

# Straight Talk

The Newsmagazine of the Former Texas Rangers Association



## CELEBRATE TEXAS!

SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2019 ~ 10 AM - 4 PM



"CIRCLE OF LIFE" FREDERICKSBURG GATHERING 2019 -

- ~ HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN INDIANS IN FREDERICKSBURG BY LARRY LILES OF THE COMANCHE NATION
- ~ BENNY TAHMAHKERA, GRANDSON OF QUANAH PARKER
- ~ MUSIC & DANCE PERFORMANCES
- ~ LIPAN APACHE EXHIBIT
- ~ NATIVE FOOD & CRAFT VENDORS

OLD CHISHOLM TRAIL WESTERN VARIETY SHOW -

- ~ STORIES OF THE OL' CHISOLM TRAIL THROUGH SONG BY K.R. WOOD & THE GONE TO TEXAS BAND

*A special thanks to our co-sponsors: Pedernales Creative Arts Alliance / OKTOBERFEST*

We saw a wonderful turnout on the morning of March 16th for the Celebrate Texas event at the Texas Rangers Heritage Center in Fredericksburg, TX. There was plenty to see and do with the fantastic line-up of entertainment. From K.R. Wood's Old Chisolm Trail Western Variety Show, that told guests the historic stories and a few tall tales, from the life on a cattle drive through music and performances. The annual Celebrate Texas event was proud to again host the "Circle of Life" Gathering, bringing together various representatives of many Native American tribes from this area. The gathering featured traditional music, songs, dance, as well as food and crafts from each nation.

Visitors also enjoyed our black powder cannon demonstrations, Ranger reenactors, displays of historic firearms, artwork, books from Texas historians and much more. With close to 1,000 visitors throughout the day, this was one of our largest events to date. We want to thank all of our guests, volunteers, performers and sponsors for making this such a memorable event each year in the Texas Hill Country. We are hoping to continue to grow this event annually and feature new additions that help tell the storied history of our great state!



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## Former Texas Rangers Association

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Greetings all from North Texas!

I hope this message finds you well during this un-seasonably wet spring and summer! Even though Texas has been getting plenty of rain, we have not let that deter our many Memorial Cross ceremonies that have taken place around the state! Our most recent ceremonies were June 22nd in Burnet Co. that honored Hugh and Arch McCoy. That was also the day myself and a detachment of Headquarters Co. volunteers attended a ceremony in Hunt Co. in North Texas to honor Ranger James Massey. Both ceremonies were loved by the descendants and the members of the community that attended.

Our Annual Meeting that was held on May 4th! It was a great turnout as usual and always a blessing to see so many old friends and new faces of Ranger descendants. We had the opportunity

to hear a talk on the modern Ranger force and challenges they face from Lt. Billy J. Mims of Co. F. It was a pleasure to hear from an active Ranger and we appreciate his time and efforts to make it happen.

As we continue through the year, please continue to check the calendar of events on our website: [www.trhc.org](http://www.trhc.org) so as to keep up to date on the latest cross ceremonies and events in your area. If you have been wanting to schedule a cross ceremony for your Ranger descendant, but have not yet done so, please consider calling into the office in Fredericksburg so we can get it on the books. These ceremonies are a wonderful occasion to bring the families and communities together to honor these Rangers and their service to Texas.

Lastly, I want to thank you for your continued membership and support in the oldest Texas Ranger organization in the State, the Former Texas Rangers Association. We have a long and rich history because of members like you!

Best Regards,

Ralph Wadsworth, President  
Texas Ranger, Retired

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## Former Texas Rangers Foundation



Greetings to everyone. This 2019 year started out with our annual Board of Directors meeting held at the Holiday Inn Express in Fredericksburg. Our chairman, Chad Stary, requested to step down after serving five years in that capacity but will be remaining on the Board. Chad had recently taken the job of President of the First State Bank in Uvalde. He felt that he could not devote the time needed to be Chairman. Chad did a great job and it was during his tenure as Chairman that Phase I of the Texas Rangers Heritage Center was built. The FTRF Board recognized his service to the FTRF and presented him with a Winchester 30-30 model 94 Trapper that was made especially for the Foundation.

The Board of Directors elected Bill Dante to be the new Chairman. Bill and his wife Lisa live in San Antonio. Bill is the current owner of an advertising agency. Bill was a meteorologist for KMOL TV in San Antonio for a number of years and served as our MC at the Silver Stars & Six Guns Gala last year. Bill brings a lot of new ideas to the Board and we all look forward to working with him in that capacity. We had several events this year and all have been very well attended and well publicized. They include "Celebrate Texas", "Wyatt Earp", and "Boots & Badges". The FTRF also had our first Junior Texas Ranger summer camp. The camp was a one day event and all the kids really enjoyed it. A special thanks to all the volunteers who helped put it on. At the conclusion of the camp all the participants were sworn in as Jr. Texas Rangers.

Thanks to Jody Ginn, our Historian, the FTRF got involved with Netflix and the movie "The Highwaymen" starring Kevin Costner and Woody Harrelson. It's the story of Texas Ranger Frank Hamer and Manny Gault on the trail of Clyde Barrow and Bonnie Parker in the 1930's. It's a great movie and does justice to the movie that came out in the 60's titled "Bonnie & Clyde". "The Highwaymen" is currently showing on the Netflix channel. Netflix furnished tickets to 13 retired and active Rangers & their spouses to attend the premier in Austin. Afterwards we were able to meet several of the stars along with the Director and screen writer. Jody Ginn and I presented Foundation

memberships to Kevin Costner and Woody Harrelson for their role as Texas Rangers. They were both very appreciative.

August 3rd 2019, we will celebrate "Texas Rangers Day and History Symposium" at the Texas Rangers Heritage Center in Fredericksburg. The event commemorates the day Stephen F. Austin hired the first 10 Rangers. Jody Ginn is putting together a symposium of Ranger historians to discuss various topics the Rangers were involved in. There will be a round table discussion of the making of the film "The Highwaymen". Participants will include Jody Ginn, Travis Hamer, great-grandson of Frank Hamer and Mike Gault, great-grandson of Manny Gault. You will not want to miss this event. You can make reservations at the office to attend 830-990-1192. The cost will be \$20.00 per person and includes lunch. I hope to see you there.

We have also signed an agreement with Sig Sauer Arms to create a Texas Ranger Commemorative pistol similar to the one that is issued to the Texas Rangers. The gun will have a replica of the Texas Ranger badge on the top of the slide and "One Riot-One Ranger" on the slide. Sig Sauer agrees to do a promotional campaign for the FTRF by placing information on their web-site and promotional materials. They will also give FTRF a percentage of the sales. FTRF will get a lot of publicity that we otherwise would not get. I want to thank Leonard Bucsayi for working with Sig officials to get this accomplished. The pistol will start production within the next few months.

I want to remind you that the 200th Anniversary of the Texas Rangers will be in 2023. This will be a big year for the Rangers and we will be doing our part to celebrate this event. Our Board has agreed that we must have Phase II completed and open for business by that time. It will be a lot of the commitments from the Board and the membership to get this done. We must make every effort to get this accomplished.

I am asking each of you to make a donation toward the Capital Campaign. Every dollar counts regardless of the size of the gift. Your contribution will ensure us that our goal will be reached and you will have the satisfaction to know that you were a vital part of it. Our office staff is here to serve you. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any suggestions or need any additional information.

Thanks and until next time,  
Joe B. Davis

Joe B. Davis, President  
Texas Ranger, Retired

### PRESIDENT

Joe B. Davis, *Texas Rangers, Retired, Fredericksburg*

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# FTRF CHAIRMAN'S THOUGHTS



*Greetings All!*

*I am so honored and humbled to have been appointed the new Chairman of the Board for the FTRF. It's a big responsibility, and with your help I know we can accomplish great things! I have implemented a membership drive. The goal is to have a cash flow that would automatically take care of the expenses of running the foundation.*

*I have asked all board members to bring in at least one new member at any rank and I am asking you to do the same. Prizes will be awarded for your effort and could include winning a table, or a room at this year's 2019 Gala. A membership drive is the easiest way to increase cash flow exponentially so that we may focus on completing*

*Phase II of our building project.*

*New ideas, energy and growth will continue throughout the State. As a tool to help you easily accomplish the membership drive goal, a poster has been created that is available to you to post at your favorite location. It really looks great and is already hanging in many retail stores. You can preview the poster on our website. Contact the FTRF office to obtain one.*

*Another major goal is to break ground on Phase II of our building in August of 2020. That's when the shovel hits the dirt! August 3rd is our "Texas Ranger Day and History Symposium." This year's program and guests are shaping up to be the best yet. I'm really looking forward to the discussion pertaining to the Netflix original movie, "The Highwaymen," which premiered earlier this year. It will be a sell out. Plan to be there. We need your support.*

*Also, be sure and save the date for the 20th annual*

*"Silver Stars and Six Guns Gala," which will be held on October 12th in San Marcos. The auction will be huge and the band will be one of your favorites as they are known worldwide!*

*Please spread the word about your association and foundation. The Texas Rangers are a major historical part of Texas history and a huge part of our State's legacy. Education is the focus of the heritage center, along with promoting the values of our foundation. It's all about Texas history and the Texas Rangers. It's a place for everyone, including individuals and families, and generations to come.*

*Remember, "It's all about the kids!"*

*See you soon!*

*Sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Dante". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Bill Dante**  
Foundation Chairman

# FTRA Annual Meeting - May 4, 2019

On May 5, 2018, the Association gathered together to hold its annual meeting of Rangers and their descendants in Fredericksburg at the Texas Rangers Heritage Center. This is always the highlight of the year for many FTRA members and has been a tradition since the Association's inception in 1897. President Wadsworth welcomed our guests and presided over the business meeting. A presentation to San Antonio Boy Scout Troop #511 was made and members enjoyed another great meal from Bill Miller B-B-Q of San Antonio.

After the meal, we had the pleasure of hearing from Lt. Billy J. Mims of Co. F, as he gave a talk on the situation on the Texas border and the many challenges that active Rangers face on a daily basis, protecting the citizens of Texas. Association Chaplain Rusty Frasier presided over the memorial service for the Rangers we had lost over the past year which included Capt. Carl Weathers, Ranger Jim Gillespie and Former DPS Director Col. Tommy Davis Jr. It was a wonderful service and will be remembered by everyone in attendance.



# 2019 Celebrate Texas







# TEXAS IRON GUNS OF THE TEXAS RANGERS

By Bob Moser, Capt. USA (retired)  
FTRA Weapons Historian

In this article we will discuss 4 of the special Texas Ranger offerings from Colt, Baretta and Sig Sauer. There are many Texas Ranger commemoratives on the commercial market. We will mention those that are not really a commemorative but rather a special offering available only to serving Texas Rangers.

In 1984, Baretta with permission of the Texas Department of Public Safety, produced a Special Texas Ranger Edition. Baretta U.S.A. targeted 100 units of the Model 92 SB, 9mm pistols to be produced. Less than 40 were actually purchased by serving Texas Rangers. The serial number was the Rangers' seniority number within the Ranger Service. I have serial #14, which belonged to retired Lt. Bob Favor. The slide on these Baretta's has a fine stamping that reads "1823 to 1984 Texas Rangers". The limited production numbers of this offering make it highly collectable.

The next special offering was from Colt in March of 1984. This is often confused as being a commemorative but this was specifically offered to serving Texas Rangers. Colt was granted permission to produce a very limited number of 94 total, Single Action

Army model revolvers in .45 Long Colt, blue finish with 4 ¾ inch barrels. The backstrap is engraved with "Texas Rangers" and a seniority number of the Ranger inlayed in silver 1 through 94. The original cost of these revolvers created a challenge on what was then a Rangers salary. In some cases, the Ranger allowed a close friend or relative to purchase and retain his designated revolver.

The Colts were shipped to each of the 94 Rangers with a historic Colt factory letter. These Colt SAA revolvers have become highly collectable and have brought auction prices from 12 to 18 thousand dollars. I am fortunate to have #84, Buster Collins and #54, Ralph Wadsworth. The Buster Collins gun has had from the beginning, a nylon strap applied and the hammer has never been cocked. This is known in the world of gun collecting as "unturned" and greatly increases its value.

The 3rd special Texas Ranger offering is a Colt 1911 Government Model Gold Cup, 175th Anniversary Edition pistol set sold in pairs with sequential serial numbers, left and right. They are made at the Colt custom shop from Chip McCormic Parts. Chip McCormic's

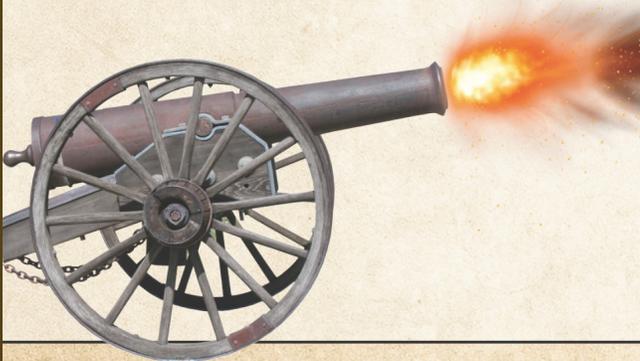
grandfather was a long time Ranger and became Senior Captain in November 1935. The slides are factory engraved, left side "Texas Rangers 1823-1998", the right side with a Texas Ranger badge and "Texas Ranger 175th Anniversary". The design of these pistols was approved and finalized by Senior Ranger Captain Bruce Casteel and the Texas Ranger company Captains. They were only officially offered to serving Rangers. The pair I have was per Colt historical letter, shipped on 8 December 2000 to Waco, Texas.

The 4th official offering was the Sig Sauer, 1911 Texas Ranger Edition. Sig Sauer produced approximately 300 of these Texas Ranger Editions highlighting the 1911 automatic pistol from its inception in 1911 to the year 2011. They offered these exclusively to serving Texas Rangers. The left side of the slide would have the Ranger's name, rank and company factory engraved. The rear of the slide had the Texas Ranger badge. The right side of the slide read "Texas Rangers".

There are more special offerings, but that's another story...

# TEXAS RANGERS DAY and HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

AUGUST 3, 2019 • 10:00AM - 4:00PM



## ★ TEXAS RANGERS DAY

FREE ADMISSION

- Texas Ranger Camps For Our Education Programming
  - Cannon Demonstrations
- Texas Ranger Memorabilia Displays
- Food Vendors And Family Fun
  - Parking \$10 per car

## ★ HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

TICKETS: \$20 PRE-EVENT  
\$25 DAY OF EVENT

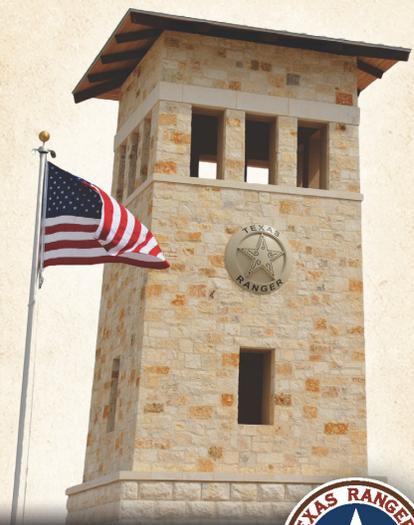
*includes lunch and parking per person*

- MC Justice Ken Wise - host of "Wise About Texas"
- Dr. Richard B. McCaslin discussing Texas Ranger Will Wright
- Dr. Jody E. Ginn discussing his new book, "East Texas Troubles: The Allred Rangers' Cleanup of San Augustine"

### SPECIAL FEATURE: NETFLIX MOVIE "THE HIGHWAYMEN"

with roundtable discussion on the history behind the film, how it finally got made, and what it means to the descendants of Frank Hamer and Maney Gault.

**NETFLIX**



For tickets to the Symposium, call 830-990-1192 or visit [THRC.org/Events](http://THRC.org/Events)

Texas Rangers Heritage Center 1618 East Main St Fredericksburg, TX 78624



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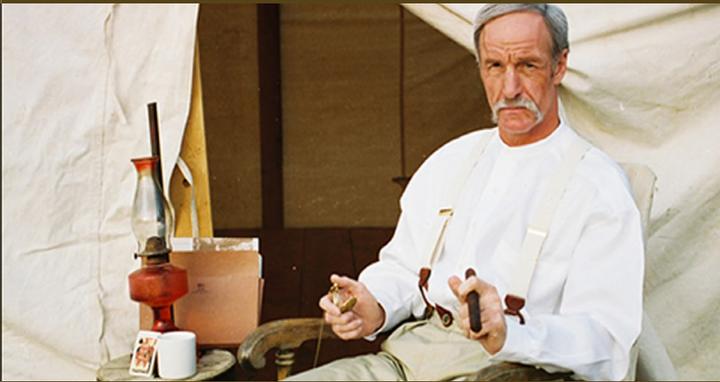
# SILVER STARS AND SIX GUNS

## SAVE *The* DATE

OCTOBER 11<sup>TH</sup> & 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2019

EMBASSY SUITES SAN MARCOS CONFERENCE CENTER

### Wyatt Earp - A Life on the Frontier at the Texas Rangers Heritage Center



On Friday March, 15th, guests of the Former Texas Rangers Foundation were treated to a performance by Wyatt Earp, a descendant of the legendary frontier lawman. His monologue is set in the mid 1920's, as an elderly Wyatt Earp who tells of his adventures during the final days of the American frontier from Arizona to Alaska. Those who attended all agreed, he gave an authentic and historically accurate portrail that showcases his skill and theatrical ability to captivate his audience.

After the performance, Foundation President Joe Davis and Chairman of the Board Bill Dante presented him with an Honoray membership in the FTRF at the rank of Private. We hope to offer this performance again in the future due to the overwhelming support it received from attendees and the interest from those who were unable to attend.

# 2019 Junior Texas Ranger Day Camp



On Saturday, June 8th, the Former Texas Rangers Foundation hosted the Jr. Texas Ranger Day Camp at the Texas Rangers Heritage Center. We had many local children sign up and they participated in activities that promoted the knowledge they would need out on the frontier. World Champion trick roper Kevin Fitzpatrick and cowboy Rick Kyle taught the importance of throwing a correct lasso. Our Headquarters Company Rangers were represented by Marvin Schroeder and was on hand to give a historic lesson on setting up and maintaining a traditional Ranger camp.

TRHC site manager Duke Davis gave a lesson on the importance of a chuck wagon and all that went into keeping hungry cowboys fed on the trail. During lunch, he played some of his best known songs about frontier life. Foundation President Joe Davis awarded the kids with Jr. Ranger badges as the day drew to a close. It was a great success and will be one of our annual summer events in Fredericksburg to help teach the younger generations the fascinating history behind our frontier pioneers and Rangers.



## "Texas History Written in Bone" at the Texas Rangers Heritage Center

On Friday, February 15th, 2019, Dr. Doug Owsley of the Smithsonian Museum presented "Texas History-Written In Bone" at the Texas Rangers Heritage Center. Dr. Owsley was in Texas to consult with Texas State Archeologists about remains thought to be those of famed Texas Ranger James Coryell, who was killed in a fight with Comanches in 1837. The presentation was sponsored by Kathryn Harrison, President of the Hill Country Historical Foundation, and Joe B. Davis, Texas Ranger, Ret., President of the Former Texas Rangers Foundation.

Douglas W. Owsley, Division Head for Physical Anthropology at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C., is considered one of the foremost forensic anthropologists at work today. He has identified remains from news-making crime scenes, mass disasters, and war zones. Owsley received his B.S. degree in Zoology from the University of Wyoming and his Ph.D. in Physical Anthropology from the University of Tennessee. Doug is fascinated with the wealth of information that can be recovered by studying the human skeleton – not just the cause of death, but also details about the life of a person.

**CORYELL, JAMES (1803–1837).** James Coryell, for whom Coryell County was named, was born near West Union, Ohio, in 1803, the son of Lewis and Sarah (Voshall) Coryell. He left home at the age of eighteen and made his way to Texas. He was in San Antonio in 1831, when he joined James and Rezin P. Bowie on an exploring expedition to the San Saba region in search of silver mines. After his return to San Antonio, Coryell went with Andrew Cavitt to a site near that of Marlin and made his home with the Cavitt family. In 1835 he explored the Leon River country and located his headright near the mouth of Coryell Creek in what is now Coryell County. During the spring and summer of 1836 he was a member of Sterling C. Robertson's ranging company, and in the fall of 1836 he joined Capt. Thomas H. Barron's company. On May 27, 1837, while encamped near the falls of the Brazos River, Coryell and three companions were raiding a bee tree a short distance from the camp when they were attacked by Indians. His companions escaped, but Coryell was shot and killed. His burial place is not known.



# 2019 Law Enforcement Memorial Service

Sr. Special Agent Paul Scott Ragsdale  
USDJ ATF  
May 24, 2018

Police Chief Lonnie Verdell Burton  
Wayland Baptist University PD  
June 25, 2018

Officer Jarrod Kyle Friddle  
Cumby Police Department  
July 9, 2018

Sr. Corporal Earl James Givens III  
Dallas Police Department  
July 21, 2018

Corporal Garrett Willis Hull  
Ft. Worth Police Department  
September 14, 2018

Deputy Sheriff Mark A. Cox  
Real Co Sheriff  
September 25, 2018



Deputy Sheriff Raymond Bradley Jimmerson  
Nacogdoches Co Sheriff  
October 5, 2018

Deputy Sheriff Loren Yalith Vasquez  
Waller Co Sheriff  
October 13, 2018

Deputy US Marshal Norman D. Merkel  
US Marshals Service  
January 16, 2019

Border Patrol Agent Donna Doss  
USD HS, Customs & Border Protection  
February 2, 2019

Officer Nathan Hayden Heidelberg  
Midland Police Department  
March 5, 2019

Deputy Sheriff Peter Herrera  
El Paso Co Sheriff  
March 24, 2019

On Thursday, May 16th, the Former Texas Rangers Foundation held a Texas Law Enforcement Memorial in Fredericksburg, TX. Foundation President Joe Davis welcomed the guests and representatives of Gillespie County Law Enforcement as well as State Agencies. Reading the names of Texas peace officers killed in the line of duty during 2019 were: Fredericksburg Police Department's Felix Castaneda, Gillespie County Sheriff Buddy Mills, Border Patrol Agent Manuel Flores (based in Rock Springs) and DPS Trooper Davie Vaughan. After the service was concluded, guests joined together for a catered dinner open to all law enforcement officers and their families. This is a wonderful event to celebrate the lives of all officers who were killed in the line of duty in Texas throughout the year.





## TEXAS RANGERS ATTEND NETFLIX WORLD PREMIER OF THE HIGHWAYMEN

On Sunday March 10th, five current and seven retired Texas Rangers attended the world premiere of the Netflix Original Film, *The Highwaymen*. The film stars Kevin Costner as legendary former Texas Ranger captain Frank Hamer, Woody Harrelson as Hamer's fellow former Ranger and trusted companion, Maney Gault, Kathy Bates as the infamous Texas governor, "Ma" Ferguson, and Kim Dickens as Hamer's feisty but adoring wife, Gladys. The event was hosted by the SXSW Film Festival and held at the historic Paramount Theater in Austin.

The film, written by John Fusco (*Young Guns/Hidalgo/Marco Polo*) and directed by Texas native John Lee Hancock (*The Alamo 2004/The Blind Side/Saving Mr. Banks*), tells the tale of Hamer and Gault's pursuit and eventual killing of notorious murderers Bonnie and Clyde, this time from the perspective of the lawmen and more in keeping with historical reality than past depictions. Fusco spent more than 15 years researching and working to bring the film to the big screen, and he received detailed historical information from the Hamer family and the blessing of Frank Hamer, Jr.

Gladys and Frank Jr. sued Warner Brothers over the 1967 Warren Beatty/Faye Dunaway film, *Bonnie & Clyde*, in which Hamer, the most respected law enforcement officer in Texas, had been depicted "as a villain and a buffoon." Today, Hamer's descendants feel vindicated with the release of *The Highwaymen*. According to his great-grandson, Travis, "our family has been waiting for this since before I was born!"

How did a dozen Texas Rangers come to attend a the world premier of a Netflix film written, produced, directed by, and starring some of the biggest names in Hollywood? That story begins decades ago, with one of the first Texas Rangers under the Department of Public Safety: Dan J. Hines. Hines got his start with the Texas Rangers working undercover in the oilfields and busting up cattle-rustling operations for Senior Captain Frank Hamer, from 1931-33.

There is a proud history of law enforcement in both the Hines family and the Hamer family. Decades after Hines and Hamer worked together as Rangers, Hines' great-grandnephew, Jody Edward Ginn, who was then a deputy constable in San Marcos, Texas, began to research the life and career of his Ranger ancestor. Fortunately, San Marcos was also the hometown of Frank Hamer, Jr., who had an accomplished law enforcement career of his own with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. A senior law enforcement colleague, Don Chumley, who had served alongside Frank Jr. for decades as



Standing: Prentis Oakley (who fired the first shots), Ted Hinton, Bob Alcorn, and Manny Gault. Kneeling: Frank Hamer and Henderson Jordan

a Texas Game Warden, introduced the two men and they connected over their shared family histories. In 2004, Frank Jr. mentioned to Ginn, by then chief investigator for the Hays County District Attorney, that he had read and given his endorsement to a script about his father's pursuit of the Barrow gang, written by Fusco. Frank Jr. passed away in 2006, before he could witness the project come to fruition.

Fast forward to 2018: after years of work, production was finally underway on the film. And after a career in law enforcement, Ginn was now a professional historian, with a Ph.D and a specialty in Texas Ranger history, including serving as the Former Texas Rangers Association's (FTRA) official historian since 2014. The FTRA is a 120+ year-old organization for which both Gladys and Frank Jr. had served as directors. Upon learning that the long-awaited *The Highwaymen* film blessed by their mutual friend Frank Jr. was moving forward, Dr. Ginn reached out to Fusco, to share congratulations and information from his years of historical research on the topic. In the end, Netflix brought Ginn into the project as a historical consultant.

Some of Netflix's behind-the-scenes interviews about the films, with Dr. Ginn and the great-grandsons of Hamer and Gault, Travis Hamer and Mike Gault, were shot at the Former Texas Rangers museum in San Antonio, a partnership with the world-famous Buckhorn Saloon & Museum, near the Alamo. The Former Texas Rangers Association and the Former Texas Rangers Foundation were proud to be a part of this project and to be part of the world premiere of the film, held in Austin at the SXSW 2019 Film Festival – at the same Paramount theater where Gladys endured Arthur Penn's *Bonnie & Clyde*, in 1967.

A dozen Rangers, active and retired, attended the premiere and received a warm welcome from the cast, crew, and audience. During the Q&A after the screening, Costner expressed respect and admiration for law enforcement officers. Next, Fusco recognized the Texas Rangers in the audience, at which point the 1,200 film fans in attendance gave the Rangers a standing ovation. As Academy Award-winner Kathy Bates recounted on *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*, "The coolest thing was, when we walked in, there were the Texas Rangers."



## *Texas Rangers Heritage Center Bulletin*

Activities at the Texas Rangers Heritage Center Pavilion are in full gear in spite of an unseasonably wet and windy spring season. We hosted Scouts of America campouts in March and April both and the “4th Annual Celebrate Texas” in March also drew large crowds. This event kicked off on Friday, March 15th with a stunning two act play on the life of Wyatt Earp, presented by one of Earp’s descendants. Saturday’s event met with the usual enthusiastic crowds and this event continues to grow. Don’t miss next year!

In April, we presented “Boots and Badges” once again, and even though the weather wasn’t the best, everybody ate a wonderful meal and had a good time. The Former Texas Rangers Association met for their annual board meeting and dinner in May followed by a banquet with the National Pedigreed Livestock Council. Our Annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Banquet co-sponsored by the FTRF and Fredericksburg Masonic Lodge #794 is always well attended and supported, and this year was no different. We rounded out May’s schedule by hosting a luncheon for the Seniors Choir from Trinity Baptist Church in Kerrville.

Due to natural attrition, our volunteer base is in need of support. If you have a desire to join our ranks and become part of the future of the Heritage Center by serving as greeter, please call, or drop by and visit with us. This is a wonderful way to support the FTRF and become involved in the rich history and lore of the Texas Ranger legacy.

*Duke Davis*  
Site Manager  
Texas Rangers Heritage Center

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- August 3, 2019  
10:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Texas Ranger Day & History Symposium - Tickets available at [www.trhc.org](http://www.trhc.org)  
Texas Rangers Heritage Center - Fredericksburg, Texas
- September 20-22, 2019  
TBD  
Shoot the Movie Guns - Tickets available soon at [www.trhc.org](http://www.trhc.org)  
The Stieler Ranch - Comfort, Texas
- October 12, 2019  
6:00 pm - 12:00 am  
Silver Stars & Six Guns - Tickets available at [www.trhc.org](http://www.trhc.org)  
Embassy Suites Hotel & Conference Center - San Marcos, Texas
- October 26, 2019  
3:30 pm - 8:00 pm  
Maj. John B. Jones Masonic Ranging Company Meeting  
Texas Rangers Heritage Center - Fredericksburg, Texas
- December 7, 2019  
2:30 pm - 5:00 pm  
A Ranger Christmas  
Texas Rangers Heritage Center - Fredericksburg, Texas
- March 14, 2020  
10:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Celebrate Texas  
Texas Rangers Heritage Center - Fredericksburg, Texas
- June 13, 2020  
6:00 pm - 11:00 pm  
Boots & Badges  
Texas Rangers Heritage Center - Fredericksburg, Texas
- May 2, 2020  
10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Association Annual Meeting  
Texas Rangers Heritage Center - Fredericksburg, Texas



[trhc.org](http://trhc.org)



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[requests@formertexasrangers.org](mailto:requests@formertexasrangers.org)

# BEHIND THE BADGE

## STORIES FROM THE RANGERS OF THE FTRA



### Glenn Elliott - Texas Ranger, Retired - (1961-1987)

I was born in a box house three miles south of Windom, Texas, in the Flag Springs Community on August 1, 1926 in Fannin County. My birthplace was approximately 100 yards from Sam Rayburn's home. Mr. Sam attended school with my father and his brother and sisters. I was the second child of Dewey and Edith Winchester Elliott. I attended Windom School and graduated in the class of 1942. I served in the South Pacific in World War II. I was taught in school by the late Jim Riddle, who is now in the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame. It was he who recruited me to be a DPS member. In April 1949, I was assigned to the DPS training school and was stationed in Longview on June 1, 1949. I transferred to the Texas Rangers in 1961 and retired on August 31, 1987. Few people enjoyed their tenure with the DPS as much as I did. I always remembered, and reminded others I worked with, who we worked for: the citizens of this great state. The DPS was good to my family and me. I shall always be indebted to both.

### The George Overton Murder© - (This originally appeared in the Book, Glenn Elliot: Still a Ranger's Ranger)

We've all seen legendary fictional detectives, such as Sherlock Holmes and Columbo, take a single shred of evidence and solve the unsolvable crime. Ask any real-life investigator and he will be quick to tell you such things seldom happen. The key word here is "seldom." Every once in a while, it happens just like in the movies. This is one of those cases.

On February 8, 1979, the body of a male, around twenty-five or thirty years old, was found about a mile south of Marshall near the intersection of Interstate 20 and Highway 43. The best that the forensic people could determine, the corpse had been there from three to five days. Little decay had set in because of the cold weather, so for that length of time, the body was in amazingly good condition. It is anyone's guess why varmints had not attacked the remains. Usually it is only a matter of days or even hours before animals mutilate a body, sometimes beyond recognition<sup>1</sup>.

The young man's body had been discovered on the east side of the road about fifty feet from the highway. A woman driving by saw what she thought was an army blanket. She stopped to investigate. If it was in good enough condition, she could use it. She found a blanket, all right, plus a lot more.

Harrison County Deputy Brannon Cullum was the first officer to arrive. He secured the crime scene until Deputy Otis Montgomery of the Criminal Investigation Division arrived. They soon gathered what precious little evidence that was available. The corpse had obviously been carried from a vehicle to the spot where it was discovered. The bullet-riddled man - he had been shot six times - was on his back under a green army blanket. He was fully dressed, but the only items he had on him were a ring on one of his little fingers and a key. That was it.

The body was transported to Sullivan's Funeral Home in Marshall, where Dr. Bob Palmer performed an autopsy. Dr. Palmer removed three bullets from the body. The only other discernible marking was what appeared to be a homemade tattoo on the right forearm bearing the numbers 82352. Whoever had done the tattoo had been an amateur. The figures turned out to be prison identification numbers.

After the completion of the autopsy, there was little left for us to do but start digging for information. This wasn't going to be anything fancy: just a plain, old-fashioned, get-down-and-work-hard investigation.

We followed every lead and checked every source, such as the weekly D-4's<sup>2</sup>. After several days, about all we had for sure was the report from the Institute of Forensic Science at Dallas. We had sent the bullets that

were removed from the body there when the autopsy had been completed. Shortly thereafter, I received a letter from Jay Allen Jones. He said there was a 90 percent probability that had fired the bullets was a Llama 380.

Several days later, I was in Marshall and decided to take the key we had found to one of the local locksmiths, and see if he could give me any assistance. Plainly, it was not a car or a padlock key: it was too large to fit either one. The only identifications were the stenciled letters "Allen Mobil," the number 114, and the manufacturer's name of Weslock. The locksmith, whose name I do not remember, was more helpful than he would ever know. He said "Allen Mobil" was probably the name of the key maker who had cut the key. It was not unusual for a locksmith to insert a stencil in his vice so that when he closed it, the key was left with his name on it.

I asked the key maker if there was some kind of locksmith association. He said there was, and it was based in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. He pulled out a magazine and said he had just received the association's latest edition. Looking through it, he found the toll-free number, which I called from his shop. I asked if the association had any member named Allen Mobil. The people there were very accommodating and checked their enrollment records. They came up with one name that matched: Allen Mobil Lock Shop in Columbus, Ohio. They also gave me the shop's address and phone number.

While still at the locksmith's shop, I called the number in Columbus. This wasn't toll-free, and I used my state phone card. I identified myself and asked to speak to the owner of the shop. I explained to him we had a key with his name on it, and that it had been found in the pocket of a murdered man. He asked me to describe the key and wanted to know if it had any peculiar marks on it. After I described it to him in detail, he said the number 114 indicated a probable door-key number. He said he had made keys for only one apartment complex in Columbus that had over a hundred units, and he gave me the name.

I contacted the Columbus Police Department and asked for their Homicide Division. A detective was soon on the line. I explained our situation and asked if he would go to the apartment complex, question the manager, and find out who occupied apartment 114. Also, being that he was already there, would he mind interviewing the occupant? This could help us identify our body. Before hanging up, I gave him a detailed physical description of our corpse.

About four or five hours later, the Columbus detective called back and reported that he had been to the apartment and interviewed the woman who occupied it. She said the description of the body fit a friend of her brother, George Overton. He and a friend, whose name she didn't know, had been there a few weeks earlier. She told the detective how the two men had bragged about escaping from a prison in the Tennessee Department of Corrections. After breaking jail, they had gone to Florida for a few days and then came to visit her.

Overton's sister had not wanted anything to do with the men or their problems, and she ordered them out of her home. She gave the detective descriptions of her brother, his friend, and the automobile they were driving: a light blue, 1972 Ford Torino with a black vinyl top. As the detective turned to leave, she added, almost as an afterthought, "One other thing, they stole my Llama 380 automatic pistol."

We contacted officials in Tennessee and requested any information they could furnish us about George Overton and anyone who had escaped with him. We soon received a folder on Overton and Robert Teffeteller. Included in the information were the men's penal-code numbers. Overton's was 82352, the same homemade tattoo number on the arm of his body.

A day or so later, I read a Teletype that had been issued by the FBI office in Atlanta, Georgia. One of their informants had been in a local bar the night before, and he became friendly with a female patron. She got drunk and talked about a murder she had witnessed in Texas. She claimed she had seen a man shot to death and his body dumped beside the road just outside of El Paso. Marshall is about as far east as you can go

in Texas without being in Louisiana. Eight hundred miles to the west is El Paso, just before you enter New Mexico. They were a long way apart, but everything else fit. I had a gut feeling, and I had learned from many years of experience not to deny it.

We contacted the Atlanta FBI office and told them about our murder. The agent contacted his informant and got the name of the woman, Jayne Marie Pawlowske, and the name of the bar where he had talked to her. The agent soon found Pawlowske. She did not deny anything, and her story was a perfect fit, right down to dumping the body about 50 feet off of the roadway and describing the green army blanket placed over the body.

Pawlowske also filled us in on a lot of blanks in our story. Our first question was how she confused the desert West Texas city of El Paso for the big-thicket woods of East Texas around Marshall. The answer was really rather simple. She was an alcoholic, and the last sign she had seen before passing out was El Paso. After leaving Overton's sister's apartment, the two fugitives had gone to Florida and then headed to California. Stopping in Atlanta, they picked up a third man, who was really a boy. His name was Donald Eugene Poteet, and he was a brother to one of Teffeteller's girlfriends.

It was in a bar in Tucson, Arizona, that Pawlowske met the three men. Pawlowske was tired of Arizona and ready to move on. When she heard the men say they were heading out, she asked if she could go with them. Sure, they wouldn't mind a little female companionship for their enjoyment. They started out for California, but at Blythe, on the Arizona-California border, Teffeteller changed his mind and decided he wanted to see Poteet's sister. They turned around and headed back to Atlanta.

The only fly in the ointment in all the group's drinking and general Cain-raising was the constant arguing between Overton and Teffeteller. Teffeteller was overbearing and dominating, and Overton didn't like it. Teffeteller wouldn't even let Overton or Poteet drive, or, at least, he was the one always driving when Pawlowske was sober enough to remember.

Pawlowske remembered the killing. Teffeteller was driving, Pawlowske was in the front passenger seat, Overton was in the backseat right behind her, and Poteet was sleeping and seated behind Teffeteller. As usual, Teffeteller and Overton were arguing. Suddenly, Teffeteller pulled a pistol, pointed it into the backseat, and started firing into Overton. Teffeteller took the first exit he came to, State Highway 42, and pulled down it a little way (about a mile) before stopping at an isolated spot.

Poteet helped Teffeteller carry the dead Overton to a spot in the woods. As to why they covered the body with a blanket, Pawlowske had no idea, but it didn't take much to figure that out. The blanket was a dirty green color and would blend in with the surroundings, thus lessening the odds of the body being discovered. After disposing of Overton, the other three resumed their trip to Atlanta, arriving there several days before the body was discovered.

As soon as Jonesboro, Georgia<sup>3</sup>, officials notified the Harrison County Sheriff's Department that they had Pawlowske in custody, Deputy Otis Montgomery left Marshall and went to pick her up. Before Montgomery brought Pawlowske back to Texas, she provided another extremely valuable clue. Teffeteller had a sister who lived just outside Atlanta, and Pawlowske knew where she lived.

With Pawlowske's statement, we were able to secure murder warrants for Teffeteller and Poteet. An all-points bulletin was also issued for the two. Shortly after, Deputy J.K. Price, in Clayton County Georgia, saw two men in a car fitting the description of Teffeteller's Torino. Price stopped and arrested them without resistance with the help of other officers who had come to his aid.

When the car was searched, officers discovered a 380 Llama. They also found blood and two spent 380 bullets, which were buried in the backseat. We made preparations to leave for Georgia immediately. Otis Montgomery was back from Georgia, but he couldn't leave right then, so Deputy Bill Odom went with me to

bring the fugitives back. Both Teffeteller and Poteet had waived extradition.

Odom and I headed out right after noon. About nine hours later, we were just outside Atlanta, having driven almost 600 miles. This happened many years before the completion of Interstate 20, and much of the road was still two lanes, but we still clipped along at a real nice pace. (Knowing Glenn, it was probably close to a hundred miles per hour.) There is a long hill leading into Atlanta, and just as I got to the bottom, a red light started flashing in front of us. I pulled over and waited for the officer. I told him why we were in Georgia, and he offered any help he could give. After visiting for a few minutes, I asked him where we could find a motel and something to eat. He said that just down the road, on the right, there was a Holiday Inn that had a good restaurant. It closed at 10:00 p.m., but we needn't worry about that. He knew the people who ran the restaurant fairly well and would see to it that we had supper waiting on us when we got there. He radioed a dispatcher, and when we got to the motel a few minutes after ten, there was a nice, thick steak waiting for us.

Odom and I went to Jonesboro Police Department the following morning and visited with Detective J.K. Blankenship. He filled us in on what he knew and turned the pistol over to me that they had recovered from the car. He had already mailed me the bullets and bloody seat-fabric patches he had taken out of the Torino.

Odom and I were finished, and we wanted to get these boys back to Texas as quickly as possible. We couldn't leave immediately, however. Officers from Ormond Beach, Florida<sup>5</sup>, were there to talk to Teffeteller. He was one of several suspects they had connected to a killing in their city. I talked with the Florida officers and got the details. Wherever I am, I always talk to officers about crimes and criminals. You wouldn't believe how many times these casual conversations have led to an arrest.

It looked like the Florida officers had the makings of a pretty good case. A pharmacist, Peyton Moore, had been jogging when two men drove up beside him and demanded money. He told them he didn't have his wallet with him, and they shot him in the stomach with a 12-gauge shotgun. Unfortunately for the two men, Moore was still alive when the ambulance got there. The pharmacist died, but not before giving a description of the man who had shot him. He also gave an account of the car and details of the shooting. Even though Teffeteller fit the description of the shooter, Moore didn't live long enough to make a positive identification. Of course, Teffeteller denied any knowledge of the killing and claimed to not have even been in Florida at the time of the shooting, and the officials couldn't prove differently.

As soon as the Florida officials finished questioning Teffeteller, Odom and I gathered up the two men and the remaining evidence and put our car in the wind for Marshall, Texas, arriving there about ten hours later. At the jail, we took the prisoners upstairs and started processing them. I always made it a point to personally check out a suspect's possessions when booking them. While the paperwork was being prepared, I started going through Teffeteller's wallet, and he wanted to know why. I told him straight out that I didn't want him to claim later that a hundred-dollar bill he had rat-holed in his billfold was gone.

That part was true, but it was also true that I always went through prisoner's wallets looking for clues. You wouldn't believe what people stick in their wallets and handbags: gas tickets, receipts, toll tickets, pawn tickets, you name it. Going through Teffeteller's wallet, I found a receipt from an automobile-repair shop in Daytona Beach, where he had the Ford Torino worked on. The date matched the day that the pharmacist had been murdered. Bingo!

Teffeteller started heaving and hawing in a big rush. Until then, he had denied having anything to do with the killing of Overton, but now he was ready to make a full confession. Well, yes, he had in fact killed that man, but only in self-defense. You bet. Overton, he claimed, had been threatening him with a knife, and he shot him out of fear for his life. He knew it was wrong that he had fled from the scene, but being as he was a prison escapee, he had panicked. And he was really sorry that he had run; he just didn't know what had come over him.

Why had Teffeteller changed his mind so suddenly? Two reasons. The first was because the two people

in the car with him, Jayne Pawlowske and Donny Poteet, had already named him as the killer. But this was window dressing. The real reason Teffeteller decided to give it up was that he was no fool. He knew he had the gas chamber waiting for him in Florida. To his way of thinking, his best shot was in a Texas prison. He figured a Texas court wasn't likely to give him the death sentence for killing a no-account slug like George Overton, and he was probably right.

I've already related Pawlowske's statement. Besides describing the brutality of the murder, Poteet added a little more information for us. He said that he had been asleep in the backseat beside Overton when he was awakened suddenly by gunfire and Pawlowske's screams. Overton was reeling in the seat beside him, grabbing his chest and head. Overton cried out, "Help me! Rob's (Robert Teffeteller) shot me and it hurts!" Teffeteller's answer to that? "I'll help you, you #\$\$%^." And he shot Overton again.

Poteet added that Teffeteller had taken the first exit, driven down the highway about a mile, made a U-turn, and came back a short distance before stopping. Teffeteller ordered Poteet out of the car to help carry the body. They lugged Overton about fifty feet from the road, laid him down, and covered the body with an old army blanket they had in the car.

As I started talking more with Teffeteller, he admitted that he had been in the car when the pharmacist was shot in Florida. Of course, he didn't do it; Overton had pulled the trigger. Teffeteller claimed the shooting had happened so fast; it was over before he realized what was going on. All he knew was that Overton had pulled up beside the jogger and demanded money. When the jogger said he didn't have his wallet with him, Overton pulled the shotgun<sup>6</sup> and started shooting. What Teffeteller didn't know about, however, was Peyton Moore's dying declaration describing him as the shooter. There was no doubt which man he was talking about; Teffeteller was physically a much larger man than Overton.

I contacted the Ormond Beach Police Department and told them what we had developed. They wanted to come to Texas, question Teffeteller immediately, and run a polygraph test, if he would consent to it. Teffeteller agreed. Not knowing about Moore's statement, I guess he thought he could beat the polygraph and convince the officers that he was telling the truth when he claimed to have been merely a passenger and not the shooter. I asked the officers to let me know when they would arrive in Shreveport so they could be picked up. I could make arrangements to have Huntsville Penitentiary available for them.

Teffeteller had just been transferred to the Texas State Penitentiary at Huntsville, but he was still in diagnostics<sup>7</sup>. In order for them not to have to travel so far, I told the Florida officers I would ask the TDC<sup>8</sup> to transfer Teffeteller to Palestine's Tennessee Colony unit. Tennessee Colony is halfway between Marshall and Huntsville. I would pick Teffeteller up at the prison and bring him to the DPS office in Tyler for interrogation and, hopefully, a polygraph test.

I can honestly say that I had an outstanding working relationship with the Texas Department of Corrections. Like all Rangers and other law enforcement officers, I think we could have asked them for anything, and they would have busted a gut trying to do it. They said for me to tell them when I wanted Robert Teffeteller at Tennessee Colony, and he would be there.

When the Florida officers landed at Shreveport, they were picked up and brought to Tyler by Harrison County District Attorney Sam Baxter and his investigator, Nesbit McIntosh. Meanwhile, we secured a bench warrant<sup>9</sup> from the district judge and went to Tennessee Colony to pick Teffeteller up and bring him to Tyler.

All of us met in Tyler at 5:00 that afternoon. The polygraph operator, Marvin McElroy<sup>10</sup>, was finishing for the day, but considering the circumstances and the distance the Florida officers had traveled, he agreed to stay over for us. After completion of the test, McElroy said that Teffeteller had lied: he was the killer, not Overton. That was it for Teffeteller. When he heard this, he admitted to the murder. When we finished the questioning and polygraph, it was about 10:30 p.m. Everyone else headed back to Marshall, and I took Teffeteller and headed for the prison at Tennessee Colony.

Teffeteller and I arrived back at the prison about fifteen minutes before midnight. I don't remember why the assistant warden was still there, but he was. I'll never forget what he said to me. "Elliott, you can't bring a prisoner back in here the same day you check him out. Our computers would go crazy. We've never had anyone take a guy out of here on a bench warrant and bring him back the same day." It seems that when the computer programmers designed the prison's program, they set it up so that if you checked a prisoner out one day, he couldn't be checked back in until the next day.

I looked at my watch and it said 11:50 p.m. I said, "Warden, if you'll go get us a cup of coffee, by the time we finish it, it will be tomorrow." And that's what we did, thus saving me another night away from home. As soon as the prison officially took possession of Teffeteller, I hooked 'em for Longview.

It is common practice for a state to not press charges against a criminal who has been imprisoned in another state, even if the criminal has committed a major felony in their state. Why should they? Let the first state bear the cost of trial and imprisonment.

But the Teffeteller case was different. First, Teffeteller had copped a plea and taken a thirty-year sentence with us. With time off for good behavior, he could conceivably be out in as little as ten years. Even with the jailbreak in Tennessee, there was a better chance Tennessee wouldn't want him back after that length of time. In Florida, however, Peyton Moore, the murdered pharmacist, was a very well liked and respected resident of Ormond Beach. The officials there were not going to let Teffeteller slip by. They wanted him bad.

Over the next year, I made three trips to Florida to testify in their case against Teffeteller. Those trips are stories unto themselves. The first time I went before the grand jury in the Sunshine State was on April 6, 1979. The panel indicted Teffeteller for the murder of Peyton Moore. Before he could be tried, however, he came down with a case of hepatitis, and the trial was delayed three months. After that time passed and he was finally ready, I went back to testify again. Robert Allen Teffeteller was tried, found guilty, and sentenced to death by a jury of his peers.

End of the case? Unfortunately, no. I don't remember why, but Teffeteller's conviction was overturned on a technicality, and he had to be retried. For a variety of reasons, it was about a year before the second trial could start. First, Teffeteller had an appendectomy. About the time he was over the operation, the trial was again delayed. This time it was because of an infection he had developed.

The third delay was really disgusting. Robert Teffeteller was really a piece of work. Before the retrial could start, he first had to be tried for aggravated assault. He had been in a jail cell with two other men. He and one of his cellmates sexually assaulted the third prisoner, a handsome, teenaged boy. While the other prisoner had choked the teenager down by twisting a towel around his neck, Teffeteller took a toothbrush, whose end he had honed into a sharp point, and stuck it in the teenager's ear. Teffeteller and his partner had then proceeded to rape the youngster.

Finally, all the delays were over, and I again made the trip to Daytona Beach. Teffeteller was again found guilty and again sentenced to death. This time, there was no technicality, and the sentence was carried out. End of case - finally. During the last trial, I was in Florida about the time of the Daytona 500 race. The courthouse was very close to the racetrack, and we could hear the roar of racecar motors. I was there four days, and one afternoon we had some free time from the trial. The Florida officers made arrangements for us to get a pass into the track so we could watch the drivers make practice runs. I was known for not letting any grass grow under my feet when I drove, but let me tell you, even in my book, those guys drive fast!

Watching those NASCAR boys would have been thrill enough, but before leaving, I got an even bigger one. The courthouse was several miles from the launch site at Cape Canaveral, but it was close enough that I was able to see a space shuttle launch very clearly. I can't begin to describe how incredibly proud I was to be an American as I watched that mighty rocket blasting into space.

# Straight Talk

The Newsmagazine of the Former Texas Rangers Association

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