

Herbert Hoover and Harry S. Truman: a Documentary History

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women in an attempt to put Gist's experiences into context. This he does rather successfully, although some of his material is not as current as it could be.

For those interested in the history of the upper Midwest, agriculture, or rural women, this book is definitely worth reading. It provides an afternoon of enjoyable reading and is also useful as primary source material for the study of rural women's lives. Read in tandem with other firsthand accounts, Gist's recollections help to round out our historical understanding of farm women's concerns and experiences in the middle decades of this century. *Chasing Rainbows* is a heartfelt and heartwarming account.

Herbert Hoover and Harry S. Truman: A Documentary History, by Timothy Walch and Dwight M. Miller. Worland, WY: High Plains Publishing Company, 1992. xvi, 278 pp. Illustrations, appendixes, index. \$29.50 cloth.

REVIEWED BY DONALD J. LISIO, COE COLLEGE

Rarely have ex-presidents from opposing political parties become friends; rarer still have they cooperated in the execution of important public policy. Franklin D. Roosevelt totally excluded his predecessor, Herbert Hoover, from his administration. But the exile ended when Harry Truman called on Hoover to help overcome the great famine that threatened Europe immediately after the end of World War II. Hoover's skills in successfully mastering a similar threat after World War I had earned him the title "The Great Humanitarian," and Truman was correct in assuming that Hoover's skills were still as sharp as ever. Truman was so impressed by Hoover's leadership that he next asked Hoover to make a tour assessing the famine threat to one-half billion people throughout the world. Again Hoover answered the call. But Truman would not allow Hoover to rest. Determined to bring greater order and efficiency out of the numerous overlapping government agencies created during the crisis of World War II, he placed Hoover at the head of what came to be called the Hoover Commission. Once again success crowned their cooperation. Congress adopted 70 percent of the Hoover Commission's 273 recommendations, and created the General Services Administration to ensure future efficiency and savings.

This fascinating story, told primarily through the judicious choice of key letters between the two men, becomes even more interesting in a chapter titled "Not Quite Friends." Here one finds the clash of

very different yet strong personalities, each bent on the success of competing political agendas. Most striking was Truman's public attack on Hoover during the election of 1948. Fighting for his political life, Truman ridiculed Hoover as the symbol of failed Republican policies. Anyone familiar with Hoover's personality knows how deeply those attacks must have hurt him. Hoover expressed his criticisms of Truman's policies privately. They clashed over Soviet policy and Cold War issues. Still, despite their sharp differences, Hoover continued to advise Truman, and Truman was happy to continue the collaboration. After Truman left the White House, cooperation ripened into an abiding friendship that lasted until Hoover's death in 1964.

This is an excellent book. The editors have searched widely and selected wisely from hundreds of letters and diary entries that tell an intriguing story. An introduction by Richard Norton Smith and editorial explanations with each chapter are very helpful. Most importantly, however, these documents are both significant and interesting to read. The editors have recaptured the historical importance and human dimensions of the relationship between Hoover and Truman, and they have enriched the narrative quality by taking additional interesting selections from the papers of Henry L. Stimson, Edgar Rickard, Eban A. Ayers, James A. Webb, Dean Acheson, and David A. Lillenthal.

This book is highly recommended for all readers. The story of two presidents who transcended political partisanship to serve the nation and, in the process, created an enduring friendship should be known by all Americans.

American Health Quackery: Collected Essays by James Harvey Young. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1992. xii, 299 pp. Illustrations, notes, index. \$24.95 cloth.

REVIEWED BY PETER T. HARSTAD, INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

James Harvey Young is well prepared to address the history of health quackery in America. Three of his prior books, *The Toadstool Millionaires* (1961), *The Medical Messiahs* (1967), and *Pure Food: Securing the Federal Food and Drugs Act of 1906* (1989), stand out in their respective fields. Young's "continuing concern" with the theme of quackery and his "frequent return to it in lectures and articles, both to update and to view it from a fresh perspective, form the fabric of this book" (15). *American Health Quackery* presents fourteen lectures and essays prepared during the past quarter-century. The first, in which Young tells

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