



A Familiar Face

Chapter Three - by Kay Hively

Scotty left his library books at home the next day.

At school, his classmates were talking about their research. Everyone was eager to tell about the man or woman they had researched. And, of course, everyone was excited because it was Friday.

Friday was the best day at school. Everyone worked to get their lessons done. Then, in the afternoon, the students got to do special things. They had spelling bees or math contests. Scotty liked the math competitions. He could add numbers without using a piece of paper.

The morning went by quickly. After lunch, the teacher said the class was going to visit the city museum. Many of the students had been there before. Scotty remembered seeing army uniforms and a model airplane. He liked model planes.

After the students finished their lessons, they gathered outside and hiked to the museum. The lady who worked there was always happy to see the students. Up and down the aisles, she led Scotty and his classmates. She told all about the wonderful and interesting things in the museum.

At every stop she talked about what was on display. She told how things were used by people long ago. She pointed to photographs and paintings, and identified all the people in the pictures.

The students were very polite as they listened to the stories the lady told. Scotty enjoyed himself very much.

Then, about half way through the big exhibition room, Scotty saw something that made him stop and stare. Hanging on the wall was a large picture. It was a picture of the county courthouse that Scotty saw every day on his way to school.

But the thing that made Scotty stop and stare was not the courthouse, but the man in a white suit standing in front of the building. Right away Scotty recognized the man. It was Harry Truman.

Scotty raised his hand and asked about the picture. The lady said when the courthouse was built in 1939, Harry Truman came to town and helped dedicate the new building. At that time, Mr. Truman was a United States Senator from Missouri, the lady said.

Looking at the picture, Scotty could hardly believe that Harry Truman had actually come to his town. As the group moved to the next exhibit, he kept looking back at the courthouse picture. Tomorrow, he promised himself, he would go down to the courthouse and stand where Harry Truman had stood.

That night, Scotty began reading the little book about President Truman. And after he went to bed, he dreamed he was there in the crowd when Senator Truman dedicated the big courthouse.



Author Kay Hively and Illustrator Billie Gofourth-Stewart are both of Neosho, Missouri. Truman photo by Harry Barth. Produced by the Missouri Press Foundation. Copyright 2007.

Things to Think About and Do

- If you have a museum in your town, visit it with a friend or family member. Most small museums need volunteers. Ask someone at the museum if you could be a volunteer or do a special project for the museum.
- Have you ever been a volunteer? Make a list of things that a boy or girl volunteer could do for a museum.
- Cut 10 items from the newspaper that you believe in 100 years could be on display in a museum. Glue these on paper and write a description beside each that could be used in that museum display in the future, explaining what the item is or what it was used for.

STANDARDS: G2:4; G4:3; G4:8; CA:5; SS:6; FA:1

Visit the Truman Presidential Museum & Library at www.trumanlibrary.org

Next Week: Chapter Four - Grandfather remembers