



Pieces of Iowa's Past, published by the Iowa State Capitol Tour Guides weekly during the legislative session, features historical facts about Iowa, the Capitol, and the early workings of state government. All historical publications are reproduced here with the actual spelling, punctuation, and grammar retained.

THIS WEEK: Governor Herring's Inaugural Address Excerpt

BACKGROUND:



Governor Clyde Herring

Clyde LaVerne Herring (1879-1945), a Senator from Iowa; born in Jackson, Jackson County, Mich., May 3, 1879; attended the public schools; moved to Detroit, Mich., in 1897; served as a private in Company D, Third Michigan Regiment, in the Spanish-American War; moved to Colorado Springs, Colo., and engaged in ranching 1902-1906; moved to Massena, Iowa, and engaged in agricultural pursuits 1906-1908; entered the automobile business in Atlantic, Iowa, 1908-1910; moved to Des Moines, Iowa, in 1910 and continued in the automobile business; during the First World War served with the Iowa National Guard on the Mexican border; unsuccessful candidate for Governor of Iowa in 1920; unsuccessful candidate for election to the United States Senate in 1922; member

of the Democratic National Committee of Iowa 1924-1928; Governor of Iowa 1933-1937; elected as a Democrat to the United States Senate for the term beginning January 3, 1937, but did not qualify until the expiration of his term as Governor, and served from January 15, 1937, to January 3, 1943; unsuccessful candidate for reelection in 1942; senior assistant administrator in the Office of Price Administration 1943; resumed the automobile business in Des Moines, Iowa; died in Washington, D.C., September 15, 1945; interment in Glendale Cemetery, Des Moines, Iowa. (Courtesy of the *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress*)

**From the Journal of the Senate
January 12, 1933**

GOVERNOR'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS (Excerpt)

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, Members of the Forty-fifth General Assembly and Fellow Citizens:

In response to the mandate expressed by the people on November 8th of last year, I come before you to accept the high honor and grave responsibilities imposed by the sovereign people of this great commonwealth at that election. With deep appreciation and complete humility of spirit, I stand ready, with all the ability I possess, to carry out the wishes of this electorate as I interpret them.

At the very outset may I now say that it is a source of deep gratification to meet the pledge of unselfish loyalty to the common good expressed so universally in the opening days of this session by the members, regardless of party!

You are met as the 45th General Assembly of Iowa in one of the darkest hours of our history. This session transcends in importance those of previous years for reasons which are distressingly plain. Our principal basic industry is prostrate. With corn selling in a typical Iowa county at twelve cents a bushel, oats at eight cents a bushel, hogs at two cents and cattle at one to four cents a pound, our farmers are not realizing production costs. Bank failures, actions in foreclosure of rural and urban homes, and of stocks of merchants, constitute a large part of the business of our courts. Few of our industries are operating at a profit, and in many of them operations are stopped. Men and women eagerly seeking the opportunity to earn their living can find no work. Despair is in the heart of the debtor, and mute appeal for help, in the faces of our heavily burdened citizens. . . .