

TRU

PROFILE

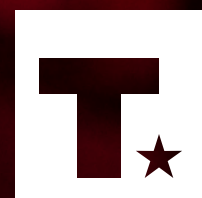
Read our exclusive interview with *The Butler's* Wil Haygood

EVENTS

Honor the legacy of Harry S. Truman at Wild About Harry!

FRIENDS

Our Annual Honor Roll salutes donors and friends



COVER: Our Annual Donor Issue salutes friends and contributors like you. Thanks to your generous support, we touch the lives of nearly 30,000 students and teachers each year. Thank you!

Whistle Stop



“America was not built on fear. America was built on courage, on imagination, and unbeatable determination to do the job at hand.”

Harry Truman

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Hollywood Meets History

Formerly secret documents at the Truman Library uncover the true story of how the Monuments Men rescued Nazi treasure.

MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Harry Truman famously said, “It is amazing what you can do if you do not care who gets the credit,” but in our “Annual Donor Issue” of *TRU Magazine*, we are delighted to give credit where credit is due — to the many friends and donors who helped us achieve our mission in 2013.

Your donations and membership gifts are used to fulfill Harry Truman’s vision for his presidential library — that it serve our nation as a classroom for democracy where young people, especially, will gain a deeper understanding of our history, our democracy, and the importance of duty and service.

TRU Impact, the annual review mailed with this magazine, highlights our programmatic achievements in 2013, all grounded in President Truman’s guiding vision. We are especially proud to report that our total reach through all education programs was up 14 percent to 31,700 students and teachers. This includes a noteworthy increase of 27 percent in our core programs — The White House Decision Center and Museum Tours.

These achievements wouldn’t be possible without your support. In fact, the number-one source of support for our educational programs is **Wild About Harry**, our annual fund-raising dinner. This year’s program will feature Wil Haygood; our exclusive interview with him (page 4) takes you inside his story of “The Butler.” I hope you’ll make plans to join us on April 10 for this very special event.

And speaking of the silver screen, Hollywood has turned its lens, again, to Truman-era history with *The Monuments Men*, starring George Clooney, Matt Damon and Cate Blanchett. The movie is based on a book by Robert M. Edsel, *The Monuments Men: Allied Heroes, Nazi Thieves, and the Greatest Treasure Hunt in History*. The film’s release inspired us to go on our own treasure hunt — in the Truman Library archives. Find out what we uncovered on page 12.

Of course, we don’t just draw on history to share stories from the past. Through events like the Howard and Virginia Bennett Forum on the Presidency, we examine Truman’s legacy to help us make sense of our future. We’re delighted to share in this issue of *TRU* some of our favorite moments from the 2013 Bennett Forum, which featured former Secretaries of Defense William S. Cohen and Donald Rumsfeld.

Thank you for making this possible. Because of your support, Harry Truman’s legacy reaches across time to remind us all — young and old alike — of each person’s power to make a difference.

Alex Burden

Executive Director | **Truman Library Institute**



Truman said, “It is amazing what you can do if you do not care who gets the credit.” But in this “Annual Donor Issue,” we are delighted to give credit where credit is due: to you.



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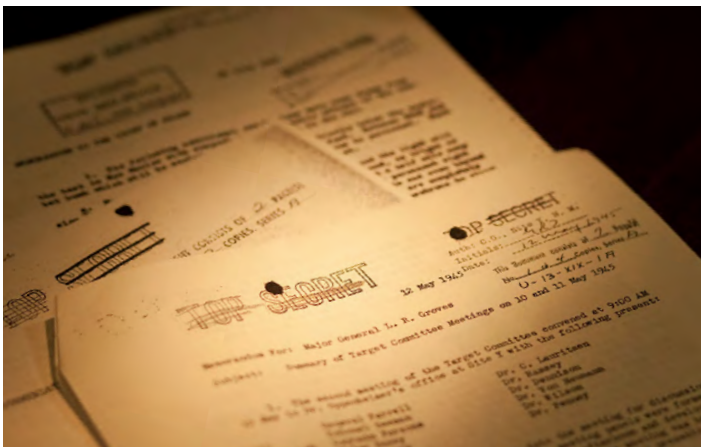
Top Truman Award

Clifton Truman Daniel will present the Truman Library Institute's most prestigious award – the **Harry S. Truman Legacy of Leadership Award** – to **Donna E. Shalala**, president of the University of Miami. During her historic tenure as U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services, Dr. Shalala directed the welfare reform process, made health insurance available to millions of children, raised child immunization rates to the highest levels in history, led major reforms at the FDA, and more. In 2005, she was named one of "America's Best Leaders" by *U.S. News & World Report*, and in 2008 she received the nation's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, which was created by President Truman in 1945. She is a distinguished fellow at the Brookings Institution and its Engelberg Center for Health Care Reform.



Truman Economic Medal

In the midst of the 2013 federal government shutdown, **Alice M. Rivlin**, who was head of President Clinton's Office of Management and Budget during the 1995 shutdown, accepted the 2013 Truman Medal for Economic Policy and called Washington's budget and debt impasse "quite disgraceful." In remarks titled "Where Does the Buck Stop Now?" Dr. Rivlin suggested that the solutions were fairly simple, but that "polarization has kept us from doing it If we don't get back to the spirit of making our government work and compromising our differences, I'm afraid we're in for a period of lurching from crisis to crisis." The Truman Medal for Economic Policy, given every other year, recognized Dr. Rivlin's career in economic policy and education. Past recipients include Alan Greenspan, George P. Shultz and Paul Volcker.



Major Grant Announced

We are very pleased to announce that the William T. Kemper Foundation has renewed its long-time support of the Truman Library's archival priorities with a \$150,000 grant to the Truman Library Institute. This generous three-year grant will significantly advance our efforts to preserve and share the Truman Library's rich archival holdings with researchers, teachers and students located around the world. The Truman Library's archives contain key evidence to some of the most important decisions of the 20th century, and demand for these fascinating documents continues to grow. We are grateful for Jonathan Kemper's vision and long-term support of these priorities through the William T. Kemper Foundation.

LET'S GET WILD!★

THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2014



WILD!★ABOUT HARRY

THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2014
Marriott-Muehlebach Hotel,
Kansas City, Missouri

15th Annual Fundraising Dinner Benefiting
the Legacy and Library of Harry S. Truman

FEATURING

Wil Haygood:

Author of *The Butler: A Witness to History*

Dr. Donna E. Shalala:

President, University of Miami and former
Secretary of Health and Human Services,
2014 Truman Legacy of Leadership Honoree

Barbara and Allen Lefko: Honorary Chairs
Betsey and Rick Solberg: Event Co-Chairs
Brandi and Wit Solberg: Event Co-Chairs

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To learn more, please contact Kim Rausch,
director of development, at 816.268.8237
or kim.rausch@nara.gov

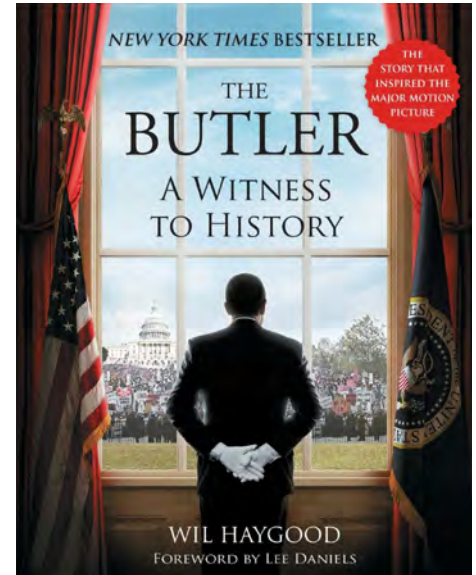
SPEAKER SPOTLIGHT

SIX QUESTIONS FOR WIL HAYGOOD



WILD! ★
ABOUT HARRY

The award-winning journalist and author of the book that inspired the blockbuster movie *The Butler* is a featured guest at Wild About Harry. We spoke with him about stories “from the back pages of history.”



TRU: Nearly 10 million people have seen *The Butler*, the blockbuster movie based on your best-selling book *The Butler: A Witness to History*. What, in particular, do you want movie audiences to take from your book about Eugene Allen's life?

WH: It was amazing during my travels on behalf of the movie and book how many people were happy such a story was being told. People of all ages, races, and economic backgrounds seemed emotionally taken with the history chronicled in the movie. It seemed a reminder to them about the lessons of history, of the struggles for African American equality. I want those filmgoers to continue to talk about our history, about the martyrs and great men and women who persevered against unimaginable odds. For too long, at least when it comes to cinema, this history has been neglected.

TRU: How important were presidential libraries to your being able to share Eugene Allen's story?

WH: I wrote a book about Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., (*King of the Cats*). Powell had relations with many presidents as he was in Congress more than 20

years. While doing research for that book, I visited the Truman presidential library, the Eisenhower library, the Kennedy library, the LBJ library, and the FDR library. Those visits helped prepare me to write the Eugene Allen story. Each of those presidents had to contend with the crucible of race. President Truman tried in vain to get an anti-lynching law passed; President Kennedy wrote a civil rights bill, but it was President Johnson who got it enacted. Those library visits introduced me to the drama and players in the civil rights arena. I feel the Eugene Allen story is the result of many years of delving into American history.

TRU: Eugene Allen became chief butler during Truman's presidency, but not until 1952. It was Alonzo Fields – the first African American to be appointed chief butler in the White House – who served through most of the Truman administration.

WH: The first time I heard about Alonzo Fields was when I was interviewing Mr. Allen for my original story. He was hired by Fields and spoke of him with great admiration. I have since met members of Fields' family while on book tour.

TRU: You have referred to *The Butler* as “a story from the back pages of history. A figure in the tiniest of print.” We are reminded of the many oral histories preserved by our presidential libraries. What do you think the value is in preserving these lesser-known stories and perspectives on our shared history?

WH: The arc of Eugene Allen’s life — born on a plantation, country club valet, White House butler, alive to see the first African American elected president — is so sweeping that I think it’s invaluable that his life has been preserved in print and on the big screen. We are used to having memoirs and biographies written by presidents and diplomats and politicians. But when we get another viewpoint — either in autobiography or biography — I think we are all the richer for it.

TRU: From your coverage of presidential politics, how much influence do presidents have, really, in creating social change?

WH: Presidents can have great influence upon social change. I think we only need look at what FDR did in the New Deal, and JFK in the New Frontier, and, of course, LBJ with the Great Society. Of course, many of these decisions emanate from great movement on the ground by everyday people demanding change. Those are the times when a sitting president can resort to the Bully Pulpit.

TRU: Harry Truman said that the real test of true leaders is “how you treat those who can’t talk back.” That certainly includes butlers. By this measure, who are among America’s truly great presidents?

WH: Because I have had occasion to study these presidents more than some others — and because they tackled grave social issues — I think the word “greatness” can be applied to President Lincoln, President Theodore Roosevelt, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, President Truman, President Johnson, and President Kennedy.

Meet Wil Haygood

Reserve your table or tickets today for WILD ABOUT HARRY!

Event details on page 3

TOP FOUR REASONS TO MEET WIL HAYGOOD ON APRIL 10

REASON 1 You want the real story behind the award-winning film and best-selling book *The Butler*.

REASON 2 You want to hear Wil Haygood’s own inspirational life story of a man who rose from poverty to become an author, award-winning political reporter, and Hollywood producer.

REASON 3 You want to be inspired and entertained by a fascinating chapter of our American story.

REASON 4 You want to know how your support of the Truman Library makes an important difference, now and for generations to come.



Wil Haygood is the author of *The Butler: A Witness to History*, which inspired the film *The Butler*. He is a 2013–14 National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow working on a book about Thurgood Marshall, appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court by President Johnson in 1967, an appointment that broke the color barrier on the high court.



WILD!
ABOUT HARRY

Truman's Butler

Before the movie, Alonzo Fields was "The Butler."

The first African American to be named chief butler, Alonzo Fields served at the White House for twenty-one years under presidents Hoover, Roosevelt, Truman and Eisenhower.

His 1960 memoir, *My 21 Years in the White House*, is available at the Truman Library Research Room and was adapted for the stage. That play, *Looking Over the President's Shoulder*, continues to garner audiences worldwide. Alonzo Fields' very personal history includes his early aspirations as a singer at the New England Conservatory of Music, his life-saving efforts in the aftermath of the Truman assassination attempt, and his favorite White House menus, including the Trumans' luncheon for H. R. H. Princess Elizabeth of England. Here is a sampling of his thoughts about America's 33rd president.

PRESIDENTIAL BIRTHDAY

The Trumans moved into the White House in time for the President's birthday, May 8, 1946, and Elizabeth Moore, who was then the head cook, baked a cake for the President. Next morning, I told her that the President had wanted to see her the night before about the cake she had baked. She said, "Oh, Fields! What happened? What was wrong with it?" I pulled up a chair and said, "Girl, take this seat

before you faint. The President was so pleased he merely wanted to thank you personally." She found it harder to believe that the President wanted to thank her than that something was wrong with the cake. This was the first time a President had been in the White House kitchen since Coolidge [and it] started the Truman Administration with a sense of human understanding and appreciation which never waned during the eight years to follow.

CODE NAME

President Truman, because of his outspoken manner, we coded as "Billie Spunk." Often when we were talking about some affair, we would say, "Wait until Billie Spunk gets there. He will tell them where to get off."

FAVORITE PRESIDENT

President Truman. I always felt that he understood me as a man, not as a servant to be tolerated, and I understood that he expected me to be a man, sincere in my duties and trying to do what is right at all times. President Roosevelt was genial and warm, but he left one feeling, as most aristocrats do, that they really do not understand one. As if to a less fortunate human being, they extend a charitable, human tolerance but never permit the right to understand them. President Hoover was an intensely human and kind man, very charitable, but I never felt that I understood him or he me.



Above: Alonzo Fields with staff in the pantry of the renovated White House, March 20, 1952. The Alonzo Fields Collection in the Truman Library Archives includes photos like this, as well as documents relating to Fields' position as Chief Butler from 1933 to 1953. A good portion of the papers document menus for White House guests like Princess Elizabeth of England, the Prime Minister of Sweden, the Chancellor of Austria, Prince Charles, the Regent of Belgium, and the Queen and Prince of the Netherlands. Also included in the collection are programs for various functions put on by the White House from 1939 to 1947. For a full description of the collection, search on the key phrase "Alonzo Fields" at TrumanLibrary.org.

DID YOU KNOW? The Truman Library's Research Room is open to the public. Explore the collection of books (like Alonzo Fields' memoir), photographs, oral histories and formerly top-secret files. Walk-ins are welcome. To learn more, call the Research Room at 816.268.8272.

AMERICAN PRESIDENTS AND THEIR CABINETS

The Seventh Annual Howard and Virginia
Bennett Forum on the Presidency

William S. Cohen

20th U.S. Secretary of Defense



“This is a very, very important lecture series and a very important event.”

BOB KERREY | U.S. SENATOR (1989–2001)

On November 3, 2013, Friends of the Truman Library Institute were invited “Inside the West Wing” for a powerful conversation about the presidency, executive leadership, national defense and America’s future. Offered free to Truman Library Institute members, the seventh annual Howard and Virginia Bennett Forum on the Presidency offered a rare and privileged opportunity to dialogue on critical current issues with some of America’s most powerful leaders.

RUMSFELD ON DECISION-MAKING

DR: Presidents come and go, but the bureaucracy is permanent. Hyman Rickover (he was the father of nuclear power and, I think, served longer than any naval officer in history) said to me, “Look, if you’re going to sin, sin against God, because God forgives. Do not sin against the bureaucracy. It’ll just lie there in wait and get you for sure.” Listen, those folks in government have tough jobs. Dean Acheson, I think, was the one who said that all the easy decisions get made down below, and when they finally reach a president or senior cabinet official, they’re tough, and they’re complicated, and they’re multi-dimensional. I think it’s worth keeping this in mind as we look at the complexity of our society and our world.

The challenges we face are not simple, and there are generally darn good arguments on both sides that are presented to a president or senior official of government.

COHEN ON GRIDLOCK

WC: Frankly, the American people are either slightly right or slightly the left of center. It is the parties that are pulling at the extremes. I think the public needs to speak out and say, “Yes, we sent you to Congress to stand for principles, but nothing takes place in society without compromise.” We believe in checks and balances, so the Senate checks the House, and the House checks the Senate, and the president checks the Congress. The problem is, everybody’s in check; nobody’s in charge. I’m almost at the point where I’d rather see one party take control of the White House and Congress for four years and then say, “If you don’t like what we’ve done, change it.” But the notion that we’re going to go on with more stalemate, with other countries looking at us and saying, “You want us to be more like you? You can’t even pass a budget, and you want us to be more like you?” It’s not a great selling point for our democratic values. So we’ve got a lot to do, and the public has a role here to say, “Enough. We want you to reach an agreement so we can go forward.”

RUMSFELD ON “THE WAR ON TERROR”

DR: To call it “The War on Terror” suggests that it’s going to be won with bullets, but this is much more like the Cold War than a hot war. If you have radical Islamists — and it’s not

a majority, it’s a *minority* — who are against the concept of a nation state, who lack tolerance for the views of others, and who are training people not to get jobs but to kill innocent men, women and children, you have to be willing to say that that’s the problem. And it’s not just our problem; it’s happening all across the globe. We have to be willing to describe it properly. On this point, I think I gave the Bush administration a D-plus, or something, and I’m an easy grader. But this administration gets an F-minus.

KERREY AND COHEN ON ENGAGEMENT

BK: I think this is 100 percent right: this war is not going to be won with just bullets; it’s going to take a full range of engagement. And those most at risk are the Muslims, themselves. Any effort to be moderate in that community can put you at considerable bodily risk.

WC: Right, this is a clash within the Islamic society. I believe “engagement” is fundamental to what we’re discussing tonight, because there is a sentiment in Congress, from the right and the left, to disengage — “Time to come home, America.” But there is no way to disentangle ourselves from world affairs. This notion that we can disengage and be safe is folly. We need to be engaged in a way that is mindful of the budgetary constraints but that advances global security — not only through military strength but also through business and public diplomacy. We need to be willing to support those governments that understand the future can belong to them, as well as to us.

COHEN ON DISCIPLINE

WC: We are the most obese nation on the planet; this says something about our lack of discipline. We have failed to discipline our appetites. This is true from an economic point of view but also physically: we eat too much, drink too much, smoke too much, don't exercise enough, et cetera. We have allowed ourselves to lose that sense of discipline. Three out of seven don't even qualify, physically, to be in the military.

David [Von Drehle] asked about the disconnect between Americans and our military. I think this is part of it. When you see our military, and the young people coming in, and the discipline that's imposed — and the pride that they feel with their mission in life — you see a different culture than what we're seeing in the rest of society today. I think there's a great disconnect when those who have been fighting in Iraq or Afghanistan come back and go to one of our shopping malls and see the careless carefreeness that we're all experiencing. Not to say we have to be “Bah! Humbug,” but it seems to me that if we're going to survive in this world, we have to get back to some very stern virtues.

I'll quote Walter Lippmann, who was a writer of some note and an advisor to presidents over the years. He gave a speech in 1940. It was, I think, the 30th reunion of his class of 1910 at Harvard. He said something really important, which applies today. He said, “You know, whenever we had a hard choice to



make, we took the easy way out. After World War I, we started passing the bubbly and enjoying the creature comforts while a mechanized evil was running loose over in Europe. So here we are on the edge of a world war. You took the good things for granted, and now you must earn them again. For every right that you claim, you have a duty you must fulfill. For every hope you entertain, you have an obligation you must fulfill. For every good you wish to achieve, you must sacrifice your comfort and your ease.”

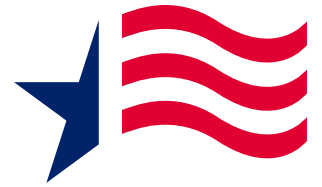
Boy, those were powerful words. They resonate with me even now, because I look at us and I look at the countries that we are competing against. They look at us from a distance and say, “What's happened? What's happened to America? You're the ones who

have blazed this trail of freedom. You're the ones we look to. There's nobody else out there. There's no peer competitor. Just you. And we're not so sure anymore.”

People are making different judgments about us now because they're looking at our unwillingness to discipline ourselves — not only from a physical standpoint but also from a sense of “What's our mission?” That's where the military, I think, has served a valuable purpose, but it's an ever-diminishing presence in our society. Sam Nunn and I have talked about this over the years. We know we can't reinstitute the draft, and the military doesn't really want to. But there has to be some concept of national service, of contributing to society. I think we're missing that today. We've got to get back to disciplining ourselves.



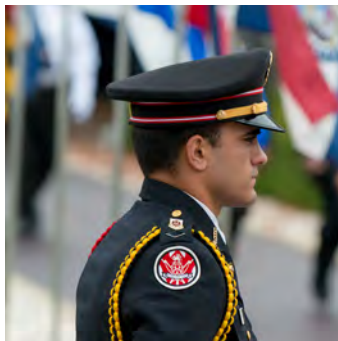
TRU EVENTS



Upcoming Events

All New Exhibition*

Don't miss the Truman Library's new museum exhibition, *Spies, Lies and Paranoia: Americans in Fear* (March 15–October 26). Enter the eerie world of real and imagined threats — America in the 1950s. As Cold War tensions grew, many sensed danger lurking around every corner — Communist spies, nuclear annihilation, even space aliens. The show draws on collections from across the country and includes Soviet spy gear, anti-Communist propaganda, space alien film clips and instructional movies on surviving a nuclear attack. Together, they vividly recall American anxiety and our collective response to a 20th-century wave of terror.



New Lecture Series*

Former TIME correspondent Douglas Waller inaugurates the new series, *Spies*, with a discussion of his acclaimed biography of the Truman-era spymaster William J. "Wild Bill" Donovan. This series is offered as a companion to the Truman Library's new temporary exhibition, *Spies, Lies and Paranoia*.

Returning Favorites*

This spring, our two popular presidential biography series, "Beyond the Gowns" and "Hail to the Chiefs," return with all-new programs and some of our favorite authors. Plus, TIME Magazine's David Von Drehle returns to host "Dateline: Washington," a series of national conversations with Kansas City audiences.

The Hon. Ike Skelton Veterans Day Ceremony

From General George W. Casey's stirring keynote address to the presidential wreath laying to the reception for veterans, the Truman Library Institute's second annual salute to America's heroes was felt deeply and appreciated by all in attendance on November 11, 2013. It goes without saying that Ike Skelton's absence, too, was deeply felt. He was an extraordinarily good friend of President Truman's library and legacy — as well as America's armed forces — and we are grateful for his leadership in establishing an annual Veterans Day tribute worthy of the service and sacrifice of our service men and women. This signature event was made possible by generous support from Mary Ellen and James Ascher, Marie and Brig. General (Ret.) Jack Capps, The Dunn Family Foundation, Paget and Tom Higgins, Mary and John Hunkeler, and Marny and John Sherman.



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TRU TREASURE

From the Archives



MONUMENTAL HISTORY

BY JEFF FOX

The Monuments Men, Hollywood's high-profile story of "the greatest treasure hunt in history," stars George Clooney and is introducing new audiences to the story of the Nazi loot and the Merkers mine. The staff at the Truman Library Institute figured that, given the events and the timeframe, there had to be items in the Library's vast collection that connected with the story.

They were right. The papers of Bernard Bernstein — 22,500 pages — are preserved at the library. Together, these documents and photographs tell a story that involves U.S. Army officers tracking down rumors and leads, that involves a stunning amount of wealth convoyed under armed guard and an air patrol above, and that involves three of the top U.S. generals of the war. And, by coincidence, a key part of it happened on a day that changed Harry Truman's life.

NAZI TREASURE

It's April 1945. Gen. George S. Patton's Third Army is rolling — fast — into the heart of Germany. It's unclear how much longer the war will last. Late in the morning on April 4, Patton's troops take the town of Merkers.

The area is essentially placed in lockdown, and Army intelligence begins talking to civilians. There are rumors that the Nazis hid treasure in the salt mine there. That's where the Nazis put gold and other valuables, brought from Berlin several weeks ago, locals say. It took them three days to unload it, and it's 2,200 feet down, they say.

ROOM NO. 8

Much of what follows is recorded at the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum, through top-secret documents and the oral history and papers of Benard Bernstein, who — at General Eisenhower's command — took charge of the mine. It's Sunday morning, April 8, in Paris. "I was having a late breakfast at the Army mess . . . Before getting to work I read the *Stars and Stripes* and saw on the first page a story out of Germany of American troops finding a great quantity of gold and silver and other treasure in a salt mine at Merkers, Germany," Bernstein said.

Col. Bernstein, a lawyer in civilian life before and after the war, is a financial adviser for civil affairs and military government under Eisenhower. That Sunday, he gets a phone call from Ike's deputy chief of staff: "Get to Merkers, and get a plan for where we're going to secure this stuff."

The Allies knew the Nazis had looted central banks in Europe to pay for the war. They knew finding that loot might even shorten the war. And the Nazi SS, which ran the concentration camps, looted its victims, taking "all kinds of gold and silver items ranging from dental work to cigarette cases, diamonds, gold and silver coins, foreign currencies, and gold and silver bars," as described by Dr. Greg Bradsher with the National Archives. A lot of that made its way to room No. 8 in the Merkers mine, 75 feet wide and 150 feet long, with a 12-foot ceiling and tram railway tracks down the middle. Bradsher lists what the Army found inside: "On either side of the tracks, stretching to the back of the cavern, were more than seven thousand bags, stacked knee-high, laid out in twenty rows. . . . Baled currency was found stacked along one side of the vault along with the gold balances and other Reichsbank equipment. At the back of the cavern, occupying an area twenty by thirty feet, were 18 bags and 189 suitcases, trunks and boxes. . . . It was obvious that it was SS loot."



DIG DEEPER

Bernard Bernstein's Oral History:



And in other tunnels, the Americans find 400 tons of artwork. Patton doesn't want this. It's a headache, and guarding the mine — five entrances, hundreds of miles of tunnels — is tying up combat troops he wants back in action. "General Patton said he was very glad that General Eisenhower was taking over responsibility for this gold," Bernstein recalled.

But Bernstein has startling news for Patton. This is the area that the Allies have agreed will be occupied by the Soviet Union once the war ends. "General Patton," he recalled, "looked astounded at what I had told him. He said he ... would do everything possible to facilitate me in my mission."

APRIL 12, 1945

April 12, 1945 was a big day in Merkers, Germany. Bernstein is there. The night before, Patton's office called: Be at the mine at 9 in the morning. He arrives early and makes sure everything seems to be in working order. He is expecting Patton, but 9 a.m. comes and goes. "I began to walk up and down, thinking of the work I had to do," Bernstein said. "Suddenly my eyes lighted on the front end of a Jeep on which was a plaque with five stars in a circle on it."

"I automatically straightened, because I knew there was only one person entitled to that

designation ... and I saluted and found myself looking into the faces of General Eisenhower, General Patton and General Bradley, the three of them sitting in one Jeep." He leads the men — three of America's top generals — on an hour-long tour of the mine. "I had some bad moments which I didn't reveal to them," he recalled later. "We were going down a long elevator shaft on what was essentially a wooden platform that was operated by a German. There were an awful lot of stars there at risk."

But it wasn't a general who was lost that day. After touring the mine, Eisenhower, Patton and Bradley are at dinner. Patton says his men have a couple of ideas about the loot, one of which is to melt down the gold and make medallions — "one for every son of a bitch in the Third Army." Ike looks at Bradley and laughs. "He's always got an answer," he says. It's close to midnight, and the three generals are still together when an urgent message is received: President Franklin Roosevelt is dead. Harry Truman is their new commander-in-chief.

MONUMENTS MEN

The war is ending, the Russians will have Merkers, and Ike wants everything moved. Twenty-four hours after his visit to the mine, a top aide to Eisenhower calls Bernstein, who tells him to tell the general he's on it 24 hours

a day until it's done. Bernstein organizes a convoy, mostly for the gold, to a bank in Frankfurt. The trucks are guarded by five infantry platoons, military police, two machine gun platoons and anti-aircraft platoon with 10 guns. P-51 Mustang fighters are overhead. Two days later, a second convoy — 26 10-ton trucks, also heavily guarded — moves the art to Frankfurt.

"From the very outset it was realized that the art objects in the mine were of great value," an Army memo from the Truman Library archives says. The memo, dated less than a week after the generals' visit to the mine, concludes by describing the "elaborate arrangements" the Nazis have made to hide their wealth. "Every step should be taken in Germany to obtain information of the assets secreted both inside and outside Germany," it says, "so that these assets cannot be used to perpetuate Nazism or contribute to the rebuilding of Nazi influence."

One historic step to achieve that aim: The Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives program. The effort involved nearly 345 Monuments Men — and women — who worked to save as much as possible, ultimately more than 5 million artistic and cultural items.

Jeff Fox is a reporter and editor at *The Examiner*.

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TRUism # 52

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Truman Legacy Society members plan today so that Truman's legacy can live on tomorrow.

The Truman Library has been a highlight for me for more than 30 years. The programs, museum exhibitions and close association with President Truman's legacy provide an experience like no other. I came to Kansas City as a professor of microbiology (University of Missouri – Kansas City). I had always been a fan of Harry Truman, but, once here, I developed an even greater appreciation for his decisive leadership in the crucible of World War II and the Cold War. I feel deeply that the stories of Harry Truman's life and presidency need to be shared. In 2000, I decided to

support the mission of the Truman Library by joining the Truman Library Institute's Honorary Fellows program; four years later, I included the Truman Library Institute in my estate plan. Through the preservation and interpretation of presidential documents, artifacts and objects, they are helping students to better understand our democracy and helping to prepare America's future citizens and leaders. I'm glad to be a part of this important work.

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President Truman's legacy and library depend on Dr. Marvin Rogolsky and people like you. To discuss your planned gift, please request information using the enclosed envelope, or contact Judy Turner at 816.268.8246.

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