

Junius Marion Futrell

Born: August 14, 1870, at Jones Ridge, Arkansas

Died: June 20, 1955, at Little Rock, Arkansas

Served: 1933-1937

In his early years, Junius M. Futrell taught school, farmed, and worked in the timber industry. In 1896 he was elected to the Arkansas House of Representatives and returned twice. He was elected clerk of the Circuit Court in 1906, and state senator in 1912, serving until 1917. In 1913 Governor Joseph T. Robinson resigned from office and Futrell, who was president of the Senate at the time, became acting governor. He served in this capacity until July 23, 1913. In 1922, he was appointed Circuit Court judge for the Second Judicial District, then served as chancellor of the 12th District from 1923 to 1933. In 1932 Futrell was elected to a full term as Governor of Arkansas, and won a second term in 1934. During his tenure, the Refunding Act was enacted, the Arkansas Prohibition Act was rescinded, and the State Planning Board was established. In addition, the Arkansas Department of Public Welfare was created, parimutuel betting on dog and horse races was legalized and two amendments to the state constitution limiting the state's power to tax were adopted. After Futrell left office, he remained in Little Rock and returned to the practice of law.

Carl Edward Bailey

Born: October 8, 1894, at Bernie, Missouri

Died: October 23, 1948, at Little Rock, Arkansas

Served: 1937-1941

Carl Bailey moved to Arkansas in 1917, where he worked as a bookkeeper while studying law. In 1923 he was admitted to the Arkansas Bar. Bailey served as deputy prosecuting attorney, then prosecuting attorney from 1927 to 1935. He was elected attorney general of Arkansas in 1934, and governor in 1936. He won a second term in 1938. During his tenure, the Department of Public Welfare was restructured and Arkansas qualified for full participation in all federal welfare programs. A free library system was created and a retirement system was drafted. All state-owned bridges were made toll-free, and a new agricultural experiment station was established at Batesville. Bailey ran unsuccessfully for a third term, and left office on January 14, 1941. He later served as a legislative representative of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen and taught legal medicine at the University of Arkansas medical school.

Homer Martin Adkins

Born: October 15, 1890, at Jacksonville, Arkansas

Died: February 26, 1964, at Malvern, Arkansas

Served: 1941-1945

Arkansas's 32nd governor attended business school and graduated from the Little Rock College of Pharmacy in 1911. At the age of 20, Adkins was licensed as a pharmacist, but needed special permission to practice because he was six months younger than the required age of 21. During World War I, he served in the army, was assigned to the medical corps, and later rose to the rank of captain. Adkins entered politics in 1923, when he served one term as sheriff of Pulaski County. He was appointed collector of internal revenue in 1933, and served until 1940 when he resigned to run for governor. Adkins was

elected in that year and in 1942 won a second term. During his tenure, the state treasury surplus rose from \$21 million to \$45 million and the first workmen's compensation commission was appointed. Adkins also campaigned to refinance the highway debt; Arkansas voters approved his refunding act in 1943. After leaving office Adkins was a political broker, consultant, and advisor to several politicians. In 1948, he was appointed administrator of the Arkansas Employment Security Division, and in 1956 he established a public-relations firm in Little Rock, in which he worked until shortly before his death in 1964.

Benjamin Travis Laney Jr.

Born: November 25, 1896, at Jones Chapel (Cooterneck), Arkansas

Died: January 21, 1977, at Magnolia, Arkansas

Served: 1945-1949

“Business Ben” Laney earned a degree from the Arkansas Teachers College in 1924 and took graduate courses from the University of Utah. Laney owned a drugstore in Conway, Arkansas, traded in farm real estate and entered the oil business when oil was discovered on his family farm near Camden, Arkansas. He entered politics in 1935 when elected Mayor of Camden, serving until 1939. Laney ran for governor and won both the 1944 and 1946 elections. In his first campaign, Laney called for “efficiency, economy and consolidation” in state government; he followed through by promoting the ultimately adopted Revenue Stabilization Act which proved to be his greatest achievement. While Laney was governor, the Arkansas Resources and Development Commission was formed and the Corporation and Utilities Commissions were consolidated into the Public Service Commission. Also during his tenure, the General Assembly authorized construction of War Memorial Stadium in Little Rock and the governor's mansion. Laney was a consistent supporter of racial segregation and eventually became identified with the “Dixiecrat” states’ rights movement but, notably, during Laney’s administration the University of Arkansas became the first historically white southern public university to admit African-American students. Laney did not seek reelection for a third term and left office on January 11, 1949. He ran, unsuccessfully, in the 1950 gubernatorial race but remained active in public affairs, serving as a delegate to the 1969 Arkansas Constitutional Convention.

Sidney Sanders McMath

Born: June 14, 1912, in Columbia County, Arkansas

Died: October 4, 2003, at Little Rock, Arkansas

Served: 1949-1953

Sid McMath graduated from the University of Arkansas in 1936 with a law degree. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Marine Corps and was awarded both the Silver Star and the Legion of Merit awards. McMath entered politics in 1947 and served one term as prosecuting attorney for Garland and Montgomery counties. In November 1948, he was elected governor and was reelected in 1950. During his tenure, general-obligation bonds were authorized for the construction and maintenance of highways and bridges and a new medical center in Little Rock was planned. The state's mental health system was revised, the university's medical school was upgraded and the minimum wage increased. McMath set a progressive tone in race relations by supporting a state anti-lynching law, sought repeal

of the poll tax and appointed a number of blacks to previously all-white boards and commissions. During his second term McMath's enemies suggested that the governor was connected with irregularities in the management of the state's highways department. These charges were never proved but they had their effect: he lost his bid for re-election to a third term in 1952. He subsequently ran for the U.S. Senate in 1954, and again for governor in 1962, but was defeated in both races. He returned to his law practice and was elected president of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers in 1976. His death in 2003 coincided with the publication of his memoir, *Promises to Keep*.