

# THE MERKEL MAIL

VOL. 42—NO. 31.

MERKEL, TEXAS, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1931.

On the "Broadway of America"

5c PER COPY

## BADGERS TO MEET HASKELL IN FIRST CONFERENCE TILT

Merkel High Goes to Haskell for Friday Game; Squad Has Put Up Game Fight in Last Two Contests; Ready for Indians.

After meeting several tough teams out of their district, the Merkel High Badgers meet their first conference foe Friday afternoon at Haskell when they play the Haskell Indians. The A. C. C. freshman football team subdued the Indians last week 46-0, while Coleman was gaining a 7-0 decision over the Badgers.

After losing the first two games by decisive margins, the locals have started playing real football, and their last two games have been lost by not more than seven points. The team, which is composed largely of first-year men, is slowly rounding into shape and is getting onto the game better. The team is getting confidence now and they are determined to make a wonderful showing in their district this season. They emerged from the Coleman game with only minor injuries and they will be in fine trim for the game Friday.

Playing before the largest audience of their current season, the Badgers lost their game with the Coleman Blue Cats at the Coleman County Fair last Friday afternoon, 7-0. Although considerably outweighed, the Badgers made up in fight what they lacked in avoirdupois. Taking a lesson from their previous game, in which they let Roby shove over a counter in the first three minutes of play, the locals started off well, and improved as the game continued.

The score for the Blue Cats came early in the fourth quarter following an off decision by Referee Grady. With the ball on the Merkel 4-yard line, Coleman fumbled, on third down, and the alert Merkel half, Derrick, recovered on the one-yard line. Grady gave the ball to Coleman there, after declaring he blew his whistle while the ball was in mid-air, and then he refused to place the ball in play where he blew his whistle. Coleman made the necessary one yard on a buck on 4th down.

Merkel's aerial threat, which worked so well against Roby, failed to click against the Blue Cats, the Badgers completing only one heave—that for 20 yards—out of five attempts. Merkel could garner only 5 first downs while the Coleman County boys got away with 7.

### Cotton Receipts.

On account of recent rains, only 892 bales of cotton reached Merkel in the week up to Wednesday night, bringing the total for the season to 6,149 bales. On Thursday morning, 2,459 bales were still in the cotton yard here, while shipments by rail and truck out of Merkel total 3,690 bales.

## MERKEL 20 YEARS AGO

(From the Files of Merkel Mail, October 13, 1911.)

Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Whitaker and Miss Jessie Sutphen made an overland trip to Abilene the first of the week.

The following citizens of our little city were in the Taylor county capital Monday: I. S. Allen, R. L. Bland, T. F. Compton, W. W. Wheeler, R. C. Young, T. J. Coggin, E. D. Coats, I. H. Yates, W. L. Harkrider, J. T. Warren, G. W. Johnson, A. C. Rose, H. Turner, H. C. Burroughs, John Sears, T. J. Cross, W. T. Potter and Ernest Faucett.

George Ferrier left Tuesday for Dallas where he will run a Chalmers-Detroit touring car during the fair for his cousin, Martin Metzger, of Abilene, after which time he may go to the southern part of old Mexico on a prospecting tour.

The schools are in need of 35 cords of wood.

Felix R. Jones was in the city Tuesday from Abilene.

R. P. Hail, a stockman of the south part of the county, shipped a car of fat cattle to the Fort Worth market Tuesday.

H. C. Floyd has returned from an

## TO COMMEMORATE ANNIVERSARY OF YORKTOWN BATTLE

One thousand newly designed stamps commemorating the hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the battle of Yorktown will go on sale at the postoffice on Oct. 20, it was announced by Postmaster O. J. Adcock Thursday. The supply of these stamps is limited and they will be on sale only as long as they last, and only small quantities will be sold to each individual.

The stamps are rectangular in form, being about the size of a special delivery stamp. They are red in color with three portraits in ovals printed across the face in black. The portraits are of Rochambeau, Washington and DeGrasse. In the upper corners appear the dates, 1781 and 1931.

Another special stamp will be on sale by Jan. 2, it was announced, this one to commemorate the bi-centennial of Washington's birthday. These stamps, ranging in value from one-half cent to 10 cents, all have a portrait of Washington printed on them, though the portraits were copied from several different originals in several museums. Also commemorating this event there will be special envelopes printed, it was said, they being of special extra quality, and will also go on sale on January 2.

## Lions Will Have Ted Nichols Toastmaster

For the next luncheon of the Lions club, which comes Tuesday, Ted Nichols is to be toastmaster, assisted by Charles H. Jones.

Mat Dillingham, president of the local Lions club, has received an invitation from Horace Condey of Eastland, district governor of the Lions, for the presidents, secretaries and past presidents to attend a conference at Abilene Sunday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock and all three of these Merkel Lions, the president and secretary and Past President E. Yates Brown are expecting to attend.

## Unoccupied House Destroyed by Fire

The story and a half frame house belonging to R. E. Windham on Edwards street just beyond the business section, was totally destroyed by fire shortly after two o'clock Saturday morning. The house was a mass of flames before the fireboys arrived, but they did splendid work in saving the house adjoining it on the north. The Windham house was unoccupied and the origin of the fire is unknown. Insurance was carried in the amount of \$2,000.

A small fire at the Pence wagon yard Saturday afternoon was quickly extinguished, with practically no loss.

overland trip to Dora, Nolan and other points. He reports the crops in that section of the country looked reasonably good.

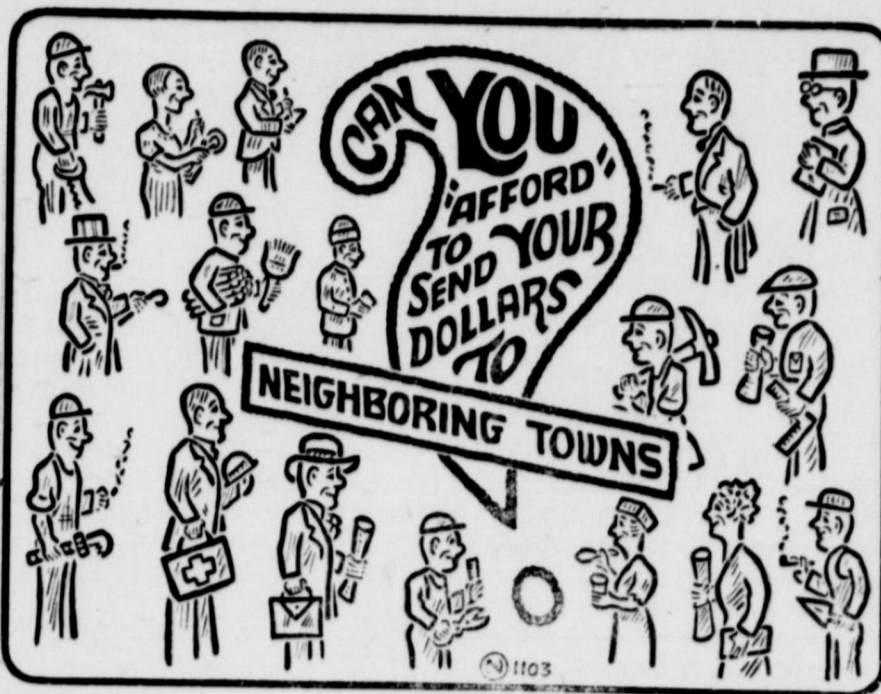
Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Grisham of Hamlin came through the country in an auto Wednesday night to visit the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Howard.

R. H. Collins, wife and little daughter, Christine, left the first of the week for Bagwell to visit V. D. Jones and family.

E. M. Brown is at home for a few days visiting his wife.

Mesdames Dickson and Sutphen were visitors of the Mesdames Largets Tuesday.

Friday evening Mrs. E. Hall, Misses Murphy and Bowler entertained the teachers. Score cards with pen sketched heads were passed, assigning guests to game tables. Delicious punch was served to Misses Hawkins, Medlen, Smith, Conner, Saunders, Long, Garrett, Nisbitt, Laura Jennings, May and Willie Valentine, Messrs. Sharp, Gaitner, Touchstone, Frank Ferrier, Edwards, Dr. Green, Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Krigbaum, Mrs. Arthur Rose and the hostesses.



## KEEPING UP WITH TEXAS

John Holcomb, 25, was fatally injured at Borger when a wrench with which he was screwing pipe slipped and struck him over the heart.

F. C. Bates, 99, one of the organizers of Schleicher county and reputed to be the oldest citizen of that section, died at sunrise Wednesday morning at his home in Sheffield.

The Hutchinson county American legion lays claim to having the largest commander in the United States in the person of Phil Trock, new commander, who weighs 420 pounds.

Burglars who burned holes in two doors leading to the vault of the bank of Bradshaw early Wednesday morning failed to open the vault door and escaped with only \$45 in pennies.

Stumbling as he passed between two motors in the Woodlawn Hills Water company's pump station, George H. Hagelstein, 62, was electrocuted at San Antonio when he struck a bare wire as he fell.

Two brothers, Hugo and Walter Lowenstern, both born in Kassel, Germany, but one having come to America the year before the other was born, met for the first time in Amarillo Tuesday.

Miss Louella Dillon, 22, of San Antonio died at a Fredericksburg hospital of injuries received when a tire on the automobile in which she was riding exploded, causing the car to crash into a tree beside the highway.

Dallas county with wholesale activities for the year in the amount of \$735,807,628 ranks thirteenth in the United States in the volume of wholesale business, according to a review issued by the United States department of commerce.

The state of Texas has sold 5,561 bales of 1931 cotton from the penitentiary farms for \$200,999.35, or an average of a little better than 7 cents per pound. Premiums paid for superior staple aggregated \$28,719, averaging \$5.16 per bale.

A homing pigeon, released from its coop at the poultry show of the State Fair of Texas Friday, flew 495 miles to Kansas City in eight hours and 14 minutes, a distance requiring 14 hours by train and between three and five hours by transport plane.

The jury hearing the case of Newton Yarberry, charged with slaying Dorothy Dorcas Symons, 18 year old choir singer of Sinton, was discharged at 7:43 Wednesday night, having failed to reach a verdict. The jury was reported to have stood 11 to 1 for conviction.

Judge J. B. Price of Bastrop was acquitted in each of the six charges preferred against him by the house of representatives when a majority of the senate late Tuesday voted not to sustain the articles of impeachment. It would have required a two-thirds majority of those present and voting to have sustained the charges.

Will H. Scott, member of the legislature from the Nolan, Fisher and Mitchell county district and former Nolan county superintendent, has been elected secretary-manager of the Sweetwater Board of City Development to succeed John M. Hendrix, who resigned to become associated with the Community Natural Gas company.

## MERKEL NAMED NEXT HOST CITY

Leaders for 1932 Sweetwater Baptist Associational Named; Loyalty Resolutions Adopted.

Merkel was named host for the 1932 meeting of the Sweetwater Baptist associational, at the closing session of the associational at Abilene Friday. Meeting dates will be October 6 and 7.

The Rev. Roy Shahan of Lueders was selected to preach the associational sermon, and the Rev. T. J. Young of Moro was named alternate. The Rev. S. J. T. Williams of Abilene will deliver the missionary sermon. The alternate will be the Rev. Lowell Ponder of Abilene.

Dr. George Green, Sweetwater; the Rev. C. A. Powell, pastor of University church; Walter Jackson, first church educational director; Gus J. King, South Side church, and Walter Gooch, Hamby, were elected as messengers to the annual convention of the Texas Baptist association, slated at Waco, November 11, 12 and 13.

Denominational loyalty, expressed in reports, addresses and finally in a resolution presented by Dr. Oscar H. Cooper, pioneer Baptist leader of Texas, was the keynote of the opening day of the annual sessions of the Sweetwater Baptist association.

Dr. Cooper's resolution, offered as a means of making public the stand of Taylor and Nolan county Baptists and of expressing the loyalty of member churches to church-wide leaders and programs, was unanimously adopted. It follows:

"Be it resolved by the Sweetwater Baptist association that  
"First: We affirm our unqualified loyalty to the work of the Baptist denomination in this state;

"Second: We pledge to the leaders of our organized work our fullest cooperation and declare our full confidence in their loyalty, wisdom, integrity and devotion to the best interests of our Baptist denomination in Texas, and to the advancement of the Redeemer's kingdom on earth;

"Third: We affirm our loyalty to the Southern Baptist convention and its work and our unqualified confidence in the wisdom, integrity and loyalty of the leaders of the convention and of the denomination."

Tye was selected by the board as the next meeting place of the monthly workers' conference, to convene next November 5. A movement also was started to remove all associational indebtedness within the next year.

Executive board members follow: Abilene, Walter Jackson, University church; Judge Lee R. York, University church; O. P. Oliver, South Side; W. H. Gully, Immanuel; Robert Gray, Trinity; Buffalo Gap, I. B. Buck; Caps, W. P. Ponder; Elmdale, Lemay; Hamby, Will Shotwell; Lawn, R. P. Arnold; Moro, Joe Floyd; Nolan, E. Ettinger; Merkel, C. R. Tittle; Neill, S. G. Oliver; Ovalo, W. L. Roberts, Sweetwater, T. T. McCasland, First church; John Ware, Lamar; Tye, T. J. Amason; Tuscola, A. B. Cox; Shep, W. H. Pillon.

### Demonstration Club to Meet.

The Salt Branch Demonstration club will meet Friday, Oct. 16, at 2:30 o'clock at the club house. Every member is urged to be present and to notify other members who might not see this notice. This meeting is very important, as plans are to be made for achievement day, and the course of study mapped out for the following year. Three members attended council at Abilene Saturday and will have much to bring before the club.

## HEAVY RAINS SOAK WEST TEXAS; FALL HERE 2.8 INCHES

Following ten days of abnormally hot weather for October and breaking a drouth of over three months, most welcome rains, paving the way for a fine winter season, gave West Texas a thorough soaking Sunday night.

The rain began to fall here late Sunday and up to 10 o'clock Monday morning the precipitation, as measured by our good friend, B. M. Black, Volunteer Weather Observer, was 2 inches.

The heaviest rain Sunday was reported at Cisco where eight inches fell in 12 hours. Over six inches fell at Baird and Clyde reported 3 1-2 inches.

Decided drops in temperature accompanied the rainfall, bringing an end to prolonged, uncomfortably hot weather.

Untold benefit to ranges and crops resulted. Waterholes, wells and lakes from which cattle obtained their water, were filled at many places and the forage given much-needed moisture.

The rains will be of untold benefit to grain lands and to pastures, according to County Agent C. Metz Heald. He said he believed the damage to cotton would be negligible, because the rain fell slowly.

Merkel and this section was visited by another good, ground-soaking rain late Tuesday, which measured .8 of an inch, making nearly three inches of rainfall in forty-eight hours. The rainfall Tuesday was much heavier, east and west of here.

The last rain noted in this territory was on July 8, when the gauge showed three-fourths of an inch.

## Mississippi Passes Law to Curb Acreage

Jackson, Miss., Oct. 15.—Enactment into law Tuesday of cotton acreage curtailment was praised in an address before the Mississippi legislature by Carl Williams, cotton member of the federal farm board.

Mr. Williams' address followed by one hour the signing by Governor Theodore G. Bilbo of the Roberts-Sillers cotton acreage reduction bill which becomes operative when states growing 75 per cent of the cotton in the United States enact similar laws. The Mississippi law calls for a reduction of about 50 per cent in acreage to be planted to cotton in 1932 and 1933.



### PERSONNEL.

The head of a trust company was describing the extraordinary growth of their business.

More and more estates are passing into the hands of trust companies. The capital funds of these estates are invested not only in bonds and mortgages but in the voting stocks of the country's leading corporations.

If the process goes on at the same rate for another twenty-five years the trust companies will control a large proportion of the wealth of the United States.

"Your problem is personnel," I said to the banker.

"That's our only problem," he answered.

"How are you solving it?"

"Well, we try to pick the smartest young men from the colleges, men who have majored in economics and finance. We start them in at the bottom and let them fight their way up. Some drop by the wayside, but the survivors develop into very good men."

I told him I thought they were omitting one very important step in the process of training.

"After your young man has had two or three years' experience in the bank, you ought to pull him out and send him into the heart of the country," I said. "Make him spend a year or two working on a farm, or with a section gang on the railroad, or clerking in a country store. Insist that he live on what he earns."

"When he comes back to New York he will have some idea of how hard ordinary people have to work for their money. He will have a social, as well as a merely financial point of view. A dollar will never become merely a sign or a sum to him. It will represent hopes and fears, ambitions and defeats, human sweat and blood."

When it came time for me to go to college my father took me aside and said: "You have planned to go to Amherst, and I approve of the plan. But I want you to take your first year at Berea College in Kentucky, where I worked my way through." He added a sentence which I have never forgotten: "I want your sympathies to be always on the side of the men who have to struggle for what they get."

It was a wise fine thing for a father to say to a boy.

I am one of those who believe that we are entering a period of great social changes. No matter how big and strong an institution or an industry may be it is going to be tested. Those institutions will win out which are headed by men of broad, human sympathies; men who can see the other man's point of view because they have shared the other man's daily life.

It is a time of wonderful opportunity for young men. But they must

(Continued on Page Two.)

## PLANS DRAWN TO HOLD OFF SEVEN MILLION BALES

Bankers, Farm Board and Co-Op in Agreement; Plan Based on Granting of New Credits and Extension of Old Debts.

New Orleans, Oct. 15.—A plan to keep at least seven million bales of cotton off the market for at least a year as a stabilizing influence on price was perfected by leading bankers of the south, members of the federal farm board and officials of the American Cotton Co-operative association at a conference here Monday.

The plan is based on granting of new credits and extension of old obligations.

Salient features of the program include:

Pledges by the banks of the cotton producing states to make or renew loans to mature not earlier than July 31, 1932, to be secured by cotton totaling 3,500,000 bales.

If that baleage is financed by October 25, the federal farm board agree to extend the obligations of the American Cotton Co-operative association, covering approximately 2,000,000 bales, to July 31, 1932, unless such cotton can be sold at more than 12 and a half cents per pound in the meantime.

If the various southern legislatures secure "substantial" reduction in acreage for next year, the federal farm board will further agree to hold its cotton off the market for an additional year, that is for the year ending July 31, 1933.

Action of the southern banks is contingent upon ratification by the various state conventions, and the membership of the various conventions will be asked to meet in their respective states October 20 to endorse the action of their leaders at today's conference.

The proposal was made public Monday night after a lengthy executive conference by James C. Stone, chairman of the federal farm board, Nathan Adams of Dallas, representing the southern bankers, and E. F. Creekmore, vice president of the American Cotton Co-operative association. Carl Williams, cotton member of the farm board, was among the conferees.

JUMPS NEARLY FIFTY POINTS.

Cotton prices jumped nearly \$2.50 a bale at the opening of the market (Continued on Page Four)

### WHAT'S DOING IN WEST TEXAS

Brown County farm women used 300,000 tin cans in their food preservation work in 1930 as compared to 10,000 cans in 1924.

Unofficial estimates place the total production of the 1931 wheat crop of the Texas Panhandle at fifty-seven million bushels.

A modern white way has been installed in the business section of Spearman.

A natural gas distribution system is under construction in Santa Anna.

Citizens of Coleman county recently sent a carload of watermelons as a gift to the citizens of Ravenna, Nebraska. Ravenna supplied Coleman county with a carload of flour and canned goods during the 1930 drouth.

To promote conservation of food, the chamber of commerce of Spur is sponsoring a can-a-calf campaign and estimates that two hundred and fifty

Dickens county families will each can a calf as a result.

One hundred and thirteen miles of new railroad are under construction between Childress and Pampa estimated to cost five million dollars when completed.

A large gravel pit on the south side of the Pease river near Quanah is furnishing sand and gravel for highway construction in Hardeman county.

Air mail service was inaugurated through Wichita Falls with the opening of Air Mail Route 33, on August 1.

A \$20,000 bridge across the salt fork of Red river between Hedley and McLean is to be built soon.

Aviation fans mailed eight hundred souvenir letters from Wichita Falls to Amarillo on the first planes following the installation of air mail service between the two cities. The letters were stamped by the Amarillo Chamber of Commerce cachet and mailed back to the senders.

A ninety acre emergency landing field is being opened at Canadian by

the United States department of commerce.

A \$332,000 theatre is under construction at Amarillo.

Memphis and Wellington are holding bond elections for installing municipal gas distribution systems.

Collingsworth county is building a \$150,000 court house at Wellington.

Lampasas recently celebrated its seventy-fifth birthday with a three days' celebration.

Ten thousand people joined in celebrating the completion of a concrete highway into Brownwood recently.

#### BARGAIN DAYS.

From now until Dec. 31st, subscription price for The Merkel Mail in Taylor and adjoining counties is only \$1.00 per year. This will save you 50 cents, if you will renew your subscription during these three months. If you are in arrears, you can pay up the past year and extend a new year at the bargain offer of \$1.00 per year. Do it now. Offer positively expires December 31st.

Try a Classified Ad in The Mail.

### New Reduced Rates by Southland Greyhound

One way bus fares, from Merkel to any point on the Southland Greyhound West Texas division, have been reduced to one and three-quarter cents per mile, effective October 10, according to officials of the bus company.

The reduction has been approved by the state railroad commission and will be in effect 30 days. The new low fares apply between any two points on the West Texas division and are good on all schedules, including the through runs. As an example of the lowered rate, the fare to Fort Worth is now \$3.35, to El Paso \$7.80.

This latest reduction is consistent with the plans of the Southland Greyhound lines. Round trip excursion fares, good to all points on Southland's 2,500 mile Texas wide system, announced earlier in the year, have been extended until December 31 as a result of their big success.

### THE WAY OF LIFE

(Continued from Page One)  
get themselves education.  
Not merely the education of books; the greater education of really knowing and liking their fellow men.

### Condensed Statement of Condition The Farmers and Merchants National Bank of Merkel

Close of Business September 29, 1931

RESOURCES	
Loans, Time and Demand	\$240,008.56
Overdrafts	295.34
Real Estate on Hand	11,586.29
Furniture and Fixtures	6,250.00
Stock in Fed. Res. Bank	2,250.00
5% Redemption Fund	312.50
U. S. Bonds to Secure Circulation	6,250.00
Other U. S. Bonds	\$20,000.00
Bills of Exchange Cotton	7,296.84
Cash & Sight Exchange	70,159.12
<b>TOTAL CASH RESOURCES</b>	<b>97,455.96</b>
Total	\$364,408.65

LIABILITIES	
Capital Stock	\$ 50,000.00
Surplus & Undivided Profits	14,731.34
Circulation Account	6,070.00
Rediscounts	NONE
Bills Payable	NONE
Other Borrowed Money	NONE
<b>DEPOSITS</b>	<b>293,607.31</b>
Total	\$364,408.65

The above statement is correct.  
BOOTH WARREN, Cashier.

More than a quarter century of continuous banking experience, hard work and honest purpose, has built a substantial business that is your best assurance of safety and satisfaction. We solicit your account, assuring you of our sincere desire to serve the interest of our community and trade territory faithfully and well, pledging our untiring effort to this end.

### THE OLD RELIABLE FARMERS AND MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK

MERKEL, TEXAS

Directors: J. T. Warren, Geo. L. Paxton, Sam Butman, Sr., G. F. West, Booth Warren.

## TAX DOLLARS . .

*Paid for You by  
the West Texas  
Utilities Company*

YOUR business is not the only one which has been faced with the serious problem of ever-mounting tax expenses. Since 1923, the year of this company's organization, taxes paid by the West Texas Utilities Company have increased over 1,200 per cent! In making these tax payments, the West Texas Utilities Company is contributing substantially to the cost of government . . . and relieving you of a considerable burden which otherwise would fall on your shoulders.

If the taxes paid annually by the West Texas Utilities Company could be applied by governmental agencies as efficiently as funds are handled by private enterprises, they would build for you each year: two large city high schools; three completely equipped ward schools; fifteen modern rural schools; a complete water system for a city of 12,000 population, or seven and one-half miles of standard concrete highway.

While this company has had to meet an ever-mounting tax bill and increased cost of equipment and materials . . . you, as a customer, have benefited by rate reductions which make this modern necessity available to you at an average cost *sixty per cent lower* than was charged before the organization of the West Texas Utilities Company!

Electric service will do your domestic, industrial or farm tasks more efficiently than they can be accomplished by any other method, and the entire cost of such splendid service can be figured in terms of pennies!

**Do You Know?**

. . . that the average cost of government per family in 1918 was six times the average family's electric bill — but that through increased political activities the cost of government to the average family is today fifteen times greater than the cost of household electricity?

. . . that a reduction of 10% in the average family's household electric bill would amount to but \$1.00 a year; whereas a reduction of the political racketeering activities alone connected with the cost of government, should decrease taxes at least 7% — a reduction sufficient to pay for the nation's household electric bill? Let's work on the political racketeers. There is the easiest place to save.

**Out of every dollar you spend for service, approximately 10 cents is returned to the various governing bodies in the form of tax payments.**

# West Texas Utilities Company

## \$1,500.00 In Prizes

### CAN YOU ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS?

1. How many counties are there in Texas?
2. What is the largest county in Texas?
3. What is the Texas State tree?  
What is the Texas State flower?  
What is the Texas State bird?
4. Name two Texans who have served in the President's Cabinet?

### Dallas News Texas Question Box Contest

The Dallas Morning News,  
Dallas, Texas.  
I am interested in knowing the nature of your contest, "The Texas Question Box." Please mail me questionnaire containing twenty questions, including the four as above.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ P. O. \_\_\_\_\_  
R. F. D. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

## The Dallas Morning News


### FURNISHED APARTMENTS

If you have a furnished apartment or furnished rooms for rent, why not try a classified advertisement in the Merkel Mail? It will cost only 25 cents per insertion.

**PHONE 61**

# SIGHT UNSEEN

by MARY ROBERTS RINEHART



THIRD INSTALLMENT.

Six people, Horace Johnson (who tells the story), his wife, old Mrs. Dane, Herbert Robinson and his sister, Alice, and Dr. Sperry, friends and neighbors, are in the habit of holding weekly meetings. At one of them, Mrs. Dane, who is hostess, varies the program by unexpectedly arranging a spiritualistic seance with Miss Jeremy, a friend of Dr. Sperry and not a professional, as the medium.

The sitting opens with the customary table rapping and other inconsequential and humorous happenings. Then the medium goes into a trance and gives disjointed details of a murder. After the sitting breaks up and the members go home, Sperry telephones Johnson and tells him Arthur Wells has killed himself.

NOW GO ON WITH THE STORY—

I told him he was right. "Then that fixes the time at which Miss Jeremy told us the murder," he came back over the phone.

There was silence at Sperry's end of the wire. Then: "Wells was shot about 9:30," he said, and rang off.

I am not ashamed to confess that my hands shook as I hung up the receiver. As I stood there, I wondered for the first time whether there might not be, after all, a spirit-world surrounding us, cognizant of all that we did, touching but intangible, sentient but tuned above our common senses?

I was shocked by the news, but not greatly grieved. The Wells had been among us but not of us, as I have said. Of the two, I myself had preferred Arthur. His faults were on the surface. He drank hard, gambled, and could not always pay his gambling debts. But underneath it all there had always been something boyishly honest about him. He had played, it is true, through most of the thirty years that now marked his whole life, but he could have been made a man by the right woman. And he had married the wrong one.

Of Elinor Wells I have only my wife's verdict, and I have found that, as is the way with many good women, her judgment of her own sex is rather merciless. A tall, handsome, girl, very dark, my wife has characterized her as cold, calculating and ambitious. She has said frequently, too, that Elinor Wells was a disappointed woman, that her marriage, while giving her marriage, while giving her social identity, had disappointed her in a monetary way.

There was no doubt, by the time they had lived in our neighborhood for a year, that a complication had risen in the shape of another man.

Our street has never had a scandal on it, except the one when the Berrington's music teacher ran away with their coachman, in the days of that that is almost forgotten.

Nevertheless, we had realized for some time that the dreaded triangle was threatening the repute of our quiet neighborhood, and as I stood by the telephone that night I saw it had come. More than that, it seemed very probable that into this very triangle our peaceful Neighborhood Club had been suddenly thrust.

The street, with its open spaces, was a relief after the dark hall. I started for Sperry's house. My head bent against the wind, my mind on the news, I had just heard.

Sperry was waiting on his doorstep, and we went on to the Wells house.

Although the Wells house was brilliantly lit when we reached it, we had difficulty in gaining admission.

"We might try the servants' entrance," Sperry said. Then he laughed mirthlessly.

"We might see," he said, "if there's a key on the nail among the vines."

I confess to a nervous tightening of my muscles as we made our way around the house. If the key was there, we were on the track of a revelation that might revolutionize much that we had held fundamental in science and in our knowledge of life itself. If sitting in Mrs. Dane's quiet room, a woman could tell us what was happening in a house a mile or so away it opened up a new earth. Almost a new heaven.

I stopped and touched Sperry's arm. "This Miss Jeremy—did she know Arthur Wells or Elinor? If she knew the house, and the situation between them, isn't it barely possible that she anticipated this thing?"

"We knew them," he said gruffly. "Whatever we anticipated, it wasn't

this." Sperry had a pocket flash, and when we found the door locked we proceeded with our search for the key.

"Here's the key," Sperry said, and held it out. The flash wavered in his hand, and his voice was strained.

We admitted ourselves. "Look here, Sperry," I said, as we stood inside the door, "they don't want me here. They've sent for you, but I'm the most casual sort of an acquaintance. I haven't any business here."

That struck him, too. We had both been so obsessed with the scene at Mrs. Dane's that we had not thought of anything else.

"Suppose you sit down in the library," he said, "The chances are against her coming down, and the servants don't matter."

As a matter of fact, we learned later that all the servants were out except the nursery governess. There were two small children. There was a servants' ball somewhere, and with the exception of the butler, it was after two before they commenced to straggle in. Except two plain-clothes men from the central office, a physician who was with Elinor in her room, and the governess, there was no one else in the house but the children, asleep in the nursery.

As I sat alone in the library, the house was perfectly silent. But in some strange fashion it had apparently taken on the attributes of the deed that had preceded the silence. It was sinister, mysterious, dark.

Overwrought as I was, I was forced to bring my common sense to bear on the situation. Here was a tragedy, a real and terrible one. Suppose we had in some queer fashion, touched its outer edges that night? Then how was it that there had come, mixed up with so much that might be pertinent, such extraneous and grotesque things as a hurt knee, and throwing watches and pens about.

I remember moving impatiently, and trying to argue myself into my ordinary logical state of mind, but I know now that even then I was wondering whether Sperry had found a hole in the ceiling upstairs.

Suppose Sperry came down and said Arthur Wells had been shot above the ear, and that there was a second bullet hole in the ceiling? Added to the key on the nail, a careless custom and surely not common, we would have conclusive proof that our medium had been correct. There was another point, too. Miss Jeremy had said, "Get the lather off his face."

That brought me up with a turn. Would a man stop shaving to kill himself? If he did, why a revolver? Why not the razor in his hand?

I knew from my law experience that suicide is either a desperate impulse or a cold-blooded and calculated finality. A man who kills himself while dressing comes under the former classification, and will usually seize the first method at hand. But there was something else, too. Shaving is an automatic process. It completes itself. My wife has an irritated conviction that if the house caught fire while I was in the midst of the process, I would complete it and wipe the soap from my face before I caught up the fire-extinguisher.

Had he killed himself, or had Elinor killed him? Was she the sort to sacrifice herself to a violent impulse? Would she choose the hard way, when there was the easy one of the divorce court? I thought not. And the same was true of Ellingham. Here were two people, both of them careful of appearance, if not of fact. There was another possibility, too. That he had learned something while he was dressing, had attacked or threatened her with a razor, and she had killed him in self-defense.

I had reached that point when Sperry came down the staircase, ushering out the detective and the medical man. He came to the library door and stood looking at me, with his face rather paler than usual.

"I'll take you up now," he said. "She's in her room, in bed, and she has had an opiate."

"Was he shot above the ear?" "Yes."

I did not look at him nor he at me. We climbed the stairs and entered the room, where, according to Elinor's story, Arthur Wells had killed himself. It was a dressing-room, as Miss Jeremy had described. A wardrobe, a table with books and magazines, in disorder, two chairs, and a couch, constituted the furnishings. Beyond was a bathroom. On a chair by a window the dead man's evening clothes were neatly laid out,

his shoes beneath. His top hat and folded gloves were on the table.

The house was absolutely still.

When I glanced at Sperry he was staring at the ceiling, and I followed his eyes, but there was no mark on it. Sperry made a little gesture.

"The detective and I put him there. He was here," He showed a place on the floor midway of the room.

"Where was his head lying?" I asked, cautiously.

"Here."

I stopped and examined the carpet. It was a dark Oriental, with much red in it. I touched the place, and then ran my folded handkerchief over it. It came up stained with blood.

"There would be no object in using cold water there, so as not to set the stain," Sperry said thoughtfully. "Whether he fell there or not, that is where she allowed him to be found."

"You don't think he fell there?" "She dragged him, didn't she?" he demanded. Then the strangeness of what he was saying struck him, and he smiled foolishly. "What I mean is, the medium said she did. I don't suppose any jury would pass us tonight as entirely sane, Horace," he said.

He walked across to the bathroom and surveyed it from the doorway. I followed him. It was as orderly as the other room. On a glass shelf over the wash-stand were his razors, a safety and, beside it, in a black case, an assortment of the long-bladed variety, one for each day of the week, and so marked.

Sperry stood thoughtfully in the doorway.

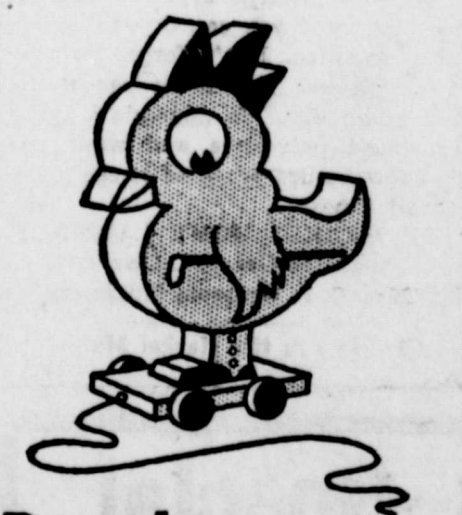
"The servants are out," he said. "According to Elinor's statement he was dressing when he did it."

"And yet some one has had a wild impulse for tidiness here, since it happened. Not a towel out of place!"

It was in the bathroom that he told me Elinor's story. According to her, it was a simple case of suicide. And she was honest about it, in her own way. She was shocked, but she was not pretending any wild grief. She hadn't wanted him to die, but she had not felt that they could go on much longer together. There had been no quarrel other than their usual bickering. They had been going to a dance that night. The servants had all gone out immediately after dinner to a servants' ball and the governess had gone for a walk. She was to return at nine-thirty to fasten Elinor's gown and to be with the children.

Arthur, she said, had been depressed for several days, and at dinner had hardly spoken at all. He had not, however, objected to the dance. He had, indeed, seemed strangely determined to go, although she had pleaded a headache. At nine o'clock he went upstairs, apparently to dress.

She was in her room, with the door shut, when she heard a shot. She ran in and found him lying on the floor of his dressing room with his revolver behind him. The governess was



## Restless CHILDREN

CHILDREN will fret, often for no apparent reason. But there's always Castoria! As harmless as the recipe on the wrapper; mild and bland as its taste. But its gentle action soothes a youngster more surely than a more powerful medicine.

That's the beauty of this special children's remedy! It may be given the tiniest infant—as often as there is need. In cases of colic, diarrhea or similar disturbance, it is invaluable. A coated tongue calls for just a few drops to ward off constipation; so does any suggestion of bad breath. Whenever children don't eat well, don't rest well, or have any little upset—this pure vegetable preparation is usually all that's needed.



still out. The shot had roused the children, and they had come down from the nursery above. She was frantic, but she had to soothe them. The governess, however, came in almost immediately, and she had sent her to the telephone to summon help, calling Sperry first of all, and then the police.

"Have you seen the revolver?" I asked.

"Yes. It's all right, apparently. Only one shot had been fired."

"How soon did they get a doctor?"

"It must have been some time. They gave up telephoning, and the governess went out, finally, and found one."

"Then, while she was out—?"

"Possibly," Sperry said. "If we start with the hypothesis that she was lying."

"If she cleaned up here for any reason," I began, and commenced a desultory examination of the room. Just why I looked behind the bathtub forces me to an explanation I am somewhat loath to make, but which will explain a rather usual proceeding. For some time my wife has felt that I smoked heavily, and out of her solicitude for me has limited me to one cigar after dinner. But as I have been a heavy smoker for years I have found this a great hardship, and have therefore kept a reserve store, by arrangement with the housemaid, behind my tub. In self-defense I must also state that I seldom have recourse to such stealthy measures.

(Continued Next Week.)

### BARGAIN DAYS.

From now until Dec. 31st, subscription price for The Merkel Mail in Taylor and adjoining counties is only \$1.00 per year. This will save you 50 cents, if you will renew your subscription during these three months. If you are in arrears, you can pay up the past year and extend a new year at the bargain offer of \$1.00 per year. Do it now. Offer positively expires December 31st.

Saturday at 2 p. m. heavy 36-inch Outing for 9 cents—Brown's Bargain Store.

Typewriting and carbon paper at Mail office.

W. C. Rountree, M. D. Pellagra—A Specialty

Will be at Grace Hotel, Abilene, Texas, Thursday, October 29

## FARMERS STATE BANK IN MERKEL

Condensed Statement of Condition of

At close of Business Sept. 29, 1931.

### RESOURCES

Loans and Discounts	\$151,388.89
Overdrafts	885.12
Banking House	15,000.00
Furniture and Fixtures	7,500.00
Other Real Estate	NONE
Cash & Bills of Ex.	\$43,907.95
U. S. Bonds & Warrants	3,000.00
Cash	46,907.95
Total	\$221,681.96

### LIABILITIES

Capital Stock	\$ 40,000.00
Surplus Fund & Undivided Profits	10,136.46
Bills Payable	47,382.49
Rediscunts	NONE
Other Borrowed Money	NONE
Deposits	124,163.01
Total	\$221,681.96

## FARMERS STATE BANK IN MERKEL

Capital \$40,000.00

Paid-in Surplus \$10,000.00

### OFFICERS

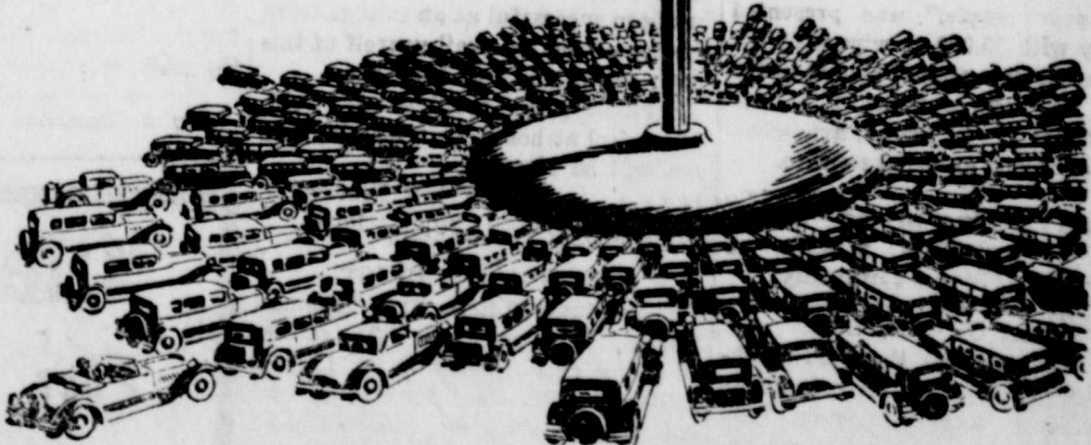
C. M. Largent, President Dave Hendricks, v-president.  
J. S. Swann, v-president. W. L. Diltz, Jr., cashier.

### DIRECTORS

C. M. Largent, Dave Hendricks, J. S. Swann, Max Mellinger,  
W. L. Diltz, Jr.,

MERKEL MAIL WANT ADS FOR RESULTS

## ONLY CONOCO GERM PROCESSED OIL Can Give You the Extra Benefits of the "HIDDEN QUART"



that Stays Up in Your Motor and Never Drains Away

Almost half of all motor wear takes place while you're starting your car! And it's in the starting period that oils not germ processed fail to protect your motor. They lubricate your motor after it starts... but they drain away when your car is idle, leaving vital working parts unlubricated while you're starting.

Germ Processed Oil gives you safe lubrication not only after your motor starts but during the starting period! For only Germ Processed Oil has penetrative lubricity... the ability to cling to, penetrate and combine with metal surfaces. A "hidden quart" of Germ Processed Oil stays up in your motor and never drains away. It cuts down starting wear and makes

starting easier and quicker. Save your motor from wear... Change now to Conoco Germ Processed Motor Oil, the only oil in North America made by the patented germ process. Fill up at any station that displays the Conoco Red Triangle.

CONTINENTAL OIL COMPANY The Only Refiners of Germ Processed Oil in North America

## CONOCO GERM PROCESSED MOTOR OIL

ANY OIL WOULD BE BETTER OIL IF GERM PROCESSED

**THE MERKEL MAIL**

Published Every Friday Morning  
Glover and Caple, Publishers.  
TELEPHONE No. 61

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

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES**  
Taylor and Jones counties ---\$1.50  
Anywhere else ---\$2.60  
(In Advance)

Advertising Rates On Application.  
All obituaries, resolutions of respect, cards of thanks, etc., are classed as advertising, and will be charged for at 1c per word.

**Congressman Blanton Addresses Students**

Hon. Thomas L. Blanton of Abilene, congressman from the 17th district, delivered an address Wednesday morning at a High school on "Congressional Procedure." Several of the trustees and a number of business men were present. Superintendent Burgess introduced the distinguished visitor, who brought an interesting and instructive message to High school students, many of whom are carrying courses in civics and political government and all of whom will become citizens within only a few years.

**Eight Year Old Boy Picks 408 Pounds**

Although only 8 years old and weighing only 50 pounds, Maurice Sherrell, son of Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Sherrell of Comper, holds something of a record as a cotton picker. He weighed in 408 pounds recently as the result of his day's labor.

**Have you tried on the new style Felt Hats for only \$1.95 at Bragg Dry Goods Company.**

**Former Merkel Boy on Visit.**  
First Lieutenant R. G. Vaughan, U. S. Army service, who was in training at Hensley Field, Grand Prairie, Texas, and came in Saturday afternoon for a brief visit with his mother, Mrs. S. G. Vaughan, and other relatives, left Monday afternoon for Tucson, Ariz. Mr. Vaughan is a native of Merkel, but had not been here for twenty years. He found but little change and the same old-fashioned hospitality.

**Saturday will be the biggest day of all—meet your friends and get your share of bargains at Bragg Dry Goods Company.**

**Unemployment Decreases.**  
London, Oct. 15.—Unemployment in Great Britain for the week of Oct. 5 decreased by 33,252 from the previous week. The total was 2,791,520, which was 615,319 more than at the same time a year ago. The popular explanation of the decrease is a revival of British industry because of abandonment of the gold standard.

**The biggest value giving Sale ever put on in Merkel at Bragg Dry Goods Company.**

**Record of Births.**  
Boy, named Winslow Joshua Beckham, Jr. to Mr. and Mrs. Winslow Joshua Beckham of Lamesa, born at Trent, Saturday, October 10, 1931.  
Boy, to Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Murdock, residing five miles north of Noodle, Sunday, October 11, 1931.  
Girl, to Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Henslee, residing south of town, Monday, October 12, 1931.  
Boy, to Mr. and Mrs. Sie Hamm, Tuesday, October 12, 1931.

**Wins \$5,000 Magazine Award.**  
New York, Oct. 15.—Miss Jane Adams, who founded Hull House in Chicago 42 years ago because she "liked poor people," was presented Tuesday with \$5,000 as winner of the Pictorial Review annual award to the woman who has contributed most to the national life in letters, art, science, philanthropy or social welfare.

**Men's clothing priced astonishingly cheap this month at Bragg Dry Goods Company.**

**CARD OF THANKS.**  
We want to thank the good neighbors and friends for their kindness in helping us gather our crop. They will never know how much we appreciate their goodness. May the Lord's richest blessing rest upon them. We thank them again and again.  
Norvell Grown and Family.

**Check up on your covers—“Winter is just around the corner.” You can buy a good part Wool Double Blanket for \$1.95 at Bragg Dry Goods Company.**

A monument has been erected to K. L. Anderson, last vice president of the Texas republic, at the town of Anderson.

Shrimp packing in southern states has declined more than 50 per cent in the past two years.

**CHURCHES**

**West Texas Preachers Leave for Ecumenical Conference at Atlanta**

Rev. E. L. Yeats, pastor of the Merkel Methodist church, Thursday joined a party of four other West Texas preachers in Abilene, who were leaving for Atlanta, Ga., where they will attend the Ecumenical Methodist conference.

This conference meets once each ten years and is composed of representatives of every branch of Methodism in the world. There are 22 churches that have their origin in the Wesleyan movements, the Methodist Episcopal church, South, being one of them.

Some of the chief speakers at the Ecumenical conference will be John R. Mott of New York, H. W. Cox, president of Emory university, John Longstaff of England, Gipsy Smith of England, Edwin Mouzon, Charlotte, N. C., William Younger, Germany, and Francis J. McDaniel, New York.

Included in the party leaving Abilene Thursday, besides the Merkel pastor, were: Rev. J. H. Hamblen, pastor of the First Methodist church, Abilene; Rev. Gaston Foot, pastor of the Methodist church at Haskell; Rev. J. E. Harrell, pastor of Tenth Street church, Abilene, and Rev. John Crow of McLean. They will drive through in a car and plan to get back on Saturday, October 24.

Rev. Mr. Yeats had about abandoned plans to attend this great gathering of Methodist leaders, but due to the courtesy of his friend, George F. West, the trip was made possible.

**METHODIST NEWS NOTES.**

In the absence of the pastor, Rev. M. L. Moody of Sweetwater will fill the pulpit at 11 o'clock.  
Brother Moody is known to some of our people and appreciated by as many as know him.  
Services at the evening hour will be omitted and members are urged not to stay at home but visit other churches in the city.  
A pleasing visit from Rev. Gaston Foot of Haskell was enjoyed Monday of this week by the Merkel people. Brother Foot will be remembered as the son of a former pastor.

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.**

Sunday School at 10 a. m. Good attendance last Sunday. Let's make an effort to have it better next Sunday. Preaching services at 11 a. m. and 7:15 p. m. Prayer meeting Wednesday evening.  
Come worship with us, if not in a service elsewhere.

W. M. Elliott, Supt.  
R. A. Walker, Pastor.

**NAZARENE CHURCH.**

Sunday School at 10 a. m. Mrs. Fannie King, superintendent. The Rev. Lula Williams will preach at the 11 o'clock hour and she will deliver a missionary discourse at the evening service.  
Sister Williams is here and if you have not heard her you are missing a great deal, for she is a very forceful preacher. She has not only made a success as a missionary to Japan, but has been successful as an evangelist in the home land. So avail yourself of this great opportunity to hear her.

Services each evening at 7:30. Come, feel at home. Be a blessing and you will be blessed.  
Lovick P. Fretwell, Supply Pastor.

**CHURCH OF CHRIST.**

Bible study 10 a. m. Preaching and worship 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. Training classes 6:30 p. m. Ladies' Bible class Tuesday 2:45 p. m. All ladies are invited to this splendid class. Prayer meeting Wednesday 7:30 p. m. All our services are growing and the interest is fine.  
You have a hearty welcome at the "The Friendly Church."  
L. E. Carpenter, Minister.

**BARGAIN DAYS.**

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**Baptists Meet Oct. 20 At Abilene in Interest Every Member Canvass**

Seven representatives from each of the 2,888 Baptist churches in Texas will meet in 19 district meetings, October 20th to 23rd. These 19 meetings were planned to give instructions relative to the Every Member Canvass, which is to be taken November 29th to December 6th.

Texas Baptists have launched this campaign to raise \$6,350,000.00. The leaders are mindful of the fact that every member of every church in the state should be enlisted, and must be, if the \$6,350,000.00 is raised.

West Texas Baptists will meet at First Baptist church, Abilene, October 20th for the purpose of completing the plans for the Every Member Canvass movement, November 29th to December 6th. There are 181 Baptist churches in this section with a membership of 30,750. They will be expected to raise \$30,000.00 for the Baptist co-operative program.

Dr. Geo. W. Truett, pastor of First Baptist church, Dallas; Rev. J. Howard Williams, secretary of the Baptist Executive board, Dallas, and Mr. T. C. Gardner, State B. Y. P. U. director will appear on the program.  
Rev. J. Henry Littleton of Hamlin, organizer for district No. 17 will preside at the meeting.

\$750,000.00 is the amount Texas Baptists will raise for the co-operative program. A portion of this will be used for mission work among the Mexicans and other foreigners in Texas. There are 249,652 Mexicans in Texas.

**THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH.**

"And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."  
This great truth spoken of our mother church in Jerusalem is being literally fulfilled with the First Baptist church of Merkel. The last two Sundays we have had five additions, four of them for baptism. Let us work on, and pray on, and get close up to the "Throne of His Grace," my brethren, for the winning of the lost is the chief business of the church.  
Next Sunday is Bible Day. Bring your Bible to Church. What has it done for you and what does the Bible mean to you?  
Rev. Myers of Abilene will preach at both hours next Sunday. He is a good preacher. Be sure and hear him.  
Let every teacher and officer be on time next Sunday with a clear conscience that they have visited every absentee in the Sunday School. Meet with our young people at 6:30 p. m. A warm welcome awaits you at the Baptist church.  
J. T. King, Pastor.

**MEN'S PRAYER MEETING.**

Chas. H. Jones is to be the leader for the Men's Sunday Afternoon Prayer service next Sunday and the place of meeting is to be the Presbyterian church. The lesson will be the 17th chapter of Acts. A cordial invitation is extended to others to come and visit during this service and their interest and support is urged.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.**

Attendance at the four reporting Sunday Schools in Merkel last Sunday was 679, as compared with 769 for the previous Sunday and 605 for the same Sunday a year ago.

**Try a Classified Ad in The Mail**

Advertisement in the Merkel Mail.

**MATTERS MUSICAL**

Three world famous stars, with distinguished assisting artists, will be heard in Abilene during the first week in November, in the first annual Fall Music Festival.

Clare Clairbert, the sensational new coloratura soprano of the Royal Opera in Brussels, with Carl Achatz, the great flutist, will open the festival with a recital on November 2. On November 4, lovely Doris Kenyon, well-known as a motion picture star, and San Malo one of the great violinists of the day, will appear. The course closes with a performance by Mary Garden on the evening of Nov. 6.

The Civic Auditorium Association, including in its officers some of the most prominent men and women of Abilene, has been formed to handle this important affair, which brings to that city the greatest array of world celebrated artists ever offered in one week in any American city.

Clairbert comes from Europe where she has a reputation as a dazzling personality, with one of the greatest and most brilliant coloratura voices of the generation. She is said to have great personal beauty, and has for five years been a favorite on the continent. Doris Kenyon has millions of friends who know her as one of the most beautiful and lovable of the screen stars. It will be a surprise to many to know that she has captivated both Europe and the cities of the east as a song interpreter. Her recitals in costume allow her to display a \$20,000 wardrobe which is said to be the last word in Parisian smartness.

Mary Garden's concert appearances are so rare as to be events of the first importance. For many years the most vital and colorful prima donna, Mary Garden is always front page news. She comes to Texas from a summer of swimming and taking sun baths and should be in great form for her concerts. She has notified her manager that she is stopping long enough in Paris to select a new group of concert gowns and Mary has the reputation of being one of the best dressed women in the world.

All three artists are managed by Charles L. Wagner, that distinguished New York impresario who has given the world such sterling artists as John McCormack, Galli Curci, Mary Garden, Frances Alda, Doris Kenyon, Gieseking, Harald Kreutzberg, etc., and who took Will Rogers out of the Follies and started him on his career as an international humorist and philosopher.

Season tickets for the three great evenings are priced at \$5, \$4, and \$3. Tickets can be obtained from Christine Collins, local chairman.

**Cotton Holding Plan**

(Continued from Page One.)  
Tuesday in a bullish response to the cotton conference here Monday when southern bankers, the federal farm board and the American Cotton Cooperative association agreed on a plan to withhold 7,000,000 bales from the market at least until next year. December contracts, quoted at 5.91 Saturday, jumped to 6.39, 48 points up, on first sales Tuesday.

**Satisfied customers tell the story of the lowest price Sale at Bragg Dry Goods Company.**

**THE MERKEL HOME LAUNDRY.**  
We have a large dryer for use on bad days and you can depend on us, rain or shine. Don't forget our reduced prices: five cents per pound for rough dry. We appreciate your continued patronage and want you to know we are prepared to serve you at all times.

**THE MERKEL HOME LAUNDRY.**  
Clarence Grayson, Owner.  
Mrs. S. L. Grayson, Manager.

Advertisement in the Merkel Mail.



**SHOWERS.**

Members of the Presbyterian church and a few friends met at the Presbyterian church on Wednesday afternoon for the purpose of quilting two quilts for Mrs. C. W. Delmer, whose home was destroyed by fire last week.

A musical program by Misses Edith Baker, Mary Hutcheson, Vera Walker, Christine Collins, Mollye Frank Touchstone with Mrs. Delmer at the piano made the afternoon

hours especially pleasant and at the culmination of the program a shower of lovely and useful gifts was presented to Mrs. Delmer by Mrs. Henry West. Delicious chicken salad sandwiches, punch and mints were passed to approximately thirty guests.

**KINGS DAUGHTERS.**

Mrs. V. N. Ellis was hostess to the Kings Daughters class Tuesday afternoon in her suburban home on Bettis Heights, when an enjoyable extemporaneous program was rendered. A contest of Bible questions was brain-puzzling. There were eighteen class members and two visitors present. Mrs. Ellis is such a genial hostess that the class is always delighted to meet in her home.

**SPECIALS**  
**FRIDAY AND SATURDAY**

FLOUR, Extra High Patent, every sack guaranteed, 48 lb. sack	95c
SOAP, White Laundry, 10 bars	25c
RICE, new crop, 4 pounds	25c
SYRUP, Brer Rabbit, gal	72c
PEANUT BUTTER, 1 lb. bucket	14c
PEANUT BUTTER, 5 lb. bucket	59c
MILK, baby size, 6 cans	21c
MILK, tall size, 3 cans	21c
CORN FLAKES, 3 packages	23c
COFFEE, Pure Peaberry, 2 lbs.	25c

**ELI CASE GROCERY**  
"The Home of Good Groceries"  
Phone 234 Prompt Service

**6 Reasons for having a Telephone**

1. Brings the grocery boy... when the weather is bad outside... when you've forgotten something... when you're tired.
2. Breaks the monotony of long afternoons, when you visit with friends and relatives.
3. Puts your name in the telephone book to direct friends to your home.
4. Gets the doctor quickly when there's illness in the family.
5. Tells out-of-town friends about the baby, about sickness, about having fried chicken when you drive up this week-end.
6. Tells police there's a burglar in the house... firemen there's a blaze in the basement.

Two-party line \$1.75  
Individual line \$2.00  
(Nominal charge for installing)

Ask any employee... or call the business office

**SOUTHWESTERN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY**

**Cleaning--Special On Winter Clothes**  
Friday and Saturday Only October 16-17

**We Will Clean and Press One Suit and One Overcoat for \$1.00**

**THESE PRICES ARE CASH AND CARRY**

**City Dry Cleaners**

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE

SEED WHEAT for sale. See G. W. Moore.

WANTED

ALL KINDS furniture repair work and upholstery; work guaranteed. J. T. Darsey Co.

RELIABLE DEALER WANTED to handle Heberling Products in Taylor county. Excellent opportunity for the right man. Earnings \$60 weekly not unusual. Write for free catalogue. G. C. Heberling Company, Dept. 2295, Bloomington, Ill.

WANTED—All purpose man with family to do farm and ranch work by the month. Will pay \$25 per month, house wood furnished and cow to milk. Do not apply without you have experience in this work. Sam Butman.

LODGE NOTICES

I. O. O. F. LODGE. Meets every Monday night at 7:30 o'clock. All members and visitors are cordially invited to attend. Wm. R. Cox, N. G. Wm. Elliott, Secretary.

LEGAL NOTICE

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A FIRE PREVENTION BOARD, PROVIDING FOR ITS MEMBERSHIP, ITS ORGANIZATION, PRESCRIBING ITS DUTIES AND OFFICE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Merkel, Texas:

Section 1. There is hereby created an organization for prevention of fires, which is styled the Merkel Fire Prevention Board. Hereinafter referred to as the "Board," and which shall be composed of the following personnel: W. O. Boney, Pauline Johnson, President of Lions Club, the City Fire Marshal, and the Fire Chief of the City Fire Department.

Section 2. The members of the Board shall subscribe to and take the Statutory Oath of Office as members of the Board, and shall be members of the Board as long as they hold their official positions, their successors shall succeed them as members of the Board. Provided that it is and shall be especially the duty of the City Fire Marshal and the Fire Chief to be active and alert members of the Board and to faithfully perform the duties thereof.

Section 3. The members of the Board shall elect a President, a Vice-President and a Secretary-Treasurer, and may adopt by-laws not inconsistent with this Ordinance, prescribing the terms of office and duties of officers and members of the Board, and meetings of the Board, provided that the Board shall have at least one meeting every four months, one of which shall be at the end of the fiscal year, which fiscal year shall end on the 31st day of March of each calendar year.

Section 4. It shall be the office and duty of the Board to advise and counsel the City Government and City Officers and employees as to the best and approved means and ways of prevention and extinguishing of fires, and also as to best ways and means to discourage, apprehend and to convict for the crime of arson; to advise and counsel the citizens as to the best ways and means for prevention of fires, and to recommend the most approved rules, regulations and equipment relating to the prevention and extinguishing of fires. The Board shall also advise and counsel the City Officers, the Citizens, and Fire Insurance Writers, as to rules, regulations, and inspections, relative to fire insurance of property in the city; and may when it deems proper to cause an investigation of each fire that occurs. The Board shall make an annual written report at the close of each fiscal year within its zone of action, with recommendations.

Section 5. The Board shall be authorized and empowered as in line with its office, to create with its members, a Fire Inquest Committee, whose duty it shall be to work with the City Fire Marshal in the investigation of fires.

Section 6. The City Attorney shall be the legal advisor of the Board.

Section 7. Whereas, public safety demands the immediate passage of this ordinance, creating the Merkel Fire Prevention Board and empowering the said officers to discharge the duties herein set out, therefore an emergency exists demanding a suspension of the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three several days, said rule is hereby suspended and this ordinance is placed on its first reading and final passage and

shall be effective and in full force from and after its passage and approval.

Passed October 9, 1931. W. M. Elliott, Mayor.

Attest: Mrs. Juanita Dowell, City Secretary. (Seal)

Ft. Worth Livestock

Fort Worth, Texas, Oct. 15.—The only slowness in Wednesday's cattle market was on beef steers, all other classes meeting with a good demand and clearing on a steady to strong basis. Steers remained about steady. Receipts were estimated at 2,000 head of cattle and 700 calves.

Although steers sold mostly at \$3.50 to \$4.50, a few deals were up to \$5.15. Fat cows of good quality were scarce, the best here bringing around \$3.50 to \$4.00 in package lots. A car of strong canners went at \$2.15. Fat calves reached \$5.75 and stocker calves sold up to \$5.50. Stocker heifer calves went at \$4.75.

Hogs cleared on a steady to 10c higher basis, the top being \$6.10 on loads and truckers. Receipts were limited to 250 head.

No good lambs arrived. Feeder lambs, going at \$3.25 to \$4.50, were higher. Wethers at \$2.50 were steady and fat yearlings at \$4.25 were unchanged. Sheep receipts were close to 1,200 head.

Livestock Shipments.

W. H. Manahan bought a car of mules here the past week and was preparing to ship them to Fort Worth Thursday.

Satisfied customers tell the story of the lowest price sale at Bragg Dry Goods Company.

5 1-2 per cent Federal Loans are Better Loans. Longer time, lower rates; plenty of money; never come due. W. Homer Shanks, Sec'y-Treas., Citizens N. F. L. A. Farms, Ranches, Business Property for sale or exchange. Room 1, Penney Bldg., Abilene, Texas.

A new shipment of 36-inch Prints arrived last week to sell for 10c the yard at Bragg Dry Goods Company.

Rector Gerhart a Visitor Here.

Rev. Willis P. Gerhart, rector of the Episcopal Church of the Heavenly Rest, Abilene, came over Thursday and held services for Mrs. S. G. Vaughan and Miss Dota Garoutte in the latter's home. He was accompanied by Miss Minnie Wilson, Mrs. Leger J. Ray and Mrs. Mary B. Nixon.

Saturday will be the biggest day of all—meet your friends and get your share of bargains at Bragg Dry Goods Company.

BARGAIN DAYS. From now until Dec. 31st, subscription price for The Merkel Mail in Taylor and adjoining counties is only \$1.00 per year. This will save you 50 cents, if you will renew your subscription during these three months. If you are in arrears, you can pay up the past year and extend a new year at the bargain offer of \$1.00 per year. Do it now. Offer positively expires December 31st.

Read Merkel Mail Want Ads.



DO they harass you by day and keep you awake at night?

Don't neglect them. They'll ruin your charm and beauty, alienate your friends, interfere with your success.

When you're nervous, take Dr. Miles' Nervine. It's the prescription of a successful Nerve Specialist, put up in convenient form.

Dr. Miles' Nervine is now made in two forms—Liquid and Effervescent Tablet. Both have the same soothing effect on the nerves.

\$1.00 at your drug store DR. MILES' NERVINE Liquid

A LETTER FROM HOME.

Your son or daughter off at college or finishing school will welcome the home paper just like a letter from home. The subscription price for nine months for the Merkel Mail is \$1.50 for towns and cities outside of Taylor County. (In Abilene \$1.15 for term.) Subscribe now.

Men's clothing priced astonishingly cheap this month at Bragg Dry Goods Company.

TELEPHONE THE MAIL

The Mail will be glad to receive news of entertainments or visitors in Merkel homes, as well as other news items of a general nature. If you have company, entertain friends or return from a trip please telephone 61 or 29.

Shoes for the whole family—see how cheap they are at Bragg Dry Goods Company.

Try a Classified Ad in The Mail.

Read the advertisements in this paper. There's a message in every one of them that may enable you to save money. At least you will know where to find what you want without doing a lot of hunting and asking questions, and you also know the merchants appreciate your patronage because they solicit your business and make special offerings of their goods.

Bragg Dry Goods Co. set the New Low Price Level in Merkel.

Ships under construction in France during the summer numbered 212, compared with 186 a year ago.

The biggest value giving Sale ever put on in Merkel at Bragg Dry Goods Company.

One of the earliest railroads constructed in the United States was built from Tallahassee to St. Marks, Fla.

Russia is shipping petroleum products into Brazil.

Gold production in South Africa in July totaled \$19,475,000.

Legal covers at Merkel Mail office.

Charter No. 7481 Reserve District No. 11 REPORT OF CONDITION OF THE

FARMERS & MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK

Of Merkel, in the State of Texas, at the close of business on September 29, 1931.

Table with 2 columns: RESOURCE, Amount. Includes Loans and discounts, Overdrafts, United States Government securities owned, etc.

Table with 2 columns: LIABILITIES, Amount. Includes Capital stock paid in, Surplus, Undivided profits—net, etc.

STATE OF TEXAS, County of Taylor, ss: I, Booth Warren, Cashier of the above-named bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

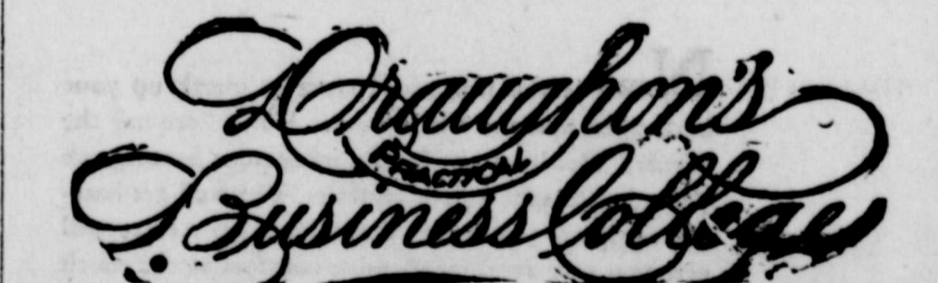
BOOTH WARREN, Cashier. Subscribed and sworn to before me this 14th day of October, 1931. ROSIE LANEY, Notary Public

(SEAL) CORRECT—Attest: J. T. WARREN, G. F. WEST, SAM BUTMAN, SR. Directors.

Wake Up Your Liver Bile —Without Calomel

And You'll Jump Out of Bed in the Morning Rin' to Go

If you feel sour and sunk and the world looks punk, don't swallow a lot of salts, mineral water, oil, laxative candy or chewing gum and expect them to make you suddenly sweet and buoyant and full of sunshine. For they can't do it. They only move the bowels and a mere movement doesn't get at the cause. The reason for your down-and-out feeling is your liver. It should pour out two pounds of liquid bile into your bowels daily.



DALLAS LUBBOCK WICHITA FALLS ABILENE, TEXAS

\$150 A MONTH Our Affiliated Employment Departments, in closer touch with thousands of business concerns than any other, has evolved a plan that enables many young people, still in their teens, to command salaries of \$1,500 to \$2,400 a year in positions that are golden with opportunities for still further promotion. Hundreds of positions annually to select from when you master the nationally known Draughon Training. Mail coupon for details of this unusual plan today.

Name Address Age (MM)

Form B-76 No. 1398

BANKS OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE HOME STATE BANK

at Trent, State of Texas, at the close of business on the 29th day of September, 1931, published in the Merkel Mail, a newspaper printed and published at Merkel, Texas, State of Texas, on the 16th day of October, 1931.

Table with 2 columns: RESOURCE, Amount. Includes Loans and discounts, Capital Stock, Surplus Fund, etc.

STATE OF TEXAS, County of Taylor: We, J. T. Warren, as President and L. E. Adrian, as Cashier of said bank, each of us, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of our knowledge and belief.

J. T. WARREN, President. L. E. ADRIAN, Cashier. Subscribed and sworn to before me this 9th day of October, A. D. 1931. ROSIE LANEY, Notary Public, Taylor County Texas

ORDER APPROVING THE COUNTY TREASURER'S REPORT.

On this 12th day of October, 1931, the Commissioners' Court of Taylor County, Texas, in regular session, compared and examined the quarterly report of Austin Fitts, Treasurer, for the quarter ending September 30, 1931, and find the same to be correct and the respective amounts have been received and paid out since the preceding report:

Table with 3 columns: Received, Paid Out, Amount. Includes Jury Fund, Precinct No. 1, Precinct No. 2, etc.

SECURITIES OWNED BY SINKING FUND.

Table with 2 columns: Amount, Amount. Includes Court House, Rd. Dist. No. 1, Rd. Dist. No. 2, etc.

BOND AND WARRANT INDEBTEDNESS—

Table with 2 columns: Amount, Amount. Includes Court House Bonds, Jail Building Bond, Highway Bonds (350 M Issue), etc.

The requirements of Article 401 P. C. have in all respects been complied with, and tabular statements have been filed as required.

TOM K. EPLEN, County Judge. G. B. TITTLE, Com. Prec. No. 1. P. A. DILTZ, Com. Prec. No. 2. J. R. TRAMMELL, Com. Prec. No. 3. S. H. McADAMS, Com. Prec. No. 4.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 12th day of October, 1931. (Seal) W.P. BOUNDS, County Clerk.

# Rural Community Correspondence

## TRENT NEWS AND PERSONALS

H. N. Smith, who suffered a stroke of paralysis Sunday, was reported Tuesday as being little improved. His sons, Walter, and wife of Lamesa, Will Smith and wife of Abilene and a daughter, Mrs. Minnis, of Fort Worth are here with him. Others of the children are expected.

Herbert Hudler of Abilene was here attending to business Tuesday. Miss Ruby Johnson is the guest of Miss Mary Evelyn Brooks of Abilene. Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Terry and children, Jean and H. B., Jr., of Clyde were guests of relatives here Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Dial, who lives in California, were guests last week of Mrs. Dial's brother, Will Williams, and family.

Mrs. Bob Martin of Abilene visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. G. Scott, last Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Tannie Jones and son, Junior, accompanied by Miss Odessa McDonald, visited at Wingate over the week-end.

Mr. W. R. Darby of Borger is the guest of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Bright.

Messrs. C. R. Rutherford of Abilene, Ben Howell of Corpus Christi were here Saturday evening for a short visit with friends and relatives. Harold Banks of Eastland was the guest of Miss Kathryn Freeman Friday.

Mrs. Adeock of Stephenville came Friday for a visit with her daughter, Mr. and Mrs. James Waters.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Winslow Beckham of Lamesa last Saturday a seven pound boy. They are now at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Beckham of Trent.

Miss Kathryn Freeman, who has been visiting her mother while recuperating from an operation, left Tuesday for Mineral Wells, Fort Worth and Arlington, where she will visit friends before returning to work. Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Pass and baby daughter, Peggy, of Abilene were guests Saturday of relatives here.

Miss Alice Bigham of Abilene spent the week-end with her grandmother, Mrs. Allen of Eskota.

Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Graham of Clyde were recent guests of Mrs. J. A. Brown.

S. H. Estep returned Friday from San Antonio where he attended a convention of Red and White grocers.

### ANNUAL CONVENTION OF HOBOES.

The annual convention of Hoboes had their get-together Friday night at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Stribling, four miles west of Trent. The honoree was L. W. Dekle of Memphis, Texas. The stew and coffee were made in two large wash pots out under the moon. Those enjoying this festive occasion were Messrs. and Madames L. E. Adrian, Ed Bowers, Volley Vessels, John Strawn, Ross Jenkins, William Reynolds, J. B. Winn, Alex Williamson, Misses Virgie Strawn, Marjorie Adrian. The children present were Dorothy Jo and Willa Dean Strawn, Billie Jo Bowers, Mark Williamson, Jake Roberts, Bobbie Jenkins, J. B. and Elizabeth Winn, Dow Ves-

sels, Mrs. Lina Striling and Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Stribling and children.

### HOME ECONOMICS CLASS.

The Trent Home Economics class of 1931-32 met Wednesday, October 7, and elected the following officers for the first six weeks: librarian, Miss Nona Burgess; president, Helen Hogue; secretary, Ada Mae Reneau, and reporter, Edith Hale.

We have Miss Nona Burgess back again as our teacher and she has planned many interesting studies for the class. All members are more interested this term than ever before and intend to make this a successful school term. We invite everyone out to visit us and to see what the Trent Home Economics class can do.

The members are: Helen Hogue, Ada Mae Reneau, Mildred Steadman, Helen Bright, Edith Hale, Fannie Vessels, Sarah Julia Johnson, Asha McLeod, Joe Ella McLeod, Victorine Bishop.

### SPANISH CLUB ORGANIZED.

The students of the first and second year Spanish classes organized a Spanish club "El Clubo Progressivo" last Friday. The club plans to give interesting programs throughout the year. The club is studying a Spanish paper, "La Luz," which gives history of Spain, news events and jokes.

The officers are: president, Ada Mae Reneau; vice president, Sally Freeman; secretary, Sarah Julia Johnson, and reporter, John Hamner.

### HISTORY CLUB.

The Trent History classes met to organize a History club on Monday, Oct. 12. Plans were made for one of the most pleasant and profitable school years in history.

The following officers were elected: president, Johnnie Terry; vice president, Dave Howell; secretary, Sallie Freeman; treasurer, John Hamner; reporter, Sarah Julia Johnson, and sponsor, Nona Burgess.

### CHURCH OF CHRIST.

Bible study 10 a. m. Worship 11 a. m. Prayer meeting Tuesday 7:30 p. m. Ladies' Bible class each Thursday 3 p. m. You are invited to these services.

L. E. Carpenter, Minister.

## CANYON NEWS

The heavy rains, which fell here Monday night, have prevented us from pulling any bolls this week.

Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Matthews and daughter, Willie Pearl, and little niece, Elizabeth, motored to Merkel Tuesday and spent the day.

Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Neill visited Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Eaves Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Toombs and Mr. and Mrs. Dewell McLean dined with Mr. and Mrs. Wade Ensminger Sunday.

Friends and neighbors of Uncle Dan Matthews gathered at his farm Thursday, Oct. 8, and gave him a cotton picking, gathering 3 1-2 bales, also hauling it to the gin.

Rev. Marvin Williams filled the pulpit at the Nubia M. E. church Sunday and Sunday night. A large crowd attended both services.

Saturday at 2 p. m. heavy 36-inch Outing for 9 cents—Brown's Bargain Store.

## Commissioners Decide To Discontinue County Agents After Dec. 1st

The commissioners court of Taylor county Monday declared itself compelled to discontinue payments on the salaries of C. Metz Heald, county farm agent, and Miss Caroline Chambers, home demonstration agent, after December 1, when the present contract expires.

The court's action was taken, very reluctantly, after a four hours' session and following the appearance of Heald and T. B. Wood, district agent from College Station, who stated that Heald and Miss Chambers each would accept a 10 per cent cut if that would allow the work to go on. The court did not accept the proposal.

Unless some way out of the dilemma is found, and if funds are not secured, the work—to whose value all present attested heartily—will have to be discontinued in the county.

G. B. Tittle, commissioner for Precinct 1, said he would advance a \$1,500 loan from his precinct to the county general fund, re-payable in 1933, as a means of continuing the agents' salary payments, if the other commissioners would do the same. Sid McAdams, the No. 4 commissioner, gave warm endorsement to the work but said his precinct funds were too low to allow a transfer. Tittle then broadened his proposal, offering to help "carry" McAdams if Commissioners P. A. Diltz and J. R. Trammell, of precincts 2 and 3, would put up their pro rata; but they said it could not be done.

At Diltz' suggestion a vote was taken on the question of retaining the two agents. Tittle and McAdams voted aye and Diltz and Trammell no. Tom K. Eplen, county judge, broke the tie by voting no with Diltz and Trammell. The motion was then made unanimous.

The county pays \$4,000 per annum

on the salaries of the two agents, the state extension service paying the balance. Formerly the Abilene chamber of commerce paid the portion now handled by the county. Regardless of future action, the work will be continued through November. "Our work is used in cooperation," said Wood, the district agent. "If the county finds itself unable to co-operate, there is nothing for us to do but remove the agents. It is up to the people. It's their fight, not ours."

## BLAIR ITEMS

Mr. and Mrs. Ed McCrary of Merkel were the interesting guests of Mr. and Mrs. O. L. Mayfield Sunday.

Carl Hughes, accompanied by his brother, Earl Hughes of Abilene, attended the bedside of their aunt, Mrs. Tom Christopher, who is critically ill at Lamesa.

Mrs. Tom Spears and family, accompanied by their nephew and family, motored to Valera and visited their son, Henry Spears, and family one day recently.

Master Leon Toombs, Jr., enjoyed a week-end visit with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Frazee Demere, of the Canyon and Mr. and Mrs. Demere accompanied him home Sunday.

Emmett Morris and Robert Moore left Wednesday for Post City where they have accepted employment.

E. O. Carson of Merkel was seen in our midst Sunday.

John Meeks and family spent a pleasant day in the home of their son, Mr. and Mrs. Earnest Meeks, of Butman Sunday.

Rev. John Reynolds of Abilene will fill the Baptist pulpit Saturday night and Sunday.

Elder Charlie Bankhead of Merkel preached at the Church of Christ Sunday night.

See our advertisement on special offer of certified seed. C. V. Shelton and Lee Harrell.

## COMPERE NEWS

Cotton picking is in full swing in our community. A few farmers have about finished.

Several friends and neighbors helped to gather the crop of George Smith one day last week. Mr. Smith has been on the sick list for several weeks.

Mrs. C. L. Palmer spent Sunday with Mrs. Jake Foster.

Several Compere people were Merkel visitors last Saturday.

J. M. Taylor and wife of Quitman were in our vicinity last Sunday. They will teach in the Compere school this year.

There were quite a few people from Salt Branch, Warren, and Noodle at the singing at Zion Chapel Sunday. Everyone come out and learn the new songs.

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Palmer spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Cranston of Hodges.

Farmers would all rejoice to see a

good rain so that they could sow their grain. It is more than one hundred days since we have had any rain.

C. M. Foster made a business trip to Abilene last week.

Later—a good rain fell in our community since our letter was started, for which we are all very thankful.

Office supplies—Mail office.

**BAYER ASPIRIN**  
Is always **SAFE**

*Demand this package*



**Beware of Imitations**

**GENUINE Bayer Aspirin**, the kind doctors prescribe and millions of users have proven safe for more than thirty years, can easily be identified by the name Bayer and the word genuine as above.

Genuine Bayer Aspirin is safe and sure; always the same. It has the unqualified endorsement of physicians and druggists everywhere. It doesn't depress the heart. No harmful after-effects follow its use.

Bayer Aspirin is the universal antidote for pains of all kinds.

Headaches    Neuritis  
Colds        Neuralgia  
Sore Throat    Lumbago  
Rheumatism    Toothache

Aspirin is the trade-mark of Bayer manufacture of monoacetic acid ester of salicylic acid.

**EL PASO'S NEWEST AND FINEST**  
El Paso Headquarters  
National Aeronautical Association  
**300 ROOMS** . . . \$2 up  
Only hotel in city using soft water  
When in El Paso meet your friends in our Lobby and Lounge. Make yourself at home whether you stop with us over night or not.  
HARRY L. HUSSMANN, President  
**HOTEL HUSSMANN**  
"On the Plaza"  
EL PASO, TEXAS

There was a time

—when old-fashioned heating systems blistered your face while your back shivered.



But now . . .

with natural gas, winter is just another pleasant season in the modern home.

## A timely reminder

Days are growing shorter, nights longer, and the first cold days of winter are on the way.

**N**ow is the practical time to check up your heating equipment while winter is still "around the corner." Don't let obsolete or inadequate heating rob you of a pleasant indoor climate. Improved gas heating equipment and your dependable gas service will give you care-free, inexpensive comfort at the touch of a match and you'll find just the type heater to fit your particular need on display at your gas company or appliance dealer's.

If this were a gasless community, the next order of business would be laying in a supply of coal or wood. Of course,

your dependable gas service makes this fuss and bother unnecessary. All through the summer months your gas company has been "keeping your fuel service faithful"—improving facilities so that you may have the safety and security of a dependable natural gas supply again this winter.

**15c** . . . Natural Gas is still the least expensive item in your annual cost of living. The average gas bill, throughout the year, for cooking, HEATING and hot water supply is but 15c a day. . . .

An ample gas supply has been provided . . . pipe lines and distributing lines have been checked over . . . compressor stations have been overhauled. In fact, every detail of your gas service has been carefully perfected to assist you in stopping Jack Frost at the threshold of your home.

## Baby Chicks

Now is the time to buy. Get my prices

## KIRK'S HATCHERY

606 Mockingbird Lane Abilene, Texas

## WATCHES—DIAMONDS—SILVERWARE

FINE REPAIRING  
OPTICAL SERVICE

CONVENIENT TERMS AT CASH PRICES

*Kilgore Jewelry Co.*

210 Cypress

Abilene, Texas

LONE STAR  
**Community Natural Gas Co.**  
GAS SYSTEM

**Much Activity on Program for WTUC Maintenance Crews**

Abilene, Oct. 15.—Featured by electric service extensions in various parts of its widespread properties, the current construction program of the West Texas Utilities company indicates a period of considerable activity for its construction and maintenance crews, according to information received from the company's offices here recently. Additions to water facilities in the Panhandle district and improvements to existing electric facilities also are included in the report.

The projects, which will carry modern and dependable transmission line electric service to new customers, are scheduled for immediate completion.

Crews at San Angelo will construct a transformer rack, string a four-wire primary line and hang primary metering equipment to serve the Homer Byrd feed mill with electric power. The extension of a two-wire, single-phase line into the Hillcrest Addition, to serve new customers, is also scheduled at San Angelo.

At Mason, two secondary lines will be extended to supply electric service to new residential customers; at Robert Lee, Santa Anna and Junction, secondary extensions will serve new customers; the L. E. Whitham Paving company, at Paducah, will be furnished with electric power through the extension of a three-phase line and installation of transformer equipment, and a new secondary line at Valera will serve the Santa Fe Railway depot.

Adding another cotton gin to the many now using clean, efficient electric power, the construction of a transformer rack and extension of a primary line at Quanah will furnish power to the Farmers Cooperative gin.

New parkway cable will be installed and seven new lighting standards erected on Butternut street, Abilene, to increase the effectiveness of the city's whiteway system.

Improvements to the company's facilities are planned at Stratford, where the street in front of the company's new office building will be paved; at Winters and Rising Star, where highway construction makes necessary the replacing of lines, and at Mason, where service will be improved through the extension of a new primary line.

Extensions and additions to water facilities will be made at Dalhart. Six-inch mains will be extended 720 feet to install a new fire hydrant, improve service and serve new customers, and a two-inch main will be ex-

Let's Hope It Will "Take"

By Albert T. Reid



tended into a new and rapidly-growing residential section. Regular construction and maintenance crews will be used on all of the work reported, according to the West Texas Utilities company construction department.

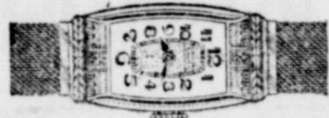
**Saturday at 2 p. m. heavy 36-inch Outing for 9 cents—Brown's Bargain Store.**

New Hampshire farmers who have been marketing Christmas trees cooperatively may try the same method with maple syrup.

Use The Mail Want Ads.

**YOU WILL FIND ME AT BLUE FRONT GARAGE EARL TEAGUE Tinner and Plumber**  
Phones  
Residence 154 Shop 60  
Satisfaction Guaranteed

**BARGAIN DAYS.**  
From now until Dec. 31st, subscription price for The Merkel Mail in Taylor and adjoining counties is only \$1.00 per year. This will save you 50 cents, if you will renew your subscription during these three months. If you are in arrears, you can pay up the past year and extend a new year at the bargain offer of \$1.00 per year.



**C. M. PRESLEY Jeweler**  
Watches—Diamonds—Silverware  
Abilene, Texas 209 Pine St.

Do it now. Offer positively expires December 31st.

Try a Classified Ad in the Mail

**CRAZY CRYSTALS FOR RHEUMATISM**

I have been using Crazy Crystals for Rheumatism, and I find they have done wonders for me. For six weeks or more I could hardly get around to do what little house-work I had to do, but now after using them some ten or twelve days I feel like a new woman.

Mrs. M. E. Moss  
101 Macon, Canon City, Colo.

**CRAZY WATER CO.**  
Mineral, Wells, Texas

**No Taxes for Lyons, Miss.**  
Lyons, Miss., Oct. 15.—No taxes for 1932 is the announcement of the board of aldermen here. The city is entirely out of debt and there are sufficient funds in the treasury to meet the expenses of the coming year.

**Morgan and Laval Confer.**  
Paris, Oct. 15.—J. P. Morgan conferred Tuesday morning with Premier Pierre Laval, who sails for the United States on Oct. 16. There was no announcement regarding the nature of their conversation.

Try a Classified Ad for Results

Legal covers at Merkel Mail office.

**New LOW FARES to FT. WORTH DALLAS-EL PASO**  
AND ALL WEST TEXAS POINTS



ONE WAY FARES	
Fort Worth	\$3.35
Dallas	4.10
Abilene	.30
El Paso	7.80
Ranger	1.55
Los Angeles	\$24.30

**TERMINAL**  
Ferrier's Service Station  
Phone 210

**PROSPERITY IS NEVER SAFE**

Prosperity is never safe unless it rests upon protection.

Your home is never safe.

Protect it by insurance. Your business is surrounded by risks. Insure it. Your valuables are always in danger unless protected by insurance. Insure your present prosperity to remain prosperous. We can help you.

**W. O. BONEY**  
MERKEL, TEXAS

Farm Loans and all kinds of Insurance  
Consult Your Insurance Agent as you Would Your Doctor or Lawyer.

**PROFESSIONAL**

**PAULINE JOHNSON**  
Successor to  
**G. W. JOHNSON**  
Insurance—Notary Public  
In new location, next door to McDonald Barber Shop—Elm St.  
Merkel, Texas

**LEN SUBLETT**  
Water Well Driller, all work guaranteed first class  
Merkel, Texas  
Phone 164w P. O. Box 224

**LEE R. YORK JOHN L. CAMP**  
**YORK AND CAMP**  
Attorneys-at-Law  
Civil Practice in all Courts. Special attention to land titles and probate matters.  
711 and 712 Mims Building  
ABILENE, TEXAS

**BATTERIES**  
13-Plate now from \$4.00 exchange up.  
**BUY AT HOME**  
**S. M. HUNTER**  
Phone 25 Corner Garage

**Dr. L. C. Zehnpfennig**  
Dentist  
General Practice of Dentistry  
Office, Merkel Sanitarium  
Phone 163

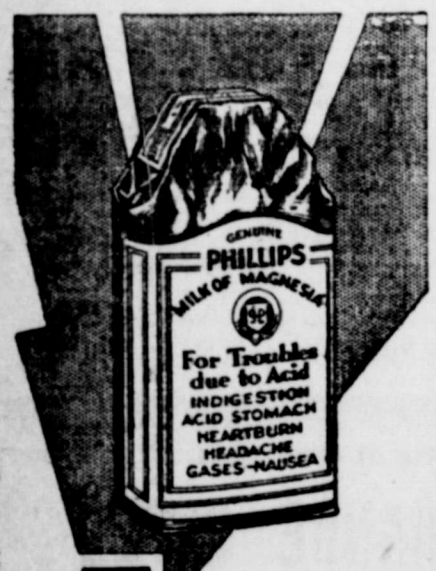
**Curley's Repair Shop**  
All kinds of auto work.  
Generator and Starter Service especially featured  
Wrecker Service Day or Night  
At Corner Garage Phone 25

**Dr. W. T. Sadler**  
Announces the opening of his office in connection with  
**Dr. Wayne V. Ramsey.**  
Farmers State Bank Bldg.,  
Merkel, Texas  
Phones: Office 78, Merkel: 4800,  
Abilene: Residence, 169, Merkel

**SWEETWATER MARBLE AND GRANITE WORKS**  
for

**Mrs. W. D. Hutcherson**  
Local Representative  
**Sam Dryden & Son**  
Abilene, Texas  
Granite and Marble Monuments  
Phone 179 Merkel, Texas

**MEMORIALS OF MARBLE OR GRANITE ALSO CONCRETE COPING**  
**J. T. COATS, Local Rep.**  
Merkel, Texas  
Phone 274W.



**SOUR STOMACH**

JUST a tasteless dose of Phillips Milk of Magnesia in water. That is an alkali, effective, yet harmless. It has been the standard antacid for 50 years. One spoonful will neutralize at once many times its volume in acid. It is the right way, the quick, pleasant and efficient way to kill the excess acid. The stomach becomes sweet, the pain departs. You are happy again in five minutes. But don't depend on crude methods. Try the best way yet evolved in all the years of searching. That is Phillips Milk of Magnesia.

Be sure to get the genuine Phillips Milk of Magnesia, the kind that the physicians prescribe. "Milk of Magnesia" has been the U. S. Registered Trade Mark of The Charles H. Phillips Chemical Company and its predecessor Charles H. Phillips since 1875.

**666**

LIQUID OR TABLETS  
Relieves a Headache or Neuralgia in 30 minutes, checks a Cold the first day and checks Malaria in three days.  
**666 Salve for Baby's Cold.**

**WALTER FRANKLIN PALACE**  
SWEETWATER  
2 til 10 Continuous  
DAILY AND SUNDAY

**"More genuine satisfaction than any car I ever owned"**

**THE FORD** is good-looking. It is safe. Comfortable. Speedy. Reliable. Long-lived. Economical. Everything a good car should be.



There is, too, an added something about it that brings enthusiastic comments from every one who has ever driven a Ford . . . the joy it puts in motoring.

"I have been a car owner continuously for nearly 20 years," writes a motorist connected with a leading university. "During this period I have bought eleven new automobiles. Eight of the eleven were in the middle-price field, one cost three thousand dollars, and the last is a Ford I purchased thirteen months ago.

"In the light of this experience I can say in all sincerity that I have derived more genuine satisfaction from the Ford than any car I ever owned. In

saying this, I am thinking in terms of comfort, safety, driving pleasure, ease of control and economy. My next car will also be a Ford because it will give me what I want at a price I can afford to pay."

When you get behind the wheel of the Ford and drive it yourself you will know it is a truly remarkable car at a low price. You will like it when you first buy it. You will become more and more enthusiastic the longer you drive it.

After thousands of miles of driving you will say "it's a great car." Its economy will save you many dollars.

FIFTEEN DIFFERENT BODY TYPES

**\$430 to \$640**

(P. O. B. Detroit, plus freight and delivery. Dealers and those who order at low cost. Easy time payments through the authorized Ford Finance Plans of the Universal Credit Company.)

**FORD MOTOR COMPANY**

**Electric Consumption Figures Augur Greatly Improved Conditions**

Abilene, Oct. 15.—Indicative of brighter business prospects in the near future, the week-to-week power output chart of the West Texas Utilities company shows that production of electric power by the company has, for the first time this year, soared above that recorded during 1929 and 1930. From September 12th to October 10th, the company's power output was greater than for a similar period last year, and for two of the weeks included in the four-week period, the total output climbed above both 1930 and 1929, according to an optimistic report received from the company's offices here yesterday.

Economists consider electric output statistics an accurate indication of general trends, and for this reason it is believed that the increased production reported by the West Texas Utilities company augurs greatly improved general business conditions.

Total production for the four-week period of this year amounted to 20,412,600 kilowatt-hours, which was approximately five per cent above the total for the same period during 1930, and within less than two per cent of the total during the boom year, 1929.

Price Campbell, president of the West Texas Utilities company, said, "This is the first time during 1931 that our electric output has gone above both 1930 and 1929, and we feel that this upward trend is indicative of the general condition of this territory."

"And, too," he continued, "our records show that during the month of September this company gained 448 electric customers, the most substantial gain recorded this year to date. For the past several months there has been a decrease in number of customers, and this considerable increase is further evidence that conditions throughout West Texas are taking a turn for the better."

**Personal Mention**

Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Thomas visited friends in Sweetwater Sunday.

Mrs. W. M. O'Brian is visiting friends and relatives in Cross Plains. Miss Fannie Belle Boaz spent the week-end with friends in Mineral Wells.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lyons of Dallas are guests of Mr. and Mrs. Dee Grimes.

Mrs. W. H. Walker of Abilene was a recent guest of Misses Pauline and Ona Johnson.

Lester Beene of Comanche is here visiting his sister, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Thomas.

Mr. and Mrs. M. R. Blake of Paducah were guests of the former's brother, G. W. Blake, and family last week-end.

Mesdames Josie Whitaker and Burl Wheeler of Abilene were over one day this week to pay a visit to Mrs. B. Jenkins.

Mrs. John G. Key and daughters, Irby and Towner, of Winters visited her daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Milton Case, Tuesday.

Dr. and Mrs. O. W. Little of Decatur were week-end guests of Mr. and Mrs. George Caple and will return this week for another visit.

Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Partridge returned Sunday to their home at Humble after a visit here with Mrs. Partridge's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. Willie Moore.

See our advertisement on special offer of certified seed. C. V. Shelton and Lee Harrell.

Check up on your covers—"Winter is just around the corner." You can buy a good part Wool Double Blanket for \$1.95 at Bragg Dry Goods Company.

**Queen Theatre**

Friday Night-Saturday

Gary Cooper-Carole Lombard in

"I Take This Woman" A clean, high class part Western Also Comedies

Sunday Matinee, 2 to 6 p. m. Also Monday Night

Jack Holt in

"White Shoulders"

A South Sea Island Picture Also Comedy and News Reel

Admission Only

10c and 25c

**Opening of Duck Season is Delayed Until November 16**

Hunters planning to open the duck and game season on October 16, the date stated on the back of state licenses issued, will have to wait until November 16, W. T. St. John, game warden, has warned.

A federal proclamation limiting the season on these birds from noon, November 16, to December 15, inclusive has just been issued and the state law, permitting hunting from October 16 through January 31, is therefore void, St. John explained.

Bag limit for ducks is 15, an aggregate of all kinds, for one day, and not more than 30 in possession, while hunters may shoot four geese a day, and possess not more than eight.

**STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP.**

Management, Circulation, Etc., Required by the Act of Congress of August 24, 1912.

Of the Merkel Mail, published weekly at Merkel, Texas, for October 1, 1931.

State of Texas, County of Taylor, ss:

Before me, a Notary Public in and for the State and County aforesaid, personally appeared C. J. Glover, Jr., who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the manager of the Merkel Mail and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management, etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, embodied in section 411, Postal Laws, and Regulations:

1. Publishers: George E. Caple and C. J. Glover, Jr., both of Merkel, Texas; editor, C. J. Glover, Jr., Merkel, Texas.

2. Owners: George E. Caple and C. J. Glover, Jr., both of Merkel, Texas.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: Mergenthaler Linotype Co., Brooklyn, N. Y.; Mrs. Maggie M. Jackson, Abilene, Texas. C. J. Glover, Jr. (Signature of Editor.)

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 9th day of October, 1931. (Seal) N. D. Cobb, Notary Public, Taylor County, Texas.

**Seated "Electrical Tea" at WTU Office**

The local office of the West Texas Utilities company has extended invitations to customers to attend an interesting seated "Electrical Tea" to be held in their office from 3 to 5 p. m. this Thursday at which time Miss Eudora Hawkins home service director of the company will be present.

Refreshments will be served and a delightful time is promised.

On Friday afternoon at the same hours, the West Texas Utilities company will have the same ladies present at a seated "Electrical Tea" at the M. G. Scott grocery at Trent.

A new shipment of 36-inch Prints arrived last week to sell for 10c the yard at Bragg Dry Goods Company.

**BARGAIN DAYS.**

From now until Dec. 31st, subscription price for The Merkel Mail in Taylor and adjoining counties is only \$1.00 per year. This will save you 50 cents, if you will renew your subscription during these three months. If you are in arrears, you can pay up the past year and extend a new year at the bargain offer of \$1.00 per year. Do it now. Offer positively expires December 31st.

Saturday at 2 p. m. heavy 36-inch Outing for 9 cents—Brown's Bargain Store.

Huston's Wife Seeks Divorce. Reno, Nev., Oct. 15.—Walter Huston, featured player in Paramount Pictures, was sued for divorce here Tuesday by Bayone Whipple Huston. The charge was desertion. Mr. and Mrs. Huston married at Little Rock, Ark., in 1915.

Bragg Dry Goods Co. set the New Low Price Level in Merkel.

**Henry N. Smith, 75, Pioneer Ranchman, Dies at Trent Home**

Funeral services were to be held at 3:30 Thursday afternoon at the Methodist church at Trent, with Rev. U. S. Sherrill, the pastor, officiating, for Henry Newton (Tid) Smith, who was 75 years of age on June 5th past and who died at 4:25 Thursday morning at his home at Trent. He was a pioneer ranchman of this section, having come to West Texas as a young man and settling north of Trent in Jones county in 1900. About ten years ago he retired from ranching and moved to Trent.

He was born June 5, 1856, in Gatesville and was married August 9, 1880, to Miss Lovey Anne Barlow. Besides his wife he is survived by ten children, who were all with him when death came. The children are: O. N. Smith, Fort Worth; Mrs. Tom Gallo-way, Barnhart; W. E. Smith, Abilene; W. J. Smith, Lamesa; C. C. Smith, Denton; Frank Smith, Anson; Mrs. Tom Williamson, Trent; Mrs. Maga Pauline Mennis, Fort Worth; Henry Smith, Vernon, and Mrs. C. B. Dempsey, San Antonio.

A brother, W. A. Smith, with his wife and son of Purlmela, Texas, were also present at the time of his death and another brother, J. F. Smith, of Marietta, Texas, and a sister, Mrs. Robert Eplen, of Purlmela were expected to arrive in time for the funeral services. Mrs. Pat Coyne of Veneda, Okla., a granddaughter, was present and, besides her, he is survived by 27 other grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

Interment was to be at the Trent cemetery. Active pall bearers were to be: Alex Williamson, George Wells, Big Spring, John Abernathy, R. M. Beasley, W. R. McLeod and O. L. Eishop. Honorary: E. L. Mangum, P. C. Forrester, Cal Hamner, B. Sipe.

S. H. Estep, S. H. Kelsey, Sweetwater, L. A. Ridder, Sweetwater, and C. O. Burks.

Have you tried on the new style Felt Hats for only \$1.95 at Bragg Dry Goods Company.

Shoes for the whole family—see how cheap they are at Bragg Dry Goods Company.

Mrs. Christopher Unimproved. Friends have been advised by Mrs. Len Sublett that the condition of her mother, Mrs. T. H. Christopher, is practically unchanged since she was taken worse a week ago, except that she is growing weaker. Mrs. Sublett is at her bedside in Lamesa and all the other children are also there.

Mail want ads pay dividends.

**THE RED & WHITE STORES**

**SPECIALS**

**FOR FRIDAY AND SATURDAY**

**OCTOBER 16 AND 17**

**SPUDS 10 lbs. 15c**

**CABBAGE, fresh green, lb. 2c**

**LETTUCE, firm crisp head 5c**

**YAMS, fresh and fine, 10 lbs. for 25c**

**ONIONS, Spanish Sweet, lb. 4c**

**APPLES, Jonathan, doz. 17c**

**LEMONS, dozen 25c**

**GRAPEFRUIT, Texas, 2 for 9c**

**SUGAR, pure cane, cloth bag, 10 lbs. 53c**

**SOUP, R & W, Tomato or vegetable, 3 cans 25c**

**CORN, R & W, 2 cans 27c**

**TOMATOES, No. 2 cans, 3 for 23c**

**PORK & BEANS, Campbells, 2 cans for 15c**

**SPINACH, No. 1 can, 2 for 23c**

**SALMON, No. 1 Nile, per can 10c**

**SOAP, P & G or Crystal White, 3 bars 10c**

**BEANS, Pinto, 5 lbs. for 17c**

**POST TOASTIES, 2 pkgs. 21c**

**CRACKERS, Salad Wafers, 1 lb. pkg. 15c**

**CRACKERS, Salad Wafers, 2 lb. pkg. 27c**

**Compound 8 pound pail 61c**

**HAM, Armours Star, whole, lb. 16c**

**JOWLS, dry salt, lb. 9c**

**BACON, slice, sugar cured, lb. 21c**

**LEST YOU FORGET**

WE DO



When you are in need of job work, think twice before you send it out of town. If you will have the Merkel Mail do your work, you will get some of this money back.

THIS IS SOMETHING FOR YOU TO THINK ABOUT

PHONE 61

**The Merkel Mail**

**SPECIAL EXCHANGE OFFER**

You can plant your entire cotton crop next year with Harper's Pedigreed Seed, direct from Robt. Harper's Breeding Farms, without being out one cent of money, and here is how you can do it. For each four (4) pounds of your common gin-run seed, we will exchange one (1) pound of Harper's pure Pedigreed Seed and pay the freight to your station.

**It's Simple, Here is All You Have to Do**

Bring what common ordinary gin-run seed you want to exchange to us and you will be credited with the seed and in return we will have shipped to you one (1) pound of pure Pedigreed Harper Seed, double culled, sacked in new Trade-Mark bags, treated with Ceresan, freight paid, for each four (4) pounds of gin-run seed you deliver us.

**THIS OFFER EXPIRES OCTOBER 31, 1931**

You will plant less cotton next year, so plant better seed. Take advantage of my Special Exchange Offer. DO IT NOW.

Harper's have two breeding farms, and it is understood we have the right to ship the Pedigreed Seed from either farm we wish.

**NOTICE**

If you have no common seed you want to trade for Pedigreed Seed, and wish to buy the seed, take advantage of my special price for cash. October delivery.

**—PRICES—**

**3 Bushels \$1.35 per Bushel. 6 Bushels or more, \$1.25 per Bushel.**

Freight paid in Texas. Texas freight allowed on out of state shipments. All seed treated with Ceresan. Germination averaging over 90 per cent.

**SEE C. V. SHELTON OR LEE HARRELL**