

what new insight we may gain about those who fell outside family care and into public care. We might look, for example, at Douglas Wertsch's 1987 *Annals of Iowa* article, "Iowa's Daughters: The First Thirty Years of the Girls Reform School of Iowa, 1869–1899," where we learn that Iowa was reform-minded from its early decades. The Iowa reformatory originally included boys and was situated outside of Salem, Iowa, in the state's southeastern corner. According to Wertsch, Iowa was the first state west of the Mississippi River and the second in the nation to fund such an endeavor.

A Woman of Adventure: The Life and Times of First Lady Lou Henry Hoover, by Annette B. Dunlap. Lincoln, NE: Potomac Books, an imprint of the University of Nebraska Press, 2022. 320 pp. Illustrations, notes, index. \$32.95 hardcover.

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By all measures, Lou Henry Hoover led an extraordinary life of adventure and accomplishment. She defined new roles for women without precipitating controversy and, in many ways, she might be thought of as a "progressive traditionalist."

It is unfortunate, therefore, that this woman of consequence has received so little attention from historians and biographers. Most Americans—even most Iowans—know her only as the wife of President Herbert Hoover. To rectify this oversight, and fill in the rest of the story, Annette B. Dunlap offers this engaging biography.

Lou was born in Waterloo in 1874 and educated in local public schools. Something of a "tomboy," she enjoyed camping and fishing and had a deep appreciation for the nature and wildlife of her native state.

In 1885, the Henry family moved west to California, where Lou's father was engaged in banking. Lou pursued a degree in geology at Stanford University and met Herbert Hoover by chance. They married in February 1899.

For the next 14 years the Hoovers traveled the world. Lou gave birth to two sons and assisted her husband in his work as a mining engineer. As a hobby, she translated *De Re Metallica*, a 1565 manual on mining and metallurgy, and published the work to much acclaim.

World war in 1914 profoundly changed the Hoovers' lives. They both became involved in extensive world-wide humanitarian relief programs in Europe and the United States. When America entered the war in 1917, the family settled in Washington, D.C., and Lou worked to enlist American women into a national food conservation program.

After the war, she took an active interest in the Girl Scout movement and twice served as GSA president. It was during her second term that the GSA leadership approved a national plan to bake and sell cookies in support of scouting.

Lou was also a strong advocate of physical fitness for girls and women. She became a vice president of the National Amateur Athletic Federation in the 1920s with a challenge to organize a women's division. She addressed philosophical differences over competition vs. participation, issues of facilities and space for women, and the persistent lack of qualified women's coaches.

As First Lady, Lou Hoover was often in the public eye. Although she did not give many speeches or grant any interviews, she was the first First Lady to speak on the radio. She also showed personal courage and a commitment to equity by inviting Jessie DePriest, the wife of an African-American congressman, for tea at the White House.

Her last trips to Iowa came during her husband's two campaigns for president. She accompanied him on visits to Cedar Rapids and West Branch in 1928 and to Des Moines in 1932. In January 1944, she suffered an acute heart attack from which she didn't recover.

It was quite a life, and Dunlap does it justice. Of particular value is the author's effective use of Hoover's personal correspondence. Lou's letters to friends and family reveal her apprehensions, hopes, and aspirations. Rather than offer a book about a woman who is primarily a reflection of her prominent husband, Dunlap writes about an independent individual coming of age in a time of progressive ideals, world war, women's emancipation, and economic collapse.

Dunlap is particularly effective in writing about Lou's conflicting responsibilities as a mother of two young boys and a helpmate to an ambitious and often-distant husband. Dunlap uses the candor found in personal papers to highlight the tensions as well as the achievements in Lou's life.

Dunlap also captures the importance of Lou's alliances with women such as Juliette Gordon Low, the founder of the Girl Scouts of America. As was common for women of that generation, Lou relied on other women for advice and support. Friendship was an important element in Lou's worldview.

Lou Hoover was not without her critics and her character flaws. Dunlap gives suitable attention to those who criticized Lou as being an absentee parent and too insensitive to the feelings of friends and associates. In other words, she shows how Lou Hoover was a woman of this world, given to personal limitations common to her generation.

That the White House years were a trial for both Hoovers is without dispute. Dunlap traces Lou as she delves into her special projects and fumes at the treatment that her husband and his administration received in the press. Dunlap adds that Lou slipped into distrust of the press and even a touch of paranoia as the national economy declined into financial collapse.

Woman of Adventure is a lively, substantive study of an exceptional woman. It is a book that belongs on the shelves of most libraries in Iowa and many libraries that have significant collections of books on the role of women in American history.

Tuesday Night Massacre: Four Senate Elections and the Radicalization of the Republican Party, by Marc C. Johnson. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2021. 247 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$26.95 paperback.

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Today, states like Idaho, South Dakota, Indiana, and Iowa are, to many, bastions of conservative politics. Yet in *Tuesday Night Massacre*, Marc C. Johnson argues that it was not always this way. Detailing the rise of the National Conservative Political Action Committee (NCPAC) and right-wing PACs in the late 1970s, Johnson suggests that a series of U.S. Senate elections in 1980 were illustrative of an unprecedented, "carefully choreographed national campaign of fear, animosity, half-truth, distortion, anger, and in some instances bald-faced lying" by NCPAC on behalf of Republican candidates (3). Those campaigns not only ended the political careers of Frank Church of Idaho, Birch Bayh of Indiana, George McGovern of South Dakota, and John Culver of Iowa, but Johnson also argues that they changed the scope and tone of local Senate elections, which had previously been grounded in the issues rather than nationally charged rhetoric.

Narrating the founding of the NCPAC, Johnson explains how the backroom brawling of conservative activists Charles Black, Roger Stone, and John T. "Terry" Dolan joined with the direct mail empire of