Joe Haralson joined DPS in 1971 --

Veteran Ranger hits new milestones

By Bill Hartman
Star Journal Editor

“My longevity speaks for my esteem for the Texas Department of Safety and for the Rangers.”

That sentence sums it up for Joe Haralson, the longest serving Texas Ranger in history, who this year sees his service time with the Rangers and DPS pass through 35 and 45 years, respectively.

In mid-May, Ranger Haralson and other lawmen were honored by the Greater Houston 100 Club at its annual Banquet. Joe’s plaque was different from the others. His read, “For Longevity and Service to Law Enforcement.”

As a young man just out of the U.S. Army infantry service, 1971 was a turning point for the native of Woodville, who grew up and graduated high school in the East Texas community of Spurger.

It’s the year he married high school sweetheart Alice Dale, and he also entered training school with the DPS. His highway patrol duties from 1972 until 1979 were in Brenham and Silsbee. From 1979 through 1981 he was promoted and served in the motor vehicle theft division.

In June of 1981, he was promoted to the Rangers and stationed in Texas City where he still serves. “I’ve lived on the same corner in Texas City, have my name in the phone book and raised four sons there.

“It’s a good town and a close-knit community. All Rangers have opportunities for transfer or advancement if they want to apply, but I never wanted to take advantage of them. I have always been satisfied with what I’m doing,” Joe added.

The four Haralson sons are Jack, who lives in Texas City;

Rachal Foundation grants total $250,000

TRAF has received its third grant award in three years from the Ed Rachal Foundation. Previous awards were $75,000 each, making the total given a whopping $250,000 for the Texas Ranger Association Foundation scholarship fund.

The Rachal Foundation is located in Corpus Christi and was established in 1965 to fund charitable, scientific, literary, or educational purposes within the state of Texas.

Ed Rachal and his wife Louise loved children, though they had none of their own. They cared for their nephew and niece after the children’s mother died. They often invited young people to borrow books and ride their horses and hosted square dances and other entertainment for them.

The Rachals also believed deeply in education, and this combination commitment to education and youth, and to the land and its resources, is the cornerstone of the Ed Rachal...
All Texas Rangers at one time in their careers have had assignments of historical proportions to the state in addition to resolving their many other challenging cases.

Retired Ranger Captain Barry Caver had not one, not two but three significant duties that drew not only statewide but national attention.

In 1993, Caver was a member of the Ranger team working at the Branch Davidian siege near Waco. Along with massive involvement of federal officers, this mission ultimately had a destructive ending.

In 1996, as a young Ranger captain, he was involved in the standoff with Richard McLaren and the Republic of Texas near Fort Davis.

The third was in 2008 when he was incident commander of the seizure of more than 400 children and 200 adults while carrying out a search warrant at the Fundamentalist Church of Latter Day Saints compound near Eldorado.

Barry is a native of Dallas and got his start in law enforcement with the Angelina County Sheriff’s office and the Diboll police department from December 1976 through December 1978.

He studied criminal justice at Angelina College, Stephen F. Austin State University and later at the University of Virginia while attending the FBI Academy in Quantico, Va.

Caver joined the Texas Department of Public Safety in January, 1979. “As a young police officer and highway patrolman, Ranger Charlie Neel, Co. A in Lufkin (deceased) was a huge influence on me,” Barry said.

“Charlie had a deep voice and huge hands, and he was what I envisioned a Ranger should look like. He influenced my decision greatly to make the Texas Rangers my life’s ambition,” he added.

Barry was promoted to the Rangers in November 1989, and his first station was as a Ranger sergeant in Huntsville (Co. A). He was promoted to lieutenant in Lubbock (Co. C) in 1993 and was named Ranger captain of Co. E in 1996 where he served until his retirement in June 2008.

Among his many other duties, Barry’s Ranger specialities included hostage negotiation, DPS mediation team, firearms instructor, homicide training, kinesic interview, computer training instructor to new Rangers and as a speaker at negotiation seminars in both the U.S. and Canada.

Barry has received commendation from the ATF for his work at the Branch Davidian compound, a legislative proclamation for his work with the standoff near Fort Davis and verbal recognition from then Gov. George W. Bush.

“The Rangers are a special calling, and I have always put my faith in God for guidance and knowledge,” Barry said. “A couple of times I attempted to promote to higher ranks at Austin headquarters. I was distraught when I failed, but left those decisions in God’s hands, and he later showed what he had in store for me.

“My wife Tammy has always been my strength and has given me support through many tense situations. That old saying is really true, ‘Behind every good man, there’s a good woman.’”

Caver retired on a Friday, and the following Monday began a new career as an oilfield service company security consultant. Since that time, he is now director of security for a family in the Fort Worth area, overseeing their well-being and properties.

The Cavers live in Corinth and he and his wife have a daughter, Tiffani, an RN in Lufkin; and sons, Chad and Chris, who live in the DFW area and are firefighters with the City of Carrollton. The Cavers have four grandchildren, two boys and two girls, ages four months to five years.

Barry is active with the Texas Ranger Association Foundation and along with Capt. Jack Dean and Capt. Richard Sweeney serves as board liaisons with retired Rangers. Barry is also chairman of the TRAF Reunion Weekend for retired Rangers held each June in Waco.
Edinburg, Co. D --

Second round of clay shoots starts Aug. 27

The second round of Texas Ranger Classic Clay shoots kicks off Aug. 27 with Co. D’s shoot scheduled in Edinburg.

The shoot is sponsored by the Texas Rangers Association Foundation and the Texas Rangers Division of the Texas Department of Public Safety.

Proceeds from the shoot benefit the TRAF scholarship fund, which is approaching the $2 million mark on college grants awarded children of active Rangers.

TRAF Rick Hernandez is co-chairman of the event along with Ranger Major Brian Burzynski of Co. D. Other TRAF directors on the committee include Steve LaMantia, Trey Martinez and Jay Wise.

Rangers participating are Lts. Rick Rivera, Corey Lain and Michael Parker along with Ret. Chief Hank Whitman.

H.E.B. Grocery Co. is again the title sponsor of the shoot. Co. D has a web site, www.texasrangerclassic.com/cod, with additional information. Register by Aug. 5 to receive custom engraved stainless tumblers for each team member.

Additional information is available through Liz Myrick at the TRAF office, liz.myrick@thetexasrangers.org or 254-752-1001.

Beverages and banner printing are being sponsored, along with auction items such as a quail hunt for six, a cull buck hunt and a reception the night before the shoot is being sponsored by J.L. Cisneros.

The shoot will be held at Mi Ranchito.

Co. F accepts shoot challenge from Co. A

Co. F, which is headquartered in Waco, has accepted the challenge from Co. A’s financial success of its first annual shoot.

As a result, Co. F TRAF directors and Rangers have set a lofty net profit goal of more than a $100,000 for its second annual shoot, which is scheduled Sept. 16 at the National Shooting Complex in San Antonio, the same facility as in 2015 when the first shoot of any company was held.

To add a little drama to the competition, it’s Major Collins versus Major Collins.

Chance Collins is the major of Co. F, which set the standard in 2015 by grossing more than $97,000 with the first Texas Ranger Classic Sporting Clay Tournament and plowing new ground for TRAF to raise funds to support its four-pronged program.

Major Jeff Collins’ Co. A directors and Rangers later hiked that mark by netting more than $100,000 in the Houston-based shoot.

The San Antonio shoot will be 4-person teams, shooting a 100-bird course at 10 stations.

Members of the Co. F planning committee include directors Thomas Schleier, Antonio Elias Calles, Dave Conlon, Jimmy Hasslocher, Joey McCartney and Dr. Marvin Smith.


For more information on entering a team, sponsoring portions of the shoot and donating auction items, contact Co. F at www.texasrangerclassic.com/cof or by calling TRAF executive director Liz Myrick at 254-752-1001.

Caver cont. from page 2

Additionally, Barry is a member of the board of the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum and serves on the TRAF-THFM joint committee for the Texas Ranger Bicentennial capital campaign.

Barry said, “I wish people could look inside a Ranger’s heart, seeing what he believes in and why and what is necessary to achieve his goals. He’s a human being who’s compassionate but does things to help others that many would run from. He’s a protector.”

He thinks the Rangers will continue to be a driving force in law enforcement. “We’ll continue to respond to our state’s leaders and take on tasks that no one else can do. We handle the tough jobs, and that’s why they are given to us.”

Asked about traits that are essential to Rangers, Caver said, “Rangers must be self-motivated, of high moral and ethical character and show a reputation of integrity and perseverance above all other men.”

He also sees TRAF continuing to support and promote the legacy of the Rangers so others might learn the history. “TRAF’s involvement in supporting retired Rangers and providing scholarships to children of Rangers is indeed unique and greatly appreciated;” he added. “I encourage anyone interested in the Texas Rangers to join TRAF.”

And like so many of his fellow retired Rangers, Barry’s favorite book is the Holy Bible and his favorite movie is “Lonesome Dove.”

For a lot of young Rangers, shaking Barry’s big hand and looking up to him probably creates the same vision and role that Charlie Neel once played for a young lawman in East Texas.
The annual Ranger Reunion Weekend has come and gone but not without a little drama.

The rains that poured on Texas and especially East Texas hampered some folks making the trip to Waco and caused the golf tournament to be canceled. But, the Reunion came off great and those attending seemed to have a wonderful time.

There were many highlights, including presentation and recognition of all the retired Rangers, an inspiring talk by Chief Randy Prince on the accomplishments of the Ranger division in 2015 and 2016, introduction of three World War II veterans at Saturday’s luncheon, a vigorous and competitive ladies gift exchange and the introduction of 10 war-wounded Iraq and Afghanistan veterans lead by Medal of Honor recipient, Rusty Hicks.

The climax of the weekend was the Saturday night talk presented by retired U.S. Air force Col. Mo Baker and his 2,031 days spent in the Hanoi Hilton and other prison camps while serving as a prisoner of war during the Vietnam War.

Col. Baker’s presentation included a 70-picture slideshow which was moving and emotional. He kept the description of what he and the other POWs much less graphic than what they actually lived through.

They were finally released on March 14, 1973.

However, it was apparent the inhumane treatment they suffered at the hands (and feet) of the North Vietnamese was beyond a normal person’s imagination.

Their resolve in the face of this awful treatment is incredible. I suspect they would’ve considered waterboarding a milder form of torture compared to their normal routine.

TRAF has completed its first year of clay shoots and they were an overwhelming success. As the number of Rangers increase, TRAF’s financial responsibilities to their dependents and retirees increase.

These shoots go a long way helping us pay our bills. They also expose the public to what the Rangers do for us and gives them a chance to meet and visit our Rangers.

As a lady asked me before the San Angelo shoot, “Are you saying, that if I attend I might get to meet a real Texas Ranger?” Yes, because of the support of Chief Prince and all the company majors, she and many others got to meet real Texas Rangers.

The schedule of the company shoots is listed in another part of the Star Journal.

I also need to thank Ranger Jake Burson who put in a lot of time organizing our “rain delayed” golf tournament. Jake could control everything about the tournament but the weather. We’ve learned long ago he’s a “keeper.”

I’d certainly be remiss if I didn’t mention the wonderful efforts of all our reunion committee chairmen. Barry Caver, Richard Sweaney, Tom Schleier, Dave Wilson and Benny Vanecek all need a “thank you” for making the reunion go off like clockwork.

This is also another request/plea to you to make voluntary donations to TRAF. This is the only organization I’m aware of that doesn’t require annual dues to remain a member in good standing. That’s how the founders wrote the by-laws.

Since the last publication of the Star Journal, the Texas Ranger Association Foundation has added a new $10,000 distinguished benefactor and five $1,000 benefactors to the rolls.

Ludig Construction Co. has joined as a distinguished benefactor and Raymond Mileur, David O’Bannon, Sherrye Mims Hatch, Pierce Holt and Ron Massengil are new benefactor members.

For information on becoming a TRAF benefactor, contact Liz Myrick at 254-752-1001.
Crime Stoppers honor –

Ranger Wakeman is named Klevenhagen award winner

Texas Ranger Co. A Lt. Wende Wakeman has been honored by receiving the Johnny Klevenhagen Crime Stoppers Award presented at the Crime Stoppers of Houston Heroes annual luncheon.

“Lt. Wakeman’s work is on a high level of impressiveness, and Crime Stoppers is proud to honor and know her,” said Crime Stoppers executive director Rania Mankarious. This year the organization honored women in public safety who made significant contributions to safety and crime prevention.

Klevenhagen, the award’s namesake, served as Harris county sheriff from 1985 until 1995. Since its founding in 1980, Crime Stoppers has assisted law enforcement in solving more than 33,000 felony cases and arresting more than 25,000 felony fugitives.

“It’s humbling to receive the Klevenhagen award,” Wakeman said. “Crime Stoppers does great things for those of us in law enforcement as well as for the state of Texas. It’s truly an honor to be recognized by such a great organization.

Wakeman graduated from the Texas DPS Academy in 1999 and was assigned to the Texas Highway Patrol in Sulphur Springs and New Caney. In 2003 she was made sergeant and assigned to the narcotics section in McAllen on the Texas border.

She was transferred to Houston where she continued to work in narcotics until Dec. 2007 when she was promoted to the Texas Rangers. In 2014 she became the first female promoted to the Ranger rank of lieutenant.

She is one of three lieutenants in Co. A and is stationed in Huntsville.

2 Rangers are forensic grads

Two Texas Rangers, Jason Bobo of Co. F and Patrick O’Connor of Co. D, joined an elite few in the state when they graduated in mid-May from the National Forensic Academy in Knoxville, Tenn., after an intensive 10-week in-residence training at the University of Tennessee.

There are fewer than 70 people throughout Texas with this certificate. Students receive instruction and hands-on training from the leading practitioners in the field of crime scene investigation.

The academy is a cooperative effort by the Bureau of Justice Assistance and the University of Tennessee.
2015-16 scholarships totaled $170,000-plus

Each edition of the Star Journal, we enjoy featuring students of active Texas Rangers who have applied and qualified for scholarships sponsored by the Texas Ranger Association Foundation.

During the 2015-16 school terms, including part-time students, the foundation awarded more than $170,000.

For full scholarships of $2,000 per semester, students are required to carry an academic load of 12 hours and maintain an agreed-upon grade point average. The school year just completed had 48 students on scholarship.

TRAF is anticipating another strong class of applicants and is now working with the enrollees. A part-time student is provided with a prorated amount according to hours enrolled.

In addition to the TRAF scholarship, several universities and individuals have matching grants for students who meet their additional requirements.

In this edition four students are highlighted, including:

- Michaela Dannette Stoner, who has completed her freshman year at Weatherford College, where she plans to major in criminal justice. She is the daughter of Ranger Michael Stoner, Co. B., stationed in Cleburne.
- Shania Callaway completed her sophomore year at South Texas College, where she plans to major in exercise science. She is the daughter of Ranger Robert Callaway, Co. D, stationed in McAllen.
- Paige Vajdos completed her freshman year at Texas A&M University. She plans to major in kinesiology. She is the daughter of Ranger Jeffrey Vajdos, Co. E, stationed in Alpine.
- Christian Gage Martin completed his freshman year at the University of Arkansas and is majoring in political science and is on the chancellor’s academic list. He is the son of Ranger Todd Martin, Co. B, stationed in Longview.

Lad, 5, ‘badged’ by Chief Prince

Many special guests visit the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum each year, but most aren’t as lucky as young James Mann, age 5, to have an unexpected greeting by Texas Ranger Chief Randy Prince.

James and his family, who live in Cedar Park near Austin, visited the museum for the first time when James’ uncle was visiting from England.

According to James’ father they wanted to do something as a family that both James and his uncle would especially enjoy.

“I was pleasantly surprised that there was so much to

Lad continued page 7

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TRAF director spotlight --

Hasslocher is a 34-year TRAF vet

“I was first introduced to the Texas Rangers as a youngster,” San Antonio businessman Jimmy Hasslocher recalls.

“One day I was invited by Bob Warner to come by the office, and that was my first glimpse at Rangers. I was also introduced to Capt. John Wood and Ranger Joaquin Jackson. I have always found the history and mystique of the Rangers highly interesting.”

Hasslocher said he was first introduced to the Texas Ranger Association Foundation in 1982 by Capt. Jack Dean at a meeting in San Antonio.

“My favorite part of the foundation is the long-term fellowship and friendships and the work being done to continually support active and retired rangers.”

Hasslocher served as TRAF chairman in 1994. He is president and chief executive officer of Frontier Enterprises in San Antonio, and is a graduate of Northwood University where he studied management.

He’s a member of the Texas Restaurant Association, Alamo Area Council of Governments, Bexar Metro 9-1-1 Network District, the University Health System and Foundation, Texas Parks and Wildlife/Operation Game Thief and Alamo Area Claystoppers/Operation Game Thief.

Jimmy presently serves on TRAF’s strategic planning committee. “It’s a great feeling to be part of an organization with such deep history, not only in our state, but highly respected around the world,” he said.

For anyone considering becoming a benefactor/supporter of TRAF, Jimmy said, “I would tell them it’s a rewarding experience. The friendships and relationships have been phenomenal over the years. I thank Capt. Dean for letting me serve at his pleasure and others who worked for him.

“By the way, many of the Rangers I met later on went on to hold high levels in the division, including Lt. Ray Cano, Chief Bruce Castell, Chief Hank Whitman, Asst. Chief Gary de Los Santos, Chief Tony Leal, Capt. Bob Mitchell and countless others.”

Jimmy is an avid outdoorsman, enjoying hunting, fishing and golf. He said he enjoys any book or story about the Texas Rangers, and his favorite movie is “The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance.”

Two the favorite traits Jimmy looks for in an individual “are honesty and integrity.”

And some of the favorite things he’s watched in his long years with TRAF are the diversities and enormous efforts by so many to see that the foundation properly grows, “and continued attention and funds are generated to support our wonderful scholarship program.”

Lad cont. from page 6

keep kids entertained. James really enjoyed doing the scavenger hunt and finding all the bad guys!” said Barry Mann, James’ father.

During the visit, Chief Prince presented James with a Texas Ranger badge, and James presented the Chief with a great big hug in return.

The interaction was meaningful for them both. “It was an honor to meet James. He is a remarkable young man who carries many of the same traits as a Texas Ranger, namely great courage and respect, the chief said. “The high honor of being a junior Ranger will continue with James into perpetuity,” Chief Prince said.

In an email to TRAF director Constance White, who introduced James and his family to the chief, James’ father wrote, “I wanted to thank you for making our visit to the museum even more memorable.

“James had a great time and meeting the head Ranger was very cool for him.”

James and his family spent more than three hours at the TRHFM, a visit they will long remember!
Chief announces nine promotions

Texas Ranger Chief Randy Prince has announced nine promotions within the Ranger division.
They are:
- Christopher Kindell, Co. D, Kingsville, May 2016.
- Dean Fant, Co. C, Brownfield, June 2016.
- Jacob Weaver, Co. C, Wichita Falls, June 2016.
- John Miller, staff sergeant, SWAT team, June 2016.
- Eric Sadler, staff sergeant, SWAT team, June 2016.

Chairman cont. from page 4

However, they didn’t say Texans who support the Texas Rangers can’t chip in a little extra from time to time. Texas and Texans are known for doing more than expected.

This started with Come and Take It and the Alamo and even though there are a lot of non-native Texans now, this tradition (or maybe attitude) continues today.

Our first request generated more than $10,000 in voluntary donations which will pay for two and one-half scholarships for deserving Ranger dependents or aiding a Ranger in time of need. We’ve already exceeded our 2016 budget for Ranger assistance expense and there’s a good chance more will be needed before the end of the year.

If that happens, TRAF will find the money and none will go without help. So, if you have a few uncommitted dollars, TRAF and the Rangers would certainly appreciate you sending it our way. TRAF has no paid board members, only one full time person on staff, Liz Myrick, our executive director, who organizes the events, runs our office and all events, handles all grant requests, keeps the board headed in the right direction, takes out the trash and whatever else needs to be done. She is one reason that over 93 percent of our revenue goes toward our mission and not to administrative costs.

There’re a lot more people who deserve accolades but I want to mention two.

Without the support of Chief Prince our job would be much more difficult, if not impossible. He has inspired the majors and Rangers and it goes without saying, when Randy asks you to do something you’re on it before the phone call ends.

He just has a way of presenting things that you don’t want to disappoint him. Thanks Chief, we appreciate you.

Bill Hartman works diligently producing this newsletter. He never seeks credit for what he does. He just does it. He and I have been friends for over 43 years.

On more numerous times than I can count, I’ve seen him unceremoniously help folks in need or do a job such as serve as editor of this publication without seeking any notice.

I can only imagine how many times that I’m not aware of when he’s given to someone in need or to a cause that I don’t know about. When you see him, throw in a little “atta-boy, job-well-done, Bill.”

Until next time, I’m outta here. God Bless Texas and The Texas Rangers.
Executive Director’s Report –

Reunion a flurry of goings on

By Liz Myrick, TRAF Executive Director

Another Reunion has come and gone with a flurry of activities. Despite the rain and many cancellations, attendance was excellent and we had a full house at all events.

It was a moving weekend of heroes and warriors as we gathered to celebrate friendship, family, and the careers and lives of the Texas Rangers.

At the annual TRAF Board meeting we elected two new directors to the board. Hayden Elder of Athens, will represent Co. B and Joey McCarty of Pleasanton will represent Co. F. No doubt they will be great assets to the foundation.

Ret. Lt. Kenny Ray facilitated the memorial service and offered prayers and poignant words as we paid our respects to those we have lost this year. Many thanks to Kenny for all he does do to make this so special for the families of loved ones who have passed. It is such a ministry to us all.

Chief Randy Prince’s impassioned update about today’s Texas Rangers was nothing short of awe-inspiring. Their roles continue to expand and the demand for their expertise and training are sought across the country as well as internationally as far as Australia and Russia.

It’s truly humbling and profound, and almost incomprehensible to imagine the collective knowledge and experience of the Texas Rangers, both active and retired. How fortunate are we to live in this great state with guardians such as these.

We were also reminded how fortunate are we to live in such a great country, made so by the service and sacrifices of many. Three veterans from World War II were our honored guests at the Saturday lunch.

The Greatest Generation could not have been better represented. The Saturday dinner was a distinguished culmination of the weekend with our guests from the Outdoor Combat Marines and the compelling presentation by retired Air Force Colonel Mo Baker.

The mutual gratitude and respect among our military guests and the Texas Rangers was palpable. Each serves a divine purpose.

I am receiving scholarship applications daily and with the reunion wrapping up, the processing of these is well underway. The timeline for sending checks is projected for the first week in August.

We have three company clay shoots coming up in the late summer/early fall in San Antonio, McAllen and San Angelo. You’ll receive communications about these soon. We hope you’ll join us for any or all of these. They are so much fun and the funds raised help us to fulfill our mission for the Texas Rangers.

The summer is flying by. I hope you have a safe and blessed one!

2 new directors join TRAF board

Two new directors were selected to the Texas Ranger Association board of directors at the annual meeting during Reunion Weekend in Waco.

J. Hayden Elder of Athens was recommended by Major Tony Bennie and was elected to represent Co. B and Joseph F. (Joey) McCarty of Garden Ridge was recommend by Major Chance Collins and was elected to represent Co. F.

Elder has been an automobile dealer in Athens the past 32 years. He is chairman of the Athens United Way, chairman of the First Christian
Scenes from the Company reunion


MEMBERS OF CO. A were (l-r) Tommy Walker, Milton Wright and Ronny McBride.

MEMBERS OF CO. E attending the reunion Weekend in Waco were (bottom row, l-r) Retired Rangers Capt. Barry Caver, Lt. Bob Favor and Capt. Jerry Byrne. Top row (l-r) are John Billings, Jess Malone and Lt. Kenny Ray.

REPRESENTING CO. D at the Reunion Weekend were (bottom row, l-r) Joe Hutson, Bobby Poynter and Capt. Jack Dean. On the top row (l-r) are John Martin, Robert Hunter and Marrie Aldredge.
MEMBERS OF CO. F attending the 2016 reunion were (bottom row, l-r) Lt. George Turner, Bill Gunn, Matt Cawthon, Tommy Ratliff, Bob Connell and Capt. Bob Prince. Back row Rangers, l-r) are Rocky Wardlow, Mark Leger, Johnny Aycock, Kyle Dean, Thelbert Milsap and Clayton Smith.

RETIRED RANGERS FROM Headquarters Co. were (bottom row, l-r), Chief Maurice Cook, Col. Tommy Davis, Asst. Chief Jim Miller and Asst. Chief Gary De Los Santos. Top row (l-r) are Inspector G.W. Hildebrand, Asst. Chief Bryant Wells and Capt. L.C. Wilson.


Foundation cont. from page 1

Foundation’s mission.

Texas Ranger Shane Staley of Jourdanton has been a key player in forging this friendship as he has educated members of their board about TRAF and its support of the Rangers through the scholarship program.

Major Chance Collins and the Rangers also hosted the Ed Rachal board at a Ranger dinner in Waco in October.

Joey McCarty, new TRAF Board member for Co. F, also serves on the Ed Rachal Foundation board.

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Ranger Hall and Museum Report --

Museum definition really unique

By Byron Johnson,
Director Texas Ranger Museum

A TRAF member asked, “What’s the definition of a museum?”

The answer may seem obvious, but over the years the term has been appropriated by for-profit groups like sales galleries and commercial tourist attractions.

Some visitors to the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum have asked if we would sell or trade for items on display. Sorry. They are public property held in trust for future generations by a 50-year partnership between Texas DPS, the State of Texas ad the City of Waco.

The lack of understanding of what makes a museum has led to an explosion in the numbers of museums, Heritage Centers and History Centers.

Today Texas has about 900 history museums, but many of them squeak by financially because of poor planning and duplication of mission.

It began during the 1976 American Bicentennial when it was said a museum a week opened its doors. Almost as quickly, many were shuttered due to poor planning, lack of funding and ill-trained and non-professional staff.

The well-meaning volunteers and collectors believed admissions and gift shop sales would pay for them and they could be run by volunteers.

In the wake of this, the Texas Historical Commission started a Museum Services Division. One of its first efforts was to print a booklet — on whether to start a museum or not. The American Association of Museums created a visiting consultant program for help of small museums, and I had the pleasure to serve on that for a decade.

In 2010 Congress defined what a museum is in the Museum and Library Services Act: a permanent nonprofit institution that owns or utilizes tangible artifacts or artwork.

Its mission is education, and it is managed and operated by a professional staff trained in the museum disciplines. The International Council on Museums added, “It researches, communicates and exhibits, for purposes of study, education and enjoyment.”

The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame, the nation’s first professional law enforcement museum, checks all the boxes:

- Permanent Nonprofit. The TRHFM is a permanent governmental nonprofit under IRS code 170(c) ‘(like the Smithsonian Institution). It was authorized by the Texas Department of Public Safety Commission and the Texas Legislature and has been subsidized by the City of Waco for 52 years.

- Professional staff: The education, collections, research center, administration and marketing divisions are headed by professionals with advanced degrees in the museum discipline. Our staff, together, has more than a century of experience.

- Owns or utilizes tangible assets: We safeguard hundreds of thousands of historic artifacts, documents, photographs and art work. Different from a private museum, citizens of the State of Texas own them and they are protected by state public property law.

- Educational programs and research: A range of educational services are provided on-site in Waco, worldwide over the Internet and as statewide extension programs.

Grads cont. from page 5

The program consists of 400 hours of instruction and field work, including: bloodstain pattern analysis, shooting incident reconstruction, crime scene management, forensic anthropology, criminal investigative analysis, bombs, booby traps and threats at the scene.

Also, computer sketching and mapping, courtroom testimony, DNA, firearms and tool mark identification, footwear and tire impressions, forensic fire investigation, latent fingerprint processing, photography (digital and videotaping), post-blast investigation, postmortem fingerprinting, serial number restoration, trace evidence and death investigation.

Also, forensic pathology/autopsy, bone trauma, burned bone, child fatality, manners of death, time since death, wound pattern interpretation, bone scatter search, clandestine graves, forensic entomology, forensic odontology, forensic osteology and human remains recovery.
ALPINE (Sp) — Legendary former Texas Ranger Joaquin Jackson, 80, died June 15 at his home in Alpine after a short but courageous battle with cancer.

A memorial service was to be June 25 at the Pete P. Gallego Center at Sul Ross State University in Alpine.

The family has requested that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to Sul Ross State University or the Former Texas Rangers Foundation.

Joaquin was a Ranger legend

Lee Kidd, Denver City
Ken Olson, Lubbock
Rick Hernandez, McAllen
Steven LaMania, Laredo
Trey Martinez, Brownsville
Jay Wise, Corpus Christi
Joe York, Bracketville
Vern Foreman, Midland
Benny Vanecok, El Paso
Jerry Wellborn, Robert Lee
Jimmy Hasslocher, San Antonio
J Marvin Smith III, San Antonio
Dave Conlon, Johnson City
Juan Antonio Calles, Ph. D, San Antonio
Capt. Jack Dean, Ret., San Antonio
Carl Lambert, Houston
Joey McCarty, Garden City

Church and participates in the chamber of commerce and the community’s Little Theater.

“We’re (wife Suzanne and I) are really looking forward to being part of a great organization and I particularly enjoy fund raising projects for such outstanding programs like TRAF’s scholarship program.

McCarty is a self-employed rancher and investment manager. He spent 30 years as a commercial insurance broker and has owned and managed three ranches. He presently owns one in Atascosa County.

“After meeting with Major Collins and learning about TRAF, it seemed like a good fit for me at this time," McCarty said. "I currently have no time commitments other than assisting the Ed Rachel Foundation find and support worthy Texas nonprofits.

“I told Collins I am a traditionalist and enjoy wholesome entertainment where there is a life lesson. I barely recognize our country anymore and want to work with institutions that have solid values and strive to keep Texas unique.

“I know of no better organization that meets these expectations better than the Texas Rangers.”

The Rachel Foundation has been a major supporter of TRAF, increasing its grant this year to $100,000. In three years the foundation has contributed $250,000 to the TRAF scholarship fund.

Joaquin Jackson

Joaquin was born in 1935 in Anton. He attended Texas Tech University and was a graduate of Sul Ross State University in Alpine.

When he retired in 2003, he was the senior member of the elite force.

Joaquin Jackson was a legendary lawman and one of the most famous Texas Rangers of the 20th century, said Jackson friend, actor Robert Duvall. Duvall played Ranger Capt. Augustus McCrae in the classic series Lonesome Dove.

In 2005, Jackson published his memoir, One Ranger. The book became a bestseller and for the next 10 years he had a successful career as a public speaker.

Over the years, Jackson appeared in numerous motion pictures, including The Good Ol Boys with fellow Texan Tommy Lee Jones. Jackson was also the model for Nick Nolte’s character in the motion picture Extreme Prejudice. Jeff Bridges also modeled his Texas Ranger character in the upcoming movie, Hell or High Water on Jackson.

Jackson served 27 years as a Ranger in Uvalde and Alpine.

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TRAF enjoys reunion weekend

U.S. AIR FORCE COL. Elmo (Mo) Baker, right, was the featured speaker at the annual Saturday night dinner hosted by TRAF during the Reunion Weekend. Col. Baker shows off his .45 calibre pistol presented by TRAF Treasurer Dave Wilson, left. Baker’s wife, Honey, and TRAF Chairman Jim Chionsini were part of the spellbound audience listening to his story of Mo being a POW in Vietnam for five and a half years.

SHELLY AND RETIRED Ranger Matt Cowthon visit with benefactors Marie and Fred Pearce during the Reunion Weekend.

MRS. Joyce Rigler, right, widow of the late Texas Ranger Calvin Rigler, sits with Joe and Irma Sampson during a reunion dinner. Widows attending the weekend were presented with corsages from Ret. Captain Richard Sweeney on behalf of TRAF. Ranger Rigler died in June 2009. Widows of deceased Rangers are always welcomed at the TRAF function.

TRAF BENEFACtor
Bob Stratmann, right, proudly introduced his son, Ben, to foundation members and both retired and active Rangers at the Reunion Weekend. Ben is the chief of staff to State Sen. Brian Birdwell, who attends the reunion each year. Ben is also an appointed member of the City of Austin’s Ethics Review Commission.

MICHELLE BENNIE, wife of Co. B Major Tony Bennie, gives a big hug to her longtime friend, Ret. Capt. Jack Dean during a dinner at the Retired Rangers Weekend Reunion in Waco in June. Michelle was also in charge of the ladies gift exchange on Reunion Saturday.
CHIEF RANDY PRINCE once again had a rapt audience as he brought Rangers, their retired counterparts and guests of TRAF current on all activities dealing with the operations at the Ranger Division. Prince’s presentation is one of the feature events each year at the reunion.

REGISTRATION WAS better than ever in getting name tags for retired and active Rangers passed out, plus all TRAF members, guests and friends. Not even stopping to smile while there picture was being taken were the busy Barbara Pratt, Tanis Federwisch and Tammy Snokhous. Thanks, ladies, for your efficient work. It takes a lot of dedicated people to successfully plan and put on the Reunion Weekend.

LONGTIME TEXAS Ranger friends Bill Gunn, left, and Johnny Aycock are two retired Rangers who rarely if ever miss attending the the Reunion Weekend. Almost to a person, the retired Rangers say their favorite part of the weekend is getting to sit down with old friends and catch up on events in each Ranger’s daily lives.

RETIRED ASST. Chief Gary De Los Santos and his wife Leslie participated in the Reunion weekend. The former assistant chief was part of a large contingency of Headquarters Division who turned out to reunite with their former comrades.

ASST. CHIEF Frank Malinak and his wife Lesley were among Rangers attending the Reunion Weekend in Waco, renewing old acquaintances and making new ones. Frank offices at the Austin headquarters.
Haralson cont. from page 1

Jason, who's with the DPS in League City; John, who lives in Kingwood; and Joseph, the oldest who lives in Pinehurst, N.C.

On June 1, Joe completed his 35th year with the Rangers and in October his meter turns 45 years with the DPS.

Byron Johnson, director of the Texas Hall of Fame and Museum and a touted historian of the Rangers, said, “Based on Haralson's service after former Chief Kirby Dendy's retirement, we believe Joe is the former Chief Kirby Dendy's said, "Based on Haralson's service after a touted historian of the Rangers, Texas Hall of Fame and Museum and his meter turns 45 years with the DPS."

At the time of his retirement in August 2014, Dendy was the longest continuously serving officer in Texas DPS. He joined the department in 1971. We do not have his exact month of entrance as a recruit, or his promotion to trooper.

"Haralson has continued to serve a year and nine months after Kirby's retirement. Joe joined the DPS in October of 1971 as a recruit and graduated as a commissioned trooper about March of 1972.

"Haralson is unquestionably the longest currently serving Texas Ranger. His service to Texas law enforcement is longer than that of Chief Homer Garrison, Jr. (39 years 1929-1968) or Capt. John R. Hughes (28 years 1887-1915)."

Joe is 66 years old and says, “I have no time frame on my calendar for change and I hope to continue what I’m doing.”

The opportunity came along as a young man to join the DPS, and he's never thought about doing anything else.

Texas Ranger Chief Randy Prince said, “Ranger Haralson is the ultimate measure of a Texas Ranger and defines what character-driven success should be.

“Because of his earned respect and his affinity for cultivating the best from individuals around him — from those in the criminal justice profession to members of the community in which he lives — Ranger Haralson is an example for all of us in law enforcement to emulate.

“Aside from his valuable experience and humble approach, Joe is a master at recognizing individual expertise and organizing collective strengths during criminal investigations.

“We thank him for his dedication to duty and for the positive relationships he has established with compatriots throughout the state and nation.”

Chief Prince added, “The unquestioned reputation of the Texas Rangers is built on exceptional integrity and hard work by countless individuals throughout our history and among the finest is Ranger Joe Haralson.”

Drop back a minute to that important year in Joe's life — 1971. Joe had just returned from the fighting in Vietnam. He received a letter from the government he said was a little thicker than the one he previously received when he was drafted.

This one was a citation from the U.S. Army saying he had been awarded a Bronze Star medal for his actions in combat. There was no medal enclosed or any mention of a follow-up ceremony, which suited Joe just fine.

That's the last he heard of it until the end of 2015, 45 years after the citation when Texas Army National Guard Gen. Orlando Salinas interrupted a meeting of Texas Rangers.

He asked Joe to step forward where he pinned the medal to his chest. Joe simply said, “This is for the soldiers.” He said he was not a hero. “I've been in the presence of heroes and some excellent soldiers don't get medals. I'm just one of many. There are thousands of other guys who were in the same situation as me.”

Joe doesn't know who recommended him for the medal or who was behind the surprise ceremony, although he thinks his Ranger bosses and his wife played a role.

As you can tell from his handshake, Joe lives an active life and takes and passes the twice-a-year physical tests like any other Ranger.

“The physicals are commonplace and something we just got to up and do,” he said. “Professionals decide what our physical capabilities need to be, and we just do it.

“I do what I'm required to do, but I think after this period of time, I do them a little smarter than when I was a rambunctious younger man. Instead of jumping over a fence, I may go through it now. Just depends on the situation.”

On crimes that stand out in his memory, he said, “I think homicides are certainly the most serious there are. None is more or less serious than the other to the families of victims.”

One character trait that stands out above others is he appreciates unpretentious people. “Everyone plays a role in life, and we'd make a mistake holding ourselves above anyone else,” he said. “I strive to be fair and I think the golden rule should be our guiding light.”

Texas Rangers have their assignments, but Rangers are sent all across the state. “Texas is my service area and that never changes. Rangers then and now do the bidding for our state and its citizens.”

In his time as a lawman, Joe says science has made the greatest difference in the jobs of Rangers. “Science is the biggest change in criminal justice in my 45 years,” he added.

Joe likes it that Rangers are the “go-to guys.” He said, “When people call us, we respond and try to handle the situation. We'll not let anyone trample on those who can't defend themselves.”
Dear Benefactors and Friends:

Thank you for being a supporter of the Texas Ranger Association Foundation. Your participation makes you part of a group of great men and women who recognize the distinguished history of the Texas Rangers and wish to see it perpetuated and recognized.

Since the inception of the Texas Ranger Association in 1981 the organization has relied on the initial contributions of people like you to support our mission and have done so without the requirement of annual dues.

Since 1981 we have seen our mission and initiatives flourish and grow remarkably, including:

1) Increasing the number of annual scholarships for children of active duty Rangers from seven in 1981 to 102 in 2015. This program when first instituted represented a $3,500 expenditure for the year. Today’s commitments require nearly $200,000 annually. The legislature, in its most recent session, has added 22 new Rangers to the overall force. These children of the new Rangers will add to our scholarship roster requirements.

2) Emergency relief to active and retired Rangers and their families has totaled $166,500 since its inception. In 2015 this relief represented a figure of $19,535.

3) TRAF hosts an annual weekend reunion for the retired Rangers and their families. In 1981, at the time of our first retired Ranger reunion, there were only 40 living retired Rangers and the entire cost of the reunion was $13,000. Today there are over 185 living retired Rangers who we honor every year at the annual reunion in Waco, Texas. Retired Rangers and their spouses attend this event at no cost. The expense to TRAF is an investment in preserving this valuable history and brotherhood of the Texas Rangers, now nearing an annual cost of $80,000.

As citizens of this great state we enjoy peace and prosperity while daily battles for our safety and public integrity are fought on our behalf by these brave men and women of the Ranger force. Like their forbearers, they are the best of the best, examples of unwavering valor and fortitude and are held above reproach in the eyes of the public.

Though annual contributions have not been urged in the past, if every benefactor of TRAF would contribute $150 annually, an entire semester of scholarships for the present roster of children would be accomplished on a recurring basis. This would allow us to have extra dollars to increase funding for emergency assistance to Rangers and families in need.

This is not considered dues but a voluntary gift. We hope you will agree with the Foundation’s wisdom in promoting this concept and contribute to it.

Our benefactors and friends are the visible embodiment of the public’s commitment to the Texas Rangers. It’s through your dedication to these Ranger families that our organization flourishes. We ask for your continued support and participation.

Sincerely,
Jim Chionsini
Chairman, TRAF
104 Texas Ranger Trail
Waco, Texas 76706