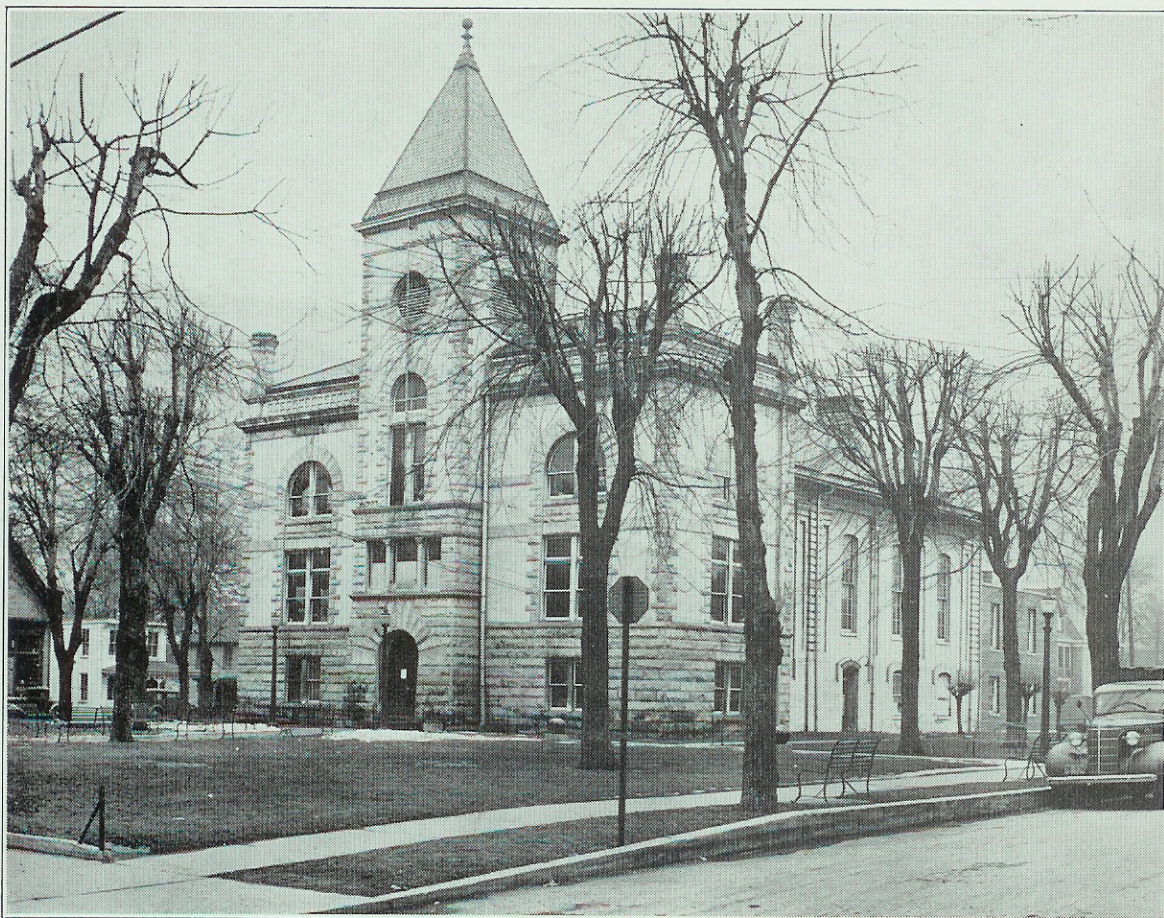


The County
NEWSTELLER

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

MINERAL COUNTY COURT HOUSE

Keyser, W. Va.



(For particulars see page one)

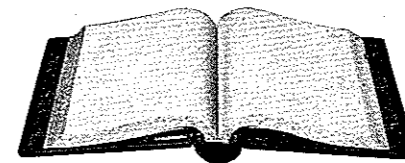
(No. 25 in a series of 55 front covers being used to present the Court Houses of West Virginia)

VOLUME III

MARCH, 1941

NUMBER 6

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 III

MARCH, 1941

Number 6

County Officials Visit Florida

Several Enjoy All or Part of Winter in Warmer Clime

Quite a few county officials, their wives and children, spent all or part of the winter at various points in Florida.

Mrs. John Caplinger, wife of the Randolph county clerk, left West Virginia early enough to enroll their son in Florida schools, inasmuch as the young lad had been in ill health and it was hoped that a winter in Florida would prove a good tonic. County Clerk Caplinger made several trips to visit his family.

Wood County Clerk Earl Wolfe, Jr., accompanied by Mrs. Wolfe and their daughter, Joan Dale, spent several weeks at Daytona Beach.

Roane County Clerk Roy Lester, Mrs. Lester and their niece, Ruth Cottle, also were at Daytona Beach, and visited with the

(Continued on Page Four)

BIRTHDAY DINNER

As usual, Dr. S. B. Lawson, president of the Logan county court, and C. W. Bias, county jailer and councilman, celebrated their birthdays together.

The affair was held March 14 in the country cabin owned by Sheriff Claude Gore and Jailer

Many prominent Logan men attended the affair, and a chicken dinner.

MINERAL COUNTY: Formed in 1866 from part of Hampshire county. So named because of the mineral resources found in the county.

Important frontier forts located in county during Indian Wars. Fort Ashby at Fort Ashby (unincorporated) built in 1755 is the only Indian Fort in West Virginia. Monument erected on Mike's Run, near Keyser, at birthplace of Nancy Hanks, mother of Abraham Lincoln.

Area: 330 square miles.
Population: (1940) 22,217.
County Seat (New Creek) name changed to Keyser in 1868.

Court House was built in 1870 and a new addition was added in 1907.

MINERAL COUNTY CLERK CELEBRATES BIRTHDAY

T. T. Huffman, clerk of the Mineral county court, celebrated his sixty-second birthday March 12 with a family dinner.

Mr. Huffman has been clerk of the Mineral county court for 20 years. He was postmaster from June 18, 1903, to Dec. 17, 1915. His father was the late Frederick Huffman, who also served as postmaster from Dec. 28, 1868, to Jan. 2, 1878. It was during his term of office that the name of the town of New Creek was changed to Keyser on Sept. 23, 1874. His brother, Daniel F. Huffman, who died on Jan. 8, worked in the post-office for 35 years and was assist-

(Continued on Page Two)

Logan Paper Lauds Sheriff

The following editorial is reprinted from a Logan paper:

"Sheriff Claude Gore proves every weekend that he is primarily interested in law enforcement in Logan county and not in the money which is derived from the monthly jail bill.

"Since the first of January, when he took over, the number of persons arrested has consistently decreased, indicating that the lawless element out in the county is coming to realize that the sheriff means business.

"There is no question but that Sheriff Gore and his force could fill the jail every weekend if they wanted to. The material is out there in the county for it.

"Instead, the sheriff and his force choose to enforce the law and see that the border line cases between drunkenness and sobriety are sent on their way home where they can't hurt themselves or anybody else.

"The compliments are many from out in the field where Sheriff Gore's deputies are handling their work with efficiency and courtesy."

IMPROVING

Donald Van Camp, circuit clerk of Tyler county, is recovering rapidly from serious injuries received in an automobile accident near New Martinsville Feb. 16.

LEWIS COUNTY PROSECUTOR IS AIR SQUAD CAPTAIN AT CHANUTE FIELD

Lewis county's prosecuting attorney, James H. Brewster, Jr., is a captain in the U. S. Army air corps and is stationed at Chanute Field as commander of the 35th school squadron.

In a letter to a Weston newspaper, Captain Brewster gives the following interesting description of how Chanute Field has grown from a small army post of 600 officers and men in 1939 to a mammoth training school of 17,000 men:

"This is some place—a year ago they were about to dismantle this post and give it up. It then accommodated about 600 officers and men. Very small old time out of date post. Then came W. War II. There are buildings all over the place—Some of card board. (Card Board City); some never ones of wood (called by some Boom Town) and a new section of similar construction on down the road, nicknamed Campaign Heights. There are some new quarters here but very few officers. There is a new administration building almost completed—a new 1,000 room hospital—part in operation and part nearly completed. The new barracks (permanent) have been nicked Buckingham Palace—When fully organized will house over 3,000 men, and has barber shops, post exchanges, restaurants, tailors, etc., to say nothing of a mess hall that feeds 10,000 men three times a day. Some place! They figure they feed (serve) 70 men per minute and it runs from 5 a. m. to 9:30 p. m.

"As stated above this place was a post for approximately 600 men and officers. Now there are about 17,000 men and 135 officers. We are expecting another 100 officers and 4,000 more men.

"This is an air corps technical school, the main purpose of which is to train cadries for the care, maintenance, and upkeep of airplanes. They conduct school here in shifts—teaching propellers, welding, instruments, motors in

all phases and kinds, and just about all kinds and types of instruments necessary to keep or put a plane in the air. The school runs from 6 a. m. to 10 p. m. with two sets of instructors. I expect it is the largest specialized airplane mechanical engineering school on the country and is in reality a big non-co-ed college. You may be able to imagine 17,000 students changing classes.

"My job here is purely administrative. They have ordered about 175 line officers of the several branches in here to take over all administration in order to relieve Air Corps officers of non-flying duties. I have been placed in command of a new school squadron, the 35th. The authorized strength of an air corps squadron is 141 men but most all of the school squadrons here are over strength if you consider the attached personnel as well as those assigned. Some of the older squadrons have 3,000 men attached and assigned. Men are coming to this outfit all the time and our strength changes from day to day. I am the only officer with the 35th, having relieved two Air Corps captains.

"The technical schools, three of them now, are under command of General Lincoln, are building two new schools, one at Wichita Falls, Tex., and the other at Biloxi, Miss. The cadries and instructors will be furnished by this (Chanute Field) school. Rumor has it that my squadron will be moved to one of those in the next few months to take it over and run it.

"All in all, it's a great life—and to say the least very interesting. If there are any high school grads about Lewis county who want a thorough course in airplane mechanics from A to Z they should enlist for assignment to this field—there are millions of dollars worth of the latest equipment here for the training."

Mineral County

(Continued from Page One)

ant postmaster when he retired two years ago on account of ill health.

Mr. Huffman's mother, Mrs. Mollie Taylor Huffman, was a direct descendent of Daniel Taylor, Revolutionary soldier and one of the earliest settlers.

In the Autumn

Teacher: "What is gravity?"

Willie: "Well, it was first discovered by Isaac Newton. It's chiefly noticeable in the autumn, when the apples are falling from the trees."

A
P
R
I
L
F
O
O
L

This space was intended for some news which you failed to send in.

Marshall Deputy Writes NewsTeller

March 9, 1941.

"The County NewsTeller,

"Casto & Harris,

"Spencer, W. Va.

"Today being Sunday, I came to the office to prepare some material for a little program on the senseless habit of all organizations publishing a more or less useless magazine. It does seem that every time you join something you get another of the common 'herd' of (to me) more or less useless magazines usually published.

"RESULT:

"I read the February number of The NewsTeller. Don't discontinue it as a result of my campaign.

"First, I want to ask a question of the writer of the article 'Gilmer Editor Boosts Women for Office.' Why the exception of the office of prosecuting attorney? Why could not a woman, otherwise qualified, not fill that office?

"I do not say she could, I merely ask, 'Why she could not?'

"I quickly recognized the picture of the Roane County Court House. Also the picture of Sheriff Watson of Tyler.

"I enjoyed the letter of Chauncey Twyford of Tyler anent the 'Pup.'

"The article of the Sage of Tucker 'Women Also' was a nice job of wit and satire.

"The 'Lost Surveyor's Compass' was interesting history.

"The editorial by George Simmons was timely.

"We have had some real winter here lately. I heard our sheriff tell the prisoners in the county jail here the other morning, 'It is a bad morning, boys,' said he. 'If I were you I would not go out today.' And they didn't.

Continue to publish, no matter what I say.

"Sincerely yours,

"L. G. Porky Wilson,

"Office Deputy Assessor,

"Moundsville, Marshall County, W. Va."

Essay on "Restrooms"

Here's one on Roy Lester, clerk of the Roane county court, that's too good to keep:

It seems that many years ago Roy ran an undertaking and furniture business at Reedy, a few miles northwest of Spencer. Now Roy was just a typical country boy—even as you and I—and he



E. R. Lester

didn't know all the hi-faluting terms that the Big City people used. Indeed, he had no reason to mix with the Big City people until one day a former Reedyite died in some far-away city and was brought back home for burial. The funeral was to be held in Roy's home town and the body was taken to his combination funeral home and furniture store.

Shortly before services people began driving in from the city, to pay last respects to the deceased. Among them were some high so-

ciety ladies who used high society terms.

Finally two of them approached Roy, asked: "Where is your rest room?"

Somewhat taken aback at the thought that anyone would want a special room in which to "rest", Roy gave them the logical answer.

Motioning to the large supply of chairs the store carried in stock, Roy dismissed the problem in six words: "You can use one of them," he said.

Now, however, after ten years in "Town," Roy knows differently.

The Lesson

The first morning after the honeymoon the husband got up early, went down to the kitchen and brought his wife her breakfast in bed. Naturally, she was delighted. Then friend husband spoke:

"Have you noticed just what I have done?"

"Of course, dear, every single detail."

"Good. That's how I want my breakfast served every morning after this."

Taking It Serious

"Now, perhaps you'll want a shave?" queried the barber who had just given five-year-old Bobbie his first professional haircut.

Bobbie (after feeling of his face): "I guess there wouldn't be enough shavings, would there?"

Difficulties

Joe: "What's become of the Hikers' Club?"

Jim: "Oh, it was disbanded. It was getting too hard to persuade passing motorists to pick us up and give us a lift."

His Circumstances

She: "Sorry I can't accept you, Bill, but circumstances over which I have no control prevent me."

He: "And what are those circumstances?"

She: "Yours."

Cabell Deputy Gets Sailfish

W. Marshall Martin Lands Seven-Foot Beauty

"The most beautiful thing I have ever seen in my life, either in or out of the water," is the way W. Marshall Martin, deputy assessor of Cabell county, describes the 7 feet, 1½-inch sailfish which he captured in the Florida Gulf stream Sept. 4.

But let's allow Deputy Martin to tell the story in his own words:

"It was on Sept. 1, last, that my wife and I left Huntington, bound for the 'Land of Sunshine' and a few weeks' rest from work. On Sept. 8th, while sojourning in Miami Beach, Florida, I decided to try my luck out in the 'Blue Water' (Florida Gulf Stream).

I booked passage on the yacht 'Skylark,' along with two experienced deep-sea fishermen. We had been trolling our lines for perhaps two hours when a large Sailfish hit my bait and started running with it. Finally he stopped and I started the long process of reeling him in and, believe me, I really found out that all the stories you read and hear about catching these fellows are true and then some.

"You pull and reel—your arm wears down to the point where you think it is going to pull out; your fingers on the reel have blisters worn on them, and the strain on your back makes you wish it would break in two and give you a little relief. Then your legs begin to ache and a charley-horse is a minor pain compared to that.

"After 50 minutes of playing 'You Chase Me' I succeeded in bringing him into the yacht and the Mate pulled him into the boat. This beautiful denison of the deep was a full 6 feet, 9½ inches long and weighed 45 pounds.

"This was the supreme thrill of my life, but while I was standing up rubbing my tired and sore muscles and taking a well-earned rest, my line hooked into another one and I had the whole thing to

CLAY SHERIFF



Abner H. Hamrick

Pictured above is Abner H. Hamrick, newly-elected sheriff of Clay county. Mr. Hamrick is a loyal NewsTeller booster.

repeat. But this time I was a qualified fisherman and knew all the wrinkles and managed to pull this one in, in only 40 minutes.

"If I got a thrill out of catching the first one it was doubled this time, because this Sailfish was only 11 inches short of the 1940-41 record catch. His length was 7 feet, 1½ inches, weight 48 pounds; the most beautiful thing I have ever seen in my life, either in or out of the water.

"The mate informed me that if anyone else in the boat had so much as put his hand on the rod and assisted me in bringing these fish in, he would have cut the line. The code of the fishing fleet, I guess. They were my fish and I had to bring them in. The moral to the entire story is just plain Beginners' Luck. These were the first fish of any kind I have ever caught.

"I don't know whether or not this story would be of interest to anyone outside of my own family

and friends or whether it will be believed or not. But I have an affidavit from the Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce and the Miami Beach Sailfish Club, sworn and subscribed to before a Notary Public.

"The seven foot fish has been on exhibit in the court house, the Guaranty Bank and Trust company and the Hunter and Hastings Camera shop for the past month, together with the above mentioned affidavit. I will have it back in this office in a few days and you are cordially invited to stop in and bat your eyes out marveling how a fish as beautiful as it could live."

WANTS NEWSTELLER

Kingwood, W. Va.
March 31, 1941.

Sirs:

I would be pleased to continue getting The NewsTeller, as I enjoy it very much and also enjoyed the association of Casto & Harris at the county court conventions in times past. Hope to see you again.

Respectfully,
G. E. Borgman.

(Mr. Borgman, former member of the Preston county court, can rest assured that his name has been placed on The NewsTeller's permanent mailing list.—ed.)

County Officials

(Continued from Page One)

Wolfe several times.

Wetzel County Clerk George A. Harman and Mrs. Harman spent most of their vacation at Sebring, Fla.

Hancock County Clerk Don G. Stewart and son were in the Sunny South for several weeks. They are annual visitors to Florida.

Last, but by no means least, Mrs. Roscoe Zinn, clerk of the circuit court of Barbour county, accompanied by her son, vacationed in Florida.

(Note: If other county or school officials were vacationing this winter, we'd welcome news.—ed.)

ROANE COUNTY REINDEXES WILLS, MARRIAGES, TRUST DEEDS, JUDGMENT LIENS, LEASES, BIRTHS, ESTATES AND FIDUCIARIES; COST IS ONLY \$13,000



Shown above are the workers responsible for Roane county's reindexing project which began in February, 1940, and which will continue for several months. Pictured left to right are Edna Tanner, Freda Ferrell, Kathryn Louise Bradfield, Ettis Ilene Eison, Merle Sinnett, Sidney Pettit and Rosemary Hersman, all workers on the project; E. Roy Lester, clerk of the Roane county court; Robert DePue, Spencer attorney who is supervisor of the project; and George A. Vandale, deputy clerk of Roane county.

The first project, now completed, covered trust deeds and judgment liens. It began Feb. 1, 1940, with the federal government granting \$3,526 and the county putting up \$919. Completed far ahead of schedule, the project cost \$1,400 less than estimated.

Almost completed is another project covering marriages and oil & gas leases. The govern-

ment gave \$4,700, the county \$1,361. It is also ahead of schedule and some money will be saved.

The third project, just approved, calls for reindexing births, estates & fiduciaries. For this project the government is allowing \$4,200 and the county court will put up another one-fourth.

It is hoped that a project to reindex the deeds will be approved and, if so, this will give Clerk Lester one of the finest sets of books in the country. It is no secret that the Roane county workers are among the most efficient in the state and Supervisor DePue has been complimented by federal authorities for his workmanlike job.

After looking over several index systems, the clerk and court chose the nationally famous Permaflex index, which is sold exclusively in West Virginia by Casto & Harris.

Exactly 153,850 index cards have been used to date in reindexing these books.

"Uncle Joe" Praises Nicholas Board

The following letter from "Uncle Joe", complimenting the Nicholas County Board of Education and James Creasy, county superintendent, recently appeared in the Nicholas Chronicle:

"When the County Board of Education began cutting holes in the wall of the basement of the auditorium of the Nicholas County High School I was very jealous, believing it would weaken the wall of that splendid building. I was worried because I was one of the board members when the building was erected in 1913 and 1914. It had become the pride of my life. As I look back over the last twenty-nine years and have attended all of the commencement exercises but one. So I am willing to let bygones be bygones. I took a vacation and leisurely reviewed the situation and was thoroughly convinced the board was doing a fine construction job at a minimum cost which will add two large class rooms, one large room for work shop and a nice light room for the janitor and storage with a hall that the classes can step on a bus on the newly made road that leads to the gym and ball diamond and alley leading to Main street.

"James Creasy, our county Superintendent, took me down to the old Arbuckle Grade School house. I was surprised to see such a change they had made. It had been jacked up and a cinder block wall built underneath and divided into three or four rooms for storage and equipment. The main building was divided into four or five rooms to accommodate the county superintendent and assistant and helpers. An office for the Health Department and an office for the Truant officer with storage for his equipment. As I see it the board is doing a fine class of mental as well as fine job of construction work and will save the county hundreds of dollars in rent. I will now take you over into Kentucky district where the Board has erected a splendid fire

COURT HEAD



Guy F. Spriggs

Guy F. Spriggs, age 39, was elected president of the Morgan county court shortly after the first of the year. He is next to the youngest president.

He succeeded Ward M. Dawson, who became president at the age of 36. President Spriggs served four years as a member of the Morgan county court before being named president for the current year.

He is a sawmill operator, lumber man and local and long distance hauling operator. He is a resident of Berkeley Springs.

proof grade school building where they will consolidate five schools in the district into one which will save several hundreds of dollars, so I learn.

"Written by Uncle Joe."

QUEER REQUEST

J. W. Buchanan, deputy county clerk of Fayette county, received a request for a birth certificate, which request contained no information other than the name of the applicant. Mr. Buchanan replied, requesting that an approxi-

mate date be given and requesting other information required.

The applicant retaliated: "That is what I am trying to find out; you are better at figures than I am."

Another letter addressed to the clerk's office stated: "Will you please search the records and see if there is anything now or in the future against my property?"

COUNTY CLERK'S DAUGHTER MARRIED

Miss Emma Lou Wolfe, daughter of Harrison County Clerk and Mrs. Harley Wolfe, was married to William Edward DeTurk of Buckhannon March 5 at Kingsport, Tenn. It was a double wedding ceremony, the other couple being Miss Martha Alice Smith and William C. Phillips, both of Buckhannon.

Mrs. DeTurk graduated from Washington Irving High School in 1940 and attended West Virginia Wesleyan College until her marriage. She served as a princess in the Fifth Annual Central West Virginia Strawberry Festival and was a member of the Kappa Phi Omega, social sorority of Wesleyan.

Mr. DeTurk, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Marshall DeTurk, attended the Buckhannon high school and Greenbrier Military Academy at Lewisburg. At the present time he is employed by the Pittsburgh Plate and Glass Company at Clarksburg, where the couple will make their home.

Send in
NEWS AND
PICTURES
To
YOUR
COUNTY

NEWSTELLER

Persons Must File Return

Former Tax Commissioner Points to Severe Penalties

Ernest K. James, former State Tax commissioner, recently called attention to the fact that county assessors and deputies throughout the State are now engaged in listing and assessing real and personal property, and respectfully requested that all taxpayers cooperate with the assessors and deputies by making a true and complete return of all their property.

Mr. James states that apparently many persons seem to be under the false impression that unless they are called upon by the assessor or deputy to file a tax return they are under no obligation to do so. In this connection he pointed out that although it is true that the assessor or deputy is required to call upon each taxpayer, a duty is also imposed upon the taxpayer to make a return to the assessor whether called upon or not. The law specifically provides that it shall be the duty of every person liable to taxation to make a return in writing of his property to the assessor, whether called upon to do so or not.

The attention of the taxpayer is called to the rather severe penalties provided for failure to make a return or failure to make a true and complete return. The law provides that in addition to all other penalties, if a taxpayer fails to make a return or to furnish a true list of all property which should be assessed in this State, including money, notes, taxable bonds, bills and accounts receivable, stocks and any other intangible personal property, a forfeiture of five percent of the value of the property not returned and not taxed shall be imposed, and this forfeiture may be enforced for as many as five years. Consequently, in many cases the forfeiture amounts to twenty-five percent of the value of the property not returned and not taxed. The tax-

NEW PROSECUTOR



Clarence E. Martin, Jr.

Clarence E. Martin, Jr., was recently elected prosecuting attorney of Berkeley County. Mr. Martin is the son of Hon. Clarence E. Martin, former President of the American Bar Association and the West Virginia Bar Association. He received his degree at the Catholic University of America, Washington, D. C.

Mr. Martin appointed as assistant prosecuting attorney, R. H. Boyd, former president of the Berkeley County Bar Association and a well known and popular attorney. He also appointed Miss Corinne Alderton, an attractive and efficient young lady, as his secretary.

Mr. Martin is particularly cautioned that these provisions apply to money, notes, accounts receivable, investment certificates and other like property and he is urged, therefore, for his own protection to make a true return of such property to the assessor or deputy.

Mr. James also stated that apparently some taxpayers hesitate to make a true and complete return of their property for the

reason that they are of the mistaken belief that their original returns are open to public inspection, and he calls attention to the fact that such returns are to be treated as confidential the same as income tax and other returns, and that they are not subject to public inspection or examination.

The Records and papers in this room have been salvaged from the ravages of time, and the dust of a century. They have been carefully sorted and arranged, order out of chaos, indexed in so far as possible with the idea always in mind of the clearness of purpose, to wit: that the past may be unfolded to those yet to come.

May we ask your assistance in their preservation?
George M. Hall,
County Clerk.

"This interesting sign hangs in the County Record Library of Washington County, Hudson Falls, New York. It was composed by Mr. George M. Hall, County Clerk. Combining as it does a polite word of warning to the thoughtless with a succinct description of the value of records and the labor involved in properly preserving them, it may suggest a similar notice which you might care to place in your record books or to display conspicuously close to your files. It is unfortunate that while people generally take full advantage of the services and facilities which a well-organized record room affords, they seldom stop to think of the hard work and the expense involved or of the inestimable value of such records to the community. Anything you can do to bring this home to them would be helpful."

—Weston's Record.

Doubtful

Secretary: "Professor, I found your umbrella at the Lost Property Office."

Professor: "That's quite strange—I've never been there."

Court House Pictures Wanted

Only two counties responded to our SOS of last month for court house pictures, so that our series of front page covers will be complete. They were Gilmer and Clay.

However, the following counties are still counted among the missing:

- | | |
|------------|-----------|
| Barbour | Mercer |
| Boone | Mingo |
| Braxton | Monroe |
| Calhoun | Nicholas |
| Doddridge | Ohio |
| Grant | Pendleton |
| Greenbrier | Raleigh |
| Hancock | Taylor |
| Jackson | Wayne |
| Jefferson | Webster |
| Kanawha | Wetzel |
| McDowell | Wood |
| Marion | Wyoming |
| Mason | |

FORMER SHERIFF DIES

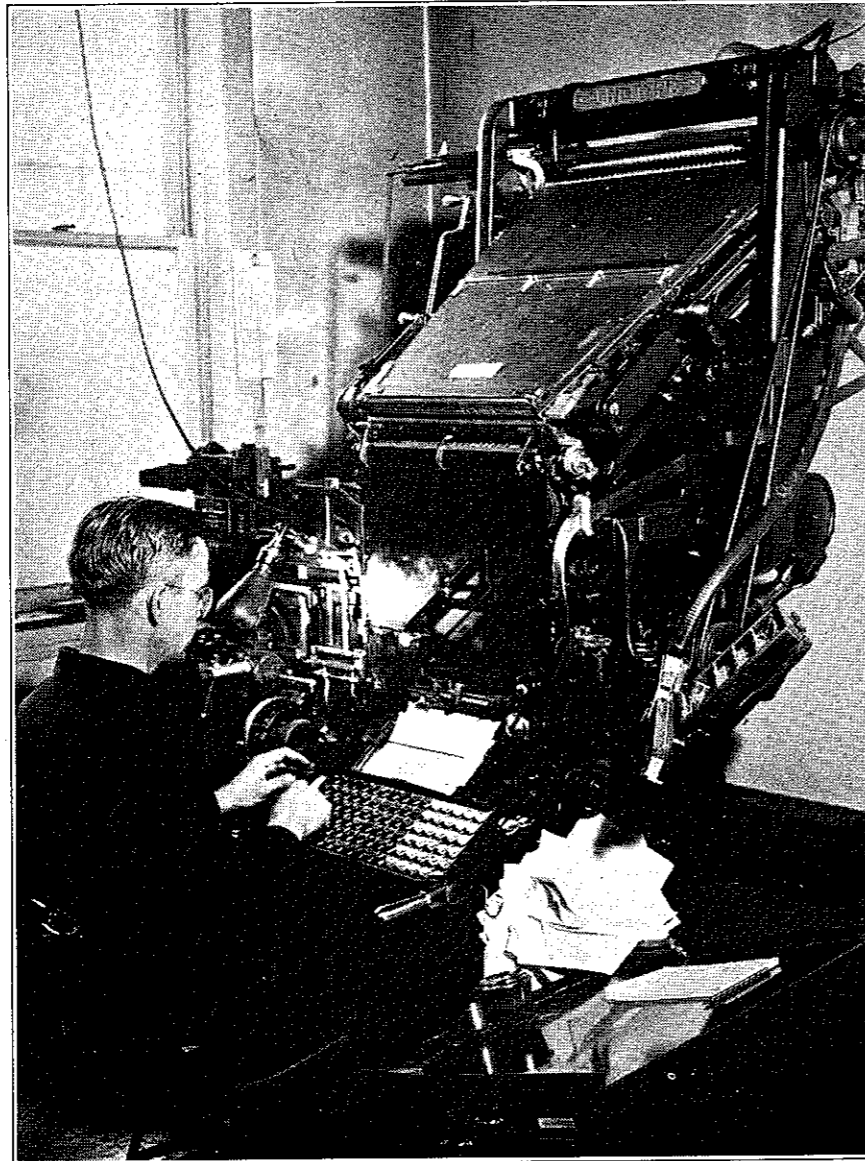
David C. Bennett, former Wetzel county sheriff and a prominent figure in county politics, died suddenly at his home Feb. 16 on his 62nd birthday.

Mr. Bennett's health had been failing during the last year but his condition was not considered critical and his sudden demise came as a distinct shock to his large number of friends.

Besides holding a prominent place in politics during his life, Mr. Bennett had long been a prominent figure in business. He was one of the owners of the Wetzel Insurance Agency and in late years had been active in real estate transactions. In his younger days he was a well known mercantile man in Smithfield and Wallace and made hundreds of friends along the Shortline.

In 1921 he was elected sheriff of Wetzel county and at the end of his four-year term he went into the insurance business and made his home at New Martinsville.

Setting Up The NewsTeller



Here's how The NewsTeller gets into type. The worker pictured above is Harlan L. Bowyer, who has operated a linotype machine for 17 years. A native Roane countian, 38 years old, he has been with Casto & Harris since its incorporation.

The machine pictured is a new "2-in-1" Model 31 Linotype. NewsTeller readers are urged to visit our plant and see the equipment in operation.

EX-SHERIFF NEW WARDEN

M. E. Ketchum, former Wayne county sheriff and former deputy U. S. marshal, has been appointed warden of the Moundsville penitentiary by Gov. Neely.

Ketchum, who has extensive farming oil and gas interests in Wayne county, succeeds Leo Callison, who was appointed warden by former Gov. Holt on Oct. 1, 1939, following the death of Warden Clarence M. Stone.

“A WORD TO THE WISE”

Without meaning to alarm any of our customers who might be in the market for school and office furniture, metal office equipment and other such items, we believe that the facts on production and delivery of such materials should be handed on to them as it has been handed on to us by manufacturers in nearly every line of business.

Herewith we reprint an excerpt from a bulletin issued by one of the country's largest metal office manufacturers under date of March 1:

“Today we are faced with manufacturing accomplishments that are impossible of fulfillment.

“We are compelled to make a change in our manufacturing policy, and we may be confronted with the necessity of making further changes. You are entitled to know the reasons for our decisions.

“Orders at the present time are greatly in excess of capacity. There is a limit to our capacity of buildings, machinery, personnel, etc. beyond which we cannot go. Our plant is not like a rubber ball that can be blown up indefinitely, at will.

“It now seems wise to devote our facilities to producing the maximum amount of those items that are in greatest demand, and deferring or postponing the production of ‘special needs’ products or items that have reasonable substitutes from among the products that we can then concentrate our production on.

“It is a case of having available for your and our customers a lot of ‘meat and potatoes’ at the sacrifice of temporarily going without ‘salads and desserts.’”

In other words, production shortage threatens to be the nightmare of 1941. Prices already have advanced slightly and may advance further, but the chief obstacle will be in getting delivery.

This is the story we get from the manufacturers and recent delays in deliveries indicate they are correct. Because such conditions are beyond our control, we have protected ourselves as much as possible.

If your schools or offices are going to be in the market for such items within the next year or so, we respectfully suggest that it will be to your advantage to contract for them now. Delivery dates are not being guaranteed by manufacturers, but everything possible will be done to give you the best service available under the circumstances.

* * *

CASTO & HARRIS, INC.

(A West Virginia Corporation)

Telephone 110

SPENCER, W. VA.
