The Honorable Governor
Culbert Levy Olson

“Past, Present and Future”
A Statesman Before His Time
The Honorable
Culbert Levy Olson
Governor of California
1938-1942
The First Digital Exhibit for a California Governor
Family
Culbert Olson in his Early 20s
Mrs. Culbert L. Olson requests the pleasure of your company at tea on Thursday afternoon, the twentieth of April from three until four o'clock

Executive Mansion
Sacramento, California
The Olsons’ 33rd Wedding Anniversary in 1938
The Campaign
Supporter of Upton Sinclair’s “End Poverty in California” (EPIC)
In 1934, Elected to California State Senate
New Deal for California

Olson’s New Deal for California

The story of California’s transition from depression to wartime prosperity and of a governor whose New Deal never came to pass

ROBERT E. BURKE
The Olson’s cast their ballots in Los Angeles November 8, 1938
Inaugural Address

“There is none among us who can doubt that the people have voted for a government that shall honestly place human values before material values; that they want a government that will do the human thing in a sound and workable way, unswerved by pressure from any self-seeking group or special interest.”
Governor Olson Sworn In
Three Days Later, He Conceded to Putting his Hand on the Bible.
GRAND BASH: Gov. Culbert Olson and his wife, Kate Jeremy Olson, greet the 4,000 guests who attended his 1939 inaugural.
Governorship
Governor’s Mansion in Sacramento, 1939-1943
Culbert’s Packard Limo, 1939
Gov. Olson’s Dedication of the Golden Gate International Expo
Olson Pardoning Tom Mooney
Culbert Olson Started to Enact The Platform He Ran On

- Support for Labor and Unions
- Guaranteed Old Age Pensions
- Universal Healthcare
- Regulation of Public Utilities
- Separation of Church and State
Universal Healthcare for California presented in 1939

• “It is no longer seriously debated that a fundamental change is needed in the method of meeting the costs of medical care and the risks and loss of sickness, especially for wage earners and others of small or moderate income,” Olson, presenting the plan on April 13, 1939.
Ham & Eggs Pension Plan
$30 Thursdays
Gov. Olson Often Encountered Friction with the Republican Controlled Legislature
With Ellis E. Patterson, Lieutenant Governor at the State Legislature
The War
Bombardment of Elwood, February 23, 1942

- Navel attack by Japanese submarine of coastal targets near Santa Barbara, CA.

- The event was key in triggering the West Coast invasion scare that influenced the decision to inter Japanese-Americans.

- It was the first shelling of mainland US during World War II.
Franklin Roosevelt’s Letter to Governor Olson, May 18, 1942

• I am deeply concerned that the American-born Japanese college students shall be impressed with the ability of the American people to distinguish between enemy aliens and staunch supporters of the American system who happen to have Japanese ancestry.

• To the Honorable Governor Culbert Olson
John Dewitt, instrumental in Executive Order 9066, directing the internment of Japanese Americans.
Olson’s Special Contribution to the War Effort from the Governor’s Mansion
Hollywood
Governor Olson with Bing Crosby, Bob Hope, and Babe Ruth
With movie star Mae West
With Rose Queen Mary Stanton, Pasadena Freeway
The Pasadena Freeway, 1940
At the opening of the Cahuenga Pass Freeway with Mayor Bowron & Gene Autry
Will Rogers
A gift, on one condition...
Stable at Will Rogers State Park
Will Rogers State Beach Dedicated

July 26, 1942: California Gov. Culbert Olson and Los Angeles Mayor Fletcher Bowron were among the officials on hand for the formal dedication of Will Rogers State Beach Park, The Times reported.

“Every part of America would be happy to join us in honoring the memory of the great American citizen for whom this new state park has been named, Will Rogers, who stood so high in the hearts of all liberty-loving people,” Olson said.

The beach included 6,300 feet of coastline, including 1,800 feet from the estate of Rogers, who died in a 1935 plane crash.
With Vice President Henry A. Wallace in Los Angeles, 1942
At home with family in Los Angeles
The Olson Legacy
California Granddaughters
Governor Gray Davis, First Lady Sharon, Chrysta & Kaitlyn
With Senator Elizabeth Warren, Actress Ann Weldon, and Senator Boxer
With Senators Barbara Boxer and Elizabeth Warren
Olson’s great-granddaughters, Chrysta & Kaitlyn with President Clinton
Hillary with Debra, Kaitlyn & Chrysta
Granddaughter Diane Olson & Robin Tyler, the First Same Sex Couple Married in Beverly Hills, California