

White House Maid Recalls First Ladies

NEW YORK (AP)—What president didn't want to see servants about in the White House, causing them to hide in closets sometimes? Which lady was the most considerate?

Lillian Rogers Parks, a veteran of 30 years as a White House maid, gives her answers to these questions in a book to be published Feb. 27.

Her account of doings at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. may be one of the last to be published. On Thursday it was announced that, at the request of chief usher J. Bernard West, domestic personnel there now were pledged to refrain from publishing memoirs.

Mrs. Parks tells of hundreds of incidents involving the occupants during her three decades—the amusing, the sad, the embarrassing, and the good and bad points of those she served.

Regarding various first ladies: "I think the behavior of Mrs. Truman toward the White House servants set the best example for any future first lady. She was neither too sentimental, nor too harsh."

"She didn't keep looking over our shoulders, as Mrs. Eisenhower did; and she didn't ignore the work that was done, as Mrs. Roosevelt did. Mrs. Truman was the most considerate first lady in recent decades."

"Mrs. Hoover kept the White House in the most turmoil. Things were always in such a state of flux that it would be quite true to say that she never did get completely settled. Almost every room was in a torn up state, and as soon as it was fixed one way, she would decide it would look better another way."

Mrs. Roosevelt: "If you angered her, you were a dead duck. Let one servant prove himself 'unable to get along with the rest of the help,' let him be caught quarreling or irritable, and out he would go."

Mrs. Eisenhower: "By comparison, Mrs. Eisenhower lost her temper frequently, but got over it just as quickly, and did not fire anyone. In fact, she would be exceptionally nice to make up for it." She also ordered that all left-over food be saved for later use.

"The Hoovers were fierce about servants being neither seen, nor heard, and heaven help you if you were caught in the hall when the president was coming. It was a sort of scandal around the White House, the way we would dodge into a particular closet."

Hoover's successor, Roosevelt, "gave the order to stop this and just act natural." Truman was "the most insistent that we be at ease."

Roosevelt: He had great personal wealth and gave "the impression of great generosity," but was a penny-pincher on household expenses. He also was "very sensitive to the feelings of others, a quality that made him most kind to the help."

Eisenhower had such a hot temper his wife was in constant fear he would "burst out at the wrong time," but: "He and the first lady shared an amazing bond that was a joy to behold. She was the most feminine of the four first ladies I had worked for, and showed the greatest possessiveness toward her husband."

County Judge Must Refund

PENDLETON (AP)—Umatilla County Judge D. R. Cook must repay \$235 in mileage expenses he received for travel between the courthouse here and his home in Helix, Circuit Judge Wesley F. Brown ruled Friday.

The ruling came as a result of a suit filed by Arden P. Bohna, who said he brought the action in behalf of other county taxpayers.

Brown said the county court was without authority to provide for payment of mileage allowances for transportation to and from work.

The original claim was for \$2,889, which included mileage allowance paid Cook on official business. Brown said the \$235 was paid for travel not required in performances connected with official duties.

JUICES-UP CAR

SAN MATEO, Calif. (UPI)—Orange Juice salesman Owen Cort is a man with faith in his product. When his car overheated on the San Mateo Bridge three miles from the exit Friday, he poured a quart of orange juice into the radiator, steamed fragrantly and successfully to the toll plaza and from there to the nearest service station.

