

The Rangerette Story

The Kilgore College Rangerettes are a distinctive American phenomenon. The pride of each individual in wearing that “red, white and blue,” the fresh look of 70 young freshmen and sophomore students, the talented dancing ability of each individual, and the blending of this into one precision unit make up just some of the characteristics of the nation’s best known collegiate dance/drill team.

The first group of its kind in the world, the Rangerettes brought “show business” to the football gridiron. From their first appearance in 1940, the Rangerettes pioneered the field of all such groups now seen across the nation.

In 75 years the organization has had only three directors. Originated by Miss Gussie Nell Davis, the Rangerettes still adhere to her hall mark perfection in precision of movement and in their “personalized” performances they present for each engagement. Miss Davis retired in 1979 and Mrs. Deana Bolton Covin assumed command without missing a step or performance opportunity. In 1993, Mrs. Dana Blair became the third director and continues to lead the group today.

The world-famous beauties have traveled coast-to-coast and border-to-border in the United States and on four world tours. In 1972 they performed five days in Venezuela; in 1975 they were the star attraction at the 15-day American Fortnight in Hong Kong, Macao and Korea in the Far East; in 1977 they toured for 15 days behind the Iron Curtain in Romania; and in 1985 and 1995 they performed in Nice, Paris and Cannes, France. In 1993 the Rangerettes performed in Tokyo and Chiba City, Japan. Singapore was the sight of a February 1997 performance celebrating the Chinese Lunar New Year. Recent adventures abroad include a trip to Ireland in the spring of 2000 to celebrate the St. Patrick’s Day Festivities, including a guest performance at the annual Lord Mayor’s Ball. The group returned to Ireland and Scotland in the spring of 2015 as a part of their 75th Year Anniversary celebration. Their performances included a guest appearance at The University of Edinburg in Scotland, the St. Patrick’s Day Parade in Dublin, Ireland and their historic performance as the first dance/drill team to ever perform at Croke Park.

The Rangerettes have appeared in major football bowls across the nation and are traditional performers at the New Year’s Cotton Bowl Classic in Dallas each year since 1951. They provided the halftime entertainment for three East West Shrine bowls games in Palo Alto, California, in the 1980’s and are the only organization to ever be invited for return engagements in the 90+ year history of this college all-star game. They have graced the streets of NYC in the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade and represented the great State of Texas at 3 Texas State Society’s Black Tie N Boots Inaugural Balls and both the 70th and 75th Anniversary commemorations of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Cover girls on hundreds of publications including **Life**, **Newsweek**, **Esquire** and **Saturday Evening Post**, the Rangerettes have also been the subject for Articles in most of the major American magazines. They were featured in the Cinerama movie, “Seven Wonders of the World,” and have appeared on many major national television programs. As part of their 75th Anniversary, they were the focus of a new documentary film, “Sweethearts of the Gridiron,” to be released publicly in September of 2016.

For information on becoming a Rangerette, or for inquiries regarding the Rangerettes availability for appearances, email a request to danablair@rangerette.com or visit our website www.rangerette.com