



County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors



SUPERVISOR WILLIAM ALLAN SMITH

Term: 1938 - 1950
District: First
Date of Birth: Nov. 27, 1888
Death: Sept. 5, 1953

William Allan Smith served as county supervisor for three terms. He was elected to office in 1938, 1942 and 1946.

Smith was born Nov. 27, 1888 in Aberdeenshire, Scotland. In 1890, when he was 2, the family moved to the United States and settled in Reinbeck, La., where he grew up and attended public schools. He went on to college at Iowa State and graduated in 1912.

After leaving college he entered the U.S. Forestry Service and was stationed in Ogden, Utah. In 1915 Smith resigned from the Forestry Service and entered the canning business in Ogden.

In 1921 Smith moved to Southern California after accepting a job offer to be the business manager for the Whittier State School. Smith remained at the school until 1927, when he resigned to accept a position as an examiner for the Los Angeles City Civil Service Commission.

In 1931 he quit the city job with the intent of entering the real estate business in Whittier, but instead wound up becoming the field secretary for Herbert C. Legg, who was county supervisor at the time.

In 1938 Smith resigned to become a candidate for the First District supervisorial seat. Legg was not a candidate for re-election, and Smith was elected on Nov. 8, 1938. In 1950 Legg was re-elected county supervisor.

On Sept. 5, 1953, Smith died while on vacation in Canada. He was 64, and was survived by his wife, Rosamond.

Source: Los Angeles Express, July 29, 1878.