

# Classmate of Truman Has Graduation Photo

By **ED WALL**  
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Out at 11305 N. E. Second pl. Mrs. E. Peterson has an old book she'll never place on the curb for a paper drive.

It is "The Gleam," published by the graduating class at Independence High school, Independence, Mo., in 1901.

On the first page Mrs. Peterson, then Miss Gertrude Reyner,

is pictured with 33 of her classmates, including President Harry S. Truman, Bessie Wallace and Charles Ross.

Bessie Wallace is now the First Lady of the land and Charles Ross was recently appointed press and radio secretary for the White House. In 1901 Ross was editor of "The Gleam."

## REMEMBERS HIM WELL

"I haven't seen Harry Truman since we left school all those years ago," Mrs. Peterson said, "but I remember him very well. I often walked home from classes with Bessie Wallace, whom he later married."

The 32nd President of the United States was "always a good student" in the two-story brick schoolhouse in Independence, Mrs. Peterson recalled, but, "just like everybody else, was full of fun."

Bessie Wallace was an athletic girl, but "nice and refined" and of a good Missouri family. Her cousin, the school librarian, is pictured in the yearbook with long skirts and stiff back.

## ALWAYS TRUSTWORTHY

"All young folks were more serious in those days," Mrs. Peterson observed, "but I don't know that Harry was any more serious than the rest of us."

"He has always been a good, trustworthy person and has been well thought of in Missouri ever since he entered politics."

Ross was the "brains" of the class, Mrs. Peterson said.

Mrs. Peterson's daughter, now Mrs. Thelma Peters, was born in Independence. Mrs. Peters is head of the social science department at Miami Edison High school.