

THE MERKEL MAIL

Vol. 39—No. 36.

MERKEL, TEXAS, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1927

5c PER COPY

Yates Field Adds Another Sensation With 602 Foot Well

Will the Yates field in Pecos county add another to its lengthening list of sensations by developing a petroleum volcano or crude oil geyser.

The oil world was loath to believe the initial report of a 100-barrel-an-hour gusher from so shallow a depth as 1,000 feet. Now Mid-Kansas & Transcontinental's No. 8-C Yates, 350 feet from No. 2-C Yates, the biggest well in the field and the second or third largest in the world's history comes in for 300 barrels an hour from only 602 feet.

Oil men in that section are quoted as saying they cannot determine whether the shallower well is producing from an entirely new sand or whether it is in a crevice blown upward from the main pool by the tremendous gas pressure. Wells drilled to 20 to 550 feet above to 1,000 feet producing formation blow themselves in after being allowed to stand for a few days and sometimes only a few hours.

Now oil men are prepared to see this new oil field develop any sort of a new wrinkle. It wouldn't surprise some of them if some morning they awoke to find the Pecos river running bank full in oil.

Incidentally oil being produced in the Yates field sells for 68 cents per barrel. Drinking water costs \$1 to \$1.25 per barrel.

Out there they've got oil, oil everywhere and no place to put it, due to shortage of tank and pipeline facilities. They also have water, water and not very much to drink, since the Pecos river's water is too strong in alkali to be used for drinking purposes. Fresh water must be hauled to fire the big boilers, although the river water is used in the drilling holes.

Bank Robbers Get \$5,000 at Carbon

Eastland, Dec. 13—Two unmasked and armed men, after ordering three employees and five customers into the vault of the First State Bank at Carbon, 10 miles south of Eastland, secured \$5,000 in cash from the bank till and escaped. The robbery opened shortly after 12 o'clock. The bandits fled toward Gorman, arriving in two automobiles.

According to Dr. S. P. Rumph, president of the bank, two men entered the bank and before officials had noticed anything suspicious the men had covered him, Cashier E. R. Trimble, Assistant Cashier W. L. Trimble, Lon Reed, Frank Brady and three other men with pistols.

All were ordered to face the wall while the bandits entered the vault, took all the cash in sight and then robbed the cashier's till. Dr. Rumph said. The eight men were then locked in the vault and the bandits escaped in two automobiles, which had been parked in front of the bank.

It was not until those imprisoned in the vault had released the lock that an alarm could be given.

Dr. Rumph said he was not positive as to the amount of money taken, but that he believed all the cash on hand, approximately \$5,000 had been taken.

Officers from Eastland, Cisco, Rissar, Brownwood and other near-by towns were guarding highways away from Carbon in an effort to apprehend the robbers.

Junior B. Y. P. U. Program

Subject—Dr. Robert Willingham.

1. Introduction—By Sarah Shepard.

2. "Childhood and Conversion"—By Horace Boney.

3. "School Days"—By Margaret Miller.

4. "Teacher and Preacher"—By John Jones.

5. "Secretary of Foreign Mission Board"—By Rosemary Lassiter.

6. "Growth"—By Hollis Huddleston.

7. "His Visit to the Mission Fields and Last Days"—By Dot Swafford.

TRENT CHURCH OF CHRIST

Our work still grows. We need you and you need us. Come over and help us. You will always find a hearty welcome.

Bible Study at 10 a. m. Sermon at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m.

Communion at 12 m. Young Peoples' service at 6:45 p. m. Mid-week Bible study Wednesday at 7:30 p. m.

Big Rodeo Here For Two Big Days

In this paper will be found the announcement of the coming for two days during the Christmas Holidays of a big Cow Boy Rodeo, which will be in charge of and under the direction of Malone Brothers.

The Big Rodeo will take place in the West part of the city on the North side of the T. and P. railway, beginning Saturday, December 24. And it is coming under the auspices of the local fire boys. Malone Brothers are experienced and nationally known Rodeo managers, and will no doubt, give a good exhibition.

Significance of Admission of Simmons U. to Southern Association of Colleges

Abilene, Texas, Dec. 16—President J. D. Sandifer made a public announcement this week, setting forth the significance of Simmons University's admission to the Southern Association of Colleges. The Southern group is one of the five sections into which the United States is divided.

Schools over the nation are thus organized so that any student going from one to the other can be given full credit for all work. The senior group must have an endowment of at least a half million and must be well-equipped, with teachers carrying a certain maximum of work. All heads of departments must have a Masters or Doctors degree.

Simmons equipment was inspected by Dean Jennings of S. M. U. who said that the Abilene school had one of the best equipped plants in the south.

Some misunderstanding has gone over the country due to press reports concerning the freshman rule in athletics which applies to schools in this association. It is urged that members adopt this policy, but schools are given a chance to adjust their athletics before the ruling becomes compulsory. Simmons will not be required to rule out Freshmen until 1930.

Big Singing At Blair Next Sunday 2 p. m.

All singers are most cordially invited to attend a big singing at Blair on next Sunday afternoon at two p. m. Brother Tremaine is coming with his Quartette, from Abilene. We are looking for Brother Eason and Brother Jones, and we invite all from Trent, Shiloh and Noodle and in fact all other places.

Come. Bring your books and some one to play the piano. Remember the hour, TWO P. M.

Respectfully
T. H. Spears.

STUDIO RECITAL

The pupils of Mrs. E. Yates Brown participated in a beautifully planned program Wednesday afternoon, naming as their guests, their Mothers.

The studio was gorgeous in colors of the approaching holiday—red and green tapers gave lights for the occasion and streamers were strung in abandon around the room.

The program offered variety but the excellence of preparation and rendition did not vary from the tiny tots to the most experienced performer.

Numbers from some of the old Masters had been selected and were played with ease and an interpretation most creditable to the instructor—and pupils.

Miss Mona Margaret Jones, voice pupil of Gypsy Ted Sullivan Wiley, sang two groups with Mrs. Brown playing piano accompaniment. Miss Jones was exceedingly well-poised and her lustrous soprano voice never appeared to better advantage.

Two sacred groups were used from Mrs. Brown's class in improvised playing and were well received, as were a number of duets.

Mrs. Brown then served a delicious refreshment of hot grape juice, sandwiches, stuffed olives, Christmas candies and mints with plate favors of Christmas Bells to the students and sprigs of Holly to the mothers.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. George Price last Friday night a fine boy. Mother and babe are doing nicely.

New Ford Will Be Shown Here Monday And Tuesday

On Monday and Tuesday, December 19-20 the New Ford Car which has long been looked for will be displayed in the show-rooms of the Merkel Motor Company for the first time.

We are advised that there were some thirteen thousand people visited the show-rooms in Abilene the first day. The cars were only shown in the larger Dealerships first, hence large crowds were drawn, while in the smaller Dealerships Photographures and prices were only shown, and many orders were taken at all places.

We understand that a few of the early buyers of the new Car in Merkel are as follows:

Warren C. Smith,
W. S. J. Brown,
W. L. Diltz,
Both Warren,
H. H. Toombs,
Dr. R. I. Grimes,
C. E. Jacobs,
J. S. Swann,

Merkel Merchants Display Much Holiday and Xmas Goods

Never before perhaps were the merchants of Merkel so heavily and completely stocked with Holiday and Christmas goods, as is evidenced by their splendid displays in the various stores.

In this city the buying public can find everything desired from the tiniest toy for the smallest lad or lassie to the very finest and most costly present desired by the most wealthy or prosperous citizen of this community.

And almost every business concern is making known the facts concerning their immense stocks through the columns of this paper, bidding the public call and inspect same before they complete their purchases.

The home merchant is entitled to our trade; it is they who make it possible this splendid town in which we live, therefore lets give them our untainted patronage. Many of them have on great bargain sales; some quitting business, and there is no need to go elsewhere for either bargains, or the things desired when they can be purchased here.

WILL HOLD COURT OF HONOR FOR LOCAL SCOUTS

Mr. Ed Shumway, Scout Executive for the Chisholm Trail Area Boy Scouts, will hold a Court of Honor for the local Scouts on next Tuesday December 20, at the Methodist Church at 6:30 p. m.

At this time he will award merit badges and First and 2nd Class badges.

All Boy Scouts are urged to be present, and the public is cordially invited.

Mrs. Effie Johnson of Spur, Texas is here nursing her mother, Mrs. J. B. Parrack, who has been seriously ill for some two weeks. Mrs. Johnson is widely known throughout the community having taught in the public school here for several years.

President Rebekah Assembly of Texas Addresses Members

Mrs. Ada Ramsey, President of the Rebekah Assembly of Texas, who is making a tour of the Lodges of the State, addressed the members of Merkel Lodge in the I. O. O. F. Hall on Monday afternoon.

She was accompanied to Merkel from Abilene by Mesdames H. O. Archibald, C. R. Armstrong, and Ed Shaw.

Immediately after the address she left for Sweetwater and other points west.

Christmas Programs At Churches Here

We are informed that there will be programs at all the churches in this city on Christmas Day entirely in keeping with the spirit of the day, and it is expected that the people will attend and take part in same to the fullest extent.

Also at most of the churches, there will be Christmas trees or programs on Saturday afternoon or evening Christmas Eve.

Gas Company Makes Announcement

Appearing in this paper, this and last week, will be found an announcement by the Community Gas Company regarding payment of monthly bills due the company by gas customers.

They make the announcement that the Farmers and Merchants National Bank of this city has been designated depository and collector for the Gas Company. They also state that 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 day of the following month. In other words your gas bill will be due on the 25th and if paid any time up to and including the 5th day of the next month you will be allowed the discount. Five days will be allowed after the discount date in which to pay delinquent bills with discount added, and if not paid by the tenth of the month, service will be discontinued.

Mr. O. R. Rodden, our splendid photographer, accompanied by his sister, who is an able teacher in the public schools of this city, returned first of the week from Roswell, New Mexico, where they had been called to attend the funeral of their father, J. J. Rodden, whose death occurred in Temple last Friday. Deceased, who was sixty years of age, had only been sick a short time, and his death was indeed a shock to his friends and loved ones.

This paper joins many friends in extending deepest sympathy to the bereaved relatives.

Messrs Booth Warren, T. G. Bragg, John Sears and Geo. Woodrum, are among those of our city attending the big football game between Abilene and Waco, which is being played in the latter city today. They left yesterday afternoon by auto.

Christmas Music At Baptist Church 18th

Taking the place of the regular evening services Sunday there will be a special musical service offered by the choir, assisted by other musical talent. A cordial invitation is extended to the general public to come and enjoy the service. This is offered Sunday because a number of those to appear on the program will be out of town Christmas night. The whole program will reflect the spirit of Christmas and should have a message of cheer for all of us as we enter the Christmas holidays.

Sunday morning we will remember with a special offering, Buckner Orphan's Home. Following our custom through the years we will make a special Christmas offering for the 700 children in that home who have no mother or father to provide for them.

This offering is in addition to our regular gift to the home in our every Sunday gifts. It is not compulsory on any one only those who for Christ's sake wish to help take care of these orphaned children will be expected to give. The Bible tells us that "The Lord Loveth a Cheerful Giver." It does not say what he thinks of the others.

The pastor will speak at the 11 o'clock hour on "Lending to the Lord." All B. Y. P. Us will meet at 6 p. m. Come find a welcome and a work.

Ira L. Parrack, Pastor.

Col. Lindbergh Makes 2,000 Mile Hop to Mexico City

Mexico City, Dec. 14—Wildly acclaimed as the greatest of heroes, Col. Charles A. Lindbergh swept from the sky in his famous Spirit of St. Louis Wednesday afternoon and conquered the heart of another Nation.

Brilliantly completing his good-will flight from Washington to Mexico City, the hero of the epoch-making New York to Paris flight settled on Valbuena flying field at 2:39 p. m., just twenty-seven hours and ten minutes after he had made his dramatic hop-off from Bolling Field.

It was the same towseled-haired, boyish aviator that had conquered the hearts of France and so many other Nations who settled to the air field where a great crowd of fully 35,000 persons, including President Calles and American Ambassador Dwight W. Morrow was waiting to greet him. "Viva Lindy," shrieked the crowd in ecstasy, released at length from the fear that had gripped them—for Lindbergh was late.

SEVENTY MINUTES LATE

Just one hour and ten minutes late on an air journey that had carried him more than 2,000 miles over territory new and unknown to him, yet so powerful a grip had his reputation for undeviating promptness on the crowd that one hour and ten minutes seemed a foreboding of disaster.

FLIES 35,000 MILES

New York, Dec. 14—Col. Charles A. Lindbergh, in completing his 2,000 mile flight to Mexico City today has flown approximately 35,000 miles since he left San Diego, Cal. last May to start his flight from New York to Paris.

His total flying mileage to date would take him almost one and one-half times around the world, if he followed the equatorial circumference of the earth, which is 24,896 miles.

The Lone Eagle's flights since last May were:

San Diego to St. Louis, 1,550 miles.

St. Louis to New York, 950 miles.

New York to Paris, 3,625 miles.

Short hops in Europe, 430 miles.

Flights between New York, Washington, St. Louis, Ottawa and other cities on his return to the United States, estimated 4,000 miles.

Three months' tour of the country in the interests of aviation, 22,350 miles.

Washington to Mexico City, 2,000 miles.

Total 34,905 Miles.

FINE ARTS RECITAL

Recital No. 2, from the combined Fine Arts Studios of the Merkel High School, will be presented Tuesday evening, December 20th.

Two one-act plays will be offered from the Speech Arts department together with Voice Pupils of Miss Christine Collins and Piano Numbers from Mrs. Brown's Studio. The interested public is cordially invited to attend.

Monday, December 26th To Be Great Day For Merkel

Arrangements have been perfected to bring to Merkel the greatest football game, or at least the greatest aggregation of football stars, ever brought to this part of the state.

Anson is coming with at least eleven men who have been playing college football and many of them are all-state men or have received honorable mention in the Southwest conference.

E. Curtis, Coach of Anson High, who distinguished himself with A. C. C. will be on the Anson squad and will bring with him others who are known as stars in their positions.

Johnny Camp, Merkel Coach and erstwhile Simmons' star, has a lineup that ought to make a football fan fortify himself with seventy-five cents and hold on to it until the day after Christmas and joyfully part with it on that eventful day for the privileges of standing on the side-lines.

Here are some of them:

Hoot Gibson and Herring Bounds, now with Simmons, and all-state ends; Cleby Patterson, Trinity half-back; Blair, T. U. half; Mat Dillingham, formerly all-state quarterback; Jerome Hutcheson, who has played with Austin College will play left tackle; Tittle, right tackle, now playing with N. A. T. C.; Witcher, tackle; Haynes end; H. Minter, guard; L. Cheney, I. half; V. Cheney, half; McLain, half; Boot Smith, half; Bob Mayfield, center; and many others including Johnny Camp himself. Its bound to be a beautiful battle.

Get your money ready to hand to the ticket-seller if you enjoy the game, and if you are not particularly partial to football you can stay at home and play any game that suits your fancy with the added enjoyment of knowing that the money you spent for football tickets is going to the benefit of the Cemetery Fund. Everybody in town and country is interested in caring for and keeping beautiful the resting place of the bodies of our dead and every adult in and around Merkel should contribute at least seventy-five cents on December 26th to a fund for this purpose.

In order that no one may miss the game or fail to contribute to the fund a contest has been arranged between teams captained by D. Grimes and Chas. Jones, assisted by Kirby Beckett, Frank McFarland, B. P. Middleton, F. C. Hughes, Bob M. Jones, Thos. Durham, Geo. Wood, O. L. Garland, Ollie Dye, Geo. S. Dennis, Jack West, Bob H. Hamm, Fred Baker, Jerome Hutcheson and O. L. Weidenbach. The team that sells the greatest number of tickets will enjoy a picture show at the Palace Theater, as will all who purchase tickets, at the expense of the losing side.

A good game, a good show and a good cause, together with the generous spirit that usually possesses us at Christmas Time should make December the 26th an eventful day for Merkel.

Herbert Patterson deserves the credit for getting up the contest and arranging for the entertainment of the big crowd that will be in Merkel the day after Christmas.

CHRISTMAS!

By Rev. R. L. Stanley, Wylie, Texas.

Let all awake, with Angels sing,
And praise the solemn lay,
Joy to the sweet King,
For this is thy birthday.

In Heaven the victory song began,
And loud the echo rolled
Through all Thy shining regions ran
Twas more than Heaven could hold

Savior while on earth we shout
And march in this great throng
Good will and peace shall lead through
out.
And glory be one song.

With joy the song we will
Glory to Him on high,
Good will and peace are now come
Jesus was born to die.

Hail the Redeemer; forever hail
Jesus, Savior, Friend,
Though time and earth and life shall
fail,
Thy praise shall never end.

Messrs Tom Largent and
Smith were in Fort Worth
the first of the week.

"Famous Santa-Clauses"



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

Western Star Was Tenderfoot Until Two Years Ago

It will undoubtedly surprise admirers of Tom Tyler, FBO's daring Western star, to learn that he had never been in a saddle until a little over two years ago.

When Tyler decided to go into the movies, he went to Arizona and as he explains it, graduated from the University of Hard Knocks. He went through a rigid course of training on a cattle ranch and finally, when he migrated to California, he was a tamer of outlaw horses, a trick rider and a crack shot with a six-gun.

"The Desert Pirate," to be shown at the Palace Theatre, Saturday is his nineteenth Western success for FBO. Though a tenderfoot in years, the West has failed to produce a motion picture star who has more intrinsic qualities necessary to successfully portray Western roles before the camera. Tyler holds an enviable position among motion picture players.

At the age of twelve Tom answered to the name of William Burns, and if names meant anything he was more likely to have been a detective than a cowboy. He is one of the few cinema stars who admit laying the foundation for their career with a correspondence course in motion picture acting. Tyler didn't "fall into the movies," but spent two years in the extra line before he got his chance.

In the "Desert Pirate" he steps out of the regular path of Western tales and gives the audience a rapid fire plot with tense action and a human touch.

Tyler is supported by the nationally famous child actor, Frankie Darro, who is heralded by dramatic critics as the foremost juvenile movie player of the day. Frankie, it will be remembered was starred in "Judgment of the Hills," and played leading rolls in "Moulders of Men" and numerous other cinema masterpieces.

NOTICE!

Have moved first door south of Blue Front Filling Station, fronting Queen Theatre. Well arranged, nice line of Groceries. No clerk, gas or garage expenses. Not caring anything about the profit—just the business. Will appreciate your patronage as I have in the past. W. F. Hamblet. 16-1t.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE

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. 25tfn.

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—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 trailer, trailer float bed and rocking bolster for light truck for \$60.00. See Sam Rosson, Trent, Texas 164t.

FOR SALE—A good 4-Room House, well located 1/2 block from new pavement. To be one or two lots. East Front. Good garage. Good well. Have gas and lights. Will take a good car as part payment. See me. C. C. Montandon. 16-2t.

FOR SALE—Bargains in farms, city property. If you have money you wish to invest in farms, residences or business property it will pay you to see what I have listed. L. R. Thompson

JERSEY COWS—Three car loads fresh cows, springer cows and two-year-old heifers. For sale or trade for dry cows. Will sell one or car load. Also have some pigs and shoats for sale worth the money. T. C. Jenkins, one mile West of Noodle. 16tfn.

FOR SALE—1,000 Bushels of pure Hastings Seed Oats. Clear of Johnson. Made 50 Bushels this year. Phone 200. J. E. Boaz, Merkel, Texas. 163tp

Do not forget to bring your coupon to Brown's Quit Business Sale.

THRESH YOUR MAIZE
 Any amount, on Fridays. Five tons or over any day. Located on W. T. Bird's farm across railroad, South of cemetery. Phone 237 or see T. J. or S. T. Bird. 16-2tp

Expecting Car McAllister Coal today. Swafford. Phone 44.

FOR RENT

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

FOR RENT—2 furnished light housekeeping rooms, to couple.—Mrs. C. E. Conner. 16-1-t.

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.

FOR RENT—Two or three furnished rooms for light housekeeping. Mrs. J. M. Meeks. Phone 229 166-1tp

FOR RENT—4 Room house with Gas, Water and Lights. Apply to Mrs. Taylor Davis, Merkel. 16-1t.

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.

LOST AND FOUND

LOST—Saturday afternoon in Merkel. Package containing gloves and other articles. Finder please return to Norah Foster. 16-1tp.

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

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



ANNOUNCEMENT

I take this method of announcing to my friends and the public, that I have purchased the BLUE FRONT FILLING STATION from Mr. R. R. Adams, and expect to offer as good as the best in Filling Station Service.

Will continue to handle the splendid products of the Magnolia Petroleum Company—GAS and OILS. Also the CUPPLES TIRES AND TUBES, and other needed accessories. Will be on the job personally, and extend to one and all, courteous and fair treatment.

FOR PROMPT SERVICE, COME TO SEE ME.

BLUE FRONT SERVICE STATION

Piercè Horton, Proprietor Merkel, Texas

All Portraits

made until Thursday night, December 22nd will be ready for delivery Xmas Eve.



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"



USEFUL GIFTS

Are always appreciated—Bring Comfort, Happiness and Enjoyment.

Give Dry Goods this Christmas and bring happiness and comfort to those you love.

As some of the many useful and appreciative items to be found in our store, we suggest the following:

FOR LADIES AND GIRLS

A Nice Hart, Schaffner & Marx Suit or Overcoat.
 Shoes, Shirts, Sweaters, Hats, Caps, Scarfs, Sox, Ties Mufflers, Gloves, Hand Bags, Handkerchiefs, Bath-Robes, etc.

FOR LADIES AND GIRLS

Nice Silk Dresses, Coats, Sweaters, Shoes, Hose, Handkerchiefs, Purses, Hand Bags, Hat Boxes, Fancy Garters, Beautiful Silk Underwear, Bath Robes, Pajamas, Silk Night Gowns and much other beautiful Lingerie.

AND DON'T FORGET THAT OUR BIG FALL SALE IS STILL ON, AND OUR PRICES CONTINUE ALL OVER THE HOUSE!

MAX MELLINGER

FRIDAY
(Today,) 3 p. m.
36 In. Fine Voiles
Reg. 50c and 65c
Quality
10c yd.
BE HERE SURE!

BROWN'S
-- A R E --
QUITTING

Sat. Morning
at 9:30
32 In. 24c Gingham
5c yd.
Don't Miss This!

Come on Friends and get your share of the feast--we are aware it is a matter of only a few days until we must give possession of this store building.

THEREFORE WE HAVE CUT THE PRICES BELOW WHOLESALE COST--THE REMAINDER OF THIS STOCK ABSOLUTELY MUST BE SOLD IN THE NEXT TEN DAYS REGARDLESS OF OUR LOSS. WE HAVE A SURPRISE.

Come in look our stock over we may have just the item you are looking for and if you are not more than astounded at the ridiculous low price--well, you be the judge

\$\$\$-You Can Save-\$\$\$

FANCY SOX
NIFTY CAPS
BOX BELTS
INITIAL HDKFS.
FINE SHIRTS



SILK UNDERTHINGS
HOSIERY
BAGS
BATH ROBES
BOX HDKFS.

Do Your Xmas Shopping here and Your Dollars Will Go Farther

BROWN DRY GOODS CO.

Closing Out To The Bare Walls

MONDAY
at 10 a. m.
36 in F'cy Pongees
Reg. 32c Quality
10c yd.
A Knockout, Folks

We Haven't Any Old Shelf Worn Goods to Sell-you

FIXTURES FOR SALE
We have sold part of our fixtures but still have some good values left. Merchants--You must act quickly!

The Badger Weekly

The Badger Weekly is published each week and sponsored by Mrs. Young. The officers are:
Addie Fae Patterson, Ed-In-Chief.
Norma Shannon, Literary Editor.
Patsy Lewis, Society Editor.
Gladys Watts, Misc. Editor.
David Cannon, Humor Editor.
Paul Causeaux, Sport Editor.
Senior Reporters: Sterling Shepard, John D. Coates, Rubyjo Higgins, and Fred Yandell.
Sophomore Reporters: J. T. Darsey, Frances Frederickson.
Freshmen Reporters: Louise Booth Eris Ash, and Margaret Turner.
--M. H. S.--
School will be dismissed Friday, December 23rd, until after New Years. The Seniors and Juniors are to have a Christmas tree Friday afternoon in the laboratory.
The Sophomores will have their Christmas tree Friday night at the home of Orion Tittle.
The Freshmen will have their tree on the same night at the home of Harold Boney.
All the classes and their sponsors are making great preparations and we feel sure we will have the best Christmas we have ever had.
--M. H. S.--

The contest for the most popular boy in Merkel High is now open. This contest will be decided in Assembly next Monday. Be sure and be here to cast your vote.
--M. H. S.--
MERKEL HIGH PLAYS TOWN TEAM AND WINS 14 TO 8
On last Friday night, the Merkel Basket Ball Girls played the town team. The town team consisted of Melba West, Gladys Middleton, Jewel Burns, Dorothy Higgins and Mrs. Emmett Grimes.
The game was well played and ended with a score of 14 to 8 in favor of Merkel High.
--M. H. S.--

FRESHMAN NOTES
Some time ago, Mr. Jackson told the Pep Squad that he wanted to give them a party or something to show his appreciation for what the Pep Squad had accomplished during the football season.
No argument had been made among the Squad leaders so Tuesday morning Mr. Jackson called an assembly of the Pep Squad and surprised the members by giving them Friday as a holiday.
--M. H. S.--

The Weiner Roast planned by the Freshman Class was postponed on account of the inclement weather. Further and more elaborate arrangements for a better time will be prepared for the class at an early date.
--M. H. S.--
Mr. Harold Boney surprised the class by informing them that he was going to entertain the entire class next Thursday night with a Christmas party at his home.
The class was very agreeably surprised and plans are being made for a good time.

COME ON FRIENDS AND FIT THE FAMILY UP IN SHOES. WE ARE ALMOST GIVING THEM TO YOU. THEY MUST GO NOW. BROWN D. G. CO.

IDLEWISE CLUB
Mrs. Warren Smith extended hospitality to members of the Idlewise Club, on December 13th with a beautifully planned Christmas party. The rooms were gaily decorated in all the Yuletide symbols as were all the table appointments for the games, nut cups and plate favors.
Games of Auction Bridge progressed happily throughout the afternoon and as a final hospitality, Mrs. Smith assisted by Mrs. Emmett Grimes and Mrs. Roy Largent served a most delectable date pie, which again stressed the Christmas colors with its green whipped cream and topping of red cherries, and chocolate to Misses Venie Heizer, Lucy Tracey, Mary Cleo Booth, Christine Collins, Ruby Hamm and Mesdames R. I. Grimes, Charlie Jones, Emmett Grimes, W. S. J. Brown, Roy Largent, Tom Price, Matt Dillingham, Johnnie Camp, Sie Hamm Jack Durham and Tom Largent.

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.

We kill home-raised meat and try to keep Merkel money in Merkel. Baker & Wheeler Market. tf

Shoes! Shoes! Shoes! And all of them leather. Come take them out at your own price. Brown Dry Goods Company.

A 25c classified ad often bring surprising results. tf

Full Set Teeth \$17.50

No Better Plate Made at Any Price
22-k Gold used in all Crown and Bridge work at \$4.50 and Up
Gold Fillings \$1.50 and Up.
I Cure Those Old Bad Gums.



DR. HOUGHTON
All Work Guaranteed
25 Years Experience
SOUTH SIDE DENTIST
116 1-2 Chestnut St. Abilene.



HARD TO FIND SOMETHING FOR HIM?

- CIGAR LIGHTERS \$3.00
- GASCOLATOR \$5.00
- CLAMP-ON CLOCK \$5.00
- REES JACK \$5.50 to \$7.00
- WALKER JACK \$4 to 6.85
- MOTOMETER \$3.50 to \$10
- Radiator Cap \$1 to \$7.50
- BOOSTER PLATE \$1.00
- Windshield Wiper .50
- MIRROR .75
- Ford Timer \$1 to \$3.45
- HUB CAP SET \$1.00
- Northeast Horn \$5.00
- Golden Rod Pump \$3.00
- Wrench Sets 50c and 75c
- Bonney Wrenches \$27.50
- Steering Wheels \$2 to \$3.50
- FOOT FEEDS \$1.25
- HORN BUTTONS .75
- Foot Rests 50c and 75c
- SPOTLIGHTS
- Bullet Lamps \$12.50
- Snap-On Wrenches, \$1.20 up
- Heaters, \$1.50 to \$7.50

THERE ARE TOO MANY ITEMS IN OUR COMPLETE STOCK TO MENTION HERE. YOU'LL FIND OUR AUTO SUPPLY DEPARTMENT THE GIFT SHOP SUPREME.

WEST COMPANY
THE HOUSE FOR PENSABLE AUTOMOBILE NECESSITIES



MEET YOUR FRIENDS AT OUR STORE AND DO YOUR SHOPPING

Like all young things, we will have to grow to meet all your needs, but it is our pleasure to buy the things you want. GIVE US A CHANCE TO SHOW YOU!

SEARS VARIETY STORE
"The Home of Bargains"

We must sell the remainder of our stock immediately, as we go out within the next few days. The prices have been slaughtered far below cost. Brown Dry Goods Company.

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.



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.

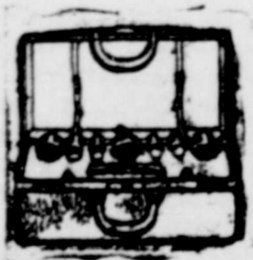
Plain And Figured Shirts



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.



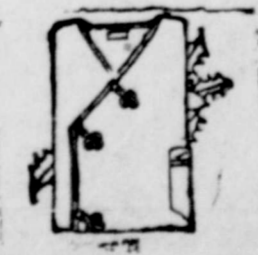
Plain and Fancy Handkerchiefs



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

WARD CLOTHING CO.
"We Fit the Hard to Fit."
ABILENE, TEXAS

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.

Belled Donkeys Draw Gaudy Sicilian Carts

Bagheria, Sicily.—The gaudier plumes one puts on a donkey's head, the more bells one can string in his harness, and the gayer the painted cart he draws the more work he will do. That is the theory Sicilian farmers have worked on for centuries.

Red and blue are the favored hues for the donkey's headgear. If his owner is fairly well to do, he will bestow on his dumb friend another set of plumes, rising on a rod fixed in the center of the saddle. The bells are put wherever they will jingle. When a whole column of donkeys thus equipped starts for market the effect is that of an old-fashioned sleighing party back in America.

But the carts the donkeys draw are giddier still. In bright reds, yellows and blues, all the history of the New Testament, the island of Sicily and the House of Savoy are depicted on the sides and tailboards. And if the owner be prosperous enough to add a few saints with gilded halos to his cart's adornment, he thinks it no more than fair that his heathen partner, the donkey, should carry a bit more of a load.

Biggest Library

New Haven, Conn.—A permit for the new Yale Sterling Memorial library, to be the largest library in the world, was issued at the office of Building Inspector Austin. The cost is estimated at \$5,800,000.

Tree Toads as Prophets

It is quite commonly believed that the tree toad's loud piping voice is a sign of rain. Like most weather prophets, however, he cannot be depended upon. The skin of the tree toad is very moist and is sensitive to the least increase of moisture in the atmosphere. He feels moisture in the air before most other creatures do and it is his practice to let the world know he is thankful for it. Where he fools people, or rather where people fool themselves, is in respect to the meaning of moisture in the air. It does not necessarily indicate rain, but many believe it does.—Exchange.

"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 ditchy spring with the end of his handkerchief and pouring oil on the revolving gadgets and shimpwinders, he screwed the back on again, wound up the clock and then snook 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 nursed 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."

QUEEN

"Not Occasionally—But Always a Good Show"

Friday Only

Dreadnaught of Drama—



Its our own U. S. Navy—in actual combat—fighting its greatest battle—OVER THERE!

—ALSO—

"King of the Jungle"

The Serial Play Extraordinary

—ALSO—

2-REEL COMEDY

Saturday Only

An action star in an action picture sizzling with thrills and speed. JACK HOXIE IN—

"Grinning Guns"

Lightening Action—Flying

Fists—Chills—Thrills

—ALSO—

"King of the Jungle"

"GIDDY GOBLER"

Roaring 2-Reel Comedy

ALL NEXT WEEK!!!

PICTURES AND VAUDEVILLE
"THE MERRY MAD CAP REVUE"

25—PEOPLE—25

9 Piece Orchestra and Band

ON THE SCREEN

Mon. and Tuesday

FLORENCE VIDOR IN—

"One Woman to Another"

—It's her greatest picture.

A PARAMOUNT PICTURE

ON THE SCREEN

Wed. and Thurs.

Heavy Weight Gloom Lifter

HARRY LANGDON IN—

"The Strong Man"

He'll lift you outa your seat with laffs!

Watch for Our Big Mid-Night Ramble!

FUN! FUN! FUN!

Gifts for Everyone

WE HAVE AS COMPLETE LINE OF GIFT GOODS AS CAN BE FOUND ANYWHERE. SOMETHING FOR EVERY MEMBER OF THE FAMILY!

OUR LINE OF JEWELRY IS MORE COMPLETE THAN EVER

NEVER HAVE WE HAD SO COMPLETE A LINE OF MISCELLANEOUS GIFT ARTICLES.

- DIAMONDS
- WRIST WATCHES
- PEARLS
- RINGS
- BAR PINS
- PENDANTS

- WATCH CHAINS
- SILVERWARE
- SALT AND PEPPER
- CANDLE STICKS
- MUSICAL PUFF BOXES
- JAPANESE VASES

- PERFUME ATOMIZERS
- TOILET SETS
- IVORY SETS
- PERFUME
- TOILET WATER
- MUSICAL ATOMIZERS

- CLOCKS
- STATIONERY
- PIPES
- SMOKING SETS
- BOX CIGARS



PANGBURN'S CANDIES
Again We Are Santa Claus Headquarters.
MORE TOYS—MORE DOLLS, THAN WE HAVE EVER HAD BEFORE!



Grimes-Smith Drug Co.
"PRESCRIPTION DRUGGISTS"

THE MERKEL MAIL

Vol. 39—No. 36.

MERKEL, TEXAS, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1927

5c PER COPY

Box Supper and Christmas Program At Mt. Pleasant

Everyone is cordially invited to attend the school Box Supper and Christmas Program to be held at Mt. Pleasant, Friday night, December 23, 1927. 16-2tp.

DIRECTORS MEETING

Notice is hereby given, that the annual meeting of the Stockholders of The Farmers and Merchants National Bank of Merkel, Texas will be held at the office of said bank on the 10th day of January 1928, at 4:00 o'clock p. m. for the election of Directors and the transaction of such other business as may properly come before said meeting.

The Merkel Mail takes subscriptions for all Daily Newspapers.

Gleaner Class Has Interesting Meeting

The Gleaner Class of the Methodist Church met with Mrs. F. Iddings with Mesdames Robert Hicks and Roy Baccus as joint hostesses.

The rooms were very beautiful with Christmas decorations.

The devotional was led by Mrs. Tom Toombs.

After the business session an hour was very pleasantly spent preparing gifts for the orphans at Waco, recently adopted by the class.

The hostesses served a delicious salad course, hot rolls and coffee to the following guests and members: Mesdames Tyrie, Sublet, Waggoner, Dry, Case, Toombs, Rush Buford, Herbert Patterson, Oscar Buford, Thompson, Hunter, J. M. Dunn, Harrell, Vaughn, W. F. Dunn and Etsel Church.

Lillie May Vaughn, Former Merkel Resident Dies in Calif.

The majority of Merkel people are acquainted with Lillie May as she lived from childhood in Merkel. She married a few years ago and moved to California.

Since living here she has endeared herself to us with her cheerful laughter, winsome smile and sunny disposition. We shall miss her as we travel along life's way. May we meet our own trials as she did.

She loved California with its sunshine and flowers. And we are glad her last rest is beneath a bed of flowers and sunshine.

To the husband and children we would say, do not mourn for her as she has only gone before to wait with others for us on the golden shore.

"We loved her, yes we loved her. But angels loved her more, and they have sweetly called her, to yonder shining shore."

A Friend.

83rd Birthday is Celebrated by Mrs. A. A. Baker at Home

A very delightful surprise was planned by the immediate relatives of Mrs. A. A. Baker on her 83rd birthday, which came on the 11th of December.

At the dinner hour the guests arrived with laden baskets of good things to eat, which were added to the already bountiful repast spread on the table. Among the viands was a large white birthday cake, decorated with eighty-three tiny candles to denote the 83 years of Mrs. Baker's long and useful life.

Mrs. Baker is one of the oldest, if not the oldest settlers in the Merkel community and has done much to aid in the development of this splendid country. To quote Mrs. Baker: "There has been lots of changes in this country since I came here. There were no fences, of any kind, the roads were mere trails over the mesquite prairies and the only means of crossing the creeks and rivers were by fording them. The principal mode of travel was by ox-wagons as there were no railroads in those days. Deer and buffalo grazed in countless numbers over the very ground along which the T and P Railway now runs. Now we have automobiles, and airplanes, paved streets and highways."

We are very sorry to report that she was ill and unable to be present to enjoy the feast with us but her unspeakable gratitude for the thoughtfulness more than repaid us for the small amount of trouble we had taken in an effort to make her happy.

BLAIR ITEMS

A number of the farmers in this community have taken advantage of the few days of cold weather to kill a few hogs.

Caroline, little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hughes has been on the sick list recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Ora Mayfield spent the week-end in Abilene visiting relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Mildred Aldridge and family of Snyder, Texas spent Sunday with their Aunt and Uncle Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Spears.

Miss Ruby Bayless of Abilene who has been the guest of Mrs. Hugh Campbell for the past ten days returned to her home Saturday accompanied by Mrs. Alice Wilson and Mr. Barnett Orr and Sister, Miss Fairy.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Rosson of Trent spent the week-end with the parents of Mrs. Rosson, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Meeks.

Miss Clara Phillips who has been visiting in Oklahoma for some time spent the week-end with her sister, Mrs. Howard Brown.

Mr. and Mrs. Jess Scott of Trent visited in the community Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Adrian Farmer spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Chat Barks of Dora.

Misses Roza Kozart, and Ona Fay Rose of Abilene were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Campbell Sunday.

CARD OF THANKS

We take this method of expressing our deepest appreciation and sincerest thanks for the beautiful floral offerings and for the kindness and sympathy shown during our bereavement at the death of our beloved father.

Miss Jessie Rodden,
O. R. Rodden.



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

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

We have been away for some time working for our rescue home, but will be here and preach both hours next Sabbath.

Christmas night a program will be given by the young people.

Sunday School at 9:45 and we will also hold the annual election of new officers for the coming year.

Preaching at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m.

N. Y. P. program at 6:30 p. m. Prayer meeting Thursday evening 7:30. Come. There is a welcome for you.

C. C. Montandon, Pastor.

Try a Classified Ad in the Mail

Junior League Program

Leader—Lois Whiteley.
Song No. 171.
Scripture—Kings 17:12-16.—Frances Marie Church.

First Story—Bessylea Church.
Second Story—Geo. Hicks Burford.
Poem—Lois Beasley.
Song No. 200.
Benediction.

Listening In.

Doctor—"But I can't cure your husband of talking in his sleep."
Wife—"Well, can't you give him something to make him speak more distinctly?"

SENIOR B. Y. P. U. PROGRAM

Subject: "Am I Keeping Myself From Idols?"

Introduction—Fannie Bell Boaz.
1. "What Do Our Texts Teach?" Mildred Hamm.
2. "Paul's Life an Example of Devotion."—Dorothy Higgins.
3. "What Is An Idol?"—Elsie Richie.
4. "Popular American Idols"—Mae Lassiter.
5. "How to Be An Idol Breaker."—Miss Heizer.

The Mocker

"My wife has persuaded me to go to church."
"Well, pleasant dreams, old chap."

Gigantic Sale of Sales

We are conducting a big "Sale of Sales." If you did not receive CIRCULAR, COME ON ANYWAY AND WE WILL SHOW YOU THAT WE HAVE MANY BARGAINS IN OUR LINE.

REMEMBER--We have a store just twice as large as we use to have, and many more bargains to select from.

Come on and be with the Crowd.

ABILENE

"The Trading Center of West Texas"

The Abilene Army Store

1074-82 South 2nd. I. O. O. F. Bldg.

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 _____

THE NEW FORD Will Be Displayed In MERKEL Monday & Tuesday DECEMBER 19th and 20th Come Early and Avoid the Rush WILL BE OPEN AT NIGHT Merkel Motor Co.

Nothing Safer Than Old Line Insurance

All Old Line Companies are good
BUT

there is a difference in contracts. Avoid buying the cheapest Insurance as you would avoid purchasing the cheapest in wearing apparel or building material. Look well to cash and loan values, Paid up Insurance Values, Extended Insurance Values, Dividend Accumulations, Disability Clauses.

...PROTECT...

Your OWN EARNING POWER—PROVIDE FOR THE EDUCATION OF YOUR CHILDREN. Begin to purchase an ESTATE on the installment PLAN.

IT is a pleasure to EXPLAIN our CONTRACTS and to assist you in selecting the one that is best suited to your particular case.

LIFE INSURANCE-FIRE INSURANCE-REAL ESTATE-RENTALS

L. R. THOMPSON
Real Estate and Insurance

Now Enjoys Eating, Thanks His Wife

"For years I suffered with stomach trouble. Then, my wife got me to take Adlerika. Today I feel fine and eat what I like."—Wm. Opp.

Adlerika relieves stomach gas and sourness in TEN minutes. Acting on BOTH upper and lower bowel, it re-

moves old waste matter you never thought was in your system. Let Adlerika give your stomach and bowels a REAL cleansing and see how much better you will feel. It will surprise you! Merkel Drug Co.

Country Kid: "Beat it, the Bull's coming!"

City Kid: Aw, stand your ground. We ain't done nothin'!"

COMB MOUNTAINS FOR BURIED GOLD

Seek Treasure Hidden a Century Ago.

Alamosa, Colo.—Two faded and crumbled parchments with indistinct lines and markings of trails have led searching parties into the Conejos mountains in quest of gold dust and ingots, believed buried more than a century ago.

The searching parties combed many sections of the mountains during the summer, but early winter snows have forced abandonment of the projects until next spring.

One of the bands of delvers after hidden treasure is known as the "Treasure company," with headquarters at Capulin, a Spanish settlement 20 miles south of here. The other is a partnership between Charles P. Graesser, rancher, and Jesse Reynolds, Denver prospector. The latter has spent the summer digging along Rock creek for chests of gold dust and ingots thought to have been buried in the '70s of the last century. Reynolds also is seeking an old Spanish mine, which he claims to have located on the west flank of the San Juan mountains.

Early day history, romance and tragedy mark the trails that lead to the reputed treasure sites. Legend says the treasure was concealed by French and Spanish mining expeditions while under attack by Indian tribes.

The tale of the Rock creek cache carries with it a story of vengeance wrought by Indians against an expeditionary force of Frenchmen. The leaders of the explorers, according to the account, kidnapped the daughter of an Indian chieftain and later deserted her. The white men previously had discovered a great deposit of almost virgin gold and were transporting it on burros to the gulf coast. The outraged Indians ambushed and massacred all of the party but one man, who buried the gold, the story runs.

Next War to Be Jolly; Guns Will Not Rust

Washington.—Some millions of Americans with vivid recollections of wartime troubles in keeping rust off their rifles, machine guns and "75's" will be interested to learn that future American armies probably won't have the same kind of chores to do.

In his annual report, made public recently, Maj. Gen. Clarence C. Williams, chief of army ordnance, states that efforts are being made to substitute rust-proof steel for the present metal parts in army fighting equipment.

"Extensive investigation of commercial stainless steel for use in rifles, machine gun barrels and other components is being carried on with the object of eventually making as many components of this type of material as practicable," says General Williams. "Such use, if perfected, would result in far-reaching economy."

To Install Restaurants on Swedish Airplanes

Stockholm.—Restaurant service is to be installed next season on the airplanes of the Malmö-Amsterdam route of Aerotransport, the well-known Swedish air line. Great activity is expected in 1928 on account of the Olympic games in Amsterdam. Many machines will be held in reserve to take care of the anticipated heavy traffic.

Great progress in flying has been made during the last year both in regard to miles traveled and passengers carried, as well as in the increased safety of the planes. Considerable quantities of freight have also been transported.

As an example of the efficient role which Swedish flying plays in the European air lines can be mentioned the fact that London newspapers may now be sold and read in Stockholm at 8:30 in the morning the day after their publication.

German Stage Filled by Employment Bureau

Berlin.—All theatrical contracts for employment of actors and actresses must be made after January 1 through the German national employment bureau.

Theatrical agencies have been held to come within the scope of a movement under which all private employment agencies will be nationalized by December 31, to be maintained thereafter free from public taxes and to charge no fee for services.

Premier Lays World War to Feminists

Budapest.—The feminist movement was blamed in the Hungarian parliament for the World war. Count Bethlen, the premier, said that had the French people kept pace with other countries, it is probable the war could have been avoided. He declared that the feminist movement, "by undermining family life and establishing the one child principle," had enfeebled all countries. "The newspapers and the stage," he said, "glorify free love. Modern woman is an article of luxury, the whole modern life is a death dance."

CASTLE PEAK BOX SUPPER PROVES GREAT SUCCESS

The Box Supper and program at the Castle Peak School on Friday night, December 3rd, were enjoyed by a large crowd of enthusiastic people of the community and surrounding towns.

The children gave a short program. The main number was "The New Hat Style."

At the conclusion of the program, 27 boxes were sold which netted \$35.80

The money thus secured will be used to improve the school grounds and to provide swings, see-saws, and other equipment and to erect a basket ball court.

We wish to thank everyone who in any way helped toward getting these improvements for the school.

COME TO B. Y. P. U.

Are you interested in your Boys and Girls? Do you ever ask them to come to B. Y. P. U. with you, or if you can not go, do you ask them if they had a good B. Y. P. U., and a good program?

The B. Y. P. U. is the place for the Baptist Young People of Merkel. We would like to see a large number of people attending the B. Y. P. U. next Sunday. Don't forget to come. We need you.

Try a Classified Ad for Results

As We Grow Older

Proper Kidney Action Is More Than Ever Important.

As we grow older, there is apt to be a gradual slowing up of bodily functions. The kidneys are the blood filters. If their action becomes sluggish they do not thoroughly cleanse the blood of poisonous wastes. This tends to make one tired and achy, with often nagging backache, drowsy headaches and dizziness. A common symptom of imperfect kidney action is scanty or burning excretions. Elderly people recommend Doan's Pills. This tested diuretic is endorsed the country over. Ask your neighbor!

DOAN'S PILLS
60c

Stimulant Diuretic to the Kidneys
Foster-Milburn Co., Mfg. Chem., Buffalo, N.Y.

Nose Marks.

"Doctor, my eyes are bothering me a bit; see what you can do for me in the way of glasses."

"Take a seat, sir. And now tell me what kind you have been wearing."

"None. Never needed them before."

"Indeed! You will pardon my mistake, but I judged from the mark on the bridge of your nose that you—"

"Oh! That mark? I got that from drinking home brew out of fruit jars."

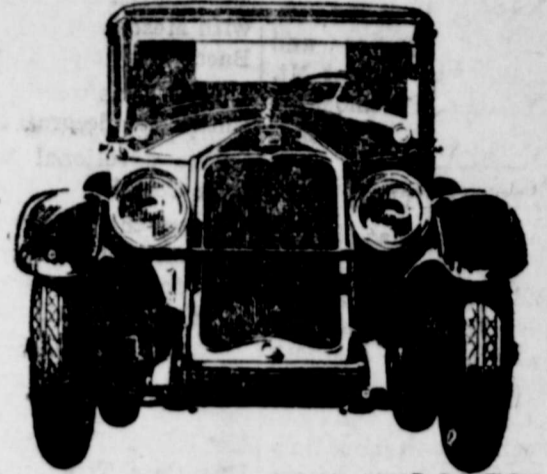
Liked the Percentage.

A black-eyed man entered a savings bank and hurried to the teller's window.

"Lemme have two cases right away he said, pushing a \$50 bill through the grating.

"What do you mean? Two cases of what?"

"Hanged if I know what name you give it," was the reply, "but I saw a sign outside that said '4 per cent' and I'll drink it, whatever it is."



Body by Fisher

Make this Christmas last for thousands of miles

Buick for 1928 combines exquisite beauty with unmatched get-away, power and handling ease.

Step into our showroom today and select the model which is best suited to your family's needs. Pay on the liberal G. M. A. C. time payment plan. We'll make delivery on Christmas day—or whenever you prefer.

-a Buick for Christmas

SHELTON MOTOR CO.
ABILENE, TEXAS

"DUNLOP CITY" is 3 times as big as WASHINGTON, D.C.



DUNLOP CITY

Throughout the world the productive Dunlop properties cover so vast an area that—if combined into one place—they would form a "Dunlop City" of over 100,000 acres.

WITH all its vast area, Washington, D.C., occupies but 39,680 acres.

Preference for Dunlop Tires has caused Dunlop to grow so that now, including the greatest of all Dunlop plants at Buffalo, N. Y., Dunlop occupies a productive area of over 100,000 acres. Over 22,000,000 Dunlop Tires are now running. The service that they give is both the cause and result of Dunlop's magnitude.

Tallyrand said, "There is one person wiser than Anybody, and that is Everybody." Practically everybody agrees that Dunlop Tires are best. Put them on your car and prove it to yourself.

DUNLOP TIRES

Brackeen-Hughes Chevrolet Co.
FRONT STREET
MERKEL, TEXAS



MEET ME

--at--

Schindler's Variety Store

SANTA HIMSELF

IS COMING TO OUR STORE

MONDAY, DEC. 19th

From 2 to 5

Come, everybody, to see him. Bring the children and let them tell him what they want. A jolly, good time for all.

We have many practical and useful gifts as well as toys

Schindler's Variety Store

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.

W. O. BONEY
REAL ESTATE, FARM LOANS
FIRE INSURANCE
MERKEL, TEXAS

Consult Your Insurance Agent As You Would Your Lawyer

Try a Classified Ad in The Mail

Many Persons Unable to Distinguish Colors

It is a curious fact that color-blind persons are not often aware of their defect of vision. Even scientific men frequently fail to detect this defect in themselves.

The following is a favorite theory to account for the cause of color-blindness. The eye is capable of four distinct color sensations—blue, yellow, red and green. These arise, however, from only two sources, each of which has a double action, producing the sensations of two complementary colors. One of the sources of sensation corresponds to blue and yellow, the other to red and green. Most color-blind people are deficient in the latter source of sensation and can distinguish, therefore, only blue and yellow, with their compounds, but sometimes the reverse is the case.

The number of persons afflicted in this way is much larger than is commonly supposed. The average is said to be one in every 25 men. Women are rarely troubled with color-blindness.

Beautiful Labrador

It is predicted that when wireless means of communication has been extended and coasts are better charted and lighthouses built that Labrador, with its rocky inlets and bracing climate, will become, like Norway, a rendezvous for summer yachtsmen. In the short northern summer Labrador is pictured as a land of supreme beauty. Rocky headlands run far into the sea. Deep fjords cut the fir-covered hills of the interior, where sub-Arctic vegetation flourishes and salmon streams invite the fisherman. Grand falls, on the Hamilton river, is nearly three times as high as Niagara.

Areas Awaiting Settlers

There are no parts of the United States which can be designated as "unexplored," but there are many sections where there are considerable stretches of territory of which little or nothing is known. In the lake country near the Canadian border there is a large area about which little is known, while Yuma and Pima counties and a portion of Maricopa county, Ariz., are yet to be thoroughly explored. A short time ago San Juan county, in southwestern Utah, near Chaco Canyon national monument, was included among these untrampled areas. A large part of Nevada, which is more than twice as large as Pennsylvania, is almost devoid of human life, particularly the central and southern portions of the state. Fewer than 80,000 people live in the whole state. One has still to travel by compass in parts of northern Michigan and Wisconsin.

Famous Valley

A letter from a friend in Florence tells me the leaves have been falling thicker than ever in Vallombrosa this autumn. There have been tempests in the Apennines. Around the ancient abbey which two lines of "Paradise Lost" made famous the chestnuts and firs and beeches which make the valley shady have been falling victims to the wind. It is a delicious spot; the Benedictines who established themselves there just before William the Conqueror landed in England always chose pleasant places for their abbeys. But how did Milton come to hear of it, I wonder? In the Seventeenth century to make the excursion from Florence to Vallombrosa wasn't as easy as it is today.—London Daily Chronicle.

Safety in Pyramids

An interesting speculation concerning the real reason for building the Pyramids originally is that of all forms of man-built structures the pyramid form is the least liable to be disturbed by an earthquake.

Along this line it is interesting to wonder if the newer architectural plan of building skyscrapers in pyramid form is not one of the wisest moves that could possibly have been made to avoid the earthquake menace. As cities grow, the potential danger from earthquakes is enormously increased, and the pyramid form of architecture is one of the best possible protections against disaster from this source.

George Washington and Henry Clay were the foremost champions of the American mule. The greatest trouble with the animals since is their owners.—American Magazine.

And It Really Seemed Such a Nice Scandal

A conversation between two women, one of whom was hard of hearing, interested the passengers of a Glenwood avenue car.

"I saw her on a street downtown with a man."

"Is that so?"

"Yes, and it was after ten o'clock, too."

"The very idea."

"I never suspected her of flirting before."

"No, nor me, either."

"But you never can tell."

"Ain't it the truth?"

"It is that."

"Do you know her husband?"

"No, I ain't never seen him close."

"Well, he is a big, fat man."

"Does he wear a brown suit?"

"Yes."

"Glasses?"

"Yes."

"Smoke a pipe?"

"Uh, huh!"

There was deepest disappointment in the woman's voice as she exclaimed:

"Fiddlesticks! Then it was only her husband after all."—Youngstown Telegram.

Visitors Treated to "Relay" Dinner Party

George Arliss in his reminiscences, "Up the Years From Bloomsbury," describes a novel farewell dinner party given to him and Mrs. Arliss in Boston at the end of the run of "Disraeli."

"As there was not time to pay leisurely farewell visits to all of our friends, the latter arranged for a Sunday dinner to be partaken of in five or six separate and distinct establishments.

"We were ignorant of the conspiracy until after the soup had been served at the first house to which we were invited. We were much surprised when, after soup, our hostess got up and the whole party of eight wished us good-by. We were bundled into a waiting limousine and driven to house No. 2, where we arrived in time for the second course. Fish having been consumed we were whizzed off to house No. 3, and so on until the sixth house, where coffee was served and all the parties from the other houses were assembled."

Obliging Duelist in Jail

Oldenburg, Austria.—Erich Tyuka, court translator, is in jail for killing Walter Setz, government official, in a duel. Tyuka explained that Setz, having insulted him, explained that he must fight a duel or he could not take his place again in society. Society made no such demands on Tyuka, but he accommodated Setz. Unhappily, his fire was fatal.

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

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.

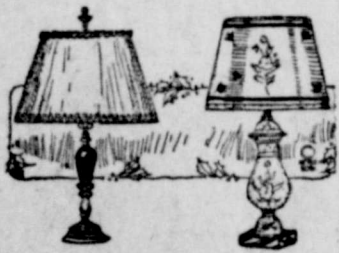
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Everything in New and Used Furniture and Stoves
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FREE DELIVERY

BEAUTIFUL COXWELL CHAIRS—Jacquards—Tapestries 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

ORTHOEPHONIC 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



Gifts that Endure



A Gift of NOTE

THIS makes an a gift for the most acting 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 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.

Physicians for the Well
 Physicians were originally trained to treat the sick. Until recently, they have not had a primary interest in the well. It is now increasingly easy to find a physician who is interested in his patient, who is desirous of keeping him well, who is competent to carry out a thorough examination, and who is able and willing to give constructive hygienic advice. More and more the medical profession is realizing that there is a tremendous field for medical service in this private practice of preventive medicine. Most individuals can with advantage be advised how to work wisely, how to play sports, how to live happier lives in a hygienically constructive manner, with the logical sequence of a fuller life with greater duration—a longer life and a merrier one.—Dr. Donald B. Armstrong in the North American Review.

Rather Spoiled Effect
 Johnnie is the son of a well-known business man who lives in Logan. Sunday afternoon Johnnie's parents had company for dinner. Jack, as Johnnie is sometimes called, is almost six years old. Now Johnnie's parents, true to nature, are proud of their son and his ability. At the dinner table the little boy was asked to say grace. In a quiet manner Johnnie complied with the request. With bowed head he said the prayer perfectly. When he had finished his aunt—very religiously inclined—praised him. "John, that was fine," she said. "You didn't make even one little mistake." With a wild gesture of his arm, Johnnie remarked: "And I said the whole darn thing, too."—Philadelphia Record.

Natural Washtub
 There is a hot spring known as "Handkerchief Pool" located in the Black Sand basin at Old Faithful Geyser formation. The spring is a round pool with a deep hole in the center, from which bubbles are constantly arising. A handkerchief placed in this pool will be drawn under by the action of the water and several

minutes later will be forced upward by the bubbles. It comes out clean. The pool has a circular current, which works around in circles, causing this peculiar phenomenon. The pool has many amusing legends connected with it and is one of the most widely visited places in Yellowstone park.

Truth Too Startling
 Were writers of fiction to put incidents from real life into their works, most of the stories would be so fantastic that they would not be believed, declares Rita Weisman, well-known author, in an article in Liberty. "Truth is too strange for fiction!" the writer asserts. "The adventures of human experience are almost invariably too amazing, too shocking, too horrible, too apparently exaggerated to be transcribed exactly as they meet us. In sharp black type on any printed page but that of a newspaper, they would appear absurd, the wildest stretch of the imagination."

Storm Center Shoves Barometer Far Down
 Port Townsend, Wash.—The birthplace of storms south of the Aleutian islands is hard on barometers, reports Capt. Y. Kawashima of the Yokohama Maru on arrival here. While passing through the storm nursery he noted the lowest barometric reading ever observed on the Pacific, the indicator showing 28.37.

The vessel experienced no rough weather, but the Japanese navigator believes he just missed a typhoon or monsoon. Most of the severe storms that sweep the Mississippi valley originate in the Aleutian area, where varied currents of ocean water influence the atmospheric conditions.

Clever Chinese
 New York.—Clever, these Chinese! A detective arrested a dozen when he found them in a room with money on the table. One explained to the judge in excellent English that they were taking up a collection to buy a book on cross-word puzzles. They were freed.



— SUGGESTIONS —
Quick Meal Gas Ranges

New Perfection Oil Cook Stoves. Sunbeam Electric Irons
 Silver Ware, Percolators, Serving Trays
 Dishes, Electire Waffel Irons.

We have many other useful articles which are suggestive and practical gifts. You will be able to find in our store something that will make a practical gift. Come, let us help you select your Christmas gifts.

It will be a pleasure to us for you to visit our store, and for us to help you.

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C. S. Higgins Garage
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Flappers Succumb to Lure of Camel Riding
 Morocco means camels and sheiks to the shoals of American schoolgirls who invade the country each autumn chaperoned by Paris finishing school teachers. Marrakech sees most of them, because they find the herds there which make camel rides possible. No debutante considers her tour complete until she has been camel riding. Sheiks are harder to find, the type being a product of the desert interiors.

The schoolgirls visit Morocco early in the fall, at the Christmas holiday or late in the spring. Marrakech the Red, under the shadows of the high Atlas, is the only city where camels in numbers may be obtained, and so the girls do most of their camel riding there. Only the freight-carrying type of animal is available. There are no swift "ships of the desert" for the young tourists. But that does not detract from the enjoyment of the flappers, to whom any camel is a camel.—London Daily Mail.

Reading Against Time Not an American Idea
 We are pleased and proud to report one innovation in which we anticipated the Americans. Time is so very precious in the States that they can't afford to waste five minutes of it in planning out the day's work and pleasure. So an enterprising magazine publisher has begun to print, at the head of every story or article, the time which an average reader will take to get through it.
 But an English clergyman was beforehand with the notion. In order to induce his flock to a more diligent perusal of the Bible, he gave, in the exordium to a sermon, the length of time taken to read the various gospels and epistles. Thus Mark can be read in two hours and a half. Matthew in two hours and a half, etc. The effect on his congregation is not recorded. We suspect a rush to study Paul's letter to Philemon.—Manchester Guardian.

Couldn't Fool Him
 A party of men left Devon to spend a week in London.
 When they arrived in the capital they were surprised to see so many people in the streets, and stood in the doorway of a chemist's shop, surveying the scene.
 Presently the chemist came up and asked if there was anything he could get them.
 "No," said one; "we're waiting until the crowd has passed by."
 "Crowd?" echoed the chemist. "There are just as many people here every day."
 "Rubbish!" retorted the Devonian. "Because there's ten of us up from Exeter this morning.—London An-

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

NEW SPRING
Dresses & Coats
 EITHER OF THESE WILL BE MOST APPRECIATIVE GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS
FRIDAY AND SATURDAY SPECIAL
 SPECIAL PRICE ON ALL SPRING DRESSES AND COATS AS A CHRISTMAS GIFT TO OUR MANY CUSTOMERS

<p>SPRING DRESSES</p> <p>Beautiful Styles and Colors—Rose, Tan, Beige, Rust, Navy Blue. Plenty to select from. Sizes 13 to 46. Priced in two groups.</p> <p>No. 1 \$10.75</p> <p>No. 2 \$15.75</p>	<p>SPRING COATS</p> <p>Beautiful new styles, with or without fur collars. Solid Tan, Blue, Grey, Rust, or Mixed Plaid Check and Tweed, in Sport Model. Priced in Two Groups.</p> <p>No. 1 \$10.75</p> <p>No. 2 \$17.75</p>
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SPECIAL
 Choice of any Fall Dress in House.
\$7.00

Rayon Silk Bloomers
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The Ladies' Shop
 Beautiful Pearl NECKLACES
\$1.00

182½ Pine Street
 A. B. Guinn, Prop.
 Over Woolworth
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"MEN'S AND BOYS' OUTFITTERS"

ABILENE, TEXAS
BIG CHRISTMAS BARGAIN SALE
 Reduced Prices on Men's Overcoats, Shoes, Sweaters, Wool Shirts and Underwear.

BATH ROBES—One Special Lot \$4.95
\$45.00 OVERCOATS \$36.00
\$35.00 OVERCOATS \$28.00
\$25.00 OVERCOATS \$20.00

BIG SHOE SALE

\$15.00 HANANS \$11.25
\$ 9.50 HOWARD AND FOSTER \$ 7.45

BOYS' DEPARTMENT

BOYS' WOOLWEAR CLOTHES

\$30.00 Suits—2 Pants \$20.00
\$25.00 Suits—2 Pants \$16.65
\$20.00 Suits—2 Pants \$13.35
\$15.00 Suits—2 Pants \$10.00
\$12.95 Suits \$ 8.75

BOYS SHOES

Gold Medal Brand—They Fit and Wear Right.

\$6.50 VALUES \$5.20
\$6.00 VALUES \$4.80
\$5.45 VALUES \$4.36
\$4.00 VALUES \$3.20

We Wrap Your Christmas Packages!

Control of Dirigible

Simple but Effective

When I say Lincoln Beachey was running the dirigibles I mean it literally. The dirigibles of those days (1911) were about 40 feet long and their envelopes contained 20,000 cubic feet of hydrogen gas. They looked like cigars—and lasted about as long.

There was a lift of only 80 pounds to every 1,000 feet of hydrogen and this compelled us to construct the under carriage of bamboo.

This bamboo work was in the form of a steamer gangplank with a railing on either side. The motive power was furnished by an ordinary motorcycle engine situated in the center of the gangplank.

Beachey was the sole occupant of the dirigible, being engineer, crew, navigator and captain. He could not help being at least a captain, because that title was conferred on any man the minute he put a foot in a balloon basket.

Beachey controlled the antics of his dirigible by his activities on the 30-foot gangplank. When he wanted to fly on the level he stayed in the center, hugging the engine. When he wanted to go up he ran backward on the gangplank, and when he desired to come down to earth he scooted forward until his weight caused the nose of the dirigible to droop. He weighed only 135 pounds, but couldn't shake a toe without causing his oiled-silk hippe to respond with a wiggle and a shiver.—William Hickman Pickens in the Saturday Evening Post.

Restaurant Seen as

Divorce-Court Ally

In an address before the National Restaurant association Mrs. Christine Frederick said that if the way to a man's heart is through his stomach it

follows that whoever carries most closely to his appetite will have a chief hold on his affections—and consequently, as most women hate to cook, the restaurant is an ally of the divorce court.

Wives will hold the affection of their husbands by good cooking, but they have ceased to be cooks and become tinsmiths.

Yes, indeed, it discourages a man to come home and find that he is expected to eat a lot of cold stuff from the delicatessen shop instead of good hot roast beef with the fixings, and thus is discontent started in a nice happy home—and court actions follow.—Brooklyn Standard Union.

African Romance

There is a strange romance connected with the discovery of diamond deposits at the mouth of the Orange river. The field was discovered by the late F. C. Cornell, traveler, explorer and big game shot.

Although his discovery was not apparently known in South Africa, it now transpires that as far back as 1921 Mr. Cornell, when on a visit to London, confided to a friend that he had come upon the most extraordinary wealth of diamonds, and pointed out in the strictest confidence to the position on the map.

One of the objects of his journey to Europe was to arrange for the marketing of the stones. He had wealth almost beyond the imagination of avarice within his reach when he was killed by a motor accident at the Marble arch in London in March, 1921.

All He Wanted

With high hopes the commercial traveler called on a tradesman. They had never done business before, but a friend had supplied the introduc-

"May I show you my samples?"

asked the traveler. "Certainly," answered the merchant, and watched his visitor produce a surprisingly large selection of various articles from an insignificant bag. The traveler pointed out their merits and then waited.

"Well, there's only one thing I want," said the dealer.

"Yes, sir," he cried, "and what is that?"

"I want to see how you're going to get all those samples back into that bag," was the astounding answer.

"Pearl Shower" Only Eggs

A reported "shower of pearls" near Secunderabad, India, recently, caused a rush to the spot where they fell. Following a heavy rainstorm a native discovered the ground covered with white globules, ranging in size from that of a nut to a mustard seed. Thousands flocked to the field in autos, on bicycles and on foot, and gathered the "pearls" by the handful. Police authorities investigated and found that the "pearls" were eggs resembling the genuine article. Many who had collected the eggs are still keeping them, refusing to believe that they are not pearls. The man who discovered them sent a bagful to the authorities at Hyderabad, and demanded payment for the "pearls."

"Sea Desert"

In the south Pacific ocean has just been discovered the most desolate spot in the world. According to Dr. Austin H. Clark, who helped chart it for the Smithsonian institution, the place is devoid of any kind of life, either in the surface waves or at the bottom, says Popular Science Monthly. No region on land is comparable with its lifelessness.

Ear bones of whales and teeth of sharks on the red clay bottom are the only remains of sea monsters that strayed into the "sea desert" and perished.

High Shoes for London

Girls Are Coming Back

London.—High shoes reaching half way up the calf and reminiscent of styles ten years ago will be in vogue this year with English girls, judging from the exhibitions at the shoe and leather fair which was held here.

The models shown were plain in style and had none of the swashbuckling flare of the Russian boots. It is predicted that black and brown shades will be worn by the business girls, while the ultra-fashionable women will prefer scarlet boots and three-inch heels or opalescent kid boots radiant with every color of the rainbow.

It was evident at the exhibit that lizard skin will continue to be a popular trimming for shoes this winter.



JONES DRY GOODS

Greetings of the Season

DEC. SALE
Still Going Strong
AND THEN SOME --COMMENCING
FRIDAY, DEC. 16th

We are going to sell 50 ladies' Silk Dresses and 50 Ladies' and Children's Coats at half price. All Children's Woolen Dresses go at half price. Think of it, \$25. Dresses going at \$12.50, \$12.50 Dresses going at \$6.25.

Jones Dry Goods

XMAS

Gifts Of All Kinds At Hamm's

Diamonds
 Men's Watches
 Purse Sets
 Toilet Sets
 Fine Perfume
 Candy
 Leather Purses
 Flower Baskets
 Thermos Bottles
 Pipe Sets
 Fountain Pen Sets

Wrist Watches
 Smoking Stands
 Key Sets
 Perfume Sets
 Toilet Water
 Cigars
 Games
 Magazine Racks
 Baskets
 Xmas Boxes
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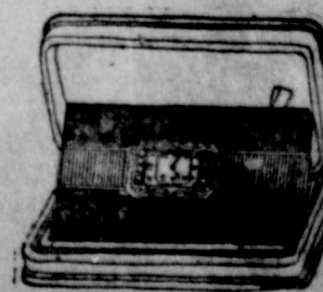
Pearls
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—AND LOOK FOR OTHER ITEMS—DON'T FORGET TO STOP AND SEE OUR SELECTION



Hamm Drug Co.

—SANTA CLAUS'S HEADQUARTERS—
 Call and Get a DeVoe Calendar—FREE!



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

SPECIALS!
—for—
FRIDAY and SATURDAY
Dec. 16—17—2 Days Only!
LADIES' PURSE
\$1.25 Value for
98c
Box Stationery
75c Value for
49c
Big Bill Pistol
15c Value for
10c
3 Boxes Caps for 10c
SCHINDLER'S
VARIETY STORE

Believe Earth Hollow
The hollow earth theory holds that the earth or universe is a hollow sphere with the sun in the center and that we live on the inner surface of this sphere. This is one of the tenets of the Koreshians, a communistic body at Estero, Lee county, Fla. The colony was founded by Cyrus R. Teed, a physician, who was born at Utica, N. Y., in 1830. "Koreshian" is derived from "Koresh," the Hebrew word for Cyrus. The Koreshians hold that Jesus was God Almighty and that Teed was sent as the Messiah on earth. Although the central order is celibate, their aim is not to abolish marriage, but rather to purify it.

Wearing Stairs
Stairways do not wear down at the same rate on both sides, according to a builder. The right side, going up, wears down most, he says, because people walking upstairs do so with more effort (and consequent wear on the step) than those coming down. This is especially noticeable in stairways of soft marble where the right side often will be notched deeply while steps on the left hardly are scratched.

Chip Off the Old Block
While the spelling lesson was going on, the teacher gave the class words to use in sentences. Addressing ten-year-old Junior, the drum major's son, she asked, "Junior, will you use the word banquet correctly in a sentence?"

After deep deliberation and a thought concerning his father's vocation, Junior replied: "When the speaker stepped upon the platform, the 'band-quit.'"

Why British Clothiers Seldom Amass Money

Father may think he wears his clothes a long time, but they wear 'em longer in Britain. A Stamford septuagenarian each morning dons a coat that was worn by his father after his grandfather had used it for a couple of decades. It still has the original buttons and, according to Tit-Bits, looks good for another 20 years on top of its 100.

Of four other veterans in a rural parish, one is wearing a fifty-year-old suit, another continues to brush an overcoat he has worn for 30 winters. The third says his twenty-five-year-old top coat is not very shabby, and the fourth says he didn't really begin to like his waistcoat until he had worn it for 40 social seasons.

Oh, yes. There is one woman, the wife of a farmhand, who admits she bought her best costume 15 years ago and still wears it to meeting.

Communion With the Great
Imagine that we had it in our power to call up the shades of the greatest and wisest men that ever existed and oblige them to converse with us on the most interesting topics—what an inestimable privilege should we think it!—how superior to all common enjoyments! But in a well-furnished library we in fact possess this power. We can question Xenophon and Caesar on their campaigns, make Demosthenes and Cicero plead before us, join in the audiences of Socrates and Plato, and receive demonstrations from Euclid and Newton. In books we have the choicest thoughts of the ablest men in their best dress.—Alkin.

Easily Remedied
"There's nothing really wrong with you," said the specialist to the fact-turn patient, "from a physical point of view. But your nerves are a little frayed. What you need is a holiday apart from your friends and family in some quiet, restful spot where you will be—if I may say so—close to nature, and that sort thing."
"May as well get back to work then."
"Why?"
"Well, I'm a lighthouse-keeper."

Fully Supplied
"Funny thing to me that Hub Sauckles don't get married," remarked Mrs. Lagg.
"What in tunkett does he want with a wife?" returned Lufe Lagg of Booger Holler. "He's got a tame wild-cat that is always on the pint of eating him up and a pet crow that has had its tongue split and talks all the —yaw-w-wn!—time."—Kansas City Times.

Seven German States Within Small Radius

While it is generally known that some of the German states are of Lilliputian size, few persons are aware that it is quite possible to visit seven of them, including two former kingdoms, two duchies and three principalities, in an easy walk of four and a half hours.

A good walker, starting from Steinbach, in Bavaria, will arrive in half an hour at Lichtentanne, which is situated in Saxe-Meiningen. Thence the road proceeds in one and a half hours to Rauschengeesee (Reuss, Elder Branch) after which in a few minutes Gleima, in Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt, is reached.

If an hour's walk brings the pedestrian to Altengesees (Reuss, Younger Branch), an hour farther on lies Drognitz, on Prussian soil, and the last stage is another hour's stroll, finishing up at Saultal, Saxe-Altenburg.



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

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 at the back of the store, making it handy to unload your cream and eggs and load your groceries also.

J. H. McDONALD GROCERY



"Shop With Us
And Get
The Best—"



"Give Electrical
Gifts This
Christmas"

Electrical Gifts Give Her Leisure

A FEDELCO

VACUUM CLEANER
A GREAT aid in keeping the home clean and dust-free
\$29.50



Will give years of service and save hours of work!



ELECTRIC IRON
HEATS up quickly and does not get out of order
\$5.00

ELECTRIC HEATER
SAVES trouble in tending the furnace on brisk days
\$4.50



GIVE HER A

Frigidaire
PRODUCTS OF GENERAL MOTORS

THERE IS A SIZE FOR EVERY HOME

Here is a gift that will last for years to come—one that will give many returns in convenience and economy, and ever be a pleasant reminder of the giver.

Any Housewife will be "Tickled" with these shiny, efficient, smoothly working ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES.

CURLING IRONS
TOASTERS
BRIDGE LAMPS

BED LAMPS
HEATING PADS
TABLE STOVES

SHOP EARLY and AVOID THE RUSH!

A PERCOLATOR



TEA SET FREE
A BEAUTIFUL China Tea Set given FREE with each percolator set or Ur sold During Christmas.
\$13.00 and \$17.50

WAFFLE IRONS

MAKES BREAKFAST A DELIGHT
A N 8-PIECE Golden Glow China Waffle Set given FREE with each Waffle Iron Sold During Christ-
\$12.50
mas. Price



WEST TEXAS UTILITIES COMPANY

for Economical Transportation

CHEVROLET

USED CARS

"with an OK that counts"

This Car has been carefully checked and reconditioned where necessary

- ✓ Motor
- ✓ Radiator
- ✓ Rear Axle
- ✓ Transmission
- ✓ Starting
- ✓ Lighting
- ✓ Ignition
- ✓ Battery
- ✓ Tires
- ✓ Upholstery
- ✓ Top
- ✓ Fenders
- ✓ Finish

OK by

Amazing Values And Easy Terms

Come to our salesroom and inspect our O.K.'d reconditioned cars. We have the car you want at a price that will please you—and our terms are unusually reasonable, with the lowest financing charges available through the General Motors Acceptance Corporation.

The red "O.K." tag is attached to the radiator of every one of our reconditioned cars. It means that the car has been gone over completely by expert mechanics, using genuine parts for all replacements. Look for this tag—and buy with confidence.

BRACKEEN-HUGHES CHEVROLET CO.
MERKEL, TEXAS
MASSEY-WOODS CHEVROLET CO.
TRENT, TEXAS

QUALITY AT LOW COST

Humorous Talk Went Unheeded After That

A good Bret Harte story is told by William H. Crane, the veteran actor, in "Footprints and Echoes." Bret Harte was engaged to deliver a humorous lecture in a small western city. Just after he had started, one of the deacons sitting on the stage grabbed hold of his coat and whispered:

"Hold on a minute, I want to make an announcement."

Harte was very much astonished and stepped aside, while the deacon took the center of the platform.

"Ladies and gentlemen," he said, after a pause, "is Mr. Rogers C. Jones in the hall?"

There was a protracted pause and, as Mr. Jones failed to respond, the deacon continued:

"Well, if he is, I have the pleasure to say that his wife has just died."

As everyone in the small city was intimately acquainted with Mrs. Jones, Harte's task, giving a humorous lecture, was far from successful.

One Secret of Success

A great deal of nonsense is written about success. More poor advice, we believe, is given to the young on this theme than on any other. The Courage Brother type of magazine and the Sympathetic Syndicate Sisters have perfected mass production on the secrets of success.

Recently a plain newspaper reporter, interviewing a great author, asked if he wrote only when inspiration came. "My dear fellow, no," said the author. "I go to work each morning at nine o'clock and pound away seven or eight hours. If I waited for moods and inspirations, I would do very little writing."

Most essays on success could be written in two words as follows: Hard Work.—Harry Daniel, in Thrift Magazine.

Pretty Soft

"Explorers have found a tribe of half civilized natives in the wilds of the Asiatic Caucasian mountains called 'maiden people' by neighboring tribes because they are ruled by women," reports Capper's Weekly. "The women of the tribe appear to have carried feminism beyond the dreams of civilized modern women, but not to the disadvantage of the men for the women do all the work of the men and the woman who provides the most luxuries for her husband and sons is most respected. All the men have to do is eat the food set before them, sleep, fish and smoke stone-bowled pipes which their women fill and light for them."

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

Two Halves Make One.
Hard Boiled Little Girl—"Gimme one ticket and make it snappy."
Ticket-Girl—"But, honey, there are two of you; how about the other little girl with you?"
H. B. L. G.—"Aw, ain't we half-sisters? Add dat up."

Have Both.
"I don't know what to do—buy a car or a home."
"Simple. Buy a home and mortgage it to get the car. Then you'll have both."

Try a Classified Ad in the Mail

Wrong Again.
"B-E-D spells bed," said the teacher for the twentieth time to her backward pupil. "Now do you understand Tommy?"
"Yes," said Tommy glibly.
"Well, e-a-t spells cat, d-o-g spells dog, and b-e-d spells—what did I tell you b-e-d spells?"
"T—I've forgot, miss."
"What, you don't know what b-e-d spells after all I've told you?"
Tommy shook his head.
"Well, once more, b-e-d spells what you sleep in. Now what do you sleep in?"
"My shirt."

Hubby—"I miss the old cuspidor since its gone."

Wifey—"You missed it before—that was the trouble."

YES!

According to 11,105* written opinions from Doctors



WHAT is the quality that Lawrence Tibbett, David Warfield, Nazimova, William Collier, Florence Easton, Mary Boland, Sophie Tucker and other famous singers, actors, broadcasters and public speakers have found that makes LUCKY STRIKES delightful and of no possible injury to their voices?

For the answer we turned to medical men and asked them this question:

Do you think from your experience with LUCKY STRIKE cigarettes that they are less irritating to sensitive or tender throats than other cigarettes, whatever the reason?

11,105* doctors answered this question "YES."

These figures represent the opinion and experience of doctors, those whose business it is to know.



"It's toasted" No Throat Irritation—No Cough.

*We hereby certify that we have examined 11,105 signed cards confirming the above statement. LYBRAND, ROSS BROS. & MONTGOMERY Accountants and Auditors New York, July 22, 1927.

Few Really Contented With Place in Life

Perhaps we humans have no greater weakness than this: we rarely know when we are well off. We seem to lack the kind of judgment we need to convince us that we had better let well enough alone, is a reflection made by Grove Patterson, in the Mobile Register. We are forever wanting to try something different, something new. Much of our path through life leads from the frying pan into the fire and out again.

"I have learned," said the very wise St. Paul, "in whatsoever state I am, therein to be content."

Some comfort is to be had in the thought that through our tendency to change from one thing to another we occasionally hit upon improvement. But the policy we need most is that which leads us to make a complete and thorough job of the thing we are doing in the particular circumstances in which we find ourselves.

Men of Light and Learning

There are half a dozen men, or so, who carry in their brains the ovarian eggs of the next generation's or century's civilization. These eggs are not ready to be laid in the form of books as yet; some of them are hardly ready to be put into the form of talk. But as rudimentary ideas or inchoate tendencies, there they are; and these are what must form the future. A man's general notions are not good for much, unless he has a crop of these intellectual ovarian eggs in his own brain, or knows them as they exist in the minds of others. One must be in the habit of talking with such persons to get at these rudimentary germs of thought; for their development is necessarily imperfect, and they are molded on new patterns, which must be long and closely studied. But these are the men to talk with. No fresh truth ever gets into a book.—Oliver Wendell Holmes.

Not Works of Romance

Newspaper men called frequently to the offices of the United States Steel corporation to await for lengthy periods of outcome of official meetings, long wondered why Elbert H. Gary, chairman of the board, apparently was so deeply interested in romance. Volumes of "Romances of History," occupied shelves in office cabinets otherwise given over to business and reference books. A reporter, growing impatient one day, sought to find in "romance" respite from the weariness of prolonged waiting, only to discover that the volumes were merely fabric backs pasted on cardboard, a camouflage for heaps of catalogues, pamphlets and old papers.

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 Everybo-dy's.

EVERYBODY'S GARAGE

PHONE 72

IN THE ARMORY BUILDING

AS THE FIRST OF THE NEW YEAR IS NEAR BY

It is natural with every merchant to want as much merchandise as possible moved out and converted into cash. We have a good stock of Dry Goods and Groceries to pick from and throughout our house you will find many BARGAINS.—We have reduced prices on many items too numerous to mention. Beginning Saturday, December 17 and lasting through Saturday, December 24 we have these prices on our GROCERIES.

2½ lbs. Calumet Baking Powder	55c
CORN, Primrose or Our Darling	15c
No. 2 TOMATOES	3 for 25c
No. 2 English PEAS	15c
Griffin All-Fruit PEACHES	Gallon 50c
Blue Label Karo SYRUP	Gallon 55c
Mary Jane SYRUP	Gallon 70c
Domino SYRUP	Gallon 85c
2½ lbs. Canova COFFEE	\$1.15
3 lbs. Broncho COFFEE	\$1.35
Mrs. Tucker's LARD	Gallon \$1.30
Mother's OATS (China)	35c
Pinto BEANS	Pound 7½c
Irish POTATOES, Peck-15 lbs.	40c

J. T. DENNIS

Phone 113

MERKEL, TEXAS

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 Nishmure on that charge.

All Portraits

made before Thursday night, December 22nd

will be ready for delivery Xmas Eve.

Give Something Different This Year.

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."

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday School at 10:00 a. m. Be on time. The building will be warm. We expect to have gas stoves ready for use. Lets fill the house and try them. Several of the men have worked late every night this week putting in the pipe. W. M. Elliott, Supt. Preaching Services at 11 a. m. and 7 p. m. C. E. at 6:15 p. m. Special songs at each service. R. A. Walker, Pastor.

We must sell the remainder of our stock immediately, as we go out within the next few days. The prices have been slaughtered far below cost. Brown Dry Goods Company.

Expecting Car McAllister Coal today. Swafford. Phone 44.

AT THE NORTH SIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

There will be services at the North Side Church of Christ, at both the morning and evening hours next Sunday.

Everyone cordially invited. Come early for the morning Bible Study. We will have three gas stoves going for a trial, and hope to keep every one warm and comfortable.

W. G. Cypert, Pastor.

Do not forget to bring your coupon to Brown's Quit Business Sale.

Well Pressed is Well Dressed. We appreciate your business and guarantee to please. Phone 180.

CASH TAILOR SHOP. C. B. Glasgow. 16-1t.



They're Homemade!

CHRISTMAS CAKES

THE WORLD OVER, there is nothing to compare with our Cakes, Cookies, and Pastries—Home-made for the Holidays. That is why we have followed the good, old-fashioned home recipes in baking these delicious dainties. Let us put yours away TODAY!

- FRUIT CAKES
 - GINGER COOKIES
 - JELLY ROLLS
 - LAYER CAKES
 - CINNAMON ROLLS
 - FRUIT PIES
- HOME-MADE CHRISTMAS CANDIES
—30c PER POUND—

FRESH BREAD ALWAYS

THE QUALITY BAKERY

A. A. McGEHEE, Proprietor.

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 rumbout 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 bayous 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 Schiller, who is riding a horse from Buenos Aires to New York, has found recreation here by attending a rodeo.

Redemption Headquarters

We have this week taken over the Merkel Trading Stamps from the Brown Dry Goods Co. and will continue to give Merkel Trading Stamps on Cash Purchases Only. We will not give Stamps on Implement sales. We expect to carry a nice and complete assortment of Premiums. They will be on display in our store at all times and you can make your selection and not have to wait for it to be ordered.

Plenty of Xmas presents for any or all members of the family. Come in and let us help you make your selections.

LIBERTY HDW.

Company

"If It's Hardware We Have It."

Notice!

We wish to inform the Public that we now have the 1928 Official Headlight Certificates. Come in early and get your lights adjusted according to law. In this way you will avoid the rush that is sure to come.

MERKEL MOTOR Company
AUTHORIZED TEST STATION

JUST FOR FUN

Wife at 3:00 a. m.—“Wake up, John, wake up. There's a burglar in the next room.”

Hubby (sleepily): “Well, I've no revolver. You go in and look a few daggers at him.”

Rector—“At the end of the service tonight the choir will sing a special anthem composed by the organist, after which the church will be closed for a month for necessary repairs.”

Mistaken Identity.

An old negro, when brought before the judge was asked if he were the defendant.

Pointing to his attorney, he said, “Dah de defen'ant. I's de gent'man what stole de chickens.”

Knows the Ropes

Lady—“Could I see the captain?”
First Mate—“He's forward, Miss.”
Lady Passenger—“I'm not afraid. I've been out with college boys.”—Allston Recorder.

Rather Forgetful.

The wife had tied a string around her absent-minded husband's finger to remind him to get his hair cut. On his way home to dinner he noticed it. “Ah, yes” he murmured, “I remember,” and entering the shop, he sat down before his favorite barber. “Er—yes sir,” said the artist, puzzled inquiry in his tone. “Eh? Oh, yes, cut my hair please.” “Why, certainly, if you wish it,” said the barber. “But you won't mind my mentioning the fact that I cut it this noon, will you?”

FROM NUMBERS, B. C., TO THE U. S. CENSUS

First Counting of Noses Was Done by Moses.

Washington.—All Turkey stayed at home one Friday recently while 50,000 officials took the first census of the Ottoman empire.

“Turkey has made up for tardiness by asking questions far more thorough than appear in the famous first census of history,” says a bulletin from the Washington headquarters of the National Geographic society.

“Take ye the sum of all the congregation of the children of Israel, after their families, by the house of their fathers, with the number of their names every male by their polls; from twenty years old and upward, all that are able to go forth to war in Israel.”

“Thus spoke the Lord to Moses, and Moses, with Aaron's assistance, collected the figures for the first census report, which may be found in practically every home and hotelroom. It is appropriately entitled ‘Numbers,’ the fourth book of the Bible.

“By its breadth of scope the census William of Normandy ordered for his new kingdom of England, resembles modern surveys. He commanded his minions in 1085 A. D. to record every lord and peasant, every acre, every ox, every mill, every manor, every weir and every plow, the value thereof and—this is forward looking—the natural resources, woods, fields and streams capable of development and revenue. The report to William the Conqueror became the Domesday Book, unreadable today except by scholars, yet protected in the public record office at London as one of the most precious possessions of England.

Russia's First Count in 1897.
“The United States, although a newcomer in the ranks of civilization, was one of the first nations to establish the modern periodic census. Sweden took the lead before our first census in 1793, but England, France and Prussia did not see the necessity of regular counting of noses until ten or twenty years later. Russia took no census until 1897.

“Deeply religious settlers of America nearly upset our first census when they harked back to another less fortunate Bible census. ‘Satan stood up against Israel,’ our ancestors pointed out to the marshals, ‘and provoked David to number Israel from Beersheba even to Dan.’ What happened? ‘God was displeased; therefore he smote Israel. The Lord sent pestilence upon Israel; and there fell of Israel 70,000 men.’

“Fears that our first census would bring similar destruction upon the nation did not materialize, so the marshals delivered their reports to President Washington within nine months for all the original states, except Vermont, Rhode Island and South Carolina. Vermont and Rhode Island entered the Union later. The marshal of South Carolina found workers scarce at \$1 per 150 heads counted.

“Today a visitor at the census bureau may see the names of famous Americans and the answers given to the first census takers' simple questionnaires. John Hancock's family consisted of two ‘free white males of sixteen and upward,’ three white females, seven other persons (servants no doubt) and no slaves. Progress in 70 years presents a contrast with data for Abraham Lincoln collected in 1820: ‘Age, fifty-one, married, lawyer, value of real estate \$5,000—personal estate \$12,000, Kentucky, place of birth.’

“From one census every ten years the census bureau has increased to 104 censuses, in addition to many special surveys such as that made to supply data to congress for immigration quotas. One census collected every week shows the number of babies born. Using these figures the bureau sets up its large calculator at an exhibit and every 20 seconds announces to the world that the millions of Americans has been increased, for example, by baby No. 118,972,331.

Statistics About Buying.
“Not content with counting men, women and children, where they work, whether they are in school and if so, how long; not satisfied with tabulating the value of wheat grown and tons of manganese ore dug out of the ground; not resting even with summing up the business of hats and hammocks, shoes and sulphuric acid manufactured in the United States, the census bureau proposes to ‘complete the picture.’ To finish the portrait in figures of the whole United States, it is necessary, they say, to have a census of distribution. That means an accounting of what is sold to the housewife over the grocery, drug and meat counters, and of what the wholesaler sells to the retailer.

“Recently the census bureau released its first experimental distribution survey for which Baltimore served as a laboratory specimen. The weavers of figures found that in Baltimore 25 people are required to support one neighborhood grocery; that Baltimoreans spend \$456.72 per year in stores; that the department stores take the most; that Baltimore spends more on automobiles than on furnishing its homes and that in the average family purchasing budget food requires 31 per cent, clothing 20 per cent and the family automobile comes next with 9 per cent. The same survey has been extended to ten other cities: Chicago, Atlanta, Denver, Fargo, N. D.; Kansas City, Providence, San Francisco, Seattle, Springfield, Ill., and Syracuse, N. Y. Some day it will be extended to the whole nation.”

Telegraph and Railroads

The history of the development of the electric telegraph in the United States is inextricably bound up with that of American railroads, says the Western Union Telegraph company. The first public telegraph line, constructed by Samuel F. B. Morse between Baltimore and Washington in 1843, followed the line of the Baltimore & Ohio railroad, the first American railroad, and to this day the greater part of the 2,000,000 miles of telegraph wires in the United States are constructed along the routes of the various railway systems. The Western Union company alone has working contracts with more than 350 railroad companies.

“Know the Worth”

Money spent in cultivating tastes rather than in impressing tasteless people ought to bring us all better returns, and does, if we would only recognize it. But we are so impatient. We won't wait for anything to grow if we can force into being a semblance of what it should be. The few who demand real value for their money are swamped by the many who are satisfied in spending. It is, perhaps, natural that a hard-earned fortune should vaunt itself, even in this way, but it is neither sensible nor the mark of a fine character. The motto we recommend to affluence in general is: “Know the Worth.”—Vogue.

Taken at His Word

“Good-by,” he said brokenly, and his frame shook with emotion. “Remember, dear, that even if I can't win your love I shall always be your devoted friend.”

The girl blushed. “And,” continued the heart-broken youth, “if ever I can be of service to you, you have only to command me. I leave for Egypt tonight.”

“I am awfully sorry,” remarked the girl, “to have been the cause of your leaving home, but since you are so kind, please mail this letter for me on your way to the boat.”

Student of Farm Life

Margie had often seen cows in the pasture and had had the process of supply and demand, as pertaining to dairy products, explained to her by her mother. However, personal contact with the gentler species of the cow had not been her privilege. On a recent visit to the farm, she was taken to the barn just at milking time.

On her return to the house her mother asked her what she saw in the barnyard, expecting her to list the different animals.

Her reply came: “Well, mother, I saw them squirt the cow.”

WE WILL BE COMPELLED TO CLOSE OUR STORE DURING THE ENTIRE MONTH OF JANUARY

So we are making low prices on everything in our entire store so we can close out the whole stock by Xmas Eve. night.

Our lease on our present building is up on Jan. 1st. and our new Building will not be ready until Feb. 1st. We have no place to go so we absolutely must close out our entire stock by Xmas. Eve. night.

We are selling all Ladies' Ready-to-Wear, Millinery, Shoes, and Knit Underwear at—

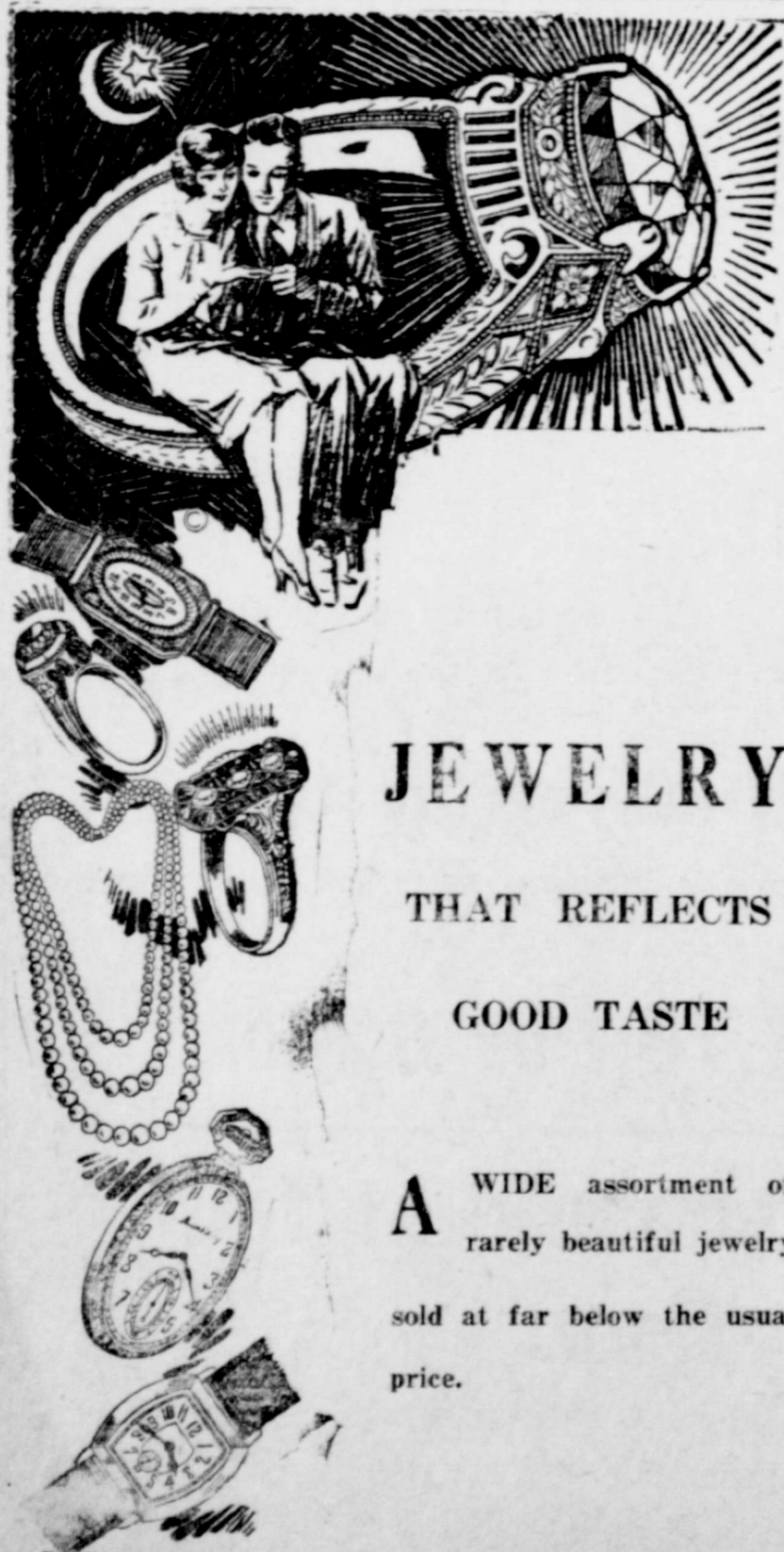
HALF PRICE

AND THOUSANDS OF OTHER WONDERFUL BARGAINS

Do your Xmas Shopping with us and you will buy fine quality merchandise at the lowest prices you ever did before.

MIMS

West Texas' Finest Store After Jan. 1st. STILL ON MIM'S CORNER.



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

WATCHES

\$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.

GROCERIES

That's Our Business

We are not selling out, not going to move, own our building, pay no rent, expect to stay here, and meet all legitimate competition. You will find what you want in groceries at our place, and your trade will be appreciated, and we will try to render the service you desire. Call on us, open an account and we think all concerned will be pleased.

HAMILTON & CASE

"The Strong Man", is a hit the whole family will like. It opens Wednesday at the Queen.

If you like to laugh—"The Strong Man" will knock you for a joyful loop, give you a ticklish somersault, and catch you with a chest gurgle on the rebound.

If you like to cry—"The Strong Man" will catch your breath with a hoarse catch, will send the tears rolling down your cheeks, and quicken your pulse with pathetic sympathy for the wistful moon-faced, lonesome boy who strolls across the screen in the appealing personality of Harry Langdon.

Peculiar, this comedy is. It it had been an actor who considers himself an emotional dramatist playing the role of the ex-Belgian soldier searching for his American guardian angel, "The Strong Man" would have been hailed as one of the most poignant

softest sobbing. Chaplin has a rival at last for pathos-humor.

IS REAL YARN

Yet there is nothing maudlin or super-sentimental in the story. It is a straightforward tale of a young immigrant who gets into many hilarious scrapes while searching for a girl who has written to him when he was in the Belgian army.

In this role, which offers him a world of opportunity to exhibit his thousand and one faces, Harry Langdon is superb.

It is not only the funniest role he has ever played; it is probably the funniest role of the year.

And one thing we know—Harry Langdon in "The Strong Man" jumps over the top rung of the ladder in motion picture mimicry.

Some of the high spots of the picture were the scenes with Gertrude Astor in her apartment, when he looked like a scared little boy entrapped

in which Harry discovers that the Mary Brown he is looking for is right in front of him. In ten seconds of pantomime in this scene, Harry told a story which might easily require a reel with a less gifted artist.

Showing Wednesday and Thursday in connection with the Merry Mad Caps Revue. 25 People and 9 Piece Orchestra.

Shoes! Shoes! Shoes! And all of them leather. Come take them out at your own price. Brown Dry Goods Company.

Expecting Car McAllister Coal today. Swafford. Phone 44.

merkel with further notice. week ONLY, until further notice.

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

Come on Friends and fit the family up in Shoes. We are almost giving them to you. They must go now. Brown D. G. Co.

The Mocker
"My wife has persuaded me to go to church."
"Well, pleasant dreams, old chap."
Try a Classified adv in the Mail

OUR BIG REDUCING SALE IS NOW IN FULL SWING

Our stock is too large and we are offering it to you at absolutely the lowest price we ever made on groceries in Merkel.

25 lb. Sack Sugar	\$1.72
10 lb. Sack Sugar	.72
5 lb. Sack Sugar	.42
4 lbs. Sun Maid Raisins	.40
8 lb. Bucket Lard	1.28

A BIG REDUCTION ON ALL SYRUPS, JELLIES

Remember, we carry the most complete line of Christmas Candies, Cakes, Oranges, Apples and Nuts.

HOKUS POKUS Grocery



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS OFFERING FOR ORPHANS

Next Sunday at the Sunday School and morning preaching service at the Methodist Church, opportunity will be given to those attending to brighten Christmas Times at the Orphanage at Waco. It will be the only chance to join in such a blessed privilege till next Christmas, a year from now. Don't miss this opportunity. Come prepared to make a substantial gift. Let the Christmas Spirit make you liberal.

LEE COX, S. S. Supt. W. J. MAYHEW, Pastor

Cow Boy Rodeo

—MERKEL, TEXAS—
MANAGED BY MALONE BROTHERS



Saturday, December 24th and Sunday, December 25th
5 Blocks West and One Block North of Highway Filling Sta.
—ADMISSION 25c AND 50c—
AUSPICES FIRE DEPARTMENT

Palace Theatre

FRIDAY and SATURDAY

THE TREAT OF THE YEAR—THREE BIG EVENTS
FRIDAY NIGHT ON THE SCREEN
—LOIS WILSON AND ESTELLE TAYLOR IN—

"NEW YORK"
—NEWS AND COMEDY—
ON THE STAGE

THE GYPSY UKELELE GIRLS

From Sweetwater, Famous West Texas over, and high-class to the letter. It was through friendship alone that we were able to secure this entertainment for you. Don't miss it Friday Night.

Friday and Saturday and Saturday Mat
GUS LESSIS

The World's Strongest Man Will Be at the Palace. He offers \$1,000 reward to anyone who can compete with him. He bites rail spikes in half, breaks steel link chains by chest expansion, lets three men get on each end of a steel bar and swings them around with this bar in his mouth, and more super-human acts. He played to a full house at the "Elks" Club in Abilene, Tuesday night, December 13th. Remember, at the Palace.

(ON THE SCREEN SATURDAY)

—TOM TYLER AND HIS PALS IN—

"THE DESERT PIRATE"

MONDAY and TUESDAY

—RICHARD DIX IN—

"KNOCKOUT REILLY"

AESOPS FABLES AND NEWS

WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY

THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT

—WITH MARY CARR AND BELLE BENNETT—
Goes Straight to the Heart.

MIDNIGHT MATINEE!

December 25th

Buster Keeton in "COLLEGE"

Measure Value

in the \$725 class

by New **Chrysler 52**

The New Chrysler "52" owner best knows the reason in superior car performance, comfort and luxury that \$725 can buy.

For he has daily experience of its smooth, un-falling speed, typical Chrysler acceleration and high gasoline mileage.

He rides to substantial wood and steel bodies of full size for adult passengers—on saddle spring seat cushions.

His Chrysler "52" has fittings and equipment so much richer—upholstery of finer texture—color harmonies so much more striking.

He thus enjoys the unique results of Chrysler Standardized Quality which makes available for Chrysler cars of lower price, the developments originated for its cars of higher price.

Let the New Chrysler "52" be your measure of value in this price field. Inspect carefully its body features. Then test its performance by wheel spinning and driving. You, too, will then choose the New Chrysler "52."

Coupe	\$725
Roadster	725
(with rumble seat)	
2-door Sedan	735
4-door Sedan	795
DeLuxe Coupe	795
DeLuxe Sedan	875

All prices f.o.b. Detroit, subject to current Federal excise tax. Chrysler dealers are in position to extend the convenience of these payments. Ask about Chrysler's attractive plan.

All Chrysler cars have the additional protection against theft of the Fedco System of numbering.

New Chrysler "Red-Head" Engine—designed to take full advantage of high-compression gas, is standard equipment on the roadsters of the "52," "62," "72" and on all models of the New 112 h. p. Imperial "80." It is also available, at slight extra cost, for all other current body types. For a reasonable charge it can be applied to earlier Chrysler cars now in use.

MAVERICK MOTOR COMPANY

FRONT STREET

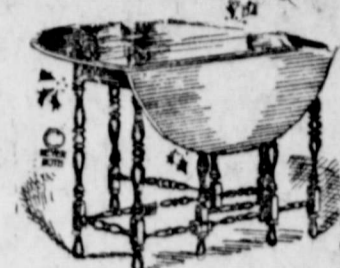
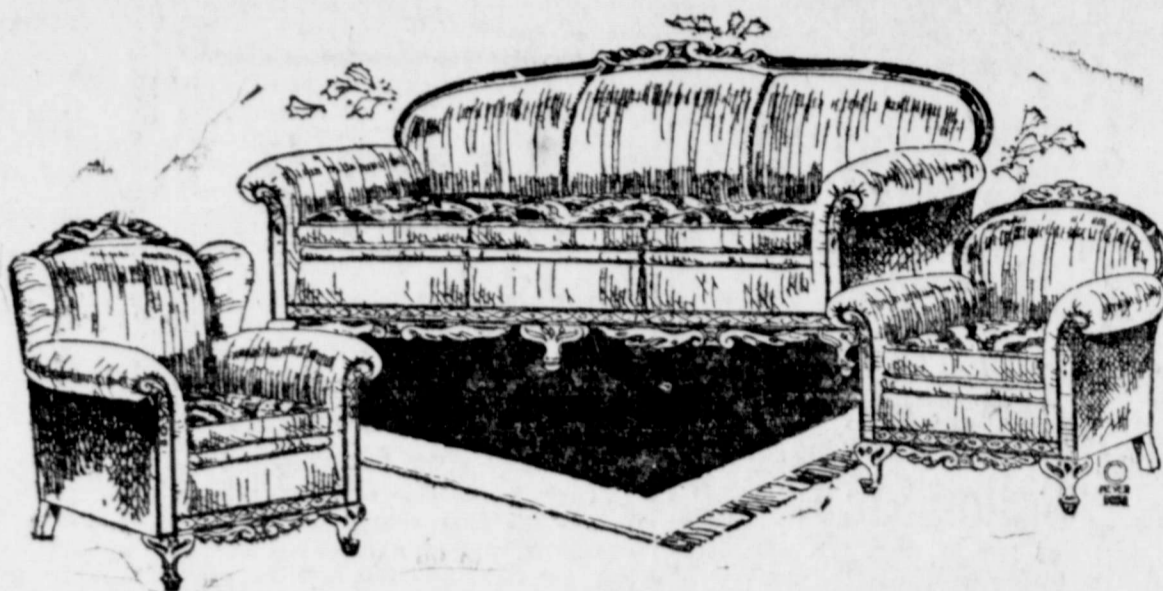
MERKEL, TEXAS

CHRISTMAS SPECIALS

SANTA CLAUS IS HERE. YOU MAY SEE HIM AT OUR STORE. EACH DAY FROM NOW UNTIL XMAS.

Complete your living room with this BEAUTIFUL THREE-PIECE OVER-STUFFED SUITE. Exposed rail of Solid Walnut. Covered with best-grade Jacquard Velour. Reverse Cushions, covered with good grade tapestry. Price of this Suite reduced for Christmas Special to only—

\$127.75



How long have you been wanting a Gate-Leg Table? Here is your best chance to get a genuine walnut table—30 x 36 when open. Priced for our—Christmas Special—

\$17.75



A Cedar Chest makes an ideal Christmas Gift. We have a wonderful assortment. Priced from—

\$3.00 TO \$37.50

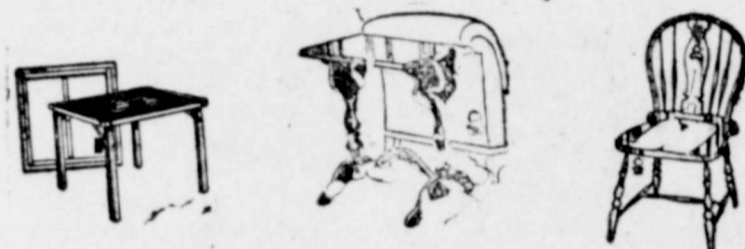
FLOOR LAMP SPECIAL

You can always use a Floor Lamp. Fifty different styles to select from. Priced from now until Xmas for exactly one-third off—Think of it—33 1-3 Discount.

An occasional chair would please Father, Brother, or Husband. Prices Reduced on all Occasional Chairs.

BED ROOM SUITE SPECIALS

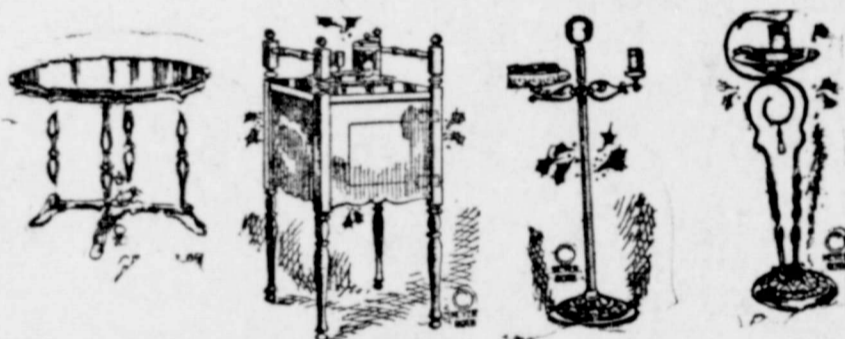
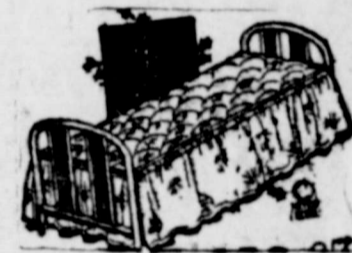
A New Bed-Room Suite will be appreciated by the entire family. You can buy it now at a Big Saving. All Bed Room Suites, about Twenty-five different styles and finishes specially priced for Christmas.



A DAY BED FOR CHRISTMAS

A lounge by day, a bed by night. Special for Christmas from—

\$17.75 and Up.

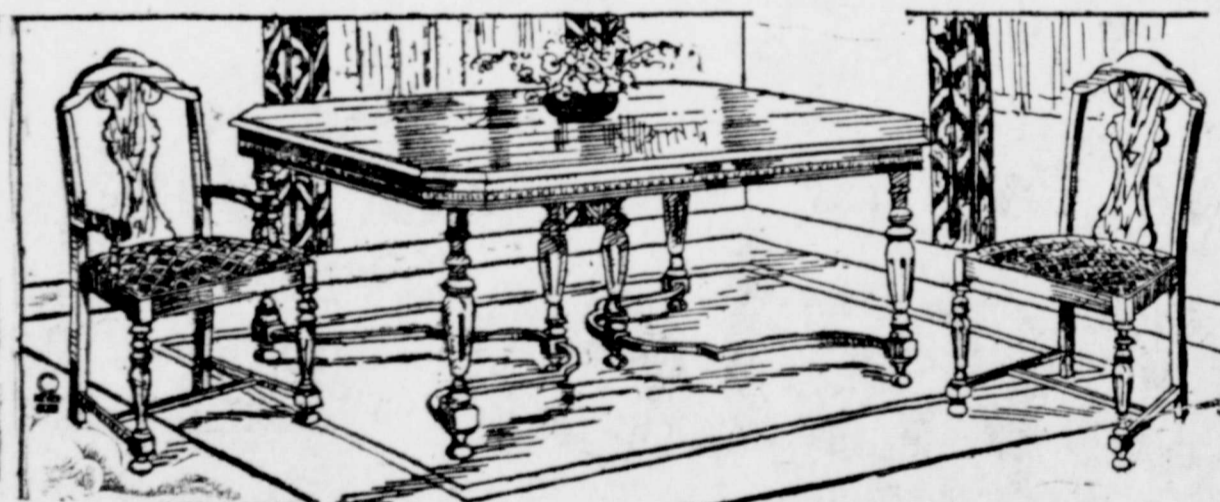


VISIT OUR SMOKER DEPARTMENT

Everybody smokes—Why not have a Smoker?

We have them priced from—

\$1.25 To \$15.00



A REAL CHRISTMAS BARGAIN

Eight Piece Dining Room Suite—Five-Ply Walnut A Good Grade Tapestry on Chair Seats. Table 40 x 54 Inches Closed Buffet 60 Inches. Five Side Chairs One Arm Chair. Christmas Special Only—

\$89.75



WE ARE CALLING YOUR ATTENTION TO ONLY A FEW OF THE HUNDREDS OF SUITABLE CHRISTMAS GIFTS THAT CAN BE FOUND IN OUR STORE. WE WANT YOU TO COME IN AND LOOK THROUGH OUR STOCK WE WANT YOU TO MAKE OUR STORE YOUR HEADQUARTERS WHILE DOING YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING. SEE OUR GIFTS AND GET OUR PRICES.

Barrow Furniture Co.