Coming April 18

The Making of the Great Humanitarian: Herbert Hoover and World War I

Presidential Library-Museum and National Historic Site to showcase largest exhibit ever

West Branch, IA, Monday, March 30, 2015 – As you read this, workers are busy installing and putting the finishing touches on the five key elements that make up the largest exhibit ever shown at the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum and Hoover National Historic Site. The Making of the Great Humanitarian: Herbert Hoover and World War I portrays Hoover’s life 100 years ago – when he set aside his lucrative mining career and began his journey into public service.

Hoover’s Story in 3-D

We’ve installed multiple projectors in the Figge Auditorium to create a 3-D depiction of Hoover’s life story. It’s another first for the Presidential Library-Museum! It’s so unique, it’s hard to describe. You’ll just have to see it for yourself – and you’ll probably want to see it twice!

(continued on p. 8)

Celebration Banquet

Theme Goes Here

Make plans to attend this year’s Celebration Banquet, to be held at the <venue goes here> in <location> on Friday, Oct. 23. Join us as we recap 2015 with highlights from The Making of the Great Humanitarian exhibit and outline the plans for 2016. And have you heard who our guest of honor is?

• World-renowned presidential historian
• Author of 6 New York Times best selling books
• Pulitzer Prize winner
• Network television personality

Doris Kearns Goodwin

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Iowa City Chamber
Honors Bob Downer

The Iowa City Area Chamber of Commerce presented a very high honor to a very special man: Iowa Regent, attorney, community volunteer, and Hoover Presidential Foundation trustee Bob Downer, at their annual dinner on February 19.

The John Hages award is in memory of the beloved Mt. Hages, ten-year Hills Bank president, who passed away in 1985. His vision and innovation began transforming Hills Bank from a $15 million dollar bank to the $2.2 billion dollar institution of today.

Bob Downer was exceptional in his leadership and economic development in greater Iowa City. Mt. Hages embodied the characteristics for which the John Hages award was named: community leader, economic development contributor, enthusiastic community supporter, cooperative partner, committed cheerleader, positive role model, and one who prioritizes community service above personal advantage.

Congratulations, Bob!

Excerpts taken from the Iowa Area Chamber of Commerce members' newsletter, used with permission.

Quadr City Chambers
Honors Dr. Nancy Hayes

Women's Connection and the Quad City Chambers of Commerce have announced the 2015 Athena Award honorees. The honorees are women in career Iowa and women. Each year, they identify professionals making a difference in the community and empowering women to be leaders. Dr. Nancy Hayes is one of six honorees selected and is a member of the Hoover Presidential Foundation board of trustees.

Dr. Hayes has taught in the St. Ambrose University English department since 1999 and is now department chairman and English professor. She has presented many academic papers throughout the US and her work has been published in several academic and creative writing publications.

Stake Your Claim on The Making of the Great Humanitarian Exhibit

Did you know Herbert Hoover had never held any elected office prior to his landslide Presidential victory in 1928? His rise to prominence began with a decision made over 100 years ago, at the onset of World War I; to set aside his lucrative career as a mining engineer and devote his efforts to help his fellow man. As members of the Hoover Presidential Foundation and its board of trustees, we'd like everyone to come. It allows us to create exciting new exhibits, like The Making of the Great Humanitarian exhibit, which will open soon. Member donations, volunteers, even your posts on social media, help make it all possible.

As trustees, we're working hard behind the scenes but understand we can't do it alone. For your donation may be phoned in or made online.

As of March 1st, we had already raised over 60% of our goal and are seeking donations of any size.

The John Hughes award is in memory of the beloved Mr. Hughes, ten-year Hills Bank president, who passed away in 1985. His vision and innovation began transforming Hills Bank from a $15 million dollar bank to the $2.2 billion dollar institution of today.

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Snowshoeing Through Hoover Park

As we look forward to warmer days ahead, let's pause for a quick look back at one of the programs that makes the Hoover experience unique; snowshoeing through the tallgrass prairie.

Ranger Darrach Greer began working at the Hoover Museum Historic Site in December. On this relatively warm Saturday morning (30 degrees) in February, she would be leading another group on an hour-long hike through the tallgrass prairie.

As we look forward to warmer days ahead, let’s pause for a quick look back at one of the programs that makes the Hoover experience unique; snowshoeing through the tallgrass prairie. Ranger Darrach Greer began working at the Hoover Museum Historic Site in December. On this relatively warm Saturday morning (30 degrees) in February, she would be leading another group on an hour-long hike through the tallgrass prairie.

Terry and Becky Brase of Solon, Iowa, were among the 11 following Ranger Collar. “We had no snowshoes for many years and thought this would be a good opportunity to use them,” said Becky. Husband Terry had never tried it before. “I’ll give it a shot. It’s a nice day to be out,” he said.

Snowshoeing through the tallgrass prairie on an hour-long hike.

Ranger Collar leads a group through the tallgrass prairie on an hour-long hike.

Not all the guests were seasoned snowshoers. “I had never tried it before. I’ll give it a shot. It’s a nice day to be out,” said Terry Brase. The group included his wife, Becky, and their friend, Terry Quellhorst, of Iowa City. They had planned to snowshoe through the tallgrass prairie on the south side of the Hoover Park, but were discouraged by the heavy snow on the south side.

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Ranger Collar leads a group through the tallgrass prairie on an hour-long hike.
It takes a village… to run the Belgian Village

The Foundation staff has been working hard these past few months raising money, writing stories, answering mail – all preparation for the larger exhibit to open in June at the Heritage Presidential Library-Museum and Hoover National Historic Site.

We’ve been testing a lot of new ideas here in preparation for the exhibit.

We’ve worked with Main Street West Branch bank owners to help prepare them for larger than average crowds.

We’ve loaded over a dozen visitor centers across Iowa with brochures about the West Branch experience, which allows anyone to visit the Hoover Campus.

We’ve tested our ability to take on an enormous challenge and reached out to six other states with story ideas and recruiting people to serve Hoover lunches to visitors.

Village also needs people to help serve Hoover lunches to school groups and to help prepare brochures for visitors.

We’ll be in need of golf cart drivers to shuttle visitors, we’ll need more people to answer questions and sign up new members.

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We are also using our membership card in Austin, Texas, when we test out new ideas.

We have tested our ability to take on a new challenge and reach out to six other states.

We’ve tested our ability to take on an enormous challenge.

We know for sure that our members, volunteers, and staff will be happy to help prepare them for larger than average crowds.

We’re all of us able to test our handling of this exhibit, which is a reality so that Herbert Hoover’s story may be spread to a new generation in search of a mentor.

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The Savoy Hotel

The Savoy Hotel exhibit, sponsored by the Kofoed family, is where this 100 year old story begins. Discover which political figure asked Hoover to help thousands of stranded Americans secure safe passage home from Europe as the Great War broke out. You’ll see $1.5 million in gold bars sent from America to help fund the effort, and pose for selfies by an equivalent pile of cash. Hoover never accepted any compensation for his work, and even loaned out much of his own money to aid the travelers. It’s been said that of the thousands he loaned, all but about $400 was returned.

Into the Trench!

It’s been estimated there were 10 million military personnel casualties and as many as seven million civilian deaths during World War I. Many battles were fought from a labyrinth of trenches, which offered soldiers a false sense of protection from ground fire. Hand grenades, mortar shells, artillery fire and poisonous gas were often launched down range in hopes of finding an enemy nest. Those who risked coming out of the trenches were met with machine gun or sniper fire. The trenches offered a small, hard to see target, but not much protection otherwise.

Because of their many twists and turns, it was difficult to destroy large portions in a single attack. The trenches were built like horizontal ant farms. There would be special side rooms for ammunition and supplies, meeting rooms for strategic planning, and aid stations to attend the wounded.

As you enter our trench, soldiers in authentic military uniforms will guide you along the way to safety. Sensor activated effects will simulate a battlefield experience, and can escalate or de-escalate based on visitor input. Compared to the trench exhibit of 1989, this one is 230% larger, measuring approximately 13 by 51 feet. Dan Y eagerly, of Y eagerly Instruments, Iowa City built the 1989 trench and has made some improvements on the new one. “It’s the most involved trench design in the world,” said Y eagerly. It took several months to build in his warehouse and must be broken down, transported to the Presidential Library-Museum, and reassembled within a three week time period. “And it has to fit through the doors,” added Y eagerly.

Based on the crowds and timing of the effects, visitors could have a different experience each time they enter the trench,” he said. We think it’s an experience you won’t soon forget.

The Belgian Village

This part of the exhibit features four buildings and a 60 foot replica of a food relief ship – none of which will fit inside the Library-Museum. Much of the village will be located on Foundation property along Downey Trace, just in front of the Yellow House. By doing so, we gain a slight wind break advantage and easy access to electrical service. “We’re appreciative of the Park Service for working with us to place the ship and dock on their grounds,” said Jerry Fleagle, Foundation executive director.

For a limited time, for $2 per person, we’ll serve recipes used by Hoover relief agencies including soup, a roll and a fruit in similar proportions provided to the starving people of Belgium. Two of the village buildings will have tables and benches for use, similar to the style found during WWI.

The warehouse will display our Belgian Relief ship replica and show how freight was handled in the 1900s. There were no forklifts or modern machinery – much of the heavy lifting was done by hand and then pushed by cart to nearby transportation.

The village office building is your stop for exhibit and museum information. Browse our shop, check the maps, and consider a family membership, or even a higher level, to support the Foundation and gain access to multiple benefits, including free admission to all 13 NARA Presidential Libraries; special events and Museum discounts.

The trench will display authentic gear, like these packs and canteen, wherever possible.
Doris Kearns Goodwin to speak at 2015 Celebration Banquet (continued from p. 1)

by Thomas F. Schwartz

at this time it was beyond the means of most Americans. Photographers preserved the event in a photograph showing Fokker talking with Hoover, F. Trubor Davison, and Edward Pearson Warner. Frederick Trubor Davison was the Assistant United States Secretary of War. He is best remembered as one of the First Yale Unit, also known as the Millenarian Unit. This group of young men from privileged families, trained their own air squadron in 1918 anticipating the need for trained air pilots should the United States be dragged into war. The First Yale Unit is sometimes credited as the first naval air reserve unit. Edward Warner had just been appointed the first Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Act) at the time of the photograph. He was a mechanical engineer and distinguished himself in aerodynamic research. Following World War I, Warner would champion international cooperation in air transportation and international civil aviation. The Edward Warner Award was created by the United States National Aeronautic Association to honor individuals who contributed to civil aviation.

Hoover’s interest in the promise of commercial aviation can be seen in his efforts to pass the Air Commerce Act on May 25, 1926. This legislation allowed Hoover to set standards for the industry necessary for successful commercial air service. The launching of passenger service between Washington, D.C. and Philadelphia was but another step toward making air travel more accessible and eventually, a regular feature of everyday life. 

Hoover “Meets the Fokker”

No pressure here—it’s a story about your hero, and make sure it’s a good one. It’s one that hath really. Anyone can walk up to Jerry and get to know him well after a short conversation. He quick wits and affable nature developed from a diverse career including interactions with all types of people from stock exchange bank executives and the信贷侧. To tego, it all started here, in West Branch. Jerry grew up in West Branch, on 4th stree, with his parent and two sisters. “I used to hike all over the place. I don’t think there was a nook, cranny, street or alley I haven’t been on or in east of the railroad tracks,” Jerry said.

After a more active teens, Jerry would graduate from West Branch High School. His one regret: “I did not challenge myself enough in school,” he said. He started exploring Hoover Park in depth after graduation, using the many trails as running routes, enjoying the solitude and nature developed from a diverse career including interactions with all types of people from stock exchange bank executives and the信贷侧. To tego, it all started here, in West Branch. Jerry grew up in West Branch, on 4th stree, with his parent and two sisters. “I used to hike all over the place. I don’t think there was a nook, cranny, street or alley I haven’t been on or in east of the railroad tracks,” Jerry said.

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Journalism. Steven Spielberg’s DreamWorks Studios has acquired the

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Provided major gifts that substantially improved the programs and services of the Foundation. Among these are those who have contributed cash, art, real estate and other property.

Since the Hoover Presidential Foundation was established in its initial incarnations as the Hoover Birthplace Society in 1939, many individuals, foundations and corporations have

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The American Road 10

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The American Road 11

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PRESIDENTIAL FOUNDATION

Herbert Hoover
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