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Water Moccasin

By Bob Arnold



Gray McWhorter tells this story about the first time that he met Red Arnold. Gray lives in Pittsburg and became friends with the men of Company B before he became a director of the Texas Ranger Association Foundation. In the early 1970s, he was invited to join several Rangers for a weekend of work and fellowship at the Company "B" cabin on Lake of the Pines. Red Arnold, Glenn Elliott, Bob Mitchell, and Max Womack were among those that were at the cabin. Some work was done, many stories were told, and a few cards were shuffled as well.

After working at the cabin for most of the day, Red decided to take a little nap. He removed his sweaty clothes, crawled in between the sheets of one of the bunk beds, and went to sleep.

It wasn't too long before one of the Rangers working outside saw a water moccasin slithering through the grass between the lake and the back side of the cabin. He hollered out in a loud voice that there was a snake, and some commotion from other nearby Rangers soon followed.

Hearing the noise, Red immediately got out of the bunk, quickly pulled on his boots, grabbed his .45 automatic pistol, and headed out the back door. Seeing the snake retreating toward the lake, Red raised the pistol, took aim, and shot. You will have to ask Gray if Red killed the snake with the shot from his gun or whether the snake died of fright when it looked up from the grass and saw a naked Ranger . . . a naked Ranger wearing nothing but his boots and taking aim down the barrel of the .45 automatic.



Glenn Elliott and Red Arnold. ©2005, Courtesy of Glenn Elliott.