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**Kentucky Governors - Part 3**

**1911 - 1995**

Tonight I will conclude a subject which I introduced two papers ago - Kentucky Governors Fifty-three men and one woman have held this office - The fifty-fifth governor will take office next Tuesday. Tonights paper takes us through two World Wars, the great depression, into the Era of Space, the internet, and to the brink of the 21st Century.

August Owsley Stanley served as Kentucky's 38th governor from 1915 - 1919. He was born in Shelbyville in 1867, the son of a Christian Church minister. He received a baccalaureate degree from Center College in 1889 and taught school for several years before being admitted to the bar in 1894. In 1898 he moved to Henderson where he continued to practice law, and rose in Democratic Councils in Western Kentucky. At the age of 35 he won the first of six terms as Congressman from Kentucky's Second District. He was a champion of the cause of the tobacco grower and encouraged the formation of cooperatives to curb price fixing by the tobacco trust. He led the fight for the repeal of the six-cent tax on leaf tobacco and this stand alone made him virtually unbeatable in the rural second district. He was an unrelenting opponent of trusts, and gained national notoriety in his committee's investigation of U.S. Steel and many of this committee's recommendations were incorporated in the Clayton Antitrust Act.

In 1914 he announced his candidacy for the United States Senate, a lifelong ambition. Aligned against him in the race was former governor James B. McCreury. The race turned out to be a two man race between Stanley and Beckham. Beckham was the undisputed leader of the dry forces in the Democratic party and he hit hard at Stanley's career long defense of the whiskey industry. Stanley in turn questioned Beckham's sincerity on temperance. A celebrated wit, Stanley quipped on one occasion "Beckham's as dry in the country as a dusty road, in the cities he's so wet you can catch him by the head and feet and wring water out of him." In spite of this Beckham defeated Stanley by 5000 votes.

After his defeat for the Senate, Stanley decided to seek the governorship to further his goal to serve as Senator. He pledged to build better roads to enforce the county unit law and

oppose statewide prohibition. In a primary field of four Stanley was an easy winner. However, in the general election he faced Republican Edwin P. Morrow.

The Stanley - Morrow campaign was colorful and memorable in Kentucky history. They were good friends and would verbally attack each other without mercy. Yet when the day's campaigning was over, they would dine and drink together. Stanley eked out a meager 471 vote plurality over Morrow 219,991 - 219,520. His tenure was marked by a continuing wet-dry battle. The dries attempted to pass a constitutional amendment establishing prohibition. Both chambers rejected this but in 1918 the legislature adopted a prohibition amendment and became the first state to ratify the proposed Eighteenth Amendment. Stanley's administration passed virtually all of his program: a corrupt practices act, an antitrust law, a workman's compensation measure and a convict labor bill. In a special session of the legislature, the tax structure was overhauled and a three member tax commission was established to supervise the administration of tax laws and property assessments. He also sponsored a redistricting bill and vetoed a bill in the midst of World War I that would have banned the teaching of German in public schools. His aspirations to the United States Senate continued and when Senator Ollie M. James died in August 1918 while a candidate for reelection, Stanley was selected to replace him. He won by a narrow 5600 votes and in May 1919 he resigned as governor and served one elected term until November 1924 when he fell victim to the Coolidge landslide.

He returned to private life in March 1925 and practiced law in Washington. In 1930 he was appointed by President Hoover to the International Joint Commission which mediates disputes along the U.S. - Canadian border. He served on this body until 1954 when he resigned under pressure from the Eisenhower administration.

He died at the age of 91 in 1958 and is buried in Frankfort.

James Dixon Black, the 39th governor, served only seven months as governor. He succeeded to the office when Governor Stanley resigned to take his senate seat. A native of Knox County, he received a bachelor's degree from Tusculum College in Tennessee; and was admitted to the bar in 1874. He entered politics and was elected to one term in the Kentucky House. In 1893 Black served as Kentucky's commissioner to the Chicago World's Fair. In 1912 he became Kentucky's first assistant attorney general. Next he, a dry, was elected lieutenant governor in 1915 on the ticket with Stanley - a wet. Upon assuming the Governor's chair, he was not accepted by many of the Stanley supporters, even though his support of Stanley cost him the support of many dries. The legislature did not meet during his tenure, but Black was saddled with the allegations of extravagance, corruption, and poor appointment of his predecessor. Under special attack was the School Textbook Commission appointed by Stanley which was accused of selecting books that had not been completed. Another issue facing Black was Stanley's appointment of three special attorneys to collect inheritance taxes from the estate of Mrs. Robert Worth Bingham.

He won the Democratic gubernatorial nomination by 16,000 votes over his opponent Judge John D. Carroll. In the general election in November, he faced the Republican Edwin P. Morrow. The Stanley administration became the central issue in the race. During the contest it was revealed that the State Board of Control had entered into a contract with A.S.J. Armstrong for cloth at twice the actual value. An investigation ordered by Black revealed that Armstrong was a Louisville plumber, while the real bidder was his brother-in-law, Eugene Ray, former

Secretary of the State Prison Commission - In the election Black was swamped by Morrow losing by 40,000 votes.

One of his last official acts was to pardon Henry Youtsey who had been paroled from prison the previous year after serving eighteen years for conspiracy in the assassination of Governor Goebel. In 1920 he became chief prohibition inspector in Kentucky. Later he returned to his law practice and became president of the National Bank in Barbourville. He died in 1939 at age 89.

Edwin Porch Morrow, governor from 1919 - 1923 was a popular republican with all Kentuckians regardless of party. He ran for Governor in 1915 against his friend A. O. Stanley, was defeated, ran again in 1919 against James D. Black who had replaced Stanley as Governor when Stanley was elected to the U.S. Senate. He handily defeated Black. His main platform was to free "Old Dog Ring" by removing the tax from the mountaineer's dog. The Democratic legislature had passed the dog license law, placing a tax on "man's best friend" and Morrow made an issue of getting relief from this injustice.

Morrow was born at Somerset. His mother was a sister of Kentucky's 32nd governor, William O. Bradley. His father Thomas Morrow was the Republican candidate for governor in 1883 but was defeated by J. Proctor Knott. Edwin was educated in the public schools, St. Mary's College, Cumberland College, and Center College.

In 1910, he was appointed United States District Attorney for the Eastern District of Kentucky. In 1913 he was defeated in a race for U.S. Senator by Ollie M. James.

After leaving the Governor's mansion in 1923, he was a member of the United States Railroad Labor Board until 1926. In 1934 he served on the United States Board of Mediation. In

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that same year he was defeated for nomination to Congress. He died in 1935 at the age of 57 and is buried in the Frankfort Cemetery.

In 1923, the Democratic party split. Alben Barkley received the support of the farmers and church leaders and J. Campbell Cantrill had the backing of the racing and coal interests. Cantrill won the primary but died before the general election and Congressman William S. Fields was substituted as the party's nominee for governor and won the office by beating the Republican candidate Charles I. Dawson.

Fields was born in Carter County and was graduated from the University of Kentucky. Upon graduation he farmed and was active in real estate. However, he had two ambitions in life. The first, to serve in Congress, and the other to be elected governor. He was elected constable in Carter County but was defeated in his later race for state representative. As a result he decided to attack his political ambitions from another angle. He took a job as a drummer for an Ashland Wholesale Grocery firm. He covered the territory for several years.

In 1910, he decided to make a try for Congress. The Ninth district had not elected a Democrat for 20 years but he won and subsequently was elected to six more terms.

As previously noted in 1923 upon the death of the elected Democratic Candidate, he was appointed to replace the deceased on the ticket. He was elected governor in November over the Republican candidate, Charles I. Dawson.

As Governor he promoted a statewide road improvement program, and is cited as the father of the State's primary road system. He backed the establishment of Morehead and Murray teachers colleges and was successful in saving Cumberland Falls from being turned into a utility

power project, when he accepted an offer of T. Coleman Dupont to buy the land and give it to Kentucky.

Upon leaving office he was defeated in his effort to regain his old seat in Congress. He served three years as Commonwealth's attorney and in 1936 Governor Chandler appointed him to a post on the State Workman's Compensation Board. He held that position for some eight years and then returned to Olive Hill where he died in 1954.

Hem D. Sampson, governor 1927 - 31 was born near London, Kentucky in 1875. He attended the local schools and entered Union College. He received his law degree from Valpariso University in Indiana, and opened his practice in Barbourville. His first political job was City Attorney and then he became president of First National Bank. He built a firm base in the local Republican party and in 1906 was elected county judge of Knox County. In 1911 and 1916 he was elected circuit judge and also in 1916 he was appointed to fill an unexpired term on the Kentucky Court of Appeals, a post to which he was elected in 1924. He served as Chief Justice in 1923 - 24.

He and Kentucky Congressman John M. Robsion forged a powerful Republican faction in the eastern part of the state and this gained him the party's nomination for governor in 1927. The Democrats were badly divided over such issues as parimutel gambling, the liquor industry, and a severance tax on coal. When the antigambling faction of the Democrats nominated former governor J. C. W. Beckham, many supporters of the racing and liquor industries bolted the party and supported Sampson. In the general election, he defeated Beckham 382,000 - 350,000 although all other republican candidates lost.

During his tenure as governor the Democratic controlled legislature killed most of Sampsons' proposals. It passed his free textbook plan but refused to fund it. A Kentucky Progress Commission was established under Sampson, and some improvements were made in the State Park System. He rejected the offer of the Duponts to purchase Cumberland Falls. This had been arranged for under Governor Fields. However, the legislature rejected Sampson's plan for Cumberland Falls, and over his veto accepted the Dupont offer. The governor was indicted by a grand jury for accepting gifts from a text book company, but the indictment was dismissed. So called "Ripper" bills stripped him of many of his statutory powers and gave them to a three man committee consisting of the democratic lieutenant governor, the attorney general, and the governor. As a result he was outvoted by the two democrats on matters which he normally would have controlled. The advent of the Great Depression devastated Kentucky and made Sampson's administration appear even worse than it was.

Upon leaving office he returned to the practice of law. He died in 1967 at the age of 92.

Ruby Lafoon, governor from 1931 - 35 was a native of Madisonville. He was governor at one of the worst economic times in the states history - the great depression of the 1930's. He graduated from Washington F. Lee University in 1890 and opened his law practice in Madisonville. He was a lifelong democrat and with his taking the oath the twentieth century had seen only two republicans in the State House, Simeon Willis and Louie Nunn.

Lafoon did not win every time he ran for office. He lost races for state treasurer in 1907 and state auditor in 1911, but he was appointed chairman of the first Insurance Rating Board in 1912. He was twice elected circuit judge of Hopkins County. In 1931 the Democrats selected their state-wide candidates in convention instead of in an open primary. Lafoon was nominated as the democratic candidate for governor with the aid of such party stalwarts as Ben Johnson, Allie W. Young, and Tom Rhea. The Republican candidate was William B. Harrison, a former Louisville mayor. Lafoon won by the largest margin ever afforded a gubernatorial candidate up to that time, 446,301 - 374,239. Notice the large number of votes cast - 830,000 and compare it with the recent elections.

Governor Lafoon was faced with a falling economy and declining revenues. He talked of the usual improvements but lacked the money to implement any of them. In the 1932 legislature he proposed a sales tax. It was blocked by Ben Johnson, whom Lafoon had appointed as highway commissioner and by Lt. Governor A. B. Chandler. The governor vetoed a reduction in the state property tax, along with several appropriation bills. He closed both the banks and the burley tobacco markets, in his efforts to deal with the economic crisis. New Deal funds held some promise of relief but Kentucky was often unable to raise the required matching funds. His

continued efforts to get a sales tax split the democratic party into two factions. However, in a special session in 1934 the legislature approved a 3% sales tax.

In an effort to keep Chandler out of the 1935 governors race, Lafoon and Tom Rhea kept the party from requiring a direct primary. However, they were called to Washington to explain to Roosevelt why there was no primary election, and in their absence, Lt. Governor Chandler, as acting governor, called a special session of the legislature which enacted a primary election bill. The bill required the successful candidate to receive a majority of the votes cast. In the first primary, Tom Rhea got the most votes but did not receive a majority - In the run-off Chandler defeated him. Lafoon and Rhea then bolted the Party.

Before leaving office Lafoon set new records for the number of pardons granted and the number of Kentucky Colonels Commissioned. Party factionalism and a sick economy left Lafoon with a meager record as governor.

Albert B. "Happy" Chandler, the 44th and the 49th governor of Kentucky was born in Henderson County Kentucky. His early life was a struggle for survival, but he came to be one of the best known and respected Kentuckians of all time.

Twice governor, a United States Senator, Commissioner of Baseball, three more times a candidate for governor. He received his education from Transylvania, Harvard, and the University of Kentucky. He was a force in Kentucky politics from the 1920's to his death in 1991.

Most of you here tonight have been exposed to the Chandler lore most of your lives and an attempt to give a brief sketch of his many endeavors would take pages. He is the one Kentucky governor upon whom a paper could be delivered.

He had an unbelievable memory. If he met you once he always knew you. He wore a big smile all of his life and he said when he went to Transylvania in Lexington "he had a red sweater, a five dollar bill, and a smile". It was at Transylvania that he acquired the nickname of Happy. This was of immense value to him throughout his life.

He was a progressive governor in his first term in an era which was full of economic and social challenges. He served our nation in the senate at a time of world crises and he changed baseball forever with his rulings, thereby antagonizing the owners to the point that at the end of his six year term he was not re-elected.

He lived until he was 93 and when he died he was the most ardent fan of Kentucky athletics.

Keen Johnson, the third straight governor with West Kentucky roots, was born in Lyon County in 1896, the son of a Methodist minister. He served overseas in World War I and after the war he graduated from the University of Kentucky with a degree in journalism (not law). He is the only journalist to serve as governor. His first paper was the Elizabethtown Mirror, which he built from nothing. He sold it to his rival and used the profits to go to UK. After graduation, he edited and published the Lawrenceburg Anderson News, and in 1925 he moved to the Richmond Daily Register, an association that lasted until his death.

He was elected Lt. Governor in 1935 on the ticket with Chandler. In 1939, he won the democratic nomination over John Young Brown, Sr. When Senator Logan died in October 1939, governor Chandler resigned thereby making Johnson governor. He appointed Chandler to fill Logan's seat in the Senate. A month later Johnson won the governor's race, defeating the Republican candidate King Scwope.

Johnson prided himself upon being a "saving, thrifty, frugal governor. Much of his term was wartime and many programs which he championed were curtailed because of wartime shortages. When he left office the state was out of debt and had a surplus in the general fund.

Upon leaving office he continued his association with the Richmond paper, held several titles with Reynolds Metal Co. He was U.S. Undersecretary of Labor, a member of the Democratic National Committee and in 1960, ran for the U.S. Senate against John Sherman Cooper, a race which Johnson lost.

Johnson said in 1939, that he would not be a spectacular governor, but in his quiet way he was an effective one.

Simeon Willis, the only Republican elected governor in a forty year period 1927 - 1967. He was principal of the Springville, KY. School before he was 20 years old. He was a reporter for the Portsmouth, Ohio Tribune and an editorial writer for the Greenup Gazette while reading law in private offices. He was admitted to the bar in 1901 and opened an office in Ashland.

He served as an Ashland City solicitor, a member of the Board of Bar Examiners of the State of Kentucky, and was appointed a judge of the Kentucky Court of Appeals by Governor Sampson. He was then elected to the same position and served until 1933. In 1943 he was elected governor over the Democratic candidate J. Lyter Donaldson.

His term was marked by his attention to problems of education, conservation, highways, state parks, and improved personnel procedures. Teachers average salaries increased during his administration by 94% from \$782 to 1325 a year and the per capita student expenditures went from \$13.49 to \$25.66.

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Upon leaving office he returned to the practice of law. He returned to State Government in 1956 as the Republican member of the Public Service Commission and in 1960 was appointed to the review board of the Veteran's Bonus Act. In 1961 he was appointed to the State Parole Board.

A farmer, a teacher and athlete, Earl C. Clements held political office for more than 30 years, including governor, U.S. Representative, and U.S. Senator. He was defeated for a third term as Senator in a bitter political battle in 1956 by Thurston B. Morton - yet he continued to be a force in State and National activities of the Democratic Party for the balance of his life.

He was born in Union County in 1896, graduated from the College of Agriculture at the University of Kentucky. During the 1915 - 16 seasons he played center on one of UK's winning football teams. He served in the army in World War I. Upon his return to Morganfield he coached the football team from 1920 - 31 as a hobby. He served as Sheriff, County Judge, and County Clerk, before being elected to the State Senate in 1942. In 1944 he was elected U.S. Representative and served until he resigned to take his seat as governor. He reversed himself in 1950 when he resigned as governor to take a seat in the United States Senate.

In the 1950 election for the Senate, Clements was elected for both a short term and a full term. This occurred when Senator Barkley was elected vice-president and resigned as Senator. Clements as governor appointed Garrett T. Withers to fill Barkley's senate seat. Senator Withers stepped aside toward the end of the term for a special election to fill the remainder of the term and to elect a full term Senator. Clements was the democratic candidate and he won, resigning his governorship to move to the Senate. In 1956 he was defeated for reelection by Thurston B.

Morton. Most of the blame for his defeat was placed on the split in the democratic party between the Chandler and Clements camps.

Clements was considered to be an exceptionally strong governor. However, he was not successful in all of his endeavors. He failed in his attempt to control strip mining by requiring performance bonds to guarantee the restoration of strip mined land.

From 1957 - 59 Clements was head of the Senate Democratic Reelection Committee. As such, he helped to insure the continued control of the Senate with a democratic majority of fourteen seats. For a brief period he served as Kentucky highway commissioner under Governor Bert Combs, a Clement protege. He soon returned to Washington as a lobbyist. In 1981 he retired returning to Morganfield where he lived out his days.

It is an irony of Kentucky politics that the only governor native to the state's most populous county was Lawrence Winchester Wetherby. He was born a Middletown in Eastern Jefferson County, the son of a physician. After graduating from high school at Anchorage he entered the University of Louisville where he received his law degree.

He began his practice of law in Louisville and aligned himself with the democratic party. He served as attorney for the Jefferson County Juvenile Court and also served as Juvenile Judge. In 1947 he was elected Lt. Governor on the ticket with Earl Clements. This placed him in favor with the democratic regulars and aligned him against "Happy" Chandler. On November 27, 1950 he assumed the governor's chair when Clements resigned to take a seat in the U.S. Senate. In 1951 he was elected to a full term as governor. In 1956 he was chosen to run for the Senate seat

of Alben Barkley. After serving as vice-president Barkley had been reelected to the Senate. This was the same year in which Clements was running for reelection against Thurston Morton. Wetherby was opposed by John Sherman Cooper. Morton and Cooper, both Republicans were elected along with the Eisenhower landslide in Kentucky. Chandler was given a lot of credit for Clements and Wetherby's defeat.

Wetherby's administration is sometimes overlooked for it's record of solid progress. He promoted industry for the state, he supported the enactment of the first anti-strip mining legislation. He encouraged the development of airports. He supported agriculture through conservation and Green Pastures Programs. He completed the new state fairgrounds in Louisville. He built roads, initiating the toll road between Elizabethtown and Louisville - a road which Happy Chandler was to remark that it was "a road that started nowhere and ended nowhere". These were among a myriad of progressive things that were accomplished during his five years in office.

At the conclusion of the senatorial campaign of 1952 Governor Wetherby moved to Frankfort where he entered private law practice. Subsequently he was a member of the State Constitutional Assembly and served two terms in the State Senate.

It took Bert T. Combs two tries before he was elected governor. In 1955 he was defeated by the incomparable A. B. Happy Chandler, but in 1959 he defeated Chandler's Lt. Governor and hand picked candidate Harry Lee Waterfield. Combs was born in Clay County in 1911. After graduating from high school he spent ten years of intermittent study before he received his law

degree from the University of Kentucky in 1937. He served in the army in the South Pacific on MacArthur's staff until he returned home in 1946 to again take up his law practice.

Combs was the first World War II veteran to serve as governor. His honesty lost him his first run for governor but the same trait helped him to a landslide victory in his second effort. He announced in his flat mountain drawl that it was going to take an additional \$25,000,000 to fund state government. His opponent Chandler, seized on this tactical mistake and insisted that Kentucky's revenue was more than adequate, administered by an experienced former governor such as he. Chandler hammered away at the increase in taxes with Combs and managed to convince enough voters that he won by some 18,000 votes.

When Chandler had to levy new taxes and a sizeable increase in the state income tax his credibility was undermined. By contrast Combs emerged as a symbol of courageous honesty. He beat Waterfield in the primary by 25,000 votes and the republican John Robsion, Jr. by 180,000 votes in the November general election.

To finance the programs he had promised he latched on to the public approval of a referendum authorizing payment of a veteran's bonus. He knew that a 1% sales tax would finance this so he obtained a three-cent sales tax that provided ample funds to enact his platform.

He served from 1967 to 1970 as a federal court of appeals judge. In 1971 he tried to return to the governor's mansion but lost to Wendell Ford in the primary. He returned to the practice of law and never ran for public office again.

He died tragically in a flash flood near Stanton in Powell County on December 4, 1991.

The 51st Governor, Edward T. Breathitt, Jr. is no stranger to most of you here tonight. He has been my neighbor twice, the first time in Hopper Court, where we both were born, and the

second time on Circle Drive where we reared our families. He was the second person in his family to become governor. His family has served the Commonwealth almost since Kentucky was admitted to the union in 1792.

The family has been traditionally Democratic and characteristically linked to close races. Ned Breathitt was elected governor by a narrow margin of 18,055 votes. His uncle, James Breathitt, Jr. won the lieutenant governor's chair in 1937 by only 123 votes. His grandfather James Breathitt, Sr., a Republican, won election as attorney general by 5000 votes in 1907. John Breathitt was elected lieutenant governor in 1828 by 1087 votes and in 1832 was elected as the first Democratic governor by a margin of 1239 votes.

Ned graduated from Hopkinsville High School in 1942 and served in the U.S. Airforce during World War II. He graduated from UK's College of Commerce in 1948 and his law degree in 1950. Upon being admitted to the bar he returned to Hopkinsville to practice law in the firm of Trimble, Soyars, and Breathitt.

In 1951 he ran for his first public office and was elected to the State House of Representatives. He was re-elected in 1953 and 1955. He was State President of the Young Democratic Clubs of Kentucky and in 1959 Gov. Bert T. Combs appointed him State Personnel commissioner, and in 1960 he was State Chairman for a constitutional convention. In 1960 he was appointed as a member of the State Public Service Commission resigning to run for Governor.

Ned never forgot his hometown and Christian County. Among the many things he saw to here are the Community College, the Breathitt Veterinary Center, and the State Office Building.

Even though he lived in Washington for a number of years and was vice-president for Public Relations for Southern Railroad he continued to serve his state. He is now a resident of Lexington (votes in Christian County) practices law and among his many other activities serves as Chairman of the Board of Regents of the University of Kentucky.

Louie B. Nunn, Kentucky's 52nd governor was the first republican elected to this office in twenty years. He was born in Barren County in 1924 and after graduating from high school he attended Bowling Green Business University. Upon returning from Army service during World War II he attended the University of Cincinnati and received his law degree in 1950 from the University of Louisville. He opened his law practice in Glasgow and became active in civics affairs and was elected Barren County Judge in 1953 in spite of being a republican. He was a good organizer and he ran the state campaigns for John Sherman Cooper, Thurston Morton, Dwight D. Eisenhower and Richard M. Nixon.

In his first attempt at a statewide office Nunn lost to the democratic nominee Edward T. Breathitt. Four years later he defeated Jefferson County Judge Marlow Cook in the primary and democrat Henry Ward in the general election.

Under his administration the sales tax was increased to 5% partially to offset a deficit left by the previous administration. He supported increases in appropriations for mental health, education, economic development, and he persuaded a democratic controlled legislature to enact nearly every thing he asked for.

Upon leaving office in December 1971, he opened a law practice in Lexington. He ran for the U.S. Senate in 1974 losing to Dee Huddleston and in 1979 he lost his bid for another term as governor to John Y. Brown, Jr. He remains active in state and national politics.

Wendell H. Ford has held a political office in Kentucky for thirty years. First as a state senator, elected in 1965, lieutenant governor under republican Louie Nunn, governor, and since 1974 United States Senator.

Born in Daviess County he was active in his family's insurance business and the Young Democrats of Kentucky. He entered state government in 1959 as chief administrative assistant to Governor Bert Combs, the man who he was to defeat in the 1971 primary for governor.

As governor Ford set about to unify the Democratic party which had been split into two factions for almost 20 years. As a result in 1972 Kentuckians elected a Democrat to the U.S. Senate for the first time since 1956. He was elected to the Senate in 1974 and resigned as governor and was succeeded by Julian M. Carroll, the Lt. Governor.

Senator Ford has cast a long shadow over Kentucky for these Thirty years. He has never lost a political race, a testimony to his popularity among his constituency.

Julian Morton Carroll, Kentucky's 54th governor was the first governor to hold church services on the capital grounds during the celebration of our nation's 200th birthday in 1976. He not only sponsored the event he was also the lay minister for the occasion.

Governor Carroll was born in McCracken County and graduated from Heath High School as class salutatorian. He attended Paducah Junior College, the University of Kentucky and received his law degrees from UK in 1956. He served three years in the United States Airforce after which he returned to Paducah to begin the practice of law.

He entered politics in 1961 being elected to five consecutive terms as state representative from McCracken County. In 1971, after ten years in the legislature he was elected Lieutenant governor. On December 28, 1974 Carroll was sworn in as the 54th governor succeeding Gov, Ford who resigned to take his seat in the U.S. Senate. The following year he was elected to serve a four year term. Elected to serve as his Lt. governor was the first woman to ever be elected to this office, Thelma Stovall. Upon one of the Governor's trips out of the State the Lieutenant Governor called a special session of the legislature that cut taxes over Carroll's objection. This caused the curtailment of some programs.

Following his leaving office he opened a law office in Frankfort. In 1987 he again ran for the democratic nomination for governor. He garnered only 7% of the vote finishing fifth in a crowded field.

John Young Brown, Jr., flew into Louisville on March 27, 1979 and announced that he was a candidate for governor. This declaration came as a surprise to many, especially the six other candidates. The primary was only ten weeks away, but in a media blitz, and in appearances with his bride, Phyllis George, at his side he appeared at hastily arranged gatherings all over the State. He made only two promises. He would run government like a business and be a salesman for Kentucky.

John Young had grown up in a political setting. His father had served one term as a U.S. Representative, but had lost seven races for United States Senator. The younger Brown was a multimillionaire super-salesman who had made a fortune with Kentucky Fried Chicken, developing it into a worldwide franchise before he sold it.

The primary was hard fought. The other candidates Terry McBrayer, Mayor Harvey Sloane of Louisville, Thelma Stovall, Carroll Hubbard, George Atkins, and Ralph Ed Graves. All had political bases. Prior to the primary George Atkins withdrew throwing his support to Brown. When the votes were tabulated Brown had 29.89 percent of the vote and won. In the general election Brown won by 180,000 votes over former Governor Louie Nunn.

In his inaugural address Brown repeated his campaign promises and said "We have a chance to do it right." On balance Brown as governor kept his campaign promises. Most of his staff consisted of new faces - not the usual party-connected old buddies, and most of them stayed through the administration, giving a continuity that was uncommon in government. He ran government like a business, he delegated authority, meddled little, yet was willing to share criticism of their unpopular decisions.

In 1981 and 1982 state revenues declined by 491 million and federal grants decreased by \$900 million. Yet without new taxes, Kentucky's books were balanced. He cut the state payroll from 37,241 employees to 30,783 -most through attrition and transfer. At the same time he increased salaries by 34%.

When he left office he engaged in several business ventures. He announced for U.S. Senator in a race that pitted him against Dee Huddleston. However, he withdrew prior to the election. In 1987 he ran for governor again but came in second to Wallace Wilkinson.

The only woman to serve as governor was Martha Layne Collins 1983 - 87. She was Kentucky born and Kentucky educated. She and her husband William (Bill) Collins, a dentist, settled in Versailles and she taught in the Woodford County Schools. She became interested in

Democratic politics and served as secretary of the Democratic Party and was Democratic National Committeewoman after the election of Wendell Ford in 1971.

In 1975 as the party nominee she was elected as clerk of the court of appeals. In 1979 she was one of six candidates for lieutenant governor in the democratic primary. She won with 23% of the vote and won in the general election in November. She had little role in Governor Brown's administration but used the four years to establish a base from which to launch her run for governor in 1983. She won the primary race with 223,092 votes, against 219,160 for Harvey Sloane, and 199,795 for Grady Stumbo. In the general election she won handily over the republican senator Jim Bunning. Her administration was plagued by a shortage of money to fund her ambitious programs. She undid many of Governor Browns reforms and resorted to the "good old Boy" method of appointment to state offices. Her husband Bill stole most of the headlines with his questionable deals using his wife's position as a bargaining tool.

Upon leaving office she taught at U. of L and at the Institute of Politics at Harvard. She presently serves as president of St. Catherine College in Washington County.

Wallace G. Wilkinson, governor 1987 - 91 left as his main legacy the passing of a law authorizing the establishment of a lottery. He was a self-made millionaire having made his money buying and selling used text books mainly on the Campus of Colleges and Universities. He was in real estate, banking, farming, and invested in coal and lumber.

He won the 1987 nomination for governor with 35% of the vote, in the general election he carried 115 counties. He was fairly controversial and had a stormy relationship with the legislature. In addition to the lottery law, the sales tax was increased to 6 cents during his tenure.

He failed in his effort to enact a succession law which would have allowed constitutional officers to succeed themselves.

His wife campaigned for the democratic gubernatorial nomination in 1991 but withdrew. The results of his tenure are still being tabulated.

The 58th governor Brerton Jones will leave office next Tuesday, the 12th of December and will be succeeded by now Lt. Governor Paul Patton, the 59th governor. Their accomplishments are to be compiled by others - and will be recorded by others.

Thus ends the saga - <sup>58</sup>59 terms served by <sup>53</sup>54 men and one woman. Four served two non consecutive terms each Isaac Shelby, John LaRue Helm, James B. McCreary, and A. B. Chandler. However, during the Jones administration, a constitutional amendment was passed so Paul Patton will be the first elected governor eligible to secede himself.