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THOMAS E. DEWEY - 1942



Our photo this week shows Thomas E. Dewey "glad handling" local voters on Wednesday, Oct. 14, 1942. Dewey who is centered here, was running for governor of New York for the first time fifty-five years ago. Also in the picture, is Herbert "Hippy" Reed, Orleans County Republican Chairman. This picture was taken on the Court House Square in Albion with the Swan Library faintly showing in the background.

The Albion Advertiser of Oct. 22, 1942 reported as follows: "Arriving here at 3:30 Wednesday afternoon, Thomas E. Dewey and his party were greeted with a large audience at the Four Corners. He spoke briefly and then moved on to Holley and later to Rochester, where over 5,000 people were waiting his arrival."

As we know, Dewey was elected and served as our Governor from 1943-1954. In 1948 he ran for President but was narrowly defeated by Harry Truman.

Looking the crowd over in this photo it is plain that politics was largely men's business back then as there are no women to be seen here. Note the sailor's hat being worn by a Service man in the background. Dewey spoke of the need to submit junk metal for the scrap drive and war effort.

Herbert Reed 1872-1945, an Albion Attorney, was first elected Orleans County Republican Chairman in 1910 and served until 1912. In 1931 he was again elected to that position which he held until his death. He was also a member of the State Republican Committee.

Thomas E. Dewey possessed a talent and skill which is envied by all political figures. He had a photographic memory of people and the ability to remember their names even if only meeting them once. My grandfather, Ross Wilson, told that in 1942 when Dewey was here, he went to Holley to hear him, hoping he might get a chance to also shake hands with him. Well, he got his chance and was introduced to Dewey. Around five years later when my grandfather was Supervisor of the Town of Albion he was in Albany for a meeting that was also attended by Governor Dewey. My grandfather, in going through the receiving line, was quickly greeted by Dewey as: "Ross Wilson, I met you in Holley. Glad to see you again". My grandfather was astounded and totally flabbergasted that Dewey had remembered him, especially from such a brief uneventful introduction five years before. Needless to say, Ross Wilson always voted for Thomas E. Dewey.