CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

1850s  Cass Mastern's college days and romance with Annabelle
1860s  Cass's death from a Civil War wound
1914   Foreclosure proceedings on Judge Irwin's plantation;
       Judge's marriage and mortgage payment in full; Jack,
       Anne, and Adam's youth in Burden's Landing
1918   Anne and Jack's romance begins.
1920-21 Jack's graduate studies in history and his marriage to
       Lois
1922   Willie and Jack meet.
1924   The schoolhouse tragedy
1926   Willie's first campaign for governor
1930   Willie is elected governor; Jack becomes his aide
1933   The Byram White affair
1936   Willie's visit to Pappy's farm; beginning of Jack's
       research on Judge Irwin
1937   Anne's affair with Willie; Jack's trip to California; the
       Judge's suicide; Willie's assassination
1938   Anne and Jack's marriage
1939   Perspective from which Jack narrates novel

Warren manipulates time in *All the King's Men*. Making leaps
from one time to another is consistent with the way a person's memory
generally works and, in this case, reflects the way that Jack associates
events. The novel presents the structure of Jack's thought, but it is also a
showpiece for Warren's belief that human action and meaning are a
consequence of a complex interaction among the past, present, and
future.

“One of Warren's major objects in *ATKM* is to make the world
of time in which experience occurs exist for us in all its
ordinary familiar, immediate reality. The novel's story of the typical
political struggle in which the country boy, Willie Stark, rose to power
and of his exercise of that power, of the career of Judge Irwin of
Burden's Landing with its judicial integrity, its marriage for money, its
deal with the power company — this story is representative of the public
life of our time. [...] Moreover, this story is told to us by Jack Burden
who is (among other things) a trained historian and experienced
newspaper man and can give us an authoritative account of the
immediate meaning of the events, the tangled train of intentions and
acts that cause them and flow from them. The world appears
overwhelmingly real in *ATKM*. It is there. Because there is where
experience, which is the life of the soul, occurs.” (Arthur Mizener,
“Robert Penn Warren: *All the King's Men*.” *Robert Penn Warren: A
Prentice-Hall, 1980. 55.)