

REYNOLDS FARM: Two tracts: Maple Road to the middle section of Kanawha Street. This is the location of the Old Brick House, still occupied by the great, great grandson of Mr. Robert Reynolds. The other section of this owner was located at the west side of the overhead Witcher bridge to 13th street. This part of the farm was sold to the Pure Oil Company in 1919, where the company built a stand-brick building to operate a salt plant. (This building is still standing today.) This operation brought a number of new families to Belle, including W. A. Borrer, J. J. Douglas, Harry Martin, Clarence Bletner and Haus A. Gugax. The Pure Oil Company was operating a large oil business on Cabin Creek, where an abundance of natural gas was used to heat the salt brine to recover the salt, so this led to the closing and dismantling of the plant and the houses that were built nearby.

During the early 1930's this site was purchased by the Borden Milk Company. This transaction seemed to be a ray of hope for the community and its people, but for reasons unknown nothing ever materialized and the land remained idle and unused for several years. Late in 1950 the land was sold and is presently the sites of the Walker Machinery Company, Belle Lumber Company and the Kroger Company.

WILLIAM JARRETT FARM: Located at Thirteenth Street to Seventh Street.

After Mr. Jarrett's death in 1920, this property was divided between his three sons and one daughter. One son, Judge Jarrett inherited the section of Thirteenth Street to Tenth Street. This was developed and sold by lot sites shortly thereafter. The remainder of this farm from Tenth to Seventh Street was purchased from the other heirs by L. C. Massey (former Kanawha County Sheriff) and developed into streets, alleys, and sold by lot sites to individual buyers.

ROMA WINKLER FARM: (Great grandson of William Dickinson II).

This farm included the land from Sixth Street to Fourth Street. In 1916, Plus R. Levi purchased this farm and immediately developed into lots 39' x 120'. In 1917, he built two houses on Fourth Street. One of these was located on the present site of the Methodist Parsonage, the other one was bought by Ira W. Brown, which today is still occupied and in good repair, the fifth oldest house still standing in the town today. By 1929 most of the lots were bought and new houses were being built in large numbers, with the aid of the FHA.

DICKINSON FARM: From Fourth Street to the middle of west Gardner, west Reynolds, west Central to the river, south, and north including the hillside.

In 1925 this property was purchased by a Mr. Hess, an official of the Charleston National Bank. He built the water plant on the river bank, just a short distance west of Fourth Street. This plant furnished water only for the homes located in this section. A short time later the plant was bought by the West Virginia Water Company, improved and enlarged to supply water service to the entire Belle area. This plant is no longer in operation as the supply now is piped from the Charleston plant to most of the area.

This section was finally sold in lots to individual buyers.

Oldest Houses and Their Locations

"Old Stone House"	1800-10
310 Stubb Drive	
The Brick House	1833
179 W. DuPont Ave.	
Hemmings Home	
424 Midland Ave.	
Gardner (small house)	
183 W. DuPont Ave.	
Ira W. Brown	1917
406 E. Fourth St.	
Mrs. Inez Holder	1927
1507 W. Riverview Dr.	
M. F. Burgess	1928
1601 W. Central Ave.	
Ward Wiseman	
Dr. W. B. Robinson	1928
Dr. Frazier	1927
D. W. Stubblefield	1927

Brown Family

Frank Brown, born in Bedford County, Virginia about 1819, coming to Kanawha, in his early youth. With whom and for reasons other than seeking work at the salt wells, none of his descendants could ascertain. It was known though that he settled in the Belle area, where he reared his family of eleven children. Three of the children died at an early age, but three girls, whose names are not known, and four boys, Steve, William, James, and John Calvin, lived in the area all their lives. Not too much is known of this early generation other than they were farmers and share croppers.

John Calvin, the youngest of the sons was born in Belle in 1858. He married Anne Laurie Stone and reared seven children, including Nettie, Bertha, Bessie, Walter, Ira W., Clarland, consisting of three acres in the hollow, known now as Hastings Drive, from Mr. Roma Winkler. On this site he built his home where he and his family lived until his death in 1921. Shortly afterwards this property was sold to Samuel Hastings, for whom the hollow was named.

Ira W. Brown was born in Belle in 1888, married Elizabeth K. Dent, also of Belle. They had several children, Ira Lee, being one of them. In 1917 Mr. Brown bought a house on Fourth Street, from Plus R. Levi, reared his family there, and lived there until his death. Ira Lee, the oldest son, married Verda Cavendish, rearing and educating six children in Belle. Two of Lee's children are residing in Belle at the present. There are several other descendants of Frank Brown residing here as well.

It would be wonderful if time and space permitted, to write about the other fine people and their descendants who have lived in the area, but that is impossible. The Brown family is the oldest permanent settlers to remain in this area. The Smithers family dates as far back, but they did not remain here permanently, as their employment resulted in moving to other areas. Many of this family's heirs have relocated in Belle and have lived here for many years, none the less.

Typical "Roaring Twenties" Events Marked Month of April in 1926

On April Fool's Day in 1926, the people at Du Pont's recently completed Belle Works weren't fooling. They were, in fact, elated. They had just obtained from the new plant's massive machinery the first few pounds of anhydrous ammonia—the lone commodity which the plant was originally designed to produce.

To the rest of the local area, the state and possibly the world, it was just another typical day in the "Roaring Twenties."

Calvin Coolidge was President of the United States, Howard M. Gore was Governor of West Virginia, William W. Wertz was Mayor of Charleston and the Town of Belle wasn't even a gleam in anyone's eye.

Prominent news stories on April 1 dealt with: the barring of 3.75 malt tonic from sale in West Virginia for fear it would be used as a drink in violation of West Virginia Prohibition Laws; the vision of an entire army mounted in "one-man" tanks promising to revolutionize war methods; "Jazz" turning Americans into "Jumping Jackals" with America vibrating at an alarming rate because of the "Charleston"; arguments in various state legislatures over modification of the Volstead Act to permit sale of light wine and beer; one of the severest storms in March history just over with new storm moving in.

Local newspapers featured ads dealing primarily with pre-Easter sales. The Diamond Shoe and Garment Co. advertised women's dresses and undies of crepe de chine, "Radium Silk," and georgette (the pre-synthetic fiber era) for prices ranging from \$12.75 to \$89.50. Men's top quality suits ranged from \$30 to \$50. Some grocery prices quoted were potatoes 5½ cents per lb., sugar at 2 lbs. for 12 cents, sliced breakfast bacon at 26 to 30 cents per lb., coffee at 54 cents per

lb. Real estate ads quoted houses at from \$5,000 to \$11,000 and a large ad urged the people to ride the streetcars to get about town. Automobile ads featured such cars as Apperson, Stevens, Hupmobile, Marmon, Chandler, Essex, Reo, Jewett, and Overland.

On the comic pages were cartoons such as "Mutt and Jeff," "Out Our Way," "Dumb Dora," "Skippy" and "Our Boarding House."

National issues were the repeal of prohibition, disarmament, payment of war debts, league of nations and world court, concern for coal prices and an anthracite strike, and the fact that the U.S. was awakening to the possibilities of aviation.



Belle baseball team of the year 1920. In this picture are standing from left to right: George Bonovich, Earl Ashley, Maintenance Millwright of the No. 2 Division; Frank Dent, Fred Keeney, (deceased), Floyd Compton, Maintenance Millwright Foreman, No. 2 Division; Bob Nelson, (deceased). Seated: Tom Lore, Brakeman in the Shipping Division; Herold Keeney and Lowery Keeney. This team played in no regular league but during the season of 1920 they won 23 games and lost one.

Woman Whose Name Given To Belle Dies

Newspaper clipping of Sept. 7, 1945

The woman for whom the town of Belle was named died Monday in Wheeling at the age of 90.



Mrs. Belle Reynolds Hill

Mrs. Belle Reynolds Hill, who was born in the upriver community Dec. 25, 1874, died at Wheeling Hospital following a short illness.

She was a small girl when her name was chosen for the town. Her father, Robert Reynolds, operated a general store there and served as postmaster. He settled there in 1862, and received his appointment as postmaster from President Grant in 1869.

Originally, the town was called Reynolds. Post office officials asked for a name change after discovering that another community in West Virginia had that name. The name of Reynolds' youngest daughter, Belle, was submitted and accepted.

Mrs. Hill's husband, James Martin Hill, served as lockmaster of Lock 12 at Warwood, near Wheeling. He died in 1927. Their son, James Reynolds Hill, succeeded him as lockmaster and retired last year. Mrs. Hill had made her home with her son for many years.

Surviving besides the son: daughter, Mrs. Annabelle Thompson of Wheeling; three grandsons; three great-grandchildren; nieces and nephews.

The body is at Bodey Funeral Home in Wheeling where service will be conducted Thursday at 2 p.m. with the Rev. John Q. Geiger officiating. He is the pastor of Warwood Methodist Church where she was a member. Burial will be in Greenwood Cemetery in Wheeling.

Industry

During the development of the Kanawha Valley, Belle was originally a stage coach stop between the colony of Virginia and Salines (Malden). Wagons were used to transport the salt from Malden to the eastern communities of Virginia and other parts of the United States. The stop was located at the general store, post office and saloon operated by Mr. Robert Reynolds. Stop Ten house was located in west Belle above 17th Street where Route 60 is now located.

Little changes were noted in the small community until the beginning of World War I. In 1917 a building was constructed by the Charleston Steel Company, on land, consisting of ten acres, given free of charge by Plus Noyes Rand Levi, to build the first factory east of Charleston in the valley. This started the ball rolling for home sites for the workers and gradually, Belle became a town. Some of the early settlers were the Smithers, Coon, Fout, Slacks, Ashley's, Keeneys, Nelsons, Comptons, Browns, Jarretts, Hemmings, Gardners, Salmons, Kerseys, Kuhn, Quinn, Schnell, Vickers, Dents and Walkers. They gave Belle its beginning and many of them are still living in the area today.

At this time coal mining was also a principal industry, with a mine located a half mile up Simmons Creek. Later the Charleston Steel Company sold out to the government during World War I when construction of a mustard gas plant began. When the armistice came, the construction ended. The plant was about two-thirds completed.

The government sold the Mustard Gas Plant to H. C. Ogden, the West Virginia newspaper magnate from Wheeling. His son-in-law, D. W. Stubblefield, came to Belle in 1919, completed the construction of the Belle Alkali Plant. The company is now Diamond Shamrock Chemical Company.



D. W. Stubblefield

One of Kanawha Valley's oldest industries also is a relative newcomer to the area—at least in terms of its company name. Diamond Alkali Co., of Belle, is a nationwide producer of "Chemicals You Live By." But its predecessor, Belle Alkali Co., was one of the first industries established in the valley to turn salt brines into chemicals.

Diamond's Belle plant is situated on a 20-acre tract at Belle, Kanawha County.

The company also has land holdings, 2,500 acres, in the vicinity of Eleanor, Putnam County, although no industrial operations are performed there. At its Belle plant, Diamond produces organic chemicals and hydrochloric acid from the basic raw materials chlorine and natural gas. The organic chemicals produced include methyl chloride, methylene chloride, chloroform and carbon tetrachloride. These products have application in industry varying from refrigerants, organic synthesis, and rocket fuel preparation to paint stripper formulations, de-greasing operations, industrial cleaning agents, and solvents.

The hydrochloric acid is used in pickling operations, acidizing wells, and cleaning industrial equipment. Although the market for those commodities is regional rather than local, Diamond's policy is to become an integral part of the life and economy of the communities in which the Company's operations are performed. To this end the Company endorses, and participates in, all worthwhile endeavors of the community, contributing in many ways to the political, social and economic welfare of the Kanawha Valley.

Although Diamond Alkali Co. itself is relatively a newcomer to the Kanawha Valley, the Belle plant is one of the older industrial organizations in this area. Started in 1919 by D. W. Stubblefield of Charleston and the H. C. Ogden interests of Wheeling, the plant was founded as the Belle Alkali Co., one of the valley's first producers of liquid chlorine, caustic soda and ammonia.

In 1933 the current process of chlorination of methane was started as a by-products division under the guidance of C. E. Perkins of Charleston. This process became the plant's principal operation in 1945 when the chlorine-caustic soda process was discontinued.

In 1952, through direct purchase of the stock of the Belle Alkali Co., the facility was acquired by Diamond Alkali Co., as a means of diversifying its product line. Assuming operational control in June, 1953, and embarking upon a modernization and rehabilitation program, Diamond has added new equipment and improved the process. Sixty-two persons are employed at Diamond's Belle plant. Eight are retired. All with the exception of one, live in West Virginia and contribute to the economic welfare of the state through purchase of their needs from West Virginia merchants.

Diamond's share in the economic growth of West Virginia can best be realized through consideration of a brief summary of some of its major operating expenses: annual wages and salaries, \$450,000; annual local spending including new materials and supplies, utilities and taxes, \$315,400; annual rail and truck shipments, \$400,230. These expenditures, plus numerous others not included, contribute to the state economy.

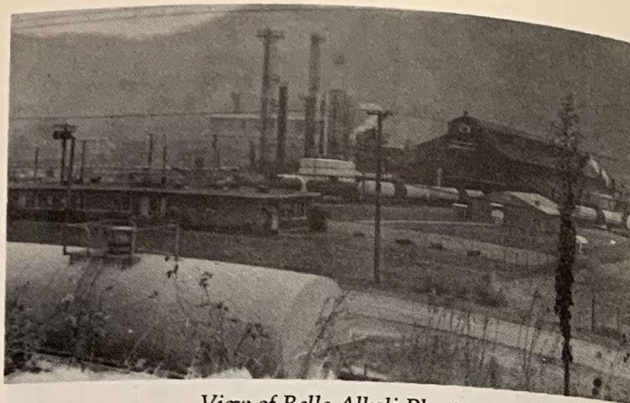
Strong emphasis is placed on operational safety at Diamond's Belle plant. The facility is currently experiencing its four consecutive year without a disabling injury. Company scholarships for deserving students are available, and Diamond makes regular contributions to education through local institutions of higher learning.

Diamond's Belle plant also participates in the local chambers of commerce, the West Virginia Safety Council, engaging in emergency and disaster planning collaborating with industry and the state in the abatement and control of air and water pollution, and working with state conservation officials on matters pertaining to soil erosion and stream stocking.

West Virginia's first century has been a time of challenges and achievements, which have been shared by the people of the state and the industries in which they work.

The Du Pont Company's first plant in West Virginia, the Belle Works, was built in 1925 to answer one of these challenges—America's need for its own source of basic nitrogen compounds for military security and industrial development.

West Virginia was chosen for the site of the Belle operation because of the state's abundant coal resources provided an economic basis for the synthesis of ammonia. With the construction of the first Belle facilities, America began to tap its own resources of air, water, and coal, to convert atmospheric nitrogen into commercially usable form.



View of Belle Alkali Plant

In World War II, the Belle Works proved its value to the nation when practically all of its products and large numbers of its younger personnel went to war. Many honors were won by Belle Works employees in the armed services and the realm of wartime production.

When Peace Returned

As the nation's ammonia industry has converted from coal to natural gas, the Belle Works has kept modernizing to stay competitive. Diversification of end products, made from Belle's basic output of ammonia, has helped maintain the plant's economic security and its contribution to the community, the state, and to American industry.

Serving the Nation

On the nation's farms, crops and livestock are nourished by Belle urea in the form of fertilizer and feed. Belle products aid in the manufacture of steel, the refining of oil, the production of explosives, purification of water, tanning of leather, operation of automobiles, and in the manufacture of plastics, paper, man-made fibers, pharmaceuticals, and other chemical specialties.

Automotive Anti-Freezes: Belle was the first producer of synthetic methanol, and is the headquarters for "Zerone" and "Zerex" anti-freezes.

Other Du Pont products from West Virginia plants keep bread fresh, make clothing resistant to wrinkles, and serve as the "building blocks" in hundreds of products for almost every major industry.

Fertilizers: In the depths of depression, Belle became the first commercial producer of urea in the United States.

Nylon: In 1939 Belle became the first producer of nylon raw materials, and continues as a major supplier for this revolutionary product.

Plastics: Shortly before World War II, Belle became the first plant to produce polyethylene in the United States, supplying much of this material to the Armed Forces.



Belle Works in 1926, looking east. This was original plant.

History of Du Pont's Belle Works

DuPont in 1976

With economic recovery in the wings, DuPont's Belle plant looks forward to a year of solid production gains in 1976, while at the same time it looks back at 50 years of progress.

The plant, which lays claim to a series of important "firsts" in American industry, expects 1976 to be a year of new construction, some additional hiring, an acceleration of its training programs and a continuing battle against rapidly escalating investment and operating costs according to Plant Manager Fred Winterkamp.

It plans to mark its 50th anniversary with a number of special events, highlighted by plant visitations from May 12 to 15 for thousands of employees, pensioners and their families and invited guests.

"Belle is geared to the future, but it is also rich in history," Winterkamp said. He noted that in 1926, Belle became the first chemical plant in the U.S. to commercially produce synthetic ammonia by a new European process for deriving nitrogen from the air. Ammonia is still an important Belle product, but there have been many changes in the method of manufacture. Today's single-line, 1,000 ton-a-day plant has 40 times the capacity of the original unit.

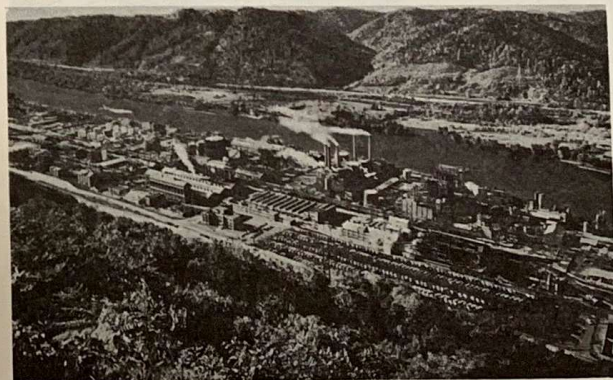
During the past half-century, ammonia has been joined by a variety of newer products, many of which were first manufactured at Belle. They are produced by more than 1,500 employees at the big chemical complex, which covers more than 105 acres. The annual payroll at the plant is nearly \$20 million.

He said Belle has remained viable because the company has introduced a series of new products during the years, which are sold to a variety of industries. Some of the industries enjoyed strong business during the economic slump, compensating for others which experienced slowdowns.

"Despite these efforts, it is an uphill battle to keep a 50-year-old plant competitive, and we lost some products as they became obsolete," he said. In other cases, we simply cannot keep pace with changing technology for making major products, as happened in the early 1970s when the production of nylon intermediates was shifted from Belle to our newer facilities in Texas, where the economics are much better."

Solving energy and environmental problems is a particularly difficult problem for older plants such as Belle, Winterkamp explained.

One of the top priorities for 1976 will be to continue moving ahead with a major construction program to install additional environmental control facilities. These facilities will cost up to \$20 million and are expected to be placed in operation by mid-1977.



DuPont complex in 1976

Court Threatens Action Against DuPont Pickets

From Charleston Daily Mail, July 15, 1948

Special Judge William T. O'Farrell of Kanawha circuit court threatened Thursday to exercise "the extraordinary powers" of his office against the United Mine Workers union unless the union corrected the dangerous situation prevailing at the Belle plant of the DuPont company and abided strictly by an injunction limiting picketing activities.

At least six, and perhaps more, persons had been injured at the plant in clashes during the past 24 hours as hundreds of miners left the pits to help their fellow union members on the picket lines at the strike-bound plant.

Situation Dangerous

Kanawha County Sheriff D. Earl Brawley, who had four deputies on duty at the DuPont plant, flatly admitted that he could not cope with the emergency.

Judge O'Farrell issued the restraining order injunction Wednesday but it had been roundly ignored and the company went into court again Thursday asking compliance.

Judge O'Farrell, in a sharp statement directed at Hillis Townsend, counsel for the UMW union, said that the court expected compliance "from this time forth."

Mr. Townsend said he had conferred with Leon Yablonski and other officials of District 50 and had been assured that immediate compliance could be expected.

"This court will see to it that citizens have a right to go to and from work unmolested," Judge O'Farrell said.

Injunction Ignored

Judge O'Farrell added that it is common knowledge in the city and the county that the injunction had been ignored.

"This court has been very temperate and charitably assumes that the pickets did not know of the injunction," the judge said.

The court warned that "extra-ordinary powers may be used" in the injunction and said that such powers would be employed if the situation again threatened.

One young man was injured at the strike scene shortly after midnight Thursday, a girl clerk was cut by flying glass as she started in the main gate about 7:30 a. m. and some time later four men were injured when an automobile struck them as it entered the plant.

Feeding Problem Proves Challenge

Feeding 2,500 workers stranded inside the huge DuPont plant at Belle has become a major problem for officials of the company, the Daily Mail learned Thursday.

The workers have expressed a desire to stay inside the plant and keep it in operation, and the company daily trucks in the food for them.

"We plan to stay in here and keep things going till hell freezes over if necessary," one worker said.

Food trucks are escorted through the picketed gates by state troopers and deputy sheriffs.

A company spokesman said that the workers "sleep anywhere they can find a place to lie down."

The plant, one of the largest chemical installations of its type in the world, is without facilities for such emergencies and makeshift arrangements have been relied on to meet the situation as it has arisen.

The announcement that 2,500 employees are inside was the first authoritative figure on how the strike has affected the plant. Normally, 4,800 persons are employed there.

Editorial

Law-abiding citizens of West Virginia have been shocked by the violence that has marked the picketing efforts of union representatives at the Belle plant of E. I. DuPont de Nemours and Co. since Tuesday. It is up to the law enforcement authorities to see that it is stopped.

The stoning and clubbing of cars, the deliberate wounding of plant employes who wanted to work, the flagrant violation of the rights of men and women to work or not work, as they see fit, have prompted these questions in the minds of those who see the situation strictly from the standpoint of the principles involved, not its issues:

Why should such violence against free and loyal Americans be permitted to continue? Must we, as a state, sit idly by while our citizens are set upon by hundreds of persons wielding clubs and stones? Is it not such abuses of the rights of individuals against which we have fought in two world wars? Haven't Americans shed enough blood on foreign battlefields without having to bleed more from attacks suffered right here on the traditionally free soil of their homeland?

The Charleston Gazette long has been a friend of organized labor. It has taken labor's side repeatedly when it has been the object of

Three Things

I know three things must always be
To keep a nation strong and free.
One is a hearthstone bright and dear,
With busy, happy loved ones near.
One is a ready heart and hand
To love, and serve, and keep the land.
One is a worn and beaten way
To where the people go to pray.
So long as these are kept alive,
Nation and people will survive.
God keep them always, everywhere—
The home, the heart, the place of prayer.

Author Unknown

A Brief History of the Mt. Juliet United Methodist Church Centennial 1873—1934—1973

The earliest community meeting place dates back to 1840. From 1840 to 1870 the only place to worship was called the "Kanawha Baptist Church" and was located in "Meeting House Hollow" or what is now known as Maple Drive, north of the New York Central Depot. In 1870 this church was discontinued and the building was used for a corn crib. Records are not available as to what took place during the next few years, but record books kept by the Mt. Juliet Methodist Church from 1873 while services were held in the school house on Simmons Creek show that the services and Sunday School were apparently controlled by the Methodist people. The church had been named Mt. Juliet in recognition of the mountains around it and for Juliet Smithers, daughter of David Smithers. The full name was the Mt. Juliet Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Malden and Brownstown (Marmet) Charge.

In 1920, the people of Belle decided to erect a building in which to hold worship services. This was built west of the Belle Alkali Plant on Lot Number 71, Section 1, Town of Belle, conveyed to the church by Plus R. Levi and Isabelle Levi. The first services were held in this church at Christmas, 1920. On November 19, 1922, this building was dedicated as the Judson Baptist Church. The Methodists held services on Sunday morning each month.

In 1933, Rev. R. M. McClain was pastor of the Cedar Grove Circuit, which included Belle, Cedar Grove, Dickinson Glasgow and Levi. Rev. McClain realized that the Belle Methodists needed to organize a Sunday School so he asked interested persons to meet. Four persons responded. They were Mr. and Mrs. Youell Nelson, Ira Fulks and Wade Armentrout. With more publicity, thirty-five people attended the second meeting and a Sunday School was organized. Youell Nelson served as the first Sunday School Superintendent from 1933 to 1942. The meeting place was in the south end of the Belle Super Market on Ninth Street.

On March 25, 1933, the Woman's Missionary Society purchased lots Nos. 344 and 345, Section 2, Belle, from Martha F. Backus. In 1934, a 30 by 40 foot frame building was erected on the back of these lots to be used temporarily until we could afford a better building. Youell Nelson hired one carpenter, B. K. Cavendish, who was paid one dollar a day and all other labor was donated. This church building was dedicated November 25, 1934. Rev. McClain continued as pastor of this church until his death in 1936.

Under the pastorate of Rev. J. R. Withrow in 1938, the frame building was moved from the back of the lots to the front over a basement, which was used for classrooms. Classrooms were also added to the down river side of the building. In 1939, the building program was completed under the pastorate of Rev. C. C. Jarvis. Members of the Building Committee were W. A. Borrer, F. D. Lowther, Youell Nelson and W. H. Armentrout. This expansion cost \$3,000.00.

On April 30, 1941, Lot Number 343, Section 2, Belle, was purchased from Mrs. Ortle Mansour. The first parsonage was erected on this lot under the pastorate of Rev. C. C. Jarvis. The parsonage committee was Lee Brown, Chairman; O. U. Moore and H. C. Hamrick. The Woman's Missionary Society was the largest single contributor. The total cost of the parsonage was \$2,558.55.

In 1944 the Belle Church became a station with a full time pastor, Rev. M. C. Gainer. Since 1939 Belle had been on a circuit with

Dickinson and Levi.

On August 20, 1947, Lots No. 312 and 313, Section 2, Belle, were purchased from N. A. Drebert and J. F. Drebert for \$1,500.00. Rev. R. D. Rexrode was pastor when the transaction began but it was completed under the pastorate of Rev. O. H. Logan.

In 1950, April 23rd to 28th, "A Challenging Financial Campaign" under the direction of Rev. R. Moorman Parker, Executive Secretary of the Board of Missions and Church Extension of the West Virginia Conference of the Methodist Church, was held to raise \$15,000.00 for an Educational Building. \$27,000.00 was pledged and \$24,769.41 was collected. The Campaign Organization Executive Committee were Lee Brown, General Chairman, Ted R. Lee, Associate Chairman, Mrs. Harry Burdette, Secretary, Mrs. Clarence Mauzy, President of W.S.C.S., Mrs. ROse Magaw, Honorary Chairman (oldest member living), O. H. Logan, the Pastor, and C. U. Karnes, Building Fund Treasurer. The Building Committee members were Ronald Reid, Charles Reitz, O. U. Moore, Lee Brown, Ted Lee, Lee Holliday, Harry Burdette, Joe Burdette, Hoyt Hunter, Kenneth Barker, Huling Hamrick, J. B. Edwards and C. U. Karnes. In June, 1952 the Educational Building was first used for the Vacation Bible School. It was completed in October, 1952.



Picture of Church of 1939

In 1953, June 23rd to 26th, a second Financial Campaign was launched to underwrite a new sanctuary under the direction of Rev. Moorman Parker and pastor, Rev. Foster Jones, the goal was "\$40,000.00 in Four Days". The total cash and pledges raised was \$37,000.00, \$26,194.00 was collected. The Executive Committee was R. O. Burford, General Chairman, Ernest Norris, Associate Chairman, Mrs. R. O. Burford, Secretary, Mrs. Edward Day, President of the W.S.C.S., Lee Brown, Member and C. U. Karnes, Building Fund Treasurer. The W.S.C.S. made the largest pledge which was \$1,500.00.

On September 24, 1954, a contract was made by the Board of Trustees and Albert F. Tucker, Architect, for a new church.

In January, 1955, the first frame church building was sold to the highest bidder, O. U. Moore, for \$200.00.

On April 30, 1955, ground was broken for the basement of the new sanctuary under the pastorate of Rev. Kenneth Ball. The Building Committee were Kenneth Barker, Chairman, W. A. Borrer, Vice-Chairman, Charles Sparacino, Secretary, C. U. Karnes, Treasurer, Richard Fuller, Building Superintendent and members: R. O. Burford, Joe Ward, James Chaplain, Delmar Kent, Ernest Perry, Ted Lee, Lee Brown, Ernest Norris, Joe Burdette and F. D. Lowther.

On August 14, 1955, at 2:00 p.m., dedication services were held with Bishop Lloyd Wicke as the speaker for the laying of the cornerstone.

In 1956 the second campaign concluded with \$26,194 collected. The Third Building Campaign "Finish the Job", was launched May 21st to the 25th, 1956, under the direction of Rev. Moorman Parker and pastor, Rev. Kenneth Ball. The Executive Committee members were: James Chaplain, General Chairman, Frank Worster, Associate Chairman, C. U. Karnes, Building Fund Treasurer, Mrs. Mary Jane Ball, Secretary, Mrs. Ruth Brown, President of the W.S.C.S., and members, Lee Brown and Ernest Norris. The goal was \$45,000.00. \$35,045.00 was pledged and \$24,277.10 was collected. Also a gift of \$1,500.00 was given by the A. J. Humphrey's Fund and \$3,000.00

was given by the W. Va. Conference. Sunday, May 19, 1957, a consecration service was held in the new sanctuary.

On January 19th to 22nd, 1959, Building Campaign Number Four was launched under the direction of Rev. Moorman Parker and pastor, Rev. Kenneth Ball. The Goal was \$35,000.00. \$24,007.50 was collected. The Executive Committee members were: William H. Gollihue, General Chairman, John Jarrett, Jr., Associate Chairman, C. U. Karnes, Building Fund Treasurer, Mrs. Lee Brown, Secretary, Mrs. C. U. Karnes, President of the W. S. C. S., and members Estle Hoffman and Ted Lee.

In order to complete the new sanctuary, \$35,000.00 was borrowed from the Kanawha Valley Bank and by October, 1961, most of the Building Fund pledges had been paid in full and funds were not available to make loan payments. Indebtedness was still \$3,000.00. Rev. L. G. Clarke suggested to the Finance Committee to contact church members and ask for a gift of \$100 or less to pay off the church debt. This was agreeable and the members helped make the contacts. This effort was called "Operation Success." On December 22, 1961, the debt was paid in full with a small reserve in the Building Fund Treasury.

August 18, 1962, Lots Nos. 309, 310, 311 were purchased for \$13,200.00. A loan was made from the Kanawha Valley Bank to pay for them. This transaction was under the pastorate of Rev. Charles Scraggs.

Under the pastorate of Rev. Charles Ambrose on October 13, 1963, The District Superintendent, Lacy Burns, gave his permission to proceed with plans to build a new parsonage. On January 11, 1965, at an Official Board Meeting the New Parsonage Committee was appointed. It consisted of C. U. Karnes, Chairman, Estle Hoffman, Clyde Gray, Frank Lowther, Earl Powers, Peggy Clarke, Genevieve Sparacino, Kenneth Barker, Rev. Ambrose and Joe Marshall, Ex-officio, Chairman of the Official Board. In 1967 the new parsonage was erected on the three lots adjoining the parking lot. \$30,000.00 was borrowed from the Kanawha Valley Bank to pay for the parsonage. Pledges were made by individuals to make the \$380.00 monthly loan payments. Rev. and Mrs. Charles Ambrose were the first to occupy the new parsonage.

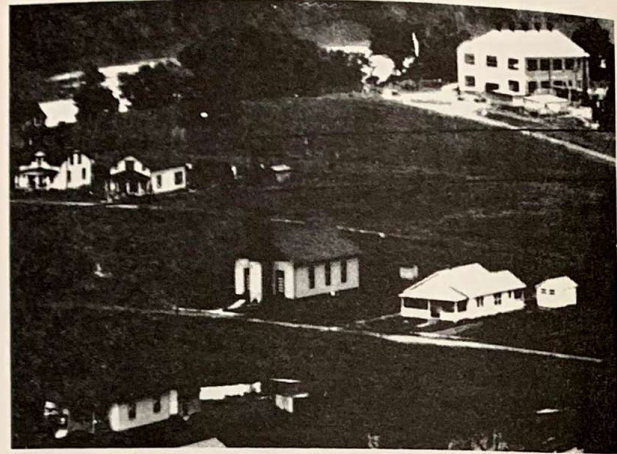
Our church has been served by 29 or more faithful pastors and hundreds of loyal laymen. We give thanks to God for blessing our church. The faith of the people called Methodists has extended the Christian gospel from 1873 to 1973. Those who have had the opportunity of seeing God's Kingdom grow. With God's blessings and guidance we look to the future with great hope and faith that our church will continue to be a great blessing to those who worship in Mt. Juliet.

Pastors Who Served the Church

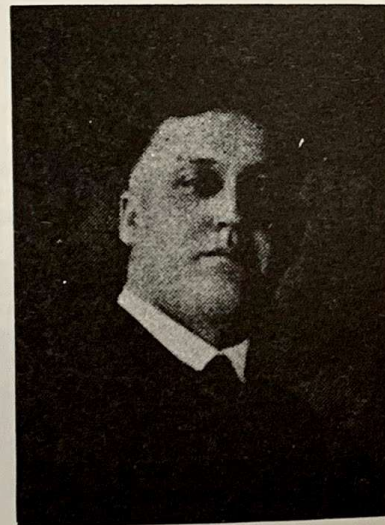
Sam Black	T. J. Hopson	C. C. Perkins
John E. Brown	W. M. Hiner	C. W. Shearer
Charles F. Crooks	A. A. Hollister	E. C. Switzer
McClung	J. M. Louck	C. P. Smith
Charles Dowell	John Martin	C. C. Thompson
Jack Fontaine	Arthur McLean	Arthur S. Thorn
Adam Givens	C. W. O'Dell	P. G. Walker
W. M. Givens	J. M. Peters	B. A. Winn
R. M. McClain	1930-36	F. L. Jones
J. R. Withrow	1936-39	Kenneth B. Ball
C. C. Jarvis	1939-42	Charles Scraggs
M. C. Gainer	1942-45	Charles Ambrose
W. A. Hopson	1945-46	Tom Dunlap
S. D. Rexrode	1946-47	Clyde Beard
O. H. Logan	1947-51	Richard
Carpenter	1973-Present	



The Judson Baptist Church Belle, West Virginia Fiftieth Anniversary 1921-1971



First Church Building, 1921-1936
Located at site of DuPont Plant



The Rev. B. F. Howell
First Pastor

As a prelude to the formation of a Baptist Church in the community of Belle, a Sunday School Church School was organized on the last Sunday of March, 1916, in the old school house on Simmons Creek, where it continued meeting until formal organization as a church. Along with Ira Hemmings, C. S. Ashley led in formation of this Sunday School and served as Superintendent. Assistant Superintendent was Clifford Slack and Marie Slack served as Secretary.

On Sunday, May 2, 1920, as they strolled home from Sunday School, C. S. Ashley and Ira Hemmings decided the time had come for formation of a Baptist Church, and called a meeting of interested persons for Wednesday, May 5, 1920. Business was conducted on the porch of the J. K. Nelson home, with Rev. W. H. Kersey presiding, and a Building Committee was elected as follows: J. K. Nelson, George W. Tittle, Reuben Ashley, C. S. Ashley, and Ira Hemmings. C. S. Ashley was appointed Chairman of the Building Committee. The founders of the new church had \$42.00 in funds and much faith as they began construction on Lot No. 71, Section I, Town of Belle,

"conveyed" to the church by Plus R. Levi and Isabelle Levi.

Chairs were purchased from an excursion boat and were used until replaced by pews at a cost of \$651.23.

Christmas Services were held in the new church in 1920.

The first Revival Services were held by Rev. B. F. Howell and Rev. S. J. Thomas from January 4 to January 19, 1921. On the latter date the Organizational Meeting of the church was held. First deacons were Stanton Ashley, Reuben Ashley, L. G. Keeney, and George Tittle. Trustees were C. S. Ashley, J. K. Nelson, and W. H. Kersey, with Frank Dent and J. O. Vickers being added later.

Charter members were: C. S. Ashley, Mrs. C. S. Ashley, Earl Ashley, Floran Ashley, Reuben Ashley, Mrs. Ada Ashley, Willard Ashley, Walter Ashley, Darlene Ashley, W. R. Brown, Mrs. James Coon, Emmitt Coon, Frank Dent, Mrs. Frank Dent, Ira Hemmings, Mildred Hemmings, Thelma Hemmings, Mrs. Ettie Jarrett, James Jarrett, Harold Keeney, Mildred Keeney, Wilmot Keeney, Lonnie Keeney, Virginia Keeney, Harry Kersey, Mrs. John Kuhn, Mrs. R. B. Nelson, George Quinn, C. E. Schnell, Mrs. C. E. Schnell, J. C. Slack, Mrs. J. C. Slack, Mrs. Belle Slack, Miriam Slack, Marie Slack, George W. Tittle, Mrs. G. W. Tittle, Mrs. J. O. Vickers, Robert Walker, and Mrs. Robert Walker.

The Council of Recognition of sister churches on February 25, 1921, confirmed the organization of the church with representatives from Witcher Creek, Naoma, Brownstown (Marmet), Kanawha City, Malden, and East Bank Baptist Churches.

The church was first placed on record legally as The Missionary Baptist Church, but acquired the name Judson from the great Andoniram Judson at the suggestion of C. E. Schnell.

Dedication Services were held November 19, 1922. The morning message was brought by Rev. Pat Withrow, and at 2:00 p.m. Rev. J. F. Frame delivered the Dedicatory Address. In good Baptist tradition the morning service was followed by "dinner on the grounds."

In 1933 classrooms and a kitchen were added to the back of the church to accommodate a growing congregation.

Due to expansion of the DuPont Plant, the church agreed March 4, 1935, to sell the church property for \$800.00, retaining the right to all furnishings and the bell. Also included was the privilege to salvage lumber and materials for use in the new structure. DuPont donated an additional \$3200.00 toward purchase of three lots in the Massey Addition. Later one and one half lots were purchased North of this property for \$600.00.

Meeting August 29, 1935, the membership approved construction of the second church building at an expenditure of \$9,500.00. It was decided to borrow \$5,000.00 from the American Baptist Convention. L. G. Keeney was named Building Chairman, and James A. Campbell was in charge of construction. Most of the work was done by volunteers. Services were held in the Presbyterian Church during construction.

Dedication Services for the new church were held Easter Sunday, 1937. A fund drive was held April 5, 1942, indebtedness of \$2,109.62 was paid in full, and the note was burned on Mother's Day, May 10, 1942.

An Education Building was construction, again largely with volunteer labor, and dedicated on Easter Sunday, 1949. The church immediately launched into the building of a parsonage, begun in August and completed in December, 1949. The Women's Circles held their Christmas Party in the new parsonage this year.

Later the parsonage was moved to the present location on Ninth Street in order to provide space for the sanctuary which was completed in October, 1963. The former sanctuary was converted into a Recreation Center. Expansion of physical facilities has made possible a Church Library, modern Nursery and Children's Area, and a Pastor's Study adjacent to the Church Office.

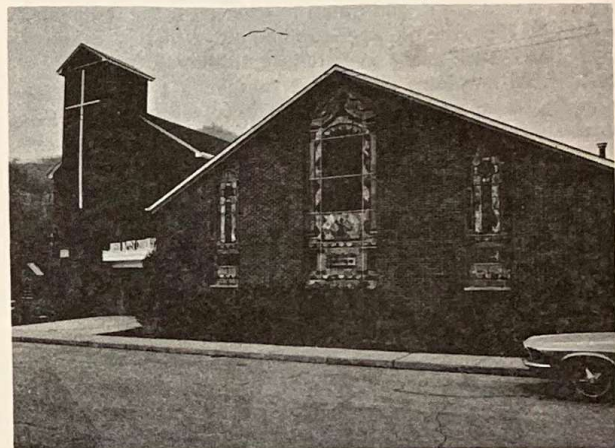
Pastors who have served Judson Baptist Church are the Reverends B. F. Howell, J. E. Hartman, J. C. Jordon, W. H. Kersey, J. T. Stephens, E. W. Webster, C. L. West, F. A. Robertson, W. B. Robertson, W. B. Miller, W. I. Barkley, G. R. Pauley, R. C. Thornbury, J. D. Hodges, and William Millar.

We give thanks to God for richly blessing our Church over a period of more than a half century, and with His help look forward to many years of ministry in a community which is dear to all of us.

Fiftieth Anniversary Committee members: Walter J. Ashley, Chairman, Pastor William Millar, Willard Ashley, John Butler, Hector Frame, Mildred Gillespie, C. B. Hall, Delores Helvy, James Herald, L. G. Keeney, Debbi Lewis, Lorena McDaniels, A. C. Neil, Louise Semesco (Deceased March 8, 1971) and C. D. Smithers.



*Second Church Building, 1937-1963
Present Activities Building*



*The Rev. William Millar
Present Pastor*

Belle Church of Christ

The Belle Church of Christ had its beginning on Sunday morning May 16, 1937, when twelve people assembled at the Bartlett and Wynn Funeral Chapel with Marion A. Smith, acting minister.

On June 17, 1937, the group purchased two lots on the corner of Kanawha Street and Central Avenue as a site for a meeting house. In May 1938 they purchased a house from Dupont Company, dismantled it and used the material to erect their first meeting house. This was completed by July of that year and services began.

With the increase of membership, in the spring of 1940 two rooms and a Baptistry were added. Mr. Smith continued to serve as the part time minister until 1945 when R. E. Peden was called as the first full time minister. By the year of 1952 the membership had grown considerably and the need for larger facilities was again needed. The church members agreed to begin a building program. A basement, six class rooms and a new auditorium was the result of this endeavor and by December 29, 1959 this was completed for service.

During the year of 1960, the old meeting house was remodeled and converted into a residence for the ministers. Again by 1968, the membership had out-grown its facilities and plans were made to purchase additional property. A residential dwelling beside the minister's residence was bought, transferring the minister to this dwelling and the old house was converted to an activities building.

The Church of Christ ministers to their own church members, contributes to the support of two children's homes, radio and TV programs, foreign missionary work, missionary work in U. S. A. and contributes to the various charitable works.

The church organization is served by elders and deacons.

Deacons

Jess Lowry
Allen Smith
John Wedner
Vernon Ward
Charles Orr
Carroll Selbe
Ronald Smith

Elders

H. T. Harrah
H. L. Peck
John D. Sherwood
(deceased) 1976

Charter Members

Mr. and Mrs. Russell Chambers
Mr. and Mrs. Elijah Peck
Mr. and Mrs. Marion Smith
Mrs. Pearl Douglass
Masel Ward
Lonnie Peck
Hubert Peck
H. C. Sprinkle

Ministers

R. E. Peden
W. C. Sawyer
Samuel H. Austin
Raymond Muncy
Bill H. Hummel
John Fant
Charley Garner
William Epler
Gene D. Cook
Richard Jones
Lyonald Marston
Charles McDonald
(current)



Belle Church of Christ

History of St. John's Catholic Church

There were few Catholics in Belle before 1940. At that time a Sunday School Class was started by, Mr. George Casey, Miss Katherine McCann and Miss Crumb all of Kanawha City. This class of seven met at the home of Mrs. Edith Sizer a charter member.

Later this same year, Mass was said for the first time in Belle. The red brick Post Office Building across from the Gardner home was used for a church. This building was owned by Mrs. Mary Gardner (now deceased) who allowed us to use it rent free. Crude, rough benches and three level boards elevated a few feet above the floor served as an altar. Mrs. Margaret Gardner and her husband, Charles, kept the church clean and warm for Mass on Sundays.

Father Lawrence Gallagher, pastor of St. Agnes Church in Kanawha City was in charge of the Belle Mission. He was assisted by Father John Sweeney.

Every Sunday there seemed to be more people attending Mass until soon the building was too small. All agreed that a larger place was needed, but the only money available was a few dollars raised from sales and parties. The parishioners felt they could never raise enough money to buy a church.

In 1942, The Most Reverend John J. Swint, Bishop of Wheeling, learned of our crowded condition. He came to our aid by purchasing a dwelling on Eleventh Street, later to be known as the St. John's Chapel. He gave this building to the parish to be converted at the parish expense.

Members spent many hours working and after months the Chapel which seated sixty was finished. There were also three class rooms in the building.

At this time, Father T. J. Grandolski replaced Father John Sweeney at St. Agnes, Father Grandolski then assisted Father Gallagher at Belle.

The parish felt secure now, but after a few years the Chapel and also the side room were filled for Sunday Mass. So plans had to be made for enlargement. The Most Reverend Bishop Swint came to our aid the second time, by purchasing the old Nazarene Church on Tenth Street in May 1951. Again the parish assumed the responsibility of financing the renovation. Both men and women began the work at once. Very little labor was hired. Many of the necessary tools and materials were donated. At the same time the rectory on the rear of the property was made ready for occupancy.

Father T. J. Grandolski, who had been our assistant during this work read the first Mass in the new building on August 15, 1951. The Sanctuary, Stations of the Cross, Marble Altar and the Communion Rail was a gift from Sacred Heart Church in Charleston. Our church now had a seating capacity of about 150.

On Sunday May 25, 1952, St. John's Catholic Church was dedicated by the Most Reverend John J. Swint assisted by, Father T. J. Grandolski. At this time we were promised a pastor, thus making us an independent parish.

Soon Father Grandolski was transferred to Wheeling and Father Albin Martis was our next assistant. He was here only a short time because St. John's had now become a parish and Father Paul Fahey was assigned to be our first resident pastor.

While Father Fahey was with us, our church was enlarged. In 1956 a beautiful convent was built and sisters, Mission Helpers of The Sacred Heart, came to help with our parish work.

Between 1961 and 1975 our pastors were, Father Henry Hall, Father Benedict Mahon and Father Stephen Smincak.

At various times additional property has been purchased so that in the future a church rectory, C. C. D. accommodations and social facilities can be built.

Father Albin Martis returned to Belle in December 1975

and is our pastor at the present time.

Charter Members
J. T. Brannon
Anna Rutroff

Margaret Gardner
Grace Minnix
Mrs. Edith Sizer



History of New Life Temple

On Sunday September 14, 1969 a group of fifty people met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe Slusher on West River-view Drive for their first worship service, separating from another church with the feeling and guidance of the Lord that a new work was needed. The Reverend Jim Hodges was asked to serve as their pastor. The name chosen was, the Full Gospel Baptist Church.

By September 17, 1969 the group rented the old Belle YMCA building to use as a sanctuary. In 1971 the building was purchased, remodeled and completed by November. At this time the name of the church was changed to New Life Temple.

Reverend Hodges remained as the pastor until February 1975, at which time he received a call to go to Texas. The Reverend Jan Hinnen, a native of Holland was called as pastor beginning in June 1975 and is presently serving.



History of Belle Church of the Nazarene

Early in August 1932, Reverend Earl Hissom, J. and Reverend S. M. Pittman erected a tent and began a revival in

the community of Belle, West Virginia. After three successful weeks of a soul saving campaign, Dr. Wells, Superintendent of the Kentucky West Virginia District of the Nazarene Churches came to the area and organized a church. Aiding Dr. Wells with this endeavor were these charter members, Mr. and Mrs. L. B. McAllen, Audrey McAllen, Von Deitrick, Mrs. Kate Jarrett, Mrs. Maude Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Ira Frame, Mrs. Maude Kuhn, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Lawson, Mr. and Mrs. George Loury, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Beasley, Edward and Mrs. Mary Cline.

Under the leadership of Reverend Earl G. Hissom, Jr. the group conducted worship services in a rented building. Sometime later property was purchased on 10th Street and a block building was constructed and used until 1949.

In 1946, Reverend H. Harvey Hendershot was called to be the pastor. During his pastorate the church acquired property on 9th Street and a large modern brick sanctuary and adjoining parsonage was constructed and presently still being used.

As the church grew the need became evident that more facilities were needed. During the ministry of Reverend John Lawwill Jr., 1954-1966, a modern brick educational unit was built and completed for use in 1963.

Pastoral Roll

Rev. Earl G. Hissom, Jr.	1932-33
Rev. O. Brown	
Rev. Nelson G. Mink	
Rev. M. E. Turner	
Rev. Ernest Gold	
Rev. H. Harvey Hendershot	1946-52
Rev. Floyd Smith	1952-54
Rev. John W. Lawwill, Jr.	1954-66
Rev. Ralph Herrick	
Rev. T. James Bashell	
Rev. Edward Steinart	
Rev. Russel Downs—presently serving	



History of the Belle Presbyterian Church

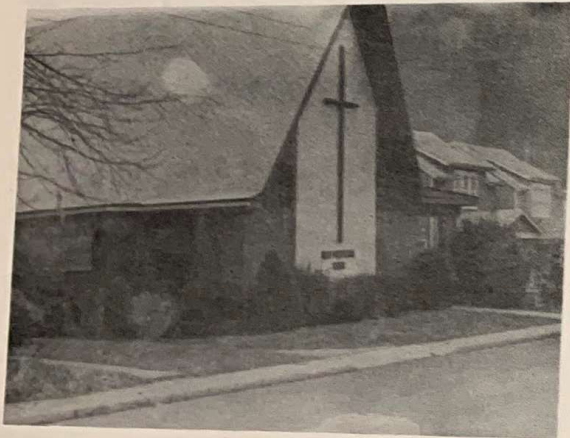
In early February of 1928, a group of Christians lead by Mrs. James Kuhn, assembled at her home and discussed the need and desires of organizing a Presbyterian Church. At this time there were only a Baptist and a Methodist Church, so they decided that they would like a church of their own. At this same time Rev. C. R. Garrison, Superintendent of Home Missions of the Kanawha Presbytery of Charleston was looking for a new location for another church of his faith. With the combined efforts of this group, in March 1928, a Sunday School was organized at a meeting in the Belle Elementary School, which later served as their meeting place until a church could be built.

Mr. Gordon Woody, an Elder of the Ruffner Memorial Presbyterian Church in Charleston was the first Sunday

School Superintendent. He was later replaced by Major Stokes of the United States Army, also a member of the Ruffner Church. Major Stokes was transferred to another Army post and Mr. S. F. Retterer of Belle succeeded him.

Mr. L. C. Massey deeded to the Home Mission Committee two lots on 7th Street on which to build a church. Dr. Ernest Thompson, then pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Charleston, chairman of the Home Mission Committee applied for a loan through the Assembly Home Mission Committee as well as from another source, and with the interested persons of Belle making their offerings, a church was built, constructed of wood, stuccoed and painted white.

Ronald Wilson, a student of Union Seminary served during the summer of 1928, and conducted the first Vacation Bible School. While at home during his Christmas vacation, he delivered the first sermon in the new church.



Belle Presbyterian Church

The first revival services were conducted in the fall of 1928 by Rev. C. R. Garrison, at which time a small group of people united with the church.

A commission for the organization of a church was appointed by the Presbytery on May 14, 1933, consisting of Dr. Ernest Thompson, Dr. Francis G. Brooke, Jr., Rev. C. R. Garrison and Elder T. S. McLellan. A list of seventy names of members was read by Rev. Garrison as forming the membership of the church. Mr. Joseph S. Tucker, Mr. Clarence S. Bletner and Mr. S. F. Retterer were elected, ordained and installed as Elders. Deacons elected, ordained and installed were: H. F. Martin, L. S. Alden, H. A. Miley, H. A. Gyax and J. W. Penix.

The church continued to grow and additional space was needed. In 1951, an Educational Building was added to the present church, and a fund started for a Manse, which was built for their pastor in 1950.

By the year of 1961 the need was evident for a larger and more modern Sanctuary to accommodate the congregation. Plans were formulated and a new brick church was built on the original site of the little white stucco church, and beside it the brick Manse which was remodeled in 1973.

Pastors and Elders from various churches in Charleston and St. Albans area filled the pulpit supply from September 1929 to May 1930. Pastors who served the Belle Presbyterian Church were the Reverends C. R. Garrison, who served from September 1928 to June 1929, then again 1933-1940, M. O. Sommers, William I. Howell, Jr., Walton G. Sugg, Jr., student of Union Seminary, J. M. McNair, Millard Stimpson, I. B. Watson, Jr., Fred Manning, William Fletcher, Vernon L. Fisher, Robert Coit, Denver Blevins and the present pastor Robert W. Bryan.

First Schools in Belle Area

Land was furnished by Mr. David Smithers, a resident of the community, for a school house to be located on Simon's Creek in 1873 (the present location of DuPont's tank farm). This land was donated with the understanding that it was to be used as a school and a community church, according to Mr. John Fout, an eight-five-year-old resident of Belle. He stated that his father and mother moved to Belle in 1900 and his father was the first Sunday School Superintendent.

The first modern type school was built in the town during 1922 on 6th Street. It was of wooden construction and consisted of four rooms. By the year of 1925, the increased enrollment brought about the addition of two more class rooms and two bathrooms. These additions were completed for the beginning of the fall term of school in 1926. This information comes from Mrs. Ina Armstrong Lowther, a teacher during that period and a resident of Belle.

Mrs. Lowther related that with the addition of the new facilities the school was also used as a junior high school, grades seven and eight. Later the junior high students were consolidated with Midway Junior High School at Campbell's Creek, West Virginia.

With the steady increase of new facilities moving into the area, the wooden school house was no longer adequate or large enough to accommodate the students. More land was purchased by the Board of Education and construction began on a new brick building. This consisted of eight class rooms, principal's office and teacher's lounge. As early as the 1940's it was evident that more rooms were again needed. Two wooden portable buildings were added on the playground for use as two class rooms and a kitchen.

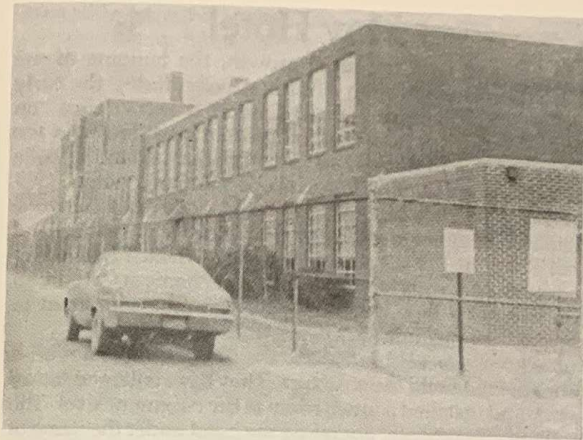
By the year of 1950, with another rapid increase in enrollment, overcrowding of the present class rooms and other facilities were again upon the school. More land was acquired and the addition of more class rooms, additional bathroom facilities, teacher's lounge and large cafeteria were made. Located on the original site at the corner of Central Avenue and 6th Street, the sixteen room Belle Elementary is considered a model school, with grades from kindergarten through the sixth grade level.



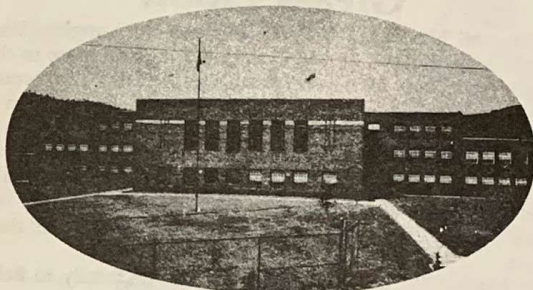
First school 1873
at Simons Creek



Belle Grade School 1922
on 6th Street



Belle Elementary School 1976



Dupont Junior High School
Built in 1939



Dupont High School

History of Carver Careers and Technical Education Center

The basic idea of vocational education is the principle that people learn best by doing. It is highly individualized learning. Seldom does one find in a vocational shop or laboratory all of the students doing the same thing at the same time. Students are allowed for the most part to progress at their own rate of learning according to their motivation.

Vocational education is not all hand work. If a person does not understand why he is doing a thing, or why materials or phenomena chance as they do, it is doubtful that he can be a good worker or mechanic. Related technical information is a very important part of the vocational education program. Related information generally falls into the realm of science or mathematics.

Since its inception in Kanawha County Schools, Vocational education programs have been operated as a physical part of the high schools. At least one program was

offered in each of the twelve high schools. All vocational-technical courses except home economics and business education have been moved to the Carver and Ben Franklin Center. By centralizing the program, more courses are available to the students in all high schools. Vocational technical education programs require specialized administrative and supervisory services. Centralization aids effective administration and supervision.

Carver Career and Technical Educational Center was opened for classes September, 1970. Perhaps the most important factors in making the program at Carver a success, was the involvement of many people throughout the communities in the planning of the program. More than 250 people from business, industry, labor and community organizations have participated as members of the advisory committees in the planning of curriculum, facilities and equipment for Carver. Without the technical assistance, certainly it would not have as an effective a program as it is. Each cluster or instructional area had its own advisory committee. These people are specialists in that field. Their advice had been very effective in producing realistic training programs.

Carver has been organized primarily around the cluster approach to vocational education. By cluster approach, it means that courses are organized to provide training for a closely related cluster or group of occupations rather than for one narrow or specific skill. Teaching approach is utilized wherever possible.

A student continues to be enrolled in high school, takes general education courses at his high school and participates in extracurricular activities at that high school. Students are transported from their high schools to the center for part of the school day.

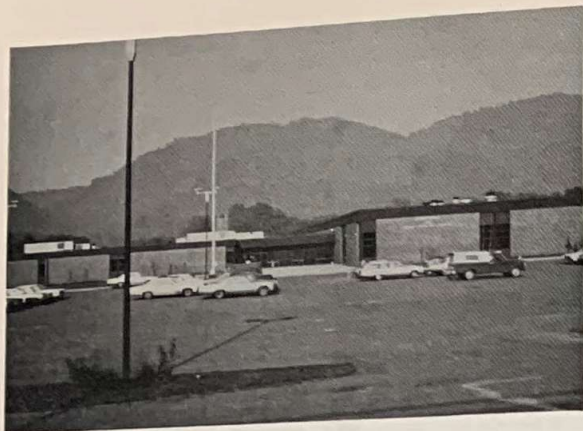
The Carver program offers courses for everyone regardless of previous training or educational background. The program is designed to take the students at his achievement level and develop his potential from that point. Individualized instructions make this possible.

High school students who plan to enter Carver after high school graduation are trained for immediate employment. Students who plan to go on to a technical institute can be a step ahead by completing a Carver program. Many college bound students enroll in Vocational-Technical courses when there is room in their schedules. Post-secondary classes are open for students recently out of high school or the armed services, graduation is not required. Classes are advanced courses or a continuation of courses studied in the high school program. Adult classes help employed students learn up to date skills in their fields and obtain new skills for promotions. These classes also provide training or re-training for unemployed adults.

Educational Facilities offered at Carver are, Auto mechanics, Auto Body Welding, Industrial Maintenance, Mine Maintenance, Electricity, Dental Assisting, Date Processing, Horticulture, Building Construction, Commercial Foods, Cosmetology, Drafting, Distributive Education, Electronics, Office Management, Machine Accounting and others as requests and interests arise.

Carver Career and Technical Center was under construction beginning in 1969, under the \$35 million 1966 building program consisting of a building area of 87,000 square feet site, 10,850 acres and a building capacity of 440 students per session. It was completed and occupied in September 1970. It was the first of its kind in Kanawha County. Average enrollment is 850.

Mr. Ernest C. HussonPrincipal
Don J. HuntCoordinator
Location4977 Midland Drive, Rand, W. Va.



A Native Son

Interviewed in 1951 by Forrest Hull

A native resident was Uncle Ben Smithers who was born (1866-1957) where the DuPont Plant now stands and lived there until he was twenty-one years of age. He remembered clearly when much of the riverfront area was cornfields, swamps and wilderness.

At the time of this interview, Uncle Ben was eighty-five years old. He retired with forty-four years service on the Kanawha and Ohio River dams and locks. He said, "I started work in 1888 at Lock Five and retired from the same place." He spent some time away from Belle, but moved back in 1936, stating, "I never lost touch with Belle in the years I worked elsewhere."

At the time of this interview, he and his wife, Harriett, called Hattie, were married sixty-four years and reared seven children. Three of these children are residents of Belle today. They are: Charles D. (Chuck), now eighty-six years of age and resides on 8th Street. John S. lives on 7th Street and a daughter, Marquarite Smithers Day, who resides on West Reynolds Avenue.



Mr. & Mrs. Ben Smithers

Hoy Hotel

In keeping with the rapid growth, the building of the chemical plants and new homes at Belle during the early 1900's, Mrs. Florence Hoy of Carbon, West Virginia, on Cabin Creek, was no exception. With a great idea and the determination to do so, Mrs. Hoy purchased land at Belle and undertook the building and operation of a hotel.

During the fall of 1930, the building firm of Sutler & Hamilton completed a ten room hotel, located on Midland Trail Road, at the corner of Kanawha Street. Prior to this endeavor, Mrs. Hoy kept boarders in her home at Carbon, so this was not a new experience for her. She continued to operate the hotel until her death in 1961.

The hotel was sold in 1962 to the Sutler brothers, whose father helped build the structure. They have enlarged, renovated, and installed a lunch room at the basement level. The brothers are currently operating the hotel under the name of "Belle House". It is still the first and only hotel in the town of Belle.

"Greasy Elbow"

Mr. and Mrs. M. F. "Pete" Burgess, of Vaughn, West Virginia, Nicholas County, operated a general store in this small community for several years, decided that they would like to make a change. Selling their store, they began to search for available space for relocation in the Kanawha Valley.

During the fall of 1924, Mr. Burgess bought in a bankruptcy sale, a small restaurant located at Belle. This was known as the "Greasy Elbow" and they operated it for three years.

In May of 1925, Mr. Burgess moved his family to Belle. During the year of 1926 they decided to build another grocery store. This was located on the Midland Trail Highway where they operated until 1940, selling the entire business to Clay Brothers.

With the development of the west end of Belle, they purchased property in 1928 and built a new home, where they reared and educated their four children, Lloyd, Fleetwood, Deloris and John. Today Annie and Pete Burgess are enjoying life in retirement, in this home.

Belle, West Virginia

People passing through on U. S. 60 would actually see little of what is here. Because of its location, the Kanawha Valley town is long and lean. Limited to a stretch of land between the Kanawha River and the hills, Belle, considered with its sister communities of Burning Springs, DuPont City, Holly Lawn, West Belle and Witcher, is easily fifteen (15) times as long as it is wide.

The level land is well used; however, on it are the giant industrial plants and pleasant homes, a bustling bank and places of entertainment.

Belle is far from being a roadside town. People seldom realize that thousands of people live by well-planned streets in the riverside area or that additional thousands call Belle their home, who are located up the hollows sight unseen.

Naturally as people pass through they are impressed by the mile long Belle Works of the DuPont Company and the Diamond Shamrock buildings, but few know the magic story behind the production of chemicals here and the uses to which these chemicals are put.

Belle residents look upon local industries both as employers and community builders since it is for certain that the town owes much of its size and support to industrialization.

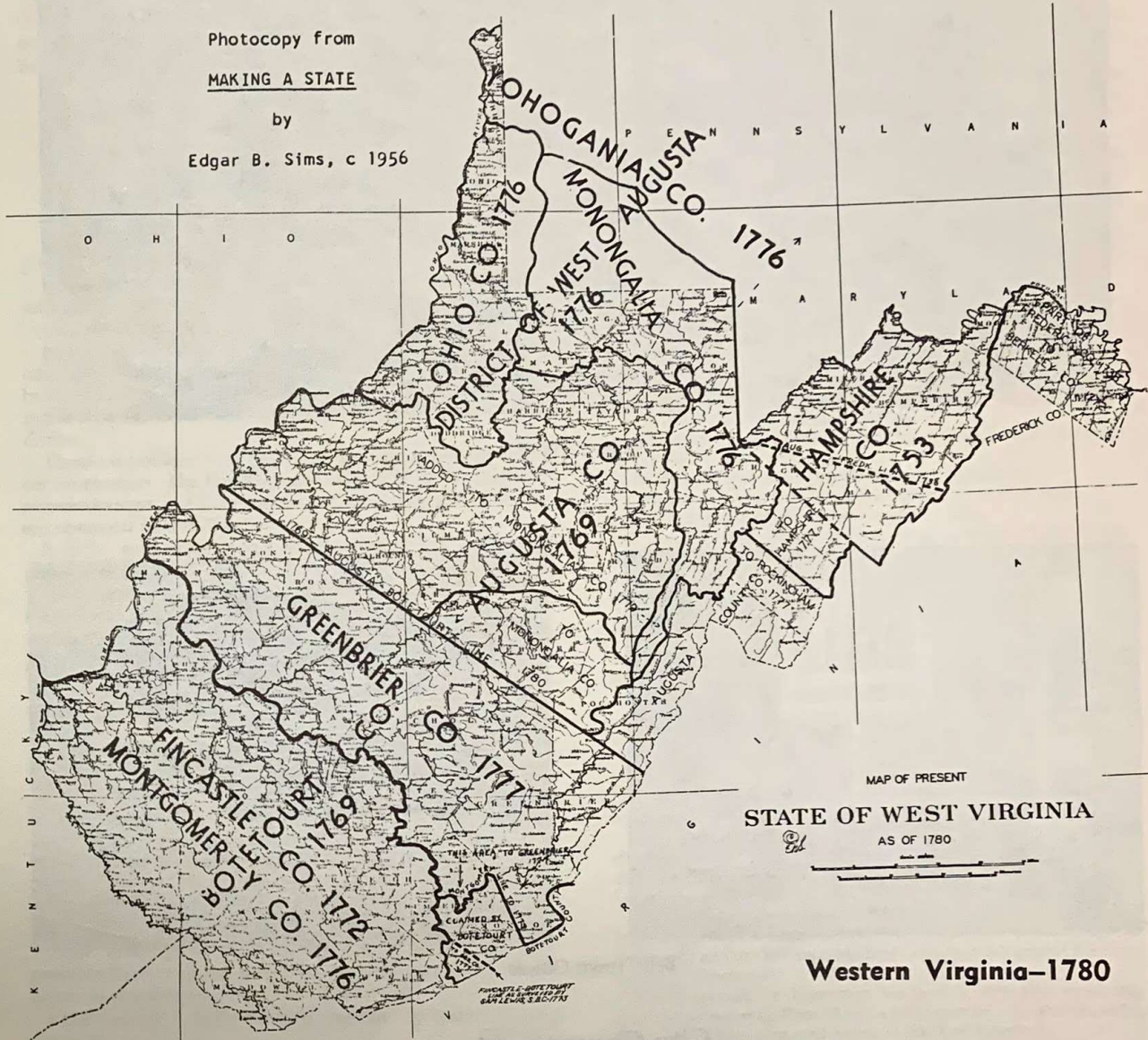
They miss, too, the historical background of the area, an

interesting narrative dating back at least to the year 1773 with an old stone house still standing and occupied, and that

it was originally a stage coach stop. Also, it once housed soldiers of the Union and Confederate armies at Camp Piatt.

Photocopy from
MAKING A STATE

by
Edgar B. Sims, c 1956





Belle of Today



Belle Town Offices

City Government

The first attempt to incorporate the Belle area, on record, was sometime around 1948 or 1949. The plants of the DuPont Company and the Belle Alkali company were included. A legal contest in the courts ensued. The case was carried to the State Supreme Court which ruled that the inclusion of those plants was illegal.

It has generally been recognized by all concerned, however, that the communities both on the east and west of these plants had common interests and related associations and; therefore, would ultimately be connected. To facilitate

the joining of these two communities sometime in the future, it was deemed necessary to establish a continuous corridor along the hill on the north.

The boundary lines of the main residential areas remain the same as those of the last attempt to incorporate with three minor exceptions, which are: (1) the extension up Hastings Hollow; (2) the extension of Belle Hollow was eliminated; and (3) the moving of the eastern boundary from Jarrett's Branch westward some 250 feet to the eastern boundary of the Cline Addition.

Formulated Plans for Incorporation

Early in the year of 1958, the Belle Ministerial Association conducted a meeting and according to their minutes it was "a meeting of church leaders for the purpose of organizing to set up plans to present to the people in anticipation of incorporating Belle."

They did organize the group to be called the "Committee for Incorporation of Belle." Carman U. Karnes, president; Earl E. Campbell, vice president; and Mrs. Charles Semesco, secretary; were elected as the officers. These people, with the help of others, have guided the proceeding to an election. The purpose for incorporating was also stated by the Belle Ministerial minutes and read as follows:

Our primary concern was for the welfare of all citizens of the community. We have been seriously concerned about the disorganized state of a community as large as Belle. It is our sincere belief that Christianity can best be practical where there is the community spirit which comes from democracy in action. We believe that Christian concerns for our neighbors must be put into realistic, useful action.

Shortly after the Committee for Incorporation was organized, they went to work, slowly but persistently.

First—a house to house survey was made to determine whether or not people wanted incorporation. They found the majority did.

Second—boundary lines were established for the city, omitting areas where most of the people were not interested, but including areas where there was interest; also conforming to state laws and court decisions that govern such boundaries.

Third—a petition was signed by property owners asking for an election. The law required only 30% of the property owners to sign, but to be sure, the Committee and its workers obtained over 50%.

Fourth—notice of hearing was published in a Charleston paper two different weeks.

Fifth—a map of area of boundaries was posted for public inspection.

On August 18, 1958, the Kanawha County Court ordered an election to be held on September 23, 1958.

A long, hard fought campaign between the opposition citizens and the Committee for Incorporation followed with rallies, handbills, phone calls and just plain old fashioned legwork. The people of Belle voted that the town would be incorporated. On October 10, 1958 at 9:30 a.m. the precinct workers (16) for the Incorporation had to appear before Honorable Bruce Bartlett, S. Grover Smith and Albert Glenn, County Commissioners of Kanawha County due to the contest of the election by the opposition party on several charges. This contest was ruled in favor of the Incorporation Committee, so Belle became the State's newest town and Kanawha County's 13th municipality.

Soon afterwards, two parties were formed. The Progressive Party and the Free Citizens Party were the names given to the parties.

On February 7, 1959, the first election was held for seven positions:

Primary Election

Progressive Party

Major: Dr. James H. Thornbury

Mayor: James P. Herald

Council: Robert Durbin

Harry Douglas

John Butler

Earl Powers

Recorder: William Belcher

Emma Louise Smesco, John H. Sleeman and Hutchie L. Fletcher served as Commissioners of the election.

Free Citizens Party

Major: Dr. James H. Thornbury

Council: Jack Sigman

Kenneth Shumaker

Clarence White

Robert Clark

Recorder: Hazel Bays

Clipping from
Charleston Daily Mail
February 7, 1959

Polls Open Tuesday At 6:30 a.m. For First Belle Municipal Election

By Steve Posti
Of The Daily Mail Staff

Last minute arrangements and final campaigning are all that remain as residents of newly incorporated Belle begin looking forward to the town's first municipal election next Tuesday.

Three precincts will open at 6:30 a.m. Tuesday and the race for seven positions—mayor, recorder and five councilmen—between two local parties will begin. The polls will close at 7:30 p.m.

The Progressive Party, which supported incorporation, will be represented by Dr. J. H. Thornbury as its candidate for mayor while the Free Citizens Party, which opposed incorporation, will support James H. Herald as its mayoralty candidate.

Dr. Thornbury, plant physician at the Belle Works of E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co., has pledged himself to a nine-point program.

Herald, a du Pont foreman, will carry a five-point platform into the election.

Both parties have similar platforms. However, the Progressive Party's candidates have promised Belle citizens they will serve without pay while in office.

Platforms Listed

The Free Citizens' five-point platform is as follows:

1. A sound, economical operation of the town government of Belle on a pay-as-you-go basis.
2. Promotion of adequate police and fire protection.
3. Encouragement of new industry for the town.
4. A business-like sanitation system.
5. Continued improvements to streets, sidewalks and the sanitation system.

The Progressive's nine-point platform is as follows:

1. To promote the general welfare of the citizens of Belle.
2. To bring about better government for Belle.
3. To operate Belle efficiently by keeping a constant vigilance over all public funds.
4. To assist the volunteer Belle fire department in the excellent work it is doing by providing fire hydrants and any other equipment which will lighten its task or further protect homes and businesses.
5. To encourage the creation of new industries and business enterprises and protect those businesses which are presently in existence within Belle.
6. To provide better sanitation facilities.
7. To provide better streets, street lighting and sidewalks.
8. To provide police protection.
9. To provide public recreation facilities.

A native of Wayne County, Herald has been a resident of Belle for 30 years. He is 56 years old and the father of two boys and one girl, all married. He and his wife, Alice, reside at 390 East Sixth St.

Herald is a member of Judson Baptist Church, where he serves as chairman of the trustee board. He also is a Mason and past master of the Crum Masonic Lodge. Presently he is a member of the Malden Lodge.

Dr. Thornbury also is a native of Wayne County but spent most of his younger days in Logan County. He is a graduate of West Virginia University and the Jefferson Medical College and attended the University of Cincinnati.

The 50-year-old Dr. Thornbury has lived in Belle since becoming plant physician at du Pont 18 and a half years ago. He and his wife, Ruth, have three sons and reside at 304 East Fourth St.

Dr. Thornbury is a member and chairman of the board of directors of the Belle Presbyterian Church. He also is a member of the Belle Lions Club, the Kanawha Medical Assn. and is assistant chief of Belle's Volunteer Fire Department.

Recently, Dr. Thornbury, active in Scouting circles, received a Beaver Award for his work in the Buckskin Council. He is a member of the council's executive board.

Other Candidates

In the race for city recorder, the Free Citizens will run Miss Hazel Bays against William Belcher of the Progressive Party.

Seeking council positions under the Free Citizens banner are Clarence White, Kenneth Shumaker, Jack Sigman, John R. Sims and Robert Clark.

Candidates for council on the Progressives' slate include Robert Durbin, Harry Douglas, C. U. Karnes, John Butler and Earl Powers. Voters will cast their ballots at three polling locations. The locations are as follows:

- Precinct 1—Fletcher Real Estate Office, 139 West DuPont Ave.
 - Precinct 2—Belle Fire Department, 1126 East DuPont Ave.
 - Precinct 3—American Legion Hall, 1106 DuPont Ave.
- Emma Louise Semesco, John H. Sleeman and Hutchie L. Fletcher will serve as commissioners of the election. Belle became incorporated several months ago to become the state's newest town and Kanawha County's 13th. Officials elected in the initial election will serve until June 1, 1960.



DR. J. H. THORNBURY
Progressive Party



JAMES R. HERALD
Free Citizens Party

Clippings From
Charleston Daily Mail

Progressives Win Offices At Belle



PROGRESSIVE SWEEP—These Progressive Party candidates made a clean sweep of it yesterday in Belle's first municipal election following incorporation. Seated from the left are Councilmen John M. Butler, Robert Durbin and Carman U. Karnes. Standing: Councilmen Earl Powers and Harry B. Douglas, Mayor J. H. Thornbury, a du Pont physician, and Town Recorder William S. Belcher.

Nearly 75 per cent of Belle's eligible votes went to the polls Tuesday in the city's first municipal balloting and elected seven Progressive Party candidates to city posts.

Dr. J. H. Thornbury was elected the town's first mayor as he defeated Free Citizens Party candidate James H. Herald by a margin of 206 votes. Dr. Thornbury, plant physician at the Belle Works of E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co., registered 501 votes to his opponent's 295.

In the race for the town recorder, William S. Belcher was elected over Hazel Bays in the election's closest race. Belcher netted 489 votes to Miss Bays' 313 for a 176 vote margin.

Gaining city council posts were all five Progressive Party nominees. Those elected and the number of votes received were: John M. Butler, who received the highest number of votes of any candidate with 518; Robert Durbin, second top vote-getter with 507; Earl Powers Jr., 494; Harry B. Douglas, 504, and C. U. Karnes, Progressive Party chairman, 476.

Defeated candidates for council and their votes are: Jack Sigman, 306; John Sims, 308; Kenneth Shoemaker, 292; Robert Clark, 282; and Clarence S. White, 282.

The Progressives, who supported Belle's recent incorporation, swept all three of the city's voting precincts.

In the mayoralty contest, Dr. Thornbury outgained Herald in Precinct 1 by only 35 votes—183 to 148. In Precinct 2 Dr. Thornbury added 80 votes to his margin, 137-57, and in Precinct 3 he scored his largest margin by picking up 181 votes to Herald's 90.

Results in the city recorder race followed a similar pattern. Belcher outdrew Miss Bays 175-158, 135-57, and 179-98 in the three precincts.

More than 800 citizens of some 1,100 eligible went to the polls to cast their votes in the election. This represented nearly 75 per cent.

Belle's new city officials, who previously agreed to serve their first term without pay as did their opponents, will take office after results of the election are certified by the Kanawha County Court.

Dr. Thornbury and the six others elected will serve until June 1, 1960.

First Council Meeting

The first council meeting for the Town of Belle was held in the office of John Sleeman, Justice of the Peace, Malden District, on March 8, 1959 at 7:30 p.m. Present were: Mayor, James H. Thornbury; Recorder, William Belcher; and Councilmen, C. V. Carnes, Earl Powers Jr., Harry Douglas and Robert Durbin. Absent—John Butler.

Regular meetings were set for Tuesday night at 7:30 p.m.

First ordinance passed was the approving and adoption of the Administration Code of the Town of Belle, Kanawha County. April 14, 1959. Construction of ordinances and resolutions followed.

Standing Committees of Council:

(1) Finance and Licenses; (2) Public Safety; (3) Public Utilities; (4) Health and Sanitation; (5) Buildings; (6) Park and Recreation. Employed the firm of Woodroe, Kizer and Steed as attorneys with Mario Plumbo used as attorney.

Elections: Shall be held on the first Tuesday in June, 1960 and on the same day every two years thereafter. Each term to begin on the first day of July after their election and shall hold office until their successors are elected.

Voters Qualifications: Voting precincts, Procurement of Recorder—Nomination of Candidate, Election Contest—Nomination by Party Convention—nomination by Primary Election, Election Duties of Recorder.

The Council action under the laws of the State of West Virginia.

Later the City offices were located at 118 East Dupont Avenue and the first Town Clerk was hired. Miss Judy Kent was hired for this position.

The Council continued to progress very rapidly with many ordinances that were necessary to govern a new municipality. Registration with the State of West Virginia as a municipality was made August 14, 1959. The Mayor's Court was established September 8, 1959.

Hiring of Policemen, duties and traffic laws, purchasing a police cruiser, were the next things to be done. Curfew laws were enacted. Social Security on Town's nonproprietary employes, and the entire town was placed under American Fore Insurance Company.

Street lights, speed limits, annual budgets, fire protection, and fire hydrants were installed; a municipal refuse service was established; hiring city employees. These are just a few of the undertakings by the new town. There were about ninety ordinances that were enacted the first year as an incorporated town.

Wilson Hunt was hired as a part-time Police Chief in 1959.

The first decorated Christmas tree for the town was placed on the Legion Hall grounds by the Belleview Garden Club.

The first General Election for the Town of Belle was held on June 7, 1960. Elected to serve for the years of 1960-62 were Progressive Party Candidates, as follows:

Mayor, James H. Thornbury; Recorder, William H. Moore; Councilmen, John Butler, E. B. Castro, Robert Durbin, Harry Douglas and Earl Powers, Jr.

A continuation of projects already started by this group of representatives of the Town's government, progressed. Many other improvements were enacted including the purchase of the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Stowers on 4th Street for a city building. This was moved to the site where it is now located. This movement enabled the town's government to open a through street for the west end residents.

Miss Judy Kent was rehired as the town clerk and served in that position until she moved from the town with her family. Mrs. Pauline Dye was hired to replace her and served in this capacity until her retirement in 1971. Others filling this position have been Mrs. Victor Ashley, Mrs. William Birch and presently serving is Mrs. Ralph Chapman with Mrs. Paul Milam as a part-time clerk for the Sanitation Board.

Change in City Government

It was time again for the second election and another political campaign between the Progressive and Free Citizens began. Several issues erupted during the first administration so the Free Citizens Party made a clean sweep and elected all of their candidates. The second Mayor for the town to be elected in this election was Mr. H. L. Fletcher. Voted in with him were: Recorder, Fred Harper; and for council, George Arthur, Earl E. Campbell, James Paul Helvy, William D. Hastings and Rudy Seacrist, to serve for the years of 1962-64-66. Mr. Fletcher served as Mayor for two terms.

Not many great changes that one can notice have occurred during the past several years, but one of the main reasons being the lack of space for expansion. An attempt in 1974 by the western section of Belle for annexation was made, but this was defeated. There have been many firsts though for the town's growth, including the installation of Christmas lights, lighting contest for businesses and residences, waste treatment plant, sanitary board, Halloween Party, summer playground program, town fair, school zone traffic lights installed, cable television service, Civil Service for Police Department, and one of the biggest assets, the organizing, chartering and building of the first bank. Most recently organized is the Belle Ambulance Service. Plans are being made to build a new community and recreational center for the town's citizens.

Fletcher Wins at Belle; Will Revamp Police

Belle will have a new town administration on July 1, and one of the first acts of H. L. Fletcher, elected mayor in yesterday's town election, will be to name a new police chief.

During the election campaign Fletcher said he will move immediately to "restore the faith of the people of Belle in their police."

Fletcher was swept into office with his entire Free Citizens Party ticket by Belle voters Tuesday. He defeated incumbent James P. Thornbury, head of the Progressive Party ticket, 434-350.

Dr. Thornbury, physician at the Du Pont plant, was seeking his third two-year term and the spirited campaign brought out 66 per cent of the town's 1,204 registered voters to the polls.

Winners Parade

A victory parade was staged by Fletcher's supporters immediately after their candidate's win was assured. Paraders started moving at about 8:30 p.m. and drove through the town until 10 p.m.

"I am very happy because we got a clear victory for our entire ticket," Fletcher said today.

The 72-year-old mayor-elect made it clear that his feeling of animosity for the Thornbury administration is not dead.

In addition to his announced intention to replace the two-member police department, the center of many controversies, Fletcher said other changes will come fast.

Asked if he has picked the men who will police the town during his administration, Fletcher answered:

"No, I don't have anyone in mind just now."

As he did in the campaign, the mayor-elect accused the present town government of waste.

"The present administration has been, and is, wasting money to get votes. I plan to begin economies on July 1 to give better services, especially recreation, to everyone," said Fletcher.

"I expect to get the government back in the hands of the citizens. Their (the Thornbury administration) motto has been 'We pass the rules and make you like it.' That thinking ends July 1."

The new mayor, a onetime coal company executive, is a real estate broker and insurance representative. His total vote was the third highest polled by any of the 14 candidates competing for voters' support.

Paul Helvy, one of five Free Citizens Party nominees, led his ticket with an unofficial total of 441 votes. C. R. Seacrist with 440 votes, was a close second. Other winning councilmen were E. E. Campbell, 432; William Hastings, 431; George Arthur, 398.

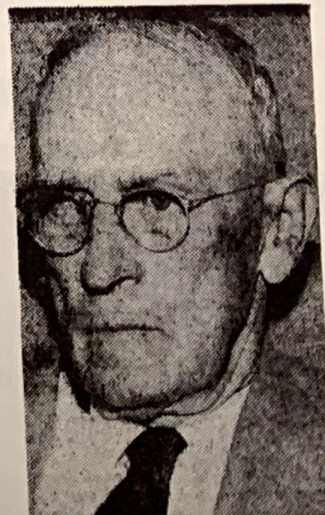
Fred Harber, with 433 votes ousted incumbent William Moore with 326 votes, as recorder.

Dr. Thornbury's 350 votes was the second highest polled by any Progressive Party nominee.

Results in the council contests were E. B. Castro, 368; Adrian Edwards, 349; Earl Powers Jr., 343; Harry B. Douglas, 325; Edward B. Luikart, 312.

Voters turned down a proposal to establish civil service for the town's police department, 374 votes to 256. This was one of the most hotly contested issues of the election.

In 1964, the next city election, parties will select their nominees by primary election instead of by party convention. The primary plan was supported, 378 votes to 244.



H. L. Fletcher
New Belle Mayor

Clipping from
Charleston Gazette
January 31, 1964

Town Was Worried at First Bypass 'Blessing' for Belle

By K. W. Lee
Staff Writer

When the new four-lane U. S. 60 bypassed the community of Belle more than a year ago, many merchants felt a pang of apprehension for their future.

Take laundry owner Joe Ferris. He had just about reached a point of no return. He was ready to pack and move out of what he feared one day would be a ghost town.

Suddenly, things began to change. And he chose to stay. His business since has more than doubled.

The dramatic comeback of the Ferris establishment may not be typical of the town's business districts in the post-bypass period. But most business people say they have been both surprised and pleased with the effect of the close bypass route on their cash registers.

"To tell the truth," Ferris told a visitor recently, "I was really worried about this new highway passing by. It used to be three of us working but now I have five people working for me," he continued, pointing to the humming activities in the backroom of the store which, like most other business, faces the old U. S. 60.

Not all business people share Ferris' enthusiasm. A few gas stations have taken the brunt of the adverse after-effect, although their owners had anticipated it.

LONG-TIME resident H. L. Fletcher has two good reasons to be "tickled to death about the whole thing." He is not only the mayor but a realtor himself who owns the building which houses the now thriving laundry.

His Citizens party took over two years ago, and three months later came the opening of the bypass.

"Then Joe (Ferris) was about to pull out, but what has happened is surprising. He has asked me to raise his rent. I am tickled," the elderly mayor noted happily.

"If you can believe it, just look at the gross sales tax returns for fiscal 1962-63," he insisted.

The figure for that year amounted to \$42,470.78 which means an increase of more than 20 per cent from that of the previous year, that is, the year which preceded the coming of the new U. S. 60. The fiscal 1961-1962 drew \$35,043 in gross sales tax revenue.

"Our town was going down the drain," Fletcher recalled. "I have been in the real estate business for many years. We don't have vacant lots in this town. Property values have increased, too. I don't have an empty lot for sale, either."

One big cause for drawing more shoppers to the old U. S. 60 is more room for parking and less traffic congestion, city officials and residents say.

The present government:

Mayor Rudy Seacrest (serving his 6th term)
Recorder Clayton (Bill) Harper
Councilmen Glenn Chestnut, Walter Cline,
Clifford Kees, Samuel Martin, Ronald Surbaugh



Mayor Rudy Seacrest

Police Department:

First Police Chief (Part time basis) Wilson Hunt 1959
Appointed (Full time) B. George 1960
Appointed (Full time) M. M. Swearingen 1962
Appointed (Full time) Larry Conley 1967
(currently serving)

Serving with Chief Conley are: Sergeant Bevil Holstein, Patrolman Charles Harrah, Patrolman Lester Hancock and Patrolman Monroe Ashby (part time).

Other men who have served throughout the years on the police force have been : Ira Thompson, Jerry Johnson, Bob Palmer and William Croye.

Belle Police Chief Receives Award



Belle Police Chief, Larry K. Conley, receives a Certificate of Appreciation from Jim McCaulley, Commander of VFW Post 5269 (Belle-Witcher-Diamond).

The commendation was received for the Belle Police Department cooperation with the 'Lite-A-Bike' Program.

Clipping from
The Charleston Gazette
May 21, 1963



FIFTEEN CLUBS and civic organizations are joining forces to conduct a centennial town fair on June 8 in Belle. Handling general arrangements for the event, which will open at 10 a.m. and continue until 10 p.m., are (from left) Mrs. Glenn Rinehart, co-chairman of publicity; Rudy Seacrest, chairman of the Town of Belle; Mrs. Adrian Edwards, chairman of the steering committee. A parade is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. and other special activities include a country store, square dance and an open air concert. In addition, all 15 sponsoring groups will have booths. A kiddies' corner will keep the youngsters happy, and concession stands will offer hot dogs, popcorn and other favorite foods.