

**ACTING THE FOOL**

A boy living near Burton has been arrested for blackmail, for having written two threatening letters to a merchant of Brenham demanding money. The boy has confessed to the charge and now awaits trial in the federal courts. A merchant received a letter demanding \$1000, if not placed at a certain place the merchant would be killed. A decoy package was placed at the spot and the package soon disappeared. A second letter was sent, repeating the threats.

The sheriff of Washington County and party watched the spot from Friday until Sunday morning when a young man rode up on a horse and picked up the package placed at the spot designated in the letters. The boy left quickly, followed by the sheriff who called upon the boy to halt. The boy would not halt, and the sheriff was forced to shoot the horse which was a fine beautiful animal in order to stop the fleeing boy.

The boy Robert Mayer is 18 years of age and is from a good family of that county. He says that he wanted the money to buy an automobile and he got the idea while passing by a show window of the merchant when he thought he could scare the merchant into giving the money. The boy will have plenty of time to repent, because blackmail is no little offense with Uncle Sam.