

Arthur Church, Mendocino County

1. Career before becoming Assessor.

Came back home in 1946 after discharge, and got temporary job typing the assessment roll for the assessor, and also tax bills for the tax collector.

Assessor and his secretary were only other office staff. Stayed on doing all kinds of duties. Very few building records then, and real and personal property valued from the office. In the 50s, started taking appraisal classes along with the Assessor. Assigned to start recording building details, with another person. When the Assessor announced he would not run in 1954, decided to campaign for the office. When Webb won the election, went to work in the private sector. In 1960, Webb offered the position of asst. Assessor. This involved running the office. Webb opted to leave office in 1977. Appointed Assessor by the BOS to finish out Webb's term.

2. Career milestones-dates.

Worked for original Assessor from 1946 to 1955; worked for Webb Brown for 17 ~ years asst. Assessor; was county Assessor from Oct. 1977 to Jan. 1979 . Did not seek reelection

3. Postscript

retired

4. Relationship with predecessor.

Got along famously with Webb; one of the best men I ever knew.

5. Relationship with successor.

Duane Wells was the chief appraiser and ran the appraisal staff; I ran the office. Got along okay, but different jobs.

6. Why did you run for assessor.

When the assessor announced his retirement in 1954, I thought running would be the best way to get a raise.

7. Greatest accomplishments.

In cooperation with Humboldt county, transferred all record keeping to data processing in 1967

8. What could you have done differently.

Nothing comes to mind after 27 years

9. Fondest memories of office.

Meeting some very nice people; coworkers as well as the public.

10. Least favorites parts of career.

Dealing with people who "know what the law is" and refuse to listen.

11. Relationship with CAA.

While assessor, was member only, but enjoyed attending many conferences with prior Assessor~

12. Remembering "Assessor scandals" of the 60s.

Upset because only 3 counties were involved, and the other 55 were tainted while doing their jobs. At a CAA conference held in Yosemite, SBE elected member John Lynch, very rude and condescending, chastised the entire group. But, subsequent laws gave assessors powers to audit taxpayers-very important.

13. Pressure and stress of pre- Prop. 13 .

Left actual assessments to chief appraiser~ dealt mostly with schedules and deadlines. Implemented Williamson Act and unsecured personal property assessment. While Prop. 13 was on the ballot, prepared 3 different rolls in anticipation. Big questions~ would unsecured personal property, Timber Preserve, and Williamson act parcels receive Prop. 13 values.

- oppose or support Prop. 13.

Never made a public statement, although asked by the BOS. Local paper, in their editorials, attributed a negative stance by the assessor, although never talked to a reporter. Privately, wrote a critical letter to Willie Brown, and he concurred.

- how about Prop. 13 now?

Happy as hell with my 1975 base value, with neighboring properties selling for ten times that amount.

14. Involved in state or county politics other than assessor? No

- did you run other county offices while assessor? No

15. What kind of person makes a good county assessor?

Be like Webb Brown~ cool, calm and collected.

- Appraisal or RE background requirement for assessor?

Not necessarily~ with competent staff, he can learn.

16. Interesting points not covered by questions.

Won the 1954 primary easily, but no majority. Initially won the general election, but when the absentees were counted, Webb Brown won by six votes countywide.

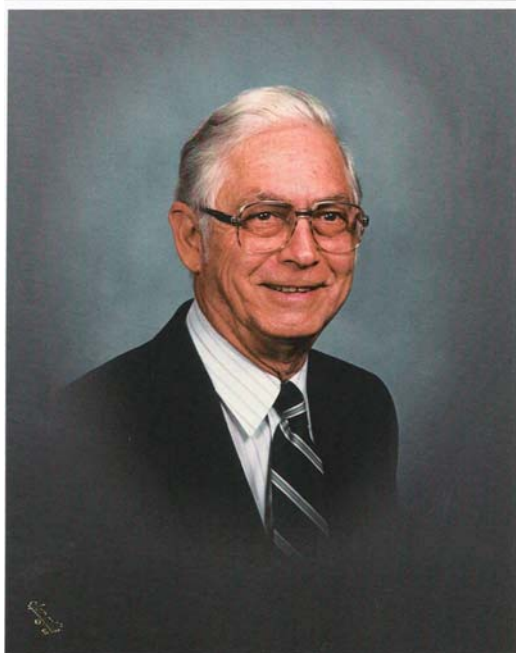
- send photos with descriptions.

See 1954 campaign poster~ official county portrait~ 1998 photo of retired assessors



Camp

aign Poster



Arthur Church



Arthur Church, Duane Wells and Webb Brown