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Texas Ranger

**DISPATCH**



**Capt. James Ray**

## Charlie Miller on Ranger Levi Duncan

by Capt. Jim Ray, Ret.

*No retired Ranger commands any more respect from his peers than does Jim Ray. Not only was he a great field Ranger, but he was also the captain of Company "C" in Lubbock before leaving the Rangers. In 1968, he accomplished what no other Ranger has ever done since the formation of the Department of Public Safety: in 1935, he became the chief of Criminal Law Enforcement. He held this position until his retirement in 1978.*



*The Dispatch is very grateful for Captain Ray's contribution of this humorous story that was told to him by Texas Ranger Hall of Famer Charlie Miller.*



Charlie Miller (left) told me that Levi Duncan considered himself a great camp cook. Whenever a camp was set up, Levi always wanted to be the cook. Charlie said that Levi would get up in the morning wearing only his long johns and boots. He would start a fire and begin frying eggs and bacon, using a spatula to turn the food. There was nothing unusual about this, but what got Charlie and the other Rangers was that Levi would turn the eggs, then swat a fly, then turn the bacon, and then scratch his butt using the same spatula. To make matters worse, all the men would have been in the field for several days with no opportunity to take a

bath, and Levi's long johns were just about as dirty as Levi—and the rest of the Rangers.

On this one particular night, Levi wanted all his companions to go out in the woods, gather some firewood, and build a campfire. He would cook some steaks.

Charlie said all he could think about was those dirty long johns and Levi's scratching with the spatula he would be using to cook supper. Charlie decided he couldn't handle it. He turned to his fellow Rangers and said, "Come on. We'll go find a steakhouse somewhere, and I will buy us a good steak for supper." And that's what he did.