

Fall 2008

WVRHC Newsletter, Fall 2008

West Virginia & Regional History Center

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West Virginia and Regional History Collection

NEWSLETTER

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Don Knotts Collection Documents Life of an American Icon

What happened after Deputy Fife hung up his gun holster, Mr. Furley left the landlord business, Mr. Chicken overcame his fears, and the Apple Dumpling Gang rode off into the sunset? That's when the comic genius of Don Knotts returned to the actor's first love, live theater. It is this lesser-known aspect of Knotts' acting career that is the focus of the latest gift of Don Knotts' memorabilia to the West Virginia and Regional History Collection. The new accession augments items donated by Knotts and his widow Francey Yarborough Knotts in 2006 and 2007.

Born in Morgantown in 1924, Knotts' life-long career in show business began when he was just a lad. He was still in grade school when he began performing locally as a ventriloquist, an act that he hoped would one day bring him to fame and fortune. Towards this end, he headed to New York City immediately upon graduating from high school but quickly found that he was ill-prepared. After just a few weeks he traveled back to Morgantown and enrolled in West Virginia University's theater program which was then offered through the



The Incredible Mr. Knotts

university's Speech department. Interrupted by World War II, during which time he served in the Special

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Services entertaining troops in the South Pacific, he graduated from WVU in 1948.

Returning to New York, Knotts performed stand-up comedy and appeared on assorted radio and television programs before being cast in a bit part as an excitable manual dexterity examiner in the Broadway play *No Time for Sergeants* starring a then unknown Andy Griffith. Sharing similar small town backgrounds, Knotts and Griffith bonded immediately. The two performed together on Broadway for the next two years and also appeared in the play's feature film version in 1958.

Two years later, when Knotts learned that his friend was developing a TV sitcom about a small town sheriff, he telephoned Griffith suggesting that every sheriff needed a deputy. Andy readily agreed. According to Griffith, it was during the filming of the show's second program that he realized that Sheriff Taylor was destined to become the straight man to the hilarious Deputy Fife. "I was supposed to be the funny one on the show," Griffith later noted, "but halfway through the second episode, I realized Don should be the funny one and I should play straight man to him. And that's the best thing we ever did. That's what made the show."

Knotts' performances as the high strung deputy would earn him five Emmy awards over the next several years as well as enduring status as an icon in American television history. Indeed, nearly a half century later, there is perhaps no character in

television history more broadly recognized than the boastful but inept, swaggering but insecure, obnoxious but lovable, Barney Fife.

Believing that the *Andy Griffith Show* would last only five seasons, Knotts began seeking work in motion pictures as the seasons passed. He achieved critical acclaim in his first starring role as a timid book keeper transformed into a talking fish in Warner Brothers' *The Incredible Mr. Limpet* in 1964. The following year, he signed a contract to do five pictures for Universal Studios which forced him to leave the Andy Griffith show in 1965. Though he would continue to make guest appearances on the program, his next several years were devoted to making a series of comedy films including *The Ghost and Mr. Chicken* (1966), *The Reluctant Astronaut* (1967) and *The Shakiest Gun in the West* (1968) that made him one of the busiest and best known actors in Hollywood.

Knotts' success and high level of activity in both film and television continued in the decades



Knotts and Art Carney fool around on stage in *The Odd Couple*, ca. 1985.

that followed. During the 1970s, he starred in five Disney movies including two devoted to the exploits of the *Apple Dumpling Gang* in which he was paired with fellow comedian Tim Conway. He returned to primetime television in 1979 in the persona of Ralph Furley, a would-be-Casanova landlord, in the hit series *Three's Company*, remaining with the program until it ended in 1984.

It was also during the 1970s that Knotts renewed his love affair with live theater, an activity he would continue to pursue for the rest of his life, appearing in playhouses across America from Broadway to Hollywood. He co-starred with Art Carney in a touring production of *The Odd Couple*, and with Pamela Britton in *The Man with the Dirty Mind* and *Last of the Red Hot Lovers* which he later played with Barbara Eden.

In addition to a half dozen movie roles, Knotts guest-starred in a wide variety of TV shows during the late 1970s and 1980s including *The Love Boat*, *Fantasy Island* and *The Bob Newhart Show*. In 1988 he reunited with Andy Griffith, playing Ben Matlock's neighbor, Les Calhoun, in fifteen episodes of *Matlock* over five years.

During the last decade of his life, in addition to appearing in myriad stage productions including *On Golden Pond*, *You Can't Take It With You*, and *Harvey*, Knotts lent his voice to a host of animated TV programs and motion pictures including MGM's *Tom Sawyer* (2000) and Disney's *Chicken Little* (2005). His final role was that of "Sniffer" in Disney's *Air Buddies* (2006) which was released after his death and dedicated to his memory.

Despite his widespread fame and travels, Knotts never lost touch with his hometown of Morgantown, returning frequently for reunions and special events, many of which were held in his honor. Nor did he forget his alma mater. Shortly before his death, the actor donated an assortment of personal archives and memorabilia to the West Virginia and Regional History Collection. Included in that gift were scripts to several of his favorite



A selection of theater programs from the Don Knotts Collection.

movies including *The Reluctant Astronaut* and *The Shakiest Gun in the West* as well as a series of tape recordings he made while working on his autobiography.

Since the receipt of that initial gift, further donations have come from Knotts' widow, Francey Yarborough Knotts, who frequently co-starred with Knotts on stage during the 1990s and early 2000s. Among the most recent gifts are scripts and programs to productions in which Knotts and Yarborough appeared together, as well as both theater and television scripts, correspondence, photographs and memorabilia from earlier in Knotts' career. The *piece de resistance* is a gold watch presented by Andy Griffith to his friend upon Knotts' departure from the Andy Griffith Show in 1965. The watch is inscribed on the reverse with a large number '5' along with a note written in Sheriff Andy Taylor's easy going southern lingo, "See, we thought we'd put 5 on it because you've been here 5 years." This precious memento and other items from the Don Knotts Collection are now on display in the Regional History Collection's main reading room.

Book Review:

Porte Crayon's Mexico: David Hunter Strother's Diaries in the Early Porfirian Era, 1879-1885.

Edited by John E. Stealy, III. Kent, OH: Kent State University Press, 2006. Illustrations, notes, appendices, index, xv + 1,085 pp., \$65.00, hardbound.

There are few figures in West Virginia history more intriguing and multifaceted than the remarkable David Hunter Strother (1816-1888). A native of Martinsburg, Strother soared to national fame during the 1850s as the most popular contributor to America's leading periodical, *Harpers Monthly*. Writing under the pen name *Porte Crayon*, Strother's humorous and insightful travel narratives transported readers across the highways and byways of America, introducing them to scenic splendors, occupations and industries, and iconic figures ranging from southern planters to Yankee peddlers.

Strother's literary gifts were complemented by his equally impressive artistic skills which he drew upon in preparing his own illustrations for his colorful travelogues. In the eyes of contemporary art

critic John Durand, he was no less than the "best draughtsman the country possesses."

When the Civil War erupted, though he yearned to remain on the sideline, Strother felt compelled to join the Union army. He rose to the rank of colonel, serving as a staff officer under several leading generals. His experiences earned him a keen knowledge of the military and its role in government, politics and diplomacy.

These are the skills – artist, author and soldier – that Strother brought to Mexico upon his appointment as U.S. Consul General by President Rutherford B. Hayes in 1879. They would serve him and his employers well for the next six years during a tumultuous period in Mexican history dominated by the revolutionary leader Porfirio Diaz.

Strother's official dispatches and reports for this period are undoubtedly among the best composed and most useful received from any consulate. His extended reports on such matters as living conditions in Mexico, the nation's economy and monetary system, leading industries, the relationship between church and state are thorough,

frank, and highly insightful. Published in the official *Reports of the Consuls*, (and reprinted in the appendix of the present volume) they were no doubt of much assistance to those in both American government and industry in sizing up a developing nation that had only recently gained its independence.

The Consul's official writings, however, are dwarfed in scope, scale and content



David Hunter Strother, Mexico sketches, ca. 1880.

by his personal diary which is surely among the most thorough commentaries on Mexico during this era by any writer, native or foreign. A faithful diarist throughout his adult life, Strother's dedication to this effort in these particular years was redoubled by his intent to publish his recollections of Mexico upon returning to the U.S. Unfortunately, he did not live long enough to realize that dream. Preserved by his descendants, his diary was placed in the WVU Libraries' West Virginia and Regional History Collection during the mid 1980s and there it has remained known only to a few until the release of John E. Stealey, III's edition by Kent State University Press in 2006.

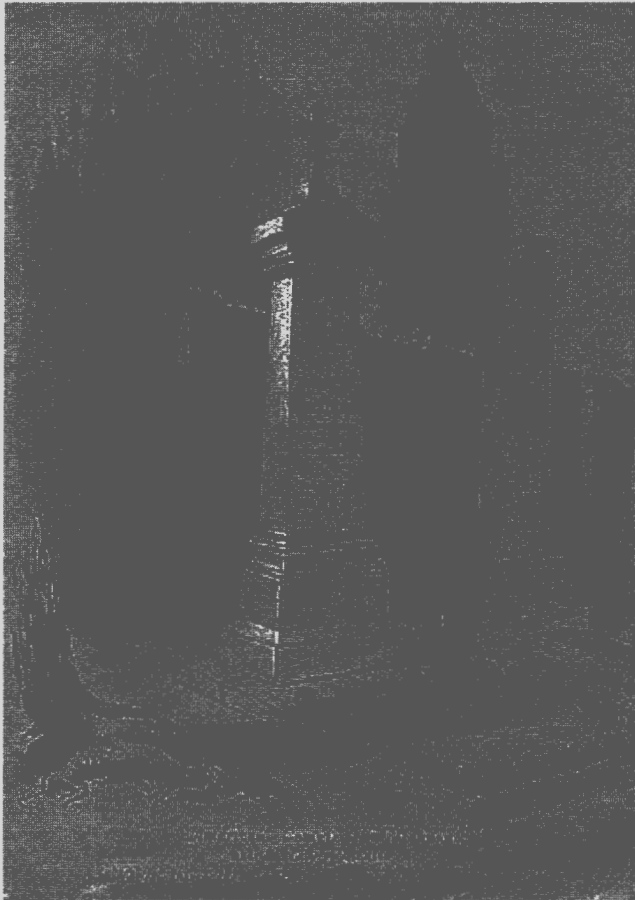
Only those who have held this hefty tome in hand can appreciate the herculean effort that has

gone into preparing this truly outstanding volume for publication. Consisting of well over a thousand pages including appendices, index and several dozen illustrations, the book begins with a scholarly introduction that offers a biography of Strother, an overview of his service and experiences in Mexico, and notes on nineteenth century Mexican history that set the stage for the entry of Consul General Strother.

The diary itself is divided into 34 chapters. The editor has provided a brief introduction to each chapter consisting of select quotations and a summary that prepares the reader for what lays ahead. Commencing with Strother's departure from Havana for Mexico on May 10, 1879 aboard the merchant steamer *City of Merida*, it is immediately clear to the reader that this is no ordinary diary.



F.E. North, *Tivoli de San Cosme*, July 4, 1885. Consul General Strother is pictured at center with flowing beard.



Strother's sketch of a monument at the American Cemetery at Tlaxpana on the outskirts of Mexico City, 1883.

Rather than the concise autobiographical jottings and weather commentary that comprise the gist of so many personal journals, Strother's entries are chock full of information and often uncanny in their depth, detail and length considering that these essays, and essays they often are, were composed spontaneously on a daily basis. His observations of the people he met and observed are particularly fascinating. In a single entry made upon the ship's arrival at Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula (May 12, 1879) he describes "Toltec or Maya" boatmen "cleanly clad with white Panama hats, breeches rolled up," a group of native girls "comely, healthy, broad hipped and cheerful mannered like our Mountaineers at home," Merida city ladies in bonnets and parasols. He mentions a half dozen fellow passengers by name and the purpose of their travels. He writes of the Merida planters, the massive scale of their estates and the Peons, "practically slaves," who do their work. He concludes that the local Indian race is more civilized,

industrious and ingenious than those in the heart of Mexico but notes that a fellow passenger, Dr. Jones, contends that they are "inferior in physique due to inbreeding." He observes that the aristocracy "wear their shirts inside of the breeches, the working classes wear them outside." He describes local agriculture, the hemp trade, foodways, the price of flour and corn. Turning his attention back on board, he notes that his son is playing checkers with a sailor. Others are shooting at empty bottles with an Enfield rifle. The Captain gave him a tour of the ship's "bowels & steam machinery." A Mexican Colonel boarded with companions including a woman "with diminutive & beautifully formed hands & feet." As evening approaches, he notes that "Darkness in the tropics comes with a brief twilight ... at night we saw phosphorescent fires in the water in large stars or balls." This is a short paraphrase of but one of some 2,000 entries! Though not all are so rich, a great many are.

Arriving in Mexico City several days later, Strother discovered the capitol to be teeming with "the greatest variety of races & costumes I ever saw collected together & interesting to study." Countless diary entries made over the next six years record his often highly detailed observations of the city made during daily walks that extended to all sections of the metropolis. Frequent topics include architecture magnificent and humble, local history, infrastructure, industry, amusements, "delightful marketplaces," and crowded streets "wriggling" with hawkers, hucksters, beggars, bandits (he was advised to always carry a gun) and much, much more.

Strother's duties as Consul General were numerous. In addition to providing travel documents to all American visitors, he served as a banker, postmaster, notary, register of births and deaths, and as executor of the estates of American citizens who died in Mexico. He provided legal advice, advised American businesses as to prospects and procedures, and served as a counselor and advocate for citizens facing family difficulties such as divorce or a missing person. As supervisor of the American

Cemetery, he issued permits for burial and was responsible for the upkeep of the cemetery grounds, a job that he took quite seriously. Much of the diary is devoted to recording these activities.

Of no less importance were the Consul General's social responsibilities. As a leading representative of the U.S. government, Strother was on the guest list of nearly every state and private function of consequence that occurred in Mexico City. He describes these sometimes lavish affairs with his usual eye for detail and incomparable descriptive skills. He became well acquainted with Mexico's political elite including El Presidente, Porfirio Diaz, "a tall well made man, simple but courteous in manner—a soldierly air with a swarthy Indian physiognomy." Strother clearly admired the bearing of the revolutionary leader who had seized power in Mexico three years earlier and would continue to hold the nation in his grasp for the next thirty. The Consul General was highly critical, however, of the Mexican government which he found to be thoroughly corrupt and wholly dedicated to perpetuating the country's feudal society and economic system. Mexican legislators, he reports, are merely "lobbyists" hired solely to promote the interests of their benefactors. Should, by chance, a bill "based upon public utility or personal right...be presented on its own merits," he notes, it is "at once Kicked out, like a penniless Greenhorn, out of a gambling saloon."

Strother interacted daily with leading members of the resident American community in Mexico City as well as with literally all American travelers who passed through. Among the more distinguished of the latter was Ulysses S. Grant who visited for a full month in early 1880. As host and chairman of the local arrangements committee, Strother spent a great deal of time with the former president and got to know him well. Nearly forty pages of the present volume are devoted to this episode and related activities including official and private functions, social gatherings and sight-seeing excursions. Grant emerges as a surprisingly humble,

kind and level-headed man. He watches his diet carefully, "drinks only water at meals" and he rarely consumes alcohol at all. He is a man "without conceits or deceit," straightforward and "common sensical." He is conversant on all subjects, is totally devoted to family, and is a friend of both beasts and children. Invited to attend a bull fight, Grant states that he is "averse to the amusement." When he disappears while touring a silver mine, Strother finds him caressing the mine donkeys whose brief lives are spent under horrid conditions. When a blind beggar girl reaches out her hand, Grant digs into his pocket and pulls out a medio (6 ½ centavos) and a dollar. He gave her the dollar, later commenting that he would have been ashamed to have given her the medio. In summing up Grant, Strother observes "true glory comes to those who seek no personal fame but act only on duty."

Strother's diary is full of such candid personal commentary and criticism regarding the people he met which include many of the most important figures in Mexico – Diaz, President Manuel Gonzales, Secretary of the Treasury Matias Romero, writer and diplomat Ignacio Mariscal – as well as many of the least. In general, his comments regarding the latter show that he was highly tolerant in regard to race, ethnicity and class, though he detested poor manners, slovenliness and ignorance wherever he observed it. He also had an abiding contempt for "dogma" and the groups that perpetuated it be they political, religious, formal societies, or informal cliques. He felt that when people align the result is that they malign others. "Calumny" (slander), he observes in one lengthy diatribe, is "one of the chief enjoyments of mankind."

Among the most inspiring and highly descriptive passages in the diary are Strother's tales of excursions through the Mexican countryside which he inevitably found refreshing in comparison to the dirty, "mindless," squalor of the city. His vivid descriptions of "picturesque native costumes," and natural wonders like Popocatepetl and Lake

Patzcuaro recall the best of Strother's earlier writings in the guise of "Porte Crayon" as do his accounts of great haciendas and industrial sites like the massive Hercules textile mill which employed 1,600 workers and was protected from robbers and revolutionaries by a private army.

One can only imagine John Stealey's frustration in trying to condense this colossal work into a book-length manuscript. At well over a thousand pages, the present volume pushes the limits in that respect. Yet, the strength of the diary lies in its incredible breadth and meticulous detail. It is encyclopedic in nature. In addition to its obvious and profound value to studying American-Mexican relations during this critical era, the diary is a sweeping and penetrating commentary on Mexico, its land and its people, its economy, folkways, architecture, history, botany, art, music, you name it. This is a font of information that should command the attention of all serious students of Mexican history from this day forward. It is also a window into the life and mind of one of the most interesting figures in West Virginia history.

John A. Cuthbert

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Make a Difference in the Lives That Follow

Time marches on, as the old saying goes, and keeping track of what happened in the Mountain State and Appalachian region in earlier times is something that those involved with the West Virginia and Regional History Collection do well.

In-person and online access to the many resources in the Collection is important. Helping to assure that such access continues in the future is something that any of us can decide to do by including a gift provision in our wills. Giving your attorney the wording of "to the West Virginia University Foundation, Inc. for the benefit of the WVU Libraries' West Virginia and Regional History Collection" is the first step as you also plan for your family's future needs. Your gift can be used for general purposes or to enhance any aspect of the Collection, such as acquisitions, conservation and staffing.

Another direction for supporting the WV&RHC is to make the WVU Foundation the after-death beneficiary of retirement account funds. That choice allows you to help in the way you feel is most important.

Without a doubt, the Collection's ongoing mission of acquiring and holding resources to preserve our proud history and serve as a research base is an important one. Private support can help to enhance the past and the future at the same time. It is a satisfying choice to make.

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Selected Recent Accessions

Buffington, Caro Louise. Two Scrapbooks and Photographs, 1905-1940, 6 in., Acquired in 2008. A&M 3628.

Two scrapbooks, photographic portraits, and loose photographs kept by Caro Louise Buffington of Huntington, West Virginia. The Buffingtons were a prominent family in the history of Huntington. One scrapbook contains photographs and the other contains paper records, dating from 1913-1918. The photo scrapbook (7 in. x 9 in. x 2 in., 90 pages) contains snapshots dating from 1913-1917; locations of image content include Huntington, Parkersburg, and Charleston (Lick Branch Swimming Hole), West Virginia; and Athens, Atlanta, and Tallulah Falls, Georgia. Photograph subjects include friends (many identified), social and recreational events, automobiles, train stations or depots, and street scenes. Many photographs record friends and events in connection with the Lucy Cobb Institute (of Athens, Georgia), a prestigious women's secondary school which Caro attended (including photos of two students costumed for a Cobb Institute dress ball as Mary Pickford

and Charlie Chaplin, movie stars of the era). The scrapbook of ephemera (10 in. x 13 in. x 2 in.), dating from 1915-1918, contains clippings, telegrams (many loose in the scrapbook), programs, and dance cards relating to the activities and social life of Caro Buffington in West Virginia, Georgia, and at the Lucy Cobb Institute (including many programs of Institute piano recitals). There are three photographic portraits of Caro and one of Peter Clyne Buffington, III at age 15, among other portraits (in two folders). There are also loose snapshots of family and friends dating from ca. 1915-1940 (3/4 in. in four enclosures).

Cather, Fabricius A., Soldier. Civil War Diaries, 1860-1865, 3 1/2 in., Gift in 2008. A&M 3633.

The Civil War diaries authored by First Lieutenant Fabricius A. Cather from Flemington, Taylor County, West Virginia, record his experiences in the military and political conflicts of the Civil War. The six diaries, and a transcribed copy of the original 1864 and 1865 diaries, contain entries for the years 1860 to 1865 regarding western Virginia's grassroots efforts to secede from the Confederacy and establish a new state, and of the first battles and skirmishes such as Laurel Hill and Corricks Ford. He describes campaigns involving his regiment, the First West Virginia Cavalry, including the 1864 Shenandoah Valley Campaign under Sigel, Hunter, Sheridan, and Custer against Breckinridge, Early, and Mosby's Rangers; the last battles of Petersburg as Grant broke the Rebel lines; and the continuous fighting during Lee's retreat. Although most diary entries are one or two sentences in length, some entries in 1864 and 1865 are longer, perhaps due to his full involvement in combat. The collection also contains 18 items stored in pockets inside the covers of the diaries, including headquarters passes, business cards, and a complimentary pass for Lt. Cather to attend the June, 1861 "NorthWestern Virginia Convention" in Wheeling.

Cohen, Milton. Papers, 1946-2006, 10 ft. 3 in., Gift in 2008. A&M 3646.

Papers of Milton Cohen, a Morgantown resident, businessman, World War II veteran, and community activist. The collection contains records in 11 series, including: 1.) Biographical Information, 2.) USS West Virginia, 3.) Tree of Life Synagogue, 4.) Sidler's Department Store, 5.) Morgantown, 6.) Monongalia County, 7.) Charities and Non-profit Organizations, 8.) CLOLA [Concerned Love Ones and Lotowners Associations], 9.) Environmental Issues, 10.) Audio-Visual Material, and 11.) Oversize. Series 2, USS West Virginia, includes historical narratives, clippings, and photographs regarding the USS West Virginia, its bell, mast, and the bell ringing ceremony on the West Virginia University campus. Series 5, Morgantown, regards

projects and protests by Cohen and citizens' groups involving BFI Waste Management, Century Cable, the Morgantown City Council, and building, zoning, and planning pertaining to Morgantown. Series 8, CLOLA [Concerned Love Ones and Lotowners], includes records regarding CLOLA suing the Beverly Hills Memorial Gardens owner Richard Pence and Sandridge Coal Company for strip mining cemetery land. Series 9, Environmental Issues, includes records related to Cohen's involvement in several environmental issues and protests.

First National Bank, Piedmont, Mineral County. Records of M.A. Patrick, 1894-1895, 2 1/2 in., Acquired in 2008. A&M 3636.

Banking records of M.A. Patrick of First National Bank of Piedmont, Mineral County, West Virginia. Includes transactions for businesses in Parsons, Tucker County (including Poling Brothers, Union Manufacturing Company, and James H. Ryder Lumber Company); and for businesses in the towns of Dobbin and Bayard, Grant County (including Rumbarger Lumber Company, Hotel Trion, and Dye, Tabb & Company, among others).

Harry E. and Kathryn Ash Carlson Collection of Arthurdale. Photographs and Other Material, 1934-1940, 10 1/2 in., Gift in 2008. A&M 3649.

Photographic negatives and prints documenting the facilities, people, and activities at Arthurdale, West Virginia, the first of many New Deal planned communities established under the administration of U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Also includes an oral history transcript, a scrapbook of photographs, and mounted photographs of Arthurdale facilities and local coal mining.



Plowing the fields in Arthurdale, WV, ca. 1935.

There are also blueprints of Arthurdale homes. Most or all of the photographs were created by Harry E. Carlson.

Haight, Karen, Compiler. Newspaper Clipping Notebooks Regarding Monongalia County, and Greene County, Pennsylvania, 1930-1960, 1983, 9 in., Gift in 2008. A&M 3641.

Three clippings notebooks compiled by Blacksville, West Virginia resident Karen Haight regarding primarily the history of Monongalia County, West Virginia and Greene County, Pennsylvania in the period ca. 1800 to 1980. Clippings were culled from local newspapers.

Lewis, Ronald, Historian. Research Notes Regarding Timber Industry in West Virginia, 1994-1995, 7 1/2 in., Gift in 2008. A&M 3634.

Research notes compiled by West Virginia University history professor Ronald Lewis regarding the timber industry in West Virginia. Includes biographical information and statistical profiles regarding industry leaders and corporations in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Mahood, Alexander, Architect. Drawings of West Virginia University Projects and Other Material, 1950-1975, 5 1/2 in., Gift in 2008. A&M 3632.

Records of architect Alexander Mahood of West Virginia University building projects. Includes drawings, specifications, photographs, and other material. Drawings include Creative Arts Center, Evansdale Campus Residence Halls, Evansdale Library, and Library Computer Building.

McGrew, James C., Compiler. Genealogy of the McGrew Family of Preston County, 1909, 12 pages, Gift in 2008. A&M 3643.

Typescript transcription of 12-page genealogy and history of the McGrew family of Preston County, West Virginia compiled by James C. McGrew. The McGrews of Pennsylvania and neighboring states are descendants of Robert and Isabella McGrew who came from Tyrone County, Ireland, in 1726 or 1727. Though fragmentary, this narrative attempts a history of the branch descending from Patrick McGrew who moved from Pennsylvania to Virginia in 1786. The compiler indicates that no evidence of a link was found between Patrick McGrew and Robert and Isabella McGrew.

National Organization for Women. West Virginia Chapter. Records, 1971-1990, 2 ft. 1 in., Gift in 2008. Addendum to A&M 3247.

Records of the West Virginia Chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW). Includes correspondence, reports, newsletters, press releases, newspaper articles, broadsides, photographs, and artifacts (t-shirts, buttons, and pennant) documenting NOW's advocacy of women's rights. There are two folders of

records of the first President Letty Lincoln dating from ca. 1971-1977; and records of President Lillian Waugh dating from ca. 1976-1988. Some records and artifacts relate to the campaign to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). There is also a styrofoam boater hat worn at ERA events by Lillian Waugh in 1981 and 1982; a t-shirt labeled "Mondale Ferraro NOW" from the 1984 US Presidential election; and a video tape (motion picture) titled "Volunteering: A Reassessment" from 1997. Many records relate to activities of NOW members from Morgantown, West Virginia.

Printer's Sample Book from North Central West Virginia, 1917-1930, 4 in., Gift in 2008. A&M 3640.

This sample book illustrates the different types of material that were printed, mostly in the 1920s, for individuals, organizations, and businesses in the Shinnston, West Virginia, and Marietta, Ohio, areas. Materials include advertising cards for various businesses (including auto garages, gas stations, banks, restaurants, beauty parlors, and shoe repair), personal business cards, coupons, menus, railroad schedules and timetables, bills of lading, receipts, envelopes and letterheads, and event tickets and programs (for celebrations such as the Fourth of July and Memorial Day as well as for theater productions and school banquets). Most of the materials are undated, though several items are dated 1917, 1918, 1925, and 1930. Most items appear to have been created in the 1920s and display various typefaces, styles, images, and colored inks. It is likely that these items were printed primarily by the Banner Printing Company in Shinnston. While most pieces advertise events and places in Shinnston and Marietta, there are also items from Fairmont, Morgantown, Worthington, and other West Virginia towns.

Shaffer, Harry S. General Store in Parsons, Tucker County. Financial Records and Other Material, 1901-1949, 2 1/2 in., Acquired in 2008. A&M 3637.

Financial records and other material of the Harry S. Shaffer General Store in Parsons, Tucker County. Includes accounting records and promissory notes.

Teter, James W., Blacksmith. Account Ledger, 1872-1878, 1/2 in., Acquired in 2008. A&M 3642.

Account ledger of Blacksmith James W. Teter of Arnettsville, West Virginia, documenting customer names, services provided, and charges for services.

Tucker County Historical Records. 1913-1966, 2 1/2 in., Acquired in 2008. A&M 3638.

Includes Parsons High School material, papers of letter carrier and teacher Ford Fink, and ephemera of prominent banker and lawyer William Harman. Parsons High School

material includes commencement programs (1949, 1956, 1957), class portrait (1956-1957), pennant (undated), handbook (1948), student publication "The Echo" (1 item, 1926), football programs (2 items, 1953, 1954). Papers of Ford Fink (1913-1966 inclusive, 1946-1966 bulk) include advertisements, announcements, advertising and business cards, receipts, etc. documenting businesses and organizations in Parsons, including an announcement from the Sutton Theatre (1962); there are also photographic portraits of Ford Fink. Ephemera of William Harman (undated) includes business cards and stampers.

West Virginia University Campus Club. Archives, 1950-2007, 5 ft., Gift in 2008. Addendum to A&M 1769.

Records of the Campus Club of West Virginia University. Includes: Administrative Records, 1950-2007 (boxes 1-2, includes President's reports, treasury reports, minutes, by-laws, etc.); Scrapbooks, 1926-2006 (box 3, includes newspaper clippings, pamphlets, and brochures); Campus Club Historical Records, 1917-2000 (box 4, includes photographs, audio tapes, and other material); and WVU Dames Club Scrapbook (box 4, includes newspaper clippings).



A year-end gathering of the WVU Campus Club, May 27, 1964. Pictured left to right are: Kitty Miller, Margaret Gluck, Ginny Reynolds and Pat Stewart (seated).

Wheeling Steel Radio Program. Photographs and Other Material, 1939 and undated, 5 in., Gift in 2008. Addendum to A&M 3470.

“It’s Wheeling Steel!” was a radio program developed by John L. Grimes, advertising executive for the Wheeling Steel Corporation, that ran from 1936 to 1944 and featured only Wheeling Steel employees or members of their immediate families as performers and producers. Records from the radio show include photographs and film, two pamphlets, and one bound volume, and are largely from 1939, though some undated photographs may be from the late 1930s or early 1940s.

Wilson, Benjamin, Attorney. Letter Regarding Conditions in Richmond after Passage of Secession Ordinance, 1861, 1 item, Acquired in 2008. A&M 3626.

Letter of two pages authored on 19 April 1861 from Richmond, Virginia by Benjamin Wilson, a Harrison County attorney, describing conditions in Richmond after passage of the Ordinance of Secession by the Virginia General Assembly on 17 April. He indicates how “... almost every man and boy are in the street [and] has a gun and sword in hand. Companies are leaving every day, where to I do not know.” Benjamin Wilson was born in Harrison County, Virginia in 1825, attended law school in Staunton, Virginia, and was admitted to the bar in 1848. He served as Commonwealth attorney for Harrison County in



John Grimes (center) and executives from the Mutual Broadcasting network meet to discuss the live broadcast of “It’s Wheeling Steel” from the New York World’s Fair, June, 1939.

1852-1860, and was a member of the State constitutional convention of West Virginia in 1872. He later served in the U.S. Congress (1875 to 1883), and as Assistant Attorney General of the United States (1885-1893). He died in Clarksburg, West Virginia in 1905.

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Sheriff Taylor and Deputy Fife enjoy a laugh, see page 1.