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Managing Editors

Robert Nieman 2000-2009; (b.1947-d.2009)

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Byron A. Johnson 2000-2011

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Technical Editor, Layout, and Design

Pam S. Baird



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Captain John Wood

Oldest Living Texas Ranger

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, Captain 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 County, 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.



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