

GET TO KNOW :

J. Howard Edmondson

John F. Kennedy

Liquor Control Act

Henry Bellmon

Civil Rights Act

Dewey Bartlett

Mike Monroney

Vietnam Era

Lunar landing

Richard M. Nixon

OBJECTIVES :

Learn how Prohibition ended;

Why Oklahoma elected its first Republican governor;

How segregation ended;

What caused the protests against the war in Vietnam; and

About the achievement of the Apollo 11 space mission.

What factors led the Baby Boom generation to be so politically active?

What method did African Americans use to fight for their civil rights? Would another method have worked?

Why did America get involved in the Vietnam war?

Why did public opinion turn against involvement in Vietnam?

1960

1965

1959 J. Howard Edmondson inaugurated 16th governor of Oklahoma.
Prohibition repealed in Oklahoma.

1960 First televised Presidential debates.

1961 Oklahoma City becomes U.S. city with largest land area.
Freedom Riders challenge segregation on interstate buses.

1962 Cuban Missile Crisis.
First Walmart opens.

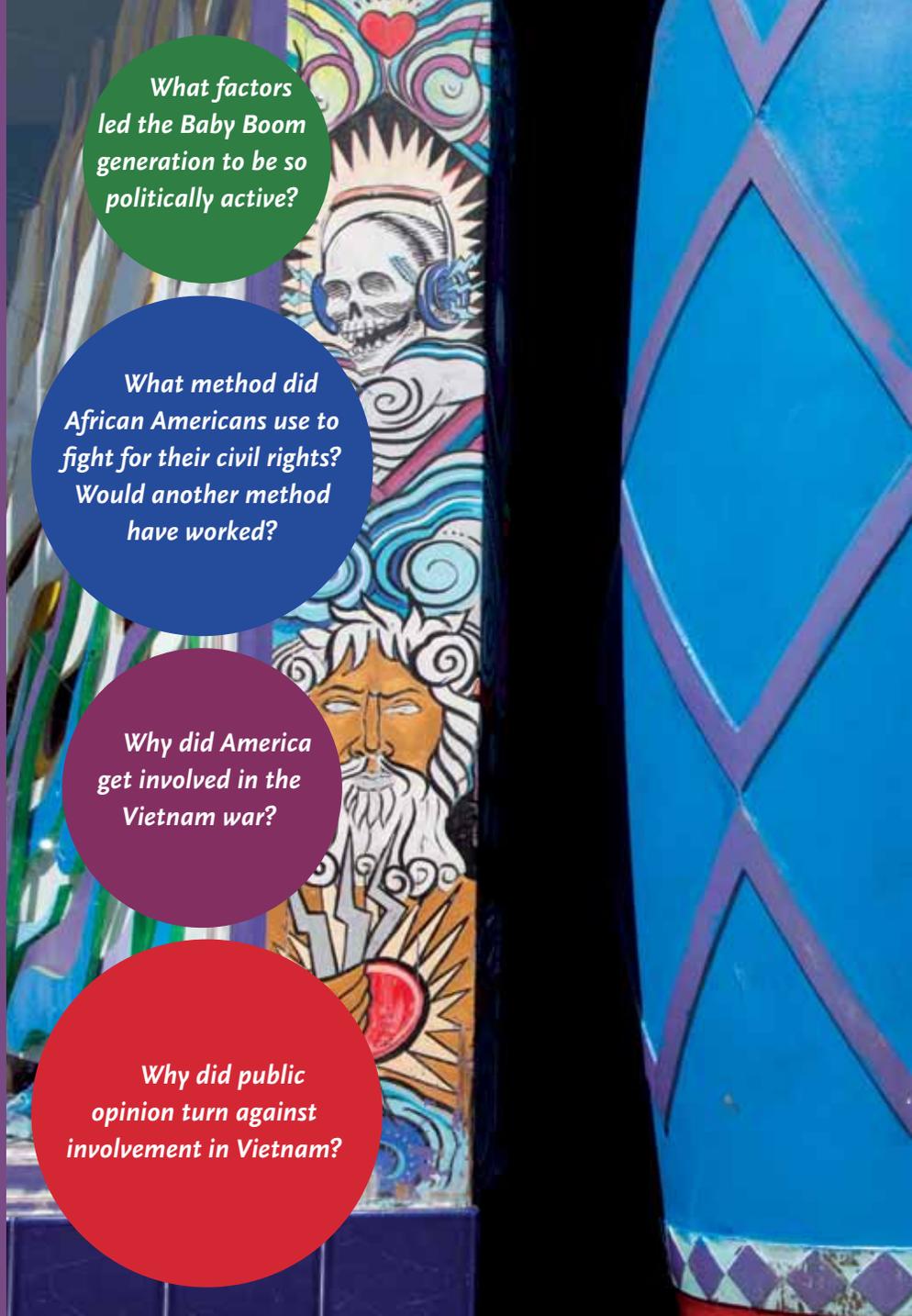
1963 Robert S. Kerr dies. Edmondson resigns as governor to take Kerr's Senate seat. George Nigh inaugurated as 17th governor.
Henry Bellmon inaugurated 18th governor.
John F. Kennedy assassinated.
Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech.

1965 U.S. sends troops to Vietnam.

1966 Mass draft protests in U.S.

1968 Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy assassinations.

1964 The Beatles' U.S. debut.



CHAPTER 16

Change in the Air

Oklahoma emerged from the stable and prosperous 1950s to turmoil and readjustment. From before statehood, Oklahoma's mostly rural population had dominated state politics and policies. By the 1960s, more than half the people in the state resided in the urban centers of Tulsa and Oklahoma City. Existing voting districts gave them little representation in the State Legislature. One voter in a Panhandle county had as much representation as eighty citizens in Oklahoma or Tulsa counties.

Rural politicians were reluctant to give up their dominance. Achieving equal representation throughout the state was long in coming. It was finally accomplished in the 1960s by the forceful involvement of Federal judges to redraw the districts of representation and break the stranglehold of rural power.

THE 1960S WERE DOMINATED by youth with the first wave of the Baby Boom becoming young adults. They wanted change and moved away from the conservative 1950s to revolutionary ways of thinking. The changes affected education, values, lifestyles, laws, and entertainment. Many of the revolutionary ideas which began in the sixties are continuing to evolve today.

The first big change came in 1960 with the presidential election victory of the youthful, handsome, and charismatic John F. Kennedy who believed "government possessed big answers to big problems." After his assassination in 1963, the nation entered a period of turmoil, seeking answers for some of the big problems of poverty and injustice.

A full-scale war in Vietnam dragged on and divided the nation. African Americans' struggle for equal rights was not eliminating racism or poverty, and women were struggling for equal pay.

Change was slow to come. People took to the streets in protest and became more militant. The counterculture grew more outlandish as the decade wore on. Some young people "dropped out" of political life and moved away from the turbulence that had come to define everyday life in the 1960s. These "hippies" grew their hair long, lived communally, and liberated themselves from the social structure.

1970

1970 Kent State shootings.

1969 Neil Armstrong walks on the moon.

1972 Watergate Scandal.

1971 Patience Latting first woman to be elected as mayor of Oklahoma City.

David Hall inaugurated 20th governor.

1975

1973 McAlester Prison riot. U.S. forces pull out of Vietnam.

1975 David L. Boren inaugurated 21st governor.

1974 President Richard Nixon resigns.



J. HOWARD EDMONDSON was inaugurated Oklahoma's 17th governor in 1959.

. Howard Edmondson was inaugurated in January 1959. At 33, he was the state's youngest governor in history. Edmondson's "prairie fire" and "Big Red E" campaigns (both named for his red hair) brought him from behind to win the Democratic primary. He won the general election by the largest majority ever received by a governor in the state.

Born in Muskogee in September 1925, Edmondson earned a law degree from the University of Oklahoma. He served in the Air Force and was a Tulsa County attorney before becoming governor. That year, the Oklahoma Hall of Fame named him an honorary member. He was honored as one of the nation's Ten Most Outstanding Young Men.

How did Prohibition end?

Although the country had repealed Prohibition years earlier, the state was still "dry." But the state did not uniformly **enforce** the law. Edmondson promised he would either enforce or repeal Prohibition, and he ended up doing both. He said that "every Oklahoman who votes dry will drink dry." He turned to Attorney General Joe Cannon to enforce Prohibition. Law **enforcement** officials raided bars and nightclubs which were illegally serving liquor. They also targeted bootleggers for breaking the law.

Perhaps for the first time, citizens knew what it meant to be "dry." People who had never given up liquor learned what true Prohibition meant. They saw that the actual **enforcement** of Prohibition was expensive. From the daily news, it seemed that most sheriffs and police were busy full-time with "bar busting." Who was going after the "real" criminals?

Previously, any teenager with the right information and enough money could buy alcohol. Now, adults started thinking regulations might protect teenagers better. After all, bootleggers would be out of business. State laws would keep most young people out of bars, nightclubs, and liquor stores.

Legislators wrote a **referendum** for a Liquor Control Act, suggesting that an Alcoholic Beverage Control Board could license liquor stores. On April 7, 1959, the question went to the people in an election. Voters approved it by 386,845 votes to 314,830 votes and added the Twenty-seventh Amendment to the Oklahoma Constitution. The first package (liquor) stores opened on September 1, 1959.



Dumping thousands of gallons of confiscated liquor in front of the Federal Building, Oklahoma City.

Another Edmondson accomplishment was starting a Central Purchasing System for state agencies. He also set up a State Merit System to hire and promote state workers according to tests. He put a tax withholding system into effect, making it easier for the state to collect income taxes.

In 1960, voters approved Question 391, forming the Oklahoma Industrial Finance Authority. They allowed it to issue up to \$10 million in bonds to develop industry. They also approved a \$35 million bond issue for state buildings.

The “winds of politics” changed directions midway through Governor Edmondson’s term. Opposition to his programs began to grow. For instance, because of the population shift from rural to urban areas, the governor asked for **reapportionment**. He wanted to re-map congressional districts to give urban areas more votes. He also asked for a highway commission set up by the State Constitution. It would have

administered funds and handled other matters usually handled at the county level. When the legislature refused these proposals, the governor took them to the people. They turned down his ideas, too.

The governor and the legislature reached a **stalemate**. Edmondson became less active. Legislators made changes to weaken the State Merit System and Central Purchasing System, but the programs survived. A federal court ordered reapportionment of the state.

When Senator Robert S. Kerr died in 1963, the Oklahoma governor had the power to appoint someone to finish the senator’s term. First, Edmondson resigned from the governor’s office. The lieutenant governor, George Nigh, succeeded him. Then, as governor, Nigh appointed Edmondson to finish the senator’s term in Congress.

Edmondson served about two years as a U.S. senator. When he ran for the office in 1964, he was

defeated by Fred R. Harris. He returned home to practice law. He died of a heart attack on November 17, 1971.

What effect did the election of youthful leaders have on the U.S.?



PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

The youthful energy of Governor J. Howard Edmondson appealed to many Oklahomans. Similarly, when President John F. Kennedy won the presidential race, he was a great contrast to his predecessor, Dwight D. Eisenhower. Kennedy urged young people to make the world a better place through programs like the Peace Corps overseas and VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) at home. He also challenged America to enter the Space Race and put a man on the moon within 10 years. He made the younger generation, especially, feel hopeful and powerful.

When did Oklahoma City become the nation's largest city?

On October 31, 1961, Oklahoma City became the U.S. city with the largest land area. On that date, the City Council annexed 42.7 square miles of land, making the city 475.5 square miles. The second largest city, Los Angeles, California, was 457.9 square miles. At the start of the twenty-first century, Oklahoma City had 608.2 square miles, but was no longer the nation's largest city.

How did political passions manifest themselves in the 1960s?

Political passions ran high in Oklahoma in the 1960s. At one point, a near-riot occurred in a confrontation between Democrats and Republicans. On November 5, 1962, Republicans marched through downtown Oklahoma City in a pre-election, torchlight parade. When they met up with a group of Democrats, both sides jeered at each other. They started pushing and shoving. The police reported two hundred people involved.

A Democratic spokesman said, "The Republicans just got a little passionate," but he claimed the Republican torches were more like clubs. A Republican spokesman claimed that the Democrats' conduct was "close to being an un-American activity."

For many years, the Republican Party's symbol has been the elephant. That night, Republicans unloaded three elephants in front of Democratic headquarters. Naturally, this angered the Democrats and helped stir the battle. Police "arrested" the elephants and held them in a local garage until Clyde Brothers Circus reclaimed them.

Who was elected as the state's first Republican governor?

Henry Bellmon accomplished what many people thought impossible in Oklahoma in 1962. He became its first Republican governor.

Born September 28, 1921, in Tonkawa, he grew up in the Billings area, where he was a wheat farmer. Graduating from Oklahoma A&M College in Stillwater in 1942 with a degree in agronomy, Bellmon served in the Marines during World War II. He earned the Legion of Merit and the Silver Star. Bellmon was Oklahoma's most-decorated governor.

During his campaign, Bellmon told a story about a farmer with a cow for sale. "The first man who looked at the cow wanted to know about her pedigree," he said. "The next fellow inquired about the butterfat content of her milk, and another one asked about her annual milk production. 'All I can tell you,' said the farmer, 'is that she's an honest, hard-working old cow, and she'll give you all the milk she's got.'" Bellmon promised to be like the cow — honest and hard-working.

He had served one term in the state legislature after the war but had no other experience as an elected official. He had served as a precinct committeeman, Noble County Chairman, and State Chairman of the Republican Party.

The Democratic primary had several candidates, including former Governor Raymond Gary. Gary lost to W. P. "Bill" Atkinson, who became the Democratic candidate. He supported a one-cent increase in sales tax. Bellmon preached no new taxes and won the election.

On January 14, 1963, when Bellmon took office, he was younger than all but one previous Oklahoma governor (Edmondson). Despite the new state liquor laws, Bellmon announced that he had served no liquor in his home and would not serve it in the governor's mansion. He did not even serve it at the Inaugural Ball. He also said he would not wear a "cockeyed



HENRY BELLMON became Oklahoma's 18th governor in 1959.

tux” to the ball.

Bellmon did prove to be hard-working. Even though he served with a Democratic legislature, he signed more bills than any of the three previous administrations had. One was a public housing bill. Despite pressure, Bellmon kept his word about no general tax increases. He did increase the cigarette tax as a fundraiser for education.

The legal field saw many changes as a result of the work of the thirtieth legislature. It replaced the county attorney system, in which each of the seventy-seven counties had its own attorney. The new system divided the state into twenty-seven districts. Each one hired a district attorney.

Scandal shook the State Supreme Court in the early 1960s. A federal court convicted Vice Chief Justice Nelson Corn of income tax evasion. While in prison, Corn gave evidence of other justices accepting bribes. Justice Earl Welch resigned from office to avoid impeachment. A federal court later convicted him. Justice J.B. Johnson was impeached, convicted, and removed from office.

Bellmon inherited the problem of reapportionment (the division of congressional districts). He and the legislature tried to work out a solution. They passed a law in 1963, but a three-judge panel ruled that it was unfair. Then the judges themselves divided the state. The first elections under the new plan were in September 1964.

After leaving office in 1967, Bellmon spent a short time at his farm. Soon, he became the second Oklahoma governor elected to the U.S. Senate. He defeated longstanding incumbent Mike Monroney. He left the Senate in 1982, returning to the farm.

Public service called him away again the same year when the director of the Department of Human Services retired. Governor Nigh asked Bellmon to serve as acting director of the agency. Because of problems within the system, Bellmon resigned from that position within a few months. Later, he served as **interim** director of the Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center in Oklahoma City.

How did Oklahoma schools operate in the Bellmon years?

Schools got a lot of attention during the Bellmon years. The Oklahoma Education Association called for a \$1,000 raise for teachers. When the legislature refused it, the OEA asked the National Education Association to investigate the state’s schools. The NEA report placed Oklahoma on a national blacklist. It imposed professional sanctions, saying that working conditions were “sub-minimal.” The report pointed out that Oklahoma was fortieth among states in spending per student and thirty-seventh in salaries for teachers.

During Governor Bartlett’s term, the OEA specifically demanded a statewide kindergarten system. Bartlett vetoed that plan. The OEA also asked for more funds for a special education program. They asked the state to improve school libraries and to require smaller teacher-student ratios. The OEA again sanctioned Oklahoma because of what was, in their opinion, a disinterested legislature. Bartlett and several legislative leaders were later able to pass a program to improve the schools, including a \$1,300 annual salary increase for teachers.

What kind of progress on civil rights issues was made during Governor Bellmon’s term?

Nationally, the most controversial issue during Bellmon’s administration was civil rights for African Americans. President John F. Kennedy had won election during Edmondson’s term of office. In fact, he had a hand in Edmondson’s appointment to the Senate. Kennedy pushed for a bill granting equality of citizenship and rights to African Americans. He was assassinated in November 1963, but Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Meanwhile, a young African American minister named Martin Luther King Jr. urged people to use



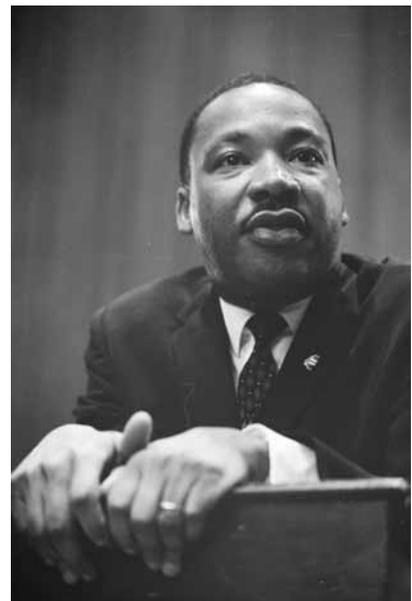
Civil rights demonstrators sit-in at the entrance to the Skirvin Hotel's Sooner Room in 1961. The Skirvin was the first hotel in Oklahoma City to agree to integration. OKLAHOMAN

nonviolence to claim their rights. Peaceful protests included marching with signs, riding in the front of a bus, and “sitting in” at segregated lunch counters. Support for civil rights grew, and whites began to join the cause.

Clara Luper continued leading students in local protests. Five years after the first sit-in at the Katz Drug Store, all restaurants in downtown Oklahoma City were integrated. Bishop’s Restaurant was the last one. After a long siege of sit-ins, the management finally agreed on June 4, 1963, to **negotiate** for integration.

Protests and marches began drawing attention to all kinds of civil rights. Women and sexual minorities spoke out against **discrimination**. Latino migrants organized a union to protect their rights. These efforts were peaceful but controversial: They angered some citizens and gave hope to others.

Despite the success of nonviolent protests, many people were frustrated with the rate of change in America. At times, frustration did erupt into violence.



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Who was Governor Dewey Bartlett?



DEWEY BARTLETT was inaugurated as Oklahoma's 19th governor in 1959.

In 1967, Dewey Bartlett became the second Republican governor of Oklahoma. Born in Marietta, Ohio, in March 1919, Bartlett received a degree in geological engineering from Princeton University. He served as a Marine combat dive bomber during World War II and earned the Air Medal.

Since the court scandals in the early 1960s, the legislature had wanted to reform the courts. It sent a proposal to the public soon after Bartlett took office in 1967, and the measure passed. It eliminated the justice-of-the-peace system in Oklahoma. It also instituted nonpartisan election of judges.

Bartlett's administration was one of investigation. It charged several officials, including State Corporation Commissioners, with conflict of interest. Bartlett vetoed a bill to increase salaries for state officials.

The voters approved a constitutional amendment allowing Oklahoma governors to succeed themselves in office. Dewey Bartlett was the first to try. He lost by a mere 2,190 votes. A recount confirmed that David Hall was the winner of the 1970 election.

Bartlett went on to win a seat in the U.S. Senate. There he served alongside Henry Bellmon, his predecessor as governor. Bartlett resigned from the Senate because of health problems. He died of cancer at the age of 60.

Who was Mike Monroney?



MIKE MONRONEY

Almer Stillwell "Mike" Monroney was a longtime senator from the Fifth District. He had been born in Oklahoma City in 1902. He graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 1932 and married Mary Ellen Mellon on July 3 of the same year. He served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1939 to 1951. He served in the U.S. Senate from 1951 through 1968. He received the Earl M. Collier Award for Distinguished Congressional Service in 1945.

Monroney had a great personal interest in aviation. He sponsored legislation to protect and develop the industry, receiving the Wright Brothers Trophy in 1961. The Federal Aviation Administration named the Aeronautical Center of Oklahoma City in his honor.

What was the Vietnam Era?

It is hard to say exactly when America first got involved in the Vietnam War. Since the end of World War II, American presidents had watched events there. They sent military advisors to resist a Communist take-over from the North. By 1963, there were thousands of American advisors in South Vietnam, but the general public had barely heard of the country.

In 1964, the *USS Maddox*, an American ship, was attacked by North Vietnamese torpedo boats in the Gulf of Tonkin. The Viet Cong (communists from North Vietnam) thought the ship had been sent to assist the South Vietnamese. Actually, it was on a scientific mission. As a result of the attack, Congress sent a message to President Johnson “to take all necessary measures to repel any armed attack against the forces of the United States, and to prevent further aggression.” American involvement escalated (increased in range and intensity). Within the year, Johnson sent thirty thousand troops to Southeast Asia.

By 1967, when Governor Bartlett took office, Vietnam was a household word in Oklahoma. The next year, there were 540,000 Americans fighting the war as part of an international force of 1.6 million soldiers. Nevertheless, U.S. officials were committed to “limited involvement” — the same kind of policy that had existed during the Korean War. But the draft called up more and more young men.

The American people were divided on the issue of the war. “Doves” opposed the war while “Hawks” believed in the cause. Some thought no troops should have been sent. Some thought enough troops should be sent to put a quick end to the war. Others liked the government’s policy of limited involvement. Through it all, TV brought the war into living rooms and affected people’s perceptions.

Since the war was a central issue of the presidential campaign of 1968, the Democratic Convention in Chicago was disrupted with a week-long protest. Ten thousand people, who associated themselves with various causes, assembled peacefully. But when they were met by police in riot gear, the assembly turned violent. Nightly TV news programs showed police using



A bombing campaign that lasted three years was one tactic used in the war against the North Vietnamese.

At an anti-war protest at the Pentagon in October 1967, student protesters put flowers in the barrels of the National Guard rifles.

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tear gas on, and beating, protesters, journalists, and bystanders.

What occurred in the protest movements during the Vietnam Era?

As the U.S. increased its troops in Vietnam, more and more people opposed the war. By the late 1960s, demonstrations were a common means of protest for both students and adults. People marched with signs demanding that soldiers be brought home. They lit bonfires so young men could burn their draft cards. Musicians played anti-war songs. Veterans of World War II could not understand how people could criticize their own country, but the opposition was too large to ignore.

Numerous protests began on college campuses. Fearing the same disorder in Oklahoma, the state legislature and the governor passed a “speaker ban” statute, written to keep “outside agitators” off local campuses. In 1969, the statute was questioned in court. In 1970, Oklahoma’s Attorney General G.T. Blankenship declared the statute unconstitutional because it tried to limit free speech.

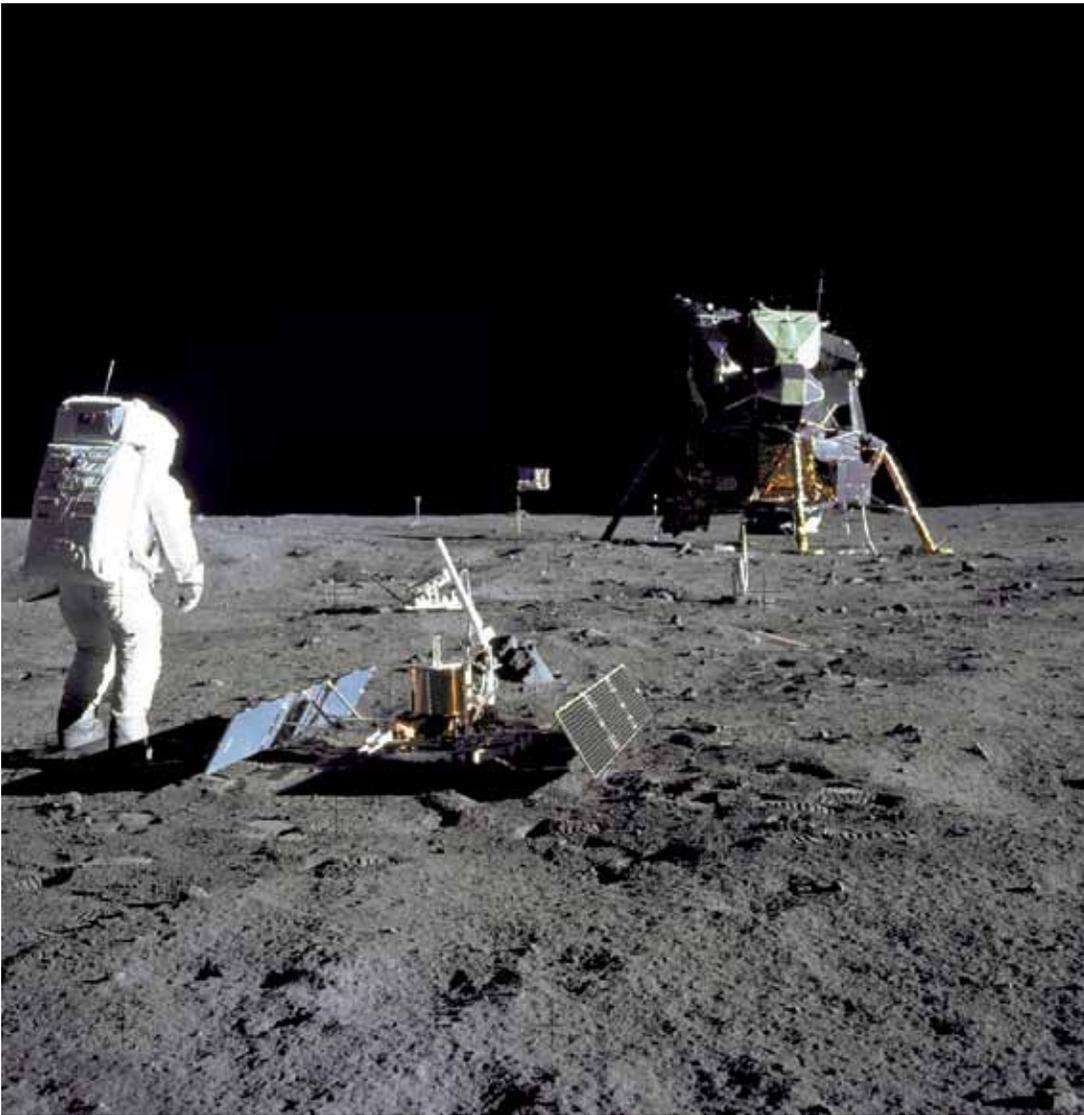
What was the significance of “one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind?”

With all these difficulties tearing the nation apart, the optimism of young people certainly had setbacks. Both President Kennedy and his brother, Senator Robert F. Kennedy, were assassinated, as was Martin Luther King Jr. There seemed to be no end to the Vietnam War. Tension in America grew worse, as did the “gap” between the generations.

Then in July 1969, NASA’s Apollo 11 made a lunar landing. When Neil Armstrong stepped onto the moon, he referred to the action as “a giant leap for mankind.” And the nation came together — in front of TV sets — to watch the remarkable scene.

What scandals were associated with President Nixon’s terms?

President Richard M. Nixon had been elected in 1968 and again in 1972. His running mate was Spiro Agnew, a former governor of Maryland. But Agnew was investigated for accepting bribes and not reporting income while governor. He resigned



NEIL ARMSTRONG
walking on the moon.

from office in 1973. Nixon appointed Gerald R. Ford, from the U.S. House of Representatives, as the new vice president.

Nixon's campaign for re-election in 1972 included authorizing a break-in at the Watergate Hotel in Washington, D.C. As a series of "dirty tricks" became more obvious, Congress began to consider impeaching the President. Instead, Nixon resigned in August 1974. This made Gerald Ford the chief executive. He declared the end of a "long national nightmare" and helped to restore trust in the government.

How was Carl Albert next in line for the presidency?

In the midst of these dramatic events, leaders of great integrity stood out. One was a man from

Bugtussle, Oklahoma. His name was Carl Albert and he achieved the highest office ever attained by an Oklahoman. In 1971, he became Speaker of the United States House of Representatives.

Born in 1908, Albert experienced success early. He graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 1931 and went to Oxford, England, as a Rhodes Scholar. There he earned his LLD, an advanced degree, in 1934, and was admitted to the Bar in 1935. Albert served in World War II and earned the Bronze Star.

He first won a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1946. As Democratic Whip from 1955 to 1962, he was responsible for the attendance of Democrats whenever votes were cast. He then served as Majority Leader (1962-1971) and became Speaker of the House in 1971. One of the Speaker's



CARL ALBERT by Charles Banks Wilson.
This portrait hangs in the U.S. Capitol.



Mayor **PATIENCE LATTING**

duties is to assume the role of vice president in case of disability, death, or resignation. As explained above, Vice-President Spiro Agnew had resigned in 1973.

After Nixon chose Ford as vice president, the Senate had to approve him. Until that approval, Albert was next in line for the presidency. In fact, after Nixon resigned, Ford became president. Then he chose his own vice president, and until the Senate approved Mr. Ford's appointment, Carl Albert was again next in line to be commander-in-chief.

A man of small stature, Albert held great power. He was known affectionately as "the Little Giant from Little Dixie." He retired in 1972 to his home area of McAlester, where he was regarded as an elder statesman. He continued to be influential in Oklahoma political circles until his death in 2000.

Who was Patience Latting?

In 1971, the people of Oklahoma City elected a woman as mayor. Patience Sewell Latting was the first woman to head the government of a city of more than 200,000 people. She was one of only fourteen women to lead cities of more than thirty thousand residents.

Nationally, equal rights for women were a hot topic. Many people wanted to liberate (free) men and women from traditional roles. Politicians had to choose their words carefully to avoid offending voters of both genders. When Latting's opponent, Bill Bishop, stated, "Running against a woman is the most impossible thing I've ever had to do," his statement offended some women. Trying to walk the tightrope of public opinion, Mayor Latting pleaded, "Please don't make me out as a women's liberationist." The 52-year-old took office after a campaign against "cronyism" (employment of friends and relatives) in government.

Latting had an impressive background. When she earned a degree in mathematics from the University of Oklahoma, she was only nineteen. She served as legislative chair for the Oklahoma Parent-Teachers Association and wrote the reapportionment plan which was adopted for the state legislature. In New York, she earned a master's degree in economics and statistics from Columbia University. She also worked for a time at the famous Chase-Manhattan Bank as a researcher. It was not Latting's goal to challenge tradition, but she did it several times.



Who was Governor David Hall?

Voters elected David Hall governor in 1970. During his term of office, he distinguished himself in several positive ways.

Born in 1930 in Oklahoma City, Hall earned a bachelor's degree in government and history from the University of Oklahoma in 1952. He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1952 to 1954 and was a captain in the Air Force Reserves. In 1959, he graduated from the University of Tulsa School of Law. Hall worked as Tulsa County Attorney from 1962 to 1966 and then went into private practice. He was a professor of law at the University of Tulsa in 1968.

Hall was very much a community leader. He sat on the Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America. He held offices in several professional organizations for attorneys. A Mason and a Shriner, he worked with young men to develop personal responsibility and leadership skills.

When Hall took office in 1971, he inherited financial problems. State income did not meet agency needs. Per-pupil spending had dropped to a ranking of forty-fifth of the fifty

OKLAHOMA CITY, 1970. Patience Latting headed a city government faced with rebuilding a dying downtown as retailers moved to urban shopping centers.



DAVID HALL was inaugurated as Oklahoma's 20th governor in 1971.



The **EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT** (ERA) was a proposed amendment to the United States Constitution designed to guarantee equal rights for women. In 1972, it passed both houses of Congress and went to the state legislatures for ratification. The ERA failed to receive the requisite number of ratifications mandated by Congress before the final deadline of June 30, 1982, and so it was not adopted.

states. So Hall proposed tax increases. The legislature approved increases in the oil and gas taxes, state income taxes, and liquor taxes. These increases raised \$43 million in **revenue**. Most of it went to education.

Lawmakers also approved the Public Kindergarten Law, making state-funded kindergarten available for students. In addition, Hall proposed bills in special education and vocational training. He worked to bring more business into the state, especially to the poorer counties. In 1973, new industry worth \$613 million came to Oklahoma. Governor Hall made a bid for re-election but lost in the primary to David Lyle Boren.

Hall's impressive record of community leadership ended suddenly. In 1975, just four days after the end of his term, a federal grand jury accused Hall of **extortion** and bribery. The charge was that he conspired to bribe the Secretary of State to invest \$10 million in state retirement funds in a private company.

The jury convicted Hall in 1976. The judge sentenced him to three years in a federal prison. The court released Hall on his own recognizance (promise to appear) and he drove himself to prison at the appropriate time. He served eighteen months and was released.

What was the McAlester Prison Riot?

The most serious problem Hall faced as governor was the McAlester prison riot. The prison had been built to house 1,100 inmates but was over-crowded for years. In 1973, it held more than 2,200 inmates. That summer, prisoners started one of the worst prison riots in American history.

Beginning Friday afternoon, July 27, 1973, the riot lasted through the weekend. Inmates seized employees as hostages and started fires. At one point, an inmate shouted over the public address system, "This is a revolution!" Angry inmates took revenge against their enemies. Three died of stab wounds.

National Guard units arrived. Four government officials worked through the weekend to bring peace to the area. They were Chairman of the State Board of Corrections Irvine Ungerman, Commissioner of Public Safety Wayne Lawson, Director of the Department of Corrections Leo McCracken, and McAlester Penitentiary Warden Park Anderson. They met both individually and as a group, at first, with several hundred



Oklahoma State Penitentiary, the state's first prison, started construction near McAlester with prison labor in 1908. Its design is based on the design of the federal prison at Leavenworth, Kansas.

prisoners. Main negotiations were with a group of 130 prisoners. Finally, a spokesman for the inmates, Dan Kuykendall, emerged. He was an inmate from Pittsburg County.

Hostages were freed on July 28. The riot officially ended at noon that same day. But most of the prison lay smoldering, and four inmates were dead. Forty other people — inmates and guards — were injured.

Within a year, the prison added more recreational facilities. It developed inmate organizations with links to Alcoholics Anonymous, drug abuse groups, and **ethnic** groups. Officials lifted **restrictions** from mail and reading material. They put a barber shop in each of the cell houses. A new accounting system for inmates discouraged “**loan sharking**” and gave greater protection to the majority.

Adding to the problems already imposed by the riot, Federal District Judge Luther Bohanon ruled in 1974 that “double-celling” was unconstitutional. This meant McAlester could not house more than one inmate in a single cell. The judge ordered that each inmate must have 60 square feet of space in a cell or 75 square feet of space in a dormitory. The state faced fines and the loss of federal funds if it did not obey the order.

Hall and succeeding governors Boren and Nigh

dealt with the same problems. They granted more paroles and expanded living quarters. Eventually, the judge's order was removed and double-celling was approved in 1982.

Who was Governor David Lyle Boren?

Born in Washington, D.C., on April 21, 1941, David Lyle Boren received a bachelor's degree from Yale University in 1963. He earned a master's degree from Oxford University, England, in 1965, and a law degree from the University of Oklahoma College of Law in 1968. He was an honor student and a Rhodes Scholar. He was selected as one of the three Outstanding Young Men in Oklahoma in 1969 by the state's Jaycees.

Boren taught political science at Oklahoma Baptist University, where he was chairman of the Division of Social Sciences. He also practiced law. The public elected him to the Oklahoma State House of Representatives in 1966 when he was in his twenties. He served there until becoming governor.

Inaugurated on January 13, 1975, Boren was the first governor to receive more than 500,000 votes in an election. At 34, he was a few months older than J. Howard Edmondson had been when Edmondson took office and was the second-youngest governor in



DAVID BOREN was inaugurated as the 21st governor in 1975. He went on to be elected to the U.S. Senate. He became President of the University of Oklahoma in 1994 where he served with distinction.

state history. In 1975, he was the youngest chief executive in the nation.

While in office, Boren served as chairman of the five-state Ozarks Regional Commission and the Southern Growth Policies Board. He was a member of the Energy Committee of the Southern Governors' Conference and of the Education Commission of the States. He was a member of the Task Force on Social Welfare Reform of the National Governors' Conference and chairman of the Interstate Oil Compact Commission. Some of his most important work was in tax reduction and tax reform.

Boren's marriage to the former Janna Lou Little ended early in his term. Later, he married Judge Molly Shi from Ada.

Boren became the fourth Oklahoma governor to win election to the U.S. Senate. Much later, in 1994, after resigning from the Senate, Boren became President of the University of Oklahoma in Norman. At 53, he said that this move fulfilled a lifelong dream.

How did the Vietnam War end?

Marches and demonstrations against America's involvement in Vietnam continued. At times they turned violent. When the President, who had promised to end the war, called up more troops, many young people were furious. On May 4, 1970, there was a protest at Kent State University in Ohio. National Guard troops tried to stop it. They shot at students and killed four of them. The nation was enraged. In the next few days, more than eighty colleges closed temporarily because of protests.

In January 1973, the U.S. approved a cease-fire agreement with the Viet Cong and promised to leave South Vietnam. The last of the fighting men and women returned home in March. As soon as Americans were gone, the Viet Cong invaded South Vietnam. The war ended on April 30, 1975, when the Viet Cong captured the South Vietnamese capital.

More than 58,000 American soldiers died in the conflict. Thousands of Oklahoma soldiers served in the Vietnam War, and many of them died in Vietnam. Others returned home to a troubled nation, and many felt betrayed. They had done what their government asked of them, and they felt they weren't



Visitors touching the wall of the **VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL** on the Washington Mall. The names of more than 58,000 soldiers who died in the war are etched in the black granite wall of the “V” shaped memorial.

supported by their countrymen.

Most tried to swallow their feelings and pick up their lives. They went to work or entered school. Some, however, could not shake the emotional **devastation** of the violence they had seen. Their adjustment to civilian life was made harder by the lack of welcome they received at home. The percentage of mental and emotional casualties was much higher after Vietnam than after any other war in modern history.

There is no doubt that this war was different. Even those veterans who successfully put it behind them and got on with their lives seemed to feel some bitterness about their experiences. The unveiling of the Vietnam Veterans War Memorial in Washington, D.C., on Veterans Day 1982 began a national healing. Many Oklahoma names are etched into the memorial wall.

Chapter Summary

The children in the first wave of the Baby Boom were becoming young adults; young, charismatic John F. Kennedy was elected as president; the 1960s were dominated by youthful and revolutionary ways of thinking. Prohibition was repealed in Oklahoma, one of the last states to take that action. The population was shifting from rural areas to urban centers, and the electorate was reapportioned to reflect the move. Henry Bellmon was elected as the first Republican governor since the founding of the state. Oklahoma schools improved after receiving more attention and funding. Desegregation finally ended after a long siege of sit-ins and protests.

America was drawn into the Vietnam War in its continued effort to resist Communism. Involvement escalated; by 1967, more than one-half million Americans were fighting in Vietnam. With the American people divided on the issue of the war, protest demonstrations became a common means of demanding the soldiers be brought home.

With all these difficulties, the nation was being torn apart. Further setbacks came with the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in 1963, and the assassinations of Senator Robert F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968. And there seemed to be no end to the Vietnam War. The tension in America grew worse, and the “gap” between the generations widened.

Then in July 1969, NASA’s Apollo 11 made a lunar landing. When Neil Armstrong stepped onto the moon, he referred to it as “a giant leap for mankind.” And the nation came together — in front of TV sets — to watch the remarkable scene.

Problems persisted. President Nixon was forced to resign for his “dirty tricks” campaign to get re-elected. Governor Hall faced one of the worst riots at the State Penitentiary at McAlester and later was convicted of bribery and sent to prison himself.

With the end of the Vietnam War in 1973, Oklahoma and the rest of the country settled into a more peaceful time.

REMEMBERING THE DETAILS

1. What were the major accomplishments of J. Howard Edmondson’s term as governor?
2. Who were the first Republican governors in this state?
3. How was Oklahoma significant in the civil rights movement?
4. Explain why Carl Albert was close to the Presidency of the United States.
5. In your opinion, what are advantages and disadvantage of young leaders in government?
6. How long did Mike Monroney serve in the U.S. Senate? Which industry did he promote?
7. What were the results of the McAlester Prison Riot?
8. Describe George Nigh’s career and achievements.
9. What political scandals made news in Oklahoma during the 1970s?
10. Describe the country’s mindset in the 1960s and 1970s.

DEFINE

Write a short definition for each word below.

Prohibition

stalemate

repealed

reapportionment

COMPLETE THE PARAGRAPHS

The youngest elected governor of Oklahoma was **1)** _____. During his term, a repeal of prohibition became the 27th Amendment to the state's **2)** _____. Also during his term, a federal court ordered **3)** _____ to equalize state voting. Edmondson resigned to take over for **4)** _____, so Lieutenant Governor **5)** _____ finished Edmondson's term.

The state's first Republican governor was **6)** _____, inaugurated in **7)** _____. The most controversial issue during Bellmon's first administration was **8)** _____. For example, **9)** _____ and teenagers protested with sit-ins in Oklahoma City. Henry Bellmon was succeeded as governor by **10)** _____, who took office in 1967. The next governor was **10)** _____, who took office in 1971.

MAKE A TIMELINE

Draw a horizontal timeline showing 1950–1959. Mark the following events on it by using the letters. Some years should have more than one event.

1958 1959 1960 1961 1962

- A** Edmondson was sworn into office as governor.
- B** Republicans and Democrats were involved in a near-riot in Oklahoma City.
- C** Prohibition was repealed in Oklahoma.
- D** Henry Bellmon was inaugurated.
- E** Oklahoma City became the largest city in land area in the U.S.
- F** Civil rights protests began in Oklahoma City.
- G** Stores began to sell liquor legally.
- H** The first Republican governor of Oklahoma was elected to office.

WRITING ASSIGNMENT

Imagine that you are a teacher telling students to write papers, and you will tell them which sources are worth using. Pick one of these people to study: Patience Latting, J. Howard Edmondson, or Henry Bellmon. Then find three Internet sources that students could use to write a 10-page paper about the person.

Your assignment is to write a description of each of these people using digital sources, naming their strengths and weaknesses. Look up the definition of the word, "attribution." Write one to three paragraphs about the usefulness of the sources. You may include evidence such as quotes or an outline from the source, with proper attribution.