

1900: The cornerstone for the new state capitol is laid on November 27 on the former grounds of the state penitentiary overlooking downtown Little Rock. By the end of this year, forty-two Arkansas counties will have banned liquor sales.

1903: *On A Slow Train Through Arkansas* is published. A collection of hillbilly and racial humor with little connection to Arkansas realities, it nevertheless contributes to popular perception of Arkansas as an eccentric, ignorant rural backwater. Although there are only fifty automobiles in the entire state, their owners form the Arkansas Good Roads Association to promote route construction, repair and maintenance. **1906:** Diamonds are discovered in Pike County, the first such deposit to be found in the United States. **1907:** Arkansas coal mines produce more than 2,750,000 tons. **1910:** William Jennings Bryan visits Arkansas to promote the initiative and referendum. **1915:** Arkansas' General Assembly passes a statewide prohibition of liquor sales and manufacture. The state Capitol is completed. **1917:** Arkansans muster in for service during the First World War; approximately 72,000, including African-Americans and women, will serve. Some 2,000 will die, most from disease and accidents. **1919:** A race riot erupts in Elaine (Phillips County) in October. Between 30 and 100 deaths result; the riot leads to an investigation, convened by Governor Charles Brough, of the issues dividing black and white Arkansans.

1921: Oil is discovered near Smackover. **1922:** Radio station WOK goes on the air, broadcasting from Pine Bluff. **1925:** The state Supreme Court rules in *Brickhouse v. Hill* that Amendments 7, 8 and 9 (initiative and referendum, woman suffrage and an enlarged Supreme Court) are all in effect. **1927:** Floods scour farmlands and cities along the Mississippi. **1928:** Arkansas has over 8,700 miles of roads, one-fourth of them paved. Forty-six counties feature some paved roads; two counties have no improved roads at all. **1931:** By the end of this year, nearly half the Arkansas businesses operating in 1929 are closed, including 192 banks. **1932:** Mrs. Hattie Caraway, named in 1931 to fill out the Senate term of her deceased husband, wins a term on her own in November, the first woman elected to the United States Senate. **1936:** The Waterbury Clock Company opens a facility in Little Rock; later renamed US Time and, finally, Timex, the facility will be the last remaining American manufactory of wrist watches by the time it closes in 2001. **1939:** The Magnet Cove Barium Corporation begins mining in Saline County. By 1941 the mines produce a high-grade barite powder for the nation's oil industry. Louise Loughborough, a Little Rock socialite and civic leader, begins the task of preserving vintage structures in the heart of the city slated for demolition. Her efforts will lead to the opening, in 1941, of the Arkansas Territorial Capitol Restoration, known today as the Historic Arkansas Museum.

1941: After the attack on Pearl Harbor, Arkansans flock to recruiting stations to join the war effort. Some 200,000 Arkansans will serve; 4611 will die in service. **1942:** Fort Smith native William Darby is given the job of training the Army's Ranger Battalion, elite fighters for the toughest assignments. Darby's Rangers see their first action in North Africa in late 1942, then in Sicily and Italy in 1943. Darby dies in action in 1945. **1942:** Internment camps for West Coast Japanese-Americans are established near Jerome and Rohwer. **1944:** J. William Fulbright is elected to the United States Senate. **1946:** In an early round of the "GI Revolt," decorated former Marine Sidney P. McMath runs against the Hot Springs political machine for Garland County prosecuting attorney and wins. **1948:** Sid McMath is elected governor on a reform

platform. Although hampered in some efforts, McMath places African-Americans on state boards for the first time since Reconstruction, promotes highway construction and encourages industrial siting in Arkansas. **1953:** The Hot Springs Bathers baseball team signs Negro League stars Jim and Leander Tugerson, the first African-Americans to play professional ball in Arkansas. The team is evicted from the Cotton States league, then readmitted after the Tugersons are declared ineligible to play. **1955:** Orval Faubus is elected governor. Winthrop Rockefeller, veteran and grandson of John D. Rockefeller, is tapped to head the Arkansas Industrial Development Commission. **1957:** The Little Rock school desegregation brings international attention to the American civil rights movement and to the divided community of Little Rock. **1958:** Little Rock high schools are closed for the academic year while political and social controversy over desegregation continues. **1964:** Winthrop Rockefeller is the Republican gubernatorial nominee but loses to Orval Faubus. Rockefeller promises to try again.

1966: Winthrop Rockefeller is elected governor. He becomes Arkansas' first Republican governor elected since 1874. **1968:** In a special session in February, the General Assembly passes 67 bills, including a freedom of information act and the state's first general minimum-wage act. In November, Arkansans ratify Amendment 53, authorizing kindergartens in the state's free public schools. **1969:** The University of Arkansas establishes a multi-campus system. **1970:** Dale Bumpers of Charleston is elected governor, promising to rid Arkansas of "the old machine and the money machine." In February, a federal judge declares the Arkansas prison system unconstitutional. **1974:** Dale Bumpers successfully challenges J. William Fulbright in the Democratic primary and wins election to the U.S. Senate. David Pryor of Camden is elected Governor. University of Arkansas Law School professor William J. Clinton loses his race for the Third District Congressional seat. **1975:** Following the end of the Vietnam conflict, significant numbers of Vietnamese immigrants are relocated to Camp Chaffee, near Fort Smith, where many eventually settle. On October 11, Professor William Clinton marries Hillary Rodham. **1976:** Professor Clinton is elected attorney-general, advocating victim compensation, the rights of the elderly, tough ethics laws for public officials, tighter oversight of utilities and opposing the twenty-five-cent pay phone call. **1978:** Attorney-General Bill Clinton is elected governor. **1980:** Arkansas is ranked in the top five states in percentage of population over the age of 65, due to the "Retiree Movement." In May, the Federal government informs Governor Clinton that Camp Chaffee will house 120,000 Cuban "Freedom flotilla" refugees. Bill Clinton is defeated by Frank White, once a Democrat, in his bid for a second term as governor. **1982:** Arkansas' "creation science" law is overturned in Federal District Court; Bill Clinton is re-elected governor.

1983: The Quality Education Act is passed by the General Assembly; education once again becomes a widely-discussed issue within Arkansas. **1984:** Voters approve Amendment 63 giving statewide officials four-year, rather than two-year, terms. Clinton is re-elected governor. **1986:** Clinton again is re-elected, this time for a four-year term. **1988:** The Mississippi Delta Commission is created with the mission of investigating and improving Delta life. **1990:** Governor Clinton wins a fifth term as governor. Latinos are Arkansas' the fastest-growing minority population. Tyson Foods of Springdale is the largest broiler chicken processor in the nation. **1991:** On October 3, Governor Clinton announces he will run for the presidency of the United States. Lt. Governor Jim Guy Tucker becomes acting Governor in Clinton's

absence. October 18 sees the last issue of the *Arkansas Gazette*, the “oldest newspaper west of the Mississippi.” **1992:** Bill Clinton is elected the 42nd President of the United States.

Lieutenant Governor Jim Guy Tucker becomes governor. **1994:** Jim Guy Tucker is elected governor; Sharon Priest is the first woman elected to the office of Arkansas Secretary of State.

1996: Republican Tim Hutchinson is elected to the U.S. Senate, the first of his party in over 100 years to represent the state in Washington. Governor Tucker resigns his office in July and is succeeded by Republican Lieutenant Governor Mike Huckabee. In November, Bill Clinton wins re-election to the Presidency.

1997: Ceremonies at Little Rock Central High School mark the fortieth anniversary of the desegregation crisis. **1998:** President Clinton designates Central High School a national historic site. Mike Huckabee is elected Governor.

2000: Arkansas returns a Republican majority in the Presidential vote. **2002:** Bentonville-based Wal-Mart is identified as the world’s largest corporation. **2004:** Ivory-billed woodpecker sighting reported. General Wesley Clark runs for President. William J. Clinton Presidential Center and Park opens.

2006: The Big Dam Bridge opens; it is the longest purpose built pedestrian/cycle bridge in the nation. Arkansas implements the Help America Vote Act, the largest federal election reform act in history. Mike Beebe is elected Governor. **2007:** Little Rock Schools are released from federal supervision, nearly 50 years after President Eisenhower sent troops to escort nine black students into all-white Central High. The Arkansas Travelers of the AA Texas League debut in their new home, the Dickey Stephens Field, on the banks of the Arkansas River in North Little Rock.

2008: The Northwest Arkansas Naturals of the AA Texas League debut. Hillary Clinton and Mike Huckabee run for President.