

## Garrison Gallery

### Stephen F. Austin Establishes the Texas Rangers #1

*Intro: As Stephen F. Austin established his colony a need for protection was quickly apparent. With the permission of the Mexican Government, Stephen F. Austin gave the following proclamation that formally established the Texas Rangers in August of 1823.*

“Since the commencement of this Colony no labor or expense has been spared on my part towards its organization benefit and security – And I shall always be ready and willing to risk my health, my property or my life for the common advantage of those who have embarked with me in this enterprise. As a proof of the reality of this declaration I have determined to augment at my private expense the company of men which was raised by the late Governor Trespalacios for the defense of the Colony against hostile Indians. I therefore by these presents give public notice that I will employ ten men in addition to those employed by the Government to act as rangers for the common defense. The said ten men will form a part of Lieut. Moses Morrison’s Company and the whole will be subject to my orders. The wages I will give the said ten men is fifteen Dollars a month payable in property, they finding themselves – Those who wish to be employed will apply to me without delay.”

----- Stephen F. Austin, August 1823

### Fence Cutting and the Range Wars #2

*Intro: Since the settlement of Texas and much of the West, cattle ranchers had allowed their cattle to roam the open range, grazing on grass as it was found. After the Civil War however, farmers and ranchers began to close off the range by putting up fences. This would eventually lead to violence between those who wanted to continue their free range grazing and the fencers. This violence escalated until the rangers were called in to stop the fence cutting and protect people and property. Ranger Ira Aten describes the situation he was called to work on in 1886.*

“Fence cutting had been rampant for several years in this locality, lying between a seventy-mile-long stream called Jim Ned Creek and a wide lake with sinister associations named Pecan Bayou. Several people had been shot in a continuing vendetta between fence raisers and fence rippers. Many men on each side were openly carrying arms and gunning for each other. Cattle stealing and horse stealing were natural results of a conflict that county officials were giving the hands-off treatment. A dozen or so detectives had been sent in at various times by associations of stockmen. None of them had produced any evidence on which prosecution could be based. Several had barely escaped with their lives.”

---- Excerpt from the book *Lone Star Man Ira Aten*, Ranger Ira Aten 1886

### The Colt Pistol #3

*Intro: Sam Colt's development of a successful repeating pistol changed how warfare was fought in the west. Prior to that, Rangers had to dismount to fire their single shot weapons, this allowed for the Comanche to ride up and fire 10-30 arrows while the Rangers reloaded. The Colt's repeating pistol which fired 5 shots before reloading was usable on horseback and allowed the Rangers to use fighting tactics similar to the Comanche. The value of these weapons to the Rangers was expressed to Sam Colt by Capt. Samuel Walker in 1864.*

“The pistols which you made for the Texas Navy have been in use of the Rangers for three years, and I can say with confidence that it is the only good improvement that I have seen. The Texans who have learned their value by practical experience, their confidence in them is so unbounded, so much so that they are willing to engage four times their number. In the Summer of 1844 Col. J. C. Hays with 15 men fought about 80 Comanche Indians, boldly attacking them upon their own ground, killing & wounding about half their number ... the result of this engagement was such as to intimidate them and enable us to treat with them.”

---- Letter sent by Captain Samuel Hamilton Walker to Sam Colt;  
November 30, 1846

### 1800s Texas Ranger Description #4

*Intro: Although Hollywood has depicted the 1800s Texas Ranger as a lone cowboy tracking his man, the Texas Rangers usually worked in groups and looked more like a rough band of mountain men.*

“Imagine two hundred men dressed in every variety of costume, except the ordinary uniform, armed with double-barreled shot-guns, squirrel rifles, and Colt's six shooters, mounted on small, wiry, half wild horses, with Spanish saddles and Mexican spurs; unshaven, unwashed, undisciplined, but brave and generous men, riding pell-mell along roads, over the prairies, and through the woods, and you will be able to form a correct conception of a squad of Texas Rangers on the march. In such a band it is impossible to distinguish officers from privates, as the former have no distinct dress; and all act alike.”

----- Excerpt from the book *Scout and Ranger*, Ranger James Pike, 1859

## Procuring a Winchester #5

*Intro: By the 1870s the state would provide a .50 caliber Sharps carbine and ammunition for the rangers. The Sharps carbine would be purchased by the state and the cost of the gun would be deducted from the Ranger's pay. If a ranger preferred a different type of gun he had to procure and pay for that gun and ammunition himself.*

“As soon as we were located in the new camp Privates Nevill, Bell, and Seiker obtained permission from Captain Roberts to visit Austin to buy a case of ten Winchesters. Up to this time the company was armed with .50 caliber Sharps carbines. These guns would heat easily and thus were very inaccurate shooters. The state furnished this weapon at a cost of \$17.50, and at that time furnished no other class of gun. The new center-fire 1873-model Winchester had just appeared on the market and sold at \$50 for the rifle and \$40 for the carbine. A ranger who wanted a Winchester had to pay for it out of his pocket and supply his own ammunition as well, for the state furnished cartridges only for the Sharps gun. However, ten men in Company D, myself included, were willing to pay the price to have a superior arm. I got carbine number 13401, and for the next six years of my ranger career I never used any other weapon.”

----- Excerpt from the book *Six Years with the Texas Rangers: 1875 to 1881*, Ranger James B. Gillett, 1875

## *Morris Gallery*

### Mexican American War #6

*Intro: Although they were often called Texas Rangers and many of them were Texas Rangers before and after the war, the volunteers from Texas who fought in the Mexican American War were not technically rangers because they served outside of Texas. These previous Texas Rangers would prove invaluable to General Taylor and the United States Army. In 1846 The First Texas Mounted Rifles formed on the Palo Alto battlefield and began to move toward Monterey. The battle was fought in the city streets of Monterey with Mexican soldiers fighting from house tops, barricades, and ditches.*

The Mexican army was reported at twenty-one or –two thousand, but was about half that strength when it surrendered to seven thousand Americans. The Mexicans fought bravely, but numbers did not count much in street and housetop fighting since only so many as limited space would admit could be brought effectively to bear against us. When about to leave Monterey, General Worth told Colonel Hays to march his regiment through his quarters in single file so he could look us all in the face and shake every man’s hand, saying, “It was the untiring vigilance, bravery, and unerring shots of your regiment that saved my division from defeat.” After this battle the “Texas Rangers” became famous and ever since have received praise and glory for their achievements.”

----- Excerpt from the book *Buck Barry: Texas Ranger and Frontiersman*, Ranger Buck Barry 1846

## American Indians: Allies and Adversaries #7

*Intro: While one of the primary roles the rangers played was to defend the frontier from hostile Indian attacks, not all of the Indians were the enemy. Some tribes were friendly and actually worked with the rangers to fight the hostile tribes. The following perspectives highlight how both allies and adversaries were seen by the Texas Rangers in the 1840s.*

“The defense of our frontier is entitled to a prominent place in the public mind. I have long believed, and acted on the belief when I could, that an aggressive policy is the only one which will force the Indians to sue for peace. They should be made to feel the iron hand of war upon their hunting-grounds, and within their lodges. Whip them and then talk of treaties. Cost what it may the pioneer settlers must be protected. It is the imperative duty of the State to do so. It matters not what motive carried them to the frontier. They had a right to go, and they are entitled to the fostering care of the Government.”

----- Excerpt from the book *Rip Ford's Texas*, Ranger John Salmon “Rip” Ford, Summer 1849

“Know ye that John Castro, son of the late distinguished General Castro, of the Lipan tribe, has given renewed assurances of friendly disposition entertained for the Texians by a people so long advised by his father; and whereas I wish to give earnest of my confidence, I hereby render him this testimonial and enjoin upon him to maintain the promises which he has made.

And I hereby request all good citizens of Texas to render to him and his tribe every evidence of kindness and generosity, which the friendship of these people deserve. They are valuable to us as friends – they are good watches upon our frontier. Were they our enemies, it would do us much injury. Therefore it is to the interest of our citizens to preserve their friendship. It will be best secured by treating them kindly.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the Republic at Washington, the 28<sup>th</sup> day of March, 1843.”

----- Proclamation by Sam Houston

## The Oil Boom #8

*Intro: The discovery of oil at the Spindle Top Oil Field near Beaumont, Texas started an oil boom that lasted more than half a century. Even into the 1960s investigating crime related to the oil fields took up much of a ranger's time.*

“During my time in Kilgore, I was paired mainly with Hollis Sillavan. Our job had a two-fold purpose. One was to sit on the oil wells and not allow anyone to drop anything down into them. Those slant-holers were dropping anything they could down those wells to prevent the railroad commission people from determining the direction of the well. When I say anything, I mean anything: rocks, concrete, two-by-fours, tree limbs, and anything else they could get down the hole. The second reason we were there was for the protection of the railroad commission people. This was a dangerous game with big dollars involved. Most of the inspectors feared for not only their safety, but also for their lives. Our main job was to make sure nothing happened to the inspectors. I'm happy to say we accomplished that job.

I understand that even though numerous indictments were handed down, no one was ever sent to prison over this. I do know that the list of people indicted by the grand jury read like a social register of Gregg and Rusk.”

----- Excerpt from the book *Ed Gooding: Soldier, Texas Ranger*, Ranger Ed Gooding, talking about his work in the oil fields in the 1960s

## *Brownfield Gallery*

### Ranger Norman Dixon #9

#### \* Original Recording

*Intro: The Texas Rangers have a reputation that is known around the world. Ranger Norman Dixon shares the following story about learning the reach of the Ranger image.*

“I think [the Texas Rangers have] played a tremendous role in the history of Texas, a little illustration of that, when I was stationed up at North Texas I was coming from Tyler to Dallas and at Greenville at the airfield there they were training British pilots and I picked up three of the boys coming into Dallas for the weekend and they came to the conclusion that I was a Ranger, one of them commented about me—how much he wanted to be one of the famous Texas Rangers and, I made some response, he says, Oh! He says, we’re in England, he says we read more about the Rangers than we do about the Royal Canadian Mounted Police which surprised me cause I would have assumed that their Royal Canadian Mounted Police would be their youngsters in England subjects but, the fact that they read more, more attracted to the history and stories of the Texas Rangers why, rather revealing to me is the part that the Texas Rangers have played in the history of the state.”

---- Excerpt from the oral history of Ranger Norman K. Dixon discussing an event from 1937

### Ranger Alfred Young Allee #10

*Intro: In 1977, Texas Ranger Captain Alfred Young Allee shared his views of the rangers currently serving the Texas Rangers.*

“I’m a Ranger, first, last, and always. I think the Rangers then and the Rangers today are the finest bunch of men that I ever knew. They’re good men; I’m proud of ‘em. And I don’t think it’s changed a bit in the world, it’s just a bit more modern ... They’ve got the better agency aid, they’ve got the better equipment, they have two-way radios, they have firearms that we didn’t have in those days – time I first enrolled ... They are a fearless bunch of law enforcement officers.”

---- Excerpt from the oral history of Captain Alfred Young Allee serving from 1931-1970

## So You Wanna be a Ranger ... #11

### \* Original Recording

*Intro: During the 20<sup>th</sup> century the ranger organization went through many changes. One was the process to be hired as a Texas Ranger. Ranger Captain E.J. Banks explains the criteria for Ranger service when he joined in 1947.*

“At the time I went into the Rangers [in 1947], you didn’t take an examination to get in. Your record was the examination, of course, you had to qualify first. There are, were at that time, pretty stiff qualifications to begin with. You had to qualify, but if you applied, your record was more the factor in the examination; you didn’t take a written examination or anything, you did have to serve a probationary period, but uh, I don’t know of anybody that got in during that particular time that wasn’t already a pretty outstanding officer and considering so, have already made quite a record for himself, and had quite a bit of recognition. There were always a lot of big back-log of applications on file and I think a lot of them just didn’t have much of a chance, maybe they met the basic qualifications but they didn’t have the record behind them and hadn’t proven themselves.”

---- Excerpt from the oral history of Captain E.J. Banks

## The Huntsville Siege #12

*Intro: On July 24, 1974 three inmates took civilians and fellow inmates hostage in the Library of Huntsville Prison. Texas Rangers and other law enforcement personnel were called in to assist in ending the 11 day siege that left 3 of the hostages and 2 of the captors dead. Texas Ranger Stuart Dowell explains how the guns and ammunition were smuggled into the prison.*

“There were some weapons smuggled into Huntsville, and this is the old prison there in Huntsville, the original prison. So this fella named Corrasco and two of his cronies, ... made arrangements, he was a big drug dealer out of San Antonio and apparently had quite a bit of money and his wife was still loyal to him and she helped to make the arrangements. They took a ham out of the storage vault and let it spoil, took the wrapper off from it, split the ham open, took the bone out. They had weighed the pistol and weighed the ham and they took out the same amount of meat that the pistol weighed and they put the pistol inside the ham, put it back together and rewrapped it and sealed it back up like it was. And this is the way they took the weapons in; they did this on several occasions, when they got three pistols inside. And to get the ammunition, they took a gallon can of peaches out and using a soldering iron they opened the can up. They had weighed the ammunition and put it in a water tight container, plastic, and poured out enough juice, this is where the weight of the bullets would compensate for the juice that they had taken out. And they put the ammunition inside the can and sealed it back up. And then said, we didn't want peaches, we wanted pears and they exchanged 'em and of course they had it set up with people in the kit, who were working in the store and pantry, they had the cans marked some way you know. That's how they got the guns and ammunition in.”

----- Excerpt from the oral history of Ranger Stuart Dowell

## The McNeil Kidnapping Case #13

*Intro: Rangers are called in to assist local law enforcement in a wide variety of cases. On January 11, 1985 Rangers were called to assist in the kidnapping case of 13 year old Amy McNeil.*

I'll talk about the kidnapping of Amy McNeil that occurred in 1985. Amy and her brother were on their way to school early in the morning, the kidnappers forced them off the road, pulled a gun, disabled the car, kidnapped Amy, and left her brother there with a car he couldn't drive. She was held for a day or so, and then the family received a call to take the money to a location in Mesquite, and in Mesquite to go to a certain pay phone, went there and a call was made and then directed to go to Tyler, we went to Tyler, this was on Saturday evening I believe it was, got to Tyler received a phone call and instructed to go up on interstate 30, close to Arkansas up on Interstate 30. When we got there we were supposed to be there by midnight and be at a pay phone. When we got to that location all the lights in that area had been broken out so we felt certain this would be the location. After we had been there for several hours, we finally got a call and the Dad was very strongly reprimanded because we hadn't been there when the call was supposed to be at twelve o'clock, said he'd be there. Well we still waited a long time more. They didn't show up. Then our Captain, Bob Mitchell, decided to call it off, let's go back to the original location where we were at in Alvarado. While we were waiting for that, the ah everyone had pulled back about two miles to go behind a service station the rangers, and the sheriffs deputies of Johnson county and also the FBI. But we had two rangers that were still on the ground there behind the service station waiting to be picked up. Then they radioed and said that a suspicious looking car had pulled up and shined lights around the area. We were able to contact a car driven by Jimmy Ray and Ranger Joe Wiley, who were out on the interstate and they were asked to get the license number of the car when it left. Which they did and checked and found out that the car was stolen, and also reported there was a large number of people in the vehicle. We began trying to get a hold of people to get them some backup. Everyone was out of the car or their walkie-talkies they had were just about run down, we had been out there nearly three days. After a while their car got up a little too close and the suspects got spooked and leaned out and started shooting, and hit the rangers car several times and one of the bullets had struck the transmission line and caused the transmission oil to go on the manifold and started on fire. But the chase went on for 55 miles and we were able to get different cars involved there but no one was able to shoot back at the suspects car because they had put Amy McNeil up in the package tray at the rear portion of the car and so all they could do was follow and not do anything to endanger Amy. The suspects, after they had been driving a while, realized they were low on gas and so they exited the interstate with intentions of going to the first house they got to and taking hostages and stealing another car. When they exited and pulled into the drive way they struck the garage door as they were skidding to a stop, jumped out, and they all started running toward the house shooting, of course rangers returned gun fire, and two of the suspects were struck. During the gun fire two of the ranger ran up, Howard Alfred and John Dendy ran up and rescued Amy out of the car and took her to safety while the gun battle was going on. We were very very fortunate that none of our officers were hit.

----- Bob Prince, Texas Ranger Captain Retired; April 13, 2007

## A Ranger Undercover #14

### \* Original Recording

*Intro: Going undercover was not an entirely new concept for 20<sup>th</sup> century law enforcement. However, law enforcement was utilizing undercover work in areas never used before, such as infiltrating narcotics rings as explained by Captain E.J. Banks.*

“There was a Narcotics ring that was operating pretty extensively in the school system there [in Wichita Falls]. The people who were selling the Narcotics weren’t school people, but they were selling it at all schools. I, with several Rangers, went up there and made a considerable investigation. We got a young looking officer out of Houston. He’s kind of a baby-faced fellow, and we dressed him in real young looking clothes and got him enrolled in the school there. He did an outstanding job in getting information for us and so on. As a result, we made a number of arrests and broke up the gang. We found where the Narcotics were coming from and who was handling them on the school grounds, who was handling them in the city, and who was bringing them to the city of Wichita Falls. We made an investigation over a considerable period of time and a pretty big round-up when we finally got through.”

----- Excerpt from the oral history of Captain E.J. Banks serving  
from 1947-1960

## Forensic Sketching #15

*Intro: During the 20<sup>th</sup> century the Texas Rangers would slowly become a modern law enforcement organization using more modern techniques of investigations. One of these modern techniques was composite sketches of suspects used by Ranger Bobby Prince in an assault case in Palestine, Texas.*

When I was first a ranger I was based in Palestine and received training on the identi-kit composite and that makes with overlays you develop a picture of a suspect. In this particular case an elderly women had been beaten with a hammer and sexually assaulted and very seriously injured. And I got permission from the doctor to interview her there in the hospital and went up and interviewed her and as she would describe the person I would put a nose on him and eyes and hair and kept changing things until she agreed that this probably looked like him. And I went away very uncomfortable as to the information that we got and not thinking that it was going to be very close at all. But we did catch the young man a couple days later when he was attempting to do that same thing to another elderly person, we did apprehend him, And holding his picture up against the composite it was just absolute dead ringer it was just a exact. Certainly wasn’t due to my skills it was due to the skills of the witness who I was very doubtful of at the time.

----- Bob Prince, Texas Ranger Captain Retired; April 13, 2007

## *Taub Hall*

### The Texas Rangers ... A Family Tradition #16

*Intro: For many Rangers both yesterday and today, Ranger service is not just a career but a family tradition.*

“My son ... went into the Highway Patrol; from the Highway Patrol into the Ranger Service ... most all of my people were in the Ranger service in fact ... you’d call him the ‘fourth-generation-Ranger’ to come out of the Allee family.”

----- Excerpt from the oral history of Captain Alfred Young Allee,

“You know I got a boy in this outfit. And I’m proud of it. I think he’s making them a pretty good man. I guess he’s been fifteen-sixteen years something like that, stationed in Beeville. I was hoping he’d make Ranger one day; he did.”

----- Excerpt from the oral history of Ranger Ben Kruger

I would like to state that the way my four sons have matured and grown that’s probably I have more pride in that than anything. My oldest son Gerald is a stock broker investor in Dallas. My number two sons Bobby Daryl is an orthopedic surgeon in Albany Georgia. Number three son is a Texas Ranger Captain based in Lubbock. Number four son is Brad he’s a state trooper working the fraud division stationed in McKinney at this time. These are not anything probably that I did personally, they made everything on their own and I am very very proud of them.

----- Bob Prince, Texas Ranger Captain Retired; April 13, 2007

## The Introduction of the Automobile #17

### \* Original Recording

*Intro: Although Rangers began using the automobile shortly after their introduction, these vehicles could be problematic. Ranger Captain E. J. Banks remembers one of these early cars.*

“The first cars that we used, the only way I could describe them is that they were plain vanilla; they didn’t have any extras, and, they wouldn’t run very fast; they were just barely automobiles. I think the first car I ever operated in the Department of Public Safety when I was in the Highway Patrol, was a ’37 Chevrolet. And if you gave that old car plenty of time, you could get a maximum speed of about 75 miles an hour, and it had mechanical brakes, you could apply them once pretty successfully after that, you were on your own.”

----- excerpt from the oral history of Ranger Captain E.J. Banks,  
serving from 1947-1960

## Early Forms of Communication #18

### \* Original Recording

*Intro: Prior to the development of modern communication tools such as radios and cellular telephones, Rangers had to rely on others types of communication tools. Ranger Dub Naylor remembers one way that the rangers communicated before the radio.*

“One of the main things that has helped modern day law enforcement as a whole, of course, is their present day communications system. When I first started we didn’t have any. They decided they wanted some type of communication for the people down on the river, down in the Big Bend country. So, they put me in charge of training carrier pigeons. And we used to use carrier pigeons a lot before we had radio communication.”

----- Excerpt from the oral history of Ranger W.E. (Dub) Naylor,  
serving from 1934-1968

## *Hall of Fame*

### Riding the Range #19

#### \* Original Recording

*Intro: Even into the 1960s rangers working in remote areas would often have a horse and trailer with him. It was often easier to get around with a horse than with a vehicle. However, it was not long after the first car was developed that rangers, and other law enforcement agencies, began to use them. Eventually a vehicle would completely phase out the horse, and planes and helicopters would be used to get into the remote areas.*

“Oh, you get a lot of kidding about it, but you know the Rangers haven’t ridden horses in years. And why should you, when you’ve got helicopters and automobiles and things of that nature. But even when I first went to work there were some areas (that) to get to, why you’d ride a horse to it – some remote area, but that wasn’t for long, most of the time. And then you’d get roads where you’d get in an automobile, most areas. And then a little later on came along helicopters to get you into those remote areas.”

----- Excerpt from the oral history of Ranger Selwyn Denson,  
serving from 1947-1974

## Ranger James Gillett #20

*Intro: During the 19<sup>th</sup> century the rangers spent the majority of their time out in camps patrolling and protecting the frontier. Ranger James Gillett describes the provisions and rations supplied to rangers by the state of Texas.*

“On June 1, 1875, at ten o’clock we were formed in line, mounted, and the oath of allegiance to the state of Texas was read to us by Captain Roberts. When we had all signed this oath we were pronounced Texas Rangers. This was probably the happiest day of my life, for in joining the rangers I had realized one of my greatest ambitions. Immediately after being sworn in the men were divided into messes, ten men to a mess, and issued ten days’ rations by the orderly sergeant. These consisted of flour, bacon, coffee, sugar, beans, rice, pepper, salt, and soda. No potatoes, syrup, or lard was furnished, and each man had to supply his own cooking utensils. To shorten our bread we used bacon grease. Beef was sometimes supplied the men, but wild game was so plentiful that but little other meat was required. Furthermore, each recruit was furnished a Sharps carbine, .50 caliber, and one .45 Colt’s pistol. These arms were charged to us, their cost to be deducted from our first pay. Our salary of \$40 per month was paid in quarterly installments. The state also supplied provisions for the horses. Though a ranger was forced to supply his own mount, the state undertook to pay for the animal if it were killed or lost in an Indian fight. To establish impartially the value of our animals, Captain Roberts marched us into Menardville and asked three citizens of the town to place a value on each man’s mount. This was done, and I was highly gratified when old Coley, my mount, was appraised at \$125.”

----- Excerpt from the book *Six Years with the Rangers, 1875-1881*  
Ranger James Gillett