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Managing Editors

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

Byron A. Johnson 2009-2011

Publisher & Website Administrator

Byron A. Johnson 2000-2011

Director, Texas Ranger Hall of Fame

Technical Editor, Layout, and Design

Pam S. Baird



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Illustration courtesy Sabine River Authority

Water Moccasin

By Bob Arnold



Gray McWhorter tells this story about the first time that he met **Red Arnold**. Gray lives in Pittsburg and became friends with the men of Company B before he became a director of the Texas Ranger Association Foundation. In the early 1970s, he was invited to join several Rangers for a weekend of work and fellowship at the Company "B" cabin on Lake of the Pines. Red Arnold, Glenn Elliott, Bob Mitchell, and Max Womack were among those that were at the cabin. Some work was done, many stories were told, and a few cards were shuffled as well.

After working at the cabin for most of the day, Red decided to take a little nap. He removed his sweaty clothes, crawled in between the sheets of one of the bunk beds, and went to sleep.

It wasn't too long before one of the Rangers working outside saw a water moccasin slithering through the grass between the lake and the back side of the cabin. He hollered out in a loud voice that there was a snake, and some commotion from other nearby Rangers soon followed.

Hearing the noise, Red immediately got out of the bunk, quickly pulled on his boots, grabbed his .45 automatic pistol, and headed out the back door. Seeing the snake retreating toward the lake, Red raised the pistol, took aim, and shot. You will have to ask Gray if Red killed the snake with the shot from his gun or whether the snake died of fright when it looked up from the grass and saw a naked Ranger . . . a naked Ranger wearing nothing but his boots and taking aim down the barrel of the .45 automatic.



Glenn Elliott and Red Arnold. ©2005, Courtesy of Glenn Elliott.



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Members of Company "B" Texas Rangers, Cotulla, Texas, 1900. Left to right: 0-Company Cook; 1-Jim Moore; 2-W. A. Oils; 3-Sergt. H. G. Dubose; 4-Will L. Wright; 5-A. T. Oils; 6-T. C. (Creed) Taylor. (Identified by Creed Taylor.)

Horses have always been part of the Texas Rangers' team. "There will always be a place for the horse with the Texas Rangers," says Ranger Calvin Cox. "In situations where you need them, there's nothing better. Photo ©2005, TRHF & Jerry Circelli.

Texas Rangers by Jerry Circelli

Reflecting on the six years he rode with the Texas Rangers, from 1875 to 1881, James B. Gillett penned three sentences that captured the history of the legendary lawmen, defined their mission and set the standard for their future.

"Night and day will the ranger trail his prey, through rain and shine, until the criminal is located and put behind bars where he will not molest or disturb peaceful citizens," Gillett wrote. "For bravery, endurance and steadfast adherence to duty at all times, the ranger is in a class by himself. Such was the old ranger, and such is the ranger of today."

In Gillett's time, Texas was a haven for lawless individuals; some things haven't changed. From the rugged mountains and desert valleys of West Texas to the thick blanket of pine forests in the east – lawbreakers still think they can get lost here.

Texas Department of Criminal Justice officials Royce Taylor (left) and Darrell Lambert (right) are responsible for providing horses and tracking dogs for use by