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Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum Newsletter

Sponsored by the City of Waco

Official Historical Center for Texas Rangers

Home of the Texas Ranger Bicentennial 2023

January 2015

FEATURE ARTICLES

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Again!
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FINAL DAYS OF TEXAS ROOTS



Texas Roots: The Art of Lee Herring closes on Sunday, January 11th.

Come see over 20 works of art by the 2007 State of Texas Artist. Mr. Herring is a master at capturing the American West. These works are available for purchase and 40% of the sale price will be

Dear Christine,

The Board and staff of the Texas Ranger hall of Fame and Museum wish you a happy, safe and prosperous New Year. Thanks for your support and interest.

Collections Highlight

On Saturday, November 29th, Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum representatives were invited to participate in the family reunion of Texas Ranger Captain Ira Long's descendants. Captain Long (b.1842-d.1913) served for six years in the Frontier Battalion of the Texas Rangers (1874-1901).

The reunion was hosted by Mr. and Mrs. John Long at the lovely T Bar M Resort in New Braunfels. Various family members told stories about Captain Long and the history of the family. Kate McCarthy, Collections Assistant, gave a short presentation about the TRHFM and accepted the generous donation of documents and artifacts relating to Captain Long and the loan of his Model 1861 Springfield percussion rifle.

Among the fascinating documents and personal ephemera are a United Confederate Veterans Civil War reunion medal and a childhood studio portrait believed originally taken at the age of nine. The TRHFM is grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Long for donating these heirlooms for present and future generations. They will be added to our exhibit on Captain Long.

donated to the Texas Ranger Museum's Bicentennial Fund to renovate and expand the museum in preparation for the Texas Ranger Bicentennial in 2023.

To view a full list of artworks and prices, please [click here](#).

IN THE PRESS!



In Bill O'Neal's new book, *Texas Gunslingers*, he dedicates an entire chapter to the Texas Rangers. On page 122 he says,

"For those interested in the gunfighter lore of Texas, there is no more rewarding place to visit than the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum in Waco. There are superb displays of famous Texas Rangers and notable Ranger events."

We are thankful for his kind words. Bill O'Neal is the State Historian of Texas as appointed by the Governor in 2012 and 2014.

SPRING BREAK ROUND UP



Additionally, Mr. David Guest of Utah donated M.T. "Lone Wolf" Gonzauillas' personalized Stanley brand 16 inch tall thermos with leather carrying case. The Collections Staff has added this unique artifact to the "Lone Wolf" Gonzauillas exhibit in Taub Hall.

Save the date for Spring Break Round Up on Saturday, March 14th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

The come and go event will feature activities and programs for children and adults, including a camp and chuck wagon cooking demonstration by Texas Top Guns. Visitors also will enjoy a presentation by a real Texas Ranger! Entrance to the event is free with general museum admission.

A SPECIAL THANKS!



On Saturday, December 20th, Dr. Derham Groves of the University of Melbourne presented his research into William Boyd/Hopalong Cassidy's tour of Australia for his upcoming book, *When Hoppy Met Skippy: Hopalong Cassidy in Australia*.

We are thankful for his generosity in donating his time to entertain and educate our visitors.

DPS GRADUATES 109 STATE TROOPERS



Baylor University Students Conduct Survey

The Museum is planning a redesign of its exhibits for the Texas Ranger Bicentennial in 2023. As part of the process, an audience survey was recently completed in conjunction with Baylor University's Strategic Communication Research class, in the Department of Journalism, Public Relations, and New Media at Baylor University.



Students under the direction of Dr. Marlene Neill were divided into three groups and tasked with exploring what TRHFM visitors, Ranger history enthusiasts, public school teachers and the Texas Rangers themselves would like to see.

The Texas Ranger focus group was comprised of two active duty and two retirees. "This experience means a lot to someone who wants to know what it was like to be a Texas Ranger," retired Captain Richard Sweaney said. "This museum is unique, so it's good for the public to have a hands-on experience so they can understand that."



The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) commissioned 109 men and women as Highway Patrol Troopers during the recruit graduation ceremony on December 19th in Austin.

The troopers began the 23-week training academy in July. Instruction covered more than 100 subjects, including counterterrorism, traffic and criminal law, arrest and control procedures, accident reconstruction, first aid and Spanish. They also received training in use of force, communication skills, firearms, driving, criminal interdiction, cultural diversity and physical fitness.

To learn more and see photographs from the graduation ceremony, please [click here](#).

DPS HONORS OFFICERS,
EMPLOYEES FOR
EXEMPLARY SERVICE



On December 18th, the Texas Public Safety Commission and the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) Director Steven McCraw presented six Director's



Left Side of Table: Ranger Marquis Cantu, Lieutenant Jamie Downs, Retired Captain Richard Sweaney, Museum Director Byron Johnson
Right Side of Table: Derwin Graham, Hunter Sappington, Riki Burhans, Retired Ranger Matt Cawthon, Museum Education Coordinator Casey Eichhorn
Center: *Baylor Lariat* Reporter

The Educators focus group was comprised of teachers, administrators and homeschoolers. They contributed ideas regarding how to make the exhibits more appealing to school groups by increasing the interactivity of exhibits. One option was the use of interactive "gaming" technology so that a visitor acting as a Texas Ranger could utilize real investigative techniques to solve a crime.

The third group of Baylor students conducted an on-site survey of visitors entering the museum. The goal of the intercept interviews was to talk to people who had not previously visited the museum, about 75% of the respondents.

The final component was an on-line survey; invitations to participate were emailed in November. The questionnaire sought information concerning what people who have visited the museum found to be important and the expectation of persons who have not visited. We appreciate your participation. The most striking results were the facts that the majority of participants were above the age of 50 (important as the US population grows older in median age) and that most were interested in a historically rich experience as opposed to one overloaded with technology.

"Having the Baylor students partner with us provides valuable insight," said Byron A. Johnson, Director. "This is a decade-long project, and it is important to know what tourists, teachers and the Rangers consider important."

To read the *Baylor Lariat* article, please [click here](#).

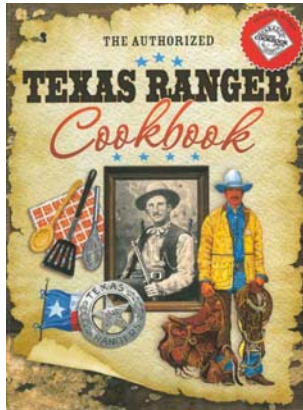
Presentations on the Texas Rangers

On Friday, December 5th, Ranger Jason Bobo of Company "F" presented on the history and current duties of Texas Rangers to a class comprised of mostly 4th and 5th graders. Ranger Bobo has conducted 5 presentations at the Hanna Springs Middle School in Lampasas.

Citations and two Life Saving Awards to DPS employees for their outstanding service. In addition, two divisions within the agency received Unit Citations for their significant contributions to the DPS mission.

For recipient information, please [click here](#).

**GIFT SHOP FEATURE:
TEXAS RANGER COOKBOOK**



Back in Stock! *The Authorized Texas Ranger Cookbook* features recipes and Ranger stories. 213 pages, \$18.95.

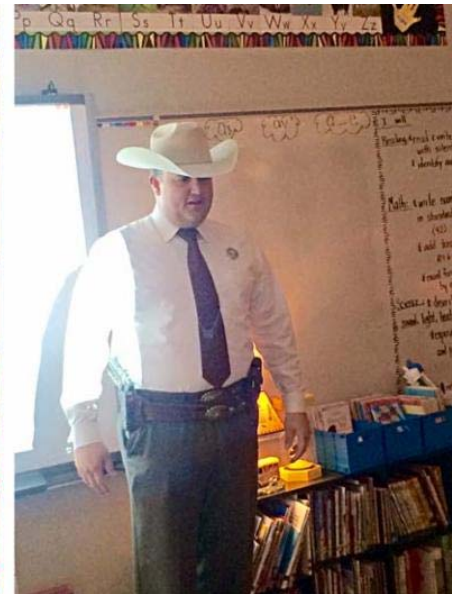
To purchase the cookbook, please call toll free (877) 750-8631 or email thestore@texasranger.org.

Sales from the Gift Shop benefit the preservation and education activities of the Museum.

EDUCATION CENTER



The following groups utilized the Education Center for programs during the month of December:



Ranger Bobo with Braxton Neely at Hanna Springs Middle School.

On Saturday, December 13th, Shelly Crittendon, Collections Manager, presented a program on the history of the Texas Rangers at the Buffalo Gap Historic Village as part of their Chautauqua Learning Series. For more information on the Buffalo Gap Historic Village and the Chautauqua Series, please visit their website: <http://tfhcc.com/>.

Ranger Armstrong Captures Wes Hardin Again!

History shows that notorious Texas Fugitive John Wesley Hardin was captured in Pensacola, Florida on August 23, 1877 by Texas Rangers John B. Armstrong and Jack Duncan assisted by Escambia County Florida Sheriff William H. Hutchinson. On Saturday, October 25th, history repeated itself in the form of a reenactment along with the unveiling of a historical marker commemorating the event. Approximately 200 spectators smelled the gunsmoke and heard the crack of Armstrong's pistol as the capture was enacted on a flatbed railroad car near the actual spot where the 1877 capture took place. Moments later the historical marker was unveiled; it is perhaps the first marker outside Texas commemorating this event.

Department of Public Safety
Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services

QUICK LINKS

- [Website](#)
- [Gift Shop](#)
- [Knox Center](#)
- [Education Center](#)
- [Education Programs](#)
- [Research Center](#)
- [Museum Video](#)
- [Bicentennial Video](#)



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Four men standing in front of the historical marker. **From Left:** Joe Ulery, retired ATF agent; Escambia County, Florida Sheriff David Morgan; Dave Brown who played the part of 1877 sheriff William H. Hutchinson; and Texas Ranger Gary Phillips. *Photo courtesy Thomas Bicknell, Pensdacula, Florida.*

To read the full article about Hardin and the reenactment by authors Tom Bicknell and Chuck Parsons, please [click here](#).

Highlights From 2014

Museum News:

- In 2014, three retired Texas Rangers joined the TRHFM Advisory Board: Barry Caver, retired Captain of Co. "E;" Gerardo "Gary" De Los Santos, retired Assistant Chief of the Texas Rangers; and Richard Sweaney, retired Captain of Co. "B." In addition, Bob Alexander, Texas Ranger historian and author, and Bill Shank, Shank Wealth Management in Kingwood, joined the TRHFM Advisory Board.
- On January 19th, Cynthia Leon, Chair of the Texas Public Safety Commission, hosted a 60th birthday party for husband, Hollis Rutledge. Mr. Rutledge requested guests donate to the museum's exhibit renovation projects in lieu of gifts. We appreciate the generosity of Mr. Rutledge and his guests!
- On September 27th, we hosted *Boots and Badges: Celebrating 50 Years*. The museum was founded in 1964, and 2014 marked its Golden Anniversary.
- We received two donations for the *Distinguished Service: The Living Retired Texas Rangers* exhibit. The lead gift was from Mrs. Holly Holt Williamson of Austin and Mrs. Andrea Catania of Midland. The installation will recognize the public service of their late father, Robert Holt, a distinguished commissioner and chairman of the Texas Public Safety Commission. He was a strong supporter of the history, heritage and service of the Texas



Rangers. The second donation was a matching grant made by the Texas Ranger Association Foundation.

- In September, Ram Truck announced at the State Fair of Texas that it is partnering with the Museum to preserve and share the history of the renowned law-enforcement organization. Ram Truck Brand President and CEO Bob Hegbloom marked the occasion by presenting a check for \$100,000.

Artifacts and Exhibits:

- In January, the family of Captain Ira Long, who served during the Frontier Battalion, generously loaned Captain Long's Mason ring, pocket watch and a framed portrait.
- Retired Texas Ranger Bill Gunn loaned a limited edition Texas Ranger Saddle commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Rangers in 1973.
- In April, the descendants of Ranger Capt. G. W. Arrington donated two boxes of papers, photographs and books, along with a Civil War officer's sword and the branding iron from the Rocking Chair Ranch, which Arrington managed. It is a treasure trove of original documents, including muster and pay rolls and monthly reports for Company "C", arrest records and letter books.
- A Lone Ranger exhibit opened in Spindletop Tower exhibit gallery of the Armstrong Texas Ranger Research Center. It features archival and library artifacts from the collections never before exhibited.
- From August 29th to January 11th, the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum presents *Texas Roots: The Art of Lee Herring*. The exhibit features over 20 works of art by the 2007 State of Texas Artist. Mr. Herring is a master at capturing the American West. Over 1/3 of the paintings have sold so far. A portion of the purchase price will be donated to the Bicentennial Fund to renovate and expand the museum.
- Author Rick Miller made another significant donation of nearly 700 volumes to the Armstrong Texas Ranger Research Center. The collection covers a broad range of Texas and Southwest lawman and outlaw history.

**Save
\$2.00**

Save \$1.00 off regular adult admission for up to two adults. Coupon not valid on discounted senior or military admission. No cash value.
The museum is open 9am to 5pm with the last guest admitted at 4:30pm. The museum is located off I-35 and University Parks Drive in Waco, Texas.
For more information, call (254) 750-8631 or visit www.texasranger.org.

Offer Expires: January 31, 2015

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