

WHO AM I

I was born in the USA.

More specifically, I was born in Lamar, Missouri. The year was 1884.

I attended school in Independence, Jackson County Missouri.

(Photo) Me aged 10 years.

In college I developed a passion for music. I learned to play piano, with a particular fondness for Chopin and other classics. I loved the theatre and attended a lot of concerts.

I liked reading, particularly, William Shakespeare.

After college I started university but had to leave to help out on the family farm.

The years I spent on the farm were known as the Golden years of American agriculture.

Shortly after America entered the war in Europe in 1917, I joined the army. I served in France as a Captain in Field Artillery.

(Photo) Me in France

At the end of the war I returned to America, married Bess Wallace and opened a Haberdashery store. I had some early success as a store owner.

During the recession in 1921 however the business went bust and ultimately I became bankrupt.

Following a number of failed business ventures I developed an interest in politics.

In 1922 I was elected as a County Court Judge of Jackson County and was re-elected to that position in 1928. During my terms of office in Jackson County I oversaw major development of infrastructure, particularly in roads and buildings.

In 1934 I won the democratic nomination for United States Senator for the State of Missouri and subsequently won the general election with an overwhelming majority of votes in the fall of that year.

As a freshman Senator I was assigned to 2 major committees, the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Interstate Commerce.

In my early career in the senate I was ostracised by many of my colleagues for my advocacy for civil rights. In one of my speeches to a nearly all white audience I expressed the following belief:

“I believe in the brotherhood of man, not merely the brotherhood of white men, but the brotherhood of all men before the law ... If any race or class can be permanently set apart from, or pushed down below the rest in political and civil rights, so may any other class or race when it shall incur the displeasure of its more powerful associates and we may say farewell to the principles on which we count our safety.

(African Americans) have been preyed upon by all types of exploiters from the instalment salesmen of clothing, pianos, and furniture to the vendors of vice. The majority of our (African American) people find but cold comfort in shanties and tenements. Surely as freemen, they are entitled to something better than this.”

Later in my career (1948) I was unsuccessful in my legislative endeavours to advance the cause of African Americans with comprehensive civil rights legislation. But I did have some success in bringing about racial integration in the military and federal agencies.

I came to national prominence as chair of the Congressional Committee aimed at reducing waste and inefficiency in wartime contracts.

I played a principal role in the development of the atomic bomb and its use in Japan.

I confronted Stalin in in Potsdam

Subsequently I played a major role in the creation of NATO, put American troops into Korea and fired General McArthur.

I am Harry S Truman. Upon the death of Franklin D Roosevelt on 12 April 1945, I was sworn in as President of the United States of America.

Reference: David McCullough, Truman, First Touchstone Edition 1993