



NEWSLETTER

Texas Ranger Hall of Fame Newsletter

Official State Historical Center

Sponsored by the City of Waco

May 2013

Featured Articles

Texas DPS and the West Explosion

May Events at the Museum

Remembering Captain John Wood

Clint Peoples' Bowie Knife

Safe Burglary Investigations

DPS Crime Lab Visit

Register Now for Summer Camp

Texas DPS and the West Explosion

On April 17, 2013, a fertilizer plant exploded in West, Texas. The explosion destroyed the fertilizer plant, severely damaged a West ISD middle school and high school, a nursing home, an apartment complex, and multiple surrounding homes. There were over 160 people injured with 14 confirmed fatalities.



Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) Director Steven McCraw stated, "DPS is continuing to work closely with our local, state and federal partners in response to the plant explosion. This is an ongoing process, and we are grateful and proud of the courageous first responders who selflessly and immediately responded to this incident. Those same responders worked through the night tending to victims of the explosion, and participating in search and rescue efforts. DPS will continue to provide any resources necessary to assist the West community in response and recovery operations."

As part of DPS response, Texas Ranger Company "F" sent a team to West. Ranger Jake Burson assisted the McLennan County Sheriff's Office and Major Alvin Alexis, Lieutenant Jesse Valdez, Rangers Jason Bobo, Jimmy Jones, Matt Lindemann, Cody Mitchell, and Terry Snyder also reported to West to assist with a house to house search and evacuation of residents.

Part of the job duties of a Texas Ranger is to act as an inter-agency liaison for the State. It is in this role they have served in the investigation of the West explosion. The Texas Rangers also sent a team to Fort Hood when the shooting occurred on November 5, 2009 to assist federal agents with interviewing eye witnesses.

The City of West is located 15 minutes north of the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum off I-35. The board and staff would like to express our condolences for the people of West. As Director McCraw said, "Our thoughts and prayers go out to everyone impacted by this tragedy."

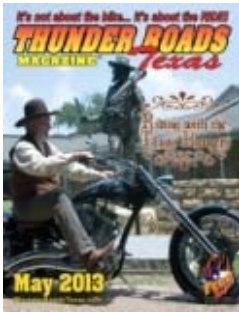
May Events at the Museum

On May 4th, the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum will hold its

DESTINATION: 18 GRAND HOTELS OF THE WEST
TRUE WEST
TEXAS RANGERS
DEATH ON THE LINE
 The Apache Wars in Apache Wards
 The Wild Ride of Hank Meyer
 The Gun to Head
 The Lone Star
 The Lone Star

In the Press

The Tobin and Anne Armstrong Texas Ranger Research Center is featured in the May issue of *True West Magazine*. Get your copy today!



In the Press

The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum is featured on the cover of the May issue of *Thunder Roads Texas Magazine*. Get your copy today or [view it online!](#)



Book Donation

The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame staff thanks Bob Alexander and Jan Devereaux for the donation of a book collection on modern Texas-Mexico border issues. The collection is accessible at the Tobin and Anne Armstrong Texas Ranger Research Center.



Meetings Marketplace

The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame will be participating in the second annual Meetings Marketplace on May 22nd. Visit our booth to learn more about renting Knox Center and the Education Center.

Teacher Appreciation Day. Teachers and staff will receive free admission with an ISD id/badge and their family will receive discounted admissions. We will have information about school and tour programs available in the lobby.

The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame & Museum presents

LONE STAR HISTORY CONFERENCE

Friday, May 10th 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 11th 7:45 a.m. - 8:45 p.m.

with guest speakers including

Texas Ranger Chief Kirby Dendy
U.S. Marshal's Service Historian David S. Turk
Author Bob Alexander
and a reenactment by
Texas Top Guns

For a complete schedule of speakers & activities, visit us online at WWW.TEXASRANGER.ORG

On May 25th, 26th and 27th, the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum will hold its **Military Appreciation Weekend**. Active duty personnel, retirees and Veterans will receive free admission to the Museum while their family will receive discounted admissions (with valid id or documentation - medals, service records, photographs are accepted).

Remembering Captain John Wood

We are sad to report the passing of Captain John Wood, age 99, who was honored as "the oldest living Texas Ranger." The museum board and staff wish to express their deepest condolences to his family.



John Mansel Wood was born October 9, 1913, in Colorado City, Texas. He began his career in law enforcement as a city policeman in 1942, and a few months later in November, he joined the Texas Department of Public Safety as a Highway Patrolman.

He was selected to become a Texas Ranger on January 1, 1949. His first assignment was in Midland in the Permian Basin oil fields. As a sergeant, Wood recovered more stolen oilfield equipment than any other Ranger in the state. In 1970, he received a promotion to captain and commanded Company D, headquartered in San Antonio. His major assignment there was the investigation of government corruption in Duval Country, a job that took ten and a half years. His efforts resulted in several hundred cases against two dozen people.

After almost thirty years of service in the Texas Rangers and thirty-six years with Texas DPS, he retired on October 31, 1978. Thank you,

Please [click here](#) for more information on the Meetings Marketplace.



Locals Love Us

Thank you Waco for voting the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum a Locals Love Us winner for best in tourist attractions two years in a row! We appreciate your support.



Texas Tourism Week

In recognition of the Texas travel industry and its significant contribution to the state economy, Governor Rick Perry has proclaimed May 4-12, 2013 as Texas Travel and Tourism Week.

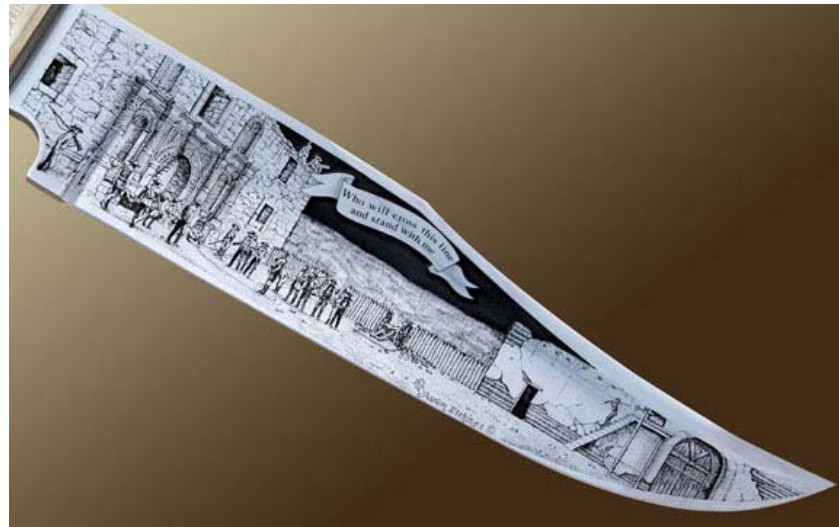
Preliminary estimates show that travel spending in Texas totaled more than \$65 billion in 2012, the highest level recorded to date. The money invested by millions of travelers directly supported 564,000 jobs across many industry sectors and generated nearly \$4.4 billion in local and state taxes.

Please [click here](#) for more information on events in your area.

Captain Wood, for your service and dedication to the people of Texas.

Clint Peoples' Bowie Knife

This Bowie knife, produced by Aurum Engraving, was ordered by Texas Ranger Clint Peoples in 1977. Unfortunately, Ranger Peoples passed away before the completion of the knife. Samuel R. Shortes, President/CEO of Aurum Engraving, has kindly donated the knife to the Texas Ranger Museum. On each side of the blade is a scene from the Battle of the Alamo, including Col. William Travis' legendary quote "Who will cross this line and stand with me?" The handle was hand-selected by Ranger Peoples and Mr. Shortes. It is made of elk horn and the spacer is turquoise. Both John Wayne and President Ronald Reagan ordered similar blades from Aurum Engraving. In fact, John Wayne's purchase of an Aurum Alamo Bowie is what prompted Ranger Peoples to ultimately select this design.



Safe Burglary Investigations

The Texas Archive of the Moving Image (TAMI) preserves videos and educates the community about Texas' film heritage. TAMI's ever-growing online collection includes





Comanches of the Texas Hill Country

The Mason County Historical Commission will host a symposium, "Comanches of the Texas Hill Country," on Sunday, May 19, 2013, at 2:00 P.M. at the historic Odeon Theater. The program is open to the public free of charge.

home movies, amateur films, advertisements, local television, industrial and corporate productions, as well as Hollywood and internationally produced moving images of Texas.

The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame partnered with TAMI to transfer Texas Ranger training videos from the 1960s that are part of our archives into digital videos that could be shared with the public and incorporated into future exhibits. The first video to be uploaded for online viewing is "Safe Burglary Investigations," a training film that demonstrates methods used by burglars to break into safes and methods used by law enforcement to collect evidence after the burglary. An extensive range of tools can be used to get into a safe, and an equally extensive set of forensics can be used to pull fingerprints and other identifying markings.

Please [click here](#) to watch "Safe Burglary Investigations." Please [click here](#) to learn more about the Texas Archive of the Moving Image.



Don't Mess With Texas

The world famous anti-litter campaign "Don't mess with Texas®" has a new look!

The Texas Department of Transportation first rolled out the program in 1986. The centerpiece of the new campaign is the iconic red, white, and blue "Don't mess with Texas" trash can. The trash cans will be prominently placed at travel information centers, popular tourist attractions and stadiums.

Please [click here](#) for more information.

DPS Crime Lab Visit

On April 3rd, members of the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame exhibits committee visited the DPS Crime Lab in Austin to learn about the facility and modern methods of investigation for future development of exhibits and educational programming.



The staff thanks Assistant Laboratory Director Brady Mills and the forensic scientists who discussed with us what modern techniques are used, the training they receive and demonstrating how equipment is used. We appreciate the valuable information and the time dedicated to our visit.

Quick Links

- Website
- Gift Shop
- Knox Center
- Education Center
- Education Programs
- Research Center
- Museum Video



Register Now for Summer Camp

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Sign Up For Our
Newsletter!

Texas Ranger Hall of Fame Summer Camp!

The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum will host a summer day camp on Friday, July 19th and Saturday, July 20th. The two-day camp will run from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. each day.

Campers will have the opportunity to step into the boots of a 19th century Texas Ranger and learn about skills critical to survival on the frontier. Day two of the program will provide an opportunity for campers to learn about the duties of the modern Texas Ranger, including their work as Crime Scene Investigators.



Camp Registration is open to all children entering fourth and fifth grade. Scouting groups are welcome based on availability. Cost is \$25.00 per camper.



www.TexasRanger.org

Call (254) 750-8631 to register today!
Deadline to register is Friday, July 12th.

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 I-35 and University Parks Drive in Waco, Texas.

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

Offer Expires: July 31, 2013

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