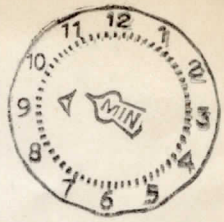
W. M. CALDWELL
LAWYER

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MAY 19 1925

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May 15, 1925.

Mr. F. L. Black,
Dearborn Independent,
Dearborn,
Mich.

My dear Mr. Black;

Replying to your favor of the 11th. inst:

I was one of the attorneys representing private interests in the suit of The State of Oklahoma vs The State of Texas, tried or rather disposed of about a year ago in the Supreme Court of the United States, and in this case I had occasion to interview a number of old people with reference to early days along Red River; among the witnesses for the State of Texas was an old scout of General McKinzie, and he is the one who told me the story of John Wilkes Booth, alias Professor Ravenwood; it will be my pleasure to again endeavor to get in touch with him and if successful I will forward you what data I am able to obtain.

I note in your letter to me you had nothing to say regarding the skeleton found in Purgatory Hole along Purgatory River; if you will go into this matter further I believe that you will find that Coronado did not touch what is now the present State of Colorado in either going or returning in his march to the Platte; you will recall that Coronado after leaving Santa Fe' persued a Southeastern course to a point near where the town of Sweetwater now stands, and in passing permit me to say that at the time of reaching this point his men and those of Mososco, De Soto's lieutenant, and the one in charge after Sotos death, could not have been more than fifty or seventy-five miles apart; after leaving the place last indicated Coronado took a North eastern course, going through what is now Kansas. I refer you to Bolton's Spanish Explorations in the South-West, as well as Fitzgerald's Spanish Explorations in the Southern United States. Fowler, I believe either says or intimates that he was the first one to ascend the Arkansas, and you will note from the reference heretofore sent you that one of his men was killed at a point where the skeleton was recently found, hence my reason for writing you regarding this matter.

I am delighted to hear that additional articles regarding Booth are soon to appear, I will look forward to same with much pleasure.

Yours very truly,

W. M. Caldwell.