

SUNDAY

Style

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How much do you know about wine?

Until last weekend, I had managed to steer clear of the this-and-that hobby "for dummies" book craze. I even survived a friend's gift of a "Wine for Dummies" book for my birthday. To be honest, I didn't pick up the book and began reading so I could fall asleep. I had expected the book to be written in a "See this, open wine bottle. See Jane drink wine" manner as the dominating title implied.

To my surprise, each chapter began with a summary of what to expect on the forthcoming pages, and the topics were clearly broken out for easier reading. The first chapter is elementary, telling the wine drinkers among us how wine is made and the different colors of wine — white, red and rose. Well, huh?

A list of common white and red wines is included for convenience if you actually decide to buy the wine.

Throughout the text are tiny pictures outside the text block. Symbols such as a caution sign warn the drinkers about problems. A target with an arrow sticking out of the bull's eye is a "tip" and a Waldo-like character enclosed in a circle means "technical stuff." A more dressed up Waldo is the symbol for "watch alert."

It's all highly amusing and also informative. Until reading parts of the book, I never knew South Africa was a wine producer nor did I know that Chile or British Columbia were wine producers. Most of us tend to go with French, Italian, Australian or California wines.

Just so you know, British Columbia has 20 wineries and most of the production is white wine. Chile produces wine in the Central Valley, and the best seem to be reds that range in price from \$10 to \$20. South Africa first had grapes in the 1700s with the French, and 40 years later called French Huguenots arrived with the knowledge to make the grapes into wine. The result was Constantia, a rich dessert wine that became a favorite of European royalty.

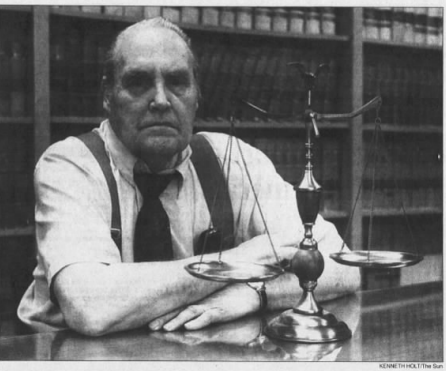
But the country's unstable government through the years squandered the industry. Today, South Africa ranks eighth in the world in wine production. About 20 percent of its wine is exported to the United Kingdom.

I haven't finished the book, so maybe when I get to page five of the book, page 402, I'll know more than I ever needed to know about wine. Hey, maybe that should have been the title of the book, "It's less demanding than 'Wine for Dummies'."

WEDDINGS 5

SECTION D

THE PADUCAH SUN AUGUST 10, 1997



KENNETH L. THE SUN

Profile: 'A lawyer's lawyer.'

When Pelham McMurry graduated from law school, Kentucky's law books were only two inches thick and there were about two dozen lawyers in Paducah.

Most of the lawyers were in general practice and did everything from criminal work to lawsuits and divorces. There was no need to buy malpractice insurance.

That was in 1947.

Paducah now has more than 100 lawyers; state laws consume more than 20 volumes and administrative regulations fill even more volumes; most lawyers are specialists, and no one would consider working without buying malpractice insurance.

"It just isn't the same... in many ways, it isn't as much fun," McMurry said recently, reflecting on his 50 years as an attorney.

McMurry, 71, was honored recently by the Kentucky Bar Association for his half-century as a practicing attorney. He has spent his entire career in Paducah, where he has lived since he was six months old.

McMurry has a reputation of being tough and demanding, and even more so when the situation calls for it. Miss Livingston, his law partner for 21 years, said people always know McMurry's views and opinions. "It's a very direct, but also very honest," Livingston said.

He also is devoted to his church, has a sense of humor and is a good storyteller.

McMurry didn't show adversity as a boy in the way of his ambition and enthusiasm. He was pitched with polo during his senior year in high school, his father died just before he graduated from law school and his twin brother was killed in Korea.

He has four children who went to college and now have successful professional careers: Bill McMurry is a lawyer in Louisville; John McMurry, a doctor in Knoxville, Tenn.; Donna McMurry, a teacher at San Francisco University; and Sally McMurry Piker, a psychologist in Portland, Ore.

McMurry also dedicated part of his career to public service and politics, serving as county attorney from 1964 to 1966 and county judge from 1966 to 1969.

He turned his attention toward a full-time private law practice in 1970 and today leads one of the region's largest and most successful law firms, McMurry and Livingston.

Polo prevented his high school graduation and ended his hopes of going to West Point. Later, Walter Jetton 'just filled out' a diploma and sent it to me.

McMurry, named for his mother, Lucile Pelham McMurry, came to Paducah at age six months when the family moved there in 1881. His only sibling was a twin brother, William Fletcher McMurry. His father, W.F. McMurry, became a prominent Paducah attorney.

His father was a strict disciplinarian and felt his sons needed military-type training to help them meet challenges in life.

The McMurry twins attended Paducah schools and were star football players. In their senior year, their father sent them to the Western Military Academy in Alton, Ill. Both wanted appointments to West Point.

Six weeks after arriving at the Alton school, McMurry was stricken with polo. He spent 10 months in an Iowa hospital for polo victims. He has used crutches or a wheelchair since.

His quest for a military career was ended, but his brother went to West Point and became a military officer.

McMurry wanted to be a doctor but changed his mind while attending Paducah Junior College. Instead, he found satisfaction in legal research and decided to become a lawyer.

After graduating from P.J.C., McMurry went to the University of Mississippi to major in law. Before graduating, he took and passed the Kentucky bar examination.

At the University of Mississippi, McMurry ran into a problem where officials learned that he had not graduated from high school because of his illness. They threatened to deny him a law degree, even though he passed his courses with high marks. The controversy ended when Augusta "Tilden" High School Principal Walter Jetton came to the rescue. "He just filled out a diploma and sent it to me," McMurry said.

While McMurry was attending law school, his father died.

McMurry returned to Paducah in 1947 and began practicing law with the late Earl T. Shoup. He recalled Shoup as an excellent teacher and mentor.

In April 1952, his twin brother, a member pilot, died when his plane was shot down over the Sea of Japan.

In 1953, McMurry was appointed a federal court commissioner, but resigned after a few months to run for McMurry county attorney. He won and spent 12 years in office before running for county judge in 1965 and losing to veteran incumbent Roy Stewart. However, Stewart died in office in December 1966 and McMurry served the final three years of the term after being appointed by Gov. Ned Breathitt.

In 1970, McMurry formed a partnership with Livingston, beginning in a three-room suite on the sixth floor of the Citizens Bank building.

Today, the firm consists of 11 attorneys who occupy the entire seventh floor and part of the eighth floor of the building.

McMurry said his crutches did not stop him from doing the things he loved: hunting, fishing, boating and playing golf.

"I did walk on those crutches. I could follow a lead dog through a field as well as anyone. I didn't let it bother me or get in the way with anything I wanted to do."

Livingston said McMurry has never complained about his physical limitations. "It's amazing. He has totally overcome his handicap and adversity. He has tremendous willpower."

He has slowed in recent years, though, and had to give up the crutches in favor of a wheelchair.

Livingston called McMurry "a lawyer's lawyer," saying he has a keen mind and for many years was a reference source for other attorneys.

"Pelham has an amazing ability to find the answers to legal questions that others couldn't find," Livingston said. "Other attorneys would come by just to get answers to questions. He has a brilliant legal mind."

He said McMurry has a philosophy about the law: "There is 'the life book of law' that are the actual laws enacted by the legislature and 'the big book of laws' which are all of the exceptions and nuances to the law."

He said McMurry instilled a tough work ethic and manner to his law firm.

"For the first 10 years that we practiced together, it wasn't unusual for us to work four nights a