

HISTORY & FOLKLORE

SAM HOUSTON CENTER SETX SERVICE MILITARY IMAGE SERIES

Come celebrate Southeast Texans' service to the nation as part of the Sam Houston Center's America250 events commemorating the country's 250th birthday. The event takes place Saturday, June 27, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Events will include historical exhibits and tours, activities for children, refreshments and special entertainment. *More photos of these special Southeast Texans will come in the following weeks up through Tues., June 30.*



Harry Louis McGuire, United States Army, undated. Harry Louis McGuire Papers, 1995.164. SHC, TSLAC.

Harry Louis McGuire, a graduate of Port Arthur High School in Texas, served as an officer with the 422nd Reserve Labor Battalion, an African American unit at Camp Wadsworth, South Carolina during World War I. After his military tour was done, McGuire returned to Texas, where he established the Liberty Feed Company in Liberty, which became the Liberty Grain and Grocery Company. After his death, he was buried in Fairlawn Cemetery. Learn more about the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center's collections at www.tsl.texas.gov/shc.



Henry Dugat I, United States Army, 1918-1919. Henry Lloyd Dugat Sr. Papers, 2003.204. SHC, TSLAC.

Henry Dugat I, a native of Dayton, Texas, entered military service on September 25, 1918. He was a member of the United States Army 165th Depot Brigade. At Camp Travis in San Antonio, Dugat helped receive new recruits and process discharged men returning home from the war. He was discharged from the military on March 19, 1919. Dugat returned to Dayton, where he worked as a presser for a local dry cleaner. On November 2, 1961, he passed away and was buried in Acie Cemetery. Learn more about the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center's collections at www.tsl.texas.gov/shc.



From Illustrated Press of Liberty County, June 6, 1968 –

Five generations of the Cain family in Liberty are seen here. Seated is the late Mrs. Chap H. Cain, holding great-great grandson Kent Moore. Standing (l-r): Norma Huey McClelland, grandmother; Alva Cain Moore, great-grandmother; and Diane McClelland Moore, mother, and daughter of Norman H. McClelland.

– Photo by Crystal Studio (made last fall).

Informally Speaking –

It's in the Mail

by Homer Smith (1995)

Returning recently from a short out-of-town visit there was a larger than usual stack of mail. Going through this accumulation and getting rid of the assorted trash was like playing a game of horseshoes. I would see how close I could come to the trash basket from my chair, while sifting out the useless clutter from the pieces needing my attention.

Then right in the middle of the pile was a yellow slip from the postman. It was left there to inform me of some piece of mail that he could not deliver. This could mean that the package was too large for the box or that postage was due. It could be a summons to court or maybe even a notice from the IRS. Looking more carefully it said a "certified letter" was at the post office awaiting my signature before delivery.

I decided that it was most likely some type of

problem that could not be handled by telephone. All my rich uncles were already dead so I wouldn't expect to inherit anything, my taxes and bills were paid, the kids were fine the last time they were checked on and nothing was stolen that I knew of.

It was well after closing time so I had to wait through a rather long and concerned evening to get this worrisome thing out of my mind.

Early the next morning I was waiting to recover the document as the doors were unlocked. Signing quickly, I picked up the letter and noticed an out-of-state return address on the envelope. A "buck" or so postage had been paid.

Opening it revealed this message: "Congratulations!" it read. "You may already be a winner in our \$10,000,000 giveaway. All you need to do is send back this certificate, verifying that you are indeed the person to whom this is addressed,

along with just \$5 for the cost of handling this account. If you are indeed the same person who had the number, which is already on file, then you will be our next big winner. Your picture will be on all the TVs and you will enjoy luxury for the rest of your life. Now, how does that sound to you?"

Needless to say, I sank a thirty-foot hook shot at the trash receptacle right there in the lobby and just kept on walking, muttering a couple of unprintable expletives.

Once I received a letter that said, "The State of California is looking for relatives of Francis Smith in order to distribute her money and belongings." If I would send them \$10 they would check the records to see if she was my relative.

Now, I had an Aunt Francis who lived in San Francisco, California, at the time, so I called to inquire about her. She was

fine and we had a nice conversation. Seems that this was another racket.

There is no way of knowing how many people fell for that one. The price of a stamp in exchange for a \$10 bill would be a pretty good return for those culprits.

There was nothing illegal about either of these attempts to strip me of some of my money. Just think of how much cash could be made if only a third of all the Smiths were to fall for this scam and send them \$10.

Now-a-days one really must be on the lookout for get-rich-quick "deals" where you are not the one to get rich. It is sometimes difficult to distinguish a "con" artist from the real thing. Circus man and philosopher P.T. Barnum once declared, "There's a sucker born every moment!" I guess he was right. Recalling these words of wisdom, I have managed to stay one jump ahead so far.



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