

THE MERKEL MAIL

ALL THE AUTHENTIC OIL NEWS OF THE NOODLE CREEK FIELD

VOL. 28.—No. 40.

MERKEL, TEXAS, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1926.

5c PER COPY

NINETEEN NEW BUSINESS FIRMS TO LOCATE HERE

That Merkel is considered the logical distribution point for oilfield material is shown by the list we append hereto of supply and other companies who have leased ground from the Texas & Pacific Railway, according to J. C. Childress, local agent:

Continental Supply Company
Oil Well Supply Company
Jarecki Mfg. Company
Harris-Clay Lumber Company
Dunnigan Tool & Machine Co.
Republic Supply Company
Parkersburg Rig & Reel Co.
L. C. Moore & Company
Longheart Supply Company
Atlas Supply Company
Wagner Supply Company
Hardin Lumber Company
Union Iron Works
Frick-Reid Supply Company
National Supply Company
Marion Machine & Foundry Co.
Black Steel & Wire Company
Peden Iron & Steel Company
Craig & Son

Confidence that the Noodle Creek Oilfield will become one of importance is also evidenced by the action of the firms above named in preparing to locate houses here. This should be of great benefit to Merkel as usually the growth of a town in an oilfield follows in the wake of the supply houses.

L. R. Thompson, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, states he receives many letters from supply and other companies for information concerning Merkel and development in the Noodle Creek Oilfield. Mr. Thompson replies to each of these letters with a full account of the many advantages of Merkel as a point for the location of such businesses. He further keeps these firms fully informed as to progress of the oil development. With proper support of the citizens, Mr. Thompson's efforts should result in the location of these industries here.

Construction Started On Theatre Building

Work was started Tuesday morning on the construction of the Queen Theatre, new motion picture theatre here. H. T. Hodge of Abilene and Clyde Foster of Merkel, owners. F. M. Brown of Stephenville has the contract for the erection of this theatre.

The building will be 50x110 feet, built of brick, with balcony and seating capacity of 800. Other features of the building will be a large stage with special scenery, and will accommodate the largest road shows. On the second floor will be a ladies' rest room, gentlemen's room and an office. On the first floor will be two store spaces, one on each side of the main theatre entrance, which will be occupied by a confectionery and other businesses. The theatre will be modern throughout, having the best and latest equipment obtainable, and when completed will represent an expenditure of \$20,000.

The Queen Theatre will be one of the best in West Texas, and Merkel is to be congratulated upon this creditable addition to her amusement facilities. The owners, Messrs. Hodge and Foster, are also owners of the Cozy Theatre, and for a number of years have furnished Merkel with up-to-date, first-class pictures and other shows, and their ability in this line needs no introduction to Merkel show patrons. Mr. Hodge has been in the show business for 15 years, and is now operating theatres in a number of West Texas towns, including Abilene, Lubbock and others, thereby enabling him to secure the best pictures the market affords.

SMALL BOYS TAKE GUN

Wednesday a traveler passing through Merkel missed a gun from his car and reported his loss to City Marshall J. A. Woodard. After some search Officer Woodard and the owner of the gun located it in the possession of some small boys, who had apparently taken it from the car. Such acts as these on the part of boys are a discredit to both the boys and their parents, who should punish their sons severely when found to be guilty of such acts. However, with efficient officers on duty, it is likely that boys will soon be caught when they indulge in misconduct.

Eat for health, but be sure you get your meat from Baker & Wheeler Market.



MRS. M. R. WOODRUM PIONEER WOMAN OF MERKEL DIES

Mrs. M. R. Woodrum of Merkel died at 2 p. m. Thursday, November 25th, after an illness of some three months, aged 73 years, 4 months and 15 days.

Margaret Rebecca Boyce was born July 10, 1853, at Falcon, Columbia county, Arkansas. March 25, 1876, she was married to Charles Woodrum at Hope, Arkansas. The couple moved to Tipton, Missouri, and resided there until Mr. Woodrum's death October 30, 1899. Mrs. Woodrum and her family of eight children came to Texas in December, 1899, locating in Merkel, where she has since resided. Mrs. Woodrum engaged in the hotel business, which she followed during her 27 years' residence here. She first operated the old Southside Hotel for 12 years, this hostelry being located on the site now occupied by the Presbyterian church. She also conducted the Woodrum Hotel for 11 years. Mrs. Woodrum became a member of the Baptist church early in life.

Funeral services were conducted at the home of deceased at 2:30 p. m. Friday by Rev. C. H. Little, pastor of the Presbyterian church; assisted by Revs. W. R. McCarter, Ira L. Parrack and W. G. Cypert. Interment was made in Rose Hill Cemetery. Profuse and beautiful floral offerings decorated the casket and rooms.

Mrs. Woodrum is survived by four sons and four daughters, John H. Woodrum of Abilene, Frank, Harry and George Woodrum, Mrs. E. M. Heeter, Mrs. A. V. Dye and Sadie Woodrum, all of Merkel, and Mrs. Bob Russell of California, all of whom were present at the funeral, except Mrs. Russell. Mrs. Woodrum is also survived by a sister, Mrs. Mary C. Traylor of Wainfield, Texas; and three brothers, M. C. Boyce, Jr., Utopia, Texas; J. A. Boyce, Abilene, and George Boyce of Merkel.

Those in attendance at the funeral from out of town were: Mrs. Clyde McGee, of Fort Worth. Mesdames E. L. Veale, L. H. Harrison, Jr., M. H. Darden, R. C. Lewis, Bob Linsey, E. F. Chelf, Gus King, Mark Chinn, Bilman, Wm. Raines, D. F. Goetz, Ed Williamson, Wallace Williamson, Brown. Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Smith. Messrs. Wade Richardson and Chas. Bevins. Misses Elsie Harber and Ola Gibson.

During Mrs. Woodrum's long life she brightened the lives of all with whom she came in contact with her many gentle ministrations and deeds of kindness. Her hospitality was never lacking, and the hungry and the needy never left her door unfed nor uncared for. By her death her family has lost a sweet and faithful mother and sister, and the community a worthy and loyal citizen.

Clesby Patterson Studying For Christian Work

Clesby Patterson, son of J. A. Patterson of Merkel, and a student of Trinity University at Waxahachie, is a member of the Life Work recruits, an organization of students of the University who are preparing themselves for work in Christian education after graduation from the University. In the work of this organization the students get practical experience in Christian work by going into communities of needy families, and organizing groups for the study of Christianity.

Mr. Patterson is also a member of the men's glee club of the University.

It is indeed a pleasure to the Mail to report such commendable activities on the part of one of Merkel's young men.

CAR THIEVES FROM MICHIGAN ARE CAUGHT HERE

An accident and an unusual succession of coincidences caused the downfall here Saturday of three enterprising young men who had engaged in the car stealing profession. Two of them it is alleged had stolen a car in Michigan, and had been joined by the other in Oklahoma, and were on their way to California until the car together with their plans were wrecked by their car going off the end of a culvert on the highway about four miles east of here early Saturday morning.

Unhurt, two of the band proceeded to Sweetwater either by stage or by asking a ride in some passing car. There they stole a car from B. H. Lancaster, rig contractor of Merkel, belonging to H. C. Duff, employee of B. H. Lancaster and also a resident of Merkel. The two thieves then returned to Merkel to pick up their companion who had remained behind in charge of such baggage as the gang possessed. When they reached here in Mr. Duff's car he recognized it and notified officers who gave chase. The gang abandoned the car in a cottonfield and concealed themselves from the officers. Later Mr. Duff in his car overtook the unsuccessful bandits and offered them a ride. They accepted and were conveyed in the car they had stolen to the reception committee of officers who were waiting for them. They were taken to Abilene by Deputy Sheriff W. H. Laney and placed in the county jail.

The member of the gang left as custodian of the baggage was observed walking along the highway toward Merkel by a passerby, who so advised City Marshall J. A. Woodard. Officer Woodard met the young man who he noticed had an injured hand. Marshall Woodard questioned the boy as to what had caused the injury to his hand. He informed Mr. Woodard that he had fallen and cut his hand on a piece of glass. As this did not seem probable, Officer Woodard became suspicious, but having no charge upon which to hold the youth, he contrived to secure the baggage carried by the young man, and locked it in his office until such time as he could ascertain the boy's status with the law.

MERKEL MEN GRANTED PATENT

Howard H. Hand and J. L. Riddle have been granted a patent on a combined mixer and sludge remover for acetylene gas generators.

The purpose of their invention, according to Messrs. Hand and Riddle, is to eliminate the danger of explosion of acetylene gas generators used with oxy-acetylene torches for welding, due to settling of the slack carbide or sludge in the bottom of the generator where it packs somewhat on the order of sediment in the bottom of a water tank, and is difficult to drain from the generator. Unburned carbide falling into the sludge may be reached by water, whereupon acetylene gas is formed so fast that the safety vent or valve will not allow it to escape, and the pressure engendered by the gas causes spontaneous combustion, resulting in an explosion. Messrs. Hand and Riddle's appliance will serve to keep the sludge in a fluid state by keeping it mixed with water in the generator, and thereby enable the operator of the generator and torch to drain off the sludge easily at any time.

Messrs. Hand and Riddle are to be congratulated upon their invention which will serve a very useful purpose. They plan to manufacture these machines locally.

RODEO COMING HERE CHRISTMAS WEEK

On December 24 and 25 Malone Brothers will put on in this city, a big Cow Boy Rodeo.

These gentlemen, are home boys, but have played and put on some of the biggest Rodeo shows in the United States and Europe.

They may be depended upon to give a first class entertainment in their line. Watch for further announcement.

Mr. W. M. Snow one of our good friends and pioneer citizens of the Canyon community, has our thanks for several subscriptions to the Mail which he sends to relatives and takes himself, including the Abilene Reporter.

MARLAND MASON WELL TO REACH PAY SAND NEXT

With less than 90 days having elapsed since the discovery of oil in the Noodle Creek Field, 19 rigs have been built or are in the process of erection today, and which shows more real development for the time than has ever been made in a new field in Texas before.

Today there are three wells completed: all producers. One well, the Hurley, Sears, said to have drilled to depth below the pay sand, with only a slight showing, but still drilling, and about a dozen wells drilling, with a number of rigs up.

The Marland Oil Company's Marland No. 1, is the next well expected in, possibly the last of next week, now drilling at 2274.

Marland Mason No. 2, 700 feet, No. 3, 410 feet.

Midwest, building rig for Thornton No. 2.

Midwest Thornton No. 1, making 434 barrels.

Philips No. 1, Winter making 650 barrels, No. 2, drilling at 2,140 feet.

Philips Tessie No. 1 pumping 375 barrels.

Atlantic, Howell No. 1, underreaming at 2,195 feet.

World Oil Company, Clark, Boney and Stanford, drilling at 465 feet.

Michaleson et al. Largent, No. 1, spudding in.

Hunter & Grisham, D. O. Huddleston, No. 1, putting material on the ground.

MRS. W. F. HAMBLET INJURED IN CAR ACCIDENT

Monday night at about 7 p. m. Mrs. W. F. Hamblet of Merkel while traveling in an automobile from Hermleigh to Loraine sustained a broken hip when the car overturned in a ditch at the side of the road, about eight miles from Loraine. She was accompanied by her son, Mr. Greenfield of Hermleigh, one other man and two children, none of whom were injured.

At the time of the accident Mrs. Hamblet was returning from a visit to her son and was trying to reach Loraine in time to take the train to Merkel. As the car in which Mrs. Hamblet's party were riding approached another car near a bridge the lights of Mr. Greenfield's car failed. Mr. Greenfield at once slowed his automobile, with the intention of stopping it, and at the same time turned to the side of the road to allow the other car to pass. However, he turned out too far, and his car went into a deep ditch, turning over on its side. Mrs. Hamblet's right hip was broken. She was rushed to Snyder for treatment, and later taken to the hospital at Abilene, and is reported slowly improving, however, it is stated it will be some time before she will be again able to walk.

Many Visitors From Other States Here

Apparently all roads lead to Merkel these days. We have seen on the streets here many cars bearing license plates from the following states: Vermont, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Florida, Tennessee, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, California, Idaho, Wyoming, Oregon, Washington and Massachusetts.

That many of the people from the above named States are interested in the Noodle Creek Oilfield and other oil activities near Merkel is evidenced by the many letters received by L. R. Thompson, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, from residents of these States requesting information concerning oil development in this section. To such inquiries Mr. Thompson replies by personal letter in detail, covering not only the oil operations but the numerous advantages of Merkel and the Merkel country as a place of residence and as a farming country.

Supt. I. L. Jackson and Mr. Carlton, Principal, accompanied by Miss Byrd, attended the meeting in El Paso last week of the Texas State Teachers Association.

Mr. Miller, banker of Royse City, Texas, who owns 160 acre farm north of this city near the Noodle Creek oilfield, was here first of the week looking after same.

Plans Now Being Made To Banquet Oil Men

In order that Merkel may show her appreciation of the discovery of oil in her midst, together with the coming to our city of many fine citizens and much new business as the result of the discovery of oil, the people of this city, through the local Chamber of Commerce, are planning to entertain the Oil Fraternity and other new comers to our city, on next Thursday evening.

Mr. L. R. Thompson, Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce has been working on the matter for some time and now has plans about completed for one of the most interesting and best entertainments and big Turkey dinners ever held and spread in the city upon a similar occasion.

As to where same shall be held has not as yet been determined, but it will take place in the down-town section, and the Secretary or a committee will soon call upon the business men and others, who may desire to attend, giving full details. However, if you are not solicited, and wish to attend, call at office of the Secretary and he will take care of your wants.

New Linotype Installed by The Merkel Mail

The Mail this week received and installed a No. 14 Linotype, the latest and most improved model, manufactured by the Mergenthaler Linotype Company of Brooklyn, New York. This machine represents expenditure of \$5200.

The new machine has a type range much greater than the machine it replaces, and will do the work of several men. By its installation we will be enabled to keep abreast of the progress of our town and community by enlarging our publication when necessary, and by issuing a daily paper when that is justified. It is our desire to at all times put out the best paper we are capable of, and it was to carry out this purpose that we have installed this modern, up-to-the-minute machine.

Practically all of the type used in this issue of the Mail was set on the new Linotype.

Restricted Sub-Division For Merkel Homes

Merkel's first restricted sub-division will be offered to buyers next week, we are advised by the promoters, Messrs. J. T. and Booth Warren. This addition is located at the south end of Locust Street, south of Heath Street and extends from Oak Street on the east to Yucca Street on the west, and contains 28 homesites. Certain moderate restrictions will be placed on this sub-division.

While the natural beauty of this sub-division is great, it will be further improved in appearance by parkways along the center of each street. Contract has been let for concrete curbing, work on which will be started early next week.

That this new sub-division is a desirable residence place is evidenced by the considerable interest already manifested. Messrs. Warren are to be congratulated upon this addition to the town, and it is to be hoped they will meet with success in their laudable enterprise.

Elsewhere in this issue is to be found an advertisement by Messrs. Warren offering \$5 in gold for a name for their new sub-division.

Presbyterian Revival Now In Progress

The revival meeting in progress at the Grace Presbyterian Church is increasing in interest and numbers at each service. Dr. E. B. Surface, pastor of Central Presbyterian church, Abilene who is doing the preaching has been bringing a helpful and inspiring message at each service. The services will continue throughout the week at 7:30 p. m.

Services Sunday as follows: Sunday School at 10:00 a. m. Preaching at 11:00 a. m. and 7:00 p. m.

Christian Endeavor Rally, and Young People's service at 3:30 p. m. A cordial invitation extended the public to attend each service.

Mr. L. M. Estes returned this week from Waco where he had been called to attend the funeral of a sister, Mrs. Bynum, who died there on last Thursday.

SEARS WELL FAILS TO FIND PAY AT DEPTH OF WINTER

Merkel citizens have held their breath so long over the Sears well, or hole in the ground, that they are almost blue in the face as they are in spirit. And for what reason? Because, not satisfied with sharing in a community oilfield, they want a private oilfield near their back door, regardless of smell and messy oil slung around carelessly by excitable gushers.

It may be because of our extreme youth and verdancy, but we are unable to see where the failure of the Sears well to prove a producer should affect Merkel's fortunes in the oil business. The Noodle Creek field is still doing business at the same old stand, and it is still as much Merkel's field as anybody's. Other tests are being drilled at points widely enough separated that any one of them bringing production will open up a considerable area with reference to the Noodle Creek field. Chief of these are the Haynes, Largent, Wheeler, Cranston, Smith, Butman and Huddleston. Other tests now drilling and to be drilled in the immediate Noodle Creek area will, if producers, further prove that field.

Oil is where you find it. You may miss it in one hole and find it in the next a couple of yards or a mile away. To quote from the Texas Almanac, which everybody swears by in case no Bible is handy: "The oil structures of Texas, the underground reservoirs which hold oil, are of many types, origins and dimensions. They generally bear little relation, and that only to be detected by the trained eye, to the surface topography. Areas looking very much alike to the casual observer may have quite different structures underground and thus while one area holds oil the other area will have none. (Don't we know that?)

"An oil structure is a reservoir in which oil may accumulate, such as a porous layer of sand, and from which it cannot escape."

Although it is somewhat discouraging to note in the above extract, that an area which has no oil may look very much like another which is producing oil, thus creating confusion among amateur oil hunters, it is comforting to read in the last sentence of the quotation that if there is oil in a structure or reservoir, it cannot escape us. What more can we ask than that oil being found it is properly corralled by Dame Nature? All we have to do is look around and pick out the right place to drill; nothing more to it than finding the hole in the water where the biggest fish we caught got away.

To make a long story short, Merkel has lost nothing through failure of the Sears well to show production; she merely failed to gain. To assume otherwise is to err, as an extension of the field in any direction will accrue to Merkel's benefit.

Mr. J. H. Bridges one of the enterprising and successful farmers residing near Stith, was in the city one day this week and dropped in to have us renew his subscription to the Mail, as well as that of his son, who resides at Breckenridge. Mr. Bridges, like most of the farmers of the south, has made a fine crop, that is when compared to quantity of production, but when prices are compared, he has received but little for his year's labor.

Mr. G. M. Sharp returned week from a visit to his daughter, Mrs. Carl Weaver, residing in the Rio Grande Valley, and who has been quite ill for some time. Mrs. Sharp has been with her daughter for some weeks.

Mr. John Collins and sister, Miss Christine, have this week moved into their new and modern home in the south part of the city.

Mr. G. P. Bradley, now cola, but formerly a citizen of Merkel, was here this week mixing old friends and looking after his property interest near here. He has our thanks for his renewal to the Merkel Mail.

Misses Emma Tombs and Goldie Richie of Simmons University, returned home folks Sunday.

Mayor N. D. Cobb returned of the week from a business trip to Toyah and El Paso.

ASK OUR CUSTOMERS

FARMERS STATE BANK

MERKEL

TEXAS

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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

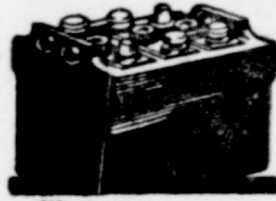
Mr. G. B. Brown, now of Abilene, formerly one of Merkel's very finest citizens, was here this week shaking hands with old friends and incidentally renewing up for the Merkel Mail another year.

W. W. Westerhouse and wife, of Shreveport, La., are here on a prospecting trip and visit to Mr. and Mrs. J. H. McDonald.

OIL! OIL! OIL!

Yes we have oil but our prices are the same as before we got oil.—Baker & Wheeler Market.

Mr. Sam Foster, most excellent citizen and good friend of the Merkel Mail, has our thanks for a subscription which he sends to his mother.



YOUR BATTERY

Now is the time to put your Battery in condition for cold weather, a freeze means a new battery. A battery in good condition will not freeze. We now have a battery man with ten years factory experience and are in a position to service batteries of any make.

Come in and let us test your Battery and put pure distilled water in it. This will not cost you anything.

Merkel Motor Co.

Authorized Ford Dealer

EXCHANGED ROUGH SEA FOR ROUGH COUNTRY

By Vinson Ervin

That a storm off the Irish Coast once blew Texas a new citizen may seem far-fetched, and many folks will find it hard to believe but it is literally true, speaking figuratively. Sam Butman, Merkel stockman and banker, is the citizen, and the storm, well, it was no doubt recorded in the marine annals of the maritime nations of the world, but we have no more specific designation for it than that given above, although Mr. Butman, at the time it was occurring with himself as one of the occurees, probably presented it with such names as he deemed adequate.

Born on the Maine coast within sight of the ocean and in hearing of the roar of its breakers, and of a seafaring family, Mr. Butman early chose life at sea as his profession, and while still a boy in his teens made several voyages across the ocean, some of them as sailors under his brother, James, fifteen years older than himself, and who was a ship captain. James Butman's record as a marine, is worthy of more than passing note. He was a master of sailing vessels and established a reputation for quick passages, breaking several records, and upon one occasion at least, his own. In 1890 and 1891 he commanded the Henry B. Hyde, the finest American sailing ship ever built, a painting of which is in the Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D. C.

A rough voyage terminated Sam Butman's liking for the sea. With his brother James, who was captain, he sailed in the ship, John Butman, from New York to Santander, Spain, with a cargo of tobacco for the Spanish Government, and returned with iron ore for New York. On the return journey a terrific storm came up, and for many days the sea raged, great waves "half as high as those hills," to quote Mr. Butman as he pointed to the range of hills to be seen south of Merkel; bore down upon the ship, and it seemed to the youthful seaman that each one would sink the vessel. While they failed to sink it, they drenched it and everything and everybody aboard it, making life miserable for the crew. A weird touch was added by the playing about the spars of the ship, which were studded with iron, of great balls of fire, known by the seamen as St. Elmo's fire.

One night while acting as helmsman, Mr. Butman saw a great ship headed directly for his ship. It seemed that a collision was unavoidable, due to the storm and the great seas running, and the boy sailor held his breath or said his prayers, he has now forgotten which. However, he remembers clearly one thought he had, which was that if the world was big enough, he would find a place in it where he could stay without going to sea. He held to his determination, and in a few days after the voyage ended he was on his way to Texas, then a wild and rough country, but Mr. Butman thought tamer than the sea.

He informed his brother that he intended to go to Texas and raise sheep. His brother's opinion was that he would do well to exchange ship for sheep.

"I had a boy friend," said Mr. Butman, "who was going with me to Texas. We heard of a young man who had recently returned from there, so we went to see him and get him to tell us about Texas. He told us many scary stories. When we had left him, I said to my friend, 'You can get you a grip there,' and pointed out a store to him. He had spoken of wanting a grip. 'Grip,' he said, 'I don't want any grip. I'm as near Texas as I want to be.' So he backed out on me, but I came on by myself. I went to Boston, and from there went to Baird, Texas, which was as far west as they sold tickets in those days.

"I got to Baird in the night. I went over to the old City Hotel. The office was full of cowpunchers with big hats and leather chaps on and several, if not all, of them had big six-shooters. I began to think of the bad tales I had heard of Texas, and I decided that the best thing for me to do was to go to bed.

"The next morning I went with a man over to Bell Plains, where I got a job on a sheep ranch. About three months later I came to Merkel with a flock of sheep for that ranch. I got a claim about nine miles south of here which had on it one of the first board houses built in this part of the country. It was built about 1879. I came to Texas in 1882.

"I stocked my place with sheep. In the fall I would take a wagon and my herders and we would drift south with the sheep at the rate of about three miles a day. We would go as far as the Pecos, and sometimes nearly to the Rio Grande. We called that country No Man's Land. We would stay there all winter and drift back

in the spring.

"Later I had cattle. There were no fences in those days, and the cattlemen would meet in Fort Worth and set days for the roundups, starting away down on the Colorado River and working up this way. Slick Hill, about half a mile from my place, was where some of the biggest roundups were held.

"I once had a neighbor, a cattleman named Doc Grounds, who when he got drunk enough would come and tell me to keep my sheep away from his place. Otherwise I had no trouble with him. One day while I was working for the sheep ranch near Bell Plains I stopped with a flock of sheep at a well south of the railroad and west of Tebo, which is now Tye. Grounds came along in a buggy. He stopped and said, 'I'm Doc Grounds. Are those sheep for sale?' I told him they were and the price asked for them. He said, 'Well, I've got the money to pay for them,' and he pulled a grip from under his buggy seat and opened it. It was full of big rolls of bills. He had about \$60,000 with him, which was a good deal of money to be carrying around a wild country.

"Grounds was a tough customer and kept a hard gang with him. One time when they were accused of cattle stealing they became afraid a nigger who was working on Grounds' ranch would testify against them, so they took the nigger out and hung him.

"Game was plentiful in those days. There were lots of deer, antelope, wild turkey, panther, bear and wolves. One day I managed to drive a flock of about 40 wild turkeys up close to the house, intending to get the shotgun and shoot some of them. A day or so before I had used the gun and instead of taking it back to the house, I set it against the wall outside. There had been a rain, and when I went to get the gun to shoot the turkeys, both barrels of it were full of water which had run down from the roof. So I didn't shoot any turkeys that time.

"About 30 years ago the skeleton of an Indian was found on my place where the Indian had been buried under a ledge and the place walled up with rock. Buried with him was probably anywhere from 50 to 100 yards of strings of beads, and a saddle made of mesquite."

In 1883 Mr. Butman was married to Miss Madge Vaughn, daughter of J. L. Vaughn, first station agent of the Texas & Pacific railroad at Merkel.

Although nearly half a century has passed, Mr. Butman still recalls the first course by compass given him on board ship. It was, South-east by east half east.

Mr. Butman's family, as has been stated, was a seafaring folk, and the sea has marked it with its own peculiar tragedy. William Butman, eldest brother of Mr. Butman, went to sea and was never again heard of. James Butman, mentioned above, by marine records and calculations ascertained the approximate time his brother William's ship was passing along the African coast on the voyage of his disappearance and as there was no record of a storm at that time which might have wrecked the ship, he was of the opinion that the vessel was becalmed, and was captured by natives together with the crew and such passengers as the ship might have carried. He had known of such instances.

Mr. Butman showed the writer a picture of the old Butman home situated on Penobscot Bay at Searsport, Maine, the birthplace of Mr. Butman. The house, Mr. Butman stated, is 115 years old, is as good as when built and is now occupied.

As shown above, Mr. Butman and his wife are pioneers of this section, and have seen its development from



Only five more weeks until Christmas.

See our line of Diamonds, Watches, Jewelry, Cut Glass, China Sterling and Plated Silver and etc.

We will meet any mail order prices.

PRESLEY'S
Jewelry and Gift Shop
209 Pine St.
ABILENE, TEXAS

ASK ANYBODY



The Old Reliable FARMERS & MERCHANTS NAT'L BANK Merkel, Texas

"Organized 1904."

OFFICERS

J. T. Warren, Pres. G. F. West, V. Pres.
Booth Warren, Cashier F. Y. Gaither, Ass't Cashier
Owen Ellis, Ass't Cashier

DIRECTORS

J. T. WARREN GEO. L. PAXTON
G. F. WEST BOOTH WARREN
SAM BUTMAN, Sr.

a wilderness to a great agricultural country, and have aided in its development. They are, perhaps, destined to see it become a great oilfield. A test well for oil is to be spudded in on their ranch sometime next month, and it is to be hoped it is nothing short of a gusher.

Mr. Butman has leased for a number of years some land owned by the Georgia Institute of Technology. These lands were inspected recently by Dr. M. L. Britton, president of the Institute. While in this section Dr. Britton was a guest at the Butman ranch October 29th.

Mrs. Geo. Brown has our thanks for a subscription to the Mail which she had us send to her mother in Alabama.

Bring your laundry to the HOME LAUNDRY, 4 blocks south of depot on Main street. Satisfaction guaranteed. 1tp

Boys! Will pay 25 cents per dozen for washed pint and quart bottles. Hamm Drug Co. 1t

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.

For Winter Driving

—you'll want your automobile snug and warm. Nowhere will you find a more complete stock of Winter Auto necessities than you will find here.

Auto Heaters
Side Curtains
Top Material
Celluloid
Glass
Floor Mats
Radiator Covers
Top Recover

—In fact, if its anything in Auto Supplies you need, we can take care of you.

WEST COMPANY



LOCAL MERCHANTS ADVERTISE MERKEL IN WESTERN WORLD

We reprint a part of a fine "write up" of Merkel by the Western World and we regret that lack of space forbids our publishing all the articles. We have heard the Western World praised in a fine way for this publicity of Merkel.

BY L. R. THOMPSON

Secretary, Merkel Chamber of Commerce.

MERKEL, Texas.—Selfish interests are forgotten or disregarded by the business men of Merkel when they conflict with the general interests of the town and trade territory.

The new industries that are allied to or follow up the discovery of oil will find a people not only ready to give them a hearty and whole-souled welcome, but will find a town well organized to lend them every assistance in locating here and well equipped to take care of them. They will find the finest water here in West Texas, with a good water and sewerage system and the best roads in this part of the State.

We have heard only one oil man express serious doubt that this field would not be extensive and he gave as his reason "that it was too good a place to find oil"—that Merkel offered too many advantages for comfortable living and too good roads leading to the wells now drilling, and too much genuine hospitality to those who follow the oil game.

He placed these advantages against the reports of the best geologists, and the fact that we have a well that has had an average production of more than eight hundred barrels daily since its discovery. His argument stated in the fewest possible words was, "It is just too good to be true." Merkel is compelled to doff its hat to that sort of pessimism because it must not become offended when complimented.

We take issue with all who doubt that this well will be a field because it is contrary to the geology and recent discoveries.

Merkel will profit greatly by those who have been and will be attracted here. We have one of the best farming sections in the State. This town ships from sixteen to

twenty-two thousand bales of cotton every year. We are singularly free from the pests which destroy the cotton crop in other localities.

You can drill into the earth anywhere from the western edge of Merkel to Mulberry Creek on the east and north and south for twenty miles and find the purest of water at a depth of sixty feet, and this water is apparently inexhaustible. You can raise anything here that can be raised in West Texas.

Merkel people believe in law observance and law enforcement and if a field develops this will be a very unhealthy place for the law violator. We would advise him to detour around the town.

The writer met a stranger in one of the drug stores the other day who remarked that this was about the friendliest town he had been in. He said, "I have been standing here only about five minutes and have had four invitations to have a cold drink." It has been many more years before the adoption of the eighteenth amendment since the old-time Texan could give the invitation locally to come up and have something. But that old Texas spirit of hospitality and friendliness is here and has become designated by all who know the town as the "Merkel spirit."

Merkel does not have a vacant residence or business room in the town and many homes are under construction. Business houses are being built as fast as there is a demand for them. Local capital will invest in nothing that will not be a permanent, safe investment and it is to be commended, instead of putting up cheap wooden shacks. The restricted districts are being enlarged.

A residence section between Oak and Yucca streets known as the Warren Addition, will soon be curbed and parked and will be a restricted residence section that will add to the beauty and permanency of the town.

Merkel's normal business interests and varied and substantial. Its banks and merchants enjoy a very high credit and there have perhaps been fewer failures in Merkel than

NEW USEFULNESS OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

L. R. Thompson, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, reports a new activity engaged in recently by his office which resulted in direct and substantial benefit to a Taylor county farmer, G. B. Neel.

Mr. Neel discovered cholera among his hogs and having no means at hand of checking the disease, he advised Mr. Thompson of the trouble. Mr. Thompson at once got in touch by long distance telephone with J. R. Masterson, county demonstration agent, Abilene, and requested his aid in handling the situation. Mr. Masterson immediately notified the county veterinarian, who came and vaccinated the hogs, saving the entire herd.

CELEBRATES 13TH BIRTHDAY

Mrs. Earl Diltz entertained on November 23 in honor of the 13th birthday of her daughter, Phala Earl.

Various presents were presented, and delightful refreshments were served to thirteen girl friends. Hours of entertainment were from 4:00 p. m. until 7:00 p. m.

any other town of the same size in the State.

There are two strong banks, the Farmers and Merchants National and the Farmers State Bank. The first named bank received its charter in 1904 with J. T. Warren, president, who has held that office continuously to this date. Thos. Johnson was cashier until 1919 when a controlling interest was sold to L. R. Thompson, who was cashier until December, 1925, being succeeded by Mr. Booth Warren, one of the youngest bank cashiers in the State and who is measuring up in a fine way to the responsibilities of his position.

The Farmers State Bank was chartered in 1912 and is fortunate in having one of the best charters in the State. R. O. Anderson began with the bank as cashier and is now vice-president and manager. W. L. Diltz is cashier and J. S. Swain, president. The bank has had connected with it in an official way many of the prominent people of this community. John Sears and T. J. Toombs have served as president, and many prominent men have been on the directorate. Both banks are solid institutions.

Mr. -- Mrs. J. W. Bland Celebrate Golden Wedding Anniversary

Saturday, November 27, was the occasion of a happy gathering at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Bland when all their children, with their families, and other relatives and friends helped the couple to celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary. The joyful gathering was a happy surprise to the honorees.

The guests began to arrive in the early forenoon, laden with an abundance of prepared food for the sumptuous noon-day repast which was served to about fifty-five people. The dinner table was in truth a "groaning board," with its weight of all the delicacies that the best of cooks could possibly prepare. The scene presented at the first sitting with the father and mother and their eight children, together with Mr. W. L. Diltz, Sr., grouped about the table was indeed one not to be easily forgotten.

Family group pictures were made in the early afternoon by a local photographer.

Mr. and Mrs. Bland were the recipients of numerous gifts, among them being quite a number of five and ten dollar gold pieces, a handsome console set in old gold of candle holders and clock, attractive bookends, and a new Ford Sedan. The honorees of the day were also kindly remembered with a beautiful print of the "Dutch Flower Girl," presented with the compliments of Grimes-Smith Drug Co., Merkel.

Mr. John W. Bland and Miss Lockeye Craddock were happily united in marriage November 27, 1876 at 10 a. m. by the Reverend John F. Patton, minister of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church at Statesville, Tennessee. To this happy home have been born eleven children, three of whom died in infancy. Those remaining are: R. L. Bland, Abilene; J. M. Bland, Southland; Roscoe Bland, Merkel; Mrs. R. R. Clark, Merkel; Mrs. L. White, Merkel; J. A. Bland, Levelland; Arthur Bland and Dee Bland, Merkel. All these were with their parents for the celebration.

Those who helped in making the day a joyful one for the couple were: Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe Bland and children, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Brewer, Mr. and Mrs. Dee Bland and baby, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Bland, Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Clark and children, Mr. and Mrs. L. White and children, Mr. and Mrs. Joe White, Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Bland and baby, Mr. W. L. Diltz, Sr., Misses Mary Chaddock, sister of Mrs. Bland, and Lunnas White, all of Merkel; Mrs. Rosa Lee Nettles, sister of Mrs. Bland, Gatesville; Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Bland and children, Levelland; Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Bland and children, Southland; Dr. and Mrs. Hugh B. Tandy and baby, and Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Bland and children, Abilene. Mr. J. D. Kelly, Mr. and Mrs. Hobert Kelly of Colorado City, Buster Kelly of Fort Worth, and Stanley Bland of Blair.



Summer Oil In Winter — means incomplete lubrication.

IN cold weather your engine may require a lighter oil of greater fluidity so that it can more easily reach the points to be lubricated.

Consult the Vacuum Oil Company's Chart of Recommendations in our shop. Then let us drain and refill your crankcase with the grade of Gargoyle Mobiloil recommended.

And your starting troubles will stop.

Your car will be correctly lubricated for winter operation.



Better let us fill your radiator with alcohol before it's too late.

Let us put your Car in shape for that Thanksgiving trip.

A Complete Service Everybody's Garage
Phone 72 Front St.

CARD OF THANKS

We extend to our friends and neighbors our heart-felt appreciation for their many kindnesses shown, and sympathies extended to us during the recent illness and death of our dear Mother and wish it were possible to meet each and every one personally, and express our heart-felt appreciation to each one of you all, and want to doubly thank those who so lavishly remembered her with the beautiful floral offerings, for our mother was a great lover of flowers, and nothing was more beautiful, and more appreciated than the great amount of bouquets that decorated her grave, and accept this as a token of esteem, love and friendship for her, and we feel keenly the emblems of same. May God's richest blessings rest upon all for their sweet consolations.—The Woodrum Children

BARGAINS!

I can save you money on Dry Goods and Shoes. Tarbuttons', watch making, Shoe and Dry Goods store, located on Front Street, in same building with Smiths' barber shop.

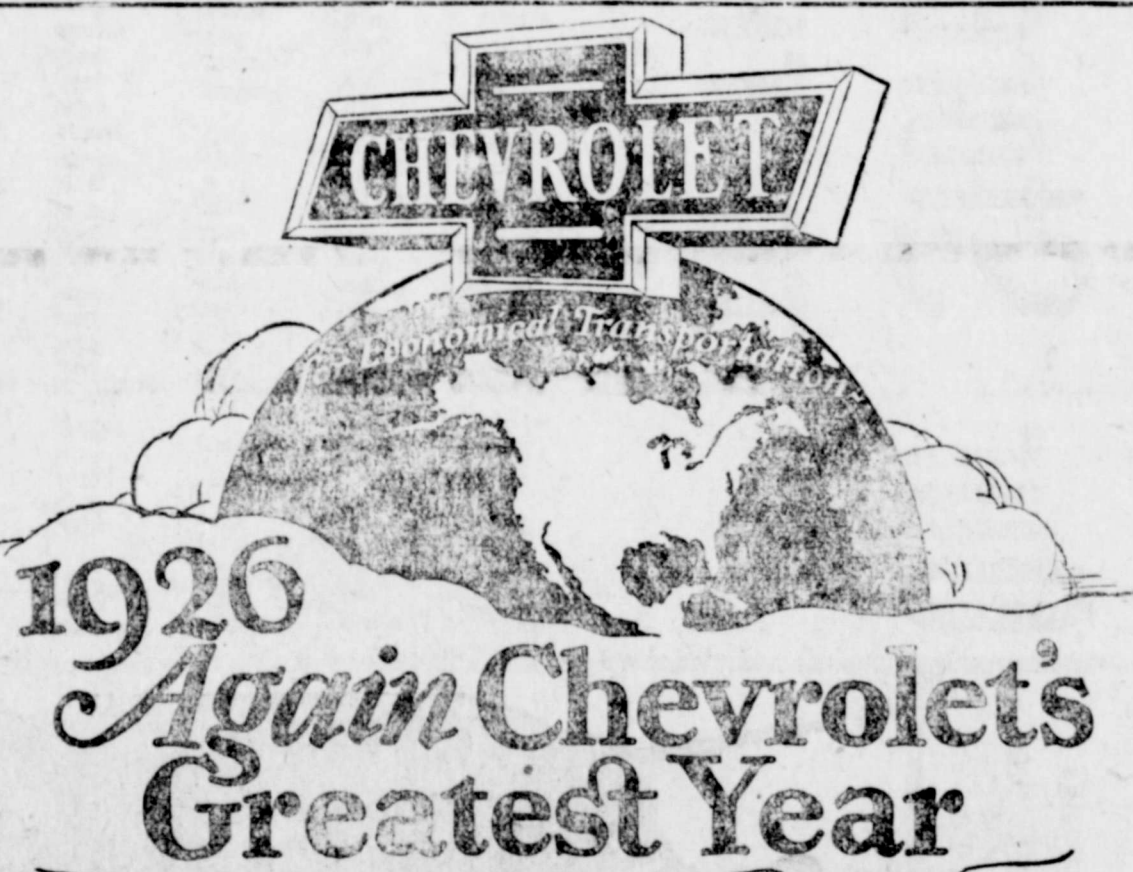
REMEMBER WHEN YOU WANT YOUR CLOTHES CLEANED THE MODERN WAY

No gas odors comes back with that clean, sweet smell. We are the only plant in town equipped with the modern drying tumbler.

Clothes washed in a continuous flow of clean gas. Your clothes come back like new.

CALL NO. 3.

THE MODERN DRY CLEANERS AND TAILORS



In 1925 Chevrolet astonished the automotive world by attaining an annual production never before reached by any manufacturer of gearshift automobiles.

Yet, so spectacular has been the increase in demand for Chevrolet cars, that a new and even more brilliant record is the climax for 1926.

Thus, for two years in succession, Chevrolet has broken all its previous records and has set a new mark in automotive history.

This splendid achievement results from a steadfast adherence to the fundamental Chevrolet policy of building a car of the finest possible quality to sell at a low price.

That the vast majority of buyers now demand a car of this type—and that Chevrolet has been successful in building such a car—possessing the highest degree of smooth performance, smart appearance, and economical operation—is proved by Chevrolet's success during the year now drawing to a close. Come in and see this record-breaking car.

Small down payment and convenient terms. Ask about our 6% Purchase Certificate Plan. Touring or Roadster \$510, Coupe or Coach \$645, Sedan \$735, Landau \$765, 1/2-Ton Truck \$375 (Chassis only), 1-Ton Truck \$495 (Chassis only). All prices f.o.b. Flint, Mich.

LOWE-BRACKEEN MOTOR CO.
MERKEL, TEXAS

QUALITY AT LOW COST

JONES DRY GOODS

GREAT DECEMBER SALE



SALE COMMENCES || **SALE CLOSSES**
FRIDAY, December 3 || **FRIDAY, December 24**

EXTRA SPECIAL
 A Good Grade, 27 Inch
 Outing
 December Sale Price—
 10c

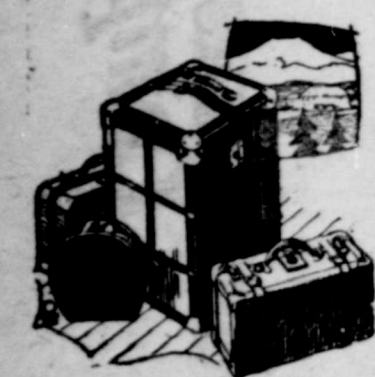
EXTRA SPECIAL
 One Lot 27 Inch
 Red Seal Gingham
 December Sale Price—
 12 1-2c

EXTRA SPECIAL
 500 Yards Good Grade
 Cotton Checks
 December Sale Price—
 7 1-2c

EXTRA SPECIAL
 Hope Bleached
 Domestic
 December Sale Price—
 15c

EXTRA SPECIAL
 One Lot Ladies' Velvet
 Hats
 Values up to \$6.60
 December Sale Price—
 98c

EXTRA SPECIAL
 40 Pairs Cotton
 Blankets
 December Sale Price—
 \$1.69



EXTRA SPECIAL
 Holiday Goods and No-
 tions not included in
 Sale.



Men's Overcoats

All \$30.00 Coats go in December Sale at **\$19.75**
 All \$25.00 Coats go at **\$17.50**
 All \$22.50 and \$19.75 Coats go at **\$14.75**
 All \$14.75 and \$17.50 Coats go at **\$9.75**

--ALL-- Trunks and Suit Cases and Folding Bags

go in this sale at greatly
REDUCED PRICES

STOCK MUST BE REDUCED

Our stock must be reduced and we are offering Phenomenal Bargains in all lines of merchandise. Every article going on sale carries the Big Reduction Price Tags. Stop for a moment and ponder, you will realize what savings we are offering. Our one aim is reduction of this stock. Profits are no object---Cash is what talks.

Our Store Is Stocked TO THE LIMIT

We are going into December with too much Merchandise. We simply must reduce this stock. The slump in cotton caught us all. Our loss is your gain---

The Goods Must Be Sold.

We are going to sell Merchandise from now until December 24th---right when winter goods are needed most---at prices that defy all competition. No old shop worn goods in this store. : : : : :

--ALL--
 Mens and Boys
 Clothing
 go in this sale
 at greatly
**REDUCED
 PRICES**



EXTRA SPECIAL
 A Splendid Quality
 8 Oz Feather Tick
 December Sale Price—
 25c

EXTRA SPECIAL
 All 25 Cent
 Gingham
 December Sale Price—
 19c

EXTRA SPECIAL
 All 25 Cent
 Cretones
 December Sale Price—
 19c



EXTRA SPECIAL
 500 Yards Good Quality
 Bleached or Brown
 Domestic
 December Sale Price—
 10c

EXTRA SPECIAL
 Men's Stonewall
 Overalls
 December Sale Price—
 95c

EXTRA SPECIAL
 81x90 Seamless
 Bleached Sheets
 December Sale Price—
 98c

EXTRA SPECIAL
 Men's \$1.25
 Union Suits
 December Sale Price—
 95c



COATS and DRESSES

All Ladies' and Misses'
 Coats and Dresses go in
 this sale at greatly

REDUCED PRICES

Closed all Day
THURSDAY, DEC. 2
PREPARING FOR THIS SALE
 No Refunds or Exchanged
EVERY SALE FINAL
 Be Careful in your Purchases

JONES DRY GOODS

MERKEL, - - TEXAS

Ten Stores in Texas

W. J. SHEPPARD, Manager

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.

Since the recent sandstorm blew the padding out of the chuckholes in the jungle trail to the county seat even balloon tires fail to entirely absorb the jolts.

Due to discovery of the Noodle Creek oilfield Merkel is entering perhaps the period of greatest development and growth in her history, and it would behoove her citizens to spare no effort to handle the boom in a creditable manner. An oil boom may be as a mirage, and it may be very real, and some preliminary preparation to take care of the probable sudden growth of the town would be wise, such as survey of water supply to determine if adequate, and re-conditioning of streets. Heavy oilfield traffic and rains can play havoc with streets and roads. All available housing of all classes such as apartments, residences and rooms should be listed with the Chamber of Commerce.

Often the citizens of a town overwhelmed by an oil boom suffer with a species of wild-eyed excitement and entertain a notion similar to that followed by freebooters and hi-jackers, get all the money you can while you can, and that increased demand justifies unjust prices. Nothing is more fallacious. Because business is good is no reason for gouging the people who make it good, and in the case of an oil boom they are mostly the oil operators, some one, or some several, of whom created the cause of the boom, the discovery of oil in the vicinity of such town. If the oil operators and the employees of oil companies and other businesses brought in by the boom will pay high prices and rents, it is not because they delight in that sort of thing or have the money to throw away, but because they must have the accommodations in order to live in the town and carry on their work. We trust that the citizens of Merkel will permit no such spirit of unfairness to prevail.

IT'S A QUESTION

L. R. Thompson, the best known Chamber of Commerce secretary in Merkel, became misplaced, in other words mysteriously disappeared some time Wednesday, or about the time discouraging reports on the Sears well reached town. We deeply regret that he took it seriously. Just before going to press, in order to give an alarmed populace news of the situation, we interviewed the local police force, and he advised us that his search parties had found no trace of the unfortunate man's body.

Well, we've got this to say, if he does show up via his own pedal extremities to the disappointment of everybody but the bill collectors, he may wish he had returned draped in a wooden casket.

Mr. A. D. Wilson of the Canyon community, was here yesterday and has our thanks for several subscriptions to the Mail and Telegram.

Mrs. H. B. Leeton and son James, of Eldorado, Ark., and Mrs. E. E. Kimbrough and son Joe Earl, are visiting their parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. McDonald.

W. O. Boney represents the San Antonio Joint Stock and Land Bank. See him for 6 per cent money. tf

White Church

1926 crops are almost gathered. Some few have sowed grain and plowing will be the order of the day before another week rolls around.

Our school began last week and seems to be progressing nicely under the supervision of Miss Brookerson of Buffalo Gap, and Miss Orr of the I. X. L. community.

Grandma Norris has been quite ill of neuralgia the last few days. Little Bobby Glen Chitwood has been sick the last few days.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Demere spent one day last week in Abilene.

Nell William, and Lavern Hughes of Merkel spent last week end with their cousins the little Snobs of this community.

Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Shuff spent last week at Levelland looking after their farm there.

Mr. Malone and son, Raymond from near Tye were visiting here one day this week.

Uncle Charlie Brown and son, Mose were Sweetwater visitors Monday.

Mrs. Amelia Riggins spent the latter part of last week visiting in the homes of Charlie and Arlie Hodges north of Merkel.

The little infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Webb was laid to rest in the White Church cemetery this afternoon. Funeral services were conducted by Rev. Williams, our pastor.

Rev. King of Trent was in our midst this afternoon.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Costephens spent an enjoyable day last Monday when they all came to their old home place for a bird hunt. Dinner was served picnic fashion and reports are that roasted quail was plentiful.

Mr. E. A. Murphy is preparing to move this week from the Costephens place to Blair.

Clarence Demere of Wichita Falls has been visiting his parents lately.

Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Hutchins, also Mr. and Mrs. Hassley and children from near Sweetwater were visiting relatives here Sunday.

Messrs Pressley and Wilson left Sunday for Levelland to see after the gathering of the crops on their farms there.

Mr. and Mrs. Willard Marion and little daughter from Abilene spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Wilson.

Lee Clanton from near Maryneal visited at Wm. Snow's Sunday afternoon.

On the 10th of December our home demonstrator, Miss Chambers will be at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Wilson to can a beef. We are looking forward to this as a starting, for the organization of a canning club in our community.

Mr. H. E. Farmer returned Friday from an extended visit to Tennessee.

Mr. Wm. Snow spent Thanksgiving with Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Spears of Hawley.

Elmer Harrison who is attending school at Abilene spent the holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Harrison.

Mr. Reynolds from Trent spent Friday night in our community.

Mr. and Mrs. Wade Ensminger

ABE MARTIN



A new name for th' maiden blush apple is long over due. Jake Bentley has sold his farm as he couldn't afford it.

from Butman community spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. John Frazier.

Mr. Thrower from Quitaque came down one day this week, after his son, Everett and family, who returned with him for an extended stay on the Plains.

WHEN TO MAIL CHRISTMAS CARDS AND PARCELS

Postmaster T. F. Davis advises us that the postoffice will be open only two hours Christmas Day, from 8 a. m. to 10 a. m., and the public is invited to transact its business during these hours.

To alleviate as much as possible the usual congestion of the mails during the holidays and to insure prompt delivery of mail, particularly Christmas cards and parcels, the Postoffice Department offers the following suggestions:

Christmas gifts and cards addressed to points within one days' travel should be mailed not later than December 20th; within two days' travel not later than December 18; within three days' travel, not later than December 16th; for more distant points, not later than December 14th. Parcels and cards for local delivery should be mailed not later than December 22nd.

December 22nd.

Parcels and envelopes may be endorsed, "Please Do Not Open Until Christmas."

Another clerk has been added to the force in the local postoffice during the holiday rush, and if the public will co-operate with postmaster Davis and his force by complying with the suggestions given above, they may feel assured that their Christmas mail will be handled with efficiency and dispatch by the local force.

COMPULSORY SCHOOL LAW EFFECTIVE DEC. 6TH

Beginning next Monday, Dec. 6, the Compulsory School Attendance law becomes effective for this term of the Texas Public Schools and Supt. J. L. Jackson states that the law will be strictly enforced in the Merkel School District. All children between the ages of 8 and 16 are required by law to attend school during the period from December 6th to April 6, four months. All parents are requested to take due notice of this law and place their children in school for the required time at least.

Sell those lots with a classified ad in the Mail. tf

REAL ESTATE, FARM LOANS FIRE INSURANCE

After a Fire==

you'll find no satisfaction in figuring up the amount of insurance you should have had. But there is a lot of satisfaction in knowing that your property as it stands today is fully covered by dependable fire insurance.

Our fire insurance policies are dependable.

W. O. BONEY

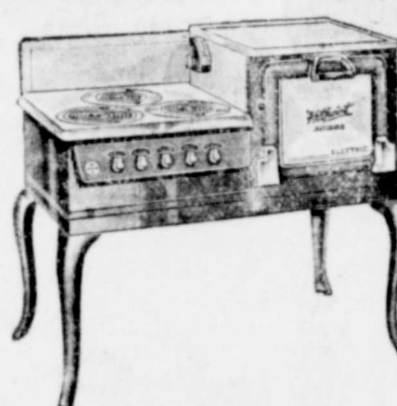
MERKEL, TEXAS

Consult your Insurance Agent as you would your Lawyer.

MAKE THIS AN ELECTRICAL CHRISTMAS



Electrical Gifts Will Be Remembered Throughout The Year



THERE is an Electrical Gift for every member of the family. We have a large stock of High Grade Electrical Merchandise to select from. Come in and select NOW.

We will keep it for you until Christmas.

GOOD COFFEE!



Only \$10.50

For this beautiful polished nickel

Hotpoint

ELECTRIC PERCOLATOR



HOT WAFFLES

Deliciously baked at the table

with a

Hotpoint

WAFFLE IRON



Long Even CURLS

Also waves made at home

It pays to get a

Hotpoint

the only curling iron with the parallel opening shield.

C. B. Barnes

H. W. Barnes

Barnes Brothers
Contractors and Builders

WE KNOW HOW

PLANS AND ESTIMATES FURNISHED

F. L. Barnes PHONE 229 G. W. Barnes

West Texas Utilities Company

PROFESSIONAL

DR. W. M. GAMBILL
Dentist

—X-Ray Diagnosis—

Office phone 116 Res. phone 108
Office on Front St.; Boney Bldg

M. ARMSTRONG, M. D.
Office Over Farmers State Bank

Res. Phone 12. Office 195.
Local Surgeon T. & P. For Last 10 Years.
Furnish Drugs From Office.

T. C. WILSON
...JEWELER...

116 Chestnut Street Abilene

DR. R. I. GRIMES
Physician and Surgeon

Hours 10 to 12 a.m. 2 to 5 p.m.
Phones 105-163 Res. 165

DR. S. W. JOHNSON.
Surgeon Dentist

Office over Farmers State Bank
Office Phone 306

PAULINE JOHNSON
Successor to
G. W. JOHNSON

Insurance—Notary Public
Over West Company—Front St.
Merkel — Texas

W. W. WHEELER

Real Estate, Fire, Accident and
Tornado Insurance Agent.
Notary Public.

Office over Crown Hardware Co.

DR. MINTON T. RAMSEY
DENTIST

X-Ray and Diagnosis

3rd Floor Alexander Bldg.
Telephone 177 Abilene, Tex

H. P. HULSEY, D. C.
Graduate

CHIROPRACTOR
Merkel, Texas Phone 51
Office in West Building
Over Bragg Dry Goods

DR. CHAS. E. HARRISON

Practice limited to Refracting
Eyes Examined—Glasses Fitted

209 Clinton Bldg. Phone 2020
Over Brooks D.G. Abilene, Tex

—PILES CURED—

No Knife No Pain No Detention from Work
DR. E. E. COCKERELL
Rectal and Skin Specialist

of Abilene, Texas
Phone No. 359 Alexander Bldg

J. S. PHILLIPS

CONTRACTOR & BUILDER

Plans & Specifications furnished
Address P. O. Box 38 Merkel

PUBLIC STENOGRAPHIC WORK

Call at N. D. Cobb's Office
Over Farmers State Bank Bldg.
We Write
All Kinds of Legal Instruments

A. V. DYE

—Contractor and Builder—
See me for Plans and Specifications and contract terms.

Len Sublett
Water well Driller,
all work guaranteed
first-class.

Merkel, Texas
Phone 164w P. O. Box 224

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE

FOR SALE—Two good Percheron mares and one colt. Will sell cheap. See J. F. Douglas, at Hamm Gin or Phone 99. 1tpd

FOR SALE—I have some real good Lankhart cotton seed, 2nd year from originator. C. B. Williams, Merkel, Route Two. 3tpd

FOR SALE—One span of mules, one two-row cultivator, one 2-row planter, some maize and cane. Sam H. Martin, Merkel route 2. 26t3

FOR SALE—Four-burner oil stove, in good condition. Call at Merkel Mail. 1tpd

NOTICE to the public. I am now prepared to do your car repairing. Prices right; all work guaranteed. Earl T. Pribble, 3 miles south of Blair. 26t2p

FOR SALE—9-room house, six lots, garage and servants house, on Oak street, for \$5,000.00. See J. F. Abernathy. 26t2p

FOR SALE—Wagon, team and harness, cheap. Will sell together or separately. See G. B. Richards at Noodle. 26t2p

FOR SALE—100 White Leghorn hens, at \$1.00 each. Higgins Hatchery. 1tpd

FOR SALE—I have some lots on Bettis Heights that I will sell. Come see me. I need the money. Abstract title. Want to sell all together at once. J. P. Hutchins. 26t2p

FOR SALE—See my Copper back Bronze Turkeys before you buy. My flock is headed by a Tom from the Martin Waide farm, Denton, Texas, one of the best breeders in the state. J. Ben Campbell, phone 246. 1tpd

USED CARS—Have some real bargains in some good used cars. See me at once. F. E. Church. 1tpd

FOR SALE—Complete household furnishings and bath fixtures at bargain prices. Call at office of Dr. Gambill in Boney Building or phone 224. 1tpd

Have a number of used duplex shades to sell worth the money. See Mrs. J. E. Richardson at residence. 1tpd

FOR RENT

FOR RENT—Large furnished bedroom, close in; toilet and bath. Reasonable rent. S. F. Haynes. 1tpd

FOR RENT—Two furnished rooms, for light housekeeping. Mrs. Walter Boden. 1tpd

FOR RENT—Bedroom, access to bath. Front entrance. Nicely furnished. Mrs. Geo. Brown, Phone 132. 1tpd

FOR RENT—Have 160 acres of land for rent and 350 acres for lease. C. A. Duncan, Trent route two. 1tpd

WANTED

WANTED—Bedroom, with modern accommodations. Would also like access to garage. Call at Merkel Mail office. 1tpd

WANT to buy royalty direct from owner. Great Plains Royalty Co., phone 2148w, Abilene, Texas. 26t4p

McDonald & Collum are taking orders for pure East Texas Ribbon Cane Syrup, December 15th delivery. See sample at store. 1tpd

LOST AND FOUND

LOST—On the night of Nov. 24, a tan suit case, containing man's and woman's clothing, somewhere between Woodrum Hotel and depot. Finder please leave at Merkel Mail office. 1tpd

FOUND—Small amount of money in Barrow Furniture store. Owner can get same by giving proper description and paying for this notice. —J. S. Thomas. 1tpd

For quick truck service see McClure & Pledger at Merkel Lumber Co. phone 62. 26t4

W. O. Boney can make you a loan from 5 years to 33 years at 6% interest. 1tpd

PUREBRED Giant Bronze Turkeys, Goldbank strain. Big bone, heavy weight. Took blue ribbon at Merkel fair. Toms \$10, hens \$6. Mrs. J. R. Dean, R. 2, Sylvester, Texas. 3t2p

McDonald & Collum are taking orders for pure East Texas Ribbon Cane Syrup, December 15th delivery. See sample at store. 1tpd

Coming to ABILENE

DR. MELLINTHIN

SPECIALIST
in Internal Medicine for the past fifteen years

DOES NOT OPERATE

Will be at GRACE HOTEL
TUESDAY and WEDNESDAY
December 14 and 15
Office Hours 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

TWO DAYS ONLY

No Charge for Consultation

Dr. Mellenthin is a regular graduate in medicine and surgery and is licensed by the state of Texas. He does not operate for chronic appendicitis, gall stones, ulcers of stomach, tonsils or adenoids.

He has to his credit wonderful results in diseases of the stomach, liver, bowels, blood, skin, nerves, heart, kidney, bladder, bed wetting, catarrh, weak lungs, rheumatism, sciatica, leg ulcers and rectal ailments.

Below are the names of a few of his many satisfied patients in Texas.

Oscar Seawald, Doeme, stomach trouble.

Dorothy Heitfels, Fredericksburg, tonsils and adenoids.

Alva Peaper, New Braunfels, heart trouble.

Mrs. Wm. Lehman, Brownwood, heart trouble and colitis.

Mrs. A. F. Tate, Cross Plains, high blood pressure and gall bladder trouble.

A. D. Tinker, Whitt, hemorrhoids.

Remember above date, that consultation on this trip will be free and that his treatment is different.

Married women must be accompanied by their husbands.
Address: 211 Bradbury Bldg., Los Angeles, California. 26t3p

Compere News

School is progressing nicely at Compere.

Most of the farmers are through picking cotton. All are anxious to see the pretty weather continue so they can finish.

Mr. Travis left Sunday on a business trip to the Plains.

Mrs. Lorene Allred who has been sick for the past two weeks is able to be up now.

Mr. and Mrs. Chester Lucas and Mrs. Richardson spent Sunday with Mrs. Marshall.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Stout and Miss Lauvern Bond spent Saturday night with Mr. Grady Bond and family in the Canyon.

Some from here attended the carnival in Merkel last week.

Mr. Allred, Harvey and 'Charlie Allred made a trip to South Texas last week.

Mr. A. M. Stout and sons, Everett and Herman and Mr. Hall Hobbs visited at Mr. Stout's Sunday.

Miss Carrie Whitaker from Abilene spent the week end with home-folks and friends here.

Every one who attended the party at Mr. Gouteers Saturday night reported a nice time.

Mrs. Nora Lanier visited at Mrs. Allreds' a while Sunday afternoon.

Mr. J. C. Stout returned to his home in Arlington last Wednesday.

Mr. Claud Ramsey and family left last week for East Texas where they will make their home in the future. We are sorry to lose them from our community.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Lanier and baby and Mr. Houston Lanier who have been studying with Mr. Tarvin returned to their home at McKinney Sunday.

Miss Floy McKinney spent a few days last week with Mrs. Pearl Allred.

Mr. Stout and family spent Sunday afternoon with Mr. A. M. Stout and family of the Stith community.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Foster are the proud parents of a baby boy, born on the 27th.

Bro. Bryant held his regular services at the Presbyterian church Sunday. There was a good attendance Sunday and Sunday night also at singing at the Baptist church.

Mrs. Myrtle Foster is spending the week with Mrs. Willie Mae Foster. Several from here attended the show at Stith Tuesday night.

Bro. Bryant took dinner with Mrs. Horton and family Sunday.

A large crowd attended the musical at Mr. Marshalls' Saturday night all reported a nice time.

Mrs. Eva Adkins and Mrs. Jim Johnson visited at Mrs. C. Foster's Monday afternoon.

Mr. Grady Bond and family spent the day Sunday with Mr. A. C. Bond and family.

FARM & RANCH LOANS

At 6, 6½ and 7 per cent interest payable once a year. Terms 5, 10, 20 or 33 years, the best contract ever offered the borrower. NO RED TAPE. See me if you want a loan. V. E. MUIR, Abilene, Texas. 1Jan27

PILES CURED

NO KNIFE NO PAIN NO DETENTION FROM WORK

Dr. E. E. COCKERELL

RECTAL and SKIN SPECIALIST of ABILENE

Will be at the Stephens Hotel in Merkel on Monday
Dec. 6 from 1 p. m. to 5 p. m.

Phone No. 359 Abilene, Texas

Davis & Tyler Realty Co.

Located in N. A. Dowell Paint Shop Front St.

If you want to buy or sell Leases, Royalties, Farms, Ranches or City Property---

—SEE US—

ABSTRACTS OF TITLE

for prompt and accurate service
call on

SECURITY ABSTRACT CO.

Abilene, Texas

Second floor of Court House
Phone 2378

R. W. GRIMSLEY, Manager

BIG KARNIVAL

Big Karnival at Blair school building, December 8th, Wednesday p. m. beginning at 8 o'clock. Special features. Clown show. "Fairy in the Well," and many other interesting features. Every one come with a pocket full of money.

Trent Missionary Society

The Womans' Missionary Society of the M. E. Church, South will have their annual Bazaar, Friday and Saturday, Dec. 10 and 11.

All ladies of the church are cordially invited to help us and everybody be sure to visit our Bazaar before making your holiday purchases. Many beautiful things all handmade will be on exhibition.

On Saturday, Dec. 11, we will serve dinner.

Come and enjoy a bountiful feast.

FRESH FLORIDA ORANGES

Fresh Sweet Florida Oranges \$3 per box of three hundred large size. Sound fruit and satisfaction guaranteed or money back. We pay express charges. A box of these makes an appreciated Christmas gift. Remit with order.—ACME FARMS Gainesville, Florida.

Try a Classified Ad in The Mail.

BOX SUPPER AT WARREN

Warren school will have a box supper Friday night, December 10. Let all who will bring boxes and help. The funds will be spent in equipping the playground.

Try a Classified Ad in The Mail.

Hey, Boys!

We've just received a shipment of all sizes of those famous Pennsylvania

VACUUM CUP BICYCLE TIRES

You'll find our stock of Bicycle Supplies complete.

West Co.

Over 31,000,000 Children
Now In School in the United States



Their Clothing often Dry-cleaned will eliminate more than 75 per cent of the different diseases during the calendar school year. "Dry-cleaning Protects the Health of the Nation." A National slogan demanded by the Government in the late World War. Let us prove our assertion.

One Day Service

Cash Tailor Shop

On Kent St.

Phone 180

BOSCH RADIO



You will find genuine pride of ownership in having Bosch Radio in your home.

Perfect radio and fine furniture are combined. You will enjoy the perfect tonal quality, be delighted at the unequalled performance and amazed at the simplicity of tuning in program after program. Bosch Radio is the outstanding development of the industry. Built like an automobile, on a steel chassis, a single station selector, a perfect volume control—unusual power and reach are some of the features you have waited for. Here they are in their highest development. Never has radio been so pleasing to look upon or so satisfying to hear. Be sure to hear and see Bosch Radio in your home or in our store before you buy any radio.

HOLMES ELECTRIC COMPANY

Garrett Feed Store Bldg.

PHONE 155.

MERKEL, TEXAS

BAPTIST ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday School 10 a. m.
The orchestra will begin 15 minutes before and will play until Sunday School time. All officers and teachers should be in their places when the orchestra begins playing. Let every body come early and enjoy the music.

Preaching by the pastor, 11 a. m.
All B. Y. P. U.'s will meet at 6:15.
No evening preaching on account of the revival meeting at the Presbyterian church.

Work has started on our improvement and will be finished as soon as practical.

Since we have no evening services Sunday let every one come to the morning service. Come in time for Sunday School and stay for preaching.

Strangers and visitors are always welcome in these services.

IRA L. PARRACK, Pastor.

METHODIST CHURCH

The following services at the Methodist church Sunday:

Sunday School at 9:45.
Worship at 11:00 a. m. and at 7:00 p. m.

Rev. W. E. Lyon will preach at the evening hour.
Hope that all the services may be well attended Sunday.

Interested members of the Sunday School invite others to attend, and all try to be on time.

We invite strangers and visitors to our services.

W. R. McCARTER.

WILL PREACH AT TRENT

Elder W. G. Cyfert announces that on next Sunday he will preach at Trent, at both the morning and evening hours. A cordial welcome is extended to one and all to attend.

MISSIONARY SOCIETY NOTES

A very enjoyable social meeting was held by the Womans Missionary Society at the church on last Monday afternoon.

The primary Sunday School room had been neatly arranged and decorated with bouquets and baskets of flowers. The program committee carried out a very interesting program of songs, readings and contests. An appetizing refreshment plate of sandwiches, olives and hot tea was served by the refreshment committee. Next Monday afternoon the regular monthly business meeting will be held. At this meeting a delegate will be elected to the all day district meeting at Abilene to be held on the 10th.

The meeting Monday will be at 2:30 o'clock.

Mr. W. H. Bigley, Tye, Texas, has our thanks for the renewal of his Merkel Mail for the next year.

Miss Inice Brown spent last week end in Abilene visiting at McMurry College.

Baker & Wheeler will appreciate your business. We handle fresh and cured meats at all times.

Misses Mary Eula and Boog Sears of McMurry spent last Sunday in Merkel visiting home folks.

Mr. Ennis Grimes of Chillicothe was here last week for a visit with his father, Mr. T. L. Grimes and many friends.

Misses Annie and Willie Swann, of Snyder, were here last week visiting home folks and friends. While here they ordered the Merkel Mail for the next year.

Mr. J. S. Swann returned this week from a business trip to Fort Worth.

Mr. R. L. Ferguson of Waco, was here this week on a visit with friends and relatives. He will read the Merkel Mail for the next year.

Mrs. J. R. Barnett left first of the week for Temple, where she went to consult specialists at the Scott sanitarium.

Mr. H. C. West left this week for Temple, where he is under the care and treatment of specialists at the Scott Sanitarium.

Miss Mamie Ellis was home last week from Fort Stockton, where she is teaching in the Public Schools, for a visit with homefolks and friends.

Mr. B. K. Maitland, of Pennsylvania, who during 1919 had the drilling contract on the old Bland well one and half miles southwest of the city, arrived this week to look over the oil conditions here.

Sound Common Sense

Between the value of a man's work and the money a buyer will pay for a finished article, the capitalist has his indispensable function. He must supply what people will find they want. But that will not in itself make them want good things. Sir Ernest Beven advises them to save rather than to spend, but only taste and morals can teach them spending. And when they have done both, they will need to adjust the social organism by some giving, which means as much from mind as from pockets. If the dues for that are left to the state, hundreds of millions will be thrown away.—Robert Lencourt in the Atlantic Monthly.

The Domesday Books

When Queen Victoria came to the throne the national archives were scattered in about sixty places, but by an act passed in 1838 they were concentrated in the public record office, which now contains records of the chancery, exchequer, various courts, and departments of state such as the treasury, home office, foreign office, war office, admiralty, board of trade and customs.

Amongst the principal exhibits are the Domesday books, that are the outcome of a general survey of England ordered by William the Conqueror at the end of 1085.—London Answers.

Too Much "Acid?"

Excess Uric Acid Gives Rise to Many Unpleasant Troubles.

AUTHORITIES agree that an excess of uric acid is primarily due to faulty kidney action. Retention of this toxic material often makes its presence felt by sore, painful joints, a tired, languid feeling and, sometimes, toxic backache and headache. That the kidneys are not functioning right is often shown by scanty or burning passage of secretions. Thousands assist their kidneys at such times by the use of Doan's Pills—a stimulant diuretic. Doan's are recommended by many local people. Ask your neighbor!

DOAN'S PILLS 60c
Stimulant Diuretic to the Kidneys
Foster-Milburn Co., Mfg. Chem., Buffalo, N. Y.

CITATION ON PUBLICATION FOR PROBATE OF WILL

THE STATE OF TEXAS
To the Sheriff or any Constable of Taylor County—Greeting:

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED, to cause to be published, once a week, for ten days, exclusive of the first day of publication, before the return day hereof, in some newspaper of general circulation published in said county, which has been continuously and regularly published in said county for a period of not less than one year; the following notice:

THE STATE OF TEXAS
To all persons interested in the Estate of Mrs. M. R. Woodrum Deceased.

You are hereby notified that Sadie Woodrum has filed in the County Court of Taylor County, an application for the probate of the last Will and Testament of said Mrs. M. R. Woodrum, Deceased, filed with said application, and for Letters Testamentary which will be heard at the next term of said Court, commencing on the Third Monday in December A. D. 1926, the same being the 20th day of December 1926 at the Court House thereof, in Abilene, at which time all persons interested in said Estate may appear and contest said application, should they desire to do so.

HEREIN FAIL NOT, but have you before said Court on the first day thereof this Writ, with your return thereon, showing how you have executed the same.

Given under my hand and the Seal of said Court, at office in Abilene, this 2nd day of November 1926.

W. E. BEASLEY,
Clerk, County Court, Taylor County, Texas
By Bernice Brittan, Deputy.

Mr. Minor Burns of Canton, Texas, was up last week spending Thanksgiving with home folks and friends.

We are thankful to Mr. J. L. Tucker for a subscription to the Mail, which he had us send to his mother, Mrs. A. J. Tucker, in New Mexico.

Mrs. McConnell's Cakes on sale every Saturday, at Dununings Drug Store. Special orders anytime. 3t4p

If it is a house you want built, see a carpenter, but if it is Meats, see Baker & Wheeler Market. tf

NOTICE TO OUR CUSTOMERS

We sincerely appreciate your patronage, but if you have not paid your account with us, please do not ask us for further credit. We cannot run our business without funds, and we depend on our customers accounts for an income to carry on our business.

We are glad to serve you, and will bend every effort possible to please you.
Come to see us.

THE CORNER GARAGE
F. C. McFARLAND, Mgr.

What's in a Name?
\$5.00 in Gold

TO THE PERSON OFFERING THE BEST NAME FOR MERKEL'S NEW SUB-DIVISION

LOCATION—At South end of Locust Street, between Oak and Yucca. To consist of 28 Building sites.

District approved by Abilene Building and Loan Association.

IMPROVEMENTS—One way drives throughout. Concrete curb and mid-street parking

RESTRICTIONS—Moderate building restrictions.

PRICE—From \$250 to \$500 per site.

The name selected and the name of person suggesting same will be printed in next issue of this paper.

All proposed names must be in the postoffice by noon

MONDAY, DECEMBER 6th.

Address P. O. Box 518, Merkel, Texas

LOST—Two \$5.00 bills on the streets of Merkel Wednesday, December 1. Finder please return to Merkel Mail and receive reward. Raymond Brewer, Merkel, Route 1. 1tpd

WANTED—Good farm wagon. See T. J. Toombs, Merkel, Texas. 1tpd

FOR RENT—Bedroom, close in. Call at Patton's Grocery. 1tpd

FOR RENT—Two furnished rooms. Mrs. J. M. Meeks, Phone 229. 1t

PYORRHEA—SORE GUMS: Your friends dare not say so but your gums and foul breath don't make folks like you any better. Let's Pyorrhea Remedy heals worst cases promptly. It is not a mouth-wash or paste, and is sold on a money back guarantee.
HAMM DRUG CO.

Friendships Most Perfect Gift—

Your Photograph

Make the appointment now, and avoid disappointment.

Roddens Studio, Merkel, Texas.

A NEW SHOP

House Wiring, Electric Fixtures

Starter and Generator Work

We Wind All Kinds of Motors and Generators.

Repair Anything Electrical

A Complete Stock of Lamps and Wiring Devices.

Radio Sets and Supplies.

HOLMES ELECTRIC COMPANY

PHONE 155.

"No Place Like Holmes"

Address—Garret Feed Store Bldg.

THIS CHRISTMAS

Give Something Different

For the Family, for your Friends
The gift that only you can give,

Your Photograph

RODDEN STUDIO, Merkel, Texas

Guaranty Abstract Co.

114½ Pine Street
ABILENE, TEXAS

For PROMPT, EFFICIENT SERVICE have your abstract work done by us.

We Guarantee Satisfaction

H. B. TAYLOR, Manager

Phone 1132

ABILENE, TEXAS