

HISTORY HAPPENED HERE

Presidential Pathways in Arkansas



PRESIDENTIAL PATHWAYS IN ARKANSAS

In 1836, President Andrew Jackson signed legislation making Arkansas the 25th state of the Union. Long famous for scenic natural beauty and Southern hospitality, Arkansas took center stage in the presidential arena with the 1992 election of favorite son William Jefferson Clinton as the 42nd President of the United States.

But before Clinton's presidency made Arkansas a focus for national politics, we played host to many presidents and patriots. From President Benjamin Harrison in 1891 to President John F. Kennedy in 1963 (just weeks before his untimely death in Dallas), Arkansas has showcased our unique brand of fun and excitement to many presidents and political contenders. We hope that you enjoy this trip through Arkansas history, learning about the people and events that shaped The Natural State into a pleasurable destination for so many prominent persons.

Arkansas and Our Commanders in Chief



A Timeline of Presidential Visits to Arkansas

GET THE PRESIDENTIAL TREATMENT

This presidential guide to Arkansas offers an overview of the important figures who have visited Arkansas. While it may not be a complete list, it does provide a fascinating look into Arkansas presidential history. Please take time to visit and explore the communities that hosted our presidents over the years and receive the same VIP treatment. See Arkansas through the eyes of some of the world's greatest leaders. As you journey through Arkansas, we invite you to visit all of the attractions that make this state so special.



PRESIDENT	DATE	PLACE	PRESIDENT	DATE	PLACE
Zachary Taylor	1841-44	Fort Smith	Dwight D. Eisenhower	1952	Little Rock
Martin Van Buren	1842	Chicot County	John F. Kennedy	1957	Hot Springs
Ulysses S. Grant	1880	Little Rock			Little Rock
Benjamin Harrison	1891	Little Rock		1960	Texarkana
Herbert Hoover	1892	Cotter, Leslie		1961	Fort Smith
	1923	Hot Springs		1963	Little Rock
	1927	Pine Bluff			Heber Springs
Theodore Roosevelt	1905	Little Rock	Lyndon B. Johnson	1962	Hot Springs
	1910	Hot Springs		1964	Texarkana
	1911	Argenta (North Little Rock)	Richard M. Nixon	1969	Fort Smith
William Howard Taft	1909	Little Rock			Fayetteville
Franklin D. Roosevelt	1936	Little Rock	Gerald Ford	1975	Fort Smith
		Hot Springs	Jimmy Carter	1975	Little Rock
		Rockport		1980	Little Rock
		Booneville	Ronald Reagan	1984	Little Rock
	1943	Camp Robinson		1988	Little Rock
Harry Truman	1945	Blytheville	George H.W. Bush	1984	Pine Bluff
	1949	Little Rock		1992	Bentonville
	1952	Bull Shoals	Bill Clinton	Each year:	
		Batesville		1993 through 2003	
		Newport	George W. Bush	2000	Pine Bluff
		Little Rock		2002	Little Rock
		Hot Springs		2003	Little Rock
				2004	Little Rock
				2004	El Dorado

PRESIDENTIAL PATHWAYS IN ARKANSAS

Presidential Visits





Arkansas's Capital: Where presidents came to celebrate and campaign — and Clinton learned to govern.

VEEPS BLAZE TRAIL THROUGH ARKANSAS

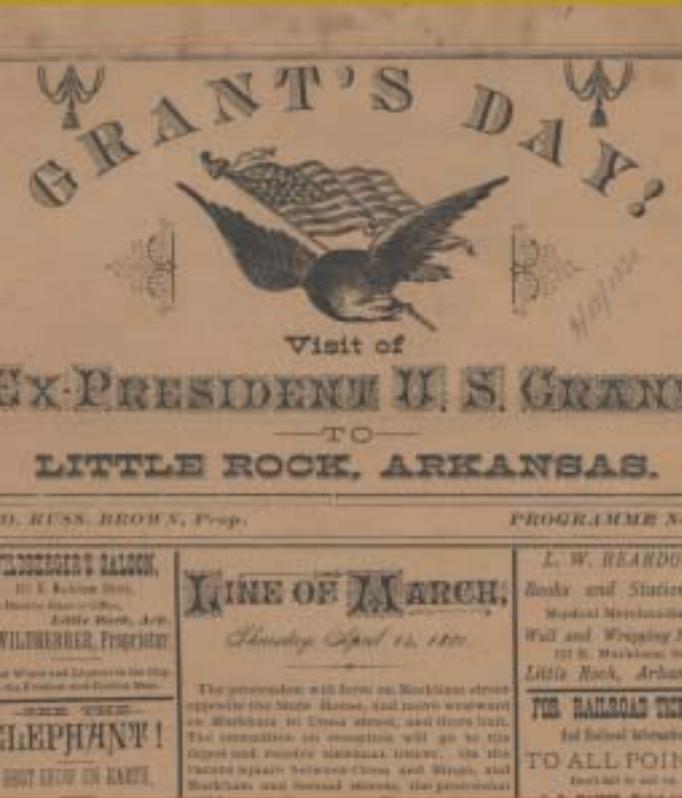
Vice President Henry Wilson spent a day and a half in **Little Rock** in May of 1875, making him the second vice president to visit Arkansas, the first having been Richard Mentor Johnson in October and November of 1839. Neither Johnson nor Wilson came on official business. Johnson visited relatives in **Pulaski** and **Chicot Counties**, and Wilson was on a sightseeing tour. While in **Little Rock**, Vice President Wilson stayed at the **Metropolitan Hotel** on the northwest corner of Markham and Main Streets (current site of Little Rock's Statehouse Convention Center). Over the years, many more sitting and former vice presidents have enjoyed the many charms of The Natural State.

GRANT CAMPS AT THE CAPITAL

On April 14, 1880, former President Ulysses S. Grant briefly visited **Little Rock** as part of his world tour. The citizens of the community celebrated with a huge parade down Main Street and a banquet attended by 300 guests at **Concordia Hall** in **The Capital Hotel**. Grant also stayed at **The Capital Hotel**, an elegant structure at the corner of Markham and Louisiana Streets that features a magnificent stained glass masterpiece in the ceiling of the lobby. A plaque on the west side of the hotel marks Grant's visit. The hotel is also famous for its bar, having served numerous politicians, campaign officials and members of the international media through the years.

HARRISON MAKES A WHISTLE STOP

Benjamin Harrison, the first president to visit Arkansas while in office, came through **Little Rock** on his way to the Pacific coast in 1891. All the buildings in downtown **Little Rock** were decorated, and lampposts were covered with red, white and blue bunting. As the president's train reached **Argenta** (now **North Little Rock**), whistles and horns on both sides of the river sounded for 15 minutes.



TRUMAN REUNITES WITH ARMY BUDDIES

President Harry S. Truman came to **Little Rock** on June 10, 1949, to visit with his 35th Army Division buddies of World War I. The meeting was held downtown at **Robinson Auditorium** on Markham. A reception was held at **Hotel Marion** (where **The Peabody Little Rock**, home of the world-famous Peabody Ducks, now stands), and the President's Ball followed at **Robinson Auditorium**. While in Little Rock, Truman was a guest in the home of Dr. Hyman Rosenblum who lived on **Kenyon Street**. The next day, approximately 12,000 people filled **War Memorial Stadium** for the dedication of the city's **War Memorial Park** to hear President Truman speak. The ceremony climaxed Truman's festive two-day visit to **Little Rock**.



HARRY TRUMAN PARADES THROUGH DOWNTOWN LITTLE ROCK WITH GOVERNOR SID McMATH AND MEMBERS OF HIS WW I ARMY DIVISION.

TEDDY CHARGES UP MAIN

On October 25, 1905, President Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt was the guest of honor in a parade up **Main Street** to **City Park** in **Little Rock** where a public meeting was held. **Main Street** from Markham to Tenth was a solid mass of cheering spectators.

15,000 GREET TAFT FOR 15 MINUTES

President William Howard Taft's visit on October 24, 1909, has been billed as the shortest presidential visit in Arkansas. Taft's train arrived at **Union Station** in **Little Rock** to a crowd of 15,000. President Taft stepped from the train, made brief remarks in a hoarse voice that few heard, stepped back onto the train and departed.

FDR AND ELEANOR CELEBRATE OUR CENTENNIAL

In 1936, the high point of Arkansas's centennial celebration was the June 10 visit of President and Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt. Arriving at the **Missouri-Pacific Depot**, the first couple was welcomed by a large crowd.



WE LIKED IKE, TOO

Presidential candidate Dwight D. Eisenhower stopped at **Adams Field** and **MacArthur Park** in **Little Rock** on September 3, 1952, prior to his November victory. In 1957, at the behest of Little Rock Mayor Woodrow Mann, Eisenhower would send 1,000 members of the 101st Airborne Division and federalize the Arkansas National Guard to maintain order and complete the integration of **Central High**.

LADY BIRD VISITS MACARTHUR BIRTHPLACE

When Mrs. Lyndon Johnson spoke in **Little Rock** in 1964, she was more than an hour late for the event. Faron Young, star of the Grand Ole Opry, took over the stage from the master of ceremonies, Director of the State Publicity and Parks Commission Bob Evans, to entertain the crowd while they waited. Lady Bird Johnson also visited **MacArthur Park** in **Little Rock** during this campaign trip for her husband's bid for the presidency. General Douglas MacArthur was born in the **Old Armory** that is now the **MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History**, a national landmark built in the 1840s, in **MacArthur Park**. General MacArthur was courted by several groups to run for president.



CARTER KICKS OFF CAMPAIGN

On November 12, 1975, with the presidential election a year away, Jimmy Carter, the former governor of Georgia, came to **Little Rock** to declare himself a candidate for the presidency in the Arkansas primary.

ROSALYNN GRACES THE GOVERNOR'S MANSION

First Lady Rosalynn Carter made her 1979 appearance in **Little Rock** at the **Governor's Mansion**, built between 1947 and 1950 and designed in a latter-day version of the Colonial Revival style.

THE MANSION AND THE RUNNING MATES

Shortly before the Democratic National Convention in 1992, then-Governor Bill Clinton introduced Tennessee Senator Al Gore as his vice presidential running mate on the lawn of the Arkansas **Governor's Mansion**. The pair of candidates from neighboring states went against conventional wisdom, but the decision proved a wise choice when the double-barreled southern ticket took two terms in the White House.

PUBLISHING A PRESIDENT

Jimmy Carter, ex-president and Nobel Prize winner, has published many books through the University of Arkansas Press, including updated editions of his insights into the Middle East, a collection of his best quotations and a memoir of his post White House years written with his wife Rosalynn.

HILLARY LENDS A HELPING HAND

In 1998, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton returned to Arkansas, where she served as first lady for 12 years, to speak at the 40th reunion of the Women's Emergency Committee to Open Our Schools (WEC). The WEC was formed to reopen the Little Rock schools that had been shut down after the 1957 crisis at **Central High**.

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON ESCORTS WEC REUNION CHAIR IRENE GASTON SAMUEL, FOLLOWED BY MAYOR JIM DAILEY AND ALMA WILLIAMS OF LITTLE ROCK.



IT'S MORNING IN ARKANSAS

President Ronald Reagan became the first sitting president to spend the night in **Little Rock** in 35 years when he stayed at the **Excelsior Hotel** (now **The Peabody**) in downtown Little Rock on November 2, 1984. Reagan was in town for the "America Is Back" rally in the **Governor's Exhibition Hall** at the **Statehouse Convention Center**.

FORD RALLIES THE FAITHFUL

Former President Gerald Ford spoke at a campaign rally in **Searcy** for Congressman Ed Bethune when he ran against Senator David Pryor for the U.S. Senate in 1984.

ROCKEFELLER REMEMBERS ROCKEFELLER

Vice President Nelson Rockefeller spoke at former Arkansas Governor Winthrop Rockefeller's March 4, 1973, memorial service.

A FIRST LADY FUNDRAISER

First Lady Barbara Bush attended the Bush/Quayle fundraiser dinner in **Little Rock** at the **Excelsior Hotel** on April 6, 1992.





“GIVE ‘EM HELL HARRY” DEDICATES DAMS

President Truman came to Arkansas on July 2, 1952, to dedicate **Bull Shoals and Norfolk Dams**. The presidential train route included **Norfolk** through **Mountain Home** to **Bull Shoals Dam**, **Flippin** to **Cotter** and **Batesville** to **Newport**.



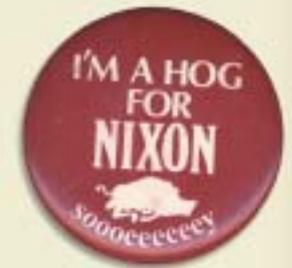
TRUMAN DOES THE HONORS FOR BULL SHOALS AND NORFORK DAMS IN 1952.

CAMELOT IN THE OZARKS

In 1963, President John F. Kennedy dedicated **Greers Ferry Dam**, a multi-million dollar project on the **Little Red River** in **Heber Springs**. The **Little Red River** holds the world record for the largest brown trout ever caught.

NIXON IN HOG HEAVEN

In 1969, the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville Razorbacks football team was ranked number two and played the number-one Texas Longhorns at **Fayetteville**. The National Championship, known as “The Big Shootout,” was perhaps the greatest game in Arkansas history and even brought President Richard Nixon to **Razorback Stadium**. After Reverend Billy Graham gave the invocation, the announcer notified the crowd that Nixon would be late and that he had requested the game not be held up for him (which they had no intention of doing). Nixon entered **Razorback Stadium** as Texas fumbled the opening kick-off. As Arkansas recovered, a giant roar of approval went up from the crowd. Assuming the approval was for him, Nixon waved his standard “V” for victory sign.



ARKANSAS DIGNITARIES HAMMERSCHMIDT, ROCKEFELLER, McCLELLAN AND FULBRIGHT JOIN PRESIDENT NIXON AND FUTURE PRESIDENT GEORGE H.W. BUSH FOR PIGSKIN RIVALRY IN RAZORBACK STADIUM.



LET'S CALL THOSE HOGS

When Nixon first heard the roar of an Arkansas "Hog Call," he commented, "I've never heard a yell like that before!" The Razorbacks led 14-0 until the fourth quarter. Texas scored 15 unanswered points and won the National Championship 15-14 in stunning fashion. Accompanying Nixon on the trip was then-Congressman George H.W. Bush.

BUSH HONORS WALTON

President George H.W. Bush presented the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Samuel M. Walton, founder of Wal-Mart. The ceremony took place March 17, 1992, at Wal-Mart Headquarters in **Bentonville**. The **Wal-Mart Visitors Center**, located in Sam Walton's original **Bentonville** store, offers exhibits tracing the growth of Wal-Mart stores.

BUSH CUTS RIBBON FOR HAMMERSCHMIDT

President George H.W. Bush dedicated Congressman John Paul Hammerschmidt's office at **North Arkansas College** in **Harrison** in 1992.

ALWAYS HIGH PRAISE.





THE DUCK STOPS HERE

Former President Jimmy Carter enjoyed duck hunting visits to the **Arkansas Delta**, where he was hosted by Senator Kaneaster Hodges Jr., starting in 1983 for 14 of the next 16 years. The two interruptions were caused by intervening world events. Carter would arrive in **Newport** after leaving church in Plains, Georgia, on Sunday morning and hunt Sunday afternoon on the **Bayou DeView** near **Weiner**.



YOUNG WOODROW WORSHIPPED HERE

A pre-presidential Woodrow Wilson worshipped at the Augusta Presbyterian Church when his brother-in-law, Rev. A.P. Kennedy, was pastor there.

VAN BUREN DOCKS ON THIS SIDE OF THE DELTA

On April 22, 1842, Martin Van Buren was a passenger on the steamboat Nashville, which stopped briefly at **Columbia**, then the county seat of **Chicot County**. In 1855, the Mississippi River changed course and claimed **Columbia** and the courthouse.

20,000 CHEER FOR TRUMAN

President Harry S. Truman visited **Blytheville** on October 7, 1947. Truman walked through the streets of **Blytheville** and greeted a crowd of about 20,000.

FANFARE FOR A FAVORITE SON

President Bill Clinton dedicated the new \$11.8-million addition to the **Arkansas State University** library/museum complex in **Jonesboro** on April 3, 1995, officially opening one of the finest and largest museums in the **Delta**.

DUCK HUNTING IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Vice President Dick Cheney took advantage of Arkansas's fabled duck hunting in 2002 and 2003 near **DeWitt**.



FUTURE PRESIDENT COMMANDS FORT SMITH

Although he was known as Colonel Zachary Taylor at the time, President Taylor spent 1841-1845 stationed in **Fort Smith** as its military commander. Taylor's private home was once located behind what is now the **Immaculate Conception Church** and **St. Anne's Convent** at North 13th Street and Garrison Avenue. A December 8, 1875, fire destroyed the home, but what is now referred to as "Zachary Taylor Chimney" still stands on the north grounds.

THE HEARTH THAT WARMED A FUTURE PRESIDENT.



THEN-GOVERNOR AND FUTURE SENATOR DAVID PRYOR LOOKS ON AS PRESIDENT GERALD FORD GREETES CROWD IN FORT SMITH.

KENNEDY DEEDED THE FORT

On October 29, 1961, President John F Kennedy stepped onto Arkansas soil for the first time since becoming president. At **Fort Smith**, Mayor Brooksher handed President Kennedy the deed to 10 acres of the original site of **Old Fort Smith**.

LADY BIRD SPEAKS NEAR THE GALLOWS

On a platform near the gallows where "Hangin' Judge" Isaac C. Parker once sent 88 men to their deaths, Lady Bird Johnson spoke to a crowd of about 5,000 people in **Fort Smith**. Johnson was in **Fort Smith** to dedicate the 13-acre **Fort Smith National Historic Site**.

FORD GIVES MERCY DEDICATION

President Gerald Ford visited **Fort Smith** on August 10, 1975, for the **St. Edward's Mercy Medical Center** dedication ceremony.



HOOVER HAILS PINE BLUFF

While Secretary of Commerce and Chair of the 1927 Flood Relief Organization, Herbert Hoover spoke in **Pine Bluff**, which is now known as the City of Murals due to the elaborate murals featured in its downtown area.



HOOVER HELPS OUT AGAIN

Hoover also later visited Arkansas (**Arkansas City** and **Pine Bluff**) to survey the flood damage.

KENNEDY VISITS TWO STATES AT ONCE

Kennedy's 1960 **Texarkana** visit, which drew a crowd up to 100,000, extended down State Line Avenue about six blocks.



HOOVER GREETED BY PROMINENT CITIZENS OF PINE BLUFF.

LBJ DEDICATES MEMORIAL TO JFK

President Lyndon B. Johnson dedicated a memorial to the late John F. Kennedy in **Texarkana** on September 25, 1964. The bronze plaque is mounted on a four-foot-tall Georgian granite pedestal in front of the **Texarkana Post Office**, which straddles the **Arkansas-Texas state line**.



FIRST LADY TENDS GRASSROOTS

First Lady Rosalynn Carter visited the **Pine Bluff Union Railroad Depot** in 1979 to honor Arkansas volunteers. Mrs. Carter toured the Arkansas Grassroots Jamboree, sponsored by the Governor's Office of Volunteer Services.

CARTER CAMPAIGNS ACROSS STATE LINES

On October 22, 1980, the Carter/Mondale campaign held a quad-state rally, with Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Louisiana, on the steps of the **Texarkana, USA Downtown Post Office**. As Carter approached the stage, the band played the "Arkansas Fight Song." As soon as Carter crossed the line to the Texas side, the band played "The Yellow Rose of Texas."

BUSH LECTURES HARDING

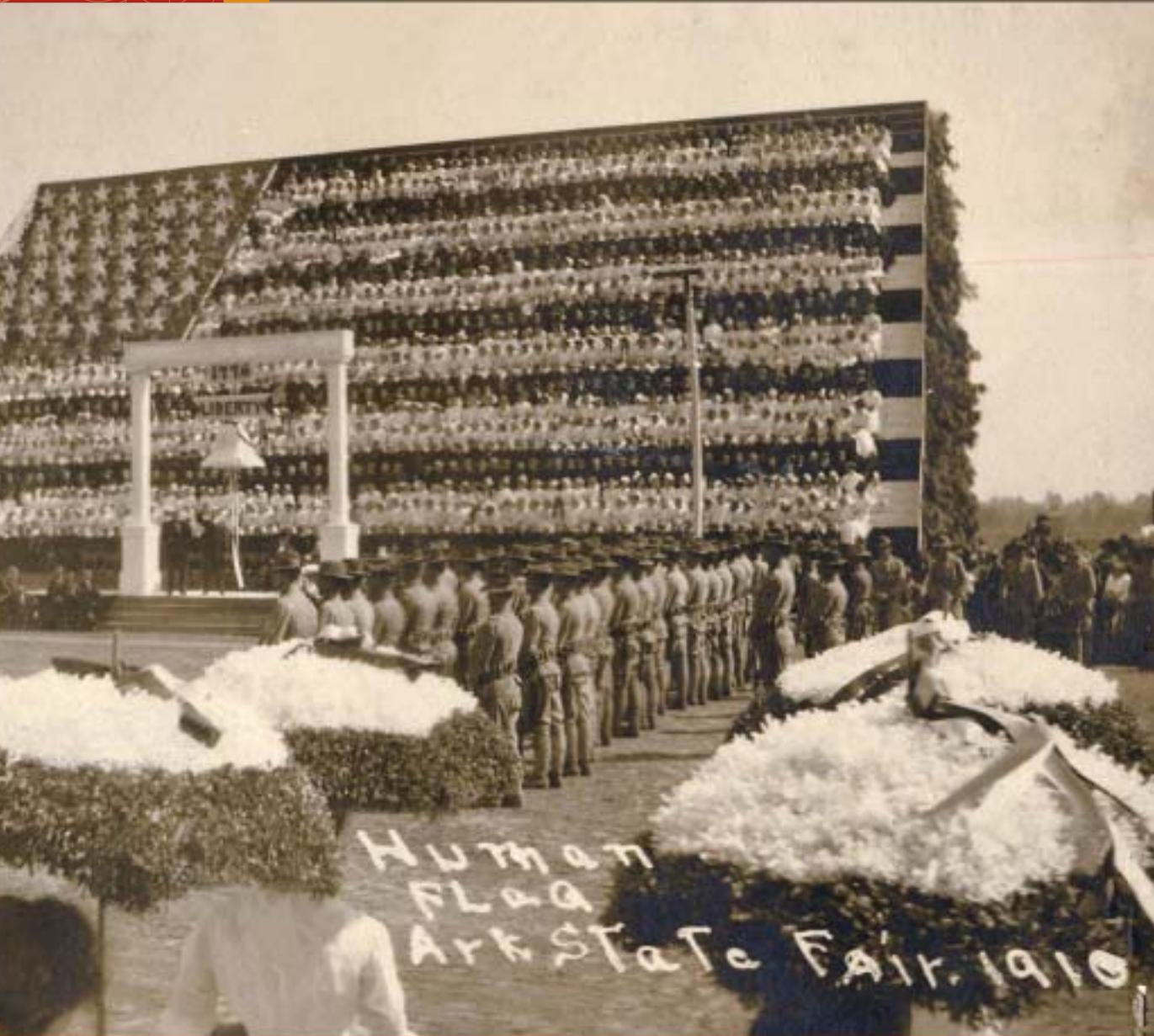
Former President George H.W. Bush spoke at **Harding University's** Distinguished Lecture Series in 1996 in **Searcy**, where Vice President Dick Cheney also delivered a speech in 1994.

CLINTON HIGHLIGHTS RURAL OPPORTUNITIES

During his November 1999 New Markets tour, President Clinton visited **Hermitage** to highlight the economic opportunities available in rural America.



Boyhood Home of Bill Clinton. Playground of his Predecessors.



HOT SPRINGS HONORS HOOVER.

ROOSEVELT GOES TO THE RACETRACK

President Theodore Roosevelt served as the principal speaker at the fifth annual **Arkansas State Fair** on October 10, 1910, when it was held in **Hot Springs** at **Oaklawn Park**, one of the top thoroughbred racetracks in the nation. A human flag composed of 2,000 schoolchildren dressed in red, white and blue served as a backdrop while Roosevelt addressed the crowd.

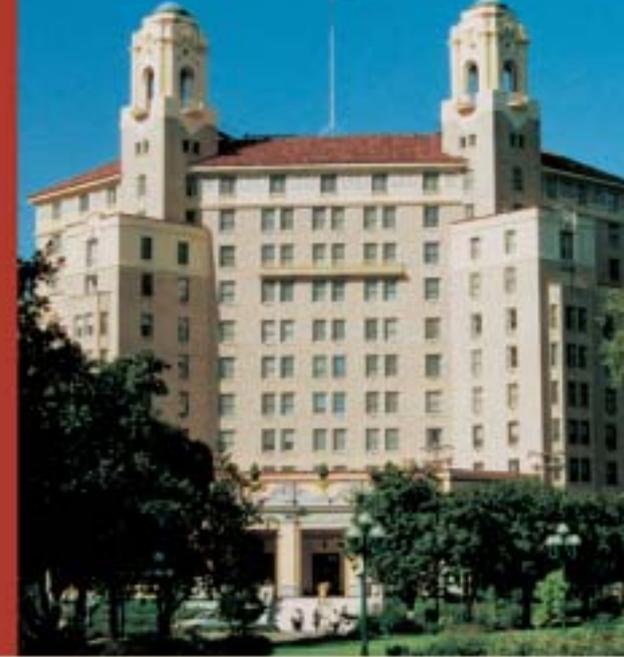
HOOVER HOLDS KEY TO SPA CITY

In 1927, the year prior to his election, Herbert Hoover was honored at a banquet and received a gold key to the city of **Hot Springs**.

SECOND ROOSEVELT SEES FIRST PARK

Franklin D. Roosevelt, the second Roosevelt to visit Arkansas as president, arrived at America's First National Park, **Hot Springs National Park**, on the morning of June 10, 1936, to celebrate the Arkansas Centennial. While in Arkansas, Roosevelt visited **Couchwood** (country home of Arkansas Power and Light Founder Harvey Couch on **Lake Catherine**, known for its excellent bass and crappie fishing, near **Hot Springs**) for lunch and attended a pageant and religious services at **Rockport**, a historic community near Malvern. The President also spoke on a nationwide radio broadcast and viewed the WPA Federal Theatre Project pageant, "America Sings," at **Fair Park**. Traveling with the President, Mrs. Roosevelt was the honored guest of the women of Arkansas at a breakfast at the **Arlington Hotel**, an 1875 structure famous as a favorite vacation spot of gangster Al Capone, on **Central Avenue** in **Hot Springs**. To spruce up for Roosevelt's visit, the road from **Hot Springs** to **Malvern**, over which the presidential party would drive, was blacktopped for the occasion and the unpainted buildings along the way were given a coat of whitewash, but only on the sides facing the road.

THE ARLINGTON HOTEL, HOST TO AMERICA'S MOST POPULAR
AND MOST WANTED.



KENNEDY ADDRESSES THE BAR

While a senator from Massachusetts in 1957, John Kennedy accepted Senator John McClellan's invitation to address an overflow crowd at the 59th Arkansas Bar Association's convention at the **Arlington Hotel** in **Hot Springs**. It was Kennedy's first Arkansas visit, occurring four days before the groundbreaking ceremonies for **Greers Ferry Dam** at **Heber Springs**, a project he would later dedicate as President of the United States. While in Arkansas, he also visited Governor Orval Faubus at St. Joseph's hospital in **Hot Springs**.

JOHNSON FOLLOWS KENNEDY'S FOOTSTEPS

Lyndon Johnson, who would follow Kennedy to the presidency, also came to **Hot Springs** to address the Arkansas lawyers' convention in June 1962.

President Bill Clinton's Arkansas: Home of a Place Called Hope

A tour of Arkansas wouldn't be complete without visiting the sites where President Bill Clinton grew up and honed his political skills. Born in **Hope**, Clinton would eventually call **Hot Springs**, **Fayetteville** and **Little Rock** home on his personal path to the Oval Office.



"I Still Believe in a Place Called Hope."

CLINTON'S JOURNEY FROM HOPE TO HISTORY

The 42nd President of the United States, William Jefferson Clinton, was born William Jefferson Blythe IV at **Julia Chester Hospital in Hope** on August 19, 1946. **Hope**, where President Clinton spent the first seven years of his life, is known as the "Watermelon Capital of the World" and hosts the Annual Watermelon Festival on the third weekend in August. Clinton lived at

117 S. Hervey Street, now the site of the **Clinton Birthplace**, with his grandparents as his mother studied nursing in New Orleans. In 1994, the home was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

It is open to the public for tours. His second home is located at **321 E. 13th Street**, a tidy, white, wood-frame, one-story house where he lived with his mother and stepfather, Roger Clinton. Clinton attended Miss Mary's Kindergarten with fellow classmates Mack McLarty and Vince Foster. McLarty would later serve as Clinton's first White House Chief of Staff, while Foster was Deputy White House Counsel. Clinton's education in Hope continued at Brookwood Elementary School.

Drop by the **Hope Visitor Center and Museum** at the intersection of U.S. Highway 67 and Arkansas 29 for information and directions to President Clinton's points of interest. The Visitor Center is located in a restored 1912 train depot and features exhibits on Clinton and other Arkansas politicians, including Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee, also a Hope native.

Growing up in the Spa City



In 1953, the Clintons moved to **1011 Park Avenue** in **Hot Springs**, where Bill was later baptized at **Park Place Baptist Church** located at 721 Park Avenue. The Clintons would later move to **213 Scully** located between Summer and Seventh Streets.

Clinton attended **Ramble Elementary School** off Park Avenue and Ramble at Ramble Terrace. **The First Apostolic Church** is now located at this site, and the red brick auditorium is all that remains of the original school. At **Hot Springs High School**, 215 Oak Street one block off Central Avenue, Clinton participated in the band as an all-state saxophone player, a talent he would later display on “The Tonight Show” and “The Arsenio Hall Show.” Clinton was also active in the Order Of DeMolay, where he served as Master Counselor. The group met at the **Masonic Temple** at **311 West Grand**.

Clinton and his friends spent many hours either bowling at 3917 Central Avenue; taking in a movie at the **Malco**, an Art-Deco style building and home of the Annual October **Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival**, at 817 Central Avenue; or enjoying the spectacular view of **Lake Ouachita** from **Mountain Vista** near the sheltered overlook on West Mountain Loop. These activities were often followed by a snack at one of his favorite eateries: the **Polar Bar**, now called **Bailey's Dairy Treat**, at 510 Park Avenue; the world-famous **McClard's Bar-B-Q**, known for its ribs, fried catfish and Clinton memorabilia, at 505 Albert Pike; or 314 Albert Pike, the former site of Cook's Ice Cream, which now houses Gene Lockwood's SportsMart.

After his junior year in high school, Bill became the first “Senator Clinton” while representing Arkansas at the American Legion Boys Nation in Washington, D.C. — where he was famously photographed shaking hands with President John F. Kennedy.

You can see Clinton's 1967 light blue Ford Mustang convertible at the **Arkansas Museum of Automobiles** atop **Petit Jean Mountain** on Ark. 154 near Morrilton. In the Clinton family since 1972, the car was first used by Roger Clinton and then passed along to Bill Clinton.



Clinton's social life revolved around school activities, including his high school proms and senior party. Clinton's junior and senior proms were held at the **Arlington Resort Hotel**, located on the corner of Central Avenue and Fountain Street, in the **Crystal Ballroom**. His senior party was held at 201 Central on the top floor of the **DeSoto Hotel** (now closed). In addition to his senior prom and party, his class held a senior banquet at 217 Park Avenue, the **Roundtable Restaurant** that is now called **Trumpets**. The area high school students occasionally attended weekend dances at the “Y” located at 500 Quapaw Avenue, now the home of the **Quapaw Community Center**.

Fayetteville: The Clintons' first Arkansas home

CLINTON CAMPAIGNS FROM THE HILLTOP

After graduating from Yale Law School, where he met future wife Hillary Rodham Clinton, Bill returned to Arkansas after a brief stint working for South Dakota Senator George McGovern's unsuccessful presidential campaign against Richard Nixon. Bill taught constitutional law from 1973 to 1976 at the **University of Arkansas School of Law**. Classes were held in **Waterman Hall**, which was established in 1952. Hillary, who also worked for McGovern's campaign and later landed a job as counsel for the House of Representatives, would join him on staff in 1974. Hillary moved to Arkansas after Bill's February 25, 1974, announcement of his candidacy for a U.S. House of Representatives seat in Arkansas's third district. The Clinton Campaign Headquarters was housed at **824 N. College Avenue**. Clinton narrowly lost the race to Republican incumbent John Paul Hammerschmidt by a four-point margin. Upon arriving in **Fayetteville**, Hillary was greeted with a present and a proposal. Bill had purchased a little red-brown brick cottage at **930 California Boulevard** on the southwest side of **Fayetteville**. Their wedding took place in the living room of the cottage on October 11, 1975.



While living in **Fayetteville**, the Clintons' habitual gathering place was the **D-Lux Café** on the main college strip, **Dickson Street**. The Clintons and their friends would socialize and engage in energetic political discussions about the future of American government.

Traditionally the site of the major political rallies in **Fayetteville**, the **Washington County Fairgrounds** hosted several Washington County Democratic rallies, where Bill was often an influential and captivating speaker. The family home of Clinton's political mentor, United States Senator J. William Fulbright, is located at **#5 Mt. Nord**. Senator Fulbright was highly influential in Clinton's life, and Clinton assisted him for two years on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee while a student at Georgetown University.

Clinton returned to **Fayetteville** as a presidential candidate on October 23, 1992. **Historic Old Main's** front lawn was the site of an emotionally riveting campaign stop. Clinton fought back tears as he spoke to an enormous crowd of friends and supporters while reminiscing about his days in **Fayetteville**.

Little Rock: The First Capital Clinton Called Home

THE CLINTONS IN THE CAPITAL CITY

After serving as professors at the **University of Arkansas School of Law in Fayetteville**, Clinton and his wife, Hillary Rodham Clinton, moved to **Little Rock** in 1976. Clinton was elected attorney general at age 30 and the state's youngest governor at 32. While serving as attorney general, Clinton and his staff were housed at 1500 West 7th Street, **Arkansas's Justice Building**.



Prior to moving into the **Governor's Mansion at 18th and Center Streets**, the Clintons lived in a one-story brick home at **5419 L Street**. Clinton's next nonpolitical home was **816 Midland Street**, a two-story frame home. The family, which now included newborn daughter, Chelsea Victoria Clinton, moved after Clinton lost his bid for re-election to Frank D. White. From 1983-92, Clinton once again held the office of governor, serving the citizens of Arkansas at the **State Capitol** (modeled after the nation's Capitol and built between 1899-1911) at **Woodlane and Capitol Avenue**.

Governor Bill Clinton put Arkansas on the global map when he announced his bid for the presidency on October 3, 1991, at the **Old State House**, the original site of Arkansas's first State Capitol, which now houses a museum of Arkansas history. Clinton also delivered his

presidential acceptance speeches here at **300 West Markham Street**. During the 1992 presidential campaign, the historic **1908 Gazette Building** served as the Clinton/ Gore campaign headquarters. Located at **112 West 3rd Street**, the building formerly housed Arkansas's oldest business, the now-defunct *Arkansas Gazette*.



THE CLINTONS TAKE THE STAGE TO CLAIM VICTORY ON ELECTION NIGHT 1992.

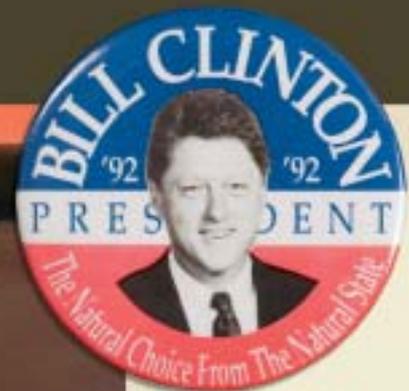


President Clinton and Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee were the keynote speakers at the **Central High School National Historic Site** in 1997. The City of **Little Rock** hosted a 40th anniversary ceremony commemorating the 1957 desegregation crisis. A visitors center across the street features exhibits about the event.

While living in **Little Rock**, Clinton was often seen at one of his favorite restaurants, **Doe's Eat Place**, well known for its tamales and steaks. The restaurant quickly became popular with the presidential campaign staff during the 1992 election. Located in the **River Market District** at 400 President Clinton Avenue, **Andina Café and Coffee Roastery** was one of Clinton and Vice President Al Gore's regular stops. It features two special roasts in honor of the Clintons. "Bill's Decaf Blend," the President's namesake blend, is described as: "Well-balanced, refined, familiar. Powerful but gentle. Ideal for those who have very little rest." For the First Lady, the café owner, Eduardo Gomez, has a Hillary blend that he calls "elegant, bright, strong."

MAYOR JIM DAILEY, GOVERNOR MIKE HUCKABEE AND PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON WELCOME THE LITTLE ROCK NINE BACK TO CENTRAL HIGH FOR THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DESEGREGATION CRISIS.





1600 PENNSYLVANIA TO 1200 PRESIDENT CLINTON

Visit the ultimate presidential point of interest, the **William Jefferson Clinton Presidential Center and Park** at **1200 President Clinton Avenue**. Anchoring downtown **Little Rock's River Market District** on the banks of the **Arkansas River**, the **Clinton Center** hosts 20,000 square feet of museum space dedicated to Clinton's two terms in the Oval Office — including near exact replicas of the Oval Office and Cabinet Room, state-of-the-art interactive historical displays, plus the largest archival collection in American presidential history as well as educational and research facilities. All of this, just a few short blocks down **President Clinton Avenue** from the **River Market Entertainment District**.

Places Named for Political Figures

Arkansas's love for politics was first evident in 1819, the year the United States Congress created the Territory of Arkansas. It continued until well after 1836, when Congress shaped the State of Arkansas. In the following years, many Arkansas counties would be named to honor political figures.

Dorsey County was created in 1873 and named for U.S. Senator Stephen W. Dorsey. After Dorsey antagonized many Arkansans, the county was renamed **Cleveland County** in 1885 to honor newly elected President Grover Cleveland.

In 1875, Clayton County was re-named **Clay County** in honor of presidential candidate Henry Clay.

In 1820, **Crawford County** was named for William Harris Crawford, the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury at the time the county was created. Crawford was a Democratic candidate for president in 1824 against Andrew Jackson, Henry Clay and John Adams.

Fulton County was named after William Fulton, who was appointed in 1828 as Secretary of the Territory of Arkansas by President Andrew

Jackson. Fulton served as General Jackson's secretary at the Battle of New Orleans. Fulton was the last person to serve as Secretary of the Territory, because Arkansas became a state in 1836.

Garland County was named after one of Arkansas's most notable figures, Augustus H. Garland. Garland, who served as governor and as United States Senator from Arkansas, became the first Arkansan to sit in the cabinet of a president when Grover Cleveland named him Attorney General of the United States. You can see one of Garland's homes today in **Old Washington Historic State Park** (named after our first president, of course).

Hector, a small town in **Pope County**, is said to be named for President Grover Cleveland's bulldog.

In 1869, Governor Powell Clayton (a former Union general), along with a legislature elected under the "Reconstruction" constitution, created a new county from parts of **Hot Spring, Jefferson** and **Saline Counties**. They named it **Grant County** in honor of the newly elected president, General Ulysses S. Grant.

In 1845, **Dallas County** was named to honor the vice president under James Polk, George M. Dallas.

Lincoln County was named after Abraham Lincoln in 1871, six years after his assassination.

Thomas Jefferson, third President of the United States, was honored in 1829 by the state when **Jefferson County** was named after him. The city of **Monticello** is named after Jefferson's home in Virginia (however, we pronounce it differently). The same year, **Monroe County** was named after James Monroe, the fifth president.

James Madison, the fourth president, passed away in June of 1836, the same month that Arkansas achieved statehood. Three months later on September 30, 1836, **Madison County** was created from a part of **Washington County**.

In 1844 at the age of 49, James Polk became the youngest man (at that time) ever elected president. Shortly after the election, the legislature of Arkansas named **Polk County** after him.



Van Buren County was named after then-Vice President Martin Van Buren in 1833. Van Buren was later elected president and served one term.

Pope County was named for John Pope, the third Governor of the Arkansas Territory. Pope was the brother-in-law of President John Quincy Adams.

White County was named in 1835 for Hugh Lawson White of Tennessee, a United States Senator. White ran unsuccessfully for president in 1836, which marked the first election after Arkansas became a state (and its citizens could vote).

The territorial legislature created a new county from a portion of **Independence County** in 1829 and named it **Jackson County** after President Andrew Jackson.

Washington County was created from a portion of **Crawford County** in 1828 to honor our first president, George Washington.

Lincoln (town) in **Washington County** was originally called **Georgetown**. When the postmaster had its name changed to Lincoln (in honor of Abraham Lincoln) in 1885, he faced opposition from Confederate sympathizers.



Arkansas's Favorite Sons

The Political Spotlight Shines on Arkansas



ROBINSON, THE RUNNING MATE

Joe T. Robinson was the first Arkansas politician to achieve national prominence. The only Arkansan other than Bill Clinton to appear on a presidential ticket, the U.S. Senator ran for vice president as a Democrat in 1928. Robinson accepted the nomination on the front steps of the **Arlington Hotel** in **Hot Springs**. He served as majority leader of the U.S. Senate from 1933-1937 and once hosted Franklin D. Roosevelt at his Little Rock home on Broadway (now **Hope Lodge**).

"...WILBUR MILLS IS FOR ME"

Wilbur D. Mills, a powerful Democratic member of the United States House of Representatives, was born in **Kensett** and was a graduate of

Hendrix College in **Conway**. Mills served in the House of Representatives from 1939-1977 and chaired the powerful House Ways and Means Committee. Mills was featured on the January 11, 1963, cover of *Time* magazine and ran for President of the United States in the 1972 Democratic primaries.

JEFFERSON'S GRANDSON, JACKSON'S NEPHEW (IN-LAW)

A historical marker in **Gurdon** (**Clark County**) honors Meriwether Lewis Randolph, the grandson of Thomas Jefferson, who was Secretary of the Arkansas Territory. Randolph was named for famous explorer Meriwether Lewis and married to Andrew Jackson's niece.



THE WILBUR MILLS CAMPAIGN SONG

"Wilbur Keeps Running Thru My Mind"
(To the tune of "Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head")

Wilbur keeps running thru my mind
As the one real candidate the Democrats can find,
No one else will do so we'll keep a cheerin'
While his name we keep hearin'
For President Wilbur Mills will fit the bill.
And we'll do some talkin' to the country,
While we still have a chance to
Vote for Wilbur for President,
The Arkansas resident,
And there's one thing I know, the ones they
Send to beat him can't defeat him.
It won't be long till happiness steps up
To meet him. The others will wish they
Stood in bed
Or ran for a bus or a train or even plane instead.
Wilbur is the one to bring back prosperity,
The nation's economy,
While we're still free,
Wilbur Mills is for me.



ARKANSAS'S FOUR STAR CANDIDATE

General Wesley Clark announced his candidacy for U.S. President on September 17, 2003, at **Little Rock's James E. Penick Boys and Girls Club**, immediately becoming a strong contender for the Democratic nomination. Born in Chicago in 1944, Clark moved to **Little Rock** with his mother at the age of four. The future general graduated from **Hall High School** and went on to be first in his class at West Point in 1966. He was NATO Commander in the air war against Yugoslavia in 1999, Supreme Allied Commander in Europe in 1997 and commander-in-chief of U.S. European command. He retired from the military at the successful conclusion of the Yugoslav war. Clark's national campaign headquarters was located in the historic **Union Train Station** in downtown **Little Rock**. General Clark made a strong showing in many of the early 2004 Democratic primaries, including a third place finish in the influential New Hampshire primary and winning the state of Oklahoma. After a disappointing finish in the Tennessee primary, the General announced his withdrawal from the race at Little Rock's **Peabody Hotel** — while strongly hinting at a future political career.



WIN WITH WIN

Governor Winthrop Rockefeller was nominated for president in 1968 at the Republican National Convention. He was a favorite son candidate and received 18 votes.

ARKANSANS CONSIDERED FOR THE HIGHEST COURT

At least two prominent Arkansans were seriously considered for Supreme Court nominations: Attorney Herschel Friday by President Richard Nixon and Judge Richard Arnold by President Bill Clinton.

THE ALMOST CANDIDATE

Senator Dale Bumpers gave serious consideration to running for president in 1988. After exploring a potential candidacy for some time, even printing Bumpers for President stationery, he announced he would not be a candidate.



Presidential Connections

KENNEDY TOUTS TOURISM

While dedicating **Greers Ferry Dam**, President Kennedy spoke about the boating, swimming, fishing and other opportunities for sportsmen that would attract tourists from all over the nation. The event was billed as K-Day, the most memorable event in the city as of 1963. **John F. Kennedy Park** now stands below **Greers Ferry Dam** on the **Little Red River**.



JFK SEES BRIGHT FUTURE FOR OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES IN ARKANSAS.

JEFFERSON MAKES A PURCHASE

Thomas Jefferson's purchase of the Louisiana Territory in 1803 confirmed the destiny of the future state of Arkansas as American rather than French or Spanish territory.

A PRESIDENT IN THE FAMILY

Woodrow Wilson's sister married the third pastor of the historic **Augusta Presbyterian Church**, Reverend A. Ross Kennedy. Wilson spent many days in **Augusta** visiting his sister and attending services in the church. The historic church was started in 1861, but the Civil War delayed its completion until 1871. Located at 3rd and Walnut, the church is open by appointment and has the original organ, pews, pulpit and most of the original windows. An official plaque near the building marks the site and Wilson's attendance. His sister, Marion Wilson Kennedy, died in 1890 and was preceded in death months earlier by her husband. Their son, Woodrow Wilson Kennedy, passed away 10 years later. The three are buried in **Batesville's Oaklawn Cemetery**, near the banks of the **White River**.

A MUSEUM WITH MEMENTOS

On display at the **Old Independence Regional Museum** in **Batesville** are land certificates signed by Presidents James Buchanan, James Monroe, Chester Arthur, Martin Van Buren, Millard Fillmore and John Quincy Adams. The museum also displays personal letters and cards from John F. Kennedy.

Presidential Connections

THE PRESIDENTIAL SUITE, STOCKED WITH JELLYBEANS

In 1984, the bill for a one-night stay at **Little Rock's Excelsior Hotel** for President Ronald Reagan and his staff totaled almost \$25,000. Reagan stayed in room 1622. The only two items the White House staff specifically requested for the room were ginger ale and jellybeans.



LADY BIRD LEADS WAY TO CLINTON'S LIBRARY

The name of the plane that brought Lady Bird Johnson to Arkansas was the Flying Whistle Stop Special. She envisioned the beautification of the then-undeveloped riverfront in Little Rock, later mentioning to then-Governor Dale Bumpers that it held tremendous potential. Lady Bird's comments led to the development of **Riverfront Park** near **Little Rock's River Market Entertainment District**. The **River Market** is now a bustling farmer's market and one of Little Rock's favorite places, just a stone's throw from the **William J. Clinton Presidential Center and Park**.

GROVER'S BED AND BREAKFAST?

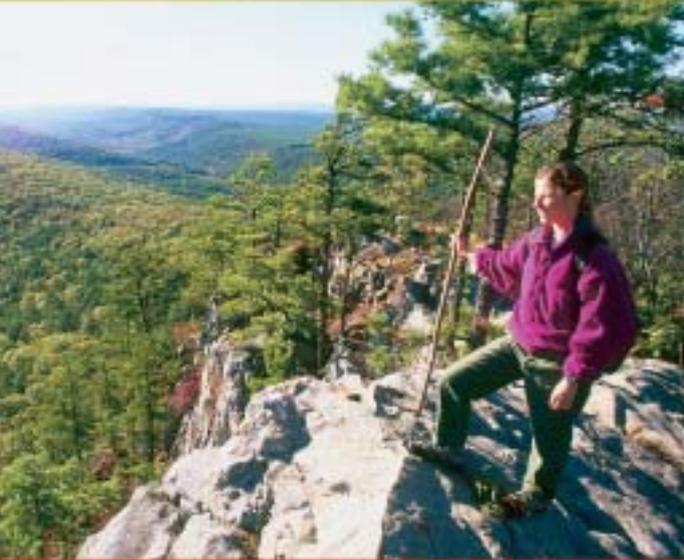
The **Red Bud Manor Bed & Breakfast Inn** in Eureka Springs is known locally as the **Cleveland House** because it is rumored to have been built by President Grover Cleveland.

CAMPAIGN RAILROADED

Republican Congressman James G. Blaine lost the 1884 presidential election to Democrat Grover Cleveland largely because of damaging campaign disclosures of corruption and influence peddling by Blaine related to his involvement a decade earlier in the financing of the short-lived **Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad**.

RIVALRY CLAIMS OUACHITA NATIONAL PARK

On March 24, 1929, in the very last act of his presidency, Calvin Coolidge vetoed a bill approved by Congress to create 163,000-acre **Ouachita National Park** in west Arkansas. The veto may have been a parting partisan shot at Arkansas Senator Joe T. Robinson, who had been a champion of the park and the Democratic party's vice presidential nominee in the bitter 1928 election just a few months before.



A HIKER ENJOYS THE PEAK OF OUTDOOR BEAUTY ON THE OUACHITA NATIONAL RECREATION TRAIL.



BATHHOUSE ROW, HOT SPRINGS

A ROSE FOR HILLARY

Hillary Rodham Clinton practiced law at the **Rose Law Firm** at 4th and Scott Streets in **Little Rock**. The Rose firm's founder, U.M. Rose, was a confidant of Presidents Grover Cleveland and Theodore Roosevelt.

LIGHTING CARTER'S LIBRARY

Little Rock businessman and philanthropist Jennings Osborne annually presents the spectacular holiday lighting displays at the

Carter Library in Atlanta, Georgia. Former President Jimmy Carter attended the **Little Rock** nuptials of Osborne's daughter Breezy in summer 2003.

HOT SPRINGS HEAL HARRY

Prior to coming to Arkansas as president, Harry Truman visited **Hot Springs** many times as a reserve officer for check-ups at the Army and Navy Hospital.

Only in Arkansas

The nation's largest contiguous block of bottomland hardwood forests, **White River National Wildlife Refuge**, is home to more than 350 small lakes for fishing and wildlife observation, including black bears.

The **Buffalo National River** located in the **Ozark Mountains** of Arkansas became the country's first national river in 1972.

The country's first national park, **Hot Springs**, features elegant bathhouses built in the early 1900s.

The world-famous **White River**, known for its trout fishing, flows more than 700 miles from its beginning in the **Ozarks** to the Mississippi River.

Crater of Diamonds near **Murfreesboro** is the only diamond deposit in the world open to the general public. More than 70,000 diamonds have been taken from this "finders keepers" state park. During the 1993 and 1997 presidential inaugural galas, Hillary Clinton wore a flawless 4.25-carat yellow diamond ring. The diamond, known as the "Kahn Canary," was unearthed at the **Crater of Diamonds State Park** in 1977.

Arkansas also produced America's first woman elected to the U.S. Senate, **Jonesboro's** Hattie Carraway, who won a special election to complete her husband's term after his death.

Presidential Connections

PRYOR NOMINATES MONDALE

Arkansas Senator David Pryor seconded the nomination of Walter Mondale for vice president at the Democratic National Convention in 1976.

HOOVER SURVEYS AND SURVIVES

Before he became the 31st President of the United States, Herbert Hoover spent the summer of 1892 as a surveyor in Arkansas in **Washington, Benton, Searcy, Baxter and Marion Counties**, where his fondness for wild berries almost resulted in disaster. While gathering berries, Hoover narrowly missed being seriously injured by a falling tree cut down by a woodsman.

A PRESIDENTIAL DIAMOND

Governor Sid McMath presented President Harry Truman with a souvenir of his 1949 trip to Arkansas: a paperweight containing a two-carat diamond from the Arkansas diamond mine, now known as the **Crater of Diamonds State Park** near **Murfreesboro** in **Pike County**. At that time, the diamond cost \$3,000.

FDR PREACHES TO THE CHOIR

The church where President Franklin D. Roosevelt spoke in **Rockport**, "**Kentucky Baptist**," was the first Baptist church erected in Arkansas.

JEFFERSON SENDS AN EXPEDITION

During President Thomas Jefferson's presidency, portions of the **Ouachita, Red and Arkansas Rivers** were explored, and a detailed report on **Hot Springs** was produced for the first time.

BUSH AND CLINTON FISH FOR ANGLER'S VOTES

Two future presidents once shared the stage and helped Bass Angler's Sportsman Society founder Ray Scott weigh in bass during the record-setting 1984 Classic on the **Arkansas River** in **Pine Bluff**: then-Vice President and presidential hopeful George Bush and then-Governor Bill Clinton.

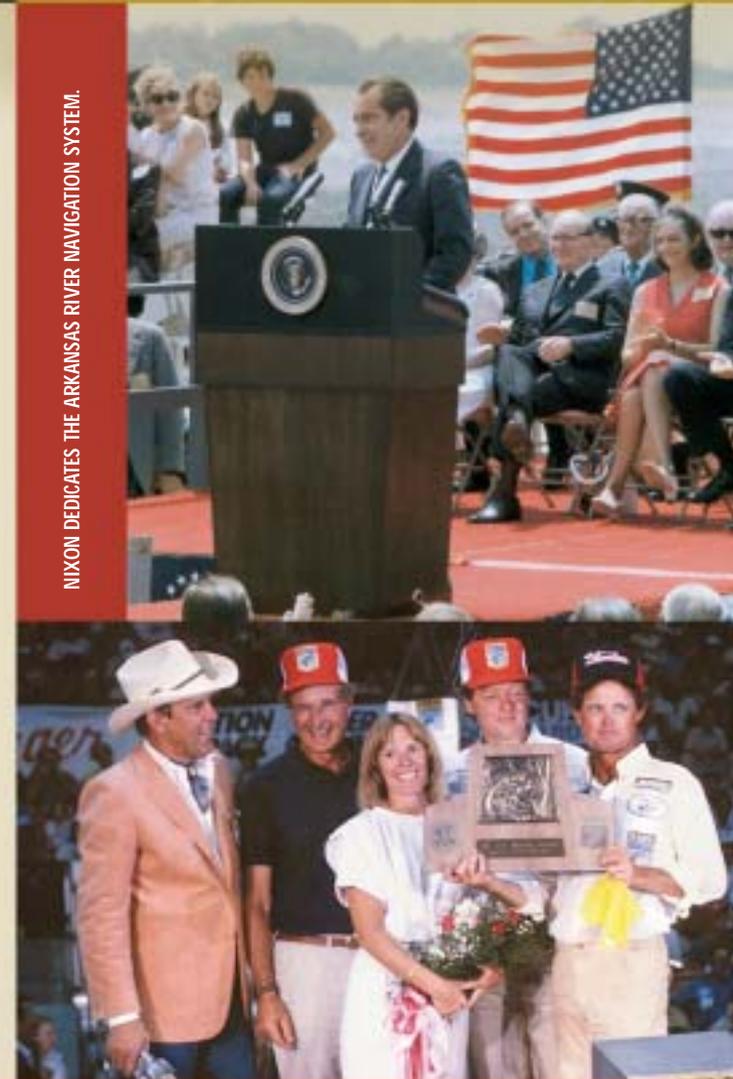
"GIVE 'EM HELL HARRY" GAVE LITTLE MORE

Harry Truman had a favorite club in **Hot Springs** where he played poker for small stakes. According to legend, he also tipped small: one silver dime.

NIXON NAVIGATES THE ARKANSAS RIVER

President Richard Nixon dedicated the **McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System**, which runs through Oklahoma and Arkansas to the Mississippi River, on June 5, 1971, at Catoosa, Oklahoma.

NIXON DEDICATES THE ARKANSAS RIVER NAVIGATION SYSTEM.

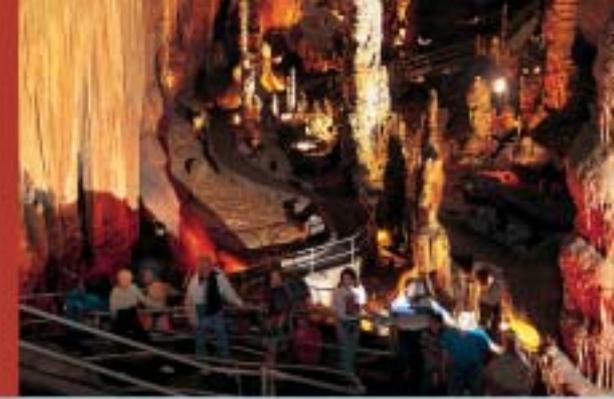


TWO FUTURE PRESIDENTS ON ONE STAGE ALONG THE ARKANSAS RIVER IN PINE BLUFF.

FROM PINE BLUFF TO WATERGATE

Martha Beall Mitchell, wife of the Nixon administration's Attorney General John Mitchell, was born and raised in **Pine Bluff**. Attorney General Mitchell was known as one of the key Watergate figures. Richard Nixon was quoted as saying, "If it hadn't been for Martha, there'd have been no Watergate." Martha Mitchell's childhood home is located at **902 West Fourth Avenue** and is open for tours.

BLANCHARD SPRINGS CAVERNS



Only in Arkansas

Blanchard Springs Caverns near **Mountain View** has been ranked among the 10 most outstanding caves in North America.

Bayou Bartholomew, an ancient channel of the **Arkansas River**, is believed to be the longest bayou in the world. The bayou flows along the western edge of the **Arkansas Delta** into Louisiana and is at least 375 miles long.

Lake Bennett at **Woolly Hollow State Park** north of **Greenbrier** was the first soil conservation service lake in the country.

Stephen Mather, the founding director of the U.S. National Park Service, hosted the 1925 National Conference on State Parks in **Hot Springs**. Mather was instrumental in Arkansas's start in the state park system. While here, Mather visited **Petit Jean State Park** (which named a lodge after him) to view its potential as a national park.



MARTHA MITCHELL'S CHILDHOOD HOME IN PINE BLUFF

Hail to The Natural State

Whether visiting the spas of Hot Springs, enjoying the Hope Watermelon Festival, taking in a University of Arkansas at Fayetteville football game, floating on the Buffalo National River or strolling through the River Market District in downtown Little Rock, be sure to take in presidential sites and enjoy the scenic beauty and Southern hospitality that awaits in Arkansas, The Natural State.

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The Lyndon Baines Johnson Library, Austin, Texas
The Richard Nixon Presidential Materials Project, Washington, D.C.
The Gerald R. Ford Library, Ann Arbor, Michigan
The Jimmy Carter Library, Atlanta, Georgia
The Ronald Reagan Library, Simi Valley, California
The George Bush Library, College Station, Texas

Additional information was gathered from:

Arkansas Gazette
Arkansas Democrat
Arkansas Democrat-Gazette
Arkansas Historical Quarterly
Historical Review of Arkansas
Arkansas Times, A History of Arkansas In Stories and Pictures
The American Spa by Dee Brown
Arkansas Place Names by Ernie Deane
Almanac of Arkansas History published by *Arkansas Times*

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THE NATURAL STATE

