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"Go When You Get Ready"

by Sgt. Lee Young, Texas Rangers

There have been many interesting stories told about Captain Manuel Trazazas "Lone Wolf" Gonzauillas. A favorite of mine is a story I heard in 1988 from Bob Ross in Brownwood, Texas. Bob told me he had known Captain Gonzauillas, and that the captain had once told him this story.

Gonzauillas was working in the Kilgore area when he received information that a character he had an arrest warrant for was in a nearby saloon. Not wasting any time, he went in search of the wanted man. Entering the saloon, he saw the suspect standing at the bar.

Gonzauillas walked up to the bar and established eye contact with the fugitive. He quietly informed the man that he was there to take him into custody. In the back of his mind, he suspected that the man had no intention of surrendering peaceably.

Gonzauillas almost always carried two 1911 Colt .45s, one on each hip, resting comfortably in their holsters. He lifted one of the big .45s, placed the pistol on the bar, and slid it in front of the criminal.

Gonzauillas told the wannabe guy, "I've got the other one here (indicating the other .45 still in its holster). You can go for that one (on the bar) when you get ready."

The bad man hesitated and stared at the pistol in front of him. He then slowly shifted his stare to Gonzauillas. He wisely decided not to take up a gunfight with the Ranger and surrendered without incident.

Ross concluded the story by saying that Gonzauillas told him "it was a damn good thing he didn't make a play for that Colt .45. I unloaded it before I walked into the bar!"

§



Sgt. Lee Young grew up in the Brackettville-Del Rio area. Descending from Black Seminole Indians, he is a great grandson of Black Seminole Chief John Kibbetts and Seminole Indian Scout Medal of Honor recipient Sergeant John Ward.



Lee was a Park Ranger in the Amistad National Recreation Area, Del Rio, Texas, in 1971- 1973. He joined the Texas Department of Public Safety in 1973, where his first duty assignment was as a Highway Patrol Trooper. He then served in the Criminal Intelligence Service as an investigator and promoted to Texas Ranger in September 1988.

Lee is married to Mary Sanchez of Brackettville, Texas. He is the father of 16-year-old daughter Kristen Marie Young and 23-year-old son Anthony Lee Young.

(For more extensive biographical information on Lee Young, go to the article, "One-Armed Miller," in the Fall 2002 issue of *The Dispatch*.)

Dispatch

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