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## TEXAS RANGERS GET BODY MUDDLE MEXICAN MATTERS

Laredo, Tex., March 8.—Texas rangers, who secretly crossed into Mexico last night, today brought to the American side the mutilated body of Clemente Vergara, Texas ranchman and established beyond all question the fact of his execution after he was seized by Mexican Federals.

The rangers were not opposed accomplishing their search without the slightest violence, getting the body from a grave in Hidalgo cemetery almost within sight of the Texas border. The seizure was divested of possible grave aspects in international complications by the fact that the rangers were practically making use of permission granted officially by Mexican federal authorities several days ago for the recovery of the body. This permission had been given United States Consul Garrett at Nuevo Laredo but he did not get the body because of what he reported as dangers attending search for it in the immediate vicinity of Hidalgo.

Vergara was shot twice through the head and once through the neck, his skull was crushed by a blow from a rifle butt, and the charred figures of the left hand indicated that he had been tortured before being put to death.

Identification was made by the dead man's son and by numerous friends, many of whom were in the party of nine lead by the state border patrol, which made the grim journey to the Hidalgo cemetery during the early morning. The body was not badly decomposed, despite its three week's burial, and in addition to recognizing the features, young Vergara took a bit of cloth from the trousers which clothed the body and matched it to the coat which his father had left on the day he crossed the Rio Grande.

The body was brought into the United States at a point 45 miles up the river, opposite Hidalgo and near the Vergara ranch. American Consul Garrett of Nuevo Leon, Deputy Sheriffs and other authorities were waiting to receive it, and pending the arrival of an undertaker from Laredo, an armed guard stood over the body.

Recovery of the body was made by a force of Texans, largely friends of the dead man, acting with troops of Texas rangers, under Captain Saunders, who had been investigating the circumstances of Vergara's seizure by Federals for Governor Colquitt. A secret investigation in which many Mexicans had been questioned, is understood to have preceded the trip into Mexico. Leading the force was a man who claimed to have been a witness to both the execution and burial of Vergara.

The forces gathered near the Vergara ranch not far from the spot where Vergara crossed the river to meet the Mexican federals who promised remuneration for stolen horses. Moving silently, they began their overland march

to Hidalgo, a distance of about five miles. They avoided the town it was said, under the cover of night and met no one to question their journey.

Location of the grave where Vergara was supposed to lie proved an easy task, for it had been a center of speculation and wonder since it appeared, new made after a swinging body had been cut down from the place of execution when the hue and cry over Vergara's disappearance started an investigation. The body had been rudely interred, with little effort to protect it from the earth. With their burden fixed on a stretcher carried by six of the dead man's friends, the procession started unchallenged on the return journey which brought Clemente Vergara's body home again to the United States.

No member of the party would discuss the trip tonight. Captain Saunders of the ranger force, refused to say whether he had acted under orders from the state authorities.

### Story of the Execution.

Vergara left his ranch near Palafox, Texas, Friday, Feb. 13th, and crossed the river into Mexico on a message from Captain Apolinario Rodriguez of the Hidalgo federal garrison, that he wished to settle for eleven horses taken from Vergara's island pasture in the Rio Grande. Mrs. Vergara pleaded with her husband not to risk seizure by Mexicans, but disregarding her warnings, he crossed the river in company with his young nephew. Mrs. Vergara has since told how she saw her husband assaulted by the waiting soldiers, and after being knocked unconscious carried off. Vergara's nephew, at the attack of his uncle, escaped to safety and hid in the brush until he could recross the river.

On the following day Mrs. Vergara went in search of her husband and found him in the Hidalgo jail. So far as was known there was no charge against him. He had been cruelly beaten. She dressed the wounds in his head, she said, and stayed with him until forced to leave. That was the last she ever saw of him alive, for early the next morning he was taken from the jail supposedly to be transferred to Piedras Negras and disappeared.

When a search was begun for the missing American, it was learned that a man had been shot and his body hanged to a tree outside of Hidalgo early Sunday morning, Feb. 15th, and the body left swinging for several days. Soon after American Consul Garrett at Nuevo Laredo, started his inquiries, this body was removed and a fresh grave was noticed in the old Hidalgo cemetery. Mexicans who had known Vergara said the body had been Vergara and that they believed he was buried in the new grave. It was finally found.

(Continued on last page)

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### BROUGHT HERE FOR TREATMENT

A boy by the name of Watson, about twelve or thirteen years old, was brought here from Miles Monday and carried to the Halley & Love sanitarium where a broken arm was set. The arm was broken several weeks ago, but failed to heal like it should and the operation had to be performed to replace the broken limb.

N. B. Jackson, of Roswell, N. M., who had been visiting his sister, Mrs. W. F. Sharp and family the past week, left Saturday afternoon for his home.

J. H. Wilke left Saturday afternoon to look after property interests in Temple a week or two.

### TRASH MOVERS

### STRIKE BALLINGER

The way the Boy Scouts and Boys Brigade in moving loose trash, tin cans, etc., in Ballinger should appeal to every citizen that is for a cleaner town, and their splendid work deserves the encouragement of every one. With the move well under way in the clean up crusade every property owner in Ballinger should take a hand and make a special effort to make his premises the cleanest in town. This is the season when we are supposed to crawl out of our winter quarters and brighten up things. Spend a few dollars for paint and touch up the ugly spots around our homes. Paint covers a multitude of ugly places, and an old house can be made to look like a new one with a coat or two of good paint. If the old folks will fall in line and devote as much attention to cleaning up as the boys are, this old town would be made to shine as a city built upon a hill sure enough.

Of course the boys are working for the prizes, but the old heads of the town have a great deal more to win in the clean up campaign than prize money. It means a saving in doctor bills and drug bills.

(Continued on Last Page.)

### ELECTION RESULTS;

#### SAN SABA DRY

San Saba, March 9.—The pro won out in the election held here Saturday by a majority of more than 300. Returns from all boxes except one gives antis 657, pros 957. The missing box will run the pro majority above the 300 mark.

The last local option election in this county was held in 1904 and resulted in a majority of 273 for the pros. In the vote on the amendments in 1911 San Saba county gave a pro majority of only 150.

#### Bell County Votes out Pool Halls.

Temple, March 9.—In the pool hall election held here Saturday a majority of 1100 was polled against pool halls. The four voting boxes in this city voted 77 majority in favor of the pool halls, and the three voting boxes in Belton voted a majority of 82 against the pool halls.

#### Pool Halls Remain in Gainesville

Gainesville, March 9.—By a majority of more than 300 the pool halls will remain in Precinct No. 1, which includes Gainesville, Lindsey and Dyemound.

#### Asking for Pro and Pool Hall Election.

Lampasas, March 9.—Petitions are being circulated here for both pro-election and pool hall election. The petitions are being numerous, signed and will be presented to the next term of the commissioners court. The county has been in the dry column for several years.

### DISTRICT COURT CONVENED TODAY

District Judge Jno. W. Goodwin and Court Stenographer Charley Miller, arrived Monday at noon, and court convened at two o'clock. The civil docket was sounded and court took a recess until nine o'clock Tuesday morning when the civil docket will be taken up again and a number of non-jury cases disposed of.

Next week is criminal docket and grand jury week. The grand jury will be sworn in and started to work at one-thirty next Monday afternoon. The criminal docket is light, and it is probable that not a single case will be tried at this term of court.

The third week will be jury civil week, and all cases to be tried before a jury will be called.

### OPERATED ON AT TWO O'CLOCK SUNDAY MORNING

Joe Jeanes, the thirteen year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Jeanes, was operated on at the Halley & Love sanitarium at two o'clock Sunday morning for strangulation of the bowels. The boy was hurt by falling from a bicycle, and the trouble grew serious and a speedy operation had to be made. He is getting along nicely.

J. T. Russell, John Greenhill and W. J. Davis, of the Pony neighborhood, were among the business visitors in Ballinger Saturday afternoon.

T. F. Rushing, one of the prosperous South Ballinger fruit and truck farmers, was among the visitors in Ballinger Saturday afternoon.



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patrons in every way possible as we appreciate the success of this institution depends upon their success. We have every facility for the safe and expeditious handling of all banking matters. We respectfully solicit your account and can assure you of courteous treatment.

## FARMERS & MERCHANTS STATE BANK

BALLINGER, TEXAS

## DEATH DEALING FLAMES IN ST. LOUIS; 100 DEAD

St. Louis, March 9.—at 3:45 o'clock this (Monday) morning the roof of the massive eight-story building occupying half a city block, caved in, carrying down with it several floors and it is believed that more than a hundred are dead in the ruins.

Every available ambulance and police patrol wagon in the city have been rushed to the scene.

A careful census of those who escaped from the building was taken by the police and an officer of the club and not more than two dozen men were accounted for. There were a hundred and thirty five people sleeping in the

building, which was a popular downtown club, and it is almost certain that all the others have perished.

The ill-fated building is the Missouri Athletic Club, at Fourth and Washington avenues, and was occupied by the club members numbering among them men of prominence.

Within a few moments after the fire was discovered at 2:30, every fire fighting apparatus in the city, and every fireman was on the scene, but the blaze spread and was beyond the control of the men.

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