

# COLORADO GOVERNORS

## Raymond H. Talbot



### Scope and Content Note

There are only a few records that document Talbot's ten day term in office as the governor of Colorado, except the Executive Record.

### Biography

Raymond Herbert Talbot was born on August 19, 1896, in Chicago. Talbot had one grandfather who was born in Ireland, another in Montreal, while his maternal grandmother was born in England. His parents, Herbert and Annie Talbot, moved to Pueblo, Colorado, one year after he was born. He grew up and attended public schools there and trained to become an electrical engineer.

In his youth, he worked as a telegraph messenger boy, a craneman, and a switchman. On June 1, 1915, he married Juniatta L. Wilson in Pueblo; and they had two children: a son, Raymond H. Jr. and a daughter, Adoli Marie. He left Pueblo in 1919 for a job at Cicero, Illinois, but returned after one year.

In 1920, he was employed by the Southern Colorado Power Company, and in 1930, he became public and industrial relations officer for the company. He also taught vocational training as an agent of the Colorado A & M College (Fort Collins), but it was in public service where Ray Talbot spent most of his career. In 1932, he became city commissioner of parks and highways. He was re-elected to this post four times until 1946.

His official service to the state began in 1926, when he was elected to the House of Representatives. Two years later, he was elected to the Senate, and in 1932, he was elected Lieutenant Governor as the running mate of the Democratic Governor Edwin C. Johnson. Talbot became the Democratic Governor of Colorado for ten days from January 2-12, 1937, after Johnson resigned early to take the U.S. Senate seat he won in 1936. Talbot was sworn in to finish up the work of Johnson's administration. His duty was to carry out Johnson's program for those few days and to coordinate it with Teller Ammons, the incoming governor. He delivered a brief message to the incoming legislature for Senator Johnson.

Talbot continued to serve as Pueblo City Commissioner until 1946, when he was appointed temporary postmaster there. During World War II, he held down several federal posts, and in 1949, was named permanent Pueblo postmaster. He was also long active in the Colorado State Fair at Pueblo and served on the State Fair Commission as president from 1931 to 1953. He helped the fair grow from an event which attracted 20,000 people to the modern attraction it has become, drawing crowds more than ten times that size. Talbot was able to eliminate the \$165,000 deficit against the fair in 1929. During his years in the legislature, he fought for increased state support of the fair.

Raymond H. Talbot's long record of service to his city, state, and nation came to an end on January 30, 1955, when he suddenly died of a stroke at his home at age fifty-eight. He had served for twenty-four years as a State Fair Commissioner, eight years as postmaster, and fourteen as a City Commissioner. He is buried in Mountain View Cemetery at Pueblo.

### **Bibliography**

- Leonard, Stephen. *Trials and Triumphs: Colorado During the Great Depression*. Niwot, Co.: University of Colorado Press, 1993.
- Talbot, Raymond H. Collection. Denver, Co., Western History Collection, Denver Public Library.
- Ubbelohde, Carl, Benson, Maxine, and Smith, Duane. *Colorado History*. Boulder, Colorado, Pruett Publishing Co., 1972.
- Wickens, James F. *Colorado in the Great Depression: A Study of New Deal Policies at the State Level*. Denver, Co.: University of Denver, Unpublished Thesis, 1964.
- Wickens, James F. *Colorado in the Great Depression*. New York: Garland Publishing, 1979.

### **Periodicals**

- The Denver Post, January 31, 1955, p. 34.
- The Pueblo Chieftan, January 31, 1955, p. 1.
- The Rocky Mountain News, January 31, 1955, p. 15.

### **Series Descriptions**

#### **Executive Record**

The Executive Record contains executive orders; appointments; legislative messages; pardons; extraditions and requests; honorary citations; and proclamations which were issued by Governor Talbot in the brief period that he was governor.