

Michigan Every Day

By Patrick Sullivan and Carole Eberly

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Truman defeats Dewey

The nation and, famously, the nation's media, expected Thomas Dewey would defeat Harry S Truman in the presidential election of 1948. Dewey was the governor of New York but, because he was a native of Owosso, people in his hometown followed the election results closely. Dewey was born over his father's general store and one of his teachers in Owosso remembered Dewey as "the most cantankerous little devil that she ever encountered." He went to the University of Michigan and Columbia University before he became famous for fighting the Mafia as a prosecutor in New York. By the time he ran for president, his hometown in Shiawassee County was ready for its place in the national spotlight. Citizens printed fliers with Dewey's mustachioed face that beamed "Welcome Home" and civic leaders planned a victory celebration downtown. Such preparations were not as embarrassing to the town as the *Chicago Tribune* headline "DEWEY DEFEATS TRUMAN" was to that newspaper. But it was not to be for Owosso when the votes of Nov. 3 were tallied.