

Biography of Clarence Morley

Clarence Morley, Governor of Colorado in 1925 – 1927, was born in Dyersville, Iowa on February 9, 1869. His public schooling in Cedar Falls, Iowa, was interrupted when his family relocated to Trinidad, Colorado in 1890. It was in Trinidad that Morley began his career in law as an official of the District Court. Five years later Morley attended the law school at Denver University. After nineteen years of private practice and serving on the Denver School Board, Morley was elected District Judge of Denver in 1918. He retained this judicial post until his gubernatorial victory in 1925.

Morley's political ascent paralleled an anti-minority, anti-foreign, anti-Jewish, and anti-Catholic sentiment that existed throughout the country during the 1920's. Proponents of these beliefs found many supporters in the Ku Klux Klan, which in Colorado came under the leadership of the charismatic and persuasive John Galen Locke. Locke focused less on the overt violence and racism that characterized many other Klan groups and more on creating one of the strongest political machines that Colorado had thus far seen. As the **Denver Post** wrote, "...beyond any doubt the KKK is the largest and most cohesive, most efficiently organized political force in the state..." Under Locke's control, the Klan secured a variety of political seats and gained advantageous alliances, including one with Ben Stapleton, mayor of Denver. Taking advantage of weak leadership in the Republican Party, the Klan promoted Judge Morley as the party's choice for governor. The primarily conservative voters of Colorado tended to vote for a straight Republican party ticket, and thus also chose the Klan. The Republicans, top-heavy with Klan members, won the 1924 election by a landslide. The Klan instituted Morley as Governor, obtained a majority in the House and Senate, elected the Secretary of State, and secured a Supreme Court Judgeship as well as seven benches on the Denver District Court. John Galen Locke's Ku Klux Klan now seemed to be in control of the Colorado political system.

Morley's administration was exemplified, however, by a growing dichotomy in the Republican Party. There was also considerable opposition from a small group of democrats, led by future governor Billy Adams, that successfully killed almost all Klan sponsored legislation in committee. In 101 days 1,080 bills were introduced under the statehouse dome. Of those bills, only fifteen percent made it as far as the governor's pen and only three of those were originally sponsored by Morley. Despite his apparent lack of legislative success, Morley was responsible for ratifying the Colorado River Compact, strengthening prohibition laws, developing a successful inmate labor program, and promoting legislation that allowed the state to carry its own insurance on its public buildings. Thus, while Morley was an active Klansman, his legislative successes had little to do with his special interest group affiliations. His connections to the Klan also failed to make him popular with many Colorado citizens who admonished him for his numerous acts of clemency, and for his development of a police force, that many felt, enforced the prohibition laws too aggressively.

Soon after his administration ended, Morley established C.J. Morley & Company, a stock brokerage firm in Indianapolis, Indiana. After three years in this endeavor, Morley returned to Denver in order to practice law again. His plans were interrupted, however,

when he was arrested in 1935 for mail fraud. Specifically, Morley's Indiana investment firm was accused of knowingly sending false statements through the mail in order to defraud their customers. While he was found not guilty in Colorado, the Federal courts indicted him for twenty-one counts of mail fraud and for using his prestige and past public office connections to defraud his customers. Morley was found guilty on these charges, and was sentenced to Leavenworth Prison for five years. After he completed his prison term, Morley moved to Oklahoma City where he died three years later on November 15, 1948.

Biography of Ralph L. Carr

By Jason Brockman

Between 1939-1943 Colorado had one of the most courageous and independent governors ever to be elected. Ralph Lawrence Carr was born in Rosita, Colorado and educated in the Cripple Creek school system. After receiving his LLB from the University of Colorado, Carr moved to Victor, Trinidad, and then Antonito where he practiced law and became a publisher. Carr served as a county attorney of Conejos County, and then as Colorado Assistant Attorney General. The apex of his legal career occurred when he became a United States District Attorney. As a Republican, Carr lost this influential post when the Democratic "New Dealers" began to dominate national politics. Despite this loss he was able to stay in the public eye by becoming a powerful and prominent water/irrigation lawyer.

In 1939 a struggling Republican Party supported Carr as their gubernatorial candidate, and won. Within the first half-hour of his term, Carr proposed a plan for a balanced budget by transferring state income taxes from public schools to the state's general fund. These immediate fiscal measures helped to save our state from imminent bankruptcy. Also due to Carr's leadership, the Legislature passed the State Reorganization Act which greatly increased the efficiency of state government. As a result, Carr is one of the few governors known for making the Colorado bureaucracy more operative.

While Carr's policies were aimed at dismantling the expensive bureaucracy of the New Deal, Carr still supported Roosevelt's foreign policy and favored American entrance into World War II after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. The war with Japan initiated a chain of events that bred discrimination and intolerance toward Japanese-Americans. In 1942 an estimated 120,000 Japanese-Americans were stripped of their property and possessions. These displaced citizens were resettled in land-locked states by the War Relocation Authority so that the supposed "yellow peril" could be contained. The question on many Coloradans' minds was not whether American citizens of Japanese decent should be stripped of their rights and put in internment camps, but where the camps should be. The overwhelming opinion of the populace was typified by a series of highway billboards proclaiming "Japs keep going."

One of the few voices of reason during wartime was Governor Carr, who continued to treat the Japanese-Americans with respect and sought to help them keep their American citizenship. He sacrificed his political career to bravely confront the often dark side of human nature. "If you harm them, you must harm me. I was brought up in a small town where I knew the shame and dishonor of race hatred. I grew to despise it because it threatened the happiness of you and you and you." Carr's selfless devotion to all Americans, while destroying his hopes for a senate seat, did in the end become extolled as, "a small voice but a strong voice."

Biography of Stephen McNichols

By Jason Brockman

Stephen Lucid Robert McNichols, Colorado's Democrat Governor from 1957 to 1963, was born in Denver on March 7, 1914. McNichols' father William H. McNichols, Denver's well-respected auditor for over thirty years, was undoubtedly influential in steering his two sons Bill and Stephen toward their success in state politics. Stephen McNichols graduated from East Denver High School and Regis College to pursue a law degree from Catholic University in Washington. After graduating in 1939 he joined the Federal Bureau of Investigation as a field officer in Baltimore and Boston. After a year of service McNichols returned home to assist the Denver District Attorney, John A. Carroll. He later became an assistant in the U.S. Attorney General's anti-trust division in Denver. In 1942 McNichols married Marjory Hart to which five children would eventually be born. McNichols' family life as well as his municipal and judicial aspirations were put on hold, however, when the U.S. Navy required his services as an officer in the amphibious corps in 1942. He distinguished himself in the service earning the Bronze Star and was promoted to lieutenant commander.

Less than ten years after receiving his law degree McNichols opened his own law firm McNichols, Dunn & Nevans and was elected to the state senate. As a senator McNichols soon became recognized as a skilled planner and was respected for his ability to cross party lines to achieve his goals. During his two terms he was instrumental in developing a plan for long-range highway development, a school district reorganization proposal, and a scheme to centralize public utility management. McNichols' abilities to plan and pass legislation were rewarded in 1954 when he was elected as Edwin Johnson's Lt. Governor. When Governor Johnson was ill, which was much of the time during this administration, McNichols learned the daily responsibilities of the governorship. It was this experience that helped McNichols to successfully become elected Colorado's Governor in 1956.

Controversial activism and far-reaching plans distinguished McNichols' administration. As governor McNichols championed an improved system of school financial aid distribution and successfully lobbied for an increased university faculty salary cap. McNichols also advocated institutional reform for the State Hospital in Pueblo and State Penitentiary in Canon City, both organizations fraught with corruption and aging structures. McNichols pushed public works projects securing federal funding for his long-range highway development program and seeing that the Fryingpan-Arkansas water development project was begun. He was also instrumental in the development of the Colorado State Archives and the governorship grew from a two to a four-year term during his administration.

To pass this tremendous package of legislation McNichols often alienated members of his own Democratic Party, and to pay for it he lobbied for an unpopular tax hike. Furthermore, McNichols' Fryingpan - Arkansas water diversion project caused friction between the Western Slope and Front Range regions. Another source of contention was McNichols' acceptance of the Executive Residence from the Boettcher Foundation. Many

legislators disagreed with this decision and believed that it showed McNichols to be arrogant and power-hungry. Ironically, the same package of legislation that got him elected to the governorship in 1956 brought him defeat in his 1962 reelection campaign.

McNichols' defeat at the polls did not stop him from securing a successful bid for the U.S. Senate in 1968, serving as a Democratic National Committee member, or as the Rocky Mountain Regions U.S. Commerce Director in 1977. His public service came to an end on November 25, 1997 when he died due to heart failure. Governor Roy Romer said this of former Governor Stephen McNichols, "I served in the state legislature during his tenure as governor and remember well his character, unique style and commitment to Colorado...He was one of our best governors, in an important time in our history."

Biography of John A. Love

John Arthur Love was Colorado's 36th governor and served from 1963-1973. While he was born in Illinois on a farm near Gibson City on November 29, 1916, his family moved to Colorado five years later after John's father, Arthur Candee Love, was diagnosed with a respiratory illness. As many Colorado transplants attested to at the time, the state had a healing environment for such patients.

The family settled in Colorado Springs where John graduated from Cheyenne Mountain School in 1934. Love then attended Denver University earning his bachelor of arts degree in 1938. He became editor of the student newspaper, **The Clarion**, during his senior year. He was also elected president of the Rocky Mountain Collegiate Press Association. He received his LLB from Denver University Law School in 1941 and passed the Colorado Bar in the same year. He married Ann Daniels in 1942. They had three children, Dan, Andrew and Rebecca.

World War II temporarily interrupted his professional law career. He enlisted in the Navy's Aviation Cadet program and served as a U.S. Navy pilot, for which he was twice awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. Following the War, he opened a law firm in Colorado Springs. After the war Colorado experienced unprecedented growth, especially in and around the urban areas. The economy became more dependent on industry and tourism rather than its traditional agriculture and mining orientation. There was also a heavy infusion of federal funds into the state as federal agencies proliferated following the War. While the economy began to diversify, a schism between the more populous Eastern Slope cities and Western Slope rural areas began to develop. Competition over Western Slope water became especially important.

Because of these conditions, Colorado politics was in a state of flux in 1962 when Love decided to run for an office. His bid to become El Paso County Republican Chair, however, failed by one vote. Shortly after this unsuccessful attempt, he decided to run for governor so that he could at least make his name more well known in the political arena. Surprisingly, he won the primary battle against the longtime legislator and Speaker of the House, David Hamil. Two factors then especially influenced the race for governor. The Republicans in 1962 were more unified than the Democrats which gave Love an edge. Coloradans were also looking for a change in their leadership. Plus, although Love had no particular cause or agenda to promote, he seemed to be an attractive candidate both physically as well as politically. Although he was relatively new in politics, he had no past record to defend and, as yet, few enemies. He was also a moderate Republican which gained him more broad based support. For these reasons he beat the incumbent, Stephen McNichols and became the first Colorado governor to be elected to three terms.

During his terms he was responsible for attracting many businesses and jobs to Colorado as part of his "Sell Colorado" campaign. The tourist and ski industries also boomed. Colorado became more influential at a national political level as the state's population grew and became more prosperous. The popularity of his "Sell Colorado" idea began to ebb in the late 1960s, however, as some Colorado leaders, notably Love, began to press

for Colorado to be the site of the 1976 Winter Olympics. In 1972 an initiative was passed which refused to allow any state money to be spent on financing the games. The environmental movement had strong support in Colorado where residents were fearful that their outstanding quality of life, based largely on the scenic mountain landscape, would be compromised if the Olympic developments were allowed to proceed.

Despite Love's support for the Olympics, his record concerning environmental protection was much more moderate than many conservative Republicans. In his State of the State addresses in 1970 and 1972, he stressed taking action to preserve, protect and improve the environment. He supported state land use legislation and promoted careful growth instead of growth for its own sake. He signed important air and water pollution acts in 1970 which reduced pollution and helped to protect the environment.

Budgetary concerns were always difficult for Love to negotiate with the legislature and joint budget committee. In Colorado, the governors and legislatures have traditionally sought to acquire or retain power over the state's coffers. As other governors before and after him, Love believed that the Executive Branch should have more power over the budget. Despite these actual limitations on his power Love was able to influence the passage of many bills. He got increased state support for public schools and universities, and increased scholarships and tuition waivers for college students despite the fact that during his first term he supported a raise in college tuition. He also signed controversial bills legalizing abortion and making possession of a small amount of marijuana a misdemeanor. During his last term Colorado set a nation-wide precedence by passing the Sunshine Law which opened government meetings to the public and set disclosure requirements.

During one of the most contentious decades in our history because of the Viet Nam War and civil rights disparities in the 1960s, Love was known for his moderation . He was influential in keeping the state relatively undivided and continually prosperous. He resigned the governorship in 1973 to become the nation's first director of the Office of Energy Policy for president Richard M. Nixon but resigned this post after five months due to much political bickering and feeling like he did not have enough to do. The upheaval of the Watergate scandal and the subsequent resignation of Nixon possibly influenced his decision to return to the private sector where he took a position on the board of directors for the concrete and potash maker, Ideal Basic Industries. He would later become the CEO of the firm while remaining counsel to the Denver law firm of Davis, Graham & Stubbs, and in addition taught history at the University of Northern Colorado. He died in Colorado, January 21, 2002 at the age of 85.