

Rodney Colton

October 26, 1896- June 14, 1976

Elected 1940 4 years, 1944 District 1, 1946 District 1 4 years, 1950 New term, 1952 long-term (4 years)

Rodney A. Colton came to Las Vegas in 1918 and served on the Clark County Commission for sixteen years beginning in 1940. He then worked for the Clark County Road Department for fourteen years.

Rodney Colton was born in New Mexico, but spent most of his childhood in California. In 1918, he moved from the Owens Valley in California to southern Nevada. He worked for James Cashman hauling manganese ore from the mines that was used to make war supplies. Following World War I, Colton began working at the Conklin Garage and stayed at the garage for nine years. In 1921, Colton married Annie Hooper. He worked for the National Ice Company in Las Vegas for six years. He opened his own trucking firm with C.J. Black, the Colton Transfer Company, and operated between Nelson and Las Vegas. In 1936, he moved to Mesquite, Nevada and opened the Rainbow Service Station on Highway 91.

In 1940, Colton sought a seat on the Clark County Commission and ran against Harold Stocker in the primary on a platform of opposing Stocker's grand jury indictment. Colton defeated Stocker handily in the primary and won every precinct in the county. During his campaign for the general election, Colton promised to spend tax money wisely and improve the efficiency of local government. He easily won the general election.

Colton moved back to Las Vegas in 1949 and went to work for Las Vegas Materials owned by Charles Dimock. He later worked for George Crockett's Alamo Airways.

As a county commissioner, Colton supported a water board issue recognizing that the area needed multiple ways of securing water. In 1954, Colton was indicted with Sheriff Glen Jones for accepting a bribe from an undercover investigator who was seeking illegal gaming and liquor licenses. The Las Vegas Sun set up the sting operation and claimed to have evidence of Colton and Jones accepting bribes. On December 18, 1956, the grand jury exonerated Colton.

Colton retired from the Clark County Commission in December 1956. He worked for the Clark County Roads Department for the next fourteen years. He died in 1976 after collapsing in his garden.