



TRUMAN

AND THE

PENDERGAST

POLITICAL MACHINE

The Pendergast Machine

Heather Pashman



The Pendergast Machine:

The Pendergast Machine Lyle W. Dorsett, 1968 A history of the Kansas City Democratic political organization started by Jim Pendergast who expanded his power base from a few local wards to the whole state of Missouri in the 1880s **The Inside Story of the Pendergast Machine by the Man who Smashed it** Maurice Morton Milligan, 1948 **Missouri Waltz** Maurice Morton Milligan, 1948 **Pendergast!** Lawrence H. Larsen, Nancy J. Hulston, 1997 More than a half century after the death of Kansas City's notorious political boss Thomas J. Pendergast the Pendergast name still evokes great interest and even controversy Now in this first full scale biography of Pendergast Lawrence H. Larsen and Nancy J. Hulston have successfully provided through extensive research including use of recently released prison records and previously unavailable family records a clear look at the life of Thomas J. Pendergast Born in St. Joseph, Missouri in 1872 Tom Pendergast moved to Kansas City around 1890 to work for his brother James founder of the Pendergast Goat faction in Kansas City Democratic politics In 1911 Pendergast became head of the Goats and over the next fifteen years he created a powerful political machine that used illegal voting and criminal enforcers to gain power Following a change in the city charter in 1925 Pendergast took control of Kansas City and ran it as his own personal business In the 1930s he received over 30 million annually from gambling, prostitution and narcotics putting him in the big leagues of American civic corruption He also wielded great power in the National Democratic Party and started Harry S. Truman on the road to the presidency In this well balanced biography the authors examine Pendergast's rise to power his successes as a political leader his compassion for the destitute and his reputation for keeping his word They also examine Pendergast's character development and how his methods became more and more ruthless Pendergast had no use for ideology in his invisible government only votes counted In 1937 and 1938 the federal government broke the back of Pendergast's machine convicting 259 of his campaign aides for vote fraud In 1939 Pendergast who was believed to be the largest bettor on horse racing in the United States was jailed for income tax evasion and he died in disgrace in 1945 An insightful and comprehensive biography Pendergast will surely serve for years to come as the most thorough investigation of the life and infamous career of Tom Pendergast **A History of the Pendergast Machine** Lyle W. Dorsett, 1965 **Tom's Town** William M. Reddig, 1986 The Pendergast machine rose to power riding the industrial and business boom of the 1920s strengthened its grip during the chaos of the depression years and grew fat and arrogant during the spending spree that followed It fell apart in a fantastic series of crimes including voting fraud and tax evasion that shocked the nation and resulted in the incarceration of Tom Pendergast in a federal prison in 1939 Now available in paperback with a foreword by Charles Glaab William M. Reddig's political and social history of Kansas City from the mid 1800s to 1945 focusing on the lives of Alderman Jim Pendergast and especially his younger sibling Big Tom Pendergast chronicles both the influence of the brothers on the growing metropolitan area and the national phenomenon of bossism The story of the Pendergasts has been told in many places and in many ways It has hardly been told anywhere

however with more fascinating detail and healthy irony than in this volume of William M Reddig New York Times Reddig has written his history of the Pendergast machine in a reportorial style which manages to combine plain city desk prose with a great deal of humor irony and insight He has dwelt with obvious delight on the local characters the factions and feuds and has given several brilliant personality sketches Saturday Review of Literature Dictionary of Missouri Biography Lawrence O. Christensen, William E. Foley, Gary Kremer, 1999-10 **Organized Crime in the United States, 1865-1941** Kristofer Allerfeldt, 2018-01-12 Why do Americans alternately celebrate and condemn gangsters outlaws and corrupt politicians Why do they immortalize Al Capone while forgetting his more successful contemporaries George Remus or Roy Olmstead Why are some public figures repudiated for their connections to the mob while others gain celebrity status Drawing on historical accounts the author analyzes the public s understanding of organized crime and questions some of our most deeply held assumptions about crime and its role in society **Queering Kansas City Jazz** Amber R. Clifford-Napoleone, 2018-11-01 The Jazz Age a phenomenon that shaped American leisure culture in the early twentieth century coincided with the growth of Kansas City Missouri from frontier town to metropolitan city Though Kansas City s music culture and stars are well covered Queering Kansas City Jazz supplements the grand narrative of jazz history by including queer identities in the city s history while framing the jazz scene experience in terms of identity and space Cabarets gender impressionism clubs and sites of sex tourism in Kansas City served as world making spaces for those whose performance of identity transgressed hegemonic notions of gender sexuality race and class Amber R Clifford Napoleone takes an interdisciplinary approach to provide a critical deconstruction of how the jazz scene offered a space for nonnormative gender practice and performance and acted as a site of contested identity and spatial territory Few books examine the changing ideas about gender in the turn of the century Great Plains under the false assumption that people in middle American places experienced cultural shifts only as an aftershock of events on the coasts This approach overlooks the region s contested territories identities and memories and fails to adequately explain the social and cultural disruptions experienced on the plains Clifford Napoleone rectifies this oversight and shows how Kansas City represents the complexity of the jazz scene in America as a microcosm of all the other people who made the culture clubs music and cabarets of the age possible **The inside story of the Pendergast machine** Maurice Morton Milligan, 1948 *A Companion to Harry S. Truman* Daniel S. Margolies, 2012-07-30 With contributions from the most accomplished scholars in the field this fascinating companion to one of America s pivotal presidents assesses Harry S Truman as a historical figure politician president and strategist Assembles many of the top historians in their fields who assess critical aspects of the Truman presidency Provides new approaches to the historiography of Truman and his policies Features a variety of historiographic methodologies **Harry S. Truman** Brian Burnes, 2003 **Forum and Century**, 1939 Wide-Open Town Diane Mutti Burke, Jason Roe, John Herron, 2018-11-29 Kansas City is often seen as a mild mannered metropolis in the heart of flyover country But a closer look tells a different story one with

roots in the city's complicated and colorful past. The decades between World Wars I and II were a time of intense political, social, and economic change for Kansas City as for the nation as a whole. In exploring this city at the literal and cultural crossroads of America, *Wide Open Town* maps the myriad ways in which Kansas City reflected and helped shape the narrative of a nation undergoing an epochal transformation. During the interwar period, political boss Tom Pendergast reigned, and Kansas City was said to be wide open. Prohibition was rarely enforced, the mob was ascendant, and urban vice was rampant. But in a community divided by the hard lines of race and class, this openness also allowed many of the city's residents to challenge conventional social boundaries, and it is this intersection and disruption of cultural norms that interests the authors of *Wide Open Town*. Writing from a variety of disciplines and viewpoints, the contributors take up topics ranging from the 1928 Republican National Convention to organizing the garment industry from the stockyards to health care, drag shows, Thomas Hart Benton, and of course jazz. Their essays bring to light the diverse histories of the city, among them Mexican immigrants, African Americans, the working class, and the LGBT community before the advent of LGBT. *Wide Open Town* captures the defining moments of a society rocked by World War I, the mass migration of people of color into cities, the entrance of women into the labor force and politics, Prohibition, economic collapse, and a revolution in social mores. Revealing how these changes influenced Kansas City and how the city responded, this volume helps us understand nothing less than how citizens of the age adapted to the rise of modern America.

Roosevelt, the Party Leader, 1932-1945 Sean J. Savage, FDR the wily political opportunist, glowing with charismatic charm, a leader venerated and hated with equal vigor, such is one common notion of a president elected to an unprecedented four terms. But in this first comprehensive study of Roosevelt's leadership of the Democratic party, Sean Savage reveals a different man. He contends that far from being a mere opportunist, Roosevelt brought to the party a conscious agenda, a long-term strategy of creating a liberal Democracy that would be an enduring majority force in American politics. The roots of Roosevelt's plan for the party ran back to

The Rise and Fall of the Pendergast Machine Heather Pashman, 2003

The Family Business John J. Daily, 2008

The National Archives and Urban Research Jerome Finster, 1974. El libro resultado de una conferencia celebrada en los EEUU en 1970 estudia el fenómeno urbano teniendo en consideración el conjunto de documentos históricos que sobre esta materia existen pretendiendo con ello aunar los esfuerzos destinados a la investigación en lo referente a población, vivienda, transporte y actividades federales.

Truman and the Democratic Party Sean J. Savage, 2014-07-11. What best defines a Democrat in the American political arena: idealistic reformer or pragmatic politician? Harry Truman adopted both roles and in so doing defined the nature of his presidency. *Truman and the Democratic Party* is the first book to deal exclusively with the president's relationship with the Democratic party and his status as party leader. Sean J. Savage addresses Truman's twin roles of party regular and liberal reformer, examining the tension that arose from this duality and the consequences of that tension for Truman's political career. Truman saw the Democratic party change during his lifetime, from a rural-dominated

minority party often lacking a unifying agenda to an urban dominated majority party with strong liberal policy objectives A seasoned politician who valued party loyalty and recognized the value of political patronage Truman was also attracted to a liberal ideology that threatened party unity by alienating southern Democrats By the time he succeeded Franklin Roosevelt the diversity of opinions and demands among party members led Truman to alternate between two personas the reformer committed to liberal policy goal civil rights national health insurance federal aid to education and the party regular who sought greater harmony among fellow Democrats Drawing on personal interview with former Truman administration members and party officials and on archival materials most notably papers of the Democratic National Committee at the Harry S Truman Library Savage has produced a fresh perspective that is both shrewd and insightful This book offers historians and political scientists a new way of looking at the Truman administration and its impact on key public policies

Bosses and Reformers Blaine A. Brownell, Warren E. Stickle, 1973 The story of urban politics in the years between 1880 and 1920 has all too often been perceived by journalistic muckrakers and academic historians alike as a ceaseless struggle between bosses and reformers with the reformers winning out in the end The major view expressed in this book is that this boss reformer dichotomy is not valid political leaders and their organizations ideas and goals simply do not fit into the rigid framework that such a notion imposes on the incredibly complex reality of urban politics Preface

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