

**HEAR YE! HEAR YE! HEAR YE!!!  
FIRST ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

OF THE

**Brevard County Branch of the N. A. A. C. P.**

AT

**The Greater St. Paul Baptist Church**

**Sunday, June 30, 1935**

**3:00 o'clock promptly**

*Programme*

Negro National Anthem  
Invocation—Rev. Patrick Henry, Melbourne  
Song—Choir  
Welcome Address—Mr. Elmer Silas  
Solo—Mr. Alfred Smith, Titusville  
Reading—Miss Helen Strickland, Mims  
Duet—Mrs. Miller and Reeves, Cocoa  
Address—Dean James A. Bond, Bethune Cook-  
man College, Daytona Beach, Florida  
Selection—Choir  
Remarks—Rev. W. L. Baxter, Cocoa Minister  
Greater St. Paul Baptist Church  
Collection—(renewal of membership)  
Benediction—Rev. T. W. Bullard, minister  
Mt. Moriah A. M. E. Church

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Mt. Moriah A. M. E. Church

Edward Casanovi

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COUNTY-WIDE MASS MEETING

ON

Educational Inequalities

Sponsored by

Titusville Minns North Council

N. Y. A. C. P.

St. James A. M. E. Church, Titusville, Fla.

Sunday, November 14th, 8:30 P. M.

PROGRAM

1. National Negro Anthem
2. Invocation Rev. W. M. Burgess, Titusville
3. Scripture Rev. W. B. Gibson, Whites
4. Music Titusville Cher. Club
5. Reading Helen Stateland, Minns
6. Excerpts from School Laws Blanche West, Titusville
7. Educational Inequalities Emma Silas, Cocoa
8. Music Titusville Cher. Club
9. Address Mrs. Florence E. Dyer, A. E. B. Bahamé Cookman College, Daytona Beach
10. Music Titusville Cher. Club
11. Offering
12. Announcements
13. Benediction Rev. W. L. Green, Titusville

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

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David Smims

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Annie Lee Belle, Cor. Sec.





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 601 CYPRESS AVE., SANFORD

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National Association

FOR THE

Advancement of Colored People

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 REV. J. W. WILLIAMS

WEST VOLUNIA COUNTY  
 ALLEN L. ATTAWAY  
 W. HARRIS

WEST PALM BEACH  
 REV. E. J. JACKSON

Mims, Florida  
 June 14, 1945

Attorney H. K. McIlroth  
 Graham Building  
 Jacksonville, Florida

Dear Sir:

Through the press and through conversation with Mr. T. L. Redding, president of our Jacksonville Branch, I learned about your successful handling of the case of Rev. Dallas Graham against the Duval County Supervisor of Registration. I am writing now to ask your opinion about a similar case.

Last October Mr. T. L. Bryant of Old Town, president of our Dixie County Branch, was refused permission to register for the General Election in November. Another Negro asked to be registered at the same time. The Registrar told them he was afraid there would be trouble if Negroes attempted to vote in Dixie County. The lawyer whom whom we consulted then advised that we file a petition for writ of mandamus, but he later decided that the books would be closed before the papers could be properly drawn and filed.

Do you think a civil suit for damages would be advisable now? Or would you advise some other legal procedure? Negroes are not permitted to vote in some of these counties up there, and unless we take some action, they may never enjoy this constitutional right.

Please give us your opinion in this case, and give us the approximate cost of any legal action that you might advise. If possible, please let me hear from you by June 19, as we shall hold a district meeting on June 20.

Sincerely yours,

Harry T. Moore

LEGAL COMMITTEE

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 ATTY. L. E. THOMAS  
 EDWARD D. DAVIS

ROBERT L. NIXON  
M. W. GOLDSTEIN  
(IN MILITARY SERVICE)

LAW OFFICES OF  
E. K. MCILRATH  
June 16, 1945

121 GRAHAM BUILDING  
TELEPHONE 5-3147  
JACKSONVILLE, 2, FLA.

Mr. Harry T. Moore,  
Box 4,  
Mims, Florida

Dear Sir:

I have your letter of June 14th asking information with respect to the filing of civil suit for damages because of the refusal of the Registration Supervisor to permit the registration of one F. L. Bryant.

I am not in a position to advise you as to the advisability of such a suit. I can only advise you that if F. L. Bryant was prevented from registering after making proper request for registration, and thereby was prevented from exercising his constitutional rights, then under Title 8, Section 43 U.S. C. A.; R. S. Paragraph 1979, and under Title 8, U.S.C.A. Paragraph 31; R. S. 2004, he would have an action for damages against the Supervisor of Registration and such others as participated in the prevention.

The reason I tell you that I cannot advise as to the advisability of filing such a suit is that I think such advise should be given by one who is acquainted with Bryant's particular strategic position in Dixie County.

We here in the more Metropolitan areas do not need to concern ourselves with much pressure. We can usually go ahead and stick to the law and do not have to worry about the potentiality of some hysterical anti-racial act of some individual.

My own impression, and it is only an impression, and not an opinion, and judging from what little I know about Dixie County and the temper of its population, that if I were you I would wait until the effect of the suits which have already been brought in the more metropolitan areas has had a little more time to demonstrate the actual practicality of the participation of the negroes in the primary elections.

Mr. Harry T. Moore  
June 16, 1945

Page 2--

On the other hand, there is no question in my mind whatsoever but that a negro, upon properly presenting himself for registration, is entitled to register and to be registered in any party of his choice and that if he is prevented from so doing, any person who participates in the act of prevention is liable for damages under the Federal Act which I have pointed out to you.

As you know, Mandamus suits have been brought in Pensacola, West Palm Beach and Jacksonville and possibly elsewhere. These suits, as I understand, have been successful in Jacksonville and in Pensacola. I have not had final word from West Palm Beach. I do know that negroes pretty generally participate in the primaries at Miami.

My off hand thoughts about the matter is that your people in Dixie County might, as a matter of precaution, wait until the full realization of the progress already made in other counties can be ascertained.

Please understand that in writing this letter, I do not control or direct the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Whatever may be the policy of your State Association I would suggest that you follow whatever that policy may be but give due regard to the position of the individual negro who becomes the petitioner or plaintiff in the particular county that might be concerned.

These test cases in the more metropolitan areas are taken more as a matter of course by the general public. I am not so sure that they would be in some of the outlying and less metropolitan areas.

If I can be of any further service to you I am at your command.

Yours very truly,

*E. K. McIlrath*

E. K. McIlrath

ekm:h



Mims, Florida  
June 20, 1945

Florida Delegation,  
United States Congress,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sirs:

Negro citizens of Florida are deeply concerned about the fate of four pieces of legislation now pending in Congress. We have reference to the bill to create a strong permanent FEPC, anti-lynching legislation, anti-Jim Crow Travel Bill, (H.R. 1925), and anti-poll tax legislation.

In 1941 the late President Roosevelt by Executive Order created the present FEPC to serve during this emergency. Not only has this Committee done much to eliminate gross discrimination in the employment of war workers, but it has helped to relieve the manpower shortage by inducing employers to use workers because of their ability to do the job, and not because of their creed or color. Now that total victory is in sight, we feel that a permanent FEPC should be created to protect workers from that racial discrimination in employment that is almost sure to come with the return to normal conditions.

Although lynching is not as common now as it was 25 years ago, decent Americans cannot be satisfied until this blot is removed from the pages of America's history. Experience has proven that state authorities either cannot, or will not, take effective action against lynchers under existing laws. When the lynching of a Negro High School boy in Suwannee County was reported to Gov. Holland, he practically admitted that he was powerless to move effectively against the lynchers. And when we consider the fact that lynch mobs do not even respect the uniform of the United States Army, it becomes more evident that a strong Federal law is necessary to curb this evil.

It is hardly necessary to mention the inconveniences and humiliations suffered by Negroes traveling in the South under our jim-crow transportation system. They are evident on every hand. Negroes of the South are not worried about what some call "social equality", but we do desire equal accommodations for traveling. Since these are not being provided under our present dual system, we solicit your support for H. R. 1925.

Although passage of the Anti-Poll Tax Bill will not affect Florida voters, we feel that this bill should be passed for the benefit of voters in those states where this restriction still exists.

If America is to take the lead in developing a true democracy in the post war world, she must be able to teach it by precept and example, rather than by mere words. We therefore ask your support for this liberal legislation.

Respectfully yours,

*Mary T. Moore*  
Harry T. Moore

HTM/



UNITED STATES SENATE

Committee on  
Public Buildings And Grounds

July 26, 1945.

Mr. Harry T. Moore  
Mims, Florida.

Dear Sir:

Your letter addressed to the Florida Delegation has been received, regarding the FEPC legislation, anti-lynching bill, anti-Jim Crow Travel bill and anti-poll tax legislation.

Although I am not in favor of any of these bills I am glad to have this expression of your views.

Yours very truly,

CHARLES C. ANDREWS

- ✓ J. P. Hennis, Dayton
- ✓ John Kennedy, Miami
- ✓ L. J. Sullivan, W. H. B.
- ✓ C. J. Williams, inland
- ✓ R. K. Youngblood, Okla.
- ✓ Ben Brown, Tampa
- ✓ R. H. Cromwell, Pensacola
- ✓ W. A. Harris, Tallahassee
- ✓ J. S. Bryant, old town
- ✓ W. B. Davis, Okla.
- ✓ Ralph Bailey, Punta Gorda
- ✓ J. L. Redding, Jay
- ✓ Joe H. James, Jay

David Blalock, Jay

- ✓ W. P. Hester, Okla.
- ✓ W. H. C. 1st time
- ✓ R. J. Johnson, 2nd time
- ✓ W. J. Johnson, 3rd time
- ✓ W. J. Johnson, 4th time
- ✓ W. J. Johnson, 5th time
- ✓ W. J. Johnson, 6th time
- ✓ W. J. Johnson, 7th time
- ✓ W. J. Johnson, 8th time
- ✓ W. J. Johnson, 9th time
- ✓ W. J. Johnson, 10th time

9/29/75



The percentage of the potential Negro vote to the total vote in some of the counties of Florida:

Jefferson	68%
Leon	59
Gadsen	57
Madison	53
Marion	49.1
Dixie	47
Alachua	45
Seminole	45
Putnam	43
Nassau	42
Wakulla	41
Columbia	40
Levy	39
Duval	35

The challenge of this picture or situation is plain. We as Negroes must HOLD OURSELVES RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY AND ALL CONDITIONS THAT CONFRONT US FROM NOW ON. WE HAVE THE WEAPON AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO IMPROVE OUR STATUS.

Our prayer and dreams of better educational facilities, better neighborhoods, a higher type of public official, more jobs, legal equity, and many other of our community and State needs can and will become a reality through our concerted and intelligent participation in all primaries and elections held in our various communities, local, State and national.

Our first job is educating the Negro as to the value of the ballot. The second, is teaching him the need of concerted action or pulling together, and the third and very important, is to emphasize that the ballot is never for sale.

In order to carry out a successful program in this respect, we must draft the minister, the teacher, the barber, the cook, and every other available person. It is a big job and it will take the combined efforts of all of us to put the job over.

The Progressive Voters League along with the scores of other civic minded organizations and groups have a real job to do, but on the other hand, we have a glorious opportunity to lift our divided and indifferent people.

And above all, we are helping to give to American democracy a much needed blood transfusion which will transform it into a healthy, strong and vigorous Being which the whole world will admire, and strive to emulate.

Sept. 1945  
Orlando meeting

By Edward D. Davis

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal and they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights; That among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. That in order to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

When a government does not derive its powers or authority from the governed, -all of the governed, it fails to meet the essential requirements of a democracy. Many of us have been keenly aware of the short comings of our own government in this respect for a long time, especially when applied to certain minority groups.

But thanks to the Creator, we have as a heritage here in America the great Constitution of these United States. The problem which brings us here today was anticipated and ladies and gentlemen, and taken care of in the 14th and 15th amendments. Listen at this, and I now quote from the 14th: "All persons born or naturalized in the U.S. and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the U. S. and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the U. S.; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws." Is there any thing as clear or as forceful as this? And the 15th Amendment states, "The right of citizens of the U. S. to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the U. S. or any other State on account of Race, Color or previous condition of servitude." The U. S. Supreme Court in a recent decision in the Texas Primary case - Smith vs Allwright 321 U. S. 679 states that not only shall the State be restrained, but the State shall see to it that no class, group or individual shall interfere with a citizen of these U.S. in his right to vote and to select those to be voted upon. The right to select those who are to govern is in fact one of the most sacred and cherished privileges of an American citizen.

The Negro in Florida as well as throughout the entire South, need not expect much improvement in our status as citizens, as human beings, or as bread winners, until and unless we learn to use the ballot effectively - and this Ladies and Gentlemen, is the core of our political problem. Many Negroes, when approached in the matter of the franchise, too often, reply thoughtlessly thus: "This is a white man's country, he wants to run all of it, why should I worry to vote", or "My one vote will not matter", or "The white people are against our voting and I don't want any trouble".

All of us here are very much aware of the professional southern politician's expressed views on this subject. All of us are familiar with the methods used to disfranchise some 10 millions of us here in the South. We know of the Poll tax, White primaries, Educational tests, Grandfather Clause, etc. And today, despite the clear cut ruling of the Supreme Court, in many parts of the South, plans and devices are being made to evade, avoid, and nullify this decision. The challenge to us in this situation is plain. We as Negroes, Southern Negroes, if you please, must stop so much Protesting and begin more Contesting in the courts of the land, the unfair practices, the unlawful and un-American moves of those who would keep us back. This, I am proud to say is the program being followed throughout the South. The Primary cases in Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, and Alabama, plus the great battle being waged by the progressive element of our group in South Carolina are concrete evidences that the Negro is now ready to strike a blow in behalf of his own freedom and that he has adopted the strategy of pressing for a change in the status quo, while change is the order of the day.

The Negroes in Florida today face the opportunity of the ages. We can through concerted action become a potent factor not only in the State but in the country at



A few figures on the potential voting strength of the Florida Negro.

Potential Voting Strength of Negroes in Florida

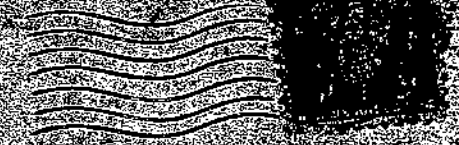
	<u>1930 Census</u>	<u>1945 (Estimated)</u>
Whole of Florida	251,025	275,000

A Sample of the situation in some of the counties:

Duval	33,974	45,000
Dade	18,138	25,000
Hillsboro	18,284	22,000
Palm Beach	14,900	14,000
Escambia	8,450	12,000
Orange	7,289	11,000
Polk	9,579	11,000
Pinellas	6,568	10,000
Marion	8,036	9,500



L. E. THOMAS  
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR AT LAW  
1035 N. W. SECOND AVENUE  
MIAMI FLORIDA



*car*  
*R-97*

Mr. Harry L. Motter  
P.O. Box 4  
Miami, Florida



LAW OFFICES  
MCGILL & MCGILL  
P. O. BOX 702  
610 WEST DUVAL STREET  
JACKSONVILLE FLORIDA

Phone and pay Bill No. 1  
to our mailing address as  
follows Jacksonville, Fla.

13 September 1944

Prof. Harry I. Moore  
Box 4  
Mims, Florida

My dear Prof. Moore:

Upon my return to the office Monday Night I found your letter making inquiry about the facts upon which the conviction of the three negro boys was based in Gainesville on the 7th inst. I have had a number of telegrams and letters coming in in regards to this case.

I have not had the time to give it very much attention. However, a committee composed of members of the National Youth Council and the CIO was in the office yesterday and I advised them to proceed immediately to Gainesville and obtain a copy of the transcript of the testimony in the case. A lawyer named Williams at Lakeland, according to this committee, is interested in the case.

I am again leaving the city for perhaps six days or more and I am sure that I will not return in time to take the necessary action in this case before next Monday, the time in which these men will be executed. I told the committee that whatever is done must be done quickly so I assume that a transcript of the evidence will be in the hands of this Lakeland lawyer before Saturday.

I do not know what the evidence is or whether or not there are any merits in the case and I could not know until the transcript of the record is before us.

With every good wish, I am,

Very truly yours,

*S. D. McGill*  
S. D. MCGILL

sdm/w

STATE OFFICERS

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 BOX 2, HIMS

DR. C. F. DUNCAN, VICE PRESIDENT  
 417 1/2 BROAD ST. JACKSONVILLE

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 81 N. BRYAN ST. ORLANDO

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 601 CYPRESS AVE. SANFORD

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**Advancement of Colored People**

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THURGOOD MARSHALL  
 SPECIAL COUNSEL

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 DIRECTOR OF BRANCHES

Hims, Fla.  
 September 2, 1944

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Attorney S. D. McGill, Chairman  
 State Conference Legal Committee  
 610 W. Duval St.  
 Jacksonville, Fla.

Dear Attorney McGill :

Several days ago I wrote you in regards to the case of the three Negroes who were accused of rape in Gadsden County. At that time we asked if you had any information as to the merits of this case. We also expressed our desire to rally to the defense of these men, if there is any doubt as to their guilt.

Although we have not heard from you, we trust that you have been able to gather some facts about the case. If it is reasonably certain that the men are guilty, there is nothing more for us to do. But if you have any information that might induce you to recommend further legal action, we are ready to throw our financial and moral support behind it. We also are willing to finance any steps that you might think necessary to ascertain the merits of the case.

We shall look to hear from you soon.

Very sincerely yours,

Harry T. Moore

*copy*



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 317 1/2 BROAD ST., JACKSONVILLE  
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 REV. S. JOHNSON, TREASURER  
 801 CYPRÈSE AVE., GANTWORTH

FLORIDA STATE CONFERENCE OF THE

# National Association

FOR THE

## Advancement of Colored People

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Miami, Fla.  
 September 13, 1944

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 M. KING  
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 SOLOMAN BROOKINS  
 TAMPA  
 EARL E. BROUGHTON  
 VOLUNTEER COUNTY  
 ALLEN L. ATTAWAY  
 WEE PALM BEACH  
 REV. E. JACKSON

Attorney Lawson E. Thomas  
 1035 N. W. 2nd Ave  
 Miami, Fla.

Dear Attorney Thomas:

No doubt you have received copy of a letter that I addressed to Attorney McGill last week, relative to the case of the three Negroes accused of rape in Golden County. As you will recall, we pledged the financial support of the State Conference in a further defense of these men, if he thought there was any doubt as to their guilt.

Since then we received a card from Miss Whitfield, Attorney McGill's secretary, stating that he was out of town and would not be back until sometime this week. We therefore are writing this special letter to ask your opinion of this case. If you have any information that would warrant our going into this case, please let us know at once. I would suggest that you try to get in touch with McGill by phone, as he might be back in his office. The Conference will defray your expenses in any effort necessary to determine the merits of this case.

We have received letters from several branches expressing doubt as to the guilt of these men. We therefore wish to reasonably sure that this case is not a miscarriage of justice.

We shall be very grateful for your cooperation in this case.

Sincerely yours,

Harry T. Moore



TELEPHONE 3-3036

L. E. THOMAS  
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW  
1035 N. W. SECOND AVENUE  
MIAMI, FLORIDA

September 15, 1944

Mr. Harry T. Moore  
P.O. Box 4  
Mims, Florida

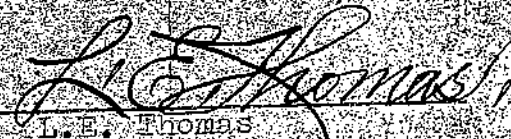
Dear Sir:

I have your letter of September 13th with attached clipping on the West Florida rape case. I talked with attorney McGill last Monday. I telephoned his office since receiving your letter. He is without contact, information or retainer in the matter.

It is my opinion that such cases should not be passed without thorough investigation, notwithstanding his Excellency, the Governor feels more than certain of the propriety of the trial and the guiltiness of the defendants. I am advised that an attorney named Williams is about to or has already filed an appeal. With me, this is merely hear-say.

Thank you for your letter and assuring you that I shall be glad to be of whatever service I may. I am,

Very truly yours,

  
L. E. Thomas

LET/EL

Encl-1



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FOR THE

Advancement of Colored People

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Attorney G. D. McGill  
 610 W. Duval St.  
 Jacksonville, Fla.

Dear Attorney McGill :

We doubt you already have received the letter that I wrote you earlier to-day, relative to the possibilities of your assisting with the appeal in the case of the three Negroes re-arrested of rape. Since then I have read an article in the Times Union, which states that Attorney Williams has filed a petition to withdraw in your favor.

I am writing now to urge that you take any action that you deem necessary to make sure that justice prevails in this case. As I stated at first, it is not our purpose to condemn crime committed by anyone - white or black, but I think it is our privilege, and our duty, to make sure that this is not a miscarriage of justice.

The State Conference is behind you one hundred per cent. Do not hesitate to press this matter. Just send me an estimate of what you will need from us, and we shall take immediate steps to get the necessary funds.

Our Fifth Annual Meeting will be held in Coala, Cal. 12 - 13. We shall be glad to have you attend part of this meeting, if you find it convenient.

Sincerely yours,

Harry T. Moore



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Attorney William S. Robinson  
416 Broad St., Room 210  
Jacksonville, Fla.

My dear Attorney Robinson:

Attorney McGill's secretary has just advised me that you are heading the case of the three Negroes accused of rape in Ocala County.

We are intensely interested in this case, and we are anxious that everything possible be done to make sure that justice prevails. The State Conference and the branches of Florida will afford any financial help that is necessary.

So please do not hesitate to go your limit. Let us know what is needed, and we will see to it that you do not lose anything.

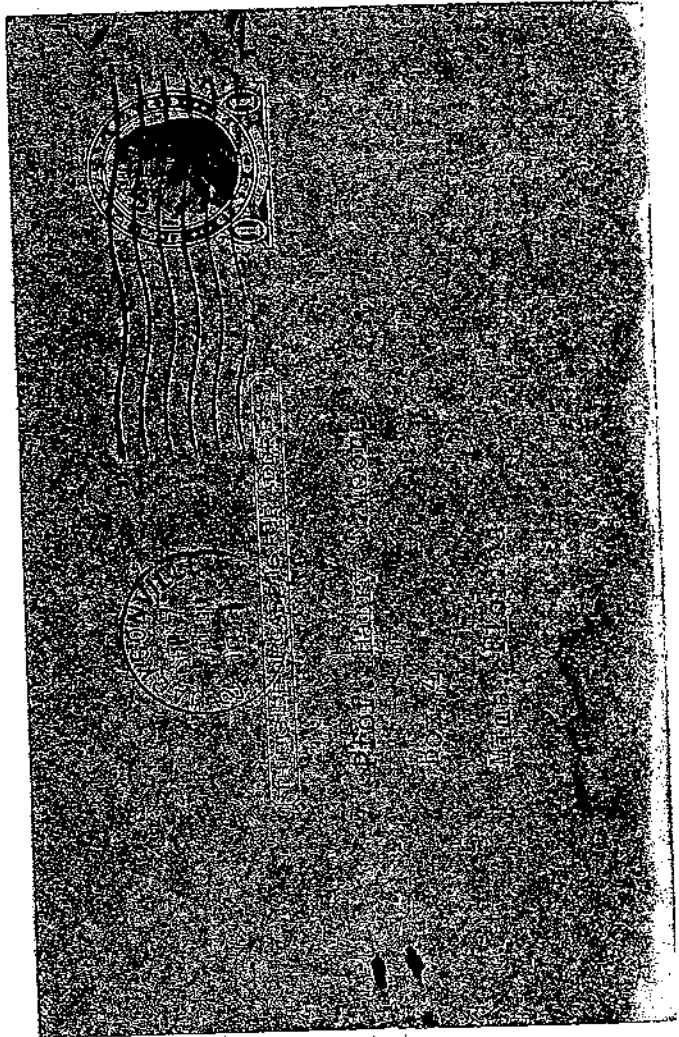
Let me hear from you.

Sincerely yours,

Harry T. Moore



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