

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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### **Thirtieth President**

Yesterday, April 28, was the publication date for "The Memoirs of Herbert Hoover" with a subtitle "The Cabinet and the Presidency, 1920-1933." With this 400-page book Mr. Hoover continues the story of his career, begun in the first volume of his memoirs "Years of Adventure, 1874-1920."

Volume I covers the years of his boyhood and early career up to his activities of World War I. Volume II begins with his return from Europe and his entrance into public life and administrative work in the United States.

Both Volume I and Volume II are of special interest to Monterey residents because of the early associations here of both Mr. and Mrs. Hoover. Lou Henry Hoover was the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Charles Henry, whose home was on the corner of Pacific and Jackson streets in Monterey, before building a newer home on Martin street.

Mr. Henry was for many years connected with the Bank of Monterey, of which Thomas Field was the president. Mrs. Jean Henry Large of Monterey and Palo Alto, is a sister of the late Mrs. Hoover.

Herbert Hoover, 30<sup>th</sup> President of the United States, was born in West Branch, Iowa, in 1874. He received his A.B. degree in engineering at Stanford University in 1895 and entered upon a career of a mining engineer. Following their marriage in 1899, Mr. and Mrs. Hoover spent three years in China and six years in other parts of the world. In 1913 and 1914 Mr. Hoover represented the Panama-Pacific Exposition in Europe until he was caught up on World War I and became chairman of the Commission of Relief in Belgium. When the United States entered the war, Mr. Hoover became U.S. Food Administrator, a member of the War Trade Council, chairman of the U.S. Grain Corporation, member of the U.S. Sugar Equalization Board and the Inter-Allied Food Council. With the end of the war he was appointed director of European Rehabilitation and Relief by Wilson, Clemenceau, Orlando, and Lloyd George. At this time he was also a member of the Supreme Economic Council, the European Coal Council, and the American Relief Administration. In 1920 he became chairman of the European Relief Council. With the impressive list of

responsibilities and many others which space does not permit listing, is it any wonder that Hoover's memoirs are fascinating reading?

Mr. Hoover writes in his preface: "Every autobiography has a major justification. It presents the participation of an individual among forces and events which, as recorded, contribute pieces of mosaic to the historian. From these pieces the historian created great murals of human experience – with the hope that they will illuminate the way of human progress."

The entire last paragraph in Mr. Hoover's preface refers to the family's home on the Stanford campus which was planned entirely by Mrs. Hoover – it had been her dream house of many years but unfortunately she was allowed very little time to make it a home. It was a Hopi house (not Spanish) with flat roofs, and all modern inside, containing many treasures from both home and abroad.

The contents of Chapter 44 will be the most interesting to women readers. It is titled "An Interlude – Living in the White House." Mr. Hoover describes the executive mansion as "far more than a beautiful building. Its rooms and halls are alive with the invisible presence of the great leaders of our country. Here all our Presidents since John Adams had worked and striven for the public good. Here the great conferences with the leaders of the Congress and the nation have worked out measures for the welfare of our country. The spiritual winds which blow through these halls are a constant call to the rightness and devotion for the service of our people."

Mr. Hoover further declared that tradition and history recall some incident in every room. They began when Abigail Adams hung her washing in the then unfinished East Room and do not end with the great sideboard bought by the dimes of the "Bands of Hope" and presented to Mrs. Hayes then the First Lady. She had made the White House "dry." The Theodore Roosevelt's in refurnishing the dining room had had the old sideboard sold at auction and it is said to have been bought by a Pennsylvania Avenue saloonkeeper who installed it in his bar.

The memoirs tell of the research done by Mrs. Hoover as to the use of the various rooms and their furnishings, in order that they might be restored to their original status and appearance.

The book is fascinating reading. It is published by MacMillan Company and is priced at \$5.