

# HOW PRESIDENT HEARD THE NEWS

## Secret Service Radios Sad News; Had Just Eaten Aloft

KANSAS CITY, Mo., July 26—(U.P.)—President Truman's plane was flying 5,000 feet over Cincinnati, O., at 11:26 a.m. CST when he received the message that his 94-year-old mother, Mrs. Martha Ellen Truman, was dead, Charles Ross, White House press secretary revealed tonight.

It was 19 minutes after the death of the President's mother, that the message was received aboard the Sacred Cow, the President's special plane.

Ross said this was the way the message was handled:

The Kansas City office of the secret service transmitted the message through the Civil Aeronautics authority range station, and addressed it to the secret service agent aboard the plane.

The message—"President's mother died 11 a.m. CST"—was received by the pilot, Capt. Charles Mills through his radio headphones.

(The time of death as announced by Dr. Joseph Greene, the family physician, was 11:05 a.m. CST.)

The message was signed "U. S. secret service."

Capt. Mills gave the message to the secret service agent, who passed it to Presidential Secretary Matthew Connelly. Connelly passed the note to Brig. Gen. Wallace Graham, the President's personal physician.

Graham took the note into the President's stateroom.

Mr. Truman had just finished eating lunch forward in the plane and had returned aft to his quarters. He had indicated he would take a nap.

"I have a message for you, Mr. President," Graham said.

It was obvious from the look on Mr. Truman's face that he understood the nature of the message, Graham said.

Graham read the brief message. Mr. Truman paused a moment and then said:

"Well, she won't have to suffer any more."

Then he added:

"She must have passed away just a little while after we took off."

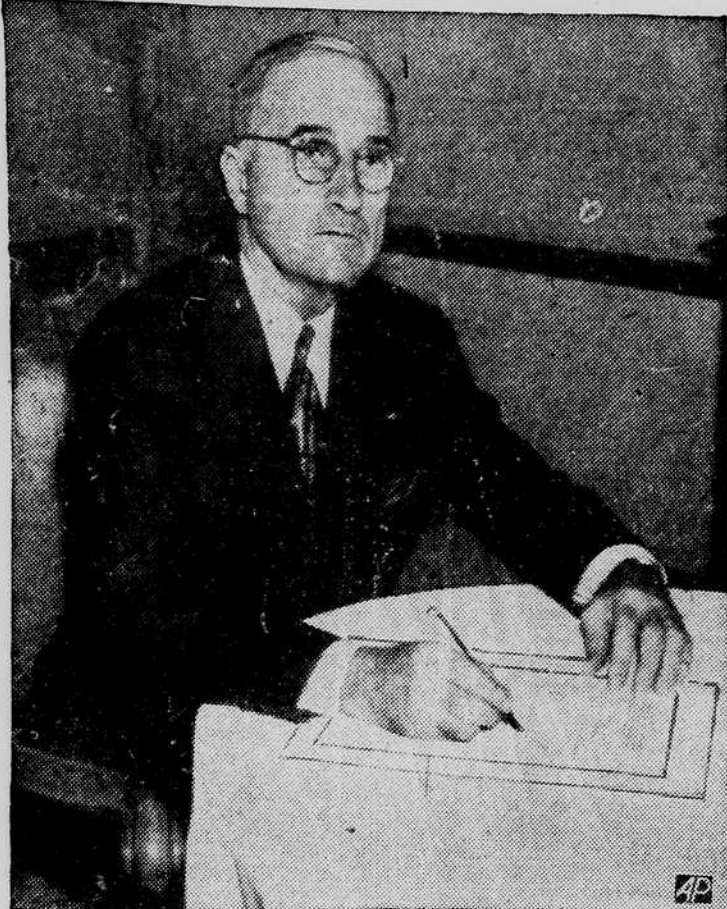
Then he lapsed into silence.

Later he and Graham, who had personally cared for the President's mother, discussed her illness.

He talked briefly en route with other members of his staff aboard the plane. He spent most of his time, though, apparently reading the Congressional Record.

Mr. Truman was taking the loss of his mother "rather philosophically," Ross said. He added, however, that "even though you know death is going to come, it is still quite a shock."

# World Mourns With Him



PRESIDENT TRUMAN, shown in a serious pose, and with whom the world today mourns for the loss of his mother, Mrs. Martha Truman, yesterday. The President, told of her death while he was in flight to her side, said: "Well, she won't have to suffer any more."

## Wife And Daughter Greet President Upon His Arrival

(Continued from Page One)

After the private rites, burial will be in Forest Hill cemetery, in the southern part of Kansas city, where Mrs. Truman's father and husband are buried.

Four grandsons and two nephews will be the pallbearers.

The President had been aloft for 35 minutes after the takeoff from Washington when his mother passed away. He had been advised there was little hope that she would survive the day. The news of her death was handed to him at 11:26 a.m. (CST) as the plane flew over Cincinnati.

Mrs. Truman suffered a fracture of her right hip in a fall in her bedroom last Feb. 13. Most of the time since then her condition has been serious, or critical. For 12 days late in May the President spent hour after hour at her side and then she pulled back somewhat.

Her last relapse began July 3. She had been bedfast since that time.

As he stepped from his plane, "The Sacred Cow," Mr. Truman was greeted by his wife and daughter, Margaret, who hurried to his side, threw her arms around his neck and kissed him. Notably absent was the usual package he always before had carried on his numerous homecomings—a "present for mama."

Mrs. Bess Truman and Margaret reached the Grandview home at 1:05 p.m. They have been staying at the "summer White House" at Independence this summer and it was to that home that Mr. Truman went tonight.

Announcement of the death of Mrs. Martha Truman first came from the home of Vivian Truman. He lives on a farm near this little Jackson county community.

Mrs. Truman's death came after a relapse last Sunday. She had rallied miraculously several times since she fell February 13, fracturing her hip for the third time. She had been bedfast most of the time since but upon occasion had recovered sufficiently to sit in her favorite rocker several hours at a time.

She lost consciousness last night and the President was notified that his mother could not live through the day. Until last night, Mrs. Truman had been able to talk with members of the family, and her mind was bright and alert.

Mrs. Truman's rally recently surprised the family. She ordered pancakes for breakfast.

Mrs. Truman's amazing rally

# 15 Witnesses Given Testimony In Hush Session

CHESTVIEW, Fla., July 26—(U.P.)—Fifteen witnesses today gave evidence at a closed hearing to determine what charge shall be made against Margaret Irene Poland, young war bride from the Isle of Man who shot and killed her soldier husband Thursday night.

Assistant State's Attorney Patrick Manuel questioned the witnesses privately, and postponed completion of the hearing until Monday. He wished to give Mrs. Poland, 21-year-old black-haired beauty, an opportunity to retain a lawyer before taking her testimony.

**DRIVER ARRESTED**

SALISBURY, July 26—(P)—Fred Nolan Brown, Cannon mill employee of Route 4, Kannapolis, was turned over to the State highway patrol authorities here today by city police who arrested him last night as driver of an automobile from which Lucille Wellman of Kannapolis was thrown Wednesday night and critically injured.

# 'She Was Good Citizen'



IN SPITE of her age, Mrs. Truman was determined to do her part and exercise her franchise as a free American. Here she is shown voting, a duty she performed with each opportunity.

# CAPITOL HILL MOURNS DEATH

## Both Houses Act As Les-sen Burden Thrust Upon President

WASHINGTON, July 26—(U.P.)—The House and Senate paused in their end-of-session labors today to send President Truman their condolences in the death at Grandview, Mo., of his 94-year-old mother, Mrs. Martha Truman.

The Senate unanimously voted to send a floral wreath to the President.

Senate Democratic leader Alben W. Barkley made the motion at the suggestion of Senate Republican Whip Kenneth S. Wherry. Barkley interrupted the Sen-

ate's work to announce that Mrs. Truman had died before her son could reach her bedside.

She was one of the finest characters in the history of the United States—a simple American," Barkley said.

"We deeply mourn the loss of the President's mother and sympathize with the President in that loss."

A few minutes later, the House was notified of Mrs. Truman's death by Democratic Leader Sam Rayburn, of Texas. He offered a resolution, which was adopted, observing "with profound sorrow" the "death of the mother of the President of the United States."

The resolution described her as one "whose life exemplified in the highest degree the finest qualities of American womanhood."

Of the motion of Rep. Dewey Short, R., Mo., the House rose for a minute of silent tribute before proceeding with business.

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# Russia Cuts Austrian Army Of Occupation

VIENNA, Austria, July 26—(U.P.)—Russia, without explanation, has reduced its occupation army in Austria from 60,000 men to less than 15,000 within the past three weeks, a highly placed Austrian government official today.

This official has access to reports from the Soviet occupation zone. He himself was not able to explain the sudden and unexpected action.

# Continue Search For Mississippi Farmer's Slayer

NEW ALBANY, Miss., July 26—(P)—North Mississippi officers continued today to search for the slay of 30-year-old Elbert Dillard, New Albany and Tupelo cattleman.

Dillard's body was found in a wooded area near Potts Camp, Miss., last Thursday. The victim had been shot through the head, beaten and then robbed, Sheriff Rod Harmon said.

For Newspaper Service Dial 2-3311



MRS. TRUMAN is seen sitting in her Grandview, Mo., home as she listens intently to the radio. She was an ardent student of affairs and her son's closest link to all that he associated as American.

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# 'NOW, HARRY, YOU BE GOOD'

## This Was Always Her Admonition When 'Harry' Left Her

BY SHEILA SINGLETON

GRANDVIEW, Mo., July 26—(P)—Peppery Mrs. Martha E. Truman, whose "iron will" to live brought her through several critical setbacks, died today in the small frame cottage from which she had watched her son rise to the highest office in the land.

Here in quiet little Grandview, where the doughty 94 year old woman lived modestly, friends and neighbors knew her as a twinkling-eyed, white-haired, kindly old lady who kept abreast of the times—and spoke her mind.

Her world for more than a year had consisted of her bed and her rocking chair. Her eyesight was failing but the remarkable old lady never let her interest dwindle in affairs of the world outside and in "Harry's doings" in Washington.

Almost until the last, she was up-to-the-minute on current events. Unable to read because of poor eyesight, she had Miss Mary Jane Truman, the President's sister, read to her daily from newspapers and the Congressional record.

She also listened with interest to the radio.

Born Martha Young Nov. 25, 1852 on a Jackson county farm only a few miles from the house where she died, the president's mother lived the life of a farm woman, rising early, working hard.

Her early life on a post-Civil War farm built a hardy constitution and a hardy character. This strength of will was evident to the end. Brig. Gen. Wallace Graham, the President's personal physician, said, during one of Mrs. Truman's last illnesses, that her "iron will to live" was all that pulled her through, with the odds of a weakening heart and body against her.

Mrs. Truman was such a staunch Democrat her family sometimes laughingly called her "the old rebel." She had not wanted her son to be vice-president, preferring he remain in the Senate because "Harry was doing some good" there.

When Mr. Truman became chief executive she said:

"I can't really be glad he's President because I'm sorry President Roosevelt is dead, but I know he'll do all right."

She always had a word of advice for her President-son, when he departed for the White House after a visit with her. Her admonition:

"Now, Harry, you be a good boy."

The first ship built in America was the Virginia, a "pretty py-nance of about some thirty tonne," constructed at Popham Beach Maine, in 1607.

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