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June 2020

Texas Ranger Hall of Fame Newsletter

Sponsored by the City of Waco
Official State Historical Center of the Texas Rangers
Home of Texas Ranger Bicentennial 1823-2023

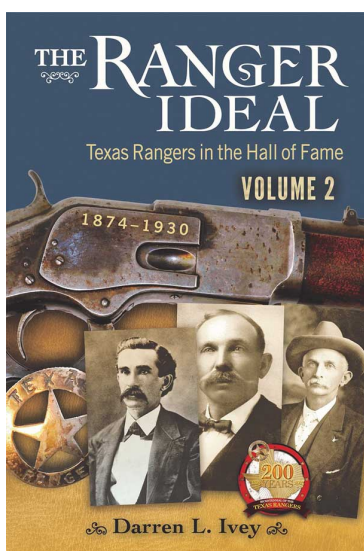
New Exhibits in the Hall of Fame

Come see our three new exhibits in the Hall of Fame, which include "J. B. Gillett", "Marvin Burton" and the "Four Great Captains". These are part of the "Honoring the Legacy" exhibits focused on prominent Hall of Fame Inductees.



Rachel Smith, Assistant Collections Manager, installs the "Four Great Captains" exhibit in the above photograph. The two-sided completed exhibit is displayed below.

The storied “Four Great Captains” refers to Texas Ranger Captains James A. Brooks, John H. Rogers, John R. Hughes, and William “Bill” McDonald. These men witnessed the transition of the Rangers from frontier days into the 20th century. As the Rangers suffered budget cuts and reorganizations, the Captains steered the organization through their combined leadership and experience. Surprising to some, all but one of these four men were born outside of Texas.



Learn more about the Four Great Captains when you visit the Hall of Fame or [click here](#) to access their online biographies. You can also read about them in more detail in *The Ranger Ideal, 1874-1930, Volume 2* by Darren L. Ivey.

In *Volume 2*, Darren L. Ivey presents the twelve inductees who served Texas in the latter half of the 19th century. He begins with John B. Jones, who directed his Rangers from state troops to professional lawmen; then covers Leander H. McNelly, John B. Armstrong, James B. Gillett, Jesse Lee Hall, George W. Baylor, Bryan Marsh, and Ira Aten—the men responsible for some of the Rangers' most legendary feats. Ivey concludes with James A. Brooks, William J. McDonald, John R. Hughes, and John H. Rogers, the “Four Great Captains” who guided the Texas Rangers into the 20th century.

Available for purchase in the [Museum Gift Shop](#). Hardcover \$45.00 + Tax.

Artifact Spotlight: Railroad Spike

This Artifact Spotlight features a rather small object with a powerful story. This railroad spike was inscribed to a Texas Ranger and reads "Sgt. S.H. Denson, Texas Rangers Co. D, Rio Grand [sic] City - April- June 1967". Selwyn Hogan Denson started out in the newly formed Texas Highway Patrol in 1937, and eventually joined the Texas Rangers in 1947. He was stationed in Corpus Christi when the Rangers were called in to police a strike in April 1967.



The Railroad Spike is courtesy of Ettabel Connell, daughter of S. H. Denson.

The railroad spike recalls what is known as the Starr County Strike, a dispute between farmworkers and management of a melon farm in the lower Rio Grande Valley. Demanding higher wages, the farmworkers went on strike during the melon harvest. In an unpleasant assignment, Rangers arrested railroad picketers and escorted the railroad cars that carried melons north to market. It was not the first strike that Rangers had been involved in and it wouldn't be the last.

The Rangers received a lot of criticism for their role in the strike, and some even called for the abolishment of the Rangers. Senator A. R. Schwartz was quoted as saying "I'd rather see a district court decide what the rights of the parties are than have law enforcement officers decide who's right and wrong at the scene of the controversy". Following civil rights lawsuits, policy was changed so that Texas Rangers would never again be sent to police labor disputes.

5,000 Likes & Followers on Facebook

Thank you for helping to grow our social media presence! The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum's Facebook page surpassed 5,000 likes and followers. One of our posts reached 47.2K views on Facebook because of your likes, shares and comments.

Invite your friends to like and follow us, too.

Let's see if we can get to 6,000!

<https://www.facebook.com/txrangermuseum/>



Staff Captain Saenz and JOIC

Congrats, Staff Captain Melba Saenz, on your promotion to Staff Captain over the Joint Operations and Intelligence Centers (JOIC)!



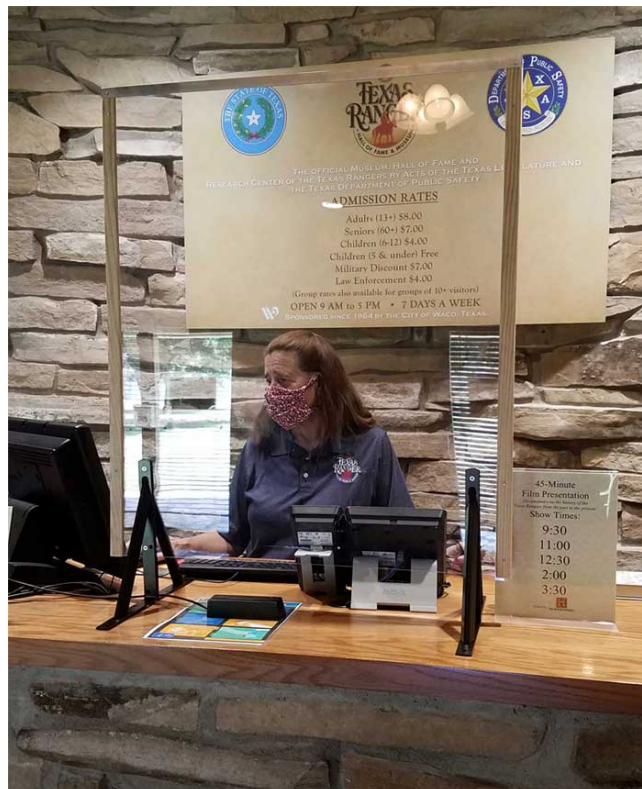
The Border Security Operations Center (BSOC) is headquartered in Austin and serves as the focal point for the six Joint Operations and Intelligence Centers (JOICs) located along the Texas/Mexico border. Responsibilities include analyzing intelligence and collecting border security information, while collaborating with state, local, and federal law enforcement partners to conduct intelligence-directed border enforcement operations and ensure information exchange between agencies.

BSOC is tasked with the timely dissemination of intelligence through a variety of mediums to law enforcement and governmental partners, including the in-depth weekly Border Operations Sector Assessment of the Texas/Mexico border. BSOC operates the State of Texas' technology initiatives to combat criminal and border exploitation while supporting tactical initiatives, such as the Special Operations Group.

Special Thanks to Dr Pepper Museum

When we reopened to the public on May 4th, we wanted to ensure the safety of both our guests and visitors. The Dr Pepper Museum and Free Enterprise Institute volunteered to make our plexiglass shields for the admission and gift shop counters. We love how they turned out! Make sure you visit the Dr Pepper Museum on your next trip to Waco.

<https://drpeppermuseum.com/>



Story Time with Audrey

Online story time videos became popular during the Shelter in Place orders and have continued to be a great resource for parents and teachers. The Museum was one of the

earliest to produce a story time, with the first episode being filmed in the museum galleries. The staff brainstormed on ways to help parents engage, entertain and educate their children while schools and the Museum were closed.

By the third reading, "Story Time with Audrey" had caught the eye of the *Killeen Daily Herald* in the article "Virtual Fun Available with Socially Distanced Activities and Events." Please [click here](#) to see the full list.

In May, the *Waco Tribune Herald* interviewed Audrey as part of a feature on locally produced story times. *She dresses in period costume — "It helps with the feeling of storytelling," she explained.* To read more of the interview, please [click here](#).



To watch the story times and see our other educational resources:

- Story Time with Audrey - Audrey Ladd, Education Programs Manager, with her poodle Bolin, reads children's books about Texas and Texas History. [Watch the videos here!](#)
- Activity Sheets - From crossword puzzles and coloring sheets to journaling prompts, these activities are fun for all ages. [Check them out here!](#)
- Guess the Artifact - Zooming in close up on a unique item in the Museum Collections, this game has you guessing what the object is and then reveals more about its history. [Test your skills here!](#)

We will continue to add content to these pages and [on Facebook](#).

A Doorway to the Texas Ranger Museum Collections

100 Items Added in May!

We are excited to announce the addition of 100 new items to our internet portal to the historical collections of the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum! Visitors worldwide can browse a selection of the 20,000 artifacts, artwork, photographs and documents preserved for future generations in the permanent collections. These resources are made available to the public for education, research purposes, and personal enjoyment. We hope you will explore our collections, and check back often as new material is added!

Explore the selection of objects, archives and photographs here:
<https://texasranger.pastperfectonline.com/>



Rachel Smith researching collections for the new database available at <https://texasranger.pastperfectonline.com/>



Machine, Slot

Managed Loan Collection

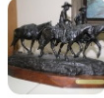
Record Type: Object



Revolver

TRHF Museum Collection

Record Type: Object



"Rangers on Patrol" - Bronze

Art Collection

Record Type: Object



"Sam Houston" - Painting

Art Collection

Record Type: Object



"Yes I Know Drew Carter" T-Shirt - Shirt

Texas Ranger Collection

Record Type: Object

True West Magazine

The May issue of *True West Magazine* features the article "La Frontiera" about the settlement of the Texan frontier and utilizes images from the Museum archives.

Please [click here](#) to read the article.



La Frontiera

True West May 2020



Texas Ranger Collage T-Shirt

Light and dark blue color. Available in adult small - 3xl. \$24.95 + Tax

To shop more items available for purchase, please visit our [Gift Shop online](#), or in person 9am to 4:30pm daily. You never have to pay admission to shop. Sales from the Gift Shop benefit the preservation and education activities of the Museum. Please call (877) 750-8631 or email thestore@texasranger.org to order. We ship worldwide. Thank you!



Texas Ranger Bicentennial™ Partners Program

Be part of the Texas Ranger Bicentennial! The Texas Rangers will commemorate their landmark 200th anniversary in 2023. With a \$100 contribution, you will receive:

1. A limited-edition enameled bronze pin featuring the official Texas Ranger Bicentennial™ seal
2. A certificate signed by an active or distinguished retired Texas Ranger
3. Your name or family name on the online roster of Bicentennial Partners™
4. A one-time-use family admission ticket (admits 4) to the Museum.

\$90 of the contribution qualifies as a charitable contribution. The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame is a 170(c) government-owned nonprofit.

Please [click here](#) to learn more about the program.



Official Texas Rangers Bicentennial Pin

Trademarked by the Texas Dept. of Public Safety
Designed by the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and
Museum



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**ENJOY
\$2.00 OFF**

Expires 7/31/2020

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.

Newsletter Compiled by Christine Rothenbush, Marketing & Development Specialist