

Jiggs Kana honored at retirement

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"Jiggs" Kana, center, is shown receiving a pin for twenty-five years of dedicated and dependable service to the Postal Service. The pin was pinned on Jiggs by his wife, Liz, Robert S. Martin, Eagle Lake postmaster, at left, made the award at a retirement dinner for the Kana family Friday night. He officially retired June 1. At Jiggs' right is fellow postal worker Mike Duarte and daughter Betty Jane Kana.

Employees at the Eagle Lake Post Office, both current and retired, gathered at the pretty lakefront home of A. B. and Ethel Cone last Friday evening, July 13, to pay tribute to V. J. Kana on his retirement from the United States Postal Service after more than 25 years of dedicated and very dependable service. Mr. Kana, affectionately known to one and all in this area as "Jiggs," ended his service with the post office on June 1 of this year.

Robert S. Martin, Eagle Lake postmaster, noted the sentiments of all of "Jiggs' fellow workers and of the postal service, when he commented that "this marks not only the end of your postal career, which has lasted more than 25 years, but is the beginning of another career which you have been looking forward to for many years."

Mr. Kana was born in 1909 in the local postoffice. He noted that Mr. Kana joined the postal service in January of 1962 as a substitute carrier. In September of 1974 he was promoted to the position of regular clerk, a position which he held until the time of his retirement on June 1 of this year.

Patrons in the local postoffice, and along the routes which he serviced, have praised Kana for his courteous and friendly service and join in

wishing that he and his wife Elizabeth have many happy years of retirement. As a sincere token of love and appreciation for this service, the Kanas were presented with a gift of a wine rack with several bottles of wine.

Others attending the happy occasion were spouses of current and retired employees and close friends of the family. Of special note were his daughter Betty Jane, and World War II buddy, Oscar Marin and his wife Julie and daughter Christie of Los Angeles. The Marins are the parents of Richard Marin of the popular comedy team Cheech and Chong.

After an enjoyable social hour and the award presentation, the Rev. George Welsh offered the invocation preceding a delicious baked ham buffet dinner with accompanying dishes and a large retirement cake, displayed on a table in the dining room of the Cone home.

His prominence in the sport of baseball has been retold many times, especially during the days when Jiggs was one of the star pitchers for the Herd Trunkers semi-pro team in Weimar. This team recorded outstanding successes in capturing such prominent titles as champions of the Houston Post semi-pro tournament in 1949, the same year they won the state semi-pro title and represented Texas in the national competition and placed fourth. The team also won numerous South Central League titles. As a sidelight of the successful season in 1949, the Trunkers met the Houston Buffs, the forerunners of the

Houston Colt 45s and later the Astros, and the Trunkers won the game and Kana was the game-saving relief pitcher. He was also a handy man with the bat and in 1950 led the Trunkers in hitting with a .402 average while pitching and playing utility positions.

In answer to a question which obviously has been on the minds of friends who have known Jiggs for these many years, "Where in the world did you get the nickname of 'Jiggs'?" His answer was given with the shy grin which has become a trademark of this beloved gentleman. "I'm not sure. A brother probably was responsible for giving me this handle because I enjoyed reading the comics so much in my boyhood days." Anyway the nickname stuck and today everyone knows V. J. Kana as "Jiggs."

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Altar Society plans visitation

The Altar Society met July 5 with Melinda Kuchek, president, presiding. Members discussed visitation to the Heritage House on July 10. Members will be serving food for the KC bingo on the first and last Tuesday nights of each month. A list of when each person is to work will be sent out. Melinda reminded ladies of the District meeting which will be held in Sealy on July 17th. Discussion also was

held on the Country Store at the Church picnic. Next year people will be asked to have items at the hall by 11 a.m.

Refreshments consisting of cookies and punch were served by Hostesses Mrs. Barbara Rucka and Mrs. Mary Veselka.

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