

Straight Talk

The Newsmagazine of the Former Texas Rangers Association



'The Legend, The Lore, The Law.' This is the title of the life-size bronze that depicts the history of the Texas Rangers on horseback from 1823 to the present day and is the newest addition at the Texas Rangers Heritage Center. Artist Dustin Payne, a 3rd generation sculptor and native Texan who resides in Cody, Wyoming spent 2 years in research, design and creation. He looked to retired Rangers like Joe Davis, Brantley Foster and Sr. Capt. H.R. "Lefty" Block to give insight into the details and nuances of period clothing, weapons and tack. The rest of his research consisted of examining hundreds of photos of Rangers to find common examples of their dress and firearms to be incorporated into the artwork.

Dustin and his family began a two and a half day journey to Texas with the piece on display for the world to

see. He laughed as he later recanted the story of coming down and the reactions he received throughout their trip. He said that the majority of the time driving was spent being blocked in on the highway by motorists trying to snap photos of the Rangers or to give him a wave and a thumbs up. A few would even follow them for many miles until they exited for gas, just to get a chance to ask him questions and get a photo op. On the second night of their trip, they stayed in Canyon, just outside Amarillo. He awoke to a crowd of almost a hundred people who had made their way over to the trailer for a closer look at the stoic Rangers in the early morning light. More about Dustin Payne can be found at www.dustinpayne.com.

The unveiling of the bronze took place on Saturday, August 13, 2016 at the Texas Rangers Heritage Center

in Fredericksburg, TX. A large crowd turned out to celebrate the culmination of this two year project. Foundation President and retired Ranger Joe Davis was the first to speak to an eager crowd on the time and effort that went into this life size piece of living history. Chairman of the Board Chad Stary was on-hand to present Mr. Payne with an Honorary Foundation membership at the rank of Major in the for the incredible job he preformed. Also in attendance was William and Luz Scripps, who are the generous donors of the bronze. William "Billy" Scripps was given an honorary membership at the rank of Adjutant General for his invaluable support of the Heritage Center.

We want to thank everyone that came out to the unveiling of this monumental piece of artwork that will live on for generations to come.

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President's Message

Former Texas Rangers Association



The Former Texas Rangers Association office in Fredericksburg is currently working on a change over to a new computer operating system that houses our database of Rangers and descendants. There have been a few obstacles to overcome in this process with getting all our current member information transferred over correctly. We are working hard to get everybody's file up-to-date and insure everyone who has renewed their dues, has received their updated membership cards.

The cards and certificates had to be re-designed to be compatible with this new program and has caused a delay in getting them out to our descendants. Please be patient with us while we work through this transition. The ultimate goal will be a full, interactive database where descendants will be able to access all the records and any known photos of their Honored Ranger online. We are a ways from completing that project but it is what we are striving for with this new system.

The Sons of the Republic of Texas conducted the first annual anniversary celebration of the Texas Rangers, Aug. 5, 2016 in Fredericksburg, TX at the Texas Rangers Heritage Center. The Texas Rangers are 193 years old and still the oldest state law enforcement agency in existence in the U.S. today!

Speakers at the event included Mr. Bob Steakley, President General of the SRT and Joe Davis, retired Ranger and himself, a member of the SRT. Other members in attendance were Mr. Ed Heath, 1st Vice President General, Mr. John Knox, Executive Commissioner, Mr. Mike Young, Post Oak District Rep. and Mr. Mike Gissell, Moses - Austin Chapter President.

This years event was attended by a modest size group but we are planning for a large event next year on August 5, 2017. Please mark your calendars and come support such a great organization that has partnered with us to celebrate the legacy of the Texas Rangers. The 2016 GALA is right around the corner. Please get your RSVP's in now. We look forward to seeing everyone in October.

Hasta la vista,

Lee R Young

Lee Young, President
Former Texas Rangers Association
Texas Ranger, Retired

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President's Message

Former Texas Rangers Foundation



I want to take this opportunity to thank the Former Texas Rangers Foundation members that responded to our April letter requesting donations to help aid the increased operating expenses of the foundation. The increased expenses are due mainly to the opening and operation of the Phase I Texas Rangers Heritage Center. The FTRF has a lot invested at the TRHC and it takes additional funds to maintain it.

We are all very pleased with the completion of Phase I. Since the opening we have had over 10,000 people visit the grounds from all over the US and several foreign countries. Everyone is anxious to see Phase II completed and our Building Committee is working hard to finalize the plans. When the construction of The Heritage Center is complete it will be a state of the art facility honoring the history of the Texas Rangers. The TRHC will also include our education program dedicated to making our youth better citizens.

The Foundations most important asset is our members. Our hopes and dreams for the future, including building the Texas Rangers Heritage Center, can be realized with your help. We know there are literally hundreds of individuals that will join the FTRF once they learn we not only preserve Texas Ranger history, but perpetuate the tradition that is the heart and soul of the Lone Star State. A tradition built on the character traits the Texas Rangers adhered to for 193 years - Courage, Determination, Dedication, Respect and Integrity.

To make the TRHC a reality it will take each of us, as members, to

participate in raising the necessary funds. Each of you can help by participating in our fund-raising efforts. There are several ways you can do this. First make a commitment today to give some of your time and resources to this historic project. Tell your friends and acquaintances about us. You can contact our office and we will be glad to send you the information and how you can help make the TRHC a reality. With your help we will get it done!

Our new membership that took effect June 1, 2016 is basically the same except that it includes a \$100.00 a year dues. This will help generate funds for operations. The rank in membership costs remain the same such as Private is still \$500.00 and etc. Our operations funding is generated through our memberships. Other funds pledged for Capital Building and naming rights are in restricted accounts and can only be used for the purpose designated.

There is currently over 1000 members in the Foundation who are designated as Life Members. Once their membership is paid for we do not receive any additional funds from that member. I am asking each of the life members to consider giving a \$100.00 a year dues and would be due on June 1st of each year. The dues would generate over \$100,000.00 a year for operations. I sincerely hope each of you will consider doing this. Each of you are vital to the success of the Foundation and we need your continued support. Thanks for your consideration.

I encourage everyone to check our website for updates and events for both the Foundation and Association. It will keep you informed and will ensure that you have the latest information. I hope to see you soon and should you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Joe B. Davis, President
Former Texas Rangers Foundation
Texas Ranger, Retired

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FTRF CHAIRMAN'S THOUGHTS

One of the greatest gifts I have been given in my life is my affiliation with the FTRF. This relationship has provided me with a unique opportunity to get to know various Texas Rangers and build relationships with them. I hold each association close and have great respect for each of the Rangers that I have been entrusted to be around and work with in the FTRF. Over the past several weeks, I have written about two Rangers (in my weekly blog) that have left impressions on me, and I thought it would be appropriate to share the same in my COB article.



Recently one of those life encounters, H. Joaquin Jackson, a Texas Icon, passed away at the age of 80. I met Ranger Jackson here in Kerrville a few years back at a gala at the YO. I was bringing a grant check from the NRA, and he was an NRA board member so there was a connection for us both. After the gala I walked by this outside hotel "porch" and he and another Ranger were talking and he invited me to join them. So to say the time slipped by - it did - and it was early morning when I got back to my hotel room. I thought- isn't that something to hear about this Ranger and then be in a spot where he invites you to join him and another Ranger to just sit and talk? Over the years there were some really cool encounters with Ranger Jackson- a few were the time he stopped by the bank in Gonzales and I had one of the ladies type a report he was working on and then to have him toss me his Tahoe keys for me to drive him to lunch. His spurs were on his parking brake, a few cartons of cigarettes and flats of water in the back seat and his trusty cut down 30-30 Winchester and a 1911 on the floor board.

I watched as a sitting Congressman,

a former State Governor and Ranger Captains spoke of the man and the stories of his legacy. He did his part to carry the reputation and leave it for those behind him to continue forward. Then there was the very personal letter from Robert Duvall, who was not able to attend and was read by the Former Sr. Ranger Captain who knew both well and added his flair. All stories of the man, his reputation and what he was all about from those who knew, who had dealings with him and those who rode alongside him. When you heard each speak there were no doubts about the relationship and true respect that each had for who and what he was and where he stood on things. The ever professional Ranger.

The second is Ranger Clayton Smith who served as the Ranger Chaplin. A month back the FTRF/FTRA held a Police memorial at the TRHC and it was for sure moving. Area law enforcement came, spoke and were honored and the DPS honor guard presented the colors and played taps. The most sobering part was the name of the #Texas Law enforcement officers that are no longer with us. At this event Ranger Smith gave a moving heart felt talk about how he had been shot several times and came close to having his name on a memorial. It stuck so strongly with me to see the world through his eyes and to have him tell how things have changed over the years he had served and protected Texas and what he is seeing today. What a change and slip from years back The lasting thought is what he said about the lack of respect for the Badge and authority. Over the past few weeks as we see attacks on law enforcement officers it makes me more thankful for all that wear the badge and we should all do our parts in whatever way to show support and help defend those that defend us.

"I hope there will always be a few that will stand up ...and hold the line..." never goes away and there will be always be someone that can turn a tide,

lead and be a voice and step in to protect others.

Again each of us being members in the FTRF and should consider ourselves partners, as we have an opportunity to ensure legacies like the above examples and those many others in years past and those still today are never forgotten. We all choose to be a part of the FTRF/FTRA because we care, we do because we have a passion for the Texas Rangers and what and who they are and stand for. Least we should never forget we must do our part to be steadfast in each of the five character traits ourselves.

FTRF Business:

As we grow the FTRF and now have opened the gates for the TRHC it is taking more operational monies. We have spent a significant time working on budgets and shaving costs to ensure we are using each dollar wisely. I want to thank those that responded to the recent "ask letter", and if you have not, please consider making a gift. We have so many good things happening and our educational/character programs and others all require gifts in some form to maximize our impact on the youth, our State and beyond.

As we start to plan for our Gala please consider donating an auction item, being a sponsor, or helping make a contribution to a Ranger's child scholarship.

"Do good, expecting nothing in return" - Luke 6:35 -

Respects,

Chad Stary
Chad D. Stary
Foundation Chairman



DEVELOPMENT RESOURCE REPORT

This morning as I was walking with my dog, BEVO, I began reflecting on some things that interested me from an earlier conversation a few weeks ago. I wanted to share these and perhaps receive your thoughts.



Not too long ago, I was talking with a friend of mine and yours' who has made recurring gifts to the Former Texas Rangers Foundation as well as other charitable organizations. I asked this friend, "Tell me why you became a charitable donor to our organization." This was his response.

"Some years ago my wife and I made a conscious decision to share a bit of our financial resources with our family and charities including the Former Texas Rangers Foundation. Deciding on the Foundation was easy. We have gotten to know new friends and Retired Rangers during the past few years. We believe in the foundation's mission and we are excited about the Texas Rangers Heritage Center being built in Fredericksburg. By nature, my wife and I tend to lean toward organizations that are Texas based and teach great values to our children and grandchildren. I believe, then and today, this describes the Former Texas Rangers Foundation and the Texas Rangers Heritage Center.

We found it easy to learn about Texas Ranger History and their values. We have even begun bringing our children and grandchildren to view the Bell Tower, Pavilion and let them learn how the past paves the way for the future. We have also shared with our family how philanthropy should play a part in "paying it forward." Our family is excited to see the entire facility completed soon. We have also

talked with the foundation leadership and have learned how this organization operates and we are pleased. We are glad that we can now wisely invest our monies with this great organization.

When we began our adventure in charitable giving some years back with other groups, we did not find anything straightforward, rewarding, or joyous in the process of sorting through the many available options for giving. At first we got bogged down in issues related to taxes and the more complex ways of giving. Through much reading including the FTRF Ways to Give booklet, we discovered that we could give simply and economically through an outright gift and a bequest while still enjoying every tax benefit for which we are qualified. These specific methods actually fitted how we wanted to give our money away to family and charity, alike.

Fast forward a few years, and we have to see two things even more clearly. First, our admiration for the people who lead this organization and how the work they do continues to increasingly grow each year. We will continue in the coming years to enjoy supporting the foundation and others. Second, it's clear to us that determining the most appropriate method of giving has become more of a chore, as more and more nonprofits have begun offering charitable giving instruments to would-be donors. I believe that trend is being driven by the active marketing of the different Ways to Give.

As I stated earlier, there are many different instruments to choose from, but my wife and I wanted to keep our giving simple. Therefore, we have chosen just two ways to give; monthly outright giving and the easiest estate giving vehicle out there, the simple bequest through our will. Glen, thank you for asking me this question and

finally, let me encourage our friends through Straight Talk to pick up a Ways to Give Booklet from Glen or the FTRF Office and read about the full range of giving methods available. This will help the FTRF and other groups, as well."

I echo the thoughts of this friend and hope that you'll request more information as to how you may financially help the FTRF. You can also help by providing a monthly recurring gift just like our friend has described so eloquently above. Or you may be able to provide a gift through a simple bequest written into your Will. As has been mentioned, there are other gifting methods and I would be glad to discuss these with your family, financial advisors and you.

I want to say to a final Thank You to my friend who asked his name not be used, but wanted everyone to know how he and his wife, with the blessings of his family, supports the Former Texas Rangers Foundation and other charitable organizations. I look forward to working with others in the future in helping the FTRF move forward to completing our Texas Rangers Heritage Center and its Educational Program.

*If you would like more information,
please contact me at:
glenc@formertexasrangers.org,
or call me at 1-254-760-6334
(Fredericksburg office 1-888-766-4055)*

Your friend,
Glen Cospers
Glen Cospers, M.A.P., ACFRE
Director of Development



Texas Rangers Heritage Center Pavilion



Leasing options now available



(Above): The back of the pavilion opens onto a lush, grassy courtyard with a stone walkway leading down to the amphitheater and gas fire pit. (Below): Our industrial HVAC catering kitchen is equipped to handle your caterer's needs and ensure your event goes off without a hitch.



Our 9,000 sq. ft. pavilion is quickly becoming a top event destination in the Texas Hill Country. With tabled seating for up to 350 people, HVAC restrooms, catering kitchen with full amenities, state of the art audio/video and a prime location off Hwy. 290 in Fredericksburg, this site makes an excellent choice for your next family event or business function.



For information regarding leasing options, please contact Erin Hall at: 830-990-1192
erinh@formertexasrangers.org
trhc.org/events-we-host

Texas Rangers Heritage Center
1618 E. Main St, Fredericksburg, TX 78624



Retired Ranger
Reynaldo Gilberto "Ray" Ramon
10/2/1957 - 1/12/2016
Co. D, 1995 - 2009

Happy Trails



Retired Ranger
Joaquin Jackson
11/12/1935 - 6/15/2016
Co. D, 1976 - 1999
Co. E, 1999 - 2003

- 2016 GALA'S FEATURED AUCTION ITEMS -



Donated by Al Frisch, Hollywood Guns & Props / Valued at \$5,000. - Colt Nickel 44-40 single action 1873-1973 Centennial; 7.5", left side barrel etched "Colt Frontier Six Shooter"; right side, "1873 Peacemaker Centennial 1973", with brown saddle stitched leather bound presentation case w/ Boxleitner holster. With autographed photos of donor. Serial #1749. Total production 2,000. From the personal collection of Western movie actor Bruce Boxleitner.

Donated by Al Frisch, Hollywood Guns & Props / Valued at \$5,000. - Colt Silver plated finish, .45 cal. SAA 7.5", with walnut case/copy of "The Pictorial History of The Texas Rangers" & Ranger badge in lucite. Genuine Ivory grips. With autographed photos of donor. Serial #58TR. Limited edition commissioned by Charles Schriener III of Y.O. Ranch fame. Engraved by Frank Hendrick's Engravers of San Antonio, Texas. From the personal collection of western movie actor Bruce Boxleitner.



Donated by Colt Manufacturing Co, LLC. / Valued at \$2,400. - Colt CM901 7.62 x 51 NATO (.308 Winchester) has the modularity and versatility you need. Its free-floating barrel and one-piece monolithic upper receiver provide exceptional accuracy. The revolutionary lower receiver and bolt carrier design enable the upper receiver group to be easily swapped out for any Colt MilSpec upper receiver chambered in 5.56 x 45 NATO (.223 Remington), without tools.

Donated by Sturm, Ruger & Co., Inc. / Valued at \$1,400. - Ruger Precision Rifle .308WIN. Cold hammer-forged 4140 chrome-moly steel barrel with 5R Rifling at minimum bore and groove dimensions, minimum headspace and centralized chamber. "Upper" receiver and one-piece bolt are precision CNC-machined from pre-hardened 4140 chrome-moly steel to minimize distortion. Ruger® Precision MSR stock with QD sling attachment points features a bottom Picatinny rail and soft rubber buttpad.



Donated by Kurt and Susie House. - Guided hog hunt for two hunters, two day stay. Over night accomodations available at the beautiful Mission Sin Caja, Live Oak County, Texas.

BEHIND THE BADGE

STORIES FROM THE RANGERS OF THE FT&A



George Cole Frasier - Texas Ranger, Retired - Company E, 1974-1993

The law enforcement career of George Cole Frasier began at the Odessa, Texas Police Department. In January 1960, he worked patrol and was later a motorcycle officer. After seven years, Frasier entered the Texas Department of Public Safety, and served another seven years in that West Texas area, finally returning to Odessa. In 1974, Frasier was promoted to Texas Ranger and served in Big Spring, Eastland and San Angelo. He felt a strong desire (calling) to go into full-time ministry, which resulted in retirement from the Rangers in September 1993. After retirement, he served as an ordained minister in the Church of the Nazarene. While a minister, he also served as a chaplain to the Texas Rangers and the Former Texas Ranger Association. George Frasier passed away on Thursday, November 13, 2014. He is survived by his wife of fifty-seven years, Faye Frasier and their three sons. This is a story as told by George, a few years ago:

"Our oldest son, Russ, was a youth minister in a church in Ocala, Florida at the time of my retirement. He called one night and told me that his friends in Florida were really impressed when he told them that his dad was a "real" Texas Ranger. They were crazy about the new TV show, "Walker, Texas Ranger." I asked Russ if he had told them the truth; that, while the Texas Ranger's life sometimes gets plenty exciting, it is not really as exciting as "Walker." He said he had, but they didn't care; they were really hooked on the show.

About three months after my retirement, just after Christmas 1993, Faye and I drove to Ocala, Florida to visit Rusty, his wife and girls. They lived a few miles outside Ocala in a housing development. While visiting, Russ told me that there had been a rash of car thefts in that area. The night before we planned to return home, I filled up our new Chrysler with gas, loaded our belongings in the trunk, backed the car into the drive near a bright yard light, and, of course, locked the car. We planned to leave at five a.m. Faye and I were fast asleep in the front bedroom about twenty feet from our car, when I suddenly was awakened by that uncomfortable feeling that people (especially lawmen) get when they sense that something is wrong. The clock showed 3:00 a.m. I heard a vehicle moving very slowly past the house. Looking out the window, I saw a dark-colored ¾ ton Dodge pickup with no lights pull to the curb in front of a house, across the street and about two houses down. I was satisfied that it was probably a couple coming in very late from a date, and not wanting to wake anyone. I returned to bed and went back to sleep.

About twenty minutes later, I was suddenly awakened by a soft "thunk-thunk" sound coming from the area of our car. I jumped from the bed and looked out the window again, just in time to see our new car, lights on, leaving without us! I called out to Faye to call 9-1-1, "Somebody's stealing our car!" She did. Russ came running past our bedroom door, wearing only his pajama bottoms, and carrying a nickel-plated .38 Colt automatic. His previous eight years experience as a law enforcement officer had apparently rapidly come to the surface. I grabbed my jeans (had no pajama bottoms), got my .357 Magnum from beside the bed, and got to Rusty's car right behind him. By this time, our car was already out-of-site, but that Dodge pickup was speeding around the corner. I told Russ, "Go after that pickup; that's the drop vehicle." He did! You need to know that Rusty's car was a four-cylinder Grand-Am with the "quad-four" and a five speed transmission, and what came next was right up his alley!

The chase was on! I was really thankful that Russ was driving and he stayed right with that pickup as we raced up and down streets and alleys, and even across a corner yard or two. It was on of those "made-for-movies" type chases, as the boys in the Dodge tried to shake us, but couldn't. At one point, the pickup suddenly braked and spun around facing us. The driver kept revving up the engine. I really thought they were going to ram us

head-on, so I leaned out my window as far as I could and told Russ, "Get ready, son, here they come!" I aimed the Magnum as best I could and was ready to start hulling them, when they suddenly turned around and took off again. We got out onto the open highway and continued until the pickup turned onto a dirt road that dead-ended in the edge of a forest. Both occupants of the pickup baled out on each side of the pickup and ran into the trees, leaving the motor running, lights on and both doors open. Due to Russ and myself being barefoot, we could not give chase, so Russ backed up to where we might flag someone down, but could keep our headlights on the pickup. We needed to stay behind our own lights.

The first vehicle to come along was a van, driven by a young, white male. I waved him to a stop, and asked him to please call the sheriff, or whoever had jurisdiction out there, that we had some car thieves cornered. He looked scared. I then realized that I was standing there in a drizzling rain, wearing only a pair of Wranglers and holding a stainless steel revolver in my hand, at about 4:00 a.m., so I identified myself and briefly told him what had happened. The van sped away, and help was soon on the scene, in the form of three or four marked units, police dogs and then a chopper. The deputies never questioned our having weapons or anything; seemed to appreciate the help. One of them even brought my boots and Rusty's shoes to us. I asked him if he wanted a description of my car, and he stated that it had already been recovered. It was abandoned in the street within two blocks of the house, running, lights still on, apparently when we ran from the house like "gangbusters" and took after their friends in the pickup.

The thieves got away that night, but were apprehended about four days later. The pickup we chased was also stolen. On the way back home, I asked Russ, "Son, do you reckon those old boys would have run that hard if they'd known that they were being chased by a couple of preachers?" He replied, "I don't know, dad, but I sure would have like to lay hands on those Philistines, wouldn't you?" We found out later that the young man in the van was running a newspaper route. My wife, Faye, really came through in style. The female deputy who responded to the house on the "9-1-1" call took down basic information from Faye. She was incredulous when she asked, "You're telling me that your husband and your son are chasing the car thieves? That's a good way for someone to get seriously hurt!" Faye assured her, "Yes, ma'am, and someone will get hurt if my husband and son catch the thieves before you get to them." (No wonder I've kept that lady around for almost forty-five years.)

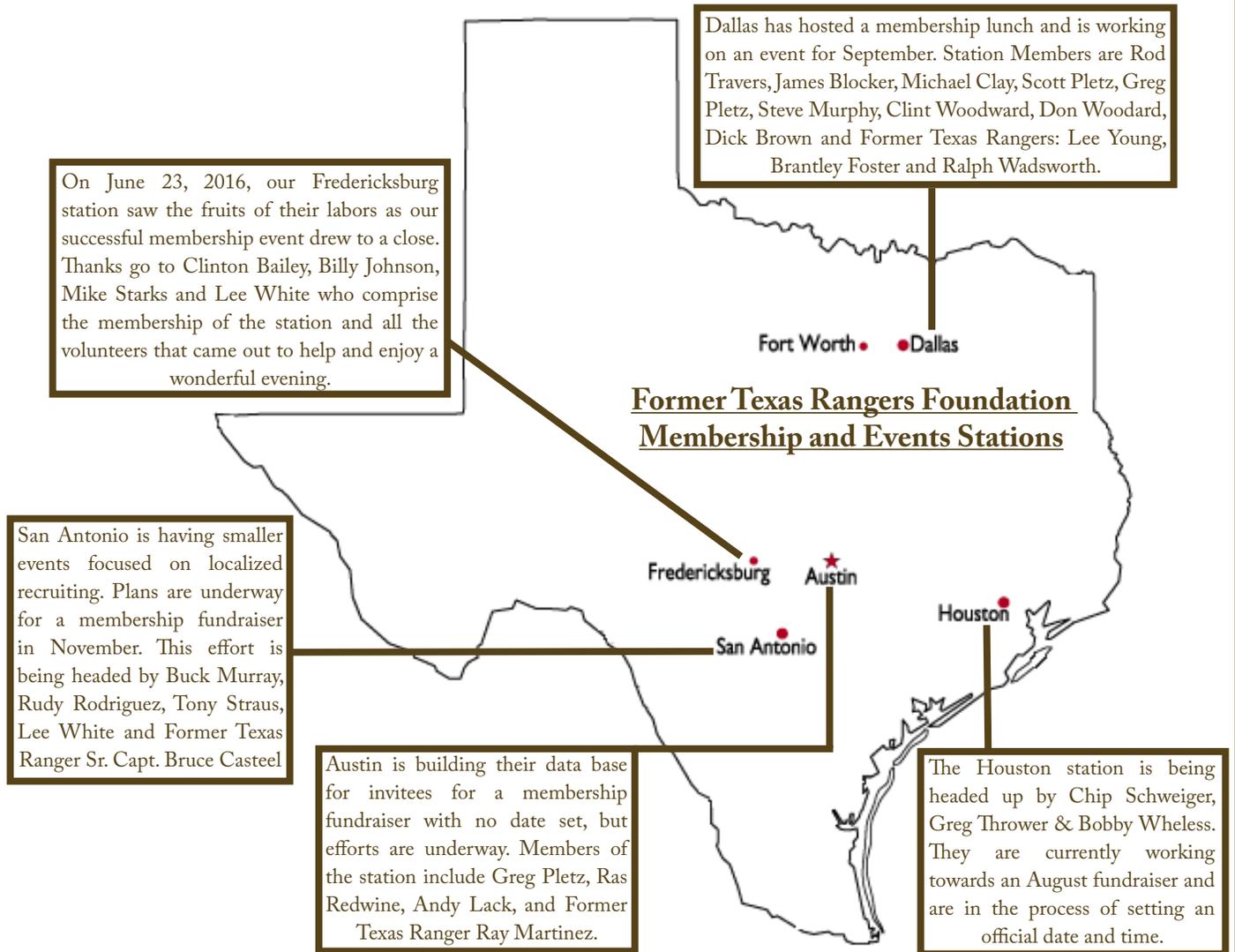
Later that morning, as the deputy had instructed, Russ and I went to the Marion County Sheriff's Department to obtain a copy of their report for my insurance company back home. When I made the request, the female clerk told me that four vehicles had been reported stolen in that area the previous night. She then leaned forward toward me and said, almost in a whisper, "You won't believe this, but last night someone stole a Texas Ranger's car, and he just ran them down and got it back!" I told her, "Yes, ma'am, I believe you; that was my car." Then we got to meet several deputies (maybe the sheriff, I don't remember), and we had a good time, reliving the experience and just getting acquainted. Good, down-to-earth people; would have made good hands in Texas!

We were able to drive our car home before having a new ignition put in (used the thief's screwdriver, just as he had done before, leaving it behind in a rush). Repairs were minimal. One large problem remained. Russ called a few days later and said that the newspapers really wrote it up, then said that he would never be able to convince his friends that "Walker, Texas Ranger" was not for real!

This was probable my "last hurrah", but who knows? It has been said that "once a Ranger, always a Ranger"... Yep, I reckon so."



FTRF Membership & Events Update



The Former Texas Rangers Foundation has implemented a new program that will establish Stations across Texas for members to operate from in their area. Much like the chain of forts along the western Texas frontier, each station will play a vital role in spreading the mission of the Former Texas Rangers Organizations.

The organizing and planning of membership events is moving forward each day. An important key to the success of each station is our dedicated members' support in that area. A vast support network of volunteers can offer talents and new contacts that will be an integral part of our growth and ultimate success.

We hope you have an interest in becoming a part of one of the above stations or considering starting a station in your area. **Contact Walter Pletz for more information at walter.pletz@markprom.com or (214)-587-2205**

Walter Pletz

Chairman, Committee for Membership,
Marketing and Public Relations



**Join Us For The
Former Texas Rangers Foundation's
Annual Silver Stars & Six Guns Gala
Saturday, October 8, 2016**

**Embassy Suites San Marcos Hotel & Conference Center
San Marcos, Texas 512-392-6450**

**To order tickets or receive underwriting information,
contact the Former Texas Rangers Foundation at
1.888.766.4055 * 830.990.1192 * www.TRHC.org
*Ask about our member discount for events!***



**MAJOR JOHN B. JONES
MASONIC RANGERING COMPANY**

The town of Chalk Mountain was in Erath county, and is said to have been used as an antebellum trading post. The community came into being in the 1870s and grew up around the post office. Chalk Mountain had two churches in the 1890s as well as a school and a cotton gin. The 1900 census showed 81 residents. The landmark Masonic Lodge building dates from 1904. The 1940 census showed two businesses at Chalk Mountain supported by 69 residents.



Improved roads after WWII helped deplete the remaining population and by 1980 only 25 people called Chalk Mountain home, although the Masonic Lodge remained active. The number of residents has remained at 25 for both the 1990 and 2000 census and it no longer appears on the official Texas highway map. It is generally considered a ghost town despite the fact that it never grew to any substantial size. On June 25th, 2016, Members of the John B. Jones Masonic Ranger Company visited Chalk Mountain Lodge #894 (Ranger Camp #34) for the installation of new officers and the official presentation of the lodge's Ranger Camp Certificate. Left to Right: District Deputy Grand Master Joe Christian; Maj. John B. Jones MRC Representative Jim Cosper; Master of the lodge Johnnie R Hutchins; Past Master of the Lodge James Carlile.

Respectfully,

Dick Brown

Chairman of the Major John B. Jones Masonic Ranging Co.

TEXAS IRON GUNS OF THE TEXAS RANGERS

By Bob Moser, Capt. USA (retired)

FTRA Weapons Historian



In our past articles we discussed numerous hand guns and rifles of the frontier Rangers. Not much was said



about the importance of the smooth bore shotgun. Whether in the single barrel or double barrel version, it was the ultimate weapon of its time. If a pioneer had only one gun it would need to be a shotgun used for hunting and protection. No weapon was as feared in the early West as the 10 gauge double barrel coach gun.

This is documented in numerous articles and photos of early stagecoach riders and freight haulers armed with this weapon. Sitting alongside of the stage driver, the armed guard was known as “riding shotgun”. Armed with 00 buckshot and short 18 inch barrels, the coach gun could scatter lead pellets in a much wider killing zone as compared to the longer barrel sporting shot guns of their day. The earliest frontier shot guns were of the flint lock design. Although not always dependable, the only required black powder and an occasional new flint to strike a spark and ignite the powder. The projectiles of the time were usually lead shot but in dire circumstances rocks, glass, nails and

anything lethal could be used. Around the 1830 – 1840 time frame, the procession cap ignition system became popular. It required a factory made procession cap igniter to provide fire to the powder charge. During and after the Civil War many Confederate Cavalrymen carried short barrel shot guns as they could be fired with accuracy from horseback. After the Civil War, the cavalrymen, to include Terry’s Texas Rangers, came back to Texas with a fondness for this weapon.

In the 1870’s shot guns began the common practice of firing a self contained shell. Early shells were of one piece brass design which was later changed to the current brass headpiece with paper or plastic shell casing. Turn of the century shot guns were designed to fire either the 2 ¾ inches or 3 inch shells. The 3 inch shells were more powerful but required a barrel bore manufactured to accept it’s length. Some of the 3 inch shells were listed as magnum loads. The use of the term magnum usually refers to an increased powder load. The gauge of the shotgun is the diameter of the tube or barrel. The smaller the gauge, the larger diameter the bore. A 16 or 20 gauge is smaller than the most common used 12 gauge. The 10 gauge lost popularity as did the monstrous 8 gauge. Both were like firing a small cannon. The size of the lead shot is defined by its usage and type of

game to be hunted. For example, a rabbit or squirrel at 30 yards with a 12 gauge shot gun would use a shot size of 5 or 6. For police and self protection the 00 or “double ought” buckshot is most utilized. It has pellets the size of small marbles and usually contains 9 non plated pellets per shell. At close range it is a real attention getter. Billy the Kid is said to have used a double barrel shot gun loaded with dimes during his escape from the Lincoln County New Mexico jail. An unsubstantiated quote had him commenting that it was the best \$1.80 he ever spent.

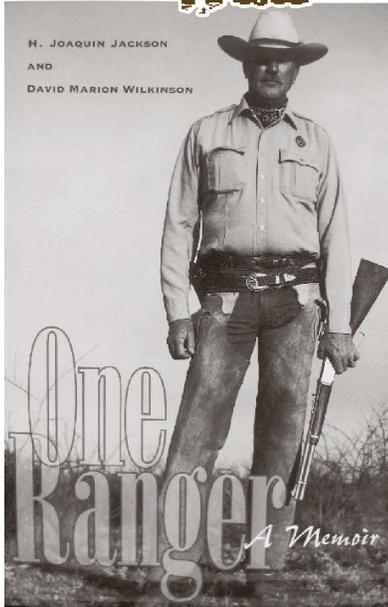
Early styles of barrels utilized a process of circular twisted design referred to as Damascus steel. It was a style of the times and was designed to use a black powder load. When smokeless powder became popular with it’s 4 to 1 strength ratio as compared to black power, the Damascus style was discontinued as not being strong enough to withstand the increased pressure.

Modern shot guns can be found in numerous styles such as over and under, side by side, and one called a drilling where one barrel is a shot gun and the other uses a rifle cartridge. Shot guns have evolved from a simple break open design to pump and semi automatic actions. Current tactical shotguns utilize advanced rates of fire in high capacity magazines.

But that’s another story....

GENERAL STORE

This Month's FEATURED ITEMS



One Ranger - A Memoir, Hardcover
By H. Joaquin Jackson &
David M. Wilkinson

\$30.00 Each

When his picture appeared on the cover of Texas Monthly, Joaquin Jackson became the icon of the modern Texas Rangers. In this adventure-filled memoir, Joaquin Jackson recalls what it was like to be the Ranger who responded when riots threatened, violence erupted, and criminals needed to be brought to justice across a wide swath of the Texas-Mexico border from 1966 to 1993.



New Concealed Carry Vest
without logo

\$45.00 Each

Available Colors:
2 holsters for left or right handed shooters.
Straps to fit various pistol shapes & sizes.
Black, Rust, Tan, Chocolate
* \$55.00 with logo *
Available Sizes:
Small - 3XL



CLEARANCE
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Available Colors:
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Available Sizes:
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MEMBERS RECEIVE A 10% DISCOUNT ANYTIME AND NEW MEMBERS RECEIVE A 20% DISCOUNT IF THEY ORDER WITHIN 30 DAYS OF THEIR NEW MEMBERSHIPS
SPECIAL OFFERS APPLY TO IN-STOCK ITEMS ONLY, HURRY WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!

**Most logo items available with the Association logo, the Foundation logo, or the Masonic logo. Please specify when ordering.*

For additional items, go to www.trhc.org

Call 1-888-766-4055 or brandij@formertexasrangers.org to place orders or for size inquiries. All prices are applicable to tax and shipping. Please allow two weeks for delivery.

Thank you for your continued support.

TEXAS RANGERS TALES

by Mike Cox
FTRA Associate Historian

Traveling with her grandparents from San Saba to Austin a couple of days after her graduation from Texas Women's University in 1960, Marilyn Johanson discovered that while she had succeeded in getting a college education, she still had much to learn about her own family. "I was driving and my grandfather was sitting next to me," Johanson recalled. "Somewhere between Lampasas and Briggs, my grandfather looked out at the prairie there where it seems like you can see forever and said, 'I never come to Austin without thinking about how your great-great grandmother rode by herself from Travis County to San Saba with her two little children.'" It's roughly 120 miles from the Capital City to San Saba, a two-and-a-half hour drive at most. But that's today, along paved highways. When Vollie Ann Warren made her ride in 1863, she followed only a winding, two-rut wagon road. She also had to cross numerous creeks and ford both the South and North forks of the San Gabriel River. On top of being a difficult trip, in riding alone through that stretch of the state in that era, she risked her life and the well-being of her children.

Born Dec. 9, 1841 in Hardeman County, Tenn., Vollie came with her family to Texas in 1847. They first settled in Travis County, but in 1855 her parents decided to move to the frontier in San Saba County. Then 14, Vollie had her own ideas. She stayed behind, marrying a young man named Jerry Robinson. They set up housekeeping in Bastrop County and within six years had two children, a boy and a girl. When Texas joined other Southern states in seceding from the Union following the election of Abraham Lincoln as president, Robinson and many other able-bodied men from Bastrop County signed up for Confederate military service and marched off to war in 1861. Most of the volunteers, including Vollie's husband, never returned. They died not from Yankee bullets, but an outbreak of measles.

After learning of his son-in-law's demise, Jeff Warren wrote his daughter to tell her that he would send her a good horse so she could come home with her children. Her father intended Vollie to join others in making the trip, but for reasons not known to her descendants, she either decided to go it alone or the larger traveling party did not materialize. Holding her 18-month-old daughter on the saddle in front of her while her three-year-old son sat behind her, the new widow left Austin for her parents' home. A rider working a horse hard can make roughly 30 miles a day. But a young woman with two young children could not possibly have kept that pace. Even at 30 miles a day, Vollie faced a four-day ride. Likely her trip took a week or more. "The story I heard was that she would ride until she came to someone's cabin and then ask to stay the night," Johanson said. "In the morning, they'd tell her, 'Ride yonder way to the next place and you can spend tonight there.'" Clearly one tough Tennessee-born, Texas-raised lady, Vollie had undertaken a ride even an armed man would have been reluctant to make alone.

With most able-bodied men away at war, hostile Indians enjoyed near free reign along the state's frontier. And in 1863, little law enforcement existed. Beyond avoiding Indians who would happily take her honor, life and scalp while making her children theirs, Vollie had to be wary of outlaws, draft dodgers and Union sympathizers. What little protection frontier settlers did have came from the Texas Rangers. One of those rangers happened to be another Tennessean, Newton Dickens McMillin. He had come to what became San Saba County about the time the Warren family put down roots there along the upper Colorado River. In 1858, he served in the ranger company that chased a Comanche war party and recovered two small children the Indians had kidnapped after killing their parents and older siblings. The event in what is now Mills County came to be known as the Jackson Massacre.

Not long after Vollie and her children arrived unharmed in San Saba, she met "the Captain," as he was called. He surely admired her pluck as well as her beauty. Within a year, he asked her to marry him. "When he proposed," Johanson said, "he was 48 and Vollie was 23. He told her, 'If we have no children I will love and take care of yours as if they were my own.'" They married at her parents' home on July 26, 1864. McMillin honored his pledge. While he was at it, he helped raise the other nine children he and Vollie went on to have. (Two others died in infancy, for a total of 13 children born to Vollie.) The old ranger died at 87 on the Fourth of July, 1903. Vollie would live another 12 years. On the evening of July 16, 1915, after attending a revival, Vollie sat with one of her daughters and her son-in-law on the porch of their house. A light south wind felt good, and the stars shined nearly bright enough to read by. Finally excusing herself for bed, Vollie told her daughter: "I don't believe I will be with you much longer." Before falling asleep that night, maybe she thought about the long, perilous ride she had made as a young mother, and the tough but kind-hearted ranger she married. In the morning, her family found her deceased.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- September 17, 2016** **Memorial Cross Dedication -George W. McDougle (1786 - 1871)**
2:00pm McDougle Cemetery - Tomball, Harris Co., Texas
- October 8, 2016** **16th Silver Stars & Six Guns Gala**
6:00pm Embassy Suites and Confrence Center - San Marcos, TX
- October 15, 2016** **Memorial Cross Dedication - James W. McCollum (1853 - 1932)**
2:30pm Oakwood Cemetery - Commanche, Commanche Co., Texas
- October 29, 2016** **Maj. John B. Jones Masonic Ranging Co. Annual Meeting**
4:00pm - 8:00pm Texas Rangers Heritage Center Pavilion - Fredericksburg, TX / \$25 per person
- November 5, 2016** **Geschichte Fest 2016 at the Texas Rangers Heritage Center**
5:30pm - 9:00pm American premiere of the film: "Herman der Apache"/\$50 Dinner and Film
- December 3, 2016** **A Ranger Christmas at the Texas Rangers Heritage Center**
4:00pm \$5 per vehicle



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We have implemented a new volunteer training program to ensure that we all have the most up to date & accurate information to provide to our visitors and prospective members. If you are a current volunteer or a member looking to find out how you can be a part of this great program, please contact Brandi Johnson at 830-990-1192 to find out when the next training date will be.

Check out our updated website for more information on our organizations, general store and current projects at www.trhc.org



Follow us on Facebook for upcoming events and Cross Ceremonies on the FTRA / FTRF facebook page at: www.facebook.com/formertexasrangers

Straight Talk

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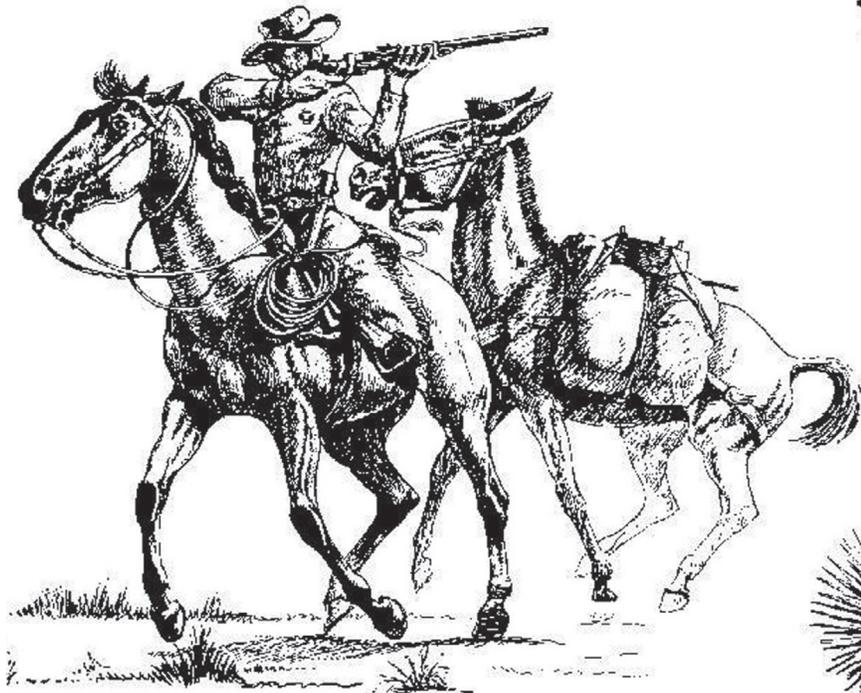
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