

The County NEWSTELLER

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

From The President



Mr. Hix At His Desk

"As President of the County and Circuit Clerks' Association, I send a word of greeting to all members of the Association.

"I plan to name all of the committees by the first of the year and trust that we may all be thinking about any legislation that we want to present to the next session of the Legislature. I also hope that we may be looking forward to our convention next year, and be making plans to attend 100% and bring with us timely topics for discussion.

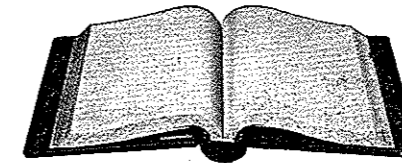
"I shall be glad to receive from any member any suggestion as to how we may make our convention more interesting and worthwhile.

"Our Association is filled with potentialities for good things for us, if we will make use of them."

M. H. HIX, Clerk,
Kanawha Circuit, Common Pleas and
Intermediate Courts.

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

OCTOBER, 1938

Number 1

INTRODUCING A NEW MAGAZINE—

Name: "The County NewsTeller"

Circulation: 500

THIS, the first issue of your County NewsTeller, a monthly magazine devoted solely to the interests of county and school officials in West Virginia, is presented with high hope that its publication will be of real and lasting benefit to the 500 school superintendents, county clerks, circuit clerks, assessors, sheriffs, prosecuting attorneys and county commissioners who are on our free mailing list.

It is our earnest desire that you will come to regard the NewsTeller as your personal magazine, one dedicated to the sole purpose of telling the news—both business and personal—of you and your office. We want you to send us news items, pictures of yourself, your office and your deputies, because we are determined to make this publication the most spritely of its kind. Monthly prizes will be awarded for the best news item received. (Next month's prize is described on page three).

Because no other magazine reaches all of the county and school officials on our "blue ribbon" mailing list, we know that the NewsTeller will fill a long-felt need. It will be the ideal medium for convention news and programs, for discussion and explanation of matters of vital interest to public officials.

Another service the NewsTeller offers concerns information and rulings emanating from the state capitol. The publishers are weekly visitors to the state house and they will be glad to take your problems and questions to the proper state officials. Write us, stating what you want to find out, and we'll see that your questions are answered, either in the NewsTeller or by direct correspondence.

This first issue was produced hurriedly, during the busy election season, and we know that subsequent issue will be brighter and newer. With your help we can make this the best county and school publication in the country.

Incidentally, you won't be bothered with an excessive amount of advertising. The publishers will use only the back cover for their monthly message and the news columns will be reserved strictly for news.

Any comment on this first issue will be appreciated and we would like permission to reproduce excerpts from any such letters.

—The Publishers.

**FAYETTE REBUILDS
ITS COURT HOUSE**

**General Modernization Program
Gets Excellent Results
This Year**

When its general rebuilding and modernization program is completed next month, Fayette county will have one of the most



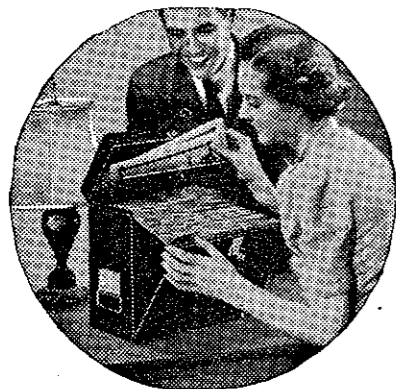
Okey Patterson
President Fayette County Court

up-to-date court houses in West Virginia.

Already the county clerk's office is using its new record room

(Continued on Page Six)

WIN THIS PRIZE



Pictured above is an all-steel private file for keeping personal papers and other valuable records. It has a confidential compartment built in the cover and there are two different keys. It comes complete with file folders and alphabetical index.

This private file will be given to the county or school official, or deputy, who sends in the most interesting news item for next month's NEWSTELLER.

Send in some news—about your office, about yourself, about humorous incidents that have occurred in your office.

You may win the private file. Deadline for next month's prize entries is Nov. 10. Do it now!

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

West Virginia County Clerks run into many amusing names in recording births, but out in Louisiana they offer to match odd names with any state in the union.

One child's first name was given as Minus. Another was called Nary and still another was called Two-Bits. Gift of God was another first name bestowed on an unsuspecting child.

Others included on the odd-names list were Castor Oil, Delirious, Evil, Ether, Elevator, Gee-Whizz, Fraidy, Hardtimes, Hence, Loveless, Louse, Masterkey, Muddle, Me, Pickle, Pill, Please, Rat, Real-Dimple, Rascal, Slaughter, Sausage, Stew, Trouble, Turnip, Tissue and Vanilla.

(Send us your List of Odd Names—ed.)

CAMERA SHY CLERK LEADS THE TICKET

Mrs. L. S. Tully Re-Nominated Without Using Picture on Cards Or In Newspapers

Mrs. Tully's picture does not appear in this first issue of The NEWSTELLER for the simple reason that she has no picture available!

And it seems that The NEWS-TELLER isn't the only publication to be turned down by this camera-shy circuit clerk of Fayette county. During her campaign, Mrs. Tully didn't use her picture on campaign cards, posters or in the newspapers. After she ran away with the nomination, polling nearly 7,000 votes, she still refused to pose for a newspaper picture.

Despite her decision not to allow a picture to be used, Mrs. Tully led the ticket.

Unusual Marriage Certificate

Found in the archives of the county clerk of Fulton county, Lewiston, Ill., period about 1840.

State of Illinois, Peoria County, ss. To all the world greeting:— Know Ye that John Smith and Poly Myers is hereby entitled to go together and do as old folks does anywhere inside Coppers precinct and when my commission comes I am to marry 'em good and date 'em back to kiver accidents.

(Signed) O. M. R. Justice Peace.

J. A. M. A. 5-26-34
Contributor: Judge F. W. Bucklin, Washington County Court, West Bend, Wisconsin.

DEPUTY DIES

One of the youngest deputy assessors in West Virginia died of pneumonia Oct. 14. She was Jettie Lucille Coffman, aged 22, deputy assessor of Hampshire county.

COUNTY LOCALS

Arch Fleming, president of the Marion county court, has certainly had his share of misfortune. Mr. Fleming was just recovering from an automobile wreck, in which he was critically injured, when his good wife, who had been his partner for 40 years, died suddenly. We extend our deepest sympathy to Mr. Fleming.

County Clerk A. R. Martin, of Morgantown, and Mrs. Martin spent a recent week-end visiting friends in Keyser. While there Mr. Martin called on T. T. Huffman, Mineral county clerk.

Lyle Hensley, Cabell county deputy clerk and one of Fred Ware's most valuable assistants, is a patient in the Hopemont sanitarium. He is getting along fine and expects to be able to return to his desk in the near future.

T. T. Huffman, Mineral county clerk, is back on the job again after a long siege of illness.

HERE'S THAT REBUS

More than six months ago the publishers of The NewsTeller received the letter reproduced on the adjoining page. From Rolla Williams, clerk of the Pleasants county court, it was his unique way of acknowledging receipt of a box of fruit.



Everyone who sees this letter wants a copy, and we

have exhausted our supply of photo-prints. So we're reproducing it again with the suggestion that you clip and save it.

The author's picture is shown above.

If you can't figure out the letter turn to page eight for a translation.

Clerks Office
Pleasants County Court
O. ROLLA WILLIAMS, CLERK
ST. MARYS, W. VA.
MARCH 30, 1938.

OKEY HARRIS,
SPENCER, W. VA.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

Unusual Marriage Story Comes
Out of Mingo County

The county clerk's office at Williamson, Mingo county, was the scene of one of the most unusual incidents in many years, when a woman residing in that county almost married a dead man!

A man and his intended bride appeared before Deputy Clerk Roy Keadle last month and made the usual application for a marriage license. The man paid for the license at the time of making application.

When the proper time had elapsed the bride-to-be appeared in person asking for the license. Mr. Keadle examined the application, found everything in good order and proceeded to write up the license. At just that moment another person appeared at the window and informed Mr. Keadle that the husband-to-be had been killed two days before.

Upon being confronted with this statement, the bride-to-be freely admitted that her intended had been killed, but that she was going to marry him anyway. According to her story, she had discussed it with a preacher, who had agreed to perform the ceremony.

Naturally, Mr. Keadle was somewhat non-plussed about the whole thing, but he finally persuaded the applicant that it was quite illegal in West Virginia for a live & well woman to be married to a dead man.

Believe it or not!

LOTS OF LEASES

Although one of the state's smaller counties, Jackson has used more oil & gas lease books in the past year than any other county in West Virginia.

In March, 1937, Jackson county bought lease book No. 36 and the county clerk, Cleo Casto, is right now using lease book No. 45.

The reason? Several big gas wells in the deep Oriskany sand

(Continued on Page Eight)

RALEIGH COUNTY'S COURT HOUSE NEWEST AND ONE OF FINEST IN WEST VIRGINIA

Below: Artist's Sketch of New County Building At Beckley



Built of native stone with accommodations adequate for the next 50 years, Raleigh county's new court house was dedicated almost a year ago, last Nov. 6.

Described as a monument to the public services of County Commissioners John R. Smith, Ash Menkin, E. E. Justice, John F. Bolen (now retired) and County Clerk Harry Anderson, the new

structure is one of the most beautiful and modern to be found anywhere.

The building is designed with a "setback" treatment to build up from the front two-story section and the rear three-story sections to a fourth floor in the middle section, giving an artistic mass treatment to the whole structure.

For the first time in many years all county officers now have their headquarters in the court house. This includes county and circuit clerks, public assistance department, health department, prosecuting attorney, assessor, sheriff, etc.

The entire building has telephone connections to all offices

through a PBX exchange on the first floor.

The project cost around \$400,000, with the federal government furnishing a substantial portion of this amount.

County Clerk Anderson issues a special invitation for all county and school officials to visit this new court house at their earliest convenience.



Harry Anderson,
Clerk Raleigh County

ENCOURAGEMENT FROM TAX CHIEF

Mr. James Says NEWSTELLER
Will Serve Useful Purpose

Upon being told that a monthly magazine was to be published regularly, with distribution to county and school officials of West Virginia, Ernest K. James, state tax commissioner, wrote the publishers as follows:

"I am glad to learn of your proposal to publish a magazine to be distributed exclusively to members of the county courts, county clerks, prosecuting attorneys, sheriffs, assessors, circuit clerks and county school superintendents in West Virginia, and I feel sure it will serve a useful purpose.

"You inquired as to the approximate date of the next assessor's convention. Due to a change in the personnel of this office it will be necessary to defer until after the first of November a decision as to the date for the assessor's convention."

COUNTY LOCALS

J. W. Buchanan, Fayette county deputy clerk, recently enjoyed a brief vacation. "Buck" travels at high speed 12 to 15 hours a day and his short rest was well-earned.

Martha Smith, one of the deputies in the office of J. G. Lambert, Wayne county clerk, spent her vacation in August visiting friends in the New England States.

Charles P. Furbee, Harrison county clerk, has an indexing crew at work on a new Permaflex index of births. They are about ready to start setting out names on the permanent keytable sheets.

McDowell county, through its clerk, H. K. Carper, recently purchased 150 new VOTE-GARD voting booths.

Everett M. Sinnett, circuit clerk of Roane county, is able to resume his duties after being confined to his home for 10 days on account of illness.

Mae Booth, deputy clerk of Wayne county, recently returned from a visit with relatives at Elgin, Ill.

Fayette Rebuilds

(Continued from Page One)

and vault, a modern and well-lighted annex of fire-proof construction. Two other offices—the assessor's and circuit clerk's—were built entirely new. K. K. Warden, assessor, has a beautiful new suite located in the rear of the building and the office of Mrs. L. L. Tully, circuit clerk, has been moved from the old quarters on the first floor to the new addition on the second floor, adjacent to the court room.

The circuit court room is being completely remodeled by the DeLong Furniture Co., of Topton, Pa., a firm that specializes exclusively in church and courtroom installations. New benches, judge's rostrum, railings, witness and jury boxes and desks are being built. The same company is also building an attractive hand-

ROANE'S TAX RATE LOWEST

Mighty proud is Roy Lester, clerk of the Roane county court, of a letter received Sept. 14, 1938, from Ernest K. James, state tax commissioner.



E. R. LESTER,
Roane Clerk

Mr. James points out that Roane has the distinction of being the only county in the state that has thus far financed its general relief program without state aid. "Also," he points out, "your county court is the only one in the state

that has laid less than the authorized maximum levy rates for current purposes this year."

In other words, Roane county's levy for current purposes is the lowest in West Virginia.

RAISES CHICKENS

Frank Hollis, circuit clerk of Taylor county, is probably the best chicken-raiser of any county official. His brooder chicks never touch the ground and he looks after them so scientifically that Clarksburg hotels pay him a handsome premium price for all he can raise.

Mr. Hollis lives midway between Clarksburg and Grafton on U. S. route 50, the old Northwestern Turnpike, and he and his wife operate "Fairhill Farm," one of the finest tourist homes in that section of the state.

carved walnut background to be installed back of the judge's rostrum.

When completed next month, this will be one of the outstanding courtrooms in West Virginia.

Okey Patterson, president of the county court, Guy Douglas and William Buchanan, commissioners, supervised the installation of these modern and much-needed improvements.

CAMPAIGN BOOK MATCHES POPULAR

Advertising Balloons, Cards and Folders Also Used in 1938 Elections

Only ten short years ago about the only form of political advertising was the campaign card, usually carrying the candidate's picture with the legend, "Your Vote and Influence Solicited."

Times have changed and in 1938 book matches seem to be the favorite form of political advertising. Hundreds of thousands of political book matches were used in West Virginia this year with varying results.

The trend for "different" campaign advertising has been mark-

(Continued on Page Eight)

HELPED ENTERTAIN



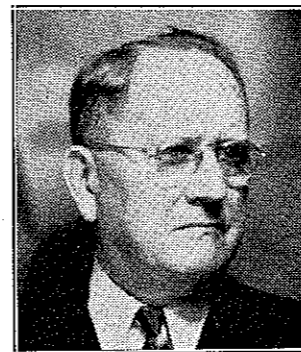
Paul Wehrle,
Clerk Kanawha County Court

Everyone who attended the 1938 clerks' convention in Charleston will recognize Paul Wehrle, clerk of the Kanawha county court, who was joint-host and helped to make this meeting the most successful ever.

BOUGHT LICENSE, FORGOT WEDDING

Logan County Couple Have Plenty of Proof They're Man and Wife

J. G. McNeely, Logan county clerk for many years, is an ordained minister. As such he has married and buried hundreds of his friends and neighbors. Furthermore, "Preacher Green," as he is known to his closest friends,



J. G. McNeely, Clerk

seldom forgets a face. That's how this story happened:

Several months ago a man walked into Mr. McNeely's office, spoke to him and recalled the fact that the county clerk had presided at his wedding nearly 15 years ago.

Mr. McNeely didn't recall the marriage, and he said so. The man, of foreign origin, explained patiently that he had secured his marriage license from Mr. McNeely and that, therefore, he had been married by the same man.

Suspecting that the gentleman was confused by marriage laws in this country, he looked up the records and discovered—sure enough—that the license had been issued, but had never been returned for recordation.

Further investigation disclosed the fact that the man was not aware that there was to be any ceremony further than securing the license. After getting the license, he took it and his bride home and they set up housekeeping. That was many years ago and there are now six or seven child-

MISS WHITE WEDS

Many visitors to this year's county & circuit clerk convention, Charleston, will remember Miss Margaret N. White, the good-looking young lady who presided so graciously as registrar.

Well, it's Miss White no longer! On Oct. 11 she became the bride of Howard Griffith at a wedding performed by the Rev. Joe Overmyer in the Bream Memorial Presbyterian church, Charleston. The groom, formerly of Ohio, is employed at the Carbide & Carbon Chemical Corp.

Mrs. Griffith, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas M. White, Charleston, will continue her duties as an assistant to M. H. Hix, Kanawha county circuit clerk.

KANAWHA DEPUTY



Mrs. Pearl Poteet

Busiest woman in the Kanawha county court house is Mrs. Pearl Poteet (above), who is chief office deputy and Clerk Wehrle's right hand "man." On the go constantly, Mrs. Poteet is as gracious as she is efficient, and much of the credit for the success of this year's clerks' convention is due to her good management.

OFFICE VISITORS

The following county and school officials have visited at the offices of Casto & Harris, Spencer, during the month of October:

Lloyd Estep, clerk of the Boone county court, Madison;

John Shinn, president of the Jackson county court, Ripley;

Frank Thorn, clerk of the Wirt county court, Elizabeth;

Gordon Wick, director of the department of public assistance, Calhoun county, Grantsville; and

O. O. White, county superintendent, Putnam schools.

ELECTION CALENDAR

Nov. 1-Dec. 8

- Nov. 1—Last day for candidates to file before the general-election sworn financial statements; also county court shall convene in regular or special session to register persons who have not been registered.
- Nov. 3—Ballot commissioners or chairman thereof shall appoint an election commissioner for each precinct to attend and receive ballots, etc.; also after this date registration lists shall be closed to public inspection.
- Nov. 4—Last day for circuit clerk to mail absent voters' ballots; also last day to obtain absent voters' ballots in person from circuit clerk.
- Nov. 4 to Nov. 6—Election commissioners designated shall call for ballots and supplies from county and circuit clerks.
- Nov. 5—Last day to obtain certificate of transfer from registrar or clerk.
- Nov. 6—Last day for election commissioner to receive ballots and other election supplies.
- Nov. 7—Special messenger to be dispatched to precinct with election supplies if uncalled for.
- Nov. 8—General election day.
- Nov. 14—County court sits as a board of canvassers.
- Dec. 8—Last day for filing after-the-general-election sworn financial statements.

ren running about the premises.

Unwilling to continue without benefit of clergy, the whole family came to town, the parents were "re-married" while the six or seven children looked on.

HARRISON MEMBER HEADS NEW GROUP

A. Leeman Knight Made President Commissioners' Association

A Leeman Knight of Mt. Clare, member of the Harrison county court, was elected president of the reorganized West Virginia County Commissioners' association at Clarksburg Oct. 12 as representatives from 25 counties met to revive their organization.

Miss Katherine Klosowski, employe of the Harrison county clerk's office, was made secretary. Both officers had served provisionally during the attempt to renew the association. No other officers were named.

Registered for the meeting were P. V. Strine, Berkeley county; A. J. Knight, Braxton; T. H. Nash and J. M. Ross, Jr., Cabell; C. W. Garner, C. O. Smith, F. D. Boner and H. L. Hammon, Doddridge; Clacy A. Reed and Homer B. Powell, Gilmer; A. Leeman Knight, Charles P. Furbee and James E. Lanham, Harrison county.

W. R. Flinn, J. A. Shinn and Frank Blackshire, Jackson county; E. A. Crawford and E. V. Shorr, Lewis; Russell Nichols and S. L. Ash, Marion; J. L. Maxwell, Charles Howard and R. A. Fitzgerald, Marshall; Sam S. Smith and T. M. Cannon, Mineral; A. R. Martin and J. F. Loving, Monongalia; Ward M. Dawson, Morgan.

E. C. Frederick and M. H. Cox, Ritchie county; Tom Gavin and Tom Garden, Ohio; H. B. Scranage, Taylor; J. F. Robinson, Harry De Pollo, Glen Harman and Ernest L. Moon, Tucker; Harvey Lawson, Wayne; D. W. Cutlip, A. F. Scott, Charles Herold and Mrs. Mabel Huffman, Webster; E. W. Frel, W. F. Anderson, and W. B. Snodgrass, Wetzell; C. A. Daniell, Wirt; W. O. Holliday, W. H. Dawkins and Earl Eaton, Wood county.

Campaign Matches

(Continued from Page Six)

ed during the past few years. In 1936, for example, a druggist successfully campaigned for the office of sheriff by giving away pills and candy.

This year a candidate for house of delegates is giving away huge, 24 inch dirigible type balloons with his campaign slogan printed thereon.

As usual, windshield stickers, campaign cards and placards are having their inning. The campaign "folder" has also appeared, with at least three candidates listing their economies of the past few years as compared with the alleged "extravagance" of the opposition party.

All in all, it has been a quiet campaign this year, but it was a big year for the match companies.

MEET MRS. SHUMAKER



—Courtesy Buckhannon Record

Above is a photograph of Mrs. R. Worth Shumaker, whose marriage to the prominent Upshur county educator, was an event of September.

Mrs. Shumaker was, before her marriage, Miss Virginia Mae Collins, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William F. Collins of Staunton, Va. She is a graduate of Mary Baldwin College and for the past seven years has been organist at the First Methodist church and the Greenbrier hotel at White Sulphur Springs.

Mr. Shumaker is one of the leading educators of West Virginia. He is now a member of Governor Holt's Interim School Legislative committee and in 1936 was the Republican nominee for state superintendent of schools.

Since Oct. 1 Mr. and Mrs. Shumaker have been "at home" in Buckhannon, where Mr. Shumaker is county superintendent.

TURLEY'S SHOES

One of his college mates is authority for the statement that when W. C. "Bill" Turley, Logan county assessor, attended West Virginia University he had more shoes than anyone on the campus.

The legend is that he kept his shoes under his bed, neatly arranged in a row that reached full length of the bed.

Incidentally, Mr. Turley's roommate at the University, Bill Knode, is now a member of the Governor's staff in the state of Texas. They were both members of the Delta Tau Delta fraternity.

First Since McGraw

Most county and school officials remember the late John T. McGraw, of Grafton, onetime Democratic national committeeman and pioneer developer of oil and gas, timber and railroad properties in Central West Virginia.

In 1870 he was prosecuting attorney of Taylor county. Not since then had a Democrat held this office until last year, when Francis L. Warder was elected.

Lots of Leases

(Continued from Page Four)

in and near Jackson county sent lease men all over that section taking up territory. The rush is nearly over because practically every foot of Jackson county is now under lease.

Rebus Translation

(See Page Three)

Dear Okey: I want to tell you how nice the Florida oranges were and how glad I was to receive them. I started to write this letter some time ago but did not get to on account of sickness. They were as sweet as honey and sure easy to eat. Please accept my thanks for a delightful gift. I hope to be able to repay you some time for all this. That is about all I can say for the present. Kindest regards.

FIVE YEARS
3,058 BOOKS

Only a few months more than five years have passed since we tucked the first record book under our arm and started out to establish West Virginia's only County & School office supply firm.

The score to date is 3,058 books sold in 52 of the state's 55 counties.

The state-wide Wet & Dry election of 1933 was our first experience in selling election supplies and we furnished only a few hundred precinct boxes in a dozen counties.

This year our election supplies went to considerably more than half the precincts in West Virginia.

The going has not been easy, but it would have been impossible without the loyalty and friendship of the County and School officials who helped us along, overlooking an occasional error born of inexperience, and lending us a helpful hand.

For your patronage, indulgence and encouragement, we are sincerely grateful.

CASTO & HARRIS, INC.

(A West Virginia Corporation)

Telephone 110

SPENCER, W. VA.