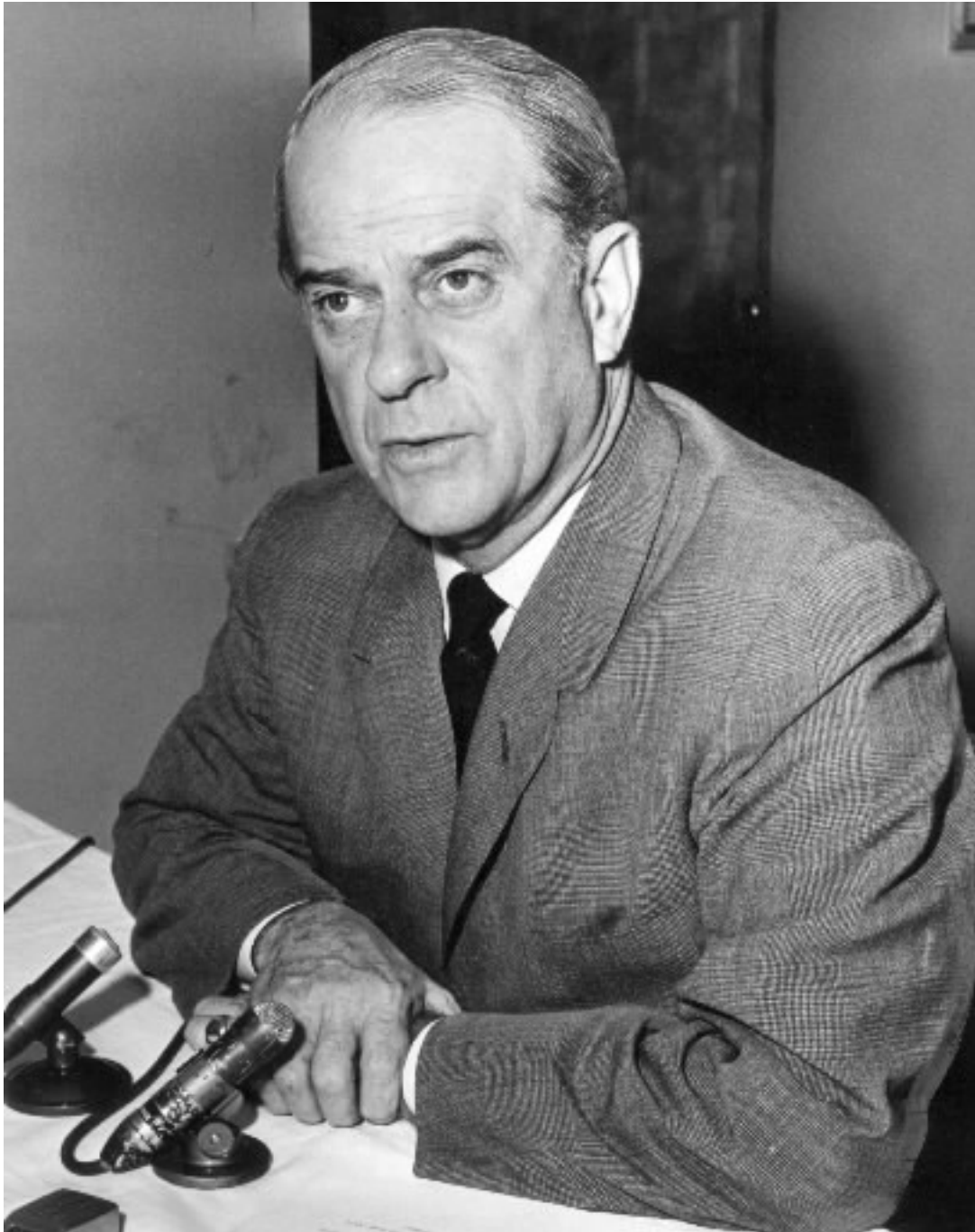


## W.P. "Bill" Atkinson for Governor - Part Three of an Ongoing Series

Written by Steve Lackmeyer

Thursday, 03 February 2011 00:50 - Last Updated Thursday, 03 February 2011 03:43

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W.P. "Bill" Atkinson was a success by any definition as America entered a period of economic expansion and innovation in the 1950s. Already a successful homebuilder, developer and founder of Midwest City, Atkinson continued to expand his empire, buying property along SW 74. Other developers were gravitating toward SW 59, historian and veteran reporter Max Nichols once noted. After all, these developers reasoned, surely the state would need to create a "Southwest Expressway." They were right – but the highway was built along SW 74, not SW

59.

Once again, Atkinson's gut instinct added to his considerable wealth.

Atkinson set his sights next on the governor's mansion and was quickly deemed the front-runner in the 1958 election. But first he would build a home more suitable for a governor of a state that was rapidly making the jump from "arrows to atoms."



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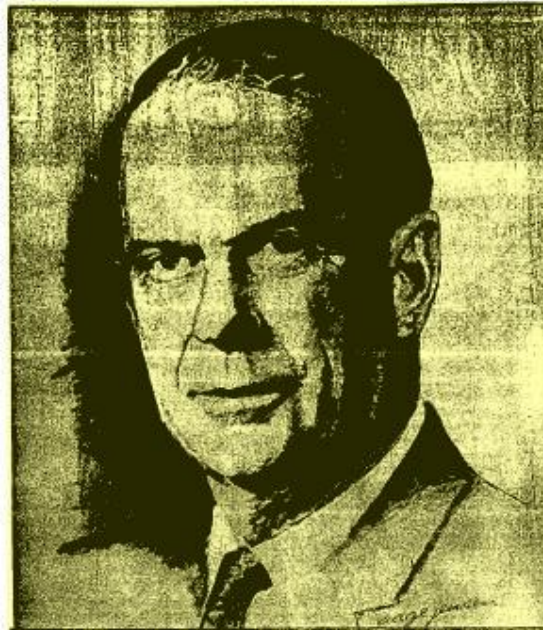
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# We Who Know Bill Atkinson...

## Know These Things To Be True:

- He is a man dedicated to making Oklahoma a better place to live.
- He has great vision . . . initiative . . . and rare talents in bringing divergent groups together in a spirit of teamwork and cooperation to accomplish great goals.
- His word is as good as a contract.
- His integrity and character are above reproach.
- He has mature judgement and a record of proven success in creating jobs, developing payrolls, and handling financial matters. Oklahoma's business is big business—more than a million dollars a day.
- He is forthright. He meets issues with courage. He has the ability, the drive to move Oklahoma forward in the development of industry and the creation of new and better jobs in cooperation with the state's powerful Congressional team.



**ATKINSON**  
**GOVERNOR**

We admire Bill Atkinson's courage in his forthright stand in telling the truth on the issues in this governor's race. He has avoided name calling, slick phrases and other smoke screen devices, preferring to spend a great deal of time studying our state and its needs and preparing a master plan for its forward movement (and he is a master planner.) This is the Bill Atkinson we know.

Born in Humble, Citrus County in east Texas, Nov. 9, 1906. His father, a carpenter, found the going rough, his mother died of pneumonia when Bill was 9 . . . Lived on a Farm as a Boy. Bill lived with relatives and spent 4 years on an uncle's farm where he learned the work and things all farm boys know. In his teens he moved to town and worked in the local newspaper shop for 30c a day while attending high school . . . Worked Way Through School determined to go to college. He worked his way through Lee Harris Junior College, Jacksonville, and Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, graduating in 1928 near the top of his class. He was immediately employed by the All-Check Press, Fort Worth, publishers of hundreds of church papers. He married his high school sweetheart, Ruby Beuchamp, daughter of a successful farmer. They came to Oklahoma City in 1929. For his firm, Bill founded the Oklahoma City Star. He also assisted in founding the Tulsa Herald . . . Former School Teacher. In 1935 he filled an emergency at a teacher in the journalism department of Oklahoma City University. The next year he became head of the department, a position held for 4 years. He began selling houses on weekends to learn the real estate business. By 1941, his company was recognized as one of Oklahoma's leading builders. His success in the construction field led to the event for which he is now well-known, the founding of Midwest City . . . A Family and Church Man. Bill and Ruby, the parents of 3, are now grandparents of 13. He is chairman of the official board of the World . . .

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