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IN SANTA FE DURING MEXICAN REGIME

(Interesting Chapter on the City of Santa Fe, from Benjamin M. Read's "Sidelights of New Mexican History" to be published shortly. Copyrighted by Author.)

GOVERNOR MARIANO MARTINEZ DE LEJANZA. - THE FIRST CITY PARK IN NEW MEXICO. - GOVERNOR MARTINEZ ASSAULTED BY THE UTES. - BULL FIGHTING AT SANTA FE. - THE PYRAMID IN THE PLAZA OF SANTA FE.

The detailed account of the important events indicated by the above heading, constitutes the last annotations made during the latter days of his life by the able and distinguished citizen Don Demetrio Perez for my exclusive use, being his reminiscences of the events embraced in the narrative. In the latter days of June A. D. 1913, Don Demetrio was visiting at Santa Fe, the Capital, and it was then, when very ill, that he wrote the said annotations in my own house, using an indelible pencil because the tremor of his hand did not allow the use of a pen. But the weakness he felt did not permit him to consign to paper the final phrase with which he intended to conclude his writing, and he could not even sign his name.

At the beginning of July, 1913, Don Demetrio returned to his residence at Las Vegas, N. M., realizing that the end of his days was approaching, and there he died as a Christian in the bosom of the Catholic Church after having received the last sacraments, on the 10th day of the month of December of the said year, 1913.

Of very great value for our history was the collaboration of Don Demetrio in the preparation of my "Illustrated History of New Mexico," for in that work appears the relation of the tragical death of Don Albino Perez, who was Governor of New Mexico in the year 1837, year of the in-

surrection of the Chimayos, when the said Governor was inhumanly murdered by the revolutionists in August of that same year. Don Demetrio, who was the son of the said Governor Perez, was made an orphan in the first years of his life, but his sterling honesty and his extraordinary capacity, from his youth up secured for him honorable and lucrative employment in public life and in the commercial world. A large part of the narrative relating to historical events of a local character published in my Illustrated History are productions of the illustrious deceased, and so I state in the work.

The above reflections appeared to me opportune and indispensable as a preface or introduction to the narrative of Don Demetrio; in order that the reader may understand and appreciate the historical value of the *Reminiscences*. Here follow *verbatim* the words of Don Demetrio:

(TRANSLATION)

Don Mariano Martinez de Lejanza, Governor and General Commandant of the Department of New Mexico, was appointed by the President of the Mexican Republic to succeed Don Manuel Armijo in that office, and arrived at Santa Fe, according to my recollection in the spring of the year 1844, accompanied by his wife Doña Teresita, whom I had the honor of knowing personally some time after her arrival in Santa Fe. Doña Teresita was looking for a woman to make her some clothes and for washing and ironing, and was informed that my maternal grandmother Doña Guadalupe Abrego followed the occupation of seamstress and that my mother Doña Trinidad Trujillo washed and ironed clothes, and with that object in view both went to our house in Analco, near the site where now stands St. Michael's College. I was then a little over 7 years old. The General asked my grandmother about my father and on being informed that I was the son of Governor Perez made me go near him and treated me with kindness and affection, and asked me if I was learning to read, and I answered yes and that I was beginning to spell, and that near home there was a private school under the management of a good teacher whose name was José Rafael Pacheco, which many boys attended. The General told

my grandmother to buy me a suit of clothes better than the one I had on, and gave her some money for buying the material necessary to make the same. They continued visiting us from time to time, he and his wife, and always giving us some help for our pressing needs. The lady, in particular, used to visit many poor families, whom she helped with provisions and clothing. I have no doubt that General Martinez was a man of large means when he came to New Mexico, for otherwise he would not have been able to use so much liberality in order to make such heavy expenses to help so many poor people if he had made such expenses out of the salary and emoluments of his office in the service of the government, for I believe these were not so high, and could hardly be enough for more than to live with the decency and comfort required by his high position. The very few persons living yet in Santa Fe may remember all what General Martinez did for the people's benefit, and the reforms made in the civil and military administration in the very brief period of one year which was the duration of his administration.

THE FIRST TREES

His first steps were taken in making improvements within the plaza square where there was not a single tree nor any vegetation, and in the same condition were the streets running out of the square in different directions. He commanded that uncultivated trees be brought from the mountain east of Santa Fe, and caused them to be symmetrically planted around the Plaza and in the streets. For the irrigation of the trees he ordered that an acequia be made taking the water from a spring or fountain located in the Cienega, on the east side of the Plaza, from which ran sufficient water and also yielded a supply for the irrigation of the gardens planted within the ample square of the wall where the barracks of the soldiers were constructed with some dwelling houses for their families.

In addition, General Martinez ordered that a plot of ground be selected on the Northwest side of the city for the plantation of an Alameda or Park of Recreation, which land was chosen by himself near the ancient country chapel of the Virgin of the Rosary, south of the same, wherein cottonwood trees and shrubs were planted which flowered up and gave wild flowers, also brought from the mountains and El Cañon of the Santa Fe river.

LA ALAMEDA. - THE FIRST PARK

For the irrigation of the Alameda he ordered that a ditch be opened, deep enough, at the foot of the chain of Hills lying on the north side of the Arroyo Arenoso, running from the Canada on the east, where runs the public road which goes from Santa Fe towards the Rio de Tesuque and the settlements of Rio Arriba and Taos Counties. The taking of the water which was to run in this acequia was made from the outlet of the Acequia Madre from where the cultivated lands on the north side of the Santa Fe river were irrigated, and this acequia had an extension of at least a mile and a half to the Alameda. At the same time that work was being done in the acequia, the work also proceeded on the Alameda, levelling the land and forming streets which started from the center of the square in different directions, an adobe wall being constructed all around the square; seats were placed along the streets and in the center of the circle reserved for a cock pit where those addicted to the game of cock-fighting congregated to see the fights between the animals, in which game money bets were made. On the west side, outside the enclosure of the Alameda, an adobe house was built to serve as residence for the man who was going to care for the Alameda. (The name of this man, according to reliable information which I was able to obtain from Don Clemente P. Ortiz, an aged citizen of Santa Fe and fellow pupil of Don Demetrio Perez, was Manuel, nicknamed "El Marrujo."- Benj. M. Read.) who with his family attended to the irrigation of the trees. In the spring of the following year, the trees and shrubs planted therein began to sprout and to give forth the tender branches and foliage, and after two or three years of being planted their ramage served as a shade during the hot summer days for the persons who sought rest and comfort under their shade, and the same thing was done under the shadow of the cottonwood trees found in the Public Plaza and the streets. The butchers who killed sheep placed the meat on perches which they placed under the shade of the cottonwoods planted in front of the Old Palace; on the west side, under the spacious porch of the Palace, the bakers were installed together with the fruit vendors and others who sold their diverse kinds of food for the people who depended on the market for their supply, for at that time there was no public building for the sale of such articles. Besides that, there were several

women who cooked dinners which were served to those who wished to take them there, and under the shadow of the cottonwoods the tables were placed for the boarders. Let us treat of another improvement of more importance inaugurated by Martinez.

A public school that he established for the education of the young under the charge of an excellent teacher, an Englishman whose surname was Tatty, in whose school there was taught reading, writing, grammar, arithmetic and other elementary branches; all of it in Spanish, for the teacher knew the language perfectly. During the few months that this school existed, the young men who attended made good progress in their studies. I believe the teacher Tatty was a Catholic for he went on several occasions to high Mass on Sundays with his pupils who marched in two well arranged lines, and he also attended to the instructions in Christian Doctrine which were sometimes given in the Parochial Church of St. Francis. This school lasted but a short time after, he (Gov. Martinez) was removed from his post, in the year 1845, being succeeded by General Manuel Armijo, whose discontinuation of this excellent school was greatly deplored by the fathers of family, who appreciated in a high degree the education of their children.

AMUSEMENTS. - BULL FIGHT. - REMOVAL OF THE PYRAMID
WHICH EXISTED IN THE CENTER OF THE PLAZA SQUARE

In June of 1845, in order that the people of the Capital might have amusement after doing their labor during the week, the idea was conceived of constructing a bull ring, in order that the people who, with rare exceptions, had never seen bull fighting in New Mexico, might have an idea of that diversion and admire the courage of the bull-fighters confronting the furious bulls, as it was the custom in the cities and towns of the Mexican Republic. Some men were sent to El Paso del Norte (Now Ciudad Juarez) to invite professional bull-fighters expert in that art, and seek ferocious bulls with the fierceness of those animals raised in the desert by the cattle raisers who kept them for the purpose in a state of wildness in order to sell them to the directors of bull fights in Mexican cities and towns, near the border. Waiting for the coming of the Toreadores and the bulls brought by them, tall boxes were constructed around the public plaza, made with strong timber and well

secured to resist the hard knocks and attacks of the bulls when they went after the banderilleros who entered the ring to fight with the bulls until they vanquished these infuriated beasts, leaving them on the scene tired or dead from the darts of the skillful toreadores, though some times it happened that those toreadores who fought the bulls, mounted on horses trained for the fighting, who in showing the slightest carelessness had the horses they rode killed by the bulls and were obliged to fight on foot or escape out of the ring by scaling the posts.

THE PYRAMID

I think it proper to mention here that before the construction of the stall boxes and fence around the Plaza there was in its center a Pyramid that had existed for many years and that was built after the independence of Mexico from the Spanish rule. This pyramid consisted of a log or post measuring, more or less, fifty feet in height, having as a base three square walls around, which walls were in the form of steps for ascension and descension. The first step was five feet high, and there was sufficient space on the top for the seating of several persons who might wish to stay there for diversion or rest; but most of the time those who congregated there were idle and evilly-inclined people, drunkards and gamblers, who were cause of scandal to the families, although they were often arrested by the officers of the law and kept in jail until sobered up, but the penalty and confinement did not deter them from returning to their resting place. Governor Martinez being persuaded that the pyramid ought to be removed from there ordered its destruction, and so it was done, though that pyramid was a memento of the glorious epoch of the independence of Mexico, for in the summit of the post there was an eagle on the cactus which is the national emblem.

INVASION OF THE CAPITAL BY THE UTES. - THEIR ATTEMPT TO MURDER GOVERNOR MARTINEZ.

At the beginning of the month of September, 1845, a crowd of Ute Indians entered Santa Fe, having come from the northern part of New Mexico, where that savage and sanguinary tribe dwelt on the great plains and deserts committing depredations on the settlements on the northern border against the peaceful inhabitants of the Territory

who followed the occupations of agriculture and cattle raising. These Indians, in the same way as the other barbarous tribes who infested all parts of the frontiers of New Mexico, made peace and were quiet for a time, on condition that the government would give them gratification or presents of cloth to cover partially their nudity, and of other articles of which they made use, such as tobacco, knives, looking glasses, string of beads and so on.

The crowd of Indians that entered Santa Fe in the afternoon of that September day, as said before, were mounted on good horses and well armed with lances, bows and arrows, axes, etc., and on entering the town they demanded that a place be assigned to them to pass the night, and they were given for this purpose the land of Doña Manuela Baca, mother of Captain Don Jesus M. Sena y Baca, on the Rio Chiquito, (at corner of Shelby and Water street- B. M. Read) and there during the night they kept the people in constant alarm with their warlike songs and continual clamor until dawn, and before the rising of the sun they had saddled their horses and three of their head chiefs commanded them to stay there on horse back, that they were going to visit Governor Martinez, and that they be ready to enter the public square when they heard a shout from them from the Plaza after seeing the General. These head chiefs were able to enter without being seen by the sentinel who was making his rounds in front of the barracks situate on the west side of the entrance to the Governor's office, who had gone in after having got up from bed and dressed, and there, seated in a chair was taken by surprise by these Indians who carried in their arms some of the articles given them as gratification and threw them in the face of the General, attacking him with their axes and knives, raining upon him blows which he was able to ward off by using the chair on which he had been seated, and at the same time calling for help on the guards. But before the soldiers of the guard came in he had the assistance of his valiant wife, Doña Teresita, who had the presence of mind to enter the office carrying in her hand the General's sword and gave it to him that he might defend himself, and the General made use of the weapon wounding one of the Indians named *Panesiyah*, the first chief of the Ute tribe, and then the Indians tried to escape, but the soldiers of the guard called by Doña

Teresita, were at the door leading to the Governor's office and there they killed the Indian *Panesiyah* and wounded the other two Indians, who though wounded, were able to escape and give the voice of alarm to their warriors who were ready to enter the Plaza and to kill all the persons by them found in the streets and in the Plaza. The soldiers of the garrison were already there well prepared with their arms, and the squadron of Dragoons of Vera Cruz, commanded by Colonel Don Pedro Muñiz, and a brief but fierce fight ensued which resulted in the death of many of the Indians, and only one soldier was seriously wounded.

Addenda. - After I had written these lines here in Santa Fe where I have come from my residence in Las Vegas in search of relief. . . .

Here Don Demetrio could not end the last words of the final phrase of this very interesting historical narrative, though from the few words he wrote in his "addenda" one infers without difficulty, that he had something more to say, which perhaps, he had forgotten, and that when it occurred to him he considered it of sufficient importance to consign it to paper, but his strength failed him, and he dropped the pencil telling me that he would send from Las Vegas some other annotations, which he was not able to do, for when he returned to his residence his mortal existence terminated, his death causing the State of New Mexico the loss of one of her most illustrious sons and to history many and very important reminiscences. May the earth be light on him and may his soul rest in peace in the mansion of the just.

December 15, 1926.

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Santa Fe, N. M.