

11) WINCHESTER 1895 SECOND MODEL RIFLE
.30-06 HISTORICAL TEXAS RANGER RIFLE
S/N 420502 mfg 1927
FRONT TOP OF RECEIVER AND HAMMER IS MATED
24" ROUND BARREL, STRAIGHT-GRAIN WALNUT
STOCKS, CRESCENT BUTTPLATE.
SILVER PRESENTATION PLAQUE IN RIGHT SIDE
OF STOCK READS:

"TO: GEN. W.W. STERLING
TEXAS RANGERS

FROM: DR. DALE BAKER."

INCLUDES GEORGE MADIS ORIGINAL DESCR. LETTER
WILLIAM WARREN STERLING WAS BORN IN 1891
AND WAS THE ONLY MAN IN TEXAS RANGER HISTORY
TO RISE THROUGH THE RANKS FROM PRIVATE TO
EVERY OTHER LEVEL OF SERVICE INCLUDING
ADJUTANT GENERAL. HE FOUGHT FEARLESSLY AT
THE BORDER AND PURSUED THE CRIMINAL ELEMENT
WITH DETERMINATION AND COURAGE. HE WORKED
FOR THE RANGERS AS THEY TRANSITIONED FROM
HORSE TO THE AUTOMOBILE AND FROM THE LEVER
ACTION RIFLE AND SINGLE ACTION REVOLVER TO THE
ERA OF SEMI-AUTOMATIC WEAPONS. THE GENERAL
WROTE MANY ARTICLES AND A BOOK ON HIS EX-
PERIENCES. RETIRING TO CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS
WHERE HE DIED IN 1960. W.W. STERLING'S NAME
RANKS WITH OTHER LEGENDARY TEXAS RANGERS
SUCH AS BILL MCDONALD AND FRANK HAMER.
LETTERS/ARTICLES INCLUDED

George ...
P.O. ...
... 7720

Historical Model 1895 Rifle Number 420502

A thorough inspection has been made of this great Winchester, inside and out, and I have determined it is all original or made by Winchester and as described here.

Records show this serial number was assigned to the 1895 in 1927.

The letter "B" on the lower tang denotes mechanical changes made in the bolt and with other components.

Under the barrel one sees numerous stamps of inspectors, assemblers and fitters. In addition to these marks, there is the number "25", which would be the year the barrel was made. A relatively large stock of barrels would be made and dated for future assembly of completed guns. Other markings under the barrel are "MNS", showing the barrel was made of nickel steel furnished by the Midvale steel plant. "VP" showed the gun had been "viewed-proved" and had passed all of the proof tests and inspections, and "Δ" was Winchester's general inspection mark.

On the front of the receiver under the forend is the letter "O", a fitter's assembler's mark and another general inspection mark. This general inspector mark is also

found on the hammer, along with the fitter's mark "6". At the front of the stocks is the mark "6" and another general inspection mark. Near the trigger on the receiver is the number "22", the stamps of the fitter who adjusted the hammer and trigger.

A twenty-four inch round barrel was fitted to this rifle, and the front sight is of ramp style with the ramps forged as part of the barrel. The front sight is of steel, correct for a rifle in this serial series. A "sporting" rear sight was provided, and is of the flat-top style. The "32-B" elevator is also original and correct.

For the 1895 model caliber .30 Army, were commonly called the "30-40 Krag," was considered standard at Winchester.

This rifle chambered the .30 Govt. '06 cartridge and is marked for the caliber on the side of the barrel. Under the barrel is seen "1906", indicating the chamber of the gun.

Flat tops of receivers were mottled, as seen here, and the Winchester proof marks were affected due to this mottling. The Winchester proof marks on the barrel as well as the receiver workings are all original and unmottled.

Straight grain walnut was used for stocking this rifle, and it remains in good condition, showing use but no abuse.

Model 1895 Number 420502 (2)

On the right side of the stock is
an inlaid plate inscribed "To / Gen.
W. W. Sterling / Texas Rangers / from /
Dr. John Baker".


The pattern of age has formed on
this inscription plate and the wear on the
plate and stock indicate this plate was
installed long ago and the rifle has seen
much use after the plate was installed. The
decorative scrolls and borders as well as
the engraved lettering show age and use.

Research continues on General
Sterling and on this rifle; with the rifle
are numerous papers and documents from
the Sterling estate.

We can know the history of very
few of the collectors Winchester. With
number 420502 we have the history of
the owner, and number 420502 merits
a prominent place in any fine collection
or Museum.

George Sparks

NO. 537	MAKE	WINCHESTER	
TYPE	MODEL 1895 SPORTING RIFLE CAL. 30-06		
SERIAL NO.	420502	FINISH	PATINA GRIPS WALNUT STOCK
CONDITION	GOOD	BARREL LENGTH	24 in.
PROCURED FROM	TOM KIELMAN AUCTION 12/6 1986		
COST	HLKXYN	VALUE	
GEN. DESC. AND MARKINGS			
HISTORY			
SILVER plaque IN RT. SIDE OF STOCK " To			
GENL. W.W. STERLING			
TEXAS RANGERS			
FROM			
CHAS. SCHREINER III, MT. HOME, TEXAS			
DR. DALE BAKER "			



G 7890-A Schriener

Winchester M.1895 .30-06
Carried by Texas Ranger Captain
and Adjutant General W.W. Sterling
420502 Y O Ranch

April 27th, 1937.

Mr. Tom Hickman, Deputy Sheriff,
Gainesville, Texas.

Dear Sir:

By this letter, you are hereby directed to forward to Dozier Skipper, Jr., Clerk of the District Court of Gregg County, Texas, the money which you seized in raiding a gambling resort in the Palace Hotel in Longview during 1932, while you were in the Ranger service.

Said money will be held by said District Clerk until properly disposed of under the direction of a Court of competent jurisdiction.

Clarence E. McGaw
Judge 124th Judicial District

CC: Tom Hickman (3)
CC: Dozier Skipper Jr.

fr

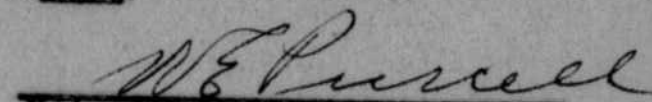
May 10, 1937

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This is to certify that I was present in the First State Bank, Gainesville, Texas, on the 19th day of May, 1937, when a pasteboard box, about 4"x9", and bearing the seal of the First National Bank of Fort Worth, Texas, was opened. The contents were as follows: Five Hundred and Eleven Dollars and ninety cents (\$511.90), all in currency, with the exception of three twenty-five cent pieces and three nickles. All of this money showed evidence of having been in the box for a long period of time, as the silver was very tarnished. The box also contained several sets of dice and a gauge for measuring dice. It also had a list of the money showing just what was taken from poker and dice tables in the gambling raid on the Palace Hotel in the early part of January, 1933. This money was left in the box and Tom Hickman secured a Cashier's Check for \$511.90 in favor of Mr. Dozier Skipper, Jr., Clerk of the District Court, Gregg County, Texas, as per letters of instructions from the Honorable Clarence E. McGaw, Judge of the One Hundred and Twenty-Fourth Judicial District, Longview, Texas--these letters dated April 27 and May 14, 1937.



Sworn to and subscribed before me this 20th day
of May, A.D. 1937.


Notary Public in and for
Cooke County, Texas

La Gasita
348 Palmero
Corpus Christi, Texas July 24/1957

Zora Eckhardt)
Ines Isabel)
Sara Rose) Sterling
William Warren)

Way down South
and
A little bit West

Mr. Charles Schreiner III,
Mountain Home Texas.
Dear Mr. Schreiner:

It was good to hear from you, and to know that you have my old pistol. I was a pall bearer at my late comrade's funeral, and a few days ago I called on Mrs. Hamer in Austin. She did not know anything about the wooden handled sixshooter.

The Cross L on the left side of the stocks is my brand, and the monogram that resembles a crown is made of my initials, WWS. Enclosed is an excerpt from the chapter on Captain Hamer, that is in my forthcoming book "Trails and Trials of a Texas Ranger". It tells something about the history of your gun. I have long, slim fingers, and thought maybe it would be handier if the trigger guard were filed off. After using it a long time, I do not believe that this alteration is of any practical value.

You can puzzle the gun experts with one feature of it. You have probably noticed that the barrel is stamped "Bisley Model". That came about in this manner. My classmate at A. & M., the late Tom O'Connor (no relation of the Victoria family) was a cousin of the Milmo family, and a stockholder in the old Milmo National Bank of Laredo. They kept a Bisley model 45 Colt in the vault for many years, and it had never been fired. When the bank was liquidated, Tomas O'Connor gave it to me. I did not like the Bisley model, and I fitted the old Guayacan handles on to it. You can see the overhang where the handles are screwed onto the frame. The barrel

La Gasita
346 Pulmaro
Corpus Christi, Texas

Zora Eckhardt
Inez Isabel
Sara Rose
William Warren } Sterling

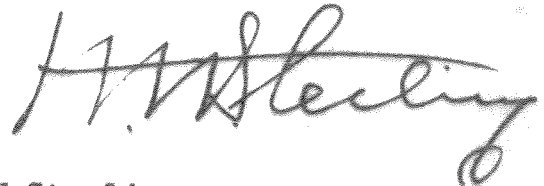
My dear Sam
and
Auntie

and cylinder of my old gun were completely worn out from many years of use.

I will have to go to Kerrville before long to the Jorns, the photographer, who is copying some old pictures for me. It may be that I can call you, and give you any further information you may need about the old pistol.

Assuring you of my pleasure in learning that the old relic is in good hands, I am,

sincerely,



W.W. Sterling.

P.S. The lady who does my typing is on vacation, and I hope you can make this out. My handwriting is even worse.

Trans-Pecos Productions



P.O. Box 4124
Dallas, Texas 75208
(214) 942-4905



Thanks so much for returning my phone call yesterday.

As I said, we are working on a PBS documentary about the Texas Rangers and want to come to your place to videotape a handgun belonging to Bill Sterling.

We are attempting to go back and look at a killing that occurred in Mission, Texas in 1915, by Bill and Ed Sterling. The story is detailed in the enclosed book, *Texas Cowboy*, in the chapter titled "A Death In the Valley." I took the liberty to tape flag it for you. My grandfather told me this story and I have always been fascinated by it. Please read it at your convenience, as his is an eyewitness account of the killing of his father, Frank Warnock.

I am enclosing several copies of documents from the Hidalgo County Courthouse and the Texas Rangers. You may keep these for your files. I have labeled each item in the following manner.

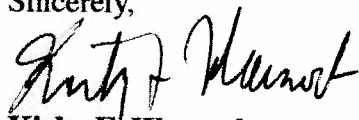
They include:

- A) Front page newspaper account of the killing from the *Brownsville Herald*, October 2, 1915
- B) Ranger report from Captain Henry Ransom of Company D, where he reports his arrest of Bill and Ed Sterling.
- C) Copy of the bail bond for Bill Sterling
- D) Arrest warrant for Bill and Ed Sterling, signed by sheriff A.Y. Baker
- E) Transcripts of the testimony at the J.P. hearing the day following the killing
- F) Newspaper account of the trial from the *Brownsville Herald*
- G) Newspaper account of the verdict from the *Brownsville Herald*

With your permission, we would like to videotape the gun in your possession and get your recollections and remembrances of Bill Sterling. I may be reached at 214/942-4905. If you get my voicemail, please leave a detailed message and I will get back with you.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Kirby F. Warnock

11-3-55
7:00 PM.

I got Dorothy to go by the Inquirer office this afternoon and copy part of the account of the Glover-Schnabel killing which took place in the afternoon of June 14, 1901. The story in the paper was quite voluminous and was followed by more on succeeding days. The Inquirer files are pretty complete.

Evidently the men mentioned came by train from Cuero, were met at the station by reinforcements etc and went on to Ottine on the train, where they got horses.

The old Schnabel ranch is between Ottine and Belmond.

Hope this is of some help to you and if there are any points you want cleared the whole story can be had in detail from the files of Gonzales Inquirer. Also, Judge Fly is quite clear on the matter.

Henry Schnabel was probably not an officer -

Jelly
The newspaper did not have facilities for pictures in those days -



San Antonio, Texas
April 2, 1940

My Dear Capt. Sterling :

On March 9, I wrote you a letter, and addressed it in care of Ranger Headquarters, at Austin, and thought maybe you would answer it, and because I have not heard from you, I'm going to write again, because the letter may still be lying around at headquarters waiting for you to come along.

I wanted you to testify to the party there who says I gave them permission to use and relase for publication, any of the prints Col. Carmichael bought from me, and which you was an eye witness. You also know how I refused to allow the Centennial people at Dallas, to use my stuff, without pay to me, and you will remember what Capt. Gillett said about such use, while we three were in the Captain's rooms, in the Gunter Hotel, when the Captain loaned me a bunch of his old historic pictures, saying he wanted me to have those pictures of his collection TO BE A PART OF MY COLLECTION because it was indeed one worthwhile, and not for any other one like it, and because I was entitled to remuneration for my work in making and preserving so many old time ranger pictures. Captain Gillett was strong for the truth in pictures and story, and I certainly now appreciate his confidence.

I will enclose a carbon copy of letter I wrote them, and which they have made no reply. I wrote a letter to Gov. O'Daniel also appealing to him to save my business by requesting those people who are funishing pictures, who they admit was my property, to a magazine story for TRUE DETECTIVE MYSTERIES, of New York, soon to appear, which would deprive me of pay, because it is my right to receive pay, etc.

The magazine editor wrote me March 15, they would pay me for my pictures, etc., and that I would hear from them very soon, but as yet have had no word from them. The Governor's secretary wrote me the Governor was not at home, but he would take the matter up with him on his return. His letter dated March 18, but no more word from him. Captain Sterling, won't you PLEASE testify to them regarding facts in this matter, because you know I deserve recognition. HOW I NEED A FRIEND, to intercede for my rights in this matter. I don't want to be mean or contentious, but I MUST PLEAD FOR MY RIGHTS. PLEASE, help me save my remunerative rights to pictures I made with my own hands of many of the rangers myself, as well as those like Capt. Gillett furnished for my use. It's just like one photographer copying another photographer's work and selling it, which principle is identical. Please let me hear from you soon. (Miss Gravis gave me this address, and felt like the letter so addressed will reach you.) Best regards.

Very kindly yours,

N. H. Rose
N. H. Rose

San Antonio, Texas

April 5, 1940

Dear Captain Sterling :

I sure do thank you for your letter today. Glad that you will testify for me for if ever a poor dickens on earth needed some one to do so, it certainly is N.H. Rose. Read your letter to the Book Store lady, and she said Captain Sterling is a fine gentleman and certainly a friend else he would never have written a letter like this one is, to me. I thank you so much. I wish you would allow me to make a copy and send to that New York magazine, to show them what you think of that Headquarters gang at Austin. But I wouldn't do it, unless you said it was all right to do so. I am sending an envelop in this, if you care to write them, and say what I wrote you about the ranger pictures is true, and then say what else you want to say. Gee, I wish you would.

I showed your letter to two postal clerks to see what you say about the letter I had written you has never been forwarded to you, (nor returned to me.) They said I ought to send the letter to the postmaster, at Austin, and ask him to send a tracer, or see why the Headquarters has not forwarded it to you. They never answered my letter, and maybe they don't want you to know that I had written to you or them about that game of theirs. Something is wrong, looks like to me.

I wish that you and me could talk it over with Gov. O'Daniel, so he could see what they are doing. I just believe some body attached to the Headquarters office is gathering and selling those old pictures to make extra money for them selves. I bet the Rangers don't get a penny of it. I want to know who copies the pictures for them also. Some one there in Austin, and maybe they sell my prints also. Many of the pictures I made of the rangers myself, and it's just like one photographer taking another photographer's pictures, copying and selling them for his own. It beats the band to see what men in this line will do to get the other man's business. The man that copies my pictures and ~~then~~ stamped on the back with my name, is a down right thief, is what I think. The governor is not going to answer my letter, perhaps they have told him a lot of bunk, to make him believe I am rich and don't have any right to those pictures, no more than they do, etc. I telling what is in the wind there. He don't reply and that shows something is rotten.

Wish you would just write a postcard to the Austin postmaster and tell him a letter from San Antonio was written and mailed about March 9, 1940, (long envelope,) in care of the Ranger Headquarters there, and it has never been forwarded to you, and to please see why has not been forwarded. I bet they will declare it has never been delivered to them.

Will be glad to see you when you come to town again. I live at 1720 Leal street but have been asked to vacate soon, for the good reason I am behind with the rent. Made less than \$12 in March, and wife and me both sick so much, right when I need the most of all, then something like this comes up to keep me from getting any money for my pictures. Will write you as soon as I know where we live. The mail address is P.O. Box 1265.

I am sick today, but want to mail this even if I do have to walk several blocks. Captain, anything you can do to help me in this business, I SURE WILL AND DO APPRECIATE IT. Do you think a lawyer could or would do anything for me. I know pretty nice fellow, and it might be he would look into it. Trouble is I have no money and don't make enough to hire a lawyer for anything. Will, wait till you come, and then I will tell you all the rest of this story. With good wishes,

I am Kindly YOUR FRIEND,


N. H. Rose

TEXAS RANGER FORCE
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT
AUSTIN, TEXAS

425 South Adams St.,
Fort Worth, Texas,
Jan. 2nd, 1931.

Capt. W. W. Sterling,
State Ranger Force,
Walfurrias, Texas.

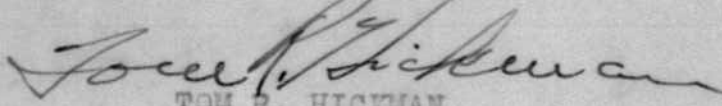
Dear Captain Bill:

A telephone call from Captain Hamer at Austin advised me that I will be expected to attend the Inauguration and the Inaugural Ball with a few of my men to assist in preserving order and preventing the activities of pick pockets. I am told that we will be expected to look rather city-fied. In fact, I am asking all of the boys who are so equipped to appear for the ball dressed in Tux, and if possible to be accompanied by their wives. I feel sure that you and Mrs. Sterling will be there, but this is just to advise you of our plans and to express the hope that we can all get together.

After having heard many rumors as to who will be our next Adjutant General, I was informed by fairly reliable authority today that in all probability you might receive the appointment. Several of the other rumors have been very pleasing to me, but I must say that your appointment to the place would give me great satisfaction. I have always wanted to see some Ranger Captain advanced to the important post of Adjutant General for I feel that then our organization would get fairer and better consideration than it has ever been given. Personally, I would not want the honor, because it carries entirely too much responsibility when compared to the salary, but if you would consider it, I certainly hope it is offered to you.

Trusting that you will take time to favor me with an early reply, and that we shall have the pleasure of seeing you in Austin the 20th, I am

Yours very truly,


TOM R. HICKMAN,
Captain Company B State Ranger Force.

ROMANCE AND THRILLS PACK

GEN. BILL STERLING AND MAJOR COFFEE REVIVE ADVENTURES

By BUCK HOOD
The Austin Statesman Staff

Two men shook hands in an office at the capitol the other day, representing types of two great eras in the annals of the Texas rangers.

One was Adj. Gen. W. W. (Bill) Sterling, six feet four, rangy though sturdy, and comparatively young.

The other was A. B. Coffee, known as the Major, small of stature, mellowed with advancing years and weather beaten from days spent on the frontier plains.

They personified the 1931 edition and pioneer-day ranger whose reticence has become a national tradition and whose daring a story of universal interest.

To Maj. Coffee it was just a neighborly call. As they sat talking quietly, Gen. Sterling glanced through a big batch of letters on his desk.

"Say, son," the major remarked humorously, "this looks more like a postoffice than ranger headquarters."

"And you'd think," the general said, pointing in the direction of Capt. Frank Hamer's office, "that that room was a gambler's den, judging from the paraphernalia seized in recent raids."

Then Gen. Sterling admitted reluctantly that the letters had come from all parts of the state commending the action of his office for sending rangers to clean up East Texas oil boom towns before criminals had a chance to entrench themselves.

OUTTHINKING THE DESPERADOES

"We're outthinking the desperadoes—beating them to the punch by applying the old law of an ounce of prevention. And the people are thankful of it," Gen. Sterling said in telling how criminals are corralled by this law-enforcement agency that harkens back to the time Texas was a part of Mexico and massacres by Indians and Mexicans were daily occurrences.

Such precautionary measures taken in new East Texas towns populated overnight with every kind of dangerous character prevented recurrences of the troublesome days of Mexia and Borger where unrestrained crime shocked the human senses before military rule was established, the general said.

This was just a touch of the activities of today's rangers, but it reminded Major Coffee of some of the hair-raising adventures he had as a member of Company F, frontier battalion, that attrolled the Rio Grande country back in the 70's.

At that time a detail of the hardest-riding, straightest-shooting, and "outfrighten'est" bunch of frontiersmen from Capt. McNelly's company was camped in the Arroyo Colorado section of very far from Brownsville, awaiting developments.

"One day," the white-haired major recalled, "a courier came with the news that bandits had raided Capt. Richard King's ranch and driven off about 500 head of cattle. They were hurrying them across the desolate country to be loaded on a ship anchored at or about Point Isabel and prepared to sail for a foreign port."

"The chase began at once, for the trail was in and it became plainer after a few hours' pursuit, by the naked, remembered, and piled up body of a former lieutenant of police at Brownsville, lying in the middle of it. The dead man's head was on top of the butchered flesh, to insure identification."

FAMOUS COMPANY D



Here's Company D of 1930. Rangers today confine their weapons mostly to pistols, usually kept out of sight unless unavoidable circumstances decide otherwise.

Top row, left to right: Sgt. John Sadler, Tom Heard and W. R. Smith.

Bottom row, left to right: Capt. Light Townsend, Adj. Gen. W. W. "Bill" Sterling, then company commander, and Capt. P. B. Hill, chaplain.

As Maj. Coffee arose slowly to leave, his eyes became fastened on a picture frame that rests on a desk within easy view of Gen. Sterling. It was a copy of the ranger's prayer:

"O God, Whose end is justice,
Whose strength is all our stay,
Be near and bless my mission
As I go forth today.
Let wisdom guide my actions,
Let courage fill my heart
And help me, Lord, in every hour
To do a ranger's part.
Protect when danger threatens,
Sustain when trails are rough;
Help me keep my standard high
And smile at each rebuff.
When night comes down upon me,
I pray Thee, Lord, be nigh,
Whether on lonely scout, or camped,
Under the Texas sky.
Keep me, O God, in life
And when my days shall end,
Forgive my sins and take me in,
For Jesus sake, amen.

It was written by Pierre Bernard Hill, ranger chaplain.

Other ranger activities of the 70's have not been recorded in glorious phrases but must be dug out of the official records on file in the assistant general's office. A few follow:

12, 1874, Maj. John B. Jones, July 1st, G. W. Stephens, Com- with Co. 1st Cavalry, 1st Division.

and atrocious manner on Oct. 1 have been interred within past 24 hours. Since writing the above petition two more men were found dead. Since signing the petition five more men have been found dead, making a total of 14 killed.

This appeal was made in October, 1874, by Frio county citizens. It bore the names of the sheriff, county judge, justice of the peace, district clerk, and 44 others.

GEN. STERLING was brought up with the rangers. They used to make his father's ranch in Hidalgo county their headquarters when he was a boy in knee pants.

It was not until 1911, however, that he joined the organization. In 1927 he was made a captain by Gov. Moody. Shortly after Ross Sterling was inducted into the office of governor this year, he was promoted to adjutant general.

At present, Maj. Coffee is giving his time to aid aged ex-rangers to get pensions from the government. He is also commander of the Texas Ex-Rangers association, having been elected only recently. This organization was formed 12 years ago, and numbers among its members veterans of the frontier of more than a half century ago.

Maj. Coffee enlisted as a ranger in Lee Hall's company in 1870 and later was under Capt. T. J. Oglesby. After that he was

STATE OF TEXAS
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT
AUSTIN

2 May 1960

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 32

IN MEMORIAM

1. The Adjutant General announces with sorrow the death of Brigadier General WILLIAM WARREN STERLING, former Adjutant General of Texas and one of the last of the old time Texas Rangers, which occurred in a Corpus Christi Hospital 26 April 1960, after a short illness.
2. General Sterling, a native Texan, was born in Belton, Texas on 27 April 1891. He received his early education in the Houston Public Schools. He attended Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College for two years, where he took up the study of agriculture and animal husbandry.
3. In civil life, he chose cattle raising as his main occupation. He also engaged in the oil business and held various assignments as a law enforcement officer. He became interested in historical writing, and recently completed a book which dealt with his experiences as a Texas Ranger.
4. He first enlisted in the Texas Rangers in 1915 and served on the Mexican Border with the Third Texas Cavalry as a Ranger Captain. Entered the service of the Texas National Guard as an enlisted man in the Quartermaster Corps on 17 October 1918 and received his Commission as 2d Lt, Infantry, on the same date. He was assigned to Company L, Ninth Texas Infantry, in which capacity he served until his resignation on 13 November 1919. In 1927, he was appointed Captain of the Ranger Force. He was appointed Adjutant General of Texas by Governor Ross Sterling and was promoted to Brigadier General on 23 January 1931, a post which he held until he resigned on 15 January 1933. After he resigned from State service, he rejoined the Army and was discharged as a Colonel in 1944.
5. The Military Forces of the Nation and State mourn the loss of a splendid soldier and citizen. The Adjutant General extends to the members of his family and comrades-in-arms condolences in this hour of bereavement.

BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR:

K. L. BERRY
Major General
The Adjutant General



W. H. MARTIN
Brigadier General AGC TEXARNG
Assistant Adjutant General

DISTRIBUTION:

THE STATE OF TEXAS



ADJUTANT GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Warrant of Authority and Descriptive List

THIS IS TO CERTIFY, That the bearer A. W. Billingsly

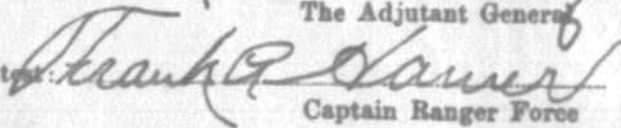
is a Special Ranger in ~~Company~~ the Ranger Force, State of Texas, and this is his Warrant of Authority as a Ranger, under an Act of the 36th Legislature of the State of Texas, Approved March 31, 1919, and Descriptive List for identification, and will be exhibited as his authority to Act as a Ranger when called upon for his credentials. This warrant must be surrendered to Company Commander by bearer when discharged. This Warrant of Authority and Descriptive List is signed by The Adjutant General under seal of office and attested by Company Commander.

Name	<u>A. W. Billingsly.</u>	Rank	<u>Ranger.</u>
Age	<u>43 yrs. 10 mo.</u>	Where born	<u>Mathis, Texas.</u>
Height	<u>6 feet</u>	Occupation	<u>Peace Officer.</u>
Weight	<u>230 lbs.</u>	Residence	<u>Big Lake, Texas.</u>
Hair	<u>Brown.</u>	Enlisted Where	<u>Austin, Texas.</u>
Eyes	<u>Brown.</u>	Enlisted When	<u>August 30, 1932.</u>
Complexion	<u>Medium.</u>	Enlisted by Whom	<u>W. W. Sterling,</u> <u>The Adjutant General.</u>
This warrant of authority is void after		<u>January 30, 1933.</u>	
and must be returned to this Department for Cancellation.			

Given under my hand and seal of office, this 30th

day of August 1932.


The Adjutant General

Attest: 
Captain Ranger Force

Commanding Co. _____

A. W. BILLINGSLEY

TAX ASSESSOR AND COLLECTOR
REAGAN COUNTY

BIG LAKE, TEXAS

Dec.-9-1958;

Mr . W. W. Sterling,
Corpus Christi, Texas.

Dear Bill;

It will be necessary for me to have a talk with you before I apply for the pension that was voted in Nov. the 4th election. When will you be in San Antonio or vicinity? Or will you be in Corpus around the 29th of Dec.

My folks are somewhat of ramblers and may like to go to Corpus about that time.

I am enclosing you a copy of something that should bring back some memories to you. Lindy Millinder was out to see me, with our old friend Martin Koonsman, a few months back. Let me hear from you before Xmas.

Your Old Friend,

Bill

A. W. (Bill) Billingsley.



ADJUTANT GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT
AUSTIN, TEXAS

BRIG. GENL. W. W. STERLING
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
LT. COL. H. H. CARMICHAEL
ASST. ADJUTANT GENERAL

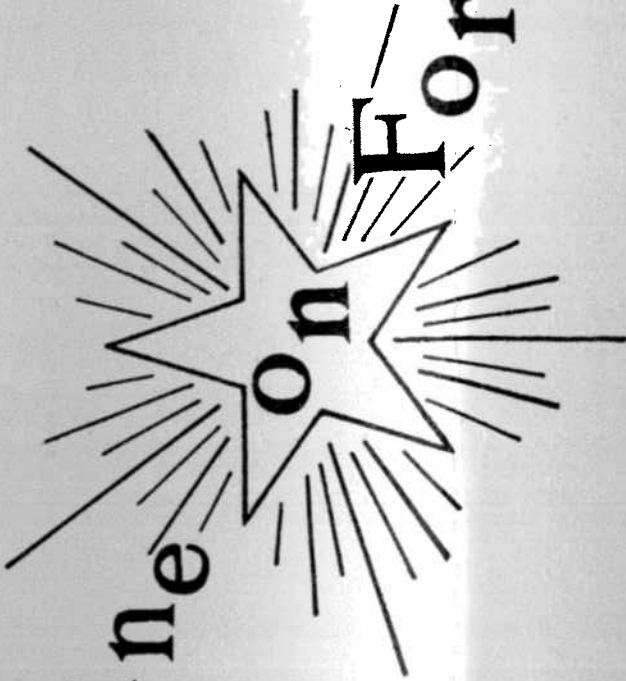
561041..WATCH

561204..WATCH YOUR CREDIT..INTERNATIONAL NEWS PHOTO
SLUG(STERLING)

TEXAS RANGERS' COMMANDER WHO OFFERED SERVICES AS
BODYGUARD TO GOV. ROOSEVELT.

ABILENE, TEXAS.....ADJUTANT GENERAL BILL STERLING,
COMMANDER OF THE ~~XXX~~ TEXAS RANGERS, WHO HAS OFFERED
HIS SERVICES AS BODYGUARD TO GOVERNOR FRANKLIN D.
ROOSEVELT, THE DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT.
THE OFFER WAS MADE TO ROOSEVELT THROUGH GOVERNOR
ROSS STERLING, OF TEXAS.
R-7-9-32-2/25

TEXAS

Shine  on Forever

Song

Words and Melody

by

Rudolph Kleberg

Music Arranged

by

Grace N. Smith

Bill Sterling Wasn't Edited

(Editor's note: William Warren Sterling died in Corpus Christi April 26, while this story about his book was being written in Waco.)

By TOM CAUFIELD

Bill Sterling printed his own book, *Trails and Trials of a Texas Ranger*, and we asked him why. "Those publishing house people," he said, "wanted to edit it."

Reading it, we can see why, and thank goodness they didn't. It reminds us of Frank Simmons of Ogesby. He got a fellow to print his short *History of Coryell County*, and when he saw the proofs he hit the ceiling.

"He edited me right out of it," Simmons said. "He cut the mane and the tail off and I didn't like the horse that was left."

The mane and tail, and the saddle and bridle, are still on Bill Sterling's horse. So is Bill in the saddle.

William Warren Sterling, a Bell County boy, went from ranger private to boss of all the rangers, adjutant-general. We met him in 1928 in oil-field boomtown Borger where we were getting out a newspaper.

He came to our two-room shared-bath apartment to dinner. He was six feet four inches tall and had to duck to get in. He wore his Colt Peacemaker six-shooter all the time he was there and sat facing the door and windows. That's how rough Borger was.

Bill Sterling was captain of the ranger detachment in Borger. He quieted the place down.

But back to that dinner at our house. Wearing his gun, facing the door and windows, Bill Sterling made the mayonnaise, sliced the tomatoes, and offered to make ice cream, but we already had some.

We had figured a ranger wouldn't want anything less than bandit steak salted with gunpowder, and we had a thick steak for Bill. He ate it, too.

That's the fellow who wrote the book. He was super-handy with any sort of gun, not only expert in their

use but an authority on their construction. On a visit to the Colt plant he gave the Colt people some tips on how to improve their product, and he tuned up his friend General George Patton's Peacemaker for him. He also gave Gen. Patton the elaborately-tooled scabbard that swash-buckling tank commander sported in North Africa and France.

Sterling's book is decorated with wonderful drawings, made by Bob Schoenke of Corpus Christi, of guns, as well as saddles, spurs, longhorns and horses. His book is a treasure to gun collectors.

With all that, Bill Sterling never killed a man. He believed in talking them out of it. His talk, of course, backed up by an ever-handy gun, but he didn't have to shoot. He could look pretty tough when he squinted at you from way up there in the sky.

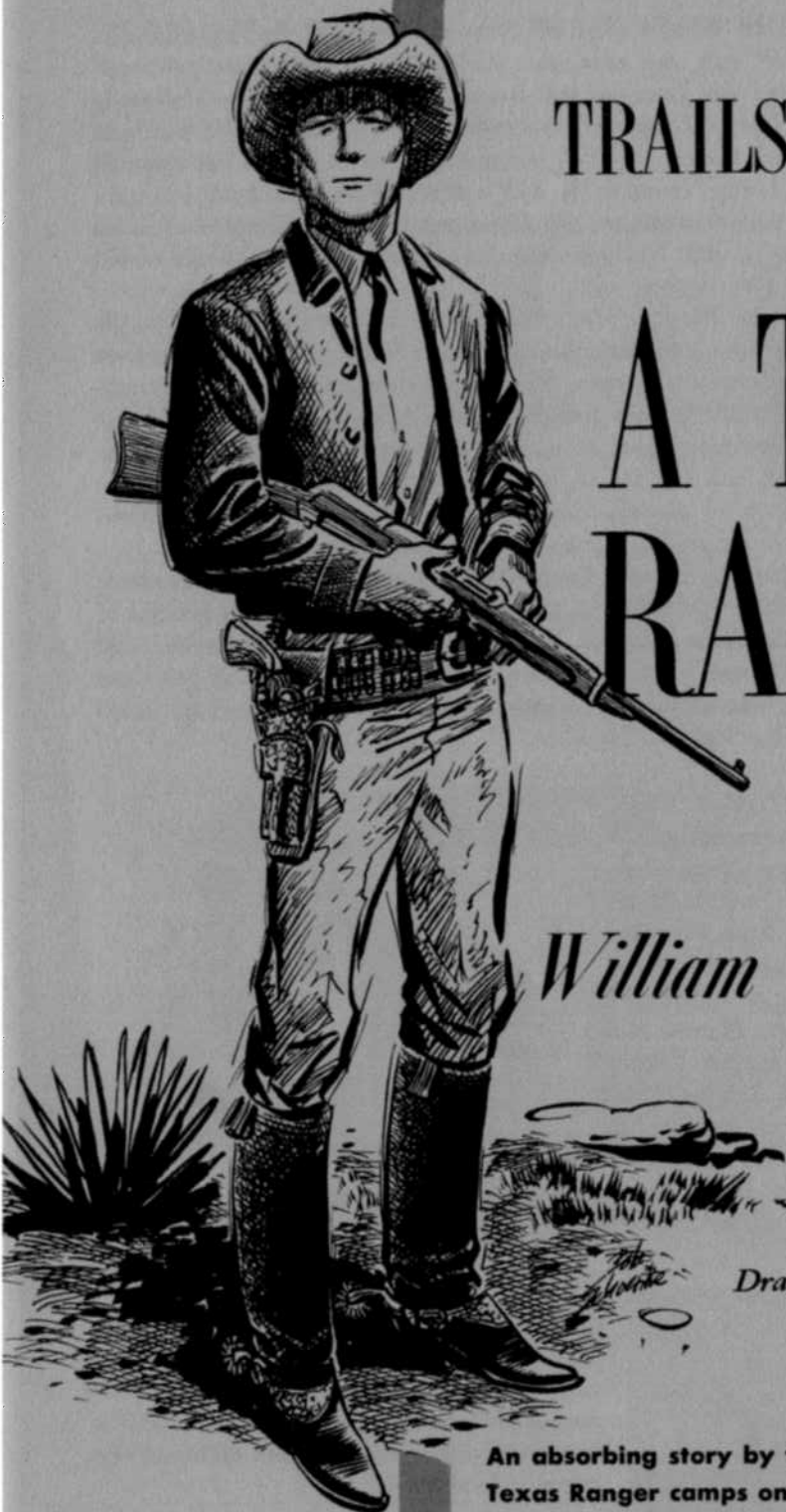
He always wore a big hat and boots. When he got to be adjutant general he told Will Rogers he guessed he'd get him a little hat and some town shoes. Rogers told him, "Don't do it, Bill." He didn't. He often went off and forgot his hat in restaurants, but somebody always brought it to him. It was unmistakable.

Bill judged the cow-girls at a Baylor Pear Club rodeo one time. Roy Durie handed him one of the judging books; how many points for this, how many for that, and so on. Sterling pitched the book back to Roy, and pointed a finger at one of the riders. "I like that one," he said. She won, on points.

That's the sort of judgment he used as a ranger, and why he didn't have to kill anyone. He could also judge horses. One of his horses saved him from being tromped to death in a stampede in Madison Square Garden.

Well, this isn't much about his book, which is 524 pages long (big like its author) and full of photographs and drawings.

But most of all it is Bill Sterling's book, complete with mane and tail, and (thank goodness) not edited. Bill Sterling is in the saddle.



First Edition

TRAILS AND TRIALS *of* A TEXAS RANGER

by

William Warren Sterling

\$7.50

Plus Postage *25*

Drawings by Bob Schoenke

An absorbing story by the man who served in the most remote Texas Ranger camps on the Rio Grande, and eventually became the commander of all Rangers—the Adjutant General of Texas.

MRS. W. W. STERLING
346 PALMERO
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS

Rudolph Kleberg was born in Cat Spring, Texas, on June 26th, 1847. His parents were Rosa and Robert J. Kleberg who came to America in 1834 and later settled in DeWitt County. His father fought in the Battle of San Jacinto and later held various offices under General Sam Houston.

At the age of seventeen, Rudolph volunteered in the Confederate Army, serving in Tom Green's Brigade of Cavalry. Afterwards, he taught school and studied law at night. He married Mathilde Elise Eckhardt of Yorktown.

They moved to Cuero, Texas, where he established the first newspaper in DeWitt County as well as practiced law. He was elected County Attorney for many terms and later served in the State Senate, during which time he was appointed Chairman of the Committee to buy the Alamo property in 1883. He was then appointed to the office of United States Attorney of the Western District of Texas. He served as representative in Congress until a redistricting bill put him in the same district as a friend against whom he would not run.

After a few years in Cuero he and his family moved to Austin where he served as official reporter for the Court of Criminal Appeals until his death in December 28, 1924.

His greatest pleasure was his love of music, having a fine bass voice and playing the flute. At the suggestion of his sister-in-law, Mrs. Robert J. Kleberg (Alice Gertrudis King Kleberg) of Corpus Christi and Kingsville, he composed the song, "Texas, Shine on Forever".

This song was written by my
great uncle Rudolph Kleberg - a short sketch about
his life is written above.
Copies of this song were given to me by
Miss Tillie Kleberg, Austin Tex. Daughter
of the author.
Zora E. Sterling.