

HENRY LEE (HANK) SLOAN October 25, 1907 -- June 18, 1975

Born in Whitesboro, Texas on October 25, 1907. Attended public schools in Whitesboro and Sherman, Texas. Higher education at Austin College, Allen Academy and Texas Technological College.

Henry Lee joined the newly formed Texas State Highway Patrol in 1930, serving as a motorcycle patrolman. He was assigned badge # 19 and worked out of Seguin, Texas. Family lore claims that he arranged to meet Minnie Meyer of Schulenburg by persuading a mechanic to disconnect the taillight of her car, and then stopping her because of the non-functioning light. In fact, Henry Lee had earlier arranged to be introduced to Minnie through a mutual friend. Henry Lee and Minnie were married in December 1932.

During a visit by Will Rogers, W.C. fields and Vice President Garner to the King Ranch, Henry and his friend Ray Butler served as the lead escort for the procession to the ranch. It is said that while the patrolmen were standing by, Will Rogers walked over to chat. He said that he "would rather be with you guys than with those so and so's over there."

Similarly, it was while serving as escort at a dinner function for newly elected Governor Jimmie Allred, that Henry received a telegram from the FBI appointing him as a Special Agent and asking that he report for duty to Washington D.C. in April, 1935.

Training classes took place in Washington, D.C. with firearms training at Fort Washington on the Potomac River. Upon completion of training, H. L. Sloan was transferred to Jacksonville, Florida on June 28, 1935. After further training in Jacksonville, Henry served as Resident Agent in Tampa, Florida. In November 1936, Mr. R.B. Nathan stated "Agent Sloan is very business-like; accomplishes a considerable volume of work on his own initiative; is handling the Resident Agency at Tampa, Florida

in a very acceptable manner; Submits excellent reports; is well qualified for dangerous assignments; is capable of working without supervision; is very dependable; makes excellent contacts; is an asset to the office; and is a good all-around Agent." Agent Sloan was transferred on July 27, 1937 to the San Antonio Field Office and was assigned as Resident Agent at Houston, Texas. After serving in Houston for nearly two years, Agent Sloan was transferred to the New Orleans Field Office on February 5, 1939.

On November 11, 1939, A.H. Crowl, in a memorandum to Mr. Tolson, cited endorsements by SAC Alt, SAC Nathan, SAC Shivers, SAC Jones, SAC Sackett, Inspector Connelley, Inspector Egan and Mr. Clegg in recommending Agent Sloan be given administrative or executive duties. According to Mr. Crowl, "SAC Sackett stated on October 2, 1939 in a special efficiency report that the stated Agent has been engaged exclusively on the Irving Carl Chapman case recently; that he has performed excellent work in this regard, showing he possesses excellent judgment, perseverance, imagination, and other necessary qualities. He has undergone great physical hardships in conducting surveillances in the woods and swamps of Mississippi, and is still enthusiastic; that he is one of the best all-around Agents who has ever come under Mr. Sackett's jurisdiction; that he never fails to carry out orders effectively and completely and can be depended upon at all times. He recommends that Agent Sloan be given administrative or executive duties. Mr. Sackett believes Sloan has Special Agent in Charge possibilities."

With Hoover's recommendation, Agent Sloan arrived in Washington, D.C. on January 2, 1940. One of his first responsibilities upon arriving in the Washington Field Office was to investigate the theft of his personal car with all his belongings in it. It was stolen from the hotel he was staying in and discovered the next day at Bailey's Crossroads in During January 1940, Agent Sloan spent ten days at Arlington totally burned out. Quantico training new Agents in firearms. Kenneth Logan recommended to Mr. Clegg that he be considered as a firearms trainer at the Academy due to his superior knowledge of all the Bureau's weapons and his patience in correcting trainee errors. During his assignment to the Washington Field Office, Agent Sloan was assigned as an undercover Agent in the shipyards at Newark, New Jersey hunting possible saboteurs. He never did detect any saboteurs but did help build a destroyer. While acting the role of a shipyard laborer Henry recalled the day on his way home to his apartment he saw a fellow Agent approaching him on the sidewalk. As they neared, he bumped into the Agent and asked him for a light for his cigarette which the Agent provided without recognizing Sloan. They shared a laugh over that later when his assignment was completed.

After his assignment in New Jersey, Agent Sloan was transferred to Quantico as a firearms instructor. On December 14, 1940 the FBI Recreation Association presented an award to Agent Sloan for shooting a perfect score on the practical pistol course at Quantico. It was noted that he was only the second Agent in FBI service to so qualify. With the declaration of war on December 7, 1941 and the need for new Agents, the firing ranges, which only accommodated twelve shooters at a time, needed to be expanded. Agent Sloan along with Agent Espy, using student labor, quickly constructed a second pistol range. Without paved walkways, this became known as the 'mud flats'. On July 21, 1942 Agent Sloan was named Acting Special Agent in Charge of firearms training at

Quantico, Virginia. Sloan's reclassification as Special Agent in Charge of firearms training was made by Hoover on December 19, 1942. Two additional ranges were opened under his supervision in 1944. In 1948 another skeet range was opened atop a hill to the rear of the rifle deck. It rapidly became known as 'cardiac hill' due to the steep climb to the range. Again in 1951, the need for new Agents overwhelmed the capabilities of the existing ranges. SAC Sloan utilized his excellent relations with the Marine Corp. to secure land where the new academy would eventually be built. The new ranges included four skeet fields, two electronic target ranges, three pistol and machine gun ranges and rifle range with twenty four firing positions. On April 14, 1954 SAC Sloan fired the first shots to open these new ranges. The natural beauty of the new ranges became the location of choice for the FBI Recreational Association annual picnics.

Shortly before the ranges opened, it was decided at Headquarters to merge the two SAC positions at Quantico, SAC of the Firearms Training and SAC of the Quantico Administrative personnel into one Special Agent in Charge with two Assistant Agents. On March 2, 1954, Hank Sloan was named to head the Quantico Academy as Special Agent in Charge. His new duties not only included the total operation of the Academy but also included the radio network for the Bureau with it's transmitting locations at multiple sites in Virginia. During a particularly heavy snow storm in February 1961 SAC Sloan started out with a Marine Corps driver in a 4-wheel drive truck that was guaranteed to go anywhere to check both Sowego and Midland radio stations. Neither sites access roads had been plowed and the 'go anywhere truck' stalled in a snow drift about a mile from the Sowego station. Efforts of a nearby farmer to extract the truck with his tractor proved futile. Hank walked the remaining distance with food supplies for the station and remained overnight. No other Bureau personnel were able to reach either station stranding 13 radio operators and Mr. Sloan. Both radio stations continued operating without interruption with Mr. Sloan communicating with Quantico via the radio The following day, the Marine Corps sent a helicopter with additional food supplies to transport Mr. Sloan from Sowego on to Midland and then return him to Ouantico.

The academy proved to be a major asset to the Bureau in public relations resulting in favorable articles being published in many medias throughout the nation including several movies which informed the country of the history of the 'G-Men'. In 1965 a television series starring Efrem Zimbalist, Jr. titled 'The FBI' was aired. Inspector Erskine (Efrem Zimbalist, Jr.) received the training to properly portray a field Agent at Quantico with the fully appreciated cooperation of Hank's team of instructors.

During Hank Sloan's 29 years as SAC of Firearms Training and then the entire Academy, his ability to motivate those around him stood out. He also maintained excellent relations throughout the years with the U.S. Marine Corps who provided Hank and the FBI with support eventually providing a site for the development of the present FBI Academy and Ranges. A close rapport with the Marine Corps was also evidenced by the participation of the Marines in events such as the annual FBIRA picnics held at the academy. The many awards and thoughtful letters of appreciation from the Marine

Commandants throughout the years as well as a retirement banquet held on the base with many retired Generals in attendance attest to the excellent relation between the USMC and the FBI. Hank's responsibilities in his latter years at Quantico encompassed all of the support facilities at the Academy, the FBI Ranges, the radio stations at Sowego and Midland, the micro-wave relay equipment at Quantico and Lorton and all the personnel operating all of these facilities. His personal contact with all the new Agents over the years, in-service Agents returning for training, Agents from the Seat of Government, police attendees of the FBI National Academy and foreign law enforcement personnel hosted here under Foreign Aid Programs probably made Hank Sloan the most widely known individual in all of law enforcement world wide.

Even with the requirements of overseeing the total operation of the Academy and all the additional related responsibilities, Hank's concerns for the safety of the Agents relating to firearms was never far from his mind. The need for a holster to securely hold a handgun even during a strenuous chase yet be easily drawn in a quick draw situation resulted in Hank's design of an adjustable web holster. During the patenting process he specified that he would not accept any royalties from the sale of the holster to any governmental agencies, personnel safety being foremost on his mind.

In the mid-1960's Congress authorized the FBI to construct a new FBI Academy Hank's experience with construction and growth of the contiguous with the ranges. current facilities provided him with the ability to build a new 'West Point of Law Enforcement' at the Quantico location. He reached out to all the military academy's for insights and suggestions with which to assist the architects in the construction of the Academy as it stands today. Throughout the years of construction Hank kept close watch on the physical growth as it became a reality. When the new Academy was completed, it was decided that the total scope of responsibilities would be divided Hank Sloan finally retired on February 26, 1971 after between two administrators. completing thirty five years of service turning over his manifold responsibilities to the new leadership. Prior to his final day at work, the Marine Corps Base Commandant held a luncheon January 26, 1971 in Mr. Sloan's honor with many retired Commandants as well as the current Quantico staff officers in attendance. The Bureau also recognized Hank's service with a reception and cocktail party February 19, 1971 at the Marine Corps Officers Club with all his friends at FBI Headquarters as well as the Academy personnel and Marine Corps Officers invited.

Hank's career in the FBI could probably be summed up best by one of his last evaluations which reported as follows:

Mr. Sloan is the Special Agent in Charge at Quantico, Virginia and has under his supervision the FBI Academy, the FBI ranges and radio stations at Midland and Sowego. His is a seasoned FBI employee with more than thirty-one years of experience with a considerable know-how as an administrator. He has an outstanding personality, makes a superior appearance and has developed outstanding contacts in the field of law enforcement throughout the United States and foreign countries as well as among members of the United States Marine Corps at Quantico, Virginia. He also represents

the FBI on the Auto Theft Committee of the International Association of Chiefs of Police. In this capacity he has handled himself in a superior manner. As a speaker, he makes a fine presentation and has done so before numerous groups during the rating period. He has contributed immensely in planning, organization and development of the new FBI Academy building at Quantico, Virginia. He has given many long hours to this important project and has demonstrated the ability to handle a large volume of work as well as lay out and program activities. His technical competence is superior and he has demonstrated ingenuity, initiative and fine judgment. Mr. Sloan is a loyal and faithful employee who is always working to promote the best interests of the Bureau.

Hank retired to the quiet life of golf and fishing on February 26, 1971. SAC Henry L. Sloan died on June 18, 1975 of a heart attack while vacationing at his summer home at Lake James near Morgantown, N.C.

Biography prepared by Letty Sloan Mallery, drawn From Henry Sloan Biographical data prepared by his brother Louis Riley Sloan, from Henry Sloan's personal papers and from interviews with Minnie Sloan.

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