

From Harry S. Truman to Bess W. Truman, September 20, 1921

[page 1]

Hotel Robidoux, St. Joseph, Mo., September 20, 1921

[American Legion State Convention]

My Dear Miss Bessie: -

I am hoping that you are thinking of your old man this morning because my left ear has been burning. I guess you are wondering if I've had the energy to change my button to another shirt, if I changed my sox and washed my face etc. ad lib. You win. I did some of them anyway just because I was wondering what you were thinking of.

[page 2]

We had a grand parliamentary row in the Convention yesterday with the St. Louis delegation, and licked 'em 199 to 113. It took nearly an hour to come to a vote. The St. Louis fellows have a leader who's a wonder. He's the ugliest man in Missouri, had a fog horn voice, a keen brain and knows every trick in floor leadership that Hon. Champ Clark ever used. He's an Irishman, a lawyer and he likes good whiskey (or any other kind). His name is

[page 3]

is Jerry Dugan. St. Louis Jerry they call him because we have one in Kansas City who is the chairman of our delegation.

This convention has settled everything that refers to the ex-serviceman and most of the burning political questions of the country. Our state commander, Jack Williams, is the ideal man for the job. He's a fine-looking, upstanding fellow with blue eyes and black

[page 4]

hair, which he parts on the side and combs straight back. He looks as if he could lick anyone here if he chose to do it, but he has the most pleasant smile, makes his rulings in a fair and diplomatic manner, presiding over the convention as if it were the Senate of the greatest Republic on earth instead of a howling mob of ex-soldiers.

I was so tired last night

[page 5]

I could hardly walk. Went to bed at eleven and knew nothing until eight-thirty this a.m., didn't even hear Jimmy Pendergast when he came to bed. Jimmy and myself have the same room. He's a nice boy and as smart as the old man he's named for.

The convention's called and I must run.

Yours always, Harry

[P.S.]

See you tonight about 10 I guess[.]