



Lou Henry with her two sons Herbert Jr. and Alan, 1908.



Lou Henry, 24, in front of her parent's home in Monterey, California on her wedding day, February 10, 1899.

Accomplishments

- Graduated in Spring of 1898 from Stanford University with a degree in Geology
- Translated Latin Treatise on mining, *Agricola de re Metallica*, with Herbert (1912).
- Involved with Belgian relief in WWI, presented in 1919 with Cross of Chevalier Order of King Leopold, from King Albert of Belgium for her efforts
- National President of Girl Scouts in 1922
- President of National Amateur Athletic Federation 1923 -1940 (Women's Division)
- Received an honorary Doctorate of Literature from Whittier College in 1928
- First Lady 1929-1933
- Trustee of Whittier College 1934-1944



Lou Henry's legacy lives on: Lou Henry Hoover School, Whittier, CA

Lou Henry Hoover

March 29, 1874 – January 7, 1944



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Lou Henry Hoover is best known as the former First Lady, wife of President Herbert Hoover, but she also had many of her own personal accomplishments, which reveal an independent, strong-willed, and cosmopolitan woman. An early Whittier resident as a child, she was deeply influenced by her time here.

Louise Henry was born March 29, 1874 in Waterloo, Iowa. In 1884, at the age of ten her family moved to Whittier, California where her father, Charles Henry became the town's first banker. The family quickly settled into a home at 349 S. Painter Avenue (present site of Whittier Civic Center). Lou attended the Evergreen School during her initial years, then the Bailey Street School, and the primary department of Whittier Academy (now Whittier College).

As a blossoming young girl, Lou loved the open hills and mountains surrounding Whittier, often accompanying her father on horseback rides exploring these areas. Her father bought her a hunting suit, and with 22-caliber rifles they would ride in search of squirrels and gophers pestering the local farmers' crops. By the age of thirteen she was said to be as good of a shot as her father.

Due to her father's respected status as the town's banker, Lou felt a sense of pride in the notion of being "The Banker's Daughter." With merely a large iron safe and set of books, her father ran a one-man institution.

As a result, Lou could often be found helping her father with the books after school then departing on long walks through the surrounding hills.

Lou Henry was highly self-motivated, involving herself with all types of activities at school and in her community of Whittier. She founded a fan-drill team for the girls at the Bailey Street School, which performed at several graduation ceremonies at Whittier Academy. In addition, she was president of a school girl literary club that met once a week to discuss literature and poetry; it was here that she was first introduced to the poems of John Greenleaf Whittier. Also, Lou was often described as a "tomboy" of sorts who loved school sports. Once, due to a lack of sports fields at school, she organized the clearing of a vacant lot for a baseball diamond.



During an 1891 camping trip to California's Mt. Gleason, Lou Henry poses on a burro outside the Acton store-post office-photographers studio.



Far left in the bottom row, Lou Henry, 16, was Captain of a fan-drill team at the Bailey Street School.

When she turned sixteen, due to the economic slump of the 1890s and her father's inability to turn a profit, the bank was closed down and the family moved to Monterey. In the spring of 1898 Lou graduated from Stanford University, receiving a degree in geology, a rare field for females at the time. During her studies at Stanford she met Herbert Hoover, an upper classman geology student, and they began a relationship. Lou and Herbert were married February 10, 1899 and in 1928 Herbert was elected President of the United States, subsequently bestowing the title of First Lady upon Lou. They had two boys, Herbert Hoover Jr. (1903-1969) and Alan Hoover (1907-1993). Although Lou never returned to live in the city of Whittier, she served on the Whittier College board of trustees and received an honorary Doctor of Literature degree in 1928. On January 8, 1944 she died of a heart attack. She was 69 years old.