



Official State Historical Center of the Texas
Rangers law enforcement agency.

**The Following Article was Originally Published in the
*Texas Ranger Dispatch Magazine***

The *Texas Ranger Dispatch* was published by the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum from 2000 to 2011. It has been superseded by this online archive of Texas Ranger history.

Managing Editors

Robert Nieman 2000-2009; (b.1947-d.2009)

Byron A. Johnson 2009-2011

Publisher & Website Administrator

Byron A. Johnson 2000-2011

Director, Texas Ranger Hall of Fame

Technical Editor, Layout, and Design

Pam S. Baird



Funded in part by grants from
the Texas Ranger Association Foundation

Copyright 2017, Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum, Waco, TX. All rights reserved. Non-profit personal and educational use only; commercial reprinting, redistribution, reposting or charge-for-access is prohibited. For further information contact: Director, Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum, PO Box 2570, Waco TX 76702-2570.



TEXAS RANGER DISPATCH Magazine

[Rangers Today](#)
[Visitor Info](#)
[History](#)
[Research Center](#)
[Hall of Fame](#)
[Student Help](#)
[Family History](#)
[News](#)

★ [Click Here for
A Complete Index
to All Back Issues](#)

★ [Dispatch Home](#)

★ [Visit our nonprofit
Museum Store!](#)

★ [Contact the Editor](#)



Book Review:

Just One Riot

by Ben Proctor
Review by Chuck Parsons

by Ben Proctor. 2000. xii + 178 pages, 69 illustrations, one map. Eakin Press, PO Drawer 90159, Austin TX 78709-0159

This well-written and highly researched narrative describes six well-known Rangers and the primo incidents which will keep their names in bold face in the pages of Texas Ranger history. To Procter's thinking, these men carried on the great traditions originated by Jack Hays, Ben McCulloch, John B. Jones and L. H. McNelly. The book discusses Bill McDonald's treatment of the "Brownsville Affray"; Red Burton's confrontation with the then overpowering Ku Klux Klan; Leo Bishop's conquering the crime wave of San Augustine; Clint Peoples' taking of N. J. Tynes, the "crazed man"; Bob Crowder's bringing the Rusk Hospital riot to resolution; and Jim Estelle's work in the 1974 Huntsville Penitentiary hostage crisis. These men faced these challenges head on, and they survived where lesser men would not have made it.

Not only does Procter narrate the step-by step movements the Rangers took to resolve the problems, but he also explains how the actions involved the gradual changes taking place not only in law enforcement in general, but also among the Texas Rangers in particular. These 20th-century problems could not have been solved by the horseback Rangers with six-guns or Sharps carbines. The cases involved the technical skills which then-modern communication allowed, the working together with other law enforcement organizations, and the recent skills of dealing with hostage situations—rare in 19th-century history. These men were able to make the adjustment from the 19th-century horseback Ranger to the 20th-century lawman. While doing so, however, they still upheld the Ranger mystique.

Procter did not rely on secondary sources alone, although they were used. He was able to interview the Rangers and others involved. In the case of the prison hostage situation, Procter talked to several of those individuals taken hostage who had managed to survive. These primary source materials make the narrative credible and adds realism to what could have been a dry narration of facts at the hands of a lesser writer.

The opening chapter discusses the problems encountered by the Ranger organization as well as the difficulties some individuals had with the transition from horseback Ranger to 20th-century lawman. During the early years, a Mexican Ranger was a rarity, and women and blacks were totally



omitted from consideration for the service. Since then, that aspect of Ranger history has changed. In 1988, Lee Young became the first black appointee in Ranger history, followed by Earl Pearson in 1989. Since then there have been others. Now there are also female Texas Rangers entering the force.

Procter alludes to several shameful events in 20th-century Ranger history, such as the El Pourvenir revenge action of Captain J. M. Fox in 1918; the killing of Mexican prisoners by Captain H. L. Ransom; and the completely ignoring of any need for search warrants by Charles F. Stevens. Procter does not develop these incidents further. Perhaps in the future, Procter or some other capable historian will research these unhappy incidents of Texas Ranger history and balance the positive contribution with the other side of the historical coin.

[Top](#)

[Dispatch](#)

[Jr. Rangers](#)

[Corporate Club](#)

[Museum Store](#)

[Exhibits/Artifacts](#)

[Benefactors](#)

All rights reserved. © 2003, Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum. [Contact Us](#)
The Hall of Fame and Museum complex is located adjacent to Interstate 35 in Waco, Texas (midway between Dallas/Fort Worth and Austin).

