

safely across the River Bravo del Norte by the skilful Mexican "Botaroos" to the martial strains of a peerless Mexican band.

With exceptional public spirit, the genial and much-loved Judge Forto who manages the ferry has thrown no obstacle in the way of building the bridge, but on the contrary has shown every interest of the prosecution of the work. His advice and assistance to the bridge builders has always been theirs for the asking; he has done this although he knows better than anyone else that when the bridge is finished his ferry, which has been carrying people across the river for 30 years with the unparalleled record of not hurting one soul, will gradually die. God bless the Judge and long may he live.

The bridge rejoices in the good name, The Brownsville and Matamoras Bridge. The name is unusually appropriate. Brownsville possesses a unique name in the United States for reasons too numerous to mention.

Matamoras is famous throughout Mexico as being the city where the great events transpired that gave Mexico her greatest citizen and statesman, the wonderful and wise Diaz.

People of Brownsville and Matamoras, the bridge identified by your name is yours. A bridge of stone and steel. May its foundations never fail. May no rascally fiddler, on a summer's eve, with his instrument attuned to the responsive chord of one of its tension members, fiddle away till the whole structure shall collapse as traditional fable tells us has been done. May the waters of the Rio Grande flow gently when passing by your bridge in their turbulent roll to the sea. May no violent tornado, originating among bad people on the other side of the Gulf, wreck its fury on your bridge. May the trains of the two great railroads that will use it roll proudly and safely across the yawning chasm of the river for many years to come. May no accident of any description ever mar its fair name. May it perform its offices as a good bridge, as all good bridges in history have done, in perfecting communication, promoting commerce and advancing civilization of the two nations that it joins. May the young ladies of Brownsville with their sturdy beaus, and the señoritas of Matamoras with their escorts frequently use the bridge as a means of promoting their courtships. And lastly, but not least, may the result of such unions engendered, fostered and favored by the bridge produce a race of men and women on both sides of the river; that in human achievement, progress, and love of the law of the land, shall rival the Spartans of Old.

W. B. TAYLOR.