Truman Confident as Sixth Year as President Starts

By LYLE C. WILSON
(United Press Staff Correspondent)

Washington, April 11 — (U.P.) — Harry S. Truman begins his sixth presidential year this week full of health, confidence and plans for 1952.

He is a 100 to 1 bet to be the next democratic presidential nominee in his 68th year. His birthday is May 8.

But if Mr. Truman chooses not to run, his choice for the democratic nomination probably would be Chief Justice Fred M. Vinson, who will be 62 years old on Jan. 22, 1952.

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There is no plainly discernible evidence that Mr. Truman favors the presidential possibilities of Justice William O. Douglas. Some persons here, including at least one of Douglas' supreme court associates, regard him as a candidate. He will be 52 next October.

But Mr. Truman is not worried nor much interested in these possible successors.

He is a changed man since April 12, 1945 when he solemnly took the oath as president a few hours after Franklin D. Roosevelt died in Warm Springs, Ga.

During his first months in office, Mr. Truman formed the habit of snap judgment when events proved a little caution would have helped. He since has regretted snipping of lend-lease when hostilities ended. His careless endorsement of Henry A. Wallace's attack on administration foreign policy put him in the most embarrassing spot of his career.

These and other factors, including Mr. Truman's habit of publicly proclaiming himself unequal to his White House task, persuaded democratic strategists to keep him out of the 1946 congressional campaign. The next two years were a presidential nightmare in which a republican congress fruistrated the White House day by day.

The new dealers, left wingers, socialists and big city bosses of the Roosevelt coalition deserted Mr. Truman by platoons and brigades as the 1948 presidential election drew near. They were whooping it up for Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Douglas, or almost anyone else.

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But the trim little man from Missouri never lost his smile. He accepted the presidential nomination so reluctantly given him in Philadelphia.

From that campaign Mr. Truman emerged a party hero. Gov. Thomas E. Dewey of New York, the republican candidate, unexpectedly became the political bust of the 20th century, so far.

A combination of republicans and conservative southern democrats has been able to kill or modify most of Mr. Truman's domestic legislative program. Repeal of the Taft-Hartley law, civil rights regulation, higher taxes — all are lively Truman policies at which congress has balked so far.

There has been more political trouble than comfort for Mr. Truman in his first five White House years. But you never would suspect it.

The outsiders who see him oftenest and know him best are Washington's newsmen and women. Friend or foe, they almost invariably describe him not only as confident, but cocky, chin out and ready for battle.

He has put William M. Boyle, Jr., in charge of democratic political strategy and patronage. Boyle, a graduate of boss Pendergast's hard school, is proving himself the handiest political juggler hereabouts since Jim Farley.

Warren Court Deal Settled

Property owners who protested their assessments for the improvement of Warren Court will have to pay only one-third, while two-thirds will be paid by the city.

This was the decision of the city council Monday night, but it was protested by Alderman Albert H. Gille, who called it "the height of something or other when taxpayers are called upon to pay for pavement affecting certain property owners."

Warren Court is off 15th street on the east side. Petitioners for the improvement were two property owners whose property lies around the circular east end of the court.

Those protesting are property owners on 15th street whose benefit from the improvement is questionable. The west end of the court is one lot on 15th street that was bought by the two peitioners and paved to give them access to 15th.

Alderman Tom Armstrong reported that the owners on 15th had agreed to pay a third of their assessments which were quite high, one running in excess of $400.

The settlement will cost the city about $600 and the property owners $300.

Card Party Honors Riggi

Brooks — Honoring her husband on his birthday anniversary, Mrs. Pete Riggi entertained with a card party. A large birthday cake centered the luncheon table. Refreshments were served to Mrs. Jane Cowle of Glendale, California, Mr.. and Mrs. Ray DeRoche, Thomas De Roche and Jerry Sturgis and Mr. and Mrs. Pete Riggi.

Downs at Hearing—Lee Emeroy Downs (right) and his wife Patricia (left) as they appear before U. S. Commissioner T. V. Cashen in Jacksonville, Fla., for a hearing after their arrest by FBI agents in connection with the $10,800 robbery of a San Jose, Calif., telephone office. Others unidentified. (AP Wirephoto)

If Junior Plays 'Hopalong' All The Time, Read This, Mothers

By PATRICIA CLARY

Hollywood, April 11 (U.P.)—Mothers, be patient if Junior plays Hopalong Cassidy from breakfast call to sundown in the old corral. Maybe someday it will make him a movie star.

If he not only takes the part of Hopalong but also portrays the Indians, you've got an Academy Award prospect in the nursery.

This word comes from Richard Basehart, who started his acting playing cowboy.

Now he's one of the better thespians around town.

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"It's good practice for the kids to run around the backyard strutting like cowboys and chasing the rustlers over the hill," Basehart said. "They take their acting as seriously as any Hollywood star."

It's going a little too far, however, Baseheart admitted, when they demand to be outfitted with Hopalong, Roy Rogers and Gene Autry outfits, so they can change identities and confound the villains.

"Like any actor, the kids probably don't want to be typed," he suggested. "They are developing their imaginations and broadening their scale of emotions.

"Just so long as they don't try to throw one another over cliffs."

Basehart advised parents contemplating a trek to Hollywood to watch for a variety of characterizations in their children's games.

"The little boy who plays a cattle rustler one minute and who gallops after himself as the sheriff the next shows a great ability for characterization, he said. "It indicates he can loose himself in the story."

The little girl who doubles as mother, nurse, sweetheart and dance hall queen is giving her imagination a workout, too.

And what can this cowboy stuff lead to?

Ex-Cowboy Basehart, after scoring a resounding hit on Broadway, is now co-starring in his sixth movie, 20th Century-Fox's "Trumpet to the Morn."

In this, he's still fighting Indians.

TOP PHOTOGRAPHERS

Harris and Ewing Recall Accidental Start 45 Years Ago

Washington, Apr. 11 (U.P.)—Harris and Ewing, world-famed photographic studio in Washington, was started by accident.

Forty-five years ago a hot-under-the-collar newspaper editor in San Francisco was unable to get from Washington studios a picture of a senator who had just died.

He turned to his friend, George W. Harris, and said:

"If you had a lick of sense, you would go to Washington, open a studio, and start a file of all the celebrities that come into the capital."

Harris caught the next train.

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At the age of 77 he still is head of the firm of Harris and Ewing, which is observing its 45th anniversary.

It is said that since 1905 "more famous people have walked through the firm's doors than into any other place in Washington."

It's probably true. Through those portals have passed presidents, kings, queens, princes, ambassadors, cabinet members, senators, representatives, just people and newspapermen.

Each has left his "mark."

The studio has filled a two-story warehouse with some 6,000,000 negatives, all carefully indexed and easily available.

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The firm estimates it has from 12,000 to 15,000 sittings a year and can take care of up to 105 persons a day. It has four studios here and one in New York.

In addition to taking care of the needs of the capital, it supplies news as well as portrait pictures under contract for 25 magazines and newspapers and handles special requests for pictures from 1,500 publications each year.

Until 1924, Harris and Ewing was in a shaky old building. It now has its own five-story structure. The first person to walk through the new doors was Calvin Coolidge.

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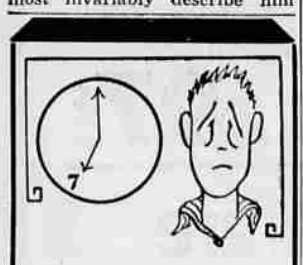

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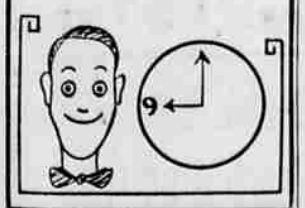

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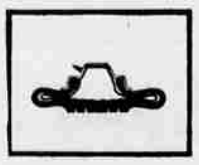

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