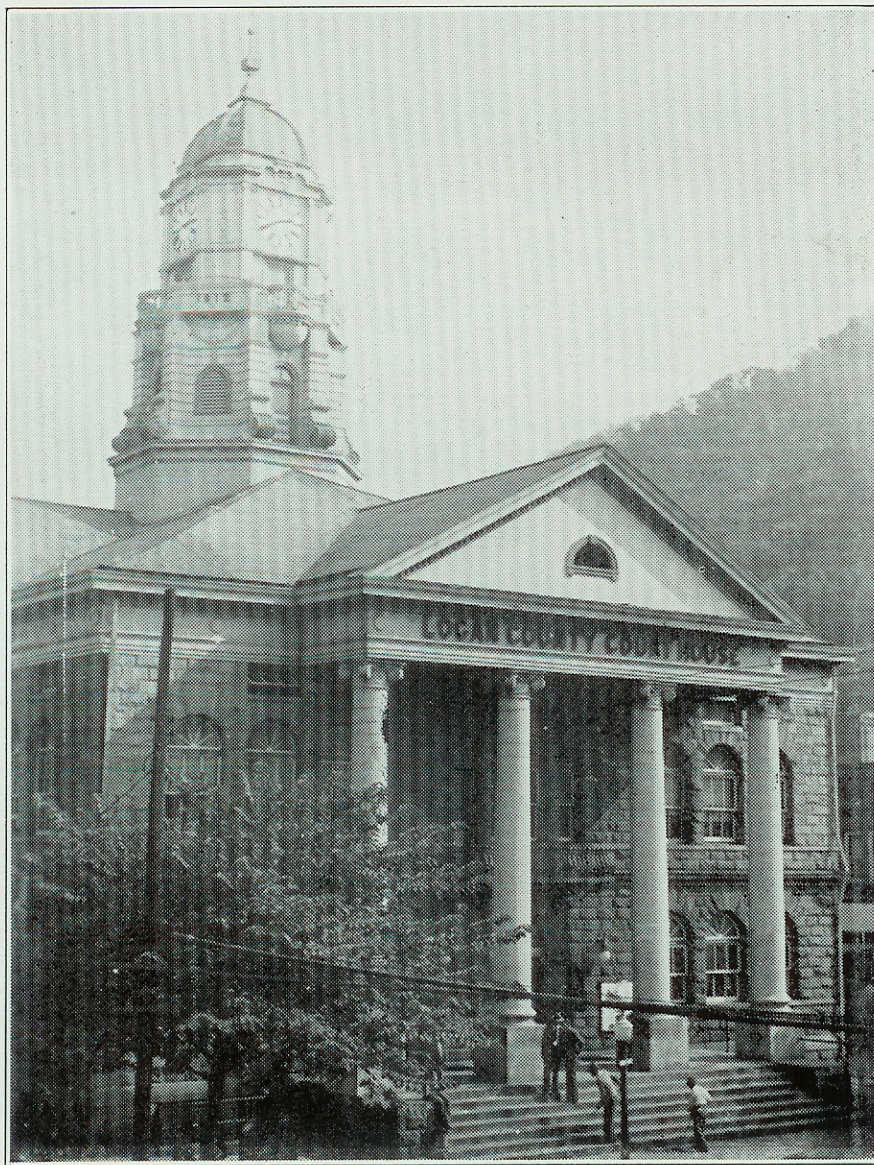


# The County **NEWSTELLER**

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



LOGAN COUNTY COURT HOUSE: see page 1

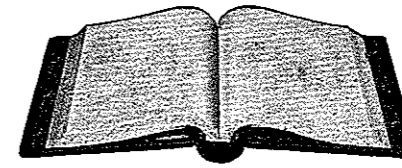
(No. 8 in a series of 55 front covers being used to present the Court Houses of West Virginia)

Volume I

AUGUST, 1939

Number 11

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

AUGUST, 1939

Number 11

AT JACKSON'S MILL



W. E. Scott

This candid camera shot of W. E. Scott, county superintendent of the Greenbrier county schools, was taken at Jackson's Mill recently, when the superintendents held their annual meeting.

GETS NEWSTELLER,  
THEN BREAKS ARM

Having his picture in the July NewsTeller brought bad luck to Eugene Anderson, seven-year-old son of J. W. Anderson, circuit clerk of Putnam county.

The very day he received his copy of this magazine, young Anderson fell and fractured his arm.

Physicians reported the fracture as severe, but it is understood he is recovering nicely.

Help Wanted!

We're going to draft you to help us get out the September issue of NewsTeller.

Heretofore we've left it up to you and the appeal has been so general that results were unsatisfactory. Therefore, we're going to draft you by name!

Next month we expect to have news, photographs or articles from the following officials or their deputies:

**COUNTY CLERKS:** Don Stewart, Hancock county; Charlie Herold, Webster county; Luther Eye, Pendleton county; J. O. Bleigh, Lewis county; and Frank Fisher, Braxton county.

**CIRCUIT CLERKS:** Hobart Spindler, Preston county, Paul W. Dayton, Mineral county; C. C. Wise, Hardy county; Roy J. Virden, Pleasants county; and Mrs. Newton W. Shannon, Brooke county.

**SHERIFFS:** Lon F. Bird, Wyoming county; L. E. Dickinson, Summers county; Charles McNeer, Monroe county; and Joseph C. Burkhart, Ohio county.

**PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS:** George Dana Herold, Nicholas county; Clair Smith, Roane county, and Walter T. Crofton, Jr., Wood county.

**ASSESSORS:** Paul A. Dechan, Marshall county; French Robinson, Wirt county; C. W. Perine, Monongalia county; and

(Continued on Page Six)

Logan Court House  
Erected in 1905

Masonic Fraternity Presided  
At Dedicatory Ceremonies

Wording on a cornerstone in the Logan county court house, pictured on the front cover, tells the story of its dedication, as follows: "Laid by the Masonic Fraternity October 23, 1905, L. H. Clark, Grand Master."

However, according to Deputy Clerk Glenn Jackson, the building burned on Jan. 11, 1912, and only the walls remained standing. It was rebuilt immediately and was ready for occupancy early in 1913.

Since then the court house has undergone two drastic alterations. In 1921 the court room was completely remodeled and in 1934-35 the main hall leading from north to south was remodeled and eliminated by including therein the record rooms for the county and circuit courts.

Mr. Jackson checked up details with F. O. Woerner, secretary of the Logan Masonic lodge, who found that W. T. Workman, Acting Grand Master, made the dedication for Mr. Clark in 1905 and that J. F. Aldredge, Acting Grand Secretary, assisted in the ceremonies.

At the completion of the building in 1913 no re-dedication was made.

CLAY COUNTY CLERK



Levy Friend

Friend is his name, and friendly his manner. As clerk of the Clay county court, Mr. Friend is well known in Central West Virginia despite the fact that he has been unable to attend the annual clerks' convention in recent years.

**Some More Unique Spelling**

If a certain Gilmer county preacher were to take a spelling test, he'd fail miserably if his letters to County Superintendent Marvin Cooper indicate his ability to put the alphabet together.

Two such letters, both requesting permission to use school houses for church meetings, were received, as follows:

**Letter No. 1**

"will you let me have the trace schoole toe prech ie nexte moeth." Rev. John \_\_\_\_\_

**Letter No. 2**

"i wante toe know if the schoole borde will let me preech in the upper trace schoole house i will pay the gas bills if there is any."

**Court House Addition and New Jail for Cabell County**

**Deputy Assessor Sends Photograph Showing Construction in Huntington**

Cabell county is going to have a fine addition to its Court house and also a new jail without any additional cost to the taxpayers. By strict economy the county court, composed of J. M. Ross, Jr., T. H. Nash and W. Arch Leap, was able to authorize these much-needed improvements without laying additional taxes.

Particularly interesting is the work being done to build a new Court House and at the same time to take care of the several

**PRIZE WINNER**

For sending in these interesting pictures showing construction of the new jail, etc., W. Marshall Martin, deputy assessor of Cabell county, wins the \$3 prize for August.

Mr. Martin, an amateur photographer, develops and prints his own pictures.

and men in during the day, returning them to their cells at night.

A high board fence 12 feet high was built around an area of about one hundred feet square, and a roof was put over part of this area. All meals are served in the enclosure. A guard with sawed-off shotgun is posted at each of the four corners and a fifth guard patrols the area outside the fence.

The women prisoners are kept in another frame building overlooking the jailyard and are not allowed to move about in the fenced-in enclosure.

Construction will be completed in 1940.

**FRITZ STEMPLE**



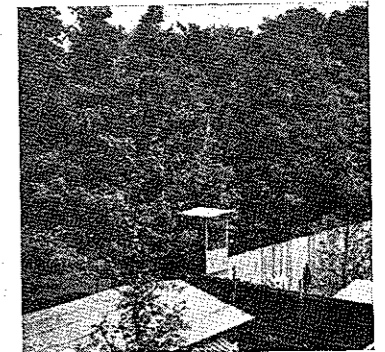
Here's another informal picture taken by C. & H. Salesman Gordon K. DePew at the county superintendents' meeting at Jackson's Mill.

Mr. Stemple is the newly-appointed superintendent of the Webster County schools.

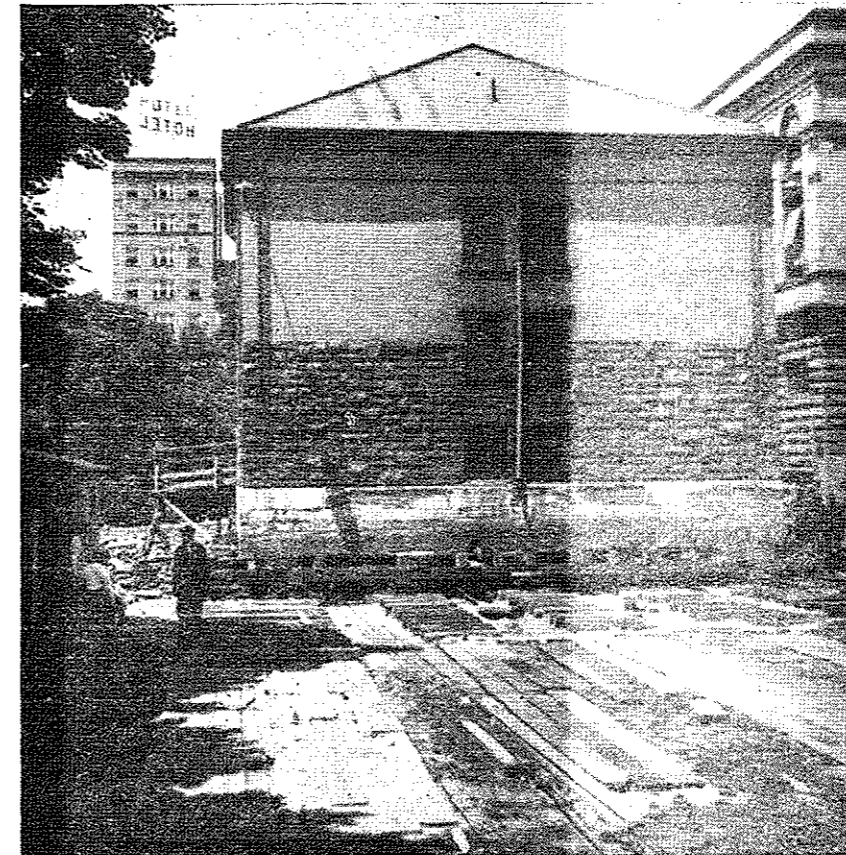
**Cabell County Moves Its Jail**

(See Story on Opposite Page)

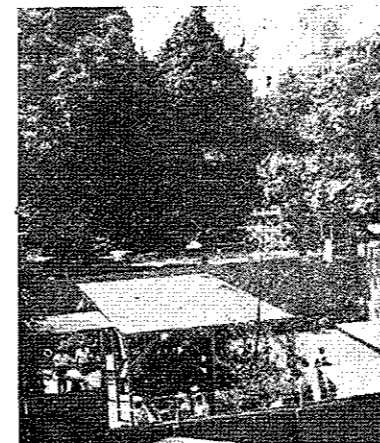
LEFT: Here's the old jail on "wheels" with cables attached, ready for moving. The jail office is seen at the extreme left.



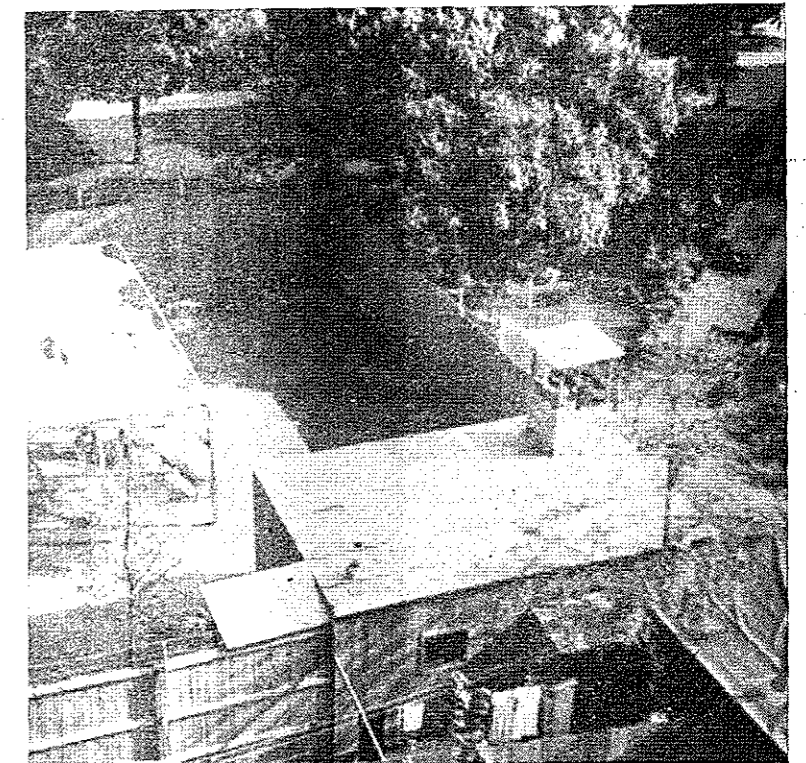
ABOVE: View looking south-east. Trustee house is in left corner and guard house in center.



RIGHT: Full view of women's quarters with part of kitchen shown at right.



ABOVE: Trustee house at bottom, "bull pen" center and women's quarters at right.



GRANDSONS



Shown above are Leonard and Lawrence Dickey, grandsons of Owen Boggs, Clay county commissioner. The lads reside at Carmichael, Pa.

**Aluminum Book Making a Hit**

Several Counties Have Switched to "Permanent" Binding

Although Hall & McChesney's revolutionary all metal record book binder has been on the market only a short time, more than 50 have been sold in West Virginia by The NewsTeller publisher, exclusive agents in this state.

Fifteen counties are now using these books, some of them having decided to buy them exclusively. Present users and the number of aluminum binders bought are as follows:

Monongalia 3, Roane 6, Kanawha 6, Harrison 3, Brooke 2, Raleigh 12, Preston 10, Logan, Webster, Hampshire, Putnam, Hancock, Pleasants, Marshall, and Summers, 1 each.

**A Letter to The Milkman**

(Editor's Note: Bill Pigue's famous letter to the milkman appeared in the Oil Weekly magazine on Aug. 8, 1930. Bill since has passed to his reward, but his friends remember him and his humor. So many requests came in to the Oil Weekly for reprints, that the letter was reprinted last month, and the NewsTeller reproduces it herewith.)

Dairy Co.

Gentlemen:

By referring to your records you will find that for several years I have been a pretty good customer of yours, and that I have paid my bills with reasonable promptness. It may interest you, therefore, to know that we are now approaching the parting of the ways—unless you can give me relief from a condition about which I have already complained, in writing, via wrapping-paper note in milk bottle to your driver.

At the time of my first complaint, I didn't have a pup, but now with the pup added to the otherwise almost unbearable complications, patience has ceased to be a virtue and tolerance but an empty word.

As I advised your driver, in writing, your milk-wagon horses have so synchronized their intestinal affairs with their scheduled arrival in front of my home that each and every morning of the year they deposit, in profuse abandon, souvenirs which might be of great value to a farmer or truck-gardener, but which are only something to worry about for the man who lives out of a sack.

For 50 feet directly in front of my door there is at this very minute unlimited evidence of my steady patronage of your good concern, and in the continued absence of rain I am liable at any time to be haled before the powers that be and tried for obstructing the traffic.

You may wonder, and you have a right to wonder, where and why the pup enters into this matter between you and me and your milk-wagon horses. In the words of that immortal poet, Chick Sale, I'll tell you why:

Ours is a trader pup, and we have treated him well. Full of gratitude, but having neither sil-

ver nor gold with which to show it, he renders unto us only that which he has—and all he has is the choicest collections of your horses' excellently-timed souvenirs, which he religiously deposits on the front porch each morning. Sometimes they sweep well, sometimes they do not.

Now, sirs, I don't know what you are going to do about this, but they're your horses. You may be able to use moral suasion, explaining to the horses that times are bad and business hard to get, and the customer is always right; that, however good their intentions may be, not all people like all things—and they should be less partial, passing their favors more generally over the neighborhood rather than upon a single family.

In my complaint to your driver I suggested that he stop his horses around the corner, or some other route occasionally so that a horse with even the hardest intestinal fortitude may be overtaxed before he reaches my place, but my plea went unheard. At least there was no action—not on the part of the driver, I mean.

I am terribly serious about this, gentlemen. If you have any idea that I am suffering with the heat or something, that I have exaggerated by one jot or one tittle, I invite you to send an inspector out to 1106 Dormont before any great cloudburst hits us and take a look—not only a look at the street in front of my house, but if he is early enough, at my front porch. He may even interview my pup.

It is up to you. Unless I have relief commensurate with the relief which your horses have been enjoying for so many months that it really doesn't matter, my monthly checks will cease to clear through your bank.

Assuring you of my greatest respect, which, however, is not in the least to be allowed to interfere with my great determination for succor, I am,

Yours cordially,  
W. W. Pigue.

**His Record Is Praised**



Fritz Grimm

Mr. Grimm, who is now serving his third term as Circuit Clerk of Wood county, also saw 14 years service as a deputy in the same office. His record as a public official has always represented practical economy. His records show that his office has operated at less expense and with fewer assistants than any county of corresponding size. His slogan: "There is no substitute for experience."

**History of Logan County**

(See Front Cover)

By J. G. McNEELY, County Clerk

Logan is an historical old county, formed in the year 1824. While we have no designated places of interest, the entire county is one of scenic beauty which is not excelled elsewhere.

The early history of Logan county is centered around the present site of the city of Logan. It was the home of Princess Ara-

coma and Thomas Dunn English. We have a marker on our court house lawn in memory of these two.

Princess Aracoma is buried in the city of Logan. She was the daughter of Chief Cornstalk and a relative of Chief Logan, after whom Logan was named. Princess Aracoma was the wife of Boling Baker, a white renegade. He was killed and buried near the mouth of the Horsepen Fork of Gilbert Creek. Quite frequently Indian bones and tomahawks are found under the pavement of the streets in the town here when

**A Sick Dog!**

From Chauncey W. Twyford, assessor of Tyler county, comes a letter which he received from a man in reply to a request that his dog tax be paid.

Judging from the letter, which is reproduced as follows, this dog was really sick:

"Dear sur

"Chauncey my Dog is bad sick his belie is all bag down and sweled up like a toad and seames to be geting worse. if you woulde see him you woulde give a red sent for him. he is liable to dy most any time.

"if you dont beleave me come and look at him. he gets much worse I will haft to have him killed.

"A. T. \_\_\_\_\_"

they are under construction.

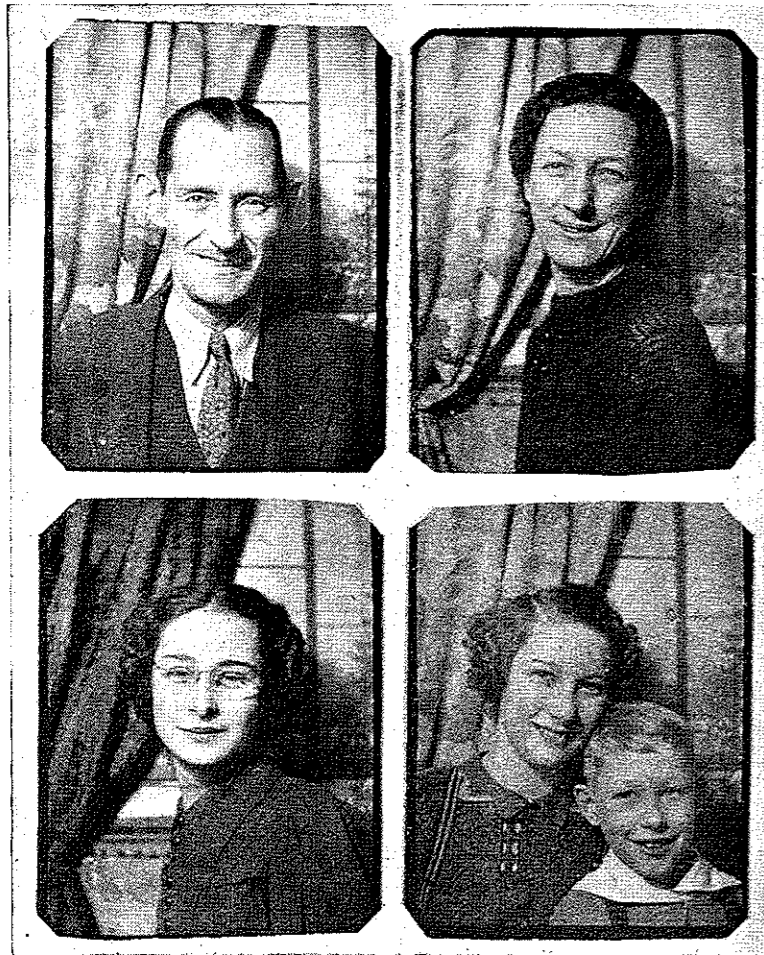
Thomas Dunn English was the mayor of Logan from 1852 to 1857. He was a poet of some note, having written the lyric for the song "Sweet Alice Ben Bolt." This poem, along with others which were not so popular, was written in the city here under a tree near where the bridge leads into town.

Logan county is also the home of "Devil Anse" Hatfield, who was leader of the feudist clan of Hatfields and McCoys. There is a tomb erected on Main Island Creek, a few miles out of Logan, of "Devil Anse" overlooking the highway. It can be seen from the highway by passing tourists. The tomb was made by a sculptor in Italy and given to the Hatfield clan.

Logan county is the center of one of West Virginia's largest coal fields.

The highways leading to and from the City of Logan are Route 119 to Charleston; Route 10 to Huntington going west; Route 10 going East to Pineville; Route 119 intersects with US Route 52 going west to Williamson and going east to Bluefield at Mountain View Inn on the head of Main Island Creek.

## Family Group From Doddridge



Here's the first complete family group to break into The News-Teller. It pictures Circuit Clerk Earl L. Davis of Doddridge county and his entire family, as follows:

Top row: Clerk and Mrs. Davis, who is part-time stenographer in her husband's office.

Bottom row (left to right): Daughters Virginia Lucille, 18, and Mary Louise, 13; and son Robert Leonidas Davis, 8.

Mr. Davis, who is serving his second term, calls attention to the fact that all the middle names begin with the letter "L."

## Lyle Hensley Dies Aug. 13

County officials and their deputies throughout the state will mourn the death of Lyle Hensley, Cabell county deputy clerk, who died at Hopemont Aug. 13.

Having been in the Cabell county clerk's office 15 years, he was well known throughout the

state and attended several of the clerks' conventions.

Until a month ago Mr. Hensley was improving and it has not been long since he wrote The News-Teller a letter, which it published.

Funeral services were held at Huntington Aug. 16, with burial in a local cemetery.

In writing of his death, County Clerk Fred A. Ware said: "I have lost a valued, loyal and faithful employe and friend."

## Cabell First With Levy O. K.

Fifth Year That Estimates Are Approved First

Again in 1939 Cabell county distinguished itself by being the first in West Virginia to have its estimates approved at Charleston.

County Clerk Fred A. Ware and his assistant, Gregory Crawford, seem to think nothing of having the estimates all prepared for court approval and, with the cooperation of the assessor, their estimates have been approved first for the past five years.

—Send in Some News—

### DEPUTY 13 YEARS!

Few deputy clerks in the state can boast that they have served 13 years in one office.

Such is the record of Beatrice McMillan, chief office deputy to J. M. Marcum, clerk of the Lincoln county court.

Miss McMillan began her duties Jan. 1, 1927, and has served non-stop since then.

—Send in Pictures—

### Help Wanted!

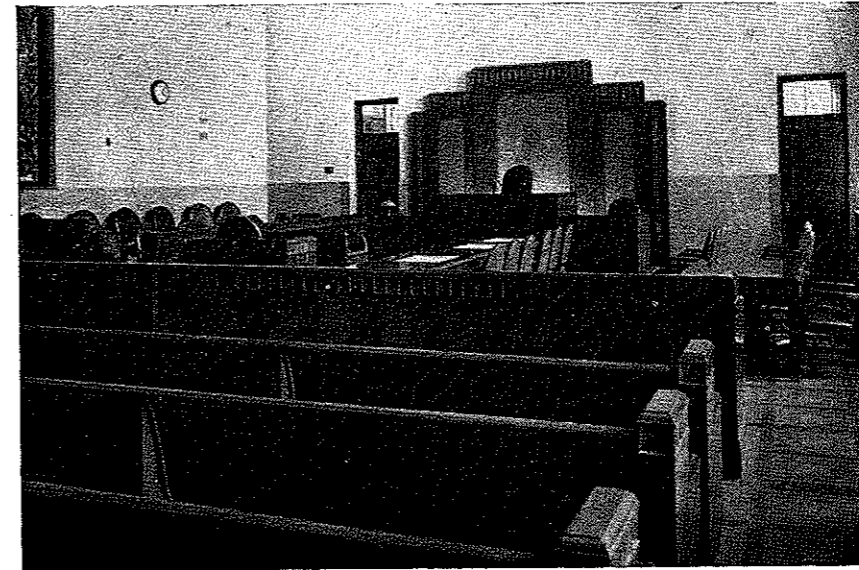
(Continued from Page One)

Henry Beard, Pocahontas county.

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS: Clarence Young, Clay county; R. W. Shumaker, Upshur county; and W. E. Scott, Greenbrier county.

Ladies and gentlemen, the September NewsTeller is yours! See how interesting you can make it, with photographs, news items, etc. Then in October we'll designate a new board of editors and let them try to outdo your issue. Please don't fail us.

## Wood Circuit Court Room



One of the most modern circuit court rooms in West Virginia is that presided over by Judge E. B. Pennybacker, of Wood county. Fritz Grimm, Circuit Clerk of that county, sent the above photograph of the Wood court room to the NewsTeller.

## Here's One Way To Make News!

Putnam County Official Becomes Proud Poppa

A. M. (Miller) Brown, clerk of the Putnam county court and secretary of the Clerks' association, knew that the NewsTeller needed news. He supplied it.

On July 26 a daughter was born to the Browns. She was named Mary Margaret. The only other Brown heir is Ben A. Brown, aged 6.

If news continues to be so scarce, The NewsTeller is going to insist that other county officials get busy and raise more children!

—Send in Pictures—

### Seriously Ill

S. E. Harmon, brother of G. A. Harmon, clerk of the Wetzel county court, is seriously ill. He has served as his brother's office deputy 19 years.

## Wants Pension

And What Spelling He Used In His Inquiry!

From A. R. Martin, clerk of the Monongalia county court, comes a humorous letter that takes the prize for choice spelling.

Addressed to "Morgan Town, Cort house, W va," the letter is as follows:

"Dear sare i ame writing you a fue lins to find ot a bot enna nikel and willian Long where the are wase mearied how long Plese find ot soone ase posibele he think he is old a nuf to get a old naine pencione. But he dont now whne he was norne ore years ore minth ore day, your truly Mr. William L\_\_\_\_\_."

—Send in Some News—

### Sheriff's Wife Dies

While on a visit with her daughters in New York City Mrs. C. D. Eastman, wife of the Tyler county sheriff, died suddenly July 1. Funeral services were held at Middlebourne.

## Rolla Williams Bests Ed Sims

Pleasants County Clerk Just Can't Be Beat, Admits Sims

As NewsTeller readers know (see issue No. 1 for his rebus cartoon) O. Rolla Williams, clerk of the Pleasants county court, is a real artist with a sense of humor.

He's a better one than Auditor Edgar B. Sims, that state official admitted recently.

It has been Williams' custom when sending in checks to decorate his signature with a little moon-faced man. The man is smiling if the check is a big one, frowning if just fair and weeping if it is below average.

Sims sent Clerk Williams a letter asking for some information. The auditor put a flourish on his own signature—a tearful man saying "please."

Back came the letter from St. Marys with the information. Williams had drawn his own smiling profile, to which was tagged an "OK, boss."

"Can't beat that fellow at his own game," commented Sims.

—Send in Pictures—

### Quick Retort!

Paul C. Rouzer, county superintendent of Mineral county's schools, tells this one on himself:

In front of a Mineral county school building a little boy was pummelling a little girl. Apparently the boy didn't know who I was, as I said, "Son, you shouldn't do that to any girl; it isn't right for little boys to treat little girls like that."

He looked up at me, surprised and somewhat astonished, as he queried: "Mister, aint you never had no sister?"

—Send in Some News—

### Vacationing

R. W. Brown and J. H. Maxwell, county commissioners of Marshall county, and their wives are spending three weeks traveling through the west. They will return to Moundsville soon.

"Don't laugh. We had a helluva time  
filling the other seven pages."

# BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT!

ANOTHER NEW ADDITION TO OUR EQUIPMENT FAMILY

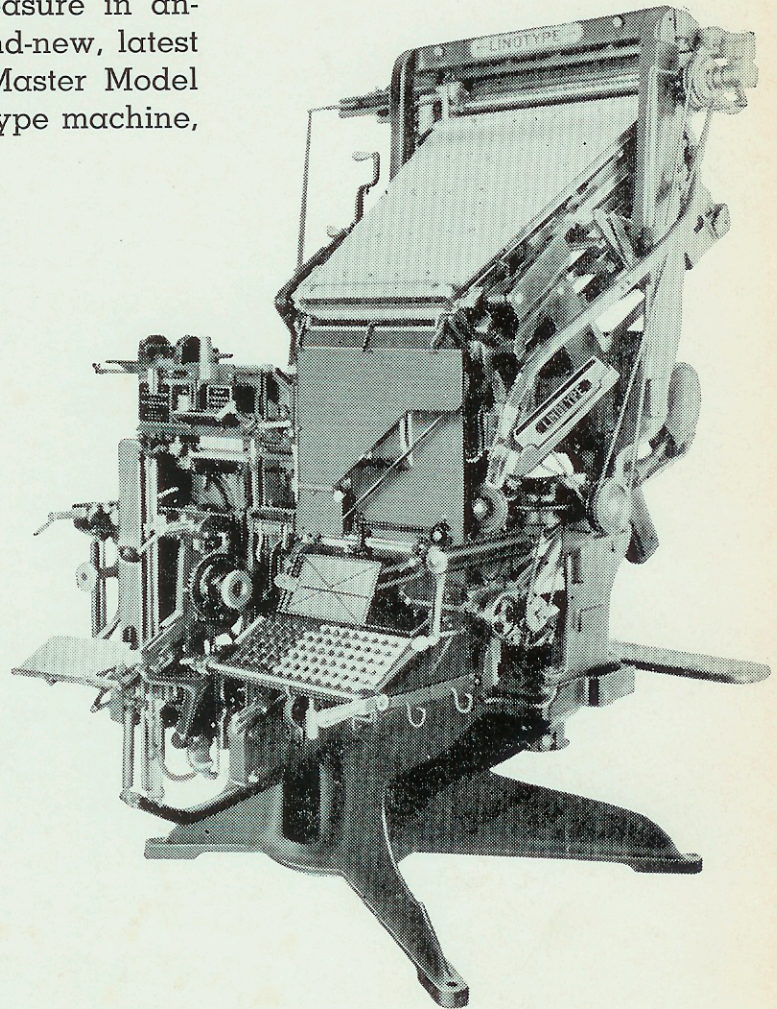
Again we take genuine pleasure in announcing the installation of brand-new, latest model equipment—this time a Master Model 31, Two-In-One Blue Streak Linotype machine, pictured on this page.

Put into operation Aug. 21, it represents the very latest in typesetting machinery. A simultaneous purchase of various sizes of the new Memphis type offers a wide assortment of modern faces.

Knowing well that only the best machinery will turn out the best work, Casto & Harris has used every cent it has made to purchase new equipment, confident that the results will speak for themselves.

In the short time that The NewsTeller has been in existence there have been added a new rotary power perforator, ruling machine, power paper drill and, now, another Linotype.

Today, better equipped than ever, we invite your patronage, knowing that our service will be faster and better.



(This entire page, as well as all headlines in this issue, set on the new Blue Streak Linotype.)

**Casto & Harris, Inc.**

(A West Virginia Corporation)

Telephone 110  
Spencer, W. Va.