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October 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

### **Knox Center Reopens!**

John Knox Memorial Center, our banquet facility, is reopening at 50% capacity for a total of up to 150 occupants. Social distancing and the use of face masks are required. We are excited to resume weddings, corporate luncheons, family reunions and more!

Please call Jude Grochoske at 254-750-8631 to learn more about renting Knox Center for your upcoming event.



### **Military Appreciation Day**

We honor our veterans and military personnel this Veterans Day, November 11th. Active duty personnel, retirees and veterans will receive free admission to the Museum while their family will receive discounted admissions (with valid military id or documentation).

[www.texasranger.org](http://www.texasranger.org)

100 Texas Ranger Trail, Waco, TX 76706

Open 9am to 5pm with last guest admitted at 4:30pm

### **Second Episode Debuts of *Ask the Ranger Museum***

Here is the second episode of the *Ask the Ranger Museum* video series. We interviewed author Doug Duke about his career in law enforcement and new book *Firearms of the Texas Rangers*, which is available in the museum gift shop. Enjoy!



Please [click here](#) to watch Doug Duke's interview on *Ask the Ranger Museum*.

Please [click here](#) to watch the first episode featuring Lt. James Thomas, who was recently promoted to Captain at Headquarters in Austin.

## Parking Lot Expansion Completed

We are excited to announce the completion of the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame parking lot expansion! The City of Waco and the Tax Increment Finance board graciously approved a parking expansion. It added 22 spaces along the I-35 access road.

Before the pandemic, the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame had received record attendance -- closing in on 100,000 visitors a year. Only 76 main parking spaces were available on site to handle that many visitors and additional parallel parking on the grounds for banquet attendees of events up to 400 guests.



## Roulette Wheel From Top O' Hill Terrace

On Saturday, September 26, Shelly Crittendon and Rachel Smith, from the Collections Department, traveled with TRHFM Board member Bob Alexander and Jan Devereaux to the Top O' Hill Terrace in Arlington, Texas. Vickie Bryant, the Director and Historian for the Top O' Hill Terrace Museum, provided a tour of the grounds, including the original tea garden, underground escape tunnels and a glance into the basement level floor that originally housed the gambling establishment. Top O' Hill Terrace has kindly loaned the Museum one of the roulette wheels from the original 1930s casino. The history of Top O' Hill is intertwined with the history of the Texas Rangers, as several raids by law enforcement took place over the years of operation. The Collections Department is working on a new exhibit about the Texas Rangers during Prohibition, which will feature the roulette wheel.



**Above:** Roulette wheel from original Top O' Hill Terrace and casino  
**Below Left to Right:** Jan Devereaux, Rachel Smith, Shelly Crittendon, Vickie Bryant



### **The History of Top O' Hill Terrace**

Beulah Adams Marshall bought land in Arlington along the Bankhead Highway in the early 1920s and opened a tea room, hosting teas and serving dinners to Dallas and Fort Worth patrons. In the late 1920s, Fred and Mary Browning purchased the property and shortly began converting the facilities into a casino, adding an escape tunnel and secret room for hiding the gambling paraphernalia during raids.

Known as Top O' Hill Terrace, the popular spot attracted gamblers as well as visitors who were often unaware of the gaming activities. The restaurant, along with the tea garden that exists today, was a legitimate business, operating alongside a brothel as well as the casino, which benefited from the nearby Arlington Downs Racetrack. Top O' Hill Terrace facilities included a horse barn and a private stable for Browning's prized stud, Royal Ford, purchased from oilman and Arlington Downs owner W. T. Waggoner.

Contemporary to the Top O' Hill heyday was the outspoken Dr. J. Frank Norris, longtime pastor of First Baptist Church of Fort Worth. The conservative Dr. Norris, co-founder of Fundamental Baptist Bible Institute, later known as Bible Baptist Seminary and later as the Arlington Baptist College, was an ardent proponent of prohibition and gambling reform.

In 1947, Texas Ranger Captain M. T. "Lone Wolf" Gonzauillas led a raid on Top O' Hill, catching the gambling operation in full swing. In late 1956, under the leadership of Earl K. Oldham, the Bible Baptist Seminary bought the property and relocated here, fulfilling Norris' promise, although neither he nor Browning had lived to see it.

Today, the Arlington Baptist University continues to use the site, which retains many of its original structures and features a statue of Dr. Norris by noted Sculptor Pompeo Coppini.

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

## DPS Troopers Hit Milestone in Child Rescues

AUSTIN – The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) Highway Patrol Troopers in September rescued their 500<sup>th</sup> child during traffic stops since the implementation of specialized training that began in 2009. Troopers receive the training as part of the Interdiction for the Protection of Children (IPC) program.

The IPC program training teaches officers to spot indicators that a child is a victim or at risk of becoming a victim, and includes children who are missing, exploited, at-risk or endangered. Troopers receive this training through a two-day, 16-hour course that uses a child-centered approach and to assess the totality of circumstances to determine if a child is at risk.

In addition to removing these children from dangerous situations, the training also aids DPS in related child abduction, human trafficking, possession of child pornography and sexual assault investigations.



Texas Ranger Cody Mitchell and DPS Lieutenant Derek Prestridge

"This is an outstanding contribution to public safety by our Troopers who identified and rescued children during standard traffic stops, even though the child could not necessarily vocalize they needed help," said DPS Director Steven McCraw. "At the same time, it helped us take reprehensible criminals who prey on one of our most vulnerable populations off the streets."

IPC marked its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in [2019](#). In addition to child rescues, IPC has trained more than [10,000 people](#) in its methods across the U.S. and other countries, prompting

groundbreaking changes in how agencies improve accountability and approach child safety concerns.

IPC uses a multidisciplinary approach to train law enforcement, prosecutors, criminal intelligence analysts, child protective service, victim services and child advocacy center professionals collectively. IPC continues to advocate the message: "Stop waiting for children to ask for your help."

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

## Texas Ranger Training Conference

In the month of September, the Texas Rangers and Texas DPS held a training conference at the TRHFM. It included a session on using a Leica scanner to digitally document a crime scene. Our park grounds are a great location for practicing with this technology, and the Texas Rangers frequently conduct training sessions here. Visitors can see a Leica scanner on display in the modern Rangers exhibit in the Brownfield Gallery at the Texas Ranger Museum.



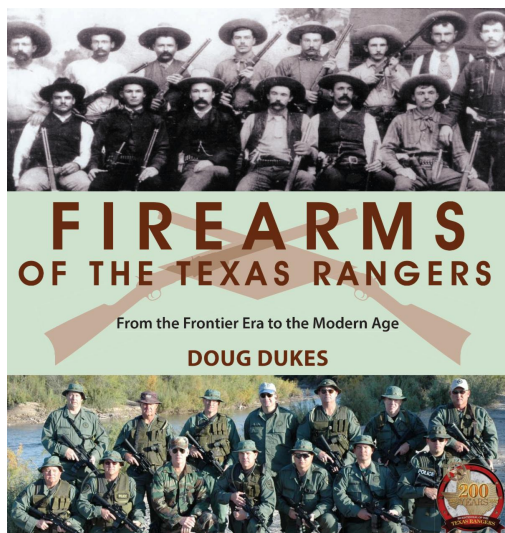
To learn more about Leica scanners, please [click here](#).

## New Book *Firearms of the Texas Rangers*

Doug Dukes, a native Texan, retired after a lengthy law enforcement career with the Austin Police Department. He now devotes his attention to researching Old West history, as well as writing Western nonfiction.

***Firearms of the Texas Rangers: From the Frontier Era to the Modern Age*** by Doug Dukes, Denton, University of North Texas Press, 2020.

From their founding in the 1820s up to the modern age, the Texas Rangers have shown the ability to adapt and survive. Part of that survival depended on their use of firearms. The evolving technology of these weapons often determined the effectiveness of these early-day Rangers.



*Firearms of the Texas Rangers*, with more than 180 photographs, tells the history of the Texas Rangers primarily through the use of their firearms. Author Doug Dukes narrates famous episodes in Ranger history, including Jack Hays and the Paterson, the Walker Colt, the McCulloch Colt Revolver (smuggled through the Union blockade during the Civil War), and the

Frontier Battalion and their use of the Colt Peacemaker and Winchester and Sharps carbines. Readers will delight in learning of Frank Hamer's marksmanship with his Colt Single Action Army and his Remington, along with Captain J.W. McCormick and his two .45 Colt pistols, complete with photos.

Whether it was a Ranger in 1844 with his Paterson on patrol for Native Americans north of San Antonio, or a Ranger in 2016 with his LaRue 7.62 rifle working the Rio Grande looking for smugglers and terrorists, the technology may have changed, but the gritty job of the Rangers has not.

**ORDER NOW!**

*Firearms of the Texas Rangers* is available in the TRHFM Gift Shop. Hardcover. \$45.00 + Tax and Shipping. 498 pages. Please call (254) 750-8631 to order your copy.

### **Gandalf the Grey Visits Texas Ranger Museum**

The TRHFM is a popular stop for celebrities traveling on I-35. One day while "googling" the Museum, Gandalf's picture appeared. He traveled to the Museum in 2012. That star may look small next to Gandalf, but it's actually 8-feet tall! We replaced this sign with the taller one in December 2016. How fun!



## 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 11/30/2020

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](http://www.texasranger.org).

Newsletter Compiled by Christine Rothenbush, Marketing & Development Specialist