

Arthur Gray Mashburn—Democrat (Elected)

19th Nevada Attorney General

Terms: January 5, 1931–January 4, 1935

January 7, 1935–January 3, 1939

January 3, 1939–January 4, 1943

Biography

Arthur Gray Mashburn, one of sixteen children—five sons and eleven daughters—was born in Kenyon, Arkansas, December 13, 1872, to John A. and Elizabeth (Field) Mashburn.¹ When Mashburn was six years old, the family moved to Philadelphia, a little town in northern Arkansas.²

Mashburn attended public schools in Philadelphia, Arkansas, and LaCrosse Collegiate Institute. Upon graduation, Mashburn moved to Nashville, Tennessee. He had “an ambitious outlook and a determination to make the best of his talents.” Mashburn completed a course in business methods at Draughton’s Practical Business College in Tennessee and Peabody Normal School, but delayed the completion of his education when his father was ill. After this “hiatus, Mashburn was again able to take-up the work he had first chosen, that of teaching.”³ Although Mashburn had few opportunities for advancement, he showed “an ability to master his circumstances no matter how adverse.”⁴

Mashburn worked at the Arkansas Deaf Mute Institute at Little Rock for 11 years, as an instructor for seven years and superintendent for four. “He looked after the education of from three to four hundred students and became a recognized specialist in this field of education. He was the youngest superintendent of a school for the deaf in the country at the time.”⁵ Today, the institute is called the Arkansas School for the Deaf.



Source: https://www.arschoolforthe deaf.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=641778&type=d&pREC_ID=1103996. <https://1.cdn.edl.io/Okk47hsifWZ9yeQ2kV5k95zkqPYyWruW8Xs1xdPF8idiprIK.jpg>. C. 1923.

¹ *History of Nevada-Nevada, A Narrative of the Conquest of the Frontier Land*. Vol. II. Chicago, IL: American Historical Society, 1935, pp. 23-24.

² *Ibid.*

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ *Ibid.*

After leaving Arkansas, Mashburn taught for three years at the Washington School for the Deaf, Vancouver, Washington.⁶ While teaching in Vancouver, Mashburn used his leisure time to study law, and “under his own direction, he was able to complete a large part of the formal studies required of candidates for the bar.”⁷

Mashburn finished his legal education at the University of Arkansas Law School. On January 4, 1909, he graduated with the second highest honors in the class in a little more than half the time allotted for the course, and received a Bachelor of Laws degree (LL.B.)⁸ On June 14, 1909, he was admitted to the State Bar of Arkansas. In August, Mashburn moved to Virginia City, Nevada, and in the 40 years he spent in the state, he became “a widely-known attorney and a prominent figure in the state’s legal, fraternal, and political circles.”⁹

On November 15, 1909, Mashburn was admitted to the Nevada State Bar, and on October 1, 1909, he became a member of the law firm of Mack, Green & Mashburn and was in charge of running the firm’s Virginia City Office.¹⁰

On December 18, 1911, Mashburn married for the second time, this time to Lillian Annie Richards in Virginia City, Nevada. They had one daughter, Lilyan Elizabeth Mashburn.

In 1912, Mashburn was elected as Storey County District Attorney and served until 1917.¹¹ In January 1917, Mashburn re-entered private practice and

. . . formed a law partnership with A. Grant Miller in Reno . . . [U]pon the retirement of Judge Pat A. McCarran from the Supreme Court . . . in January, 1919, he formed a law partnership with him . . . which continued until August, 1927, when the term of the partnership expired . . . after which, they continue[d] as office associates.¹²

On June 19, 1919, Mashburn married Ruby McKenzie Frick. Their only son, Gary A. Mashburn, a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Air Corps, was killed in action on May 5, 1944, when the P-47C he was piloting crashed in Atcham, Shropshire, England.

Lt. Mashburn Killed Overseas.

Second Lt, Gray Mashburn, Jr., only son of Mr. and Mrs. Gray Mashburn of Carson City, was killed in a plane crash over Atcham, England, on May 5, 1944, according to a war department telegram received by Mr. and Mrs. Mashburn yesterday. Lt. Mashburn was well known in Carson City and Reno. He was graduated from the Carson City high school and the University of California and was attending first year law school at California when he enlisted in the

⁶ *History of Nevada-Nevada, A Narrative of the Conquest of the Frontier Land.* Pages 23-23.

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ *Reno Evening Gazette.* “Gray Mashburn Former Attorney General, Dead.” May 30, 1949, Part 2 ed., Local News sec., p.9.

¹⁰ *History of Nevada-Nevada, A Narrative of the Conquest of the Frontier Land.* Pages 23-24.

¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹² *Ibid.*

army air corps. Besides his parents, Lt. Mashburn is survived by a sister, Mrs. Norman Clay of Carson City. Lt. Mashburn was a fighter pilot and had only been overseas a few months. His father is well known throughout Nevada as a former attorney general. He served three consecutive terms before his retirement.¹³

While in private practice, “Mashburn continued to garner respect among the legal and political circles of Nevada. His popularity was never more apparent than in 1934,” and in November, Mashburn became Nevada’s 19th Attorney General. “His election was unexpected as the state was largely Republican and Mashburn was a Democrat”.¹⁴ Mashburn defeated his opponent, Sam Tippets, by 3,870 votes.¹⁵

Mashburn became Attorney General at the height of the Great Depression and served three consecutive terms, from January 5, 1931, to January 4, 1943. Only one other Nevada Attorney General, Frankie Sue del Papa, elected in November 1998, held the office for three **consecutive** terms (emphasis added). Subsequently the Nevada Constitution was amended limiting the attorney general’s terms in office. Article 5, Section 19 of the Nevada State Constitution prohibits the attorney general from serving more than two terms.

Mashburn worked on many issues, including, among other, the legalization of gambling; attracting more “substantial” people on a more permanent basis to Nevada; the Boulder Dam Project; and Nevada’s divorce laws.

“The stock market crash of 1929 and the Hoover Dam Project created a hard, economic depression”¹⁶ In 1931, with the passage of Assembly Bill 98, Nevada legalized gambling “as a way to bring economic relief” and provid[e] a source of revenue for the state.¹⁷

Chapter 99 – An act concerning slot machines, gambling games, and gambling devices; providing for the operation thereof under license; providing for certain license fees and the use of money obtained therefrom; prohibiting minors from playing and loitering about such games; designating the penalties for violations of the provisions thereof; and other matters properly relating thereto.¹⁸

A *Time Magazine* article, “NEVADA: One Sound State,” March 8, 1937, noted that “Carson City, was the smallest state capital (population 1,596) and Mashburn was involved in promoting Nevada as a “great place to live”. The Nevada Assembly seconded a resolution by the Nevada Senate designed to attract more “substantial people to

¹³ *Nevada State Journal*, May 16, 1944.

¹⁴ *History of Nevada-Nevada, A Narrative of the Conquest of the Frontier Land*. Pages 23-24.

¹⁵ *Political History of Nevada, 2006*. Page 378.

¹⁶ http://www.gamblinginfo.com/1_History_of_Gambling.htm.

¹⁷ “Gambling History, from the beginning”. *Gambling Info*. Archived from original on 2011-06-12. https://web.archive.org/web/20110612203552/http://www.gamblinginfo.com/1_History_of_Gambling.htm. Accessed June 23, 2018.

¹⁸ Statutes of Nevada 1931, Chapter 99, Inclusive, Pages 165-169.

Nevada more permanently.” The joint resolution called for repeal of that portion of Nevada’s Constitution which prohibits lotteries.”¹⁹

Mashburn, concerned about water pollution in Nevada, opposed the dismissal of a suit by the United States Supreme Court against a paper company in Floriston, California.

**NEVADA OPPOSES
DISMISSAL OF
FLORISTON
MILL SUIT**

The State of Nevada filed in the United States supreme court at Washington today, through Attorney General Grey Mashburn, a reply to the order by the court directing it to show why its suit against the Crown Willamette Paper Company of Floriston, California, should not be dismissed.

The state asserted that the company’s plant on the Truckee river has been dismantled and pollution of water stopped. The reply said, however, the company had not formally bound itself to conditions which would permit the state to bring suit again should pollution of the river be resumed.

The state therefore asked the court to keep the litigation open until it is fully protected against “irreparable injury” which would follow resumption of pollution of the river.

The paper company also advised the supreme court it had dismantled its plant at Floriston, having failed to find a satisfactory method of keeping sulphite liquor out of the Truckee river.

In March, 1918, Nevada brought suit in the supreme court against the company, contending it was contaminating the stream. For several years, the company conducted experiments to provide some other means for disposing of the sulphite matter, but without success.

The Nevada answer filed in the supreme court says that the dismantling of the plant does not provide ample or any protection for the state of Nevada or the water users of Reno against such future pollution in the event the case is dismissed, and asks that the case be continued until such time as the paper company has entered into a written agreement with the state of Nevada that the state may renew the suit in such form as it might determine.

On January 16, 1933, the Nevada reply states, the parties entered into a stipulation agreeing to continue the case from the October, 1932, term to the October, 1933, term.

Source: Reno Gazette-Journal, February 11, 1933

One matter, the Boulder Dam Project, took up a large portion of Mashburn’s time during all three terms. Boulder Dam, now known as the Hoover Dam, “is a concrete arch-gravity dam in the Black Canyon of the Colorado River, on the border between the U.S. states of Nevada and Arizona It was constructed between 1931 and 1936,” and was designed to “control floods, provide irrigation water, and produce hydroelectric power.”²⁰ Because Hoover Dam is located in both Nevada and Arizona, Mashburn’s involvement in the project included complex legislation, litigation, and negotiations on behalf of the state. Legislation that authorized the building of the dam was a seven-state compact called the Colorado River Compact.²¹ In order for construction of the dam to begin, six of the seven states needed to ratify the compact. During the ratification process and after the compact became law, Mashburn was an advocate for the state and for Clark County. He was “one of the staunchest champions of Clark County’s right to a share of the revenue[s]” that resulted from the sale of hydroelectric power produced by the dam.²²

¹⁹ <http://content.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,930880,00.html>.

²⁰ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hoover_Dam. Accessed July 6, 2018.

²¹ *History of Nevada-Nevada, A Narrative of the Conquest of the Frontier Land*. Pages 23-24.

²² <https://www.usbr.gov/lc/hooverdam/museum/clippings/clipart1764.pdf>. Accessed July 6, 2018.

State Officials Back Down Today on Clark County Boulder Dam Payment

Franks, Schmidt Want Legislative Okeh for Payment

Arrival of Nevada's first check for Boulder dam revenue yesterday, precipitated a heated controversy in Carson City and Reno.

The check was for \$300,000, and according to the legislative enactment of 1941, 20 per cent, or \$60,000, is supposed to be paid to Clark county.

Want New Law

The check put in its appearance yesterday morning, State Treasurer Dan Franks and Controller Henry Schmidt were quoted in the Reno Gazette as stating they would not pay Clark county without a new legislative enactment authorizing them to do so.

The Gazette has fought the Clark county allocation from the beginning, and has predicted on several occasions of late that despite the 1941 act, it would not be paid.

This morning both Franks and Schmidt declare they were misquoted in the Gazette and the treasurer has announced he would request Attorney-General Gray Mashburn for an opinion on the matter.

It is understood in Carson City that Franks and Schmidt question the validity of the law on a technicality regarding the

method by which the 20 per cent is to be paid Clark county. The law provides that immediately upon receipt of any Boulder dam revenues, the state treasurer shall immediately pay to the treasurer of Clark county, 20 per cent of the said sum. 300,000

Statute Defective

The controller and treasurer were understood to have taken the position yesterday that because this method of payment is not in conformity to the general practice which calls upon the treasurer to make payments only upon warrants from the controller, the statute is defective.

Attorney-General Mashburn, in a wire to the Review-Journal this afternoon declares the treasurer and controller "deny statement published in last night's Gazette that they were of the opinion Clark county cannot legally be paid its share under the 1941 legislative act of the \$300,000 payment made to the state treasurer yesterday as the first year's payment of the state's portion of Boulder dam revenue, but say they only stated they would ask my opinion.

"I certainly have never been formally asked for or given in any way any such opinion. The treasurer now says he will ask for my opinion, and if he does, I will render it as quickly as possible."

Staunch Champion

Mashburn has been one of the staunchest champions of Clark county's right to a share of the revenue, and appeared before both senate and house committees at the last legislative session in support of this county's contention.

Basing his statements on the principle underlying the recognition of the right of Arizona and Nevada to compensation in lieu of taxes, as set forth in the debates on the original bill, Mashburn has repeatedly expressed the opinion Clark county is entitled to a just share of the revenue.

Mashburn said this morning that while he had not had occasion to read the 1941 act "it was clearly the intention of the legislature to pay Clark county twenty per cent of the revenues."

The payment received yesterday is Nevada's share of the Boulder dam revenue for the fiscal year 1937-38.

Source: <https://www.usbr.gov/lc/hooverdam/museum/clippings/clipart1764.pdf>

When disputes arose, Mashburn also acted as a negotiator between the laborers and Six Companies, Inc., a conglomeration of smaller companies hired to build the dam.²³ A labor dispute arose between the laborers and Six Companies, and the attorney for the laborers contacted Mashburn, who wrote to Six Companies. Mashburn wanted to find a resolution to the dispute before the laborers filed a lawsuit—he did not want the dispute to go to court while other Boulder Dam cases were ongoing.²⁴ The Attorney General needed to find a resolution to the issue before the laborer took Six Companies to court. The exchange of letters appears below.

²³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hoover_Dam. Accessed July 6, 2018.

²⁴ "Labor Dispute." Gray Mashburn to Six Companies, Inc. May 30, 1931. Attorney General's Office, Carson City, NV.

November 30, 1931

Six Companies Incorporated
Boulder City
Nevada

Gentlemen:

I have just received a letter from Mr. Edward Kennedy, saying that he was "deported from Boulder Dam job yesterday after working twenty days" and that when he went to Las Vegas and returned to Boulder City the "chief of police and his officers" were waiting for him and "made me (him) leave without my (his) time for working at Boulder Dam." and asking me to "do something about this."

While I have written him that I preferred not to do anything about this matter until the question of the conflicting jurisdiction within the so-called Reservation is determined, I would appreciate if you would pay this man what you owe him, if anything, at once, as this will place both you and this office in a more favorable position in the eyes of this man and his friends, and probably in the eyes of the Court if this situation should be called to the attention of the Court.

Yours truly,

Attorney-General

GM'B

*Thank
File*

OFFICERS
 PRESIDENT
 W. A. BECHTEL
 FIRST VICE PRESIDENT
 E. O. WATTIS
 SECOND VICE PRESIDENT
 H. W. MORRISON
 TREASURER
 FELIX KAHN
 SECRETARY
 CHARLES A. SHEA
 ADJT. SECY AND TREAS.
 K. K. BECHTEL

SIX COMPANIES INC.

BUILDERS OF HOOVER DAM

BOULDER CITY, NEVADA

DIRECTORS
 W. A. BECHTEL
 S. O. BECHTEL
 PHILIP HART
 HENRY J. KAISER
 FELIX KAHN
 ALAN MACDONALD
 H. W. MORRISON
 CHARLES A. SHEA
 E. O. WATTIS
 H. J. LAWLER
 GUY LER. STEVICK

December 3rd, 1931.

Hon. Gray Mashburn,
 Attorney General, State of Nevada,
 Carson City, Nevada.

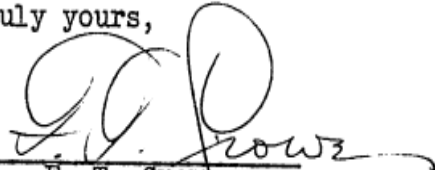
Dear Mr. Mashburn:

Your letter of November 30th, regarding
 communication from Mr. Edward Kennedy:

I find that this man was evicted by the
 Boulder City Police Department as a "red organizer"
 Thanksgiving Eve, and, because of the fact there was
 no possibility of his being paid that night, it was
 arranged that his check be sent to him C/o General
 Delivery, Las Vegas, Nevada. This was done, and I
 have before me carbon of letter of November 27th, 1931,
 from our pay-master, with which was enclosed our
 Check No. 988, of that dating, in amount, net, \$32.90.

Trusting this information will show you
 that we have not been negligent or overly drastic in
 this matter, I am, with best wishes,

Very truly yours,


 F. T. Crowe
 General Superintendent.

December 12, 1931

F. T. Crowe, General Superintendent
Six Companies Inc.
Boulder City, Nevada

Dear Mr. Crowe:

I thank you for your letter of 3rd instant concerning Mr. Edward Kennedy and for the prompt payment of the wages due him.

Your explanation of the matter was quite satisfactory. The Labor Commissioner is in the hospital, trying to get well from injuries received in an automobile accident which injured him quite severely. It was for this reason that I took the matter up with you direct instead of referring it to him.

I thank you for the splendid way in which your corporation and you have cooperated with the State officers in an effort to so handle matters that there will be as little friction as possible. We have tried to be as helpful toward you and your company as conditions would permit. I believe it is due to this cooperation that there has been so little labor trouble in the construction of Boulder Dam.

Yours truly,

Attorney-General

GM'B

Source: Nevada State Archives

In addition to negotiations and legislation, Mashburn also represented Nevada in litigation concerning the dam, namely *Arizona v. California*, 283 U.S. 423 (1931) and *Arizona v. California*, 292 U.S. 341 (1934). These cases involved disputes over water distribution from the Colorado River between Arizona, California, and Nevada; and the constitutionality of the Colorado River Compact, respectively.²⁵

In 1932, Nevada's divorce laws came under attack by New York Assistant District Attorney Joseph P. Reilly of New York, who said in a statement to the United Press that "he would hold Nevada divorces invalid because many showed evidence of collusion. New Yorkers who remarried after obtaining a Reno divorce would wake up some morning and find themselves bigamists."²⁶ A headline in the *Nevada State Journal* read: "Reno

²⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arizona_v._California. Accessed July 6, 2018.

²⁶ *Nevada State Journal*. February 19, 1932. Accessed May 26, 2018.

Attorneys Undisturbed When New York Official Says Divorces Won Here Will Not Be Recognized.” The New York District Attorney further stated that

If I were to advise the marriage license clerk that these divorces were invalid and if he should then grant a marriage license to a person holding one, he would be guilty of a misdemeanor and the person who got the license and remarried would be guilty of bigamy. He said he would hold Nevada divorces invalid until the New York Supreme Court ruled otherwise.²⁷

Mashburn also questioned the New York District Attorney’s argument:

Apparently, the New York attorney does not understand the meaning of the word collusion. The Nevada practice of permitting defendants to divorce action to enter an appearance or present a form answer by employing a Nevada lawyer is not collusion. Collusion occurs when ‘framed-up’ or faked causes of action are used by parties having no just cause or right of action. No one can question the validity of a Nevada decree except the husband and wife in an interested action. When both have made an appearance, they are estopped from questioning the decree.²⁸

Reno Judge George Bartlett said that Reilly’s statement is “simply evidence of the same narrow influence that limits grounds for divorce in New York to a single cause of action—adultery.”²⁹

Mashburn also wrote many opinions, participated in some of the state’s most complex legal problems, and “left the Attorney General’s office with the respect and admiration of those with whom he was associated and the people of the state. Though he was very deliberate in his discussions and took plenty of time to render opinions, he seldom was caught off guard and his opinions have generally stood the tests of the courts when they were questioned.”³⁰

²⁷ *Nevada State Journal*, Feb 19, 1932. Accessed May 26, 2018.

²⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁹ *Ibid.*

³⁰ "Gray Mashburn." *Nevada State Journal* (Carson City). May 31, 1949. Page 4.

GRAY MASHBURN

Although newspaper reporters and editors frequently differed with him because he held up stories until he was absolutely certain that the facts were complete, no one ever questioned the sincerity or the honesty of Gray Mashburn, former attorney general, whose death occurred at Carson City on Sunday.

Mr. Mashburn, a leader in fraternal activities and one of the outstanding "vote getters" of the Democratic party for some forty years of public life, served 12 years as attorney general of Nevada and retired from active politics because of ill health.

During that 12 year period, from 1931 through 1942, Mr. Mashburn contributed many opinions, participated in some of the state's most complex legal problems and left the attorney general's office with the respect and admiration of those with whom he was associated and the people of the state.

Though he was very deliberate in his discussions and took plenty of time to render opinions he was seldom caught off guard and his opinions have generally

precipitate the fact that there are times when your duties do not permit you to eat regular meals or to eat the type of food which gives you all the vitamins and minerals your system needs to keep you in tiptop shape."

Le Blanc's accompanying answer was a bottle of his vitamins "for people who constantly work under strain and stress."

The normal leap of a big kangaroo is 20 feet. What about when he sits on a tack?

There can't be much of an underground movement in Japan these days now that its 420,000 coal miners have gone on strike.

New York's Bronx zoo has acquired a yapock. It got him, strangely enough, from Nigeria in Africa and not, as you might have suspected, out of a crossword puzzle.

Thieves dug up and carried away the sod of the fifth green of a Michigan golf course. Those crooks achieved the biggest hole-in-one on record.

stood the tests of the courts when they were questioned.

Mr. Mashburn served the state as an honest, straight-forward official.

Source: *Nevada State Journal* (Carson City). May 31, 1949, p. 4.

Prior to retirement, Mashburn seriously injured his back and never fully recovered. He declined to seek re-election for a fourth term, and in 1943, Mashburn left the Attorney General's Office and returned to private practice. He served as a "referee in bankruptcy [cases]" and remained "heavily" involved in several fraternal organizations, including "as grand master of the Nevada grand lodge of Odd Fellows, and a member of Reno lodge No. 14 of that order;" a member of Washoe Lodge No. 35, F&AM; Fraternal Order of Eagles; and Delta Phi Delta Fraternity.³¹ Mashburn also was a member of the Washoe County Bar Association; the Nevada State Bar; the American Bar Association; and the Washoe Club, Virginia City.

In his three terms as Attorney General, Mashburn "accomplished many things, whether he was fighting with companies to prevent pollution of the Truckee River or representing the state at a trade barrier conference in New Mexico . . . he had the best interests of Nevada at heart."³²

On April 14, 1949, Mashburn suffered a stroke.³³ About two weeks later, on May 29, 1949, Mashburn passed away at his home in Carson City, at the age of 77.

He is survived by his third wife, Ruby R. (McKenzie) Mashburn; and his two daughters, Mrs. Nettie (Mashburn) Kelderman and Mrs. Gene (Mashburn) Clay, both from

³¹ *Ibid.*

³² Assorted Letters, Gray Mashburn Collection, Nevada State Archives.

³³ *Reno Evening Gazette*. "Gray Mashburn Seriously Ill." May 14, 1949.

previous marriages. His only son, Lieutenant Gray Mashburn Jr., preceded him in death.³⁴

Following his death, Mashburn's obituary appeared in several local papers, including the *Reno Evening Gazette* and the *Nevada State Journal*. "Gray Mashburn will be remembered for his service to the state as an honest, straight-forward official."³⁵

³⁴ *Nevada State Journal* (Carson City). "Gray Mashburn, Formerly Attorney General, Dies in Carson City at Age of 77." May 31, 1949. Page 12. Accessed July 6, 2018.

³⁵ *Nevada State Journal*. Page 4. Accessed July 6, 2018.

Gray Mashburn, Formerly Attorney General, Dies in Carson City at Age of 77

Following an illness of several weeks that confined him to his bed, Gray Mashburn, former attorney general of Nevada died Sunday at his home in Carson City.

Funeral services will be conducted in Reno at 3:30 o'clock Wednesday afternoon at the Ross-Burke Chapel under the direction of the Nevada Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows of which Mr. Mashburn was a past grand master.

A native of Kenyon, Ark., Mr. Mashburn had spent almost 40 of his 77 years in Nevada and was prominently identified with the Nevada State Bar and the Democratic party all of that time. He was attorney general from 1931 through 1942 and declined to seek reelection because of failing health. He had been seriously injured in an automobile accident prior to his retirement as attorney general and never fully recovered from a back injury sustained at that time.

He served as a district attorney of Storey County for several years prior to his election as attorney general and devoted considerable time to the affairs of the Odd Fellows lodge and was widely known in fraternal as well as political circles in the state.

As attorney general Mr. Mashburn handled many important problems for the state including much of the Colorado river legislation and subsequent litigation.

His early education was received at the La Crosse Collegiate Institute, the Peabody Normal School in Nashville, Tenn., and Draughton's Business College. He set out on a teaching career and for 11 years taught at the Arkansas Deaf Mute Institute, four of which he was the superintendent. He came west to take a similar position with an institute in Vancouver, Wash., and after three years returned to Arkansas to attend the Arkansas Law School from which he was graduated in 1909. Shortly after his admission to the Arkansas bar, Mr. Mashburn came to Nevada and began practice here on November 15, 1909.

As a member of the law firm of Mack, Green and Mashburn he had charge of the Virginia City office for several years and in 1917 came to Reno and formed a law partnership with A. Grant Miller and later with Sen. Pat McCarran, a partnership which continued until Sen. McCarran was elected to the United States senate in 1932 and Mr. Mashburn was attorney general.

Besides his widow, the former Ruby McKenzie to whom he was married in Reno in 1919, he leaves two daughters, Mrs. Nettie Keldsen of Houston, Tex., and Mrs. Gene Clay of Carson City; one brother, E. E. Mashburn of Little Rock, Ark.; four sisters, Mrs. Sarah Spradling, Mrs. Lettie Rye, Miss Ruth Mashburn and Mrs. Pearl Spradling, all residents of Arkansas; five grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Gray Mashburn, Jr., was killed in action in the recent world war. Mr. Mashburn had been serving as a referee in bankruptcy for a year or more until his recent illness.

He was a member of Reno Lodge No. 14, I. O. O. F.; Washoe Lodge No. 35 F. & A. M.; the Fraternal Order of Eagles, Delta Phi Delta fraternity; the American Bar Association, the Nevada State Bar and the Washoe county Bar Association.

1872-1949



Gray Mashburn

Anybody Say Weather Isn't Traditional?

Who says the weather hasn't any regard for tradition? It rained on Memorial Day, didn't it?

One of those "widely scattered showers" which have been making a regular thing of hit-run weather the last week drew a bead on Reno at 2 p.m. and let go. Pelting rain and hail walloped down for about 15 minutes, while pedestrians galloped for doorways and the gardening public ran for indoors.

The weather bureau listed the shower as only "a trace" of precipitation, but it felt like a good bit more to the people who got caught in it.

A widespread, minor storm was responsible for other "unusual" aspects of the weather last weekend. On the newly-opened Mt. Rose Road, a light snowstorm surprised motorists Sunday. Lake Tahoe received brief, hard rainstorms Saturday night, and Donner Summit reported a light snowfall yesterday morning. Reporting rain Sunday and yesterday were weather observation stations at Elko, Fallon, Hawthorne, Lovelock, Ely, Austin and Winnemucca. Austin got more than a half-inch in a sudden downpour.

Today isn't expected to be any nicer than yesterday. Cloudy skies, probability of showers and thunderstorms, and little change from the chilly temperatures of last weekend will be the order of the day. Yesterday's top mercury mark was only 63 degrees, and during the wee small hours the thermometer registered only one degree above freezing.

Trouble Maker's Bail Increased

Taken into custody early Sunday morning on a drunkenness charge, Robert Wanson, 44, of Reno caused considerable trouble in the city jail, police reported

General Election of 1930

On November 4, 1930, Mashburn was elected as Nevada's 19th Attorney General. Of the 33,346 votes cast, Mashburn (Democrat) received 18,608 (55.8%) votes to Sam Tippet's (Republican) 14,738 (44.2%) votes.³⁶

Primary Election of 1934

In the Democratic primary election on September 4, 1934, Mashburn defeated T.L. Withers. Of the 17,452 votes cast, Mashburn (Democrat) received 11,080 votes (63.5%) to Withers' (Democrat) 6,372 votes (36.5%).³⁷

General Election of 1934

On November 6, 1934, of the 40,902 votes cast, Mashburn (Democrat) received 28,552 (69.8%) votes to Geo. A. Whiteley's (Republican) 12,350 (30.2%) votes.³⁸

General Election of 1938

On November 8, 1938, Mashburn won a third term as Attorney General. Of the 44,442 votes casts, Mashburn (Democrat) received 26,296 (59.17%) votes to Lloyd Smith's (Republican) 18,146 (40.83%) votes.³⁹

Office Administration and Duties

The Nevada Attorney General's office staff for 1932-1934 included:

- Attorney General Gray Mashburn
- Deputy Attorney General W.T. Mathews(Nevada's 21st Attorney General)
- Deputy Attorney General Julian Thurston
- Secretary Mildred Bray

The Nevada Attorney General's office staff for 1934-1936 included:

- Attorney General Gray Mashburn
- Deputy Attorney General W.T. Mathews (Nevada's 21st Attorney General)
- Deputy Attorney General Julian Thurston, who resigned and was replaced by W. Howard Gray
- Secretary Mildred Bray, who resigned and was replaced by Isadore Smith Davie
- Stenographer: Marjorie Ligon

The Nevada Attorney General's office staff for 1936-1938 included:

- Attorney General Gray Mashburn
- Deputy Attorney General W. Howard Gray

³⁶ *Political History of Nevada, 2006.* Page 378.

³⁷ *Ibid.*, page 436.

³⁸ *Ibid.*, page 379.

³⁹ *Ibid.*, page 381.

- Deputy Attorney General W.T. Mathews (Nevada's 21st Attorney General) who resigned and was replaced by W. Howard Gray
- Chief Clerk Stenographer Isadore Smith David, who resigned and was replaced by Marjorie Ligon, who resigned and was replaced by Elma Gottschalk
- Stenographer: Marjorie Ligon, who resigned and was replaced by Laura Rains, who resigned and was replaced by Mable Armstrong

The Nevada Attorney General's office staff for 1938-1940 included:

- Attorney General Gray Mashburn
- Deputy Attorney General W.T. Mathews (Nevada's 21st Attorney General)
- Deputy Attorney General Alan Bible (Nevada's 20th Attorney General)
- Chief Clerk Stenographer: Elma Gottschalk
- Stenographer: Marjorie Ligon
- Stenographer: Irma Huntington

The Nevada Attorney General's office staff for 1940-1942 included:

- Attorney General Gray Mashburn
- Deputy Attorney General W.T. Mathews (Nevada's 21st Attorney General)
- Deputy Attorney General Alan Bible (Nevada's 20th Attorney General)
- Chief Clerk Stenographer: Elma Gottschalk
- Stenographer: Marjorie Ligon
- Stenographer: Irma Huntington, who resigned and was replaced by Lavern Hutchinson
- Stenographer: Thelma Briggs

The Nevada Attorney General's office staff for 1942-1944 included:

- Attorney General Gray Mashburn
- Deputy Attorney General W.T. Mathews (Nevada's 21st Attorney General)
- Deputy Attorney General George P. Annand
- Chief Clerk Stenographer: Marjorie Ligon
- Stenographer: Marjorie Ligon
- Stenographer: Margaret S. Norton

The Nevada Attorney General's Office operating budgets from 1931 through 1943 as approved by the 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, and 40th Sessions of the Nevada Legislature included the following appropriations:

1931-1933 Operating Budget - All funds were appropriated from the general fund.

\$2,500	Salary of Attorney General
\$1,500	Salary of the deputy Attorney General
\$900	Salary of secretary
\$80	Salary of extra stenographic service
\$1,000	Traveling expenses
\$720	Supplies and printing supplies of briefs

(Statutes of Nevada 1931, Chapter 112, Section 5, Page 181).

1933-1935 Operating Budget - All funds were appropriated from the general fund.

\$10,000	Salary of Attorney General
\$6,000	Salary of deputy Attorney General
\$3,600	Salary of secretary
\$200	Salary of extra stenographic service
\$100	Extra legal services
\$3,000	Traveling expenses
\$1,500	Supplies and Equipment
\$5,000	Expenses of defending Boulder Dam suit and to be used only in the event that a motion to dismiss is denied

(Statutes of Nevada 1931, Chapter 113, Section 5, Page 186).

1933-1935 Operating Budget - All funds were appropriated from the general fund.

\$10,000	Salary of Attorney General
\$6,000	Salary of deputy Attorney General
\$3,600	Salary of stenographer
\$700	Extra stenographic services
\$6,000	Extra legal services
\$2,400	Traveling Expenses
\$1,500	Stationary and other office supplies, postage, telephone, telegraph, and incidental expenses including court costs

(Statutes of Nevada 1933, Chapter 196, Section 5, Page 342).

1935-1937 Operating Budget - All funds were appropriated from the general fund.

\$10,000	Salary of Attorney General
\$7,200	Salary of deputy Attorney General
\$6,000	Salary of extra deputy Attorney General
\$3,600	Salary of stenographer
\$3,000	Extra stenographic services
\$2,200	Traveling Expenses
\$2,500	Office supplies, equipment, and incidentals, including Court costs
\$20,000	Costs and expenses prosecuting or defending pending and threatened railroad and public utilities tax suits, to be expended only in the event it should become necessary to prosecute or defend such suits to use said money for that purpose, no part of which shall be paid or expended for attorney's fees.

(Statutes of Nevada 1935, Chapter 190, Section 5, Page 399).

1937-1939 Operating Budget - All funds were appropriated from the general fund.

\$10,000	Salary of Attorney General
\$7,200	Salary of deputy Attorney General
\$6,000	Salary of extra deputy Attorney General
\$3,600	Salary of stenographer
\$3,420	Extra stenographic services
\$2,100	Traveling Expenses
\$2,000	Office supplies, equipment, and incidentals, including court costs
\$10,000	For the express purpose of paying costs and expenses of

prosecuting or defending impending or existing tax or other suits, no part of which shall be paid or expended for attorney's fees.

(Statutes of Nevada 1937, Chapter 216, Section 5 and 6, Page 532).

1939-1941 Operating Budget - All funds were appropriated from the general fund.

\$10,000	Salary of Attorney General
\$7,200	Salary of deputy Attorney General
\$6,000	Salary of extra deputy Attorney General
\$4,200	Salary of stenographer
\$3,420	Extra stenographic services
\$2,100	Traveling Expenses
\$2,000	Office supplies, equipment, and incidentals, including court costs
\$10,000	For the express purpose of paying costs and expenses of prosecuting or defending impending or existing tax or other suits, no part of which shall be paid or expended for attorney's fees.

(Statutes of Nevada 1939, Chapter 199, Section 5 and 6, Page 345).

1941-1943 Operating Budget - All funds were appropriated from the general fund.

\$10,000	Salary of Attorney General
\$7,200	Salary of deputy Attorney General
\$6,000	Salary of extra deputy Attorney General
\$4,200	Salary of chief clerk-stenographer
\$3,315	Extra stenographic services
\$500	Extra clerical help
\$2,100	Traveling Expenses
\$2,000	Office supplies, equipment, and incidentals, including court costs
\$10,000	For the express purpose of paying costs and expenses of prosecuting or defending impending or existing tax or other suits, no part of which shall be paid or expended for attorney's fees.

(Statutes of Nevada 1941, Chapter 191, Section 5 and 6, Page 543).

The 1931 Nevada State Legislature in its 35th session added the following duties to the Nevada Attorney General's Office:

- Nevada Attorney General was authorized directed and empowered to publish findings of fact in cases where there are over 100 litigants or the state engineer is a party. (Statutes of Nevada 1931, Chapter 233, Section 1-3, Page 443-444).
- The Nevada Attorney General and his deputies are the legal advisors for the state of Nevada. The employment of other attorneys to represent the state is prohibited with limited statutory exception. (Statutes of Nevada 1931, Chapter 235, Section 1-3, Page 445-446).

The 1933 Nevada State Legislature in its 36th session did not add any additional duties to the Nevada Attorney General's Office.

The 1935 Nevada State Legislature in its 37th session added the following duties to the Nevada Attorney General's Office:

- The attorney-general or the district attorney of any county shall, at the request of the tax commission, collect such delinquent taxes with penalty and interest, and shall commence any necessary action in the name of the state. (Statutes of Nevada 1935, Chapter 74, Section 10, Page 169).
- When complaint is made to the attorney-general by the labor commissioner that any district attorney has been guilty of a willful violation of failing to prosecute a case submitted by the labor commissioner, it is hereby made the mandatory duty of the Attorney General to investigate and enforce any necessary penalties. (Statutes of Nevada 1935, Chapter 103, Section 2, Page 225).

These sessions of the Nevada State Legislature did not add any additional duties to the Nevada Attorney General's Office:

- 1937 Nevada State Legislature, 38th
- 1939 Nevada State Legislature, 39th
- 1941 Nevada State Legislature, 40th