

Story of Herbert Hoover As Office Boy Is Related By Former Salem Minister

Under the heading "Herbert Hoover, Office Boy" the current number of The Statesman, published in the morning, carries a story which is a continuation of the paper with a wide circulation, printed following from the Rev. James H. Minthorn, president of the Home Mission Council, who presented the paper at the Salem, Oregon, conference of the First Congregational church of Salem, and chairman of the development committee of the Home Mission Council, and Salem Minister.

By JAMES KELVIN
President of Home Mission Council, Oregon.

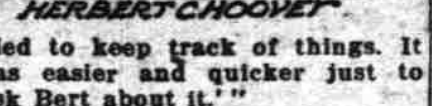
Salem, the beautiful city of Oregon, the pearl of the Willamette Valley, is as proud as a peacock. In this town Herbert Hoover took his place in the world of business as office boy for the Oregon Land company, and no town or city has followed the career of Mr. Hoover with greater interest. All of the old-timers in Salem are perfectly familiar with the Hoover pedigree.

Hoover's ancestors Jesse Hoover had pioneered to Iowa with his parents, who were members of the Quaker community that established West Branch, Iowa. Hulda Minthorn Hoover, before her marriage to Jesse Hoover, the blacksmith, had been the "lady of the house." Her mother, Mary Minthorn, was a woman who valued education, and who, although a widow, had been successful in raising and educating her children. Her son graduated from the University of Iowa. Hulda was sent to a private school and later to Iowa University. But before Hulda became the wife of Jesse Hoover, she realized that more than educational training, she needed domestic training. In order to secure this training it is family history that Hulda actually apprenticed herself out in a neighbor's home and soon acquired a reputation for capability in household management. After her marriage it is said that Hulda's home was the brightest and the most "spick and span" floors and the most inviting silver service and culinary equipment of any Quaker household in the community.

There was good stuff on the father's side, too. When we examine the Hoover family tree, we come face to face with a sturdy ancestor, who left France, his native land, in search of religious freedom, came to America and founded the Hoover family on this new soil.

Hoover Comes to Salem After the death of Jesse Hoover and his wife the boy Herbert came to Newberg, Ore., on the Willamette river, and later to Salem, to live with Dr. John Minthorn, president of the Oregon Land company and brother of Herbert Hoover's mother. Many people still living in Salem remember vividly old Uncle John Minthorn.

We get an interesting picture of the office boy from the lady who formerly was the secretary of the Oregon Land company. She declares: "Herbert Hoover was the quietest, the most efficient and the most industrious boy I ever knew in an office. He even wore quiet shoes and you never knew he was around until you wanted him and wanted something, and then he was right at your elbow. He knew everything about the office and the rest of us never



HERBERT HOOVER

tried to keep track of things. It was easier and quicker just to ask Bert about it."

Office Boy "Encyclopedia" "He had a little table near my desk and it always had a geometry or a book of geology on it. Whenever he was not doing anything else he was hunched up over this table and his book. He was a funny looking little fellow, with a short neck, and a round head which was always covered with a hat. There was nothing striking about him except his persistent application to his job and his pile of books. No one thought much about him. But his scent of learning was keen, and what he knew he knew, so his instructors and his neighbors were accustomed to call him 'the walking encyclopedia.'"

The old building where Herbert Hoover served as office boy is still standing on the corner of Commercial street and North Commercial streets in Salem, and in these days is an object of much curiosity. Soon after the World war, the world-renowned Herbert Hoover and his two sons visited the familiar spot. Much water has passed under his bridges since the day when he sat at the table in the corner poring over geology. In one of the photographic studios in Salem, there is a photograph of a horse car once driven by Herbert Hoover.

Saves for Education Not only did he perform the duties of office boy for the Oregon Land company but driving, running errands and assisting his brother at the printing trade were only a few of the odd jobs by which Bert added to the fund he was putting away for the much-longed-for education. It was Grandma Mary Minthorn who never ceased telling the office and home conversing with the boy. Suddenly the engineer said to him, "Son, why don't you go in for engineering?" He talked in the most interesting manner of the coming development of the Far West, of mines and farms and railroads of the joy of an

engineer's career, with its outdoor life, its intellectual thrill, its far-reaching possibilities. He concluded, "Seantor Stanford? Opening a new university down in California next year, and they are going to have one of the best men in the world for head of the mining and geology departments. John Branner. Tuition will be free and an ambitious boy can work his way through." Hoover had been listening eagerly.

When the stranger went out of that office, the boy Hoover was transformed with a change as sudden and revolutionary as a sincere religious conversion. Instantly the boy was changed into a man. The vision had arrived. The son's awakening had taken place. The talk that afternoon with the mining engineer had set his life on fire. Salem could never be the same again. After that memorable afternoon, it was California and Stanford University and nothing else.

Estors University Later he was fortunate in meeting Prof. Joseph Swain, head of the Stanford University department of mathematics. Professor Swain said to him, "If you will come down to Palo Alto a few weeks before the university opens take tuition in mathematics and English and pass examinations in them, I think I can get you admitted."

In the month of June, 1891, Herbert Hoover quitted his job as office boy in Salem, and started for Palo Alto to matriculate at Stanford University. The following story is told by one of his former instructors at the university. This instructor overheard a student talking about Hoover's luck and rebuked him with this statement: "Hoover has not had luck he has had reward. If I tell any of you to go and do a thing, I have to come around later and see if it is done, but if I told Hoover to start for Kamachka to bring me a walrus tooth, I'd never hear of it again until he came back with the tooth." Rapidly the former office boy rose to leadership in his profession and soon was drawing a large salary.

General Markets

DAIRY
PORTLAND, Ore., Oct. 1. (AP)—Butter: Cream 50c; standards 49c; prime firsts 48c; firm 45c; medium cream firsts 44c; firm 42c; under-cased 34c.

EGG
PORTLAND, Ore., Oct. 1. (AP)—Eggs: Extra large firsts 28c; medium firsts 27c; large firsts 26c; under-cased 24c.

PRODUCE
PORTLAND, Ore., Oct. 1. (AP)—Milk: Steady, raw milk (4 per cent) 12.45; whole milk (3.5 per cent) 11.75; western milk 11.15; hard winter 11.10; northern spring 11.00; western 10.95.

GRAIN
PORTLAND, Ore., Oct. 1. (AP)—Wheat: Hard winter 1.15; hard winter 1.10; northern spring 1.10; western 1.05.

MEATS
PORTLAND, Ore., Oct. 1. (AP)—Pork: Receipts—5560, including 1674 billed through and on contract. Butcher's stock 81,000 lbs. medium 11.65; calves 25, steers 25.50; higher, she-stock 25 to 25c higher.

CHICAGO GRAIN
CHICAGO, Oct. 1. (AP)—Big additions to the United States wheat supply from the year, dampened speculative enthusiasm in today's stock market, failed to bring out any extensive liquidation.

NEW YORK STOCKS
NEW YORK, Oct. 1. (AP)—Ten per cent call money, making its second appearance of the year, dampened speculative enthusiasm in today's stock market, failed to bring out any extensive liquidation.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTRIX
Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been duly appointed by the County Court of Marion, as Executrix of the Last Will and Testament and estate of Alexander Turnbull, deceased, and that she has qualified as such executrix; all persons having claims against the estate of Alexander Turnbull, deceased, are hereby notified to present the same duly verified to me, at the office of Ronald C. Glover, my attorney, 203 Oregon Building, Salem, Marion County, Oregon within six months from the date of this notice.

No. 7110 NOTICE TO CREDITORS IN THE COUNTY COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF MARION.
In the matter of the Estate of Lars Andersen, deceased.
HELEN D. TURNBULL, Executrix of the Last Will and Testament and Estate of Alexander Turnbull, deceased.

ANTI-KNOCK
Crown Gasoline needs no dope.

Salem's Universal Service Man

There are many classifications in our Classified Ad Section. These cover a range of human wants as our paper covers its territory—THOROUGHLY! Would you sell an auto, a house, or a tennis racket? Would you buy a business, hire a cook, an office boy, or a general manager? Would you rent an apartment, a room, or a house? Day and night, throughout the length and breadth of our territory, our Classified Ads are working for you, making sales, pulling in business—ALWAYS AT YOUR SERVICE! Are you—personally, individually—making proper use of the opportunity offered in our Classified Ad Section?

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Issued Daily Except Monday by The Statesman Publishing Co. 215 North Commercial St. Member of the ASSOCIATED PRESS. The Associated Press is exclusively entitled to the use for publication of all news dispatches credited to it or not otherwise credited in this paper and also to the local news published hereon.

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Daily and Sunday, by carrier, \$5.00 per year.
Monthly, \$1.00 per year.

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