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The Examiner — Monday, April 9, 1990

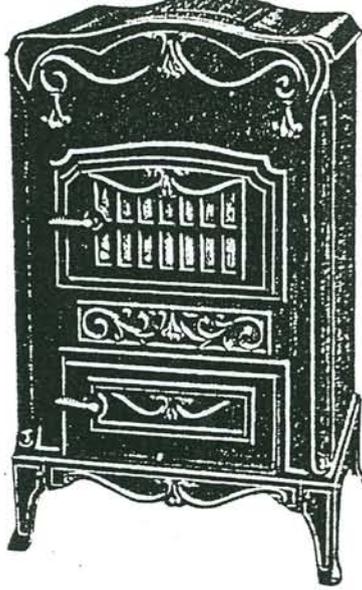
50 Years Ago

John W. Luff was re-elected to a third term as president of the

school board after he and Frank Brown were returned to membership on the board by voters of the school district. Fleming Pendleton continued as vice president of the board and Brown as treasurer. The board re-elected W.E. Matthews as superintendent of schools and J.N. Hanthorn and Marshall Miller as principals of William Chrisman and Junior High schools.

A cornerstone was laid in a ceremony at the site of the new Junior High School which was being built to replace the building which had been destroyed by fire more than a year earlier. School officials, members of the Board of Education and officers of the Parent-Teacher Association took part in the event.

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Independence stove models of another day include the company's first volumed-produced, coal-fired heater (left), laundry stove of the 1900 era (center), and the first gas-fired room heater (right).

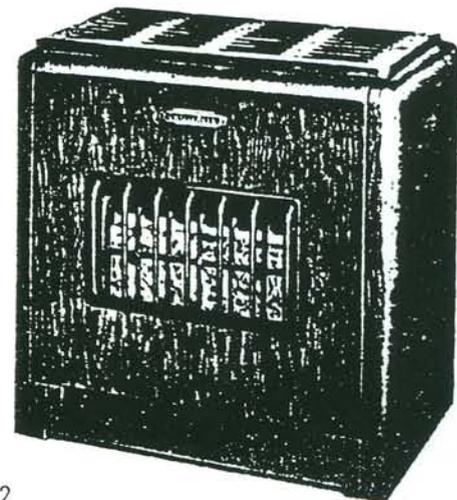
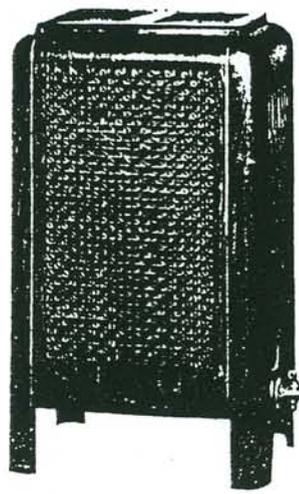
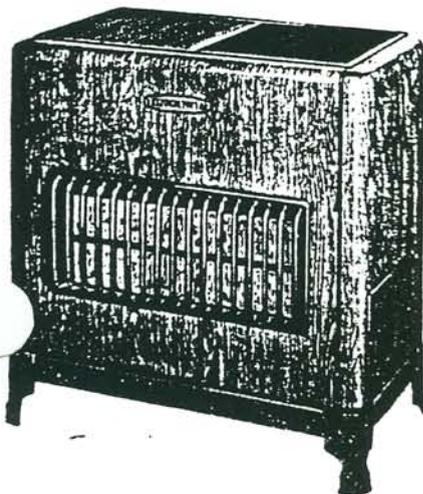
a ground coat dip tank, 14 feet in length, is used in the application of ground coat to most parts. This dip tank is of the recirculating type. To maintain a constant temperature in this dip tank, water of pre-controlled temperature is circulated around this tank. Ground coat bisque is dried as parts pass through a 40-foot hot air circulating type drier. This drier is gas-fired with a blower unit on top. Beyond the drier is a 22-foot long exhaust type spray booth wherein parts requiring it are black edged, and heater bodies are sprayed. The conveyor serving this ground coat line is of the reversible type. This permits the use of the same spray booth on another shift for application of ground coat to cast iron parts, which are then conveyed through the drier in the opposite direction to the flow of these other parts.

The cover coat line is served by two 11-foot and one 12-foot exhaust type spray booths. Parts are conveyed along this line on a cable conveyor which passes through an open burner gas-fired drier.

Firing of parts at Independence Stove is accomplished on two box-type furnaces, both of which are gas-fired. One of these furnaces, which is 5 feet wide by 12 feet deep with 24 inch side walls, is used for firing ground coat and cast iron. It is charged with a hand-operated double speed fork. The other furnace, which is 5 feet wide, 12 feet deep, and has 5 foot side walls, is used for firing cover coat. It is charged with an electrically operated double speed fork.

Independence Stove and Furnace Company operates one of the few Porcelain Enameling plants in that section of the country. That it serves its customers well is attested to by the large volume of job enameling work the company performs for so many industrial concerns in that area, as well as at points distant from Independence. It is only this continued high quality work that has made it possible for Independence Stove and Furnace Company to point with pride to more than a half century of service to industry.

Today Independence produces these modern appearing efficient room type heaters.



kitchen stove

When Harry Truman Dropped In

The writer is a longtime resident of Independence.

By Pauline E. Kemp

Harry S. Truman had a homespun quality, much like that of an Abraham Lincoln or a Will Rogers. No friend of his was one whit less a friend after he became the nation's President.

Mr. Truman never adjusted to the team of Secret Service men who shadowed him constantly while he held office. A friend tells of meeting him unexpectedly on one of his morning walks during a visit to Kansas City. Several attempts to greet the President were interrupted by requests for identification and questioning by the Secret Service men. Mr. Truman was embarrassed.

"Things just aren't like they used to be, Jim," he apologized. "I wish we could have a good old-time visit, but it simply isn't possible now."

When in Washington for the 1947 Gridiron Dinner, the late George K. Wallace, The Star's Missouri correspondent, decided to call on his old friend, Harry Truman. Finding the great iron White House gates open, he walked in. Halfway across the lawn, a platoon of Secret Service men swooped down upon him.

He was rapidly escorted outside, a man on each elbow, and was not sure his feet ever touched the ground. Outside, he identified himself, and learned that one just doesn't "drop in" on the President of the United States.

When Mr. Truman heard of the episode, he was chagrined. He got on the phone himself, called Wallace's hotel, and invited his newspaper friend to breakfast.

The second trip inside those iron gates was a different story, as the considerate President tried to make up for his friend's embarrassment. Wallace was met and courteously escorted to Blair House, where he and the President enjoyed a leisurely breakfast.

In 1954 Mr. Truman agreed to make a surprise appearance at the season's opening of the Starlight Theater. The production was a musical, "Call Me Madam," starring Billie Worth. President Truman was portrayed by an actor in a 15-second walk-on. Mr. Truman agreed to make the appearance himself, with only one condition—that no announcement be made of his appearance in advance.

As the first act closed Mr. Truman was seized with pain and nausea, an illness that ultimately put him in the hospital. He had to leave the theater. Ill as he was, he took

time to send a message backstage conveying his regrets that he could not appear, and hoping there was time to arrange a replacement.

Mr. Truman probably had more doubles than any of the other 31 United States Presidents. This continually gave rise to embarrassing and funny situations.

One example was told by Mr. Truman's longtime neighbor and schoolmate, Mrs. John Luff, now deceased, of 231 N. Delaware, the corner house opposite the summer White House. On the evening of Nov. 2, 1948, the President had flown home to spend election day in Independence. Curious crowds swarmed around the Truman home. Secret Servicemen patrolled the lawn. Cars crept by at a snail's pace, the occupants straining for a glimpse of the President at the close of his arduous "whistle-stop" campaign.

Across the street the Luffs were holding an election evening party. Guests were driv-

ing up and alighting from their cars, and their house was already full of friends.

Suddenly Mrs. Luff heard a great commotion. Looking out, she saw one of her male guests running toward her house, a pursuing crowd at his heels. "There he is! There he is!" they shouted. The man ran up the steps of her home and pounded frantically on the door.

She let him in quickly as the Secret Service men struggled to hold back the crowd. They were convinced Mrs. Luff's guest was President Truman, and they refused to believe otherwise.

Walter Evans, now deceased, a gray-haired man of medium height who wore glasses, bore a resemblance to Mr. Truman. Evans lived at 112 South Pleasant. Frequently he was mistaken for the President while walking on the Independence Square. To such greetings as "Good morning, Mr. President" he always replied pleasantly. He

expressed a belief that Mr. Truman would rather be hid so than point out a friendly person's error.

One day Evans thought he saw the former President approaching. He was preparing to greet him when the other man spoke. "Mr. Truman, may I trouble you for your autograph?" the look-alike asked politely.

"I'm not Mr. Truman, but I thought you were," Evans confessed. And right there on the sidewalk, in the shadow of Andrew Jackson's statue, the two enjoyed a side-splitting laugh.

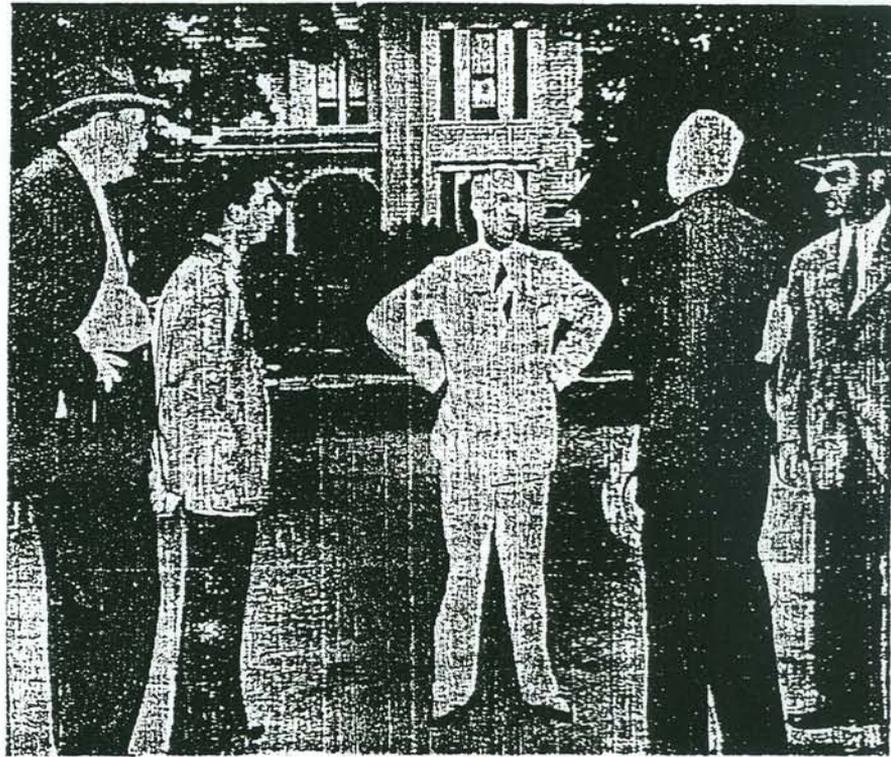
Actor Robert Vaughn bears no resemblance to the former President. Yet for the recent television special, "The Man From Independence," he transformed himself into a convincing replica of Harry S. Truman. Makeup and eyeglasses created the optical magic; yet Mr. Truman's speech, mannerisms, and even his walk were so well imitated that it's evident

Vaughn had studied old films and newsreels.

On a winter day in 1957 Mr. Truman had breakfast in a Twelfth Street restaurant. He slipped in inconspicuously, as was his wont, and sat at the counter. During the meal he exchanged pleasantries with a young man who sat beside him.

Suddenly the young man said, "Say, did you know you're a dead-ringer for Harry Truman?" "Yes, I've heard that a time or two," replied Mr. Truman, a twinkle in his eye. And he went right on with his breakfast. After a few more comments about items in the morning paper, the fellow finished eating and picked up his check.

Mr. Truman rose and offered his hand. "I hope you have a pleasant day," he said. The young man shook hands, paid his check and left. Never mentioning he had just had breakfast with the 32nd President of the United States.



Press Conference

On a trip home from Washington the late President Truman held an impromptu press conference in the street in front of his home at 219 N. Delaware in Independence. With his back to the camera was

the late George K. Wallace, The Star's Missouri correspondent, who was a longtime friend of Mr. Truman's. At left was the late Jack Williams, a member of The Star's Washington bureau.