

Straight Talk

The Newsmagazine of the Former Texas Rangers Association

CELEBRATE TEXAS!



March 31 - April 1, 2017

Texas Rangers Heritage Center
1618 East Main St. Fredericksburg, TX
(830)-990-1192 ~ www.trhc.org

As we begin 2017, the Former Texas Rangers Foundation has hit the ground running with new events throughout the year to promote the mission at hand and put Phase II of the Heritage Center within reach. First and foremost of these events is our Celebrate Texas Series. This two-day celebration will take place on March 31 - April 1, 2017 with opening ceremonies beginning at 10am Friday and Saturday. Throughout the day, visitors will enjoy historical re-enactments, cannon firing, cowboy poets, campfire stories, trick roping, food and craft vendors and more.

We are happy to have joining us this year, The Old Chisholm Trail Western Variety Show. This wonderful production tells the

tale of the Old Chisholm Trail through stories, songs and a cast of performers. Texas singer and songwriter K.R. Wood and The Gone To Texas Band will be performing along with a guest appearance from Mikki Daniel, a young up-and-comer in the Texas music scene.

We are also proud to announce we will be hosting the Circle of Life Fredericksburg Gathering of members of the Comanche and Apache Nations. This event will be held in conjunction with our 2017 Celebrate Texas Series. The Circle of Life Gathering will run Friday and Saturday and include 2 days of music and dance with historical lessons, Lipan Apache exhibit & educational teepee as

well as native food & craft vendors.

Saturday evening will host Boots & Badges 2017, an evening that will feature a cocktail hour, silent auction, steak dinner, and concert by Texas Legend Gary P. Nunn. There are still opportunities for underwriting and sponsorship for this event. Please refer to www.trhc.org for more information, tickets and details on all the events mentioned.

This will be the largest event we have had at the Texas Rangers Heritage Center to date. Please mark your calendars to come out and be a part of the action. Our goal of beginning Phase II of the project is within sight and it is all because of the support of members and descendants like you.

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President's Message

Former Texas Rangers Association



To any active or retired Rangers, please reach out to Will Barkley in the Fredericksburg office if you would like to become more involved in your area. We are seeing an increase in the memorial cross dedications and need more Rangers that can be called upon to attend if needed. Your support to the Association is vital to it's continued growth and success.

Greetings from North Texas! I hope this letter finds you well and ready for the exciting year we have ahead of us. The Association office is getting ready for the fast-approaching Annual Association Meeting on Saturday, May 6, 2017 at the Texas Rangers Heritage Center. This year we are going back to having a day meeting with a catered lunch from Bill Miller BBQ, our long time friend and supporter. We will be sending out reservation forms and dues notices soon, so keep an eye out for those.

As per a housekeeping note, I need all the Association members to remember to give Will Barkley a call at the office and update him if any contact information changes. He is having a difficult time trying to track down some members that have moved or changed numbers. We want to be sure you are receiving all the information on upcoming events and decisions, so as to keep you involved in all that the Association has to offer.

The Board of Directors of the FTRA recently met at the historic Ranger Motel in Santa Anna, TX. This has been a long time meeting place of the Rangers and it was great to continue with that tradition. Our Board is hard at work, looking to increase memberships, and raising donations for the Hanna Reeves Memorial Scholarship we give out every year to deserving descendants who are seeking to further their education.

I thank you for your support of our wonderful organization and I look forward to seeing everyone in Fredericksburg at the meeting.

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



First and foremost I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support for this past year. 2016 was a terrific year for the Former Texas Rangers Foundation and the Texas Rangers Heritage Center, a year you helped make possible. Members and donors are our most loyal advocates and we depend on your gifts to help us meet our mission and goals.

In 2016 we celebrated the grand opening of the Heritage Center and completed Phase One. We have had visitors from all over Texas, the United States, and around the world to come to the Center. They have all heard of the Rangers and when they leave they know how important the Texas Rangers role has been in the development of this state. They are all anxious to return and see Phase Two when it is completed. We have had over 11,000 visitors during 2016 which averages to almost a 1000 visitors a month. We expect that number to increase as the word gets out to the many tourists that come to Fredericksburg every year. Each of you needs to plan a trip and come see what you have been a part of if you hadn't already. I guarantee you will be proud you are a part of this historic project and what we are doing for our youth through our Education Program.

This year, 2017, we will begin a new and exciting Capital Campaign to finish building the Texas Rangers Heritage Center. It's time to get it finished and open the doors to the final phase. Our Director of

Development, Glen Cosper, has developed the plan known as the "1823 Capital Building Campaign." Since all of you share our passion for the Texas Rangers, we are asking each of you to help ensure our success this coming year. All of you are our Ambassadors and know others who have the same passion as you do. We need to get them involved. Let them know about our project. We will be glad to contact anyone you know who might be interested in making a tax-deductible gift or become a member.

The year 2021 will be the 50th Anniversary of the Former Texas Rangers Foundation (est. 1971), the year 2022 will be the 125th Anniversary of the Former Texas Rangers Association (est. 1897), and the year 2023 will be the 200th Anniversary of the Texas Rangers. These projected dates will be here before we know it. We must have our final phase finished by these dates so that we can fully celebrate the important roles the Texas Rangers have fulfilled to Texas and its proud people.

Our Board of Directors are working hard to complete Phase II. We need each of you to participate to make it happen. I want you to think about making a donation or raising your membership level. Tell your friends and acquaintances about us and how they can be a part of preserving the history of the Texas Rangers. When the Texas Rangers Heritage Center is finished it will be more than a museum—much more.

Thanks again for your support and generosity. I look forward to hearing from you and hope to see you soon.

Until next time,

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

PRESIDENT

Joe B. Davis, Texas Rangers, Retired,
Fredericksburg

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FTRF CHAIRMAN'S THOUGHTS

I hope this finds all well and that each of you had a Merry Christmas and Happy New year. I can't tell you all how excited the Board and Staff are for 2017. I firmly believe it will be our best year yet.



We have a full year planned with events you all won't want to miss. We will have two dinner fundraisers in 2017, including The Silver Stars and Six Guns Gala which is moving to San Antonio this year. We made to move to allow for a more central location, attract more participants and garner more corporate participation. The new venue will allow attendees time to shop and walk the River Walk and enjoy a great weekend. This will be great time for all to see our Texas Ranger exhibit at the Buckhorn Museum. Our San Antonio committee is a very active and committed group of supporters and members that have been working hard, to possibly bring us the biggest and best gala yet.

This year's events will host several surprises you will not want to miss. Many of our members have requested we bring back an event we started in 2003, so we listened and are also proud to announce the return of Boots and Badges 2017. This event will host an evening steak dinner, silent auction and concert by Texas Legend Gary P. Nunn at the Texas Rangers Heritage Center in Fredericksburg. We can't wait to host these two fine events and have members, supporters and even new folks coming to support the Rangers and the mission and programs of the FTRF.

Other board and advisory board members have other events planned through Texas to reach out and grow our organization. We have a once in a lifetime opportunity for fans of Hollywood and TV westerns, to see and shoot the guns used by their favorite stars. Advisory director and Former LA County sheriff Lt. Al Frisch, of Hollywood Guns and Props will be bringing his extensive collection to the event planned for May 20 - 21, 2017 at the Stieler Hill Ranch. You can find the registration form for this event on our website, www.trhc.org under events.

We are also very thankful for our new Advisory Director and owner of Texas Jacks and Cimarron Arms, Mike Harvey. Mr. Harvey has designed a Texas Ranger commemorative .45 long colt pistol. This is a beautiful piece that everyone western gun enthusiast should have in their collection. For more information on this pistol from Cimarron Arms, check out www.texasjacks.com. The FTRF is afforded proceeds from each sale. So let's show Mr. Frisch and Mr. Harvey how much we appreciate their support.

I announced at the January board meeting some very important time lines and dates. So to share that challenge amongst all of you, these are the dates we are working hard towards. 2021 will be the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the Foundation. 2022 will be the 125th Anniversary of the formation of the Association. 2023 will be the 200th Anniversary of the Texas Rangers.

These dates are very important timeliness in our Texas's history. I would ask each of you please help us make significant stride in the FTRF. You can help by soliciting memberships and asking other to join, asking others the boat to the

building fund and even sending in names of those you feel may have interest and letting the Staff and board help bring these new folks in the fold.

Business Operations:

Here's an update on the business end of the FTRF. Ranger Davis and the office staff are working hard every day to be the face of the operation and many things go on daily that take a lot of time to deal with as with any organization. There are also after hours meeting and events that are attended to make sure that the FTRF is well represented whether it is a City / council meeting, economic development meeting or other like events in the area. The finance committee is working well and we meet monthly if not when called to help in the financial matters of the FTRF.

We are pleased to announce we hired an internal book keeper, Ms. Susan Mathews. She will assist on the books and other administrative duties to help free up the staff for other daily responsibilities. We are thankful for all the efforts of Ranger Davis, the FTRF staff and of course all the volunteers who spend countless hours assisting the mission of the Foundation. A special thanks to Captain and Mrs. Block for all their efforts on trade days. There have been some records made recently on sales. It helps having a former Sr. Ranger Captain around to make things happen out there.

Respects,

Chad Stary

Chad D. Stary
Foundation Chairman



DEVELOPMENT RESOURCE REPORT

On behalf of the Former Texas Rangers Foundation, I would like to thank those who give their time, talent and financial resources to this great organization month after month and year after year. The lifeblood of this organization has been the hard work, generosity and passion of its leadership, staff, board members, volunteers and contributors. Have you thought how you can make an Impact for the Texas Rangers Heritage Center this year?



size. Let me assure you that your gift, any gift is appreciated. If you can't make a gift, recommend the Texas Rangers Heritage Center to a friend or business associate. It would be a pleasure to know that you shared our vision with a friend, business, civic club, foundation, church, etc.

Why not volunteer?

There are opportunities for you to spend some time at the Heritage Center greeting visitors and making them feel great about dropping by and seeing this wonderful addition to Fredericksburg. If you spend some time volunteering, then you can take the rest of the day or weekend to see the many sights and sounds of Fredericksburg and the surrounding Hill Country. Just call the FTRF office and discuss how you may become a volunteer.

Give a financial gift-

Decide on a gift range that would be comfortable for your budget. Every gift is important to the success of the Texas Rangers Heritage Center, no matter the

Join the membership-

There are many different levels of membership and this Newsletter describes those membership levels available to you, right now. By being a member, you will be notified of all the events, public and private, that you can take advantage of during 2017.

And in closing, call, write or email me and I will be glad to share how you can help us through the 1823 Special Campaign going on right now.

If you would like more information, please contact me at:
glenc@formertexasrangers.org
or call me at 1-254-760-6334

Your friend,

Glen Cospers

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



FORMER TEXAS RANGERS FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The FTRF is committed to helping to further the education of children of active Texas Rangers, and developing new leaders. We have done so over the past 16 years, and have thus far given out over \$132,000. The letters of thanks and appreciation we have received has been outstanding.

Without our assistance, many Ranger families would have a difficult time further educating their children. With our goal to raise \$5,000, please consider a donation to the Foundation Scholarship Fund. You can guarantee it will be much appreciated.

Tom Roarick

Tom Roarick
Foundation Scholarship Chairman

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.



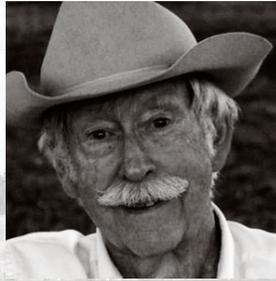
Our 9,000 sq. ft. pavilion is quickly becoming a top event destination in the Texas Hill Country. With tabled seating for up to 350 people, HVAC rest rooms, catering kitchen with full amenities, state of the art audio/video and a prime location off Hwy. 290 in Fredericksburg, this site makes an excellent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

Happy Trails



Neal Avery Watt
Jan 31, 1941 - February 3, 2017
A longtime friend and supporter of the
Former Texas Rangers Association & Foundation

FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER...

**The Former Texas Rangers Foundation
has joined with Hollywood Guns and Props
to create a premier shooting event!**

**This is the first ever opportunity for the
public to shoot the actual guns used by
Hollywood's biggest film & television stars!**

When: May 20 - 21, 2017

Registration deadline: May 1, 2017

Where: Stieler Hill Ranch - Kendall Co., TX

Cost: a \$250.00 donation affords

(1) shooter access to (1) day on the range

*** 100 shots with the weapon(s) of choice
with free furnished ammunition.**

*** All shooters must be 18 years old / +**

*** Ranch style meal included**

*** Musical entertainment**

*** Seminar by Hollywood Guns & Props on
behind the scenes use of firearms in cinema**

For more information on this historic event:

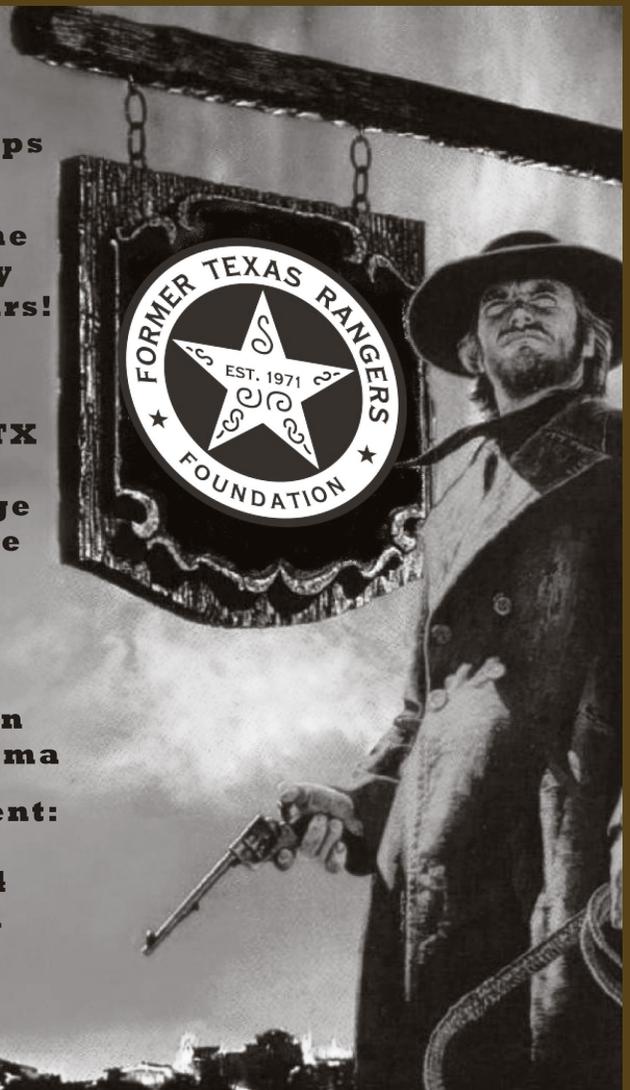
Former Texas Rangers Foundation

P.O. Box 3192 Fredericksburg, TX 78624

Office: 830-990-1192 Fax: 830-990-1121

www.trhc.org

(Non-shooters welcome to attend)



BEHIND THE BADGE

STORIES FROM THE RANGERS OF THE FT&A



CAPT. JOHN M. WOOD-

CLOSING GAMBLING PLACES ON THE TEXAS COAST AFTER ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHN HILL TOOK OFFICE

Ranger Mort Jones and I were assigned to assist other Rangers from other areas to close gambling places in Galveston, Kemah, Texas City, and other places along the Texas Coast. One night we went to the Balinese Casino, which was built over the water of the Gulf of Mexico at Galveston. When we arrived there, we walked by the guard and into the gambling room and no gambling was going on; however, they had coffee poured for us with beautiful steaks sitting on a table, as well as a delicious-looking piece of pie by each plate. How they knew we were coming, I don't know. Of course, we didn't eat any of it.

We left and drove down Post Office Street, where we saw some men in a café rolling apartment dice from one end of the café and bouncing them off the far wall. Apartment dice are made from Styrofoam cubes about 4" square on all sides, with the number 1 to 6 on them. They don't make any noise. We watched this gambling for a few minutes, then got out of our car and went into the café. We arrested them at that time. Boy, did they holler and said we let a place down the street operate slot machines. We asked them where down the street and one of the men told us. He said, "When you go through the front door, you will see a plywood wall on your left. Go to the fourth sheet of plywood and kick on the bottom side of it about the middle of the sheet and it will open and let you into a small room where you will see five slot machines along the wall." We put four of the gamblers in jail and they paid small fines.

We went to the address they had given us and, sure enough, when I kicked on the fourth sheet of plywood with my little size 12 boot, I must have kicked too hard because the rest of the plywood in front of us fell over into the room. About that time we heard some crash in the back of the café. Mort went and looked to see what had happened. He came back grinning and said several people had decided to join the bird gang and left by the back door and the two windows and forgot to open the door or raise the windows. He said the tables and chairs were turned over and it looked as if a dozen mad bulls had been engaged in a free-for-all fight in there. Then I told Mort I was watching a young woman about 40 years old playing two slot machines. She looked to be about twelve months pregnant and he agreed with me. She paid no more attention to us than if we had been a two-headed mule!

We loaded three of the slot machines in my car and locked them up, as we didn't want thieves to steal them. We then told the little pregnant lady we were going to have to take the two machines she was putting quarters into. She wouldn't move and held onto the slot machine levers, cussing us for what we were and were not. Finally, Mort caught one side of the stool she was sitting on and I got the other. When she reached into her purse for more coins, we carried her, stool and all, out and set her on the sidewalk. We hurried back inside and got the two slot machines and put them in the car.

"The little lady used cuss words I have never heard, before or since. I wish I could remember some of the worst names she called us. Maybe I could have put them to good use at some time down the line." We put the machines in storage and later they were destroyed. From the café and after storing the machines, we went to a place that was out near Kemah and slipped upon a man who was the

“lookout.” We captured him before he could sound the alarm and made him go into the house where we had heard big gambling games were going on. Before we got to the gambling room, the “lookout” said, “I’m not going into that room because my boss is watching his favorite movie.” We looked and on the TV was “Tales of the Texas Rangers!” We decided it was time to go to the Buccaneer Hotel and go to bed.

Perhaps I should describe the slot machine lady so that you might get a better understanding of how she looked. She had on brogan or logger boots, which might have been brown at one time (maybe 20 years ago), and either her legs were painted brown or they had mud on them. Her dress, which at one time might have been white, was black and sort of hung off of one shoulder. She had freckles on her face – maybe some dirt in places. I feel her hair had been combed a year or two ago. It was real stringy and was quite long. It would have taken several baths in one day to help a heap. We thought she must have had a couple of polecats in her purse, but in no way did we even think of touching her or her purse! We worried we might catch pinkeye or athlete’s foot by being in the same area with her.

"I still hope neither of us turns out to be anything she called us."

FTRF Membership & Events Update

Please consider why we ask our members to support the Former Texas Rangers Foundation. Our efforts for new members and asking our current members to consider a membership upgrade is about supporting the Mission of the “Texas Rangers Heritage Center”.

If you agree consider upgrading your membership, finding a new member and volunteering to be a part of an FTRF Station in Houston, Austin, San Antonio or Fredericksburg. How about helping to organize an FTRF Station in Dallas and Fort Worth. Your input and support is critical to our efforts to spread our footprint and make people all over Texas aware of who we are and what we stand for.

How about volunteering to help our “Silver Stars and Six Guns Gala Committee plan our 2017 Gala at the Hyatt Regency San Antonio on the River Walk Sept. 30th to Oct. 1st 2017. 3 minutes walking time from the Alamo and the “Original” Texas Rangers Museum at the Buckhorn.

Contact Walter C. Pletz, 214 587 2205, walter.pletz@markprom.com

Walter Pletz

Chairman, Committee for Membership,
Marketing and Public Relations

CELEBRATE TEXAS!

~ FRIDAY, MARCH 31 - SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 2017 ~

~ 10 AM - 4 PM ~

- ~ OPENING CEREMONIES BEGIN AT 10 AM ~ \$10 PARKING BOTH DAYS
- ~ MEET TEXAS RANGERS & MEMBERS OF THE COMANCHE & APACHE NATIONS
 - ~ HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENTS AND CANNON FIRING
- ~ TEXAS COWBOY POET - PETE DAVIS ~ FOOD & CRAFT VENDOR BOOTHS

"CIRCLE OF LIFE" FREDERICKSBURG GATHERING 2017-

- ~ HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN INDIANS IN FREDERICKSBURG, NARRATED BY LARRY LILES OF THE COMANCHE NATION
- ~ INTRODUCTION OF BENNY TAHMAHKERA, GRANDSON OF QUANAH PARKER
- ~ 2 DAYS OF MUSIC & DANCE PERFORMANCES WITH HISTORICAL LESSONS
 - ~ LIPAN APACHE EXHIBIT & EDUCATIONAL TEEPEE
 - ~ NATIVE FOOD & CRAFT VENDORS

OLD CHISHOLM TRAIL WESTERN VARIETY SHOW-

- ~ SATURDAY, APRIL 1 SHOWS AT 10:00 AM & 2:00 PM
- ~ FEATURING SONGS + TALES OF THE OL' CATTLE TRAIL
- ~ K.R. WOOD & THE GONE TO TEXAS BAND W/ SPECIAL GUEST MIKKI DANIEL
- ~ WORLD CHAMPION TRICK ROPER - KEVIN FITZPATRICK
- ~ WORLD CHAMPION TRICK GUN TWIRLING & BULL WHIP ARTIST - PISTOL PACKIN' PAULA

COWBOY CHURCH

~ SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 2017 ~

~ 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM ~

- ~ FREE ADMISSION
- ~ FEATURING MIKE WEAVER OF WILDRIDE MINISTRY & CLIFTON JANSKY, CCMA 2004 CHRISTIAN COUNTRY ARTIST OF THE YEAR

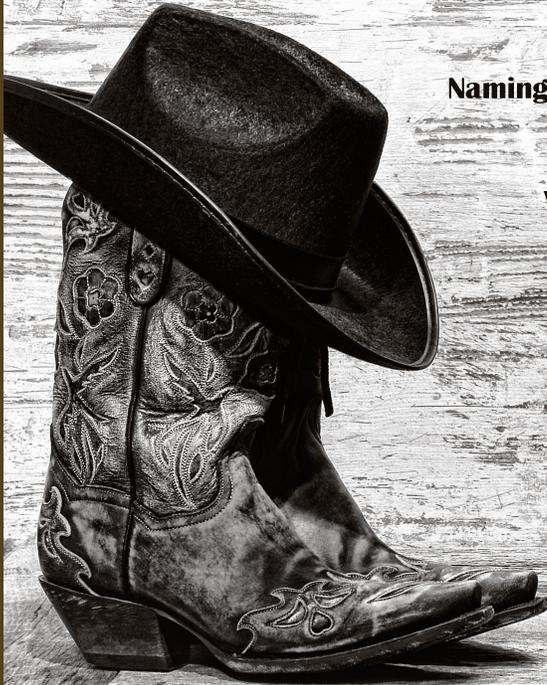


TEXAS RANGERS HERITAGE CENTER
1618 EAST MAIN ST. FREDERICKSBURG, TX
(830)-990-1192 ~ WWW.TRHC.ORG

You are cordially invited to join the Board of Directors
of the Former Texas Rangers Foundation for

Boots & Badges

Saturday, April 1, 2017
The Texas Rangers Heritage Center Pavilion
1618 East Main St.
Fredericksburg, TX



Naming opportunities & Event sponsorships available by contacting:
Former Texas Rangers Foundation
PO Box 3195, Fredericksburg, TX 78624
www.TRHC.org • Phone: 830-990-1192 • Fax: 830-990-1121
A 501(c)3 non-profit organization
Cost: \$100/ticket • Limited Seating Availability
Attire: Western Finery for Open-air Pavilion

Evening's Schedule:

6:00pm • Cocktails, Socializing & Silent Auction Opens

6:45pm • Welcome

7:00pm • Chuck Wagon Steak Dinner

7:45pm • Program

8:30pm • Gary P. Nunn takes the stage

9:00pm • Silent Auction Closes

11:00pm • Facility Closes



The Former Texas Rangers office has implemented a new database system that will streamline data entry for all our membership information. We are asking all members to use the form below to ensure that the information we have on file is accurate and up to date. To mail the contact information in, please send to: PO Box 3195, Fredericksburg, TX 78624

We are also offering members the ability to join the Former Texas Rangers email list that will keep them notified of events, cross ceremonies and even receive the *StraightTalk* newsletter in .pdf form by email. If you are interested in this new feature, please email the current contact information from below to your corresponding organization.

FTRA Members: willb@formertexasrangers.org FTRF Members: brandij@formertexasrangers.org

Organization: _____ Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Primary Phone: _____ Spouse: _____

Email: _____

Honored Ranger (If applicable): _____



TEXAS IRON GUNS OF THE TEXAS RANGERS

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

In our previous articles, we have discussed the Six Shooters, the Colt .45 Automatics, and numerous turn of the century fire arms, but what about the very early fire arms used in the opening stages of the Republic of Texas.

As we know the origins of the Texas Rangers occurred in 1823 when Stephen F. Austin announced that he would hire 10 men to serve as "Rangers" in an effort to defeat a band of hostile Indians. We know from history and motion pictures that they carried a variety of flintlock pistols and rifles. All of these were carried west from such manufacturing areas as Pennsylvania, Kentucky, and the Eastern seaboard. The most common and versatile was the smooth bore shotgun. It could be loaded with lead shot for small game and larger projectiles for more serious shooting.

The Hawken Brothers of St. Louis, Missouri circa 1820's had a well thought of plains rifle as did those produced by the company of S. Odell of Natchez, Mississippi. Both were known for their durability and accuracy. Some of the early eastern gun makers whose weapons showed up on the early Texas frontier were such names as Turner Rifles, John H. Hall, Horace Dimick to name a few.

Also popular were surplus United States military pistols and rifles. Some were kept from military service, some bought from surplus stocks and some were merely misappropriated. The common calibers for the single shot flintlock pistols were .54 and .69 caliber. The

model 1826 flintlock pistols were produced by W.L. Evans, Asa Waters and Robert Johnson. The model 1826 flintlock Navy by Simeon North of Middletown, Connecticut, were also commonly used.

A change over from flintlock to percussion cap in the U.S. issued pistols resulted in the model 1836 single shot percussion. These were also produced by Asa Waters and Robert Johnson of Millbury, Mass. Many of the earlier 1826 model flintlocks were arsenal converted to the percussion cap ignition system. A U.S. model 1842 percussion pistol by Henry Aston saw wide usage not only during the Mexican war of 1846 but later to keep order on the post war Texas frontier. As far as muskets, the flintlock .69 caliber, US model 1840 as well as the percussion US model 1841 and 1842 muskets made at the US arsenal at Harpers Ferry were widely used. The list of makers of U.S. contract muskets is too enormous to mention here.

Early Texas Republic settlers were also reported to use acquired Mexican Army issue muskets such as the British .61 caliber Baker rifle. Most used was the East India pattern .75 caliber Brown Bess musket. This was the standard arm of the Mexican army. It was used by Texas defenders of the Alamo. Jose Enrique De LaPena reported that each man in the Alamo had three or four of these muskets stacked up for their use. The Charleville was another military musket which after years of French occupation and colonization fell into civilian hands. While we will never know exactly

what weapons were used in the Alamo drama, an inventory list dated April 1836 listed 816 muskets, 21 cannon and 14,600 cartridges that were captured and sent back to Mexico. Most of those listed were captured by Texans at the siege of Bexar.

Later in time we know of Hayes great fight with the Comanche's in June of 1844 where the Colt Patterson revolvers turned the tide of battle, however, the popular Yeager rifle opened the battle and helped end it also. A Comanche chief yelled at his remaining warriors trying to garner their courage for a final attack. Capt. Hayes asked if anyone had a charged rifle. Ranger Ad Gillespie nodded dismounted and rested his Yeager rifle on a large bolder. "Shoot that damn chief" Hayes cried. Ranger Gillespie's rifle blasted and a distance away the Comanche chief was knocked from his saddle in mid war cry. The rest of the Indians ran off without an attempt to haul off their dead or wounded.

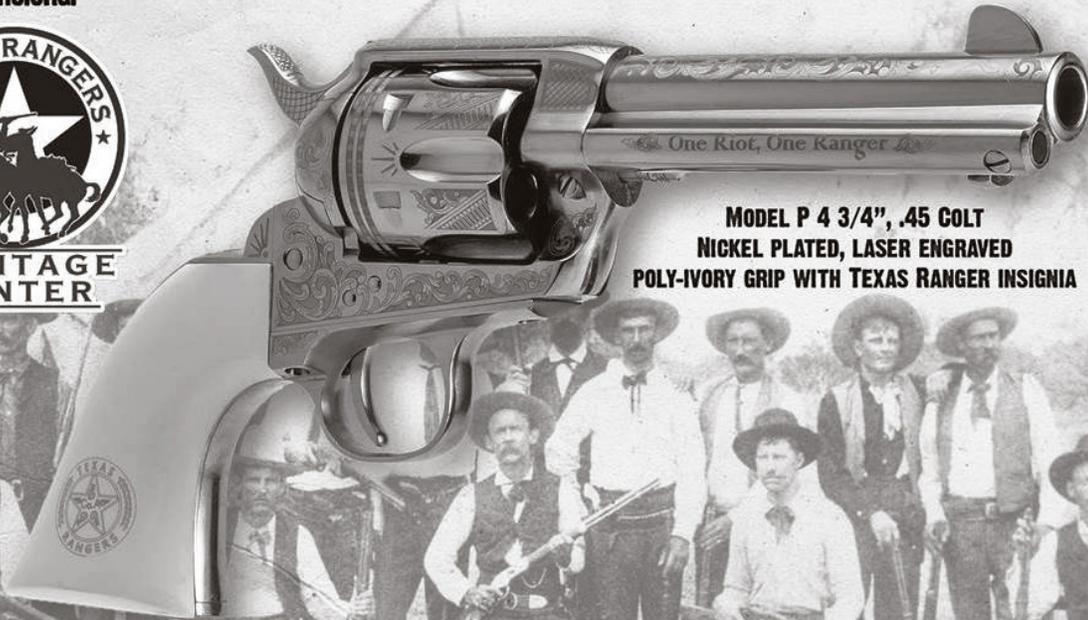
During this time period of the 1840's to 1850's there was little change in weapons technology. The majority of weapons being single shot muzzle loading rifles and pistols. The revolutionary technology of the time was the multiple shot capability of the Colt Patterson revolving pistol. Although it had many limitations it opened the door for the advancement to the heavier caliber Colt Walkers and Dragoons.

But that's another story...

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TEXAS RANGERS TALES

By Mike Cox, FTRA Associate Historian

That nineteenth century Texas Rangers needed a good horse, a good six-shooter, and a good rifle should go without saying. But before they saddled up in pursuit of hostile Indians or outlaws, they by golly needed a good cup of coffee. What Samuel Colt did for frontier weaponry, John and Charles Arbuckle did for coffee drinkers in the West, including the Rangers. Indeed, their product came to be known as "The Coffee that Won the West."

Coffee had been around a long time before Arbuckles', but with one grandee latte of a difference: Merchants sold green coffee beans only. A few urban coffee sellers did do their own roasting, but fresh-roasted coffee had to be used right away. Most consumers had to do their own roasting. After a long, hard day in the saddle, a cowboy or lawman wanting a cup or two or three of Joe had to roast coffee beans in a skillet over the campfire (or, if such convenience was available, over a wood-burning stove). Of course, before brewing a pot, the roasted beans had to be ground. Meanwhile, back east, about the time the Civil War ended Pittsburgh grocers John and Charles Arbuckle came up with an idea, doubtless after a strong cup of coffee, that changed everything for coffee sellers and coffee consumers. In 1868, the brothers Arbuckle patented a process for covering roasted beans with a glaze made of egg and sugar. That, they had discovered, kept the beans fresh and aromatic. Now their product could be shipped anywhere.

They began selling their new product in air-tight, one-pound paper packages under the brand name of Arbuckles' Ariosa Coffee. Each package had a yellow label with the word "Arbuckles'" in large red type. Below that was their trademark, a flying angel (who better to deliver coffee to a caffeine-needing populace?). Beneath the trademark, in a red-bordered box were the words "Ariosa Coffee" in black type. (A note on nomenclature. "Ariosa" is a created name with "A" standing for Arbuckles' while 'rio" and "sa" refer to the company's South American coffee bean sources.)

The new product proved an immediate success. It smelled good, it tasted good and it was strong. The old joke is that when brewing a pot of cowboy coffee made with Arbuckles', the only way to tell when it was ready was to toss in a horseshoe. If the horseshoe sank to the bottom, the coffee wasn't fit to drink yet. "The cook firmly believed there is no such thing as strong coffee but only weak people," writer-historian Edward Everett Dale wrote of one chuck wagon boss. Especially in the west, Arbuckles' became a synonym for coffee. Shipped in strong wooden crates, Arbuckles' spread nation-wide, particularly across the wild west. The crates, made of Maine fir and holding 100 packages each, became almost as popular as the coffee they contained. Seldom simply discarded, the crates usually ended up being taken apart for use as interior paneling, shelves, storage boxes, baby cradles, coffins, wagon seats and more. If nothing else, they made good firewood. Accordingly, today vintage Arbuckles' boxes are pretty rare and costly when they do show up on the market.

The Arbuckle brothers not only manufactured good coffee, they had a genius for marketing. The backside of their coffee bags featured a coupon redeemable for assorted products that back then were categorized as "notions." A cowboy who went to the effort of cutting and saving coupons could redeem them for handkerchiefs, razors, guns and even wedding rings. Each coupon was worth one cent. Not only that, as today's TV marketers would say, each package of Arbuckles' included a stick of peppermint candy. Chuck wagon bosses learned to use the candy as an inducement to get some cowpoke to grind the coffee. The candy apparently was tasty enough to trigger competition for the "right" to take on the extra work of turning the crank on the coffee grinder, truly a sweet deal for a cook who had no shortage of other chores needing his attention.

In the 1880s, the Arbuckle brothers moved their company to Brooklyn, where at the high point of their business they operated 85 roasting ovens in a large warehouse that still stands. Despite its huge popularity, Arbuckles' did not survive the Great Depression. But in the late 1970s, Pennsylvanian Denney Willis acquired the Arbuckles' brand and began roasting and selling coffee marketed under the famous name. He and his wife eventually relocated to Tucson, where the couple and their son have kept the brand alive. In 1994, El Paso professor and writer Francis L. Fugate wrote a book on the history of Arbuckles'. Published by Texas Western Press, the now out-of-print 233-page book was Fugate's final work. In fact, he died sitting in front of his desktop computer, putting the finishing touches on his manuscript. One of the last things he must have typed was this refrain from an old cowboy song, which does a good job of summing up Arbuckles mystique:

"Under the star-studded canopy vast, Arbuckles' Coffee and comfort at last,
Bacon that sizzles and crisps in the pan, After the roundup smells good to a man.
Tales of the ranchman and rustlers retold, Over the pipes as embers grow cold;
These are the tunes that memories play, So make me a cowboy again for a day."

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- March 18, 2017
2:00 pm
Memorial Cross Dedications - Llano Co. / Burnet Co. Rangers
Tow Cemetery - Llano, Llano Co., Texas
- March 31 - April 1, 2017
10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Celebrate Texas!
Texas Rangers Heritage Center - Fredericksburg, Gillespie Co., Texas
- April 1, 2017
6:00 pm - 11:00 pm
Boots & Badges 2017
Texas Rangers Heritage Center - Fredericksburg, Gillespie Co., Texas
- April 8, 2017
10:00 am
Memorial Cross Dedication - Trinidad Coy
San Fernando #1 Cemetery - San Antonio, Bexar Co., Texas
- April 29, 2017
12:00 pm
Memorial Cross Dedication - Robert H. Johnson
Harlingen City Cemetery - Harlingen, Cameron Co., Texas
- May 6, 2017
10:00 am
FTRA Annual Membership Meeting
Texas Rangers Heritage Center - Fredericksburg, Gillespie Co., Texas
- May 13, 2017
2:00 pm
Memorial Cross Dedications - Goliad Co. Rangers
Family Cemetery - Goliad, Goliad Co., Texas
- May 20 - 21, 2017
8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Shoot the Movie Guns!
Stieler Hill Ranch - Comfort, Kendall Co., Texas
- June 24, 2017
3:00 pm
Memorial Cross Dedication - Johan Heinrich August Baethge
Squaw Creek Cemetery - Doss, Gillespie Co., Texas
- Sep 29 - Oct 1, 2017
Silver Stars & Six Guns 2017
Hyatt Regency Riverwalk - San Antonio, Bexar Co., Texas

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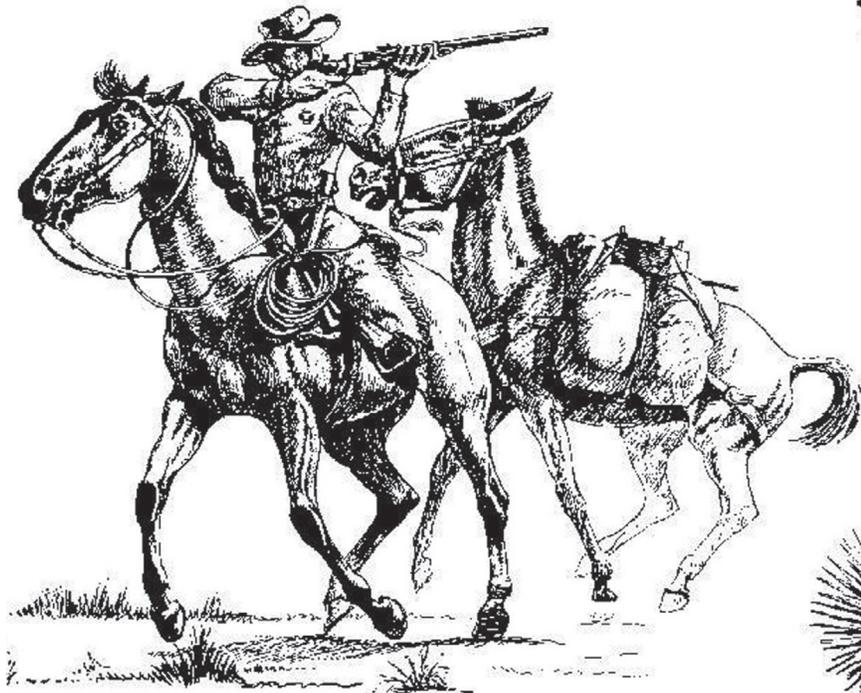
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