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Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum

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Holiday Hours

The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum is open 9am to 5pm daily. The last guest is admitted at 4:30pm. Please remember, the Museum is closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years Day.

Website Links

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The Texas Ranger Dispatch A New Issue

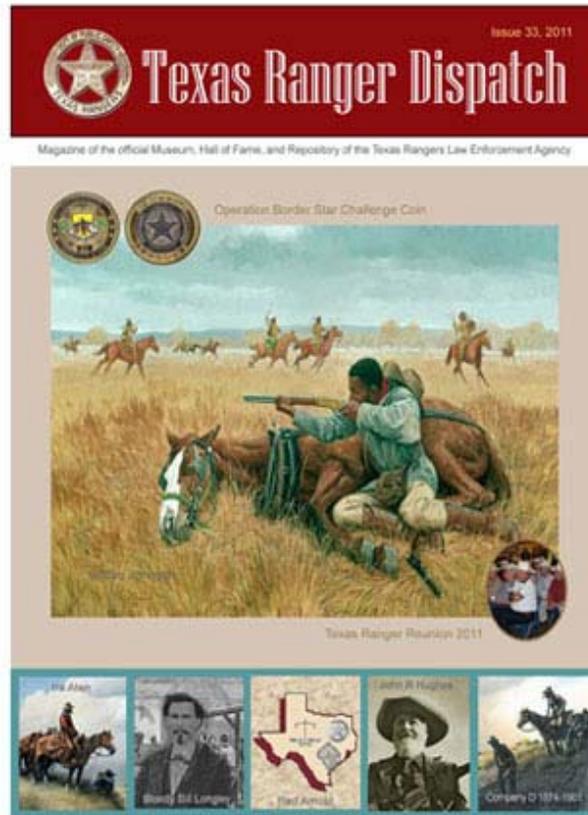
The newest issue of *The Texas Ranger Dispatch*®, the journal of the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame, will be available free [online](#) in mid November.

Feature articles include:

- Britton Johnson, The Original Searcher
- Rio Grande Valley Joint Operations Intelligence Center Issues Operation Border Star Challenge Coin
- If You Pull It, Jack, I'll Kill You, an excerpt from *Rawhide Ranger, Ira Aten: Enforcing Law on the Texas Frontier*
- Bloody Bill Longley, an excerpt from *Bloody Bill Longley: the Mythology of a Gunfighter*
- A Carnival of Crime and Corruption, an excerpt from *Winchester Warriors: Texas Rangers of Company D, 1874-1901*
- And More!

The Texas Ranger Dispatch is funded, in part, by an annual grant from the Texas Ranger Association Foundation. Their generosity makes this publication possible.

To read the new issue, [click here](#). *The Dispatch* will be available to download free in mid November.



Tobin and Anne Armstrong Texas Ranger Research Center Renovation Update

Construction of the Armstrong Texas Ranger Research Center continues on schedule towards its projected completion in April of 2012. The new archives and library will feature expanded facilities for researchers and visitors and greatly increased holding space for documents, records, books and oral history recordings.

Donations are sought towards the purchase of archival storage units, furniture for the reading and research rooms and exhibit cases for the exhibit area. Contributions are tax deductible and donors will be recognized in the completed facility. To help in preserving Texas Ranger history, please speak with Armstrong Center head Christina Stopka at (254) 750-8631.



The Lone Ranger and Clayton Moore Exhibits Now on Display

Radio broadcasting fired the imagination of listeners from its beginnings in the 1920s through World War II. By simply using words and evocative sound effects, radio dramas, such as *The Lone Ranger*, created vivid scenes which captivated audiences of every age.

The Lone Ranger, produced by George W. Trendle and writer Fran Striker, premiered on February 2, 1933 on station WXYZ in Detroit, Michigan. An instant hit, its radio audience was estimated at more than 12 million households. The show's last radio broadcast aired on September 4, 1954.

Republic Pictures brought the masked man and his sidekick Tonto to the silver screen in 1938. The first television broadcast was on the ABC network on September 15, 1949. Two hundred and twenty-one half-hour episodes were produced with 39 in full color. By 1952, the television audience was estimated at 5 million and lasted until 1961. The CBS network cartoon soon followed in 1966 on Saturday mornings with an estimated audience from 3 to 7 million viewers each week.

Actor and stuntman Clayton Moore began portraying the Lone Ranger in 1949. Despite short periods in which the character was acted by others, he was inseparably identified with the character by the public and himself until his death in 1999.

In 2009 the Museum received a generous collection of Lone Ranger and Tonto memorabilia from the Estate of Dolores Taylor, M.D. An accomplished surgical pathologist from San Francisco, Taylor began her collection after purchasing a Lone Ranger belt at the age of nine.

The Museum recently installed two exhibits in the Pop Culture Gallery featuring Taylor's personal Lone Ranger and Clayton Moore collectibles. Some of the exciting items in the exhibits include: Lone Ranger Black Mask, which is believed to be a custom-fit mask for Clayton Moore; Lone Ranger Paint Book, 1940; American White Cross Labs First Aid Kit, 1938; and Child's Suspenders, 1949. We hope visitors will enjoy reliving the exciting memories of *The Lone Ranger* and his faithful companion Tonto.

The staff and advisory board at the Museum are seeking funds to expand the exhibit of the Taylor collection. If you are a Lone Ranger fan and interested in supporting this project, contact the Museum staff at (254) 750-8631.



Left: The Lone Ranger exhibit



Right: Clayton Moore exhibit

Texas Rangers and Surveyors A Partnership Spanning Three Centuries

During the early years of settlement in Texas, some Texas Rangers also worked as surveyors when not defending the frontier. Their knowledge of the territory, along with their ability to protect survey parties, allowed them to document and map huge tracts of land, river courses and settlements. Surveys by these pioneers form the base maps for much of what is modern Texas.

Today, professional surveyors carry on this work, although Texas Rangers still use the technology and skills of the profession to document criminal investigations. The Texas Society of Professional Surveyors (TSPS), an organization of professional surveyors, recognizes this centuries-old shared heritage.

The Museum's "Rangers and Surveyors" exhibit, completed in 2005 and partially funded by the TSPS, features early surveying equipment graciously loaned to the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame by TSPS. The history committee for TSPS realized the importance of conveying this heritage to future generations. In September of this year, the History Committee of TSPS arranged for the gift of this collection to the People of Texas through the museum and donated funds to update the exhibit and preserve and care for the artifacts.

On October 7, 2011, Byron Johnson, Executive Director of the Museum, visited with the TSPS at the 2011 Symposium in Frisco, Texas, to thank them for this support. The luncheon was attended by approximately 170 TSPS members. "We were delighted to be asked to present on this important part of Ranger history and tell the story of surveyor and Ranger Jack Coffee Hays who did so much to map Texas and defend it," said Johnson.

The Texas Society of Professional Surveyors, with a membership of more than 2,000 registered surveyors, surveyors-in-training, students and associates, seeks to educate and inform the public of the



integral role of surveyors in our society. More information about TSPS can be found at <http://www.tsp.org/>.



Photograph courtesy Texas Society of Professional Surveyors

Big Texas Christmas Present Returns December 10, 2011

Mark your calendars for the "Big Texas Christmas Present."

The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum, Friends for Life, along with Big 95 KBGO, have teamed up for the "Big Texas Christmas Present" to benefit Gifts for Grannies and Carter BloodCare.

A Gifts for Grannies donation box will be located in the lobby of the Museum for those who want to donate starting Saturday, November 26, 2011. Those who donate early will receive discounted admission.

Visit our [news and events webpage](#) for information. Details about the December 10th event will be posted in our December email newsletter.



Commemorative Coins Available at the Gift Shop

During the holidays, don't forget the great gifts at the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum Gift Shop!

Our new coin captures the spirit of the Texas Rangers while recognizing the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum. On the front is a take of the museum logo set against a circle star. The reverse honors Capt. Bill McDonald by preserving one of his famous quotes encircled by One Riot, One Ranger. These coins are 1.75" in diameter with a 3mm depth and have an antique silver finish. Add a coin to your collection for only \$15.00 plus tax.

Sales from the nonprofit Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum gift shop benefit the preservational and educational activities of the Museum. Call (254) 750-8631 or email thestore@texasranger.org to order one today. The gift shop is open 9 am to 4:30 pm daily. We ship worldwide.



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