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Frankly Speaking -

# Why Did You Say...?

by Frank Jordan

**Muscle:** When you flex your muscle it appears like a little mouse that runs beneath the skin. Muscle literally means "mus" for mouse in Latin. Odds are you didn't know that one before now.

**Candidate:** From the Latin "Candidus" meaning, bright, shining, glistening white. The ancient Romans seeking office would wear bright white togas, thus being described as candidates.

**Broke:** Broke as in having no money resulted from many banks in post-Renaissance Europe issuing small, porcelain "borrower's tiles" to their creditworthy customers. Like credit cards, these

tiles were imprinted with the owner's name, his credit limit, and the name of the bank. Sound familiar?

Each time the customer wanted to borrow money, he had to present the tile to the bank teller, who would compare the imprinted credit limit with how much the customer had already borrowed. If the borrower were past the limit, the teller "broke" the tile on the spot. Now, they cut your plastic in two.

**Cab:** Cab is "cabra" in Spanish meaning goat. The first carriages for public hire bounced so much that they reminded people of goats romping on a hillside and were thus called, cabs.

**Noon:** Noon wasn't originally 12 p.m., but 3 p.m. Noon is derived from the Latin word for ninth. The word noon originally meant the ninth hour after sunrise, or 3 p.m., which was considered the hottest part of the day and the time when most in the Roman Empire got out of the sun to stop work for lunch.

**Coffee and Croissant:** Ac-

cording to legend, coffee beans were first discovered in the town of Kaffa, Ethiopia, with coffee drunk throughout the huge Turkish empire. A failed Turkish siege of Vienna, Austria, in the 17th century introduced coffee into Europe as coffee. After defeat, in a hasty retreat, the Turks left behind hundreds of sacks of coffee beans. The Austrians celebrated the victory by enjoying a cup of coffee with a puffed pastry they named croissant or crescent, to symbolize victory over the Turks whose flags bore a crescent moon.

**Husband:** Husband comes from the Old German words "hus" and "bunda," which mean house and owner, respectively.

The word originally had nothing to do with marital status, except women and their fathers sought husbands who owned their homes as extremely desirable marriage partners. Do you think a wifeband should describe a homeowner after divorce?

**Jeans:** The first city to make denim cloth now used for jeans

was Genoa, which was called "Gene" by sixteenth-century Europeans. Thus our britches are named after the city of origin of the jeans fabric.

**Umpire:** An umpire plays for no team and is a neutral referee. Umpire evolved from the French "non partiere" meaning impartial; however, fans often take exception to this alleged neutrality.

**Scream:** The word scream is derived from the Anglo-Saxon "scremen," which was a tribal outcry heard on the discovery of a wrongdoing. I thought it would have occurred on the first spotting of a mouse by a lady in her kitchen and would have been called a "musnoise"!

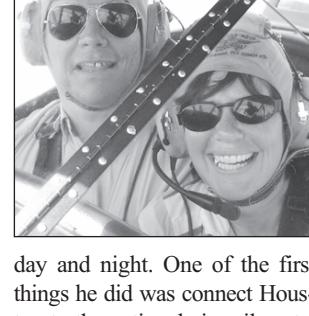
**Nostril:** A nostril is literally a nose hole! Now, that's accurate. The word comes from the Old English words "nosu" meaning nose and "thryl" meaning hole.

Frankly Speaking, knowing why you say what you say brings enlightenment and entertainment. I feel like I'm going to sneeze so must go now and cover my nose holes.

Ely Air Lines -

## How Houston Got Its Wings

by Mike Ely and Linda Street-Ely



known to us in these parts, did you know there was another airport just a few miles from there?

W.L. Edwards had a couple of businesses, air freight and aerial photography, which he offered from his own little airport off Main Street, just a mile south of where Rice University is today. Or, as they described it back then, "Out the Main Boulevard, across Brays Bayou on the new road to Sugar Land. The highway is paved the entire distance."

About that same time, aviation pioneer Glenn Curtiss built a "super-airport" just across Main Street from Edwards. From there, he ran air taxi services, cotton field dusting, aerial photography and aerial surveys. He sold airplanes and even had a flying school.

These were people who understood that if you want a city to prosper, give it wings.

ElyAirLines.substack.com

### SHSU lists President's List undergrads

HUNTSVILLE - The students listed on the President's Honor Roll at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas, are undergraduates who have achieved a grade point average of at least 3.5 out of a perfect 4.0 in all work attempted while enrolled in not less than 12 semester hours.

The university would like to recognize the following students for earning the honor for Fall 2025 semester: Mandy Spoorle of Dayton, Kayleigh Fregia of Liberty and Kylie Turner of Liberty.

—oo—

### FARMERS & VENDORS MARKET

DAYTON - The Farmers and Vendors Market takes place this month on Sat., Feb. 21, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Crossroads Plaza, 111 N. Church Street. Here you will find vendors offering their locally sourced, individualized products that includes farm products, cottage foods, backyard garden produce, farm fresh eggs, artisan/crafts, local honey and more. For more information or to become a vendor, call 936-258-6630.

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