

FBI Woman's Romance With Hoover

Jacksonville, Fla.

A 68-year-old former FBI file clerk and code-breaker has written a book describing the love she shared with J. Edgar Hoover.

Titled "FBI Woman," the book tells of the mostly platonic relationship between the late FBI director, who never married, and Blonde Fowler, a divorcee who worked at

the FBI's Washington headquarters from 1943 to 1952.

Fowler, a resident of Jacksonville since 1960 and now employed in the city's Legal Aid Department, said she decided to tell her story because "I kept hearing all this dirt about Hoover, especially about homosexuality."

"I have no proof — just the

memories and a couple of scars," she said.

According to Fowler's account, she and Hoover were engaged to be married at one time, but she returned his ring following an argument in his office. On several

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occasions after that, she said, they discussed marriage.

"We were in love," she said. "Maybe we were a little old-fashioned. We were very close for many years."

They never married, Fowler said, because of an ailment she suffered stemming from operations she underwent shortly after the birth of her daughter. Her only marriage ended in divorce in 1935.

She describes her final meeting with Hoover in the book, which is scheduled to go on sale in Jacksonville next week:

"At the hotel I sat still in the car a moment looking at him. The storm was over and somehow he looked better. I felt relieved. It was going to be all right.

"Ignoring the agent's presence, I hugged John Edgar and said, 'Goodbye, dear. Take care of yourself.'

"He kissed 'me and replied, 'Goodbye, Blonde. I'll see you soon. Have a good trip home'."

Fowler said she was visiting her mother a few weeks later in Jacksonville when she "opened a newspaper and saw that John Edgar was dead." Hoover died May 2, 1972.

She decided to write the book last summer because "he's gone and I'm old." She worked on the book 14 to 15 hours a day at first, writing in long-hand, then typing. "It was painful," she said.

She still wears around her neck a small watch on a chain that bears the inscription, "Blonde Fowler, true patriot, J. Edgar Hoover, Feb. 15, 1968." Hoover gave it to her at one of their last meetings, she said.

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'FBI WOMAN' BLONDE FOWLER
'We were in love'