The Story of Harry S. Truman

Farmer, Soldier, Statesman, President

Succeeding to the highest office in America during a crucial phase of World War II, he made the awesome decision to use the atom bomb and thus saved untold thousands of American lives. In the postwar years, the most critical period in world history, he is a world leader for lasting peace. This is the thrilling story of our thirty-third president of the United States,

Harry S. Truman...
In the early spring of 1945, our hard-hit troops were doggedly at
orps with the enemy on all fronts.

Then, on April 12, just when victory seemed almost in sight,
our nation was stunned by a tense announcement.

Flash! The sad word has just reached us.
What will happen now?

Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States,
died suddenly this afternoon.

Oh, what will happen to us now?

How can anyone ever take his place?

It was at this momentous and solemn
milestone in our history that Vice-President
Harry S. Truman courageously rose
to the task which fate had willed him.
AND WHAT WAS THE BACKGROUND OF OUR NEW PRESIDENT? FOR THIS ANSWER, WE TURN BACK HISTORY TO THE TIME WHEN WESTERN MISSOURI WAS THE "BOOGEHEAD TO THE WEST." IT WAS THERE HIS FOREPARENTS HAD SETTLED...

AND IT WAS THERE THAT HARRY S. TRUMAN WAS BORN AND REARED ON A FARM...

"KNOW THAT BOY, HARRY, SURE PLOWS A STRAIGHT FURROW?"

"YEP, THE STRAIGHTEST IN THE COUNTY..."

ON SUNDAYS, AT CHURCH, IN INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI...

FINALLY, IN KANSAS CITY...

CONGRATULATIONS, I'M GLAD TO HAVE YOU AS A CLERK IN OUR BANK...

HARRY, WE'RE GLAD TO HAVE YOU AS A CLERK IN OUR BANK... AND I CAN MAKE GOOD USE OF... THAT HUNDRED DOLLARS A MONTH!"
Two years later, when young Truman was twenty-two...

That "certain person" was Bess Wallace, a highschool sweetheart.

Way down in Missouri...

Harry, why are you up so late? Farmers go to bed early!

I want to make farming pay, mother... and by keeping records, I can find out what crops are the most profitable.

By crackes, in spite of Harry Truman's new fangled ideas about farming, he's a durned good 'ol boy.

Keep his allus meanin' and figurin'... says his records prove it's best to rotate crops and use up-to-date machinery.

In this, with war threatening...

Hey, that looks like Harry Truman! Wonder how he passed the sight test to get into the national guard?

They tell me he memorized the eye chart just to get in.

War

Harry Truman, like so many other Americans, sailed for France to fight for freedom!
As Captain of Battery D, 339th Field Artillery, 85th Division, the courageous officer had many exciting experiences in the Vosges Mountains, 1918...

Captain Truman, thrown from his horse, immediately leaped to his feet.

"They're firing! Hit the dirt!"

"We'll get to the top of the ridge... then follow the mountain-top road?"

"But, sir... the enemy is already shelling the road to close the trap on us!"

"All of you catch those horses and hitch them to the guns! The battery will re-form!"

Back to your stations..."
SEE, IT'S GOOD TO SEE THE U.S.A.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WHEN YOU GET INTO CIVILIAN AGAIN, CAPTAIN TRUMAN?

THERE'S A GIRL WAITING FOR ME BACK IN INDEPENDENCE. I WANT TO GET MARRIED AND SETTLE DOWN.

THAT'S GREAT! I'D LIKE TO OPEN A CLOTHING STORE IN KANSAS CITY... HOW ABOUT GOING IN BUSINESS WITH ME?

AFTER HIS MARRIAGE TO BESS WALLACE, HARRY TRUMAN DID OPEN A STORE WITH EX-SERGEANT JACOBSON, THEN, IN THE EARLY 30's.

WE'RE LOSING MONEY, EDIE... BUSINESS IS GETTING BAD.

SURE IS A TOUGH BREAK FOR ALL THE GUYS WHO JUST CAME OUT OF THE ARMY.

OUT OF BUSINESS.

BESS, THE BOYS AT THE LEGION MEETING TONIGHT WERE TALKING ABOUT HAVING ME RUN FOR COUNTY JUDGE... AS A DEMOCRAT.

SOME WEEKS LATER, HARRY TRUMAN TOOK HIS FIRST PUBLIC OFFICE AS ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE OF HIS OWN JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI...
Hey, it's our county judge! Can I help you?

Yes, neighbor. You can help raise bond money to build better roads. It's time for Missouri to be "lifted out of the mud."

You know, Harry Truman put over a ten million dollar bond issue to build roads in this county.

He does things in a big way... and makes them work.

Here we are in Washington, Harry. It's a far cry from the farm to the U.S. Senate.

Here's appointed a Democrat and a Republican both to see where the roads should go... sure is an honest guy.

And his idea is to give contracts to the feller who'll do the best job and save the county the most money... regardless of politics.

Jackson County's fine highway network, as good as any in America, was the result of Harry Truman's dream and his administrative ability that made it a reality.

Then in 1936, following the Hoover administration's catastrophic depression, the people of Missouri overwhelmingly elected Harry S. Truman to the U.S. Senate.
The senator from Missouri ardently supported President Roosevelt on domestic issues. Then, when war broke out in Europe and America armed to defend herself, Senator Truman remembered the mistakes of World War I. It doesn't do any good to dig up dead horses after the war is over. The thing to do is to clean up the stuff now and correct it.

The Senate adopted Truman's idea then.

I hear you're chairman of a new committee. What's its purpose, Senator?

We are determined to see now while so much government money is being spent, that it is spent wisely and not wasted.

It was this group, known as the Truman Committee, that saved American taxpayers more than a billion dollars from 1941 to 1944 by preventing inefficiency, waste and graft.

But before our large-scale military program had reached high gear, the day President Roosevelt described as "a day of infamy," December 7, 1941, had arrived. The Japs attacked Pearl Harbor...
I want to volunteer my services, Senator, but the splendid work you are doing must continue. You can best help the American people by serving them in the Senate.

Meanwhile at the Democratic National Convention here, at Nome, Senator Harry S. Truman has been nominated for the Vice-Presidency.

Harry for Truman?

Hurray for Harry?

Then, in November, 1944...

ROOSEVELT TRUMAN IN
In a matter of weeks after his inauguration, Germany had capitulated, but the battered Japanese held on tenaciously. Finally...

I reaffirm the late President Roosevelt's decision that Japan must surrender unconditionally. There can be no compromise.

If we end this war with one quick blow, it will save countless thousands of American boys and will be more merciful than the devastation of Japan. I believe, gentlemen, we will have to use the atom bomb.
Victory brought new problems, for large scale reconversion was necessary. No cars yet, Mr. Jones. We'll be glad to put your name on the list.

In Europe... we must need food, clothes, etc. Our homes are destroyed. We must live somewhere.

Hoping to take advantage of Europe's plight, the communists poured out a steady stream of propaganda... capitalism and western democracy are dead! Give us your freedom and we will solve your problems!...
But President Truman courageously fought all opposition to world progress, in a short time here at home...

...but there is grave danger of inflation. High prices must be curbed.

Our President's warning went unheeded...

The emergency is over... now is the time to let things rip.

Take off price controls and we'll have low prices.

We don't need a housing program. Rent controls are communistic.

Squandered on big business, the Republican Congress lifted the lid on prices and profits...

About that same time, President Truman put up a last ditch fight in defense of labor...

The Republicans have killed all the days labor had under Roosevelt and the Democratic party.

President Truman vetoed the bill, and fought hard to sustain his veto, but the Republican labor-haters had too many votes.
With the C.P.A. killed and the Taft-Hartley Act strangling labor, this is what followed:

"We can’t afford meat and butter at today’s prices!"

"But I wish I could have a glass of milk at every meal!"

"When can we afford the movies again?"

"Wage cuts solution to high prices says good!"

President Truman was right about price controls. Why doesn’t the Republican Congress do something about high prices?"

ALL THE REPUBLICANS THINK OF IS BIG PROFITS FOR THE BIG GUY. BUT INFLATION SHOWS THEM IN THE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS?

Meanwhile, our leaders were working for world recovery ...

The European recovery program will give those people a chance to rebuild their countries and support themselves!

That’s common sense. America must lead the world to peace. By helping free nations, we will promote peace and prevent war!
INSTEAD OF DESPARING AT THE OBSTACLES AT HOME AND ABROAD, PRESIDENT TRUMAN, IN HIS "STATE OF THE UNION" ADDRESS, JANUARY 7, 1949, CONFIDENTLY OFFERED A SOUND PROGRAM FOR THE COMING YEARS.

OUR FIRST GOAL IS TO SECURE FULLY THE ESSENTIAL HUMAN RIGHTS TO VOTE MUST BE SHARED BY ALL.

"OUR THIRD GOAL IS TO CONSERVE AND USE OUR NATURAL RESOURCES SO THAT THEY CAN CONSTITUTE MOST EFFECTIVELY TO THE WELFARE OF OUR PEOPLE."

OUR FIELDS ... MINES ... FORESTS AND OUR WATER.

"CONSERVATION OF THESE IS PRESERVATION OF OUR NATIONAL STRENGTH."

OUR SECOND GOAL IS TO PROTECT AND DEVELOP OUR HUMAN RESOURCES BY PROVIDING ... PROPER MEDICAL CARE FOR ALL.

... AND CONTINUE TO EXTEND A FRIENDLY AND HELPING HAND TO VETERANS.

OUR FOURTH GOAL IS TO LIFT THE STANDARD OF LIVING FOR ALL OUR PEOPLE ... BY SHARING MORE BROADLY THE GOODS WE PRODUCE."
OUR FIFTH GOAL IS TO ACHIEVE WORLD PEACE BASED ON PRINCIPLES OF FREEDOM AND JUSTICE AND THE EQUALITY OF ALL NATIONS, THEN WE WILL HEAR ALL PEACE-LOVING PEOPLES SAY...

THE AMERICANS ARE HELPING US WITHOUT TRYING TO RUN OUR GOVERNMENT!

WITH DEMOCRACY, WE CAN LIVE IN PEACE. WE DON'T WANT COMMUNISM!

PRESIDENT TRUMAN IS RIGHT! WITH AMERICAN HELP, WE CAN HAVE A PROSPEROUS WORLD AGAIN!

THIS IS THE HOUR TO REDEDICATE OURSELVES TO THE FAITH IN MANKIND THAT MAKES US STRONG... TO THE FAITH IN GOD THAT GIVES US CONFIDENCE AS WE FACE THE CHALLENGE OF THE YEARS AHEAD...

REMEMBER IN NOVEMBER!