



July 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

[Visit Our Website](#)

A New Landmark on I-35

On Saturday, June 10th during the annual Texas Ranger Reunion, we dedicated a new sign and monument on I-35. The ribbon was cut by (picture above, left to right) Museum Board Chairman Hank Whitman, Waco Mayor Kyle Deaver and Texas Ranger Chief Randy Prince.

Four years ago, TxDOT (Texas Department of Transportation) began the construction of a new bridge and access road through Waco. It was necessary to remove the old Texas Ranger Hall of Fame sign for these improvements. The old sign was installed in the 1990s with support from the Cooper Foundation and served as the backdrop for thousands of visitor's photographs.

After bridge and access road completion, a national search began for a suitable designer experienced in both environmentally sensitive areas and urban redevelopment. Tangram Designs of Denver was selected which partnered with Harbinger signs of Plano, Texas.



The first concepts met the goals and budget, but were too much like commercial business signs. The Waco City Council supported a monument worthy of a symbol of Texas -- the Texas Rangers. The final product will be seen by more than 60 million persons a year passing through Central Texas.



Thanks are owed to the following agencies: the Texas Department of Public Safety and the Texas Rangers; the Waco City Council, Administration, Planning, Facilities, Parks & Recreation Department, and the Historic Landmark Commission; and the Texas Department of Transportation.

We look forward to seeing it become the new photographic backdrop for the next generation of Texas Ranger Museum visitors.

Judging by the Cover

The Tobin and Anne Armstrong Texas Ranger Research Center was completed in 2012 thanks to the generosity of hundreds of donors and the City of Waco. The Spindletop Foundation of Houston sponsored an exhibit gallery in honor of its late board member Robert Rose.

A new exhibit has opened in the Spindletop Tower Gallery called *Judging by the Cover: Book Cover Art 1845 -1940*. Featuring selections from the Research Center collections, the exhibit briefly explores the evolution of bookbinding and illustrations found on the covers of books.



New technologies in the early decades of the 19th century made it more economical for publishers to mass-produce hard-bound books. The technologies also allowed for the books' boards to be covered with paper, cloth, leather or other materials that could then be stamped. Selections in the exhibit range from the simple to the elaborate. This 'golden age' of bookbinding reached its height in the late 1880s to 1910s when it was increasingly being replaced by cheaper to produce paper dust jackets.



The Armstrong Research Center is open Monday - Friday 10 - 4. Appointments are recommended, but not required to see the exhibit. Please direct inquiries to Christina Stopka or Rusty Bloxom at 254-750-8631.

Texas Ranger Summer Camp 2017

Since 2006, the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame has enabled students to experience elements of life on the frontier of Texas in the 1800s. At this year's summer camp, the Texas Top Guns Frontier Battalion reenactors of Palestine, Texas, taught fourth, fifth and sixth graders such skills as making rope, tooling leather and cooking over a fire in a Dutch oven.



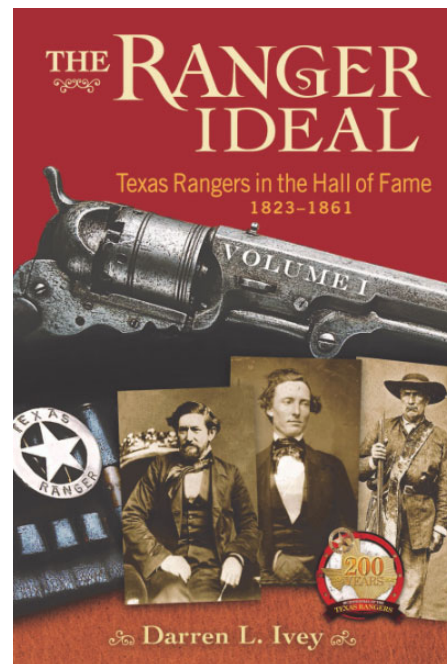
Top left to right: Campers make branding symbols using warmed metal brands; campers learn about tools of the 19th Century Ranger from scopes to coins and saddle bags.
Bottom left to right: Campers cut out biscuits out of dough for cooking; campers eat cooked biscuits topped with bootstrap molasses.

Texas Ranger Bicentennial™ Book Series

The upcoming Texas Ranger Bicentennial™ in 2023 commemorates the founding of America's oldest state law enforcement agency. As State-appointed steward of the event, our goal is to assist Texas historical and educational organizations planning commemorations.

Many books and video documentaries on Texas Ranger history are likely to be produced for the Bicentennial. An official *Texas Ranger Bicentennial™ publication series* has been created to encourage and promote these efforts. Established commercial and academic presses and networks may submit nonfiction books, reprints of 'classics' and documentaries created between 2017 and 2023 for review. Those accepted become official Texas Ranger Bicentennial™ publications and may display the official seal.

Two books published by the University of North Texas Press in Denton have been accepted.



Out this month, *Texas Rangers: Lives, Legend and Legacy* is a comprehensive 656 page single-volume history of the Texas Rangers—the first since 1935. Noted authors and historians Bob Alexander and Donaly Brice cover the sweep of Ranger history from its distant origins in medieval Europe and New Spain to today's Ranger companies. It can be pre-ordered from the University of North Texas Press at <https://untpress.unt.edu/catalog/3755> or the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame gift shop (toll free 1-877-750-8631).

Due in October, *The Ranger Ideal Vol. I: Texas Rangers in the Hall of Fame 1823-1861* is the first in a planned three-volume set of biographies of Texas Rangers elected into the State's Texas Ranger Hall of Fame by the modern Rangers. *Volume I* memorializes Stephen F. Austin, "the Father of Texas," who co-founded the Rangers; legendary Captain John Coffee "Jack" Hays, "Old Ben" McCulloch, Captain Samuel H. Walker, William A. A. "Bigfoot" Wallace, John S. "RIP" Ford, and Lawrence Sullivan Ross. Darren L. Ivey is an independent researcher and writer on Ranger history who lives in Manhattan, Kansas. Pre-orders can be made at <https://untpress.unt.edu/catalog/3761> or the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame gift shop (toll free 1-877-750-8631).

Future additions to the Texas Ranger Bicentennial™ book series will be announced here.

In Memoriam: Texas Ranger Bill Gunn



Billy Joe Gunn was born July 27, 1930, in Little River Academy to Lester and Ivy Lambert Gunn. He graduated from Academy High School in 1947. He joined the Texas National Guard in 1947, and served in the 36th Infantry Division. Later he served in the U.S. Air Force Reserve, and eventually was promoted to Major.

He joined the Texas Department of Public Safety and was a highway patrol officer from 1951 to 1965 stationed in Lampasas and Georgetown. He was a Texas Ranger, with Company F, from 1966 to 1986 and was stationed in Waco and Waxahachie.

He then became a Special U.S. Deputy Marshal for the Western District and served in Waco. He was awarded a certificate of appreciation as Outstanding Peace Officer in McLennan County in 1974 by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He had been a member of the Lampasas Volunteer Fire Department.

He was a supporter of the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum and the Texas Ranger Association Foundation in Waco. Ranger Gunn passed away on June 13, 2017.

Gift Shop Feature: Koozies

The Texas Ranger Museum Store features new custom foam bottle koozies inspired by dress "Texas Ranger" and the Museum logo. Available at \$5.50 each.



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

Website Links

Education Center

[Website](#)
[Gift Shop](#)
[Knox Center](#)
[Education Center](#)
[Education Programs](#)
[Research Center](#)
[Distinguished Service](#)
[Museum Video](#)
[Texas Ranger Bicentennial](#)
[Bicentennial Video](#)
[Texas Ranger Association Foundation](#)
[Facebook](#)

The following groups utilized the Texas Ranger Education Center in June:

Department of Public Safety Crime Lab
Texas Ranger Association Foundation
Texas Workforce Commission
Waco Center for Youth
NAACP
AFP

Newsletter compiled by Christine Rothenbush, Marketing & 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 08/31/2017.