Charles R. Lloyd



Charles Russell Lloyd of Sutton was born in Steubenville, Ohio, in 1921, and grew up in Exchange, Braxton County. In 1942 he joined the U.S. Army Air Force, where he helped train pilots during World War II. He earned the rank of sergeant and was honorably discharged in 1946.

Following his discharge, he went to work at his father's lumber and stave mill near Flat-

woods and took over the business in 1949. The stave mill remained in operation until 1994, providing a value-added market for white oak logs in central West Virginia, as well as 15 jobs for local workers.

In 1987, Lloyd established a sawmill along Route 19 between Heaters and Napier, which provided employment for 25-40 workers. The business later expanded to manufacture planed hardwood lumber and tongue-and-groove paneling, providing additional employment for area loggers. Over the years, Lloyd opened up the plant to numerous tours by forestry, industry and student groups.

Although the lumber and stave mills eventually closed, Lloyd's sons used the properties to open a service station, motel, restaurant, auto parts and sporting goods store, and a hardware and building supply business serving loggers, farmers and homeowners, again providing jobs for dozens of area residents.

He is regarded as a generous employer. Many of his employees benefitted over the years from a profit-sharing plan he established. According to one of his enshrinement supporters, "Not once did I ever hear of anyone not liking Mr. Lloyd. He was a pleasure to work with. A lot of his employees worked until retirement or to the point of the closure of the mill. I can't say enough about Mr. Lloyds integrity and honesty during

the years I have known him. His commitment to his family, businesses and community is immeasurable."

He was an early member of the West Virginia Sawmill Operators Association, later the West Virginia Forestry Association, and was a longtime member of the National Associated Cooperage Industries. He is a long-time member of the Lions Club and attends Burnsville Baptist Church.