

ROUGH RANGERS OF TEXAS

War Waged for Sixty Years on Cattle Thieves and Desperados.

SPLENDID RECORD OF THE ORGANIZATION

Preparations for a Reunion at San Antonio—Story of Life Told by a Three-Year Recruit.

The Texas Rangers, an organization made up of former members of various companies of the Lone Star state's famous frontier fighters, will meet in San Antonio, Tex., Nov. 2.

Those men were the original Texas Rangers, and their example has ever been in the mind of their successors.

But wars have been but incidents in the career of the Rangers. For they have been fighting a war of their own on the Texas frontier for over sixty years.

It was my high privilege to be a Texas Ranger for nearly three years—from 1875 to 1878—and I therefore feel qualified in any measure to act as their historian.

But wars have been but incidents in the career of the Rangers. For they have been fighting a war of their own on the Texas frontier for over sixty years.

They were all well educated young fellows, many of them college graduates, in whose veins flowed the best blood of the south and southwest.

They had sought excitement out on the open prairies where wild cattle and wild horses still roamed at will.

Under McNelly we found all the adventure we sought, and in the first year of my years I was with the company we had nearly thirty open battles with Mexican raiders and Texas desperados.

They were men who were obedient to their superior officers in time of action than the Rangers, and probably in no like organization was there ever such a lack of "military discipline" when there was work to do.

I remember one incident of our camp life which will illustrate our lack of so-called discipline in times of peace.

We were encamped at the upper end of the long, straggling village of Las Ruetas, on the Rio Grande, some forty miles above Brownsville.

As the shelter of a tent over me at night. If it rained, we pulled our hats over our faces—for raindrops are cold when they strike the bare skin at night.

Well armed with six-shooters and carbines, tireless riders, ready at all times to seek danger, quick to shoot and well able to shoot straight, McNelly's Rangers were a formidable body of men and it did not take long for their fame as fighters to spread from one end of the state to the other.

On one occasion thirty of us pursued a body of Mexican raiders five miles into Mexico and fought them there. They outnumbered us more than ten to one and they fought their best, but we killed twenty-seven of them and finally brought the others to terms and made them return the cattle they had stolen.

With twenty-five men we went to the stronghold of King Fisher's great band of desperados, numbering hundreds of the most desperate outlaws in Texas.

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three-quarters of a mile from our camp, a protracted fandango was in progress and we knew it. It so happened that at this time nearly all the boys were in bed standing with Captain McNelly and Lieutenant Robinson for going across the Rio Grande a few nights before and shooting out the lights at a fandango there.

Right in the middle of the fun Lieutenant Robinson suddenly appeared with notebook and pencil in hand. He was cordially invited to get a partner, but he quietly declined and as quietly ordered the six Rangers to report for extra guard duty at 6 a. m.

Now Rudd was something of a martinet on a heartrending degree, so we knew he would not be so easily led astray as Orrell had been.

But very few of McNelly's Texas Rangers are alive now. Many of them were "over the range" in the service of the state, and others have scattered far and wide.

There are a very few Rangers still in the service of the state, but their work is light now compared to what their predecessors had cut out for them.

As a rule the women of all classes are as straight as the wall of a house, if not straighter. A plumb line dropped from the nose of the neck would, in most instances, fall well behind the head.

The carriage and wagon of the native women of Manila are thus described by a returning traveler: "As a rule the women of all classes are as straight as the wall of a house, if not straighter."

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GREED THE MOTIVE FOR WAR

Story of British Aggression in South Africa Told by an American Officer.

ENORMOUS COST OF THE STRUGGLE

Not the Wrong of the Outlanders, But the Greed of Mines and Rhodes' Politics, the Cause of It—Probable Duration.

The opening of hostilities between England and the South African Republic marks the beginning of the last act of the drama which has been played in Africa for fifty years.

The modern policy of England is strictly utilitarian. British diplomacy goes hand in hand with British aggression, seeking a market for British manufactures and commerce for England's great merchant marine.

England's territorial aggrandizement dates from the time of the great Elizabeth. Cabot, Drake and Ptolemy were pioneers in that exploration of the seas which forms the most honorable period of England's annals.

There is no analogy between the position of the British in South Africa and that of the people of the United States in regard to the war with Spain.

The moral responsibilities of England in engaging in a fight to a finish with the Boers are appalling. The English army is eager to avenge the degradation of Moscow.

Another war affecting the destiny of a great power was as quickly to be concluded as our struggle with Spain for the domination of the Caribbean.

How vastly more difficult are the military problems of England in regard to a successful conquest of the South African Republic.

The removal of the wounded, the transport of diseased troops, will be matters presenting minimum difficulties as to time and expense.

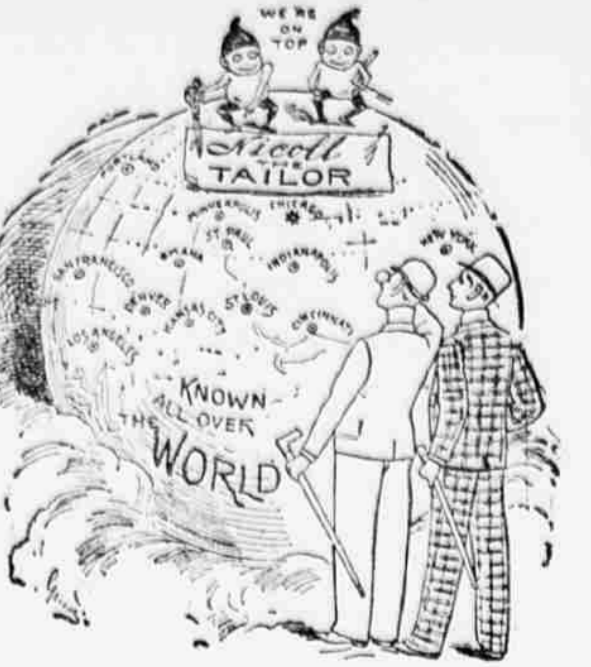
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