

distance. An equilateral triangle would describe the location of the homes of the Allens, the Trumans, and the Wallaces. Harry Truman was not an athlete, and many of the boys thought of him as a sissy because he could not compete in athletics due to the fact that he wore thick magnifying glasses. Harry Truman had no enemies, but many friends among the boys of his home town. He always attended to his business, was efficient to a high degree, and was extremely courteous to all with whom he came in contact. Bess Wallace was at that time characterized as a tomboy. She could play baseball, and that wasn't the soft ball kind. She swung a bat effectively and could throw with the best skill of the boys. She could ride a bike as well as any of the boys in the neighborhood. Mrs. Allen, nee Bess Milton, went with Harry Truman's brother, Vivian. Charlie Ross, the Presidential Secretary, was also an Independence hometown boy. He did not lean to the athletic type, but was a brilliant student, as was all of the Ross family. He was fond of sports and always a great fellow. Charlie graduated at the University of Missouri and majored in Journalism. Harry Truman did not go away to college but he was always a purposeful and energetic young man who commanded the respect of everyone in the community. He studied for the bar at the Kansas City School of Law.

When the Mexican imbroglio broke out, and Villa, the Mexican bandit was on the rampage at the border, my brother, now Colonel Harry B. Allen, (seven years Commandant at Stanford University), Harry Truman, Present Mayor Roger Sermon, of Independence, Missouri, who was a candidate for Governor of Missouri last fall, and Ex-Senator Bennett Clark; each organized a Battery of artillery and were shipped down the border to quell the insurrectionists. From the Mexican border these officers were shipped to Germany, and President Truman, "Pete" Allen, Roger Sermon, and Bennett Clark, after commanding Battalions E, F, G, and H, were returned to the States with the rank of Captain. Your President has proved himself an able officer, administrator, statesman, and an exceptional person in the emergency. He has been equal to this unusual situation and you will always be able to observe in him a cool head, a determined purpose, and a real man's man. The president is the most lonesome man in the world, and I am sure that each of us realizes the great debt that we owe to him in this hour.

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This Is the Day - August 14, 1945

When President Harry S. Truman made the announcement at 6:00 P.M. of the Nips' capitulation, a sensation of mixed feelings ran the gamut of our emotions. Of course, we thought of your homecoming. But uppermost in our mind at that time was the tender sympathies that we felt for those brave parents, wives, sweethearts and relatives of our boys; our boys who will not return when the troops come marching home again.

I could not utter a word. Something deeper than the mad cheering and the honking of horns gripped me. It seemed as if a vast symphony of silence omnipotently was rendering a benediction to those hero dead, those loved ones who actually were more the direct cause of this great moment that we were experiencing. Those stricken parents, wives and sweethearts were glad for us and for others who had not traveled the Golgotha road. Only a fierce pride in the possession of their loved ones who had made the supreme sacrifice could compensate these parents in this sad and glad hour.