

Homespun Humor Helps Truman To Meet Tribulations of Presidency

By ALEXANDER R. GEORGE
AP Newsfeatures Writer

WASHINGTON—Harry S. Truman is now fighting to hold the presidency he didn't want when it came to him suddenly three years ago.

The one-time Missouri plowboy was plumb scared as he talked to reporters on Friday, the 13th of April, 1945. President Roosevelt had died the day before and in the evening Vice President Truman had taken the Presidential oath at the White House.

"I don't know if any of you fellows ever had a load of hay or a bull fall on you, but last night the whole weight of the moon and all the stars fell on me," he said. "I feel a tremendous responsibility. Please pray for me. I mean that."

Within three months the former Kansas City haberdasher had to deal with a rapid succession of world-shaking events. In less than 30 days Germany's great military machine collapsed.

Two months later the "plain man from Missouri" sailed for Europe to meet Stalin and Churchill in peace talks at Berlin. There he also took the responsibility of deciding whether the atomic bomb should be dropped on Japan to shorten the war.

Announces War's End
Four days after he announced the dropping of the bombs, Japan offered to surrender. Within another four days President Truman announced that Japan had accepted Allied surrender terms. Jubilant crowds greeted him and Mrs. Truman that day as they appeared on the White House lawn.

He then was probably at the height of his popularity as President. Polls showed him running ahead of Roosevelt's highest standing.

The political honeymoon lasted a few months. Then foreign and domestic trouble beset his administration.

A record number of strikes and skyrocketing prices in this country . . . increasing disputes between the United States and Russia . . . the people in a large part of the world facing starvation.

Before he was nominated for the vice presidency four years ago, Harry Truman had no idea he might be president some day. Friends had urged him to enter the vice presidential race, but it was reported he told them he wanted to remain a senator.

He went to the Democratic National Convention planning to support James F. Byrnes as president Roosevelt's running mate. At the convention, party leaders decided to back Truman as a compromise candidate between Byrnes and Henry Wallace.

After he became vice president, friends asked Mr. Truman how he liked his new job. He said he preferred being a senator. It was suggested he might become president. His friends reported he said, with a frightened look: "Don't say that; I don't let myself think of it."

Likes to Meet Friends
Mr. Truman long has been a practical politician and makes no bones about it. However, the pleasure he shows at meeting people and talking with them is no political pose. He is a natural mixer who asks friends to call him "Harry" and means it.

When he became president he told an Associated Press reporter "I just want the folks I love to know that if we can't get together in the old informal way, it is not of my choosing."

On the other hand, he has seemed to enjoy being president. Friends have noticed that his face lights up with pleasure when the Marine Band strikes up "Hail to the Chief."

He has described the White House as the finest prison in the world. Presidents, he said, are prisoners of the public but most of them have liked it. He told about going to a Washington bank soon after he became chief executive.

As senator he had gone there without causing any commotion. But when he went there as president, he found traffic blocked in four directions as he came out of the bank.

Mr. Truman has observed that a president needed "a good sense of humor." He has made irate replies to political critics but he has had the humor to take good-naturedly such jabs as: "Don't shoot the piano player. He's doing the best he can."

Uses Bible as Text
He told a Kansas City luncheon club that his antidote for going high-hat was found in the Bible. "Whenever I am threatened with going high-hat," he said, "I turn to the Gospel of St. Luke, sixth chapter, 26th verse. I recommend it highly to you. That's where I go when I am in danger."

The verse, which he told members to go home and look up for themselves, is: "Woe unto you when all men shall speak well of you. For so did their fathers to the false prophets."

When he was in the Senate, he remarked: "A fellow doesn't have to be so big to be a senator. You just have to work at it."

During his Senate career of 10 years, Mrs. Truman did her own housework. He frequently helped her by drying the supper dishes she had washed. She in turn helped edit his speeches.

The Democrats are planning to make the most of Mr. Truman's homespun qualities and flair for

Men Experienced In Anti-Aircraft Skills Army's Need

The Army's current expansion program calls for a sharp increase in anti-aircraft artillery units, and veterans experienced in some 20 anti-aircraft skills may enlist for direct assignment to that branch in a grade as high as technical sergeant, T/Sgt. Woodrow W. Halstead, commander of the Roseburg Army and Air Force Recruiting Station, announced today.

Enlistment under the program is authorized for men with prior service in any of the armed forces so long as they are skilled in a specialty used in anti-aircraft artillery, as an example, the sergeant pointed out former members of the Navy or Coast Guard who held ratings as radarman, electricians, gunners or fire controllers may enlist as anti-air-

Honors Editor

UNITED STATES POSTAGE



Honoring the memory of Kansas publisher William Allen White, this 3-cent purple stamp will go on sale July 31. A portrait of the author and editor is the central motif.

craft specialist in an appropriate grade.

Other skills open include draftsmen, information center operators, ground aircraft ob-

Charter Giving To Toastmasters Club Scheduled

Charter night for the Roseburg Toastmasters Club will be Tues-

day of next week, it was announced by President Wayne Crooch at the dinner meeting last night in the Umpqua Hotel.

President Crooch reported that Blair Alderman, Eugene, district governor, has received the Roseburg charter and will be here to make the presentation.

A special program, starting at 7 o'clock, is being arranged for members of the club, their wives, and invited guests. The Executive committee will meet in the K. of P. hall Thursday night of this week to work out details. Speakers and participants in the evening's meeting will be chosen from the members most experienced.

The Roseburg club, organized about four months ago, has its full quota of 30 members, and has been meeting weekly.

The local Toastmasters will be represented at the Toastmasters Internationale at San Francisco July 26 to 29 by Bob Harvie, as an official delegate. The members voted to authorize the executive committee to use what funds are available to help finance his trip. The Roseburg club will be

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the infant organization at the convention.

Vital Statistics

Marriage Licenses
MORENO-HOWARD — Emsley Moreno, Gaston, and Ruth Evelyn Howard, Roseburg.

BAGGETT-IRELAND — John Bailey Baggett and Patricia Gay Ireland, both of Roseburg.

BAILEY-MOODY — Doyle James Bailey and Joan Marcile Moody, both of Cottage Grove.

Moody, both of Cottage Grove.

Divorce Suits Filed
BIERWARD — Joe A. vs. Mildred M. Bierward. Cruel and inhuman treatment charged. They were married in Reno, Nev., Aug. 23, 1947.

Europe's production of bread grains (wheat and rye) will be much greater this year than in 1946 or 1947, but still about 15 per cent below pre-war level.

THURSDAY, 8:00 P. M.



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