

IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REFERENCE SERIES

JAMES PICKNEY POPE
March 31, 1884-January 23, 1966

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James P. Pope was born March 31, 1884, in Jackson Parish, Louisiana. He graduated from Louisiana Industrial Institute in 1906 and from the University of Chicago Law School in 1909. In October of that year, Pope moved to Boise and worked in the firm of Morrison and Pence. In January 1910, he formed a law partnership with E. P. Barnes.

Pope began his career in government in 1916 as Boise City Attorney. The next year he joined the Attorney General's Office.

In 1924 he was elected to the Boise Board of Education and in 1929 he became mayor of Boise. He was actively involved in Democratic politics, serving as a delegate to every Idaho Democratic state convention from 1914 to 1930, and to every national convention from 1924 to 1936. From 1920 to 1922 he was chairman of the Democratic State Central Committee. In 1932 he defeated John Thomas for a U.S. Senate seat from Idaho. His term was marked by his strong support of Franklin Roosevelt's administration and for his ability to establish his own reputation in the Senate, in spite of being the junior senator to William E. Borah. Pope opposed Borah by advocating U.S. participation in the World Court and the League of Nations.

After his defeat by D. Worth Clark for the Senate in 1938, Pope was appointed a director of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

He retired from the TVA in May 1951, and was then associated with a Knoxville, Tennessee law firm.

Pope married Pauline Ruth Horn of Chicago on June 26, 1913. They had two sons: Ross P. And George A. He died January 23, 1966, in Alexandria, Virginia. Mrs. Pope died in 1957.

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