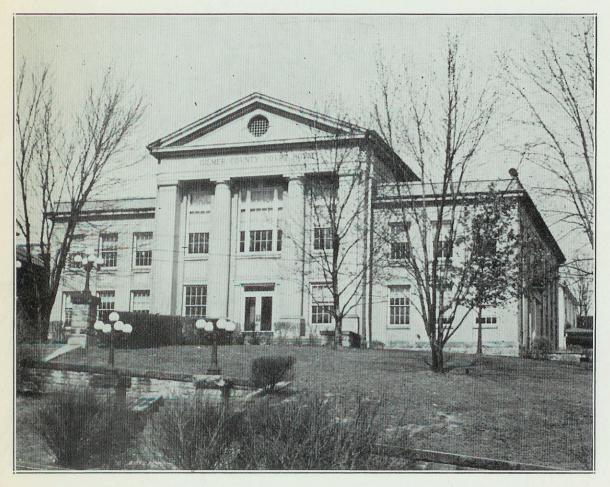
## The County

## NEWSTELLER

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

#### GILMER COUNTY COURT HOUSE

Glenville, W. Va.



GILMER COUNTY: Formed in 1845 from parts of Lewis and Kanawha counties; named for Virginia's Governor Thomas Walter Gilmer; Area 342 square miles; population (1940) 12,043. For Picture of Gilmer's old court house see inside.

(No. 28 in a series of 55 front covers being used to present the Court Houses of West Virginia.)

VOLUME III

JUNE-JULY, 1941

NUMBERS 9-10

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

JUNE-JULY, 1941

Numbers 9-10

### West Va. Will Share In 100 Million Fund

'Key State for Defense' Educator Asserts In School Plan

The projected division of West Virginia into six districts to better coordinate the use of high school workshops in training workers for defense was outlined at Jackson's Mill July 15 to county superintendents of schools by William A. Williams.

Williams, state supervisor of trade and industrial education, predicted West Virginia would share liberally in the \$100,000,000 released for education work because it is a "key state in the defense preparations."

Each district will be headed by a supervisor. Headquarters will be at Martinsburg, Wheeling, Parkersburg, Huntington, Beckley and Elkins.

William said the increased activity would call for closer cooperation on the part of county superintendents to make full use of the existing mechanical facilities in high school vocational departments.

Kenneth Shaffer, of Kingwood, was named president of the West Virginia County Superintendents association, succeeding George Bryson, of Welch. C. M. Young, of Clay, was named vice president and Virgil Rohrbough, of Grafton, secretary-treasurer.

#### **DAUGHTERS**



Assessor H. V. Tenney of Upshur county reports that "all of my sons are girls, but one," and sends us the above photograph of his four daughters. They are shown on the Tenney farm with his famous collie dog.

## Favor West Virginia

(Copy of a Letter)

Clarksburg, W. Va., June 26, 1941.

"Hon. M. M. Neely, Governor, "State Capitol Building, "Charleston, W. Va.

"Dear Governor Neely:

"There are approximately 3,-000 union printers, pressmen and bookbinders in West Virginia. A large percentage of us own our homes, pay taxes in our communities and contribute to church, welfare, and other organizations.

I am writing to you in behalf of these men and their families. We are interested in West Virginia; we want to see this State forge to the front; and we want to see our people prosper. We

(Continued on page five

## Nash Is Honored On 75th Birthday

President of Cabell Court Is Feted at Surprise Party Given by Friends

T. H. Nash, president of the Cabell county court, who observed his 75th birthday July 4, was given a surprise birthday party in the county clerk's office by courthouse attaches July 2.

A number of gifts, including a suit, a Gladstone traveling bag, a Masonic ring, three dress shirts, ties, handkerchiefs and socks, were presented to Mr. Nash on behalf of his friends by George I. Neal, attorney, in the presence of more than 60 employes of the courthouse and other officials.

"We have gathered this morning," said Mr. Neal, "to honor you on the occasion of your Fourth of July birthday. These gifts constitute only a small part of our appreciation for the splendid service and leadership you have shown during the 19 years you have served on the county court."

Mr. Nash, affected by the proceedings, expressed his appreciation for the gifts and thanked courthouse attaches assembled for the event "for your loyalty and friendship through the past years."

Following the ceremonies, all the courthouse employees filed past the court bench and shook hands with Mr. Nash, congratu-

(Continued on Page Two)

### Beckley Man Heads State Court Clerks

Harry Anderson, county clerk of Raleigh county, Beckley, was elected president of the West Virginia Association of County and Circuit Clerks, succeeding L. L. Nightengale, circuit clerk of Ohio county. The convention was held at Wheeling June 19-20.

Welch was selected for the 1942 convention and Don S. Renn, county clerk of McDowell county, was elected chairman of the arrangements committee for the next convention to be held the latter part of May, 1942.

Other officers elected were Alex D. Cyphers, circuit clerk of Mc-Dowell county, first vice-president; J. G. Lambert, county clerk of Wayne county, second vice-president; Paul A. Leatherman, county clerk of Grant county, third vice-president; L. L. Night-engale, fourth vice-president; A. M. Brown, county clerk of Putnam county, secretary-treasurer. Mr. Brown was ill and confined to a hospital and did not attend the convention.

The selection of Welch as the next convention city was unanimous after other offers were withdrawn.

A committee on permanent registration of voters, appointed to confer with an election committee named by Governor M. M. Neely, to meet with each other was Earl Wolfe, Hall Maxwell, Paul Wehrle, E. Roy Lester and J. Randall Crow, representing 11 sections of the state.

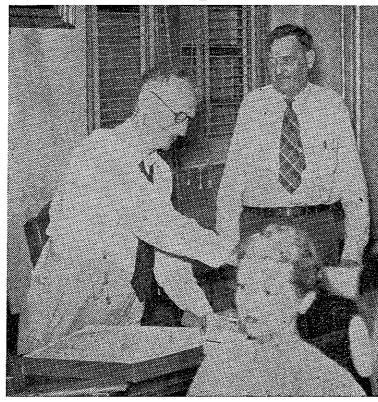
#### Clerk's Daughter Marries

Miss Marie Hill, daughter of Circuit Clerk and Mrs. C. A. Hill of Jackson county, was married recently to Mr. Gordon Harness of Moundsville.

#### Roush Named

Waldon Roush has been reappointed superintendent of the Mason county schools. Gilbert Rodgers was reelected president of the board of education.

## Court Head Accepts Good Wishes



T. H. Nash, president of the Cabell county court and a member of the court for 19 years, is shown above receiving congratulations from courthouse attaches on the occasion of his 75th birthday July 3. He received a number of gifts, which were presented by Attorney George I Neal in an informal ceremony. Commissioner Boone B. Arthur is shown at the right.

#### Reelected

Ross Bonar has been reappointed as superintendent of the Upshur county schools. He was named acting superintendent to succeed R. Worth Shumaker, resigned, and on July 7 was reelected.

Dr. G. O. Brown was reelected president of the board.

#### Widow Dies

Mrs. Laura Kate Wysong, 85, widow of former Sheriff Charles D. Wysong of Jefferson county, died June 1.

#### Former Official Dies

Lawrence A. Christy, 87, onetime sheriff of Putnam county and one-time county commissioner of Kanawha county, died recently.

#### Nash Is Honored

(Continued from Page One)

lating him on the occasion of his birthday.

Seated in the courtroom, in addition to workers of the county clerk's office, the sheriff's office and the circuit clerk's office, were Judge H. Clay Warth of common pleas court; County Clerk Fred A. Ware, Sheriff Harvey C. Taylor, Circuit Clerk M. C. Blake and a number of attorneys.

Elected to the court in 1922, Mr. Nash was reelected for six-year terms in 1924, 1930 and 1936.

According to W. Gregory Crawford, deputy clerk, Mr. Nash has served as president of the court more than half the 19 years he has been a commissioner.

# Open Letter to Mr. Howard Gibson

My Dear Friend Howard:

I read and re-read your letter in the last issue of the NEWS-TELLER in regard to spayed dogs. I applied this word SPAY-ED, and its meaning to everything I could think of to work out a solution that would be workable; not in my personal mind "understand," but as some form of taxable item.

Taxes are to be levied on values, and the dog tax cannot be considered any other way. It is the female of all species of animal life, whether it be man or dogs, that is more often spayed than the male. Intrinsic value enters into every phase of life and value, and to remove one single virtue lessens that value. It must be considered that a female has twice the value of a male, otherwise the tax would be the same.

The female reproduces her kind, a virtue not held by the male. The country should be pleased to such an extent that to put a penalty on the producer of taxable property would be ludicrous, and a reversal of the tax should in all fairness be made. I know of no other form of Motherhood, Howard, where the tax is doubled, "just because of being born a female." When a dog is spayed, the reason for the double tax has been removed, and she (or it) should be taxed by all assessors who has a personal feeling, "as a dog." Her days of reproduction are over for all times.

God's greatest gift is re-production, whether it be dog or man. Think this over my friend, for the sake of humanity, think this over.

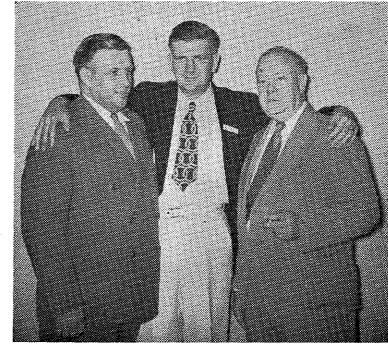
Yours very truly, Chauncey D. Twyford, Assessor, Tyler County. Wolfe Named

Harlie Wolfe of Glenville was elected president of the Gilmer

county board of education at an organization meeting held July 7.

Marvin Cooper was reelected county superintendent.

Clerk Executives Get Together



-Courtesy NEWS-REGISTER

Following the election of the West Virginia Association of County and Circuit Clerks during the convention at the McLure hotel in Wheeling June 19-20, the above old and new presidents of the association got together with the 1942 convention host.

Left to right: Harry Anderson, county clerk of Raleigh county, Reckley, newly elected president; Don S. Renn, county clerk of McDowell county, Welch, chairman of the committee on arrangements for the 1942 convention to be held in Welch during May, and L. L. Nightengale, Ohio county

clerk and retiring president. Nightengale was again elected to the board as fourth vice-president.

Other officers elected left immediately after the session and were not present to be photographed. They were Alex D. Cyphus, circuit clerk of McDowell county, first vice-president; J. G. Lambert, county clerk of Wayne county, second vice-president; Paul A. Leatherman, county clerk of Grant county, and A. M. Brown, county clerk of Putnam county, secretary-treasurer, the latter not attending the convention due to illness.

## COUNTY COMMISSIONER LOSES FINGER

W. B. Snodgrass, prominent Smithfield resident and president of the Wetzel County court, lost the third finger of his left hand in a peculiar accident recently When going to the mow of his barn for hay the stair gave way throwing Mr. Snodgrass forward and, in grabbing a timber for support, a nail caught under a heavy ring on his finger, tearing off his finger at the middle joint.

Mr. Snodgrass is a retired field foreman of the South Penn Natural Gas Company and a few years ago had this same hand injured and blood poisoned, and it had remained slightly crippled from the operation.

#### In Military Service

Deputy County Clerk John B. Chenoweth, of Randolph county, who is now in military service, has been replaced by Miss Dolly Coberly.

# WOOD COUNTY COURT INSTALLS RECTIGRAPH REORDING MACHINE

(As the Haloid Company's exclusive representative in West Virginia, Casto & Harris takes pleasure in announcing the sale of two Rectigraph photographic recording machines to the Wood county court. The following write-up, announcing the purchase, appeared in the Parkersburg Sentinel of July 18—ed.)

"A revolutionary step in the recording of documents has been taken by County Clerk Earl Wolfe, Jr., of Wood county. Realizing a plan that he has had in mind for sometime, Mr. Wolfe announced today that the county court has purchased a photocopying machine for making photographic copies of deeds, wills, trusts and mortgages, chattel mortgages and other legal papers filed with the county clerk for permanent recording.

"This new method will replace the present method of typing the copies of the documents for the permanent record books. Mr. Wolfe made a long and exhaustive study of photographic work, weighing the advantages and disadvantages of the two methods from the standpoint of accuracy, speed and economy, before recommending the purchase of the machine.

"The most convincing point in favor of the photographic work is the positive elimination of any chance for error in the transition to the permanent records, Mr. Wolfe emphasizes. With the photographic copy there is absolutely no chance for an error or to alter the permanent copy. The photo-copying machine makes a picture of the document being recorded just as it is drawn up.

"Everything on the document is photographed—the writing or typing, the signatures, seals of notaries or corporations, revenue stamps, and any change that might have been written into the paper after it was drawn up. Everything is legibly and permanently photographed onto the paper that is to be placed in the record book.

"Under the present system of typing the copies there is always the chance of an error despite the careful proofing of all work turned out on the typewriters and a costly error could be made that might involve the county court in serious trouble, Mr. Wolfe pointed out. He cited instances in history where errors in recordings have caused law suits over ownership of land. With the use of the photo-copying machine there is no possible way for an error, he stated.

"Other advantages of the newer method cited by the county clerk included the economic side. The cost of recording documents was reduced as much as two-thirds by the photographic method in Milwaukee county, Wis., he said, and he anticipated a like savings for Wood county.

"The machine requires but two attendants to operate it and Mr. Wolfe described the operation as very simple. It merely consists of placing the paper to be recorded in the machine and turning a lever. The machine chemically processes, washes and dries the copies automatically. No dark room is required and the operator does not have to place his hands in any acid.

"Pictures can be taken on both sides of the paper and a good linen paper meeting legal requirements is used. Reduced or enlarged sizes may be made and the pictures are developed with speed. This is another feature of photocopying. The time required for recording is cut by days. Under the present system usually a week is required to type, proof and record a document. The photo-copying machine works speedily and with definite uniformity.

"After the developed papers come out of the machine they are trimmed and punched for the permanent books. The work can be done in broad daylight. A dark room for developing is not necessary with the new type of machine, Mr. Wolfe explained.

"One fly in the ointment is that

the county clerk will not be able to get delivery on the photo-copying machine until late September or early October. The order was placed with the Haloid company of Rochester, N. Y., and it has a defense order contract to furnish 15 photo-copying machines per month to the federal government and its capacity production is 16 per month.

"That will allow Mr. Wolfe plenty of time to arrange space for the machine. It will not require much space, however, he said, and he plans to place it in a vault in the basement. In event of high water it could be moved easily by two men. Election poll equipment now in the vault will be stored elsewhere.

"Mr. Wolfe termed the county court's purchase of the machine 'a most forward step in the preservation of vital records.' He pointed out that practically every investment in Wood county is recorded in some manner in the county courthouse and with such unestimable value placed upon the records, accuracy in making them is of paramount importance.

"Photographic work in courthouses was first began in 1907 in Mississippi, Mr. Wolfe said. A number of counties in West Virginia are now using such a method, including Kanawha, Harrison, Raleigh, and Monongalia, he cited."

#### Reappointed

L. F. Rosenlieb has been reappointed as superintendent of the Pleasants county schools. A. W. Locke was reelected president of the board.

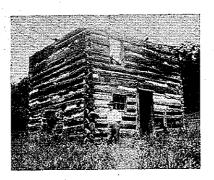
#### Gamble Retained

Ward E. Gamble was reappointed superintendent of the Tyler county schools for a one-year period. Calvin M. Knowlton was reelected president of the board.

#### Hamilton Reappointed

Bryan Hamilton has been reappointed county superintendent of the Randolph county schools. Fred Chenoweth was also reappointed president of the board of education.

#### ONE HOUSE— THREE COUNTIES



The above photograph, taken July 4, 1938, shows the cabin into which Joseph McDowell moved his family in 1845. The farm on which the cabin stands was bought by the Sloans, but delayed payment deferred the receipt of a deed until 1866, as shown by the land records of Mineral county, the first deed being from Sloans to McDowells. This farm, now owned by J. Carl McDowell, great grandson of Joseph, lies in Welton district along what it known as the Shirley Lane road.

Thomas, son of Joseph McDowell, married Mary E., daughter of William and Mary Rogers, in 1859. They, too, lived for some years in that same cabin home; and to them several children were born. Strange as it may seem, some of the children were born in Hampshire county, Va., some in Hampshire county, W. Va., and some in Mineral county, W. Va.—yet they were all born in the same house.

Luke McDowell, who appears in the picture and whose poem, "A Fiend Awakes," appears elsewhere in this issue, is one of that large family of children, though not born in the same house. He served nearly 14 years as county superintendent of schools, retiring from that office in 1935. Since that time he has been serving as chief clerk to the Mineral county board of education.

#### Favor West Virginia

(Continued from Page One)

know that you share these sentiments; therefore, I am bringing to your attention a matter which is of vital concern to us.

Many thousands of dollars worth of printing is sent from West Virginia annually to Ohio, Maryland, Washington, Pennsylvania, and Kentucky. In some instances the price is far in excess of the price that could be obtained in local communities in West Virginia.

Salesmen visit every sheriff, every board of education, every city and every county court, and every department in the State House. They are convincing talkers. They have forms of checks with little holes in the corners, record forms with a little carbon on the back, and trick punches which they claim are patented. By various slick selling methods, public officials in every county in West Virginia and in the State House have been sold great quantities of printing which could have been done in our shops in this State. When work is slack in our printing plants, we are laid off.

Here are some reasons why we call this matter to your attention:

- 1. We know that you are thoroughly in accord with us when we claim that money paid by the taxpayers in the State should, so far as possible, be spent in West Virginia. You would not think of employing a citizen of Ohio to work in your office in the State House.
- 2. Out-of-state printing companies do not pay a cent of gross sales taxes in West Virginia.
- 3. Salesmen who come here from other states do not pay a cent of income taxes to West Virginia.
- 4. Out-of-state companies do not pay a cent of property taxes in West Virginia.
- 5. When work is sent out of the State the printers, employers, retail concerns where we spend our money, even the State itself, suffer.
- 6. Business concerns, coal

companies, and manufacturing plants buy many thousands of dollars worth of printing in other states. When the counties, municipalities, colleges, other institutions, and the State purchasing department set the example, we cannot blame individuals for following suit.

It may be argued that some of the forms needed cannot be manufactured in West Virginia. That is not true. Slick salesmen design complicated forms which are unnecessary. Simple forms have been printed in West Virginia since the state was organized in 1863. Only a few years ago did these out-of-state printing salesmen come here and begin carrying away public printing.

We appeal to you as our friend to lend the influence of your office to discourage the State, the University, the colleges, the institutions, the county authorities, the municipal authorities, and even business concerns in their practice of sending their printing to other states to be done. In many instances the work is done by cheap labor in non-union shops where it is possible to eliminate competition.

You may depend upon our organization to co-operate with you in every way possible in any program you may have for the betterment of West Virginia, the State we love.

Cordially and sincerely yours, J. Ralph Layfield, president W. Va. Allied Printing Trades Conference."

New Superintendent

W. Obed Poling, former assistant superintendent of the Barbour county schools, has been named as superintendent. Waitman Gall, Jr., was named his assistant. W. D. Gall, Sr., was chosen president of the school board.

#### Moore Named

L. D. Moore, former assistant superintendent of the Roane County schools, has been appointed as superintendent for a four-year term. He succeeds O. R. Karickhoff. No assistant has yet been named.

#### OHIO COUNTY SHERIFF CALLED FOR NAVAL DUTY

Sheriff C. Lee Spillers of Ohio County, called to active service as a lieutenant commander in the navy, was given an indefinite leave of absence by the Ohio county court. Deputy Sheriff Tom Padden was appointed to act as sheriff temporarily.

#### Named President

H. B. Bartlett was elected president of the Ritchie county board of education July 7. Orval P. Hill was named county superintendent for a period of one year.

#### Kiracofe Reappointed

G. R. Kiracofe has been reappointed superintendent of the Hardy county schools. O. G. Bean was reelected president of the board of education.

#### Shock Appointed

John Shock, former assistant superintendent of the Webster county schols, was named superintendent, succeeding Fritz J. Stemple, who was named assistant.

#### Kiser Re-Named

R. P. Kiser has been reelected superintendent of the Jackson county schools.

#### Gunnoe Named

Otway Gunnoe, former assistant of the Fayette county schools, has been named superintendent. His assistant is E. R. Vawters. W. H. Vickers of Montgomery was named president of the board of education.

#### Siler President

The Berkeley county board of education re-organized July 7, electing Charles W. Siler as president for his fourth consecutive term. Other members of the board and their length of service on the board are: C. Stewart Cline, 2 years; L. DeWitt Gerhardt, 6 years; Stewart McDonald, new member; W. A. Miller, 1 year.

## Paul A. Dechan, Assessor, Dies

## Former Marshall County Assessor Buried at Greenwood

Funeral services for Paul A. Dechn, assessor of Marshall county, who died suddenly at his home at 604 Fifth street, Moundsville, were held in the chapel of the Grisell funeral home. Interment



followed in Greenwood cemetery, Wheeling.

Mr. Dechan, who had been in failing health for the past two years, was a native of New Jersey and went to Benwood in the late nineties as a building contractor. His first political office was as clerk of Benwood, where he served two terms, then went to Moundsville as a deputy assessor. He was elected assessor in 1924 and served five consecutive terms. He served as secretary of the Marshall county Republican executive committee for a number of years. He was a member of Nelson lodge of Masons, Wheeling, and of the Moundsville lodge of Elks, a member of the Kiwanis club and of the Simpson Methodist church of Moundsville. He was a director of the First National Bank of Moundsville.

Surviving is his widow, Mrs. Agnes Seabright Dechan, a step-daughter, Mrs. Thomas Kerns of McMechen, a brother and sister in Trenton, N. J., a granddaughter, Mrs. Charles Niedemeyer of McMechen, and a great granddaughter.

Chauncey D. Twyford, past president of the West Virginia Assessors' association, represented the assessor at the funeral. He was accompanied by Lee Francis, assessor of Wetzel county.

#### Sheriff's Daughter Marries

Announcement has been made of the marriage of Miss Freda Christine Gore, daughter of Sheriff and Mrs. Claude Gore of Logan county, to Dix Nelson Hinman, also of Logan.

The bride is a graduate of Logan high school, Marshall College and Concord College. She is a teacher in the Logan county schools.

Mr. Hinman is employed by the Appalachian Electric Power Co.

#### Reappointed

G. W. Stanley was reelected president of the Wayne county board of education, M. J. Roberts was reappointed county superintendent of schools and a number of other employes were hired when the board met July 7.

#### Sheriff's Son Dies

Charles Lambert, 35, son of Sheriff Sam Lambert of Mercer county, died in a hospital at Bluefield July 3, of internal injuries suffered the preceding Sunday in an automobile accident between Princeton and Bluefield.

#### Reappointed

W. E. Scott has been reappointed county superintendent of the Greenbrier county schools. W. W. Wickine of Rainelle was named president of the school board.

### Death Claims Court Member

Jackson County Commissioner J. A. Shinn died at his home in Ripley June 10. Mr. Shinn was about 74 years of age. Funeral services were held June 13.

Mr. Shinn is survived by his widow, two sons, Allen Shinn of Ripley and Dr. John Shinn of Pt. Pleasant, and two daughters, Mrs. Georgia Ellison and Mrs. J. Howard Smith. He is also survived by one brother, J. O. Shinn of Pt. Pleasant, and one sister, Mrs. Amelia Reynolds of Evans.

Mr. Shinn was twice deputy sheriff and once sheriff, and twice elected as a member of the county court.

#### Widmyer Elected

Roy P. Widmyer was elected president of the Morgan county board of education July 7. He succeeds W. D. Ambrose of Paw Paw.

#### President

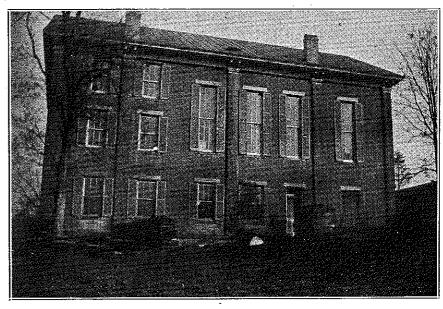
Dr. D. D. Chapman of Vadis, former superintendent of the Spencer State Hospital, has been elected president of the Lewis county school board.

#### ASSESSOR & WIFE



Pictured above is Assessor H. V. Tenney of Upshur county, shown with his "better half" at home on their farm.

## **Old Gilmer County Court House**



Thanks to Carey Woofter, professor in Glenville State College, for the above photograph of the Gilmer county court house which was replaced by the modern structure shown on the front cover.

Mr. Woofter is making a collection of Court House pictures and prizes highly the NewsTeller Front covers which are sent to him regularly.

#### Trouble on Road

Two trucks met on a country road just wide enough for one. Truck Drive No. 1, a scrawny frail little man, leaned out of his cab.

"Turn out, you," he shouted, "if ya don't, I'll do to you what I did to the last guy who wouldn't turn out."

Two hundred-pound muscular Driver No. 2, not caring to have trouble, pulled out. But as the other truck rumbled by, he yelled: "What'd yo do to that other

guy?"
"Turned out for him," was the reply.—Exchange.

#### Named Deputy Assessor

Miss Zela Davis, of Bowen, has been appointed deputy assessor by the Wayne county court upon motion of Assessor Henry Mullens. At the assessor's office it was stated Miss Davis, a school teacher, will be employed in the assessor's office during the summer months only.

#### Have Banquet

County officials of Wyoming county enjoyed a banquet at the Byrd hotel in Pineville June 6. Talks were made by Prosecuting Attorney R. D. Bailey, County Historian G. P. Goode and County Superintendent of Schools W. C. Bailey.

#### New School Head

The Mineral county school board has named Haven L. Idleman as superintendent, succeeding Paul C. Rouzer, who had been in this post for six years. Mr. Idleman was named for a two year term. Dr. Robert Bess was reelected president of the board.

#### Return from Florida

Mrs. John Caplinger, wife of the Randolph county clerk, and two children returned recently from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., where they spent the winter. Clerk John Caplinger met them in Tennessee and drove them home.

## THE "PROOF OF THE PUDDING" IN WEST VIRGINIA!

Braxton

Calhoun

Fayette

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