

mark hopkins hotel history

Mark Hopkins Hotel History: A Timeless San Francisco Landmark

mark hopkins hotel history is a story that weaves together the rich tapestry of San Francisco's past with the elegance and charm of one of its most iconic luxury hotels. Nestled atop Nob Hill, the Mark Hopkins Hotel has long been a symbol of sophistication, offering guests breathtaking views, impeccable service, and a direct connection to the city's growth and transformation. Let's take a journey through time to explore how this historic hotel came to be, its significance in the hospitality world, and why it continues to captivate visitors from around the globe.

The Origins of the Mark Hopkins Hotel

Mark Hopkins: The Man Behind the Name

Before the hotel was ever built, the name Mark Hopkins was synonymous with wealth and pioneering spirit in California. Mark Hopkins Jr. was a railroad magnate and one of the Big Four, instrumental in the construction of the Central Pacific Railroad, which played a crucial role in connecting the American West to the rest of the country. His influence and fortune helped shape early San Francisco, and his legacy remains deeply tied to the city's history.

From Private Mansion to Grand Hotel

The site where the Mark Hopkins Hotel stands today was originally the location of Mark Hopkins' private mansion, built in the late 19th century. Unfortunately, the mansion was destroyed in the devastating 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire, which razed much of the city. The tragedy cleared the way for a new vision: a grand hotel that would rise from the ashes and symbolize San Francisco's resilience.

In 1926, the Mark Hopkins Hotel officially opened its doors, designed by architect Willis Polk. The building was constructed to evoke the grandeur of its namesake's mansion while embracing the modern luxury of the Roaring Twenties. Its 14 stories made it one of the tallest buildings in the city at the time, offering stunning panoramic views of the Bay Area.

Architectural Significance and Design

The Mark Hopkins Hotel's architecture reflects a blend of Beaux-Arts and Renaissance Revival styles, common in luxury hotels of the early 20th century. Its ornate façade and lavish interiors were carefully crafted to attract San Francisco's elite and visiting dignitaries.

Inside, the hotel features marble floors, intricate woodwork, and elegant chandeliers that transport guests to a bygone era of opulence. The design choices were intentional, aiming to create an ambiance of exclusivity and comfort while offering state-of-the-art amenities for the time.

The Top of the Mark: An Iconic Sky Lounge

One of the most famous features of the Mark Hopkins Hotel is the “Top of the Mark,” a penthouse lounge and cocktail bar located on the 19th floor. Opened shortly after the hotel’s debut, this sky lounge became a beloved gathering place for locals and visitors alike.

Over the decades, the Top of the Mark has been celebrated for its 360-degree views of San Francisco, including landmarks such as the Golden Gate Bridge, Alcatraz Island, and the downtown skyline. It has also played a role in history as a social hub during World War II, where servicemen and women would gather before deployment.

The Mark Hopkins Hotel Through the Decades

Surviving Economic Challenges and Renovations

Like many historic hotels, the Mark Hopkins faced numerous challenges throughout the 20th century, including economic downturns and changing travel trends. However, its reputation for luxury and prime location ensured it remained a favored destination.

In the 1950s and again in the 1980s, the hotel underwent significant renovations to modernize its facilities while preserving its historic charm. These updates introduced contemporary comforts such as updated guest rooms, conference spaces, and modern dining options, all while maintaining the hotel’s classic aesthetic.

Celebrity Guests and Cultural Impact

The Mark Hopkins Hotel has welcomed a myriad of famous guests over the years, including Hollywood stars, politicians, and international dignitaries. Its elegant ballrooms and meeting spaces have hosted countless events, from glamorous galas to important political gatherings.

The hotel’s cultural impact extends beyond its walls; it has been featured in films, literature, and art that celebrate San Francisco’s unique character. Staying at the Mark Hopkins is often seen as an immersive experience into the city’s vibrant history and social scene.

Modern Day Mark Hopkins: Luxury Meets History

Today, the Mark Hopkins Hotel operates as part of the InterContinental Hotels Group, maintaining its status as a premier luxury destination. It continues to attract travelers seeking a blend of historic ambiance and modern amenities.

Tips for Visitors at the Mark Hopkins Hotel

If you're planning a visit, here are a few insider tips to make the most of your experience:

- **Book a room with a view:** Opt for a room facing the bay to enjoy stunning vistas of San Francisco's iconic landmarks.
- **Visit the Top of the Mark:** Don't miss the chance to sip a cocktail while taking in the panoramic views, especially during sunset.
- **Explore Nob Hill:** The hotel's location puts you steps away from historic churches, fine dining, and boutique shops.
- **Attend a special event:** Keep an eye on the hotel's calendar for themed nights, live music, or holiday celebrations that showcase its lively atmosphere.

The Mark Hopkins Hotel's Role in San Francisco's Hospitality Scene

The hotel remains a benchmark for luxury accommodation in San Francisco, blending historical authenticity with exceptional service. Its commitment to preserving its heritage while evolving to meet guest expectations exemplifies how historic hotels can thrive in modern times.

For travelers interested in San Francisco's past, the Mark Hopkins Hotel offers more than just a place to stay—it provides a living museum of the city's transformation from a railroad hub to a cosmopolitan metropolis.

Whether you're a history buff, a lover of architecture, or simply looking for a memorable place to unwind, understanding the Mark Hopkins Hotel history enhances the appreciation of what this landmark represents.

From its origins on the ashes of a tragic earthquake to its status as a beloved luxury hotel, the Mark Hopkins stands as a testament to San Francisco's enduring spirit and charm. Its story continues to unfold with every guest who crosses its threshold, making it an essential chapter in the narrative of the city by the bay.

Frequently Asked Questions

When was the Mark Hopkins Hotel originally established?

The Mark Hopkins Hotel was originally established in 1926.

Who was the Mark Hopkins Hotel named after?

The hotel was named after Mark Hopkins Jr., a prominent railroad magnate and one of the founders of the Central Pacific Railroad.

What is the historical significance of the Mark Hopkins Hotel in San Francisco?

The Mark Hopkins Hotel is historically significant as a luxury hotel that has hosted numerous celebrities, politicians, and dignitaries since the 1920s, symbolizing San Francisco's opulence and cultural heritage.

What architectural style is the Mark Hopkins Hotel known for?

The Mark Hopkins Hotel is known for its Beaux-Arts architectural style, featuring elegant and classic design elements.

Has the Mark Hopkins Hotel undergone any major renovations?

Yes, the Mark Hopkins Hotel has undergone several renovations, including a significant modernization in the 1980s and upgrades in the 2000s to preserve its historic charm while enhancing guest amenities.

What famous event is associated with the Mark Hopkins Hotel?

One famous event is the 1934 West Coast waterfront strike meetings that took place at the hotel, which was a pivotal moment in labor history.

What is the Top of the Mark, and how is it related to the Mark Hopkins Hotel?

The Top of the Mark is a renowned rooftop bar located on the 19th floor of the Mark Hopkins Hotel, offering panoramic views of San Francisco and a legendary social atmosphere.

Did any notable figures stay at the Mark Hopkins Hotel?

Yes, many notable figures such as Marilyn Monroe, Frank Sinatra, and President John F. Kennedy have stayed at the Mark Hopkins Hotel.

How did the Mark Hopkins Hotel survive the 1906 San Francisco earthquake?

The current Mark Hopkins Hotel was built after the 1906 earthquake; however, the original Mark Hopkins mansion on the same site was destroyed in the fire following the earthquake.

Is the Mark Hopkins Hotel recognized as a historic landmark?

Yes, the Mark Hopkins Hotel is recognized as a historic San Francisco landmark and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Additional Resources

Mark Hopkins Hotel History: A Timeless Icon in San Francisco's Skyline

Mark Hopkins hotel history is a compelling narrative that spans over a century, embodying San Francisco's resilience, architectural innovation, and luxury hospitality. Established during the early 20th century, the Mark Hopkins Hotel has evolved into a landmark that not only offers exceptional accommodations but also holds a storied place in the cultural and social fabric of the city. Understanding its historical context provides valuable insight into its significance within the competitive landscape of luxury hotels and its continuous appeal to travelers and locals alike.

The Origins and Early Years of Mark Hopkins Hotel

The story of the Mark Hopkins Hotel dates back to the aftermath of the devastating 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire, which razed much of the city's downtown core. The hotel's namesake, Mark Hopkins Jr., was a prominent railroad magnate and one of the "Big Four" tycoons who played a pivotal role in constructing the Central Pacific Railroad. Although Hopkins himself passed away decades before the hotel's construction, his legacy inspired the creation of a grand hotel on the summit of Nob Hill, where his mansion once stood.

Constructed in 1926, the original Mark Hopkins Hotel was designed by the renowned architectural firm Weeks and Day. The building's design embraced the Renaissance Revival style, characterized by its ornate detailing, large windows, and stately presence. This architectural choice symbolized a rebirth for Nob Hill, transforming the area into a hub for San Francisco's elite and visitors seeking an upscale experience.

Impact of the 1906 Earthquake and Rebuilding Efforts

The Great Earthquake of 1906 destroyed the Mark Hopkins mansion, along with much of Nob Hill. The subsequent rebuilding efforts were part of a broader movement to restore San Francisco's grandeur. The Mark Hopkins Hotel was among several luxury hotels erected to attract wealthy travelers and re-establish the city's reputation as a cultural and commercial center. Its location on Nob Hill offered panoramic views of the San Francisco Bay, making it a coveted destination.

Architectural Significance and Unique Features

The Mark Hopkins Hotel's architectural design has remained a point of interest for historians and guests. The building's height and structure were innovative for their time, rising 16 stories above Nob Hill, which made it one of the tallest buildings in San Francisco upon its completion. This vertical stature not only provided breathtaking views but also symbolized the city's ambitions during the Roaring Twenties.

The Top of the Mark: A Cultural and Social Landmark

One of the most celebrated features of the Mark Hopkins Hotel is the Top of the Mark lounge, located on the 19th floor. Opened in 1939, this sky lounge quickly became a social hotspot, known for its sophisticated ambiance and sweeping views of the cityscape and bay. During World War II, it gained iconic status as a farewell gathering place for servicemen and their loved ones. The lounge continues to be a magnet for visitors seeking a blend of history, luxury, and panoramic vistas.

Evolution Through the Decades: Ownership and Renovations

Over the decades, the Mark Hopkins Hotel has undergone multiple changes in ownership and significant renovations, reflecting broader trends in the hospitality industry and the evolving demands of luxury travelers. The hotel's ability to adapt has been crucial to maintaining its relevance in a competitive market.

Mid-20th Century to Modern Era

In the mid-20th century, the hotel faced challenges typical of historic properties, including the need for modernization while preserving its classic charm. Renovations during the 1950s and 1960s focused on updating guest rooms and public spaces to meet contemporary standards without sacrificing the architectural integrity of the original design.

The late 20th and early 21st centuries saw further investments aimed at enhancing the guest experience. These included technological upgrades, expanded dining options, and refined interior decor that blends historic elements with modern luxury. The Mark Hopkins Hotel's affiliation with major hotel brands has also introduced global standards of service and marketing reach, boosting its profile among international travelers.

Mark Hopkins Hotel in the Context of San Francisco's Hospitality Scene

Within San Francisco's luxury hotel market, the Mark Hopkins Hotel holds a distinctive position due to its historical pedigree and location. Compared to newer luxury hotels, it offers a unique blend of historical ambiance and modern amenities, attracting a diverse clientele ranging from business travelers to tourists seeking a nostalgic yet refined stay.

Comparative Analysis with Contemporary Luxury Hotels

When placed alongside other iconic San Francisco hotels such as the Fairmont or the Ritz-Carlton, the Mark Hopkins stands out for its intimate size and historic charm. While it may lack some of the ultra-modern features found in recently built properties, its authentic narrative and architectural grandeur provide an experience that is difficult to replicate.

Preservation and Cultural Importance

The Mark Hopkins Hotel is more than just a place to stay; it is a cultural artifact that embodies San Francisco's history and resilience. Efforts to preserve its historic character while integrating modern hospitality trends reflect a broader commitment to maintaining the city's architectural heritage. The hotel's significance is often highlighted in local historical tours and literature, underscoring its role as a symbol of Nob Hill's revival and San Francisco's enduring appeal.

Key Historical Events and Notable Guests

Throughout its history, the Mark Hopkins Hotel has hosted numerous dignitaries, celebrities, and political figures, reinforcing its status as a nexus of social and cultural activity. From international diplomats to Hollywood stars, the guest list reads like a who's who of the 20th and 21st centuries. The hotel's ballrooms and event spaces have also served as venues for important gatherings, further embedding it within the city's social fabric.

The rich history of the Mark Hopkins Hotel, from its origins on the ashes of a city in turmoil to its current standing as a luxury landmark, illustrates the dynamic interplay between preservation and progress. Its enduring appeal lies in the seamless fusion of historical significance and modern comfort, making it a cherished institution in San Francisco's

storied landscape.

Mark Hopkins Hotel History

mark hopkins hotel history: A HISTORY OF CALIFORNIA Bernard TRIGALLOU, 2025-04-02
Discover the Fascinating Story of the Golden State From its breathtaking natural landscapes to its transformative social and economic revolutions, California has long captured the imagination of dreamers, pioneers, and innovators. A History of California takes readers on a captivating journey through time, exploring the events, cultures, and ideas that shaped this remarkable region. Ancient Beginnings: Learn how California's diverse landscapes were formed and how its earliest inhabitants thrived for thousands of years. Colonial Encounters: Uncover the legacies of Spanish missions, Mexican ranchos, and the dramatic changes brought by American expansion. The Gold Rush and Beyond: Witness the frenzied search for gold and the rapid transformation of California into a land of opportunity—and conflict. Agriculture, Industry, and Technology: Trace the rise of California as a global leader in farming, film, aerospace, and Silicon Valley innovation. Diversity and Resilience: Explore the rich cultural tapestry created by waves of immigrants, and the struggles and triumphs of those who shaped its identity. Whether you are a lifelong Californian or a curious reader fascinated by the story of a land that inspires the world, A History of California provides a comprehensive and engaging look at the people and events that have defined this extraordinary state. Praise for A History of California: A masterful exploration of California's past and its relevance to the present. This book is essential reading for anyone who wants to understand the story behind the state that shaped the modern world. Brilliantly written and richly detailed, A History of California brings the Golden State's history to life in all its complexity. Step into the history of California and discover the land of dreams, challenges, and endless possibilities.

mark hopkins hotel history: *Historic San Francisco* Rand Richards, 2007 No American city has a more colorful history than San Francisco. In this unique book, author Rand Richards not only provides a vivid narrative of this special city from its very beginnings all the way through to the modern era, but also tells where to find the historic buildings, sites, museums, and artifacts that make that history come alive. Just a few of the things you will find in Historic San Francisco are the locations of, and the fascinating histories behind: A 1623 Spanish cannon that once guarded the entrance to the Golden Gate. A gold nugget discovered by James Marshall at Coloma in January 1848. The last surviving Nob Hill mansion. Relics from the 1906 earthquake and fire including clusters of melted dimes and pennies found in the ruins. Book jacket.

mark hopkins hotel history: *Chronicles of Old San Francisco* Gael Chandler, 2014-11-01
Discover one of the world's most unique and fascinating cities through 28 dramatic true stories spanning the colorful history of San Francisco. Author Gael Chandler takes readers through more than 250 years of American history with exciting essays on topics such as the city's origins to the founding of the Presidio of San Francisco and the Mission San Francisco de Asis to its modern role as the progressive and innovative heart of a nation. Along the way you'll meet characters like the city's foremother Juana Briones, Gold Rush entrepreneur Levi Strauss, confectioner Domenico Ghirardelli, gangster Al Capone, the rock legends of Haight-Ashbury, activist politician Harvey Milk, the pioneers of today's techno boom, and many others who changed the face of the city—plus lesser-known tales, like those of the children of Alcatraz and the story of John McLaren, the architect of Golden Gate Park. In addition, guided walking tours of San Francisco's historic neighborhoods by the bay and beyond, illustrated with color photographs and period maps, take readers to the places where history really happened.

mark hopkins hotel history: *Recipes from Historic California* Steve Bauer, Linda Bauer, 2008-10-03 Linda and Steve Bauer guide readers through a culinary journey across California,

detailing some of the most interesting histories and delicious recipes from California's landmark restaurants. Each of the restaurants visited reveals several signature dishes to be easily replicated at home. California's cuisine comes alive as the Bauers discover the state's most historic restaurants.

mark hopkins hotel history: *I'M Tim Maude, and I'M a Soldier* Stephen E. Bower, 2015-02-10 Lt. Gen. Tim Maude shares the distinction of being the highest ranking American soldier to lose his life in military action. But unlike Lesley J. McNair and Simon B. Buckner Jr., both lieutenant generals who died during World War II, the battle he died in was not one he expected. On Sept. 11, 2001, terrorists commandeered an American Airlines flight out of Dulles International Airport and crashed it into the southwest wall of the Pentagon, killing Maude and more than a hundred other military and civilian workers. Scores of other people were injured when the airliner ripped through the building at 530 miles per hour. At the time of his death, Maude served as the deputy chief of staff for personnel, the Army's chief executor of personnel policy and manager of the various programs affecting the strength and moral well-being of America's land forces. As one of only five members of the Army's Adjutant General's Corps to rise to the rank of lieutenant general, his story is one of triumph and celebration, and an abiding commitment to family, country, and service.

mark hopkins hotel history: *The Valley's Legends and Legacies III* Catherine M. Rehart, Catherine Morison Rehart, 2000 Shows the sacrifices and successes, the toils and triumphs of those who preceded us, each contributing his or her measure to the legacy of California's Central Valley. This title chronicles the intriguing and humorous stories of the colourful Valley inhabitants who created the legends and bestowed the legacies on those of us.

mark hopkins hotel history: *The Worlds of Junipero Serra* Steven W. Hackel, 2018-02-23 As one of America's most important missionaries, Junípero Serra is widely recognized as the founding father of California's missions. It was for that work that he was canonized in 2015 by Pope Francis. Less well known, however, is the degree to which Junípero Serra embodied the social, religious and artistic currents that shaped Spain and Mexico across the 18th century. Further, Serra's reception in American culture in the 19th and 20th centuries has often been obscured by the controversies surrounding his treatment of California's Indians. This volume situates Serra in the larger Spanish and Mexican contexts within which he lived, learned, and came of age. Offering a rare glimpse into Serra's life, these essays capture the full complexity of cultural trends and developments that paved the way for this powerful missionary to become not only California's most polarizing historical figure but also North America's first Spanish colonial saint.

mark hopkins hotel history: Notes from the California Historical Society California Historical Society, 1967

mark hopkins hotel history: *Living Downtown* Paul E. Groth, Paul Erling Groth, Paul Groth, 1994-01-01 From the palace hotels of the elite to cheap lodging houses, residential hotels have been an element of American urban life for nearly two hundred years. Since 1870, however, they have been the target of an official war led by people whose concept of home does not include the hotel. Do these residences constitute an essential housing resource, or are they, as charged, a public nuisance? *Living Downtown*, the first comprehensive social and cultural history of life in American residential hotels, adds a much-needed historical perspective to this ongoing debate. Creatively combining evidence from biographies, buildings and urban neighborhoods, workplace records, and housing policies, Paul Groth provides a definitive analysis of life in four price-differentiated types of downtown residence. He demonstrates that these hotels have played a valuable socioeconomic role as home to both long-term residents and temporary laborers. Also, the convenience of hotels has made them the residence of choice for a surprising number of Americans, from hobo author Boxcar Bertha to Calvin Coolidge. Groth examines the social and cultural objections to hotel households and the increasing efforts to eliminate them, which have led to the seemingly irrational destruction of millions of such housing units since 1960. He argues convincingly that these efforts have been a leading contributor to urban homelessness. This highly original and timely work aims to expand the concept of the American home and to recast accepted notions about the relationships among urban life, architecture, and the public management of residential environments.

mark hopkins hotel history: The Life of Maynard Dixon Donald J. Hagerty, Maynard Dixon, 2010 Maynard Dixon embellished themes that encompassed the timeless truth of the majestic western landscape, the humanity of its memorable people, and the religious mysticism of the Native American. In an attempt to uncover the spirit of the American West, Dixon roamed its plains, mesas, and deserts—drawing, painting, and expressing his creative personality in poems, essays, and letters. Written in a very personal style, this biography includes anecdotes from Dixon's children, historical vignettes, and interviews with those who knew the artist.

mark hopkins hotel history: Historic Walks in San Francisco Rand Richards, 2002 Eighteen self-guided walking tours down city streets that will take you back in time, with colorful stories about the buildings along the way and the people associated with them. Brimming with insight and the odd fact, laced with humor and drama, this unique guidebook sheds new light on the history of one of America's renowned cities. Easy-to-follow maps, and dozens of historic photographs.

mark hopkins hotel history: Art Deco San Francisco Therese Poletti, 2008-09-03 The Castro Theatre, the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Headquarters, 450 Sutter Medico-Dental Building these masterpieces of San Francisco's Art Deco heritage are the work of one man: Timothy Pflueger. An immigrant's son with only a grade-school education, Pflueger began practicing architecture after San Francisco's 1906 earthquake. While his contemporaries looked to Beaux-Arts traditions to rebuild the city, he brought exotic Mayan, Asian, and Egyptian forms to buildings ranging from simple cocktail lounges to the city's first skyscrapers. Pflueger was one of the city's most prolific architects during his 40-year career. He designed two major downtown skyscrapers, two stock exchanges, several neighborhood theaters, movie palaces for four smaller cities (including the beloved Paramount in Oakland), some of the city's biggest schools, and at least 50 homes. His works include the San Francisco Stock Exchange, the ever-popular Top of the Mark, the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge, and the San Francisco World's Fair. It is a testament to his talent that many of his buildings still stand and many have been named landmarks. Therese Poletti tells the fascinating story of Pflueger's life and work in Art Deco San Francisco. In lively detail, she relates how Pflueger built extravagant compositions in metal, concrete, and glass. She also tells the story behind the architecture: Pflueger's commissioning and support of muralist Diego Rivera, his association with photographer Ansel Adams and sculptor Ralph Stackpole, and his childhood friendship turned to adulthood sponsorship with San Francisco Mayor James Sunny Rolph Jr. Beautiful archival photography mixes with stunning new photography in this collection of a truly Californian, but ultimately American, story.

mark hopkins hotel history: Death Spell Robert Ziegler, 2007-06 Private investigators Brandon Harrison and Tina Wolffe never believed in magic, witchcraft, or the occult until a Wiccan witch known as Andreika walks into their office with a case guaranteed to chill their blood. Andreika's half brother has been murdered, but a police investigation determined his death a suicide. Andreika believes that someone hired Golar, an evil warlock, to cast his powerful Death Spell on her brother and tries to convince Harrison and Wolffe of her suspicions. Despite their doubts, the detectives readily agree to take the case. Andreika is very persuasive, or she has cast a spell on the duo. Entering a deadly occult world of modern-day witches and warlocks, Harrison and Wolffe encounter a strange assortment of weird suspects, any one of which has motive, opportunity, and desire to hire a wicked warlock as a hit man. But they focus on Golar and follow him into the darkest corners of San Francisco. As their investigation continues, the detectives soon realize that the warlock may have once again cast his Death Spell—and they are his targets.

mark hopkins hotel history: Imagine Living Life Well with Perspective & Perseverance Maureen Whitaker, 2024-04-16 Imagine Living Life Well with Perspective and Perseverance with Real Life and Medieval Society with Discretion Being the Better Part of Valor Life Changes: Five Years Hence Book Five Volume VI, Part Two This is the second half of Volume VI. Liam's overall condition changes, and he needs Anna to help him with most all life matters. They get him help and he has tests and unfortunately, the testing process was not done correctly, so Mike and Dave helped

Liam with some life matters. Things become quite complex with many Life Challenges and Changes. Anna begins to rely on their two doctor friends, and they go to a lawyer to obtain legal assistance for all of them for medical directives. After some time, with great struggles, Liam meets his demise. Anna has a hard time and misses him a great deal. She will always love him. They have a Celebration of Life for Liam. A child they know shares a secret with Anna. Anna gravitates to one of her doctor friends, and eventually, he asks her to marry him. Other events take place and they do well. The three of them are asked to present a seminar which was healing. You will have to read Book Six for the remainder of Anna's life with a new husband. They have many more adventures. They continue to use the Seals for healing energies. A Situation in a Wooded Forest Requires Immediate Action is a multipart event and is long and has many emotions to deal with over time. We go on a yacht on San Francisco Bay while there for a function. For more of Anna's life matters, next is Book Six, Volume VII, which finishes the storyline.

mark hopkins hotel history: The Governor Norman E. Tutorow, Evie LaNora Tutorow, 2004

mark hopkins hotel history: The ^ADream Endures Kevin Starr, 2002-11-28 What we now call the good life first appeared in California during the 1930s. Motels, home trailers, drive-ins, barbecues, beach life and surfing, sports from polo and tennis and golf to mountain climbing and skiing, sportswear (a word coined at the time), and sun suits were all a part of the good life--perhaps California's most distinctive influence of the 1930s. In *The Dream Endures*, Kevin Starr shows how the good life prospered in California--in pursuits such as film, fiction, leisure, and architecture--and helped to define American culture and society then and for years to come. Starr previously chronicled how Californians absorbed the thousand natural shocks of the Great Depression--unemployment, strikes, Communist agitation, reactionary conspiracies--in *Endangered Dreams*, the fourth volume of his classic history of California. In *The Dream Endures*, Starr reveals the other side of the picture, examining the newly important places where the good life flourished, like Los Angeles (where Hollywood lived), Palm Springs (where Hollywood vacationed), San Diego (where the Navy went), the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena (where Einstein went and changed his view of the universe), and college towns like Berkeley. We read about the rich urban life of San Francisco and Los Angeles, and in newly important communities like Carmel and San Simeon, the home of William Randolph Hearst, where, each Thursday afternoon, automobiles packed with Hollywood celebrities would arrive from Southern California for the long weekend at Hearst Castle. The 1930s were the heyday of the Hollywood studios, and Starr brilliantly captures Hollywood films and the society that surrounded the studios. Starr offers an astute discussion of the European refugees who arrived in Hollywood during the period: prominent European film actors and artists and the creative refugees who were drawn to Hollywood and Southern California in these years--Igor Stravinsky, Arnold Schoenberg, Man Ray, Bertolt Brecht, Christopher Isherwood, Aldous Huxley, Thomas Mann, and Franz Werfel. Starr gives a fascinating account of how many of them attempted to recreate their European world in California and how others, like Samuel Goldwyn, provided stories and dreams for their adopted nation. Starr reserves his greatest attention and most memorable writing for San Francisco. For Starr, despite the city's beauty and commercial importance, San Francisco's most important achievement was the sense of well-being it conferred on its citizens. It was a city that magically belonged to everyone. Whether discussing photographers like Edward Weston and Ansel Adams, hard-boiled fiction writers, or the new breed of female star--Marlene Dietrich, Jean Harlow, Bette Davis, Carole Lombard, and the improbable Mae West--*The Dream Endures* is a brilliant social and cultural history--in many ways the most far-reaching and important of Starr's California books.

mark hopkins hotel history: Historic Pasadena Ann Scheid, Ann Scheid Lund, 1999

mark hopkins hotel history: 2015 Guide to Self-Publishing, Revised Edition Robert Lee Brewer, 2014-10-07 The 2015 Guide to Self-Publishing is the essential resource for writers who are taking their publishing futures into their own hands, whether it's referred to as self-publishing or indie publishing. In addition to hundreds of listings for freelance editors, designers, self-publishing companies, and more--the Guide to Self-Publishing offers articles on how to create standout covers,

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mark hopkins hotel history: The Photographer's Guide to San Francisco Lee Foster, 2011-10-25 The Photographer's Guide to San Francisco presents the visual pleasures of this world-famous city. With picturesque postcard images and straightforward instructions on how to view all the most famous sites, from the Golden Gate Bridge to Muir Woods, this book will help you discover the most pleasing images and capture the most beautiful moments. Includes directions to the sites, tips and techniques, and local travel information. This book will help you explore, enjoy, and photograph San Francisco by describing the visual pleasures of this world-famous city. You'll get tips on how to view all the most famous sites, from the Golden Gate Bridge to Muir Woods, as well as what time of day and year will produce the most pleasing images and memories.

mark hopkins hotel history: Not For Tourists Guide to San Francisco 2015 Not For Tourists, 2014-11-25 The Not For Tourists Guide to San Francisco is the urban manual to the city that no San Franciscan should be without. This map-based guidebook organizes the city into forty mapped neighborhoods, and marks each map with user-friendly icons locating all of the essential services and entertainment hotspots. From post offices, libraries, restaurants, bars, and hardware stores to information on hotels, airports, public transportation, and city parks, NFT puts everything you need to know at your fingertips. The book also includes:

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Stage Review - Grease (Tacoma Musical Playhouse) I feel like a lot of people come into the stage version expecting the film, since that's their frame of reference, and I felt that at the opening night performance of Grease, the Musical

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