

**FREE**

# School News

*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*

**Covering the Monrovia Unified School District**



Volume 6, Issue 27

November / December 2019

## Monroe Students Participate in a March Against Bullying



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# School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

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**Covering the  
MONROVIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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Superintendent Dr. Thorossian begins this issue on the next page with her message about Enrichment Opportunities.

As you read the articles in this issue you will understand why it is a great time to be a student.

Thank you for your wonderful comments when you email your

entries in our Word Search Contests. Things to Sit On is the topic for the contest in this issue on page 10. We have also included student book reviews on pages 9 & 10. If your child would like to be a student columnist, please email me for the guidelines.

Our next issue is January 8, 2020 just in time to begin the New Year!

## Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from the *School News* staff!



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# Enrichment Opportunities



**Dr. Katherine Thorossian**  
Superintendent

At Monrovia Unified School District, we pride ourselves in providing a wealth of enrichment opportunities that prepare and equip our students to pursue the next phase in their educational careers. Our students have been busy excelling this year in programs such as Dual Language immersion, robotics, coding, the arts, and athletics.

Our Spanish Dual Language immersion program, which is now offered at two elementary schools, is showing promising success. Our TK/K students are picking up on the curriculum and we continue to be impressed by their drive and excitement, as well as our wonderful staff and faculty who lead their learning.

Over the last few months, our elementary students have learned new coding components to incorporate into video games they are building. They also have learned the importance of kindness and being part of a bully-free campus.

On Sept. 20, our students from Monroe Elementary School participated in a march to express their opposition of bullying. Students pledged to be bully-free and to continue the school's dynamic of kindness and positive peer relationships.



**Student making coffee for the MHS Roasters Program**

At Monrovia High School, the WorkAbility and Transition Partnership programs have given our students with disabilities a wonderful opportunity. Students are now taking part in the Monrovia High Roasters program, which has allowed them to learn the responsibilities of being employed, all while selling hot beverages to our wonderful faculty and staff.

I would like to thank our community partners for their continued support of our District and our students. These partnerships are invaluable to our students, as they provide emotional support, the arts, and literacy across our District.

Monrovia Unified has had a productive start to the school year and I look forward to sharing about our students' continued success and academic achievements this year.

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# Canyon Early Learning Center

1000 South Canyon Blvd., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-2001  
[celc.monroviashools.net](http://celc.monroviashools.net)



**Tom McFadden**  
Director

## Parent Involvement

September and October were busy times for the students, staff, and parents at Canyon Early Learning Center (CELC). The students moved through the opening unit of our curriculum and transitioned to the second curricular unit in mid-October.

CELC hosted an array of family engagement opportunities in September.

CELC held its first Parent Advisory Council (PAC) meeting of the year. This dynamic group of parents discussed projects and procedures that the committee will be focusing on for the year.

CELC students also had a very special day of recognition: Grandparents Day. CELC teachers planned in class activities and passed out certificates that celebrated the meaningful role grandparents and their families play in the development of the preschoolers.

September also saw the first Parent Education Night at CELC. Our staff provided parents with information on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) for preschool students. The event was well received, and parents are looking forward to the PBIS workshops that will take place throughout the year.

CELC also held its first fund-raiser of the year at a local yogurt shop. The CELC staff arranged the fund-raiser so families could enjoy a tasty treat while benefiting the school. It was a win-win for all!

September was a busy and productive month at CELC, and we look forward to more family engagement as the year progresses!

## School News

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# Bradoaks *Elementary*

930 East Lemon Ave., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-2100  
[bradoaks.monroviashools.net](http://bradoaks.monroviashools.net)



**Jayne Nickles**  
Principal

## Family Reading Night

Bradoaks recently hosted a Family Reading Night in early October. During this time together we talked about the importance of reading every night. We also discussed how to introduce a new book with your child, such as asking questions about the story and prompting your student as they learn to read. Our families had time to practice these reading skills together as they snuggled up with a good book!

Our Bradoaks Bobcats will also participate in a school-wide reading bingo card while reading different genres such as fairy tales, how-to books, informational text, female protagonists, and so much more. Our Bobcats now read more books that they love and are interested in!

Also, in the month of October, all of our grades will be focusing on the Next Generation Science Standards with creative, hands-on lessons about pumpkins. Let's carve out some fun!



The students have recently observed decomposed pumpkins in the garden, discussed the gravitational force of a pumpkin drop, and measured the gravitational splat of pumpkins. In a culminating event soon to be presented by our own Monrovia Fire Department, firefighters will do the annual pumpkin drop from their ladder truck.

Go, Bobcats!

# Canyon Oaks H.S./Mountain Park/Monrovia Community Adult

930 Royal Oaks Dr., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-3000 • [www.MonroviaSchools.net](http://www.MonroviaSchools.net)



**Flint Fertig**  
Principal

## The Ultimate Goal

*By Calvin McKendrick, Assistant Principal*

Creating a Career Pathways for All Students program is a top priority at Canyon Oaks High School and Mountain Park School. By offering courses that qualify students to apply for any university in the state, our schools provide the opportunity for students with unique circumstances to pursue

paths that will help them to achieve their career aspirations.

Ashley Sanchez was one of those students. In 2016, at the age of 17, Ashley was ranked as a top high school recruit and named U.S. Soccer's Youth Women's Player of the Year. That year, Ashley played in both the under-17 and under-20 World Cup competitions and became the first player in U.S. history to play in two World Cups in one calendar year. So how was she able to accomplish all of this and still graduate from high school?

As a student at Mountain Park, Ashley was able to customize her schedule to allow her to complete coursework during weeks she was competing abroad. Ashley is now in her third year at University of California, Los Angeles, and she is enjoying life as a college student. Without the opportunity to tailor her academic load to fit her demanding athletic obligations, Ashley would have had a tough time realizing her ultimate goal.



## Clifton Middle School

226 South Ivy Ave., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-2600 • [clifton.monroviaschools.net](http://clifton.monroviaschools.net)



**Jennifer Jackson**  
Principal

## Building Empathy

The Kids for Animals Club is in its second year at Clifton Middle School, thanks to a partnership with the Pasadena Humane Society and SPCA and advisor Jo Porter. The purpose of this club is to promote the gentle, considerate understanding of the domestic and wildlife animals in our community.

The club is open to any sixth-, seventh-, or eighth-grader who would like to meet with and, hopefully, develop friendships with

like-minded animal lovers while also learning about and supporting animals.

Our club supports the domestic animals at PHS, as they await their forever homes, by making treats, toys, and blankets for these dogs, cats, and rabbits. Kids for Animals members learn about the proper care and treatment of animals, including how to read their body language to better understand them, and how to safely live among our wildlife in Monrovia.

This year the club looks forward to having more guest speakers, and will soon host a special assembly event to welcome a local dog trainer to speak to the Clifton campus.



## Mayflower *Elementary*

210 North Mayflower Ave., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-2200 • [mayflower.monroviaschools.net](http://mayflower.monroviaschools.net)



**Michele Costarella**  
*Principal*

### Teaching and Learning Garden

It is with great excitement and anticipation that Mayflower School recently opened a new teaching and learning garden! With gracious support from our PTA, Mayflower was able to work with Enrich LA to construct an amazing raised-bed garden, complete with drip irrigation and an outdoor classroom. All students at Mayflower will cycle through the garden during

the school year, learning about various related topics that also align with the Next Generation Science Standards. The ongoing program offers weekly class sessions, taught by a garden ranger who utilizes a hands on approach to sharing interdisciplinary curriculum aligned to the NGSS. These hands on experiences are sure to provide our students with a plethora of knowledge and new opportunities. Students will enjoy learning about everything from conservation, planting, harvesting and cooking to environmental stewardship, compost, the garden food chain, pollination and more.

We are thrilled about the new addition to our campus and look forward to our students learning in an active, outdoor environment.



## Monroe *Elementary*

402 West Colorado Blvd., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-2300 • [monroe.monroviaschools.net](http://monroe.monroviaschools.net)



**Dr. Lily Jarvis**  
*Principal*

### Newest Cotsen School

Monroe Elementary is excited to join Plymouth Elementary as a Cotsen School for the 2019–20 school year. The Cotsen Foundation was established in 2001 by Lloyd Cotsen, and its focus is to help teachers perfect their teaching craft in a selected content area.

Through a competitive selection process, the Cotsen Art of Teaching program works in schools across California to build excellent teachers. Teachers, or fellows, team alongside a mentor who works to facilitate their growth through an intensive two-year mentoring program. Cotsen fellows are encouraged to attend workshops, labs and conferences; participate in classroom observations; and meet weekly with their mentor to reflect and hone their teaching practice in their area of expertise. Fellows attend professional development opportunities focused on cutting-edge, research-based

instructional practices in balanced literacy or Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI) math practices and work to implement these techniques in their classrooms. The Cotsen mentor works with fellows in the coaching process, providing feedback and data to help fellows achieve their teaching goals in order to best meet the needs of their students.

As a Cotsen school, Monroe Elementary will receive opportunities to build teacher expertise, parent engagement and professional learning opportunities for the school community. At the end of the two-year program, Monroe will join Cotsen alumni schools Bradoaks and Wild Rose to continue building on the work of the program through additional grant and conference opportunities.

We are proud to announce the Cotsen Foundation for the Art of Teaching fellows selected for the 2019–21 cohort: Erin Iler, Gladys Inda, Christina Mallette, Alison Meloserhoff, Jennifer Miura, Brenda Rivas and mentor Erica Silva.

# Monrovia High School

845 West Colorado Blvd., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-2800 • [mhs.monroviashools.net](http://mhs.monroviashools.net)



**Kirk McGinnis**  
Principal

## Closing the Opportunity Gap

Monrovia High School is proud to provide a rigorous and enriching curriculum, one designed to prepare all students for college and career. In addition to our Advanced Placement classes, Career Technical Education courses, and our specialized academies, one

special program offered to our students that will prepare them for success in college is AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination).

The AVID program is designed to facilitate and guide each student on how to achieve in school through their own individual determination. Each AVID elective class provides in-class tutoring, structured note-taking, seminar-type discussions, college field trips, and speakers.

These opportunities are designed to create a more equitable and student-centered approach to help close the opportunity gap and prepare students for college, career, and life. We will be celebrating our first cohort of four-year AVID graduates in June of 2020.



# Plymouth Elementary

1300 Boley St., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-2400 • [plymouth.monroviashools.net](http://plymouth.monroviashools.net)



**Dr. Greg Gero**  
Principal

## The Moon and Stars Family Night!

Plymouth recently hosted an astronomical event! In early October our Plymouth families and students gathered together for our school's annual Moon & Stars Family Night. The event was hosted by our PTA, and it focused on providing fun-filled STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) activities for our children and their families.



The night was filled with many exciting opportunities, including space-themed art projects, hands-on robotics demonstrations, make-your-own light-up fireflies, and a cardboard rover-building challenge.

As the sky grew dark our guests made their way over to a set of high-powered telescopes provided by a local astronomers group. Students and families were then treated to some amazing views of the night sky, including the moon, stars, and even Saturn's rings!

Throughout the night our guests were also treated to live music with a moon and stars theme, as well as delicious food from a gourmet food truck. What a fantastic event for our Plymouth families!



## Santa Fe *Computer Magnet School*

148 West Duarte Rd., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-2700 • [santafe.monroviaschools.net](http://santafe.monroviaschools.net)



**Dr. Geoff Zamarripa**  
*Principal*

### Safety Every Day

Santa Fe is committed to providing a positive and safe learning environment every day for every awesome Cougar scholar. To support this goal, we have developed two important initiatives in concert with Monrovia Unified School District.

We have launched year two of the Olweus Anti-Bullying Program. We focus on this curriculum in our weekly Cougar Coaching class sessions in which students work

together to learn about the negative effects of bullying and how each of us can be a resource to stop bullying.

We have also launched our No Vape Campaign, which includes education about the dangers of vaping. Our students have responded in typical Santa Fe fashion: they are standing up against this scourge. Fun activities to bring awareness to both of these healthy lifestyle behaviors have been student-organized through our ASB and our counselor, Jen Oldenburg.

Evidence of these initiatives is seen daily around campus and within our community. Our staff has embraced our theme of "Every Cougar Counts." We love working with your children; they are our future!

## Wild Rose *School of Creative Arts*

232 Jasmine Ave., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-2500 • [wildrose.monroviaschools.net](http://wildrose.monroviaschools.net)



**Penny Fraumeni**  
*Interim Principal*

### Celebrating Our Performers

Wild Rose School of Creative Arts (SOCA) has had an exciting start to the school year. Last fall, we were awarded a highly competitive grant through a local theater group that now provides our students and teachers with training led by theater professionals.

This fall, all that hard work will be showcased in our production of "Disney's 101 Dalmatians Kids," which will feature over

75 performers ranging from Transitional Kindergarten through fifth grade. In addition, through a partnership with a well-known dance institute, Wild Rose SOCA fourth-grade students have the opportunity to participate in weekly dance lessons taught by an instructor from the institute.

We are so proud of our students here at Wild Rose and recognize that the strength of our experts in every classroom will continue to nurture greater levels of success. We hope to see you all on the evenings of November 14 and 15 for "Disney's 101 Dalmatians Kids!"

## Common Sense Media

### Research: What Parents Need to Know About Kids, Media, and Body Image



How kids think, feel, and act about their bodies is a critical piece of their self-esteem and overall healthy development. Common Sense Media's new research report, *Children, Teens, Media, and Body Image*, examines the role of traditional and digital media in the development of children's and teens' body image. This review of existing research reveals some surprising trends -- such as that half of 6- to 8-year-old girls feel their ideal body size is thinner than their current one -- but it also shows evidence that parents play a huge part in shaping how kids relate to their bodies. Some key findings:

- Many kids are dissatisfied with their bodies, and society's body appearance ideals are highly unrealistic.
- Body-image concerns start early; even preschoolers learn that society judges people by how they look.
- Parents' attitudes toward their own bodies are a big influence on how kids feel about their bodies.

- Unrealistic, sexualized, and stereotypical images and messages about bodies and gender are rampant in the media kids consume.
- Teens feel pressure to look good and cool online but also feel that social media helps their friendships and connections with like-minded peers.
- Although young girls are most susceptible, boys have issues with body image too.

Our report uncovers large gaps in research on body image and media. Several groups -- young children, boys, kids of color, LGBTQ youth -- are not well-studied, and research on online, digital media has yet to keep pace with the explosion in their use by kids and teens

Common Sense Media is an independent nonprofit organization offering unbiased ratings and trusted advice to help families make smart media and technology choices. Check out our ratings and recommendations at [www.commonsensemedia.org](http://www.commonsensemedia.org)

## Jenna's Review



Jenna C.

### Full of Adventures

Title: *The Land of Stories* by Chris Colfer

This book is about twins who visit a place called the Land of Stories. They go on different adventures and meet different characters such as Froggy, Goldilocks,



Queen Red Riding Hood, Jack, and Mother Goose. Froggy is a prince who was turned into a frog by Enchantress Ezmia. Froggy is the Bailey twins' friend and the first character the Bailey twins met at the land of stories. Froggy is related to the charming brothers and is afraid of going back home. Now he lives in the Dwarf forests. When Queen Red Riding Hood loses in an election between her and Bo Peep, soon after Bo Peep's death, the citizens of Red Riding Hood Kingdom elect Froggy to be their king. Froggy changed Red Riding Hood's kingdom's name into The Center Kingdom and finds the love of his life, Red Riding Hood! There are a lot more adventures readers can explore in this book.

Jenna is a 4th grader. She enjoys playing soccer and painting. She likes to read fiction novels. Someday she wants to publish a book.

## Kailani's Review



Kailani T.

### Finding Treasure

*Unicorn Magic, the Hidden Treasure*, is 1 of the 4 books in Unicorn Magic chapter book series written by Jessica Burkhart.



Bella (the Princess of Crystal Kingdom) & Glimmer (her unicorn pet) travel together to hunt for a magical

crystal that is hidden deep inside Crystal Castle. If they don't find this hidden treasure in 1 week, Queen Fire (Bella's evil aunt) will take Glimmer away from Bella. The best friends go through the Dark Forest, the stables of the unicorns, and through the castle rooms. Glimmer uses her magical power to protect Bella through the journey. Bella doesn't have any magical power, but her love for Glimmer gave her the courage and strength to keep fighting/looking for the hidden crystal. Reading this book makes me feel like I'm on the adventurous journey with them. I gave this book 5/5 stars for bringing me through an exciting journey. I recommend this book for anyone who loves adventure, princesses, and unicorns.

Kailani is a 2nd grader. When not playing with or reading to her baby brother, Kailani enjoys coloring and drawing. Her favorite weekend activities are ballet, hula, and musical theater.



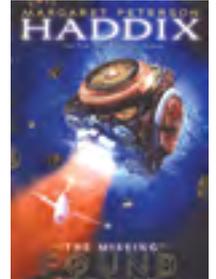
## Ethan's Review



Ethan H.

### Who Are They?

*Found* is the first book of the series *The Missing*. It is about two boys named Jonah and Chip who are regular kids in the 20th century. When Jonah and Chip start getting mysterious



letters in the mail, they set out on a quest for clues to answer the question, "Who are we?" They discover many secrets and learn that people from the future are coming to get them. Will Jonah and Chip learn who they truly are before time catches up to them? I loved his book because it's full of surprises! I would recommend it to anyone who is interested in time travel and mysteries.

Ethan H. is a fourth grader. He likes science, reading, history and physical activities like soccer and basketball.

## Manhar's Book Review



Manhar M.

### Doing Homework

*Homework Hassles* (Ready, Freddy!—Series 3) by Abby Klein

I was recently introduced to the book series of "Ready, Freddy!" and this is my favorite book so far. This book focuses on what happens when



you don't do your home assignments in a timely fashion. Freddy Thresher, a first grader, goes through a big problem when his teacher wants the class to do reports on nocturnal animals. He couldn't find an animal until the last moment. He went overboard with his research and got himself into trouble. The book includes exciting twists and turns in the story. The conversation of Freddy and his friends reminds me of my own conversations in the class. I couldn't stop reading the book to find out if Freddy completed his assignment on the due date. I also learned the value of friends and family through this book.

Manhar M. is in First Grade. Manhar likes science, math, coding, traveling, hiking, reading about world news and spending time in building robots from Legos.

## Yoona's Review



### The Princess's Vacation

*The Princess in Black takes a vacation*

By Shannon Hale & Dean Hale

The Princess in Black was tired because she had battled monsters all night. Then in the morning again, she had to go defeat another monster. She had 15 monsters to defeat



this week. Suddenly, The Goat Avenger came and said to the Princess that she needed to take a vacation. So the Princess packed up to go to the beach. When she was at the beach, a sea monster roared. She had to do something. While she was fighting with the sea monster, the Goat Avenger tried to protect the goats. Can the tired Princess in Black finally take more vacations at the beach? Can the Goat Avenger complete his mission? I like this book because it is related to summer vacation.

Yoona is a 2nd grader. She likes playing soccer and the piano. She likes to make stories as well.

## Katie's Review

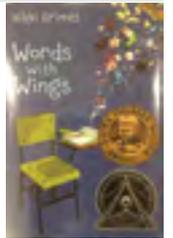


### Daydreamer

Title: *Words with Wings*

Author: Nikki Grimes

Gabby is what you would call a daydreamer. She always seemed to be in her own world and sometimes it got her in trouble. Daydreaming was a



way to escape from her parents' arguments.

She daydreamed at home, at school, everywhere — until it became a way of life. She seemed to meet everyone that discouraged her dreams, until she meets a new teacher. This new teacher shows her that her dreams can help her, that they can spark imagination and cause her to create great things. Gabby finally realizes that rather than daydreaming everything, she can WRITE. This book is a collection of poems that shows the mental growth of a girl who was lost in her own world.

Katie is in 10th grade. Her passion is to write, specifically poems. She loves to be around little kids and help them. Running is also one of her favorites.

## Things to Sit On Word Search Contest

**Rules!** One word in the list is NOT in the word search.

When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: [Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com) Please put Monrovia in the subject line.

- |            |           |
|------------|-----------|
| SOFA       | BENCH     |
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| ROCKER     | SWING     |

Entries must be received by **December 15, 2019**  
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win  
a \$20 gift card to Barnes & Noble!



**Congratulations to Crystal Serrano**  
Winner of our September Word Search Contest!

## Suffrage at 100 and Women's Sports

There I was, watching the Women's College Baseball World Series and hearing how the game had expanded since the first game in 1988. I heard about how the West Coast schools dominated the series until recently as more and more leagues entered the competition. The players were making spectacular plays and pitching great games. What had made this competition become more national?

During World War II, women played baseball as a major sports event as depicted in the film *A League of Their Own*. Yet women in sports were always second in funding—if funded at all. In 1972, the passage of Title IX created an even playing field in men and women's sports.

The political process works in slow motion at times. The women's suffrage movement in 1848 held a meeting at Seneca Falls to talk about enfranchisement when women had few legal rights. For example, California allowed women to have property rights only in 1849. A former slave, Sojourner Truth, gave a speech in 1851 to her fellow women, titled "Ain't I a Woman?" By 1868, women were more vocal in their calls for rights. The phrase "Men their rights and nothing more; women their rights and nothing less!" appeared in newsprint.

Women were winning the right to vote in western states as those states entered the Union—Wyoming in 1890 and Utah in 1896—while other western states granted women suffrage—Oregon, Kansas and Arizona in 1912, and Nevada

and Montana in 1914. Jeannette Rankin was elected to the House of Representatives in 1916 from Montana and seated in 1917. Arkansas allowed women to vote in primary elections in 1917, and by 1918, Michigan, South Dakota and Oklahoma had granted suffrage.

Still, women in most of the nation were forbidden from voting. If they did vote, they were arrested for illegal activity. In 1872, Susan B. Anthony and 15 other women were arrested for casting ballots in New York State. Alice Paul was placed in prison along with other women to break their movement for suffrage during the Great War. The story is told in the film *Iron Jawed Angels*. However, the war effort did provide a shift in public policy on suffrage. Congress passed the 19th Amendment in 1919, and it was ratified on August 26, 1920. The goal of the woman's movement at the time was to get women out of factories and back into the home, children into school and out of factories, and the vote.

Time has a way of making change, if only slowly. The 1950s saw the feminist movement pushing for women in the workplace, children in school and equal treatment for women. The women that played baseball in the 1880s to 1940s set the stage for suffrage 1919 and Title IX in 1972. The movement for women's suffrage not only won the vote for women but it also leveled the playing field in sports.

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## American Highways System at 100

This year one hundred years ago, the U.S. Army set out to cross the country in 62 days—a trip that would change the face of America. The convoy was composed of 81 vehicles, 24 officers, 258 enlisted men and one last-minute member that joined in Maryland. That member was Lt. Col. Dwight D. Eisenhower, who saw the trip as a lark. The trip was from Washington, D.C., to Oakland, California—a distance of 3,251 miles.

The trip was a local celebration as it moved across the country. Cheering crowds would meet the convoy in cities, and in Ohio, the police escorted the convoy across the state. Then, in Wyoming, the men were invited to a dance. It was here that Ike played a joke on the troops that almost backfired on him. Ike told the troops that the convoy was vulnerable to Native Americans and posted sentinels. Then Ike and a few others made yelps in the dark. A rifle was discharged during the night. A message of a raid on the convoy by Native Americans was being readied to be sent

to Washington. Ike stopped the message before it was sent, thus preventing a major political crisis.

The convoy averaged six mile per day, slowed by weather and poor road conditions. The trip in Ike's report stated that 88 bridges were damaged and there were 230 road accidents. Furthermore, Ike said that transcontinental movement for the military was impractical until the roads were improved.

Later, during World War II, General Eisenhower viewed the German Autobahn and change his view of a two-lane road system to a wider road system. His experiences on the road trip and World War II helped shape his view on the need of American highways. As president, he signed the Interstate Highway Act in 1956, creating 46,100 miles of interstate roads. Route 66 and other roads would be replaced by the Dwight D. Eisenhower National System of Interstate and Defense Highways.

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