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Saddle of Texas Ranger James Newton Geer

(1894-1955)

Gift of Bucky Geer

Carla Shelton, *Collection Assistant*

The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum is honored to receive the saddle of Texas Ranger James Newton Geer as a gift from Bucky Geer.

James "Jim" Newton Geer was born in Manchester, Texas, in 1894. He entered the U.S. Army in 1918 and served with the Military Police for the 323 Aerial Squadron stationed at Kelly Field in San Antonio. He was honorably discharged in 1919.

Geer began his career as a civilian lawman in 1922. He was a deputy sheriff in Red River County and then was elected sheriff from 1935 to 1945, at which time he joined the Texas Department of Public Safety as a Texas Ranger. Geer was appointed to Headquarters Company, later transferring to Company A and then to Company B. He worked many interesting cases, including the Texarkana Phantom murders, and is remembered as a diligent and skilled investigator.

This saddle was made by the S.C. Gallup Saddlery Company of Pueblo, Colorado. Samuel C. Gallup (1870-1904) is regarded as one of the premier saddle makers of the 19th century American West and is credited as the inventor of the "Pueblo Saddle," which became the standard for the working cowboy. The high swell and deep cantle made riding safer when working with herds in difficult terrain. The saddles were often double-cinched, which increased the stability for the rider. Following Gallup's death, his business was operated by others until it closed in 1930.

