

# San Dimas Printer Has Hand in Special Edition

J. Howard Hoover is a newspaperman who refuses to stay retired.

The 84-year-old writer and printer officially was retired from the San Dimas Press in 1948 after 37 years with the newspaper. But since that time he has continued to write historical articles for the paper and an occasional poem. He is the city's official historian and authored a book on San Dimas several years ago.

When Hoover heard that the San Dimas Press was going to reprint a special historic edition of the paper he had been responsible for in 1929, he contacted Mrs. Madeline Hill, the editor, immediately and went back to work as a special advisor.

He set all of the story heads and advertisements in the original 60-page section by hand.

The section, reprinted as a public service by Pomona First Federal Savings and Loan Association, has been accepted by the Library of Congress for the national archives after a presentation by Congressman Glenard P. Lipscomb.

Public interest in the reprint was enormous at the outset and requests for copies have come from schools and colleges all over the area. Special copies have been reserved for the Honnold Memorial Library on the Claremont College campus for the use of history classes there. A copy is being placed by Assemblyman Hugh Flournoy in the California State Museum at Sacramento.

According to history teachers, seldom has an edition been published that is richer in text and early photos or more accurate in historical data.

Hoover is a native of the old Oklahoma Territory who gave up the printing business after founding the Okarche (Okla.) Times because the smell of printer's ink and of gasoline solution used to clean type were affecting his health.

He moved to Oregon and became a fruit orchard farmer. From there he migrated to Idaho where he met and married Helen Amstutz.

In 1911, a week after the wedding, the Hoovers came to San Dimas as part of their honeymoon to visit a friend.

The San Dimas Eagle, founded in 1904, came under the ownership of Clarence L. Compton at this time. Compton, hearing that a printer was in town, asked Hoover to give him a hand with the newspaper.

Hoover remained with the paper until his official retirement in 1948.

Although Hoover is not on the regular payroll, he is in and out of the offices of the San Dimas Press several times a week. He trained Mrs. Madeline Hill, the paper's editor, and taught her all that he knew about the newspaper business.

That's why very few eyebrows were raised when Hoover showed up to help put together the special historical section. While the edition's copy was actually written by J. E. Calkins in 1929, Hoover was without doubt its moving spirit then. It was the most natural thing in the world for him to supervise the edition again.

Hoover would be the first to admit that he is a die-hard letterpress man. The San Dimas Press went to offset in 1962 after its acquisition by the Pomona Progress-Bulletin.

Hoover, who says that he never

believed that offset would be successful, now readily agrees that the reprint of the special edition would not have been possible without offset techniques.

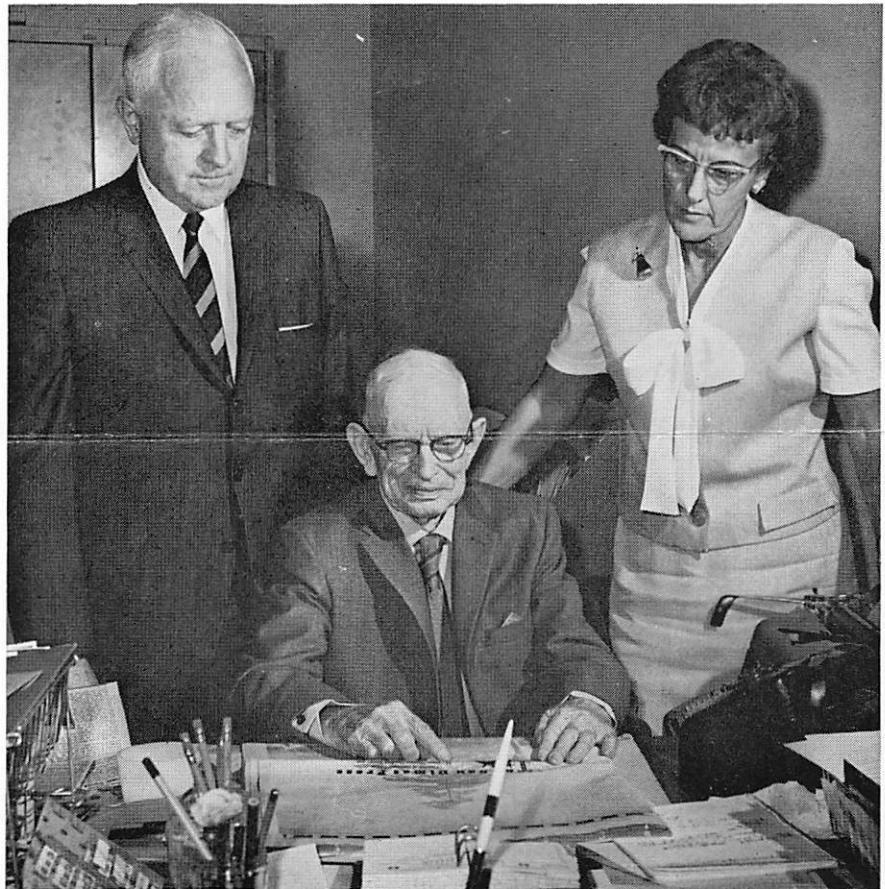
"Even if all of the old zinc cuts could be found, it would be virtually impossible to match the type and reproduce the historic section as it appeared in 1929," he said. "Besides, the value of the reprint is that it reproduces the San Dimas Press exactly as we printed it in 1929, without the change of a comma. This would have been impossible without the art of offset."

Hoover said that by printing 2,500 copies of the special edition, the original press run was more than doubled.

"But San Dimas had a population then of only 2,500 and now it has over 11,500 people," he said.

The veteran newspaperman looked around the offices of the San Dimas Press. The place seemed oddly quiet now that the special edition had been printed and delivered.

"It was a good feeling to get back to work again," Hoover said. "Although I guess I've never really stopped."



**LOOKING OVER** a special historic edition of the San Dimas Press which was recently reprinted are J. Howard Hoover (seated), long-time newspaper printer, Mrs. Madeline Hill, editor of the San Dimas Press, and Paul D. Walker, president of the Pomona First Federal Savings and Loan Association, which reprinted the 60-page section.