

REAL AMERICAN MATADOR

Harper Lee of Texas Surprises the Experts of Mexico.

OUTDOES MEXICAN IN THE RING

Texas by Birth, He's Turned Professional Bull Fighter and Won Fame on His First Appearance.

MEXICO CITY, July 17.—For the first time in the history of the bull ring an American has entered the field, Harper Lee, a native of Texas and a resident in Mexico for the last fourteen years, after a six months' practice in Guadalajara, made his debut in Mexico City in June of this year as a bull fighter.

His reception was immense. Never did a bull fighter receive a greater ovation than did Lee on the completion of the day's sport. Carried on the shoulders of a riotous and exultant crowd, he was taken from the center of "El Torero" ring to his carriage awaiting on the outside.

The success of the American bull fighter means the invasion by Saxon blood of the Latin sport. At least that is the view taken by the Spanish editor of a Mexican paper. This writer compared the toreros of his country unfavorably with those capable of being produced by the cool blood of the Saxons.

Lee has been in Mexico so long that his command of Spanish is perfect. He speaks it fluently and makes his bow before the president of the day in the bull ring with all the flourish of the dandy.

His patients are now being in Guadalajara. In that town he learned bull fighting by participating in amateur corridas. His extreme indifference to danger signalled him out as a most promising torero.

After the amateur bull fight Lee's fame went up with a bound. He was taken in charge by an old Spanish torero and taught all of the little inside tricks of the game.

Professionalism by signing with a number of small bullrings in the towns in the states to the north of the capital. His success in these cities soon became known in Mexico.

Regular reports of his feats in the bullrings of Guadalajara, Aguascalientes, Chihuahua and Torreon were printed in the bull fighting section of the Mexican papers.

At Torreon he was caught by a bull and tossed into the air. He fell on his head, getting a wrenched neck and a deep wound in his thigh. He was forced to suspend fighting for a time.

Lee came to Mexico and began training in the way he had done on former occasions. This was a great surprise to the "aficionados," which might be translated "fans," who read in the Mexican papers of the training camp and sneered at the American's idea.

The great fiasco of Pickett's "Demon from Oklahoma," who backed by a wealthy American crowd, was defeated by a Mexican with a fighting bull and throw the animal in twenty minutes, was recalled by both Americans and Mexicans.

Pickett was a negro who threw a circus steer twice a day at the performances by getting a grip on the steer's upper lip with his teeth and then forcing the steer over backward.

On the day of the fight Lee began dressing three hours before the contest. Everything in the bull fighting game is done under the strictest rules and regulations.

The El Torero ring was crowded to the roofs that covered the topmost gallery. A crowd of 5,000 persons were in their places promptly at 3:30 o'clock, when the afternoon sport was scheduled to begin.

His Imposing Entrance. The three matadors always lead the procession. The matador is the man that does the fighting, and is the only bull fighter who excites more than passing applause.

the first chance that the capital aficionados had to look at the American. Lee's magnificent carriage as he towered over the two other matadors by a head and his defiant manner commanded respect.

The bulls to be fought were the famous Miura stock, noted on both sides of the Atlantic as the best fighters. The first bull fell to one of the Mexican matadors. In accordance with custom this man's "cuadrilla" (set of helpers) were the only ones taking part in the fighting of this bull.

Through all this fighting Lee had kept strictly out of the game. This plucked the curiosity of the aficionados more than ever. Usually the matadors, drawing their selves privileged characters, will perform a few exploits with another matador's bull for the purpose of eliciting applause for pretty plays.

A bugle call and into the ring charged a beautiful black bull, his head held a little low, the true Miura type. He looked about for a moment and then charged the nearest horse.

Lee's Opportunity. With head low, he drove his horns into the horse's side, raising the poor beast and the picador who rode him into the air—the two falling in a heap to one side. Now was Lee's time.

In an indication of enthusiasm, cries from the Mexicans of "es otro Montes" (he is another Montes) fairly deafened one. The excitement at the ringside was intense. Standing and gesticulating wildly the aficionados formed a curious spectacle to the average American tourist unable to appreciate as these men do, pretty and clever.

"Look! Look!" cried hundreds, and behold the American was doing the trick of the great Montes himself. On a knee but twenty feet in front of the bull, Lee, by shaking his muleta drew the animal's desperate charge directly on him.

Lee had captured the crowd body and soul. Hats, canes and money were thrown into the ring. In a fervor of excitement Mexican vied with Mexican to express their limited English to the nearest American that "their countryman was truly great."

The great surprise was yet to come. When the time for the placing of the banderillas came and after Lee had received the two regulation long ones, deliberately before the animal's eyes, he drew them from him, signifying that he wanted the smaller ones.

Lee took the short darts and went out into the center of the ring. With even more of the spirit of recklessness than the average bullfighter the American repeatedly turned his back to the bull.

When in the proper place he advanced to the bull. The animal never took his eyes off the American. Lee stood motionless, and then by sudden movements of his arms he drew the bull to him, charging straight and furious. Scarcely moving the American waited for the bull.

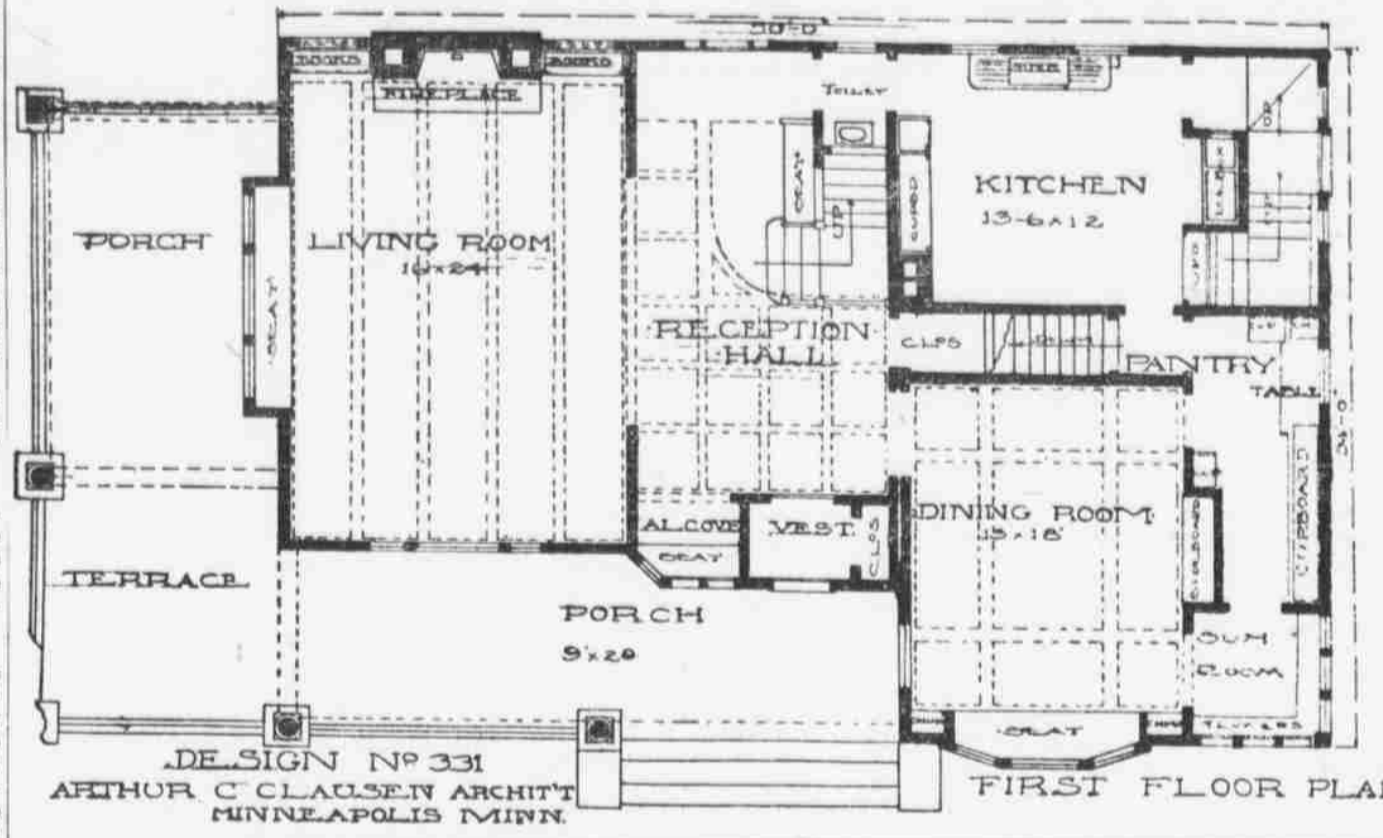
Putting in two more pairs of banderillas in the same dazzling fashion the American took the sword from the hands of the president and with a fiery red muleta in one hand dedicated the bull to the "ladies in mantillas."

He then went forth to prepare the bull for death. This demanded dexterous work on the part of the matador. The muleta is small. The matador must approach close to the animal, then pretty well exhausted. Lee set a precedent in this respect.

The killing thrust can never be given unless the animal's forelegs are spread apart slightly. To do it otherwise is to bring upon one the immediate disfavor of the fickle crowd.

With thousands of wildly excited Mexicans striving to get near him and embrace him Lee was carried from the great enclosure on the shoulders of the shouting crowd.

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ESTATE OF EDWARD HAYDEN. Brothers and Widow Ask to Be Made Administrators of the Property.

Joseph Hayden and James Hayden, brothers of the late Edward Hayden, and his widow, Mary Hayden, have filed a petition to have his estate turned over to them for administration.

Big Corn Crop Coming On Fine. Farmer from Phelps County Reports Splendid Prospect for Fall Harvest.

M. F. Goodale, a Phelps county farmer, says crops in the western part of the state are in fine condition and that the hot weather this week has been making the corn grow very fast.

Plumbers Brought to Time. Charged with Putting Improper Work in Two Large Buildings Under Way.

Complaints charging B. Grunwald and J. J. Hanighen, plumbers, with installing unsanitary and improper plumbing in two public buildings have been filed in police court on complaint of John C. Lynch, city plumbing inspector.

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