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The first citizen of the United States to reach the upper region of the Rio Grande was General (then Captain) Zebulon Montgomery Pike. In 1806, just three years after the Louisiana Purchase had been completed by President Thomas Jefferson, General Pike set forth from Louisiana to explore the western frontier. Making a great circle from Pueblo, Colorado, around the peak which bears his name, he crossed South Park, which intervenes between the famous mountain and the main range of the Continental Divide. Coming to the Arkansas River, he followed its downward course to a point near the Royal Gorge. Here, in midwinter, he turned south into the Wet Mountain Valley on the eastern slope of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. Leaving some of his men in camp because of frozen feet, Pike ascended the Sangre de Cristo Range through deep snow, crossing over Mosca Pass into the San Luis Valley. Passing the Sand Dunes, he crossed the Rio Grande near Alamosa and descended its western bank to the junction of the Conejos River, the tributary coming from the west. With his men suffering from cold and exposure, he built a stockade to await spring weather, sending back for those left in the Wet Mountain Valley.

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Many historians believe that Pike was lost; some believe that he had been sent to locate the position of the Spanish in this then unknown wilderness. Following a report by Spanish scouts that the American flag was flying on Spanish soil, the Governor of the Province of New Spain sent a detachment of soldiers to "request" Pike's presence in the capital city of Santa Fe. Pike seems to have gone a willing prisoner; his journal recounts not only the events of his long journey, but ^{also} keen observations on all that he saw. He was held prisoner for some weeks, being treated with much

courtesy and given great freedom of movement. Then he was taken to Chihuahua, Mexico, for questioning. His ^papers were taken, his maps examined and held, and after much delay he was finally escorted to the southern border and released to return to Louisiana.

The interesting question^s which arise^{are} ~~are~~; Was so experienced and intelligent an explorer really lost? Why did he cross the mountains in the midst of a most severe winter? Would he have crossed the Rio Grande (or, as he may have believed, the Red River) and raised the American flag on foreign soil? Would he have gone such a willing prisoner all the way to Mexico when he had opportunity to escape? And finally, had he been sent on a secret mission to discover the whereabouts of the Spanish and to learn all he could about this new boundry? Perhaps the answer lies locked in ~~the files of~~ the National Archives.

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At Roma, Texas, may yet be found many fine old buildings left from pioneer days. Long before the days of bridges, Roma was a point of crossing the river, though today a fine suspension bridge spans the Rio Grande between Roma and San Pedro de Roma. Across the river in Mexico, a few miles upstream, lies the old town of Mier. During the days of the Texas Republic, conflicts along the border were legion. Raids of retaliation moved back and forth, instigated first by one side, then by the other. One famous in Texas history is the Mier Expedition. In December 1842, a small independent force of Texans crossed the Rio Grande near Mier, intent on ^{revenge.} ~~such a purpose.~~ They were captured at Salado and each of the one hundred and seventy-six men was forced to draw a bean from an earthen crock in which ^{were} seventeen black beans among the white. Those drawing the black beans were executed by order of Santa Ana.

Border troubles and hostile feeling ^{have gradually disappeared} ~~are melting into the future~~ and life has settled into a quiet routine with friendly intercourse across the Rio Grande.

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11/15/20 [The greatest single source of wealth in Texas is oil, and one field in particular borders the river, and extends into Mexico. This is situated at the last elevation, slight as it is, ^{at} before the ^{apex} ~~beginning~~ of the Delta ~~area~~. Recent drillings in Mexico are proving that a field of size extends across the river, and many new operations are under way. Rigs rise above the ground as wells are drilled, where tools are raised for dressing and repair and new lengths added as the hole goes deeper. In regions where natural gas has not yet been put to use, one sees orange flames against the pale-blue sky as excess gas is burned to protect wells from fire or explosion. After a well has been "brought in," the rig is removed and a pump installed.

Rigs are built above the ground when wells are drilled. Here, the long boring tools are raised for dressing (sharpening) and new lengths are added as the hole goes deeper.

Plate # 237 177

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Plate # 235 below

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~~Like balls pendant from a christmas tree, grapefruit hang~~
~~from slender stems which seem scarcely strong enough to hold~~
~~such weight.~~ As boxes are filled with with the ^slucious white
 or pink grapefruit, trucks transport them to the packing houses
 and canneries located in the new towns. The citrus groves, masses
 of dark green foliage, extend a distance of eighty miles along the
 delta of the Rio Grande.

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 n 223 if alternate format is used.

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11/15
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Near Weslaco, one of the new towns, is a pumping station which lifts more than nineteen acre-feet of water an hour from the Rio Grande. With nearly five hundred thousand acres of land under irrigation from the river, the ~~chaparral~~-covered plain of twenty years ago is now a veritable Garden of Eden. On the Texas side of the river, the combined pumps, together with the few ditches which are able to operate by gravity, lift approximately one million acre-feet of water a year to spread upon this fertile soil. In this flat land where grades are almost non-existent, water in the ditches is siphoned under highways.

Plate # 241 TP

Plate # 240 Bottom

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$\frac{11}{24}$ $\frac{13}{24}$ ☐ The first dams built in the Rio Grande were erected by those industrious, intelligent little animals, the beaver, whose engineering ability is proverbially faultless.

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The San Juan Mountains consist of piled volcanic outpourings of past ages, and in certain areas outcroppings of basalt and softer tuff have been eroded into unusual shapes. At the base of sharp defiles, the river has worn small canyons ^{as} ~~where~~ the constant movement of the water ~~has~~ cut deep into this volcanic structure.

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☐ The butt end of the forester's marking axe, bears the U. S. seal
for stamping logs.

K 90 page 42 Top

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☐ With skill and grace the cowboy rides his allotted horse, often being thrown but always coming back courageously to try for coveted honors.

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TOP

 Clustered around the chutes from which they later emerge on the
 backs of unbroken horses, contestants ^{swap stories} ~~gossip~~ while other events hold
 the stage.

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