

Truman Presidential Museum & Library

Mark Adams, Tom Heuertz and Judi O'Neill -Educators

www.trumanlibrary.org

Teacher Talk

Spring 2002

White House Decision Center

The White House Decision Center, a new, experiential learning experience opened for secondary students and adults. It is a one-of-a kind program in the United States. In the 2001-2002 school nearly 3000 students actively practiced history and government as they took on the roles of President Truman and his advisors confronting real-life historical decisions from his presidency. Participants practiced historical inquiry, analyzed primary



(Continued on page 4)

New Permanent Exhibition Open Harry S. Truman: The Presidential Years



With interactive audio-visuals around every corner, and bold, vibrant displays, the new "Truman: The Presidential Years" is not the average museum exhibit. It's a maze of discovery!

Teachers and students of all ages can explore Harry S. Truman's presidency by immersing themselves in the decisions Truman faced as the nation's 33rd president.

(Continued on page 4)



Project WhistleStop & Truman Library merge websites

The Truman Presidential Museum & Library and Project Whistlestop have merged their online resources to create an outstanding collection of documents, photographs, and educational activities. The new site totals 27,000 web pages and

has been averaging 50,000 hits a day since the merger on February 1, 2002. You can access the educational materials by visiting www.trumanlibrary.org and clicking on education.

Project WhistleStop was funded in part by a Technology Innovation Challenge Grant from the United States Department of Education. The project enables educators to work with the original source material of the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library; to use technology and primary sources in project based learning experiences in the classroom; and to develop an on-line resource of original Truman Library documents, photographs, records, cartoons, and other archival material for student research projects.

Teacher Workshops

Three educational workshops were held in October, November, and December for Kansas and Missouri educators. Teachers learned new information and attained new teaching materials for the Cold War, Korean War, and WW II. Presenters from UMKC, CMSU, KU, the Eisenhower Library, and the National Archives and Records Administration-Central Plains Region participated.

Mark your calendar – the Truman Museum and the Liberty Memorial Museum will offer a World War I teacher workshop on Friday evening, November 8th and Saturday, November 9th. A tentative schedule will be posted on the Truman website by summer. The workshop will be available for one hour of graduate credit for \$50.00 through Baker University. The workshop will focus on the war's causes, America's entry and homefront, the changing nature of warfare, and its legacy. A registration form is in this issue of "Teacher Talk."

Student Research Files

The Truman Presidential Museum & Library's Student Research File is now available at five locations in the Kansas City area. These are, besides the Truman Library itself, the UMKC Miller Nichols Library, (816-235-5712); Graceland University-Independence Campus (816-833-0524); Longview Community College (816-672-2278); and at all branches of the Mid-Continent Public Library (816-252-0950). The Student Research File comprises about 40,000 pages of documents copied from the Truman Library's holdings, relating to 53 topics. These topics include the decision to drop the atomic bomb, the war crimes trials, the Truman Doctrine, the Marshall Plan, NATO and the Korean War. Each topic contains 500-1000 pages of materials, organized in one or two archival boxes. These research files enable high school and college students to more easily conduct research in primary source materials. For a descriptive brochure contact us at <Truman.education@nara.gov>.



The Great War

Enroll Now!

The Truman Presidential Museum & Library and the Liberty Memorial Museum will jointly present a World War I teacher workshop. Speakers associated with the Liberty Memorial, Truman Museum, National Archives and Records Administration Center-Central Plains Region, the University of Missouri at Kansas City, and Central Missouri State University will participate.

When? 6:00-9:00 Friday evening, November 8th
8:00-4:30 Saturday, November 9th

Where? Friday evening Truman Museum, 500 West U.S. Highway 24 Independence, MO
Tel: 1-800-833-1225

Saturday Liberty Memorial, 100 West 26th Street, KC MO (across from Union Station) Tel:
816-931-0749

Cost? \$50.00 (includes Friday snacks, Saturday breakfast and lunch, and teacher materials)

College Credit? One hour of optional graduate credit will be offered through Baker University for 50.00 – on-site enrollment Friday night

Course Requirements? Attendance for the entire workshop and a 1-2 page reflection paper or lesson plan

Topics? (tentative) Origins and the terrorist link American entry
Changing nature of warfare Kansas City homefront
Captain Harry S. Truman Black American soldier
Women's roles Propaganda
The use of WW I primary sources and artifacts in the classroom

----- Save above workshop information; mail in registration below -----

- You must attach a check for \$50.00 payable to the Truman Library Institute (sorry - no credit card or school purchase order)
- Any refund request must be received by Tom Heuertz at the Truman Museum no later than 7 days prior to the workshop
- The workshop schedule will be sent via e-mail by November 1st
- Workshop is limited to the first 50 teachers who enroll
- Mail this registration form and check to Tom Heuertz, Truman Presidential Museum & Library, 500 West U.S. Highway 24, Independence, MO. 64050-1798
- Contact: Tom Heuertz 816-833-1400/253 or 1-800-833-1225/253 <Tom.heuertz@nara.gov>

Please print

Name _____ School _____

School address _____

E-mail (required for WW I workshop updates) _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____

White House Decision Center

(Continued from page 1)

sources, learned decision-making, and improved communication skills. Students from American and world history classes, government, sociology, communications, ROTC, etc. actively explored the 1950 North Korean invasion of South Korea, the 1948 Russian blockade of Berlin, or Truman's 1948 Executive Order to desegregate the armed forces. Teachers prepared the students for their WHDC adventure with 4 pre-visit classroom modules. The on-site experience lasted about 4 hours, and included a tour of the museum.

Participating teachers and students are giving high marks for their experience. Just as science students practice their discipline in a laboratory, so now can social studies students sharpen their skills. This program is tied to both national and state standards. We anticipate to host over 8,000 students next school year. Teachers wanting more information and registration forms for the WHDC should contact Tom Heuertz at Truman. (800-833-1225/253) or <Tom.heuertz@nara.gov>



New Exhibition *(Continued from page 1)*

Supplemental exhibits include two decision theaters and a notebook that encourages students to write their opinions concerning the controversy of dropping the atomic bomb.

The "Origins of the Cold War" room features 594 airplanes suspended from the ceiling, representing the average number of planes landing daily during the Berlin Airlift. The "Upset of the Century" room addresses the WhistleStop campaign, and displays the famous Chicago Tribune newspaper with the front-page headline reading "Dewey Defeats Truman."

Toward the end of the exhibit, students can pose with a life-size statue of Harry S. Truman in the Legacy Gallery. Six glass panels summarize Truman's impact on civil rights, national defense, presidential power, domestic and foreign policy. Leaving the Gallery, students may view a short video loop featuring public figures of differing political persuasions claiming the Truman legacy.

The Truman Presidential Museum and Library encourages teachers to take advantage of the free admission coupon that is enclosed. Book a guided tour and receive an elementary or secondary curriculum guide containing information and activities designed to support state and national social studies standards. We hope to see you soon!

Aftermath of the Holocaust: Truman and the Postwar World

Enroll Now!

Course Description This course will explore issues raised in the wake of the Holocaust, including liberation, judgment, immigration, and establishment of the State of Israel. Dr. Mary Johnson, National Senior Program Associate of Facing History and Ourselves, will facilitate a study of events surrounding the end of World War II and the role of President Harry S. Truman as well as connections to American history, including topics of military tribunals, human rights, and civil rights. Primary documents from the archives of the Truman Presidential Museum & Library will serve as a springboard for large and small group research and discussion. Additional resources include scholars and other guest speakers, including those from the Eisenhower Library, videos, and the Truman Museum's new permanent exhibit "Truman: The Presidential Years." Day four will include opportunities to create an educational product using materials from the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education.

- Workshop Fee** \$100.00 payable to the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education (exclusive of Baker course fee of \$50.00 per credit hour); includes lunches on site
- Location** July 8, 9, 10 - Truman Presidential Museum and Library, Independence MO
July 11 - Midwest Center for Holocaust Education, Overland Park KS
- Credit Hours (optional)** Three graduate credits through Baker University (\$50 per hour, enroll on-site)
- Cooperating Organizations** Midwest Center for Holocaust Education
Truman Presidential Museum & Library
- Course Objectives** Teachers will explore issues related to the end of World War II, including postwar experiences of Holocaust survivors, America's role in bringing Nazi perpetrators to justice, and President Truman's leadership in areas of immigration and recognition of the State of Israel.
- Teaching resources** Primary Source Documentation, Videos, Readings, Speakers
- Evaluation Method** A student must:
- ⇒ attend all four days in their entirety
 - ⇒ submit a 2-page synopsis of information, strategies and resources used during the course, as they relate to classroom instruction
 - ⇒ All assignments must be received at the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education no later than Friday, July 19 at 4 PM.

-----detach and mail-----

Aftermath of the Holocaust: Truman and the Postwar World

Offered by MCHE and the Truman Museum, with support from the Philip and Dorothy Byer Philanthropic Fund at the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Kansas City

Return this portion with your \$100 registration fee to:

Midwest Center for Holocaust Education, 5801 West 115th Street, Suite 106, Overland Park, KS 66211

NAME _____ SCHOOL _____

SCHOOL ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME ADDRESS (required) _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE (W) _____ (H) _____ E-MAIL _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____ (Make check payable to MCHE) \$75 of your fee is refundable until May 31

Charge my Visa/MasterCard \$ _____ Account Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____ For additional information, call MCHE at 913-327-8190

HARRY S. TRUMAN:

President Harry S. Truman once stated that his whole political career was based upon his “war service and war associates.” Truman’s interest in the military began at an early age. As a child he avidly read books describing the military adventures of Alexander, Hannibal, Caesar, Napoleon, and Robert E. Lee. At the age of 14, during the Spanish American War, Truman and his fellow Independence playmates formed a “Junior Brigade.” The boys armed themselves with 22 caliber rifles, conducted drills, camped out, and practiced their marksmanship by shooting stray chickens. Although bad eyesight prevented young Harry from applying for admission to West Point, he did manage to get a taste of military life by joining the Missouri National Guard in 1905. Over the next six years, at monthly drills and summer encampments, Truman learned the basic skills of an artilleryman. Increasing responsibilities at the Grandview farm forced him to leave the National Guard at the conclusion of his second enlistment and Truman assumed that he had reached the end of his military career.

The outbreak of the First World War and the declaration of war by the United States were destined to have a great impact on Harry Truman’s life. He quickly re-enlisted in the Missouri National Guard and began recruiting others to join a newly formed field artillery battery. In those days, National Guard troops elected their officers and Truman was amazed to find himself elected to be a First Lieutenant. Within weeks, his unit was mobilized for Federal service and redesignated as Battery F, 129th Field Artillery, 35th Division. In September 1917, the 35th Division moved to Camp Doniphan at Fort Sill, Oklahoma for training. During the next eight months, the men lived in primitive conditions. They endured polluted drinking water, a lack of winter clothing, illness, blizzards, and blowing sand.

While at Camp Doniphan, Truman was assigned the additional responsibility of organizing a regimental canteen. Truman chose Sergeant Eddie Jacobson to help run what turned out to be a very successful venture. The canteen brought in several hundred dollars a day by selling such items as apples, candy, cakes, pencils and soft drinks. Services such as haircuts and tailoring were also offered. By the time the 129th Field Artillery shipped out for France in April 1918, the canteen had made a profit of \$15,000.

Truman was one of fourteen officers selected for early movement to France with the advance overseas detail of the 35th Division. He landed at Brest on April 13, 1918 and proceeded to the II Corps Artillery School at Montigny sur Aube. Situated in a fabulous chateau in a sleepy village southeast of Paris, this elite school proved to be one of the most difficult academic experiences in Truman’s life. However, following six weeks of intensive study of mathematics and gunnery techniques, Truman graduated and returned to the province of Brittany where he rejoined his regiment.

Upon his return, Truman learned that he had been promoted to the rank of Captain.

On July 11, Captain Truman took command of Battery D. After brushing aside early attempts by some men in the battery to intimidate him, Truman came down hard on the non-commissioned officers. By making the NCO’s responsible for discipline and at the same time promising to back them up, Truman pulled off a management masterstroke. Battery D soon realized that Truman knew what he was doing and they followed him loyally for the rest of the war.

Battery D’s first experience under fire occurred in the Vosges Mountains of eastern France. Although normally a quiet sector, the Gerardmer Section of the



"Here I am in some of my armour, trench boots, Sam Browne belt, and clothes that do not fit. This is the way I usually go around." Captain Harry S. Truman, August 1918.

AN AMERICAN SOLDIER



Identity card carried by Captain Harry S. Truman during active duty in France, 1918. Note the military haircut and untanned forehead caused by wear of the overseas cap.

Vosges heated up with arrival of the 35th Division. On the evening of August 29, Battery D fired a special barrage on opposing German artillery batteries. Truman's plan called for the battery to move out immediately to avoid an expected retaliatory fire. However, the Sergeant responsible for bringing the horses back to the guns arrived late. On top of that, when German return fire did begin falling around the battery, the same Sergeant shouted at the boys to "run for it." In the confusion, darkness, and rain, some of the men did "run for it." The stampede was quickly brought under control by large amounts of profanity and a few steady NCO's. Sheepishly, the men reassembled, limbered up two of their four field guns (two had become stuck in the mud) and moved back to their original position several miles away. In later years, the incident was jokingly referred to as "the Battle of Who Run."

Early in September, the 35th Division received orders to move from the Vosges Mountains to a position west of Nancy as part of the reserve for the St. Mihiel Offensive. The German defenders in the St. Mihiel salient were quickly overrun following a massive bombardment and an aggressive assault by American troops. The 35th Division and other reserve units were not needed. However, the greatest test still lay ahead.

On September 16, the 129th Field Artillery began one of the longest and most brutal road marches of the war. Moving at night and on foot, the men of Battery D guided their horses and equipment over one hundred miles of crowded, muddy back roads to the new American sector between the Meuse River and the Argonne Forest. This road march and the five days of intense combat that followed during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive were the ultimate test for Battery D. In one of his 148 wartime letters to his sweetheart, Bess Wallace, Harry Truman wrote that "the experience has been one that I can never forget, one that I don't want to go through again unless the Lord wills, but one I'd never have missed for anything. The Central Powers have asked for peace and I was in the drive that did it! I shot out a German battery, shot up his big observation post and ruined another battery when it was moving down the road. We plastered 'em!"

In the closing weeks of the war, the 129th Field Artillery Regiment moved into action for the final time on the old battlefields of Verdun. Skeletons of French and German soldiers killed in the battles of 1916 still littered the ground. Battery D's 75mm guns fired their last shots fifteen minutes before the Armistice took effect at 11:00 A.M. on November 11, 1918. Truman's men had fired over 10,000 shells into German lines during the war.

Truman and Battery D returned to the United States on Easter, April 20, 1919. They were welcomed by the Mayor of New York and a band playing, "Home, Sweet Home." Truman recalled that "the Jews gave us handkerchiefs, the YMCA chocolate, the Knights of Columbus cigarettes, the Red Cross real homemade cake, and the Salvation Army, God bless 'em, sent telegrams free and gave us Easter eggs made of chocolate." On May 19, 1919, the entire 129th Field Artillery received a tumultuous welcome during a parade in Kansas City, Missouri. Several days later, at Camp Funston, Kansas, the men received their discharges. For Captain Truman and Battery D, the Great War was over.

by Mark Beveridge
Registrar, Truman Library & Museum

History Day 2002

Article written by Erin Vorhies, semester intern student from Truman State University

The annual History Day competition on March 9 proved to be a success, with 32 entries qualifying to compete at the state competition in Columbia on April 13. More than 90 students in the metro area spent months preparing for the competition and perfecting their projects. "I hope I go to state," said Patrick Miller, a student in the Junior Group Exhibit category. "That would make all of the hard work worth it." The Junior Group Exhibit category was the most competitive, with 11 entries from five different schools. Miller said his project was an assignment in an advanced history class at New Mark Middle School. He said he and his partner, Kyle Smith, spent "lots and lots of hours" preparing for the competition. Seniors Jackie Owensby and Heidi Monnin from Raytown South High School said they began preparing for the competition in October. "We were a little stressed the week before [the competition]," Owensby said. Owensby and Monnin were entered in the Senior Group Exhibit category, and were competing against six other entries.

Although most entries were in conjunction with a school assignment, some students did enter the competition voluntarily. Teacher Jan Bowman from Center Middle School said it was the students' decision whether they wanted to participate, and she did not assist them much with the projects. "I helped them choose topics and told them what to expect, but other than that they worked mostly on their own," Bowman said. Bowman had five students enter the competition, all in the Junior Group Exhibit category. "We noticed right away we had the most



Winning Center Middle School students and their teacher,

competition, but they thrive on competition," Bowman said. "I think they have good chances." Bowman said she was pleased with the students' work, and she definitely will promote the competition to future students. The teachers and students were not the only ones to enjoy the experience of History Day. More than 20 judges came from areas in Missouri and Kansas to be a part of the competition. Judge Lori Bowman said she likes to see how the kids can take history and apply it to their lives. "It's a great way to get kids interested in history and learn that it's more than just trivial facts," Bowman said. This was Bowman's first year judging at the Kansas City competition, but she has judged the past five years in other History Day competitions. Along with the judges, several volunteers and staff members from the Truman Presidential Museum & Library assisted in making the 2002 History Day a success. The top three entries in each of the 12 categories have the opportunity to compete at the state competition in April. If they place at the state competition, they will be able to compete at the national level June 9-13 in Maryland. The theme for next year's History Day competition is Rights and Responsibility in History, and will be March 8 at the Truman Presidential Museum and Library. For information, call Mark Adams at 816-833-1400, ext. 267 <Mark.adams@nara.gov>





Truman Presidential Museum & Library 2002—2003 Educational Programs

Grades	Program	Description
8-12	White House Decision Center	Students role play President Truman and his advisors as they face major decisions in post WWII history. A five module experiential curriculum with a day in the White House Decision Center. A unique, skill building experience for history, government/civics, sociology, language arts, and ROTC students. (contact Tom)
K-12	Footlocker	This footlocker contains Truman related artifact replicas and teaching activities – teacher can check out a footlocker free of charge for up to two weeks. Contact Judi to pick up a footlocker or arrange for a classroom presentation.
4-Adult	www.trumanlibrary.org	This award-winning site contains 24,000 pages of primary documents, photographs, cartoons, and teaching activities for many audiences. (contact Mark)
4-9	Truman Places Map	This is a cooperative group or individual activity where students locate KC area sites linked to Harry Truman on a colorful map. A good map interpretation skill lesson conducted in your classroom. Contact < truman.education@nara.gov >
4-12	Guided tours	Call for a docent led tour. Related teaching activities will be sent. The admission fee for school groups is \$2.00 per student with one free adult per 10 students. You must call four weeks in advance to book a tour. (contact Nancy Myers at 1-800-833-1225 ext. 243)
6-12	National History Day	Missouri students compete regionally each March at Truman. Finalists in the four categories proceed to the state, and national levels. (contact Mark)
8-12	Spy's Dilemma	This classroom exercise is a cooperative group or individual activity where students serve as members of Soviet spy rings reading and analyzing once secret U.S. documents. Contact < truman.education@nara.gov >
8-12	Top Secret: WWII	Students in this cooperative group or individual activity act as U.S. World War II intelligence agents as they classify documents related to U.S. actions in the closing months of the war. A classroom exercise. Contact < truman.education@nara.gov >

Over for more programs

2002—2003 Educational Programs (continued from reverse)

Grades	Program	Description
8-College	Student Research Files	These primary documents cover 53 topics and are available at the Truman Museum, UMKC, Longview Community College, Graceland University-Independence Campus, and the Mid-Continent Library System. For a brochure contact <truman.education@nara.gov>
8-Adult	Thomas Hart Benton Mural	A slide presentation explaining the concept and creation of this masterpiece by the famous Missouri painter. (contact Ray)
Teachers	<u>Teacher Talk</u>	This newsletter, containing Truman Museum related news, is published twice during the school year. (contact Tom)
Teachers	E-Talk	This monthly e-mail bulletin presents the latest educational news. Send your name, e-mail and school to <Lisa.sullivan@nara.gov>
Teachers	Video Library	Teachers may borrow videos for two weeks. You can see the list of available videos online. (contact Judi)
Teachers	In-Service	We offer a variety of teacher in-service programs at the Truman Presidential Museum or in district schools. (contact Tom)
Teachers	Workshops	The Great War (WW I) (Thursday evening November 8 th and Saturday November 9 th) - optional graduate credit. Registration form in this issue. Limited to 50 teachers. (contact Tom)

Truman Presidential Museum & Library 1-800-833-1225

24 hour teacher information line - ext. 384

Museum Hours 9am to 5pm Monday-Sunday, 9am to 9pm Thursday, Noon to 5pm Sunday

See coupon for free admission for educators on the back cover of this issue of "Teacher Talk."

Truman Educators

Mark Adams - ext. 267 <Mark.adams@nara.gov>
 Ray Geselbracht - ext. 263 <Ray.geselbracht@nara.gov>
 Tom Heuertz - ext. 253 <Tom.heuertz@nara.gov>
 Judi O'Neill - ext. 255 <Judi.O'Neill@nara.gov>

Please print. You will receive Truman Museum educational news updates.

Name: _____

School: _____

School District: _____

Subject: _____

School Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Coupon for free admission to the Truman Presidential Museum & Library for educators. See reverse for details. Duplicate coupons accepted.



***TRUMAN
FOOTLOCKER***

The Truman Footlocker has been in great demand. To the popular glasses, hats, newspapers, and “Buck Stops Here” sign, Pete the Squirrel and an Hawaiian shirt, similar to those worn by the president at the Little White House, have been added. A curriculum guide and activity templates suitable for use in either elementary or secondary classrooms accompany the trunk. Whether you wish to tell his life story or focus on his momentous presidency, the trunk is a versatile resource that incorporates artifact reproductions and primary sources to tell the remarkable story of Harry S. Truman. Contact Judi O’Neill (816) 833-1400 ext. 255 (judi.o'neill@nara.gov) to reserve a Truman Footlocker or arrange a classroom presentation.

“ The papers of the presidents are among the most valuable sources of material for history. They ought to be preserved and they ought to be used. ”

Harry S. Truman

Truman Presidential Museum & Library ***Free Admission for Educators***

One coupon required for each educator.
Must show valid school identification and complete the information on the reverse of this coupon. Non-educator members of party will be required to pay museum admission.

500 West U.S. Highway 24
Independence, Missouri 64050-1798
816/833-1400
www.trumanlibrary.org

Museum Hours
Monday-Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Open until 9:00 p.m. on Thursdays
Sundays: Noon - 5:00 p.m.

Museum Admission
Adults: \$5 • Seniors: \$4.50 • Children (6-18): \$3 • Under age 6: *Free*

Duplicate Coupons Accepted

Expires December 31, 2002

Please circulate this publication among your colleagues!

Harry S. Truman Library Institute
for National and International Affairs
500 West U.S. Highway 24
Independence, MO 64050-1798

Teacher Talk

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