

The County
NEWSTELLER

A Monthly Magazine Dedicated to the County and School Officials
of West Virginia

RITCHIE COUNTY COURT HOUSE

Completed in 1925
Harrisville, W. Va.



RITCHIE COUNTY: Formed in 1843; named in honor of Thomas Ritchie, distinguished journalist of Richmond, Va., whose mother was a sister of Judge Spencer Roane, for whom Roane county was named; area 455.27 square miles; population (1930) 15,594.

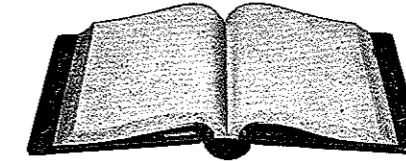
(No. 1 in a series of 55 front covers to be used to present the Court Houses
of West Virginia)

Volume I

JANUARY, 1939

Number 4

The County
NEWSTELLER



A news magazine devoted to those public officials to whom the county's vital records and business management are entrusted and securely safeguarded.

Published monthly by Casto & Harris, Inc., Spencer, W. Va., specialists in county and school record books, election supplies, printing, office supplies and equipment.

Record Books of Everlasting Service

Volume I

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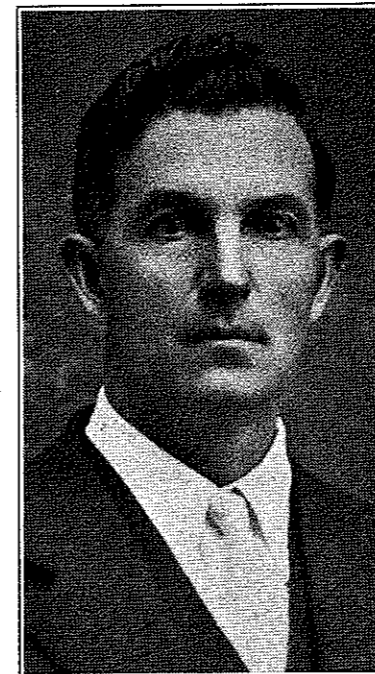
40 Years in Office

When Hobart Payne, circuit clerk of McDowell county, completes his term in 1944, it will be more than 40 years that this office has been held by a Payne.

The incumbent is starting on his 13th year in office, having been elected first in 1926, to succeed his mother, who had been

(Continued on Page Eight)

From Hardy



D. W. Heishman

Mr. Heishman, a real booster for the NewsTeller, is a member of the Hardy county court.

RESIGNS HIMSELF TO SOLEMN TOMB

Pocahontas County Man Awaits "Gabriel's Trump"

For sending in an old will featuring "Gabriel's trump" and other whimsicality, Mrs. Pearl Yeager, deputy clerk of the Pocahontas county court, wins the January prize of \$3.

The will is recorded in Will Book No. 5, page 2, and is dated March 6, 1884. It is reproduced in full, as follows (For obvious reasons, actual names are omitted):

"First, I desire cheerfully to resign my body to the silent tomb, there to rest until the clanging of Gabriel's trump shall wake my sleeping dust in the morning of the general resurrection, and my spirit to God who gave it.

"Second, (Here follows the usual division of the estate).

"Third, But not least I do most sincerely hope that this arrangement will meet with approbation of all concerned, and that when I am no more among men on earth, that my children will be living in peace and trying to help each other along through this world peaceable, as best they can and that none of the means that I have secured for them by hard toil and unceasing care will be squandered or thrown away in law. But that they will so manage and improve it as that it may prove a great blessing to them

(Continued on Page Two)

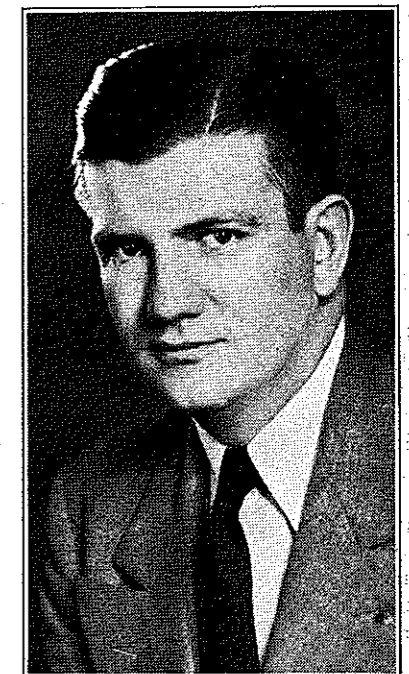
PAGES REMOVED

Cabell Deputy Clerk Discovers Mutilated Record

Sometime since April 3, 1861, someone removed 20 pages from a Law Order book in Cabell county, according to C. E. King,

(Continued on Page Two)

McDowell Clerk



Don S. Renn

Mr. Renn is the new County Clerk of McDowell, succeeding H. K. Carper. He made his debut at the County Commissioners' meeting in Charleston this month.

FAYETTE COUNTY WANTED LIBERTY

County Court Protested Northern "Invasion" of 1861

Members of the Fayette county court who were "friendly to the North" were invited to resign, according to a court order entered at the June term, 1861.

The order, which was recorded on June 13, 1861, was entered before West Virginia was created and it stated, that if necessary, "we will eat roots and drink water and still fight for our liberty until death."

The NewsTeller is indebted to Mrs. L. S. Tully, Fayette county circuit clerk, for sending in this unusual court order, reproduced in full as follows:

"WHEREAS our State has been invaded by a hostile army of Northern Fanatics, and we feel bound to resist said invasion to the last extremity,

RESOLVED, THEREFORE, First that we feel it to be our duty in accordance with an act of the Legislature passed January 19th, 1861 to levy on the people of the County from time to time as may be necessary to enable us to resist said invasion successfully, such amounts of money as we shall think practicable and expedient.

RESOLVED, 2nd, That we will then after money and property are exhausted feel it to be our duty to Levy for said purpose on the credit of the County and when that also is gone we will eat roots and drink water and still fight for our liberty unto death. And,

RESOLVED 3rd, That should any of the members of this Court feel friendly to the North that we invite them or him peacefully and civilly to resign his or their commission."

Members of the court present when this order was entered were: I. B. Westlake, Isaac Collison, James G. Kincaid, Daniel Hefner, I. W. Shreve, B. B. Bog-gess, Henry Riggs, John Cooper, Landon Tully, John Gwinn, R. A. Flanagan, I. I. Stiles and John Rodes.

Marries



—Photo Courtesy Charleston Gazette

Mrs. Paul Matheny, assistant superintendent of Webster county schools, was Miss Hazel Hoover prior to her marriage New Year's day at her home in Webster Springs.

Resigns Himself

(Continued from Page One)

and comfort to all around. Although I have written this as my last will and testament, Yet I hope to live to have my business so arranged that there will be no need of an executor or administrator of my estate. Yet if it should be necessary I hereby appoint my son L. _____ W. _____

CABELL CIRCUIT CLERK SHOWS \$35,000 PROFIT

A net profit to Cabell county of \$35,158.58 has been realized by the circuit clerk's office since M. C. Blake took over the duties of clerk on Jan. 1, 1933, according to figures compiled by his chief deputy, C. H. Withers, and made public recently.

The report shows total receipts for Mr. Blake's six-year term as \$82,765.08, as compared with total expenses for the office of \$47,607.50.

By planning several changes in office methods, Mr. Blake last year realized for the county a net profit of \$8,596.20, the largest saving of any year since 1932.

Expenditures in the circuit clerk's office last year totaled \$7,200 against receipts of \$15,796.30.

According to the figures, 10,136 court actions were filed in the circuit clerk's office during the six-year term ending Dec. 1, 1938. Criminal actions lead with a total of 3,588, with divorce suits, totaling 1,947, second.

Pages Removed

(Continued from Page One)

deputy circuit clerk, who explained the details to The News-Teller.

This old book shows that on Wednesday evening, April 3, 1861, court closed with Hon. David McComas presiding as judge. At this point someone had crudely cut 20 pages from the book and destroyed them, for the next entry is under date of Oct. 2, 1862, with Hon. James H. Brown the presiding judge.

Now, of course, when a court order is to be corrected or rendered void, another order is entered in its place.

Mr. King also points out the interesting fact that when Abraham Lincoln ran for president the first time he did not receive one single vote in Cabell county.

executor of this my last will and testament.

Given under my hand and seal this 6 day of March 1884.

J. _____ W. _____ (Seal)

Heads Committee



Landon T. Reynolds

Mr. Reynolds, clerk of the Circuit Court of Mercer county, is also chairman of the Legislative Committee of the West Virginia Association of County and Circuit Clerks. His committee met in Charleston Jan. 16 and 17.

"Hells of History"

Replying to the published request that NewsTeller readers furnish interesting stories originating in their own offices, Ernest Moon, clerk of the Tucker county court, wrote:

"... I could give you hells of history about the one and only Tucker county if I knew which tall tale you would like. How about the Will in which the Testator willed his soul back to God, his Creator? (He didn't have anything else). Or the bride that saved pennies for eleven months for a marriage license—and then after getting the license her intended escaped? ... Or the birth in which the name of the father was given as 'a Dry Fork gentleman'? Run up this way some time and we can pick out a few."

\$3 Offered

For the best, most interesting news item sent in for the February NewsTeller by any county or school official, deputy, assistant or office worker, a cash prize of \$3 is again offered.

The item must be received by February 15. Response to last month's plea for more news from subscribers was gratifying and, with this continued cooperation, the publishers feel that they can make the magazine better with each succeeding issue.

January winner was Mrs. Pearl Yeager, deputy county clerk of Pocahontas county.

Readers Comment:

"I think the idea of reproducing pictures of the 55 court houses of West Virginia in your NewsTeller is quite unique and will be of interest to every county official in the state. You are to be commended for this happy thought."—P. F. King, clerk of the Preston county court.

"A few weeks ago I received a copy of The County NewsTeller. I want to congratulate you upon this new edition. I look forward to it each month and feel after reading it through that I have been on a visit to the various counties. It will not only keep the County and Circuit Clerks in closer touch with each other, but we will be better informed as to the ways and means of carrying on our work."—Paul E. Wehrle, clerk Kanawha county court.

"I am very much pleased to receive the first copy of The County NewsTeller. I enjoy reading it very much. Best wishes for the success of the NewsTeller."—Peter Jackson, assessor Wood county.

"Received my copy of The County NewsTeller and I thank you. Best wishes for your success."—D. W. Heishman, member Hardy county court.

WOOD CO. CLERK IS BASEBALL STAR

Earl Wolfe Was One of University's Best Catchers

It wasn't so many years ago that Earl S. Wolfe, Jr., clerk of the Wood county court, was swinging a mean bat on the West Virginia University baseball team, according to a feature article by Paul Handke which appeared in the Parkersburg Sentinel recently.

A terrific clouter at the plate and one of the best catchers in the University's history behind the plate, Wood county's present county clerk was one of the stand-out stars with the Mountaineer nine, yet even his close admirers seldom talked of his athletic prowess.

What they did like to talk about, though, was the "sport" that he was.

"One of the gamest and cleanest athletes we ever had at the University," they frequently said. "He was a real gentleman on the baseball field. Quiet and unassuming, he went out and did his work. He did it well but he was too modest to mention it. He always had praise for others on his own nine and on other teams which the Mountaineers played. Friends and foe alike, they all admired Earl Wolfe."

It was the same Earl Wolfe who at the young age of 25 was elected Wood county clerk in 1932, and it was the same Earl Wolfe, after six strenuous years in office, who was reelected for another term last November.

Even though the county clerk is too modest to say much about it, his friends will tell you that courtesy and efficiency in office have continued for him the same popularity that was accorded him while a University athlete. Scores

(Continued on Page Eight)



FAYETTE'S NEW COURT ROOM DEDICATED

LAWYERS JOIN IN PRAISING JOB

Special Ceremonies Held in New Court Room Jan. 5

There was nothing but highest praise for Fayette county's new Court Room installation Jan. 5 when special dedicatory ceremonies were held.

Presided over by L. Ebersole Gaines, president of the Fayette County Bar association, the program featured a presentation address by Okey Patterson, president of the County Court, and a response by H. E. Dillon, Jr., judge of the Circuit Court.

New benches, judge's rostrum, railings, witness and jury boxes and desks were built and installed by the DeLong Furniture Co. of Topton, Pa. The same company also installed a hand-carved wa-

nut background, with a seal of West Virginia in its center, back of the judge's rostrum.

Pictures of sections of the new installation, taken by J. R. Aliff, Sheriff of Fayette county, will be found on this and the next page.

SPELLING?

A one-paragraph will with 19 misspelled words has been unearthed in Randolph county by Mrs. Pearl Yeager, Pocahontas deputy clerk who wins this month's prize for submitting the most interesting item.

The will, dated Jan. 19, 1929, and recorded in Randolph county Will Book No. 9, page 249, is as follows:

"This I wrote after the old man died and I saw what **durt** that you **wood doe** about his things and I did **no** if anything

wood hapen me that it **wood** be the same way if you all could find no writing to **shoe** you all I do not want **eny** of you to have one sent of mine not one of the **W—** **Jenery rashen** and none of her **rashen** on **nearie** side but is **devied** with Walter and **Ales** my wife only a **nuf** to put me away so if you don't think that is not my hand write you get a **patern** with it on and that will **shoe** you."

NO CANCELLATIONS

By popular request, its publishers will continue to mail The NewsTeller to those county and school officials who retired from office Jan. 1.

So many of them have written in, saying that they would like to have the subscription continued, that it has been decided to keep them all on the mailing list.

COUNTIES MISSING

The following counties HAVE NOT sent in pictures of their court houses for reproduction in The NewsTeller. Will your name be on this list next month?

Barbour, Berkeley, Boone, Braxton, Brooke, Cabell, Calhoun, Clay, Doddridge, Gilmer, Grant, Greenbrier, Hancock, Hardy, Jackson, Jefferson, Kanawha, Lincoln, McDowell, Marion, Marshall, Mason, Mercer, Mineral, Mingo, Monongalia, Monroe, Morgan, Nicholas, Ohio, Pendleton, Pleasants, Pocahontas, Putnam, Raleigh, Randolph, Summers, Taylor, Tyler, Upshur, Wayne, Webster, Wetzel, Wirt, Wood, Wyoming.

IN BLUEFIELD HOSPITAL

Fred Dunn, clerk of the Monroe county court, Union, has been a patient in a Bluefield hospital, receiving treatment for an eye ailment.

Good Response

M. H. Hix, circuit clerk of Kanawha county and president of the West Virginia County & Circuit Clerks' association, announces that his request that association dues be paid has met with a ready response.

A second letter has been written to all members who have not remitted and it is hoped that 100% collections will be received. The dues are \$2.50 annually and Mr. Hix requests that this amount be sent to A. M. Brown, clerk of the Putnam county court, Winfield, who is treasurer of the association.

TO WASHINGTON

Harry Anderson, clerk of the Raleigh county court, left Jan. 24 for Washington, D. C., on business. He was accompanied as far as Charleston by Mrs. Anderson.

Appointments

FAIRMONT—A. L. Thomas, former county school superintendent and member of the house of delegates, was named deputy clerk of the Marion county court.

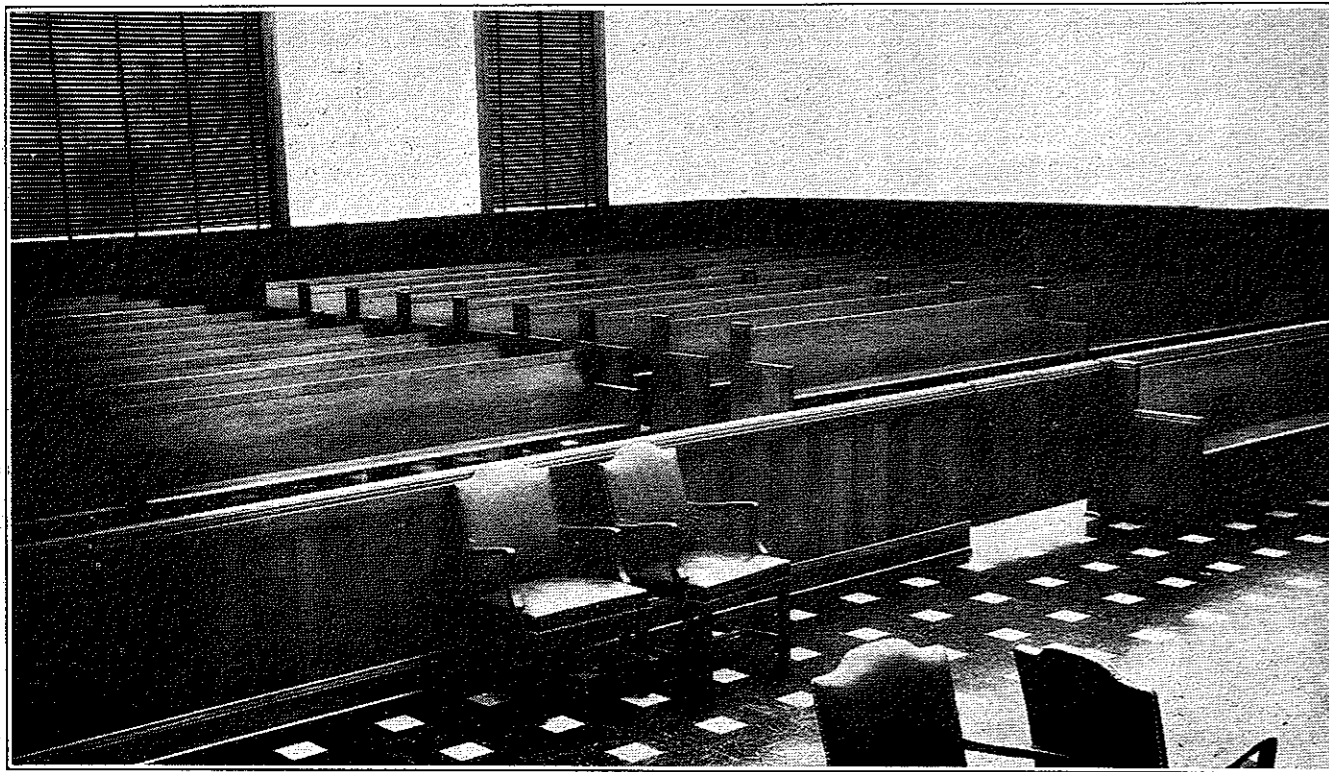
PINEVILLE—Frank Tolliver, editor-manager of the Mullens Advocate, was appointed deputy clerk of the Wyoming county court.

CHARLESTON — Mrs. Pearl Poteet was reappointed chief deputy clerk of Kanawha county. Other deputies named by Clerk Paul Wehrle are John R. Slack, Kathlyn Pauley and Virginia Risk.

BOND ISSUE ELECTION

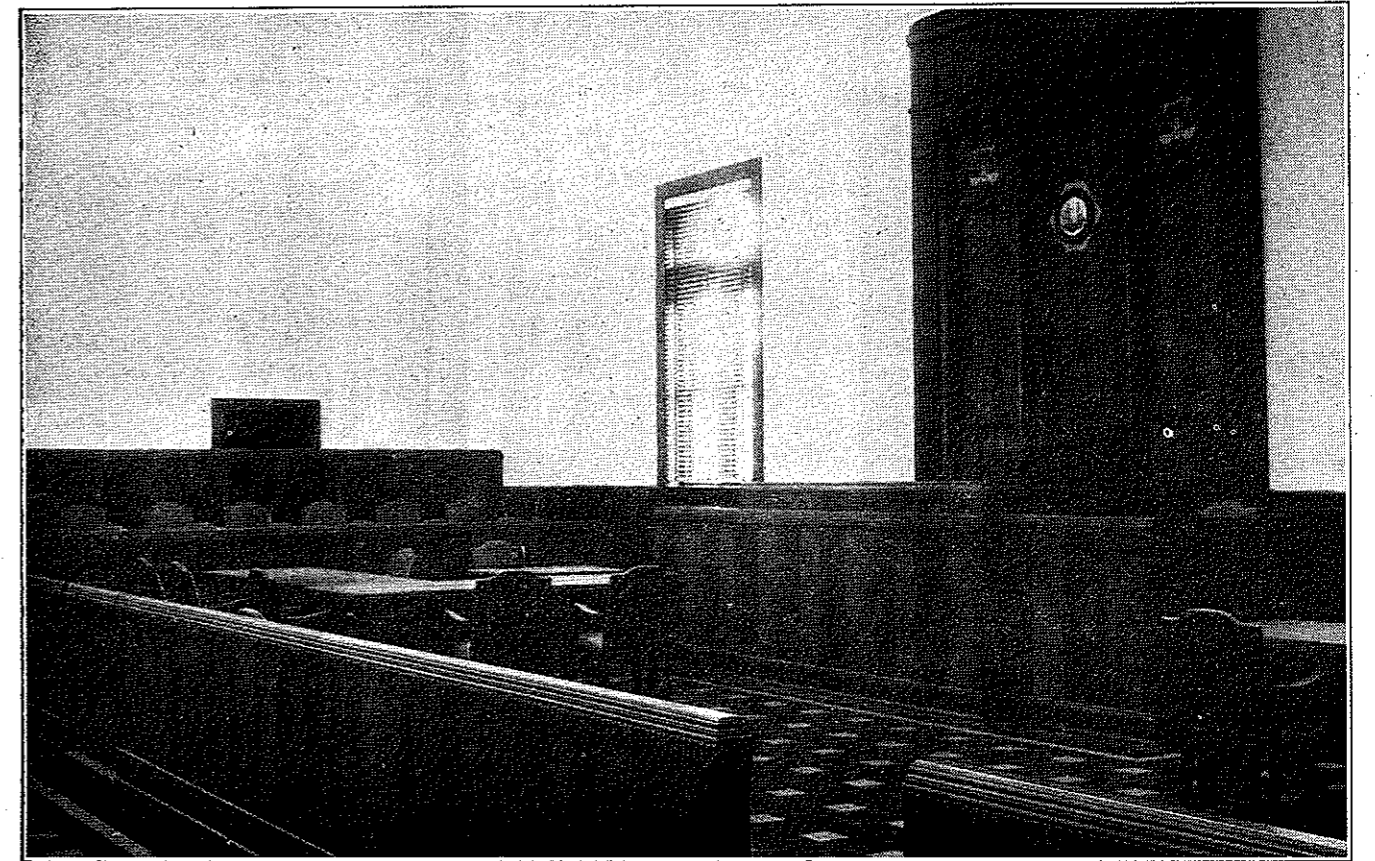
Voters of Doddridge county will go to the polls Feb. 21 to decide on a \$70,000 bond issue proposed to finance a building & improvement program for the board of education.

Spectators' Benches in Fayette Court Room Installation



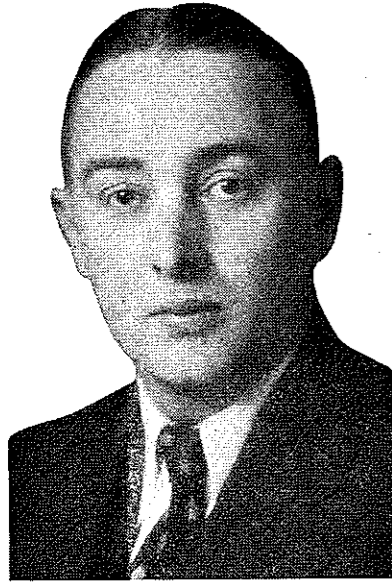
—Photo by J. R. Aliff, Sheriff Fayette County.

Judge's Rostrum, Jury Box and Carved Background in Fayette Court Room



—Photo by J. R. Aliff, Sheriff Fayette County.

New Circuit Clerk



Raymond C. Wolfe

Mr. Wolfe began his new duties as Circuit Clerk of Harrison county on Jan. 1. He succeeds B. B. Jarvis, who resigned this office to become Clerk of the Supreme Court of Appeals at Charleston.

NEW METAL BOOK NOW ON MARKET

Hall & McChesney Announces An Aluminum Record Book

A new everlasting county record book, entirely bound in formed aluminum, was announced Jan. 24 by Donald S. McChesney, president of Hall & McChesney, Inc., Syracuse, N. Y.

Mr. McChesney made his announcement while in Spencer conferring with the firm of Casto & Harris, his exclusive agents in West Virginia.

The binding is of aeroplane aluminum, its spray-baked finish of olive green having a texture similar to leather.

Because the book cannot wear out, it eliminates all repairs and rebinding expense, flouts damage or accident. Because aluminum replaces heavier binders' boards and leather, the new book is 20% lighter, although much stronger.

Complete details of the new

POETICAL DEED FROM RALEIGH CO.

Man and Wife Resort to Rhyme To Effect Property Transfer

A 28-year-old deed, written entirely in poetry form, is on record in Raleigh county, according to Miss Lorena Wallace, one of County Clerk Harry Anderson's assistants. The deed, dated Dec. 25, 1910, was made by John Laverty and Wife, is reproduced as follows:

This Deed made on Christmas day,
Nineteen hundred and ten,
Anniversary of the birth
Of Him who died for men,

Between John and Susan Laverty,
Who are husband and wife,
Parties of the first part,
Who are feeble, now, in life;

The parties of the second part,
We will now recall,
They are the names that follow,
Which number nine, in all;

Londie M., Ben H., and Ott Gates,
Kelly Clay and Radie Clay,
And Emmett Harper next;
Montie Laverty, John Laverty,
And last is Grade Cook,
Which completes the text.

WITNESSETH:

That in consideration,
Of the affection and love,
We bear the nine Grandchildren,
Which are named above

We do hereby give and grant
The following real estate,
With warranty that's general,
And which is situate,

In grand old Raleigh County,
And in West Virginia state,
In the district of Marsh Fork,
Near where Rock Creek's waters prate;

And to be more definite,
—We'll give you mete and bound,
So all may know exactly,
Just what the lines surround.

(Here Was Brief Description)

The above tract is granted
Which we do now attest,
To themselves and loved ones,
For their final place of rest.

The same is meant to be conveyed,
Unto them and their heirs forever,
So that all may have their six by three
When the cords of life shall sever.

And witness now our signatures,
Our solemn seals of love,
And may there be reunion,
Unbroken, up above.

John Laverty (SEAL)
Susan Laverty (SEAL)

book will appear in an early issue of The NewsTeller, and samples will be demonstrated throughout West Virginia during February.

Randolph Sup't.



Byran Hamilton

Another generous booster for The NewsTeller is Mr. Hamilton, superintendent of the Randolph county schools.

S. O. S.! (Second Call)

This month's NewsTeller contains every line of material contributed by the 650 persons now receiving the magazine regularly. There is not a single item left over, which means that we must start all over again for the February issue.

Obviously the publishers cannot sit in Spencer and manufacture interesting articles about the county and school officials of West Virginia. It is only through the help of the "subscribers" that we can make the magazine useful and worthwhile.

So we repeat our S. O. S. call of last month, asking everyone who sees this magazine to send in a news item, feature article or photograph for reproduction in The NewsTeller.

Thank you!

Our Mr. Depew

Quite amusing to the publishers of The NewsTeller is the fact that, for some peculiar reason, many of our best customers cannot remember the name of our youngest and most handsome salesman, one Mr. Gordon K. Depew.

Although he has been "on the road" for four long years, he is still stumped by an occasional mispronunciation of his not-so-uncommon name.

For example, H. R. Beckelheimer, clerk of the Fayette county court, persists in calling him Mr. Purdue. As a former football coach "Beck" probably can remember a Purdue football team better than he can remember a C. & H. salesman.

This month, at the county commissioners' association, Leeman Knight, of the Harrison county court, introduced our Mr. Depew to the convention, referring to him as "Mr. McCue."

Not a few of our good customers—particularly Glen Jackson, Logan county deputy clerk, and Frank M. Hollis, Taylor county circuit clerk—always call him "Chauncey" Depew.

Only time said young & handsome salesman ever got peeved over the wrong pronunciation of his name was when a caller at our office breezed in and asked to see Mr. Depewski!

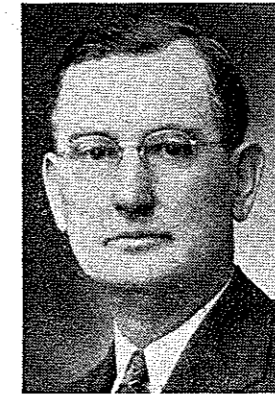
Carbonized Forms

Becoming popular throughout West Virginia are wax-protected carbonized forms, which eliminate the use of carbon paper in checks, requisitions, tax tickets, etc.

For some time now Casto & Harris has been supplying such forms, one of its first customers for this product being the Kanawha Board of Education, which uses purchase orders in quadruplicate.

The work can be done in any color in which carbon paper can be made and is protected by a film of wax to prevent smudging. From 12 to 14 copies may be made at one time.

HOST CLERK FOR 1939 CONVENTION



A. R. Martin
Monongalia County Clerk

Reelected for another six-year term by the greatest majority ever given in Monongalia county, A. R. Martin is busy making arrangements for the 1939 convention of the County & Circuit Clerks' association, which meeting will be held in Morgantown this summer.

The exact dates have not been set, but tentative arrangements point toward June as the likely month.

Mr. and Mrs. Martin always attended the clerks' conventions and they will know how to go about making the 1939 meeting another big success.

Another "NewsTeller"

Is Clay Miller's face red?

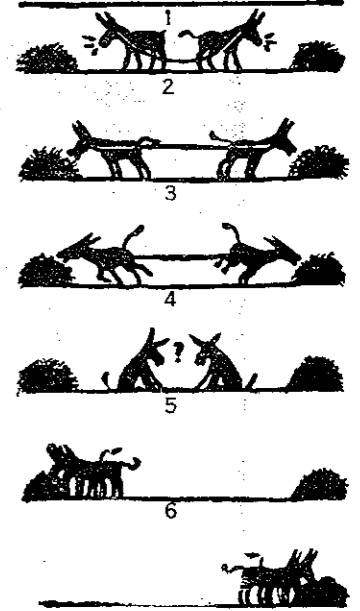
As treasurer of Casto & Harris, Inc., he helped to select "NewsTeller" as official name for this little magazine. So far as could be ascertained, it was not being used in West Virginia and the publishers felt that it was most suitable.

Last week, however, Treasurer Miller's 10-year-old daughter came home from school with a new, mimeographed grade-school magazine also called "The NewsTeller."

Bemoaning the remarkable coincidence, he thumbed through its pages, was rendered speechless at an editorial note giving his daughter credit for "thinking up" the name.

Is his face red?

THINK IT OVER



CO-OPERATION

Himself a great believer in cooperation, A. R. Martin (left) submits this humorous sketch to show that, with proper cooperation, the county and school officials of the State can get anything they want.

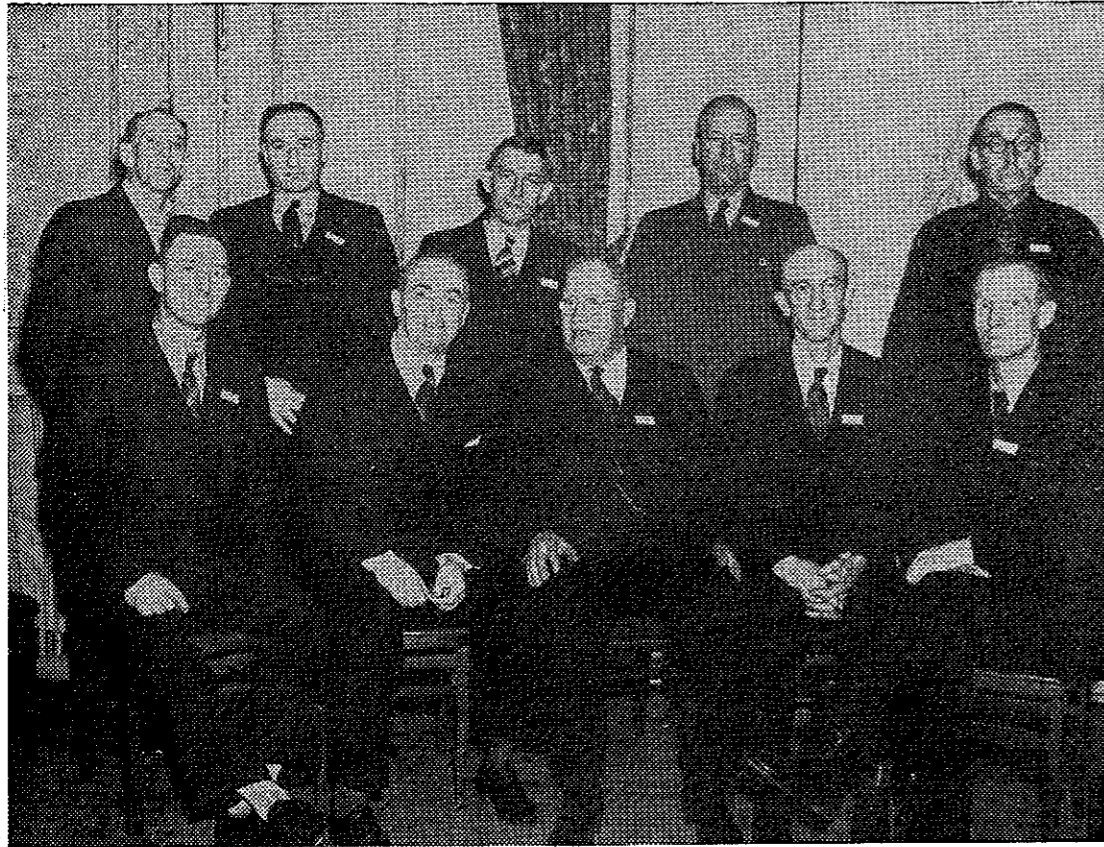
Deputy Assessor



Jaunita Nichols

Miss Nichols is the efficient deputy in the office of Chauncey D. Twyford, assessor of Tyler county.

8 Members Preston County Court Meet Governor



—Photo Courtesy Charleston Daily Mail

Members of West Virginia's only eight-man county court, from Preston county, were photographed Jan. 16 with Governor Holt at the banquet ending first-day sessions of the County Commissioners' association meeting at Charleston.

In this picture, left to right, are: First row—V. E. Howell, Independence; Governor Holt; G. E. Borgman, Kingwood; Jesse DeBerry, Terra Alta; Charles Cale, Masontown; Second row—John Miller, Albright; J. M. Harsh, Eglon; A. L. Reed, Newburg, president of the court; P. F. King, Kingwood, county clerk; and F. M. Cunningham, Bruceton Mills.

Few Back Copies Available

Several "subscribers" to The County NewsTeller have written the publishers, asking for back copies, stating that they are going to keep all issues.

A few extra copies of the first three issues are available and will be mailed free on request until the supply is exhausted.

Now that the series of court house pictures is starting, subscribers are urged to preserve all copies so that they will have a complete series of these pictures.

Wood Clerk

(Continued from Page Three)
of callers are received courteously at his office daily, and when many of these recognize the efficient and systematic manner in which his office is conducted, their eyes are opened up. To them, Earl Wolfe exemplifies courtesy and efficiency, and that is an unbeatable combination.

40 Years In Office

(Continued from Page One)
appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the death of her husband, who had been clerk for about 25 years.

SEEK CIVIL SERVICE

FAIRMONT—Civil service for deputy sheriffs similar to that for police in large towns and cities will be sought during the current session of the legislature, Henry B. Squires, state president of the Fraternal Order of Police, reported.

DEPUTY CLERK INJURED

Henry Hoefler, Randolph county deputy clerk, and his wife were injured Dec. 30 when their automobile skidded and left an icy road near Thomas.

Hoefler suffered a fractured leg and Mrs. Hoefler suffered chest and back injuries.

Not TOO Big

It is no dark secret that Casto & Harris is not the largest firm of its kind doing business with the county courts and boards of education in West Virginia. Nor will it ever be the largest, because we shall continue, as in the past, to confine our efforts to within the boundaries of our own state.

Indeed, we believe that our smaller, compact, 100% West Virginia corporation can be of better service to the counties and schools than could larger corporations with nation-wide interests and inflexible rules.

Our business has no red tape, no production schedules that cannot be changed to accomodate a customer, no efficiency "experts", no high-salaried "executives." If you get "caught short" on any item we manufacture, we'll stop everything else, work all night if necessary, to get it for you when needed.

Our employees all come of good American stock, all but two of them being native West Virginians. We call each other by our first names. We and they don't know what labor trouble is.

Our collection department has no "form letter", and "please remit" never appears on an invoice because, being taxpayers ourselves, we know that many counties can pay up only once or twice a year.

No, we're not the biggest concern in this business, but we try to be the best.

CASTO & HARRIS, INC.

(A West Virginia Corporation)

Telephone 110

SPENCER, W. VA.