

A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY OF THE TEXAS RANGER

Historical Overtones on Minority Attitudes

A Thesis

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of the Requirements for the Degree of

Master of Arts

by

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Introduction

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ABSTRACT

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Purpose

The purpose of this study was to establish an understanding of the relationship between the Texas Ranger and the Mexican American and to provide a profile of today's Texas Ranger. Included is a recounting of the Texas Ranger's 150-year history, a brief history of the Mexican American of South Texas, and measurement of opinions from Mexican American and Anglo American communities. Specifically, the aim of the study was to provide for those interested an account of some of the issues concerning the Texas Ranger.

Methods

One primary source of data for this study was responses to mailed questionnaires containing twenty items for the Texas Ranger's interest. Also serving as primary data were the knowledge items opinions of five hundred Anglo- and Mexican-Americans tested in English and Spanish. Secondary sources were numerous books, articles, periodicals, reports, agency statistics, and records.

Findings

From the data and other evidence gathered during the research the following conclusions may be drawn:

1. The Texas Ranger found his official beginning in 1835 as a defense for the frontier settlers against the Indians. Since that time the Texas Ranger has been involved in repeated violence with the Mexican or Mexican American. Originally it involved

Mexican bandits raiding in Texas but more lately involved a farm labor union's attempts at organization.

2. The Mexican American's ancestors may have settled in Texas as early as 1560. They lost the land to the American settlers after the Texas Revolution, although not all Mexicans conceded this until after the war with the United States. Subsequent to this, thousands have migrated to the U. S. to join those already here. Together they comprise the country's second largest minority. Together they suffer high unemployment, low education, and inadequate housing. There is considerable political and economic effort afoot to remedy this situation.
3. The "average" or "typical" Texas Ranger is 45.5 years old, was 36.8 years old at appointment, and had 11.9 years' experience prior to appointment. He is tall, comes from a rural background, and had experience in the military service. He has expressed a desire for further education and training, predominately in the areas of criminology and police science, in-service training, psychology, and sociology.
4. In the groups tested Mexican American indicated to a higher degree than Anglo Americans that they held the Texas Ranger in less esteem. Area tested included service, favoritism, and abolishment.
5. Discussion was provided in the areas of history and violence, public image, and abolishment.

George G. Killinger (signature)

Supervising Professor

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Formulation of the Problem

There are 11,196,730 Texans.¹ Only eighty of them are Texas Rangers. Perhaps no other law enforcement organization carries with it the rich historical overtones of nearly a century and a half of service. Certainly none stimulates the imagination of its admirers as does this group of peace officers. Books have been written tracing his existence as a living legend by describing his personal victories in the cause of law and order.

A Texas Ranger today serves as our link to our frontier past. To most people he is a standard of law and order. His services are in demand by those who desire a secure, but open and free society. His influence is not a product of recklessness or foolhardiness but of years of steady purpose and performance—and of the belief among lawbreaker and law-abiding alike that the Ranger would not think of himself prior to fulfilling the commitment of his oath as an agent of law, order, and justice.²

But many people hold opinions less than favorable about the Ranger. State Senator Joe Bernal of San Antonio thinks the Ranger should be abolished and his duties “absorbed” by others in the Department of Public Safety.³ Bernal’s views are not atypical of those of many members of the Mexican American minority in Texas. These are not new ideas; although it has never been scientifically measured, it is known that many see the Ranger as a suppressant to the emerging

¹ U.S. Bureau of the Census, U. S. Department of Commerce, 1970.

² Walter Prescott Webb, *The Texas Rangers: A Century of Frontier Defense* (Austin: The University of Texas Press, 1965), Forward.

³ Felton West, “Do Away With The Rangers?” *Houston Post*, January 5, 1969, Section A, p. 1.

Mexican American minority. Recently the Ranger's encounters with the Mexican American minority in Texas have been investigated by the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights and the Texas Advisory Committee to the Commission on Civil Rights. In testimony before this commission, Colonel Wilson E. Speir, Director, Texas Department of Public Safety, answered questions on behalf of the Texas Rangers:

Mr. Ruben: In your opinion—in your opinion, what is the attitude of the Mexican American community of Southern Texas toward the Texas Ranger?

Colonel Speir: . . . I think that there are some Mexican Americans that feel that we have perhaps abused someone along the line. But I do think this . . . that most Mexican Americans have tremendous respect for the Department of Public Safety and the Texas Rangers.⁴

Little research has been done in an attempt to prove or disprove Colonel Speir's statement. It was believed that a study which included opinions of this minority would contribute to an understanding of the problem.

⁴ U. S. Commission on Civil Rights, Hearing Before the *U. S. Commission on Civil Rights* (San Antonio, Texas: December 9-14, 1968), p. 720.

Purpose

The purpose of this study is to provide an historical background which will afford an understanding of the relationship between the Texas Ranger and the Mexican American. Research will include a profile of today's Texas Ranger obtained through a questionnaire and an attitude survey of Mexican Americans and Anglo Americans toward the Texas Ranger. The data gathered will provide insight into the current difficulties experienced by these groups.

For the purpose of this study, a basic assumption was made: The problem areas between the Texas Ranger and the Mexican American have a lengthy historical background. It was hypothesized that responses to questionnaire items would reveal that the Mexican American holds the Texas Ranger in less esteem than does the Anglo American.

In designing this study several basic questions were considered:

1. Who is the Texas Ranger and what is his history?
2. How is the Mexican American's history interrelated to that of the Texas Ranger?
3. What is the profile of today's Texas Ranger?
4. What is the present attitude of the Mexican American minority toward the Texas Ranger?
5. What is the present attitude of the Anglo American toward the Texas Ranger?

It was expected that such a study would:

1. Correct or dispel in part the stereotyped image of the Texas Ranger.
2. Answer questions about his qualifications, experience, education, and in-service needs.
3. Point out the attitude differences of Mexican Americans about the Texas Ranger as opposed to Anglo American attitudes.
4. Provide material for further research.

Methods and Procedures

A historical study of both the Ranger and the Mexican American was performed to give feeling to the deep-rooted differences between the two organizations. A brief review of these histories is provided. Selltitz and others define a descriptive study as being an attempt to draw a picture of something in scientific terms.⁵ So much of the Ranger exists in legend and *esprit de corps* that this study surpasses facts and figures.

Sixty of the eighty Texas Rangers returned questionnaires which were composed of twenty items so structured as to reveal factual descriptive data. The seventy-five percent selection was considered sufficient to provide an overall profile. From this questionnaire tables have been constructed to give the reader reference data.

As a source of primary data, five hundred individuals responded to questions about the Texas Rangers. Four hundred were polled by randomly selected streets in known Anglo American and in known Mexican American sections of San Antonio. Residents on each street were asked to reply to the questions in English or Spanish. As a side interest item, one hundred Anglo American university students in Dallas were asked to answer the items on the questionnaire printed in English.

Definition of Major Terms

1. Texas Ranger. - A man so designated by the Texas Department of Public Safety to serve as a Texas Ranger; or a man appointed as a Texas Ranger by an agency prior to the DPS.

⁵ Claire Selltitz, *et al.*, *Research Methods in Social Relations* (New York: Holt, Rinehard and Winston, 1964), p. 65.

2. Mexican American. - An American citizen who is accepted to be of some Spanish or Mexican origin; does not include a Mexican National.
3. Anglo American. - In this paper, the American citizen of English or similar origin as opposed to the Mexican American, whose origin is Spanish or Mexican.

4. Law enforcement officer. - A full-time, legally-commissioned public police officer.

CHAPTER II

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

A History of the Ranger

Over fifty books have been written about the Texas Ranger. Newspaper and magazine articles must exceed several hundred. Some have been written by the Ranger himself, describing a life of excitement and challenge.¹ Others have been authored by persons inspired by the life of a particular Ranger or group of Rangers.² Among the best are the ones written by professional historians.³ Few of these are recent, however.

The historical pattern of the Ranger appears to run in thirty-five year segments. (author's interpretation only) For ease of discussion the life span of the organization will be broken into five units of time:

- I. 1830-1865
- II. 1865-1900
- III. 1900-1935
- IV. 1935-1970
- V. 1970-2005

Particular incidents involving Mexicans and Mexican Americans will be emphasized to enhance later discussions.

Period I 1830-1865

It was during this period of time that the Ranger found his earliest official beginning.

¹ See *A Texas Ranger* by N. A. Jennings, *Taming the Nueces Strip* by George Durham, and *Trials and Trails of a Texas Ranger* by William Warren Sterling, among others.

² See Webb, *op. cit.*, and *Vaquero of the Brush Country* by J. Frank Dobie.

³ Ben H. Procter, "The Modern Texas Rangers," in *Reflections of Western Historians*, John A. Carroll, ed. (Tucson:

Stephen F. Austin had previously employed a group of ten men to serve as Rangers in 1823, but little is known of the further development of this organization.⁴ The Permanent Council of the Texas Revolution authorized the recruiting of twenty-five volunteer Rangers on November 1, 1835. Later it was provided that there should be a corps of 150 men. Enlistment was for one year and payment consisted of rations, clothing, horse service, and one dollar and thirty-five cents per day.⁵ It was said of the Rangers serving in 1839 that few were over twenty-two years old but none was ordinary. The most dangerous of Colonel Hays' men had the best features, most graceful manners, and softest voice.⁶

The Ranger's primary duty was to protect the early Texas settler from the Indian and later the Mexican bandit, and occasionally from both. The Indian was not normally a teammate of the Mexican but did share a common goal—to eliminate the white intruder. Eventually the Indian realized the fierceness of the Texas-Mexican struggle and retreated to await the outcome.

The original area the Ranger served was quite small but was gradually expanded with the Texas Frontier. The Ranger met the need and was not bound to county borders but could move as one man or as thirty. He was independent of local voters and local influences. He was effective in organized counties where the supremacy of the law was threatened. One Ranger could make an arrest, escort prisoners, and guard jails. One Ranger could suppress a riot or strengthen the back of a wavering judge or sheriff. If more Rangers were required, word was sent.

Violence is recorded early between the Ranger and the Mexican. Although there is no

University of Arizona Press, 1969, for example.

⁴ Webb, *op. cit.*, p. 20.

⁵ "Texas Rangers," (Austin: Texas Department of Public Safety, Circa 1940), p. 15.

⁶ James Kinunins Greer, *Colonel Jack Hays - Texas Frontier Leader and California Builder* (New York: E. P.

evidence that the Ranger distinguished himself during the Texas Revolution, a few men who participated in the Battle of San Jacinto later found employment as Rangers. Memories of the battles at the Alamo and Goliad were still fresh in many of their minds. Feelings against the Mexican must have been strong.

During the late 1840s the Rangers participated in the Mexican War with General Zachary Taylor. It was here that the Rangers became nationally known. They stood apart from the regular Army with their long beards and mustaches and wide variety of garments. A rougher group was never seen. Among them, surprisingly, were many college graduates, doctors and lawyers.⁷

In the 1850s on York Creek near Seguin, Texas, Captain J. H. Callahan of the Rangers led his men against a group of Mexican horse thieves and killed three or four. The following day Callahan offered a ride to a wounded Mexican, only to shoot him as he neared the horse.⁸ Prior to this Callahan had pursued a band of Indians into Mexico, only to be repelled by a group of Mexicans. In his retreat his men burned the Mexican city of Piedras Negras.⁹

Anti-Mexican feeling was in part encouraged by pre-Civil War belief that the lower class Mexicans were not advantageous to a slave-holding state, and in 1856 Colorado County forbade their presence, followed by Matagorda County and then Uvalde County, which imposed travel restrictions upon Mexicans.¹⁰

Juan N. Cortinas and his band of 100 men were operating in the Rio Grande Valley area in the 1860s. Cortinas was believed by many to be more dangerous than Pancho Villa. He had

Dutton & Company, 1952, p. 34.

⁷ Roger N. Conger, *et al.*, *Rangers of Texas* (Waco: The Texian Press, 1969), Introduction.

⁸ Dobie, *op. cit.*, p. 47.

⁹ Webb, *op. cit.*, p. 25.

crossed the river to lead a campaign of terror and slaughter and had captured Brownsville. In dealing with Cortinsas, the Ranger force had to cross the river onto Mexican soil to pursue the bandits.¹¹

During the Civil War many Rangers and former Rangers enlisted in “Terry’s Texas Rangers” commanded by Colonel Benjamin Franklin Terry, and made an admirable record in the Confederate army.¹² They were not seen again as a unit until 1874. Procter quotes *The Southern Patriot* (Louisville, August 1967) as claiming that the Rangers merged with the Confederate Army in order to preserve slavery in the same manner that they exist today to prevent strikes.¹³ This is an example of rather poor historical logic. The Ranger of Texas’ frontier days was a common settler pressed into serving Texas because there was a need for his services and he was protecting his own property as well. Obviously, they do not exist to prevent strikes today.

Period II 1865-1900

For a time after the war Texas, like other Southern states, found itself under strict military control, and in 1870 a Republican carpetbag governor took office. The state police which he set up was something less than Texans desired. Charged with the enforcement of unpopular laws, they fell into disrepute among the war-weary citizens.¹⁴

The Ranger organization was reinstated again in the mid-1870s, when a group of men led by Captain L. H. McNelly proceeded to the Rio Grande Valley to deal with Mexican cattle thieves. His orders were to kill those thieves he found on this side of the border and to take no

¹⁰ Dobie, *op. cit.*, p. 48.

¹¹ Webb, *op. cit.*, p. 175.

¹² “Texas Rangers,” *op. cit.*, 1940, p. 16.

¹³ Procter, *op. cit.*, p. 215.

prisoners. At that time the Rangers had a Mexican American member, Ranger Jesus Sandoval. He also served as interpreter and interrogator. If he determined the Mexican involved to be a citizen of the United States he let him go; should he be a spy or a bandit he was marched to the nearest tree and hanged. Following a shooting battle with the bandits the deaths were listed as: Rangers dead—Ranger Berry Smith, age sixteen. Mexican Bandits—about thirteen dead. The battle occurred in the brush near Palo Alto, and the bodies of all were brought to Brownsville. The body of the Ranger was given a fine burial; the bodies of the Mexicans were laid in the square for claim. When no one came to view them they were buried in a trench.¹⁵

Salaries during the time ranged from forty dollars per month for privates to seventy-five dollars per month for Lieutenants.¹⁶ A widely syndicated newspaper featured an article stating that one Ranger Captain enlisted only teetotalers who were church members and non-smokers. Not all of the captains were this strict, but the Ranger was required to have a reputation beyond reproach and be polite and gentlemanly at all times.¹⁷

In 1877 the Rangers were called upon to terminate the so-called Salt War when the salt lakes of the Guadalupe Mountains of West Texas were claimed by a few Americans who denied access to the Mexicans. For more than a century the Mexicans had enjoyed open access to the area of dry salt flats 110 miles east of El Paso (then called Franklin). Salt was free, and the Mexicans came from both sides of the river for it. The disturbance came about when a few Americans from Franklin undertook to control the area on the Texas side of the Rio Grande. The

¹⁴ Webb, *op cit.*, p. 220.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 245.

¹⁶ ³T. R. Havins, "Texas Ranger Frontier Battalion: Company E," *West Texas Historical Association Year Book*, Volume 11 (Abilene: West Texas Historical Association, December 1935), p. 64.

Mexicans surrounded the few Americans and Rangers present and put Franklin under siege. After three days the Americans and Rangers surrendered, and three Americans were put to death. The survivors later went for aid, but by the time they returned the Salt War was over.¹⁸

Relations with Mexicans during this period certainly did not improve and probably suffered a little. Citizens involved themselves in battles with the Mexican bandits, and relations between Mexicans and Texans became worse. From Mexico, across the river from Eagle Pass, came 150 bandits bent on plunder. They split into four units, three of which were apprehended by the cavalry at San Diego, Texas; the fourth group went on to Corpus Christi, but citizens stopped them outside the city limits. The results of this raid could be seen by the number of Mexicans hanging from area trees. A bridge on the Agua Dulce Creek became a favorite spot for white residents to pick off Mexican bandits, whose bodies were later thrown into the creek.¹⁹

It would be a great mistake to consider that all Mexicans hated the Americans and vice versa. In fact, the majority relied upon each other heavily for goods and services. Between many Anglo-Texans and Mexican-Texans strong bonds of friendship grew.

But there were some Mexicans who felt that the land, especially that portion south of the Nueces River, was stolen from them; indeed, their call it half Mexico today. They thought that eventually they would be involved in war with the United States. Some felt that they could defeat the United States if only Texas would stand still. But it was said that for each Texan killed, twenty-five Mexicans met early deaths.²⁰

¹⁷ Jack Martin, *Border Boss - Captain John R. Hughes* (San Antonio: The Naylor Company, 1942), p. 157.

¹⁸ Webb, *op. cit.*, p. 346.

¹⁹ Dobie, *op. cit.*, pp. 61-62.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 61.

On the other hand, a few Texans didn't believe in the border's being the Rio Grande—especially not when it involved just punishment.²¹ In 1881 Ranger James Gillet kidnapped his prisoner, an accused murderer, and brought him to Texas in an early form of “moonlight extradition.”²² During the time Cortinas ruled Matamoras by martial law, the city was full of Mexican troops. Rangers earned titles as daredevils when they rode the ferry across the river to enter the dance halls and shoot out the lights. Then, as quickly as they came, they would flee into Texas. Pursuing them was a horde of Mexican soldiers, firing their weapons and cursing.²³

Period III 1900-1935

In June of 1900 the Ranger force was reduced to four companies of six men each through a ruling by the state's Attorney General on the 1874 law which originally authorized the Ranger. Over a year later, legislation was enacted that increased the size of the force. Thus a new Ranger force was created in 1901, primarily for West Texas and the Mexican border. Webb said four horses existed for the Ranger during this period: The revolution within Mexico, Prohibition, World War I, and the Texas Oil Boom.²⁴ Indeed, he was correct, but perhaps a fifth horse was present: Politics.

The revolution in Mexico was not totally confined within the border. It occasionally spilled across the river into Texas. In October of 1915 a train was wrecked north of Brownsville and its passengers robbed. Mexican bandits killed the engineer and three others were injured. In December of 1917 the Rangers and the U. S. Army staged a three-hour invasion of Mexico to

²¹ *Ibid.*, p. 61.

²² George W. Gray, “Quick on the Draw,” *American Magazine*, Volume 104, October, 1927, p. 52.

²³ N. A. Jennings, *A Texas Ranger* (Dallas: Turner Company, 1936), p.71.

²⁴ Walter Prescott Webb, *The Story of the Texas Rangers* (New York: Grossett & Dunlap, 1957), pp. 133-134.

pursue goat thieves.²⁵

It was in 1915 that a plot by the Mexicans to overthrow the United States was discovered. Called the Plan of San Diego, it proposed to win back several Southwestern states that the Gringos allegedly stole from Mexico. The plan called for the seizure of land and the death of all American males over sixteen. The plan was said to be backed by foreigners with interests in the war in Europe. The Rangers assisted in this investigation. Also about this time a slightly biased group investigating the Mexican mistreatment of Americans counted over five hundred American murders in a decade.²⁶

Since Texas was then dry and Mexico wet, the Ranger found himself enforcing the new prohibition laws. In addition to this the War brought to the border a wide array of German spies, draft evaders, and bandits. Sudden wealth and growth in many Texas oil towns brought countless problems.

In dealing with these the Ranger found still more difficulties. In 1918 the Rangers arrested, detained, and then released a Mexican American named Florencia Garcia. Later his body was supposedly found near the river, although it apparently was never identified properly. This caused a flurry of excitement over Ranger treatment of prisoners. The Rangers retorted that the maltreatment charges were caused by German propagandists and spies or those opposed to Governor Hobby's bid for election.²⁷

In the fall of 1918 two incidents involving Ranger Sergeant Edds brought more unfavorable attention to the Ranger. Two men shot and killed Edds' prisoner and explained that

²⁵ Webb, *A Century of Frontier Defense, op cit.*, p. 487.

²⁶ *Ibid.*, pp. 476 and 484.

he was attempting to escape. Six weeks later Sergeant Edds himself shot and killed the wrong man, a Mexican American, while making an arrest.²⁸

Prior to this, in 1902 a Mexican named Ramon De La Cerda who had been changing brands on a cow was approached by Rangers, allegedly resisted arrest and was shot to death. An inquest held locally determined that Ranger Baker fired in self defense, but the body was secretly disinterred for a second inquest and word spread that evidence was found to indicate the body was dragged and maltreated. The issue became a political one and Ranger Baker found himself ambushed, but he escaped only to later shoot the deceased Mexican's brother. The witness to this was later found shot. A later governor's investigation into these incidents failed to find ground to censure the Rangers.²⁹

In 1919, state Representative J. T. Canales began an investigation into Ranger activities in which the Rangers were charged with eighteen counts of drunkenness, disorderly conduct, and torture of prisoners, among others. Canales' original intention was to investigate the Rangers in order to prove the need for higher pay and thus attract qualified men. During testimony it was revealed that the Rangers and civilians may have killed five hundred to five thousand Mexicans.³⁰ In the early 1920s the President of Mexico, Venustiano Carranza, offered evidence documenting the murder and lynching of 114 Mexican citizens who were killed in the Rio Grande Valley. His charges were acknowledged diplomatically.³¹

There is no doubt that the Ranger killed many innocent Mexicans during these times. The

²⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 508.

²⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 512.

²⁹ *Ibid.*, pp. 462-465.

³⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 514.

force had grown to over a thousand, and many men of less than desirable quality had found a home in the force. Three governors are credited with this spoils system: Colquitt, Ferguson, and Hobby.³² The administration of Governor Neff created additional woes when it tried to wipe out bootlegger dens in and about San Antonio. Increasing difficulties led to court action, which ruled that the Rangers could not offer assistance until they were asked to do so by local authorities.³³

The reputation of the Ranger was to suffer even more, as by 1935 three thousand Ranger badges had been given away, mostly to friends of high state officials. These honorary “Rangers” used the badge to win special favors for themselves or to intimidate others. Salesmen even obtained room discounts with them. Still another phony “Ranger” settled a dispute over property boundaries with a neighbor by flashing a badge. One neighbor believed that he would be gunned down if he didn’t agree to the loss of a few acres of land.³⁴

Period IV 1935-1970

By 1935 many people felt that the Ranger had outlived his usefulness and should be abolished. Others felt that the force should be modernized and placed under a state agency other than the Adjutant General’s office.

Texas’ new governor, James V. Allred, discovered the root of the problem. Allred appointed Albert S. Johnson to serve as chairman of the newly created Public Safety Commission. Johnson’s first duty was to stop distribution of honorary badges and to begin calling in those distributed over the with the State Highway Patrol. As this action came about

³¹ Stan Steiner, *La Raza: The Mexican Americans* (New York: Harper and Row, 1969), p. 360.!

³² Webb, *A Century of Frontier Defense, op. Cit.*, p. 486.

³³ Wellington Brink, “The Texas Rangers,” *Holland’s*, Volume 46, January, 1927, pp. 13 and 39.

after one hundred years of service, it prompted Webb to cite the event as significant in the demise of the Ranger.³⁵ But Webb was wrong. Eventually six districts were created in the state for jurisdiction and responsibility of each of six Ranger companies.

Allred's commission set higher standards for individual Rangers. Political pull was replaced by examinations and recommendations. Seniority and performance were considered before any Ranger was promoted. To be considered, an applicant had to be between thirty and forty-five years old, at least five feet eight inches tall, and of sound mind and body. Each man received training in techniques of fingerprinting, communications, ballistics, and records.³⁶

The Rangers now operated with a group of forty privates, six sergeants, and six captains distributed among the companies. But even with the department's renewal, the Ranger found himself in the news time and time again. In 1954 two Rangers were indicted for assault with intent to murder for their part in a scuffle with a South Texas political boss.³⁷ The fifties also saw State Representative Charles L. Lieck of San Antonio promoting abolishment of the Ranger, calling him a relic of the "pistol whipping days" of law enforcement.³⁸

In June of 1966 a disagreement between labor and management occurred in Starr County in South Texas. The Union was seeking to organize its members and establish a minimum wage of \$1.25 per hour. When management ignored the demands, a 387-mile march on the state capitol was performed to protest the situation of the migrant worker. When their demands were

³⁴ Herbert Malloy Mason, Jr., *The Texas Ranger* (New York: The Merideth Press, 1967), pp. 134-135.

³⁵ Webb, *Century of Frontier Defense*, *op. cit.*, p. 567.

³⁶ Procter, *op. cit.*, p. 219. (Requirements later modified to minimum age 26 and five years' outstanding law enforcement experience.)

³⁷ Rangers Indicted in Parr Scrap, " *Dallas Morning News*, February 4, 1954.

³⁸ Wayne Gard, "Texas Still Needs Its Ranger Force," *Dallas Morning News*, March 10, 1958.

still not met, the marchers returned to Starr County, and the strike intensified.

Writing about the situation in South Texas, Procter has said:

With violence imminent, Starr County officials called upon the Texas Rangers to help their small police force keep order, especially since several destructive fires and acts of sabotage during the preceding six months had gone unsolved. Ranger Captain A. Y. Allee of Company D, with seven of his men, quickly responded—and then the trouble began. For ‘la huelga’ was no longer just a strike by poor migrant workers seeking a living; wage and a chance to escape poverty; now it had become multi-faceted, explosive, in many ways symbolic. For both the liberals and the conservatives of Texas it had become a political football, for Starr County officials a “hot potato” which might affect local political careers, and for Yarborough a club to swing at Connally. Possibly labor believed that it would help strengthen the cause of unionism in Texas; perhaps socially and politically sensitive university students and church leaders thought of it as a fight for civil rights and human dignity; a number of Mexican-Americans may have hoped that it was the beginning of a social revolution which would topple the feudal economic and political systems in the Rio Grande Valley. But for the dangers ‘la huelga’ was a bewildering, angering, unpleasant assignment. It had become too complicated; old methods of law enforcement were no longer effective.³⁹

For three weeks the strike grew in intensity, with each incident aggravating the public temper, each arrest increasing the discord between the Ranger and striker. Soon came charges that the Ranger was guilty of brutality, of violation of civil rights, and of favoritism towards the growers by trying to break the strike. The Rangers began to make arrests, charging violations of the state’s law on boycotts, picketing, and secondary strikes.

PASO, the Political Association of Spanish Speaking Organizations, called for abolishment of the Texas Rangers based upon the farm labor dispute. PASO said, “The Ranger has outlived his original purpose of pacifying Indian uprisings, controlling banditry, and curbing bootlegging . . . the Ranger lacks the intelligence necessary to deal with human beings, causing

³⁹ Procter, *op. cit.*, p. 225.

social conflict which could result in riots.” PASO further said, “The Ranger has repeatedly been guilty of biased political representation, oppressing labor organizing efforts, enforcing unconstitutional laws, violating the civil rights of innocent people, including newspaper and television representatives, members of the clergy, college students, women and children.”⁴⁰

In 1967 the Texas Advisory Committee to the commission on Civil Rights, having heard testimony concerning the farm labor dispute in Starr County, Texas, concluded that excessive force was used by local police and Texas Rangers against striking Mexican American workers. The Committee asked the Department of Justice to investigate the case. A Senate investigating subcommittee also concluded that excessive force had been used. The National Council of Churches and the AFL-CIO supported lawsuits to enjoin the Ranger from interfering with the strikers. The Ranger, said the Committee, is regarded with great resentment and distrust by many Mexican Americans.⁴¹

Speaking of the report by the Texas Advisory Committee, U. S. Representative Gonzalez said it was wrong for the committee to spend \$800,000 to recommend abolishment of the Ranger force. Gonzalez also called the report faulty and mediocre.⁴²

In the summer of 1967, U. S. Senator Harrison A. Williams of New Jersey, chairman of the subcommittee on migratory labor, said the failure of a Texas manager to appear before his subcommittee left the record uncontroverted regarding charges of brutality against farm labor pickets.⁴³ State Senator Joe Pernal of San Antonio said he planned to introduce legislation to

⁴⁰ Jimmy Banks, “PASO Attacks Connally, Rangers,” *Dallas Morning News*, August 14, 1967.

⁴¹ Helen Rowan, *The Mexican American*, a paper prepared in the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights, 1968, p. 16.

⁴² “Ranger Abolition Blasted by Representative Gonzalez,” *Dallas Times Herald*, March 10, 1970.

⁴³ Martin Casey, “Brutality Charges Uncontroverted,” *Dallas Morning News*, July 14, 1967.

have the Ranger abolished.⁴⁴ Later, Bernal admitted his bill would not have a chance if introduced.⁴⁵ This theory was never put to the test, for the bill was never introduced.

Some critics of the Ranger have said that he has little to do. This line of reasoning is not new. At the turn of the century an old-time Ranger commented that the criminal of Texas was different in the old days. In those days they congregated in numbers on the frontier to defy the law and instituted plans that would protect them from the law.⁴⁶ Webb said the present-day force is small and often the men have little to do. Texas is now generally a law-abiding place, but there were many times when this was not so.⁴⁷ At least one Ranger concurs that the need has been eliminated somewhat. “The Ranger,” he says, “doesn’t get the sensational cases anymore.” Also cited in this article was the 1968 felony caseload of 1,449 cases for sixty-two Rangers, or twenty-three cases per year, per man. This means each Ranger worked only two cases per month.⁴⁸ (A check of these figures reveals a possible mistake on the part of the journalist. In 1968, 3,443 cases were investigated, and 1,418 arrests were made.)⁴⁹

U. S. Assistant Attorney General Will Wilson called the Ranger “a residue of frontier society.”⁵⁰ A chairman of the Public Safety Commission, Cliff Cassidy, said Texas is becoming more urban and the Ranger is part of a rural agency.⁵¹

Yet amidst all the controversy, there are still those who advocate the presence of the

⁴⁴ “Aggressive Texas Rangers Face Fight for Existence,” *Dallas Times Herald*, January 10, 1968, Section A, p. 4, also West, *Houston Post*, *op. cit.*

⁴⁵ Roland Lindsey, “‘Ranger Mystique’,” *Dallas Morning News*, September 21, 1969, Section A, p. 40.

⁴⁶ Dan W. Roberts, *Rangers and Sovereignty* (San Antonio: Wood Printing & Engraving Co., 1914), p. 121.

⁴⁷ Webb, *The Story of the Texas Rangers*, *op. cit.*, p. 3.

⁴⁸ Dave Montgomery, “Texas Rangers: Museum Piece?” *Dallas Times Herald*, July 10, 1969.

⁴⁹ Texas Department of Public Safety, “1967-1968 Biennial Report,” (Austin: Texas Department of Public Safety, April, 1969), p. 7.

⁵⁰ Montgomery, *Times Herald*, *pp. cit.*

Rangers:

Governor Preston Smith: “Texas without the Ranger would be like Texas without the Alamo.”

Lieutenant Governor Ben Barnes: “They have a good psychological effect. I’m not going to do anything but encourage the Rangers.”⁵²

The editor of a Dallas newspaper said, “. . . abandonment of a law enforcement group with the great tradition and *esprit de corps* of the Texas Rangers would be a definite loss to the state’s crime-fighting forces.”⁵³

In 1927 it was noted by Brink ‘that dense cities had sprung up on the prairies, giving shelter to lurking snakes of humanity. The Ranger was as much at home in the alleys of the big towns as in the unpeopled chaparral regions.’⁵⁴

Period V 1970-2005

The Texas Legislature increased the size of the Ranger force to eighty members, effective September 1970. Although it is virtually impossible to measure, the Ranger of the Seventies must enjoy some of the effects of a century of legend or near-legend. It has been called the “Ranger mystique.”⁵⁵ This may stem from old campfire tales of indeterminable age. Most common of these is the adage, “One Riot, One Ranger” a cliché which said the “Ranger had to suffer hearing over a thousand times. This saying apparently dates from the year 1896 when Ranger Captain Bill McDonald stepped from a train in Dallas. He had been called to assist the city officials after the latter had ruled against having a prize boxing match but could not enforce

⁵¹ “Revill Case Points Ranger Shift,” *Dallas Times Herald*, June 9, 1969, p. 1.

⁵² Lindsey, *op. cit.*, p. 40.

⁵³ “Texas Rangers Valuable,” *Dallas Times Herald*, February 2, 1968.

⁵⁴ Brink, *op. cit.*, p. 36.

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 40.

the ruling. McDonald allegedly made the statement in reply to the city officials' question of why only one man had been sent.⁵⁶ This is not quite representative of the Ranger of today. Although the geographic distribution, eighty men serving over 260,000 square miles, demands individual strength, the Ranger would prefer to have help in dealing with a riot.⁵⁷

This aura that surrounds the Ranger contributes in part to a high degree of desire to become a part of the force. The year 1969, like 1926, saw over five hundred applicants for a handful of positions.⁵⁸ At any rate the man who will serve as a Ranger will be an individual, yet he will enjoy the prestige of the group. Once it was remarked in a New York newspaper that one particular Ranger shot four Mexican bandits during the week, and on the following Sunday occupied a front seat in his church at the morning and evening services.⁵⁹ Another referred to himself as a brother-in-law of the church, since his wife was a member.⁶⁰

This element of fame enables the Ranger to get his job done. More than once the Ranger has been called to interview a suspect when local authorities had been unable to obtain a statement. Strangely enough, the accused began to talk when the Ranger entered the room, not from fear but more from respect.⁶¹ During the 1870s the Ranger gained a reputation of using force to obtain information. In this area he was more efficient than the army. His prisoners would talk; theirs wouldn't.⁶² The Mexican considered the soldier a joke, but would not tamper with the

⁵⁶ Carrie J. Crouch, "Meet the Historic Ranger," *National Republic*, Volume 1.9, July, 1931, pp. 28-29.

⁵⁷ The author determined this through interview. For other historic sayings, see appendix.

⁵⁸ Lindsey, *op. cit.*, p. 40, and George W. Gray, "The Watch on the Rio Grande," *American Magazine*, Volume 101, May, 1926, pp. 48-50.

⁵⁹ "The Role of the Texas Ranger," *Literary Digest*, Volume 48, Number 13, March 28, 1914, p. 711.

⁶⁰ Webb, *A Century of Frontier Defense*, *op. cit.*, p. 458.

⁶¹ Obtained through author's interviews.

⁶² Clyde Durham, *Taming the Nueces Strip* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1962), p. 55.

Ranger unless he could shoot him in the back.⁶³ During the Bandit War the Ranger exceeded the limits imposed upon the Army and caused it to be said that the United States did not know where he would stop, and Mexico did not know how to stop him.⁶⁴

But the disorder of the late sixties resulted in ground gained by the minority. Published reports from the investigations of the disorder revealed a widespread distrust of law enforcement indicative of the serious problem between police community relations and the minority. The Texas Advisory Committee held closed hearings in May 1967 to discuss Ranger activities. The Rangers were not present on this occasion but did make a statement at the open hearing in December 1968.⁶⁵

In forecasting the events of the seventies, it must be remembered that a long line of historical events may have been a factor in shaping the outcome. There is no doubt that the Ranger at times has been a part of various political machines, and some of these administrations could have been interpreted as not being fair to minorities. Rangers fought the Mexican Bandits with the harshest methods available, not because they disliked Mexicans but because they could not permit thievery. During the Bandit War of the early twentieth century cattle prices in Mexico were very high. It was worth the risk, many thought, to enter Texas and remove several head of cattle. It would be possible to ruin a local rancher in a few days. It must be admitted that each side was guilty of committing atrocities; the Ranger still feels the effect of the adverse image created at that time.

⁶³ Webb, *A Century . . .*, op. cit., p. 514.

⁶⁴ "The Role of the Texas Ranger," op. cit., p. 713.

⁶⁵ U. S. Commission on Civil Rights, Report of the Commission, *Mexican Americans and the Administration of Justice in the Southwest* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, March, 1970), pp. 13, 16, & 17.

From the Rangers' most recent experience in the valley much can be learned. Future intervention by the agency into similar quasi-civil disorders must be carefully planned. They must be careful not to appear to take sides and must consider that social, economic, or political implications might take precedence over an unqualified enforcement of the law. The Ranger has kept the peace, protected property, and upheld the law—without death or serious injury. Can more be expected?⁶⁶

The Ranger of the seventies is still charged with four basic duties:

1. Protection of life and property through enforcement of the criminal statutes of the State of Texas.
2. The suppression of riots and insurrections.
2. The investigation of major crimes, such as murder, rape, robbery, burglary, cattle theft, felonious assault, and other felonies.
4. The apprehension of fugitives. In this connection they transport prisoners and assist local prosecutors in compiling information for court action.⁶⁷

He will have at his disposal for use when needed a wide assortment of equipment, from horses and hand weapons to M-8 light armored cars and .45 caliber Thompson sub-machine guns.⁶⁸ At the close of the sixties, however, it seems questionable that these will be the tools for the job.

Although only a few of the Rangers have daily contact with the Mexican American population, this is the source of many of their present toward a law enforcement body can be

⁶⁶ Proctor, *op. cit.*, p. 231.

⁶⁷ Texas Department of Public Safety, "1961-1962 Biennial Report," Austin, 1963.

⁶⁸ "The Texas Ranger," Texas Department of Public Safety: Austin, 1961, pp. 3-4.

enhanced by a discussion of the minority itself.

The Mexican American

The Mexican Americans constitute a distinct group of Texans. Nearly fifteen percent of all Mexican Americans live in Texas. As a group they are highly heterogeneous and are steadily augmented by a stream of new immigrants from Mexico.

Although his history begins in the 1500s, it was really in the nineteenth century that the Mexican first encountered the white American immigrant, and that was upon Texas soil. A newly independent Mexican government offered grants of farm and grazing land to encourage the American settler.

It has been said that the Mexican educated the white immigrant to live in the desert, to irrigate the land, to raise cattle, and to use the horse. Apparently the very encouragement of the American was the Mexican's downfall. Laws passed in 1835 by a Mexican Congress led to revolt by some 18,000 residents, including some Mexicans. In 1845 Texas became the 28th state. At this point Mexico regarded the admission of Texas to the Union as a hostile act, and the two nations entered a war. As a result of Mexico's defeat and the subsequent treaty, all land north of the Rio Grande became United States property.

Mexican citizens were given the choice of returning to Mexico or remaining and becoming citizens in 1848. Since their property rights were respected, most decided to remain in Texas and the other states involved. In certain cases, however, hostilities between the Mexican American and the Anglo American continued. As discussed previously, the area between the Rio Grande and the Nueces Rivers was a scene of lawlessness and countless border raids. Importation of Negro slaves affected the attitudes of the Anglo American toward the Mexican

American.

In the 1930s a great many Mexicans immigrated to the United States. Political instability in Mexico, lack of an immigration policy, and need for manual labor were three of the reasons for this influx. In the following World War, manpower shortages increased these demands.

The war had a special impact on the Mexican American: thousands of them in the service were exposed to attitudes, mores, and life styles to which they were not accustomed. The G. I. Bill gave many veterans of the minority educational training opportunities. Suddenly they were aware of situations involving their culture and began to participate in political organizations.⁶⁹

It is difficult to say to what extent the Mexican emergence was related to the Negro minority movement, if any. They were present at the Poor People's march on Washington, D. C. and may be enjoying certain peripheral benefits of federal legislation such as education and housing.

There is no method of assessing health statistics since they are not reported by a method convenient for discerning the Mexican American from the rest of the public health statistics. However, it is known that a larger proportion of Mexican Americans die from causes which are associated with low socioeconomic conditions than does the general population of the United States.

Frequently housing is both crowded and dilapidated. Families tend to be large, with a birthrate about fifty percent greater than that of the population as a whole.

Unemployment is high. About 40,000 immigrants per year bring to the United States

⁶⁹ *Mexican Americans and the Administration of Justice, off. cit.*, Introduction.

competition for jobs and place burdens on schools and health and welfare agencies. During the first part of the 1960s nearly four-fifths of the arriving immigrants were unskilled or of low skills.⁷⁰

The average number of years of school completed for Anglo Texans is 10.8 years, but for Mexican Texans it is only 4.7 years.⁷¹ To understand this, consider that the child hears mostly Spanish at home and English at school. Dropout rates are high as a result. Education is even more difficult for the child of the migrant farm worker. Per capita income is about: \$1500 in one South Texas county with a newborn death rate of 9.7 per 1000, compared with a national rate of 5.9 per 1000.⁷²

A typical life cycle of the undereducated Mexican American develops in this manner:

1. He is reared in a humble home, in a large family. Spanish is the only language spoken, and it is seldom read or written at home.
2. He lives in a Spanish-speaking neighborhood and at age six attends a neighborhood school where all the pupils come from Spanish-speaking homes. His daily schedule, his books, his tests, his entire school life is patterned after that of his English-speaking counterparts in the schools across town. Academic failure—the repeating of grades or retentions and eventual dropout constitutes the school record of at least seventy-five percent of these youngsters. The school has not helped him achieve literacy in his native language and has insisted that he learn to read English before he speaks it well. At best, he leaves school without marketable skills and with only a slight knowledge of English.
3. He marries a fellow dropout at an early age. They have several children and the cycle begins anew for each of his children.⁷³

⁷⁰ Rowan, *op. cit.*, pp. 10-12.

⁷¹ John H. Burma, ed., *Mexican Americans in the United States: A Reader* (Cambridge, Massachusetts: Schenlonan Publishing Company, Inc., 1970), p. 4.

⁷² Armando Rendon, "How Much Longer the Road," in *Mexican Americans in the United States, op. cit.*, p. 196.

⁷³ A. R. Ramirez, "Adult Illiteracy," in *Mexican Americans in the United States, op. cit.*, p. 99.

There has been little research dealing with Mexican American life styles but some research has been done on the school problem. The data point to:

1. A lack of “success models” in the family or neighborhood,
2. A lack of awareness of educational opportunities or consequences,
3. Family poverty, and
4. Mexican cultural emphasis on early maturity, which makes the “student role” difficult for Mexican American children, particularly the boys.⁷⁴

The population is not as static as some researchers would report. It is typically heard that the Mexican American is poor, proud, stable and cohesive. There is a movement to unite the minority, and the recent well-publicized organizational efforts of some groups of rural Mexican Americans are examples of this effort. Almost all of the action has been in California in the now-famous grape ‘boycott. The Rio Grande Valley of Texas has been in the headlines through the efforts of “La Huelga” and “La Marcha.” Conventional civil rights protest techniques and attempts at Negro-Mexican coalitions are indications that the Mexican American is dissolving the aloof “pride” of the race.

The leadership is largely an elite group, best described as a band of spokesmen with little grassroots support. The educated Mexican American seems to disappear into the Anglo community. The Mexican American activist job is highly voluntary and self-selecting. Currently the most important leadership organizations include the American G. I. Forum, the Mexican American Political Association (M PA), the League of United Latin American Citizens

⁷⁴ Joan W. Moore, *Mexican Americans: Problems and Prospects* (Madison, Wisconsin: University of Wisconsin Press, 1966), p. 39.

(LULAC), the Political Association of Spanish Speaking Organizations (PASO), and the Mexican American Youth Organization (MAYO). There are numerous local organizations in each community.⁷⁵

Many doors are opening for the Mexican American youth. In comparison with his father, his opportunities for fair employment, higher education, and equal rights are much better. Many look to the returning Vietnam veteran to seek active parts in the political emergence much as his World War II counterpart did. Burma has said the new *Chicano* is aggressive and believes that only by being a “squeaky wheel” will he get any grease. The Mexican American is clearly representative of what Rostow called a group “about to take off.”⁷⁶

⁷⁵ Ibid., pp. 48-51.

⁷⁶ Burma, *op. cit.*, p. 251.

TABLE I

60 Texas Rangers by Four Items Descriptive of Age and Experience

<u>Age Items</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Experience Items</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
<u>Present Age</u>			<u>Years' Experience at Appointment</u>		
26 – 35	7	12.0	5 – 10	23	38.0
36 – 45	26	44.0	11 – 15	27	45.0
46 – 55	14	23.0	16 – 20	9	15.0
56 – 65	<u>13</u>	<u>21.0</u>	21 – 25	<u>1</u>	<u>2.0</u>
Total	60	100.0	Total	60	100.0
Mean Average Age		45.5	Mean Average Age		11.9
<u>Agent Appointment</u>			<u>Years As A Ranger</u>		
26 – 30	6	10.0	2 or less	21	35.0
31 – 35	17	28.0	2 – 10	19	32.0
36 – 40	27	45.0	11 – 20	12	20.0
41 – 45	<u>8</u>	<u>14.0</u>	21 – 30	<u>8</u>	<u>13.0</u>
Total	60	100.0	Total	60	100.0
Mean Average Age		36.8	Mean Average Age		8.8

Table 2 shows the Ranger by height. The common conception of the Ranger is as a tall man. Indeed two-thirds (N=40) are six feet or taller. This stereotype may lead to some discontent among the shorter Rangers, who find themselves being the source of amazement for new people they meet. One Ranger explains that he is serving on a waiver pending the growth of four inches in stature.

TABLE 2
60 Texas Rangers by Height

Height	Number	Percent	Cumulative Number	Cumulative Percent
6' 5"	3	5.0	3	5.0
6' 4"	1	2.0	4	7.0
6' 3"	5	9.0	9	15.0
6' 2"	8	12.0	17	28.0
6' 1"	5	9.0	22	37.0
6' 0"	18	28.0	40	66.6
5' 11"	7	12.0	47	78.0
5' 10"	7	12.0	54	90.0
5' 9"	4	8.0	58	97.0
5' 8"	2	3.0	60	100.0

The Ranger shows much of rural Texas in his background—forty-two percent (N=25) listed fathers as farmers and sixty-five percent (N=39) were from farms, ranches, or towns less than 2,500 population:

The typical Ranger draws experience from his military service (seventy-seven percent), and up to forty-seven percent (N=28) have attended college. The mean educational level is 13.0 years. This has been matched by an equally well-educated wife (13.3 years), who presented the Ranger with 2.3 offspring. Speaking of the latter, nearly half (N = 29) the Rangers polled were

against their sons entering a similar occupation, although one Ranger serving today had a father, grandfather, and great grandfather who served as Rangers. Thirteen percent (N = 8) had fathers with law enforcement experience.

TABLE 3

60 Texas Rangers by Five Items of Personal History

Number		Percent	Number		Percent
Father's Occupation			Military Experience		
Farmer	25	42.	Yes	46	77.0
Laborer	11	19.	No	14	23.0
Law Enforcement	8	13.	Total	60	100.0
Sales	5	8.0	Mean Years: 3.7		
Railroad	3	5.0	Education		
Miscellaneous	8	13.	High school	32	53.0
Total	60	100	Some college	28	47.0
Home Town			Total	60	100.0
Over 100,000	4	6.0	Mean Years:	13.0	
10,000 – 100,000	7	12.	Wife's Education		
2,500 – 10,000	10	17.	High school	34	57.0
2,500 & under	13	22.	Some college	26	43.0
Farm & Ranch	26	43.	Total	60	100.0
Total	60	100	Mean Years:	13.3	

Two-thirds of the Rangers (N = 40) rated the Department's inservice training as sufficient, leaving twenty-two percent (N=13) voting for expansion and twelve percent (N = 7) voicing no opinion. This may be understood if the reader considers that the total force is spread widely over the state, and for many in-service training means a long car ride and separation from the family. This expression of opinion on in-service training is discredited somewhat by a later item on questionnaire "T" concerning additional training. Here eighty-two percent (N = 49) said additional training would be useful, particularly in the areas of:

Criminology and Police Science	64 percent in favor
DPS In-service Training	35 percent in favor
Psychology	33 percent in favor
Sociology	29 percent in favor

Additional interest was shown in regional one-day conferences on topics concerning changing laws, U. S. Supreme Court rulings, scientific investigation topics concerning changing laws, U. S. Supreme Court rulings, scientific investigation topics, and public relations.

While many in Texas have called for change, the Ranger appears to be adverse to change in his organization. Sixty-seven percent (N = 40) were opposed to increasing the number of Rangers. Those who indicated increase usually requested only ten to twenty-five additional members.

Lastly, a question about fixed terms as Rangers met little welcome, with eighty-two percent (N = 49) against this proposal. Those who answered “Yes” would only indicate retirement at age sixty-five or a program term of twenty or twenty-five years like federal agencies. The Ranger was asked to comment as to what will be his greatest challenge in the 1970s. Several of these comments are contained in the appendix. They are similar in content to a survey of a police department where forty-nine percent polled replied that public relations and racial problems were the number one problems.¹

The Chief of Criminal Law Enforcement for the Department of Public Safety, Mr. James M. Ray, speaks best for his men:

The Texas Rangers of the 1970s will be what their tradition has been. They will be what is expected of them by the people of the State of Texas and what their enemies make of them. Walter Prescott Webb [says], ‘The Texas Rangers are what they are because their

¹ Jerome H. Skolnick, *Justice Without Trial—Last Enforcement in a Democratic Society*, (New York: John Wiley and Sons, 1964), p. 51.

enemies have been what they were. [The Rangers] had to be superior to survive. Their enemies were pretty good . . . [the Rangers] had to be better . . .' I personally feel the Texas Rangers are capable of meeting any challenge they may face in the 1970s.²

Responses to Anglo and Mexican American Questionnaires

Four hundred persons in San Antonio, Texas were asked to reply to the items on the questionnaires. One half of these individuals were Mexican Americans polled in Spanish, while one half were Anglo Americans polled in English. To facilitate distribution known Mexican American and Anglo American sections of town were used to separate the questionnaires. Streets from these residential districts were randomly selected for distribution.

To insure sincerity of response several items were added to the questionnaires to lengthen them. This was indicated as necessary during pre-polling. Mixed among these items were three key items which were geared to measure the attitude of the respondent toward the Texas Ranger.

Chosen for closer observation were:

Service. - It was believed that the Mexican Americans would indicate to a higher degree than the Anglo Americans that they receive inadequate service from the Texas Ranger.

Favoritism - It was thought that the Mexican Americans would feel more strongly than the Anglo Americans that the Texas Ranger serves the Anglo better than the Mexican American.

Abolishment. - It was believed that a higher percentage of Mexican American would favor abolishment than would Anglo Americans.

As a collateral interest item one hundred students from a Fort Worth-Dallas area university were polled in English; their responses are included, untested, in this study. It should

² Statement of Mr. James M. Ray to Erik T. Rigler of February 10, 1971.

be considered, however, that these students were members of the same department and may not be representative of the total population of the university.

To lend credence and substantiate the findings a confidence level of .05 was employed. This level of confidence merely indicates that the chance of occurrence is five percent or less. A modified form of the Z test³ was used to evaluate the differences between the two proportions. The resulting value of Z was interpreted according to values contained in a Table of Areas under the Normal Curve.⁴ This table breaks down areas from 0 to Z in fractions. In this case for a Z to be significant at $<.05$, Z must be observed to be equal to or larger than 1.96. An area of .4750 on either side of the mean will leave a total area of .05 in the tails of the curve, with .0250 of the area in each tail.

The data displayed in Table 4 indicate that there is a significant difference in the attitudes toward the Texas Ranger between the sampling of Mexican Americans and Anglo Americans. This retains the hypothesis that the Mexican Americans in this group hold the Texas Ranger in less esteem than does the Anglo American sampling. It was not possible to prove why this occurs. The author contends it is a result of the historical value of the Texas Ranger to the Mexican American. Some adverse press coupled with the attitude of the community's opinion leaders may contribute to the Ranger's negative value to the Mexican American.

Surprisingly, perhaps, the university students tested indicated a high degree of opinion against the Texas Ranger. On the three key questions 57 of 100 students responded that they felt inadequately served, 67 of 100 that the Ranger served Anglos better; and 42 of 100 that the

³ Dean S. Champion, *Basic Statistics for Social Research* (Scranton: Chandler Publishing Company, 1970), p. 1.37.

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 263.

Ranger should be abolished. This may correspond to a 1968 vote count involving university students at a state convention for Young Democrats. On the issue involving the Texas Ranger the attendants of the convention voted 287 to 237 to abolish the Ranger force.⁵

Comments from Questionnaires “E” and “S” are included in the appendix. It should be remembered, however, that since not all the respondents answered this request for comment, the opinions expressed are not representative of the percentages recorded. In other words, there really is a Silent Majority.

One failure; was noted by the persons administering the poll questionnaires. In an attempt to determine the source of negative opinion toward the Ranger and its relationship to self-identity, Questionnaire “S”, distributed to Mexican Americans, contained a spot for answering to self-referral. The answers received are displayed in Table 5. The twenty-three persons who created their own answers placed such things as American, Mexican-German-French-American, and other similar entries in the margin. Many people who checked the Mexican American and the other pre-printed answers felt incensed when asked the question. This was probably due to inadequate explanation for the reason that the question appeared on the questionnaire with items about Texas Rangers. Some expressed opinions that they didn’t want to be separated from other persons. At any rate, the responses were not predictable, and no attempt was made to develop them.

TABLE 4

⁵ “YD’s Debate Vietnam, Rangers,” *Texas Observer*, March 15, 1968, p.4.

Responses to Three Selected Questionnaire Items

MEXICAN AMERICAN		ANGLO AMERICAN			
(N=200)		(N=200)			
Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Do you feel you are adequately served by the Texas Rangers?					
YES	137	68	164	82	
NO	63	32	36	18	
					z = 2.35 a
Do you think Texas Rangers serve Anglos better than Mexican Americans?					
YES	96	48	68	34	
					z = 2.91 a
Do you think the Texas Rangers should be abolished?					
YES	52	26	31	15	
NO	148	74	169	85	
					z = -2.75 a

a = Greater than 1.96; p < .05

TABLE 5

Responses to Self Identity Item on Questionnaire "S"

	Number	Percent
Mexican American	91	45.5
Latin American	42	21.0
Mexican	28	14.0
Chicano	16	8.0
Latin	0	0.0
Spanish	0	0.0
Other and No Answer	23	11.5
Total	200	100.0

CHAPTER IV

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

History and Violence

The apparent discord between the Mexican American and the Texas Ranger is as old as Texas itself. Period I, 1830-1865, dealt with the Texas Ranger as he and fellow Texans laid the groundwork for the state as it exists today. 'Frontier' seems the fitting term for describing this era. The early settlers accepted Mexico's invitation to live upon the land, clear the trees, plant crops, and raise livestock. Protection was a necessity for which the Ranger was created. As the years passed Texas found itself embroiled in a battle with Mexico and later joined other states in the Civil War.

Period II, 1865-1900, covered the years from the Civil War to the turn of the century. The citizens of Texas tolerated Reconstruction and then reactivated the Texas Ranger to deal with the Mexican bandits. After the war with Mexico the Mexicans raided north of the Rio Grande for forty years. Speaking of this, Frantz says:

The Texans called them bandits. In pursuit of the Mexicans, Texans ranged south of the Rio Grande, where the Mexicans called them bandits. Both sides were right, and both were equally wrong. . . . the killing of one race by the other was perfectly justified back home.¹

In Period III, 1900-1935, the Texans lived through the first World War, difficult administrations of Texas Governors, and the Great Depression. These events had special meaning for the Ranger, too. If any period can be considered to be the most violent, it is this

¹ Joe B. Frantz, "The Frontier Tradition: An Invitation to Violence," in *Violence in America*, ed. by Hugh Davis Graham and Ted Robert Gur (Washington, D. C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1969), p. 116.

thirty-five years after the turn of the century. There may be some relationship between this segment and that described by Levy, who cited the era of 1909-1938 as having a greater incidence of violence related to labor.² Certainly the internal strife in Mexico previously mentioned also played a part.

Period IV, 1935-1970, saw creation of the Department of Public Safety and for all Texans, World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, and a multitude of civil rights disorders.

Clearly the Texas Ranger and the Mexican American share these historical periods with some regret. Violence has occurred because the Ranger felt that the Mexican American was a threat to society and because the Mexican American perceived the Texas Ranger as being representative of an oppressive force. Political and economic motives are the bases for most of the difficulties between the Ranger and the Mexican American. The recent Valley labor dispute is an illustration of the fact that there is much more to law enforcement than crime and criminals. Violence, apparently, has always been a part of political progress. Protest activities of one form or another, efforts to dramatize grievances in a fashion that will attract attention, and threatened destruction of life and property appear as expressions of political grievances even in stable, consensual societies.³

To many Mexican Americans the Ranger is the same man who acted for the governor years ago. He is the same man who crossed into Mexico to kill Mexicans. He is the man sent to prevent unionization of workers and to protect the owners and management.

The Texas Ranger is probably like most policemen; for his position, he is overworked,

² Sheldon G. Levy, "A 150-Year Study of Political Violence in the United States," in *Violence in America*, *op. cit.*, p. 76.

³ Jerome Skolnick, *The Politics of Protest* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1969), Preface.

underpaid, undertrained, and undereducated. His job is becoming increasingly difficult. Often he is forced into the position of repressing, deeply felt demands for social and political change. His role too often goes unappreciated and at times despised. These difficulties may be further complicated if he feels that protestors are wholly inspired by a group of agitators who mislead otherwise contented people.⁴

It must be realized that violence in Texas, like all of America, has always been present. Violence has not been an action only of racists but also a tactic of upright and respected people. Once this knowledge is acquired, our next step becomes the eradication of violence. Only then will it be possible to solve the social, economic, and political problems evident in Texas.⁵

The Image

The Texas Ranger, like policemen everywhere, is seeking to improve his public image. Yet for the Ranger special problems exist. He is older than officers of other agencies. The high experience requirement was made to prevent irrational appointments and to professionalize the force; yet it contributes to the appearance of an older officer.

Assignments given the Ranger occasionally contribute to a negative image. He is used as the frontline defense against riots and disorders. The length of a strike does not permit local police agencies to give their full consideration to the disorder. It is the Ranger who is repeatedly called to separate the factions at the labor dispute. It is easy to make enemies on both sides.

Respect for the Ranger is threatened by some civil disorders, even those including some leaders in public life who undeliberately violate duly enacted, constitutionally valid laws and

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 133.

⁵ Richard Maxwell Brown, "Historical Patterns of Violence in America," in *Violence in America, op. cit.*, p. 35.

court orders. Those who break these laws claim they should not be punished because in their opinion the law or policy they are protesting- against is unjust or immoral.⁶

Former U. S. Senator Ralph Yarborough was critical of the policy of assigning the Ranger when he asked, “What would you think of the FBI if we had them patrolling a watermelon patch in a labor dispute?”⁷ The late director of the Texas Department of Public Safety, Colonel Homer Garrison, defended the Rangers’ actions when he said, “Rangers get reputations for brutality because they draw the toughest police assignments in the state.”⁸

Publications cite the negative effect the Ranger has on the Mexican Americans. An example is:

Despite its present-day numerical insignificance, the Texas Rangers (‘los Rinches’) remain a symbol of Anglo control, perceived by the Texas Mexican Americans as ‘a force which was designed to curb and crush any sign of progress or independent action by the Mexican American.’⁹

In another book, written by Steiner, the Rangers are called “drunken thugs,” while the Mexican Americans are “noble members of a determined quiet revolution.”¹⁰ Moore’s text¹¹ complains that the Ranger is not subject to local control and therefore operates without restraint.

Violations of civil rights are not taken lightly anywhere in the United States. If by their actions the Rangers have deprived any single person of his civil rights, they have committed a very serious crime. J. Edgar Hoover, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, has

⁶ National Commission on the Cause and Prevention of Violence, Final Report of the Commission, *To Establish Justice, To Insure Domestic Tranquility* (Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1969), p. 141.

⁷ Texas: Trouble in a Melon Patch,” *Newsweek*, Volume 69, June 19, 1967, p. 38.

⁸ “Texas: Out to Get the Rangers,” *Newsweek*, Volume 45, March 21, 1955, p. 30.

⁹ Leo Grebler, Joan W. Moore, and Ralph C. Gazman, *The Mexican American People: The Nation’s Second Largest Minority* (New York: The Free Press, 1970), p. 530.

¹⁰ Steiner, *op. cit.*, pp. 367-377.

¹¹ John W. Moore, *Mexican Americans* (Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 1970), pp. 89-90.

written:

One of the quickest ways for any law enforcement officer to bring public disrepute upon himself, his organization and the entire police profession is to be found guilty of a violation of civil rights. A crime of this nature, if subtly encouraged by failure to condemn and punish, certainly leads down the road to totalitarianism.¹²

Education would seem to offer the best long-term program to enhance the status of the Texas Ranger. Candidates must be sought who have received exposure to college level courses in psychology, sociology, and other courses which would enable the Ranger to understand the people with whom he deals.¹³ Much progress has been made in this direction through the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Education.¹⁴

Abolishment

An avid reader of any newspaper will agree that certain news stories are repeated on a more or less annual basis. Among these are:

A dog returns home after crossing miles of unfamiliar terrain seeking his master;

A groundhog emerges somewhere in Pennsylvania to seek his shadow

A butcher cuts into a fish and discovers his wife's long-lost wedding ring, which she had dropped over the side of their honeymoon cruise ship twenty years before;

A rare whooping crane is born at the Aransas Wildlife Refuge on the Texas Gulf Coast;
and

The Texas Ranger is under fire from some politician or group and the journalist finds reason to call for his abolishment based upon some 'atrocities' from his history.

¹² J. Edgar Hoover, FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin, September 1952, pp. 1-2.

¹³ The President's Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice, report of the Commission, *The Challenge of Crime in a Free Society* (Washington, D. C.: U. S. Government Printing Office, 1967), p. 107.

¹⁴ Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Education, *Texas Police Journal*, March 1966.

The line of reasoning behind such stories is not new by any means. Even the late *Literary Digest* carried a story about the predicted death of the service,¹⁵ yet the Ranger is still here forty-five years later.

The abolishment theme has largely been carried by the Mexican Americans or those seeking the Mexican American vote. Abolishment, restriction, or change has actually occurred on several occasions: 1865, 1900, 1919, 1925, and 1935. Since 1935 the size of the force has steadily increased from the low thirties to the present eighty.

If abolishment is to occur, which is doubtful, it will require more than the present effort. Attacks based upon the 'lack of work' are not supported by the published statistics. The Department of Public Safety makes available the workload of the Ranger, as may be seen in the Appendix.

The Texas Advisor, Committee to the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights has called for more Mexican Americans to be hired by all police agencies, and the Department of Public Safety seems to have already answered this by the presence of Mexican Americans in the Highway Patrol, Rangers, and other units. Also, many Rangers today may be seen with books on how to speak Spanish.

The danger exists for the Ranger of a single incident involving violence or brutality on his part toward a Mexican American. The Ranger recognizes this and has been slow to act on issues in which he himself may become a factor. It is common knowledge that the Mexican

¹⁵ "So Long Ranger," *The Literary Digest*, Volume 84, February 28, 1925, p. 42.

American leaders have a difficult time in getting strong support from their people. This is exemplified by the study by Dworkin which found that thirty-seven percent of Negroes were in favor of riots as a means of social protest, contrasted with only three percent of Mexican Americans.¹⁶ Any law enforcement brutality could be seized upon as a means of creating a *cause celebre*.

To continually argue over who is at fault in the discord would be to debate a moot point. The Ranger would feel that the Mexican American is being too aggressive, and the Mexican American would call the Ranger a suppressor of his freedoms. It would rather seem logical to discover methods of solving the arguments before they happen.

Research into the Texas Ranger and his history of difficulties with the Mexican American is a worthwhile topic. It should not, however, be considered as the only meaningful facet of the Ranger's profile. It is only a small part of his present-day job, which has unfortunately brought him into the public eye with doubtful advantage. There are only a few of the Rangers who have daily contact with Mexican Americans.

The Ranger has received much less public attention for those duties which he has performed successfully and without incident. The Rangers have been called into action in numerous' disputes involving school integration, slant-hole oil well drillings, steel strikes, and gambling raids in many areas of the state. All these have occurred as the Ranger continued to perform his daily duties in criminal investigation.

The Ranger force annually receives numerous calls from local law enforcement agencies

¹⁶ Anthony Gary Dworkin, "Stereotypes and Self-Images Held by Native-Born and Foreign-Born Mexican Americans," in *Mexican Americans in the United States: A Reader* (Burma, ed.), *op. cit.*, p. 406.

to aid in criminal investigations or receive evidence for crime laboratory inspection. The Rangers provide the easiest access to polygraph (lie detector) equipment available to rural agencies. They also provide a backup force for the widespread sheriffs, city marshals, and police.

Historically it has been the Ranger who was sent into a situation where the local officers could not or would not act to prevent organized gambling, theft, or prostitution. If the Ranger force were retired, the workload would fall upon other state or federal agencies.

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APPENDIX A

Phrases Associated with the Texas Ranger

“Los Rinches”

“Los Diablos Tejanos” - The Texas Devils

“A Texas Ranger could ride like a Mexican, trail like an Indian, shoot like a Tennessean, and fight like a devil.”

“A Ranger would charge hell with a bucket of water.”

“One Riot, One Hanger.”

“We had a little shooting match - and they lost.”

“Esta un favorecido del destino.” - He lives a charmed life.

“Un bala no pueda martarle.” - No bullet can kill him.

“No man can stand up against a fellow that’s in the right and keeps on a-comin’.”

“They say a Ranger has Mexican blood. He has it on his boots.”

“He is an English teacher’s nightmare.”

“He is mild in his manner, his speech is a gentle vernacular. His eyes are as clear and calm as a summer sky, and his nerves are of that quiet and steady sort which belong to a tombstone.”

APPENDIX B

Comments from Questionnaires “S” & “E”

“Good job”

“They do a real good job.”

“They, in effect, are a good group, but they function with outdated methods.”

“They do the best they can with the number of employees they have and other limitations they work under.”

“We need all the law enforcement necessary to stop the rising crime rate.”

“I feel strongly that the Rangers should not be abolished we need all the well trained personnel that we can get to fight crime at every level—I also feel that the Rangers’ salaries should be increased—I think the Rangers are a part of our Texas Heritage.”

“Keep the Rangers as they are part of Texas History. They should have been kept separate from the Department of Public Safety.”

“Don’t know enough about the Rangers.”

“Unfortunately . . . my only familiarity with them was the television show they had.”

“My knowledge is limited—along with my concern about Texas Rangers.” “I know nothing at all about the Texas Rangers.”

“I’m afraid I really don’t know anything about the Rangers. I had thought they were the state police. I intend to find out more about them.”

“My brother at the age of 5 was given a certificate which stated him to be an honorary Texas Ranger. This is the extent of my knowledge . . .”

“No one ever hears about the Texas Rangers it is as if they were more a fraternal organization of people who were highway patrolmen for many years than a police organization.”

“I’ve only come in contact with one Ranger, and. he was probably the toughest, meanest, and strictest law enforcement officer I’ve ever seen. We don’t hear much about the Texas Rangers-is it a secret organization?”

“They should be centralized with the State highway patrol with increased duties that result

shared equally.”

“I think the Rangers should be put in with other law enforcement orgainzations. [Sic].”

“I don’t really know their jurisdiction but I hardly ever see one. Maybe there ought to be more.”

“The only knowledge I have is sketchy but I wonder whether or not Texas Rangers have a jot which they alone need handle.”

“Today’s value of the Texas Ranger lies chiefly in historical impact and appeal to visitors from outside the state. Call it ‘Tourist Attraction’ if you like—but still an adjunct with dollars and cents of publicity value.”

“Possibly a school should be founded . . . along the lines of the FBI Academy to teach Rangers and other Texas law inforcement [sic] agencies.”

“From information . . . most people equate a Ranger with his pursuits of Billy the Kid. I would suggest an active program of information.”

“I do think that the majority of Texas Rangers are violent men, who for the most part, do not fear killing or being killed.”

“From what I’ve heard the Rangers are outdated, sometimes use excessive force, and are especially discriminatory in handling of Mexican Americans. They dwell on historical reputation.”

“From my knowledge . . . they are merely a token force for the purpose of a memory of the days when the Rangers protected the Pioneers from Indians. I believe the :angers serve no really useful service and should be replaced by a more effective force.”

““They seem to serve no function.”

“The Texas Rangers are a fine honorary organization with a great tradition, however, their effectiveness in law enforcement is little. Their organization should be maintained in the same tradition as the DAR, Book-of-the-Month, etc.”

“A small force of” Rangers could be retained as a link to our frontier heritage--perhaps to conduct tours through the Alamo or something.”

“Because the Texas Rangers use excessive force on minorities, Mexican Americans and blacks is reason enough for them to be abolished. They are outdated. They went out with outlaws.”

“They are the governor’s own army and they do a good job of exterminating a group of people

they feel will benefit a community. . . . they intimidate minorities with powers no other police force has.”

“They are used by Texas governors to oppress minority groups.”

“I don’t know anything about the Texas Rangers, except what I hear other students and professors say about them. Contrary to popular belief students and professors can be wrong, so I will just pass on the above questions.”

APPENDIX C

Statement by Colonel Wilson E. Speir¹⁷

I have been formally advised that I have been summoned here today in connection with testimony this Commission anticipates, to the effect, and here I quote: “. . . that the Texas Rangers have traditionally been a force for the repression of Mexican Americans, and that this practice continues, as evidenced by the actions of the Texas Rangers (including physical assaults and intimidation in connection with union organizing attempts in Starr County in 1966-1967.)” (unquote)

I wish to state emphatically that it is NOT the policy of the Texas Rangers to repress law-abiding people of any national extraction or ethnic group. Without question the role of the Texas Rangers in our society has been and is to protect the lives, property, and rights of all persons, and to enforce the laws of this state and nation.

To my personal knowledge, this has been the case for the past 27 years, since I joined the Department of Public Safety on November 1, 1941 and rose through the ranks to my present position. I can also state that this will be the case as long as I am Director of this Department.

This hearing today comes at a time when broad allegations unsupported by fact but represented as factual are being made by persons who often voice opinions and conclusions based on hearsay. Many of these allegations are nothing more than innuendoes, insinuations, and distortions of the truth.

I challenge the statement that the Texas Rangers have traditionally been used as a force

¹⁷ U. S. Commission on Civil Rights, *Hearing Before the Commission on Civil Rights* (San Antonio, Texas: December 9-14, 1968), Appendix.

for repression of any individual or group—unless that individual or group be in violation of the law which the Rangers are sworn to uphold and enforce.

And if the presence of the Texas Rangers or any other law officers represses or “intimidates” those who would break the law, then I say that is exactly what they are there for, as we have no apology to make for enforcing the law.

Incidentally, it should be emphasized that the Texas Ranger force is a very limited one, contrary to the picture which may have been planted in many people’s minds. The fact is that there are only 62 men on the Ranger force—and this includes the captains and sergeants—divided into six geographical company areas across our large state.

As a criminal law enforcement arm of the Texas Department of Public Safety, they are a highly-skilled group of criminal investigators who carry out their duties in cooperation with other state, local and federal law enforcement agencies.

It is true that the task of enforcing the laws of this state and nation is not always a popular one. Those officers who must enforce the law are frequently attacked for doing so.

Emotions aroused by the unpopularity of laws and their enforcement often result in unbridled and irresponsible statements which can cause great harm to the image of law enforcement in general.

I would state to you that it is the firm policy of the Texas Department of Safety, past, present and future, to investigate the charges made against the conduct of its officers, and to take appropriate action upon completion of such investigations.

The vague and indefinite nature of many of the allegations that have been leveled at the Texas Rangers in the public notices which have emanated from these hearings are not deserving

of detailed rebuttal before this commission

I would like to emphasize, however, that the Texas Department of Public Safety has many wonderful employees of Mexican-American descent throughout its various functions—qualified employees who have been selected without regard to race, creed or color. Throughout my long tenure with the Department, I have known of not a single qualified Mexican American who has been turned away because of his ancestry.

To re-state the policy of the Texas Department of Public Safety: It is, and shall continue to be, the protection of life and rights and the property of all, through the enforcement of law—which we do not write, but are sworn to uphold, fairly, impartially and with justice to all.

APPENDIX D

80 Texas Rangers by City Residence

City over 100,000 population

Abilene	1	Corpus Christi	1	San Antonio	4
Amarillo	2	Dallas	5	Waco	5
Austin	4	Houston	3	Wichita Falls	2
Beaumont	1	Lubbock	4		
	Total		32		

City between 20,000 and 100,000 population

Arlington	1	Longview	1	Paris	1
Bryan	1	Lufkin	1	Plainview	1
Del Rio	1	McAllen	1	San Angelo	1
Greenville	1	Midland	4	Tyler	1
Harlingen	1	Pampa	1	Victoria	1
	Total		18		

City less than 20,000 population

Alpine	1	Columbus	1	Mount Pleasant	
1					
Athens	1	Cotulla	1	Navasota	1
Atlanta	1	Crystal City	1	Ozona	1
Bay City	1	Falfurrias	1	Pecos	1
Beeville	1	Gainesville	1	Richmond	1
Belton	1	Huntsville	1	San Augustine	1
Benjamin	1	Jasper	1	Sierra Flanca	1
Brady	1	Kerrville	1	Stephenville	1
Brownwood	1	Liberty	1	Sweetwater	1
Childress	1	Mineral Wells	1	Uvalde	1
	Total		30		

APPENDIX E

Statements of Texas Rangers on the Challenge of the Seventies

“Upgrading of Ranger service through education programs . . .”

“The steadily increasing crime rate and apathetic, public call for a harder working, dedicated Ranger force. I feel this is our greatest challenge for the 1970s.”

“The same challenge that every law enforcement group faces: public apathy, poor public cooperation, . . . courts, jury and bonding procedures. . . poor cooperation and dual standards used with and by the judicial system in dealing with the supposed minority and racial problems.”

“I would have recommended a career [in law enforcement] for my son fifteen years ago but would not now. It is too often a thankless and distasteful job . . . without the backing from the courts that we must have to maintain effective law enforcement.”

“Our biggest problem . . . [will be] members of minority groups who are radicals. I don’t think it will be a racial problem but it will be under the pretext of one. These are extremists working to undermine our government system. Seems to me they have made a fair start.”

“I feel the greatest challenge . . . would be learning new techniques that would work under the changing criminal justice system . . . understanding the different types of criminals.”

“. . . will be to show the citizens that the Ranger Service is still an effective, unbiased group of law enforcement officers. That we aren’t a group of men appointed for posterity, but are a professionalized group of men, who are still greatly needed in this modern society.”

“. . . will be to try to cope with the rising rate of crime and hope the new laws and courts will swing back to our side.”

“. . . will be enforcing the law in a fair and impartial manner when and where the need arises regardless of the circumstances. . . . We must make the people of the State of Texas aware that when the Rangers are called upon for service they will receive that service in the most professional way. The question of race, creed, color or national origin need never arise when asking for help.”

“To keep alive and enhance the good name and heritage handed down to us by other Rangers. Strive to swing the pendulum of justice away from the criminal and back to favoring citizens.”

“Our society. . . make the pendulum swing back to the side of law and order.”

“. . . the challenge. . . cannot be separated from that of peace officers throughout Texas. . . .”

cooperation and communication. . . between all. agencies. . . education of the public. . . that law enforcement is every citizen's duty. . . the radicals. . . will be as active, if not more so, in the 70s . . . our courts have taken them too lightly [and] if this trend is not reversed the whole nation may suffer.”

“ . . . would be in the field of demonstrations and dissident activities.”

“Challenges. . . too many to enumerate.”

“ . . . will be [the Ranger's] attempt to protect the people of the State of Texas, enforce the criminal laws of the state . . . at the same time comply with . . . the new penal code. I love my work as a Texas Ranger but it has become so complicated in complying with the U. S. Supreme Court rulings. . . that it becomes very difficult to protect ourselves.”

“ . . . apathy of our citizens [who are] indifferent . . . avoid jury duty, . . . sympathy lies with accused. In general the don't want to get involved. Congestion in courts [is complicated by] the state losing witnesses and culprit [not receiving] a speedy trial.”

“ . . . keeping the image by increasing educational standards, realizing that modern society depends more and more on an officer's mental rather than physical ability.

. . . careful selection of new Rangers.

. . . keeping the Rangers free of political bonds.

. . . because the Rangers are highly respected. . . [they] will be under attack.”

“ . . . will be to maintain the respect and reputation we have enjoyed through the years.”

“Cooperation of responsible citizens, courts, and [law] enforcement personnel.”

“ . . . will be the restrictions that are placed on a lawman by ridiculous Penal Code revisions. . . ”

“ . . . is no different than the 30s. . . . new laws, new offenders, relations with police and public. He must stand as others have stood to uphold law and order and pray for improvement in salary, equipment, and retirement.”

APPENDIX F

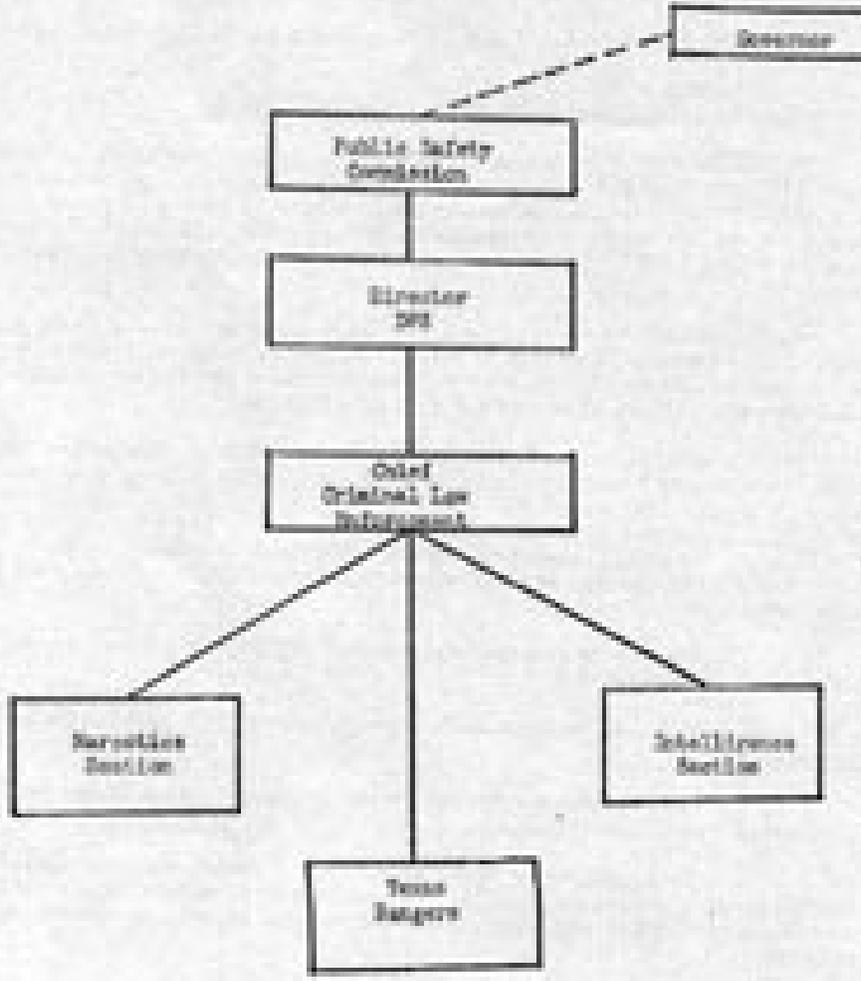


FIGURE 1
Organizational Chart¹

¹Adapted from Department of Public Safety Organizational Structure (7-

APPENDIX G

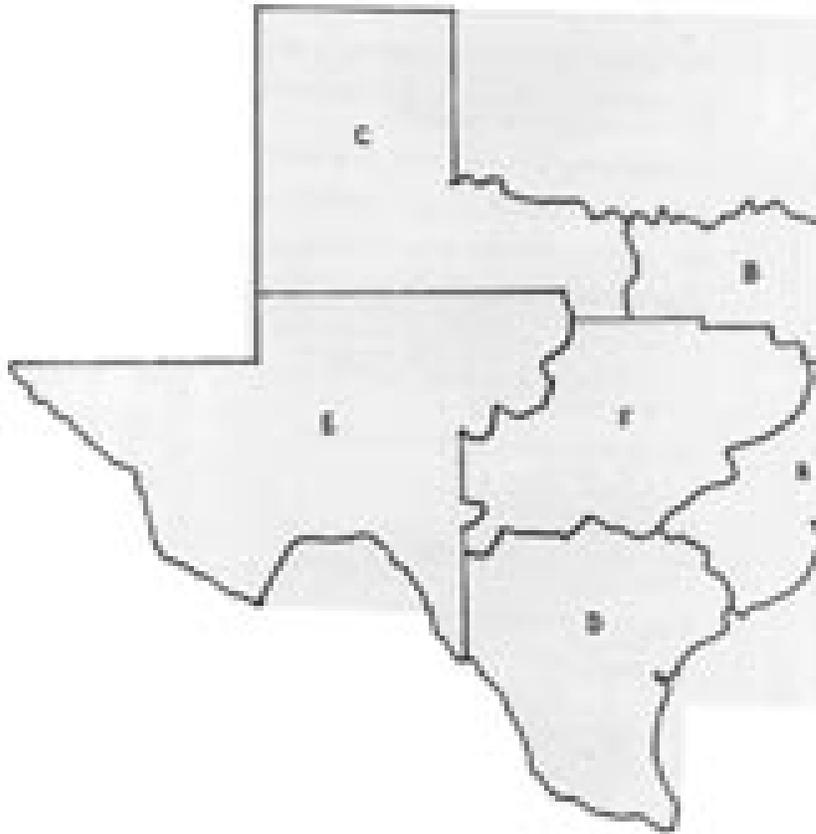


Figure 2
Ranger Companies Map
A – Houston B – Dallas C – Lubbock
D – San Antonio E – Midland F – Waco

APPENDIX H

QUESTIONNAIRE "T"

1. What is your present age?
2. What was your age at appointment as a Ranger? _____
3. How many years' experience as a law enforcement officer did you have prior to joining the Rangers? _____
4. How many years have you served as a Ranger? _____
5. What is your height? _____
6. What is your weight? _____
7. What was your father's occupation? _____
8. While attending high school, did you live:
 - in a city, over 100,000 population
 - in a city, 10,000-100,000 population
 - in a city, 2,500-10,000 population
 - in a city, under 2,500 population
 - on a farm or ranch
9. What is your educational experience?
 - High school College 1 2 3 4 Graduate school
10. What is your military experience?
 - Years _____ Rank _____ Branch _____
11. What is your marital status?
 - Married Divorced Single Widower
11. What is your wife's educational background?
 - High school College 1 2 3 4 Graduate school
12. How many children do you have and what are their ages? _____
13. How would you rate your department's in-service training program?
 - Excessive Needs expansion Sufficient No opinion

14. Do you think additional training would help you in your work? If yes, what kind? (Check those that would help)

- Additional recruit training by the DPS
- Additional inservice training by the DPS
- College courses in criminology and police science
- College courses in Sociology
- College courses in Psychology
- College courses in other areas. Specify _____
- Other kinds of training. Specify _____

15. Do you hold a

- basic certificate advanced certificate
- intermediate certificate none of the above

16. Do you personally conduct, supervise, or administer some form of inservice training for area law enforcement agencies?

17 In your opinion, is there a shortage of Texas Rangers? Yes No

If yes, how many additional Rangers do you think are needed? ._____

If you were appointing men to fill this shortage, what minimum qualifications would you look for?

Education _____

Experience _____

18. If you had a son, would you recommend a law enforcement Yes No

19. Would you favor a fixed period of time to serve as a Ranger? No Yes

(If yes, how long?) _____

20. What do you feel will be the greatest challenge to the Rangers in the 1970s?

APPENDIX I

QUESTIONARIO "S"

1. Ha conocido alguna vez un Ranger? () Si 2.
2. Cuantos Texas Rangers hay?
 10-25 75-200 500-1000
 25-75 200-500 1000-1500
3. Se usan para:
 controlar el trafico investigacion criminal
 politica la lucha contra el crimen organizado
 proteger al gobernador distribuir boletas de infracciones
4. Pienso que el sueldo de un Ranger es alrededor de
 \$1,00-\$600 por mes \$1000-\$1200 por mes
 \$600-\$800 por mes \$1200-\$11,00 por mes
 \$800-\$1000 por mes \$1400-\$1600 por mes
5. Pienso que su sueldo es:
 demasiado bajo demasiado alto
 justo sin opinion
6. Pienso que los Texas Ranger desempeñan su trabajo
 con fuerza limitada con demasiada fuerza
 con justa fuerza sin opinion
7. L Piensa Ud. que los Texas Rangers lo sirven bien? () Si () No
8. Pienso que los poderes de los Texas Rangers son:
 dernasiado fuertes demasiado debiles
 justos sin opinion
9. Clasifique estos trabajos del 1 al 7 en orden de importancia:
 Guardian de caza y pesca Agente del FBI
 Policla de Caminos Policla de Ciudad
 Texas Ranger Policla Fronterizo
 Oficial de Justicia de un Condado (County Sheriff)
10. Cree Ud. que los Texas Rangers sirven a los Americanos mejor los Mexico-Americanos?

Si No

11. Ud. se refiere a si mismo como

Mexicano Latino Chicano
 Mexico-Americano Latino-Americano Hispano

12. Piensa Ud. que deberiean abolir a los Texas Rangers? Si No

Hombre _____ Mujer _____
Mad __ Ocupacion ____

Observation:

Male _____
Age _____

Female _____
Occupation _____

Comment:

Texas Rangers Activity Summary for Five Calendar Years ^a

	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
OFFENSES					
Murder	2,579	3,117	4,175	4,778	2,427
Assault to Murder	564	571	664	680	294
Rape	503	479	297	752	226
Assault to Rape	85	117	33	98	58
Robbery	1,572	2,029	2,172	2,442	1,562
Assault to Rob	154	251	232	258	140
Burglary	13,114	13,971	12,246	12,729	8,373
Livestock Theft	4,267	3,998	2,891	3,602	1,923
Theft Over \$50	6,753	6,414	6,119	6,569	5,149
Swindling and Fraud	3,556	3,692	3,228	2,745	1,711
Arson	499	722	522	349	282
Kidnapping	71	66	32	85	57
Narcotic	454	1,048	1,247	1,795	1,497
Auto Theft	718	762	574	634	506
Aggravated Assault	105	182	88	90	70

	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
Gambling	1,692	1,954	3,183	2,377	1,729
Unlawfully Carrying Arms	25	59	44	86	53
Missing Persons	369	596	725	559	286
Racial Disturbance	161	260	227	114	134
Questionable Death	550	339	749	396	422
Jailbreak	538	329	239	555	139
Riot	23	86	130	160	77
Fugitive	2,347	2,352	2,010	2,077	876
Other Offenses	4,905	5,341	4,520	4,729	2,489
TOTAL	45,604	48,735	46,347	48,659	30,480

OTHER WORK DONE:

Evidence to laboratory	754	754	948	1,218	1,523
Reports Submitted	8,621	9,555	11,068	11,382	15,065
Written Statements Taken	952	844	1,177	1,216	1,424
Arrests -.Felony	922	1,127	1,418	1,386	2,075
Felony Convictions	610	665	668	706	815

Number of Years	3,662	4,808	4,356	4,599	6,546
Life Imprisonment	12	6	5	28	23
Death Penalty	5	5	4	0	4

	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
Arrests - Misdemeanor		290	560	491	768
	1,345				
Total Fines	\$19,528	\$36,426	\$20,860	\$33,203	\$44,300
Prisoners Transported	744	836	811	983	1,191
Searches and Seizures	484	524	530	562	816
Value of Property Recovered	\$690,688	\$666,977	\$1,427,419	\$1,236,027	\$1,752,553
Assisted Officials	18,857	20,477	21,056	21,230	21,379
Special Investigations	326	171	278	95	185
Hours of Field Supervision	5,780	4,613	6,018	6,614	6,440
Field Liaison	2,847	4,180	4,447	4,498	5,570
Office Duty	14,528	15,922	15,168	13,825	14,226
Investigation	158,165	167,967	164,176	164,935	192,990
Court Duty	4,862	5,594	5,284	4,717	7,700
Other Duty	27,288	31,505	35,762	47,086	60,634
TOTAL HOURS	213,470	229,781	230,855	241,675	287,560
Miles (Auto)	2,200,087	2,338,849	2,468,238	2,622,829	2,997,550
Miles (Other)	22,491	18,483	35,611	58,935	56,801
Hours Horseback	397	115	74	99	118

^a Source: Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas Rangers Activity Summaries, 1966-1970.

APPENDIX L
TABLE 7

1970 Texas Rangers 'Quarterly Service Performance'^a

Quarter	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Number of Men	72	72	79	79
Felony				
Offenses Investigated Per Man	17	14	14	13
Cases Developed Per Man	14	14	11	11
Cases Completed Per Man	6	6	5	5
Percent Cases Completed	47	42	47	41
Arrests Per Man	7	8	6	7
Conviction Rate	45	49	55	50
Misdemeanor Investigations Per Man	7	6	6	6
Special Investigations Per Man	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6
Reports Submitted Per Man	54	53	46	47
Value Property Recovered Per Han	\$5,281	\$3,845	\$4,775	\$9,093

^a Source: The Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas Rangers Service Performance for the quarters indicated, 1970 Calendar Year.

	MEX AMER (N = 200) a	ANGLO AMER (N = 200) a	UNIVERSITY (N = 100) b	TOTAL (N = 500)	%%%
Have you ever known a Texas Ranger?					
Yes	67	53	7	127	25.4
No	133	147	93	373	74.6
How many Texas Ranger are there?					
10 – 25		11	14	2	27
5.4					
25 – 75	24	24	24	72	14.4
75 – 200	53	23	43	119	23.8
200 – 500	54	78	20	152	30.4
500 – 1000	30	45	11	86	17.2
1000 – 1500	28	16	0	44	8.8
They are used for:					
Traffic Control		16	14	5	35
7.0					
Politics		14	24	10	48
9.6					
Protecting Governor	26	23	13	62	12.4
Criminal Investigation		78	78	59	215
43.0					
Organized Crime	62	45	11	118	23.6
Speeding Tickets	4	16	2	22	9.4
I feel the Texas Rangers do their job:					
With Limited Force	34	26	13	73	14.6
Right Amount of Force	74	67	13	154	30.8
Excessive Force	50	26	17	93	18.6
No Opinion	42	81	57	180	36.0

	MEX AMER	ANGLO AMER	UNIVERSITY	TOTAL	%%%
I think the Ranger's powers are					
too strong	45	13	10	68	13.6
about right	83	55	16	154	30.8
too weak	27	61	10	98	19.6
no opinion	45	71	64	180	36.0

I think the Ranger's salary is about

\$400-\$600 per month	46	35	24	105	21.0	
\$600-\$800 per month	95	81	20	196	39.2	
\$800-\$1000 per month		43	59	41	143	28.6
\$1000-\$1200 per month	11	20	8	39	7.8	
\$1200-\$1400 per month	5	5	4	14	2.8	
\$1400-\$1600 per month	0	0	3	3	0.6	

I think the Ranger's salary too low

to low	33	41	7	81	16.2
about right	82	67	44	193	38.6
too high	29	13	1	43	8.6
no opinion	56	79	48	183	36.6

^a to obtain individual percentage multiply by 0.5

^b to obtain individual percentage multiply by 1.0

VITA

The author was born in Dallas, Texas on April 14, 1943, the third son of a Texas Highway Patrolman. When his father was appointed to the Texas Rangers in 1948 the family moved to Gainesville, Texas, and he was educated in schools there, graduating from Gainesville High School in 1961 and receiving an Associate of Science (A.S.) degree from Cooke County Junior College in 1962. He received a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree in Sociology from North Texas State University in 1965.

While a student in the junior college and the university he was employed full time by the Cooke County Sheriff's Department and the Denton Police Department.

He entered the U. S. Navy flight program in 1965 and rose to the rank of lieutenant after seeing extended service in the Caribbean and the Mediterranean Seas as a patrol plane pilot. While serving as a flight instructor in the Naval Air Advanced Training Command in Corpus Christi, Texas, he became interested in obtaining a graduate education and left active duty in January 1971 to pursue his educational interests.