



# Serving

## Lt. Gov Shafer spoke of need for citizen involvement

By Jane Smith  
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When Raymond P. Shafer was inaugurated as lieutenant governor on Jan. 15, 1963, he took his oath of office from then-Crawford County Court of Common Pleas Judge Herbert Mook at the ceremony in Harrisburg.

From the start, Shafer spoke of the need for all persons involved with state government to work together.

At that time, lieutenant governor candidates were elected separately from the governor. Shafer defeated the Democratic candidate, Stephen McCann. In the years since that time, once party nominees are chosen in the primary election, the lieutenant governor and governor run as a team.

In his acceptance speech, Shafer said, "In difficult and challenging times like the present, all of us must rise above narrowness of viewpoint, selfish, obstructionist and excessive partisanship."

At the same time, he cautioned, "In a free society, one of the basic duties of elected

representatives is to guard zealously against the encroachment of the government complex itself on the rights of citizens."

From there, Shafer became a very active and busy lieutenant governor, changing the duties of the state's number two executive.

By the end of the year, he was described by a statewide news reporter as "probably the busiest lieutenant governor in the history of Pennsylvania."

In 1965, another writer from Harrisburg called him "a man on the move" and said in three years, Shafer had "done more than any other man to make the public aware of the office he now holds."

Shafer credited Gov. William Scranton, also a Republican, for helping make that change.

Shafer believed the office of lieutenant governor should be "more closely allied to that of the vice president of the United States. The lieutenant governor should be made an active, working member of the administration."

In fact, as Shafer noted, "I'm the first lieutenant governor who has ever moved his family to Harrisburg, attempting to make it a

full-time job."

Scranton agreed and changed the role, Shafer said. From the beginning, Shafer said, he was "appointed chairman of the legislative policy committee, whose duties would be trying to bring together the leaders of the administration for the purpose of establishing a legislative policy."

Through the policy committee, Shafer served as the governor's liaison with the Legislature to promote the administration's policies. He turned what was considered a low-profile, part-time job to a high-profile, full-time position.

The move was an apparent success as the 1963 legislative session was deemed by many political analysts at the time as the most productive and progressive in Pennsylvania's history.

Accomplishments from that year included civil service reforms, increased spending on education, expanded medical care for the aged, and strict strip-mining legislation.

While he worked closely with the Legislature as lieutenant governor, Shafer also traveled to promote the state's industrial

facilities. He took a trip to Italy where he discussed trade with businessmen and government officials.

While Shafer traveled across the state and world meeting people and promoting administration programs, he also spent time on humanitarian issues.

He spent two days at the scene of a coal mine rescue at the Shepton mine and on another occasion interrupted a political trip to visit the bedside of a heroic pilot and crew that crash-landed their plane without serious injury to the passengers.

Speaking in Crawford County in 1965, he said of the Scranton-Shafer administration's programs, "We are attempting to carry out your mandate. All of us can be proud of our program because it is one of service to the people."

Prior to going to Harrisburg, asked how it felt to be elected to a state office, he replied, "I feel that it is a great honor to be the first lieutenant governor from Crawford County. I deem it an honor to our county, too."



Courtesy McKeever Environmental Learning Center

This photograph, which hangs in the McKeever Environmental Learning Center in Sandy Lake, Mercer County, shows Gov. Raymond P. Shafer signing papers establishing the land for the center.



Courtesy Crawford County Republican Party

This photo shows Raymond P. Shafer meeting President Dwight D. Eisenhower.