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

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!

http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?llr=bfulzcab&v=001vAT3y6bgAL6kT5... 4/29/2013
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.

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,
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. TAMIs 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.

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.

Please watch "Safe Burglary Investigations." Please click here to learn more about the Texas Archive of the Moving Image.

Quick Links
Website  Gift Shop  Knox Center  Education Center  Education Programs  Research Center  Museum Video

Register Now for Summer Camp

http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?llr=bfuhlzcab&v=001vAT3y6bgAL6kT5... 4/29/2013
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.

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

www.TexasRanger.org

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

Forward this email

Save $2.00

http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?llr=bfuhlzcab&v=001vAT3y6bgAL6kT5...