



**THE MERKEL MAIL**  
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C. J. GLOVER, Editor

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All obituaries, resolutions of respect, cards of thanks, etc., are classed as advertising, and will be charged for at 1 cent per word with a minimum of 35 cents.



The officers of the Merkel F. F. A. chapter went to Abilene Wednesday, Jan. 17, to compete in the district contest held there. The members of the two teams were Francois Harris, Jerry Warren, Jack Hester, Billy Clyde Haynes, Elmer Patterson, Forest Glenn Barnett, Burnell Merritt, Roy Coats, Marvin DuBose, Booth Higgins, Stewart Kelly and Clyde Deavers.

Two contests were entered and first places won in both. In the chapter conducting contest the officers go through a typical business meeting and parliamentary procedure drill, which is judged on the knowledge of parliamentary points used and on the correctness of questions asked by the judges. In the news-writing contest, a lead is given the entries and they write it up as a typical news story, with emphasis on style, spelling and neatness.

The winners of the district contest will go to Huntsville in the spring to compete in the state contests against the winners of several other districts in the state. The Merkel chapter is making plans for taking a three or four day trip after stopping in Huntsville for the contests.

The date for the annual F. F. A. Live Stock show has been set for Feb. 3, if the weather permits. This will be the third show to be held since the F. F. A. chapter was organized in 1936. Last year there was keen competition in all divisions of the show and even more is expected this year. The boys are getting their animals ready for the show and they will be in fair condition when the time comes for the show.

Bills of exchange were used by the Jews as early as 1160.

Behaving was introduced into England from Normandy by William the Conqueror in 1076.

**Gas Dispatchers Constantly Alert for Any Emergency**



Gas dispatchers in headquarters of Lone Star Gas System, Dallas, at work on one of the coldest days of the year. With heavy snow falling and the greatest demand for gas in 30 years, men were at their posts constantly. They are connected with far flung gas fields and compressor stations giving orders to step up pressures and cut in more wells. One man is receiving weather reports over short wave radio. They are alert for any emergency. Left to right: Tom B. Long, chief dispatcher; Luther Tolbert, assistant pipe line superintendent standing back of M. S. Ball, receiving weather reports; H. D. Hewitt, studying pipe line map.

**Interconnected System Prevents Gas Shortage**

In the midst of the coldest recent day, facing the greatest demand for gas service in 30 years, Lone Star Gas Company's pipe line from the Panhandle to Petrolia ripped wide open, company officials stated. The break shut off the world's greatest gas field in the midst of an all-time peak demand, yet there was no shortage of gas, officials said, because the pipe lines serving the local gas company are part of a thoroughly interconnected system.

"Never in the country's history was the temperature so uniformly low simultaneously throughout our entire system," said Elmer F. Schmidt, Dallas, operating manager of Lone Star Gas. "The gas requirements of the 300,000 homes we serve in Texas and Oklahoma jumped to a new all-time peak, 25 per cent greater than for any other single day in the company's history. But despite the break not a man, woman or child suffered because of any failure in supply."

"The one thing standing between thousands of people and death or suffering was Lone Star's interconnected, integrated, thoroughly organized pipe line system. No one-way pipe line could have met this test. If our customers had been relying on a single line from a single producing area, homes would have been without gas because of this break. But our 4,700 miles of pipe lines, interconnecting more than a thousand wells in over 40 separate fields, saved the

day. "As soon as warning was given of the break, two repair crews set out to locate it, one traveling south from Shamrock, Texas, the other north from Vernon. Though each crew had to travel more than 50 miles, much of the distance over frozen ground along the pipe line, they located the break in less than two hours, had it repaired in two more, and gas once more flowed through the line.

"Meanwhile the dispatcher re-routed gas from other fields to maintain uninterrupted service. When the break occurred, he ordered gate valves opened on the south of the system near Groesbeck and Elm Mott, permitting gas from East Texas fields, which had previously been flowing south from Waco, to move northward through lines running from Mexia and Waco to Cleburne. At the same time gate valves were opened to permit gas from the West Texas fields, which also had been flowing south, to go eastward to Dal-

las and points northeast. By this means gas already in the Panhandle line was held in the line for use of the towns between the break and Fort Worth. The flow of gas over almost the entire system was reserved to meet the emergency."

**Parisians Shiver.**

Paris, Jan. 25.—Parisians shivered Saturday. It was four degrees below zero Fahrenheit, the coldest day in 23 years.

Founded in 1726, and one of the youngest cities on the South American continent, Montevideo has a population of over 600,000.

Coin machine manufacturers recently developed a coin-operated milk dispenser and a coin-operated book vender.

Let us book your order now for baby chicks that live and grow and pay you a profit—hatched at Dunn's Hatchery, DeLeon, Texas. John Dunn.

**You May Still JOIN**

(Until Thurs., Feb. 1st)

**CHRISTMAS SAVINGS CLUB for 1940**

Ask Our Tellers for further details

THE OLD RELIABLE  
**FARMERS & MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK**

Merkel, Texas

Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

**CARD OF THANKS.**

We wish to express our sincere gratitude to all who with many kindnesses and words of sympathy and beautiful floral offerings, brought us consolation in the loss of our loved one.

Especially do we wish to thank the ex-service men for their many kindnesses.

Mrs. J. L. Speck and Children.

**450,000 Dwellings Built.**

Washington, Jan. 25.—Stewart McDonald, federal housing administrator, estimated that 450,000 to 475,000 dwelling units were built last year, of which 153,500 were constructed with FHA-insured financing.

Johnny Jones made a non-stop airplane flight across the United States at a cost of \$24.75.

**CARD OF THANKS.**

There are no words that can truly express our sincere gratitude and deep appreciation for the many kind words and loving deeds, said and done for us during these dark hours of our bereavement in the tragic death of our dear son, brother and very dear friend.

We have always loved our friends, but it is during these dark hours when we learn to love and appreciate you all the more.

We thank you for every word or deed said or done to brighten these, our darkest hours of grief. Especially are we grateful for so many beautiful flowers.

May God bless every one of you in our humble and sincere prayer.

Mr. and Mrs. John Curb and Family.  
Mr. and Mrs. George L. White.

**Three "Master" Electric Servants Help Modernize Your Home**  
Buy Now During **SPECIAL SALE**



A Bargain at  
**\$23.75**  
Only \$2.50 Down  
\$1.88 Per Month

**Sunbeam MIXMASTER**

MIXMASTER can end much kitchen drudgery. It never fails to fill a need in the home. Mixmaster means an end to the tiring armwork of cooking, baking, getting meals. It makes every recipe doubly delicious. Over TWO MILLION women now using Mixmasters and know it as "the great kitchen labor-saver." Complete with juicer . . . . . \$23.75

**SHED LOVE THE Sunbeam COFFEEMASTER**

Alone only  
**\$16.00**

With matched service set, including tray, sugar and creamer . . . . . \$23.50



Pay \$1.50 Down—\$1.28 Per Month

**COFFEEMASTER** has everything! Makes the most delicious coffee—all automatically. You simply set it . . . forget it! Shuts off by itself when the coffee is done, then re-sets itself to keep the coffee hot. All lustrous chromium—freedom from bowl-breakage. Remove the brew-top and you have the loveliest of servers from which to pour.

**Sunbeam IRONMASTER**



**\$8.95** miss SPECIAL trade-in allowance of \$1 on your old iron. Pay only 95c down, balance \$1 month

DIAL the thumb-tip regulator to the correct ironing heat. . . . . right under your thumb. Cooler, quicker, lighter. Wrist-resting. Light weight and streamlined.



**West Texas Utilities Company**

**SPECIALS FOR FRIDAY & SATURDAY**

PRUNES, gallon	25c	CORN, TOMATOES, MUSTARD GREENS, TURNIP GREENS — No. 2 can, 3 for	25c
JELLO, all flavors, package	6c	NO. 2 CANS KRAUT, 2 for	15c
CHUCK WAGON or CHILI BEANS, 3 for	25c	ROASTED PEANUTS, lb.	15c
WHITE LILY TOMATOES, 3 for	25c	PEACHES, In Heavy Syrup, 1 lb. can	9c
POST BRAN or Post Toasties, pkg.	10c	--- VEGETABLES ---	
A-1, 2 pound box	18c	LETTUCE, 3 for	10c
CRACKERS,	18c	TENDER GREENS, bunch	5c
POP CORN, lb.	10c	CARROTS, 3 bchs.	10c
		TOMATOES, lb.	7c
		BEETS, bunch	5c
		--- FRUITS ---	
		TEXAS ORANGES, doz.	15c
		WINESAP APPLES, 3 doz.	25c
		LARGE GRAPEFRUIT, dz.	25c
		BANANAS, lb.	5c

MARKET DEPARTMENT, Ross Wheeler, Butcher	
PORK CHOPS, lb.	15c
DRY SALT, lb.	10c
SAUSAGE, 2 lb.	25c
T-BONE, lb.	20c
Sliced Bacon, lb.	18c
RIB ROAST, lb.	15c

— WE PAY 23c FOR EGGS—IN TRADE ONLY —

**CARSON'S GROCERY & MARKET**

"Trade at Carson's and Bank the Difference"  
FREE DELIVERY --- PHONE 250

## QUEEN THEATRE CALENDAR

Showing for the last time Thursday—"Disputed Passage."  
 Friday and Saturday, Double Features—The Jones Family in "Too Busy to Work" and George O'Brien in "Marshal of Mesa City;" serial and Porky Pig cartoon.  
 Saturday preview, Monday and Tuesday—Fred MacMurray, Madeleine Carroll in "Honeymoon in Bali;" color cartoon and News included.  
 Coming, Feb. 19-20—"The Hunchback of Notre Dame."

### "Honeymoon in Bali" Slick Screen Comedy

In the subtle art of combining comedy with romance, Fred MacMurray and Madeleine Carroll yield to few screen teams—and they proved it again to the satisfaction of local movie-goers in Paramount's slick new comedy romance, "Honeymoon in Bali," which is to be shown at the Queen theatre Saturday preview, Monday and Tuesday.

Fred and Madeleine, it will be recalled, were teamed for the first time not so long ago in "Cafe Society" in which they scored a triumph. Their latest picture gives them a chance to make the most of the experience they gained working together in the first and they come through in grand style. Fred is at his best as a care-free adventurer just returned from Bali, a fellow who believes that a woman's place is in a man's arms. Madeleine, who has been called the screen's most beautiful woman, is ideally cast as a smart, smug, department store executive, a girl who won't sacrifice her independence for love. Allan Jones is co-starred, cast appropriately enough, as an opera singer.

The romantic and comic complications start to mesh when Madeleine, warned that her attitude toward men is all wrong, goes to a fortune teller and learns that a tall, dark man with a knife wound on his right arm will enter her life. Madeleine scoffs, but it isn't very long before she meets Fred MacMurray, tall and dark, back from Bali with a knife wound in his right arm and she falls for him.

### America's College Men Now Taking to the Air

When you read these days that America's college youth is taking to the air, it doesn't mean a new aerial strategy on the football gridiron. It's of far greater significance than that, and it is brought home to the nation on the screen for the first time with the Cosmopolitan production for 20th Century-Fox, "20,000 Men A Year." This figure represents the estimate by the Civil Aeronautics Authority (of the federal government) of the number of civilians who will be trained annually in the nation's colleges and universities as pilots and ground men. The chief object of the program is the encouragement and development of aviation in the United States.

"20,000 Men A Year" is based on a story by Frank Wead, well-known author of aviation fiction, and tells, through the eyes of the girls who love them and the men who give them wings, the dramatic tale of this "new brood of eagles" as it occurs in a typical university and CCA airport. Randolph Scott, Preston Foster and Margaret Lindsay are featured in the cast which includes Mary Healy, Robert Shaw, George Ernest, Jane Darwell, Kane Richmond and Maxie Rosenbloom.

"20,000 Men A Year" comes to the Queen theatre for a two-day engagement, next Wednesday and Thursday.

### Buys Half Interest In Abilene Hatchery

Announcement has been made of the purchase of one-half interest in the Abilene Hatchery & Seed store by A. G. Gent from F. W. Irvine, formerly sole owner.

The store will hereafter be known as the Abilene Hatchery, Seed and Feed store, continuing in the same location, 318 Mesquite street, with Irvine and Gent as owners and operators.

The hatchery boasts a modern incubator capable of handling 78,000 eggs every three weeks. Jess Welch of Dublin has been employed to operate the incubator.

Another recent installation at the hatchery and feed store is a turkey incubator built especially to handle turkey and duck eggs.

An invitation is extended by the owners to every man, woman and child in Taylor county to call at their hatchery and look over the new and enlarged equipment.

First hatch of chicks for the new year will be taken from the incubator on Jan. 29.

### Ranch Girl Chosen



Chosen as a ranch girl honor guest at the Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show in Fort Worth, Mar. 8-17, Miss Elverna Criswell, 17, of Throckmorton, is truly a ranch girl. Daughter of Bob Criswell, manager of the Swenson Land and Cattle Company's Throckmorton ranch, Miss Criswell was born on the ranch. She is a blonde who feels at home in a saddle.

The merchants who advertise in this paper will give you the best values for your money.

### Increasing Used Car Activities Reported

Sales of used cars by Chevrolet dealers are keeping pace with the heavy deliveries of new 1940 models of passenger cars and trucks, it is announced by H. D. Cunningham, assistant zone manager, Dallas. "From every section of the United States and particularly from that area of North Texas included in the Dallas zone of Chevrolet reports of increased and increasing used car activities are being received from Chevrolet dealers," Mr. Cunningham said.

"In line with general improved business conditions in this section, sales of new 1940 model Chevrolet passenger cars and trucks have increased in most unprecedented proportions and this has brought into the used car stocks of Chevrolet dealers a choice of late model passenger cars and trucks representing unusual values in used cars. These trade-ins are quickly and thoroughly renewed in accordance with outlines and suggestions from the Chevrolet Motor division and are offered to the public bearing the Red O. K. tag, a copyrighted feature of Chevrolet and representing cars with an O. K. that counts.

"Facilities of Chevrolet dealers for carrying out the requirements of selling used cars with the Red O. K. tag are checked regularly by factory representatives and the used car buying public have learned that Chevrolet dealers' used cars represent the ultimate in quality for satisfactory service and long life."

Statistics show that the average length of an automobile's life is now 7.87 years and the extreme life is 16 years.

### STOMACH RELIEF OR MONEY BACK

Adia Tablets help bring quick relief from an acid stomach, pains between meals, indigestion and heartburn due to excess acidity. If not, your money is refunded. Sold at all Drug Stores.

### Increase in Number Of U. S. Newspapers

Philadelphia, Pa., Jan. 25.—The number of newspapers of all classifications in the United States increased by 86 last year, but there were 41 fewer daily newspapers published during the year, N. W.

Ayer & Son, Inc., reported.

The company's directory of newspapers and periodicals listed 13,281 dailies, weeklies, semi-weeklies and tri-weeklies in publication at the end of 1939, as compared with 13,195 in 1938.

The directory listed 10,860 weekly newspapers, 386 published semi-

weekly and 36 tri-weekly.

Daily newspaper circulation dropped 1,244,817 under the 1938 figures last year, the directory listing total circulation of 39,434,382, in 1939.

Standard Typewriter Ribbons 75¢ each at Merkel Mail office.

Tremendous public acceptance of the 1940 Chevrolet has brought in the finest stock of used cars in all history.



The Leader in New Car Sales is **6,647,437** people bought used cars and trucks from Chevrolet dealers during the last four years. "Buy Where Millions Are Buying"

**THE LEADER IN USED CAR VALUES**

Your CHEVROLET DEALER IS NOW FEATURING THE GREATEST USED CAR AND TRUCK VALUES OF THE YEAR!

#### 5 REASONS WHY YOU WILL SAVE BY BUYING NOW!

- SAVE** All used cars priced to sell fast, in order to make room for more trade-ins.
- SAVE** Buy now—before prices rise—and save the difference.
- SAVE** Save winter conditioning expense on your old car.
- SAVE** Save depreciation on your old car. Trade up now.
- SAVE** Save costly repairs on your old car.

#### FIVE REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD BUY YOUR USED CAR FROM YOUR CHEVROLET DEALER!

- 1 Your Chevrolet dealer offers the finest selection of used cars and the best values.
  - 2 You can buy your used car from your Chevrolet dealer with confidence.
  - 3 Your Chevrolet dealer employs the best reconditioning methods.
  - 4 Lowest possible prices commensurate with quality.
  - 5 Your Chevrolet dealer stands firmly behind every used car he sells.
- Chevrolet Dealers are Headquarters for USED TRUCK Values!

Look for your Chevrolet dealer's used car listings in the classified pages of this paper!

## GRABLE MOTOR COMPANY

CHEVROLET SALES AND SERVICE

Phone 123

Merkel, Texas

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Big Economy Offer		ALL SEVEN FOR ONLY
Woman's Home Companion	12 issues	<b>\$2.00</b>
Pathfinder	52 issues	
Mother's Home Life	12 issues	
Farm Journal-Farmer's Wife	12 issues	
American Poultry Journal	12 issues	
Southern Agriculturist	12 issues	
The Merkel Mail	52 issues	
		Value—\$4.00 You Save \$2.00
Giant Value Offer		ALL SEVEN FOR ONLY
Woman's Home Companion	12 issues	<b>\$2.50</b>
McCall's Magazine	12 issues	
*True Romances	12 issues	
Good Stories	12 issues	
Farm Journal-Farmer's Wife	12 issues	
Progressive Farmer	24 issues	
The Merkel Mail	52 issues	
		Value—\$5.00 You Save \$2.50

\*Instead of TRUE ROMANCES, send me: ( ) Movie Mirror, ( ) Woman's World, 2 years, ( ) Household, 2 years, ( ) Pathfinder (weekly).

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City and School Tax Collector





