



March 2017

Texas Ranger Hall of Fame Newsletter

Sponsored by the City of Waco
 Official State Historical Center of the Texas Rangers
 Home of Texas Ranger Bicentennial 1823-2023

Over the Airwaves: The Lone Ranger on Radio

In 1933, America is in the grips of the Great Depression. Franklin D. Roosevelt is inaugurated as President after campaigning against Herbert Hoover on a platform that promises to help "... the forgotten man at the bottom of the economic pyramid." Americans are disheartened, suffering from high unemployment and reduced wages, failed banks, agricultural ruin in the Dust Bowl, and years of crime fueled by Prohibition. Overseas the peace after WWI is threatened by the emerging fascist dictatorships of Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini.

Americans need an escape from their often harsh everyday realities.

Enter the Lone Ranger...

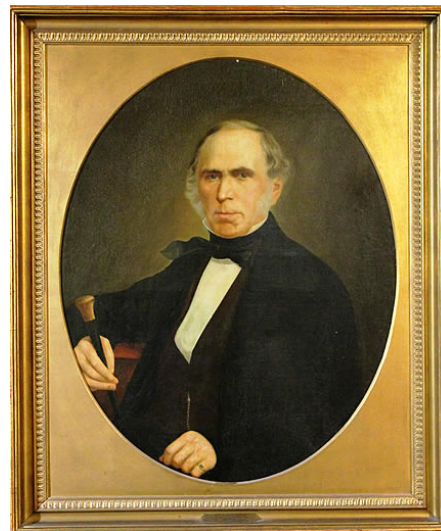


The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum is pleased to announce the completion of phase one of the Pop Culture Gallery exhibit projects. *Over the Airwaves: The Lone Ranger on Radio* focuses on the creation of *The Lone Ranger*, the early radio days and the personalities that made it all happen. The Museum's exhibits committee worked with Custom Creation and Pony Allen Studios in Austin on the design, production and installation of the new exhibit case and two free-standing graphic panels. "Stay tuned," as they say in radio, for future Pop Culture Gallery updates!

Support for the new exhibits was made possible by the generous donations from Ram and the Fiat-Chrysler Automobiles Foundation.

Sam Houston Portrait

Sam Houston is easily the best known leader of early Texas. The only American to be governor of two states, Tennessee and Texas, he was President of the Republic of Texas (1836-44), US Senator (1846-59) and Texas Governor (1859-61). He led the Texian army and Texas Rangers to victory over Santa Ana and the Mexican army in 18 minutes. One of the treasures of the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame is what art historians have called "the best and most professional portrait done of Sam Houston." In 1849 Houston wrote of the painting "I think more of it than all my likenesses."



In 1977, James Fowler of Nashville, Tennessee presented the portrait to the newly dedicated Texas Ranger Hall of Fame. It was painted between 1846-49 when he served as the first Senator from Texas." Research by Collections Manager Shelly Crittendon identified the artist as Charles Edward Schnabel (1821-1883). A German immigrant, Schnabel studied at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and painted Washington luminaries from the 1840s to the 1860. His surviving oil paintings include Chief Justice and Treasury Secretary Salmon P. Chase, Edward Stanton Secretary of War under Lincoln, and George Dallas, James K. Polk's Vice-President and namesake of Dallas County, Texas.

The museum staff wants to assure the formidable and fiery Senator Houston continues to gaze out at future generations. One hundred and seventy years of candle, oil and gas smoke and darkening varnish have dulled Sam's appearance. Minor damage to the canvas and paint layers occurred when the portrait was moved by wagon and train from Washington to frontier Texas.

You can help conserve this painting, which belongs to all Texans through their State historical center. The first step is to have a qualified paintings conservator report on what is needed to clean and stabilize it. The next step will be to have it painstakingly cleaned and to repair damage to the canvas and paint layers.

We are seeking 'friends of Sam' to this underwrite this investment for future generations. If you are interested in contributing, please contact the Director, Byron Johnson at 254-750-8631 or at info@texasranger.org.

Upcoming Exhibit: World War I

With the centennial of the United States' entry into World War I approaching, we are working on an exhibit highlighting the Texas Rangers' role during America's first global conflict.

The Texas Rangers had been working on the Mexico border for almost a century when the United States declared war on Germany on April 6, 1917 and entered World War I. From their inception in the 1820s, Rangers had fought bandits, rustlers, smugglers, and other outlaws who crossed the Rio Grande to ply their illicit trades. All of these intensified when the Mexican Revolution started in 1910. The Rangers had already been hard-pressed to patrol the border, and the increase in unrest and violence taxed their small numbers to the limit, even after they were joined by U.S. Army troops. The start of World War I in Europe in 1914 made long-standing suspicions of German involvement in Mexico even worse. When the United States entered World War I in 1917, German intrigues south of the Rio Grande were among the issues that drove President Woodrow Wilson to ask Congress to declare war on Germany.



Ranger J.R. Hunnicutt and U.S. Soldier on the Border, ca. 1918.

After the United States entered the war, Texas Rangers added hunting draft evaders and deserters to their responsibilities, which sometimes led to violence and bloodshed. Even though Rangers were called away to duties throughout the state, most were needed along the border.

The end of World War I in November 1918 had little effect on the Rangers' work on the Rio Grande. The pace slowed when the Mexican Revolution finally ended in 1920, but the banditry, cattle rustling, and smuggling continued. The Texas Rangers had been on the border for almost a century when World War I started, and they are there today, facing many of the same challenges a century later. Keep your eye on the newsletter for updates on the progress of our World War I exhibit!

Spring Break Round Up

Saturday, March 11, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum will host its annual Spring Break Round Up event on Saturday, March 11th. This come-and-go event will showcase a Nineteenth Century Texas Ranger camp scene and chuck wagon, courtesy of the Texas Top Guns. In addition, visitors can look forward to a presentation by active-duty Texas Ranger Patrick Pena at 1:00 p.m. The event will run from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., and is included with a regular admission ticket.

Gift Shop Feature

Concealed carry purses from Ropin West are individually hand tooled with variations between each bag. All three purses are full grain cowhide with paisley cotton lining inside. \$220 for large brown and teal, \$174 for medium tan, and \$155 for the smaller teal one. More colors options are available in these three styles.



Sales from the Gift Shop benefit the preservation and education activities of the Museum. Please call (877) 750-8631 or email thestore@texasranger.org to order. Thank you!

Quick Links



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Education Center



The following groups utilized the Education Center for programs during the month of February:

Texas DPS (New Rangers In-service)
 Texas Workforce Solutions
 Vocational Rehabilitation Services
 NAACP

Bicentennial Campaign



Please remember the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum for your tax-deductible donations.

For more information, please contact Christine Rothenbush, Marketing and Development Specialist, at (254) 750-8631. Thank you.

Compiled by Christine Rothenbush, Marketing and Development Specialist

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 04/30/2017.

STAY CONNECTED:

