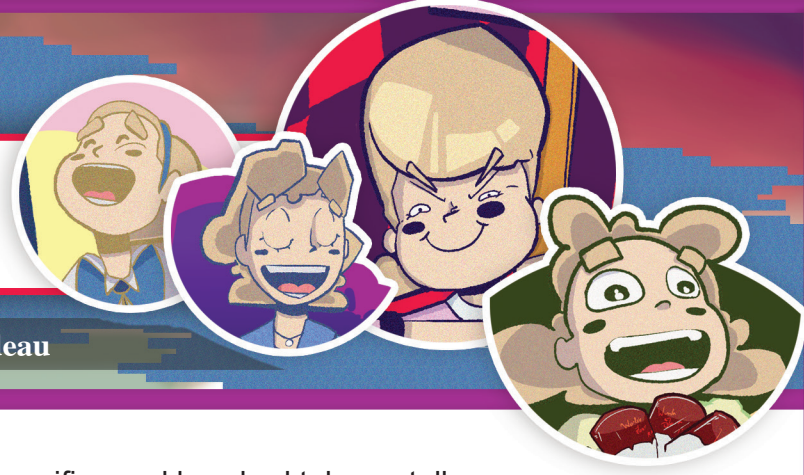


Generations of Missouri

Written by Carolyn Mueller | Illustrated by Philip Goudeau



Sir Winston Churchill Chapter Six

Dorothy, age 27 & Betty, age 18 | 1946

Dorothy grew up with opportunities her mother only dreamed of, such as earning a college degree, working, and voting! Her mother, Ruth, had been a suffragette. Dorothy was an English teacher, married with young children.

Dorothy was going to visit her cousin, Betty, in Fulton, Missouri, at William Woods College, an all-girls school. It was a windy day as the cousins made their way to what Betty called “the boys’ school,” Westminster College where they were to attend a lecture. Today’s speaker was known as “The Great Orator.” The young women were going to see Sir Winston Churchill, who would be introduced by the President of the United States, Harry S. Truman!

A former Prime Minister of England and one of the leaders of the Allies during World War II, Churchill had loomed large through Dorothy’s early adulthood. It was now 1946 and the war had only been over for a short time. Dorothy and her family had done their part. She and Ruth had planted a victory garden, and Ruth had worked in a plant making parts for airplanes! Dorothy’s husband had served in Europe.

He’d safely returned, but
the years of

sacrifice and loss had taken a toll on Dorothy and others. The confident words of Franklin Roosevelt and Winston Churchill had been a calming salve during that time.

Westminster’s gymnasium crackled with excitement as the young women joined the flow of others to find their seats. A hush fell over the crowd as suddenly President Truman stood before them, a Missouri native who had risen to the highest political office. He introduced Mr. Churchill, who stepped onto the stage with the same presence she’d grown familiar with from the pages of LIFE magazine. Churchill was larger than life, very much the bulldog many described him to be. Churchill began, “I’m glad to come to Westminster College this afternoon, and I am complimented that you should give me a degree.”

Dorothy was thrilled to hear his voice, so familiar to her from her family’s radio. Churchill described his view of the world on this side of the war. He told of the special alliance between the United States and Britain and the importance of the new world governing body, The United Nations. Dorothy listened as he began to describe what he saw as the great challenge of this new world.

“From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended across the Continent,” Churchill proclaimed in his famous guttural growl.

These words echoed through Dorothy’s mind as they made their way back to William Woods after the speech. Betty seemed giddy from their encounter with history, but Dorothy was thoughtful. What had Churchill meant by an iron curtain, she wondered. Churchill’s words held a warning of uncertainty and instability in the post-war world. She was sure of it.

NEWSPAPER CONNECTIONS

There is still instability in the world. Look for articles about strife and troubles throughout the world in your local newspaper, and look for the reasons behind these.

