

THE MERKEL MAIL

Vol. 39—No. 35.

MERKEL, TEXAS, FRIDAY,

DECEMBER 9, 1927.

5c PER COPY

School Report of Past Six Weeks

This issue of the Merkel Mail carries the summary of the reports of the schools to the parents for the second six weeks term of the present school year. I want to call your attention to this report.

1st. The entire school system is working at a very efficient rate. The pupils are doing well. This is shown in the report of 89 per cent, making the honor roll. That means that this 30 per cent of Primary, Grammar and High School Students, were neither absent nor tardy, were not failing in any subject and averaged 90 per cent in their work, attendance, etc., during the term.

2nd. The work is not being done by a few. As is shown by the report that 89 per cent of the seniors are making all their work, 84 per cent of the juniors making passing grades 88 per cent sophomores and 92 per cent of the freshmen passing in the required subjects. The Senior Class leads in points of highest class average and highest in department. The Classes averaging as follows:

Seniors 90, Juniors 88, Sophomores 88, Freshmen 86. In department the classes averages are: Seniors 91, Juniors, 88, Sophomores 89, Freshmen 86.

3rd. The students who are failing in their work make up the major portion of the Stay-in Squad. Only the exceptional student has poor department grades and good class grades, and you can easily see why. He loafs and disturbs. He doesn't get his lessons. He gets demerits for disturbing and low grades because he can't do his work.

I am having the report printed just as I read it to the High School. Possibly some patron will find out something from this that he didn't get from his child's card. We want to co-operate with the parents in getting results. This list is not published to embarrass any one but to cultivate a desire on the part of all concerned to make the Honor Roll and keep off the other list. What do you say, Patrons? Where do you want your boys and girls?

I would certainly like to see the percentage of those making the Honor Roll continue to rise and percentage of those failing drop to zero. It can be done. Help us help your boy and girl by seeing that they use some of their spare time at home in studying. Keep them home at nights more. They will appreciate it sometime. You, Patrons may not like it because this is not in the paper, now but you will get right sometime.

The Grammar School Report is very much like the High School Report. 30 per cent making the Honor Roll and other figures close to the record of the High School.

Let's keep the good work going. Irvin L. Jackson.

HONOR-ROLL

Students getting RED Report Cards.

George West, Max Roberts, F. J. McDonald, Leon McDonald, Horton Williams, Vivian Berger, Elsie Richie Baylor Amason, J. E. Boaz, Weldon Coats, Morris Smith, Ruby Stevenson, Mary Click, Phala Diltz, Ola Smith, Hollis Irwin, Clark Mundy.

Stay-in-Squad, Poor Department. George West, Rex Roberts, F. J. McDonald, Morris Smith, E. L. Turner, Watts, James Collum, Gladys Norma Shannon, Phala Diltz.

DEPARTMENT AVERAGES

Seniors 91, Juniors 88, Sophomores 89, Freshmen 86.

CLASS GRADES AVERAGES

Seniors 90, Juniors 88, Sophomores 88, Freshmen 86.

HONOR ROLL—HIGH SCHOOL

Seniors

Ruby Jo Higgins 97, Sterling Sheppard 97, Iris Garrett 96, Nola Neill 94, Lina Parrack 94, Erma J. Wilson 94, Irene Perry 92, Fred Yandell 92, Burnis Tucker 92, Victor Smith 92, Teibert Proctor 92, Norn Foster 91, Marjorie Bradley 90, Una Belle Provine 90.

Juniors

Veima Walker 93, Ruby Patton 91, R. E. Cole 91, Robert Riney 90, Helen McCormick 90.

OPENS NEW VARIETY STORE HERE THIS WEEK

Mr. J. A. Sears, recently of Sherman and Dallas has leased the second building from the corner in the Mellinger Block, and is this week opening a new and up-to-date stock of Variety goods. He expects to open his doors for business about December 15th. Read his announcement in this paper.

He has moved here with his family and states that he expects to make our city his future home. He is related to the Sears of this city, who are among the pioneer and best citizens.

We join the entire town in extending to him a hearty welcome.

| | |
|----------------------|----|
| Roy Kelsoe | 92 |
| Sophomores | |
| Frances Frederickson | 98 |
| Nina Vantrees | 97 |
| Vernie Derrick | 96 |
| J. T. Darsey | 94 |
| Helen Compton | 93 |
| Missie Dye | 91 |
| Eleanor May Hamilton | 91 |
| Freshmen | |
| Elvis Richardson | 97 |
| Alvin Parrack | 95 |
| Jesse Higgins | 95 |
| Thelma McAnich | 93 |
| Tritt Meeks | 92 |
| Eris Ash | 90 |
| Harold Boney | 90 |
| Maurice Frederickson | 90 |
| Lee Tucker | 90 |
| Velma Lee Holden | 90 |
| Mattilou Largent | 90 |
| Elsie Lasater | 90 |
| Norma Patton | 90 |
| Mabel Pilcher | 90 |

GRAMMAR SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

7th Grade, Mrs. Sublett
Ross Ferrier 97, Katharyn Duff 96, Mary Elizabeth Grimes 95, Ida Mae Derstine 93, Willie Evelyn Boaz, 90.

7th Grade, Mr. Duke
Woodrow Wilson 95, Lela Patterson 94, Hazel Leslie 93, Himalaya Swafford 93, Isadore Mellinger, 92, Ruby Lee Slater 92, Terrel Mashburn 90, Kathleen Mashburn 91.

6th Grade, Miss Martin
Nell Hughes, 95, Opal Huskey 95, Francis Marie Church 94, Imogene Middleton 94, Thelma Leach 91, Margaret Miller 91, Duncan Briggs 90, Margaret Canon 90, Voncile Gilbert 90.

6th Grade, Miss Rodden
Florene Rider 93, Joyce Wheeler 92, Jack Tucker 92, Roy Robins 91, Mardell Shouse 91, H. C. Toombs 91, Howard Stanley 90, Fay Vantrees 91.

5th Grade, Miss Campbell
Bessylea Church 94, Waldeline Huskey 94, Wilma Gardener 94, Hail Dersdine 92, La Verne Holden 92, Rogene Dye 92, Francis Adcock 92, Bertie Mae Leslie 91, Wanda Hunter 91, Harry Boaz 90, Iris Copeland 90, Lillian Floyd 90.

5th Grade, Miss Altman
Julia Proctor 95, Mable Morton 94, Lois Whiteley 93, Caribel Mansfield 91, Sarah Sheppard 90.

4th Grade, Mrs. Cookston
Mary Grace Dunn 93, Elizabeth Duff 93, Jack Lowe 92, Deverle Brown 90.

4th Grade, Miss Guitar
Ethelda Tucker 95, Fern Toombs 93, Wanda Owen, 93, Ben Sublett 93, Modyne Sheppard 92, A. C. Sears 91, Billie Robbins, 91, J. V. Patterson 91, Jackie Slater 90.

3rd Grade, Miss Coates
Jaunita Huskey 93, Preston Chaney 93, Elizabeth Holloway 92, Ora Derrick 92, Horace Boney 92, Don Brown 92, Jack Davis 90.

3rd Grade, Miss Heize
Louise Toombs 95, Mollie Touchstone 94, Armie Love Toombs 93, Harold Morgan 93, Thelma Patterson 92, Murry Toombs 92, Estelle McGrew 90, Norman King 90.

2nd Grade, Miss Pogue
Lawrence Thornton 92, Sylvan Mellinger 91, Jess Skidmore 91, Geraldine Taylor 91, Morris Wozencraft 91, Vernon Mansfield 90.

2nd Grade, Miss West
Doris Jackson 95, Robert Grimes, 95, Davis Beasley 94, P. A. Diltz 94, Murphy Dye 94, La Verne Hughes 94, Betty Lou Grimes 94, Elma Mae Gamble 93, Eteyl Church 92, Vernelle Bland 92, Juanita Dunn 90, Judson Lloyd 91.

High First, Mrs. Teaff
Hollis Perry 93, Clyde Sears Jr. 91.

Low First, Mrs. Sadler
Dick West 96, Billie Kelly, 96, Dorothy Brown 94, Clayton Miller Leach 94, Margaret Dunn 93, Mary Joe Garland 93, A. D. Harmon, Jr. 92, Thomas Baarden 91, A. D. Trowell 91.

Record Liquor Haul Made in Jones Co.

What is declared to be the largest haul of illicit liquor ever made in the vicinity of Abilene was brought into Anson late Saturday by Sheriff Tom Hudson of Jones county and Deputies Sanders and Adams. The raid was made on a large bootleg distillery in the "shinners" near Nugent late Friday evening when two men came to work at the still and were arrested by the officers who were ambushed nearby.

Sheriff H. T. O'Bar of Taylor county declared he believed much of the bootleg whiskey that has been reaching Abilene recently was coming from this still.

In addition to the two prisoners the Jones county officers confiscated 105 gallons of whiskey, which was stored in five, ten and fifteen gallon tanks. They took fourteen barrels of mash and two truckloads of apparatus.

The operators had equipped themselves for a large volume of business and had a well drilled beside the cooking apparatus, equipped with a pump which brought a large quantity of fine water.

The still was discovered at 9 o'clock Friday morning. Deputy Sanders said last night over long distance telephone. The three officers waited until dark, when two men came to work at the still, when the raid was made. —Abilene Reporter.

"Little Sisters" Guests at Tea

Doris Durham and Ada Mears were guests of their "big sisters" Mary Brown and Nedra Hand at a tea given in room 26, Shadow Lawn.

The future of the "little sisters" was revealed with tea leaves by Mary Brown. Miss Durham was presented with a scarf, and Miss Mears with a boudoir pillow.—C. I. A. Lass-O

BRACKEEN-HUGHES CHEVROLET CO. ADDS WRECKER

Always maintaining a policy of "Quick and Dependable Service" the Brackeen-Hughes Chevrolet Company has recently added equipment to their shop facilities which will enable them to fulfill their motto in even better form. The new equipment is a modern wrecker, built on a new Chevrolet truck equipped with a late type Weaver Crane for hoisting disabled autos and bringing them to the repair shop. Mr. Brackeen, a member of the firm, stated that it had been tried out to their satisfaction, and was ready for service, day or night.

How do you like our paved streets anyway? Haven't heard a soul say they would like to do away with them. Likewise our sewer system. Everyone likes that too. And our natural gas system, it's mighty fine too. All of these cost money. Sure they do. But most anything worthwhile costs money. But what is money for anyway? It's certain we can't take any of it with us when we pass on.

The Wide Circulation of the Mail

The Merkel Mail has always had a circulation throughout the trade territory of the city that the management was proud of; one that in truth was as good as the best of weekly newspapers of the country. And now, the circulation has been almost doubled that of any former date.

There are many reasons why a news paper should have a wide circulation; first, its advertisers are entitled to same when they spend their money for advertising, desiring to reach the greater part of the citizenship of the trade territory. They had naturally rather pay more for advertising in a paper that reaches all the people than one that reaches only a third or half.

Advertising rates in the Mail have been less, according to circulation than in most weekly papers for years, and now that we have as large, if not larger circulation than in most weekly newspapers in a town this size or even larger, we expect to make only a slight increase in our advertising rates, an advance that should have been made years ago.

To obtain the present wide circulation, covering the entire territory, the Mail has spent more than \$2,000, and already our advertising has greatly increased. Modern and successful business men consider newspaper advertising the best and most effective method of placing before the public their wares and products, and are naturally increasing the space they use in this paper. For this, the management hastens to express our sincere thanks. Since our recent subscription campaign there is no need for any merchant to go to the expense of mailing out circulars and other literature to reach the people. All they have to do is place an advertisement in the Mail, which every one knows is much more effective.

MR. O. R. DYE BUILDING NEW HOME

The construction of a beautiful new five-room bungalow home on Oak Street for Mr. and Mrs. O. R. Dye is well under way, and will be completed in the near future. All modern conveniences and new built-in features will be incorporated in the new home, which will make it one of the most modern and convenient in our city.

Mr. Dye, the very clever and accomplished manager for Burton Lingo Company built a new home last year, and recently sold it to Mr. Byers Petty, of the Petty and Buford barber shop.

CARD OF THANKS

I take this method to thank every one who helped me in any way in the race to win the automobile in the contest for subscriptions to the Merkel Mail. I am grateful to one and all. Mae Melton.

Boy, howdy, this is the best town in the best and biggest state in the best United States of America. If we knew of a better town than this, we would prepare now to move.

BUYS PARDNER'S INTEREST IN GROCERY BUSINESS

Mr. J. H. McDonald we are informed, has this week, purchased the interest of his partner, Mr. L. A. Watts in the McDonald and Watts Grocery business.

For the past several years this firm has been doing business on Kent Street, but this week moved same to the Telford Building on Front Street. Read their announcement in this paper.

66th Birthday Celebrated By Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Grayson

On Sunday, December 4th, the children of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Grayson surprised them with a birthday dinner.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Grayson will be 66 years of age on the 9th of December.

They were not expecting anyone and were surprised when the children and friends began to arrive, each bringing some remembrance and a box of good things to eat.

39 people were present and enjoyed the happy occasion and wished this delightful old couple many more happy birthdays.

The day was also celebrated as Mrs. R. W. Conders birthday, she being 45 years of age, and Mr. Wallace Ferguson, he being 14 years of age. The birthday of all four people happen to be on the 9th of December, and it has been the custom of Mrs. Conders and Mrs. Grayson to spend their birthdays together for some years.

Those present on those enjoyable occasion were:

Mr. H. R. Grayson and three children, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Grayson and four children, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Seago and three children, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Greene, Mr. and Mrs. Nig Ferguson and three children of Anson, Mrs. Phoebe Greene, Miss Maude Greene, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Hardie, Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Conder of Merkel, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Shouse and two children near Merkel, Mr. and Mrs. S. L. Grayson, and three children near Merkel and Miss Davis of Merkel.

Choral Club Invited To Sing at McMurray College Dec. 16th

Miss Christine Collins, director of the High School Choral Club is in receipt of an invitation from the Dean of Fine Arts at McMurray College, asking her to bring the club over and sing at the Chapel Hour on Friday the 16th.

THURSDAY CLUB

Mrs. John West was a most gracious hostess to the Thursday Club Members last week in her lovely new home on Oak Street.

Gorgeous roses were in profusion as the one decoration of the rooms where games of progressive 42 made the afternoon hours pass all too quickly for the guests.

As a final hospitality Mrs. West served a delicious fruit cake with coffee to Mesdames Gardner, Russell, Golliday, Bean, Anderson, Diltz, R. I. Grimes, Ferrier, Dee Grimes, Tom Largent, Gamble, W. J. Largent, T. I. Grimes, Hicks, Jones, Scott, Jim West McFarland and Warren.

BIBLE STUDY MEETING

"Has God's Spirit a Place in My Heart?"

Leader—Mrs. J. A. Collum.

Introduction by Leader.

1. "The Holy Spirit Our Helper."—Mrs. Luke Huddleston.

2. "Power Given to the Apostles."—Mrs. R. L. Griffin.

3. "The Holy Spirit and the Scriptures."—Mr. J. N. Teaff.

4. "The Dispensation of the Spirit."—Mrs. A. J. Hartley.

5. "Let God's Spirit Fill My Life."—Mrs. A. M. Daugherty.

6. "Let Us Give Him Our Lives."—T. R. Lassiter.

Be sure to see Bargains never heard of before in Merkel.

Brown Dry Goods Company

Filling Stations Must Pay Back Tax on Gasoline

Austin, Dec 8—Retail filling stations over all Texas were notified today by Assistant Attorney General Tilley that they must pay a tax of one cent per gallon gasoline handled in about 10 months of 1923, under a former tax act, having been repealed and now inoperative.

Mr. Tilley said the supreme court recently in upholding constitutionality of the 1923 one cent gasoline act, ruled by inference that not only wholesalers, but retailers and others who handled to taxed article were liable for payment.

The attorney general's department though "it wishes to work no hardship on any person," will bring suits if its demands are not granted, Tilley advised.

T. C. U. Choral Club Makes Initial Appearance Dec. 5th

Fort Worth, Dec 5—The Texas Christian University Choral Club made its initial appearance yesterday afternoon in a concert which constituted the first of a series of "Twilight Musicals."

Charles M. Largent, Merkel is a member of the Choral Club. This is the first year that T. C. U. has had such an organization. Membership is limited to those who have passed competitive vocal tests.

The Choral Club is directed by Prof. Paul Klingstedt, head of the department of voice at T. C. U.

CAR STEERS BRING GOOD PRICE TO LOCAL RANCHER

Mr. J. S. Swann, president of the Farmers State Bank of this city, and who for many years has owned and operated a splendid ranch over on Sweetwater west of the city; raising and breeding fine White-Faced cattle, shipped this week to the Fort Worth market a car of steers, which average him better than \$75.00 per head.

Mr. Swann stated that the steers in question had never been fed grain, and yet they weighed more and brought more money than the market reports gave on the sale of some in some of the Northern states that had been grain fed.

GINNING NOTICE

Beginning next week, all gins in Merkel will run on Saturdays each week ONLY, until further notice.

Signed,
BUREAU GIN
PLANTERS GIN
SAM SWANN GIN
F. P. HAMM GIN
GUITAR GIN

CARD OF THANKS

I take this means of expressing my sincere thanks to my friends and everyone, who in any manner helped me in the recent Merkel Mail subscription contest. On account of illness, I was unable to give much attention to same for about half the time, but am indeed grateful to everyone who kindly helped in the contest.

Most respectfully,
Mrs. M. D. Fowler 814

Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Elliott and son, Glenn, returned Wednesday from Cross Plains, where they had been called on account of the serious illness and final death of Mrs. Elliott's father, Mr. Frank Harlow, which occurred Tuesday. Mr. Harlow was one of the best known and best citizens of that city; being one of the pioneer and most substantial citizens there. We feel Mr. and Mrs. Elliott's many friends are extending to them our deepest sympathy.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday School at 10 a. m. Let's have a good attendance on time the last few Sundays of this year and grow in the beginning of the New Year that will soon be here.

W. M. Elliott, Superintendent.

Preaching Services at 11 a. m. p. m. C. E. at 6:15.

R. A. Walker, Pastor.



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BUSINESS IS SENSITIVE

It will not go where it is not invited and will not stay where it is not well treated.

We invite your business promising service and safety

THE FARMERS STATE BANK Merkel, Texas

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| J. S. Swann, President | Herbert Patterson, Assistant Cashier |
| R. O. Anderson, V. Pres. | |
| J. C. Mason, V. Pres. | |
| W. L. Diltz, Cashier | Dallas Scarbrough |
| | David Hendricks |

Curwood Tale Is Big Movie

Another thrilling and high geared story from the pen of James Oliver Curwood has been made for motion pictures in "Prisoners of the Storm" the Universal-Jewel which opens Wednesday and Thursday at the Queen Theatre here for an engagement of 2 days.

With millions of readers and movie fans alike, the name of Curwood signifies a thrilling story of the primitive, with lots of red-blooded men, suspense and gripping action.

Added to this promising beginning is the fact that the virile House Peters is the star of the picture. The result is a picture unsurpassed in genuine entertainment.

Criminals are tracked through blizzards by dauntless Northwest Mounted Police; heroes and heroines are trapped by avalanches and imperilled in snowslides; and the whole picture is a rapidly moving succession of thrills bound together with an absorbing and novel plot.

A gigantic snowslide which wrecks a cabin and traps its inmates like flies in a spider's web is the big scene of the picture. It has been ingeniously staged, and carries a menace so realistic that one feels as though he, too, were caught in that tiny cabin.

House Peters is ideal as the rugged hero of the Curwood story, and is the same dashing, dominant personality which has made him one of the screen's foremost actors. Peggy Montgomery is the charming heroine and shows no ordinary ability as an actress.

Walter McGrail, Harry Tedd, Clark Comstock, Fred DeSilver, Lillian Nicholson and others give convincing performances in the supporting roles. Lynn Reynolds directed the picture.

FRUIT CAKE—The essence of the Christmas Dinner, with all the "extras" that give it that wonderful flavor. All sizes, 70c per pound. Let us put yours away now. The Quality Bakery. 9-1t.

Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Rainbolt spent last Sunday in Hermleigh, as guests of their daughter, Miss Hazel Lee, who is teaching in the Hermleigh schools.

BRINGS 1,000 BIRD SPECIMENS TO U. S.

Professor Reports Many Hitherto Unknown Varieties.

Boston.—The story of one of the most enterprising explorations in the interest of science is being compiled in the report of Prof. Joseph F. Rock of Harvard university, who recently returned from a three-year exploration in the wilds of Tibetan highlands, bordering on China. The expedition was sponsored by the Arnold arboretum and the Harvard university botanical and zoological departments.

Many difficulties had to be overcome during the trip, according to Professor Rock's report. All the marching was done, in the first place, at high altitudes, seldom less than 15,000 feet, with the atmosphere so rarefied that breathing was rendered difficult. Bitter cold in the high altitudes contrasted sharply with the heat encountered on other marches through sun-stricken desert lands.

Through snow and ice, wind and sleet, mud and sand the expedition finally won, and has brought to the arboretum and the Harvard museums a great wealth of scientific data.

Though the data and specimens collected have not yet been completely classified, there is no doubt the trip was worth while, according to the report of Professor Rock. The new collection consists of some 30,000 sheets of plants, several hundred packages containing seeds of rare plants, samples of trees and wood found in Tibet, 1,000 bird specimens, almost a thousand valuable photographs, besides extensive data on scientific matters.

Many rare and even some almost extinct birds are in the collection. Among these are specimens of the bearded eagle, having a wing spread of over ten feet; Kolonor cranes, black neck cranes, several hitherto unknown species of pheasants, bar neck geese, white ibis, herons, cormorants, blue tail bush robins, snow cocks, ravens and snipe. Fully 300 different species of birds are to be found in the collection, according to an estimate of Doctor Outram Bangs, now engaged in a final classification.

The expedition started in 1924. Prof. Charles Sprague Sargent, director of the arboretum, who died in Boston while the expedition was still in China, was partly responsible for the expedition, and the expenses were borne entirely by the arboretum authorities.

Loss in Attendance for Prussian Schools

Berlin.—There has been a marked decline in the number of children attending the public schools of Prussia. While in 1921, when a school census was last taken, the number of pupils was 5,461,594, figures recently published by the Prussian ministry of education show that there are only 4,133,685 in attendance now.

This decline of more than 24 per cent is explained as being due to the great retrogression in the birth rate during and immediately following the war.

Fortunately the number of teachers has declined by only 4.34 per cent. This means that the classes have become somewhat smaller and consequently more attention can be given to each pupil. While in 1921 each teacher had on an average 47 pupils to look after, he is now responsible for only 38.

To Cut America's Sugar Bill Over 200 Million

New York.—The \$232,000,000 which America spends annually for sugar will be kept at home within a few years hence. American farmers will be growing that amount of sugar along with other crops if the plan now being worked out by the bureau of standards is successful.

The experiment is largely based upon growing the wild artichokes, says Farm and Fireside. Artichokes, unlike sugar beets, need little cultivation and produce their own seed, whereas sugar beet seed has to be imported from Europe.

From the artichoke comes a substance called levulose, 73 per cent sweeter than cane sugar. Chemically it gives the same sweetness as fresh honey.

Now Take It Easy

Mecca, Arabia.—Mohammedans no longer approach Mecca weary and footsore. Indians, Turks and Egyptians now make the pilgrimage in their own motor cars.

His Harem to Motor With King of Arabia

London.—A harem on wheels, large enough to accommodate 24 wives, has been built here for the king of Arabia.

The ambulatory seraglio consists of two large and luxurious motor cars, each big enough for a dozen of the king's partners in matrimony. The automobiles were ordered so the king can take some of his spouses along on his frequent long trips through desert sections of his kingdom.

As other men are not allowed to gaze on the king's wives, the cars have no windows, and light and air are admitted through the tops.

NEW ACCOUNTS

We can trace a large share of the 'new' accounts on our ledgers to the recommendations of the 'old'

We appreciate this source of new business.

"The Old Reliable."

FARMERS & MERCHANTS NAT'L BANK Merkel, Texas



GINNING NOTICE

Beginning next week, all gins in Merkel will run on Saturdays of each week ONLY, until further notice.

Signed,

BUREAU GIN
PLANTERS GIN
SAM SWANN GIN
F. P. HAMM GIN
GUITAR GIN

Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Barker, splendid and well-known citizens of Route 4 returned last week from a visit to their son, Dr. Barker, at Honey Grove Texas.

Fixtures For Sale—Merchants Notice—Up-to-date store fixtures at a big saving. Brown Dry Goods Company.

McDonald & Watts Grocery Have Moved On Front Street In Telford Building

In the meantime J. H. McDonald has bought from L. A. Watts his interest in said stock of groceries, fixtures and all outstanding accounts thus making the present firm name J. H. McDonald Grocery. Saturday, Dec. 10th will be our feature opening day. Sandwiches and Coffee will be served to the public during the entire day.

To our friends and customers we will assure you that our prices will be right. One price, our motto, to all means the lowest price to you. We have the most complete line of groceries that money will buy and we are better prepared to give you better service in the future than we have in the past.

Don't forget we have plenty good parking space the back of the store, making it handy to unload your cream and eggs and load your groceries also.

J. H. McDONALD GROCERY

DON'T

Call that old battery of yours such hard names when you have to crank "Lizzie" these cold morning.

We guarantee one year of freedom from battery trouble when we install a

Genuine Ford 13-Plate Battery

\$10.00

AND YOUR OLD BATTERY

MERKEL MOTOR COMPANY

Phone 84

Merkel

Texas

SATURDAY MORNING!

At 10 O'Clock

10c

36 In. Heavy Outing
Light and Dark Patterns
BE SURE TO BE AT THIS
STORE SATURDAY!

BROWN'S Quit Business Sale

MONDAY MORNING

AT 9:30 O'Clock.

PETER PAN GINGHAM

10c Yard

Don't Miss This!

A COMPLETE CLOSE-OUT OF EVERY ITEM IN THE HOUSE

The Crowds have come and are continuing to come. It will be a matter of only a short time until our store will be bare to the walls. Because everyone realized when we announced we were quitting business, it meant dollars saved for them and were not afraid to buy as we have the reputation of selling only quality goods. Our Stocks are broken in some lines but you may find just your needs at our store. Come make a good saving on Xmas Presents you will buy.

WE HAVE SLAUGHTERED THE PRICES AND ARE SELLING OUT TO THE BARE WALLS!

Brown Dry Goods Co.



It's none too early for Christmas sittings—you have more leisure—your portraits will be ready for early mailing. It's time now to think of a very personal gift for those you love. There's nothing so distinctive as your portrait.

RODDEN STUDIO

"PHOTOGRAPHS TELL THE STORY"

SPECIAL BARGAIN OFFER

The Abilene Morning News

Published By The Reporter Publishing Co.

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LESS THAN ONE CENT AND A HALF PER DAY

"WEST TEXAS' OWN NEWSPAPER"

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- Associated Press—Day and Night Leased Wires.
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- 8 Pages of Comics ON Sunday.
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This \$4.70 Offer Expires December 31st, 1927

SUBSCRIPTIONS ACCEPTED AT THIS OFFICE

SPECIAL CLUBBING OFFER

DIAMETER OF COMET ONLY 2 OR 3 MILES

Pons Winnecke, Recent Visitor, Not Very Large.

Flagstaff, Ariz.—Despite the excitement it occasioned last summer when it came within 4,000,000 miles of the earth—closer than any previous comet—the Pons Winnecke comet had the distinction of possessing the smallest nucleus that has ever been observed in such a body. Probably it was not more than two or three miles in diameter, Dr. V. M. Slipher, director of the Lowell observatory here, has announced.

Doctor Slipher took advantage of the close visit of Pons Winnecke to watch it carefully with the observatory's big refracting telescope, with a lens two feet in diameter. He had, he says, the best opportunity in years to make a measurement of the size of a comet's nucleus, the center which is supposed to supply the rest of its material. On most occasions, he says, "the nucleus of the comet was found to be perfectly stellar, i. e., very small and sharp." At such times "it was possible to distinguish the nucleus from stars only by its motion."

Compared With Stars.

Even through the highest power telescope a star appears as a point of light. First Doctor Slipher compared the cometary nucleus with nearby stars. Then he took stars of similar brightness in another part of the heavens, in the region of the planet Jupiter and compared them with the large moons of that planet. As the size and distance of the Jovian moons are known, it was thus possible to estimate the size of the nucleus. Its distance from the earth was also known, and thus it was possible to get a rough approximation of its diameter. This, he found, was not more than two or three miles.

Other studies of the comet were made by Doctor Slipher with the aid of a spectroscope attached to the big telescope. In this way, by analyzing its light, he found several very peculiar features. It has been supposed that comets are excited to great activity as they get near the sun, but the studies of Doctor Slipher of Pons Winnecke as well as other comets seem to contradict these views.

Spectrum Is Like Sun's.

The spectrum showed very strongly the same dark bands that are revealed in the spectrum of the sun. This shows that the comet's light consisted largely of reflected sunlight. Also, in the band of spectrum there appeared rather weakly the bands that are associated with cometary light. A spray of light which projected from the nucleus toward the sun gave off more light of its own than any other part of the comet.

Besides having its activity reduced by approach to the sun, Doctor Slipher believes that its close approach to the earth may have also reduced the comet's light. In 1910, he said, it was found that the light emissions from Halley's comet were reduced as it approached the earth, and then became more intense as it drew away. Previously it has been supposed that the earth has little influence on the activity of comets coming near it. If this is the case, it would account for the fact that Pons Winnecke, despite its close approach to the earth, was much fainter than some astronomers had anticipated.

Pine Dresser Finally Got Back to America

There is no telling how much an antique piece may travel before it comes to rest in the hands of an appreciative collector or a museum. Recently a pine dresser was imported from England with some English furniture. The dresser stuck out like a sore thumb among the English pieces, and the dealer quickly spotted it. The wood, the hardware, the workmanship, the style, all proclaimed it American. A wealthy collector purchased it and then set out to find how the dresser had ever strayed from the shores of America. He discovered, after lengthy correspondence, that an American family had gone to England about 1875, taking considerable furniture with them, among which were several pieces which had been handed down from generation to generation, and the pine dresser was one of those pieces. Now it has an honored place in the collection, and may finally be returned to the descendants of the original owners, who are residing in a Middle Western city.—From the Antiquarian.

Dogs Lived Eight Days Without Food or Water

The tenacity of animal life is an interesting subject if it is tested by accident and not by design; and it has had a test by accident in Wales.

Two dogs, a sheep-dog and a spaniel, which had succumbed to the temptation of rabbit hunting, were missed for nearly nine days.

Then a little girl, hearing curious sounds underground in a lonely place, brought a party of rescuers to the spot, and the dogs were dug out of a rabbit hole from which they had been unable to extricate themselves.

They must have been without food and water for eight and a half days, yet they seemed little the worse.

Evidently the dog has lost, if it ever had, the instinct of burrowing toward the open air, which the underground animal possesses.

Many Tomato Varieties

The ground cherry, musk tomato, strawberry tomato or winter cherry grows wild in the Mississippi valley and in other parts of the world and is a member of the tomato family. It is known as the blue tomato by truck gardeners. It grows in a small husk which if left on will preserve the tomato through the winter. Although this tiny vegetable, which is only a little larger than a small cherry, may be eaten raw, it is at its best when preserved. This is only one of the fifty-odd varieties of tomatoes. There are red tomatoes, white tomatoes, blue tomatoes and yellow tomatoes of every imaginable size and shape. Because of their shapes, there are tomatoes that are known as the pear tomato, the peach tomato, the cherry tomato, the plum tomato, the grape tomato and the currant tomato.

Water Power Long in Use

The oldest water power site in America, more than 100 years old, is on the Piscataqua river at South Berwick, Maine. It was established on the site of the present Burlingame blanket mills in 1620 by Ferdinando Gorges, who obtained a grant from the English crown giving him the right to settle and develop the territory from sea to sea lying between forty-fifth and forty-eighth parallels north latitude. The grant, however, required him to develop water power, and accordingly he constructed a log dam, erected a grist mill and sent the mill to England as proof that the terms of the charter were being lived.

"My Best Girl" Coming to Palace

The Manager of the Palace Theater has not decided yet whether he is going to call the coming week "Laugh Week" or "Love Week" as his popular playhouse.

Mary Pickford in "My Best Girl" the feature picture, was directed by Sam Taylor, who is famous for the laughs he put into Harold Lloyd's productions; and the Pickford picture is said to team with delightful comedy.

On the other hand "My Best Girl" was written by Kathleen Norris, whose love stories are a delight to lovers of romance and who knows the heart of youth as few other American writers do.

"My Best Girl" is the story of a shop girl, Maggie Johnson, who through all the hard knocks she receives, still retains a belief in better things. She is an enigma to her own family, who cannot understand the idealism with which she paints out the shadows in their lives. At the store she meets a new employee, Joe Grant, with whom she falls in love.

She has no idea that he is the son of her employer. It is a marvelous romance of two youngsters walking headlong and blindfolded into the trap that Fate has set for them. Maggie has a sister whose friendship with a married man nearly wrecks the whole Johnson family and does play havoc with Maggie's own romance.

Charles Rogers plays the part of Joe Grant, and it is expected that this handsome youngster, last seen in "Wings" will soon be one of the most popular leading men on the screen.

The beautiful Carmelita Geraghty is cast for the part of Liz Johnson, hard-boiled sister of Maggie. Hobart Bosworth, the well-known character actor, is the wealthy owner of the big store and the father of the hero. In the several dramatic scenes he is called upon to play, his performance has received plaudits of all critics who have viewed the picture.

Lucien Littlefield is Maggie's Pa. Among other members of the cast are Avonnie Taylor, Sunshine Hart and Mack Swain, Charlie Chaplin's playmate in "The Gold Rush."

Be sure to see Bargains never heard of before in Merkel. Brown Dry Goods Company

GO TO CHURCH SUNDAY

IS IT A SQUARE DEAL
For you to neglect the church when you would not live in a community without the church? If the church is the backbone of any community; the center of all our best life, thought and development; the greatest builder of graves and public conscience; the soul's school for a character that will live through eternity; and the giver through its membership of more than 50 per cent. of all charity—is it a square deal for you to let others do all this for you—and carry your dead weight beside?

ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF A SQUARE DEAL

If so, come to Church and Sunday School next Sunday. No; you can't send a Proxy. Nobody can take your place. Nothing will substitute for your presence. Be with us next Sunday morning.

E. E. COX, S. S. Supt.

W. J. MAYHEW, PASTOR.

PENNANT SERVICE STATION

Under New Management

I wish to announce to my friends and the automobile owners that I have assumed the management of the Pennant Service Station on Front Street, formerly operated by Mr. Marvin Boney, and will appreciate a share of your business in this line.

COME TO SEE US FOR

GAS AND OILS

TIRE REPAIR

AND COURTEOUS SERVICE

S. A. (SID) COATS

How It Started

By JEAN NEWTON

"CAT O' NINE TAILS"

THE whole idea of corporal punishment is fast going into the discard. Yet we still hear children threatened, on occasions, with the "cat o' nine tails," for centuries the accepted medium of punishment wherever whipping was the order of the day. As late as the first half of the Nineteenth century, we are told, in our own navy, delinquent sailors were lashed to a gun and whipped with the cat o' nine tails. In the parlance of the sea, this form of chastisement was familiarly known as "Marrying the gunner's daughter." It was only in 1850, when congress abolished corporal punishment, that this practice ceased.

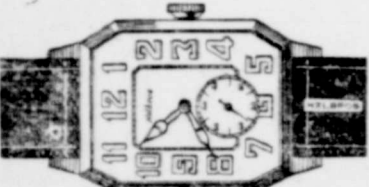
For the origin of the form of the "cat o' nine tails" itself, we must go back further to the days of the Inquisition, that prolific progenitor of methods of torture and abuse. In those days it was the conventional weapon of the jailer and the executioner, its strands numbering nine, because the number nine was credited with having supernatural powers in bringing about confessions and repentance of offenders!

Helbros Means Style in Watches

TODAY one's watch must not only keep good time, but it must also be up-to-date in appearance. Helbros Watches—nationally advertised—add to their long reputation for being excellent time-keepers and unusual smartness in case design. Let us show you the newest Helbros models.



\$30 No. 74351. 15 jewels, 14 k. white gold-filled, 3-piece case. Dial and case exquisitely engraved.



No. 49342. 15 jewels, 14 k. green gold-filled, 3-piece case. Luminous numerals and hands.

T. C. WILSON JEWELER

18 Chestnut St. Abilene, Tex.

THE MERKEL MAIL

Published on Friday Morning by The Merkel Mail Printing Co. Thos. Durham, Editor-Mgr.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Taylor and Jones counties \$1.50
Anywhere else \$2.00
IN ADVANCE

TELEPHONE No. 61

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

Had you ever thought about the many and wonderful improvements made in the growth and development in this city—your city? All of which go to make it a more desirable and happy place in which to reside. Let's begin now to think about making it a better place during 1928.

And while we are speaking about our wonderful city improvements we must not fail to mention that there has been some wonderful and valuable improvements made throughout the Merkel trade territory during the past two years in the way of good roads. In fact, we feel certain that we can safely say that there are more miles of good dirt roads leading to this city than are to be found leading to any town the size of Merkel. How did we get these roads? Through the efforts of the business men of this city working co-operatively together; with the Luncheon Club and Chamber of Commerce. The good roads have been worth the effort and expenditure. Let's keep these organizations going next year.

The time will come when gossipers, back-biters and long-tongued slanderers will be arrested along with common hi-jackers, tried and convicted. Gossip breaks hearts and condemns the slandered to endless suffering and woe. A gossip is to be more dreaded than a rattle snake or the poison of an asp. You may lock up your money and valuable jewels, but when you come under that "unruly member, full of deadly poison," as the Apostle James puts it, there is no escape. Shakespeare said, "He who steals my purse, steals trash, but he that steals my good name robs me of that which no thief enriches him, but makes me poor indeed."—Snyder Signal.

BUY YOUR APPLES NOW!

We have received our car of Colorado Apples, and they are going fast. If you want some of these apples better come in and get them at once, as we will not have another car this season.

We appreciate your patronage in the past, and urge you to come in and get some of these apples before they are all gone. DEAN "The Apple Man." 9-1t.

Be sure to see Bargains never heard of before in Merkel. Brown Dry Goods Company

ABROLHOS ISLANDS MENACE TO SHIPPING

Princess Mafalda Added to Long Toll of Wrecks.

Washington.—The Abrolhos, or Santa Barbara Islands, off the coast of central Brazil, near where the Italian liner Princess Mafalda recently went down in one of the worst marine disasters since the sinking of the Titanic, is the subject of the following bulletin from the Washington headquarters of the National Geographic society:

"The Abrolhos islands are the above-water apex of one of South America's 'Grand Banks,' says the bulletin. 'Off the coast of Brazil, south of Bahia and north of Rio de Janeiro, this great bank or underwater plateau stretches to sea for more than 100 miles. The Abrolhos islands are not the bank's only danger points. In many places it rises to within a fathom or two of the surface, and at some points rocks are just awash at low water. Many of these obstructions are of coral formation.

Pass Near Obstruction.

"One of the principal shipping lanes between Europe and South America, and the lane from North American ports to Brazil and Argentine, touch both at Pernambuco and Bahia and then skirt the coast southward to Rio de Janeiro. These ship routes pass just outside the Abrolhos islands and their clustering shoals. On Santa Barbara, chief of the islets, is a lighthouse to warn ships to keep to the eastward.

"Because these islets, rocks and reefs lie so close to frequented ship lanes, they have taken a heavy toll. Several of the more important shoals are named from ships that have met disaster on them, as La France shoal, on which the steamer La France went aground in 1884, and California shoal, struck by the ship California in 1891.

"The isles are approximately 30 miles off the nearest point of the mainland, Balea or Baleine point. The shoals and reefs stretch 12 or 15 miles farther seaward. Just as North American fishermen frequent the Newfoundland banks, so the Abrolhos bank draws the fishermen of Brazil. Scores of fishing boats are usually to be found near the islands, many of them from Port Seguro, 90 miles to the north. This little port was the landing place in 1500 of Cabral, on whose exploit hung the claim of Portugal to the great land that is now Brazil.

An Isolated Section.

"This has remained an isolated section of the Brazilian coast. The nearest town to the scene of the sinking of the Princess Mafalda is Caravelas, several miles up the river of the same name, and a few miles down the coast from Balea point. The population of the town is about 4,000. It has a short railway running inland to gold mines, but it is not connected with other coastal towns. The nearest sizable towns are Victoria, 200 miles to the south, and Bahia, 350 miles to the north."

Goose Bone Prophets Say

Winter Will Be Severe

Seattle, Wash.—The rush season for long-range weather forecasting by goose-bone prophets has arrived. According to a press clipping bureau here these predictions for the most part revel in forecasting a severe winter.

To date there have been 53 prognostications of winter weather made and each one is different in the silver foreboding. In sizing up the approaching winter one school holds it will be severe because the breast bones of geese are thick this fall; hunters, trappers, and northwest Indians base their predictions on antics of fur, woodland animals, trees, seeds and scarcity of bird life.

Many use the moon's phases of the almanac to forecast cold weeks. Not one, however, has alluded to sun spots on the weather's behavior.

Tiny Art Shop Built

as Unknown's Outlet

New York.—The way of the unknown artist and craftsman, always an arduous one, will be a little easier hereafter if the Little Terra cottage can aid him to find his public and the Little Terra cottage has been dedicated to do just that.

In its area of 10 by 14 feet in Washington Heights this little temple to the obscure artist will display all manner of art objects excepting mediocre work, say its proprietors, Miss Vivian Grey Barnard, daughter of George Grey Barnard, the sculptor, and Miss Harriet E. Knapp.

There will be shown and sold work by artists who cannot themselves dispose of their wares profitably. Later the founders hope to build a workshop adjoining the cottage where those so minded may come to paint and chisel.

Finished the Job

San Francisco.—Shortly after three men dressed in snailers' uniforms had beaten and robbed John Dale of \$350 six other men set on him and relieved him of his shoes and hat when they refused to believe he had already been robbed of his money.

Turk Cops Shave

Constantinople.—Whiskers and mustache are now taboo for Turk cops. But Zaro Agha, centenarian, bachelor and proud possessor of a luxurious growth, intends to resist the prefect's order, at least till he sees what happens on pay day.



PLAN YOUR CHRISTMAS DINNER EARLY

and be sure to get the "Pick of the Store"

FINE FRESH FOOD—every bite a real treat. The best of meats, vegetables and fruits. Typical quality offered at moderate prices.

We appreciate the nice business accorded us by our valuable friends and patrons during the short period since we opened, and if you have not given us a trial, we invite you to come to see us. We believe the satisfaction of our customers determines our success.

DRESSED TURKEYS and CHICKENS ORDER YOURS TODAY

Dunn Bros. Grocery & Market

PHONE 77

FRONT STREET

Fixtures For Sale—Merchants Notice—Up-to-date store fixtures at a big saving. Brown Dry Goods Company.

Try a Classified Ad in the Mail

Country Kid: "Beat it, the Bull's coming!"
City Kid: Aw, stand your ground. We ain't done nothin'!"

The Merkel Mail takes subscriptions for all Daily Newspapers.

Come to Brown's Quit Business Sale! if you want to make a big saving. Brown D. G. Company.

Mr. W. M. O'Brian returned the first of the week from a business trip to Corsicana, Dallas, and Fort Worth.

Winter is Here

No use to wait any longer, come around today and let us fill your radiator with—

FRANK MILLER'S FAMOUS Non-Freeze

Alcohol With Glycerine Base

It's absolutely harmless to circulating systems. It will not take the paint off your car.

ONLY \$1.75 Per Gallon

Keep a Mechanic at Your Door

We know it would be a rather expensive thing to maintain a private mechanic for your automobile. But you don't need to go to that expense.

A call, any time, day or night, will bring our repair car to you when you need it. Depend on Everybody's.

EVERYBODY'S GARAGE

PHONE 72

IN THE ARMORY BUILDING

MAGNOLIA FILLING STATION

Special Holiday TIRE SALE!

Owing to the fact that we do not wish to carry over a large stock of tires in the New Year, we are offering you prices on the Famous Sieberlings, Badger and United States Tires and Tubes. Never before, and perhaps, never again will you have a chance to buy these tires at such BARGAINS. And we wish to call your attention to the following facts in regards to tires bought here.

FIRST—We have your size. SECOND—You are waited on Pronto. THIRD—Modern Tire-Tools and Service Equipment. FOURTH—Rims cleaned of rust, bent rims straightened. FIFTH—Tubes and flaps properly inserted, tires assembled inflated and mounted on wheels. SIXTH—Will inspect and inflate them at all times. SEVENTH—WE GUARANTEE YOU WILL BE SATISFIED!

WE QUOTE YOU A FEW PRICES BELOW

- 30 x 3 1/2 GUARANTEED CORD \$4.95
- 30 x 3 1/2 SIEBERLING CORD \$9.80
(Extra Quality)
- 29 x 4. 40 HEAVY DUTY BALLOON \$12.80
- 29 x 4. 40 REGULAR BALLOON \$10.50
- 31 x 5.25 HEAVY DUTY BALLOON \$19.95

We Also Have Your Size in Any Tire at The SPECIAL PRICES

We also wish to call your attention that we have a supply of ALCOHOL AND GLYCERINE

Bring the car around and let us fix it up. No use worrying all winter draining the radiator. Go to bed and feel safe DON'T TAKE A CHANCE

We appreciate your business at all times and give you service that satisfies.

MAGNOLIA FILLING STATION

PHONE 159 FOR SERVICE.

THE MERKEL MAIL

Vol. 33—No. 35.

MERKEL, TEXAS, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1927.

5c PER COPY

T. E. L. Class Has Annual Love Feast

The T. E. L. Class held their annual Love Feast on Friday of last week in the basement of the church, with thirty ladies present.

At one o'clock a three-course luncheon was served consisting of
Cocktail Creamed Chicken
Hot Rolls Olives
Stuffed Celery Cherry Pie
Coffee

The room and tables were colorful with many fall flowers and Christmas decorations.

The programs were in the form of envelopes and served as plate favors. Rev. Parrack spoke to the group, giving a most interesting talk on Mothers. His talk was very appropriate as the class is made up of mothers to a great extent.

Other interesting numbers on the program were piano solos and songs given by Mesdames Howard and Brown. At two thirty a business meeting was held. A short talk by the President, Mrs. Yates Brown was made and a committee appointed to do some Christmas Cheer work.

The business meeting was soon brought to a close as it was time for Santa Claus, who visited the children and left presents for each one. Santa's visit was the most enjoyable part of the day for the children and made much merriment for the mothers as well.

Members present were:
Mesdames W. H. Derstine, Lee Stanley, A. R. Booth, R. W. Conder, Loyd Elliott, A. D. Fulton, Dent Gibson, Claud Perry, L. Morrison, Thos. Bearden, I. L. Jackson, Mrs. Slater, Andy Brown, Earl Lassiter, W. B. Stephens, Ira Parrack, H. C. Duff, L. L. Huddleston, W. J. Largent, Jim Mayfield, O. R. Dye, Sam Swann, Bill Sheppard, Burl Scott, Yates Brown, Frank McFarland, John Toombs, Twyman Collins. Guests present were Mrs. L. B. Howard, Mrs. Gen. Jones, Brother Parrack.

Woman's Missionary Society

The members of the Woman's Missionary Society had a very interesting meeting Monday afternoon.

During the business session all the officers were re-elected to fill the same places for another year. The office of Superintendent of Young People having been vacant for some time Mrs. Earl Thornton was elected to fill this place.

A study from the text book "New Paths for Old Purposes" will be had at the next meeting on Monday.

LITTLE MISS EMOGENE HULSEY CELEBRATES HER 6TH BIRTHDAY

On last Saturday afternoon, December 3rd, Emogene, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. H. P. Hulsey entertained a number of her friends from 3 to 5 o'clock, celebrating her sixth birthday. The afternoon was spent in playing games.

Much merriment was caused by the cutting of the Birthday Cake. The guests gathered around the dining table which was centered with the cake having six tiny lighted candles upon it. Upon cutting the cake the ring was found by Janell Black, the dime by Verne Moore, the penny by Jack Sublett, the thimble by Evelyn Johnson and the button by Francis Higgins.

Those enjoying the party were: Francis Higgins, Janell Black, Evelyn Johnson, Billie Johnson, Stacy Huddleston, Verne Moore, Evelyn Moore, Neely Tittle, Robert Rodden, Charles Dewey Iddings, Jack Sublett, L. B. Gibson and Emogene Hulsey.

JAMES-HUNNICUT

At 9 p. m. on December 3rd, Mr. E. N. Hunnicut and Miss Elsie May James were happily married at the Baptist Parsonage. A short but serious and impressive ceremony was used by Pastor Parrack and the young couple went on their way with a feeling that they were united and prepared for the voyage of life. While they have not lived long in the community their many friends wish for them all the joy and happiness that can come into their lives.

BOX SUPPER AT WARREN SCHOOLHOUSE

The Mail has been requested to announce that there will be a Box Supper at Warren School House on Friday evening, December 16th, to which everyone is cordially invited to come and bring a well-filled box.

Eveready Prestone, the perfect anti-freeze is non-injurious, odorless and does not boil.—West Co.

WE ARE JUSTLY PROUD of our Fruit Cakes because they are really the best that we have ever made. Buy your Christmas Cake before they are all gone. All sizes. The Quality Bakery. 811

If you have anything to sell or wish to buy some article—place an advertisement in the Mail. Through our complete and wide circulation you are nearly sure to get the desired results. We reach the people.

Ford's Aim in Building New Ford Was To "Represent Public"

Detroit, Dec. 9.—Six months ago Henry Ford announced the coming production of "a new Ford car, superior in design and performance to any now available in the low-priced, light-car field." Recently the new car was shown for the first time outside the Ford organization, to a group of newspaper men and correspondents, at the Dearborn laboratories of the Ford Motor Company.

When Mr. Ford announced to the public that he was to introduce a new car he had not only conceived this car, but it was already well on its way to materialization. In the years that the Model T had been produced many inventions, ideas, improvements had presented themselves which did not fit into the scheme of the Model T. Many of these things were retained, against the day when new ideas of automotive efficiency would pave the way for a new car. The formal announcement, last May, was principally significant because it marked the end of production of the Model T as a complete unit.

Cessation of production of the Model T, did, however, turn the full force of the vast organization of the Ford company to the problem of creating and producing a new car, with the exception of that part of the facilities necessary for the production of Model T replacement parts. This meant opportunity for reconstruction of not one plant but many. Thirty-three assembly plants in the United States, the Ford Motor Company of Canada, and twelve plants in foreign countries had to be considered. A greater problem still, the fountain head of the parts to feed the branch plants had to be rebuilt almost from the ground—the great Ford industries at Highland Park, at Fordson, and along the River Rouge.

Impressive figures almost without

end could be quoted to illustrate the magnitude of this task. There have been estimates that the job cost as high as \$250,000,000 to accomplish. This figure is too high—how much so Ford officials will not say, but it was a staggering total of millions, unquestionably.

Strange as it may seem, however, Henry Ford did not figure in terms of millions. He was building a new car—a car which would be as much of an improvement of its day, as the Model T was back in 1908. Engineers took certain basic principles and built a completed it was very close to the car round them a new car. When it was that Mr. Ford had visualized. It was then that Mr. Ford gave voice to a statement that has been frequently quoted since; "I will represent the public."

Even his engineers did not sense the full significance of this simple statement at the time. The plants were being re-tooled. Re-tooling an automobile plant designed to produce thousands of automobiles in a day is no simple matter. Giant machines, weighing many tons and costing thousands of dollars had to be designed and built. Countless thousands of smaller tools and precision instruments had to be manufactured. Orders were placed with machinery manufacturers for many of these machines. Others were built at the Ford plants. But Mr. Ford was "representing the public." A small change meant the reconstruction of great machines which required four months to build. But if this change meant a slightly greater gasoline mileage, or a trifle more of acceleration in traffic, the machines were re-built. And so the story went. Mr. Ford stated again and again that he was not building a model to meet a specific date or a predetermined price. His aim was fixed on an automobile that would be as revolutionary in 1927 as the Model T was in 1908.

Mr. F. J. Smith's many friends are glad to see him back among us after an absence of some two months in South Texas.

LITTLE MISS JANELL BLACK CELEBRATES 7th BIRTHDAY

Little Miss Janell Black entertained a number of her little friends at a birthday party in celebration of her seventh birthday, at her home on Friday afternoon.

The children enjoyed playing a number of interesting games after which refreshments were served. A large birthday cake with seven pink candles on it was placed on the table and little Miss Black blew them out one by one after which the cake was cut.

Those enjoying the hospitality of Miss Black were Dorris Diltz, Gene Hulsey, Sylvan Mellinger, Louise Richie, Frances Higgins, L. B. Gibson, Marvin Hunter, Evelyn and Berma Johnson, Charles Dewey Iddings, Minnie Murel Simms, Margie and Joe Harrell, Benge Elliott, Jack Sublett, Billie George Gant, Edwin Renfro, J. C. Foster and Billie Woodrum.

DOCK REEVES HAS OPERATION FOR APPENDICITIS

Dock Reeves, son of Mrs. Geo. L. Reeves was operated on Monday night for appendicitis at the Baptist Sanitarium at Abilene.

Dock is the third member of Mrs. Reeves family to be operated on for appendicitis by Drs. Shytle and Clark at the Baptist Sanitarium since April 20th of this year.

Everybody who reads magazines buys newspapers, but everybody who reads newspapers doesn't buy magazines. **Catch the Drift?** Here's the medium to reach the people of this community.

Try a Classified Ad in the Mail

--GIFTS--

Shoes and Hose are always appreciated. We have New

Styles every week.

Get our Fits and Prices before making your Selection.



FOOT-FITTERS

ABILENE

LUBBOCK

LAMESA

High-Grade Repair Work

USED CARS

SPECIAL SALE DECEMBER 8th to 17th

If you do not think there is a difference—try one of our Reconditioned Used Cars "With an OK that Counts." We have an assortment of used cars at absolutely rock bottom prices. We have the following:

- OAKLAND T'R'NG.—New Curtains, Four-Wheel Brakes, Good Rubber.
- 1926 CHEVROLET T'R'NG.—New Rubber, Thoroughly Overhauled, Good Paint.
- 1926 FORD C'PE.—New Rubber, New Duco
- 1924 FORD T'R'NG.—Good Rubber, Cheap.
- 1924 FORD TUDOR—Good Rubber, New Paint.
- 1923 FORD SEDAN—Cheap.

1923 CHEVROLET ROADSTER—Cheap.

PRICED TO SELL—GET YOURS NOW!

Brackeen-Hughes Chevrolet Company

MERKEL, TEXAS

Gifts that Endure



A Gift of NOTE

THIS makes an adequate gift for the most exacting taste, and is sure to please the recipient. Tasteful Christmas wrappings are provided.



SMOKER

NO trouble to select a gift from this large display! We are showing everything wanted or needed by the smoker.



Exquisite BAGS

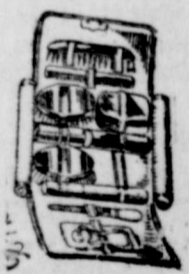
A GIFT of charm and beauty that will please the feminine heart



GIFTS of Beautiful JEWELRY

The Utmost in Christmas Gifts!

Merkel Drug Company



Overnight SETS

A VERY USEFUL GIFT that may be used every day in the year.



The Pick Of GIFTS

CANDY from Merkel Drug Company. It's delicious to the taste, wholesome, and attractively boxed in the Christmas way.



It's none too early for Christmas sittings—you have more leisure—your portraits will be ready for early mailing. It's time now to think of a very personal gift for those you love. There's nothing so distinctive as your portrait.

RODDEN STUDIO

"PHOTOGRAPHS TELL THE STORY"

RHEUMATISM

While in France with the American Army I obtained a noted French prescription for the treatment of Rheumatism and Neuritis. I have given this to thousands with wonderful results. The prescription cost me nothing. I ask nothing for it. I will mail it to you if you will send me your address. A postal will bring it. Write today.

PAUL CASE, Dept. S312
Brockton, Mass. 9-1t.

Try a Classified Ad in The Mail.

Irate Father—"I'll teach you to kiss my daughter, sir!"
Nervy Beau—"Too late. I've already learned."

Country Kid: "Beat it, the Bull's coming!"
City Kid: Aw, stand your ground. We ain't done nothin'!"

He—Hirnnnnnnnnnnnnh
She—Nu-nnnnnnnnnnnuh
He—Please.
She—I told you no.
He—Hu-nnnnnnnnnnnnh.
He—Hu-nnnnnnnnnnnuh.
She—Nu-uuuuuuuum-huh?
—SMACK—

The Badger Weekly

The Badger Weekly is edited each week by the Junior Class and sponsored by Mrs. Young. The officers are: Addie Fae Patterson—Editor in Chief; Norma Shannon—Literary Editor; Gladys Watts—Miscellaneous Ed.; Patsy Lewis—Society Editor; Paul Casseaux—Sports Editor; David Cannon—Joke Editor; Senior Reporters—John Coates, Sterling Sheppard, Fred Randall and Ruby Higgins; Sophomore Reporters—J. T. Darsey and Francis Frederickson; Freshmen Reporters—Louise Booth, Eris Ash and Margaret Turner.

MERKEL BASKET BALL GIRLS DEFEAT GOLAN TEAM 9 to 0

On last Wednesday evening, November 30th, the Merkel Basket Ball Girls defeated the Golan girls in a very interesting and hard fought game. The score at the conclusion of the game reading Merkel 9 and Golan 7.

Those who missed this game missed a treat.

One of the deciding factors in aiding Merkel to win this game was the snappy encouragement given the team by the Pep Squad and others. One of the main reasons for winning was the decided excellence and teamwork of the members of the team. Any one doubting the truth of the foregoing statements can satisfy themselves of the truthfulness of them by being present at our next game.

PEP SQUAD BANQUET

On Friday night Dec. 2, the Foot Ball boys of Merkel High School were entertained by the Pep Squad Girls. A very choice and appetizing menu consisting of:

- Baked Chicken and Dressing
- Gravy Cranberry Sauce
- Peas Creamed Potatoes
- Combination Salad
- Ice Cream Salted Nuts
- Coffee

was served. The following program was rendered:

- Invocation—Rev. Parrack.
- Talk—"Why Play Football"—Mr. Jackson.
- Vocal Solo—Christine Collins.
- Talk—"What We Have Done"—Mr. Camp.
- Reading—Miss Lucy Tracy.
- Quartette—Iris Garrett, Venice Bell, Carlos Montandon and James Collum.

The main feature of the evening was the presentation of sweaters to the letter men who are: Blanton McLean, Max and Rex Roberts, Wyatt Miller, William Sheppard, Paul Casseaux, Victor Smith, Tolbert Proctor, J. E. Boaz, Max Swafford, J. D. Ashby and Horton Williams.

J. E. Boaz was elected as captain of the 1928 team. Mr. Jackson called on each member of the team for a short talk and these talks proved to be varied and interesting, revealing many things that had happened at different games. A prize of a statuette of a football player was awarded to the boy making the best talk and was awarded to Max Roberts.

This happy occasion was enjoyed by the following:

- Rev. I. L. Parrack, I. L. Jackson, Mr. and Mrs. Claud Young, Mr. and Mrs. John Camp, Misses Lucy Tracy, Martha Bird, Roberta Sloan, Christine Collins and the couples as follows: Blanton McLean, Venice Bell; Max Roberts, Ruby Joe Higgins; Rex Roberts, Gladys Watts; Wyatt Miller, Mildred Hamm; Victor Smith, Addie Fay Patterson; R. C. Patterson, Norma Shannon; Tolbert Proctor, Gladys Copeland; Willie Harris, Alice Read; Max Swafford, Patsy Lewis; Fred Guitar, Ruby Stevenson; J. D. Ashby, Jess Higgins; Harold Leeton, Mattie Lou Largent; Paul Cassaux, Missie Dye; Sterling Sheppard, Louise Booth; William Sheppard, Lola Shelton; F. J. McDonald, Fannie Bell Boaz; Leon McDonald, Estelle Terry; Hollis Erwin, Monetta Adcock; Horton Williams, Elizabeth Harkrider; James Collum, Venice Bell; J. E. Boaz, Bessie Westenhov; Orion Tittle, Elsie Richie; Iris Garrett and Carlos Montandon.

SOPH SLYSTERS

Say, didja know— That we, the most dignified Sophomores are the proud possessors of a beautiful class pin? That this is the first time in the history of this school the underclassmen have had this privilege?

That there is now a regular ninth period, with teachers, books, regular length and everything? That the grades as a whole were better than ever before in six years or more? That you could trade a football honor sweater for anything such as a class ring, pin, etc.?

That the study hall clock just wont keep correct time? That the annual Football-Pep Squad Banquet is getting bigger and better.

That the '27 Banquet had over sixty persons who belonged there?

That Mr. Camp is the most popular study-hall-keeper and also has the

quietest study hall? That there is nothing more to tell? WE DID.

—M. H. S.—
Why did the salt shaker? Because the lemon squeezer. And the spoon holder.

—M. H. S.—
They had been engaged 42 seconds Mattien—"Dear, will you promise to love me forever?"

Harold—"Dear, I would like to, but I don't expect to live that long."

—M. H. S.—
Norma—"J. E. tried to put his arm around me three times last night."

Addie Fay—"Some arm."

—M. H. S.—
My name is Dee Miretz, I am doomed to feel blue, All the student hate me, In every home they do.

No student seems to love me, But all the teachers do. For they're always saying Six is few for you.

My number to 25 is limited, As the Seniors seem to know. And if they aren't so very careful They will have to pack and go.

—M. H. S.—
Venice—"When I am sad, I sing then others are sad with me."

—M. H. S.—
Blanton—"Roy, Do you really like conceited girls better than the other kind?"

Roy—"What other kind?"

IN HIS BUSINESS

Tolbert—"Some officer Bill is."

Max—"Why so?"

Tolbert—"Just this. He arrested the growth of a vine when he saw it climbing through a window."

—M. H. S.—
Boss—"Why did you leave your last job?"

Miss Sloan—"Because there was no future in it."

Boss—"No future?"

Miss Sloan—"No, the boss was already married."

—M. H. S.—
Sterling was getting ready to go to his music lesson.

Mrs. Sterling—"Did you wash your face?"

Sterling—"Yes."

Mrs. S.—"And your hands?"

Sterling—"Yes."

Mrs. S.—"And your ears?"

Sterling—"I washed the one that

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C. S. Higgins Garage
Located North of Post Office
Garage Phone 100 Res. Phone 149W
General Repair Work Used Parts for sale
All Mechanical Work Guaranteed
Good Work at Absolutely Lowest Prices

would be next to her."
—M. H. S.—
Mr. Camp—"Rex, What is wind?"
Rex—"Wind is air in a hurry."
—M. H. S.—
Mary wears her new short skirt, Cut just about in half.
Who cares a slam 'bout Mary's lamb? Now we can see her calf.
—M. H. S.—
Papa—"Has Roy given you any encouragement?"
Patsy—"Oh, Yes. Just last night he asked me if you and mother were pleasant people to live with."

Removal Sale

On January 1, 1928 will move my Grocery Business to the WEST BUILDING, first door West of Everybody's Garage, on Front St.

And, beginning Saturday, December 10, and continuing to Saturday night, December 24, will make some PRICES ON EVERYTHING that you will appreciate.

Come in and see for yourself. You can make a great saving on your Holiday Grocery Bill.

EVERYTHING FOR THE CHRISTMAS DINNER!

Yours for Business,

C. E. CONNER

YOUR TRAINING! YOUR POSITION!

The position you accept in business depends upon your training. A diploma from us is your assurance of a high-class place. Employers everywhere call upon us for competent help because they know that the best business training can be had only in a school that has the best equipment, best teachers and best courses.

Send today for the large interesting book, "ACHIEVING SUCCESS IN BUSINESS." It is Free. Mail Coupon NOW.

MAIL THIS COUPON NOW

GENTLEMEN:—Please send me your large free book, "Achieving Success in Business." I am interested in a training that will help me get a good position.

Name _____
Address _____

ANNOUNCING



Greatly Improved Passenger Service.

Finer Trains. Faster Service

EAST BOUND

Train No. 4 leaves Merkel at 9:37 a. m. arrives in Fort Worth 3:45 p. m. connecting with "Sunshine Special" and "Louisiana Limited" leaving Fort Worth at 4:15 p. m. for St. Louis, Memphis, Shreveport and New Orleans

Train No. 6, carrying St. Louis sleeper, leaves Merkel 12:33 a. m. arrives at Fort Worth 6:30 a. m, Dallas 8:30 a. m. and St. Louis 7:15 a. m.

WEST BOUND

Train No. 3, for Big Springs, leaves Merkel 4:13 p. m.

Train No. 9, leaves Merkel 5:13 a. m. for Pecos and intermediate points.

Consult your Ticket Agent for full particulars

GEO. D. HUNTER
GENERAL PASSENGER AGENT
Dallas, Texas Dec2-3t

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Apartment Special Gas Range

You've probably pictured the range you want—the range that would meet your every requirement. Here it is! The last word in cooking baking efficiency—gas economy and beauty.

The ventilated oven heats evenly at every point—no cold corners—perfect baking assured. The patented Air-Vac burners provide proper mixture of air and gas, effecting a saving of about 1-3 in gas bills.

Built to give a life-time of satisfactory service.

Ask us about the famous

AUTOMATIC CHEF!



COLE'S GAS RANGE

"RED" GRANGE

National Football Star, writes:

"While at college I learned that the condition of the throat is most important to an athlete. Coaches and captains know that throat irritation may even keep a player out of an important game. For this reason, I insist that my New York Yankees smoke only Luckies, when they smoke."

"I know that Luckies are smooth and mellow and cannot irritate the throat."

Harold E. Grange

Photo by Underwood & Underwood

You, too, will find that LUCKY STRIKES give the greatest pleasure—Mild and Mellow, the finest cigarettes you ever smoked. Made of the choicest tobaccos, properly aged and blended with great skill, and there is an extra process—"IT'S TOASTED"—no harshness, not a bit of bite.



LUCKY STRIKE
"IT'S TOASTED"
CIGARETTES

MADE OF THE CREAM OF THE TOBACCO CROP

"It's toasted"

No Throat Irritation—No Cough.



Gifts for the CAR

THERE IS NO GIFT FOR HIM MORE APPROPRIATE OR ACCEPTABLE THAN "SOMETHING FOR THE CAR FOR CHRISTMAS!"

How often have you heard him express a desire for some little something or other for his car? Let that be your gift to him this year. No where will you find a more varied assortment from which to choose; Nowhere is quality higher or prices more reasonable.

MAKE YOUR SELECTION HERE, TODAY!

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Motometers, \$3.50 to \$10 | Spotlights, \$2.00 and \$7.50 |
| Lock Caps, \$2.50 to \$7.50 | Onyx Gear Shift, \$2.50 |
| Cigar Lighters \$3.00. | Mirrors 75c |
| Clocks, \$2.50, \$3.50 and \$5 | Windshield Wipers, 50c |
| Rees Jack, \$5.50 and \$7.00 | Booster Plates, \$1.00 |
| Walke Jack, \$4.00 to \$6.85 | Timers, \$1.00 to \$3.45 |
| Wrench Sets, 50c to \$27.50 | Heaters, \$1.50 to \$10.00 |
| Luggage Rack, \$1.35 and \$1.50 | Pumps, 1.25 to \$3.00 |
| Step Plates \$2.25 | Back Cushions, \$1.35 |
| Horns, 3. 50 and \$5.00 | Carburetors, \$9.00 |
| Rim Jack, \$2.85 | Foot Feeds, \$1.25 |
| Snubbers, \$20.00 and \$34.00 | Bullet Lamps, \$12.00 |
| Water Pumps, \$4.50 and \$5.00 | Gascolator, \$5.00 |

WEST COMPANY

THE MARK THE HOUSE FOR THE MARK
DEPENDABLE AUTO NECESSITIES

"So you want to marry my daughter," said Mr. Brown to the anxious youth. "Have you seen her mother?" "Yes!! But daughters don't always look like their mothers," came the faltering reply."

GAFTON THEATRE Trent, Texas

"ALWAYS A GOOD SHOW"

SATURDAY ONLY—10th

TOM MIX IN

"TUMBLING RIVER"

ONE OF TOM'S LATEST PRODUCTIONS
Also FOX TWO REEL ANIMAL COMEDY

LOOK! LOOK! LOOK! SPECIAL!
MIDNIGHT MATINEE SUNDAY NIGHT
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DOORS OPEN AT 10:00 p. m.—START SHOWING AT 12:01
"THE CAT AND THE CANARY"

the World's Greatest Mystery Film—The Haunted House—Creepy Thrills—Spooky Shadows—Slinking Footsteps—Eerie Laughter
Chilling Horror—Supreme Comedy

AGAIN MONDAY EVE. AT 7:00 P. M.
PRICES 15c and 45c

Tuesday and Wednesday, 13th - 14th

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"EAST SIDE-WEST SIDE"

WITH GEORGE O'BRIEN and VIRGINIA VALLI
A story of New York and the life of a Sea Captain who lived it.
ALSO BEAUTIFUL FOX VARIETY AND
PATHE COMEDY

COMING SOON!

"CHANG" and "ROUGH RIDERS"

ABROLHOS ISLANDS MENACE TO SHIPPING

Princess Mafalda Added to Long Toll of Wrecks.

Washington.—The Abrolhos, or Santa Barbara Islands, off the coast of central Brazil, near where the Italian liner Princess Mafalda recently went down in one of the worst marine disasters since the sinking of the Titanic, is the subject of the following bulletin from the Washington headquarters of the National Geographic society:

"The Abrolhos islands are the above-water apex of one of South America's 'Grand Banks,' says the bulletin. 'Off the coast of Brazil, south of Bahia and north of Rio de Janeiro, this great bank or underwater plateau stretches to sea for more than 100 miles. The Abrolhos islands are not the bank's only danger points. In many places it rises to within a fathom or two of the surface, and at some points rocks are just awash at low water. Many of these obstructions are of coral formation.

Pass Near Obstruction.
"One of the principal shipping lanes between Europe and South America, and the lane from North American ports to Brazil and Argentine, touch both at Pernambuco and Bahia and then skirt the coast southward to Rio de Janeiro. These ship routes pass just outside the Abrolhos islands and their clustering shoals. On Santa Barbara, chief of the islets, is a lighthouse to warn ships to keep to the eastward.

"Because these islets, rocks and reefs lie so close to frequented ship lanes, they have taken a heavy toll. Several of the more important shoals are named from ships that have met disaster on them, as La France shoal, on which the steamer La France went aground in 1884, and California shoal, struck by the ship Californ in 1891.

"The isles are approximately 30 miles off the nearest point of the mainland, Balea or Baleine point. The shoals and reefs stretch 12 or 15 miles farther seaward. Just as North American fishermen frequent the Newfoundland banks, so the Abrolhos bank draws the fishermen of Brazil. Scores of fishing boats are usually to be found near the islands, many of them from Port Seguro, 100 miles to the north. This little port was the landing place in 1500 of Cabral, on whose exploit hung the claim of Portugal to the great land that is now Brazil.

An Isolated Section.
"This has remained an isolated section of the Brazilian coast. The nearest town to the scene of the sinking of the Princess Mafalda is Caravelas, several miles up the river of the same name, and a few miles down the coast from Balea point. The population of the town is about 4,000. It has a short railway running inland to gold mines, but it is not connected with other coastal towns. The nearest sizable towns are Victoria, 200 miles to the south, and Bahia, 350 miles to the north."

Goose Bone Prophets Say Winter Will Be Severe

Seattle, Wash.—The rush season for long-range weather forecasting by goose-bone prophets has arrived. According to a press clipping bureau here these predictions for the most part revel in forecasting a severe winter.

To date there have been 53 prognostications of winter weather made and each one is different in the shiver foreboding. In sizing up the approaching winter one school holds it will be severe because the breast bones of geese are thick this fall; hunters, trappers, and northwest Indians base their predictions on antics of fur, woodland animals, trees, seeds and scarcity of bird life.

Many use the moon's phases of the almanac to forecast cold weeks. Not one, however, has alluded to sun spots on the weather's behavior.

Tiny Art Shop Built as Unknown's Outlet

New York.—The way of the unknown artist and craftsman, always an arduous one, will be a little easier hereafter if the Little Terra cottage can aid him to find his public and the Little Terra cottage has been dedicated to do just that.

In its area of 10 by 14 feet in Washington Heights, this little temple to the obscure artist will display all manner of art objects excepting mediocre work, say its proprietors, Miss Vivian Grey Barnard, daughter of George Grey Barnard, the sculptor, and Miss Harriet E. Knapp.

There will be shown and sold work by artists who cannot themselves dispose of their wares profitably. Later the founders hope to build a workshop adjoining the cottage where those so minded may come to paint and chisel.

Finished the Job

San Francisco.—Shortly after three men dressed in sailors' uniforms had beaten and robbed John Dale of \$350 six other men set on him and relieved him of his shoes and hat when they refused to believe he had already been robbed of his money.

Turk Cops Shave

Constantinople.—Whiskers and mustache: are now taboo for Turk cops. But Zaro Agha, centenarian, bachelor and proud possessor of a luxurious growth, intends to resist the prefect's order, at least till he sees what happens on pay day.



Announcing

The Opening Of

Sears' Variety Store

December 15th

With Complete Line of Holiday

Goods and A New Stock Of

Seasonable Bargains

LET'S GET ACQUAINTED

Sears' Variety Store

HEBRON NEWS

Several farmers are preparing land for another crop.
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Harris visited Mr. and Mrs. William Pannell

of Merkel Sunday.
Miss Bessie Lou Pannell visited Miss Winnie Bayless Sunday.
The party given by Mr. Arman Bayless and wife proved to be a great success.
Mr. and Mrs. Lige Harris entertained several of the young people Sunday.

Mr. James Harris of Abilene visited his parents Sunday.
We are glad Mr. and Mrs. Houston Clark are able to be with us again. The group under Mrs. Harris rendered a good program Sunday night.

Army Goods are Getting Scarce

We still have some Special Offers in the following:

OVERCOATS

| | |
|---|--------|
| ONE LOT ARMY OVERCOATS, \$3.00 to | \$5.00 |
| Extra Good Lot, almost new, sizes 36 to 44 (Long Lengths) | \$6.75 |
| Another Lot, Old Issue and Lined, sizes 36 to 44 (Long Lengths) | \$9.75 |
| The Old Issue Overcoats are hard to find | |
| Still another Lot, Brand New 38s and 42s (Short Length) | \$6.50 |
| We have these Overcoats in sizes 36 to 44 | |

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| New Army O. D. Blouses | | Army Halters, in good condition | .65 |
| Brand New | \$1.95 | New Army Riding Bridles | \$1.75 |
| Used Army O. D. Blouses | .95 | Heavy 2 in. Belly Belts for Chain Harness | |
| Wool Drawers, Genuine Army | \$1.00 | Army Saddles, \$4.50 to | 1.35 |
| Wool Shirts to Match | \$1.00 | New Army Draw Halters | \$1.35 |
| Wool Lined Jerkins | \$1.00 | | |

Specials on Regular Stock Merchandise

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------|---|--------|
| Corduroy Breeches, Button Leg | \$3.45 | Army Field and Hob Nail Shoes, 10 1/2 to 12s | \$1.95 |
| Corduroy Breeches, Straight Leg | \$3.25 | Army White Gymnasium Shoes | \$1.75 |
| \$4.25 Blazers | \$3.45 | Cashmerette Socks, 2 pair for | .25 |
| \$5.00 Blazers | \$4.25 | Genuine Army Wool Socks, (all weights) 3 pair for | \$1.00 |
| \$6.00 Blazers | \$4.75 | Canvas Gloves, 10c and | .15 |
| Army Field Shoes, 8 1/2 to 10s | \$3.50 | | |

SHOE and HARNESS SHOP

We can make or repair anything in the Leather Line, such as Shoes, Saddles, Bridles, Harness, Belts, etc.

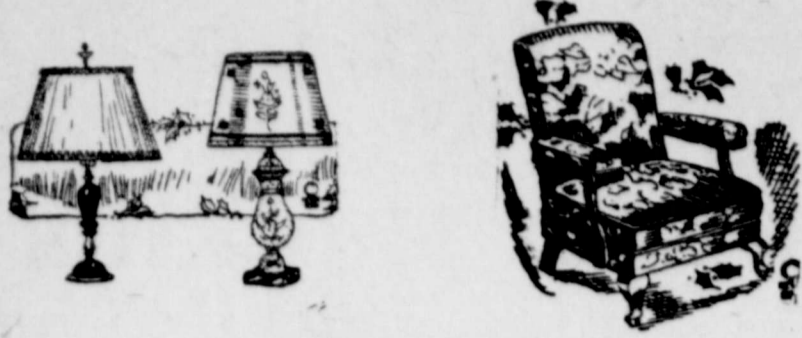
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BEAUTIFUL COXWELL CHAIRS—Jacquards—Tapes-tries and Mohair Coverings—Nice Fringe Trimmings.

\$3.25 UP

BEAUTIFUL OCTAGON LIVING ROOM TABLES—Genuine Walnut and Mahogany Shaded Finishes

\$10.75 UP

BEAUTIFUL OVERSTUFFED LIVING ROOM SUITE—Jacquard Covering—Silk Damask Reverse Cushion—Hardwood Frame. A strictly high grade Suite—Special for Holiday.

\$125.00

ORTHOPHONIC PHONOGRAPHS—See and hear this masterpiece in Musical Improvement—Beautiful Walnut Cabinet—Birdseye Maple overlay in Antique Finish—only—

\$90.00

A FULL LINE OF PORTABLES—Price Range for Holiday

\$15.00 \$25.00

GEORGETTE BRIDGE AND FLOOR LAMPS—All-Metal Stands.

\$10.75 TO \$17.50

AMERICANS MOST PRODUCTIVE RACE

Labor Department Solicitor Gives Workers Credit.

Chicago.—Americans today are the most productive people of any country or of any age in the world, enjoying high standards of living and employing to great advantage to the laborer and to the country as a whole machinery to an unprecedented degree, Judge Theodore G. Risley, solicitor of the Department of Labor, declared.

"The world realizes more than ever that labor is the creator of all wealth," he said. "In the depths of the mine, in the gold of the harvest, by the throbbing engines, the flaming furnaces, the whirling spindles and on the foam-crested seas labor creates and produces the products of necessity, comfort and beauty that are essential to feed, clothe, support and better mankind.

"The United States is enjoying remarkable industrial and economic prosperity while other nations are struggling to meet the problems of unemployment and economic depression, said the speaker. One of the surprising achievements of modern industrial history has been the rapid process by which this country has recovered from its disturbed and deranged social, industrial and economic conditions following the World war," he said.

"The re-employment of several millions of unemployed laborers and the maintaining of a wage scale practically equal to, and in many instances greater than, that of the war scale is regarded by other countries as little less than a political phenomenon," the speaker continued.

In discussing the vast number of legislative enactments and proposals affecting labor of this country, Judge Risley declared that the objects of such labor legislation should be the safeguarding of the rights and the interests of the laborer, the conserving of his health, and to afford him opportunities which enable him to live in comfort and respectability, properly to educate and rear his family and to enable him by thrift and industry to lay by enough to care for his family and to shake off the haunting fear of poverty in old age.

Find Weave Lets in Rays More Than Fabric

Washington.—To be bathed by the beneficial ultra-violet rays, wear open-weave fabric.

To test the claims that artificial silk cloth allowed large amounts of the health-giving short wave lengths of sunlight to pass through, various fabrics were submitted to test at the national bureau of standards. Cotton was found to be nearly as transparent to the ultra-violet light, as viscose and cellulose acetate, and real silk had about the same transparency as cotton.

The viscose artificial silk was more transparent than that made from cellulose acetate but the maximum transparency measured was only 27 per cent. Dyes or the yellowing due to age was found to reduce the transmission to only about 5 to 10 per cent and in most fabrics the threads occupy 95 to 99 per cent of the total space.

The experts conclude that the composition of the fabric is of less importance than the coarseness of weave.

Volcano Causes 2 Pacific Islands to Be Made One

Dutch Harbor, Alaska.—News covering the recent volcanic disturbance in Bering sea reached here recently via the coast guard cutter Northland. The vessel visited Bogoslof island to examine new formations.

The older rock mass is unchanged but the volcano has thrown up huge piles of broken lava several hundred feet high. One of these deposits of solid lava has raised a spit between Castle rock and Nepnick islands, so they are now connected.

Bogoslof is constantly emitting clouds of vapor. All sea birds have migrated south but countless sea lions haul out onto the newly formed land daily to enjoy the warm mists from the vapor clouds.

The union of the islands is the spot where McCullough peak sank 20 years ago.

Sounds Reasonable

Portland, Maine.—Bobs and short skirts have official approval for teachers in Maine, said Dr. Augustus G. Thomas, state commissioner of education. "I want my teacher to be up to date; I want her to be as good-looking as she can make herself."

Science Turns Ash Into Bank Notes

London.—Science has added a new triumph to its evergrowing list. Bank notes reduced to ash powder by fire can now be deciphered.

Recently a man walked into the general post office with a tin box full of ashes, stating that \$2,500 worth of notes had been burned and he would like to have them redeemed.

Scientists were called in and within a few days were able to tell the denomination of the notes. The man was paid before two weeks more had passed.

Special Currency for Use of Dead Chinese

The spirits of China are extravagant, according to a correspondent of the Pathfinder Magazine. Some \$15,000,000 is sent them a year in "ghost money" or just tinfoil smoke. Do not get the impression that ghost money is real Chinese money. It is not even metal coins. Ghost money is paper tinfoil shoes—which need only to be burned to become the standard currency of the dead. This money is seen all over China.

Sometimes whole trunkloads of the paper tinfoil are burned before the dead man's shrine. But this money is just as important as a means of providing a livelihood for the thousands of the living as it is for paying off extravagant spirits. The tinfoil used is made in the prosperous shops in the town of Shaoching, where thousands of strong men and women are employed to beat the tinfoil, fold the finished product and paste it into the little silver shoes. Making ghost money is indeed a large industry in China. Some of the larger shops in Shaoching do a business of from \$700,000 to \$800,000 a year. After these paper shoes are burned the living worshippers gather up the ashes and sell them to the shops that extract the tin to be used in new ghost money.

Automatic Telephoning

The fundamental idea of automatic telephoning was conceived in 1889 by Almon B. Strowger. While the system continues to bear his name, its successful development is chiefly due to the continued efforts of the engineering staff of the Automatic Electric company, under the leadership of the group of pioneers who took Strowger's idea and gave it practical form. The first public automatic exchange was installed at Laporte, Ind., in 1892. It was a somewhat crude arrangement, and had a capacity of only 100 subscribers. Nevertheless, compared to other types of switchboards of the time, it was a distinct improvement.

Coffee Pot a Landmark

Standing at a busy corner as one of the landmarks of old Salem is a gigantic tin coffee pot, capable of filled of supplying probably half the city's present population with its maternal blend.

Many fantastic stories concerning the coffee pot's origin have surrounded it with a mysterious glamor. But its chief claim to fame lies in the fact it was perhaps, the first piece of direct advertising in this section.

The pot was erected in 1858 by Julius Micey, tinsmith of the little Moravian colony of Salem, the first man ever to sell cooking stoves in this part of the Carolinas.—Asheville Citizen.

Palace Theatre

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

"ACROSS THE PACIFIC"

—WITH MONTE BLUE—

Hand to hand fighting in the tropic jungles during the Spanish-American War—Lots of action, for you know MONTE

—NEWS AND COMEDY—

MONDAY AND TUESDAY

"ADAM AND EVIL"

With LEW CODY and AILEEN PRINGLE
Watchful waiting, Many excuses—Wives, are your husbands like this?

—NEWS AND AESOPS FABLES—

WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY

MARY PICKFORD IN

"MY BEST GIRL"

STORY BY KATHLEEN NORRIS

The kind of a picture you always hoped Mary would make, a riot of Romance—a cyclone of Comedy.

—ALSO COLLEGIANS—

Read the other article in this paper on this picture!

DID YOU GET YOUR TICKET FROM YOUR MERCHANT TO SEE OUR SHOWS ON MONDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS?

BOX SUPPER AT NOODLE SCHOOL TONIGHT

There will be a Box Supper at the Noodle School tonight, Friday, December 9th. Proceeds from which will be used to purchase playground equipment and athletic equipment. Everyone cordially invited to come and bring a nice box. Come and buy one and have a good time.

The Merkel Mail will pay 6c per pound for good clean rags. tf

A Circular Tour.
Mary had a little ring, 'twas given by Joe, and everywhere that Mary went that ring was sure to go. She took the ring with her one day, when she went out to tea, where she might show it to the girls, who numbered twenty-three. And when the girls all saw the ring they made a great ado, exclaiming with one voice: "Has it at last got round to you?"

Doctor Orders Vinol For Nervous Woman

"I was weak, nervous and anemic. Could hardly walk. My doctor ordered Vinol, and I feel 100 per cent better."—Mrs. H. Willis. For over 25 years, this simple, strengthening iron and cod liver compound has been prescribed for weak, nervous women and men and frail children. The very

FIRST week you take Vinol, you begin to feel stronger, eat and sleep better. Merkel Drug Co.

Mr. W. M. O'Briant returned the first of the week from a business trip to Corsicana, Dallas, and Fort Worth.

Don't ruin a good car with cheap anti-freeze. Use Eveready Prestone, the perfect anti-freeze.—West Co.

Try a Classified Ad for Results

QUEEN

"Showing the Pick of All Pictures" Merkel, Texas

Friday Only!

THE YEAR'S MELODRAMATIC SENSATION!

"STARK LOVE"

See this drama of life—fierece and unashamed—and thrill to scenes such as you'll never see again.

"It's a Paramount Picture"

—EXTRA—

"KING OF THE JUNGLE" The whole town's talking about this wonderful serial.

—ALSO—

B-REEL COMEDY

MON. and TUES.

BEAUTIFUL NORMA SHEARER IN

"After Midnight"

Never has Norma had a greater role than in this astounding human drama.

—ALSO—

Paramount Comedy and News!

—EXTRA—

EDUCATIONAL COMEDY

—COMING SOON!—

"CONVOY"

"Fireman, Save My Child"

Saturday Only!

RED THOMSON

Put the heat with a personality

SILVER KING in Silver Comes Thru



A smashing drama of sage-brush and cactus, shot with the thrills of the old-time West.

—EXTRA—

"KING OF THE JUNGLE"

The Serial Play Extraordinary

—and—

"Mid-Summer Nights' Steam"

2-Reel Comedy Riot.

Wednesday & Thur.



A thrilling, throbbing, pulsating story of 2 men and a girl and another man in the grip of the Snow Country. Based on James Oliver Curwood's great story.

—also—

2 REEL COMEDY

"Come Out of the Kitchen"

One evening, after dinner, the family was reading when Junior, age five, said: "Daddy, will you go in the kitchen with me to get a drink? I'm afraid."
"You don't need to be afraid," replied the father. "You can take your dog, Pat, with you."
Junior seemed to approve the idea and started to arouse the dog, sleeping near by. The dog growled some at being disturbed.
Junior turned to his father and said: "See, daddy, Pat is afraid, too."

Counter-Proposition

An American in London, pompous and emphatic in display of his wealth, was showing his little son through a zoological garden. "Say," he called to the old keeper, "I'd like to have your zoological garden for my little boy there."

"Thank you, sir," returned the keeper, gazing at the plutocrat's freakish-looking offspring. "And we'd like to have your little boy for our zoological garden."—Boston Transcript.

Her Interest

A lady who took a great interest in her servants and their welfare recently engaged a new maid.

"Have you any special interest, Mary?" she asked in her kind way. "Anything you are taking up or that you care about?"
"Well, mum," replied the simple Mary, "I've been taking up with the baker's boy, but I don't know as 'ow I cares for 'im much!"—Weekly Scotsman.

Proof Positive

To avoid chartering a special car to ship 200 pounds of Ilmburger cheese, a manufacturer packed it in a rough, oblong box and checked it as a corpse. At the first stop he went ahead to the baggage car to see that there was no trouble. He stood by the box in a disconsolate attitude and shaded his eyes with his hand. The baggage man was sympathetic. "A relative?" he asked.
"Yes, it's my brother."
"Well, you have one consolation. He's dead, all right."

Cruel Comment

A young woman, newly engaged, took her future husband to be "inspected" by a somewhat fearsome aunt who had the uncomfortable habit of invariably saying exactly what she thought.

As the young couple were leaving the aunt said to her niece: "My dear, I'd rather have him for lunch than for life."

German Stage Schools Swamped by Students

Berlin.—Though the theatrical profession in Germany is overcrowded, the various actors' schools constantly receive more applications, especially from young women, than they can handle. The distressing part about these applications, in the opinion of the directors of the schools, is the fact that the stage-struck girl of today has so little education.

Aside from what they learned in grammar school the applicants seem to know about nothing. They do not even bother to read up about the theater. Such a term as the "classic theater" is apparently completely new to them. Most girls seem to think that the mere fact of this enjoying theatrical performances qualifies them for a stage star's career.

This is held even by mature matrons. The schools often receive applications from women above forty who have suddenly discovered their calling for the stage.

What May Be Called Fine Art of Cursing

The Jews possess the unique distinction of being the world's champion cursers, one of their own number declares in The Reflex. This writer further points out that the Old Testament contains more cursing than any other great book of literature.

"Cursing," he says, "is common to all oriental peoples, but neither the Arab nor Hindu, Chinese or Japanese displays as much fantasy as does the eastern Jew. In doing that he follows an old tradition. Cursing is the one thing that is not forbidden to the Jew. He may curse and bless to his heart's desire, but his life is such that he has more opportunity to curse than to bless. Yet the curses have their savor. The literary merit of Jewish curses is high. They form a distinct artistic contribution.

"For instance: 'May you possess sixty castles with sixty rooms in each castle, and may there be sixty beds in each room, and may you be shaken from bed to bed, from room to room, from castle to castle.' Or, 'May I live to see you on one foot and may you have only one eye with which to see me.' Or, 'May God send upon you four mothers-in-law.'

"But the real cursing that is done in Vilna, Kovno or Crakow is straight, bitter and plain. It is shocking in its brutality; it is brief and to the point. For example, 'May the earth not accept you'; 'the cholera unto you'; 'may the dogs eat your body and poison their stomachs'; 'may God send a disease into your house so that you shall not be able to move'; 'may the stars spit upon you'; or, 'may your body well like a mountain.'"

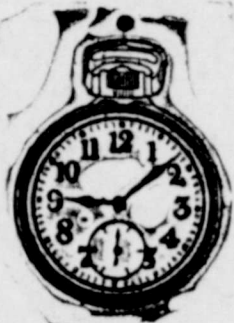


XMAS

Gifts Of All Kinds At Hamm's

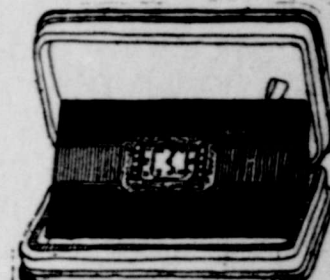
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| Men's Watches | Smoking Stands | Smoking Sets |
| Purse Sets | Key Sets | Cigar Lighters |
| Toilet Sets | Perfume Sets | Comb & Brush Sets |
| Fine Perfume | Toilet Water | Stationery |
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We will appreciate your placing your subscription through the local News Agent in your city. This offer is good for a limited time only, in Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana and New Mexico.

MERKEL BAPTISTS

All regular services Sunday and through the week beginning with Sunday School at 10 a. m. Preaching by the pastor at 11 a. m. and 7 p. m. Morning subject—"The Value of Godliness."

Evening subject—"The Practice of Assurance."

All BYPUs meet promptly at 6 p. m. and the Juniors will furnish our special number at the opening service.

Come find a welcome and a place to serve the Lord.
Ira L. Parrack, Pastor.

Intermediate League Program

Subject—"What Does Jesus Teach About Service?"

Leader—Thelma Leach.

Scripture—Matt 23:11-12; 25-40.

Story One—"The Good Samaritan" Luke 10:25-37. —Nadine Tippett.

Story Two—"The Wise and Foolish Virgins."—Matt 25:1-10—Margaret Turner.

Story Three—"The Builders"—Matt 7:21-27—J. T. Darsey.

Story Four—"The Story of the Talents."—Matt. 25:14-30—Eleanor Hamilton.

Story Five—"The Story of the Fig Tree."—Luke 13:6-9—W. A. Whiteley.

"A Careful Service."—Mattie Lou Largent.

Trombone Duet—Milton Case and O. B. Boden.

League Benediction.

VANISHING BANQUET

Last Thursday afternoon at 5 o'clock at the church, Mesdames Armstrong and Brown were hostesses at a banquet, the first of a series to be known as a "Vanishing Banquet"

Covers were laid for 10 guests and the two hostesses making a jolly dozen. The table appointments were suggestive of the approaching Christmas with hot coffee and individual caramel pies for dessert was served at 5:30

Mrs. Armstrong acted as toastmistress calling on Mrs. Mayhew to ask the blessing.

After dinner Miss Inice Brown furnished piano music and a round table talk was the principal feature of entertainment.

The hostesses were assisted in serving by their daughters, Misses Sallie and Inice Brown and Mrs. John Cox of Abilene.

Try a Classified Ad in the Mail

MISSIONARY TO PREACH AT COMPERE SUNDAY

Rev. F. A. Pope, missionary in Jones county will preach at Compere Sunday morning and evening. Should there be found enough people interested in taking a course of studies in the Sunday School Manual the Rev. Mr. Pope will spend the week with the Compere church teaching this book each evening from 7 till 9 o'clock.

With his experience both as a preacher and a teacher Compere is to be congratulated on being able to secure these services. It is the earnest desire of the pastor that the membership of the church together with the friends of the church in the community will avail themselves of this opportunity of hearing this good man preach and teach.

Buy your dressed chickens, cakes and pies from the Presbyterian Ladies' Market, at West Company Store on next Saturday. 9-11.

PRESBYTERIAN LADIES TO HOLD SATURDAY MARKET

Buy your dressed chickens, cakes and pies from the Presbyterian Ladies' Market, at West Company Store on next Saturday. 9-11.

JUNIOR LEAGUE PROGRAM

Leader—Alice Church.

Song—Number 193—Lois Whiteley.

Scripture Lesson—Duncan Briggs.

Story of the "Good Samaritan."



TELLING FORTUNES may be all right, but we'd sooner have ours told by a man who has MADE ONE than by some person who tells them. A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush, but who wants any birds anyhow? You'll not make a fortune, but you'll save real money if you buy Conoco Gas. and oils. These products possess a combination of power performance and satisfaction of service.

Everybody's No. 2 SERVICE STATION

Kennedy Whiteley.

Sang—Number 87—Lois Whiteley.

Prayer by Leader.

Piano Solo—Duncan Briggs.

Poem—Frances Marie Church.

Song—Number 147—Lois Whiteley.

League Benediction.

Frances Marie Church, Duncan Briggs and Kennedy Whiteley were appointed to serve Nominating Committee this week.

Next Sunday we will hold an election of League Officers.

Junior B. Y. P. U. Program

Subject—"Joseph Returns Good for Evil."

Part One—By Kathleen Harmon.

Part Two—By Harry Boaz.

Part Three—By Ora Derrick.

Part Four—By Mildred McClure.

Part Five—By J. E. Lassiter.

Part Six—By L. V. Moore.

TRENT CHURCH OF CHRIST

Brother Carl A. Collins did not accept the work in El Paso as reported last week, but is back at his post of duty at Merkel. He will preach for us next Sunday at both the morning and evening service.

Bible Study at 10 a. m. Sermon at 11 a. m.—Text: "Make Haste"—Luke 19:5 Communion at 12 Noon. Young People's Service at 6:30 p. m. Sermon at 7:30 p. m.—Text: "Come Unto Me" Matt. 11:28. Midweek Bible Study on Wednesday at 7:30. Subject for discussion: "The Church."

Come and enjoy all these services with us. You are never a stranger here but once.

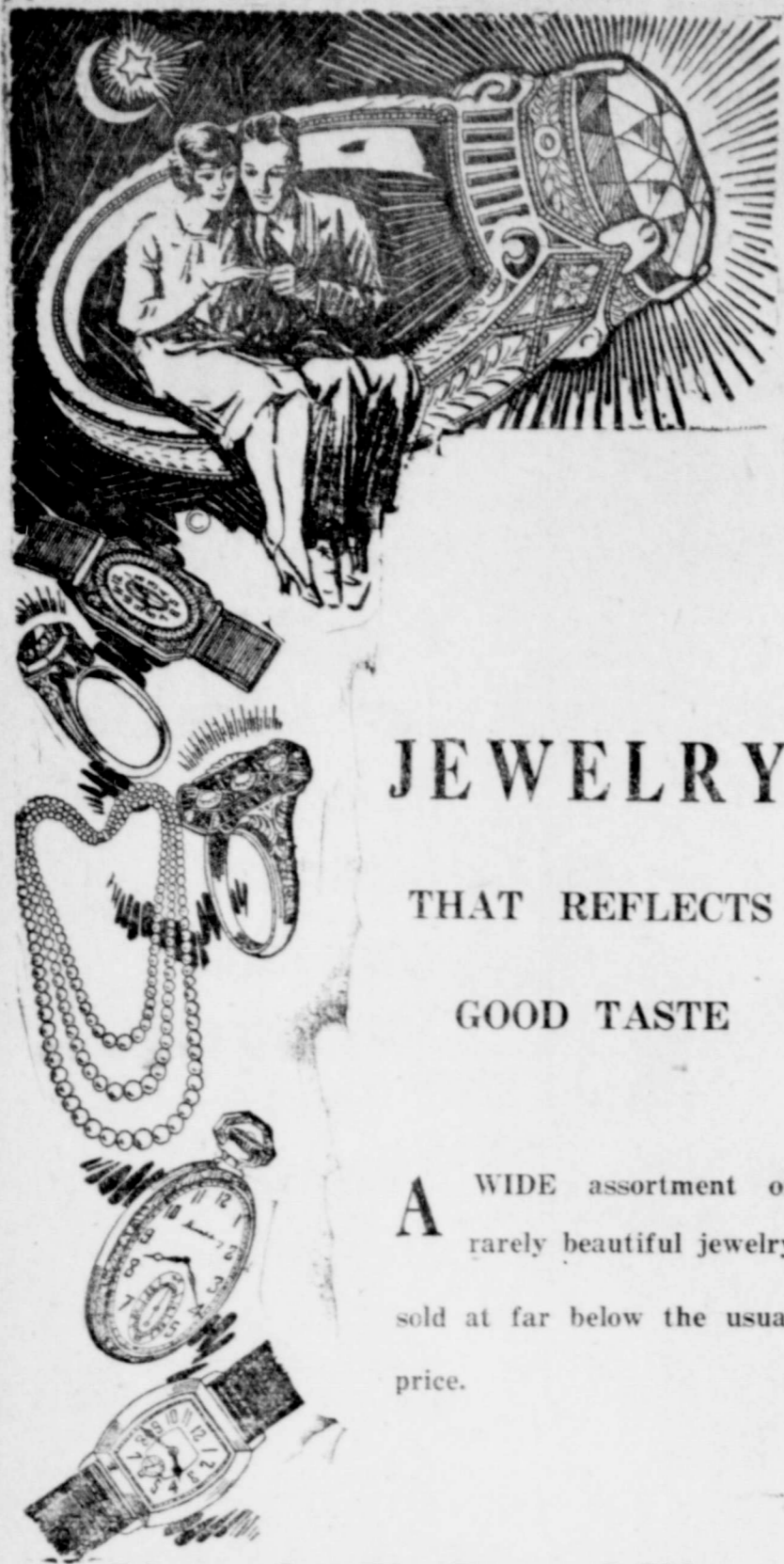
THE HOLIDAY SEASON calls for Fruit Cake, delicious and wholesome. We are reserving them now. Come in today. All sizes. The Quality Bakery.

NOTICE!

GAS CONSUMERS

The F. & M. Nat'l Bank of Merkel has been designated as a depository and collector for the Community Natural Gas Company. All gas bills will be due and payable at this bank on the 25th of each month. Discount will be allowed until and including the 5th of the following month. 5 days will be allowed after discount date for delinquent bills to be paid with discount added and after the 10th of each month gas service will be discontinued on all unpaid bills.

Community Natural Gas Company



JEWELRY

THAT REFLECTS
GOOD TASTE

A WIDE assortment of
rarely beautiful jewelry
sold at far below the usual
price.

Diamonds—The Favored Gift

IF YOU ARE IN DOUBT GIVE HER DIAMONDS
DIAMOND RINGS

\$15.00 to \$1500

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\$12.50 to \$250.00

C. M. Presley Jewelry & Gift Shop

209 Pine Street, Abilene, Texas
Ask Us to Show You Through Our Special Bargain
Department.

No Possible Question as to Man He Wanted

Fifty years ago the pulpit of New England took a free land in elections. The clergy manifested preferences and dislikes as clearly as possible without calling names.

Father Taylor, the famous seaman preacher of Boston, was particularly outspoken. On one occasion in which the exciting contest was temperance, Father Taylor wrestled with the Lord in prayer after this fashion:

"Oh, Lord, give us good men to rule over us—pure men who fear Thee, religious men, temperate men, men whom we can trust, men whom—pshaw, Oh, Lord! what's the use of veering and hauling and boxing round the compass!—Give us George N. Briggs for governor. Amen." And the prayer was answered.

Famous Battles Compared

The battle of the Wilderness, in the Civil war, and the Meuse-Argonne engagement, during the World conflict, both were fought through tangled brush, and both were long and slow against obstinate resistance, with very heavy casualties. But the Meuse-Argonne lasted six times as long as the battle of the Wilderness. Twelve times as many soldiers were engaged as were on the Union side, and they used ten times as many guns and fired 100 times as many rounds of artillery ammunition. The actual weight of ammunition fired by Americans during the Meuse-Argonne battle was greater than that used by the Union forces during the entire Civil war.

Peculiar Roman Sauce

The use by the Romans of the sauce which they called "garum" and which consisted of the thoroughly rotted entrails of the tunny fish, must mean that despite the fact that the Roman laws forbade selling in the market any fish that had ceased to glisten, and for that reason forbade the wetting of fish after it left the water, much unclean fish was eaten and needed therefore to be flavored with a sauce made of decayed fish.

Garum cost in the days of the Roman empire about what a good bottle of brandy costs in France today.—Scribner's Magazine.

Complimentary Degrees

LL. D. is an honorary degree. When LL. D. is conferred upon a man it indicates that he has a profound knowledge of the laws of his profession or that department of knowledge in which he is working. LL. D. is the oldest, highest and most valued university degree, and is conferred only on such as have made themselves very eminent by their skill, learning and original work. It is seldom conferred before the recipient is fifty years of age. LL. D. is usually conferred as an honorary degree, but Snartlett, Chicago, and McGill propose to confer it upon the completion of required work and examinations in any of the higher department of knowledge. LL. D. is sometimes conferred as a third degree, in line with LL. B. and LL. M., with work in law schools. D. C. L. is more often conferred in this way.

French Census Corrected

By Presidential decree, the official population of France has been increased by 23 souls. Guide books, histories, almanacs and other informative volumes which give the population of France as 40,745,851 are in error. The figure should be 40,745,874. When the last census was taken the names of 23 inhabitants of the village of Homcourt, near Cambrai, were carefully jotted down, and then overlooked. The fact that they had not been included in the grand total was discovered only a short time ago, whereupon the President of the republic and the minister of the interior signed a decree correcting the error.

Teach Emotional Control

Self-expression if allowed to run riot is dangerous and ends in trouble, according to a report to the American Eugenic society of Dr. Charles W. Burr. The doctrine of self-expression preached by a small group of writers means allowing the child to follow impulse and should be and is opposed by eugenicists.

Emotions are more fundamental in character than intellect and it is important, as a matter of race improvement, to teach children to control emotions, including rage, fear, love and hate. Unfortunately, a few children cannot be so trained, but the mass can be.—Hygeia Magazine.

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EXTRA TROUSERS FREE WITH EVERY KAHN OR
STERLING TAILOR MADE SUIT!

Extra Trousers DOUBLES THE LIFE of your suit—BUY NOW—THIS "FREE OFFER" a limited time only.

\$30.00 to \$45.00

1,000 beautiful samples to choose from—100 per cent PURE VIRGIN WOOL—made any style you want—Hand-made Fronts in every coat—Yes, and the UNION LABEL is there too!

Our Boys' Dept.

is also complete with everything from "head to foot" for your boy—Ages 1 to 18 years—Clothing, Overcoats, Sweaters, Shoes, Hats, Caps, Shirts, Pajamas, Boy's Cow Boy Boots, Bootees, Cow Boy Suits, Indian Suits, Policeman Suits, Cow Boy Chaps, Gloves, Belts, Neckwear,—in fact, a place to do your CHRISTMAS SHOPPING where you can get "just what you want"—and the prices—well, they will please you, and leave you some "change" for "Fire-Works. Pay us a visit—a pleasure to show you whether you buy or not.

Mingus - Price

"MEN'S AND BOYS' OUTFITTERS"
Pine Street Abilene, Texas

Hey, You!!

Why be scared of
The Adolphus?

We have rooms with
bath at \$2.00

Coffee 5c

The ADOLPHUS
DALLAS, TEXAS

COSTS YOU NOTHING PAYS YOU BEST

Our office is maintained to serve you, without cost, in all insurance matters. Our policies are written to protect you fully and pay you most in cases of loss.

You will find us equipped to give you all forms of property protection insurance, advise you in all insurance matters and serve you at all times. Consider us pleased to give free consultation whenever desired upon insurance.

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REAL ESTATE, FARM LOANS
FIRE INSURANCE
MERKEL, TEXAS

Consult Your Insurance Agent As You Would Your Lawyer

FUN FOR THE CHILDREN BALLONS FREE BAND CONCERT



Given to the Children By

Santa Claus

IN PERSON

Bring the Children! Help Us Make This A
Christmas the Little Tots Will Never Forget!

Santa Claus will arrive on the Texas & Pacific from the East 3:35 p. m. Saturday December 10th. He will be met at the train by Simmons University Cowboy Band, Inc., who will escort him to TOY TOWN at the Acorn Store between 1st & 2nd Streets on Pine.

BALLOONS WILL BE GIVEN FREE TO ALL HIS LITTLE FRIENDS. COME SEE SANTA CLAUS—AND RECEIVE A BALLOON FROM HIS HANDS.

TOY TOWN

THE ACORN STORES, INC.
Between 1st & 2nd on Pine Phone 507
ABILENE, TEXAS

A sitting now solves your most trying gift problems—gives ample time for careful workmanship.



True, it's early yet to buy the ready-made gifts that anyone may buy—but it's just time to prepare for that most personal of all gifts—your photograph.

RODDEN STUDIO

"PHOTOGRAPHS LIVE FOREVER—I HOPE YOU DO."

Stomach Gas Drives Man From Bed

"I had gas so bad I had to get up nights on account of the pressure on my heart. I used Adlerika and have been entirely relieved."—R. F. Kruce

Even the FIRST spoonful of Adlerika relieves gas and often removes astonishing amount of old waste matter from the system. Makes you enjoy your meals and sleep better. No matter what you have tried for your stomach and bowels, Adlerika will surprise you. Merkel Drug Co.

Stockholm Rich Have More Babies Than Poor

Stockholm, Sweden.—Stockholm has a unique claim to glory. Dr. Karl Eden has just completed a statistical study here that shows that the birth rate of the laboring classes is about 35 per cent below that of the more affluent strata of society.

Stockholm laborers are apparently willing to let their earnings determine the number of their progeny, a state of affairs in marked contrast to that which obtains in almost every country in which statistical surveys have been made. The so-called upper classes are usually the ones that limit the size of their families.

Writer Emphatic in Outlining Real West

Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado and Utah are West. Nevada is West by attraction. The eastern fringe of Washington and Oregon is West, but the rest of them is something else—littoral, or Pacific, or what you will, anything to indicate that the life lived there differs in fundamental ways from that lived within the shadow of the Rockies.

California is not West, oh, decidedly and emphatically and with all the insistence of our nature, California is not West. To our sorrow, Arizona and New Mexico are not West, for they are Southwest, and Spanish and Indian civilization separates them from us. We should like to claim them; we regret them more than any other part of the country, and much more (I cannot courteously point out how much more) than we regret California.

The lines of this demarcation are sharp and the land that it sets off is an entity; it once had a separate civilization, and remnants of that civilization are part of us today. Actually, Cheyenne is not much farther west than North Platte, but spiritually, in thought and civilization, they are unmistakably distinct. Cheyenne is West, whereas North Platte is Middle West. And, we must patiently insist, there is a difference.—Bernard DeVoto, in Harper's Magazine.

Saw Possibilities in Tiny Stalk of Wheat

In the early Eighteenth century the congregation in a small German village realized that the bell in the church tower was so small its tones no longer could be heard in the outskirts of the town. A second bell was wanted, but the poor villagers were unable to obtain a sufficient amount to buy it, a writer in the Kansas City Star relates.

One Sunday in 1721 the schoolmaster noticed a tiny stalk of wheat growing outside the church wall and was suddenly impressed with the idea that this stalk could be made to produce a second bell. When the plant was matured and the grain ripened he plucked the six heads and sowed the grain in his garden. After a year or two he had not room enough for the entire crop, so he divided it among the farmers, who continued the sowing until the eighth year, when the crop was so large that the sale of it produced enough money to purchase a beautiful bell for the tower.

Today, nearly two centuries later, the bell, still in use, bears the image of a six-headed stalk of wheat, with the date of its birthday, October 15 1720, engraved upon it.

Conservative Cuss

"What about the feller that sneaked into the Right Place store yesterday and stole \$3 from the cash drawer while the boss and his clerk were out in front, arguing politics?" asked old Riley Rezzidew of Patunia.

"I ain't found out who the scoundrel was, but I've got a claw," answered Constable Stackputter, the famous sleuth. "I Egger he's the same cuss that slipped in and stole \$3 the same way about a year ago. I know who I think he is, and I've been watching him ever since. He ain't done a thing out of the way from then till now, but if rascality is born in a gent it's liable to break out sooner or later, and when it does, I-gorry, I'll be right on hand to nab him!"—Kansas City Star.

Intelligence Tests Fail

I do not believe it is yet, if it ever will be, possible to test general, and still less, native, ability, and I even doubt if there is such a thing as the former. Educators once thought they could give a truly general culture, but most of us now doubt even whether there is any such thing. Psychoanalysis has taught us, if we did not know it before, that all the main determinants of character and conduct lie deeper than intelligence. The testers do not seem to realize that the mentality they test is only a very small part of the soul, and that their so exclusive devotion to it tends to make, and keeps, psychology superficial and narrow.—G. Stanley Hall.

CITATION ON APPLICATION FOR LETTERS OF TESTAMENTARY

THE STATE OF TEXAS: TO THE SHERIFF OR ANY CONSTABLE OF TAYLOR COUNTY, GREETING:

You are hereby commanded to cause to be published once each week for a period of ten days, exclusive of the first day of publication before the return day hereof, in a newspaper of general circulation, which has been continuously and regularly published for a period of not less than one year in said Taylor county, a copy of the following notice.

THE STATE OF TEXAS,

To all persons interested in the Estate of L. R. Bishop, Deceased, you are hereby notified that Mrs. Nonia Bishop, has filed in the County Court of Taylor county, an application for Letters Testamentary upon the Estate of said L. R. Bishop, Deceased, and an application to probate the last will and testament of the said L. R. Bishop, deceased; that the said Mrs. Nonia Bishop has been appointed temporary administratrix of said estate, which appointment will be made permanent at the next regular term

of said Court, commencing on the Third Monday in December, A. D. 1927, the same being the 19th day of December, A. D. 1927, at the Court-House thereof, in Abilene, Texas, at which time all persons interested in said Estate may appear and contest said application, should they desire to do so, and you are hereby cited to appear and contest said application

and appointment at the time and place aforesaid should you desire so to do.

Herein fail not, but have you before said Court on the said first day of the next term thereof this Writ, with your return thereon, showing how you have executed the same.

Given under my hand and seal of said Court at office in Abilene, Texas, this the 29th day of November A. D. 1927.

(SEAL) W. E. BEASLEY
Clerk County Court, Taylor County,

Texas
By Vivian Fryar, Deputy.

File No. 1605. In the County Court of Taylor County, Estate of L. R. Bishop, Deceased.

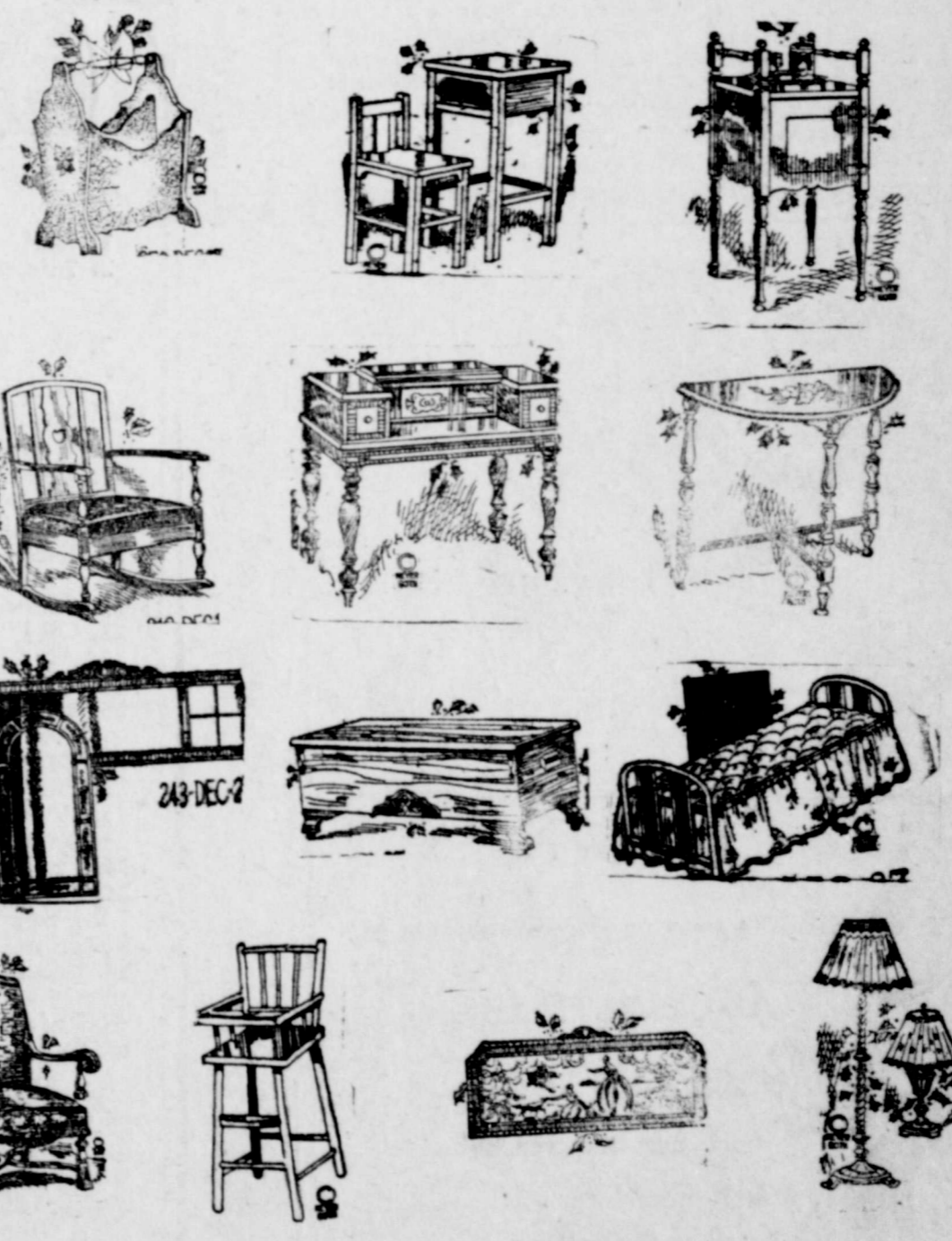
CITATION ON APPLICATION FOR LETTERS TESTAMENTARY
Issued 29th day of November, A. D. 1927.

W. E. Beasley, Clerk
By Vivian Fryar, Deputy.
Published in Merkel Mail December 2-9, 1927.



Here's your answer~ FURNITURE for GIFTS

You do not have to think any longer if you would make gifts of the utmost beauty, usefulness and durability. Furniture gifts last longest and are a continual and pleasant reminder of the giver. Be sure to see our GIFT EXHIBITS.



OPEN EVENINGS

Barrow Furniture Co.



CHRISTMAS SUGGESTIONS

For HIM. Useful and wearable gifts are always most acceptable. There are many things to select gifts from at Ward's. And no matter what you select HE will be sure to be pleased with it.

Plain And Figured Shirts
Shirts of Broadcloth, Madras and Percales, in plain and fancy materials and satin stripes. Collars attached and collar to match styles.

Lilly Luggage
Luggage will make a highly appropriate gift and one that will give plenty of wear. Our stock includes Gladstones, Traveling Bags, Ladies' Hat Boxes, Outfitted Bags and Over-Night Bags.

Plain and Fancy Handkerchiefs
Plain white linen, colored borders and monograms characterize these handkerchiefs.

Pajamas
Of broadcloth and flannelette, well cut and made garments featuring many designs and profuse stripes. All sizes.

Gayly Colored Sox
Fancy Silk and Plain Sox, designs and stripes in all colors and combinations. These sox will delight any man's heart. Buy them by the box.

- BATHROBES —SMOKING JACKETS
- BELT SETS —TIES
- SUITS —TOPCOATS —OVERCOATS

WARD CLOTHING COMPANY
"We Fit the Hard to Fit" ABILENE, TEXAS

"Leave It to Me," Said

Jimson, and Made Good

"I've nothing in particular especially to do tonight, so I think I'll fix that clock," decided Jimson Skupper. "I'll show the people in this house whether I put off fixing it because I didn't know how, or merely because I didn't have time before!"

And he looked at the handsome eight-day clock on the mantel, and after a half hour's concentration, removed the back. Dusting off the jewel-mounted dials spring with the end of his handkerchief and pouring oil on the revolving gaskets and shimpwinders, he screwed the back on again, wound up the clock and then shook it.

The clock continued in a state of innocuous inactivity.

"Humph!" Jimson Skupper exclaimed to himself, and this time took the face off and squirted eau de cologne into the left porthole. Then, after breathing a prayer on the hands and rubbing it in well, he returned the clock its face and shook it again.

It remained in a condition of non-committal somnolence.

"Heck!" swore Jimson Skupper, and hurried the blamed thing forcibly into the stone fireplace. Instantly it began ticking with sensible industriousness.

"Leave it to me!" said Jimson loftily and placed the clock back on the mantel and lit his pipe with the air of somebody who really was somebody.—Providence Journal.

Senate Slow to Part
With Historic Relics

The gavel in use today in the senate was used to call the Continental congress to order and by every presiding officer of the senate since the days of John Adams, the first vice president of the United States, points out Winifred Mallon in an article in Liberty.

"The gavel is small, but highly effective," writes the author. "Carved from an elephant's tusk, it is yellowed with age. It is shaped like an hourglass, and without a handle, either end fitting comfortably into the hand."

Visitors to the senate chamber in Washington, the author continues, are also shown other historical possessions, including the sand sifters. These are small glass bottles with perforated tops, in size and shape like the ink-bottles beside which they are fitted into the top of each senator's desk.

"They are kept filled with prepared sand," it is explained, "and are used by many senators today, who continue to shake the sand over a freshly written page to dry the ink, in preference to using blotting-paper."

Methodists Plan Big
World Meeting in 1928

Kansas City.—Annual conferences of the Methodist Episcopal church all over the world are electing delegates to the general conference to convene here May 1, 1928.

Church problems will be discussed and plans formulated by 850 delegates, half of whom are ministerial and half lay representatives. Possibility of a union between the Methodist Episcopal church and the Methodist Episcopal church, South, is seen in the fact that members of the southern church have been appointed on reception committees and will attend some of the sessions.

From 1773 to 1784 all traveling ministers were members of the annual conference which met for "conversation or conference."

For some years there were quadrennial conferences in Baltimore. In 1808 a demand for a delegated membership was lost on the first vote, 65 to 57. When the ministers packed their saddle bags and prepared to return home, another vote was taken and the delegated general conference came into being.

A movement has been launched to cut down the 1928 number and action is expected at the May meeting.

Sitting Bull's Nephew
May Run for Congress

Pierre, S. D.—One of the possibilities of the next campaign in South Dakota is that of a full-blood Sioux Indian getting into the race for congress from the Third Congressional district.

This from the fact that Chauncey Yellow Robe, who has contracted his name to Chauncey Y. Robe, is being urged as the Democratic candidate to oppose Congressman William Williamson in the next campaign. This for the reason that he will be expected to receive the support of his party in that district, which has been able to hold the congressional representative for a number of times, and that he will secure the rather important Indian vote of that district.

Robe is a nephew of old Sitting Bull, who was prominent in the affairs of the Northwest a half-century ago. He has a college education, and presided at the ceremony by which President Coolidge was made a member of the Sioux tribe at Deadwood.

That's Good

Washington.—When a man under oath guesses wrong about the age of a girl it is not perjury, a District of Columbia grand jury decided in refusing to indict Victor Niskumure on that charge.

Forests Gave Name
to Land of Holland

Allow me to give another explanation of the name of Holland. All the land along the North sea wa. In the time before Christ mostly delta land from the outlets of the Rhine, Neuse and Schelde rivers. It was covered with high forest called in the old Dutch language "Holt," and in modern Dutch "Hout." Therefore, "Holland" means nothing else than "Woodland." The original small principalities, all inhabited by the Bataves and Frieses, covered a country from Denmark to northern France and were called Netherlands. This is the exact name of the country, meaning lowlands. In the Thirty Years war, only the middle part of this country formed a republic; the northern part stayed under German rule, the southwest part under Belgium and France. The principal province of the United Provinces of the Netherlands was the province of Holland. The name Dutch, given to the Hollanders by England, is wrong. The Germans call themselves Deutschers and their country is Deutschland. In the Netherlands are living the descendants of the old Bataves and Frieses.—Pathfinder Magazine.

Historians in Dispute

There is a great difference of opinion as to which are the precise mountains spoken of as Mount Sinai and Mount Horeb in the Old Testament. They were undoubtedly peaks located on the Sinai peninsula, which is a territory projecting into the Red sea between the gulf of Suez and the gulf of Akaba. The southern part of this is mountainous. Many historians are of the opinion that Jebel Musa represents Sinai and Jebel al Mir represents Horeb. Others are of the opinion that there were not two mountains, but that Jebel Musa was the one differently designated as Horeb or Sinai.

Note for Golfers

White Plains, N. Y.—Medical experts of the Burke foundation are studying the effect of golf upon those suffering from nervous disorders. One subject's blood pressure rose 30 points when he was attempting to get the ball out of a sand trap.

Presidential Yacht

In the days of Presidential luxury, which began with the Roosevelt administration, the yacht Mayflower was first applied to the purpose she has since served. President Roosevelt took over the vessel in 1902 by permission of congress. Upon her decks he introduced the Russian and Japanese commissioners who met at Portsmouth, N. H., and made the peace between their countries. Since then she has received the guests of four subsequent Presidents, and has served all of them as a part-time summer White House.

Still Worse

"That, sir, is a falsehood!" severely said the schoolma'am. "Do you know what will happen to you if you tell lies?"

"Yes'm," nonchalantly replied Skinnery Simpson. "I'll go to hell and burn."

"Worse than that! You will be expelled from school!"—Kansas City Times.

Asked for It

A resident in a street which was undergoing repairs protested about a pile of broken paving outside his front gate.

"Can't you take this away?" he shouted to one of the men on the job—an Irishman.

"Where will I take it?" asked Paddy, with a grin.

Whereupon the man told him clearly and forcefully where he might take it.

"Hadn't I rather take it to heaven?" was Paddy's retort. "It would be more out of your way there!"—London Tit-Bits.

Life in Fort Mink

A young Englishman had brought over some glass beads for which he expected to obtain furs from the Indians. After many failures he was talking with Toofus, the Fort Mink philosopher and guide.

"You may get rid of the beads," explained Toofus, "but you must expect to take a loss. You are not living in the days of Captain Marryat. Indians are foxy traders in these times."

"Then what do they want with glass beads?"

"For headwork to trim tourists with."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Cussing your neighbor and your town don't get you very far. The man who stands on the streets and cusses his neighbors and his town seldom ever spends a dime or makes an effort to help either his neighbor or his town. And he is always an unpopular citizen. He may have plenty of this world's goods, needs neither the good will of his town or neighbors, but when the last chapter has been written in life's book of activities he will pass away and his memory soon blot-

ted out and forgotten; leaving his worldly possessions for the mad scramble of those left behind. Let's all be boosters for our town and our neighbors during the coming year.

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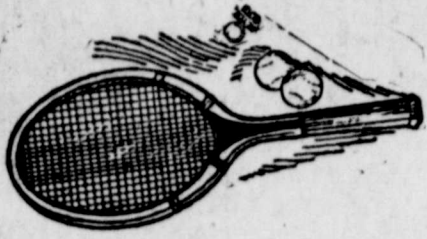
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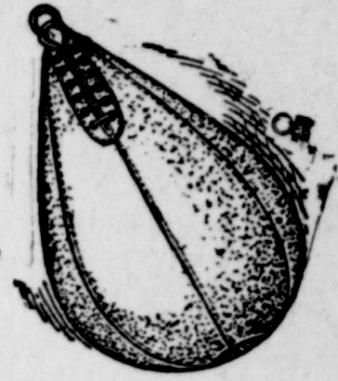
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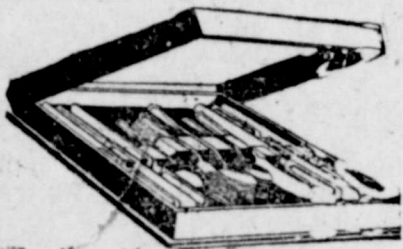


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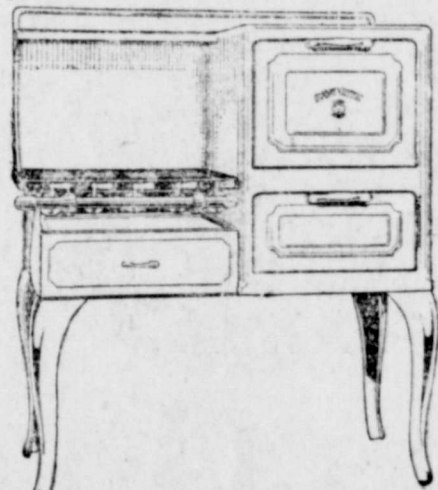


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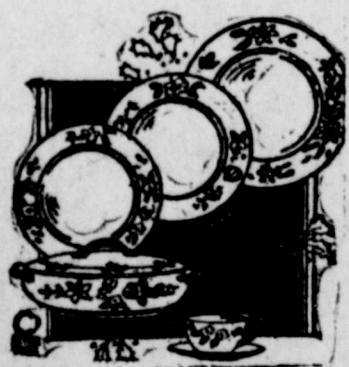
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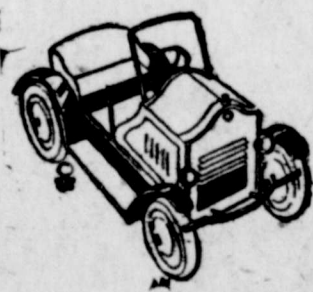
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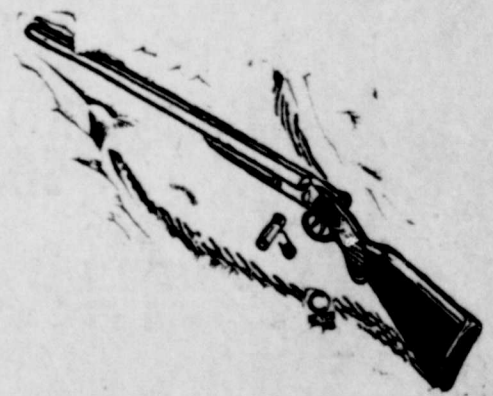
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Experiences Rival Those of Pirate Days.

Fort Lauderdale, Fla.—One thrilling adventure after another, rivaling those of days when pirate ships sailed the high seas and buccaneers compelled their prisoners to walk the plank, makes up the life of coast guardsmen battling rum runners in Florida waters.

Prices have been put upon the heads of several guardsmen, officers declare, as the struggle to halt the smuggling of liquor becomes more acute. Winter's icy winds in the North are turning the bows of many runners southward, resulting in increased activity along the Florida coast.

When a slim, speedy government chaser, armed with one-pounders, closes in on the boat filled with illegal cargo, the officers seldom know whether the crew will surrender, abandon the vessel or choose to "fight it out."

Three Killed in Battle.

There was, for example, the recent battle about thirty miles off Fort Lauderdale in which three officers were killed and a fourth wounded when coast guard boat No. 249 captured a rum runner.

The 249 was on its way to Nassau, in the Bahamas, carrying Robert K. Webster, secret service operative, to trace counterfeit \$50 bills used in rum transactions, when it spotted and closed in on the rumboat and captured Horace Alderman and Robert E. Weech.

While officers transferred the cargo, Sidney Sanderlin, boatswain, sought to get in touch by radio with the Fort Lauderdale base. Suddenly, the account goes, Alderman fired down the hatch and killed Sanderlin. Victor A. Lamby, motor machinist, rushed to aid the fallen man and was mortally wounded by a bullet through his spine.

Alderman grabbed Lamby's gun, gave it to Weech and ordered the other six government men to "line up."

"Move the whisky back to our boat," he instructed Weech, "and then go below and set this government boat on fire."

As Weech went into the hold Webster jumped for Alderman. He was killed instantly with a bullet through his head. Jodie L. Hollingsworth, following the secret service man, was wounded through the eye and nose. But it was the "break," and the rest of the small crew rushed upon Alderman and Weech and overpowered them and brought them to port. They now await trial at Jacksonville for

Other Smuggling Part of Job.
Closely allied with rum running is the smuggling of aliens and narcotics. An affidavit in government possession tells how a rumboat took twenty-seven aliens from Cuba to an island off Florida, only to return in a few days to rob them of all they had. Other stories tell of aliens paying the smuggling fees, being taken aboard and being set adrift at sea or drowned.

Strategy is used oftener than force to land liquor. Submersible steel tanks, carrying about 600 cases of liquor, were used with success for a while, towed behind boats and cut adrift if guardsmen pressed too closely.

Attempts to smuggle by airplane are no longer novel. Planes can easily fly between the British Bahamas and Florida, but federal operatives now know how to deal with them. They are sighted in the air and kept from landing.

Even when rum runners desert their boats, danger lurks often in bombs with time fuses or explosives attached to the ignition. More than 5,000 miles of coast line around Florida offer innumerable bays and inlets where rum runners try to land cargoes. To meet the situation reinforcements are being added and a section base is to be set up at St. Petersburg with an offshore patrol of six vessels. The coast guard also uses planes.

Blind Can Read Music by Use of New Method

Jacksonville, Ill.—The blind can now read music, written in the raised dots of Braille, by "sight." With one hand the sightless player reads the music on the piano rack and plays it with the other. It takes only practice for him to memorize the notes sufficiently to play the selection with both hands.

A revolutionary step in teaching the blind, the method making possible "sight" reading of music, was perfected by L. W. Rodenberg, himself sightless, who is in charge of printing at the Illinois School for the Blind at Jacksonville. It was demonstrated for the first time at the seventh annual Illinois conference on public welfare, held in Joliet.

Previously, in printing music in Braille, all the words of a song were followed by the notes of the music. In the new method, each word is followed by the accompanying note, throughout the selection.

Their Recreation

Mexico City.—Lindbergh enjoyed himself in Paris flying new planes and Senor Schiffely, who is riding a horse from Buenos Aires to New York, has found recreation here by attending a rodeo.

INVENTS LOCK TO FOIL BANK BANDITS

Prevents Instant Seizure and Quick Getaway.

New York.—A system for frustrating robberies by delaying bandits until the police arrive is to be introduced in banks throughout the country. It was announced here recently by the Sargent & Greenleaf company, whose president, W. R. Hill of Rochester, N. Y., has invented a device known as the "timebination" lock. With the new principle of lock operation, safe doors cannot open until a predetermined time after the combination has been released.

The timebination—a combined time and combination lock—can be set for any period from 10 minutes to 72 hours. Thus, almost instant seizure of funds and a quick getaway in a fast automobile—the bold procedure of the modern rald—are to be met by overcoming the advantage of speed, upon which criminals depend for their success.

Under the system outlined by Hill, banks and brokerage houses would have their vaults set to open for brief intervals at various times during the day, when enough cash could be taken out until the next opening. In the event that bank officials were compelled to open the combinations of the vaults, a predetermined time interval would have to elapse before the doors could swing open and give access to the vaults.

The same principle is to be applied in the transportation of large sums of cash in heavy chests equipped with timebination locks so they cannot be opened for several hours.

A questionnaire to police chiefs throughout the United States and in European capitals, Hill said, confirmed his belief that in bank robberies, as in fires, the first few minutes are more important than the succeeding hours or days in the prevention of robberies and apprehension of the criminals.

Doctors Use Planes to Visit Isolated Towns

Melbourne, Australia.—An aviation medical service is being organized by the Australian government.

All the important hospitals throughout the country will have a fleet of airplanes at their command and will be in touch by wireless with the interior small towns and desert stations.

When needed, doctors will be transported by plane to the point indicated, and in cases of emergency the patient will be taken by air to the nearest hospital.

First of Vanderbilts Builder and Fighter

Commodore Vanderbilt, who built the foundation of the family's wealth upon the bottom boards of the pirogues that plied the bay between Staten Island and Whitehall, appears to have been neither a lovable nor a great-hearted man. Arthur D. Howden Smith, in his biography of Vanderbilt, states specifically that he lacked those qualities, and calls him a man "who trampled ruthlessly upon all opposition, who had no spark of chivalry, but a man whose ambition was to build up, not to tear down. According to his own standards, an honorable man. And always a fighter; fighting for steamboats, fighting for railroads, fighting for life."

He won at both the fighting and the building. When his last illness was upon him he called his son, Billy, and said:

"Bill, I'm leavin' ye close to \$90,000,000."

"Yes, father," answered Billy.

"What ye think the others are agoin' to say?"

"What can they say, father?"

"Wish I knew. There'll only be about \$15,000,000 to divide among the lot of 'em."—Detroit News.

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Mr. F. J. Smith's many friends are glad to see him back among us after an absence of some two months in South Texas.

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IF YOU HAVE REAL-ESTATE for sale or trade, would be glad to have you list it with me. Will try and give you good service. L. R. Thompson. tfn

FOR SALE—Paige Sedan in good shape. Just the car for family use. See Sie Hamm. 3t.

DEPENDABLE TREES AND PLANTS—Finest trees in fifty-two years. Sure-bearing Peach, Plum, Apple, Apricot, Fig, Nectarine, Jujube, Persimmon, Grape, Blackberries, Hauptberries, Dewberries, Pecans. We pay express, and can tell you the best sorts for your location. Shades, Evergreens, climate-proof Shrubs, Roses and Bulbs. We make landscape plans. Ask for free catalogue. RAMSEY'S AUSTIN NURSERY, Austin, Texas. 25tf.

FOR SALE—See my Copper-Back Bronze Turkeys before you buy your stock for another year. Phone 246. J. Ben Campbell. 25

FOR SALE—56 acres, joining townsite at Blair on West. All in cultivation. W. A. Campbell, Merkel, R 3 25t5pd.

FOR SALE—'27 Model Ford Coupe in good condition, good tires. Will sell cheap for cash. Geo. T. Moore at F. & M. Bank. 2tfn.

FOR SALE—Some good, fresh milk cows, also some mules. See L. L. Huddleston. Phone 231. 2-2tpd.

FOR SALE—As good as new, slightly used New Perfection oil cook stove. Also one coal heater. W. A. Whiteley. 9-1t.

NOTICE—Have a few more localities for Watkins dealers, as follows: Wilbarger, South Callahan and South Lynn counties. W. A. Whiteley. 1t.

FOR SALE—A 4-Hole gas cook-stove and heater. Call at the Merkel Mail office. 9-1t.

FOR SALE—My home on Oak Street. Phone 154-W. Mrs. S. H. L. Swafford. 9-1t.

FOR SALE OR TRADE—Good work horse and mule in good condition, gentle. To trade for plow tools or wagon. See J. A. Jaynes, Merkel, Route One. 9-1tpd.

FOR SALE—My home and farm, in North Merkel. For short time only. R. B. Wells. 9-1tpd.

FOR SALE OR TRADE—Good 1926 Model Ford Touring Car. Would trade for 1927 Ford Coupe; paying the difference in cash. R. B. Tooley, Tye, Texas. 9-1tpd.

FOR SALE OR TRADE—Ford Touring. Motor A-1 Running order, good rubber. See Vernon Simpson at Liberty Hardware

FOR SALE—Complete Blacksmith Shop at Blair, Texas, including building and lot, power hammer, gas engine, and all necessary tools. Write or see G. A. Wheeler, Colorado, Texas. Dunn Route. 9-9tpd.

FOR SALE—One car of fresh springer Jersey Milk Cows. Near Camp Fair. Ellerbee Bros. 9-1tp.

FOR SALE—Good Remington Portable typewriter, in fine shape. See Dr. H. P. Hulsey. 9-1t.

FOR RENT

FOR RENT—Two furnished rooms Modern. Gas heater and cook stove. Mrs. F. Y. Gaither. 9-1t.

FOR RENT—Two unfurnished rooms. Mrs. Pilcher. 9-1tpd.

FOR RENT—One large room, furnished for housekeeping, water inside. Second house North of Christian Church. Mrs. R. L. Bradshaw. 1t.

FOR RENT—Two furnished rooms nice and clean, lights, east front, water inside. B. M. Black. 9-1tp

FOR RENT—4-Room down-stairs apartment, partly furnished. Bath, etc. S. F. Haynes. 9-1tpd.

FOR RENT—Nicely furnished bedrooms close in on Oak Street. Heater and closets in room; access to modern bath—Mrs. Jas. H. West. Tel 145.

DESIRABLE Furnished Apartment for rent. Three blocks from town on Oak Street. Modern conveniences; access to bath with hot water. Garage, lights and telephone furnished. Mrs. Jas. H. West, Tel. 145.

Fixtures For Sale—Merchants Notice—Up-to-date store fixtures at a big saving. Brown Dry Goods Company.

WANTED

WANTED—Dressmaking or plain sewing. Mrs. Pilcher. 9-1tp.

WANTED—To rent a good used piano for six months. Mrs. Will D. Williams, Merkel, R. 1. 9-1t.

LOST AND FOUND

LOST—29 x 4.40 Titan Balloon casing and tube on rim, between Merkel and Noodle Dome by way of Kale, Sunday. Finder please leave at Blue Front Service Station and receive reward. 9-1tpd.

FOUND—A gray and blue checked ladies coat in car in front of Palace Theatre. Owner can get same at the Merkel Mail office by paying for this notice. 9-1t.

City Furniture Company has used pianos, organs, oil and wood cook stoves, heaters, phone boxes. Place to save money. Joe Garland, Prop. tf

You may send your child for meat with the assurance of receiving the same good quality as if you came for it yourself—if you send to Baker & Wheeler Market. tf

Average Man Puts in Eight Years of Work

The average man is at least sixteen before he starts serious work and even then there are not many of us who do more than eight hours a day.

The average man's working life is about thirty years, so the person who works eight hours out of each fourteen for thirty years has done ten years' work in his lifetime.

This is reckoning that he has worked eight hours a day and seven days a week, which of course, none of us do. We have to remember the Saturday half-holiday and Sunday, which leave only 44 working hours for the week. This means cutting our ten weeks down by roughly two years, so that a life's work is reduced to only eight years!

Another deduction must be made for illness, so out of those eight years' work another six months must be taken. In point of fact, the actual loss is a fraction under six months, but, in round numbers, there is only seven and a half years of work in the ordinary person's lifetime.

Poetic Tribute Paid by Egyptians to Sun

A tribute to the orb of day from "The Literature of Ancient Egypt," as translated by Aylward M. Blackburn from the German of Adolf Erman: "When it is dawn and thou risest in the horizon and shinest as the sun in the day, thou dispellest the darkness and sheddest thy beams.

"The Two Lands keep festival, awake, and stand on their feet, for thou has raised them up.

"They wash their bodies, they take their garments, and their hands praise thine arising. The whole land, it doeth work.

"All beasts are content with their pasture, the trees and herbs are verdant. The birds fly out of their nests and their wings praise thy ka.

"The ships voyage down and up stream likewise, and every way is open, because thou arisest. The fishes in the river leap up before thy face. Thy rays are in the sea."

So centuries before Christ, the earth and they that dwell therein felt the urge to be up and doing with the sun. Who spoke of Egyptian darkness?

No "Spoonng" in Italy

"Spoonng" is a custom unknown to Italians. For Italian love-making is highly decorous and conducted solely with a flow of language which, if understood, would bring joy to the heart of any American flapper. It is literally impossible to translate the American verb "to spoon" into the Italian language without using words which to Italians sound positively indecent. Yet the custom has entered Italy, and the Italians have been obliged to translate the American verb to meet the situation. Near Genoa there is a park in which appears a signboard which says, "Lo spunaggiamento severamente proibito," meaning "spoonng severely prohibited."

Delightful Gossip

Gossip is what delights us all. In gossip we deal with everything that is personal to ourselves and personal to those with whom we have some authentic acquaintance. We—if the purist will have it so—chatter. But in chattering we are at ease. We are not striving to appear cleverer than we really are, or more learned. We are not venturing out into the fields that we only pretend to know. We are not being "intellectual" or "arty." We are just saying what comes into our heads and to the tips of our ready tongues about everything that we regard as interesting.—Frank Swinerton in New York Herald Tribune.

Real Things of Life

A writer in Psychology Magazine points out that the spirit of revenge—the chance to "get even"—should never concern us. She continues, "All truly great souls have a feeling of unconcern at false, detrimental things being told about them. They ignore the lies. To cling with faithfulness to our own ideals and to the purpose we have set our lives to, is the only sensible attitude. Be concerned with your own integrity, your own fidelity to the true principles of life and you can laugh at the many petty tales of jealousy, the deliberate misconstructions that have been placed upon your actions or words."

Not the Only Big Pig

Word comes from Johannesburg, South Africa, through London, that the world's biggest pig recently traveled to that fair accompanied by his valet and manager. This pig recently visited Australia and has traveled 35,000 miles. He is insured for \$25,000 and his daily meals consist of four cases of apples, eight or nine buckets of milk, two bushels of bran and sixteen to eighteen cabbages, with a few side dishes thrown in. He measures 8 feet 3 inches long and his belt is 6 feet 9 inches. He weighs over half a ton. At that, he wouldn't make some of our largest specimens look very puny.—American Swineherd.

Prosaic Shepherding

Shepherding is becoming a science in France. A school of shepherding is operating at Rambouillet. The school is a government institution, fostered by the ministry of agriculture. It teaches many things that the shepherds with their crooks, painted by artists and described by poets, never bothered about. There are no picturesque costumes. Students are not judged by their ability to sing or pose. They have to study the work of shepherding with a view to making a profit on sheep. About all the romance left in the profession is the sheep dog.

Children Disapprove

A new minister had come to a small rural town, and being young and a trifle dashing, had been barbered with sideburns. A group of little girls of the parish surveyed him critically and had not much to say for the new pastor. This hostile attitude on the part of their children was most trying to the women of the church, so one mother asked her small daughter what the trouble seemed to be. The little girl explained it thus: "Oh, he thinks he is cute, wearing those sunburns on his face."

When Business is Good SATURDAY night is a mighty good time to ask yourself this question: "Is our community sending more money out of town than is coming in each week?" Of course the only safe answer is "NO!" This means that we folks in this neighborhood must patronize local supply men and merchants if we expect our town to prosper and "stay on the map." Frankly, it means that every citizen will find it most profitable to read the advertisements in this paper every issue, and to follow their good advice. Our advertisers are all personally interested in this town—and in YOU. They are helping you build a better home community. When business is good, their profits are being shared with you in an endless chain of co-operative betterment. Read the Ads in this Paper and save yourself money by trading at home

EVANGELINE'S EDEN ENGULFED BY FLOOD

Acadians Again Driven From Their Homes.

Washington.—The United States' sixth Great Lake, the Lake of the Mississippi, larger than Ontario or Erie, has engulfed the Evangeline country.

When it broke the Atchafalaya river's west dikes, the flood lake rolled its shores over and beyond St. Martin and St. Landry parishes.

"Again the Acadians have been driven from their homes," says a bulletin of the National Geographic society from its Washington headquarters. "And the disaster is greater, by number of sufferers, than that visited upon Evangeline's people in her time."

"Only 8,000 Acadians were expelled from Nova Scotia in 1765 by Massachusetts and British bayonets to be scattered over the earth from Detroit to Corsica and Cayenne. Fifteen hundred of them found their way to New Orleans; many pushed on to Bayou Teche, 150 miles west. There they increased to some 150,000, occupying 15 parishes, or counties, when the flood spread over their homes, towns, and lands.

Beautiful is the land, with its prairies and forests of fruit trees; Under the feet a garden of flowers, and the bluest of heavens bending above, and resting its dome on the walls of the forest. They who dwell there name it the Eden of Louisiana. All year 'round the orange groves are in blossom; and grass grows More in a single night than a whole Canadian summer.

Turn to Stock Raising.

"For a poet, Longfellow's geography is fairly good. Basil, the Acadian blacksmith, has become a herdsman in 'Evangeline.' Most of the refugees in 1765 did turn to stock raising with a few cattle given to them by charitable French merchants of New Orleans. Descendants of the Acadians gave up stock raising for sugar cane when Etienne de Bore, a Louisiana, discovered how to crystallize sugar from cane syrup. They have helped to make Atchafalaya valley the Sugar Bowl of Louisiana.

"The route over which Longfellow takes Evangeline serves very well for a visitor today. Fifteen miles below Baton Rouge, where,

Sweeps with majestic curve the river away to the eastward. They, too swerved from their course; and entering the Bayou of Plaquemine.

Soon were lost in a maze of sluggish and devious waters. "This bayou admits to the 'lakes of the Atchafalaya,' where 'water lilies in myriads rocked on the slight undulations,' and rocked for years until the Mississippi broke through, threatening to make the Atchafalaya river its real mouth instead of an abandoned one.

"How Evangeline got to Bayou Teche, the poem does not clearly relate. Many swamp lanes communicate. The Bayou Teche parallels the Atchafalaya, but it is a true river out of the reach of swamps and bordered by Druid oaks. The two early centers of Acadian settlement were Opelousas and St. Martinsville on the banks of the Teche. Now the flood has reached St. Martinsville for the first time in history and swirls at the foot of the 'Evangeline' oak where her boatmen landed. An Acadian descendant gave the Evangeline oak, with 150 acres of land, for a state park.

"While to readers of 'Evangeline' the inhabitants of southwest Louisiana are still Acadians, to Louisianians they are 'Cajons' or 'Cajuns,' a corruption of Acadian. Four kinds of Frenchmen inhabit the state: the Creoles, natives of French and Spanish descent; Frenchmen, who were born in France; the San Domingan Creoles, and finally the Nova Scotian Acadians, the 'Cajons.'

"The typical Creole frequents the city; the 'Cajon' remains a countryman.

Raise Perique Tobacco. "The savor of the 'Cajon' coast comes to us even though we never travel there. It rises steaming from chicken gumbo soup—real gumbo soup—a 'Cajon' creation. It rides on the blue smoke wreaths from many pipes, for perique tobacco is also a 'Cajon' product.

"Under the sad banners of Spanish war, sailing on Evangeline's oak at St. Martinsville, one hears a different ending to the story. Longfellow has given us in verse.

"Evangeline's real name was Emmerline Labiche, 'Cajons' say, and Gabriel was Louis Arconneau. They were deported on separate ships, but Emmerline landed in Maryland. Emmerline heard that Louis was in Louisiana, so she set out to reach him, and after many hardships came to St. Martinsville.

"Gabriel had gone, according to Longfellow, but Louis was there. In fact, local legend holds Emmerline rushed to Louis, the first person she saw at the landing. Louis told her, gently, that he had despaired of seeing her again. He had married. When she heard this her arms slipped from his neck. Her mind became blank. Emmerline day by day grew more frail. She drooped and died. This is the 'Cajon' story.

"They buried her in the little churchyard near the tree where she found Louis; the little churchyard where water now laps at the ancient graves. She has slept there undisturbed beside the bright bayou where bloom acres of st. blue water lilies for years when there is no wind."

THE DOER OF DEEDS

By EVELYN GAGI BROWNE

IT ISN'T the man who tells you How everything should be done; Who points out this one's failures, And jibes at everyone.

Who boasts how he'd have done it, And criticizes the way. The Doer of Deeds is working— Who counts in the world today.

It's the man who's in the struggle, Whose face is grimed and worn, Who keeps on fighting bravely, Though battle-scarred and torn.

He may fall—but gets up gamely, And, striving, never needs. The ones who sneer and slander, But dares to do the deeds.

He gives himself, unsparring, And never counts the cost; But knows the joy of fighting, Although his cause is lost.

To him belongs the credit, And the victor's laurels, too; For the world today is needing The man who dares to do!

(Copyright.)

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

By F. A. WALKER

THE LOGICAL SEX

ABOUT the oldest tradition in the world is the one that describes the "race of men" as the logical sex. The masculine human being is convinced that he solves his problems by reasoning with himself about them.

On the other hand, he is convinced that the female of the species is simply guided by instinct.

This is in spite of the fact that all over the world, from China to Peru, when it comes to the question of feminism, the men lay down a general proposition and then proceed to evade it.

In a word, women and men are "equal." But man's prejudices must not be interfered with. He still reserves to himself the right to protect and regulate the other half of humanity.

Women have the right to vote at elections all over the continent of North America. They may be admitted to the bar and plead before the courts. But the question whether or not they should be allowed to sit on juries is not yet settled in most of the states.

Various reasons are given by those who oppose the change.

When it is examined the opposition is found to be based on the theory that the gentle sex must be regulated as it has been in the past.

An interesting example of masculine logic is supplied by the German republic.

In the constitution of that state it is provided explicitly that men and women have the same rights and, apart from fighting, must perform the same duties.

Yet when the proposal to make women eligible for jury duty came up before the federal council in the form of the proposed draft of a law, it was negatived.

The explanation given by Herr Von Preger, the Bavarian representative, ought to be framed and hung up in every woman's club in the world as an example of how not to reason.

"The Bavarian government," he said, "maintains the principal standpoint that women are not suited to judicial office. The admission of women would result in a softening of justice, which is most undesirable just at this time."

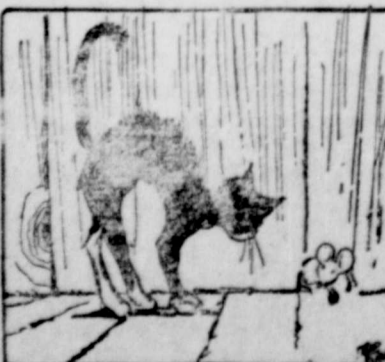
So it all comes to this: Women may elect those who make the laws; they may expound the same laws, but they are not fit to decide simple questions of fact arising in connection with the administration of the laws.

When Mrs. Poyser made the tart generalization that the women were made fools "to match the men" she was really unnecessarily severe on the long suffering sisterhood.

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What Does Your Child Want to Know?

Answered by BARBARA BOURJAILLY



WHY DOES A CAT'S FUR STAND UP WHEN SHE IS FRIGHTENED? To make the cat seem larger And scare away its foes, It humps its back and says, "spat, spat," And then away it goes.

SOVIETS HIT AT HEAD OF MOSLEM

Russians Attack Islam in Samarkand, Quaint City of Central Asia.

Washington.—Samarkand, venerable city of central Asia, has been the scene of a series of recent clashes between the Soviet apostles of modernism and the conservative religious leaders of Islam.

The quaint city with the melodious name lies about 250 miles southwest of Tashkent, Turkestan, on the Transcaspian railroad.

Perhaps nowhere in the Moslem world, except Mecca, could the Russians have invaded a more hostile territory to attack Mohammedanism, says a bulletin of the National Geographic society. According to ancient legend, Samarkand was the head of Mohammedanism and Mecca the heart. Two Arab missionaries visited this region. Hungry, they cut up a sheep and put it on the fire to roast. While the meat was cooking they planned their work. They agreed that the one drawing the sheep's heart from the pot should go to Mecca, and that the one drawing the head should remain at Samarkand.

Samarkand is more than 6,000 years old and once had a population of more than a million. Today it has fewer than 60,000 inhabitants. The Persians once called it the hub of the universe. When Alexander the Great destroyed it, in 329 B. C., it was a prosperous city surrounded by a nine-mile wall, pierced by nineteen gates.

Famous Public Square.

After the Russians took the city in 1868, they built a new city outside its western limits. A long, wide boulevard, shaded by tall poplars, now separates the two settlements.

The native city is a labyrinth of narrow, crooked, dusty streets, bordered with dirty mud walls of courtyards and one-story houses. In the business blocks cluster dilapidated booths, cluttered with edibles and garments. Bearded men and veiled women crowd the streets, dodging camels, donkeys, droskies and high-wheeled carts, all mud-brown from the dust, while peasants, laden with produce from their farms and gardens, plod along to the public square.

Samarkand's registan, or public square, is one of the most famous in the world. It is the market place, parade ground and meeting place for the inhabitants for demonstrations of rejoicing and protest. Paved with cobblestones, it is inclosed on three sides by mosques where young Moslems are educated. The huge polychrome tile facades and melon-shaped towers, flanked by minarets 175 feet high, are splendid examples of Arabian architecture. Surrounding the courtyard inside each mosque are schools in whose cloisters, 10 by 12 feet, the students live with their instructors.

The fourth side of the square is occupied by ramshackle booths of odd pieces of lumber or tin, or strips of canvas on tall poles. They are filled with vegetables, fruits and other commodities. Near by are other booths where squatting natives sip coffee, smoke cigarettes, and gossip. As a public information bureau the oriental cafe serves the purpose of newspapers. Fortune tellers, professional letter writers and peddlers ply their professions where they find a shady place to sit. The registan also is the Samarkand employment agency.

Brilliant Garb of the Men.

From an elevated position above the surging mass of humanity the riot of color suggests that the natives vie with the rainbow and each other. A man will go hungry for a single garment of brilliantly colored material. Green, red, purple and yellow in all their hues will be seen on the same garment.

In a secluded spot in the old city, perhaps a half mile from the registan, is the tomb of the mighty Tamerlane, conqueror of Asia. It is an architectural gem, its graceful peacock blue dome rising above the dusty treetops.

A large park in the center of the Russian quarter is the hub of the new city, from which wide, well-shaded streets radiate in all directions. They are all paved to the city limits. Then they become mere trails in the desert. Some pass through masses of ruins of Samarkand when it was at the height of its prosperity. One of these roads leads to the citadel, situated on a hill between the two cities. Its wall incloses a subterranean prison, an immense dark chamber about 30 feet deep. Prisoners were let down by ropes and it is said no one ever came out of it. Grooves worn by the ropes can still be seen. The Russians abolished the old-fashioned method of punishing the offenders and have built clean, wholesome and well-ventilated jails.

Blocked by Mere Man

Knoxville, Tenn.—An attempt of woman members of the board of education to equip a beauty parlor in the vocational school here was so frowned upon by male members of the board that the move has been abandoned.

Buried Two Days

Chisholm, Minn.—Buried under tons of ore and earth for two days and believed dead, Nick Bozenich was found alive in the Bruce mine by fellow workers who had been digging for his body 10 hours.

SALE OF THE SEASON

IS STILL GOING ON AND ITS GETTING TO BE

"Bigger and Better"

Just as we advertised from the start--thousands have prouted by making their fall purchases during this mighty sale event and from a volume standpoint we are going to exceed any previous sale ever attempted by us. There must be a reason.

Our Prices Are Absolutely Right

WITH A STORE FULL OF PRACTICAL MERCHANDISE FROM WHICH TO SELECT GIFTS FOR ALL THE FAMILY.

FOR LADIES and GIRLS
Coats, Dresses, Bath-Robes, Silk Gowns, Teds, Step-ins, Pajamas, Bloomers, Hose, Handkerchiefs, Scarfs, Shawls, Hat Boxes, Overnight Bags, Gloves Pur-ses, Down Comforts, Wool Blankets, rayon Spreads and Linens of every Description!

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