

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE AMERICAN FOREST & PAPER ASSOCIATION FOR ITS COMMITMENT TO INCREASED PAPER RECOVERY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2003

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the members of the American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) for committing to meet an increased paper recovery goal by the year 2012. This effort illustrates the paper industry's understanding of our natural resources and its desire to safeguard the environment by decreasing the amount of paper that is sent to our nation's landfills.

In 2000, 232 million tons of solid waste was produced in the United States, taxing our landfills, peoples' pocketbooks, and our environment. In order to sustain economic growth and simultaneously promote environmental protection, some hard choices needed to be made—and were. Since 1987, paper recovery has increased 97 percent. This dramatic increase can be traced to an industry set goal on paper recovery, as well as the investment of more than \$15 billion in new equipment. With the help of action-oriented communities across the country, AF&PA and its member companies have more than exceeded the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's target of 35 percent recycling by 2005 as part of its "Resource Conservation Challenge."

Achieving higher levels than were they are now will not be easy, but it is important since every bit counts. That is why I am pleased that AF&PA is reaching out to form partnerships with the Environmental Protection Agency, various cities and office building managers across the country to help increase public awareness about the benefits of recovering paper for recycling. I hope that this public-private partnership will raise awareness and encourage larger, future voluntary recycling efforts in paper recovery.

Although I acknowledge progress has been made in paper recycling, more can and should be done. As demand for recovered fiber continues to grow for both domestic and export markets, additional recovered fiber supply will be needed—of note, more than 38 percent of the industry's raw material comes from recovered fiber. We should ensure that all citizens continue to play a meaningful role in safeguarding the environment, encouraging fiber and sustaining economic growth, and preserving our natural resources through recycling used paper.

Environmental progress requires that the private sector and government work together to get things done and these efforts provide an opportunity for more Americans to recycle in their homes, offices and schools. To the end that good progress has been made, I applaud AF&PA, but am reminded that success is a continual forward journey. Recovering more fiber for recycling at U.S. paper mills through recycling challenges, model programs and community partnerships helps ensure that the paper industry will continue to be a strong participant in the American economy, a responsible steward of the environment and a leader in efforts to utilize all available resources in the production of recycled content products. For that we should all be thankful.

TRIBUTE TO THE 33RD PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2003

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to bring to your attention an article that was written by Jeff Joiner and appeared in the May 2003 addition of Rural Missouri magazine. The article, "Where's Harry", gives a brief history of President Harry S. Truman's life from his birth in Lamar, MO, until his death in Independence, MO. It also explains the various places you can learn about the history of President Truman, most notably the Truman Library in Independence, MO.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to share this article with the rest of the chamber."

WHERE'S HARRY?

A TOUR OF WESTERN MISSOURI OFFERS A GLIMPSE AT HARRY TRUMAN'S LIFE AND THE RURAL BACKGROUND THAT SHAPED ONE OF THE 20TH CENTURY'S MOST IMPORTANT LEADERS

(By Jeff Joiner)

The voice of Harry S Truman welcomes a group of children as they step into the Oval Office. Of course the office is a reproduction and Truman's voice recorded but the kids, on a tour of the Truman Presidential Museum and Library in Independence, instantly recognize the most famous office in the world. Truman's Oval Office, decorated as it was when he occupied it from 1945 until 1953, contains one artifact the kids find most interesting, a television with a tiny screen set in a large wooden cabinet. A tour guide tells the group Truman was the first president to have a TV in the Oval Office.

A visit to the Truman Library in Independence is a reminder of some of the most volatile history of the 20th century. As president, Truman witnessed the end of World War II and the beginning of the rebuilding of Europe and Japan. But he also faced the expansion of communism, which led to confrontation in Berlin and the bloody Korean War, and devised a policy to contain communism known as the Truman Doctrine. Often loudly criticized for unpopular decisions, like firing Gen. Douglas MacArthur, Truman dealt with his heavy responsibilities straight on, without flinching or laying blame.

Many historians credit Truman's plainspoken manner and upfront "The Buck Stops Here" frankness to his rural upbringing. Born in Lamar and raised on the family farm near Grandview, Truman came from humble beginnings. And once his presidency was finished, he and wife, Bess, returned to their home at 219 North Delaware in Independence where they lived only a few blocks from where Truman's political career began in the Jackson County Courthouse 30 years earlier.

A real understanding of Truman and how he faced the problems of post-World War II America can't be appreciated without looking at where the man came from. Fortunately for travelers Truman's home state offers many places to see and touch the history that shaped the president.

A BIRTHPLACE IN LAMAR

Truman was born May 8, 1884 in a small, white frame house in Lamar where he and his parents lived for 11 months before moving to Harrisonville and later Grandview to the north. On the day his first child was born, John Truman planted an Austrian pine tree and today, 119 years later, that tree still

lives in the front yard of the house, which has been the Harry S Truman Birthplace State Historic Site since 1959. The house, managed by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, recreates a typical midwestern American home at the dawn of the 20th century.

Truman was the first person to sign the guest book on the day the historic site was dedicated and typical of his down-to-earth style, he wrote, "Harry Truman, Independence, Mo., retired farmer."

A LIFE BEGUN ON A FARM

The Truman family eventually moved to a 600-acre farm near Grandview in 1887 where they lived for three years before moving to Independence. Harry Truman often worked on the farm as a youngster and was responsible for the operation after his father's death in 1914 until he joined the military three years later. An Army captain, Truman led an artillery battery during World War I.

What today is called the Truman Farm Home is part of the Harry S Truman National Historic Site administered by the National Park Service, which includes the Truman Home 30 miles away in Independence. A shopping complex called Truman Corners now surrounds what's left of the family farm, which includes 5 acres of land and the farmhouse, which is not open to the public. The farm is located near the intersection of Highway 71 and Blue Ridge Boulevard.

THE SUMMER WHITE HOUSE IN INDEPENDENCE

The centerpiece of the Truman National Historic Site is the home that Harry and Bess occupied as a young married couple in 1919. Though he lived for many years in Washington, D.C., first as a United States senator, vice president and then 33rd president of the United States, Truman always considered the house in Independence home. Even during his presidency it was known as the Summer White House.

Following the inauguration of Dwight Eisenhower as president in 1954, Harry and Bess returned to Independence where he was occupied with the planning and construction of his presidential library. Until late in life, Truman was known for taking long walks around Independence, a fact commemorated by the city on its street signs in the Truman Historic District which feature a silhouette of the former president, cane in hand, walking.

Truman lived in the house on Delaware until just before his death on Dec. 26, 1972 at the age of 88. Bess continued to live in their home for another decade and died there. In her will she left the home to the United States and it was dedicated as a national historic site in 1983.

The Truman Home, located on the corner of Truman Road and Delaware Street, is open for tours by National Park Service rangers. Tickets can be purchased at the site visitor's center on Main Street in downtown Independence.

A LIBRARY WORTHY OF A PRESIDENT

The crown jewel of Truman's Missouri is the presidential library which documents in letters and historic papers his legacy as the first president to step into the dark waters of the Cold War, a period that continued until the collapse of the communist government of the United States' chief adversary, the Soviet Union, in 1991.

The library details in a series of exhibits Truman's political rise and his presidency including his whistle stop train campaign and upset re-election in 1948. It also documents the dark, early history of the Cold War. A painful reminder of that era is the Purple Heart medal and angry letter sent to Truman by the father of a U.S. soldier killed in Korea. The medal and letter were found in Truman's desk in his office after his death.