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6 Thursday Morning, Nov. 4, 1948.

## President Truman's Remarkable Victory

President Truman's victory over Governor Dewey at the polls Tuesday is one of the most remarkable political upsets of modern times. At the outset of the campaign there were very few who shared the president's confidence that he could win, and many who assumed that Mr. Truman himself actually was not as confident as he appeared to be.

Political prognosticators and the public opinion polls without exception virtually conceded a Republican sweep from the moment Governor Dewey was nominated. There should be many a red face among them today as their explanations and alibis are prepared.

The very fact that all of the dopesters were so sure that President Truman was running a hopeless race may well have been an important factor in the upset. It apparently made Republicans over-confident, and this feeling was reflected in the type of campaign Governor Dewey conducted.

Proceeding on the assumption that the election was in the bag, Governor Dewey coasted through the campaign being careful to say or do nothing that might disturb the calm. Meanwhile, President Truman was out slugging and slashing from one end of the country to the other, waging a vigorous, aggressive fight and making friends wherever he went.

Mr. Truman is a human, likable man who makes no pretense of being anything other than what he is—a typical American citizen trying to do a difficult job to the best of his ability. Fair-minded Americans ask no more of any man, but they greatly admire humility in their public servants, as well as a stout, fighting spirit in any kind of a contest.

Those certainly are among the outstanding attributes of Harry S. Truman. At convention time the Democratic Party was rent with dissension. Many of the party's leaders who normally control the nominating conventions did not want him and said openly he could not be elected. Nevertheless, he won the nomination—and the election.

And he won it without the 47 electoral votes of New York state—one of the few times in the history of the nation that this has been done. Furthermore, he won it despite the defection of 38 electoral votes in the Solid South, and without the support of the extreme left-wingers who trailed off after Henry A. Wallace and the red-tinged banner of the Progressive Party.

Certainly it was a most remarkable victory, and an unmistakable vote of confidence in President Truman by a majority of the American people.

Inasmuch as the people wanted a Democratic president, they wisely elected a Democratic majority in both houses of Congress. The division of responsibility which existed under a Democratic president and a Republican-controlled Congress will be at an end when the 81st Congress convenes early in January, with a good prospect of more harmony between the White House and Capitol Hill in the immediate future than has been evident during the last two years.

## Rectifying an Error

Louisiana has learned the bitter lesson of the economic folly of wasteful exploitation of natural resources.

From 1870 to 1930 the cypress lumber industry was a major source of revenue in that state. It provided a livelihood for thousands and made fortunes for some. Eventually the supply of cypress was exhausted and the industry perished. Forests that nature had spent centuries building were destroyed by man in 60 years.

Scientists at the Southeastern Louis-

iana Institute now are conducting experiments which they hope will point the way to re-establishment of the industry. If their experiments are successful, thousands of acres of swamps and flood plains can be re-forested. In 100 years or so, if all goes well, a valuable economic asset that was lost may be regained.

## Penal Reform Program

The pressing need for extensive physical improvement of the Texas prison system, and what such a program may be expected to accomplish, is given striking emphasis by one aspect of the legislative proposals newly drawn up by the state prison board. If these proposals are adopted by the Legislature, \$4,775,000 will be appropriated for the prison system. More than \$4,000,000 of this amount would go for modernization of the rundown system and additions to its sadly deficient facilities for the handling of prisoners.

But \$529,000 would be required to wipe out the operating deficit that will be incurred during the current biennium. It is this item which points up sharply the dollars-and-cents benefit that would be gained by citizens of the state if the prison improvement program is carried out. This program is intended to put the system on a self-supporting basis, eliminating the necessity for future heavy appropriations for its operation and to make up recurring deficits.

This prospect of lifting a financial burden from the shoulders of the taxpayers should be sufficient reason to impel the Legislature to give favorable attention to the prison board's proposals. As strongly impelling should be the chance that is offered to provide housing, sanitary and medical facilities calculated to raise prisoner morale and curb some of the reprehensible moral practices reputedly pervading the system, and industrial facilities that should yield financial returns as well as giving needed opportunity to inmates to learn a useful trade.

Not only is the prison system now prohibited by law from selling its products at a profit, but all income from them now goes into the state's general fund. The result has been that the more the system produced and sold, the more its production facilities deteriorated without means of replacing them. Commending itself as thoroughly sound, therefore, is the proposal for legal sanction for the system's products to be sold (but only to other state institutions) at a profit, and for income to be plowed back into materials and equipment for production.

In fact, the entire program is so sound in purpose, both from a humanitarian and a practical standpoint, that sympathetic consideration of it by the Legislature is confidently to be expected.

## Why Didn't They Vote?

The job of taking the 1950 census still is a year and a half away, but the Census Bureau is busy with plans for the event. Among other things, it is considering numerous requests from trade associations and other groups that supplemental information of particular interest and importance to them be gathered when the count is made.

Obviously few, if any, such requests can be granted. It is estimated that the cost of asking a single question in the census runs all the way from \$70,000 to \$300,000, depending on the language of the question and the type of answer it requires.

But one unidentified political organization has requested the bureau to ask everyone of voting age if they voted, and if not, why not. The Census Bureau would do well to include such a question. The fact that only little more than half of all our citizens of voting age actually vote in presidential elections has long been a puzzle to students of political science.

There have been numerous explanations of this unfortunate and deplorable situation, but all of these have been based on surmises rather than facts. A number of studies of voting behavior have been made in different parts of the country in the last 25 years, but they have been local or regional in their scope. Probably the most important thing shown by these studies was the need for a national study of the subject. The forthcoming census is the most logical and feasible method of making such a study. It might well reveal facts which would be invaluable in preserving and strengthening the American democratic way of life.

## Verse for Today

by Ann Campbell.

### LIFE'S PATTERN.

If we could see the pattern whole,  
And not the dangling ends of thread,  
We each could understand our role;  
We could give up our darling dead.  
Perhaps, grown old and looking back,  
Life's pattern will not loom so black,  
For we shall view the whole design,  
And wiser then, cease to repine.

## MANHATTAN

by John McClain

### ROAD COMPANY HARVY

Joe E. Brown is a pretty good baseman with a ridiculous face but an enormous, thin-lipped mouth. August he has been playing the "Harvey" on Broadway. The created by Frank Fay and has since indulged in, at intervals, by Jimmie and Jack Buchanan and the producer of the show, Brock Pemberton. The reason to believe it will not survive the grandchildren of the present old enough to take over.

Joe E., as he is familiarly addressed by no means hep and sophisticated accepted sense, but he is basically the most decent man I have ever known has a simple, almost childlike stability. People are good and bad, and are good they are truthful and and righteous and humble. He thinks people are good people, and he most of the time talking about it, he is no sissy about people he is bad. He tells them so, and he opposed to telling everybody else

As a kid Joe E. left home with an acrobatic troupe and later became a league ball player. This might lead him to the majors except for one he made when his contract was purchased by the St. Paul Club. Reporting the manager asked him what position he played.

Joe E. said: "Second base."  
"Could you possibly play short?" the manager asked.

"Not possibly," Joe replied.

"Then you're a dope," the manager said.

Joe E. asked why.

"Because I play second base," the manager said, "and I'm the manager."

Joe E. has tramped "Harvey" all over the country since 1945, a total of 100 performances. In New York the part of P. Dowd is associated mostly with Fay, but to the rest of the nation, whose best friend is an unseen man, Mr. Brown. In Chicago alone he has forty-three weeks in the role, establishing the longest run since the war.

I asked him his impression of New York as opposed to the rest of the country.

"Audiences are better trained here," he said. "They don't cough as much and laugh at the right time and they don't time so they don't kill the next line and don't leave until the curtain goes up, either."

Joe E. doesn't cuss unnecessarily, but seems to me so many men do (I mean hangover from war service?) and he has an unusual, almost altruistic interest in trying to help people who are having trouble. He has a theory, perhaps of actual therapeutic merit, that a person's illness is caused by either hate or

I asked him if he, himself, did anything anybody.

"Yes," he said, "there was a guy while I was on a USO tour during the war. I got to hate him pretty bad, but then I thought if I kept on hating him real hard it would only shorten his life, and that would make this guy happy, so he just didn't deserve to be that bad."

## People 'n Things

by K. C. B.

SHE WAS sitting down. . . . AND THE was up.  
IN THE breakfast nook. . . . AND SHE had a dish.  
WITH A receipt book. . . . FROM OUR oven.  
UPON THE table. . . . AND THERE was.  
AND MOMENTS later. . . . AND SHE at it.  
SHE WAS up and busy. . . . AND THEN AND THE she had worn.  
AND SAYING to me. . . . HAD FADDED.  
"HERE'S SOMETHING." . . . AND I didn't.  
"THAT I know you'll like." . . . JUST WHAT IT SHOULD like.  
AND WHAT with that. . . . BUT I knew away.  
SHE WENT to work. . . . IT WAS a fact.  
FUSSING AROUND. . . . AND OUR came in.  
WITH A mixing bowl. . . . AND THE of us.  
AND A baking pan. . . . LOOKED DOWN on it.  
AND I left her there. . . . AND, ANY DINNER WAS ready.  
KNOWING NOTHING at all. . . . AND WE and I.  
OF WHAT it was. . . . PROCLAIMED good.  
SHE WAS preparing. . . . FOR MOTHER made it.  
AND ALONG about. . . . JUST FOR AND WHAT two fellows.  
THE DINNER hour. . . . GOING TO IN A case like.

After hearing rumors about the death of a new neighbor, my husband asked to describe her. Before I could report, a small niece said: "Why, she always as though something wonderful was going to happen to her."—New York News.

Mother love is that which restrains sorely tempted parent from chucking 8-year-old, muddy football suit and the washing machine.—Washington