The County

NEWSTELLER

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

TAYLOR COUNTY COURT HOUSE Grafton, W. Va.



(For Complete Details, See Inside)

(No. 29 in a series of 55 front covers being used to present the Court Houses of West Virginia.)

VOLUME III

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER, 1941

NUMBERS 11-12

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

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER

Numbers 11-12

No Flowers, No Tears Wanted

Unusual Will Filed in Ohio County Sent in by Clerk

A most unusual will has been filed in Ohio county, according to Arbie B. Creighton, of the circuit clerk's office, who sent the News-Teller a copy, with names omitted.

It is reproduced in full as follows:

"Wheeling, W. Va. "Sept. 17, 1938.

"I, ______being of sound mind do on this 17th day of Sept 1938 give to _____ my Power of Attorney, to administer and execute my affairs, both Real and Personal wherever found to the best interest of all concerned more particularly by beloved wife's interest.

"2d. In the event of my Death I desire all my debts paid, one debt in particular I desire paid at the earliest possible time. It is \$______ that I owe my sister

"4—Pall Bearers I suggest_

and

(Continued on Page Three)

REBINDING OLD, VALUABLE RECORDS

The Mason County Court, through its very conscientious clerk, John R. Aten, and his chief deputy, Mrs. Nellie M. Aten, authorized the rebinding and restoring of the Births and Deaths Records of Mason county from 1850 up to 1900. These records were badly in need of repair, having gone through several floods.

"Uncle John," as he is affectionately known throughout Mason county, has served the people long and well and deserves much credit for his untiring efforts in the preservation of these very valuable records.

•

"VOTE-GARD" BUYS

Other counties, besides Monongalia (see elsewhere this issue) which have purchased Vote-Gard ballot boxes and booths to take care of additional precincts are listed as follows:

Harrison county, 100 booths and 100 ballot boxes;

Hancock county, 72 booths and 24 ballot boxes;

Kanawha county, 150 booths and 114 ballot boxes.

Marshall county, 70 booths and 12 ballot boxes.

Sheriff's Son Marries

Olive Thorn and Ralph Dye of Elizabeth were married Sept. 17. Mr. Dye is a son of Sheriff and Mrs. G. A. Dye, Jr., of Wirt county. He is principal of the elementary school at Munday.

Roane Assessor Has the Figures

Nearly 16,000 Head of Cattle Reported in County

Jason Taylor, assessor of Roane county, has the facts and figures on the number of horses,



eattle, sheep, hogs, autos, farms, etc., for his county.

So many people have asked him about it that he has prepared a table showing the

exact number by districts. Because the district breakdown would be of no interest to anyone but Roane countians, we present his county figures as follows:

 Horses
 2,510

 Cattle
 15,869

 Sheep
 6,392

 Hogs
 1,795

 Autos, Trucks
 1,739

 Farms
 3,950

 Acres per farm
 97

 Total Acres
 379,000

 Dogs
 893

"In referring to farms," Mr. Taylor explained, "we mean those from three acres up to 1,300 acres. Those of one acre or less are not considered as true farms.

"We have used diligence in get-(Continued on Page Three)

Guilty?

Otto Simon, assessor of Barbour county, sends us a copy of a warrant issued in August, 1941, before Justice of the peace Luke Boyles, of Philippi district.

For obvious reasons, names of the parties are omitted.

The warrant charges:

"State of West Virginia, County of Barbour, to-wit: To any sheriff or constable of Philippi district in said county: The sheriff or any deputy sheriff of said county, or any member of the Department of Public Safety: Whereas day made complaint and information on oath before me, Luke Boyles, a justice of the peace of Philippi district in said county. commit a misdemeanor in this that he, the said_ on the day of August, 1941, in the said county did unlawfully assault her, the said by putting his hands under her clothes in an indecent manner and did then and there disturb her

Clerk's Daughter Marries

personal belongings not his own."

Announcement has been made of the marriage of Miss Lorna G. Cutright, daughter of County Clerk and Mrs. Allen B. Cutright of Upshur county, to Darius D. Moreland, of Buckhannon route 4.

The ceremony was performed June 29 in the First Methodist church of Clarksburg. The couple is residing at Lorain, Ohio, where Mr. Moreland is employed.

Jim Bleigh, county clerk of Lewis county, was a recent visitor in Clarksburg, having been summonsed there in connection with court matters.

Oral Fulks, sheriff of Lewis county, has completed his tax tickets in record time and was ready several days prior to Oct. 1 to collect taxes in case anyone desired to pay.

Three Peaches from Wetzel



The NewsTeller welcomes this photograph of three employees of Wetzel county, standing on the front steps of the court house at New Martinsville.

They are, reading left to right, Virginia Bushon, deputy sheriff; Martha Allen, stenographer in the Wetzel county clerk's office; and Pearl Frei, also of the clerk's office.

Thanks, Miss Allen, for sending in this picture.

HISTORY OF TAYLOR COUNTY

(By Charles Brinkman, Official Historian of Taylor County.)

The agitation for a new county in Western Virginia was begun in 1843 by Edward J. Armstrong, a prominent citizen of Williamsport (Pruntytown) and a member of the Virginia Legislature from Harrison County. He conceived the idea of a new county embracing parts of Barbour, Harrison and Monongalia counties lying on both sides of the Tygart Valley River with Williamsport as the county seat.

He had the late Attorney Leonidas Johnson prepare a new petition describing the boundaries of the proposed new county which was signed by every landlord within the proposed boundaries, who were most glad to save themselves the long journeys to the seats of the courts at Clarksburg, Morgantown and Philippi.

Mr. Armstrong took the petition with him to the Virginia Assembly and had the Act creating the new county in Western Virginia passed on Friday, January 19th, 1844. The act establishing the new county required the appointment of 15 Gentlemen Justices who were instructed to meet at the home of Abraham Smith in the town of Williamsport on Thursday, April 18th, 1844, and adjourn to some convenient place to begin the work of organizing the new county.

In accordance with their instructions they met at the home of Abraham Smith at Williamsport in the County of Harrison in Virginia and immediately adjourned to meet in the Methodist Episcopal Church to begin the task of organizing the new county. William A. Rogers, being the oldest justice, was chosen to preside over the deliberations, and he moved that before beginning this momentous work they bow the knee and ask divine guidance to aid them in doing what was best for the new county and its people.

Williamsport was at that time the largest town within the confines of the new county and naturally the seat of the courts was located there. It is said that John Prunty who owned all the land on which the town of Williamsport was built was the only one who opposed the formation of the new county, who said: "It was so damn small he could stand on one edge and spit across it." To appease him the name of Williamsport was changed to Pruntytown.

At a special election held on Tuesday, October 8th, 1878, for the people to vote on the question of the removal of the seat of the courts from Pruntytown to Grafton the question was ratified by 1,444 votes cast in favor of removal and 801 votes cast against. The court held its first session in Grafton in Brinkman Hall in November, 1878. The property of Mrs. Mary Boland was purchased for a site on which to erect the Court House which was immediately begun and completed in the fall of 1880. The historic old jail at Pruntytown was used to confine the violators of the law until the new jail in the basement of the Court House was ready for occupancy. At the outbreak of the Civil War the slave owners of Taylor county had their human chattel confined in the old jail to keep them from running off and seeking refuge behind the Union lines. This was reported to President Lincoln who immediately issued an order to the military commander at Grafton to proceed to Pruntytown and liberate all slaves, men, women and children confined in the Taylor county jail. On November 24, 1862, the first slaves in the United States were freed from the old jail, six weeks. prior to the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation.

The county was enlarged on February 20th, 1856, by including a small portion of Marion County north of and adjoining the county of Taylor south and east of a straight line, at the mouth of Samuel Henderson's lane and running to the residence of Jeremiah Neel to include his holdings in the new county.

No Flowers

(Continued from Page One)

After my wife's death if there is any residue appoint 3 disinterested partys to place value on residue and divide same share and share alike to......

and children of my wife.

Each of the 3 children to select one of the three disinterested parties to set value. All Masonic articles and desk to go to

"All of you have made contributions to the property but these are not to be considered debts against the property.

"Hoping you will be able to make all settlements without going to law and giving what may be left to lawyers.

"(signed)

"This signature can be verified by the many Bank Vouchers that may be found in the Desk."

Roane Assessor

ting these figures as nearly correct as possible but, of course, we have made some mistakes. When it comes to entering up the oil and gas royalty, it appears to be a jig-saw puzzle.

"I have enjoyed my first year

as assessor and expect to enjoy it more during the coming three years," Mr. Taylor concluded.

Re-Indexing

The very efficient county clerk of Jackson county, Don Ferguson, has completed his Permaflex Index to deeds. The Bar Association together with county officials were so well pleased with the work and with the completed job that they have made application for a project which will, when finished, completely reindex all of Jackson county's remaining records.

To Have Display

Casto & Harris will have a display at the State Educational Association and we hope all our friends will drop around to see us.

In Memoriam

CHARLES P. FURBEE

Memorial resolution concerning death of Hon. Charles P. Furbee.

WHEREAS, this body acknowledges with unfeigned sorrow the death of the Hon. Charles P. Furbee while serving as Clerk of the County Court of Harrison county, which death occurred Nov. 27, 1940, at a Clarksburg hospital, and.

WHEREAS, he served his County of Harrison as Clerk of the County Court for eight years and had four more years to serve at the time of his death; and,

WHEREAS, he was a prominent City, County and State figure, was the founder and one of the chief supporters of this Association, and was one of the best informed County Clerks of West Virginia; therefore, be it RESOLVED BY THE COUN-

RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY AND CIRCUIT CLERKS' ASSOCIATION OF WEST VIRGINIA:

That the County of Harrison, and this Association have suffered a distinct and irreparable loss in the passing of this distin-

guished citizen; and be it
FURTHER RESOLVED that
we pay our respects to his memory for the many years of faithful service, for his honesty and
integrity and for his unfailing
and unselfish devotion to duty at

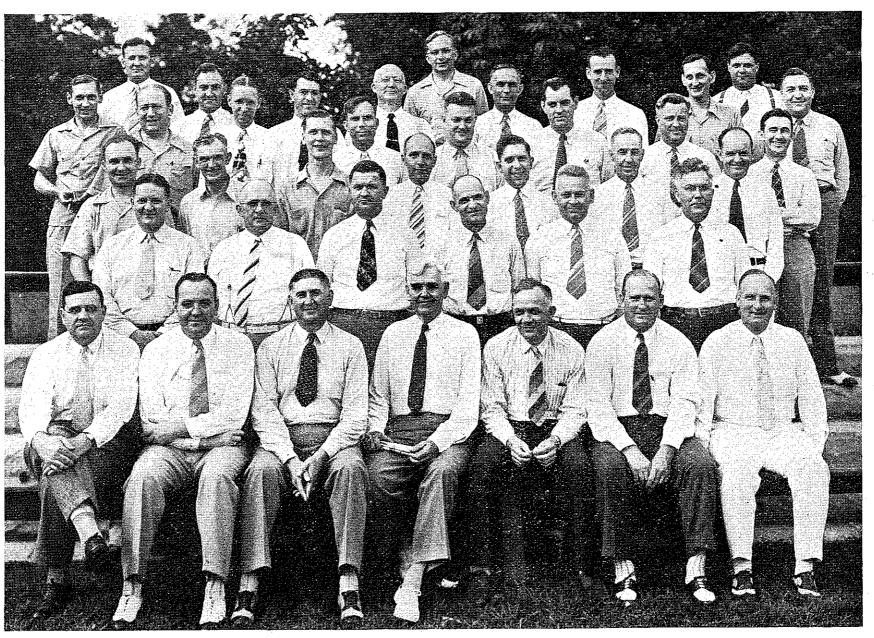
all times; and be it
FURTHER RESOLVED that
the members of this Association
hereby extend their deepest and
most profound sympathy to the
members of the family and
friends of the deceased in their
hereavement; and he it

bereavement; and be it
FURTHER RESOLVED that
the Secretary of this Association
be directed to spread upon the
Minutes of this Association a
copy of this Resolution and to
send copies to his nearest relatives and friends.

ROSCOE D. ZINN

Memorial Resolution concerning the death of Roscoe D. Zinn. WHEREAS, this body acknowledges with unfeigned sorrow the death of the Hon. Roscoe D. (Continued on page five

County School Superintendents Meet at Jackson's Mill



Shown above are some 37 county superintendents who were in session recently at Jackson's M.ll. Reading left to right:

Front row—E. G. Kuhn, Taylor county; J. J. Straight, Marion; Leslie Garrett, Wetzel; W. W. Trent, state superintendent of schools; Marion G. Rogers, Lewis; O. O. White, Putnam; and Arthur V. Upton, Harrison.

Second row—L. D. Moore, Roane; Louis R. Potts, Marshall; Olen Rutan, Brooke; M. J. Robinett, Wayne; J. P. McHenry, Ohio; and Ward E. Gamble, Tyler.

Third row—R. P. Kiser, Jackson; C. H. Archer, Mercer; William M. Rollins, Doddridge; Paul W. Watson, Preston; Paul

C. Winter, Logan; Otway Gunnoe, Fayette; and C. W. Mann, Summers.

Fourth row—Clarence Young, Clay; Robert L. Hickman, Wirt; George Bryson, McDowe'l; Eric S. Clutter, Pocahontas; A. L. Rabenstein, Hancock; Price E. Clark, Morgan; Lloyd H. Wharton, Wood; and Walden F. Roush, Mason.

Fifth row—A. Clinton Loy, Hampshire; Reardon Cuppett, Tucker; W. O. Poling, Barbour; W. E. Scott, Greenbrier; G. W. Ropp, Berkeley; Ross Bonar, Upshur; James L. Creasy, Nicholas; Albert W. Nelson, Boone; C. P. Hott, Grant; and E. M. Ashworth, Raleigh.

In Memoriam

(Continued from Page Four)

Zinn while serving as Clerk of the Circuit Court of Barbour County, which death occurred Oct. 21, 1940, at an Elkins hospital following a heart attack; and,

WHEREAS, he served his County of Barbour as Clerk of the Circuit Court for eight years and had four more years to serve at the time of his death; and,

WHEREAS, he was a prominent banker and business man and was an active worker in his City of Philippi; therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY AND CIRCUIT CLERKS' ASSOCIATION OF WEST VIRGINIA:

That the County of Barbour, and this Association have suffered a distinct and irreparable loss in the passing of this distinguished citizen; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that we pay our respects to his memory for the many years of faithful service, for his honesty and integrity and for his unfailing and unselfish devotion to duty at all times; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this Association hereby extend their deepest and most profound sympathy to the members of the family and friends of the deceased in their bereavement; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of this Association be directed to spread upon the Minutes of this Association a copy of this Resolution and to send copies to his nearest relatives and friends.

E. R. Lester, Clerk
Roane County Court.
A. M. Brown, Clerk
Putnam County Court.
E. M. Sinnett, Clerk
Roane County Circuit Court.
Resolutions Committee,
County and Circuit
Clerks' Association.

To Canada

Harold Dotson, deputy county clerk of Ritchie county, recently enjoyed a week's vacation in Carada. Mrs. Dotson and Mr. and Mrs. Raymer Dotson accompanied him.

Letters to Editor

"Casto & Harris, "Spencer, W. Va. "Sirs:

"I noticed in a recent issue of The NewsTeller an article about the notation on each assessment blank left at homes, by other assessors. Please be advised that for the past nine years I have used the enclosed stickers attached to all forms either left by deputy assessors or mailed out. I believe they are self-explanatory.

"Very truly yours, "Wm. M. Martin, "Assessor Cabell Co."

(The Notices Follow) IMPORTANT NOTICE

This Return must be filled out and returned to Wm. M. Martin, County Assessor, Huntington, W. Va., on or before May 1, 1941.

Failure to list property correctly; Collection of Penalties and Forfeitures:

Section 10, Article 3, Chapter 11, of the Code of State of West Virginia:

If any person, firm or corporation, including public service corporations whose duty it is by law to list any real estate or personal property for taxation, shall refuse to furnish a proper list thereof or refuse to furnish a list within the time required by law, or to make such oath as required by this chapter; or if any person, firm or corporation, including public service corporations, shall refuse to answer or shall answer falsely any question asked by the assessor or by the tax commissioner, or shall fail or refuse to deliver any statement required by law, he or it shall forfeit not less than twenty-five nor more than one hundred dollars, and shall be denied all remedy provided by law for the correction of any assessment made by the assessor or by the board of public works. If any person, firm or corporation. including public service corporations, required by law to make return of property for taxation, whether such return is to be made to the assessor, the board of public works, or any other assessing officer or body, fails to return a true list of all property which should be assessed in this State, including money, notes, bonds, bills and accounts receivable, stocks and any other intangible personal property, such person, firm or corporation, in addition to all other penalties provided by law, shall forfeit five per cent of the value of the property not returned and not otherwise taxed in this State.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

A Deputy Assessor was here today, but was unable to get your Personal Property Assessment for year begining January 1st, 1941. If you have not already filed your return, please fill out this blank and return within ten days to Wm. M. Martin, County Assessor, Huntington, W. Va., together with \$4.00 for State, Road and Municipal Tax; If over the age of 50 years remit only \$2.00; also \$2.00 for each male dog, and \$3.00 for each female dog over eight months old on January 1st, 1941.

Penalty for failure to list property correctly:

Section 10, Article 3, Chapter 11, of the Code of State of West Virginia:

"If any person whose duty it is by law to list any personal property for taxation, refuses to furnish a proper list thereof, or refuses to furnish a list within the time required by law, or to make such oath as required by this chapter; or if any person refuses to answer, or answers untruly, any question asked him by the assessor, or fails or refuses to deliver any statement required by law, he shall forfeit not less than \$25.00 nor more than \$100.00. and shall be denied all remedy provided by law for the correction of any assessment made by the Assessor."

Exceeds Budget

Although Circuit Clerk John S. Lambert of Wyoming county predicted that his office would collect \$1,650 for the fiscal year ending June 30, it actually took in \$2,513, it was announced recently.

Enjoys Visit

It was a real treat for a representative of Casto & Harris to visit the county court of Monongalia county. These three affable gentlemen are always on the job in the interest of their county. Colonel J. F. Loving is always ready to declare a recess to tell a good story which is thoroughly enjoyed by the other two members of the court and any visitors who might be present.

Colonel Loving is president of the West Virginia County Courts Association. He informed the NewsTeller unofficially, however, that the county courts would hold their regular yearly business meeting in conjunction with the Assessors' meeting, which will be held in Charleston the latter part of November.

Knight Recovers

A. Leeman Knight, assessor of Harrison county, after an extended illness, is able to be at his office in a supervisory capacity each day now. The NewsTeller as well as many friends throughout the state are glad to hear that Mr. Knight is well on the road to recovery.

Corder Improving

Waitman D. Corder, clerk of the Barbour county court, is recovering from a serious operation performed in August. He is now able to be at work and his many friends over the state hope for his speedy and complete recovery.

Clerk Injured

George H. Allemong, Berkeley circuit clerk, was slightly injured early in August in an automobile accident. He recovered nicely, however, and is back on the job.

Father Dies

Dr. Giles G. Sydnor, father of Henry M. Sydnor, Jefferson county superintendent of schools, died Sept. 26 after a brief illness.

SUMMERS CLERK DIES SEPT, 26

Circuit Clerk G. J. Hughes, 70, who had attended every court term since his election 22 years ago until he became i'll several weeks ago, died Sept. 26 at his home.

Hughes had held public office continuously since becoming justice of the peace in 1907.

A FIEND AWAKES

While strolling 'mong the trees one day

I cast a match beside the way; There was no thought of doing wrong,

Just dropped a match and passed along.

I had to smoke a cigarette;
Would smoke it, even on a bet;
No thought had I, if tinder lay
Close where I threw a match
that day.

I topped a hill, and then looked back,

Saw smoke ascending close my track;

That match had found a leafy bed, Became a flame that fast had spread.

Too late, I saw what I had done, As flames leaped high toward the sun,

I love the trees! I love them all!
It pained my heart to see them
fall.

My head was bended low in shame,
As from that fire this message

came:

"Cigarettes are smoked by fiends like me,

But only God can make a tree."
Luke McDowell,
Chief Clerk Mineral
County Board of
Education.

In Florida

Mrs. Evelyn Yorke, circuit clerk of Monongalia county, has been spending the past month in Florida. She is expected home about the first of October.

To Change County Seats

NOTICE

To All Whom it May Concern:

Take notice, that on the first day of the July term of the County Court of Taylor County, in the State of West Virginia, for the Year 1878, a petition in conformity with the provisions of Section 29 of Chapter 39 of the Code of West Virginia as amended and enacted by Chapter 114 of the Acts of the Legislature of West Virginia entitled "An Act Amending and Re-enacting certain Sections of Chapter Thirty-nine of The Code Concerning Boards of Supervisors so as to Confer Upon County Courts or Other Tribunals the Administration of County Affairs," approved April 7, 1873, will be presented to the said Court asking that the county seat of said County of Taylor may be relocated and placed at the town of Grafton in said County, and that the said Court will order that at the next regular election held thereafter in the said county for county officers, a vote shall be taken between the said town of Grafton and the existing county seat (now located at Pruntytown in said county) as provided by the said Section 29 of Chapter 39 of the Code of West Virginia herein before referred to.

Given this 11th day of June 1878.

S. A. Harter,
Moses W. Kincaid,
J. H. Smallwood,
N. H. Means,
G. E. Jarvis,
T. A. Reed,

R. M. Hanshaw, Geoff J. Fleming, John F. Clayton, John Miller, Martin Miller, N. H. Poe, John Doonan,

Isaac Evans,
S. P. McCormick,
C. Core,
Geo. Brinkman,
Henry Leuthke,
M. D. Bainbridge,
Andrew Shroyer.

-Photo Courtesy C. V. Miller, Sr., Grafton, W. Va.

Pictured above is an actual photograph of the proclamation issued 63 years ago asking that the county seat of Taylor county be changed from Pruntytown (now scene of the Industrial School) to Grafton. For picture of the original court house at Pruntytown, please turn page.

Interesting Note of 1850

The Pineville Herald (Wyoming county) reprints the following interesting clipping from a newspaper published in 1850:

The notice as issued in a Kentucky paper reads as follows:

"To whom it may concern:
"Having sold my farm and intending to move to Missouri, I will sell at public sale, one mile west and four miles south of Harrisburg, Ky., on Saturday, September, 26, 1850, the following property to-wit:

"One buck negro, 25 years old, weight 210 pounds; four negro wenches, from 18 to 24 years old; three negro boys, 6 years old; 13 hoes; one pine sled; 6 yoke oxen, well broken; ten ox yokes with hickory bows; two ox carts with six tires; one saddle pony, 5 years old; one side saddle; eight double-shovel plows, 10 and 12 inches; 25 one-gallon jugs of whiskey; one-hundred gallons of apple cider; one barrel of good sorghum; two barrels of soap; one good negro whip; and two tons of 2 year old tobacco. Terms: Cash—I need the money.

"Col. H. Johnson, Auctioneer, Bill Crawford, Clerk, and Joe Cooley, owner."

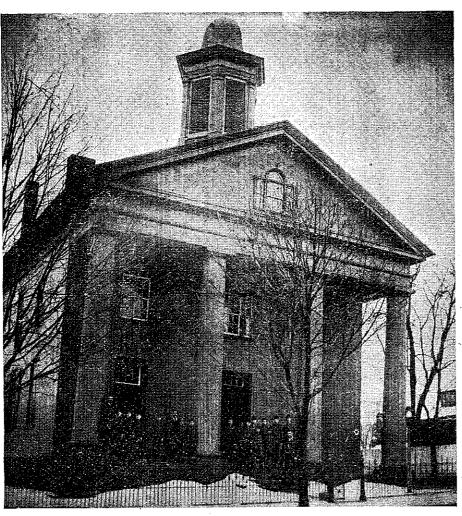
Delayed Honeymoon

D. E. Wedge, president of the county court of Mason county, has been enjoying a long delayed honeymoon. At least that is the interpretation placed upon his recent automobile trip through some of the western states by his fellow court members, Messrs. Hesson and Barnett. President Wedge has returned to his duties on the farm and for the county court.

Move to Town

County Clerk and Mrs. A. R. Martin of Monongalia county have moved from their country home to a residence in Morgantown for the winter months.

Taylor's First Court House



(Information furnished by Charles Brinkman, official historian of Taylor County)

On June 27, 1846, William Prim was awarded the contract for building Taylor county's first Court House, shown above, which was erected at Pruntytown. This beautiful old colonial structure was used from 1849 to 1878, when agitation was started to move the county seat to Grafton.

The picture shown above was taken after the move had been made and after the Industrial School had been established at Pruntytown. Shown on the porch are the superintendent and several of the boys (in uniform) who were inmates of the school at that time.

Married

Miss Vera Jones, daughter of Circuit Clerk and Mrs. Vernon Jones of Mason county, was married in July to Stephen Noble, of Camp Conley. The bridegroom is employed at the Farm Cooperative Bureau store.

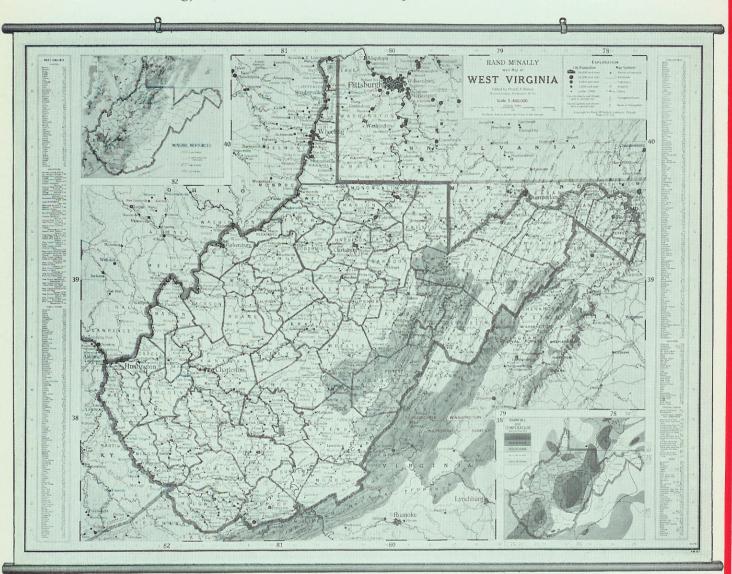
New Voting Equipment

Albert R. Martin, county clerk, together with the county court of Monongalia county, purchased 60 Vote-Gard voting booths and 24 Vote-Gard ballot boxes to take care of new precincts which have been added in their county.

YOU CAN STILL GET MAPS!

What with the National Defense program retarding deliveries of many items needed by schools, this is the time to buy Rand-McNally maps. Our supply is adequate and delivery can be made promptly.

Pictured below is the new West Virginia map, edited by Prof. E. F. Brown of Marshall college. In size 55x45, it comes in all standard mountings. Priced from \$6 (wood rod mounting) hundreds of them have been placed in the schools.



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