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**BOOKS and REVIEWS**

**The Ordeal of Woodrow Wilson**

By Herbert Hoover. 318 pp. New York. McGraw Hill Co. \$6.00.

Reviewed by **ARTHUR HINKLEY**

Herbert Hoover, who knows first hand of presidential ordeals, has dug deep into his files and memories to build an image of Woodrow Wilson at his finest hour and to tell the sad story of how old and weary politicians broke the new world idealism.

Library shelves are lined with volumes devoted to Wilson and his plans for curing the chronic diseases of Europe after World War I, but none of the authors—and the list includes just about everyone who was around—comes close to having Hoover's qualifications for the job.

Hoover, later to serve in the White House as a representative of the opposing political party, is a Wilson man, a loyal admirer and supporter of the college president whose body gave out under the strains of peace-making, but whose zeal never faltered.

**THIS BOOK** is not a biography of Wilson—it is a section of Hoover's memoirs—a man whose public service has spanned more than four decades and may yet cover a fifth.

Hoover was an administrative engineer well acquainted with the corners of the earth when he undertook the job of feeding Europe during World War I. He uses the engineer's factual approach in putting together his story, quoting from source material and seldom drawing conclusions. It is in the eight-page preface that Hoover himself speaks out. Here is his judgment of Wilson:

"HE POSSESSED great clarity of thought, with an ability quickly to reduce problems to their bare essentials. His public addresses were often clothed with great eloquence. As a Jeffersonian Democrat he was a liberal of the nineteenth century caste."

"His training in history and economics rejected every vestige of socialism, which today connotes a liberal."

"His philosophy of American living was based upon free enterprise, both in social and in economic systems. He held that the economic system must be regulated to prevent monopoly and unfair practices. He believed that federal intervention in the economic or social life of our people was justified only when the task was greater than the states or individuals could perform for themselves."

"Coming from an academic ivory tower with only a brief political career, he at times stumbled badly in the thicket of politics."

"But above all, three qualities of greatness stood out in Woodrow Wilson. He was a man of staunch morals. He was more than just an idealist; he was the personification of the heritage of idealism of the American people. He brought spiritual concepts to the peace table. He was a born crusader."

Wilson's problems at the peace conference were summed up in a letter to his secretary:

"The difficulties here would have been incredible to me before I got here."

While Wilson failed to achieve his goals after World War I, his principles have prevailed, Hoover says. Writing 40 years after Versailles, Hoover concludes:

"Had he lived, he would have seen the league concept rise again from this second blood bath of mankind under the name of the United Nations. The spirit of Woodrow Wilson came to the world again."

Today's men and women of 50 years more concerned with Boy Scout tests and dolls when Wilson fought his crusade. To those younger, Wilson is a minor figure in history. All would broaden their

understanding of today's world through Hoover's analysis of Wilson and his ordeal at the hands of selfish, deceitful, double-dealing, avaricious antagonists.

**First Person Plural**

By Dagmar Godowsky. 249 pp. New York. The Viking Press. \$3.95.

Reviewed by **BETE GILLESPIE**

Dagmar Godowsky is a glamorous woman who lived (oh how she lived!) during the 20's when she "out-strewned them all."

This is an intimate autobiography of a woman with a zest for life and the opportunities to give vent to her enthusiasm for everything from intimate soirees with some of the world's most famous people to gourmet foods (her current passion).

Through her we meet Charlie Chaplin ("I'll never, never believe he could become a Communist"), Rudolph Valentino ("one of my whole world"), Ethel Barrymore, Fritz Kreisler, Mischa Elman . . .

**HER ANECDOTES** of the 20's which she danced through, are the best descriptive and best-written. She reports that "the only decision those days was which invitation to accept for the evening."

There are eight photos of Dagmar and "friends" included in the book beginning with the dark beauty as a child with her famous composer-pianist father and finally as she is now—"fat, and alone with Charlie, my dog."

**SEVERAL** pictures show her as a movie star. "Taking Charlie's (Chaplin) advice I worked hard in the movies. When I threw myself into something, I always work like a demon. That's because I'm lazy. Lazy people always work harder than anyone else; they're so eager to get through and lie down again."

This is the period when she met Bernice, who "cried at funerals. She had specified ratios. For five dollars she was miserably unhappy. For ten, she cried. And for fifteen, she became hysterical"—just one of the characters that fills this book of reminiscences.

**Kelly in Germany**

Army specialist 3/C John Kelly, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Kelly of Wallace street, Birmingham, recently qualified as expert in firing the light machine gun in Augsburg, Germany. He arrived in Europe in March 1955.

One month after automatic suspensions for speeding were enforced in Connecticut, traffic deaths were cut by one-third.



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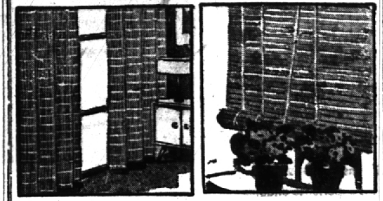
Donald E. Dorough, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jere T. Dorough of Beaconsfield, Birmingham, was recently elected president of the Clearing House, student governing body, at the Amos Tuck School of business administration, Tufts College, the graduate school in F. Roosevelt, the C. P. Shellys, the W. G. Hellers and J. B. Woods.

Dorough will direct the judicial, social, athletic and scholarship activities of the organization. A senior at Dartmouth, he will graduate in June.

**Attends Party For Accountants**

Detroit chapter of the National Association of Accountants recently had its annual May Party at the Western Golf and Country Club. Attending were the Jack Burns, the B. H. Pinsky, the E. W. Harrison, the L. E. Jackman, the W. F. Bayers, the W. F. Still others were the N. Jackson, the W. F. Bayers, the W. F. Roosevelt, the C. P. Shellys, the W. G. Hellers and J. B. Woods.

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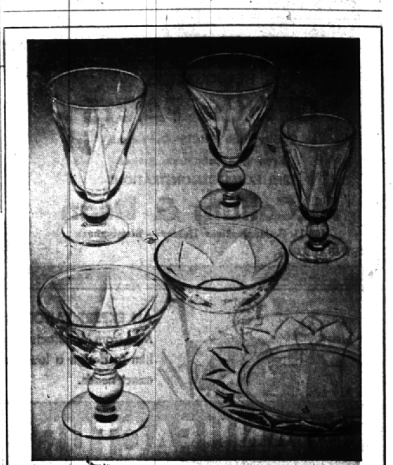
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