith.

FOR SALE—We have several good work horses and mules for sale, cash or approved note. Also have two good cows, fresh in milk. Anchor Hardware Company.

FOR SALE—2 mules, one 15 hands high, 5 years old, black, weight 950 pounds. The other one 15 1-2 hands high, 5 years old, black, weight 950 pounds. Both true and gentle, no blemishes. \$300 cash or bankable note if taken at once. Bud Smith at Parton Dry Goods Co., Merkel, Texas.

Singers Elect Officers.

The singing class of the Church of Christ at their Sunday night meeting elected the following officers.

Jim Black, president, O. J. Adcock, vice pres., Miss Inez Sharp, secretary, Dr. Williams chaplain, C. C. Bankhead first leader.

Get your brother or father a pair of our solid gold cuff buttons, a stick pin or a tie clasp at Rust & McCauleys.



WHITE BRONZE

possesses many advantages over stone for monumental purposes aside from its greater durability.

The positive assurance that the inscriptions will remain legible for ages is worthy of appreciation, as the value of a memorial lies in its ability to legibly retain its record. For further particulars call on or address.

E. D. COATS

MERKEL : : : : TEX S

STOMACH TROUBLE FOR FIVE YEARS

Majority of Friends Thought Mr. Hughes Would Die, But One Helped Him to Recovery.

Pomeroyton, Ky.—In interesting advices from this place, Mr. A. J. Hughes writes as follows: "I was down with stomach trouble for five (5) years, and would have sick headache so bad, at times, that I thought surely I would die. I tried different treatments, but they did not seem to do me any good. I got so bad, I could not eat or sleep, and all my friends, except one, thought I would die. He advised me to try Thedford's Black-Draught, and quit

taking other medicines. I decided to take his advice, although I did not have any confidence in it.

I have now been taking Black-Draught for three months, and it has cured me—haven't had those awful sick headaches since I began using it.

I am so thankful for what Black-Draught has done for me."

Thedford's Black-Draught has been found a very valuable medicine for derangements of the stomach and liver. It is composed of pure, vegetable herbs, contains no dangerous ingredients, and acts gently, yet surely. It can be freely used by young and old, and should be kept in every family chest.

Get a package today. Only a quarter.

BE A CHRISTMAS PRESENT GO YOURSELF



EXCURSION RATES FOR The Christmas Holidays

See Your Local Agent for Particulars, or Write

A. D. BELL, Asst. Gen'l. Pass. Agt. Dallas, Texas GEO. D. HUNTER Gen'l. Pass. Agt

THE MERKEL GARAGE

Repair work promptly done and Satisfaction Guaranteed.

TEXAS COMPANY'S OILS AND GAS.

If you need anything in our business give us a call.

S. P. FOSTER : PROPRIETOR

TRY MAIL "WANT ADS"

---Years
IN
Merkel

A. C. ROSE

Secretary . . .
and
. . . Manager



Seven---
---Years
IN
Merkel

R. L. BLAND

President

THE BEST EQUIPPED HARDWARE STORE IN MERKEL

MR. FARMER

If you are contemplating the purchase of a new wagon come in and let us show you over the

Studebaker, And Newton Lines

Wagons that have stood the test of time with a reputation of 60 years behind them

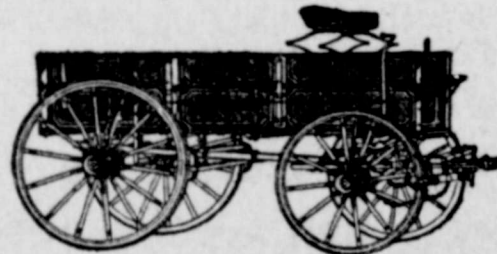
THE STUDEBAKERS HAVE BUILT WAGONS

FOR
NEARLY
60
YEARS

Studebaker wagons have been made for almost 60 years. The business has grown from a very modest wagon shop making only a few wagons a year to a plant covering 101 acres.

The Studebaker company would not have lasted 60 years unless they had made good wagons all of that time. Over a million Studebaker wagons in use—that tells the story.

Studebaker
Wagons



are in a quality class by themselves and are the most economical to buy. Come in and let us prove it to you.

MR. FARMER

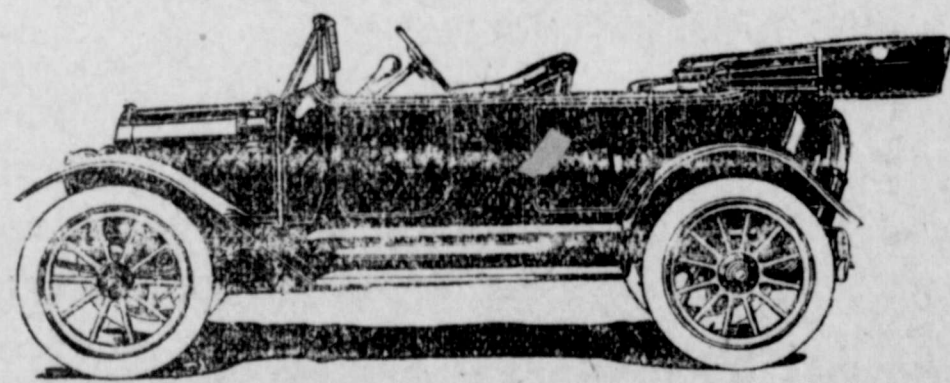
We also want to show you new

Standard Disc Plow

The only Plow on the market without a side draft and where all four horses walk on hard ground

SEE THE MAXWELL CAR

Best in the World for money on the market will touch it. Let us show you. Price -- \$785.00



Our Home, the Home of Studebaker and Emmerson Buggies -- Charter Oak, Bridge Beach and Coles Hot Blast Stoves -- Call in And See Them

LOW PRICES ON EVERYTHING IN OUR NEW STORE FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

KEEN KUTTER TOOLS AND CUTLERY

Anchor Hardware Company

ie
armers
and
Merchants
National
Bank
Merkel
Texas



Merchants
National
Bank
Merkel
Texas

THOS. JOHNSON, Cashier

organized nine years ago with a paid in cash capital of \$25,000 and the stock issued to J. T. Warren, G. F. West, Thos. Johnson, C. P. Warren, Ed S. Hughes and Henry James. Since the date of Organization, Nov. 18, 1894, eighteen regular semi-annual dividends have been paid in cash to the stock-holders, aggregating or a little more than the original capital stock. In addition to this a surplus fund of \$30,000 has been set aside for the strengthening of our bank and the protection of our depositors, making the combined Capital and Surplus at this time \$55,000 and the book value of the stock \$220.00 per share. The man who began business with us nine years ago transacts his financial affairs with the same set of men and the same executive officer that he did in the beginning. Those who are new in the community or who have never kept an account with us, a modest mention of our Directors and Officers might be of interest.

J. T. Warren is President, also is President of First State Bank of Trent and stock-holder in First State Bank of Hawley. Does investment business.

G. F. West is Vice-President, also Director First State Bank of Trent and is engaged in the mercantile business at Merkel.

Henry James is Vice-President, also Cashier of the Farmers and Merchants National Bank of Abilene.

Ed. S. Hughes, Director, is President of the Farmers and Merchants National Bank of Abilene, also wholesale and retail hardware merchant at that place.

C. P. Warren, Director is also Director Citizens National Bank of Abilene and does investment business.

Ben T. Merritt, Asst. Cashier came with the bank some 5 years ago and has rapidly risen to a prominent position of Asst. Cashier, Paying and Receiving Teller. He is recognized for his ability as an accountant and his courteous treatment to the public.

Thos. Johnson, Cashier, has been active in the banking business in Merkel for 12 years. Being a modest man he claims but one distinction—"Knowing how to run a Country Bank."

This is an old established and successful banking institution. No bank can succeed unless it has the patronage of the public and no bank can receive the patronage of the public unless it renders good service. With the closing of this year we desire to express our gratitude for the business given us.

A Merry Christmas, Happy and Prosperous New Year

Better prepared than we have ever been we enter the New Year full of confidence and with high hopes. We promise to every person who will be our customer the very best service that we can render. With best wishes and hearty good will for our customers, our friends and our community, we are, bespeaking for us all a bright and prosperous 1914, we are, Respectfully,

 **THOS. JOHNSON, CASHIER**