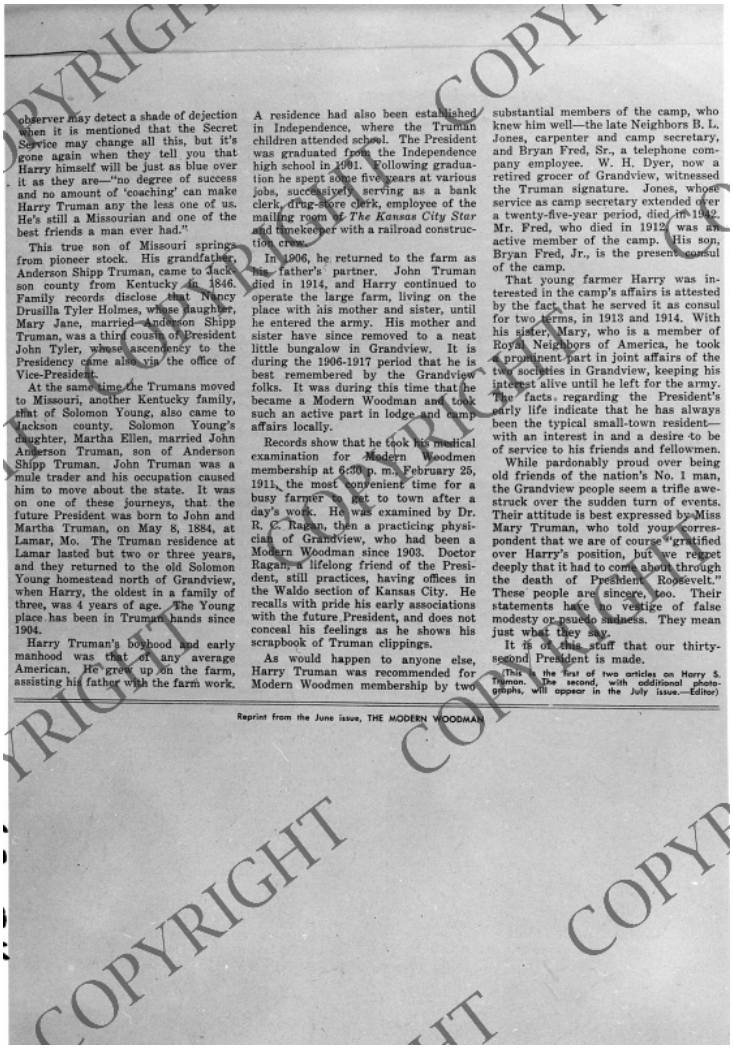
Modern Woodmen article



observer may detect a shade of dejection when it is mentioned that the Secret Service may change all this, but it's gone again when they tell you that Harry himself will be just as blue over it as they are—"no degree of success and no amount of 'coaching' can make Harry Truman any the less one of us. He's still a Missourian and one of the best friends a man ever had."

This true son of Missouri springs from pioneer stock. His grandfather, Anderson Shipp Truman, came to Jackson county from Kentucky in 1846. Family records disclose that Nancy Drusilla Tyler Holmes, whose daughter, Mary Jane, married Anderson Shipp Truman, was a third cousin of President John Tyler, whose ascendency to the Presidency came also via the office of Vice-President.

At the same time the Trumans moved to Missouri, another Kentucky family, that of Solomon Young, also came to Jackson county. Solomon Young's daughter, Martha Ellen, married John Anderson Truman, son of Anderson Shipp Truman. John Truman was a mule trader and his occupation caused him to move about the state. It was on one of these journeys, that the future President was born to John and Martha Truman, on May 8, 1884, at Lamar, Mo. The Truman residence at Lamar lasted but two or three years, and they returned to the old Solomon Young homestead north of Grandview, when Harry, the oldest in a family of three, was 4 years of age. The Young place has been in Truman hands since 1904.

Harry Truman's boyhood and early manhood was that of any average American. He grew up on the farm, assisting his father with the farm work.

A residence had also been established in Independence, where the Truman children attended school. The President was graduated from the Independence high school in 1901. Following graduation he spent some five years at various jobs, successively serving as a bank clerk, drug-store clerk, employee of the mailing room of *The Kansas City Star* and timekeeper with a railroad construction crew.

In 1906, he returned to the farm as his father's partner. John Truman died in 1914, and Harry continued to operate the large farm, living on the place with his mother and sister, until he entered the army. His mother and sister have since removed to a neat little bungalow in Grandview. It is during the 1906-1917 period that he is best remembered by the Grandview folks. It was during this time that he became a Modern Woodman and took such an active part in lodge and camp affairs locally.

Records show that he took his medical examination for Modern Woodmen membership at 6:30 p. m. February 25, 1911, the most convenient time for a busy farmer to get to town after a day's work. He was examined by Dr. R. C. Ragan, then a practicing physician of Grandview, who had been a Modern Woodman since 1903. Doctor Ragan, a lifelong friend of the President, still practices, having offices in the Waldo section of Kansas City. He recalls with pride his early associations with the future President, and does not conceal his feelings as he shows his scrapbook of Truman clippings.

As would happen to anyone else, Harry Truman was recommended for Modern Woodmen membership by two substantial members of the camp, who knew him well—the late Neighbors B. L. Jones, carpenter and camp secretary, and Bryan Fred, Sr., a telephone company employee. W. H. Dyer, now a retired grocer of Grandview, witnessed the Truman signature. Jones, whose service as camp secretary extended over a twenty-five-year period, died in 1942. Mr. Fred, who died in 1912, was an active member of the camp. His son, Bryan Fred, Jr., is the present consul of the camp.

That young farmer Harry was interested in the camp's affairs is attested by the fact that he served it as consul for two terms, in 1913 and 1914. With his sister, Mary, who is a member of Royal Neighbors of America, he took a prominent part in joint affairs of the two societies in Grandview, keeping his interest alive until he left for the army. The facts regarding the President's early life indicate that he has always been the typical small-town resident—with an interest in and a desire to be of service to his friends and fellowmen.

While pardonably proud over being old friends of the nation's No. 1 man, the Grandview people seem a trifle awe-struck over the sudden turn of events. Their attitude is best expressed by Miss Mary Truman, who told your correspondent that we are of course "gratified over Harry's position, but are regret deeply that it had to come about through the death of President Roosevelt." These people are sincere, too. Their statements have no vestige of false modesty or pseudo sadness. They mean just what they say.

It is of this stuff that our thirty-second President is made.

(This is the first of two articles on Harry S. Truman. The second, with additional photographs, will appear in the July issue.—Editor)

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