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March 2022

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

Captain “Lone Wolf” Gonzauillas Collection Donation



The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame has received the donation of a collection of artifacts belonging to legendary Texas Ranger Captain Manuel Trazazas Gonzauillas (1891 - 1977), nicknamed “Lone Wolf.” He was born in Spain and became a naturalized United States citizen. He served in the Mexican Army and as a United States Treasury Department Special Agent.

In 1920, he enlisted in the Texas Rangers and was assigned to combat gambling, bootlegging, and prostitution in the lawless oil fields of East Texas.

In 1935, the Texas Legislature created the Texas Department of Public Safety consisting of the Texas Highway Patrol, Texas Rangers, and Bureau of Intelligence. Gonzauillas was chosen to head the Bureau of Intelligence and created one of the leading crime laboratories in the US.

In 1940, he returned to the Rangers becoming the first Hispanic Captain in the modern Ranger force. One of his most notable assignments was to Texarkana in 1946, to

investigate the Texarkana Phantom Killer serial murders. After retirement in 1951, he lived in Hollywood for a time advising radio, television, and films including *Tales of the Texas Rangers*. Captain Gonzauillas was one of the last Roaring Twenties and Depression-era Rangers and lived to see the founding of the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum. After his passing he was inducted into the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame.



Customized Colt Model 1911 Automatic Pistols Worn by Gonzauillas in the 1930s East Texas Oil Fields. Gift of Stan L. White and Sara White Morrison in Memory of Carroll A. Green and Harroll H. (Pet) Green.

Mr. L. Stanley White II, of Coldspring, Texas, inherited this collection of artifacts once owned by Captain Gonzauillas. Mr. White's family, particularly Carroll A. Green and Harroll H. Green, were close friends of the Captain.

The collection consists of:

- Engraved Colt Single Action 45, manufactured in 1912
- Matched pair of heavily engraved, gold decorated, specially modified Colt 45 Automatics, manufactured in 1931
- Matched pair of engraved Smith & Wesson .44 Special Pistols, manufactured in 1929 & 1938
- Peerless Handcuffs
- Inscribed Photo of MT Gonzauillas
- 1951 *Newsweek* page about Capt. Gonzauillas
- Pair of S.D. Myers Holsters
- Pair of Holsters and gun belt with magazine pouch
- 1951 *Houston Chronicle* page

Recognizing the historical importance of this collection, Mr. White and Ms. Morrison chose to donate it to the TRHFM and People of Texas. The Waco City Council, Trustee to the State of Texas for the historical center, formally recognized their generosity.

Spring Break Round Up Returns!

TEXAS RANGER SPRING BREAK

Join us at the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum on Saturday, March 12 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for the annual Spring Break Round Up! Bring your family and learn all about the Texas Rangers. Events include Ranger re-enactors from the 1870s and much more!

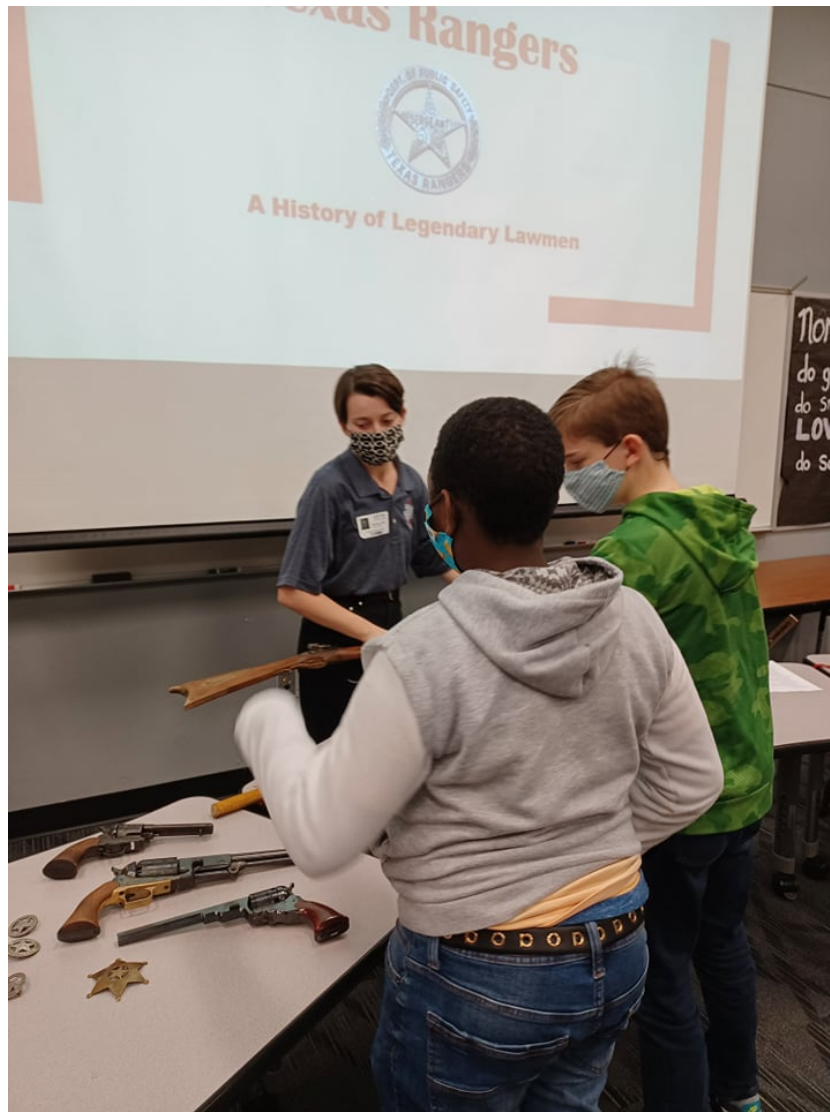
For more details, visit: texasranger.org or find them on Facebook.

School Virtual Learning and Extension Programs

The COVID pandemic has had an unprecedented impact on school field trip activities and programs for children. Before the start of the pandemic, the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum received thousands of children statewide making a journey of discovery through Texas history. Waco is a gateway to early Texas history, and buses of students traveled from as far away as the Panhandle and East Texas. Most followed a circuit from the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame in Waco, to the Bullock Museum of Texas History in Austin, to the Alamo in San Antonio. One group from Fort Worth, *Education in Action*, brought more than 6,000 students from Fort Worth each year.



Soon after the severity of COVID became obvious, the Education Division of the museum, led by Audrey Ladd, ramped up online learning and extension programs. Virtual Programs and Webinars reached children in the classroom and at home [School Virtual Programs - Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum](#). Lesson Plans meeting State TEKS requirements, videos produced with WCCTV and the Texas Rangers, and activities and Story Times have been regularly produced and added to hundreds of free online resources. Not only have these been used in Texas, but educators in other countries have also taken advantage of them. A Teacher Development Program was offered in partnership with the Dr Pepper Museum [Professional Development Videos - Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum](#)



As the impact of Covid has lessened, some schools have invited our staff in to talk with classes on site. Recently Audrey Ladd (pictured above) and Christine Rothenbush spent the day at Hopewell Middle School in Round Rock presenting to 350 7th graders. We are hoping that the worst is behind us, and that once again we will see school buses at the doors.

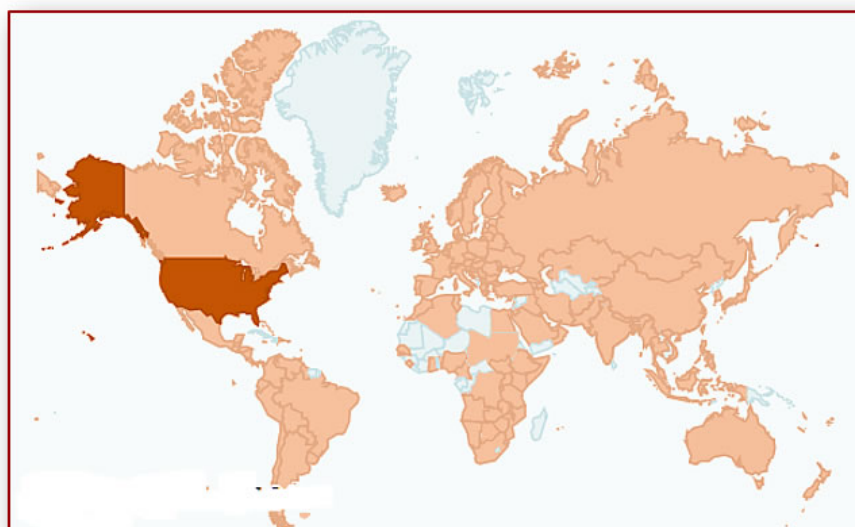
Museum Website Marks 25th Anniversary



In 1991 a curious and little noticed development of a Defense Department project was made available called the World Wide Web. It was unimpressive, character-based and could only be used to download files. The first browser capable of displaying simple graphics, Mosaic, was not released until 1993, followed by the first web-browsing phone made by Nokia in 1996.

In 1997, less than six years after the birth of the Web, the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame premiered the first City of Waco graphic website, and the first law enforcement history site. At that time, web sites required programming lines of code, cost many thousands of dollars to develop, and required dedicated personnel to maintain. For example, the City of Waco had been quoted more than \$80,000 (\$140,000 today) to develop a simple municipal website with a handful of pages..

Not to be discouraged, the staff turned the project into an Apple-style “garage” project. Coding was done in-house and the Director maintained it as a Saturday morning hobby. The site presented historical information, biographies, help for genealogists researching Texas Rangers and museum store merchandise. Crude by today’s standards, the site attracted hundreds of thousands of visitors a year.



Monthly chart of countries reached by website.

Flash forward twenty-five years. The site has welcomed millions of visitors from every country and continent--- even McMurdo Station in Antarctica and the International Space

Station. Web pages are available in English, Spanish, French and German. The handful of pages has grown to hundreds on Ranger history and educational programs and videos are available to students and teachers worldwide. Visitors can browse the museum artifact and artwork collections from anywhere, even on a cell phone. A partnership with the staff of Waco City Cable Television has produced scores of online programs broadcast by more than 50 cable stations in Texas and used in classrooms. The site contains a roster of all serving Texas Rangers and the living retirees and has been used by police departments to verify claims of Ranger service. The staff even received a call from the City of London Police about someone making the rounds of British pubs claiming to be a Ranger and soliciting free drinks!

Today Texasranger.org has extended the reach of the historical center in Waco worldwide. It remains an in-house project and point of pride covering the 200-year history of America's oldest serving statewide law enforcement agency.

Exhibit Gallery Remediation

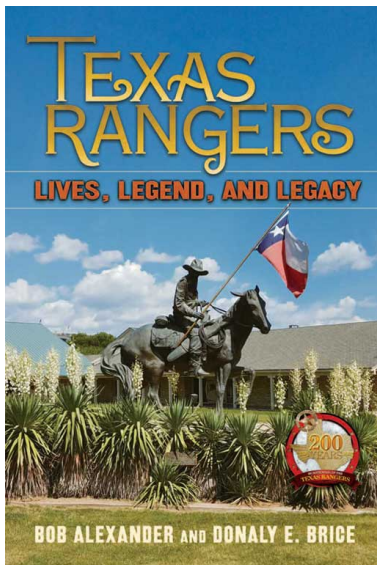
Work commenced December 6th to treat an infestation of mold along the inside roofline of the 53-year-old Colonel Homer Garrison gallery. It was caught early, and a state-of-the-art removal and treatment regimen with lab testing ensured it was completely removed. In addition, the wood ceiling beams were replaced to avoid reintroduction, and industrial ceiling fans were installed to aid air circulation. The City of Waco Facilities Department went to great lengths to expedite the work before the collections were at risk. Their staff assisted in moving exhibit cases and installations, removing and replacing electrical fixtures and adjusting ventilation. The Collections division safeguarded the artifacts throughout ensuring their security and condition.



During the two-month remediation, exhibits were moved into adjacent galleries for visitors to enjoy or placed in the Collections Department offices for cleaning and inventory. These mannequins were "working hard" in the offices while off exhibit. We especially appreciate the work of Jan Devereaux who volunteered to help move and process the exhibits.



Second Printing Sold Out



The second printing of *Texas Rangers: Lives, Legend, and Legacy* by Bob Alexander and Donaly E. Brice has officially sold out! Get your copy from our Gift Shop while supplies last.

The book is a one-volume history of the Texas Rangers. The authors begin with the earliest Rangers in the pre-Republic years in 1823 and take the story up through the Republic, Mexican War, and Civil War. Then, with the advent of the Frontier Battalion, the authors focus in detail on each company A through F, relating what was happening within each company concurrently. Alexander and Brice tell the famous episodes of the Rangers that forged their legend, and bring the story up through the twentieth century to the present day in the final chapters.

In Memoriam: Gene Powell



George Eugene "Gene" Powell, retired Assistant Chief of the Texas Rangers passed away on Wednesday, February 9, 2022. Gene was born in Stanton, Texas on May 15, 1938. He joined DPS in 1962, where he served in the Highway Patrol Division. He was promoted into the Texas Ranger Division in 1973 and served in Kingsville, Pleasanton and Midland. After serving 12 years as Captain of Co. "E," Gene was promoted to Assistant Chief of the Rangers and transferred to DPS headquarters in Austin, until he retired in 2001.

[Powell's Obituary](#)

Gift Shop Feature

Insulated Bags with Badge Detail

Blue and Woods Camo available.

\$75.00 + Tax



To shop more items available for purchase, please visit our [Gift Shop online](#) or in person 9am to 4:30pm daily. You never have to pay admission to shop. Sales from the Gift Shop benefit the preservation and education activities of the Museum. Please call (877) 750-8631 or email thestore@texastranger.org to order. We ship worldwide. Thank you!

Texas Ranger Bicentennial™ Partners Program

Be part of the Texas Ranger Bicentennial! The Texas Rangers will commemorate their landmark 200th anniversary in 2023. With a \$100 contribution, you will receive:

1. A limited-edition enameled bronze pin featuring the official Texas Ranger Bicentennial™ seal
2. A certificate signed by an active or distinguished retired Texas Ranger
3. Your name or family name on the online roster of Bicentennial Partners™
4. A one-time-use family admission ticket (admits 4) to the Museum.



\$90 of the contribution qualifies as a charitable contribution. The Texas Ranger

Official Texas Rangers Bicentennial Pin

Hall of Fame is a 170(c) government-owned nonprofit.

Trademarked by the Texas Dept. of Public Safety
Designed by the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and
Museum

Please [click here](#) to learn more about the program.



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**ENJOY
\$2.00 OFF**

Expires 6/1/2022

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.