

The County **NEWSTELLER**

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

FAYETTE COUNTY COURT HOUSE

Dedicated in 1895, Fayetteville, W. Va.



FAYETTE COUNTY: Created in 1831 from parts of Greenbrier, Kanawha, Nicholas and Logan counties; named in honor of Marquis de Lafayette; area 666½ square miles; population (1930) 72,050.

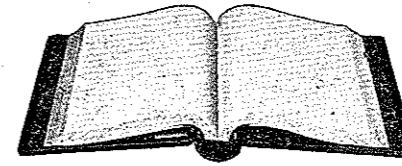
(No. 7 in a series of 55 front covers being used to present the Court Houses of West Virginia)

Volume I

JULY, 1939

Number 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 I

JULY, 1939

Number 10

Sheriff's Helper Married

Miss Eulah Louise Wamsley, for the past five years an assistant in the sheriff's office at Elkins, was united in marriage to Burton C. English in a church ceremony held at Huttonsville the afternoon of Sunday, June 25.

The ceremony was solemnized by Dr. G. O. Young, pastor of the Huttonsville Presbyterian church, in the presence of relatives and friends.

Mrs. English's picture appears in this issue of the NewsTeller.

—Send in Some News—

WHISKEY STILL WILLED TO SONS

Will Also Provides for Annual
Payment of 10 Gallons Rye

Among the interesting and unusual wills recorded in Hardy county are those made by William and Benjamin Wilson, big land-owners at the turn of the 19th century. Both are recorded in Will Book No. 1, but they are too lengthy for publication in The NewsTeller.

However, one paragraph in the former's will, dated May 26, 1794, is reproduced as follows:

"I will and bequeath that my still and the utensils thereunto belonging to the Joint property of my two sons James and Solomon Wilson, and that after my debts and Legacies are paid the moveable estate will be equally divided between my wife Elizabeth Wilson, and my said sons

(Continued on Page Four)

New Appointee



Carl C. Calvert

Delegate Carl C. Calvert of Chelyan, Cabin Creek district, was appointed recently by Gov. Holt to fill the vacancy on the Kanawha county court.

He succeeds the late Ben F. Watson, also of Cabin Creek district, who died several weeks ago, and will serve until the next general election or until his successor has qualified.

Calvert was named by the governor after the other two members of the county court failed to agree upon a third member within the allotted 60 days.

The new court member is 44 years old and a life-long resident of Chelyan. He attended Morris

(Continued on Page Four)

THIS TRAIN WAS REALLY SLOW

Preston County Official Tells One
On "Switchback" Railroad

One of the best stories coming out of the recent Clerks' convention held at Morgantown was told by a Preston county official concerning the old "switchback" railroad that runs between Kingwood and Tunnelton.

The route is so mountainous that the train must go forward a while, then backward a while, then forward, etc.; hence the name "switchback."

Now it seems (said the official) that the conductor on this years-old run is mighty proud of his train. Even though it takes hours to travel the same distance that can be covered in minutes via auto, the conductor considers it a personal insult if any derogatory references are made to the speed of his train.

Once upon a time (told the official) a woman got on the train at Kingwood. She was one of the few passengers and within a comparatively short time she began asking the proud conductor when his train would get to Tunnelton. This irked him no end and, finally, he told her to keep quiet, that he'd tell her when she was near to Tunnelton.

"Well, you'd better hurry," she warned. "I'm going to have a baby and I must get to a hospital for confinement at once."

Thoroughly disgusted, the conductor snorted: "If you knew you were in that condition, you

(Continued on Page Three)

Putnam Clerk



J. W. Anderson

Circuit Clerk Anderson, of Putnam, is one of the best known citizens of his county, having spent almost his entire life time as a citizen there.

He has been Circuit Clerk of the county for a number of years, in which position he has met people from almost every walk of life and is well known throughout the state. During his term in office he has kept himself familiar with the laws of West Virginia, and even though he has not passed the state bar examination or has not made it his profession to practice law, he is highly read in law and at any time he would desire, could no doubt pass the bar examination without any trouble.

Mr. Anderson has held the office of Circuit Clerk for two terms, and on Jan. 1, 1939, started his third term in this office. He was elected in 1920, and again in 1926. He was a candidate in 1932, but lost by a small margin of votes.

More Praise

Your NewsTeller has been mentioned favorably in practically every nationally circulated printing & binding magazine. From all over the country have come requests for sample copies, which

have been sent when possible.

Most recent comment was by a writer in the Graphic Arts Monthly, nationally circulated printing magazine. Said the critic:

"Here's a real idea, and I think it's swell! C. & H. specialize in county and school record books, election supplies, and general printing for local government offices. So, back in last October they got out Volume 1, Number 1 of 'The County News-Teller,' a monthly humdinger, chockfull of news and gossip concerning the people they want to call customers."

—Send in Pictures—

CLERK COLLECTS MANY RELICS

Nebraska Official Also Holds Down Many Jobs, Record Shows

The story of how a county clerk collects relics of early history in his community is told this month in L. L. Brown's Permanence magazine. It concerns Earl Phillips, county clerk, register of deeds, clerk of the district court and (whew!) county assessor of Gosper county, Neb.

Mr. Phillips' particular hobby is the collection of Indian relics and other antiques, especially those relating to Gosper county. He was motivated in this constructive work by a desire to furnish his constituents and posterity with as complete a picture as possible of the very interesting history of his county. Those who have seen Mr. Phillips' collection agree that his hobby has already resulted in a collection of real educational value.

Among the relics of this County Clerk's private museum are Indian arrow points, ivory needles, stone scrapers, pieces of pottery, stone knives, beads, a number of rifles with a past, including a Belgian pistol and guns secured in the World War, and an old iron kettle thought by many to have been the container of the loot which the James gangsters were forced to abandon on Turkey Creek, Gosper county, on their retreat from Minnesota.

Mr. Phillips has excavated

much in his own county, and has had the unique experience of seeing the posts, returned to earth but still standing upright, which once supported the roof of the Indian house into which he and other collectors were delving.

During his tenure of office, Mr. Phillips has carefully preserved the ideals of Nebraska in both economy and efficiency. While he has always welcomed innovations, he has been careful not to introduce them at the expense of methods which have long demonstrated their value. His administration of the various county offices with which he has been entrusted, has been marked by a high degree of efficiency and has attracted widespread attention.

Gosper county, of which Elwood is the county seat, has a population of about 5,000 persons.

—Send in Some News—

Miss Pansy West, deputy in the Cabell county sheriff's office, Huntington, has been vacationing in Virginia. Miss West is quite a fisherwoman and NewsTeller publishers will welcome receipt of any surplus catches.

Ass't. Postmaster



Bryan Mays

Mr. Mays, former circuit clerk of Jackson county, has been appointed assistant postmaster at Ripley.

WRONG THING TO SAY

One of our imbibing uncles got so bad that his wife left him, bag & baggage, went to live with her folks. Friends wanted them to make up if possible, so they had a long talk with Aunt _____, explained Uncle _____'s one weakness was drink, that maybe they'd get along better if she would try to help him around the habit instead of henpecking him.

"Why not take him back this once," they asked, "and give him another chance? If he should come home drunk once, try love and kindness instead of browbeating him."

She agreed and they went back together and for six months he didn't touch a drop. Then one night he came in polluted to the gills, barely able to navigate. Aunt _____ met him at the door, determined to try the new formula. She put her arms around him, led him to the kitchen, fixed him some black coffee—all the time calling him sweet and endearing names.

After he drank the coffee he sat there in a sort of stupor. She went over, sat down on his lap, put her arms around him.

"Don't you want to kiss me?" she asked.

"Might as well," he mumbled. "My wife'll give me hell when I get home anyway"

—Send in Pictures—

Big Improvement

Tom: "I'd like to change my name, your honor."

Judge: "What is your name?"

Tom: "Tom Stinks."

Judge: "I don't blame you—what would you like to change it to?"

Tom: "John."

—Send in Pictures—

This Train Was

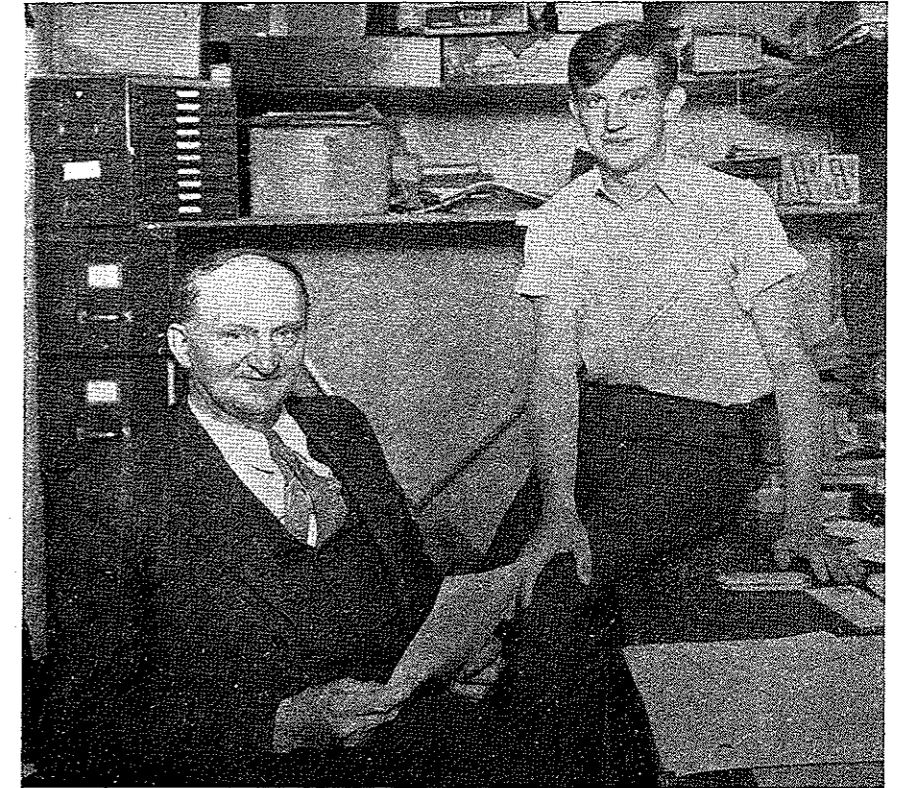
(Continued from Page One)

shouldn't have gotten on the train."

"I wasn't in that condition when I got on the train," she said.

And the conductor gave up!

CALHOUN SHERIFF COLLECTS 96 PERCENT OF 1938 TAXES



Sheriff Knotts and Son

Without making a single levy, Sheriff R. J. "Bob" Knotts of Calhoun county collected 96% of his 1938 taxes, according to information received by The NewsTeller.

Sheriff Knotts, shown above with his son, Walter, who is an office deputy, has had more-than-average experience in public office. He was elected assessor of Calhoun county in 1912, and is now serving his third term as sheriff, having been elected in 1912, 1928 and 1936.

Proud is Sheriff Knotts of the fact that on his two former final settlements with the state auditing department it was discovered that refunds were due him, one in the amount of 30 cents, the other 5 cents.

Calhoun's sheriff stays on the job all the time, makes his own settlements and many of the collections. He gives much credit for his 96% collection record to the county court, assessor and prosecuting attorney.

Asked if he had a slogan, the 63-year-old sheriff smiled, quoted the favorite of another old-time campaigner: "Unbought, Unbossed, Unafraid."

His other deputy is his youngest daughter, Daisy.

—Send in Pictures—

THORNHILL SENDS GROUP PICTURE

All thanks to W. A. Thornhill, Jr., prosecuting attorney of Raleigh county, for sending us the interesting group picture shown on page 7.

Since 1864 only 17 men have served as prosecutors of that county and their photographs are all shown. Interesting indeed is the fact that the name of McGinnis appears four times, in 1864-1892-1900-1928.

Clarence W. Meadows (1932) is now attorney general of West Virginia.

Superintendent & Assistants



From Hardy county comes the county superintendent of schools and his two assistants. Left to right are Mrs. Mary Lee Miley, clerk; G. R. Kiracofe, superintendent; and Mrs. Lucile M. Smith, secretary.

The NewsTeller will welcome more pictures of county superintendents and their staffs.

Whiskey Still

(Continued from Page One)

James and Solomon Wilson, except the bonds and book debts, which shall be equally divided between my said sons James and Solomon, likewise that Solomon during his mother's life do pay annually unto his brother James for the support of their mother, five bushels of Wheat & five bushels of Corn, and ten gallons of Rye liquor or brandy."

Mr. Wilson was a great grandfather of Mrs. Charles W. Garner, wife of the Doddridge county court member whose picture appears elsewhere in this issue.

New Appointee

(Continued from Page One)

Harvey college, Southern college and West Virginia university. During the World War he served in the U. S. navy. He is safety director for the Appalachian Electric Power company.

Calvert was elected to the house of delegates on the Democratic ticket first in 1930 and then re-elected in 1932, 1934, 1936 and 1938. Only one other member in the house has as long a record of service.

—Send in Some News—

How U. S. Navy Ships Are Named

When a new Navy vessel slides down the ways, the name she will bear is not a matter of random choice. Fixed customs and laws regulate the naming of vessels according to the following general policy:

(Named after)

- BattleshipsStates
- Heavy cruisersCities
- Light cruisersCities
- Aircraft carriersHistoric vessels, battles
- DestroyersNaval men, congressmen, inventors, sec'y of navy
- SubmarinesFish
- Mine sweepersBirds
- GunboatsSmall cities, islands
- Repair shipsMythology
- Submarine tendersSubmarine pioneers
- OilersRivers
- Cargo shipsStars

—Send in Some News—

Where Old Records Are Old

A deed executed in the year 1114 is among some valuable records which have been reclaimed from an accumulation of documents which was about to be swept out as rubbish. Discovery of the deeds was made by the Records Preservative Section of the British Records Association of England. The ancient paper is now being preserved by the York-

shire Archeological Society of Leeds.

While the Master of the Rolls has been empowered to provide for the safety of all manorial records, no power has ever been given to any authority in the country to assure the safety of deeds, diaries, letters and other documents in private possession, and the need for economy of space, the simplification of the requirements for title, and other social, economic and legal changes all combine to reduce once-prized records to the level of rubbish in the eyes of their custodians.

To combat this tendency, the Records Preservation Society undertakes to sort any collection of old papers which may be sent to it from families, solicitors or institutions.—(From L. L. Brown's "Permanence.")

Clerk's Son



Eugene Anderson

Eugene Glenn Anderson, age seven, is the son of J. W. Anderson, Circuit Clerk of Putnam county. Gene has just finished his first year in school, where he completed three grades.

GUESS WHO?



(To the above salesman, whose identity we hesitate to reveal, is dedicated this article. First one to guess his name will be awarded a fur-lined shaving mug.)

REQUISITES OF A SALESMAN

Must be a man of vision and ambition, an after dinner speaker, before and after dinner guzzler, night owl, work all day and drive all night and appear fresh next day. Learn to sleep on the floor and eat two meals a day to economize on traveling expenses so you can entertain your friends in the next town.

Must be able to entertain customers, wives, sweethearts, and pet stenos without becoming too amorous. Inhale dust, drive through snow ten feet deep at ten below and work all summer without perspiring or acquiring B. O.

Must be a man's man, a ladies' man, a model husband, a fatherly father, a good provider, a Plutocrat, Democrat, Republican, or New Dealer, an old dealer and a fast dealer, a technician, politician, mathematician, and mechanic.

Must be a sales promotion expert, create a demand for obsolete merchandise, be a good credit manager, correspondent, attend all dealers meetings, tournaments, funerals, visit customers in hospitals and jails, contact all accounts every six weeks, in spare time look for new business, do missionary work, and attend factory sales conferences.

Must have unlimited endurance, and frequent over-indulgence in wine, women, wind and gab; a wide range of telephone numbers in all principal cities. Must have a car, attractive home, belong to all clubs, pay all expenses at home and on road on five percent commissions. Price chiseling and bad debts will be deducted from monthly commission, plus 2% excise tax, 1% old age pension and 2% "lost sales tax."

Must be an expert driver, talker, liar, dancer, traveler, bridge-player, poker hound, golf player, diplomat, financier, capitalist, philanthropist, and authority on palmistry, chemistry, psychology, physiology, dogs, cats, horses, blondes, brunettes, red heads, etc.

—Send in Some News—

Sheriff's Father Dies

Funeral services were held at Morgantown July 26 for Anthony O'Hara, father of Sheriff Thomas A. O'Hara of Monongalia county.

Mr. O'Hara, aged 79, had been associated with the coal industry for the past 60 years. He had been in ill health a month.

—Send in Pictures—

Front Cover

Fayette county's Court House, shown on the front cover, was dedicated in 1895.

Members of the court at that time were N. M. Jenkins, president; J. D. Campbell and M. J. Simms, members.

—Send in Some News—

In New York

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Anderson of Beckley—he's Raleigh county clerk—are vacationing in the north and while away will visit

the New York World's Fair.

In taking a much-needed rest, Harry is storing up energy in anticipation of the County & Circuit Clerks' convention to be held in his city next year.

—Send in Pictures—

TOUGH LUCK!

Inspecting gas properties off the beaten track in mountainous West Virginia, the president of one of our larger utilities came upon a man riding a mule, his wife trudging along behind. It was 100 in the shade and man, woman & mule were dog tired.

"We've been to market," the mountaineer explained, "and we have traveled 22 miles already today"

"Your wife's walked that far?" the utility man asked in amazement.

"Yep."

"But why doesn't she ride the mule?"

"She ain't got no mule," the man said.

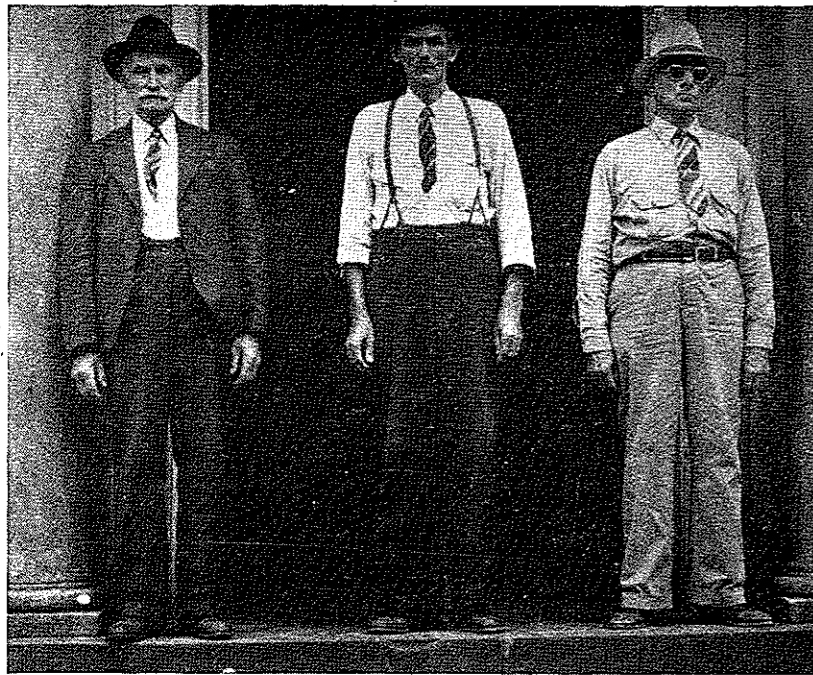
From Doddridge



Charles W. Garner

Mr. Garner was elected a member of the Doddridge county court in 1936. Prior to that time he served on the Central district board of education, having been first elected in 1926.

CLAY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Shown on the front steps of the Clay county court house are the three commissioners of that county. They are (left to right) Dr. T. D. Nutter, commissioner; Albert Mullins, president; and Owen Boggs, commissioner.

This picture was sent in by Ferrell Friend, deputy clerk of the Clay county court.

RADIO POSTED FOR \$2 LOAN

Would-Be Borrower Gives Interesting Trust Deed for Small Loan

Whether it was meant as a joke or not, the following trust deed was sent to The NewsTeller by F. Pierce Cook, clerk of the Wyoming court, Pineville, and this contribution wins this month's cash prize of \$3.

The trust deed is reproduced in full, just as Mr. Cook sent it in:

"THIS DEED OF TRUST made this 19th day of July, 1939, by HERMAN E. BARROWS to ROMIE SIZEMORE, TRUSTEE, to secure the payment of two or three dollars about to be borrowed of OTIS L. ALLEN on or about July 22, 1939.

"The property hereby conveyed to said "PARTNER" SIZEMORE, as said Trustee, is described as

follows:

"One Zenith Radio, table model (no legs), five-tube affair, automatic tuning for five stations, regular tuning for as many stations as one can get, provided his patience is lasting and his eyes not too heavy for sleep; has short wave as well as regular broadcast apparatus; said property being located in the premises (room) rented by said maker of this trust deed, said premises being located not far from the northwest corner of the Court House of Wyoming County, West Virginia, in which county, by the way, this trust is made and conveys to said Sizemore said radio.

"Now if the two or three dollars above named shall not be repaid as stated, then the Trustee, "Partner" Sizemore, shall cause sale of said radio to be made at the front door of the Allen Restaurant, in the City of Pineville, West Virginia, to the highest bidder, for cash, (which shall be

as much as possible). But before said sale is started, Trustee Sizemore shall cause the Court House bell to be rung as a signal that said sale is about to begin, so that as large a gathering of people as possible shall have a chance to bid on the valuable property above described in said trust deed.

"Dated at (and in) Pineville, West Virginia, this 19th day of July, A. D. 1939, and in the 77th year of the State.

(Signed)

"Herman E. Barrows,
"Holder of said Trust Deed."

—Send in Some News—

President for a Day

In 1849, Senator David Rice Atchison of Missouri, who was serving as president pro tem of the United State Senate, became "President of United States for a Day." Zachary Taylor, president-elect, was to be installed as president, succeeding President Polk, whose term ended on March 3. March 4 fell on Sunday and as a result the inauguration of President Taylor was Monday, March 5. Thus Senator Atchison became president of the United States for the period between the close of President Polk's term March 3 and the inauguration of President Taylor at noon March 5.—(From L. L. Brown's Permanence.)

—Send in Some News—


















Cabell Clerks Wanted to Attend

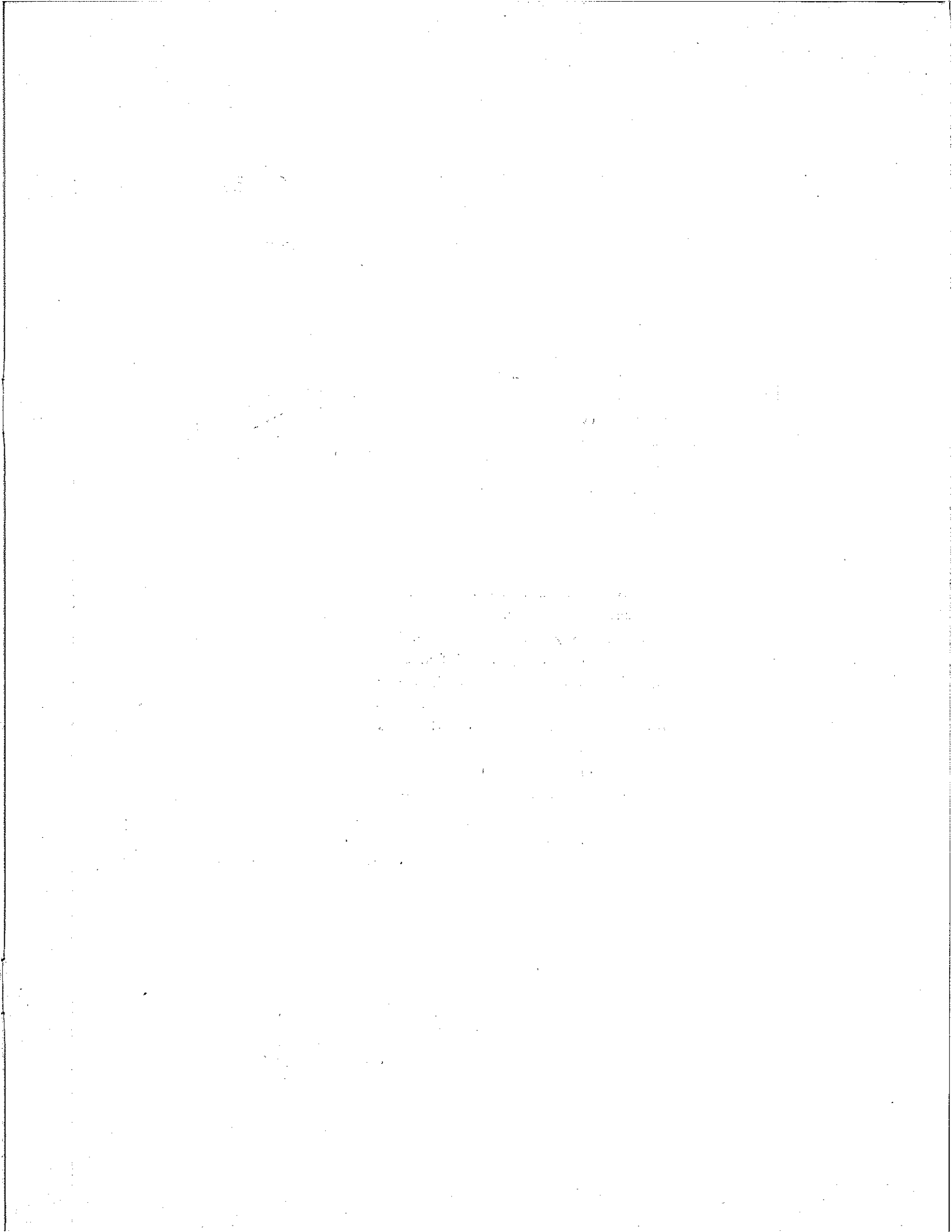
Not by choice, but through necessity, did both clerks in Cabell county miss the 1939 convention, held last month at Morgantown.

Fred A. Ware, county clerk, had counted on attending but a last minute rush of business kept him at his desk. He states that he regrets not having the opportunity to renew old friendships and says that the Beckley convention next year is definitely on his calendar.

Circuit Clerk M. C. "Cliff" Blake had been a regular attendant in the past but he and a few associates recently drilled in a sizeable oil well in Illinois and his presence was needed there. He, too, plans to be on hand in 1940.

Prosecuting Attorneys of Raleigh County - West Virginia

 J. H. MCGINNIS 1864-1955-1872	 J. S. THOMPSON 1868	 M. H. HOLT 1870	 JOHN W. MCCREERY 1876-1880	 GEORGE W. COOK 1884
 A. P. FARLEY 1888-1956	 WILLIAM H. MCGINNIS 1892			
 T. J. MCGINNIS 1900	 A. A. LILLY 1904	 HUGH A. DUNN 1908	 J. Q. HUTCHINSON 1912	 M. L. PAINTER 1916
 DAVID D. ASHWORTH 1920	 E. CLYDE SCOTT 1924	 W. H. MCGINNIS, JR. 1928	 CLARENCE W. MEADOWS 1932	 W. A. THORNHILL, JR. 1936

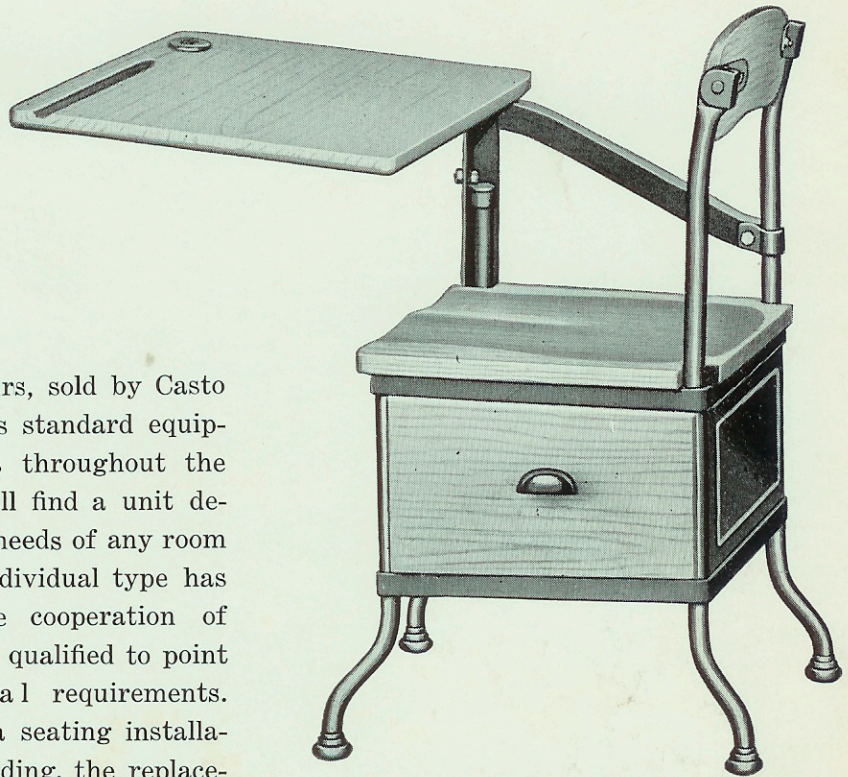


Seating for Every School and Auditorium Requirement . . .

Manufactured by The Theodor Kundtz Company

Because the Kundtz company has specialized in the development of quality furniture since 1876, keeping abreast of every advancement in educational methods, we are proud to represent them in West Virginia.

Kundtz desks and chairs, sold by Casto & Harris, may be found as standard equipment in many classrooms throughout the state. In our line you will find a unit designed to meet the specific needs of any room or assembly hall. Every individual type has been developed with the cooperation of recognized authorities well qualified to point out the most essential requirements. Whether your problem is a seating installation for an entire new building, the replacement of worn-out equipment, or the modernization of certain classrooms, write, telephone or telegraph us for a demonstration.



Shown above is the Kundtz No. 631 Study-Top desk, one of our most popular sellers. Equipped with full-sized desk top adjustable to height, it also has a self-adjusting back rest. Framework of round steel tubing. Three sizes.

SOLD IN WEST VIRGINIA BY

CASTO & HARRIS, INC.

(A West Virginia Corporation)

Telephone 110

SPENCER, W. VA.