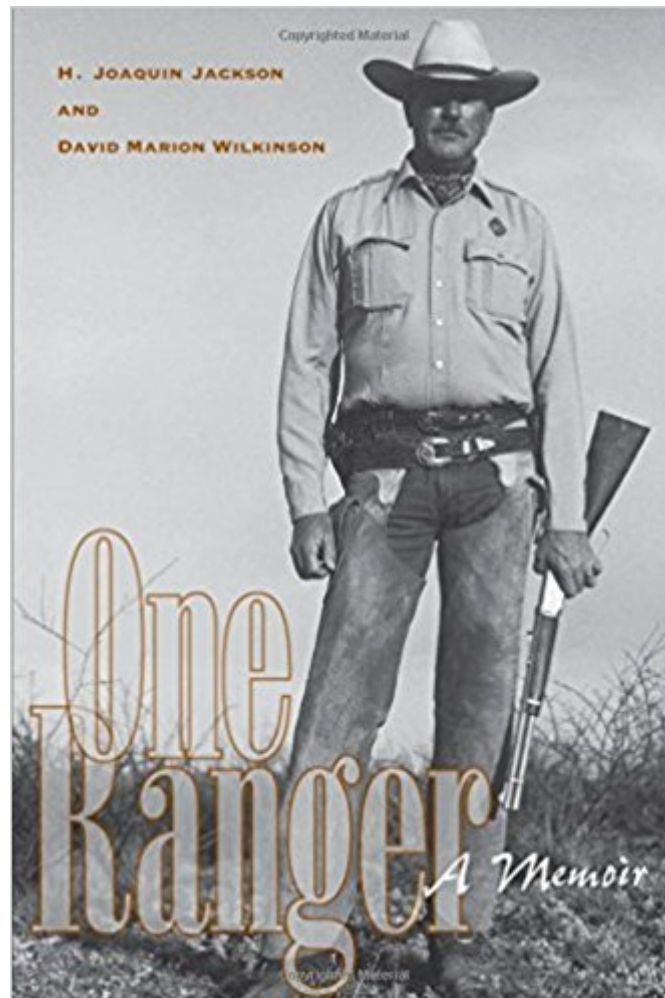




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One Ranger: A Memoir (Bridwell Texas History Series)



Synopsis

When his picture appeared on the cover of *Texas Monthly*, Joaquin Jackson became the icon of the modern Texas Rangers. Nick Nolte modeled his character in the movie *Extreme Prejudice* on him. Jackson even had a speaking part of his own in *The Good Old Boys* with Tommy Lee Jones. But the role that Jackson has always played the best is that of the man who wears the silver badge cut from a Mexican cinco peso coin—a working Texas Ranger. Legend says that one Ranger is all it takes to put down lawlessness and restore the peace—one riot, one Ranger. In this adventure-filled memoir, Joaquin Jackson recalls what it was like to be the Ranger who responded when riots threatened, violence erupted, and criminals needed to be brought to justice across a wide swath of the Texas-Mexico border from 1966 to 1993. Jackson has dramatic stories to tell. Defying all stereotypes, he was the one Ranger who ensured a fair election—and an overwhelming win for La Raza Unida party candidates—in Zavala County in 1972. He followed legendary Ranger Captain Alfred Y. Allee Sr. into a shootout at the Carrizo Springs jail that ended a prison revolt—and left him with nightmares. He captured "The See More Kid," an elusive horse thief and burglar who left clean dishes and swept floors in the houses he robbed. He investigated the 1988 shootings in Big Bend's Colorado Canyon and tried to understand the motives of the Mexican teenagers who terrorized three river rafters and killed one. He even helped train Afghan mujahedin warriors to fight the Soviet Union. Jackson's tenure in the Texas Rangers began when older Rangers still believed that law need not get in the way of maintaining order, and concluded as younger Rangers were turning to computer technology to help solve crimes. Though he insists, "I am only one Ranger. There was only one story that belonged to me," his story is part of the larger story of the Texas Rangers becoming a modern law enforcement agency that serves all the people of the state. It's a story that's as interesting as any of the legends. And yet, Jackson's story confirms the legends, too. With just over a hundred Texas Rangers to cover a state with 267,399 square miles, any one may become the one Ranger who, like Joaquin Jackson in Zavala County in 1972, stops one riot.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A powerful, moving read. . . . One Ranger is as fascinating as the memoirs of nineteenth-century Rangers James Gillett and George Durham, and the histories by Frederick Wilkins and Walter Prescott Webb; and equally as important." (True West)"The writing smacks of the truths that are hard-won from a lifetime of dealing out justice; sometimes on horseback, like the Lone Ranger used to do; in a lonesome terrain where your word is only as good as the gun and the reputation that back it up." (Texas Monthly)"Superb memoir . . . One Ranger is Jackson's own story, a personal tale of adventure, service, love, grief, heartache, and hope. Yet embodied within its pages is the story of every Ranger; the pages of the book are thick with the weight of history. Jackson well knows his place in the continuum of the Texas Rangers, the history of Texas, and the epic of what is today the American Southwest." (America's 1st Freedom)"A straight-shooting book that blow[s] a few holes in the Ranger myth while providing more ammunition for the myth's continuation. . . . reads more like a novel than [an] autobiography . . ." (Austin American-Statesman)

H. JOAQUIN JACKSON retired from the Texas Rangers in 1993. Today he lives in Alpine, Texas, where he is the owner and operator of the Ranger Investigations, a private investigative company. DAVID MARION WILKINSON is an award-winning writer whose most recent books are *Oblivion*, *Altar*, *The Empty Quarter*, and *Not between Brothers*.

I met the author at the 2013 NRA show in Houston, along with medal of honor recipient, Drew Dix, who were smoking cigars at the top of the hotel. At first, I thought they were shining me...who names a white guy Joaquin? And then Mr. Jackson introduced Dix as an MOH recipient. I could tell they were characters, and had a great evening, but I just put it off to a good time. A year later, I saw

an episode on the history channel of Drew Dix escapades in Vietnam, and thought I need to look up this Joaquin Jackson fellow, and am glad I did. The book is great and I'm glad to say that I met the author for something more than a book signing. Not politically correct, but spot on.

A great autobiography of a great Texan who sacrificed much of his life to protect not only the innocent but even the criminals from their own selves. This book is served up with a reality, a dose of humor and leaves you in the end wishing that you could meet Ranger Jackson personally. Godspeed Ranger Jackson... Thank you for the sacrifices that you made and the compassion with which you exercised your duties.

It should be no surprise that *One Ranger: A Memoir* is one of The University of Texas Press' all-time best selling books. And that, like the State of Texas itself, covers a whole lot of ground. *One Ranger: A Memoir*, like Joaquin Jackson himself, is the real deal: plain spoken, gritty, straight forward and direct in how he recounts a 25 year career with the most famous -- and most effective -- law enforcement organizations in history, the Texas Rangers. And the characters he describes -- some famous, some infamous and some just downright "colorful" -- are just not the types of folks most law enforcement officers will ever encounter in a big city, urban or suburban police agency. The personalities, on both sides of the law (and both sides of the Texas-Mexico border), are like the Rio Grande border region and the people who live and work there. In this dry, dusty and unforgiving landscape of prickly pear, cactus and mesquite thorns, Ranger Jackson forged a long law enforcement career over two and a half decades that brought profound changes in the way that law enforcement professionals, including the Rangers, went about their dual missions of keeping the peace and assisting local agencies in investigating some of Texas' most heinous crimes and criminals. There is a fair amount of humor in *One Ranger*, as well. Some of Mr. Jackson's tales of the more colorful South Texas personalities he dealt with in 25 years wearing the Ranger badge make for some of the book's most entertaining reading. But be forewarned: this is the kind of book that you will not put down once you start reading it. One chapter, or episode, seems to easily flow into another. Certainly, there are lessons to be learned here. But more than anything, this is one Texas lawman's honest, soul searching account of a distinguished 25 year career and, unfortunately, the toll that career took on his family and personal life. There is real human tragedy here, as well as triumph, as a father and mother speak candidly and directly about their two sons and the widely different paths taken by the two young men, one of whom carries this Texas Ranger's name. My own father was a 37-year career employee of the Texas Department of Public

Safety, including the same period that Mr. Jackson served in the Texas Ranger service. As a young man, I had the distinct privilege of spending a day with several of my father's colleagues, including Ranger Jackson, hunting the South Texas brush country in search of whitetail deer and quail. By sheer luck, I was "paired" with the big, strapping Ranger from down on the Rio Grande. The entire day was an education, to say the least. Arriving somewhere deep in South Texas' brush country for a 6:00 am breakfast, I immediately spotted the 6'4" Ranger I had heard so much about. He was hard to miss. Wearing his everyday "work clothes" -- starched white shirt with that five-pointed Ranger star prominently displayed, jeans, cowboy boots and a custom gun belt and holster, Mr. Jackson greeted his guests, including the late DPS Director Col. Wilson Speir, my father and several officers from nearby Corpus Christi. Next I was introduced to my first meal of huevos rancheros (scrambled eggs, beans and potatoes served on flour tortillas with picante sauce), strong black coffee and more tortillas. "Eat up, son," the Ranger instructed. "If we don't stop for lunch this will hold you until dinner." Good advice from a man who had probably shared that wisdom before. Although the affable, talkative Ranger and I were unsuccessful hunters that day, evening arrived with me wishing I could spend another two or three days with the big Ranger with the big .44 Magnum on his hip. Back in town, it was more real Mexican food before a long drive home to Austin. I never saw the Ranger again, but heard from my father some of the stories he writes about in *One Ranger: A Memoir*. How I wish I could have been there for many of them.

Great book written by a real Ranger, very down to earth.

Interesting history of one Texas Ranger.

I was hoping it might be a good read; and it was a an excellent read. There were parts in which I felt the editor failed, such as the prelude to the Big Bend shootings. The pages of geological description drove me nuts. But I guess the writer and the editing crew had their reasons. But it was very out of place. The politics of the Rangers was a bit tedious, but it showed just how well the Rangers worked having such snivelling pricks for administrators. I can understand why some may dislike various parts of the book (I had a couple of issues with editing, not any personal issues with Jackson), but hey, who gives a rat's arse about what people think about how you lived and worked in such a volatile, dangerous and colourful environment and come out the other end and live to talk about it. Anyway, I'm just a grumpy old bugger about a lot of things in life; but this is an honest work. And I believe most everyone will enjoy reading it. If you've got bad things to say about it. Well go right

ahead and do better...we're awaitin'! And you're probably only jealous of Jackson because you've lived such a dull, grey and insignificant life.

This holds your interest throughout. Anyone interested in law enforcement and an outright good and true story should read it.

Not quite what I expected, but a GREAT read.

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