

SIX AUTO WRECKS; SOME WERE FATAL

Woman Killed.

Fort Worth, Texas, June 13.—Mrs. R. J. Shelley, age 49, who conducts a dry goods store in Cleburne, was killed in an automobile accident seven miles south of here this morning shortly after 11 o'clock. Jesse Neville, a clerk in her store, who was driving the automobile, was bruised about the body, but not seriously injured.

Mrs. Shelley was coming to Fort Worth to visit her niece, Mrs. J. F. Gartrell, 1401 East Terrell avenue, when the accident occurred. The two persons were found beneath the overturned automobile by Mr. and Mrs. Jim Roby, who were returning to their home in Cleburne from Fort Worth. They had been under the car but a few minutes.

Mr. Neville stated that he was driving about twenty-five miles per hour when the accident occurred. He said that he came suddenly to a sharp turn in the road and applied the emergency brake with the result that the car turned completely over, pinning the occupants underneath.

Killed Near Abilene.

Abilene, Texas, June 13.—The body of J. D. Tidwell, a young farmer of the Hamlin section who died Sunday morning from the effects of injuries received in an automobile wreck near Abilene at 9 o'clock Saturday night, was shipped Sunday to Hamlin for interment.

The auto driven by young Tidwell ran into a wagon and team on the Anson road three miles from Abilene Saturday night. The wagon tongue passed through the windshield and steering wheel of the car and pinned Tidwell to his seat, inflicting mortal injuries. He was rushed to a local hospital and everything possible done to save his life, but he sank gradually and died at 4 o'clock Sunday morning.

Tidwell's father, J. F. Tidwell, is a well known and prosperous farmer of the Hamlin section.

Automobile Overturns.

Celina, Collin Co., Texas, June 13.—An automobile containing Mr. and Mrs. Lee Parish and their daughters, Areta, Hattie and Lareta, and Rayne Reed, the latter driving, turned over about four miles southwest of Celina today. All except Mr. Parish received cuts and bruises, but so far as learned none was seriously injured. The wreck was caused by the car skidding and a tire bursting at the same time. The party were on their way to Denton to visit friends.

Denton Boy May Recover.

Denton, Texas, June 13.—Physicians today say there is a good chance for 13-year-old Elmer Atkins, who suffered concussion of the brain here last night when an automobile knocked him from a buggy, to recover. He was still unconscious today. His 5-year-old sister, Ada, was knocked unconscious, but not seriously hurt, and his father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Atkins, were thrown from the buggy.

Hurt in Auto Accident.

Waxahachie, Texas, June 13.—An automobile occupied by H. C. McCarter, Carson Reed and D. Whatley of Italy turned over on the Dallas pike near Waxahachie last night. Reed was severely injured, a number of ribs being broken. He was taken to a local

sanitarium for medical attention. The other two occupants of the car were only slightly hurt.

Seven Hurt at Big Springs.

Big Springs, Howard Co., Texas, June 14.—While hurrying to Big Springs today for medical attention for the 10-year-old son of W. A. Stephenson, who had been bitten by a rattlesnake, an automobile containing W. A. Stephenson, his wife, daughter and son, and Pete King, wife and son, was overturned and every person in the car was more or less injured. Mr. Stephenson is injured internally and may die. His son, aged 10, is suffering from a fracture of the skull and is not expected to live. The son is also suffering from the bite of a rattlesnake. Mr. Stephenson's daughter, aged 8, has nose and arm broken and is suffering from internal injuries. Mrs. Stephenson has an elbow and left side crushed by being caught under the car. Pete King has a broken right arm and the heel of the left foot cut off. Mrs. King is only slightly bruised, but her son, aged 5, is severely bruised.

The party had been to a picnic about twenty-three miles north of here in celebration of Flag Day. Mr. Stephenson lost control of the car while running about thirty-five miles an hour when the car struck a rough portion of road.

BASEBALL SHOW AT THE ROYAL FRIDAY

A benefit picture show for the Merkel baseball team will be given at the Royal Theater, tonight (Friday).

Three reels of pictures will be shown and the entire proceeds of the show after actual expenses have been reduced will go to liquidate obligations of the Merkel Ball tossers. Every body come out and bring your dime with you. Tickets will be sold from a dime to a dollar depending on the seats you desire to secure, just throw down your money at the box office and call for any priced seat you want just so your wants are limited to ten cents or more. Incidentally bring some one with you, five shows during the evening beginning at 8:45.

Perfection.

Perfection is a thing much hoped for and seldom attained. But we are now selling the New Perfection oil stove that is perfection in oil cooking. You should not fail to see these wonderful stoves. We carry a large and complete stock at all times and take great pleasure in showing you. G. F. West Co.

Pennsylvania Tires and Tubes for sale by H. M. Rose. Satisfactory adjustments always made. Don't forget the No. 265.

GRAIN SHIPPED WILL SURPASS RECORDS

Merkel country grain already shipped and now being loaded here amounts to fifteen cars up to the present time.

Of this amount the majority consisted of oats but a goodly portion of it was wheat. The principal shippers from this place, Woodroof Bros. and J. D. Gaither pronounce the grade of grain now being exported as the best they have ever seen in this country and predict the largest car shipments ever made from Merkel.

GRAIN HARVEST THE HEAVIEST THAT THE MERKEL COUNTRY HAS EVER PRODUCED

Both Oats and Wheat of Exceptionally Good Variety and Weather Has Been Ideal for Proper Harvest Conditions.

Throughout the Merkel country wheat and oats are better than usually grown in this section of the state. The average of wheat produced per acre will no doubt reach thirty bushels while oats will yield between forty and fifty bushels per acre. The grade and weight of both wheat and oats is above the average and ideal weather conditions have prevailed for a bountiful harvest.

93 Bushels of Oats to the Acre

What will probably stand as the largest yield per acre for oats in the Merkel country is reported from the farm of Henry Hall near the Truby country. We were unable to ascertain the exact number of acres Mr. Hall had in grain this year but are informed that he had one of the largest fields in the country. The best yield on his place was ninety three bushels per acre and was sold to J. D. Gaither of this place.

Volunteer Oats Make 50 Bushels

A. J. Hartley of Route 1, had thirty acres of volunteer oats this year. From this field Mr. Hartley sold on the Merkel market 1500 bushels of grain. The same field made 900 bushels last year under new planting and cultivation.

Wheat Made 36 Bushels to the Acre

M. L. Alexander who lives near Tye harvested thirty six bushels of wheat per acre. Mr. Alexander lives nearer Merkel than he does to Abilene but sold his grain in the latter city at small sacrifice in price, so we are informed, owing to being able to use the good roads into that city.

H. M. Rainbolt who lives one mile south of Merkel harvested 1279 bushels of wheat off of 40 acres of ground. An average of 32 bushels per acre.

J. A. Woodard on twenty acres of grain reaped a harvest of 50 bushels of oats and 27½ bushels of wheat per acre.

J. F. Shaffer had fifty acres of his farm in small grain, one half oats and the other in wheat. His oats averaged 50 bushels per acre and the wheat 24½ bushels per acre.

One of the largest fields of oats in the country is reported from the John Henry farm where eighty-five acres netted the owner approximately 2000 bushels of grain. Mr. Henry made sale of his crop to Woodroof Bros. of this place.

Reports from the buyers of other grain crops show that the Merkel grain is above the average. W. J. Hayes of Comper made 40 to 45 bushels of oats per acre, Earl Diltz harvested 52 bushels of oats to the acre, S. L. Penny passed the 40 bushel mark with oats. Joe Higgins of Route 1 is reported to be thrashing oats that average 60 bushels per acre. Chas. Foster of Comper, Uncle Jake Foster of Route 1, Will Campbell of Route 3 and Ed Vantrees of Route 2 are others who have finished with their harvest but we were unable to get the exact figures of average made on their places.

These parties represent a small portion of those who have made good grain in the Merkel country but are the only ones to date who we have been able to see or get reports from.

ELECTRIC SERVICE IS PROMISED SOON

Representatives of the Abilene Public Service Co-operation were in Merkel the latter part of last week investigating to what extent service could be supplied for motive power in the town.

In a talk with a prominent Merkel ginner they promised to be able to give electric current within the next thirty days and endeavored to get contracts signed for electric power in the operation of a Merkel gin. The contract was not signed however but the representative of the Abilene concern stated that they would be ready for business in Merkel by that time whether the ginner in question signed the contract or not. As a result of the conversation the Merkel man promised he would take the matter under consideration and would probably accept their contract within the next weeks time.

Which is better for you and me, Mr Consumer? For me to turn your dollar, twelve times on a small profit or to have twelve of your dollars turned once on a large profit? E. L. Rogers Grocery.

MERKEL HEAD ON TICKET INCREASE

As was the case last month, the Blue Ribbon roll has undergone few changes, though the figures indicating increases have fallen off slightly. Merkel, Tex., and Mansura, La., continue to lead all stations on the T. & P. system in the record of comparative increases of ticket sales for the month of May, 1915, as compared with the corresponding period of the year previous. These figures represent only ticket sales from coupon stations. The Merkel increase for May amounts to 67 percent.

Since last November up through May 1915, A. J. Leighty, agent at Merkel, has been high man, with one exception—January, when W. A. Crowder, agent at Colorado, Texas, a neighbor of Mr. Leighty's, was the leader. Then Merkel came second.—T. & P. Magazine.

No Speeding.

Do not break the new speed limit of 15 miles per hour unless you have FIRESTONE tires. They stand the fastest travel on the hottest days. Sold by G. F. West Co.

Miss Maggie Wheeler visited her broteer, Burl Wheeler and wife, of Abilene Sunday.

Fresh groceries, and I want to sell them. G. M. Sharp.

Improves Business Property.

E. D. Coats owner of business property on front street adjoining the Merkel Garage is having an entirely new front added to the buildings he owns.

This with the many other improvements going on in Merkel makes the city in Clover a busy town indeed.

Merkel 12 Sweetwater 1

Friday of last week Merkel defeated the Sweetwater ball team for the second time of the present season by taking the huge end of a 12 to 1 count.

The first victory for the locals was at Sweetwater when the home guards administered an 8 to 1 beating. Not satisfied with the results of the first game the representatives of the Aqua Dulce aggregation visited Merkel in an attempt to redeem themselves much to their disappointment.

Here From Iowa.

Rev. and Mrs. R. L. Wilson and children of Earlham, Iowa came in Saturday to visit Mrs. Wilson's brother E. P. McMillen.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilson will be here for several days with Mr. and Mrs. McMillen and will view the Merkel country thoroughly.

MOTHER DIES ON A VISIT TO DAUGHTER

Only a few hours after she had come to Abilene to see her daughter who is in a local sanitarium for an operation, Mrs. N. G. Garrison of Crawford, McLennan county, died suddenly of acute indigestion.

Accompanied by her husband, C. B. Garrison arrived in Abilene Saturday afternoon from Crawford. They went to the hospital where their daughter, Mrs. J. B. Thomas, is confined and later went to the home of another daughter, Mrs. J. W. Knight, in the Tye community. Shortly after arriving Mrs. Garrison was stricken and died before a physician could reach the place.

Mrs. Thomas can not be told of the death, her condition being such that she would not be able to stand the shock. Mesdames Knight and Thomas and the other bereaved ones have tenderest sympathy of a large number of friends in the Abilene country.—Abilene Reporter.

June 19th, is the time E. L. Rogers gives a sewing machine away free. No game of chance just come in any day and get your ticket. Its free.

Mrs. C. E. Bird of Hico is a guest in the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Justice this week.

TO LET BUILDING CONTRACT JUNE 28

Nothing preventing the Merkel Independent school board will let the contract for the erection of the new school building on the 28th of this month.

With work starting immediately afterward members of the board expect the building to be ready for occupancy by the 15th, of October and possibly by the first of that month.

Make life for your stock more comfortable by using Dr. Hess fly chaser, for sale at T. L. Grimes.

WHY JOE HARRIS ATTENDED U. OF T.

We have lately received from the University of Texas a handsomely illustrated booklet of 20 pages entitled "Why Joe Harris came to the University of Texas." It is neatly and attractively gotten up and is intended to give the prospective student a clear idea of just what he may expect if he matriculates in the University of Texas. The introduction gives the purpose of the booklet in the following words:

"Joe Harris went to his father's business from high school. He was sixteen years old. During three years he traveled much, and he was making good. Last October Joe expressed his opinion that the State University was extravagant, and that it was the loitering place of a lot of easy-going fellows. This statement was challenged by a former school mate of the boy, who had spent three years at the University.

"The young man became intensely interested. As a result of their discussion a wager was made—Joe was to come to Austin and investigate the University. If what he said was true, Tom Carter agreed to quit school; on the other hand, Joe said that if Carter's estimate of the place was correct he was going to the State University for a college education.

"Joe's letters home are printed in the booklet. They will interest you."

Any person who is considering attending an institution of higher education will do well to write Registrar E. J. Matthews, Austin, Texas, for a copy of this booklet.

BAPTIST MEETING TO START JUNE 27

This is to remind the readers of this, that the Baptist revival meeting will begin at the tabernacle the fourth Sunday, June 27th, at the tabernacle.

Dr. R. A. Kimbrough of Abilene will do the preaching. We are praying for a far reaching revival and we ask the prayers, sympathies and cooperation of every christian. Speak to your unsaved friends of this meeting and invite them to attend. Our town needs a spiritual awakening, you may help bring it about if you will. Let us count on you and may the Lord lead us in our work. L. B. Owen, pastor.

ANOTHER NEW GIN PLANT FOR MERKEL

What will probably be one of the most complete and modern gin plants in west Texas is being erected by Fred Guitar on the site of his old gin plant in the north part of town.

The new building will be a one story two section gin, having capacity for ten 80 saw stands one side of which will be operated by steam and the other by electricity. The building surpasses the average plant in modern construction, the walls are of weather-board drop siding, metal shingle roof and sheet iron ceiling throughout the building to make it as near dust proof as possible and to guard against fire. New machinery will be placed throughout, the steam department being operated by a new 100 horse power Corliss engine. All old machinery used in the plant last year has been disposed of to out of town gins.

J. S. SWANN, President
JOHN SEARS, Vice President

R. O. ANDERSON, Cashier
B. C. MOORE, Assistant Cashier

THE FARMERS STATE BANK

CAPITAL STOCK \$35,000.00

MERKEL TEXAS

Satisfactory Service, Dependability and Safety

COMMENCED BUSINESS JANUARY, 1912

SUCCESS PROVEN

We Solicit Your Business

SWEETWATER HAS HEAVY HAIL STORM

Telephone reports from Sweetwater give account of a heavy hail having visited that place Wednesday afternoon about 5:30 p. m., the fall lasted for about thirty minutes.

Trainmen on east bound passenger No. 22 Wednesday night said the hail did considerable damage to buildings in the town, many lights being broken out and roofs badly damaged.

SPEAKER JOHN W. WOODS MERKEL VISITOR WEDNESDAY

Speaker John W. Woods of the Texas Legislature was in Merkel a few moments Wednesday afternoon on his way home to Rotan with his wife and little daughter. They were traveling through the country in their auto.

Mr. Wood does not expect another special session of the Legislature during the summer months or before January assemblage of the legislative body. In speaking of the Merkel country he was very complimentary and stated our town surpassed his expectations by far and our farming country was ahead of that he had passed through or even the country surrounding his home, the small grain especially being above par.

Receives Death Message.

Mrs. E. M. Rust received a message from Cottonwood Sunday afternoon telling her of the death of her father, S. S. Ramsey.

Mrs. Rust was in Cottonwood the first of last week visiting her father who was very low with paralysis. Mr. Ramsey, at the time of his death, was ninety-three years of age and suffered with paralysis for the last five years. He became suddenly worse some two weeks ago and never fully revived from the stroke enough to recognize his nearest relatives. Accompanying Mrs. Rust were her daughter, Miss Genevieve, and son, Q. Rust.

Mr. Ramsey was well known by many Merkel people who extend sympathy to the bereaved family.

Refrigerators.

Absolutely closing them out at real money-saving prices. See "Mack."

TO ABILENE DAILY

Abilene Auto Service Car leaves Merkel for Abilene every morning at 9 o'clock until further notice is given. Fare from here 50 cents. Car leaves from front of Grimes Drug Store each morning.

A NEW FARM MACHINE

The First One of its Kind Ever Brought to Merkel
SOMETHING NEW AND BETTER

THE JOHN DEERE ROW BINDER

Easy running—without that undesirable Side Draft

Mr. Farmer! Come in and see this new implement, let us show you its good points, even though you are not ready to buy

The Crown Hardware Co.

LOCAL AND PERSONAL

Cotton oat sacks at G. M. Sharp's.

HOGS WANTED. Bond & Edwards.

Phone Bob Martin Gro. Co., for Cake Flour.

W. L. Harkrider and family spent Sunday in Abilene.

See me before selling your wheat and oats. J. J. Shelton, Merkel.

Misses Ruby and Elva Payne of Abilene visited friends here last week.

Dr. Hess' fly chaser protects your stock. For sale at Grimes Drug Store.

Mrs. B. Jenkins is visiting her sister, Mrs. G. W. Hawkins, at Dora this week.

I will stand my registered jack, Toby, at my place 3 miles south-east of Merkel. J. H. Couch.

Miss Clara Will McNatt is the guest of Miss France Burroughs this week.

Cake Flour at Bob Martin Gro. Co.

Mrs. T. S. Dennis, en route from Goree to her home at Coleman, visited relatives here the past week.

Am in the market for your small grain at the very best price. J. J. Shelton, Merkel.

Mrs. Joe Roy of Cleburne was called to the bedside of her mother, Mrs. G. W. Hawkins, of Dora, Saturday.

Dr. Hess' fly chaser is guaranteed by T. L. Grimes to keep flies off your stock.

Miss Alice May Boyce, who has been here the past week visiting relatives and friends, returned to her home at Abilene Tuesday.

Try a sack of Light Loaf flour. A guarantee to be as good as you ever used. W. F. Hamblet.

Miss Annis Burnette left Sunday night for Fort Worth where she will join the Radnor party enroute to the Panama Exposition.

Will renovate old cotton beds for \$1.50 or make feather mattresses for \$2.00. All work guaranteed. R. J. Bassett, Phone 214.

6,000 mile guarantee on Pennsylvania Vacuum Cup Tires. For sale by H. M. Rose.

Mr. and Mrs. J. P. C. Hunt of Haskell were here the first of the week visiting the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Comegys.

DRIVE TO THE RIGHT, PLEASE on FIRESTONE non skid tires. None better made. Sold only by G. F. West Co.

Coon's Sanitary Bread at the Bob Martin Gro. Co.

A. C. Sosebee, who has been teaching school in the plains country during the last year, has returned home for a stay with relatives.

If Light Loaf flour is not what we recommend will cheerfully refund your money.

W. F. Hamblet.

Messrs. Chas. Hughes and G. R. Holloway shipped a car of cattle to the Fort Worth Market Tuesday. The shipment being accompanied by Mr. Holloway.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE—A large brood mare, gentle. E. D. COATS. 414

FOR SALE OR RENT:—One concrete business house across the street from the Post Office. H. L. Coleman, 1915 W. Seventh street, Fort Worth, Texas. tf

FOR SALE—7,000 feet second hand lumber and 30 squares of sheet iron, 9 foot lengths, in Royal Airdome. See E. S. Harrison at Royal Theatre.

FOR RENT—Residence in Merkel. Well located. A. C. Boney. tf

FOR SALE—Good milch cows. Chas. Orr, two miles southeast of Merkel. 1A12pd

FOR SALE—Second hand reaper in fair condition. Chas. Beard. 11t2pd.

FOR SALE—Wagon and set of harness. Cheap, see T. L. Grimes.

Safety First.

Motorist are now assured of perfect safety and comfort by using FIRESTONE tires. The best yet. G. F. West Co.

Coon's Sanitary Bread at the Bob Martin Gro. Co.

To Drive Out Malaria And Build Up The System Take the Old Standard GROVE'S TASTELESS chill TONIC. You know what you are taking, as the formula is printed on every label, showing it is Quinine and Iron in a tasteless form. The Quinine drives out malaria, the Iron builds up the system. 50 cents

Try a sack of Cake Flour from the Bob Martin Gro. Co.

LARGE CROWD AT THE TRENT PICNIC

Jitney drivers and others coming from Trent Thursday morning report crowds gathering very fast for the basket picnic at that place.

Broncho busting and other amusements, including a ball game between Merkel and Trent furnished entertainment. Billie Leamon, in charge of the Clyde Concert Band, furnished music galore, being on the ground early in the day.

SWEETWATER HAIL KILLS 2 MEXICANS

Two Mexican children were killed at Sweetwater Wednesday evening by the heavy hail that visited that city.

Transfer Agent Minor Goode for the Sweetwater Transfer Co. reported that practically every flat tar roofed house in the town was damaged, the Grogan hotel being the only hotel in the city to escape extensive damage from the hail stones.

Sore Nipples.

Any mother who has had experience with this distressing ailment will be pleased to know that a cure may be effected by applying Chamberlain's Salve as soon as the child is done nursing. Wipe it off with a soft cloth before allowing the babe to nurse. Many trained nurses use this salve with best results. For sale by all dealers.

Plenty of oat sacks at G. M. Sharp's.

ROBBERY AT ESKOTA, NO MONEY TAKEN

As passenger train No. 24 pulled into Eskota about 1 o'clock Thursday morning member of the train crew discovered the depot on fire.

On investigation it was found that the ticket office had been robbed of a number of tickets and some gum from a vending machine. The burglars failed to get any real cash for their trouble as all the monies of the Eskota office were locked in the company's safe. The damage by fire was reported to be very small, according to a telephone report reaching here.

Keep cool by having a nice refrigerator with it full of ice. Get "Mack's" reduced prices.

Get Rid of Your Rheumatism.

Now is the time to get rid of your rheumatism. You can do it if you apply Chamberlain's Liniment. W. A. Lockhard, Homer City, N. Y., writes, "Last spring I suffered from rheumatism with terrible pains in my arms and shoulders. I got a bottle of Chamberlain's Liniment and the first application relieved me. By using one bottle of it I was entirely cured." For sale by all dealers. adv

Storm at Colorado.

A wind and rain storm at Colorado Wednesday night did heavy damage to buildings in the town.

One hotel was unroofed and otherwise damaged, garage was considerably torn up and many automobiles stored there were damaged, window lights were blown out and other damages done.

Only One Entirely Satisfactory.

"I have tried various colic and diarrhoea remedies, but the only one that has given me entire satisfaction and cured me when I was afflicted is Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy. I recommend it to my friends at all times," writes S. N. Galloway, Stewart, S. C. For sale by all dealers.

Money! Money!

Plenty of money to loan on farm and ranch land at 8 per cent interest. My Company has plenty of funds, regardless of the War, so if you are going to need a loan this fall prepare for it now. V. E. Muir, Abilene, Texas. 1814

Piles Cured in 6 to 14 Days

Your druggist will refund money if PAIN OINTMENT fails to cure any case of Itching, Blind, Bleeding or Protruding Piles in 6 to 14 days. The first application gives ease and rest. 50c.

Advertised Letters.

Hynes, John
Loving, D. M.
Mulhurn, B. F.
Quentin, H. C.
Stamps, Mr.

These letters will be sent to the dead letter office June 25.
H. C. Williams, P M
Merkel, Texas

Cure Old Sores, Other Remedies Won't Cure. The worst cases, no matter how long standing, are cured by the wonderful, old reliable Dr. Porter's Antiseptic Healing Oil. It relieves Pain and Heals at the same time. 25c, 50c, \$1.00

PROFESSIONAL

O. F. McMASTER
DENTIST
Terms Cash

Office 2nd floor with Dr. Geo. L. Miller

J. L. GILLILAND
DENTIST

Phones—Res. 53; Office 154
Over Woodroof Bros.

M. ARMSTRONG, M. D.
Practicing Physician
Office at Grimes Drug Store
Merkel, Texas

Telephones: Res. 1-2; Office 1-0-

W. W. WHEELER

Real Estate, Fire, Accident and Tornado
Insurance Agent
Notary Public.
Office over Farmers State Bank

C. D. MIMS
Attorney-At Law

General Practice and Collections
Land Title Work a Speciality
Office over Farmers State Bank.

G. W. JOHNSON

Real Estate, Fire, Life and Accident
Insurance Agent
Respectfully Solicits Your Business
Notary Public in Office
Office over Woodroof & Company
Merkel — Texas

ABSTRACTS

To buy land without seeing it is poor
business, but to buy it without
seeing an abstract is worse. You should
see your title as well as your land.

**WE MAKE ABSTRACTS
AND KNOW HOW**

Taylor County Abstract Co.
Abilene, Texas Geo. C. Bishop, Mgr.

Invigorating to the Pale and Sickly
The Old Standard general strengthening tonic,
GROVE'S TASTELESS chill TONIC, drives out
Malaria, enriches the blood, and builds up the sys-
tem. A true tonic. For adults and children. 50c

**COMPARE
PRICES**

**In the Light of
Firestone Extras**

YOU who know, know tire values from experience; but note also the specifications in this cross section. The same relative values apply in all sizes of Firestone tires. For instance, in the 30 x 3 inch, you pay only 40 cents more for the more mileage values represented in these extras. And only a trifle more in proportion for the larger sizes.

Less material and lower grades are traps to make sales on prices. The Firestone organization, the largest in the world specializing in tires, can make and market tires and tubes at a lower cost to you, the user, than any one else in the industry.

**Actual Size
3-inch "Plain Tread"
FIRESTONE**

Fig. 1. 4 plies of fabric in Firestone — 3 plies in the ordinary.

Fig. 2. Extra coating of finest rubber between fabric layers in Firestone — not in the ordinary.

Fig. 3. 1/8 inch finest rubber cushion layer in Firestone — not in the ordinary.

Fig. 4. 1/16 inch breaker strip of high-grade fabric and high-grade rubber in Firestone — same quantity in others.

Fig. 5. 1/4 inch tread, tough, resilient, in Firestone — 3/8 inch in the ordinary.

Fig. 6. 1 1/2 inch side wall of strongest rubber in Firestone — same quantity in others.

Fig. 7. Head of extra cohesive strength in the Firestone — same size head in others.

Yet you pay only \$9.40 for this 30 x 3 Firestone—less than 5% more than four widely advertised makes.

	Case No	Case Tread	Case Res.	Grey Tube	Red Tube
30x3	\$ 9.40	\$10.55	\$2.20	\$2.50	
30x3 1/2	11.00	13.25	2.60	2.90	
32x3 1/2	13.75	15.40	2.70	3.05	
34x4	19.00	22.30	3.00	4.40	
34x4 1/2	27.30	30.55	4.80	5.40	
36x4 1/2	28.70	32.15	5.00	5.65	
37x5	35.55	39.80	5.95	6.70	
38x5 1/2	46.00	51.50	6.75	7.55	

G. F. West Company

LOCAL AND PERSONAL

Coon's Sanitary Bread at the
Bolt Martin Gro. Co.

Car Meal expected on any
train. G. M. Sharp.

Phone 54, the Home Furniture
Co., for furniture and coffins.

Mrs. W. R. Walker of Abilene
spent the week-end with Mrs. W.
A. Scott and other friends.

I will buy your wheat and oats.
Top price paid. J. J. Shelton,
Merkel.

Mrs. M. L. Vickers and little
daughter, Floy, of Pecos are
here visiting Mrs. J. W. Daniel.

Mrs. J. L. Yarborough of
Fredericksburg is here visiting
her parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. B.
Owen.

Be sure and see me about prices
on wheat and oats before you sell.
J. Shelton, Merkel.

Mrs. Rufus Grisham and little
daughter of Haskell are here
visiting the former's father, J.
T. Howard and family.

Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Owen of
Hamlin are visiting the former's
parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. B.
Owen.

Among the Trent visitors in
Merkel the first of the week were
Messrs Ed Massey, J. A. McRee,
T. L. Stevens and Thos. McLeod.

See the Home Furniture Co.,
for your house furnishing needs.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Peterson and
daughter Miss Bettie of Trent
were in the city Tuesday.

Misses Winnie and Louise Ford
of Abilene have been visiting Mr.
and Mrs. C. E. Conner this week.

Messrs J. T. Warren and T. A.
Johnson and families left Wed-
nesday morning for a fishing trip
on the Clear Fork north of Abi-
lene.

Misses Lizzie and Mattie Mac-
Cracken of Abilene who have
been visiting the family of Ed
Massey of Trent, were in Merkel
Tuesday evening the guests of
Miss Clara Moore.

Mrs. Luther Swafford and baby
daughter of Dallas came in Wed-
nesday morning to visit Mrs.
Swafford's parents Mr. and Mrs.
C. M. Largent.

Miss Winnie Warren has re-
turned home from Waco where
she attended Baylor University.
Miss Warren was a member of
this year's Senior Class. Mrs.
J. T. Warren was the guest of
her daughter for the graduating
functions.

Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Browning
left Thursday night of last week
for Siloam Springs, Ark., to visit
relatives. They will remain in
the Arkansas health resort for
several weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Henderson
and family who have been mak-
ing their home in Merkel for the
past two years returned to their
former home at Coleman Wed-
nesday afternoon where they will
reside in the future.

HCGS WANTED. Bond &
Edwards.

Children's Day Program.

At the Presbyterian church
Sunday evening to begin at 8:30.
The program we hope will be
both entertaining and helpful.
Come. Sunday school opens at
9:45. Preaching service at 11
a. m. You are cordially in-
vited to attend any or all these
services.

E. P. McMillen, Supt.
H. E. Bullock, Pastor.

Stomach Troubles

Many remarkable cures of stomach
troubles have been effected by Cham-
berlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets.
One man who had spent over two
thousand dollars for medicine and treat-
ment was cured by a few boxes of
these tablets. Price, 25 cents. For
sale by all dealers.

**Whenever You Need a General Tonic
Take Grove's**

The Old Standard Grove's Tasteless
chill Tonic is equally valuable as a
General Tonic because it contains the
well known tonic properties of QUININE
and IRON. It acts on the Liver, Drives
out Malaria, Enriches the Blood and
Builds up the Whole System. 50 cents.

J. T. WARREN, Pres.

THOS. JOHNSON, Cashier

No. 7481

Government
Depository
For
Postal
Savings



Member
Bank
in Federal
Reserve
System

Capital & Surplus \$50,000.00

WE desire to be of real service to
the entire community. No
account is too small for our careful
attention. None too large. Farmers,
merchants and stockmen will find this
an ideal Banking Connection. We do
all for our customers that any good
bank should do.

WE are an old established Bank.
Our record and methods are
well known. We are familiar with
people and conditions in this country
through long experience. We are
stockholders in the

Federal Reserve Bank

and this, with other strong connections
and large capital, enables us to give
good service. Call on us freely.

We appreciate your patronage

THOS. JOHNSON, Cashier



Over in the Philippines the Carabao is the general beast of burden.
For all kinds of hauling this short-legged, long-horned buffalo is
used.

It is more than a mere coincidence that the principal brand used
with the Red-Star-Green-T oils in the Philippines is a picture of
this animal with its name "Carabao."



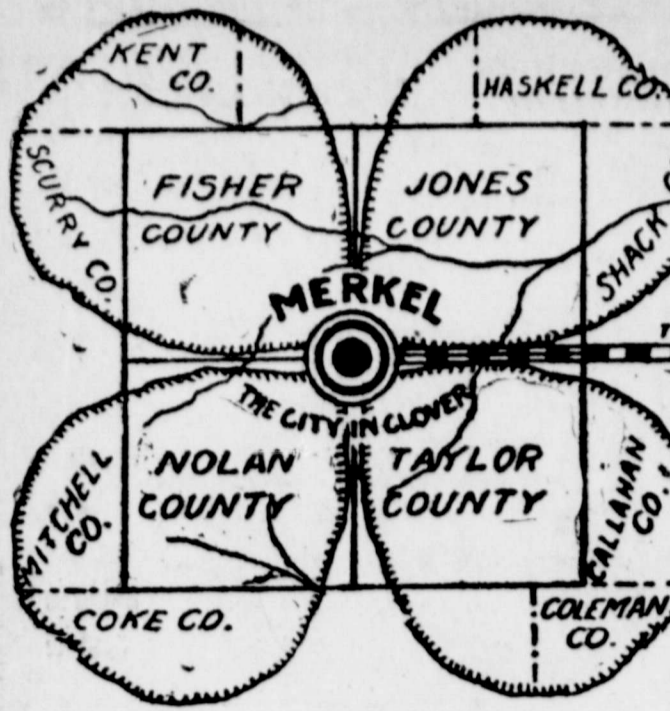
To the native of these islands the Carabao represents service,
valuable service continuously performed in many ways. What
the horse was to the Texas ranchman in the early days, the
Carabao is to the Philippine native.

To Texaco products are pictured to the native by the Carabao,
indicating the service and its character, the quality and its useful-
ness. The same quality and service are available for you in your
town under the Red-Star-Green-T emblem of Texaco fame.
Ask for them.

**The Texas Company
General Offices, Houston, Texas**

No. 41





MERKEL
 GOOD HOMES—GOOD SCHOOLS,
 GOOD CHURCHES; GOOD PEOPLE—
 THE CITY TO LIVE IN—
 THE CITY TO INVEST IN
 THE MERKEL COUNTRY,
 OPPORTUNITY FOR THE YOUNG MAN,
 GOOD HEALTH FOR THE OLD MAN,
 EMPLOYMENT FOR THE POOR MAN,
 INVESTMENTS FOR THE RICH MAN
 PROSPERITY FOR ALL.

The MERKEL MAIL

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY MORNING
 THE MERKEL MAIL PRINTING COMPANY, INCORPORATED
 HOMER L. EASTERWOOD, Editor and Manager

SUBSCRIPTION, \$1.00 PER YEAR, IN ADVANCE
 Entered at the Postoffice at Merkel, Texas, as Second-Class Mail Matter

Any erroneous reflection on the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation which may appear in the columns of The Mail will be gladly corrected upon its being brought to the attention of the management.

TELEPHONE No. 61

If you have visitors, or if you know any item which would be of interest to readers of the Mail, the editor would appreciate a note or a telephone message to that effect. Or, if an occurrence of unusual interest transpires a reporter will be promptly sent to get the full particulars.

ANOTHER COTTON CROP.

The Merkel country during the coming cotton season will produce some cotton. The crop may exceed last year's crop and it may fall short of our record of last year and there remains one fact which has been brought to our attention which we deem worthy of much thought and consideration.

WHAT WILL THE NEXT YEAR'S CROP OF COTTON BE WORTH? An unanswerable question but one subject to some reasoning. The American cotton raisers at the beginning of the 1914 cotton season were embarrassed in the disposal of their cotton owing to the telling effect of war. Cotton dropped as low as six cents and thousands of bales of low grade cotton sold for a much less price but before the season was over conditions became more normal, confidence was regained to an extent and cotton really sold as high as 10 cents per pound.

With a continuance of the war, which seems inevitable, the cotton market will be more firm at the opening of this season than when war forced the price down last year. The price, however, may be very low, even at a lower price than our people care to dispose of their fleecy staple, but history asserts itself that a higher price will surely come. With this in view many Merkel country farmers would hold cotton for a better price than seven or eight cents but to hold it without protecting the staple would create a loss to the producer.

During the summer months when time is not at a premium would it not be well for those who anticipate holding their cotton for better prices to build sheds for their cotton? Sheet iron to shed off the rain and false work to prevent rot to the bale on the bottom by coming in contact with the wet and damp ground would make a more saleable product no doubt.

With cotton protected from rot and rain it will be much easier for the producer to borrow money at the bank than if his collateral was exposed to heavy damage.

One example to the home warehouse proposition has been well demonstrated by a Merkel country cotton raiser, J. R. Hester. Mr. Hester is holding his entire cotton crop of last year. In so doing he has stored his cotton in a shed and awaits the time with patience until the price suits him. When Mr. Hester makes sale of his cotton it will be free from damage and will well pay him for the expense he has been to in arranging for the rainy day. He will realize more from his labor than the man who stores his cotton in the back yard and allows it to become damaged by exposure to all kinds of weather.

More cotton sheds are needed in the Merkel country. Home warehouses are cheap and the storage soon amounts to nothing compared with storage in a public warehouse and no better time for this preparation will be had than in the near future before the 1915 cotton crop comes on the market.

BUILD A WAREHOUSE AT HOME. A DOLLAR SAVED IS A DOLLAR MADE.

"No Democrat has ever resigned a job carrying a salary of \$12,000 a year before. William Jennings, how could you do it? How could you do it?"—Houston Post. An example like that is enough to disrupt the grand old Democratic party; next thing you know some 2 by 4 postmaster will lay down his job.—Commercial Appeal.

Maybe a 2 by 4 postmaster would but if Claud Callan ever gets such a job you can bet your bottom dollar he will uphold the faith.

A GOVERNOR'S CHANCE.

The Georgia prison commission has passed the buck to the governor in the Frank case and in its report has succeeded in conveying the impression that in the minds of two of the board, at least, to commute his punishment would be to thwart a proper sentence. In the face of the wording of the report, and the extreme public sentiment still alive in Georgia, the executive who is hardy enough to extend clemency will probably sign his own political death warrant.

The report of the board, from this distance, looks like a cowardly attempt on the part of the majority members, to square themselves with the maddened voters at the expense of the state's executive.

Governor Slaton is afforded an excellent opportunity of getting from under by granting a temporary stay, thus passing it on to his successor. On the other hand, he is given a chance to do a worthy and notable act such is seldom the lot of man—an act that will cause his name to live in the memory of the better people of Georgia and the annals of justice, long after these judges have been forgotten.—Dallas Dispatch.

THE TRANSPARENT SKIRT.

Summer is here again and the natural desire of a people is to dress as comfortable as possible but the young lady who allows her habiliments of dame fashion to portray a transparent picture of her form makes a great mistake and should be admonished of her immodest appearance.

These errors of dress which occur occasionally place the wearer in a critical light by the masculine gender although the unfortunate young lady may be entirely innocent of any intentional immodesty. Had we a sister who appeared on the streets in so conspicuous a light our advice would be to her, "Go home and get more clothes on." Mothers are seldom if ever seen in this light and it seems a duty of maternity to guard against their daughter making a show of herself while on the streets of a town. Yes, summer is here and the awful transparent skirt has again made its debut.

What has become of the old-time fellow-citizen who stuffed his breeches in top of his boots and smoked a corn-cob pipe?—Exchange.

He has gone to his reward, but he has a grandson who wears a thirteen inch cuff at the bottom of his pants, and sucks a cigarette and lets the smoke come out through his nose.—Burnett's Budget.

Not all of those good men who have gone to their reward leave an earthly reminder with a thirteen inch trouser cuff and vile cigarettes. Some of those who remain here on this mundane sphere have within their soul the same uprightness of character and sterling principles that made their forefathers famous. Not all the world is bad, only a portion of its humanity can be criticised.

Mr. Bryan has been seeing things. Nine out of ten German-Americans fail to see anything in the German note to have caused his action.

"There is no real satisfaction in giving your enemy h—l," says Billy Sunday. Not unless you give him your individual share of it.

Between war, automobile accidents, six-shooters and suicides, mere man has a small chance these days.

Maybe Kitchener meant he was going to "drive" it out on that line if it took all summer.

It looks as if the Russ who fights and runs away comes back to fight another day.

Someone will have to hatch up a new national drink for grape juice has resigned.

The Commoner is one paper Mr. Bryan can rely on for support.

The Democratic party is not "split" so's you could notice it.

A Texas editor defines a pistol as a nickel-plated substitute for bravery.

BURROUGHS DRUG STORE

A drug store that caters to your every want, and we consider the reliability of our store is our

Greatest Asset

Won't you make our store your store?
 If so eventually, why not now?

BURROUGHS DRUG STORE

**Saturday, June 19th
 BIG DAY FOR MERKEL**

A beautiful Drop-Head Sewing Machine will be given to the person holding the lucky number. On that date we will open our

Grand Piano Contest

Not less than 5,000 people are expected to be in Merkel. Come and see your friends.

We sell for Cash, turn our stock every month, make a reasonable profit and meet any competition. Just call and be convinced.

E. L. ROGERS The Grocery So Different

GRAIN WANTED
 CAR LOAD OR SMALL LOTS

To the Grain Growers of the Merkel Country:

I am the oldest grain buyer in the city and know that I have some of the best accounts in the State. You will always find me in the market for all kinds of grain and with the best prices out. Don't fail to see me before selling.

J. D. GAITHER
 GRAIN DEALER

Cheap Groceries.

Pay cash for your groceries and keep out of the hole. Buy them and see if I can't save you money.

- Best Flour in town \$3.65
- Good Flour 3.40
- Meal 75c
- 25 pounds Sugar \$1.65
- 10 pounds Lard 95c
- 10 pounds Cottolene \$1.30
- Binder Twine 10c

Come and get them while they last. 141f Walter Clark.

6,000 mile guarantee on Pennsylvania Vacuum Cup Tires. For sale by H. M. Rose.

OLDER BUT STRONGER

To be healthy at seventy, prepare at forty, is sound advice, because in the strength of middle life we too often forget that neglected colds, or careless treatment of slight aches and pains, simply undermine strength and bring chronic weakness for later years. To be stronger when older, keep your blood pure and rich and active with the strength-building and blood-nourishing properties of Scott's Emulsion which is a food, a tonic and a medicine to keep your blood rich, alleviate rheumatism and avoid sickness. No alcohol in Scott's. Scott & Downe, Bloomfield, N. J.

Buy Your Wood Now.

Good dry mesquite wood delivered for \$3.50 per cord, \$2.50 on the ground. 4 miles east of Merkel, phone R. D. Allen your order today. 115p.

SOME SPECIAL PRICES

ON PENNSYLVANIA DIAMOND and GOOD YEAR Tires

FILTERED GASOLINE and AUTO OILS my Specialty

HENRY M. ROSE

The Quinine That Does Not Affect The Head Because of its tonic and laxative effect. LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE is better than ordinary Quinine and does not cause nervousness nor ringing in head. Remember the full name and look for the signature of E. W. GROVE, E.

<p>AT The Home Store That fresh, sweet, pure, Bee Comb Honey at 12 1-2 Cents Per Pound</p> <p>AT STEVEN'S STORE North of the Blacksmith Shop</p>	<p>City Barber Shop</p> <p>THE SANITARY SHOP Hot and Cold Baths</p> <p>CAPABLE WORKMEN AND PROMPT ATTENTION</p>	<p>DANIEL'S Livery Stable</p> <p>Good Rigs at Good Prices</p> <p>Especially Solicit the Traveling Man</p> <p>PHONE 44</p>	<p>R. L. PORTER</p> <p>General Blacksmithing Practical Horseshoeing Expert Wagon Repairs</p> <p>"Nuf Sed"</p> <p>NORTH FRONT STREET</p>	<p>Tip Top Work Guaranteed</p> <p>Tanks, Gutterings, Flues, Chimney Tops, Etc. Modern Sanitary Plumbing</p> <p>Figure With Us MONDAY & McMURRY Plumber, Sheet and Metal Workers</p> <p>Sweetwater - - Texas</p>	<p>TIP TOP VALUES IN REAL ESTATE</p> <p>Rentals, Farm Lands, Etc.</p> <p>FIGURE WITH C. E. Whitaker Real Estate</p>
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THE QUALITY of our stock is as high as our flag and appears waving an invitation for your patronage. Quality tells and price sells at **G.M. Sharp Grocery** PHONE 249

OWL CAFE L. E. SANDERS, Prop. JUST NEWLY FURNISHED QUICK SERVICE AT THE COUNTER FOR THE BUSY MAN Try Us Once---Then [Always.]

From a complete stock you can buy right, and **THE PEOPLE'S STORE OF TRENT** will **TREAT YOU RIGHT** **A NEMIR, Prop.** Trent, Texas

PURE APPLE CIDER Vinegar, Fruits and Produce **J. M. WESTENHOFFER**

ON TOP ALWAYS PURE DRUGS Sundries Prescriptions carefully compounded on short notice at the **REXALL STORE** **MRS. E. M. RUST, Prop.** A Complete Line of **EASTMAN KODAKS** and Supplies

LOOK OUT FOR TICKET SPECIALS **ONE MOTORCYCLE TICKET** With Each 25c worth of Sox and Supporters **TWO Tickets** with each 50c Tie **THE STAR STORE**

Worthy of a Place in Every Home **A SLEEPEZY MATTRESS** PHONE 227 North Front Street

Spring is here Styles are here I am here, ready to please you in all **SPRING NOVELTIES** in **Millinery** **MISS LIZZIE MAE FREEMON**

Everything in **HARDWARE** Shelfware and Queensware that Wear at the **CROWN HARDWARE CO.**

The House of Quality **BEST VALUES AT LEAST PRICES** **J. P. SHARP**

QUENTIN'S HOME BAKERY The best of materials used in the construction of our Home Made Breads, Cakes, Pies and Confections. You have tried the rest, now try the best. **Phone 76**

SPECTACLES and EYEGLASSES Unexcelled Optical Service can be gotten in Sweetwater You don't have to go to Dallas or Fort Worth to have your eyes fitted correctly by a specialist. Sweetwater is nearer to you and service the best. **P. T. QUAST**

PATRONIZE HOME INDUSTRY **F. H. DENNIS** Jeweler and Watchmaker Delicate Repairing a Specialty **We Want Your Business**

EVERY LITTLE THING AND MANY BIG THINGS for the HOMEFOLKS at **THE RACKET STORE** **J. M. DRY, Prop.**

"Cleanliness is Next to Godliness" Try The **ABILENE LAUNDRY AGENCY** for Cleanliness at the **IDEAL TAILOR SHOP** PHONE 48

No Home is Complete Without a **SINGER SEWING MACHINE OR JACOBS PIANO** **E. D. COATS, North Front St.**

J. A. DUCKETT The Price is the Thing at the **HOME of GOOD BARGAINS** Good Goods at **GOOD PRICES**

LET US BE YOUR HOME DRUGGIST We Specialize in Compounding Prescriptions from **PURE DRUGS**. Also, Complete Line of Sundries for Your Health, Home and Happiness. **GRIMES DRUG STORE**

Start the Home Now By Your Savings **A SAFETY FIRST BANK is a SAFE BANK to BANK** Not only will your return checks be a life time receipt, but a Bank connection simplifies all business transactions. Come in today and let us explain the many other advantages in being associated with the **Farmers State Bank**

START THE FOUNDATION RIGHT By Buying Your **LUMBER AND BUILDING MATERIALS** of the "Old Reliable" **MERKEL LUMBER COMPANY**

OUR QUICK-ACTION SALE

Our GENUINE QUICK-ACTION SALE Will Close SATURDAY, JUNE 19.
We have lots of Bargains for You. We quote some Extra Specials

EXTRA—QUICK ACTION SPECIAL 50c Ladies' Lisle Thread Union Suits, for quick action 41c	EXTRA—QUICK ACTION SPECIAL 25c Children's Patent Leather Belts, for quick action 15c	EXTRA—QUICK ACTION SPECIAL Men's Blue Work Shirts, for quick action 45c	EXTRA—QUICK ACTION SPECIAL 10c Gingham, for quick action 7½c	EXTRA—QUICK ACTION SPECIAL 10c Pearl Buttons, for quick action 4c
EXTRA—QUICK ACTION SPECIAL \$1.00 Overalls, pin stripes and solid color, for quick action 85c	EXTRA—QUICK ACTION SPECIAL 25c Tissue Gingham, for quick action, the yard 21c	EXTRA—QUICK ACTION SPECIAL 1 Lot Men's 50c Caps, for quick action 35c	EXTRA—QUICK ACTION SPECIAL \$3.00 Silk Messaline Petticoats, for quick action \$1.69	EXTRA—QUICK ACTION SPECIAL 50c Children's Rompers, for quick action 41c
EXTRA—QUICK ACTION SPECIAL 25c Large Turkish Bath Towels, for quick action, the pair 18c	EXTRA—QUICK ACTION SPECIAL 5 to 6½c Val Laces, for quick action, the yard 3½c	EXTRA—QUICK ACTION SPECIAL \$1.50 Men's Dress Shirts for quick action \$1.25	EXTRA—QUICK ACTION SPECIAL 50c Voiles, beautiful patterns, for quick action, the yard 35c	EXTRA—QUICK ACTION SPECIAL \$1.00 Hansen Gloves, for quick action 85c
EXTRA—QUICK ACTION SPECIAL 6c Cotton Checks, for quick action, the yard 4½c	EXTRA—QUICK ACTION SPECIAL 35c Men's Under Shirts, for quick action 21c	EXTRA—QUICK ACTION SPECIAL \$1.50 Hansen Gloves, for quick action \$1.25	EXTRA—QUICK ACTION SPECIAL \$1.00 Ladies, Crepe Gowns, for quick action 79c	EXTRA—QUICK ACTION SPECIAL 65c Table Linen, extra wide, for quick action, the yard 39c
EXTRA—QUICK ACTION SPECIAL 50c Lace Flouncing, for quick action 35c	EXTRA—QUICK ACTION SPECIAL 1 Lot Men's Felt Hats, \$2.50 to \$3.00, for quick action \$1.98	EXTRA—QUICK ACTION SPECIAL \$5.00 Jno. B. Stetson Hats, for quick action \$3.85	EXTRA—QUICK ACTION SPECIAL 10c and 12½c Shadow Laces, for quick action, the yard 8½c	EXTRA—QUICK ACTION SPECIAL 1 Lot Ribbon, worth 10c to 15c, for quick action, the yard 7½c
EXTRA—QUICK ACTION SPECIAL \$1.00 Men's Jumpers, pin stripes and solid colors, for quick action 85c				EXTRA—QUICK ACTION SPECIAL \$1.50 Embroidery Flouncing, 45 inches wide, for quick action, the yard 75c

WOODROOF BROS., Merkel, Texas



Miss France Burroughs entertained with a Tacky party at her home on Rose street Friday evening. Progressive 42 was played. The hostess served delicious fruit punch. Those present were Misses Clara Will McNatt of Abilene, Faye Allen of Denton, Ruby and Elva Payne, Laura Winter, Annis Burnett, Jessie Sutphen, Eva Walters, Virginia and Venona Hamblett, Jackie Jennings, Mesdames H. C. Burroughs, Jr. James West and H. C. Burroughs, Sr. Messrs. Ben Stanley, Robert Hicks, Ernest and Abe Rogers, Guy Bradley, Billie Woodroof, and Bill Sheppard, Clyde Garrett, Choc Jones, James Brown, Sam Swann Luther Woodroof, James West, Parker Sharp and the hostess.

Miss Maude Jinkens entertained with a progressive 42 party Wednesday complimentary to Miss Jewel Garrett of Springtown. Peach cream and cake were served to Misses Jessie Sutphen, France Burroughs Vera Jinkens, Emma Smith. Messrs. Luther Grimes, Luke Woodroof, Choc Jones, Claude Jinkens, W. L. Ditz, the honoree and hostess.

Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Burrough, Jr. chaperoned a crowd of young people to the Martin's Lake Thursday night where all enjoyed a delightful luncheon after their hike. Those going were Misses Maude Jinkens, Jewel Garrett, Ruby and Elva Payne, France Burroughs and Jessie Sutphen Billie Woodroof, W. L. Ditz, Choc Jones, Luke Woodroof and John Morgan.

Miss Mae Green entertained Tuesday evening at her home on

Locust street. The guests were Misses Eufie and Hollis Cypert, Eather Williams, Elma Sheppard Clara and Mamie Moore, Lizzie and Mattie McCracken of Abilene, Messrs. Claude Pendleton, Bill Sheppard, Tally Holloway, Frank Ferrier, Roscoe and Parker Sharp, Ocie Burns and Rotan Cypert. Miss Green honored her house guests Misses Lizzie and Mattie McCracken.

Will Merritt entertained Friday evening in honor of Misses Ida La Bel Meeks and Ina Mae Adams. The Merritt home, on Elm street, with its electric lighted croquet grounds, was the scene of this pretty party. 42 and other games were enjoyable features of this delightful evening. Fruit was served to Misses Winnie Sharp, Madge Dean, Sina Humble of Abilene, Mertie Dupree, Pearle Maud Gilliland, Messrs. Stuart Grimes, Frank Armstrong, Lloyd Gilliland, Ed Scott, Elbert Touchstone, Minor Burns, Merle Burroughs, Lewis Swann, Homer Laney and Will Merritt.

Hamilton-Smith.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Smith request the honor of your presence at the marriage of their daughter, Addie Mae, to Mr. William Williamson Hamilton, Wednesday afternoon, June 16, 1915, at 2 o'clock, Methodist Church South, Miles, Texas. At home after July 1, Snyder, Texas.

The above was received by Merkel friends of the contracting parties the first of the present week. Mr. Hamilton, a well known attorney of Snyder, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Hamilton of this city and enjoys a host of acquaintances here who extend the heartiest congratulations and good wishes.

Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton will be at home to their friends after July 1, in Snyder where the former is prominent in the practice of jurisprudence.



The Value of a Telephone

in the farmer's home cannot be measured in dollars and cents. It may be the means of saving your property from destruction by fire, your family from serious illness, your products from a drop in prices.

Thousands of farmer's telephones are connected with the vast system of this Company. The cost is most reasonable. Inquire of our nearest Manager.

Southwestern Tel. & Tel. Co.

Instrumental music—Miss Eva Williams.

Reading—Miss Wilma Smith. Quartette—Mesdames R. A. Martin, O. F. McMaster, V. Harris, Miss Mashburn.

Reading—Pearl Maude Gilliland.

Quartette—Billy Woodroof, Robert Hicks, Luke Woodroof, J. F. Holdridge.

Reading—Mrs. W. A. Scott.

Solo—Ruby Harris.

Chorus—Philatheas and Baracas.

The above is the program that will be given Friday evening at 8:30 o'clock on the lawn at the home of Mr. and M. H. C. Burroughs on Rose street

Freeman-Duckett.

Miss Pearle Duckett and W. T. (Tom) Freemon were married Saturday evening at the Baptist Parsonage. Rev. L. E. Owen officiating. The bride is a niece of W. P. Duckett and has many friends here having been a frequent visitor here. Her parents live in Abilene. Mr. Freemon is a Merkel boy having lived here all his life. He is a son of L. A. Freemon and is well known. Their many friends are offering congratulations.

Surprise Wedding.

Mr. Johnie Browning of Albany and Miss Gladys Walters of this city were married Sunday evening at Albany. The first news of their marriage came to the bride's mother when the bride called her over long distance to say that "Mrs. Browning was talking." Mrs. Browning is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. V. B. Walters and is quite popular with the younger crowd. The groom is a son of Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Browning of Bronte. Mr. and Mrs. Browning are at home in Albany where the groom is engaged in business. Their friends are extending congratulations.

Monday evening Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Burroughs, Jr. Misses Maude Jinkens, Elva Payne, Messrs. Choc Jones and Claude Jenkins motored to the Clear Fork for an outing. A lovely luncheon was served, picnic style. With the approach of twilight the wood rats came to welcome the guests. They all but put them to flight. Fish was served for Tuesday morning breakfast. The crowd returned at noon after having had a very enjoyable trip in the Jinkens' car.

The Wilson hose supporter for children, sizes 2 to 14 for 20 cents the pair at the Star Store.

It Always Helps

says Mrs. Sylvania Woods, of Clifton Mills, Ky., in writing of her experience with Cardui, the woman's tonic. She says further: "Before I began to use Cardui, my back and head would hurt so bad, I thought the pain would kill me. I was hardly able to do any of my housework. After taking three bottles of Cardui, I began to feel like a new woman. I soon gained 35 pounds, and now, I do all my housework, as well as run a big water mill."

I wish every suffering woman would give

CARDUI

The Woman's Tonic

a trial. I still use Cardui when I feel a little bad, and it always does me good."

Headache, backache, side ache, nervousness, tired, worn-out feelings, etc., are sure signs of womanly trouble. Signs that you need Cardui, the woman's tonic. You cannot make a mistake in trying Cardui for your trouble. It has been helping weak, ailing women for more than fifty years.

Get a Bottle Today!

Why Swat Flies All Summer Long

and let them jeopardize the health of your family when for a small sum you can equip your home with

Screen Doors and Windows

We're prepared for a big trade in screens this summer and can fit your home on short notice. A variety of regular sizes carried in stock—others obtained with little delay if ordered early.

BURTON-LINGO CO.

"ZUDORA" or "THE TWENTY MILLION DOLLAR MYSTERY" --- 10th Installment, Read It

SYNOPSIS.

Zudora is left an orphan at an early age. Her father is killed in a gold mine. Zudora and the fortune from the mine, which grows to be worth \$20,000,000, are left in the guardianship of Frank Keene, Zudora's mother's brother. Zudora, giving promise of great beauty, reaches the age of eighteen. The uncle, who has set himself up as a Hindu mystic and is known as Hassam Ali, decides that Zudora must die before she can have a chance to come into possession of her money, so that it may be left to him, the next of kin. Hassam Ali sees an obstacle to his scheme in the person of John Storm, a young lawyer, for whom Zudora has taken a fancy, and he commands the girl to put the man out of her mind. Zudora insists that if she cannot marry Storm she will marry no one.

"Well, well," says Hassam Ali, "if you take such a stand I'll compromise. Solve my next twenty cases and you can marry him; fail in a single case and you must renounce him."

Zudora, using the knowledge gained from years of association with her uncle, unravels a baffling mystery and wins her first case—a case in which John Storm is saved from being convicted of a murder instigated by Hassam Ali himself.

Zudora and Hassam Ali visit Nabok Shan's house, where she overcomes every one whenever Nabok attempts to marry a princess. Storm, seeking Zudora, is made a prisoner. Zudora foils Nabok Shan, restores the princess to her original lover and saves Storm from death.

A maker of diamonds tells Hassam Ali his secret. Storm informs Zudora that his life is being attempted frequently. Storm suspects Hassam Ali. Storm is arrested for stealing the diamond maker's gems, but Zudora discovers the real thieves—a pair of mice.

The negro help employed on Storm's father's farm are fleeing because a great skeleton hand appears at night upon a hill near by. Storm is baffled in his investigation, but Zudora learns that her uncle has employed Jimmy Bolton, a half-witted man, thus to annoy Storm's parents. Zudora finds Bolton operating a big magic lantern and is attacked by him. Storm opportunely appears and saves her from Bolton.

Hassam Ali asks Zudora to find a gem lost by two mysterious old men. Zudora gets a photograph of the gem and it burns in her hand. An old house is mined by Hassam Ali and the old men. Storm and Zudora are lured there and narrowly escape destruction when the house blows up. John McWinter, endeavoring to trap and kill George Smith, is killed himself, and Smith is charged with murder. Hassam Ali conspires to have John Storm meet the same fate as McWinter, and he and Storm are overcome by powerful fumes. Zudora saves them, proves that McWinter's own dog trapped and killed him and saves Smith from a band of lynchers.

An inventor blows up a submarine with a powerful heat ray which he sends through water. Hassam Ali sends Zudora to a photographer directly beneath the inventor's laboratory and orders the inventor to kill her. Zudora gets a warning, and her life is saved. The heat ray machine is destroyed, and the photographer, after a quarrel with Hassam Ali, is found dead in the river.

Wu Chang prevents Zudora's elopement with John Storm by hypnotizing her, and he and Hassam Ali attempt to smuggle her out of the country. This plot is frustrated by Storm.

Baird, Hassam Ali's double, falls in love with Zudora. Baird and Mme. Du Val kidnap Zudora and the Van Wick child. Storm rescues them, and Hassam Ali dies.

With Hassam Ali dead Zudora is released of her pledge to solve twenty cases. She confronts, however, the greatest mystery of all, which is the mystery of her own life and the ambition to secure the vast fortune of \$20,000,000 left to her. Her remarkable adventures will be portrayed by Harold MacGrath in the succeeding chapters. This photo serial is being shown in the leading moving picture theaters by the Thanhouser Film Corporation. Among those participating are Marguerite Snow, Mary Elizabeth Forbes, James Cruze, in the new role of reporter-hero, Sidney Bracey and Frank Farrington.

CHAPTER X.

Gentlemen Crooks and the Lady.

HASSAM ALI, or, to give him his real name, Frank Keene, died suddenly. Baird, his double, appreciating that the end was at hand, left the house by a secret exit, taking with him only such things as belonged to him. When the Hindu servant notified Zudora that her uncle was dead she could not believe it, and one look at the dead man was enough to convince her that there was something extremely mysterious in the



She Dragged the Old Trunk Out into the Center of the Room.

change. The Hassam Ali she had seen a few days past had not looked ill, but this corpse was mute evidence of a long and desperate illness. But she never solved this puzzle; she was never given the time to. That night the house caught fire, and very few things were saved.

One day shortly after the fire she dragged the battered old trunk out into the center of the room and proceeded to explore its contents. The first things she came across were her mother's old circus costumes, and she sat dreaming about them for some time. A knock upon the door aroused her.

"Come in." Storm entered with a bouquet. "Oh, how pretty! Wait until I put them into a vase. There! Flowers always make a room look cozier."

"And what's going on here?" asked John, pointing to the trunk.

"Why, John, that trunk is about the only thing they rescued from the house. Do you know, I'm happier in this room than I have been in years. Uncle Frank was always cold and repellent; he just wouldn't let me love him."

"Good riddance of bad rubbish!"

"Why, John Storm?"

"I don't care. I'm positive of the fact that he attempted to make way with both of us half a dozen times. And I'm equally again positive that he was hand in glove with some of the most dangerous criminals in the country. Well, as you say, he's dead. But



"Good riddance of bad rubbish."

as for me, I feel a deal easier in walking about these days. And yet that man was your uncle, flesh and blood. Have you gone through the trunk yet?"

"No."

"Well, then, let's take an inventory." The two of them knelt down together and dug out the ancient circus trappings. Far down in a corner they came upon a little box, and Zudora opened it curiously.

"A diamond?" exclaimed Storm. "And a mighty good one, too, if I don't miss my guess. Look, there is a part of a letter under it! Let's see what it says."

The contents—or the half contents—of that burned sheet of paper affected them strangely. It had originally been a letter to Zudora's mother from her father, and brokenly it stated that he had struck it rich in Brazil. He, or his partner, had stumbled upon an exceedingly rich deposit of diamonds and some day they would have plenty. To Zudora it was evident that this had been written a few days before her father's death, after he had made the strike in gold.

"And Hassam Ali kept this a secret from you!"

"Never mind now; it is no longer a secret," replied Zudora. She put the little box aside and once more gave her attention to the interior of the trunk. She next resurrected a locket. This contained the likeness of her parents. "My father and mother," she said, her eyes filling.

"You poor little chicken!" He put his arms around her. "We'd better see what can be done about this diamond mine. I'm sure there must be a lot of gems somewhere. But you don't need a diamond mine so far as I'm concerned, sweetheart; you're precious enough gem for any man."

"Thank you, John."

Almost at this same moment a great liner plowed its way westward across the Atlantic. And on board this liner was a handful of diamonds which rightfully belonged to Zudora Keene.

There was a passenger who went by the name of Bruce. He was a smug, suave individual, but was far deeper, far more cunning, than he appeared outwardly. He was in his stateroom. The door was locked. The bed was pulled from the wall. The man himself was between the bed and the ship's side, sawing a hole in the wall-scotting. From time to time he paused to listen for sounds in the adjacent staterooms, but he was quite satisfied that the occupants were all on deck in their chairs. When the job was completed he lifted out the square piece of board and laid it aside. Then he drew a bamboo cane toward him. He swiftly unscrewed the top and dumped something into the palm of his hand. Minute flashes of red and blue flame darted up into his eyes. These flashes came from diamonds of the purest white. He chuckled inaudibly. Next he poured the gems into a little camouflaged bag and thrust the bag into the hole in the wall. With extraordinary deftness he replaced the square of wall-scotting, and only the closest scrutiny would have told any one what had taken place.

After that Mr. Bruce went up to the smoke room and indulged in a stiff whisky and soda. Then he played bridge until the second gong call for dinner and in that period of time more than made his expenses for the trip. Mr. Bruce enjoyed his dinner, enjoyed his wine, the coffee and port wine. The secret agents could hear what they pleased, and they could search him and all his belongings, and he would submit with the utmost complacency. Only fools were caught these days by the agents of the United States customs. He had made some twenty voyages, and what had they ever found upon him that was contraband? Nothing, absolutely nothing. Tomorrow they would dock, and that night he would be able to confide another success to his confederates. It all depended upon nerve and foresight. But there was one man with whom he had yet to reckon.

His name was Thomas Hunt, and

one of his specialties was putting his stout hand upon the shoulders of male-factors and asking them politely which they preferred, steel cuffs or docility? The day before Bruce landed Hunt received a cable in which he was informed that their old enemy was going to attempt to run the blockade again, with diamonds as usual. And one of the remarkable phases of these exploits of Bruce's was the fact that he invariably sold gems in Holland as a starter, but brought the bulk of them into the United States.

The officials knew that he had confederates, some above him in power and some below. Chief among those of the first order were Mme. Du Val and Captain Radcliffe, a man without a country. Radcliffe was patently in love with Mme. Du Val, but she could not put from her thoughts the man Baird. The fact that he had gone over to the other side in an attempt to rehabilitate himself did not lessen the woman's admiration. As the pseudo Hassam she had had some power over him, but as a reporter on one of the big newspapers he had passed beyond the reach of her arm.

Somewhere she had seen a painting by the late Alma-Tadema, and she had under the inspiration fixed up what she called a Greek salon. She really possessed excellent taste. In the center there was a fountain surrounded by plants. The water tinkled merrily at all times, but sometimes the stream suddenly fell aslant, which indicated that some one was behind the secret panel.

On the night before the arrival of Bruce with his ill gotten gems Madame was in the salon, playing idly with an Angora kitten. It is a fact that these tiger women always have kittens about. Suddenly she noted the slant of the jet of water. She summoned an attendant and nodded meaningfully toward the wall. The footman went over swiftly, touched a knob, and the secret panel went up, revealing a small elevator. Out of this stepped Captain Radcliffe, something of a dandy in appearance, but at heart a shady rogue. He crossed the room swiftly, making no effort to conceal his sentiments. But she adroitly evaded him.

"Take care, captain. No sentiment, if you please. Some day possibly, but for the present we have business."

"I wonder if that some day will ever come?" The captain shrugged.

"I will be ready," she said, "in about twenty minutes."

"What!" taking a step forward.

"No, no, simpleton! I mean I'll be ready to go out with you. Now, let me add this: Please do not use that secret panel again just because you want to surprise me. After midnight, if you have anything really important on hand, enter by the panel, but in ordinary times the front door, my dear captain."

"Your word is law," he replied, bowing.

She left the salon, and he hid away the twenty minutes playing with the kitten. When she returned she was ready for the street. She carried a kind of velvet purse.

"Do you know what's in this?" she asked.

"Powder puffs?"

"She did not reply, but took out a folded square of white tissue paper

and opened it. Several fine diamonds sparkled before his eyes.

"Ah, are they to be disposed of, enchantress?"

"Certainly, and the sooner the better. Bruce will be in port shortly, and we do not want too many on our hands."

"I'll take care of them." This done, he added rather impatiently, "It's high time we made off for that luncheon."

To return to Thomas Hunt, detective and secret service man. Hunt divided his time between personal cases and the more difficult problems which frequently confronted the government agents. They generally came to him when they were in trouble. He was sitting at his desk. Before him spread out lay, were numerous newspaper clippings, and in all of them there was some reference to a man named Bruce. Unlike his kind, the man was always getting into the papers. For a long time this fooled the secret service. He had looked upon him as a harmless crank.

Hunt looked up suddenly. He swept the clippings into a drawer.

"Come in," he said.



He Thrust the Bag Into the Hole in the Wall.

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"Come in," he said.

The clerk stuck his head into his chief's office. "Lady and gentlemen wish to see you."

"Name?"

"Storm."

"John Storm?"

"Yes, sir."

"Show them in at once." He hailed Storm jovially, for he had known this young lawyer for several years. "Come in, come in! I'm glad to see you. What's on that legal mind of yours?"

"I want you to meet Miss Keene. Hunt—Miss Zudora Keene."

"Oh, I believe I've heard about you, Miss Keene. You're Hassam Ali's



"It's high time we made off for that luncheon."

niece. He was a very shrewd man. I was sorry to hear of his death."

"Hunt, you make a study of diamonds, don't you?" asked Storm.

"Legally, legally."

"I want you to find a diamond mine in Brazil belonging to the father of Miss Keene here. He's been dead for a good many years."

Hunt whistled. "That's a big order. Any papers?"

"Nothing that would give a hint to the location of the mine."

"Well, I can make a stab at it, anyhow. But it looks on the face of it like that old needle in the haystack stuff. We have some agents down there. They might be able to help us out."

"It will be very good of you," said Zudora.

She and Storm rose and as they did so a young man entered unannounced. Zudora recognized him instantly as the young man she had met at Mme. Du Val's. As for Storm, he bowed slightly. Careless greetings passed between them, and Baird and Hunt were left alone.

"Well," said the detective grimly, "how are you behaving yourself?"

"Straight," said Baird soberly. "It was mighty fine of you to help me when I needed help. The life of a reporter is fascinating. But just now I need a story. Got one?"

"Maybe. Did you ever hear of a man named Bruce?"

"Yes," Baird stared at the rug. Yes, he had known Bruce in the days when he was Hassam Ali.

"Well," began Hunt, "I think the rogue is going to beat the customs again. I'll wager that up to date he has smuggled in something over a million in gems. They'll land at the pier in about two hours. Suppose we hike right away?"

"Nothing would suit me any better. I want to make good in this business, Hunt. The old chap may stick a knife in me one of these days, but I'll go out honest."

"That's the way to talk! Come on, then."

At the piers on cases like this Hunt generally donned the regulation uniform and the regular inspectors did not interfere with his work. So when Bruce came down the gangplank the detective greeted him.

"I'll take care of you, Mr. Bruce. You will not have to bother with the usual formalities."

"Anything is agreeable so long as I get out of this barn in reasonable time. Here's my luggage coming down. All suit cases and one steamer trunk."

"We may have to search you personally, Mr. Bruce."

"Same old idea, huh? Go as far as you like. You boys will get tired some day hunting for diamonds in my grips."

"We often die on the job, Mr. Bruce, but we never get tired."

The only diamond found on Mr. Bruce was set in his fob. Hunt shrugged.

"Give it up?" said Bruce, grinning.

"For today, Mr. Bruce. Good day."

Bruce started for the exit, looking about for a taxi. Hunt waved his hand toward the spot where Baird lay in wait. The latter understood this gesture to indicate that he was assigned to follow the man. Bruce found his taxi, but Baird's was only half a block behind when the race began.

Mme. Du Val and Captain Radcliffe returned to the former's house immediately after lunch and they both appeared rather excited over something. It seems that the two had met Storm and Zudora at the restaurant and had asked them to sit at their table, with no purpose in mind save that of friend-

liness. During the luncheon madame noticed the quaint locket around Zudora's throat and inspected it. The two faces she saw inside the locket made her heart jump, but the mildly curious expression on her face did not change.

She and the captain came into the salon hurriedly. They went directly to a table upon which the cat was sleeping. The feline dreams were rudely shattered, however, for the mistress pushed the animal to the floor. Madame pressed certain bits of inlay and a secret drawer was revealed. From this drawer she took two old daguerreotypes.

"The same!" whispered the captain. "The very same! Oh, we are in luck, captain, to find this out in time. That mine is this girl Zudora's, and we'll have to watch our cards."

"Put her out of the way?"

"There's been a little too much of that. We'll try all other methods first. But what luck!"

"Telephone!" he said. "Shall I answer it?"

"Better let me." She returned to him after a moment. "Bruce; he's slipped through as usual."

"Clever chap!"

"And the gems are still on board the boat!"

In the meantime Baird had no great difficulty in hanging to the heels of Bruce's cab. He had an idea that the cab would seek a deserted spot, possibly near the water front, where there is a good deal of abandoned property. While his eye followed the cab in front his mind was elsewhere. A year ago he had been a crook, not a dangerous one, to be sure, but infernally clever. And here he was, striving honestly to live decently, all because he had fallen in love with the girl that should have been his victim. Lots of kids in this old world; lots of startling twists and windings. But of what use to love her? She loved another, and a clever, decent man too. He wondered if the day would come when he could tell her the truth, that for months he had played at being her uncle and had boldly attempted to do away with her.

What a contemptible scoundrel he had been and what a singular lack of perception he had had of this fact until love awoke him! Come, now; he must not fall to dreaming. His business was to watch yonder cab. Bruce's cab began to leave a trail through the warehouse district and eventually came to a stop before a disused factory. Baird dismissed his cab and waited to see what the smuggler did. He, too, dismissed the cab, glanced swiftly over his shoulder and entered the factory door, evidently by means of a key. Baird waited a reasonable length of time, then made for the factory. He knew that he would find the door locked, but nevertheless he tried it. He wasn't at all disturbed to find it locked. In a ruined old building like this there were many rickety windows.

He had no difficulty in getting inside. It was not intended that he should have any real difficulty in gaining entrance. Bruce, knowing the tricks of detectives, had been quite certain that he would be followed from the boat pier. He had merely led Baird into a trap. Bruce had gone in by one entrance and out the other. The cab met him two blocks away, and he was driven to another part of the town—in fact, to a semioccupied apartment house where there was a tunnel which led to the secret elevator in the house of Mme. Du Val on the next street.

He received a royal welcome from Mme. Du Val and Captain Radcliffe. He had brought to port something like \$20,000 worth of purest Brazilians.

"Oh, I was followed," he boasted, "and I led the follower by his nose to the old trap, and by this time he is doubtless out of the running. But this man Hunt is getting on my nerves. He knows, but he can't prove anything. Now, what's your news?"

They told him briefly.

"You have found the real heir?" he cried.

"Yes. And we have just arrived at the conclusion of a conference. This girl Zudora must be put away until we've milked that mine of its last penny. Her father's partner—old crook that he is—must be pushed off the board completely. There's a million in that pocket yet, believe me. I think by quick action we can get what we want within six months. We'll keep Zudora under cover for that period of time. As we understand it, she's engaged to a lawyer named Storm. We can fake up an accident to Storm and draw the girl into the net."

"Action's the word. And there's no better place to hide her until the coast is clear than in the old junk hut. That's where the boys will be taking Hunt's understudy by this time."

"But the diamonds!" interjected Mme. Du Val.

"My dear lady, I return to Liverpool on the same boat I arrived on. You will come and see me off. And when you bid me a tearful farewell the precious pebbles will be inside your muff. In fact, I return in the same cabin, and the gems are still in that same cabin. It's a new stunt and ought to hold off the inspectors for at least a dozen voyages."

"You've got a head on you, Bruce," admitted Captain Radcliffe admiringly.

Baird was able to find his way inside the deserted factory. A trap to the cellar caught his eye. He raised it and went down and stepped plump into the arms of a hulk of a man who had been awaiting his arrival. Baird was no weakling, but it seemed to him that he had run into a bunch of live wire cables. Only a chance blow saved him. It saved him only temporarily. Another dock wallop came to his companion's aid. Baird was no superman, and a blow on the side of the head laid him out.

The two rogues bound and gagged their victim and blindfolded him too.

Baird was half-conscious of being carried out of the building and dumped into a wagon. A moment later a lot of evil smelling junk was thrown in upon him. Then they went rumbling over the rough cobble pavement. It seemed to Baird that the journey must have lasted fully an hour. Then the wagon stopped, the junk was hauled away, and he was dragged into a hut



Into This Middle Room Baird Was Carried and Bound to a Post.

the middle room of which was used as a prison.

Into this middle room Baird was carried and bound to a post.

When Zudora learned that her lover was injured she set out posthaste. And, as luck would have it, Storm and Hunt arrived just after she had left in the taxicab Storm was supposed to have sent her.

"Keep your hair on," said the detective. "We can keep track of that cab. Don't you worry. I'm glad I came along with you. I'll bet a dollar that this has something to do with those diamonds. There's nothing like adding two and two to get four. Now we're off."

Meaner and meaner grew the streets. "That's one fault of the crooked mind," was the detective's comment. "They always seek low places to hide their victims in. Not one detective in a thousand would think of looking a missing person in a good neighborhood. He's slowing up. I think we'd better finish this on foot. Come along, Mr. Lawyer, and don't get in a sweat."

As for Zudora, her evil star shone cold and brilliant as any of the gems she was seeking as her own. When she discerned the character of the neighborhood her suspicions became aroused. She called to the chauffeur, but his answer was a fresh burst of speed. He whirled up in front of the junk hut, gave three blasts of the horn and jumped down from the car.

The two men who were guarding Baird rushed out at this signal.

"The captain!" one of them cried.

"Silence, you fool!" warned the pseudo chauffeur. "Here, help a hand with this bundle of petticoats, and if she gets away from you I'll cut your throats! Lively!"

Zudora, while she could not understand the reason of this abduction, perfectly comprehended that it would be useless to struggle against three men. She allowed them to take her inside the hut. The chauffeur jumped back to his seat and whirled away at top speed.

Hunt and Storm were quite willing that he should go. It meant one less

to handle. It was hard for Storm to wait for Hunt's signal. When it did come he was first at the door of the hut. But the door was a stout one, and it took sundry smashing blows of both men's shoulders to make the lock give. There was a rattling good fight for a moment. Then Hunt succeeded in drawing his automatics.

"Hands up!"

The two thugs saw business in his cold blue eye and raised their hands. "Yop poor girl!" cried Storm.

"Never mind me," she said. "There's some one in the next room calling for help."

And there they found Baird.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]



Then Hunt Succeeded in Drawing His Automatics.

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[TO BE CONTINUED.]

NOODLE

Health of our community is good so far as we know.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Meeks were the guests of Dr. and Mrs. Armstrong Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Eoff spent Sunday with their daughter, Mrs. Chas. Walker, of Kale.

Henry Eason and Sam Seago attended the ball game at Trent Saturday afternoon.

Leldon Goode of Abilene spent Saturday and Sunday with home-folks.

A number of young people enjoyed a singing at the Methodist church Sunday night.

There was several from this place attended singing at Shiloh Sunday afternoon.

R. W. and Dellis Green spent Sunday with the former's parents of Neinda.

We are glad to report that Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hayhurst have decided not to go back to Wichita Falls. Mr. Hayhurst has bought a crop of the Dr. William's place. He thought it best to stay here since the flood at Wichita.

Geo. Wasson of Abilene spent Saturday and Sunday with his brother, Tatum Wasson and family.

Grandma Horn has returned home after a two weeks visit with her son, W. K. Horn, of Abilene.

The Noodle Farmer's Institute and the Baby Beef Club had a meeting on Tuesday night of last week to elect the delegates to attend the State Farmers Institute were Mr. and Mrs. Billie Winter, Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Greene, W. L. Barbee and two daughters Misses Allene and Evelyn. The delegates elected to the Baby Beef Club were Miss Sallie Goode, Messrs. Sam Rosson, Clarence Eoff and Sam Seago.

HOGS WANTED. Bond & Edwards.

Furniture and undertaking. The Home Furniture Co., phone 54.

State of Ohio, City of Toledo, }
Lucas County. } ss

Frank J. Cheney makes oath that he is senior partner of the firm of F. J. Cheney & Co., doing business in the City of Toledo, County and State aforesaid, and that said firm will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for each and every case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by the use of HALL'S CATARRH CURE.

FRANK J. CHENEY.

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of December, A. D. 1886.

(Seal) A. W. GLEASON,

Notary Public

Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally and acts directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Send for testimonials free.

F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O.

Sold by druggists, 75c.

Take Hall's family pills for constipation.

SALT BRANCH

Rev. Green, missionary for the Sweetwater Baptist Association, preached for us Sunday. He preached a fine sermon.

Oscar Mobley and family of near Trent were visiting relatives here this week.

N. Roberts of Merkel attended church at Salt Branch Sunday.

Rev. J. P. Dodo of Merkel will preach for us next Sunday. Ever-erby come.

Annie Higgins and Mrs. Will Barker spent two day last week with their aunt near Hawley who is reported low with pneumonia.

James Wood is visiting relatives here this week.

The Salt Branch second team defeated Stith's second team Saturday. The score being 33 to 16.

W. L. Barker and Ollie Higgins were visiting relatives near Hawley Sunday and Monday.

HOGS WANTED. Bond & Edwards.

For an Impaired Appetite.

To improve the appetite and strengthen the digestion try a few doses of Chamberlain's Tablets. Mr. J. H. Seitz, of Detroit, Mich., says: "They restored my appetite when impaired, relieved me of a bloated feeling and caused a pleasant and satisfactory movement of the bowels." For sale by all dealers.

Don't Throw Your Money Away

WE GUARANTEE TO SELL YOU

Same Goods For Less Money

Don't Throw Your Money Away! We want to prove to you that we can sell you the same goods for less money and want you to compare our prices with Sales Prices and Mail Order Houses. We have not got on a sale. These are our regular prices. We are going to give you a list of a few items that we handle that are made by the same factories that Sears, Roebuck & Co. buy from, and in order that you will know that we know what we are talking about, we are going to refer you to their Spring Catalogue No. 130 and want you to note what we can save you, to say nothing of the postage or express you would have to pay. Now get their catalogue and look the different items up, or come in and look over the catalogue we have. :: Catalogue No. 130, Sears, Roebuck & Co. of Dallas, Texas

	Their Price	Our Price
Page 108, Ladies Corsets.....	No. 89V3232.....\$2.50	\$1.95
" 109, Ladies Corsets.....	89V1320..... 98c	85c
" 110, Ladies Corsets.....	89V1245..... 1.15	95c
" 155, Ladies Combination Suit.....	86V58143..... 85c	75c
" 160, Ladies Crepe Night Gown.....	86V58009..... 75c	65c
" 219, Child's Waist.....	83V17071..... 9c	8c
" 220, Ladies Vest.....	83V16913, 6 for 33c	6 for 30c
" 239, Mens Grey Sox.....	83V11950, 6 pr 42c	6 pr 40c
" 702, Williams Shaving Soap.....	6V8596, 6 cakes 27c	6 cks 25c
" 341, Men's Overalls.....	83V47390..... 79c	75c
" 334, Boys' Suit.....	40V5975..... 1.00	95c
" 129, Men's Shirt, Catalogue No. 129.....	17T20420..... 79c	65c
Matches, best grade, 12 boxes, regular price.....	50c	our price 30c
Good four strand Brooms.....	35c	" 19c
12-qt Galvanized Pails.....	35c	" 19c
Sweetheart Toilet Soap.....	10c	" 5c
Best grade patent Scrub Mops, agents price.....	1.50	" 75c
No. 2 Lamp Chimneys, regular price.....	10c	" 7½c
No. 1 Lamp Chimneys, regular price.....	10c	" 5c
Large No. 2 Lamp complete.....	50c	" 35c

DON'T FORGET THE ICE CREAM CONES, 2 FOR 5c

We have not the space to list the many **BARGAINS** we have to offer you but want to say that **IF YOU** are not trading Here we are **BOTH Losing Money**

"THE PRICE IS THE THING"

J. A. DUCKETT, Merkel, Texas

TAKE IT IN TIME

Just as Scores of Merkel People Have Done.

Waiting doesn't pay. If you neglect kidney backache, Urinary troubles often follow. Doan's Kidney Pills are for kidney backache, and for other kidney ills. Merkel citizens endorse them.

Mrs. M. L. Ash, Kent St., Merkel, says: "I gave Doan's Kidney Pills to a younger member of my family not long ago and there has been no complaint since. The patient was never strong and healthy and always suffered from a bad back. The kidneys were weak and acted irregularly. Four boxes of Doan's Kidney Pills cured all trouble."

Price 50c. at all dealers. Don't simply ask for a kidney remedy—get Doan's Kidney Pills—the same that Mrs. Ash recommends. Foster-Milburn Co., Props., Buffalo, N. Y. adv

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.



IT'S PLEASING TO A MAN

when he looks in the mirror and sees the refined effect of faultlessly laundered linen, such as one always gets from the Sweetwater laundry. We pride ourselves on our peerless laundry work, and challenge the world to produce a more beautiful color or artistic finish than we put upon fine linen shirts, collars and cuffs.

SWEETWATER STEAM LAUNDRY
M. B. BELL, Agent, Merkel.
Phone No. 133

A LAND BARGAIN

Three hundred acres good Merkel country farm land, 150 in cultivation and 150 in pasture land. Will exchange for smaller place. Above mentioned land has good three room house and is well watered. See H. L. Easterwood at Merkel Mail office.

W. O. W.

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

W. M. Elliott, C. C. S. Hamilton, Clerk

Means Business.

It begins to look at last, as if the farmers are to organize themselves, along with the business people of the cities and towns, into effective societies for the marketing of their products, as well as for other useful purposes.

A county organization made up of town and country people, with a paid secretary, and auxiliary neighborhood societies, whose secretaries shall be assistants to the county secretary, is a good formation.

Through the neighborhood secretaries, the county secretary may know what every farmer in the county has for sale and through the county secretary, the various agencies seeking to help the farmers with their marketing, may secure this information.

Without such organization, co-operative marketing is impossible. And without co-operation to sell, the individual producer, left to his own initiative, is helpless. So big a question indeed is that of marketing that it seems these country organizations will require federation under general management.

The market question is so big too, that a union of town and country people seems imperative to insure success. Reminds that, during the last 18 years, I have assisted in the organization of a great many growing and ship-

ping associations in East Texas, and my observation has been that they have been successful in about the ratio that the town and country people have been associated together in their conduct.

I have never seen a time, moreover, when the town people showed so much disposition to be friendly and helpful to the farmer folk. It is also gratifying to note that this tendency appears to be more and more appreciated by the country people.

R. R. Claridge,
Agricultural Agt., T. & P. Ry. Co.
Longview, Texas.

EXIT CALOMEL

No More Nasty, Disagreeable Effects.

LIV-VER-LAX is now rapidly taking the place of calomel everywhere. It is just as effective, cleansing the system thoroughly of bile, toning up the liver; and making that sluggish feeling disappear like magic. Yet it is pleasant to take, and has none of the disagreeable after effects that makes us dread calomel so much.

Feel fine all the time. Take LIV-VER-LAX regularly and health becomes a habit.

GUARANTEE. Every genuine bottle bears the likeness of L. K. Grigsby, and if it does not give satisfaction your money will be returned. For sale in the big 60c and \$1 bottles at Mrs. E. M. Rust's Drug Store. adv

SHILOH

Rev. W. M. Green preached at Shiloh Saturday.

Rev. Pope and Prof. Stevens of Abilene attended services at Shiloh Saturday.

Mrs. McRunnels returned home Saturday night after a two weeks' visit with her daughter and other relatives. She was accompanied home by Uncle Terrell Winters.

Rev. W. A. Scott of Trent attended services at Shiloh Saturday.

Singing was well attended Sunday afternoon.

A number of Noodle young people attended singing here Sunday.

Rev. A. L. Jobe of Merkel spent Thursday night with Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Beavers.

Miss Gladys Mangum of Trent is visiting Mr. and Mrs. Bennett. Miss Edith Mayberry is teaching a music class in this community.

Mrs. J. H. Grayson and daughter, Veinnie, and Mrs. Mae Seago were shopping in Merkel Tuesday.

Mrs. Barnes returned home Sunday from a visit to her daughter, Mrs. Chas. Williams, near Anson.

Mr. and Mrs. Beavers and daughter, Nina, were shopping in Merkel one day last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Grayson were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Bennett Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Winters were visiting Mrs. Pheobe Green Sunday.

Rev. W. K. Horn filled his appointment at Shiloh Saturday night and Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Woods were visiting Mrs. Frank Hale Sunday.

Cutting grain and chopping cotton is the order of the day out this way.

Miss Ruth Pomroy from near Sweetwater creek was visiting Miss Nina Beavers Sunday.

HOGS WANTED. Bond & Edwards.

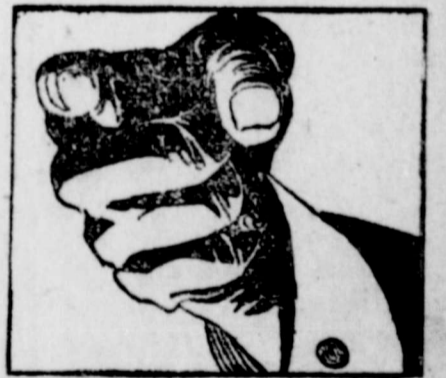
Before you buy your furniture see us. The Home Furniture Co.

Phone 179 for Coon's Sanitary Bread. Fresh every day. E. L. Rogers Grocery.

Rev. W. M. Greene missionary of the Sweetwater Baptist Association was here Sunday visiting Rev. L. B. Owen.

Indigestion and Constipation.

"About five years ago I began taking Chamberlain's Tablets after suffering from indigestion and constipation for years without finding anything to relieve me. Chamberlain's Tablets helped me at once and by using them for several weeks I was cured of the complaint," writes Mrs. Mary E. McMullen, Phelps, N. Y. For sale by all dealers.



I Want You to Understand

that by buying your groceries from us, you are getting absolutely the best VALUE for the money to be obtained anywhere.

On the basis of RIGHT QUALITY goods we invite the keenest comparison.

E. L. ROGERS
GROCERY