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| I asked Daddy to write his memories of Truman's presidency as I am reading a biography about HST. thought I'd share with others ...maybe we can get him to record his thoughts about other historical moments if anyone would like him to do so...--- On **Sun, 4/14/13,** **Ebskip@aol.com** ***<******Ebskip@aol.com******>*** wrote:From: Ebskip@aol.com <Ebskip@aol.com>Subject: Memories of Harry TrumanTo: payneholliman@yahoo.comDate: Sunday, April 14, 2013, 2:14 PMThe election of 1948 stands out in my mind most vividly. Everyone thought ld win . A Chicago newspaper had even published an early edition with headlines saying "Dewey beats *Truman!" Folks were so sure Dewey would win the Gallup Poll had quit poling two weeks before the election.The afternoon of the election I w.as in Bham and ran into cousin Cecil Holliman who was a big wheel in the Republican party in Alabama. He said: "Bishop, we notice none of Uncle Ulysses boys have contributed any money to the Party. We don't need the money, but it will look good on the record when we start giving out jobs." That's how sure the wheels felt about the election outcome. Well, I was teaching school for very little money, Glenn was two years old. I reached in my pocket and pulled out a five dollar bill, the only money I had on me except seven cents for street car fare back to Elyton Village. to hear the election results that night and await with great anticipation for Dewey's win and ultimately a good political job in Washington!. This was before TV so we prepared to listen to H.V. Kaltenborn, the Walter Cronkite of his day, on radio. Early results began coming in about 8 o'clock, and we thought with each report the tide would turn in Dewey's favor, bit never did/ I sat up until midnight, sure that Dewey would win. Kaltenborn thought he would also. He kept saying "when the rural vote comes in," but alas, when it did come in, most of it went to Truman.At this time, 1948, Alabama was still Democratic, so the final result pleased everyone except the few Republicans like the Hollimans. I went back to school the next morning, (I was teaching in Lipscomd Jr. Hi) about as down cast as anyone could be. There went my job in Washington and all other visions of sugar plums. I don't know how Dewey ever got over it. I soon decided I'd better give up my dream of working in politics, so I began the next summer attending the University of Alabama working on a graduate degree in education. I did not get involved in politics after the Dewey debacle.. By the time of the next election, 1962, Truman was so reviled in the eyes of most folks, and Ike was so popular, it became fashionable to be a Republican in Alabama there was no longer any distinction in to claim you were a Republican. The death of FDR in April 1945was so terrifying it was hard for most of us to accept it. FDR had been president as long as some folks could remember. Truman had been a senator from Missouri that most of us had never heard of, and it was not easy to accept him and put our trust in him just as the war in Europe was winding down. How could a country boy from the Midwest fill the shoes of FDR! Truman was the third Vice President . under Roosevelt, and he was as far different from FDR as anyone could. Truman had been senator and had investigated War industries throughout the country. Otherwise, hardly anyone not from Missouri knew him at all. Very few people had confidence in him at that critical time. He had never been to college, had run a haberdashery store and dabbled in politics. FDR was completely opposite and you wondered why he selected such a character to ge his running mate. They were not on equals at all. Roosevelt was "To the manor born," and poor Harry was just the opposite. They did not socialize and FDR had not even told HHST about the atomic bomb that was in the making. I'm sure most folks on that April day wondered how we would mage with the man from Missouri now in the White House.Yet, the country did. But it was not until after HST had long retired that his accomplishments were recognizes. While he was President, he was one of the most critiqued presidents we'd had. But history has been kind to him and now we wish we had "Good old Harry" back there again. . The biggest decision he had to make was to drop the Bomb on Japan. It ended the war and a month later I was out of the navy, on the way home. Truman also established the "Marshall Plan, giving aid to European counties, the "Berlin Airlift," went to war against North Korea and had the courage to fire McArthur when he got out of hand, He slaointroduced the idea of Medicare which came to fruition under LBJ.. I think the impression folks now have of Truman is that he was an honest man, who had courage to stand up and do what was right as he saw it. He once turned down an offer for the use of his name in a some kind of a deal. He said "They don't want me. They want the office of the President. It's not for sale." A Washington newspaper critic incurred his wrath when he criticized daughter Margaret's singing. He wrote him a letter and blessed him out. This was while he was still President,In 1972 Gerry and Becky and Alice and I stopped at the Truman Library in Independence Mo, on our way to South Dakota to see Gerry's brotherHarry was a "Good old boy,' who had the courage to s\call a spade a spade. He liked to drink with the boys, and his language at times was not very refined But he seemed to know right from wrong and history has rewarded for his courage and ability to stand up under pressure. When left Washington it's said there were very few people at the train station in DC to see him and Bess off to Independence. There was pension for him, He and Bess got on the train and returned to their home by themselves. There was no Secret Service protection,,, nothing. All if that has got nothing. But history does not record that come about their fate!* |