

The County  
**NEWSTELLER**

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

**TYLER COUNTY COURT HOUSE**

Middlebourne, W. Va.  
Dedicated in 1922



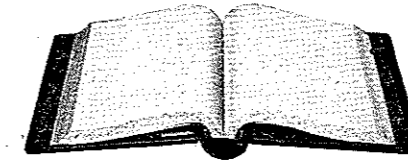
No. 16 in a series of 55 front covers being used to present the Court Houses of West Virginia.  
(See Page 1)

Volume II

APRIL, 1940

NUMBER 7

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 II

APRIL, 1940

Number 7

## Tyler County

(See front cover)

Tyler county was created from Ohio county in 1814, and named in honor of John Tyler, the eighth governor of Virginia and the father of John Tyler, the tenth president of the United States.

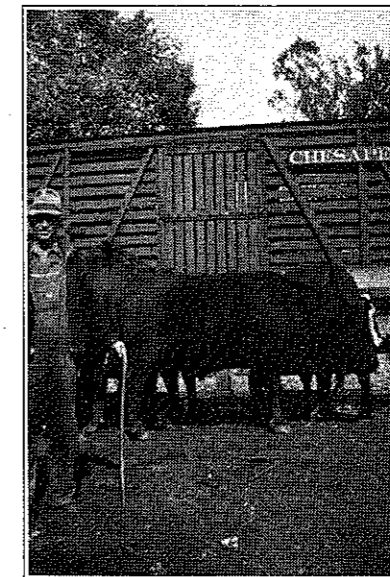
Tyler county has always been considered one of the best gas and oil producing counties in West Virginia. The world's greatest gas well, "Big Moses," which produced 100,000,000 cubic feet of gas per day, was drilled in Tyler county in 1894. Although the production of oil is growing less each year, yet every day during the year approximately 1,500 barrels of the best oil in the world is still pumped to the surface, placed in tanks and sold to the various pipe line companies who transport it to market.

The area of Tyler county is 260.12 square miles, with six magisterial districts, consisting of 26 voting precincts. The population was 12,785 according to the 1930 census. The property valuation is approximately \$16,000,000.

There are four incorporated towns in the county. Sistersville has the largest population of 3,072. This town was established in 1815, but was not incorporated until 1839. Sistersville was named after the Wells sisters who owned the land on which the town is now located. The second-size corporation is Paden City.

(Continued on Page Two)

## FROM MONROE



Lewis A. Fleshman

Mr. Fleshman, shown above while he was loading cattle at Alderson last fall, was elected to the Monroe county court in 1938. A farmer and stock dealer, he reports that he likes his job very much. His partner, J. Frank Nash, is president of the Monroe county board of education. They each winter 150 head of cattle and they buy and ship around 1,000 head each fall.

## Heart Attack

Miss Clara Rightmire, circuit clerk of Tucker county, suffered a heart attack April 5 and was taken to a hospital for treatment. At last reports her condition was considerably improved.

## Jackson Clerk Passes Away

Circuit Clerk Okey Ellison  
Succumbs April 3

Okey Ellison, 52, circuit clerk of Jackson county, died April 3 following a year's illness. Elected in 1938, the illness which was later to claim his life prevented him from serving but two months in the office that the voters gave him for six years.

He was first stricken with a heart ailment on March 11th, last year, and since that time he had been treated for the disease in four different hospitals. His condition showed slight improvement at first, but in the last few months he had grown steadily worse, and in the last week relatives and friends of the county official expected his death any hour.

He was a native of Jackson county, born August 10, 1887, the son of Jessie and Clara Ellison, one of the county's pioneer fami-

(Continued on Page Two)

## CONVENTION PROGRAM IN MAY ISSUE

A program and complete details for the 1940 convention of County & Circuit Clerks to be held at Beckley June 6-7 will be given in next month's News-Teller.

Harry Anderson, county clerk, and Van Hunter, circuit clerk, are joint hosts.

**TYLER COUNTY**

(Continued from Page One)

This is an unlucky town as far as counties are concerned. The county line separating Tyler and Wetzel counties runs through the middle of this thriving town. This town was incorporated in 1916, and has a population of 2,200 people. It was named after Obediah Paden, an early settler. The third-size town in population is the county seat, Middlebourne. It was named Middlebourne because it is half way between the source and the mouth of Middle Island Creek, which is the longest creek in the world. The population of Middlebourne is 800, and was chartered in 1813. Friendly is the smallest of the four incorporated towns in this county, although it is, no doubt, more widely known than any other town in the state. Its population is only 170.

The court house of Tyler county has been located in Middlebourne since 1862, and in 1922 a new court house was constructed.

—Send in Some News—

**JACKSON CLERK**

(Continued from Page One)

lies. He was a charter member of the United Brethren church at Ripley, and had always taken an active part in the social and religious life of his home town, Ripley, and the county.

—Send in Some News—

**Typographic Erroriana**

The following is clipped from the Lyndin (Kan.) Herald:

It is just too bad that an "l" slipped over into the "d" channel on the linotype machine while Eddie Runyan was setting type for the church news last week. It was especially bad because Editor Runyan is new in town. Don't know whether Mr. Runyan hastily took a trip or holed up in the cyclone cellar, but we hasten to assure the good people of Quenenmo that he did not mean it. It was "just one of those things." What the darned linotype made his Quenenmo News say was that "A Sunday school board meeting was held at the home of Rev. and Mrs. King."

**Sheriff's Son  
On The Radio**

**Brady Perkins on "Strange  
As It Seems" Broadcast**

That pigeon of Brady Perkins' is bringing its master fame.

Readers of the NewsTeller will recall that in January Brady, the twelve-year-old son of Sheriff and Mrs. F. C. Perkins of Summersville was lying ill at the Myers clinic in Philippi recuperating from a major operation. Readers will also recall that he was lonesome for his pet pigeon.

There was a ruffle of feathers outside and Brady saw a pigeon—his pigeon, he told the nurse. Used to such cases of people just coming out of ether, the nurse humored the boy, but as he grew insistent, she opened the window and admitted the pigeon.

The two were friendly at the start and to the nurse's dismay, young Perkins said: "Look at his leg and see if he doesn't have a band with the number 167 on it."

The nurse did so and there was the number.

Now the world took some notice of this strange phenomenon and the world was permitted to hear Brady tell about it and hear the pigeon's approval at 8:30 o'clock Thursday night, April 25, when he broadcast as a guest of the "Strange as It Seems" program over the Columbia System.

Interviewed at his home, Sheriff Perkins, the boy's father, said that the pigeon came to their home last fall, and that Brady fed it and made a pet of it. It has a peculiarly shaped bill and is banded.

—Send in Pictures—

**Files for Office**

For the first time in Jackson county's history a woman is seeking election to a major county office. She is Miss Frances McGrew, who is seeking the office of circuit clerk.

Miss McGrew has served as deputy circuit clerk during the illness of the late Okey Ellison.

**YES, WE'RE LATE**

This April issue of the NewsTeller comes to you rather late in May because of the primary elections. Every Casto & Harris employee from President down has been working day and night to get out the election supplies on time.

We'll try to get the next issue out on time.

**MAY IMPROVE  
OLD BUILDINGS**

The Lewis county court may improve the old sheriff's residence adjoining the Lewis county jail and use it for office rooms. The building is regarded as too fine a building to tear down. As a result it may be altered and improved to provide four office rooms. This can be done at little cost although it is cut up somewhat.

The court needs more room in the court house at the present time. Sufficient quarters could be set up for the state police and some other offices. At the present time the county court rents quarters in the Tierney building for the county health offices. The sheriff's residence at the present time is used by the jailor, Clyde Keith, and wife. The court is considering setting up some other county offices in the building once the change is made.

The court is also considering some plans and may take care of this proposed change at an early date.

The officials in session April 9 determined to sell the site of the former children's home on Stone Coal. The building itself was destroyed by fire some weeks ago. The court has no use for the property.

—Send in Pictures—

**Bowling Recovers**

Lowery G. Bowling, clerk of the Mercer county court, who was operated upon for appendicitis Feb. 5, is fully recovered and is back in the harness.

He was away from his office for a month.

**Interesting Old Photographs of Keyser, Mineral County**



**(No. 1) New Creek Station: 1865**

By Luke McDowell, Clerk Mineral County Board of Education

New Creek Station, lying at the foot of the Allegheny Mountains where the Potomac emerges on its wending way from Fairfax stone down to the Chesapeake, was a strategic point much prized by the Union, and as much coveted by the Confederacy during the War between the States. So well was it defended by garrison and protected by artillery on Fort Piano and Fort Fuller that it fell but once into Confederate hands, and then for a period of a few hours, only.

Picture No. 1 is a reproduction of an actual photograph taken in 1865 by the late George W. Parsons of Keyser. This picture shows the army camp as it occupied what is now the main section of the City of Keyser. Some of the buildings shown are still standing. One in particular, the Judge Reynolds residence, the smaller of the two with columned verandas and cupolated roofs, was the home of Capt. James Dayton who operated a general store and

the two, long popularly known as the Col. T. B. Davis mansion, was used as headquarters by commanding officers. This building has been removed and the site occupied by the Junior High School and the new gymnasium and auditorium.

The large group of tents in the background marks the site of Fort Fuller. Potomac State School branch of the West Virginia University, now stands there.

Picture No. 2, taken in 1895, marks 30 years of building progress.

—Send in Some News—

**Board Member Injured**

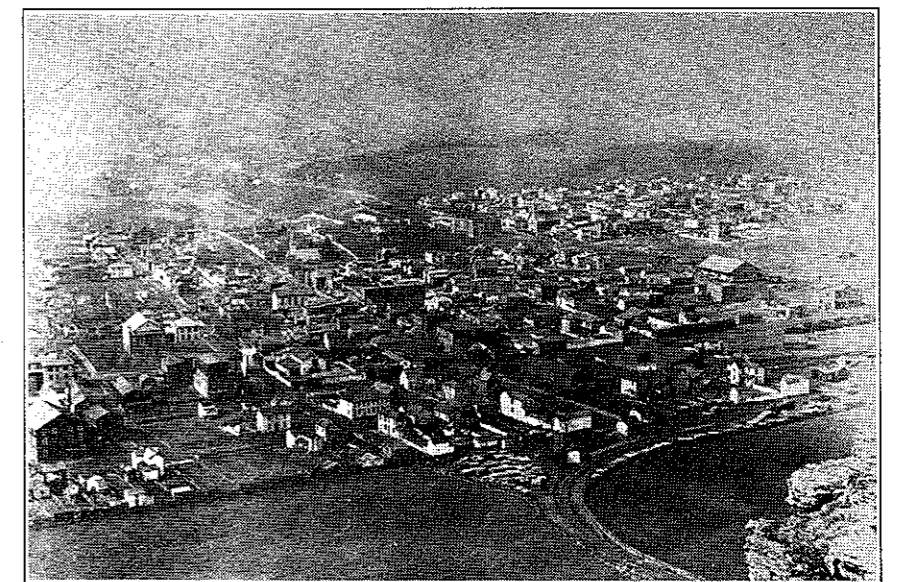
J. W. Knight of Williamsburg, member of the Greenbrier county board of education, was badly shaken up and bruised recently when a horse he was riding fell.

—Send in Some News—

**Rexroad Better**

Ira Rexroad, president of the Upshur county court, is back on the job after having been confined to a Buckhannon hospital for treatment.

**(No. 2) Keyser (Formerly New Creek): 1895**



## Assessors' News

By Chauncey D. Twyford, Pres.,  
W. Va. Assessors Association.

Many Assessors recommend the following laws should be enacted:

Banks report to the Assessor on the first day of January of each assessment year the name and address of each depositor and amount on deposit. An increase in the rate of taxes appropriated to the use of the general county fund.

All deeds should first be brought to Assessor. Real estate

should be charged at actual value. Royalties charged on personal property books as some people let their land go to the state and draw rental at same time.

I would like to see a law passed requiring each taxpayer to report at the Assessor's Office to be assessed in ample time for the Assessor to complete his books.

I would like for the Legislature to pass a law that banks would have to give a list of all funds deposited on the first of the year.

I would like to see my Office Deputy receive more pay and also

my Field Deputies more salary so I wouldn't have to pay out of my per cent to them, and the Statistics Law shall instead of may.

Dog Capitation Tax Law. Making it optional with County Courts as to whether a dog capitation tax shall be laid or not, thereby allowing sheep raising counties to collect a capitation tax on dogs and non-sheep-raising counties to discontinue it.

A new form of assessment blanks printed.

I would like our State Tax Commissioner to insist upon the Assessors of this State standardize more fully the personal property or in other words, a law setting a standard of assessment of personal property.

—Send in Pictures—

It is a hell of a job, ain't it? I lost 1781 hours of sleep thinking about the election, fell over a cliff and lost two front teeth and sprained my right wrist, wore out two sets of tires, stripped the rear end once, drug off two batteries, hung up in the creek four time and ran out of gas six times. Had my name placed on 17 quilts at ten cents per name. Bought 7 calico, 5 gingham and 2 silk dresses at a cost of \$27.60. Bought 13 pairs of suspenders at a quarter each and 73 baby rattlers at a nickel each. Kissed 117 babies (all under 10 years). Shook hands with 11,578 people, told 7,877 lies as well as talked enough to fill 17 books the size of "Grapes of Wrath." Attended 23 revival meetings and was baptized 7 times, 5 of these in the creek in February. Got run off the place 3 times by doge, once by a bull. Donated \$81.00 towards the repair of church houses, signed 36 petitions to have roads improved, made love to seven widows, six grass and one sod, and won by 943 votes. Was it worth it? Yes, it was. I met some of the finest people in the world, and it makes me glad that I live in a country where the people can vote in accordance to the dictates of their own heart.

## Death of Lamb Brings Letter

### Woman Subscriber Grieves Over "Billie's" Passing

The following letter, exactly as written but with names omitted, was received this month by the editor of a weekly newspaper in central West Virginia:

"Billie the three months old lamb that was reared and raised on the \_\_\_\_\_ Farm at \_\_\_\_\_ was injured and died last Sunday, April 21, Shortly after noon. The Lamb being peted by Miss \_\_\_\_\_ was a growthly & fatting Lamb. It was raised in a small basket untill it growth up so it was turn out on the farm. The lamb was fed 4 times a day fresh milk. The Lamb was healthy. The Billie Lamb started to follow his fellow Master to Church \_\_\_\_\_. He drove it back near home went on. A neighbor got a Club & Scared the lamb. He was injured & died Shortly afternoon. Many tears was shed by his peted Master \_\_\_\_\_ when she follow the little Billie Lamb to his well dug grave to take long & long sleep. Farewell Billie She Said as She walk walk away. Little Master \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ hauled Little Billie in their wagon to the little grave near \_\_\_\_\_ Garden & buried Billie. Their will be a marked monument put to the head little Billie grave. You want to watch these weak minded neighbor mans with Black Jealous heart in them. Billie is sleeping. My But he Suffer. & went to Sleep."

—Send in Pictures—

### School Board Entertained

Luncheon was served to members of the Braxton County Board of Education by the home economics club of the Gassaway high school, under the direction of Mrs. Mildred Burns, April 1.

The guests served were: J. B. Fisher, Henry Cutlip, Brady Randolph, Frank Holt, Henry Hosey, V. B. Harris, Byron Stonestreet and C. R. Remage.

## BIG BASS



Here's a picture of "Colonel" Virgil L. Morgan (left), Wyoming county commissioner, that proves he is a real fisherman. His companion is C. S. Smith of Pineville. The bass was caught in the Guyandotte river near Commissioner Morgan's home.

## SPELLING?

Sheriff Dale Crawford of Randolph county received an interesting communication recently, which gives a new way of spelling "prosecuting attorney." Addressed to "Mr. dail craffil," the epistle reads as follows:

"you sea the prose kute turney about at Boy for me and ant nothing aginth martin boy i take and tak care of Him.

"i like for send Valley for me to morrow if ant nothing agents boy i be glad to gut him any you people send him up"

—Send in Some News—

### Daughter Marries

Virginia Lucille Davis, daughter of Circuit Clerk and Mrs. Earl L. Davis of Doddridge county, and Eugene Homer Davis were married April 4 at Steubenville, Ohio. They will reside at Weirton, where Mr. Davis is employed by the Weirton Steel Co.

## SKATING PARTY

The following Doddridge county court house officials and friends attended a skating party at the skating rink in West Union April 15 from 10:30 to 1 o'clock:

Prosecutor James B. Smith and Stenographer Frances Marie Stutler, Circuit Clerk Earl Davis and family, County Clerk Hall Maxwell and family, DPA Director George Bland, County Agent A. W. Hamilton and wife, Chief Clerk Wade Robinson and wife, Deputy Sheriffs V. G. Stinespring and J. P. Summers and families, Home Demonstration Agent Miss Bryanna Burton, Constable Tillman Ash and family, Deputy County Clerk Mrs. Delorus Underwood, Bernyce Summerville and Naomi Lewis, Ray and Mamie Scott, Earl and Francis Stutler, William Knight, Winifred Broadwater, Robert Lewis, Garland Zellers, Polly Williams, Joe Fleming, Alpha Marie Nutter, John and Hugh Hammond, Kenneth Smith, Kenneth Longacre, Mary Virginia Freeman, Hannah Huff and Pearl Burton.

—Send in Some News—

## Father Had Easy Job

### Unusual Frankness Told in Raleigh County Birth Record

In searching for a birth record in an old volume in Raleigh county recently Elizabeth Phipps, deputy clerk, found the following example of unusual frankness: (names fictitious for obvious reasons)

Name of Child: Doe, John Jr.  
Color or Race: White  
Sex: Male  
Name of Father: Doe, John  
Name of Mother: Doe, Mary  
Father's Occupation: Boozing and Loafing.

Still further along in the same volume another child's record was found with the usual information given but the father's occupation stated as being: Rabit Hunting (Spelling same as record).

## Register Veterans' Graves in Doddridge



Above is a picture of the entire group of Ex-service men who compose the Veterans Graves Registration project of Doddridge county, which project was sponsored by the American Legion under the supervision of Capt. Henry Clay Cox, supervisor of State Department of Registration of Veterans Graves, the same being a Federal project.

The above, reading from left to right, are: Homer C. Hileman, supervisor, West Union, Route 1; Goff Leggett, workman, West Union, Route 1; Harry Willis, Sr.,

supervisor clerk, Blandsville; Clifford Maxwell, chief supervisor clerk, Smithburg; and Leander Garner, workman, West Union.

All five are veterans of the World War. They covered Doddridge county thoroughly, locating all cemeteries, and registering the graves of all ex-service men of all wars, from the Revolutionary War down to the World War inclusive, and made a record of the same.

They have accomplished a good job, and have now completed the project, and are to be praised for their excellent workmanship.

## Chain Used To Measure

### Monroe School Board Faces Unusual Circumstances

At Greenville, Monroe county, a 66-foot chain was used recently to settle a claim against the Monroe county board of education brought by Everett L. McDaniel who contends that he should be paid 12 cents per day for each day his two daughters walk to school.

McDaniels claims his girls walk more than the four miles allowed the board before it must haul his children or pay for their transportation. There's a bus stop two miles from his house, but it's by way of mountain brush and isolation.

Two men employed by the board measured with chain the distance the girls walk. Two men employed by the plaintiff wrote down the figures.

Added up, it was discovered that Catherine, aged 9, walks 46 feet more than four miles. Erma lacked 196 feet of walking four miles. (The girls attend separate units of the Greenville school).

The board of education has the measurements under advisement.

—Send in Some News—

### Secretary Marries

On Saturday, April 27, Miss Doris Lee Roberts, daughter of Mrs. Dolly Roberts of Glendale, became the bride of Eldon F. Larson of Glendale and Jamestown, N. Y., at the First Christian Church, Moundsville.

Mrs. Lawson is secretary to James F. Shipman, judge of the circuit court of Marshall, Wetzel and Tyler counties.

—Send in Pictures—

"You remember when you cured my rheumatism a year ago, don't you, doctor?" asked the patient, "and told me not to get myself wet."

"Yes, Ephraim," replied the doctor.

"Well, I just wanted to ask you if you think it's safe for me to take a bath now?"

### UPSHUR ASSESSOR



Harley V. Tenney

Mr. Tenney is assessor of Upshur county and is a candidate for reelection this year. His deputy, Ben H. Carpenter, wrote an excellent article on tax assessments, which was reprinted as a supplement to a recent issue of the NewsTeller.

### HINTON COURT HOUSE PARK IS ENCLOSED

Workmen have built a low wire fence around the Summers county court house park. The fence, being erected as a part of the Woman's Club park beautification plan, is of light construction, and before completion of the club's plans will be replaced by shrubbery.

Bare patches in the park, and short-cut paths criss-crossing it, will be dug up and sown to grass at once, to be followed in the fall by plowing and planting the entire area of the park, according to the club's present plans.

Members of the fire department are assisting the club in the park beautifications.

### LOGAN COUNTY HISTORY

By an act of the Legislature passed January 12, 1824, Logan county was formed.

It derived its name from an Indian Chief named Logan who was Chief of the Mingo Tribe, and the present site of the City of Logan as it now stands is the burial ground of the Mingo Tribe and where Princess Aracoma is buried.

An untutored Indian Chief, standing in the forest primeval, bursts into savage eloquence. His audience is one man. His speech becomes a classic challenging the admiration of a cultured world. The tree under which he speaks becomes a shrine, to which thousands go each year. It is guarded by a state jealous of its historic treasures and preserved—why not?—by a providence which culls the masterpiece of today for the glories of tomorrow.

Logan's Elm, which was ancient when the famous Indian Chief, Logan, uttered his Philippic against the whites in 1774, still is standing some ten miles from Circleville, Ohio. It has weathered the storms of no one knows how many centuries. It is not so sturdy as it was a hundred years ago but, barring unusual storms, it should stand for a generation or more. It was damaged considerably in a terrific blast of wind in 1921, but these winds come seldom in that part of the country.

Lord Dunmore, governor of Virginia in 1774, led an expedition against the Indians in Ohio and, following the campaign, settled down with his aides to make peace at what is known as Camp Charlotte in the central southern portion of the State.

Chief Cornstalk was there, as were numerous other leaders of various tribes, but Logan, Chief of the Mingo, refused to attend. Lord Dunmore especially wanted his signature to the pact and he sent John Gibson, a friend, for

(Continued on Page Seven)

### McKee Is Appointed

The appointment of George R. McKee of Shepherdstown as Jefferson county commissioner to succeed Dr. W. J. Melvin was announced by the county court April 18. Dr. Melvin died recently.

—Send in Some News—

### Old Document Is Found

### Suit Between Jefferson and Burr Is Reported

The WPA reindexing project at the Monroe county court house at Union brought to light an old suit between Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr in the old Sweet Springs district court at Sweet Springs. The suit, an action in ejectment, was entered shortly after the famous presidential contest of 1800, in which Jefferson and Burr were the principals, each receiving 73 votes in the electoral college. This threw the choice in the house of representatives, which chose Jefferson as president, and Burr as vice president.

The legal contest at Sweet Springs occurred prior to Burr's duel with Alexander Hamilton in 1804, in which Hamilton was killed. Probably neither one of the two famous men attended the court, as the suit was carried on by their respective tenants. The district court, a superior state court, sat at Sweet Springs for eleven years from 1796 to 1807, when it moved to Lewisburg.

—Send in Some News—

### Graduation Speaker

W. C. Turley, assessor of Logan county, will be the principal speaker at graduation exercises for Man high school May 23.

—Send in Pictures—

### Heads Rotary

Virgil H. Stewart, assistant superintendent of the Wyoming county schools, has been named as president of the Pineville Rotary club.

## Cabell County's New Jail



Here is an excellent picture of Cabell county's new jail, completed last month and dedicated March 23, 1940. It was built without laying additional levies and is said to be one of the finest jail buildings in this section of the country.

Four stories high, with a full basement, it is as modern and escape-proof as possible.

### LOGAN COUNTY

(Continued From Page Six)

him. Gibson met up with Logan in the forest near what is now Circleville. They walked for a short distance and then stopped under a gigantic Elm tree, Logan the meanwhile refusing to see Lord Dunmore. It was under this tree that Logan spoke his famous message.

"I appeal to any white man to say, if ever he entered Logan's cabin hungry and he gave him not meat, if ever he came cold and naked and he clothed him not. During the course of the last, long and bloody war, Logan remained idle in his cabin, an advocate of peace. Such was my love for the whites that my countrymen pointed as they passed and said, 'Logan is the friend of

the white man.' I had ever thought to live with you but for the injuries of one man. Colonel Cresap the last spring in cold blood and unprovoked, murdered all the relatives of Logan, not sparing even his women and children. There runs not a drop of my blood in the veins of any living creature. They called on me for revenge. I have sought it. I have killed many. I have fully glutted my revenge. For my country, I rejoice at the beams of peace, yet do not harbor the thought that mine is the joy of fear. Logan never felt fear. He will not turn on his heel to save his life. Who is there to mourn for Logan? Not one."

It was recorded at that time the speech was delivered after Logan had burst into tears on recalling a recent massacre of some of his kin.

**THIS PAGE RESERVED**

For news for the May issue. Tear it out, write down an interesting item and mail at once.

(Don't laugh! We had another helluva time filling up the other 7 pages.)

# JUST A REMINDER . . .

*To The County School Superintendents  
in the 55 Counties of West Virginia:*

School's about over for this term, and most of you are already making plans for the 1940-41 season.

Frankly, we'd like you to keep us in mind when estimating your requirements for the year. With Theodor Kundtz seating, with Rand-McNally maps and globes, and with a complete line of other school supplies, we are in a position to give you good service at a reasonable cost.

Especially are we equipped to give you quick service on printed and ruled forms, whether they be stock forms or specially designed. We do all of our own ruling, printing and binding and can—if necessary—produce the job practically over-night.

Our sales representatives will call on your shortly. We'd appreciate your keeping us in mind.



**CASTO & HARRIS, INC.**

(A West Virginia Corporation)

Telephone 110

**SPENCER, W. VA.**