



Blanche Pennick

Quick Facts

Birth: December 4, 1905
Melbourne, Washington

Death: September 21, 1991
Montesano, Washington

Occupation: Teacher

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Years served: 1945-47

Office: Representative

District:
19 (Pacific, Grays Harbor Counties)

Personal:

- Born to pioneers John and Catherine Pennick
- Resided in Montesano, Washington
- Worked as World Encyclopedia education adviser in Chicago
- Spent 38 years in education
- While serving as a legislator, a bill was passed that increased the annual salary of county officers. Blanche was then elected, in the 1946 primary, as the Democratic candidate for Grays Harbor County auditor. This was at the end of her legislative term. But the constitution states, "No member of the legislature during the term for which he is elected shall be appointed or elected to any civil office in the state which shall have been created, or the emoluments of which shall have been increased, during the term for which he was elected." Because of this the Superior Court for Grays Harbor County prohibited the Grays Harbor County Election Board from certifying the name of Blanche Pennick on the official ballot to be used in the general election. Blanche then took the case to the Washington State Supreme Court. The court ruled that she could not hold the position for which she was attempting to get elected because of her participation as a voting member of the present state legislature which enacted legislation to raise the salaries of county auditors. The State of Washington, on the Relation of Blanche Pennick et al., Plaintiff, V. Charles W. Hall, as Judge of the Superior Court for Grays Harbor County, <http://www.mrsc.org/mc/courts/supreme/026wn2d/026wn2d0172.htm>

Education:

- Bellingham Normal School (Western Washington University), teaching certificate
- University of Washington, M.A. in education
- Stanford University

Community Service:

Affiliations:

Awards:

Legislative & State Service:

Committees: (1945) Counties and County Boundaries, chair; Dairy and Livestock; Education; Revenue and Taxation; State Library

House Bills sponsored: (1945 session)

121-Relating to legislative districts

Went to first reading

129-Relating to rental of county machinery to farmers

Reported out of committee and died

130-Relating to notice of sale of county personal property

Went to third reading

134-Relating to county-owned mineral right reservations

Signed by Governor Wallgren

165-Relating to powers of county commissioners

Reported out of committee and died

167-Relating to traveling expenses of county commissioners

Reported out of committee and died

184-Relating to counties and the disposal of county properties

Signed by Governor Wallgren

207-Relating to distribution of money received from forest reserves

Reported from senate

219-Relating to recreational programs for schools

Went to second reading

245-Relating to public library facilities

Signed by Governor Wallgren

500-Relating to county roads in Grays Harbor County

Went to first reading

509-Relating to agreement between county commissioners and directors of school boards

Went to first reading

Leadership, Positions & Appointments:

- Grays Harbor County Superintendent of Schools, n.d.

Sources:

Articles:

- "Obituaries, Blanche L. Pennick," *Daily World*, September 25, 1991.
- "Blanche L. Pennick," *Montesano Grays Harbor County Vidette*, October 3, 1991

Oral History:

- Hinsch, Kathryn, "An Interview with Blanche Pennick," 1981