



American Latino Heritage



GREGORIO CORTEZ LIRA

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Gregorio and his brother were tenant farmers in Texas. The local deputy was investigating a horse theft and found out that Gregorio had recently acquired a horse, which he had not stolen. Miscommunication led the deputy to shoot Gregorio's brother, which prompted Gregorio to fatally wound him. Although pursued by a 300-man posse, he eluded capture for 12 days. One of the largest manhunts in history, it is illustrative of race tensions in Texas. He was given a life sentence but was pardoned in 1913 by the governor.