

Automobile Section

SANT

Established 1855

A VISIT TO PARADISE

Theodore Hoover, Brother of Secretary of
Commerce, Herbert Hoover, Maintains
Attractive Estate.

(By T. B. Jarrett)

In company with H. Washburn, farm advisor, and Professor Metcalf, extension forester, and S. B. Hunt, director of Scotts Valley center, and of the county reforestation commission, our party visited the Hoover ranch at Swanton, and it is a most enjoyable trip and variety in scenery, an eye opener.

On reaching the Hoover ranch, we met Mr. Hoover, a fine type of the American and English gentleman, enjoying his estate surroundings of some 2500 acres, mostly rough and timbered.

The canyon in which the home is built is a perfect panorama of scenic beauty, a grand kaleidoscope of endless variety of foliage, shrubs and trees, with the Waddell creek running through the estate. This grand canyon is worth going many miles to see; high hills on both sides interest and fascinate you, and you agree with the poet:

In such surroundings as this,
My wearied soul would rest,
In peaceful calm and restfulness.

The eye never gets tired of the view. After a call from Mrs. Hoover to lunch, we find Mrs. Hoover a genial hostess and enjoy the dainty yet substantial viands set before us with a relish after our long trip, and certainly, on so short a notice, our hostess set before us that which would satisfy the most epicurean taste.

After lunch we followed Mr. Hoover's trail over log streams to a spot where he wanted information in reference to the best thing to do, so the university professors were consulted.

Though Mr. Hoover is a walking encyclopedia of general knowledge, special mining, etc., he does not profess to know it all. We were interested as we passed along in the trees. There was one, a nutmeg tree, that had fallen over and had taken root again—most unique—and some five to six feet tall. (This was not the commercial nutmeg tree, however), but still a rare tree in this state.

Wild flowers and flowering shrubs abounded in all directions.

Mr. Hoover has made the landscape surrounding his dwelling most attractive, and it is his hobby and Mrs. Hoover's to make a paradise spot of it, and a thing of beauty and joy forever. Fortunately, Mr. Hoover is able to indulge his tastes and desires for congenial surroundings.

Mr. Hoover has some ten acres outside his park, running down to the bay, and is willing to donate it for a camping ground—a most delightful spot. It is now used—and abused—and so he is consulting the professors on recreations and protections from fire; and the county is to be consulted, for Mr. Hoover's taxes are \$1500 a year and he has no fire protection.

Citizens who appreciate beauty and respect property rights, will always find a welcome and permission to fish.

We congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Hoover upon their Eden paradise of par excellent environments, and may they live many years to enjoy their comfortable home of 12 rooms and excellent balmy calm retreat.

It was our pleasure also to get acquainted with Mr. Rodgers, a well-posted man, foreman of this large estate, who has great ideas on improving all the surroundings, besides raising bulbs in large quantities.

The history of the Hoover ranch is most interesting. Originally school land and then possessed by W. W. Waddell and John A. Waddell; also Jeanie Younger interested and the Shore Line Investment company. A saw mill was put up in 1876. A tramway was constructed to the bay, which later was washed out by high tides. A tramway was then constructed to New Year's Point. The heavy timber has been cut off the Hoover ranch, though many logs remain, going to rot; for some reason these logs were not utilized.

This ranch was called by the Spanish name of Casa del Oso, meaning, "The bear has his home." W. W. Waddell died as a result of a conflict with a bear.