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## A Legend In His Own Time R. M. "Red" Arnold

by Bob Arnold, his son  
Part I

Robert M. "Red" Arnold arrived on 6 June 1915, the third of six sons born to Jim and Bess Arnold and the grandson of a Civil War veteran who had settled in Northeast Texas near the town of Arp in the 1850s. He was raised on a small 150-acre farm outside Longview near where the Sabine River now flows under U.S. Highway 259 between Longview and Kilgore. The values of self-reliance, honesty, and hard work that he and his brothers learned growing up on the farm were central to him his entire life. Red's word was his bond, and you knew if he said he would do something, it would be done, no matter how difficult it might be.

After graduating from Longview High School in 1933, Red entered the Marine Corps at Parris Island, South Carolina. Following basic training, he was sent to Military Police school. He served on several ships during the next three years, including the Astoria and the Tuscaloosa, and he had assignments in numerous Caribbean and South American countries.

When he was discharged from the Marines in 1937, Red was accepted into the Texas Highway Patrol. When he graduated from the Academy in April 1938, he was assigned as a Highway Patrolman in Corpus Christi. The following April, he returned to San Diego to marry Aline Bell, whom he had met while a Marine stationed at Camp Pendleton, California. They returned to Corpus Christi to begin their life together.

In the early morning of 2 July 1940, two eighteen-year-old men who had stolen a Studebaker in Nacogdoches, Texas, were seen near Edinburg. An ensuing

chase by law enforcement officers began immediately, but the two criminals were able to avoid capture by ditching and stealing several cars. During their desperate attempt to escape, they killed two people: a former Texas Ranger who was a night watchman for the King Ranch and a housewife who was kidnapped when the two stole the car that she and her husband were driving.

South Texas law enforcement officers called Red and his partner Earl Nichols to assist in locating and arresting the pair who had been alluding capture since the previous day. The two patrolmen took positions in an area east of Bishop, Texas, so they could keep the two from escaping in the open prairie. At about 6:00 in the morning, Red and Earl began searching along the King Ranch fences. They came upon a couple of trucks and noticed two men sitting in one of them. Red asked, "Do you think that's them?"

Red and Earl approached the pair and asked them to get out. The two men jumped from the truck and began firing at the officers. The ensuing gun battle resulted in the death of the two outlaws.

Red Arnold and Earl Nichols were commended for their actions by Homer Garrison, director of Public Safety. He stated that their courage and bravery helped to bring respect and great credit to the department. Later, Red reflected, "I guess it was just luck coming upon those boys by that road on that empty prairie, but it was unlucky for them."

In order to broaden his law enforcement experience, Red requested and received a transfer in September 1941 from the Highway Patrol to the Bureau of Identification and Records. He became an expert in fingerprinting analysis and was often a fingerprinting instructor to fellow police officers at the Police Academy in Austin. His fingerprinting expertise was extremely valuable in helping solve many criminal cases over the years of his service.

Red transferred back to the Highway Patrol in June 1942 and was immediately assigned to Lampasas, Texas. Because of World War II, however, he felt an obligation to his country and the need to be with his fellow Marines. Ignoring his draft-exemption status, Red requested military leave from the Highway Patrol in October 1942 and re-enlisted in the Marine Corps. In late October, he moved his wife and newborn son Robert Jr. to live with his parents in Longview. Marine Gunnery Sergeant Red Arnold then hopped on a troop train going to San Diego, California. He joined his buddies for the fight in the Pacific.

Following several months of training at Camp Pendleton, California, Red and his outfit shipped out to the Pacific and "places unknown." One of these unknown places was Pelieu, a small island in the Palau Island chain located west of the Philippines. Pelieu Island was of strategic significance because it could be used as a base for fighter support during MacArthur's pending return to the Philippines.

In early September 1944, now First Sergeant Red Arnold landed on the beach of Pelieu with other members of the 1st Marine Division, under the command of Colonel "Chesty" Puller. Now considered one of the bloodiest engagements of WWII, the advancement of the Marines on Pelieu was very slow. The Japanese fought tenaciously over the few square miles of the island. The First Marines suffered over 60 percent casualties in their attempt to drive the Japanese from their heavily fortified positions and the maze of caves and tunnels that they had constructed.

A final push by remnants of the First Division was made on 21 September,

and Red was seriously wounded during the attack. The Pelieu campaign, which was planned to only take two days, was finally concluded two months later in November 1994. After recovering from his injuries, Red returned to his Marine outfit and made several other island landings before the war ended in August 1945.

Red did not talk much about those difficult war years. He knew that he was one of the lucky ones because he was able to return home safely to his wife and son. Many of his buddies and fellow Marines were not so fortunate. Red sailed back to San Diego in November 1945 and was greeted by his wife Aline. They returned together to Texas to be reunited with their young son and Red's parents and younger brothers.

Red rejoined the Highway Patrol in December 1945 and was assigned to Corsicana, Texas. In early 1948, following the birth of his daughter Joan, he and his family moved to Greenville to a new Highway Patrol assignment.

Red was promoted to the Texas Ranger service in 1954 and was initially assigned to Comanche, Texas. In 1956, he was transferred to Company B in Mount Pleasant, Texas. A writer for a local Houston paper, stretching the truth a bit, once wrote that Red was responsible for an area as large as Virginia. While Red had responsibility for only six counties in the corner of Northeast Texas, with a central location in Titus County, it sometimes would seem to be a much larger area—although probably not the size of Virginia!

The Lone Star Steel Company was located deep in the Piney Woods in Cass County, which was adjacent to Red's area. On two occasions, once in 1957 and again in 1968, the Texas Rangers were called in to perform one of the most distasteful of Ranger duties—keeping the peace during a labor dispute between the union and local management. Shootings, bombings, threats, intimidations, assault, and murder occurred during these strikes. Most Texas Rangers worked with local law enforcement and security personnel during one or both strikes; Red was involved in both.

During the '57 strike, one of the company workers was locked up inside the plant. Someone tossed a large rock through a picture window of his home, frightening the worker's wife and their four young sons. After spending the night locked in one of the bedrooms, the wife called the local sheriff's office to report the incident. Later that day, Red showed up and asked the woman if there was a gun in the house. After showing him her husband's weapons, Red selected a carbine and showed her how to load and use it. He told her that if she had any more trouble, she should go toward the direction of the noise, empty the gun clip, and then call him. Red said that he would come and see if she had shot anything. His calm reassurance of this frightened lady and her children helped the family endure the remainder of the strike. Because of the impression that Red made on the family during that stressful time, friendships were made, and one of those four boys later became a police officer.

Texas Rangers often help each other solve cases that do not occur in their immediate areas. Such was the situation in July 1959, when Red was called to interrogate two men who were arrested in Daingerfield, Texas, by the Highway Patrol. A couple of days prior to their arrest, the two lawbreakers had attempted to sell a couple of guns in Dallas, but they had left when questioned by the antique dealer. The dealer identified the criminals' car and reported its license-plate number to police. A description of the car was sent out throughout the state.

The men were caught and arrested, and their car was searched. Some of the

artifacts that were stolen during the night of 27 June from the Sam Houston Museum in Huntsville, Texas, were found. Among the stolen artifacts that remained missing were several rifles, guns, swords, and knives that had once belonged to Sam Houston.

During Red's interrogation of the two men, they confessed to the burglary, described how they gained entry to the museum, and listed what they had taken. Red called Texas Rangers Ed Gooding and Mart Jones, the investigators on the burglary. He told them what he had found out from the two men. The two Rangers, accompanied by Walker County Sheriff Floyd Farris, drove up to Daingerfield to meet with Red and talk with the two suspects.

The burglars said that they had hidden most of the artifacts on the banks of the Sulphur River near Commerce. The three Rangers and Sheriff Farris drove from Daingerfield with the two thieves to locate and bring back the stolen property. After coming to the top of a steep hill leading down to the riverbank, the criminals pointed to some brush and said that was where the guns and other artifacts were hidden.

Concerned that they would be unable to drive back up the hill because of the mud, Red had everyone pull over to the side of the road. The officers stuck their pant legs in their boots and walked down the muddy road with their two suspects to the spot that the boys had identified. Red told the two boys to go into the thick brush and bring out the stolen property. The two returned, however, saying that everything was too heavy for them to carry, so the three officers helped carry everything out. Red stuck one of General Sam's swords in his belt, and Ed Gooding secured some tomahawks in his belt and picked up a couple of long rifles. They all struggled back up the muddy hill. Gooding and Jones returned the stolen artifacts to the museum the next day.

Texas Rangers were on call twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week to assist other law enforcement officials when needed. At about 4:00 on the morning of 15 June 1971, Red received a call at home from the Mount Pleasant police dispatcher saying that two individuals, later determined to be brothers, had disarmed several police officers during an arrest attempt. The drunken pair had been intentionally forcing cars off Highway 271, a stretch of road about two miles south of Pittsburg, a small town ten miles from Mount Pleasant. The two were threatening to kill one of the officers, and Red's assistance was needed. He quickly left for the scene.

Red stopped in Mount Pleasant long enough to get backup help from Conrad Marrs, a sergeant with the Mount Pleasant Police Department, and Harold Rester, an inspector with the TACB. Rester asked Red, "What is the plan of action?"

Red replied, "There is no plan. Either the two will drop their weapons and surrender, or we'll have to shoot them."

After arriving at the scene at about 4:45 a.m., Red grabbed his carbine and began walking up the center of the highway toward the two men. Rester walked on the right side of the road and carried a shotgun, while Marrs navigated on the left.

Red yelled at the criminals to drop their guns. One of the men hollered back that they didn't have any guns. One of the policemen being held shouted that the men both had guns. Red asked the men again to drop their guns. One of

them had been holding a rifle to the head of one of the officers. He turned to fire at Red, and Red shot him several times.

Red asked the second man to drop his pistol, and when he refused, Red shot him as well. The first assailant recovered enough to pick up his rifle, but Rester shot him as he was running away. He later recovered from his wounds and was charged with aggravated assault of a police officer. The second of the two brothers died later at a local hospital.

Because of Red's actions that night, the lives of three police officers were saved. Red received many favorable comments from state and local police and city officials for his valor and courageous action. When advised by the Department of Public Safety that he was being nominated for the Parade-IACP (International Association of Chiefs of Police, Inc.) as one of the nation's most outstanding law-enforcement officers, he replied in his unassuming way, "I only did what any other officer would have done."

In 1974, Red was selected as the outstanding peace officer by the East Texas Police Officer's Association. His bravery, his devotion to duty, and his many years of commitment to enforcing the law were cited. Red retired from the Rangers in 1978 after a forty-year career in law enforcement, first as a Highway Patrolman and then as a Texas Ranger. Following a short illness, Red died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound in 1979, and he was buried in the family cemetery in Arp, Texas.

Even today, Red's stature and reputation among his fellow Rangers is unquestioned. He dedicated his life to service of both his country and the state of Texas. His courage and bravery were demonstrated on many occasions, and he willingly placed himself in harm's way to protect his fellow officers. He was acknowledged by his fellow Rangers as a "legend in his own time" and a Ranger who did not know the meaning of the word fear.

Red was admired and greatly respected not only by his peers, but also by victims of the crimes he investigated, district and defense attorneys, judges, other police officers, and people in the communities that he served. Red Arnold was considered by many to be "the law in Northeast Texas" for over twenty years and is remembered by his fellow Rangers as "one of the very best."

### **Bob Arnold**

Bob Arnold is a retired polymer chemist who worked at the Dow Chemical Company in Texas City, Texas, for over 35 years. He graduated from Texas Tech and also served as an officer in the United States Army. Bob began his career with Union Carbide in 1967 and has had a variety of laboratory and manufacturing assignments during his career in the chemical industry. Most recently, Bob was involved with implementing information technology systems for the Union Carbide Corporation and, after the merger of the two companies, with the Dow Chemical Company.

Bob and his wife Bejie both grew up in Mount Pleasant, Texas, and they have been married for thirty-three years. Bejie teaches at the University of Houston, Clear Lake. The Arnolds have two children: Jennifer, who is a speech pathologist at Clear Creek Independent School District; and Thomas, who is a flight controller for Space Shuttle Operations at United Space Alliance.


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## A Legend In His Own Time, Part II

**R. M. "Red" Arnold**

**by Bob Arnold, his son**

### Part II

*Author's note: It has been very gratifying to receive the responses from many of you about the earlier article on my dad found in the previous edition of The Dispatch.*

*Many of Dad's friends enjoyed reading about him. Equally gratifying has been seeing the apparent influence that Dad had on many lives. Several people became law officers because of my dad, and they have emulated the example that he left behind for them to follow. I hope that this article is as enjoyable as the first.*

### The Early Years

A friend of Red Arnold once asked a waitress at a restaurant if she could guess what Red did. Not having seen him before and unable to see his badge and gun, she said, "Oh, that's easy. He looks like a Texas Ranger." Red was not a large man by any means. He was barely six feet tall in his stocking feet and weighed about 185 pounds, but he looked much larger with his boots and Stetson hat. He seemed to fill up a room the minute that he entered.

Robert M. "Red" Arnold was raised on a farm near Longview, the third of six sons of Jim and Bessie Arnold. The Arnolds raised cotton, watermelon, cantaloupe, sugar cane, and peaches. Work on the farm was hard: mules and

human energy did all of the plowing, cultivating, and harvesting of the crops. Red and his brothers were expected to help with the farm work before and after school as well as the days when school was out.

Jim Arnold kept Red and his brothers busy, but the boys also had time to get into occasional mischief. One of those mischievous times occurred when Red was about fifteen, and it involved a couple of railroad mules. Mules were often used to assist section crews repairing railroad tracks. The mules carried railroad ties, supplies, gravel, and other materials. After the workday ended, the mules were set loose to graze in the area around where the crews had been working.

One day, a couple of the railroad mules wandered onto the Arnold farm and found their way to grain that was used to feed the cows. The grain was better than the grass they had been eating. The boys couldn't get rid of the mules; they kept coming back to eat the grain.

Out of frustration, Red and two of his brothers, J.E. and Carroll, decided to take action. They backed the mules into a corral so the animals' tails could be placed through the wooden slats of the corral fence. Red tied a thin rope to the tail of one of the mules and then made a hoop of heavy wire. Younger brother Carroll brought tin cans to J.E. and Red, and they knocked holes in the bottoms and strung them through the wire hoop. Red tied the hoop to the mules' tail in a way that the cans would touch the ground but not the mule's feet while walking.

Red and J.E. led the two mules out of the barnyard to a path leading down to the road that ran in front of their house. A hard slap to mules' rear ends got them running down the hill to the road. The faster they ran, the louder the cans became. They went so fast that the mules had to take a wide turn into the farm across the road from the Arnold farm.

The boys' father was driving a wagon loaded with supplies he was bringing from town. As he neared the farm, the frightened railroad mules passed in front of him. Mr. Arnold had a tough time holding his own team of mules in check. He tried to keep from getting run over and also to keep his team from turning around in the opposite direction to run with the railroad mules. The railroad mules got onto the road to town and ran through Longview with their tails "a clanging," never to be seen on the Arnold farm again. Mr. Arnold recognized that the boys were just trying to keep the railroad mules from eating up their grain, so he only gave Red and his brothers a stern "talking-to." They, in turn, learned a valuable lesson in animal behavior.

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After graduating from Longview High School, Red joined the Marines in New Orleans in December 1933. He completed his basic training at Parris Island and followed that with sea-duty training in Virginia. He became a military policeman, serving shore duty at ports of call in the Caribbean and several South American countries. Following his discharge from the Marines in November 1937, he worked briefly for J. C. Pegues Motors in Longview.

The seed of police work that Red had experienced in the Marines was planted, however. He decided to make an application to become a Texas Highway Patrolman. He took the oral and written exam in Tyler in February 1938. He was selected as a student recruit and asked to report on April 18, 1938, to the Department of Public Safety Training School at Camp Mabry.

Camp Mabry was located northwest of Austin and had been used as a military training base during WWI. Training to be a Highway Patrolman was similar to the training given the military. The cadets were placed into four companies of about twenty-five men each. Red was made the acting 1st Sergeant of Company A, not only because of his previous military experience but also because of the results of his entrance examination and oral interview, conducted prior to the beginning of the school.

The training lasted for six weeks. The cadets were not only schooled in law enforcement but also were given rigorous physical exercise, close order drill, and weapons training. They marched in formation to class, their meals, and other activities. Red and three of his other classmates were recognized at the conclusion of the training for their conduct and duty throughout the entire six weeks. Red's company won the Governor's Cup, the award given to the company showing the best in proficiency, neatness and bearing, attention to duty, and general all-around merit.

Upon the conclusion of the training, Red's first assignment as a Highway Patrolman was in Corpus Christi, Texas. A year later, Red brought his bride Aline from California to Texas to begin their life together.

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### The War Years

When World War II broke out three years later, Red was working as a fingerprinting expert for the Department of Public Safety in Austin. He volunteered for active duty as a Marine so that he could rejoin his Marine buddies. However, the close and detailed work of fingerprint analysis had caused Red's eyes to become so bad that he could not pass the eye exam required for entrance. Not to be deterred, Red requested reassignment back to the Highway Patrol. His request was approved in May 1942, and Red and Aline moved from Austin to Lampasas.

A need to rejoin his Marine buddies and serve his country during this wartime crisis was too great. After four months of regular Highway Patrol duty, Red again took the entrance exam to reactivate as a Marine. This time, he passed! He requested a leave of absence from the Highway Patrol and it was granted in October 1942. Red re-enlisted and moved Aline and their newborn son to Longview to live with his parents for the duration of the war.



Sergeant R. M. "Red" Arnold was put in charge of thirty new Marines. On November 2, 1944, they boarded a troop train in Dallas, bound for San Diego. Upon arriving at Camp Pendleton, California, Red was assigned to the 12th Replacement Battalion and began training at Camp Elliott.

Situated northwest of San Diego, Camp Elliott was a rugged tableland of sand, rock, sagebrush, and hills that were bordered by the ocean on one side. It was being used as a training base to provide schooled replacements for Marine units already in the field as well as personnel for new outfits. Basic training was given in physical stamina, discipline, weapons, and small-unit tactics necessary to becoming a "Fighting Leatherneck." The ocean beaches

that bordered the training facility were used for amphibious warfare training. After several months of intense training, Sergeant Arnold and approximately 900 other Marines in his battalion shoved off to fight for their country in the islands of the Pacific.

With the increasing complexity of the Pacific War and the need to take advantage of victories in late 1943 and early 1944, several operations were planned for simultaneous action. One of the objectives was to secure the Palau Island group so that General MacArthur's eastern flank was protected. A large amphibious operation was planned for the conquest of Peleiu and Angaur, the two southernmost islands of the Palau Island chain.

The 1st Marine Division was given the responsibility for taking Peleiu. Veterans of Guadalcanal, the 1st Marines had been recuperating in the Solomon Islands. In June, they began training there for the amphibious attack. On September 4, 1944, the main elements of the Naval and Marine convoy took off for a journey of 2,100 miles through the Solomons to Peleiu and Angaur.



Peleiu was a very small island approximately six miles in length, protected by reefs and having favorable landing areas primarily on the southern tip. A ridge called the Umurbrogol ran northeast to southwest for several miles down the middle of the island. It was connected by intersecting valleys and filled with many natural and Japanese-made caves. An airfield at the southern end of the island was an obvious first objective. The invasion was to be made by the three brigades of the 1st Marine Division.

Colonel Chesty Puller was commander of the 1st Brigade, which had the toughest assignment of the three brigades: the responsibility for landing on the western section of the beach, driving inland, and then turning to secure the nose of the Umurbrogol Ridge. On the eve of the landing, Colonel Puller was optimistically advised by his commanding officer that he should have no problem with the operation, and he was expected for dinner the following evening. Colonel Puller knew better!

Red was a gunnery sergeant in the 3rd Battalion, 1st Brigade. He and his outfit hit the beach at about 0830 hours on September 15. Going from the security of the landing craft to the beach was filled with terror, mortar fire, machine guns, and exploding shells all around them. The naval and air bombardment of the island defenses had not inflicted the damage intended. The Japanese were firmly entrenched in their heavily fortified defensive positions of concrete pillboxes, coral spider holes, and caves.

Marine casualties the first day were over 500, and this number rose at alarming rates day after day. Progress was exceedingly slow as the Japanese held tenaciously to every inch of the island. The 1st Marine losses mounted as they attacked and counterattacked the Japanese on the slopes of the Umurbrogol Ridge, or "Bloody Nose" Ridge as it later became known. Six days after landing on the beaches of Peleiu, Red was wounded by a Japanese grenade. Two days later, the 1st Marines were relieved by the 81st Infantry Division because there were not enough men remaining to effectively continue toward the objective. On October 1, Red and the remainder of the battered and weary 1st Marines boarded two hospital ships and set sail for Pavuvu in the Solomon Islands for much needed rest and recuperation. It was

not until November that the island was officially secure.

Red's brigade suffered a casualty rate of 56 percent, the highest regimental losses in the history of the Marines; his battalion had a 71 percent loss. Red didn't talk much about the experience, but one time he was asked how many of his outfit that had landed on Pelieu made it out. He replied that he was only one of three Marines in his outfit that came out safely. He knew that God must have been watching over him during those three years in the Pacific, particularly the six harrowing days in September. A few days after the 1st Brigade had been replaced, Colonel Puller said, "May God rest the souls of our dead and make life less bitter for our maimed and crippled. The officers and men of this regiment were splendid and never hesitated to attack, regardless of enemy opposition."

Red recovered from his wounds and, less than a year later, the war was over. First Sergeant Red Arnold volunteered to assist in discharging Marines back to civilian life. Shortly after returning to California in October 1945, Red found his own papers and started processing himself out of the service. Before this was complete, however, Red was asked to remain in Marines and apply for Officer Candidate School. While he loved the Marine Corps, however, he felt an even greater calling to return to Texas and rejoin the Highway Patrol. Aline met him in California and they returned to Texas to begin their life together again.

### The Ranger Years

In 1954, after eight years of Highway Patrol service in Corsicana and Greenville, Red was promoted to the Texas Rangers. He was initially assigned to Comanche, Texas, and reported to Captain Clint Peoples at Headquarters Company in Austin.

The sheriff of Comanche County was Wayne "Red" Swindle. He and Red often worked closely together and, when seen together, were often mistaken for brothers because they both had red hair, ruddy complexions, and similar statures.

The theft of a cutting torch and acetylene drums in nearby Ranger, Texas in April 1955 caused Red and the Sheriff Swindle to consider the possibility that a bank heist in the area was being planned. A car reported stolen from Brownwood also aroused their suspicions that something was up. Red, the sheriff, and Deputy Sheriff Dale Shoemaker left in separate cars around ten o'clock at night for a sweep of several of the towns around Comanche.

After meeting back in Comanche about 3:00 a.m. the three men had a hunch to drive to a small community called Blanket to continue their nighttime surveillance. They all got in the sheriff's car and proceeded to the city limits. To avoid driving in the darkness, they parked the car near the outskirts of town and walked down the highway toward the local bank. When they got near the building, a light came on and a figure appeared at the door. Red walked out on the street where he could be seen and identified himself as a police officer. As the figure disappeared back into the bank and turned off the lights, the sheriff ran around the back to prevent an escape.

Red heard several shots, and he and the deputy quickly ran to the back of the bank. Sheriff Swindle told them that he had emptied his gun and that the suspect had jumped a fence and disappeared. Red went back into the bank and found that the man had tried to open the bank vault with the cutting torch. They had prevented the theft because the bank vault was still intact.

A manhunt was begun with additional officers, who were assisted by several bloodhounds. The stolen car was found in an alley near the bank. It was presumably to be used for the getaway. After a search of several hours, the suspect was found hiding in some underbrush on a farm outside of the town. He was arrested and brought back to Comanche where he was placed in jail.

A year later, Red transferred to Mount Pleasant. He and Jim Ray, who was stationed in Tyler, shared responsibility for the northeast corner of Texas—about twenty counties—from Texarkana to Carthage. They patrolled this huge area until Glenn Elliott joined the Ranger service in 1961 and was assigned to patrol a large part of the region.

In May 1964, a Democratic primary election for county commissioner in DeKalb, Bowie County, Texas, was being contested. Citizens of the DeKalb community had suspicions of irregularities because of the outcome of the election. A group of concerned citizens canvassed several hundred citizens of the community that had voted in the election. Their canvas revealed that in that section alone, more people claimed to have voted for the loser than was officially reported by the election judge. The Texas Rangers of Company B were called in to investigate. Red and Ranger Frank Kemp, who was stationed in Paris, Texas, began interrogating the election officials.

Based on Red and Frank's analysis of the election tally sheets as well as their interrogation of election officials and workers, the concerned citizens were able to conclude that two individuals had miscalled ballots. One of these individuals confessed his involvement in the voting irregularities to Red and Frank and said that he had purposely miscalled approximately 100 votes.

On top of that crime, the election judge admitted to a conspiracy with one of the candidates to change a large number of votes. The "declared winner" of the election and the judge had panicked when they heard rumors that the election was to be contested. They had hurried to a fishing cabin near the Bowie-Cass County line and physically marked the ballots to correspond with the called results of election night.

Justice was served. The two individuals who miscalled the ballots, the election judge, and the "declared winner" were all indicted by the Bowie County Grand Jury for election fraud, perjury, and illegal voting.

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A simple house burglary early one morning netted a television, a radio, and a few pieces of jewelry for a certain thief as the owners of the home were at work. As the thief was leaving, he apparently stopped long enough to look into the refrigerator to see what there was to eat. His eyes spied an uncovered block of cheese, so he took it out to eat, along with a box of crackers that he also found. After getting his fill, he left the remainder of the cheese on the table and went out through the broken back door.

The burglary might have gone unsolved except that a telltale piece of evidence had been left—that unfinished block of cheese. The thief had left distinguishing teeth marks that revealed an overbite and a crooked front tooth. When Red was called in to assist in the investigation, he recognized that the evidence left in the cheese was important because the teeth marks could be linked directly to the thief.

Red was called in several weeks later to interrogate a man that had been arrested for another burglary. The man had a crooked front tooth and an overbite that was similar to the distinguishing tooth imprint found during the previous burglary. When confronted with evidence, the man admitted to Red that he had committed the earlier crime. This proves once again that your mother was right—it is important to clean your plate when you eat!

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Two seemingly unrelated murders of service station operators in the Northeast Texas towns of Pittsburg and Hooks in December 1975 had one thing in common: Red Arnold was involved in the investigation of both slayings. During his investigation, Red learned that slugs taken from the bodies of both young men were fired from the same gun, a .38 Armerius pistol that is not commonly seen in the Northeast Texas area. However, trying to find the purchasers of that type of gun and then linking them to the murders would not be an easy task.

Red received a break, however, when he got a call from the Camp County sheriff in Pittsburg. A local resident had complained that someone had been using his shed for target practice. Slugs found at the shed by the sheriff were .38s, the same caliber as those taken at the scene of the other killing. Red took the slugs to the DPS laboratory and was able to confirm that the bullets had identical markings to those taken from the victim in the Pittsburg murder.

Red also learned that a Mount Pleasant man had recently purchased a .38 Armerius pistol from a local gun store. The Mount Pleasant chief of police was able to get this man to admit that he had an old gun that had been left at the home of another local resident. The police chief obtained the weapon from the second man's home and immediately took the gun to Red. Red, in turn, took to the firearm to the DPS lab in Dallas for ballistic tests. The tests confirmed that the pistol was used in both murders.

Red and Max Womack, a fellow Texas Ranger stationed in Atlanta, arrested the two men in their homes. During their interrogations of the men, Red and Max were able to get statements that implicated both men to the two murders. A jury found the men guilty of murder and sentenced them both to die.

Jim Ray, retired chief of Criminal Law Enforcement, once said, "Red was probably the most qualified Ranger I ever knew—a unique combination of interrogation skill, investigative technique, and courage. His interrogation skill was unsurpassed."

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In October 1960, a massive statewide manhunt was launched for an ex-convict who had been accused of murdering another ex-con near Texarkana. It ended when the criminal was captured by the Texas Highway Patrol near Laredo in November. The ex-con was Curtis Lee Jones, and he was accused of the gangland-style killing of Doyle Jackson, a well-known police character and an ex-convict as well. Jones had been paroled from Arkansas earlier that year after serving a life sentence for murder. A relative of Jackson said, "Doyle just got in his car and disappeared." His body was found nearly two weeks later stripped of all identification, and his car was missing.

In a furtive attempt to avoid capture, Jones traveled a circuitous route from

Texas to Louisiana to California and Nevada before returning to Texas. He kidnapped and raped a woman in Fort Worth and left her boyfriend for dead. Jones then kidnapped a woman and her child in Parker County (west of Fort Worth) and drove to San Antonio before releasing them both unharmed. He kidnapped another woman in San Antonio and drove to the Mexican border where he hoped he could escape from the law, which was in hot pursuit. He released her before being captured in Laredo by the Highway Patrol just before he crossed into Mexico. Jones was one of the most dangerous and despicable men that you could find anywhere, hardened by years in the penitentiary. With Jones' capture in Laredo, Red and the Bowie County sheriff were contacted to bring Jones from the border city back to Northeast Texas for questioning.

Jones finally broke during the interrogation by Red, admitting to the murder of Doyle Jackson and the location of Jackson's abandoned car. When asked later how he obtained the confession from the hardened criminal, Red replied, "Oh, I just showed him the errors of his ways." The errors that the ex-con had made included several irrefutable facts that Red had obtained during the investigation. These included Jones' use of Jackson's identity and social security number for a three-day job in the Midland area--several days after Jackson had been found dead.

## §

Not all cases involved hardened killers. One night, a kid about eighteen or nineteen years old drove west of Mount Pleasant to buy some marijuana. He had gotten directions from a friend, and not being familiar with the location for the "buy," missed the turnoff and unknowingly got on the wrong country road. Thinking that he was at the right house, he sauntered up and knocked loudly on the outside of the door—the door of the house belonging to Red Arnold! Red answered the door, and the kid asked him if he had any "weed" for sale. Red focused his steely, blue eyes on the scruffy-haired kid and told him, "Son, I am the Texas Ranger around here, and I think you are at the wrong house."

The kid stammered and hurriedly retreated to his car, not able to get away fast enough. With tires churning and gravel flying, he got his automobile onto the country road and hightailed it back to town. He probably did not make his "buy" that night because he didn't want to chance running into Red again. That was the effect that Red often had on people—they wouldn't do something illegal because they didn't want to have to deal with Red if they were later caught.

## §

As many of his fellow Rangers can attest to, it's a good thing Red could take a joke, because he was good at passing them out.

The bond between brothers is quite strong, forged by common experiences, teachings, occasional scuffles, and disagreements. The bond between Rangers, particularly those assigned to the same company, is not unlike those between blood brothers. Rangers often help each other on difficult and complex cases, give each other advice and assistance when needed, and occasionally provide backup and support for each other during dangerous situations. They do this without regard to their own physical harm and are willing to give their own lives for the other if necessary. The bond between Red and his fellow Company B Rangers—Bob Mitchell, Glenn Elliott, Jim Ray, and Max Womack was this strong.

These Rangers also shared many laughs over the years, and one of those was at Red's expense. The Rangers of Company B had built a cabin on Lake of the Pines in the early 1970s. All the Rangers had a hand in its building, but Red, Glenn Elliott, Max Womack, and Bob Mitchell did much of the work. The cabin is used for official company meetings and gatherings as well as a getaway place for the Rangers and their families. One or two poker games have also been known to occur there.

On one official occasion at the cabin, Red was presented with a gift, attractively tied with a big red bow. Red unwrapped it and found a one-pound can of Spam inside.

Now, Spam was the meat staple of many meals eaten by Marines serving during World War II in the Pacific. After three years of eating it almost every day, Red now hated even the sight of it. He vowed never to eat it again, and even refused to let Aline bring it into their house.

After opening the package and without saying a word, Red quickly trounced out the backdoor down to the water's edge. With his fellow Rangers standing at the back of the cabin, laughing at their little joke, Red hurled the can of Spam into the lake as far as he could throw it.



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### **Bob Arnold**

Bob Arnold is a retired polymer chemist who worked at the Dow Chemical Company in Texas City, Texas, for over 35 years. He graduated from Texas Tech and also served as an officer in the United States Army. Bob began his career with Union Carbide in 1967 and has had a variety of laboratory and manufacturing assignments during his career in the chemical industry. Most recently, Bob was involved with implementing information technology systems for the Union Carbide Corporation and, after the merger of the two companies, with the Dow Chemical Company.

Bob and his wife Bejie both grew up in Mount Pleasant, Texas, and they have been married for thirty-three years. Bejie teaches at the University of Houston, Clear Lake. The Arnolds have two children: Jennifer, who is a speech pathologist at Clear Creek Independent School District; and Thomas, who is a flight