

## Hook - Letter from Lucille

From the personal collection of Kay A. Chick, referenced in

Chick, Kay A. "Historical Letters: Integrating History and Language Arts." Middle Level Learning 29 (2007): 2-5. Web.

November 8, 1948.

Dear Mother and all,

With the big upset last week, I am disgusted with myself for not having gotten a letter off to you before this. Last week just went before I realized it.

People are still talking, and no doubt will for a long time to come still be talking about the presidential election of 1948. It was the most amazing and startling turn of events. I, for one, was not even going to listen to the election returns, but when I heard that Truman was leading in both <sup>electoral</sup> ~~electoral~~ and popular votes at 10:00 election night I began listening. It was so exciting as reported over the radio that neither Mrs. Reed nor I could go to bed. I have never heard anything like it. In fact, it became more exciting as the returns came in between 1:00 and 3:00 a.m. Wed., that we could not tear ourselves away from the radio. At five o'clock I could not stay up any longer, and since Truman was leading with 291 electoral votes I went to bed, of course it was not even certain then.

All the poll takers and reporters have tried to explain why. The reasons are many-fold but quite obvious. First, as to the poll takers, they did not take into consideration the undecided vote which as statisticians they should have considered in their statistical analysis. Dewey made no definite statements on anything; Truman did. Truman talked to

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the farm groups and they were told what a Republican administration would do. The Republicans were smug and confident and sat on their heels while Truman alone went out and campaigned even without his party backing him. I talked with people just the evening before the election and found that most were confused and truthfully did not know who they would vote for the next day. Clearly this was one time in history when no candidate was a worthy one. No wonder people were confused and undecided. A good many potential Wallace voters evidently swung over for Truman too and that made some difference.

Well, it is over, except for the talking. Maybe the people are right. After what could have been accomplished by a Rep. president and a Dem. congress? No one believed the man could do it. Maybe he has ability never seen, at least let us hope for it; or at least that a young Congress with good men will lead us right.

You know, in the years of my life that I have been old enough to know and realize things, there have been two events outstanding. The attack on Pearl Harbor (which if it be true, a few knew would happen before the event did) and this election results (which no one could foresee) are the two amazing ones.

Had a letter from Arthur last Wed., I guess it was, and am forwarding the snapshot of him that he sent in it.