Area Artist Creates Hoover Statue

Dedication to be held Aug. 5 during Hoover Life Celebration

Steve Maxon of Max-Cast Sculpture and Foundry Services in Kalona has been hard at work on a statue of Herbert Hoover for display at Hoover Elementary School in West Branch. It has been 63 years since the school was dedicated to its namesake. Hoover said, “There is no greater honor that can come to a man than to have a school named after him.” This statue is a symbol of Hoover’s passion for the enrichment of children and the way he felt about the importance of education. It depicts Hoover sitting on a park bench with an arm outstretched. It’s designed in such a way that one may sit on the bench next to the president and take photos.

The work of Steve Maxon and his wife, Doris Park, is sought from coast to coast, and they are known for producing beautiful bronze works. A statue of Abraham Lincoln at Illinois College is among their most impressive. “The Lincoln statue is one of my favorites of Leslie Hoover-Lundbog poses with the clay sculpture in Maxon’s shop.

Herbert Hoover’s life-long love affair

By Tom Walsh

Often portrayed by historians as an emotionless, one-dimensional stuffed shirt, President Herbert Hoover had a torrid love affair before, during and after his four years in The White House.

It was a love affair with baseball.

“The greatest moral training, except for religious faith, comes from sportsmanship,” Hoover once wrote. “And baseball has had a greater impact on our American life than any other American sports institution.”

Orphaned at age nine, young “Bette” Hoover was raised by Quaker relatives in Iowa and later in Oregon, where coming of age involved total immersion in sandlot baseball. Many years later, in marveling at the skill of major league pitchers and catchers, Hoover seemed to be longing for those anything-goes pickup games of his youth.

“I want more runs in baseball games,” he said in a speech at the 1940 Baseball Writers’ Annual Banquet. “When you were raised on a sandlot where the scores ran 23 to 61, you yearn for something more than a 5 to 2 score. You know as well as I do that the excitement, temperature and decibels of any big game today rise instantly when there is somebody on base. It reaches ecstasy when somebody makes a run. I protest that we fans are being emotionally starved and frustrated by the perfection of these batteries.”

In 1964, four months before his death at age 90, the ailing former President sent this note after receiving a season pass for all major league games: “That pass tells me it’s spring again! And I shall tell my doctors a ball game has more curative powers than their medicines.” In acknowledging a season pass he received the year before, Hoover told New York Mets’ executive M.D. Grant: “I pride myself on being one of the oldest (baseball fans), I can certainly count up about seventy years of devotion.”

Hoover’s fascination with baseball never spilled over into a notable playing career. After he arrived in August of 1891 as a “pioneer” member of Stanford University’s first student body, an adolescent “Bert” Hoover made an effort to win a spot on the Stanford baseball squad. “I

Hoover-Ball Turns 30

This year, the Foundation celebrates the 30th anniversary of the First Annual Hoover-Ball National Championships. Despite minor amendments to the tradition over the years, the first weekend in August is forever reserved for two things: Honoring the legacy of Herbert Hoover, and playing the game he loved, Hoover-Ball.

Some say blood, sweat and tears are an odd pairing with the memory of a former president. To Hoover-Ball players, these components are essential. This year, we remember the history of Hoover-Ball and how it came to be. It was 1928, and President-elect Hoover had embarked on a goodwill trip to South America. Aboard the battleship Utah, Hoover watched soldiers play the popular game of “Bull in the Ring.” This game is similar to what is now known as “Keep Away.” Players passed a nine-pound medicine ball to each other across a circle, avoiding the player in the middle whose goal was to intercept the pass (the “bull”).

Upon his return to the United States, Hoover talked with White House physician, Vice Admiral Joel T. Boone, about his physical condition. Boone knew
Ready and Able

Summer is upon us and Hoover’s Hometown Days” is right around the corner! You’ve probably heard, “The more things change, the more they stay the same.” I’m not sure I’m a believer in that philosophy, as there have been many changes recently and the status quo is about to step up a few notches!

Here at the Foundation, we have two new hires to brag about. Our summer intern, Shelby Claraton of Algonquin, Illinois is doing a wonderful job writing stories and handling the logistics of Hoover-Ball. We’ve also created a new full-time position and hired West Branch native Mundi Gordon McCarty as Director of Development. She has hit the ground running, putting her knowledge of West Branch and time spent as a National Park Service interpretive guide on the Hoover Campus to use. I too, grew up in West Branch, and as a young manager of the local Jack and Jill, recall the Goodloe’s and McCarty’s shopping at my store! Please offer a warm welcome if you see Shelby or Mundi out and about!

We’ve also invested in a little modernizing of the Yellow House so we may better accomplish the business of sharing Hoover’s ideals with Iowans and world-wide travelers. With seven full-timers in the Yellow House each day, space is at a premium! Most of the internal work has been done by staff, saving thousands of dollars better spent on our mission. The roof was replaced by contractors — not something we’d take on ourselves, but a very necessary project as more and more shingles were populating the yard instead of the roof!

And the City of West Branch has a new city administrator, Redmond Jones II. Jones comes to us from serving a similar position in Groveland, Florida. He’s no stranger to Iowa — prior to his work in Florida he served as assistant to the city administrator in Davenport. We’d like to welcome him and his family to West Branch and we look forward to working together to promote the Hoover Campus and downtown shopping areas to tourists everywhere!

Let’s not forget Connie Laughlin and the work she undertook to raise $45,000 for the Hoover Elementary statue! We’re excited for the dedication of the new statue during Hoover’s Hometown Days. The dedication and Life Celebration event will begin around 11:30 a.m. following the Mayor’s Parade. The Foundation invites you to attend an old-fashioned picnic in the school gym immediately following the dedication.

We’re serving fried chicken, veggies and other treats just as they did in 1954 when Hoover dedicated his namesake elementary school on that site.

Now into my fifth year as director of the Foundation, we’ve seen steady growth year after year as we’ve experimented with new ways to reach out to our members and engage people in the Hoover mission. Today we’re poised and ready to raise the bar higher, to achieve new levels of service for our membership, community, and visitors. You have helped us at every step and we appreciate your participation in this worthwhile goal! It’s been nearly 25 years since the Hoover permanent exhibit has been updated. It’s time to modernize the exhibit space and take advantage of exciting new technologies to tell the Hoover story.

It won’t happen overnight and it won’t happen without you. I’ve said it for four years now, ‘We’re Better Together,’ and together, we’ll bring Hoover’s life, ideals and legacy to a new generation! ★

New Exhibit Features Every President

American Presidents: Life Portraits, a presidential portrait exhibit presented by C-SPAN, Mediacom and the White House Historical Association, is currently on display at the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum through Oct. 29.

The exhibit features the only complete collection of American presidential oil portraits by one artist, renowned North Carolina painter and sculptor Chas Fagan. Accompanying the Fagan portraits are biographical sketches of all 44 presidents and each president’s first lady. In addition to the sketches are photographs contributed by the White House Historical Association that capture each president’s time in the White House, as well as audio and video that viewers can access through their smart phones. To compliment this, the curators at the Hoover Library-Museum have borrowed objects to represent each president. Items include Teddy Roosevelt’s saddle, Bill Clinton’s running shoes and George H.W. Bush’s cowboy boots fitted with golf cleats, to name a few.

Commissioned by C-SPAN in 1999, Fagan painted the presidential portraits to complement C-SPAN’s Peabody Award-winning television series, American Presidents: Life Portraits. The exhibit has traveled to many presidential homes and libraries and was on display in Washington, DC during the 2009 Presidential Inauguration.

Members of the Hoover Presidential Foundation viewed the exhibit before it opened to the public at a private VIP reception. The reception is a regular benefit for Foundation members and attracts about 200 people to the event.

A red carpet at the entrance to the exhibit leads visitors through a recreation of the White House portico. Guests may take selfies with a variety of presidential cutouts before entering the main exhibit. Photos are not allowed in that area to protect the artifacts. ★
Hoover and Baseball

Continued from front page —

had played sandlot baseball before I went to college," he recalled many years later. "After I played a game or two on the frosh team, the captain told me I would make a better manager than a shortstop. So I managed the team. They won most of their games."

Hoover had never run for public office before his landslide Republican victory over Democrat Al Smith in the 1928 presidential election. But long before he was fielding invitations as president to throw out first pitches, Hoover remained an active booster of both amateur and professional baseball during his appointed stint between 1920 and 1928 as U.S. Secretary of Commerce.

In 1921 he closely followed the federal employees' baseball championship held at American Legion Park at 7th and Florida in northwest Washington, D.C., including a Treasury versus Census game featuring teams organized within the Colored Departmental Baseball League. Admission was 55 cents, and an invitation to the Secretary of Commerce promised that "no game of baseball played in the District this year among Negro clubs will equal it."

Later, as President, Hoover agreed to autograph a dozen baseballs for use as trophies for winning teams participating in the 1929 District of Columbia sandlot series, which was played on government diamonds. In effect, the President had upper-deck seats, as those government diamonds were visible from the second-story balcony off the President's temporary quarters at the White House. Hoover personally attended the August, 20, 1929, American Legion Junior World Series, a game at Washington's Griffith Stadium between teams from Buffalo, New York, and Uniontown, Pennsylvania.

Hoover's interest in all things baseball were well known. On file within the archives of his presidential library in West Branch, Iowa, is this Western Union telegram he received from Cubs fan Bud Garrett on October 24, 1929: "President Hoover: if you do any rooting on ball games today, please root for the Cubs as I have my last five spot on them." Within a week of that telegram, on October 29, 1929, Hoover's legacy and the lives of most Americans would be shaken by "Black Monday," the day that the U.S. stock market crashed, triggering what soon evolved into the Great Depression.

The World Series game that the President attended in Philadelphia on October 14, 1929 — two weeks before the crash — caught the attention of humorist, cowboy-philosopher and newspaper columnist Will Rogers. "That was a mighty fine thing of President and Mrs. Hoover, going clear to Philadelphia to see that baseball game," Rogers wrote. "Baseball is still and always will be our national game. It requires more brains, more practice and more skill than all our others put together."

That World Series game would be Hoover's last until opening day on April 14, 1930, at Griffith Stadium, where as President he threw out the first pitch before Boston defeated Washington, 4-3. Throughout his first and only term, Hoover was vilified, his critics convinced that he was in some way responsible for the hard times and unprecedented unemployment that was sweeping the nation. Despite the fact that in October of 1930, The New York Times dubbed Hoover "the first baseball fan of the land," Hoover was widely criticized and loudly booted whenever he dared to attend a major league baseball game.

After Hoover traveled to Philadelphia for a 1931 World Series game, a Capt. William Macdonald wrote the Philadelphia papers a caustic letter to the editor, criticizing Hoover "because he did so in the midst of a veritable financial panic, when banks with deposits of approximately $25 million closed their doors."

Thirty years later, legendary newspaper columnist Westbrook Pegler would pen this account of a geriatric Hoover attending a World Series game in 1960, a column that recalled Hoover's ballpark experience in Philadelphia in 1931. "I, too, respect Mr. Hoover now," Pegler wrote on October 28, 1960. "But there was a day in the thirties when a mob at one of Connie Mack's World Series in Philadelphia kicked up a tumult of hatred which gave me immediate delight. It was that hatred which defeated Hoover in '32 and doomed our country to Roosevelt's war, then Truman's war and now their mutual cold war for the most survival of the U.S.A. ... On that occasion long ago Mr. Hoover had come up from Washington to see a ball game, but was not observed until about the seventh, when his party quietly moved toward the stands to hear the rush to the street. Then, suddenly, the brute raised its native cry: "Boo-o-o-o-ol!"

Two weeks earlier a similar account appeared as an item in The Telegram, a Worcester, Mass., newspaper: "Suddenly there was a big cheer from the crowd. What for? Neither the Yankees nor the Pirates were doing anything special at the moment. The applause was for the arrival of a prominent baseball fan — former President Herbert Hoover. Hoover arrived at another World Series game a generation ago. He was President Hoover then. If there were any cheers, they were not heard above the loud and bitter booing. The great depression was on."

Hoover recalled in a 1940 speech a similar experience in Philadelphia's Shibe Park. He interpreted the crowd's vocal hostility not as a reflection on his presidency, but the fact that, due to Prohibition, there no beer was being sold at the game. "I notice recent references to reports of the World Series game in 1932 in Philadelphia, which I attended while I was at the White House," he said. "There were a number of thirty people present who had no patience with Constitutional practices in government. They expressed their desire to abolish law enforcement with more than the usual delicacy when I entered the grandstand."

Perhaps the most quoted — or, as some historians insist, misquoted — quotation concerning President Hoover and baseball involved Babe Ruth, while the slugger was embroiled in contentious 1930 contract talks with the New York Yankees during the throes of the Depression. His $80,000 contract was running out, and Ruth insisted that he continued to be paid the same amount, despite the Depression. When a sportswriter pointed out that, at $80,000, he would be making more money than the President of the United States, whose annual salary was $75,000, Ruth's retort was this: "What the hell has Hoover got to do with this?" The babe reportedly said. "Anyway, I had a better year than he did."

Thirty years later, legendary Yankee's catcher Yogi Berra made a similar comment while being interviewed on October 11, 1960, by broadcaster Joe Garagiola before a World Series game: "You amaze me, Yogi," said Joe. "You've now become such a world figure that you drew more applause yesterday than either [Indian Prime Minister Nehru or Herbert Hoover]. Can you explain it?" "...Certainly," said Yogi. "I'm a better hitter."

Hoover's affinity for baseball and his grasp of the gospel that the values the game reflect were immortalized in 1956 at Crosley Field after the Cincinnati Reds received the former president's permission to inscribe this quote on the right field wall, where it remained until 1970, when the Reds moved to Riverfront Stadium: "The rigid volunteer rules of right and wrong in sports are second only to religious faith in moral training — and baseball is the greatest of American sports."

In his declining years, America's 31st president remained more than less confined by his failing health to his suite in midtown Manhattan's Waldorf Astoria Towers. In a note written in April of 1962 to Warren Giles, president of the National League, and to Joseph Cronin, president American Baseball League, Hoover wrote this at age 88: "I am still a baseball fan. Although most of my games now may have to be seen in front of the television."

A year later, in response to receiving another note of spring season pass, Hoover wrote this note to Cronin: "How kind of you to send me that pass. Right now, doctors are sort of restricting my activities, but I hope to decline them later in the baseball season."

Hoover died on October 20, 1964, at age 90, within a week of the St. Louis Cardinals winning a seven-game World Series over the New York Yankees. It would be the last World Series for Yankee legends Whitey Ford and Mickey Mantle. It was also the last Fall Classic for one of baseball's biggest fans, Herbert Hoover.
Director of Development's Message
Mundi McCarty, Director of Development

Making a Difference

I started writing this story before I had finished my first full week as the Foundation's new Director of Development. It's a position I feel was destined to come my way. You see, I'm no stranger to the Hoover Campus. I grew up in West Branch and Herbert Hoover's presence was always felt.

My earliest introduction to Herbert Hoover was as a child attending Hoover Elementary School where I filled past a portrait of our 31st president and school namesake every day. My Hoover education would extend beyond grade school. I have many fond memories of the Hoover Campus of my youth. I recall watching the fireworks in the park during Hometown Days, walking or jogging on the nature trails and riding my bike around the park loop. A few times in junior high I’d dress in period costume from Hoover's era and press apple cider at the C.E. Smith house (also known as the Superintendent's office), and during summers in college I worked at the park as an interpretive guide. It feels as though I’ve come full circle as now, decades later, I’m bringing my own children here to learn about our only Iowa-born president.

The sum total of these experiences provide an enthusiasm and passion for the significance of the Hoover story that I happily share with you, our members, trustees and Foundation colleagues. I’ve accepted my role as the director of development to help match your charitable interests and passions to the needs of the Hoover Presidential Foundation through a variety of ways to give and become engaged with the Foundation. Your support is already evident in the success of the Uncommon Student Award scholarship program, the incredible special exhibits created and in many other areas supported by your generous gifts. We can’t say thank you enough!

I feel honored and blessed to be back in West Branch, working just blocks away from my childhood home and steps away from Herbert’s. Hopefully we’ll get to meet in person soon, whether at an upcoming event, a stop at the Yellow House, or a visit over coffee. I look forward to hearing about your passion for the Hoover story and exploring how together, we will continue making a difference as we share Hoover's legacy as the Great Humanitarian with generations to come.

Statue Dedication

Continued from page 1 —
all time,” said Moxon. Another more local wonder is the statue of Hayden Fry that was recently installed in front of the Coralville Convention and Visitor Bureau.

The process of casting metal is a long and tedious one. Many steps are involved that require both physical strength and attention to fine details. Moxon, an MFA graduate from the University of Iowa, outlined the process. After reading and conducting research about an individual, someone poses in the way the statue is envisioned, and photos are taken from every angle. This usually takes about one week. “This research really helps me to learn a lot about the history of each person,” Moxon said.

When it's time to mold the structure, a maquette is created to see the elements come to life. A maquette is a French term referring to a sculptor’s small preliminary model. This model takes approximately three weeks to complete. For the next three months, the full size figure is created out of steel armature, plywood and wire, and then covered in clay and sculpted. A rubber casting is made of the structure and filled with wax. A hard casting is then made around the wax replica and the wax is then melted and replaced with metal. When the entire statue is complete, Moxon estimates that half a dozen people will have worked on it, and that it will weigh approximately 700 pounds.

The statue will be dedicated during Hoover's Hometown Days as part of the Hoover Life Celebration. It will take place on Saturday, August 5 at 11:30 a.m. at Hoover Elementary School immediately following the Mayor’s Parade.
The Hoover Presidential Foundation offers their sincerest thanks and appreciation to the following sponsors for their generous support of our Hoover’s Hometown Days™ efforts.

30th Annual Hoover-Ball National Championships

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2017 UNCOMMON STUDENTS

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Uncommon Student Award (USA) program and this year’s class is once again an amazing group of uncommon students. Choosing this class of uncommon students wasn’t any easier than choosing the first class so many years ago.

The students recently spent a busy weekend at the Hoover Presidential Library-Museum and National Historic Site. During their time there, they learned more about President and Mrs. Hoover, met Allan Hoover III and Leslie Hoover-Lauble, direct descendents of the president, and picked the brains of USA Alumni trying to gather all the pointers they could. They also spent time with Kim Brammer, director of organizational learning and development at Boys Town, who led workshops for the students and their parents; assuring they will have the best possible experience as they develop their projects.

The students will return to West Branch on Oct. 14 to give presentations on their projects. Each student receives an award of $1,000. Three students will be chosen to win $5,000 scholarships to be used at a two or four year college/university anywhere in the United States. The public is invited to this event. I suggest a day trip to the Hoover campus to meet our Uncommon Students as they give their final presentations. You’re sure to be impressed!★

The Herbert Hoover Uncommon Students Class of 2017

Emma Bohn
West Des Moines, IA
Valley High School
Valley Girls STEM Conference
This Conference will work to combat the stigma of girls involved in computer science. There is an extraordinarily low ratio of girls to boys in the CS field at my school - roughly 6-8 girls enrolled in the course, AP Computer Science. My goal is to acquire three speakers: a teacher from Valley, the founder of Iowa Girls Code, and a female STEM business leader. All in all, the day will revolve around female enlightenment in STEM fields at Valley High School and how to make our community more equal.

Madelyn Davis
Fort Dodge, IA
Masson Northwest Webster High School
Baby Betterment Project
My project helps lower income women and families in Webster county and surrounding areas by providing essential items such as bottles, diapers, clothing, car seats and cribs that meet safety guidelines. Rather than families having to search for assistance, items will be stored in a trailer and given out at local schools, daycare centers, and community-sponsored family events. My project is goes beyond safety; it’s also about improving quality of life and providing support to those who need help to climb out of poverty.

Alexa Gormley
Marion, IA
Linn-Mar High School
Service and Support Dog Awareness Campaign
There are many ways to support those with mental illness but one treatment that many are unfamiliar with is dog therapy. Dogs are a comfort to many, but for some, they are a lifeline. My goal is to help teach the public what service and support dogs are, and how to treat them when they encounter one in their daily life. Through this awareness campaign, I also hope to reach those who may need a service or support dog.

Kaleb Cook
Robins, IA
Lincoln High School
Dancing Away The Stigma
A problem was identified where individuals with special needs were not treated as equally as those without disabilities. As a volunteer camp counselor at Camp Courageous of Iowa, I have seen that dance can be a very effective tool to allow individuals with special needs to express themselves while having fun. My project works with school districts in the surrounding area to facilitate and reach dance therapy in the adaptive physical education classrooms.

Hannah Fusselman
Cedar Rapids, IA
John F. Kennedy Senior High School
The Bee Box Project
The goal of The Bee Box Project is to create passive lodging for solitary bees, and to educate the public about the importance of pollinators. I will travel to Boy and Girl Scout summer camps and troop meetings, offering my services as an educator and an instructor in pollinators and solitary bees. I will also be helping the Scouts understand the importance of other types of pollinators, encourage them to keep journals of the activities of the bees that come to live in the boxes, and teach them how to care for the bees in their own neighborhood.

Wesley Hanson
La Porte City, IA
Union High School
STEM of New Opportunities for Youth
The goal of my project is to create a space for children from the ages of five to eleven to learn more about STEM through hands-on experiences. I plan to lead the effort by converting two outmoded computer laboratories at our two elementary centers into STEM ‘maker spaces.’ These maker spaces would contain an assortment of activities and recreational materials designed to provide students an opportunity to experience STEM technology first hand. My hope is to build strong leaders in STEM and other fields through this program.
Students Announced

Nandini Jayaram
Bettendorf, IA
Pleasant Valley High School
Securing Abundant Food by Empowering Tenacious Youth (SAFETY)
The ultimate goal of Securing Abundant Food by Empowering Tenacious Youth (SAFETY) is to improve food security for the 17 million impoverished children and teens at schools across the United States. In accordance with the saying “crawling before you walk, and walk before you run,” the immediate goal of SAFETY is to improve the availability of quality food accessible for students by further developing a farm on the campus of an alternative high school in Davenport, Iowa and scale across other similar schools in Iowa and Illinois.

JJ Kapur
West Des Moines, IA
Valley High School
Iowa Sikh Turbanators
I will complete numerous community service events by expanding the Iowa Sikh Turbanators—an organization I formed in January 2017—which is run by youth Sikhs dedicated to helping the larger Des Moines community and raising awareness about Sikhism. The goal of the Iowa Sikh Turbanators is simple: to “turbanate” the negative stigma surrounding the Sikh faith through community service events. Raising awareness about the Sikh religion through community service allows Iowans to build a stronger understanding of the Sikh religion.

Daniel O’Hara
Robins, IA
Lincoln-Mar High School
Multigenerational Playground
I am proposing the addition of six pieces of multigenerational equipment in one of Robins’ two existing public parks. My goal is to further unite my community. Care centers in my community are looking for ways for their patients to stay active and connect to children, who are in many cases completely unaware of the older generations. In Robins, a multigenerational playground would foster sustained community interaction for generations to come.

Rebecca Johnson
Remsen, IA
Remsen St. Mary’s
Stars Fest Carnival
I am going to plan part of an event through STARS in Sioux City, Iowa. STARS provides the disabled with animal-oriented therapy which helps their physical and emotional health. The coordinator of STARS and I decided to add a carnival. The carnival may consist of clowns and numerous games. The carnival will be a fun experience for the disabled and their families. It will give them a time to let go and have a good time with their friends and family.

Sydney Striegel
Sigourney, IA
Sigourney Jr./Sr. High School
EmpowHER
EmpowHER gives young girls the chance to experience STEM and build self-esteem. The goal of this project is to allow girls to see themselves in STEM fields, while also “empowering” them in areas of self-confidence, body image, and other struggles ween girls face. I expect EmpowHER to show girls that anyone is able to participate in STEM, even if math and science aren’t their best subjects. Through this program, my hope is that girls uncover their love of math, science, engineering, or technology, while building self-esteem at the same time.

Makayla McMann
Coring, IA
Southwest Valley High School
Villicana Summer Day Camps
The community service project I have planned is to conduct FREE Summer Day Camps in the town of Villicana. Villicana is a small town with a population of 1,200 residents. Villicana has not had a Summer Day Camp program for over 10 years for their youth. I selected Villicana to provide the youth who live in Villicana the opportunity to have fun learning and participating in activities. My goal is to provide summer day camps for grades K-6th.

Madyson Bill
Pleasantville, IA
Pleasantville High School
Pleasantville Community Garden
I am currently bringing people together in my community to create the first ever Pleasantville Community Garden. The garden is placed in the back of our library lot. The library is behind our school, and part that is the town square. Many kids walk through the large lot on the way home from school. Since the lot is also between the school and the square, it connects all three places. My goal is to eventually get a couple benches and plant some trees to attract the community to come together.

Our Mission
The Foundation will foster the collection, interpretation and preservation of historical resources relating to the life, ideas, values, and times of Herbert Hoover, thirty-first President of the United States; we will promote public education about and appreciation for Herbert Hoover, support the Hoover Presidential Library-Museum and the National Historic Site at West Branch, Iowa, effectively garner and prudently manage Foundation resources, and serve Foundation members.
A Tradition Created, A Tradition Continued

One of the best parts about Hoover-Ball is all of the people who come together behind the scenes to make it happen. From Foundation staff members to members of the West Branch community, the Foundation and Hoover-Ball commissioners over the last 30 years are grateful to those who have donated their time to help the tournaments run smoothly.

Scott Sailor was the game’s first commissioner. He researched Hoover Ball and promoted the First Annual Hoover-Ball National Championships in 1988. For many years, he was the go-to man for all things Hoover-Ball. “People always looked a little puzzled at first when you told them about Hoover-Ball,” Sailor said, “But I was always just glad to see them try it out and play!”

Sailor was known for taking chances to promote Hoover-Ball. He even initiated a game of Hoover-Ball in Washington D.C. His efforts resulted in Hoover-Ball spotlights in news outlets such as the New York Times, the Washington Post, Sports Illustrated, the Chicago Tribune, and many others. “I’m thankful to the Foundation and Library Museum for the freedom they gave me to let people know about Hoover-Ball,” Sailor said. “I think that’s what allowed it to grow so quickly in those first few years.” Sailor continued on to a career in communications with the Iowa Cubs.

Another notable name in Hoover-Ball history is Mike Johnston, the man who has the longest running involvement with the National Championships. Johnston played for the first time in 1991, and has set aside the first weekend of August ever since he discovered Hoover-Ball 27 years ago. “I only get to play once a year, so I just love doing it,” says Johnston. “I’ve never won, and I don’t expect to win, but I love being there and seeing people get involved with the town.”

Johnston owns a landscaping company in West Branch. Every year, he helps set up the nets and line the courts with chalk. His friends Tony Senio and Jarod Tylee of West Branch also help by running the tournament brackets.

Senio says, “The Hoover-Ball National Championships is one of my favorite weekends of the year. I never schedule anything the first weekend in August.” As for Tylee, he played for the first time when he turned 18 years old. His Hoover-Ball career lasted seven years, and he has been a key volunteer ever since.

These men are the backbone of the Hoover-Ball National Championships every August. They have assisted in carrying on the tradition that was initiated by Scott Sailor and the Library Association 30 years ago. If you are interested in volunteering for this year’s National Championships or Youth Hoover-Ball, please call us at the Hoover Presidential Foundation at (319) 643-5327.
Continued from page 1 —

Hoover had a distaste for formal exercise, but his poor physical fitness was a concern. At that time, the 5-foot-11 Hoover weighed 210 pounds. By the end of his presidency, he weighed an impressive 185 pounds. How did the president manage to shed 25 pounds? The answer is Hoover-Ball: a game that Boone devised to entice Hoover to exercise. Scored like tennis, this game also counted on the use of an eight-pound medicine ball. Teams of three players heaved the ball back and forth over an eight-foot net until it was either thrown out of bounds or could not be caught by the other team.

By the time of his inauguration in 1929, Hoover had solicited other men in Washington to join his morning games. From that week until the conclusion of Hoover’s presidential term, the South Lawn was home to Hoover-Ball from 7 to 7:30 a.m. every morning. It is estimated that over 200 people played with Hoover during these four years.

Hoover described the appeal of the game in his Memoirs, stating, “It required less skill than tennis, was faster and more vigorous, and therefore gave more exercise in a short time.” It was just what the busy president needed to stay physically fit. Rain or shine, Hoover could count on anywhere from four to 18 men joining him every day. These men became known as “The Medicine Ball Cabinet.” Their consistency is admirable. The only exceptions to their daily routine were Sundays and rare cases of extreme weather conditions.

Former Secretary of the Interior, Ray Lyman Wilbur, recalled in his Memoirs, “We played in cold and wind, snow and rain, and in the four years we were driven indoors only two or three times because of an unusually drenching downpour.” Each game was followed by a cup of coffee and discussion of light subjects to momentarily distract these leaders from the country’s pressing topics.

This gathering continued until Hoover’s last day in the White House. During these years, Hoover-Ball gained popularity, and was played by many. When Hoover lost his re-election bid and left the White House in 1933, the sport’s popularity quickly declined. It wasn’t long before medicine balls found their home in storage closets across the nation. The game would remain a hidden gem for 70 years.

It wasn’t until 1988 that Hoover-Ball would re-emerge. Staff members of the Foundation and Library Museum were discussing community engagement, and it was then that the First Annual Hoover-Ball National Championships were born. Originally named The Hoover Rules Medicine Ball Tournament, the idea was a hit. The first year attracted 15 teams, followed by 29 teams the second year, and 50 teams who made their way to West Branch for the tournament’s third year. People couldn’t get enough of this up-and-coming game. 15 or 20 high schools adopted Hoover-Ball into their physical education curriculum, and indoor and outdoor leagues appeared all across Eastern Iowa.

Over the last 30 years, thousands of participants have experienced Hoover-Ball, and the Foundation hopes thousands more will follow in their footsteps. Jerry Fleagle, the Foundation’s Executive Director, said, “Even if people aren’t coming to play, the tailgate-like atmosphere is unparalleled. It’s just a great way to hang out with neighbors, let the kids run around, and sit back to truly appreciate the legacy that Hoover has left behind.”

The 30th Annual Hoover-Ball National Championships will be held on Saturday, August 5 at 9 a.m. at the Hoover-Ball Courts in West Branch. For more information about this year’s tournament, visit www.Hoover-Ball.org. Registration is open now! ★
The American Road

Employee Spotlight

West Branch Native Joins Foundation Staff

The Hoover Presidential Foundation is pleased to announce the addition of Mundi Gordon McCarty to the full-time staff. Mundi is fulfilling a new role at the Foundation as Director of Development. Her responsibilities will include implementing and evaluating the Foundation’s fundraising plan and also cultivating and stewarding the resources of individual and corporate donors.

A West Branch native, Mundi embodies much of the town’s historic values. During her West Branch years, Mundi spent a few summers at the Hoover National Historic Site as an interpretive guide. She led demonstrations and told stories about Hoover’s life for visitors and she gained a deep appreciation for the history and legacies of Herbert and Lou Henry Hoover. “The most exciting part is seeing how my life in West Branch has really come full-circle,” Mundi said.

Throughout high school, Mundi pursued a high level of involvement in sports and other clubs. It’s also where she would meet her future husband, Sean. She attended college at Iowa State University, where she studied Exercise Physiology and Spanish.

Mundi and her family now live in Solon and she stays involved in her community as a board member for the Solon Education Foundation. Mundi and Sean enjoy attending many activities in support of their four children. In addition, her hobbies include gardening, reading, spending time with family and traveling; however, she especially enjoys hunting for antiques and embarking on DIY-style projects.

After several years with the University of Iowa Foundation, Mundi is happy to return to West Branch to carry on the legacy of Herbert Hoover. “The history here is not only an asset to West Branch, but also the state of Iowa, the Midwest, and ultimately the United States as a whole,” she said. “Hoover’s life had global implications; I hope people know what an impactful part of history is sitting in their backyard.”

The Foundation’s executive director, Jerry Fleagle, said, “We’re really happy to have Mundi join our team. She places high value in getting to know people on a deeper level and that is something we find invaluable.”

Mundi joined the Foundation staff on June 13. Her knowledge, leadership, and poise make her an excellent addition to the Hoover Presidential Foundation. Please join us in welcoming Mundi to the Foundation!

Immediate or Outright Gifts

Cash. The most familiar type of gift is cash, usually given through a check. We are pleased to accept checks in any amount and can direct them to any of our funds from support for special exhibits to the Uncommon Students Award program to the restricted fund. Gifts of cash are fully deductible for federal income-tax purposes up to 50% of adjusted gross income. You may also select to spread your gift over several years via a pledge or maximize your gift with a match from your employer, if offered.

Gifts of equities or stocks. Appreciated stock held for more than a year offers many opportunities for tax savings. Publicly traded stocks are accepted at fair market value as determined under IRS rules and are generally sold as soon as possible and the proceeds are added to the charitable fund of your choosing. The Hoover Presidential Foundation utilizes our financial partner, Morgan Stanley, to efficiently facilitate these gifts. Mutual funds are also accepted as gifts.

Gifts of life insurance. Your existing or new policy can be converted into a charitable gift to support any aspect of the Hoover Presidential Foundation.

Real estate. Give land, a farm or a home to support your Hoover Presidential interests. Gifts of real estate must be reviewed and approved by the Board of Trustees.

The importance of your gifts

Thank you! Hoover Presidential Foundation know your gifts mean more than just giving money—it’s about supporting the important mission of the Herbert Hoover Library Museum and the Herbert Hoover National Historic Site to carry on the legacy of our Iowa-born 31st President of the United States.

Did you know there are many ways to make your charitable gift to Hoover Presidential Foundation?

and be accompanied by a qualified appraisal. When you make an outright gift of real estate held for at least one year you can take a charitable deduction (limited to 30% of your AGI) of the fair market value of the property contributed. In addition, you avoid capital gains tax on the profit that would have been taxable if the property had been sold.

Tangible property. After a qualified appraisal is obtained, coins, antique cars, jewelry and other collectibles may also be accepted as gifts assuming that the property is salable. The property would then be sold unless HPF is able to use the property in a way that is related to our purposes and mission.

Deferred Gifts

Bequests by will or trust. This revocable gift option enables you to retain control over assets you’ve acquired over a lifetime and keep assets that generate earnings during retirement years but still make a charitable contribution to Hoover Presidential Foundation. We know your heir’s well-being will always come first. Once you have provided for your loved ones, you may want to also designate Hoover Presidential Foundation as a beneficiary. We can help you document your expressed intent for the use of those funds you designate and provide sample language of how to include Hoover Presidential Foundation when preparing your legal documents. Do know that should life’s circumstances change, your designation is revocable.

Gifts of retirement plan assets. This can be the most tax efficient asset to give to charity and can include qualified retirement plans, regular IRAs and Roth IRAs.

These are just a few ways to make a charitable gift to support the continued interpretation and preservation of the life, ideas and values of Herbert Hoover. If you’re interested in talking further about any of these options and how one might be the right fit for you to make an impact at the Hoover Presidential Foundation, please contact Mundi McCarty at 319-643-5327 or at MMcCarty@HooverPForeg.org
In the Fall 2016 issue of *American Road*, we told you about many of the improvements recently completed at the Hoover Presidential Foundation offices. Since then, we’ve taken on three other renovations that are now complete and thankfully, we’re all caught up!

The first two were easy, with much of the work being done by staff and paid for by donations.

The Executive Director’s office renovation happened first. His hardwood floors were faded and chipped, and the throw rug covering it was worn and faded. His ceiling was, let’s say, multi-dimensional, with cracks and valleys and different tones of white paint covering it. He needed more storage space for mounds of paperwork piling up on the little desk space he had. The room did not present a very professional appearance.

The renovations came from the top down. First we replaced an outdated and dimly lit fluorescent light fixture with an energy efficient ceiling fan and light. Brad Reiners did the installation and repaired holes in the ceiling left over from the old fixture. Joan Maske prepped and painted the ceiling to a beautifully textured finish.

Wall to wall carpeting was next, covering the worn flooring and occasional gaps in the planks. The carpeting was all donated. Then, at a bargain government surplus auction price, Jerry acquired a beautiful used desk set which looks showroom new for pennies on the dollar. It provides plenty of file storage and finishes the room nicely.

Then it was determined that the new Director of Development should have a private office, as conversations and meetings with donors would require a certain level of privacy. The most logical space available was also in the worst condition. Ryan Johnson, the finance and facility manager’s office nook on the second floor had been papered from floor to ceiling (including the ceiling), and then painted brown. The registers were rusty and the window frames were sunbleached.

We started the repairs by moving Ryan’s office downstairs into Joan’s space, and Joan into the front room to share a larger space with Brad. Then Ryan and Brad tore into the upstairs office with a 3-week deadline before Mundt McCarr, the new director of development, would move in. They tore off the wallpaper, skim-coated the walls and repainted them to a light grey tone. Instead of ripping out the ceiling paper and trying to repair it, Brad and Shelby, the summer intern, covered it with 720 square feet of bead board. Some sandpaper and a small can of stain fixed imperfections in the floor and window frames and the room was ready to go with 8 hours to spare! The entire renovation cost less than $600 and used all internal labor.

The third project was beyond the scope and ability of the staff to take on. “I’m not climbing on that roof!” Brad declared. We let the professionals conduct a complete tear-off and re-shingle of the Yellow House. And they did a great job in short order. In just two days we went from shingles that were removing themselves to a solid, crisp new roofline that will last at least a couple of decades.

“Thank goodness that’s all complete,” reported Jerry. “With those projects behind us we’re back to business in a clean, safe facility that we’re proud to welcome guests into.” ★
AUTHOR TALKS

Presentations by Christine Woodside & David Davenport
Saturday, Aug. 5 at 1:30 p.m. in the Figge Auditorium

Christine Woodside is a Connecticut-based writer and the editor of the journal Appalachia. She did much of the research for Libertarians on the Prairie: Laura Ingalls Wilder, Rose WilderLane, and the Making of the Little House Books in the Rose WilderLane/Laura Ingalls Wilder papers at the Hoover Library. She received a travel grant from the Hoover Presidential Foundation for some of that work. Chris also wrote Energy Independence (Lyons Press/Globe Pequot) and edited four books on homesteading, adventure, and mountains.

David Davenport is a research fellow at Stanford University’s Hoover Institution. He is a columnist for Forbes.com and contributes regular national radio commentaries to the Salem Radio Network and Townhall.com.

In recent years, David and his colleague Gordon Lloyd have been exploring the rise of modern American conservatism in response to the revolutionary New Deal. They have co-authored a chapter on “Herbert Hoover’s Constitutional Conservatism” published in Toward an American Conservation: Constitutional Conservation During the Progressive Era (2013).

This is a FREE event! Entry into the Hoover Presidential Library-Museum has been sponsored by the Hoover Presidential Foundation during Hoover’s Hometown Days, Aug. 4 & 5.