New York Times article on Truman Library



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TRUMAN LIBRARY PROVES POPULAR

Attracted 101,530 Visitors in First Year of Operation —Increase Is Predicted

Special to The New York Times.

INDEPENDENCE, Mo., Sept. 27—In its first year of operation, the Harry S. Truman Library here was visited by 101,530 persons.

The visitors included 15,145 school children on organized tours and men and women from all forty-eight states and sixty foreign countries. More than 80 per cent of them were from outside the Kansas City metropolitan area. They included visitors from such places as Sarawak, Cambodia, Nigeria and Liberia.

Dr. Philip C. Brooks, the library's director, expects that the crowds during the second year, which began Sept. 16, will be even larger. "Efforts are being made to have the library shown on road maps," he declared.

Another factor will be the opening of source material to scholars. Currently, the Presidential papers are being arranged and books are being purchased and catalogued to build up a reference library on the history of the Presidency in general and the Truman Administration in particular.

Documents Sorted

The Archives Services, which is operating the library, is also sorting the tens of thousands of documents to remove, temporarily, classified documents and others that might embarrass living Americans. Because the library is now the property of the United States Government, officials were careful to point out that this step was being taken out of consideration for Republicans as well as Democrats.

Under the terms of the library's operation, all children under 12 years of age and service men in uniform are admitted free. All others, except students on organized tours, pay 50 cents. The fees are used to support the library.

Among the most popular exhibits the first year were the jeweled swords given President Truman by the King of Saudi Arabia, a rug from the Shah of Iran, the silver service presented to the battleship Missouri by this state and a replica of the former President's study in the White House.

Dr. Brooks said that other exhibits would be added in the coming months. He predicted that the Presidential papers would be ready for scholars by the late spring of 1959.

Many Student Visitors

Although the library was dedicated on July 6, 1957, it was not completed and opened to the public until Sept. 16.

"The library staff is especially pleased by the large number of educational tours," Dr. Brooks said. "Since the major objective of the library is to convey an understanding of the history and nature of the Presidency, a visit fits in well with courses in American history and government."

Any educational group is admitted free if it notifies the library in advance. Dr. Brooks said that the largest number of students was from junior and senior high schools.

Most of the visitors, he said, also want to see the Truman home at Truman Road and North Delaware Street in Independence.

Description

A photograph of an article by the New York Times on the popularity of the Harry S. Truman Library.

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