



The Rio Grande Rattler.

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the boys who publish it 'week-
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"The Strength of the Wolf is the Pack, but the Strength of the Pack is the Wolf"

FRONTIER DAY PRONOUNCED GREATEST EVENT IN TEXAS

Soldiers and Cow Boys Join in Entertaining Thousands of Visitors—McAllen Gets Greatest Throng in History of Town

THE RED LETTER DAY ON THE SOUTHERN MEXICAN BORDER

Field and Frontier Day is now a thing of the past but in the history of the New York Division it will be recorded as the biggest day on the Border, big from the standpoint of members, enthusiasm, and results. Not only did the entire Division turn out for the day's entertainment but every regiment from Rio Grande to Brownsville contributed its quota of men and officers. And it was also a day when the civilian population of the Valley attended en masse, wearing its best clothes and holiday smile.

The morning of Saturday, September 30th, dawned bright and clear with enough of a zest and tingle to the air to remind one of an early autumn day back home. At an early hour the great influx of visitors began to arrive in McAllen by lumbering carts, auto-trucks, jitneys, regular automobiles, horse-back, special train, and on foot. From all over the Valley they came for a holiday had been declared in every town and camp along the line. Never was McAllen so crowded as on Saturday morning. The streets were jammed and the merchants reaped a rich harvest from the liberal visitors for everyone was out to spend money and have the best time obtainable. Soldiers, Mexicans, cowboys, rancheros, seafarers, and Northern tourists met and mingled on the narrow sidewalks of Main Street. There was an infective holiday spirit in the air and few cases of disorder were reported.

At the station each hour brought a special train from somewhere down the line and there was as much bustle and tumult of the railroad terminal, but as little real confusion, as one might see in a city ten times the size of McAllen. By nine-thirty the road to the parade grounds in front of Division Headquarters was swarming with traffic and outside of the two ticket offices leading to the grounds long queues of soldiers and civilians waited for admittance. The drill grounds had been converted into an immense stadium. Surrounded by a wall of canvas and with the newly constructed grand stand at two sides, the place had all the appearance of a college campus before the biggest football game of the season. The large stands were soon filled to capacity and the overflow distributed around the rest of the field.

Still the crowd continued to arrive. Those that were forced to wait in line for some time entertained themselves by song. Never was there such a good-natured throng. The Military Police had few cases of disorderly conduct on their hands. Lieutenant Morgan of the McAllen detachment had an amused patrol placed around the grounds and in the stand but they had little to do but enjoy themselves.

Olive drab was the prevailing color tone of the grandstands with here and there a gayer note in the bright colored dresses of the ladies. Your Mexican grande dame was on hand wearing her festive regalia with all the sang froid of a debutante at her first Horse Show. The audience was as interesting as the exhibition in the arena. Cowboys from the neighboring ranches clanked about in their moving picture habits, of high-heeled boots with stuffed in trousers, bright spurs, sport shirts, dusty Stetsons and gay silk neckerchiefs, not forgetting the inevitable pearl-handled six-shooters, carelessly slung from their hips. Many of them swanked and posed before the admiring soldiers from up North but most of them had the engaging insouciance and the self-uneasiness of your true ranch gentleman.

The morning was given over to athletic events in which a large number of entrants from the various regiments of the Division competed for the prize. The details of the meet with the names of the prize winners are given in another column.

In the afternoon the military, mounted, and Wild West events were held. The morning's crowd, returned from lunch, was augmented by many hundred more visitors who arrived on the early afternoon trains. Over six thousand people had passed the wickets before two o'clock. The canteens and popcorn stands, sprinkled around the field, did a land office business. The boys with the peanuts and programs were as busy as their New York brothers at the Polo Grounds on a Saturday afternoon. The weather continued

fine throughout the day. The air was cool enough to make the wearing of coats comfortable, which was a great blessing to the officers who were forced to don blouses by order of the War Department.

The Cavalry and Artillery events were interesting and instructive but it was in the Grand Melee, in which picked men from Squadron A and the 1st Cavalry participated, that the crowd especially delighted. Wearing masks and padded headgear with long paper-string plumes, the combatants, ten to a side, charged fiercely at each other on horseback and slashed away at the streamers with wooden swords. The 1st Cavalry won the fight after depriving most of their opponents of their green plumes.

The Wild and Woolly West proved not to be so very wild and the only wool about it was that which was pulled over the tenderfoot's eyes. The bronchos weren't bronching enough to suit the audience and the cleverest riding was not done by the professional Western busters, but by two members of the N. Y. Division, Private Hattaway of the 2nd Field Artillery and Joe Hooker of the 1st Cavalry. However the audience got their money's worth and seemed to be well satisfied as there was a lot to see and a lot to enjoy. Two military bands made things lively with a continuous concert.

Where all that vast crowd dined is a mystery which will probably remain unsolved. Every restaurant, short-order house, canteen, lunch wagon and grocery store was jammed to the doors and the stream of hungry visitors was still without end. Although many of the soldiers who had come from distant camps were forced to leave early to arrive home by "taps" the crowd that returned to the field for the evening entertainment was as large as that which gathered there in the afternoon.

The 22nd Engineers opened the evening's show with a fireworks display that also possessed much military interest for it exhibited the newest thing in trench-lighting bombs, which, when exploded above the field, held a powerful magnesium flare suspended by two parachutes and lighted up not only the entire field but all the camp surrounding until the wind wafted them over toward Mexico. With these lights in practical operation, no enemy can hope to make a surprise night attack on our positions.

A mammoth vaudeville entertainment and two championship prize fights were the evening's share of the big show. The band of the newcomers to the Division, the 3rd Tamm. Inf., furnished the music for the occasion. "Taps" was forgotten on this night at least and it was nearly eleven o'clock when Field and Frontier Day was brought to a close. No program of such magnitude could be completed without a few inevitable hitches but it is to the credit of the committees in charge that the affair was conducted in such an efficient and orderly manner. The greatest praise for the success of Frontier Day can be safely bestowed upon Lieutenant H. Leroy Whitney, aide to Brigadier General McNair, the Chairman of the general committee. It was the man who by his tireless energy, abundant patience, and admirable common sense, made Field and Frontier Day live up to specifications as "the Border's Biggest Day" and to him and the others who worked heart and soul with him for the past month the praise and thanks of the entire New York Division is due.

(For an account of the morning's athletic meet see sporting page.)
22nd Engineers Build Bridge.
The opening number of the afternoon performance was a bridge building exhibition by the 22nd Engineers. It was quite a sizeable and serviceable structure that they erected in fifteen minutes and while the audience watched, expecting to see it carted away and put to some good use over one of the many canals around camp, out rushed the Demolition Squad and planted dynamite under two of its supports. The plunger was pushed down and there was a heavy explosion. For a moment the scene was obscured by a dense cloud of smoke, dust and debris, but as it cleared away the crowd gasped either in admiration or dismay, for the beautiful bridge was wrecked beyond any repair. Out rushed another squad and piled



the wreckage upon waiting auto trucks.

As soon as the ground was cleared the arena was arranged for the novelty race. Three heats were run off and then the final. Each contestant was mounted and at a given signal galloped madly down the course, picked a lemon from a stake—the lemons did not grow on the posts but were simply placed there—and galloped back again to the starting point where he dropped it in a pail. In all there were four lemons to be thus singly gathered up and then the horseman tucked the pail under his arm and spurred his horse down to the end of the field where he quickly donned a long white robe and a straw hat. Then, armed with a broom and the pail, he rode like the wind back to the starting and finishing post, if he was lucky enough not to drop any of his spoils. The audience derived a great deal of amusement from the novelty race and heartily applauded the winner, W. B. Eaton, of Squadron A, who rode like a Centaur and displayed no little cleverness in picking lemons on the fly.

The ball and spoon race, another mounted event, was somewhat similar. The contestants were obliged to circle the field at a gallop and keep a lemon balanced in a spoon which they held in an outstretched hand. The penalty for dropping the lemon was to return to the post and start all over. Needless to say the event aroused much merriment in the stands, especially when a proud horseman would get within ten feet of the finishing line before the citrus tumbled to the ground. Duryea, Machine Gun Co. of Squadron A, carried off the honors in this race. So far it looked like Squadron A for the whole afternoon but in the Melee Contest, which is described in another column, the 1st Cavalry retrieved itself.

First Cavalry Shows Skill.
The feature of the afternoon was the rough and fancy riding of a picked squad from the 1st Cavalry in the Monkey Drill. Under the leadership of Lieutenant Black of Troop D, they worked like one man, each doing his turn in perfect unison with the others. Their two-horse work in special drew forth the applause of the crowd for some daring feats of horsemanship were surprisingly well executed. Another squad of fifteen men from the 2nd Field Artillery followed them on the field and also performed some creditable equestrian stunts, although the heavy artillery horses were hardly as well suited for that kind of a drill as were the cavalry horses.

Ben Wallis of the 3rd Tennessee next occupied the stage and to the great surprise of all performed a feat of strength the like of which had never before been seen in any camp, for he succeeded in pulling a heavy combat wagon a distance of twenty feet with his teeth. Hardtack can hold no terrors for this husky molar young man from Tennessee.

A section from Battery D of the 1st Field won the prize for the best appearance and most expert driving in competition with six other sections from the 1st and 2nd Field Artillery. Brigadier General W. S. McNair, commanding the Artillery Brigade, was the

(Continued on page 5.)

MAJOR GEN. FUNSTON REVIEWS DIVISION

Entire Detachment at McAllen Parade Sunday Morning

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER PLEASED

Last Sunday morning at nine o'clock, Major General Frederick Funston reviewed the detachment of the New York Division at McAllen. The long expected visit of the commander of the Southern Department was heralded last week by The Rattler and aroused a great deal of interest in the officers and men of the division. The presence of the Major-General was eagerly awaited and when it became known on Saturday that he was coming the news was received with great acclaim as all were decidedly anxious to show the commander how far the New York Division had progressed on the road to becoming an efficient part of the army under his command.

General Funston arrived Saturday afternoon at McAllen in the private car of J. S. Pyeat, president and general manager of the Gulf Coast Lines. He was accompanied by his aide, Captain Fitzhugh Lee, Major General O'Ryan met the Department Commander at the McAllen station and escorted him to the parade grounds at Division Headquarters where the afternoon's events of Field and Frontier Day were being held. General Funston was an interested spectator throughout the afternoon and seemed to thoroughly enjoy the program of sports.

General Funston on Friday reviewed all the troops stationed at Brownsville and vicinity and was considerably impressed by the excellent showing made by the militia troops. After Sunday's review of the New York Division he expressed his pleasure at the soldierly appearance and efficiency of the guardsmen from the Empire State.

The review was held at the Artillery Field where the former review of Brigadier General Parker took place. All units of the detachment at McAllen participated. The General was especially interested in Pack Train No. 19, as General Pershing's experiences in Mexico have shown this branch of the service to be of utmost importance.

A great number of the citizens of the Valley who had come to McAllen for Frontier Day stayed over to attend the review and made an enthusiastic and surprised audience who "didn't think the militia had it in them."

In the afternoon General Funston, accompanied by Major General O'Ryan, visited the troops at Pharr. Later in the day the Southern Departmental Commander left with his party for Corpus Christi, where he planned to spend Monday. During the remainder of the week General Funston will inspect other units in the Brownsville district.

THE HORSE WILL BE KING SATURDAY

Horse Show Another Feature At Division Camp at McAllen

IN CHARGE OF THE FIRST CAVALRY

With the First Cavalry Bowler horse show at the new Cavalry grounds only a few days off, there is unusual interest on the part of horse lovers in this coming affair.

At the Frontier games last Saturday there were surprises in the way of remarkable horsemanship on the part of the Cavalrymen and this is continuing next Saturday at the horse show. Special grounds are being laid out near the model camp and the committee are spending every energy to complete the smallest detail to make this a huge success. The Cavalry grounds in itself is a marvel and on the day of the show will be thrown open to every organization and the citizens of Texas for a thorough inspection. Everything, from the beautiful main street to the corrals will be in spick and span. Those who have not visited the camp before will wonder how such a military camp could be so attractive.

Many entries have come in on the last few days and there is such a large entry to some classes that elimination will be necessary. The class for enlisted men is the most popular also the class for officer's chargers and the jumping classes. There will be a large field for the mounted relay and this event will be hard fought from start to finish. Each entrant will have four mounts, riding each one a quarter of a mile dismounting and changing horses at the end of each relay. Many of the rough riding squad of the Cavalry have entered and the colors of the First in this spirited race. The rescue race will also be interesting from the spectator's point of view.

Captain Howlett and Captain King of the committee spent several days in San Antonio selecting the prizes. It will be a great incentive for every man to have his horse in the best condition. There is a money prize for the mule team classes and for the other classes, cups, a bridle, leather puts, locker trunks and such things that will appeal to the enlisted man will constitute the prize list.

Arrangements are underway for the removal of part of the grand stand from the Division Headquarters field and provisions are made for handling a large crowd. Each contestant will be numbered and spectators will have no trouble following the results of every event.

The entries from the Third U. S. Cavalry, Squadron A, and the Field Artilleries have added materially to the

(Continued on page 5.)

FORCING OF THE RIO GRANDE CROSSINGS

Interesting Field Exercises By Infantry and Cavalry

THOROUGHLY ENJOYED BY TROOPS

The Infantry Brigade at McAllen, commanded by Brigadier General Lester, reinforced by a battalion of the Second Field Artillery, Squadron A, Cavalry, one company of engineers, one signal company and Ambulance Company Number Three, last week completed the exercise referred to in a recent issue of The Rattler.

A few days later the Infantry Brigade at Pharr, commanded by Brigadier General Wilson, reinforced in a similar manner, engaged in a similar exercise. In each instance the march was to the Rio Grande for the purpose of securing crossings of the river for the passage of the remainder of the Division in order that the Division might co-operate with the Green forces on the other side in the defeat of the Red forces. In each instance the Reds were represented by a squadron of cavalry on this side of the river, part of the advance guard of a Red Division marching on Reynosa from the South and East.

The First Brigade exercise resulted in the capture of Hidalgo by the Blue cavalry, reinforced by infantry of the Blue advanced guard, after lively street fighting in which the Red cavalry was driven off. The Blue brigade commander then determined that in order to secure the crossings he would cross the river and drive back Red forces reported to be on the opposite side. His plan was to cover the ferry at Hidalgo and the cavalry ford one half mile below Hidalgo, by a fire attack while the engineer company completed a flying ferry for the crossing at Hidalgo.

As the rules of the exercise required the Brigade Commander to simulate nothing, the engineer company actually constructed the raft while the troops were disposed to make the attack. When the physical crossing was about to be made, General O'Ryan, as chief control officer created a situation on the other side of the river that made it impracticable to attempt the crossing. This was necessary in order not to violate the regulation which prohibits soldiers crossing the Rio Grande. The Red division had theoretically come up. The Blue brigade, therefore, held on to their position to await the arrival of the remainder of the Blue division. While waiting they were permitted to go into bivouac until six a. m. the following morning.

During the night imaginary Red cavalry on the Mexican side of the river moved north along the turn of the river north of Hidalgo and threatened a crossing in rear of the position of the Blue brigade, and hence withdrawal of the Blue brigade became necessary. This was begun the following morning at seven a. m. with the real Red cavalry squadron representing the Reds.

The withdrawal from the river attack was most interesting, particularly for the Blue cavalry, field artillery and infantry assigned to the rear guard.

In the exercise conducted by General Wilson's brigade at Pharr, the attempted crossings were made at Hidalgo and Capote. Each days exercise was concluded by a most profitable critique conducted by the Division Commander. The main criticism made concerned the technique of operation orders—the occasional absence of clarity in orders, the adoption of correct technique to insure a meeting of the minds between commander and subordinates as to the plan, and the part each was to play in its execution.

The troops all enjoyed the exercise. The march security and discipline of the 12th Infantry occasioned many favorable comments from the Control Officers.

HOME ORDERS FOR FIRST FIELD ARTILLERY

Orders have been received that the First Field Artillery are to return to New York State for muster out as soon as their field firing has been completed. The artillery range at La Gloria has just been completed and the regiment will hold this practice during the next two weeks.

SAFETY FIRST.

Mrs. Flatbush—Where's your husband these days?
Mrs. Bensonhurst—He's gone to the front with his regiment.
"What, to fight?"
"Oh no, he won't have to fight. He's an officer."—Exchange.