

Mystery Flag Atop Tower

A red and white forked pennant was discovered yesterday tied on to the flag pole on top of Hoover Tower. The pennant has not been definitely identified as a Stanford pennant.

Two theories have been advanced as to how the pennant got there. One, that a helicopter was used and the entire job was done from the air, gets its support from reports received from Berkeley police last week that Cal students were considering lighting the bonfire and attacking the Hoover Tower from the air with a helicopter. Police report only two airplanes over the campus Saturday night, however, and neither one was a helicopter.

The other possibility is that it was a completely "inside" job, done from the ground up. Pranksters would have had to break into the building and ascend inside the tower up to the top dome with the light in it; once this far, there is a small doorway and ladder up to the base of the flagpole.

In support of this theory, the police have offered the following information. The tower light burned out at about 10 p.m. Friday. The electrician was called immediately, and the cupola lights were turned on for the sake of night flyers from Moffett Field. Saturday morning the electrician went up to replace the light.

The electrician also stated that he could have possibly left the top door unlocked. That would have been of no help to invaders unless they had already broken through up to that point.

Red Roses on Tower Flag Show Signs of Indians



THE PLOT THICKENS—As seen through fog and a telescope, the Hoover Tower banner bares its message. Yet to be found are the culprits responsible for the deed.

—Daily photo by Fred Crowle

"Roses for the Team" is the message proclaimed by the banner on top of Hoover Tower. On either side of the lettering is a big, red rose. Inspection with powerful binoculars and a telescope from the Physics Department revealed these facts yesterday.

The banner is securely attached to the west side of the top dome and shows no signs of fluttering in the wind. Ropes were used to tie it around the curved cement surface of the dome.

The "flag pole" does not belong on Hoover, but is a pole erected by the persons responsible for the job and is painted red. A red rose about a foot in diameter was fastened on the tip of the pole with streamers flying from the pole and supports.

Since its first appearance Sunday morning, the pole has broken in the middle and the top and now rests on the edge of the dome near the upper left edge of the banner.

Attempts to trace the "who" and "how" have met with little success so far, although the evidence of the message on the banner and the red streamers points to Stanford students.

Hoover Tower Banner Still Flies Paly Times Suspects Daily

By RUTH JAHNKE

"Who put the streamers on top of Hoover Tower?" asks the Paly Times. The mystery is still unsolved, contrary to the Times' hint that the Daily staff knows more than it's printing.

An inside job with inside co-operation is the theory held by Hoover Tower officials as the result of investigations yesterday. Three members of the Hoover staff and a Daily reporter climbed up as far as is possible in the tower.

Execution of the job has been proved possible from the inside of the tower. A vertical ladder extends from the sixteenth floor level up through the floor of the lighted dome second from the top.

Only the little bulb which now bears the banner and pole surmounts this portion of the tower. A heavy iron trap door, which is raised by hand, permits entrance to the small circular-walled chamber.

Experienced mountain climbers would have been able to make use of a ledge about eight inches wide which surrounds the lighted dome several feet below the windows.

Standing on this narrow ledge, they could have tossed ropes over the top of the dome and the rounded bulb on top, climbed up, and erected the pole with wires.

The fastening of the banner with ropes was less difficult, but the prospect of a 235-foot drop broken only by bone-crushing ricochets off domes and cornices would deter most tower climbers.

Investigation of the elaborate sign raising has ruled out the helicopter theory. Investigators estimate that at least three men and possibly four were required for the job and that no "whir-plane" could carry that many passengers.

The Palo Alto Times questioned yesterday's Daily picture of the tower sign. The picture was taken by a Speed-Graphic camera through a high-powered telescope borrowed from the Physics Department. The



HOOVER BANNER
—Whodunit?

picture was snapped from the north steps of the Education Building.

The picture became blurred due to mechanical difficulties, and it was necessary for the outlines of the snapshot to be retouched.