

CORTEZ IS IN BEXAR JAIL

THE SLAYER OF SHERIFFS MORRIS AND GLOVER BROUGHT HERE FOR SAFE KEEPING.

He Talks Freely of the Killings For Which He Is In Jail--Admits To the Killing of Morris and That He Shot At Glover.

Says He Killed Morris Because Morris Killed His Brother Without Provocation of Any Kind.

Cortez Tells of His Flight From the Time of the Morris Killing To the Time of His Capture -- Became So Tired At One Time That He Decided To Surrender.

Gregorio Cortez, the confessed slayer of Sheriffs Brack Morris of Karnes county, and R. M. Glover of Gonzales county, was brought to San Antonio at 8 o'clock Monday morning from Laredo.

The noted prisoner was in charge of Deputy Sheriff Choate of Karnes county, but in the party were about a dozen sheriffs, deputies and possemen, who have been pursuing Cortez for ten days.

Before the party left Laredo Cortez admitted his identity and confessed the killing of Sheriff Morris. He admitted also that he was present at the killing of Sheriff Glover, and that he fired at Glover's party. Later in the day at the county jail here, he gave the officers a detailed account of both murders and of his flight to Laredo, all of which was taken in writing by Sheriff John W. Tobin.

Cortez was brought to San Antonio for safe-keeping. It was not thought wise to take him back to Karnes county, and he will be kept here until feeling there cools sufficiently to insure his safety.

Cortez told the officers in the jail Monday afternoon a straightforward story of his doings since he shot Sheriff Morris. He seemed to dodge only on one point—the killing of Sheriff Glover. He attempts to justify the killing of Sheriff Morris on the ground that Morris shot his brother without provocation or reason. His account of his flight shows that once he made up his mind to surrender and coolly waited for the officers to come. It also shows that he was possessed of remarkable powers of endurance and skill in eluding pursuit.

Cortez does not look like the bad man that the events of the last two weeks prove him to be. He is rather good-looking and the expression of his face is far from fierce or desperate.

It was an aggregation typical of Southwest Texas that brought him to San Antonio.

In the party were such men as Ranger Captain Rogers, Sheriff Avant of Atascosa county, Manuel Tom, the trailer and others not less prominent and skilled in their line of business.

During the afternoon a demand for Cortez was made on Sheriff Tobin by wire by a justice of the peace in Karnes county, but on the order of Sheriff Hunter of that county Sheriff Tobin ignored it.

ARRIVAL OF CORTEZ

IN SAN ANTONIO

When the freight train bearing Cortez and his captors came into the International & Great Northern yards Monday morning at 5:30 o'clock, there were but a few stern-faced men at the depot awaiting his arrival. All of them were officers who had taken the oath to preserve the peace and dignity of the State. They were sheriffs and their deputies.

When the train came to a standstill Cortez' captors and Cortez alighted from the caboose with but few formalities. There was an exchange of greetings between the two parties after which the prisoner was placed on board of a street car and conveyed to the jail.

The news of his arrival required but little time to spread, and when the officers and their man arrived at the stronghold, there was a very respectable following in the rear. There were no demonstrations made, for the were not, the determined kind of men who usually take the law into their own hands. Their one desire was to see Cortez, their curiosity prompting them in the motive. When the party entered the jail the crowd remained on the outside for some time to see if any unexpected developments might occur. There were the usual number of rumors passed about as to what might be done with the prisoner.

Cortez was brought here in the custody of Deputy Sheriff W. M. Choate of Karnes county. The other officers who came up on the train were Sheriff A. M. Avant of Atascosa county; Captain Rogers of the State Rangers, Sheriff Kinsel of Frio county, W. K. Merrem, Manuel Tom, Joe Kerr, Mike Dolan, Henry Eads, Van Mosbuerger and Wm. Hanson.

The party left Laredo at 11 o'clock Sunday night, the International & Great Northern Railway extending the courtesies of an outgoing freight train which the officers preferred to take as it would

land them in San Antonio about four hours ahead of the regular passenger train. During the night a layover was occasioned at Cotulla where some cattle were unloaded. From Cotulla here, the trip was made without incident, and when San Antonio was finally reached, all were tired and almost worn out.

After the prisoner had been safely placed behind the bars of the county jail the officers made a dash for the nearby hotels and restaurants where their hunger was appeased. The Southern Hotel was a rendezvous for them and during the remainder of the morning until dinner was announced, they were kept busy relating the story of the capture and incidents connected therewith.

When the regular passenger train from Laredo arrived at 12:30, there was quite a crowd at the station to see Cortez.

Their disappointment can better be imagined than described, and when it was announced that the prisoner had been in jail for four hours their chagrin only assumed greater proportions.

THE MEN WHO TRAILED

CORTEZ TO HIS CAPTURE

There were several men who came up from Laredo with the prisoner upon whom the sheriffs and other officers lay great stress for the capture of Cortez. Probably the most talked of man and at the same time the most modest one was Manuel Tom. He has played a very conspicuous role in the tragedy which has been enacted the past two weeks. The part he took in the capture of Cortez, and his faithfulness caused to be showered upon him the plaudits of the public.

Hale and hearty and browned by the sun of an almost tropical clime, he appears a typical frontiersman. In his countenance there is strongly characterized the most salient features that go to make up the best men. His life for the greater part has been spent on ranches. That, however, does not detract from a charm existing in him.

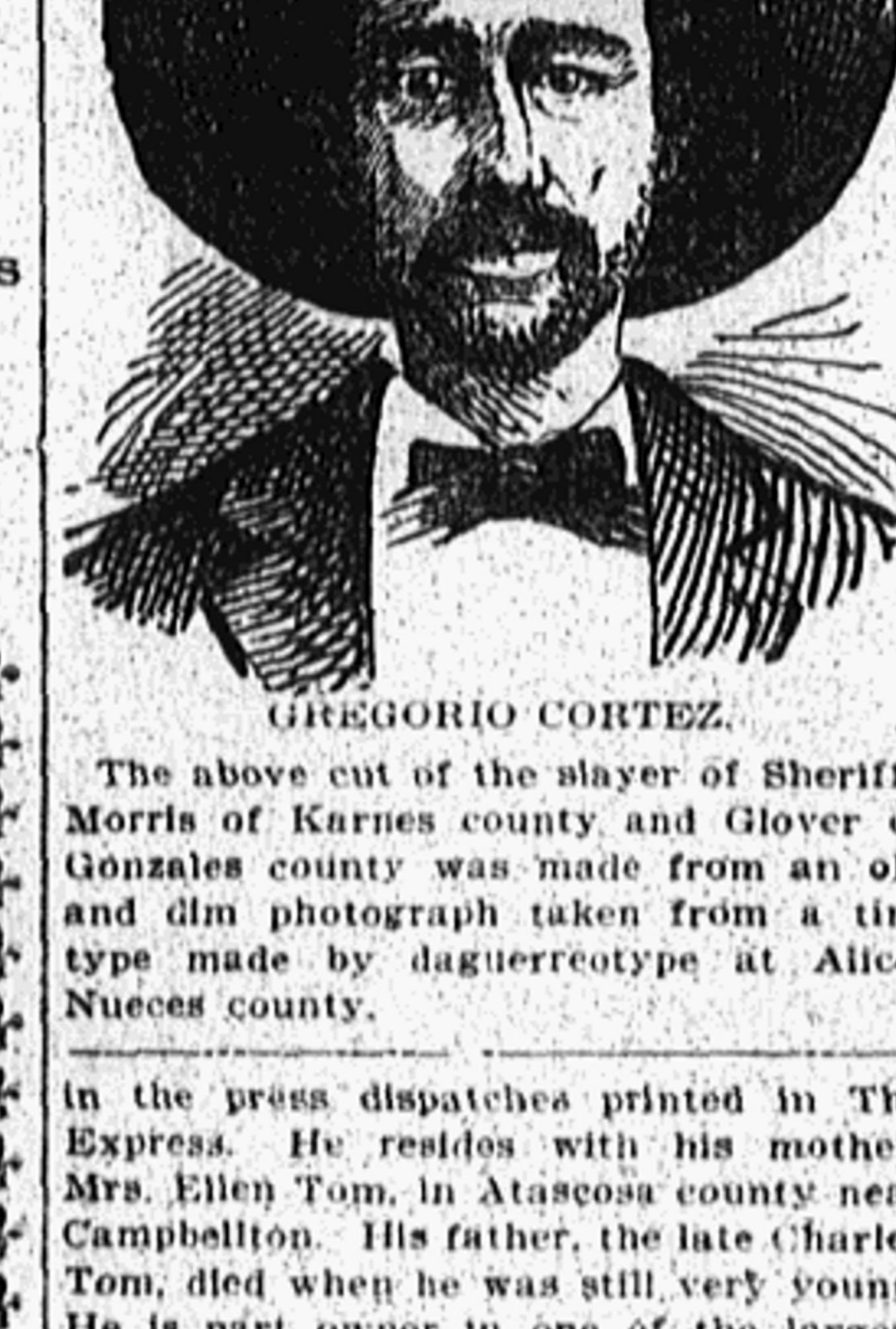
He could not be classed as the hero of blood and thunder literature. He is just a plain Texan and is proud to be numbered among such people.

His modesty prevented him telling the story of the arduous and fatiguing pursuit of Cortez. When asked to tell The Express how Cortez was trailed, a faint smile flitted across his open countenance and he replied:

"Oh, that would take me a thousand years."

He wanted the others to tell the story. Of several members of the party he made the request that they say nothing to newspaper reporters about him.

Tom did not take the trail in search of notoriety. In his opinion it was simply a duty which he owed to his State and how well he executed it has been told



GREGORIO CORTEZ.

The above cut of the slayer of Sheriffs Morris of Karnes county, and Glover of Gonzales county was made from an old and dim photograph taken from a tintype made by daguerreotype at Alice, Nueces county.

in the press dispatches printed in The Express. He resides with his mother, Mrs. Ellen Tom, in Atascosa county near Campbellton. His father, the late Charles Tom, died when he was still very young. He is part owner in one of the largest ranches in Southwest Texas and also has an interest in several thousand head of cattle. He is greatly liked in his neighborhood and is considered by the sheriffs of this part of the State to be a man of great value. He is at the present time about 36 years of age.

Besides the Cortez chase in which he

trailed the fugitive for 400 miles, he took

a leading part in the capture of a Mexi-

can who was hung at Floresville about

three years ago. This man was con-

victed for the killing of his sweetheart.

Tom trailed him for a distance of 250

miles. He was also on the trail of an-

other Mexican who killed Sam Butler at

Kenedy in 1890. The trail of this man was

lost in the San Kachia Mountains.

Accompanying Tom in the Cortez

chase were Sheriff Avant, Mike Dolan

and Joe Kerr. Dolan and Kerr protected

Tom throughout the chase to save him

from being shot from ambush as his

position was the most dangerous in Sherif-

Avant's posse. So closely had they

followed the trail, that the posse arrived

only about twenty minutes after the cap-

ture of the fugitive had been effected.

They ran onto Cortez in the arms of the

officers.

There is another man who has followed

the trail with the treacity of a blood-

hound. He is Deputy Sheriff A. A. Lyons

of Karnes county. Mr. Lyons took up

the trail with the treacity of a blood-

hound met his untimely end. He contin-

ued the pursuit to Laredo and re-

turned from there Sunday. Mr. Lyons,

like others, did not care to speak of

the matter. He referred the reporter to

Postmaster P. W. Tom of Ronje, who

repeated an interview given by Cortez

at the county jail. Postmaster Tom

came here to identify Cortez, whom he

has known for twenty-one years.

Sheriff Avant, Deputy Choate, Manuel

Tom and several other officers returned

to their homes Monday afternoon on the

southbound Aransas Pass train.

CAPT. ROGERS TELLS

OF THE CAPTURE

Ranger Capt. J. R. Rogers, to whom

belongs the honor of capturing Cortez, is

very generous about dividing that honor

with others. He evidently wishes to

give full credit to others, and does not

thereby detract at all from himself.

Captain Rogers is well known all over

Southwest Texas and those who know

him will not be surprised at his modesty

in declining to accept undivided honor

for the capture.

"I received word from Sheriff Avant

and others," he said to The Express,

"that Cortez was heading for Laredo and

would probably be found near the coal

mines. I took K. H. Merrim, mounted

customs inspector at Laredo, with me

and started on a scout for trace of him.

We rode around with no success and had

camped for lunch when a Mexican va-

quero, Jesus Gonzales, by name, rode up.

I asked him if he had seen a Mexican

giving a description of Cortez. He said

he had, and that he was at a ranch

about 200 yards away.

"I knew we were after the right man

because the vaquero, when I described

the man I wanted, said: 'That's the man

there's a reward of \$1000 for, isn't it?'

"I told him it was the same. He said:

"Come on and I will show him to you."

"We were making coffee, but dropped

everything and, saddling up, followed

him. In a few minutes we came in sight

of the ranch house. In the open yard

around it were several men and when we

got within about fifty yards of them, we

threw down our Winchesters on them and

told them to surrender. Of course,

they didn't know but that Cortez was in

the crowd. The vaquero seeing this, told

me Cortez was in the house. He rode on

ahead and entered the house. In a mo-

ment he appeared at the door, Cortez

with him.

POINTED OUT BY A MEXICAN VAQUERO

"Here's your man," said Gonzales, and

that was all there was to it. Cortez

made no attempt at resistance. I was

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