

[Sam Lazarus]

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McGuire, Delise. P. .

District 17. Words 383

Motley County

Matador, Texas

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pg. 1 TEE PEE City

Sam / Lazarus, now deceased, of St. Louis, Missouri, President of the Quanah, Acme & Pacific Railway Company, related this story concerning Old Tee Pee City:

“In 1877 I was traveling for Leon and H. Blum, jobbers of Galveston, Texas, and reported to the house by wire at Henrietta. “ “ They directed me to proceed to Tee Pee City in Motley County to collect an account against Armstrong, who operated a general supply store at Tee Pee City. “ There was no town or settlement between Henrietta and Tee Pee City, so I equipped myself with a pack horse and a horse to ride and made the trip. When I reached Tee Pee City I found Armstrong had gone to Liberal, Kansas , with a load of buffalo hides and to bring back merchandise. / The smallpox was raging in the town, many people suffering from the epidemic. I went down the creek about a mile and established my camp and waited. “ In about three or four days Armstrong returned, and I took up the matter of settlement with him. I had learned by wire, when I left Henrietta , that there had been a sensational rise in price of buffalo hides and I found a mountain of hides stacked up at Tee Pee City. Armstrong offered to pay me off in buffalo hides and sold me as the balance of what he had on hand. He had not learned when he left Liberal that the rise in

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the buffalo hides had taken place so I bought all the hides he had and gave him credit for the account he owed and wrote a draft on the house for the difference.

I then chartered all the wagons that could be had, which were 7 or 8 that had returned in a caravan from Liberal, Kansas. I loaded the hides on these wagons and started them for Fort Worth. I then hastened back to Henrietta to wire my house about the draft. In the deal I made several hundred dollars for my employers. " At that time Tee Pee City had one or two saloons, a dance hall and a gambling hall in connection with the saloons, a little hotel and one or two eating houses and several other small establishments, with most of the population living in 2 dugouts and tents. "

The above story was related by Mr. Lazarus to G. E. Hamilton, pioneer attorney of Matador, Motley County, Texas.

G. E. Hamilton, General Attorney for Q. A. & P. Railway Company and local Attorney for the Matador Land & Cattle Company, Ltd. Head offices, Dundee, Scotland; American offices, Denver , Colorado.