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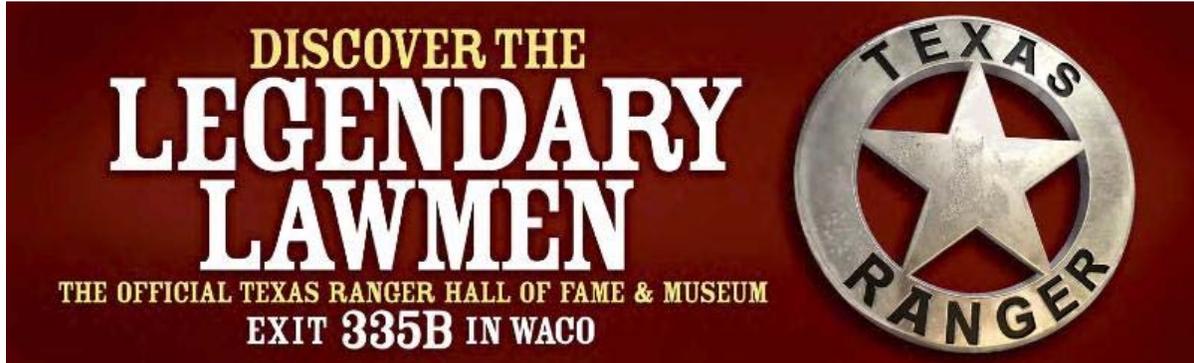
To: christinew@texastranger.org

Cc:

Date: Wednesday, December 01, 2010 05:06 pm

Subject: News From Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum

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Texas Ranger Hall of Fame Newsletter

Sponsored as a Service by the City of Waco, Texas

December 2010

In This Issue

November 24, 1874

Opening Reception for Featured Painting

Exhibits Update

New Gift Shop Items

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[Gift Shop](#)

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Dear Christine,

The year 2010 was filled with exciting events - a visit by Academy Award winning actor Robert Duvall, the 75th anniversary of the Department of Public Safety, the opening of the Texas Ranger Public Safety Education Center, launch of our new website layout, and more! Next year promises to be just as exciting. We look forward to seeing you soon. Please remember that the Museum is open all but three days a year. Our holiday closure schedule includes Christmas Day and New Year's Day.



November 24, 1874

Joseph F. Glidden receives a patent for barbed wire on November 24, 1874.



Photograph of Texas Ranger Ira Aten

The invention of barbed wire had a huge impact on Texas. By the 1880's it brought definite problems and resentments for farmers and ranchers. What was considered public land and public water was now transferred into individual ownership, sometimes depriving other ranchers and farmers of much needed water and grass supplies. Problems soon arose when individuals took matters into their own hands and sought to fix the perceived problem by cutting fences.

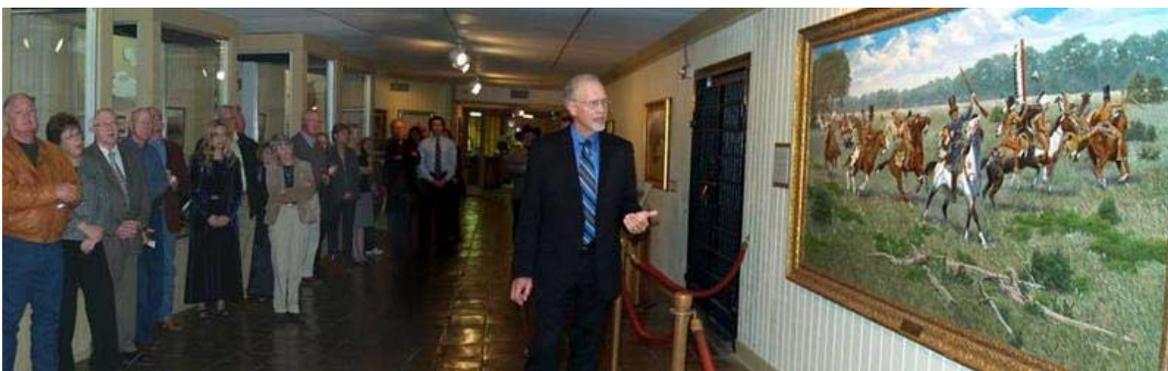
Violence and bloodshed, however, soon followed as the fence-cutting activities escalated and people began calling the conflicts, "the fence-cutting wars." Fence-cutters operated at night, secretly meeting to destroy the fence lines and anybody who tried to stop them.

The violence associated with the fence-cutters was a concern for the Governor of Texas who called in the Texas Rangers to quell the conflicts. Governor John Ireland advocated using undercover work to break up the fence-cutting rings. One Ranger who is well-known for his efforts to put an end to the cutting was Ira Aten, a Hall of Fame inductee. He worked undercover and successfully alerted his fellow Rangers when fence cutting activities were about to take place.

He is famous for advocating the use of an exploding device that would detonate when a cutter severed a fence line. He actually learned how to make the bomb and taught others how to make it in order to protect their fences. The device was never actually used, but fence cutters got the message. Nobody wanted to take a chance on cutting a fence that might be rigged to explode in his face.

To learn more about fence-cutting and Ira Aten, please visit the museum and see the fence-cutting exhibit and biographical information regarding Ranger Aten in the Hall of Fame.

Opening Reception for Featured Painting



On November 18th, the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum sponsored a reception for artist Lee Herring and the featured painting *Delaying Action: The Battle of Plum Creek*. Mr. Herring entertained the guests with an account of the historical event and described the historical details worked into the painting, such as the imagery on the horses. Comanche Indians would paint lightning bolts on the horses' legs to give them speed in battle. The white horse in the center carries the leader of the party, as shown by the painted red square on the horse's chest. *Delaying Action: The Battle of Plum Creek* will be on exhibit through the new year. To learn more about the painting, visit us on [YouTube](#).

Exhibits Update



Before and After: The Wright Family

Staff
members

are continuing to update and "brighten" exhibits in the Henry J. N. Taub Gallery by changing the gallery and case paint scheme from "battleship grey" to beige. Cases in the Morris and Brownfield galleries have also been updated, and the artifacts and artwork Collections staff began renovating the interior of the Taub exhibit cases. The Wright Family exhibit changes are featured above. The project is scheduled for completion in the early new year.

New Gift Shop Items



As the holidays approach, the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum is a source for unique holiday gifts. Featured are some of our new items: leather goods (luggage tag, coasters, koozie) made in Texas and our wood storage boxes featuring a chessboard on the lid. Other items include

a ladies sweatshirt featuring the word Texas in zebra print and cowboy boot holiday ornaments. More products are available [online](#).

The Museum Gift Shop is open 9:00 am to 4:30 pm daily, and you never have to pay admission to visit the store. Sales from the nonprofit Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum store benefit the educational programs at the museum. Visit The Gift Shop or call (254) 750-8631 for more information.



**Save
\$2.00**

Save \$1.00 off regular adult admission for up to two adults. Coupon not valid on discounted senior or military admission. No cash value.

The museum is open 9am to 5pm with the last guest admitted at 4:30pm. The museum is located off Interstate 35 Exit 335B University Parks Drive in Waco, Texas.

For more information, call (254) 750-8631 or visit www.texasranger.org.

Offer Expires: April 1, 2011

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