



Obituary



John Wood, Texas Ranger 1913 -2013



John Mansel Wood, 99, the oldest living Texas Ranger, passed away April 23, 2013.

He was born October 9, 1913, in Colorado City, Texas and began his career in law enforcement as a city policeman in 1942, and joined the Texas Department of Public Safety in November as a Highway Patrolman.

He was selected to become a Texas Ranger on January 1, 1949 and assigned to Midland in the Permian Basin oil fields. As a sergeant, Wood recovered more stolen oilfield equipment than any other Ranger in the state. He noted that the criminal activity was so flagrant that entire oil rigs would be stolen.

In 1970, he promoted to Captain and commanded Company D, headquartered in San Antonio where he spent eight years. The cornerstone of his career was the investigation of government corruption in Duval Country, a job that took years and most of the resources of Company D. His efforts resulted in several hundred cases against two dozen people.

After almost thirty years of service in the Texas Rangers, and thirty-six years with Texas DPS, he retired on October 31, 1978. In 1980 he went to work for the Lower Colorado River Authority as chief of security.

In 2011 the Texas Ranger Association Foundation honored Captain Wood during the annual Texas Ranger Reunion in Waco. His life and experiences are chronicled in his autobiographical *Texas Ranger in the Oil Patch* published in 1994.

