

May 19, 1950



EMIL BERKIG AND RUDI SIMON
From the old country 25 years ago

JUSTICE WILL BE DONE

Sunday to Mark 25th Anniversary Of City Marshal's Triumphant Entry

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Special Writer

Sunday, May 21, will be the 25th anniversary of the arrival in Giddings from Germany of Rudi Simon, beloved city marshal of our fair city.

On the morning of May 21, 1925, Rudi, accompanied by his brother, Willie, and Emil Berkig, were met at the Southern Pacific depot by Ed Artmann, Rudi's uncle.

Rudi and his brother went to work for Mr. Artmann, while Mr. Berkig assumed a job with his brother-in-law, the late Paul Artmann.

They embarked on the German liner Columbus and landed at New York. They fell in love with the Statue of Liberty, a love that was permanent as far as Rudi and Emil were concerned. Willie stayed only two years and then returned to Germany.

From New York they rode a combination freighter and passenger of the Magnolia line to Galveston.

Unknown to the three immigrants, Judge John H. Tate of Giddings rode into Giddings with them from Houston. Mr.

Tate did not realize the importance of the occasion, although he occupied a seat immediately behind them.

In 1938 Judge Tate administered the oath of citizenship to Emil Berkig at Bastrop. Rudi received his final citizenship papers from the Federal District Court in Austin in 1940 with the assistance of John S. Simmang, present County Judge of Lee County.

During the late war Rudi was employed by the Brown Shipyards in Houston. His duties there were devoted to carpenter work on Destroyer Escorts. He was joined there later by John Christiansen of Giddings.

A quotation from the Brown Victory Dispatch, published by employees of Brown Shipbuilding Company, will explain the reason for the high regard in which he is held by all who know him.

"We hope," says this article, "before you die, you have the opportunity to see Tiny Simon look 'Angelic.' Tiny is from the 'old country,' Germany, weighs 200-plus, and is lead-

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