Former Logan County sheriff Don Chafin died in Huntington on August 9, 1954.

CSO: SS.8.6 & SS.8.7

Investigate the Document: (Huntington Herald Dispatch, August 10, 1954)

1. Where was Don Chafin born?

2. When was Don Chafin first elected sheriff?

Think Critically: Does this obituary for Don Chafin carry pro-union sentiment or anti-union sentiment in its recounting of the Mine Wars?
Funeral Rites Thursday For Colorful Don Chafin

Funeral rites for Don Chafin, 67, of the Guaranty Building penthouse, who died yesterday morning in a Huntington hospital, will be conducted at 2 P.M. Thursday at the Klingel-Carpenter Mortuary. Burial will follow in Woodmere Cemetery.

Death came to the colorful and dynamic former sheriff of Logan County following surgery performed several days ago. Physicians believed Sunday night that he was making a satisfactory recovery, but he took a sudden turn for the worse at 5 A.M. yesterday and died an hour and 15 minutes later.

Mr. Chafin, believed to have been one of Huntington’s wealthiest men, had made his home here since 1936.

It was after Mr. Chafin’s election to his second term as sheriff in 1920 that he gained fame as the spearhead of a drive to prevent invasions by union men seeking to organize the coal mine employees of the county.

In 1921 he mobilized a force of men to resist an armed march of union men. The defenders blocked the advance of the invaders, who never got past the ridges of Blair Mountain on the Boone-Logan line.

Mr. Chafin had extensive real estate holdings in Logan and Huntington, including the Guaranty Building here, and headed the Chafin Coal Co. and the Chafin Land Co.

Friends may call at the mortuary after noon today.

(See CHAFIN, Page 2)
Chafin Death Marks End Of Long, Colorful Career

(See Page One Story)

Don Chafin, 87, of the Guaranty Building penthouse, died yesterday in a Huntington hospital.

The end of the colorful career of the dynamic former sheriff of Logan County brought back memories to West Virginians and others concerning the highlights of his law enforcement activities in the early 1920's. But for contemporary Huntingtonians, Mr. Chafin had continued to be as colorful in his way of life as he had been as sheriff in the Logan County era which preceded good roads and means of rapid transportation other than the railroads.

FAMILIAR FIGURE

Before the penthouse was placed on the Guaranty Building as a residence for Mr. Chafin, he made his home at the Hotel Governor Cabell.

He had an easy chair outside the Ninth Street entrance of the hotel, and could be seen daily feeding the pigeons peanuts he bought for the purpose.

After moving to the penthouse, he kept an easy chair outside the bank building entrance, and there, after business hours, exchanged views with those who passed by and paused for a chat.

Mr. Chafin owned the Guaranty Building.

In recent years, he had taken up a new hobby—the buying and training of coon dogs, and he would travel throughout the nation looking for new ones.

HAD HEART AILMENT

Mr. Chafin had suffered two severe heart attacks in recent years, and friends and relatives were anxious that he not over-do, but his temperament was not such as to permit the heeding of the warnings.

A chair-type elevator was installed to carry him from the last floor on the bank building served by the main elevator to his penthouse. This was perhaps one of the few concessions he made to the state of his health.

The man referred to during his tenure as sheriff as Logan County’s best known citizen and public official was born June 26, 1887 in the Marrowbone section of Logan County. (The section is now in Mingo) a son of the late Francis Marion and Esther Brewer Chafin.

At the age of 17, following his father’s death, he joined the staff of what is now the Logan Mercantile Co. He was elected as assessor of Logan County in 1908. He was a graduate of Marshall College and attended the Mountain State Business College.

In 1908 he married Miss Mary Mounts, a native of Mingo County, who survives. Also surviving are four sons, Arthur, Marion and John C. Chafin of Huntington and William A. Chafin of Logan; four daughters, Miss Hazel Chafin of Miami Beach, Fla., Mrs. Alvin Volke of Morgantown, Mrs. L. J. Scharlin of Cincinnati and Mrs. James Gilmore of Jackson, Ohio; 18 grandchildren: a great-nephew; a brother, William Chafin of Huntington, and three sisters, Mrs. R. R. Burchett of Huntington, Mrs. Esther McClure of Texas and Mrs. Mary Brandon of Montanna.

The body is at the Klingel-Carpenter Mortuary.