

The County  
**NEWSTELLER**

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

**MORGAN COUNTY COURT HOUSE**  
Berkeley Springs, W. Va.



**MORGAN COUNTY:** Formed in 1820 from parts of Hampshire and Berkeley counties; named in honor of General Daniel Morgan, famed soldier of the Revolution. Area: 231 square miles; Population (1930) 8,403.

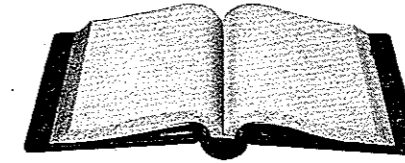
(No. 22 in a series of 55 front covers being used to present the Court Houses of West Virginia)

VOLUME III

NOVEMBER, 1940

NUMBER 2

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

DECEMBER, 1940

Number 3

## Calhoun Wants New Court House

### Special Levy Election to be Held Jan. 14

Voters of Calhoun county will go to the polls Jan. 14 to decide on a special levy which would make possible the construction of a new court house at Grantsville.

It is understood that such a levy would raise approximately \$47,000 and the government will give another \$110,000 to complete the project. Boosters for the levy point out that the present structure is antiquated and too small for modern requirements and they predict that the levy will pass.

Working in connection with the federal government, Calhoun is now constructing one of the most modern jails in West Virginia.

### Former Assessor Dies

Will C. Fortney, 62, former Preston county assessor and superintendent of county schools from 1911 to 1919, died Dec. 10.

### Correction

In listing the names of newly elected officials in Pendleton county, the NewsTeller last month omitted the name of Don Cunningham, that county's new prosecuting attorney. We regret the error.

### NEW SHERIFF



L. L. Loy

Mr. Loy was elected sheriff of Hampshire county Nov. 5, and began his regular term Jan. 1. He had been appointed to fill the vacancy created by the death of former Sheriff N. B. Guthrie, who was killed recently when attempting to make an arrest. Previous to that time Loy served as deputy-sheriff.

### Former Assessor Dies

Clarence C. Hale, 69, former assessor of McDowell county, died this month as the result of a heart attack.

He served as assessor from 1920 to 1928.

## Work of Sheriff, Aides Commended

### Grand Jurors Express Their Appreciation of Officials

A resolution commending Sheriff C. L. Booton and his deputies of Wayne county for their work during the past four years was adopted by the grand jury recently. The resolution is as follows:

"Whereas, C. L. Booton, sheriff of Wayne county, West Virginia, and his deputy sheriffs with this term of court will bring to a close four years' work in their official capacities.

"Be it therefore resolved that we, the members of the grand jury at the regular November term of the circuit court of Wayne county, do commend them:

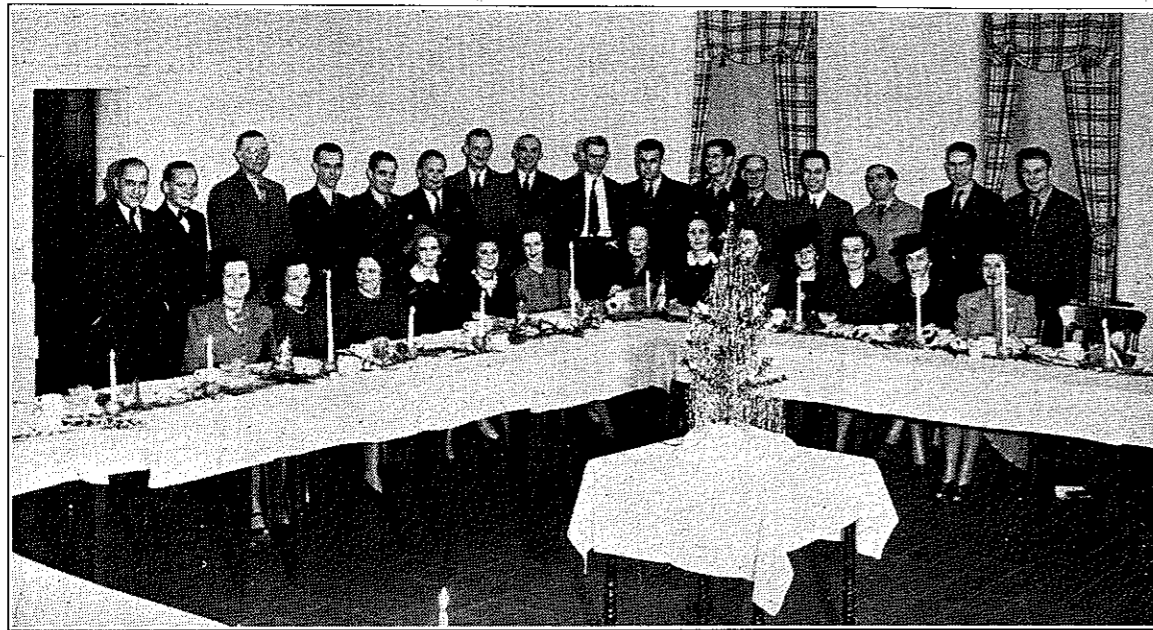
"1. For the splendid manner in which they have performed their official duties throughout the period of four years.

"2. For the work that they have done in policing the county, which has been a contributing factor in making Wayne county a better place in which to live.

"And we express the wish that continuing success will come to each member of the sheriff's staff in the future."

The resolution was signed by W. T. Billups, foreman; Henry Williamson, clerk; Lewis Stepp, Olin Kearns, Cullie Finley, A. B. Hatten, S. L. Beaire, Taylor Lucas, Lark McClellan, Alfred Dyer, Joe Turner, C. L. Pratt, Eldridge Finley, Kim Fry, Mont Bartram and W. C. Adkins.

## Banquet & Bonus For Casto & Harris Employees



Casto & Harris employees, their wives and husbands, gathered at the Spencer Roane hotel in Spencer Saturday night, Dec. 21, for their annual Christmas banquet. Following a program arranged and staged by the employees, the company presented each worker with a Christmas bonus amounting to one week's wages.

Pictured above, seated, left to right: Roberta Simmons, Mrs. Virgil C. Webb, Mrs. J. M. Rinehart, Mrs. H. L. Bowyer, Mrs. Gordon K. DePew, Mrs.

James Russell Payne, Mrs. Clay Miller, Mrs. C. F. Schroeder, Jr., Mrs. Okey R. Harris, Mrs. John L. Jones, Gladys Pitts, Mrs. Roy Sherrill and Maysel Heasley.

Standing, left to right: Okey R. Harris, Clay Miller, J. M. Rinehart, H. L. Bowyer, Gordon K. DePew, James Russell Payne, C. F. Schroeder, Jr., Roy Sherrill, Harold Webb, Robert T. Stuart, George Rodgers, Lee L. Lowe, John L. Jones, Richard Lowe, Virgil C. Webb and Jackson Heasley.

## This Sheriff Succeeds Himself

### Herbert Traubert Reelected To Brooke Post

Sheriff Herbert Traubert of Brooke county has the unique distinction of being reelected to office, although state law plainly forbids a sheriff from running for reelection.

But Sheriff Traubert did not circumvent the law. Here's how: His father was elected sheriff of Brooke county in 1936. Shortly thereafter he died and son Herbert Traubert was appointed to fill out the vacancy, until the election in 1938. That year he was elected for another two years, to finish the original term of his

father.

Inasmuch as he had never served a full term, the courts held that he was entitled to run for a full four-years, which he did, and he was elected. This probably is one of the few times in West Virginia that a sheriff legally ran for office to succeed himself.

### Clerk's Daughter Weds

Miss Una Mada St. Clair, daughter of County Clerk and Mrs. Ed St. Clair, of Taylor county, was united in marriage Christmas afternoon to Glenn C. Ireland of Charlottesville, Va. The marriage was performed in the St. Paul's Methodist church at Grafton.

### Suffers Injuries

W. A. Myers, member of the Mingo county court, sustained a broken collar bone in an auto wreck several weeks ago, and didn't know it for several days.

The accident occurred at Williamson, but Mr. Myers did not think that he was hurt, other than having been shaken up. Meanwhile his wife went to Washington, D. C., for an operation and while visiting her there, Mr. Myers found that he had broken his collar bone.

Late reports say he is on the mend.

Ernest Garnett is the new deputy county clerk of Gilmer county, succeeding Newt Rymer, who resigned to become head of the draft board there.

## New President County Commissioners Association Sends His Message

We are sorry to give up our good friend, Leeman Knight, as president of the State Association of County Courts. He was a faithful worker and the leader in organizing our Courts. He was elected Assessor of Harrison County, so our loss will be their gain; but he is still a member and belongs to us, as the County Courts and Assessors are very closely affiliated and must work together.

Now, men, I really want your help. Get behind me and I promise you the best there is in me, with the help of Oscar Watts, vice-president, of Huntington, and Mike Herod, secretary and treasurer, of Morgantown. We want to get around to see all the Courts we can this spring and summer. I think it will help us a lot to meet and talk matters over and exchange ideas. We can learn a lot that will be beneficial to our counties and state.

If every County Court in the state will drop me a postal card with the name of each member and the days of the week you meet I would greatly appreciate it. That will give us some place to start, and when I can get away I want to drop in and see you.

And when any of you boys are in old Monongalia County come in and see us. We meet on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of each week.

J. F. Loving, President,  
County Courts Association of  
West Virginia.

## Approves State Marriage Laws

The following letter, addressed to the "West Virginia Marriage Bureau," has been received by one of the county clerks and forwarded to the NewsTeller for publication. For obvious reasons, actual names are omitted:

Oct. 24th, 1940  
Reading, Pa.

Dear Sirs or Madame:

I wish to state to your bureau that if and when I can afford to marry, I'll plan to wed in your State and possibly make my residence in the State of West Virginia as I think you've got the best laws there pertaining to marriage. A marriage in your State means an honest one and less quarrels and mixtures of Nationalities which means a happy and lasting marriage. The association of Nationalities is the cause of much Worldy and family trou-

bles in marriage today and in the past generations. I believe in marrying in your own Nationality or race. NOT MIXTURES—BREEDS-TROUBLES.

## Ready for Marriage

The Brooke county clerk is in receipt of the following letter, which speaks for itself:

"Dear Sirs:

"Although I am unaccustomed to the procedure, I wish to nevertheless inform you, in accordance to your three (3) day premarital notice, that I and the girl who I will marry, \_\_\_\_\_, will be down in your city, sometimes, Friday, Nov. 28, 1940.

"Expecting this to be the only premarital requisite, and hoping this reaches you in ample time to justify our desires.

"I remain

"Yours truly

"\_\_\_\_\_"

## DEPUTY CLERK



A. H. Hoefar

After having worked in the Randolph county clerk's office since 1924, Mr. Hoefar has been appointed as deputy county clerk for John Caplinger, clerk.

## Disappointed Justice of Peace

Expressing extreme disappointment at not receiving a Christmas gift from Ira Hill, clerk of the Nicholas county court, a justice of the peace wrote to him, as follows:

"Mr. Santa

"I'm rting you in regard to My Xmas Gift. What in the H--- Do you mean By not Bring me one Pt. of Apple Jack. have you Turned Pro or are you Just Naturally Dum or is it possible You are Getting Old & neglect Your Duties

"Please explain The Hole D--- Business By Return Mail.

"If I dont Her from you in the near future I'll B Compele to Exersize My authority as J. P.

"Yours Very Truly,  
"\_\_\_\_\_ Judge"

## Upshur Educator Takes Nat'l Post

### Bonar Succeeds Shumaker as Head Upshur Schools

The administrative personnel of the Upshur county schools was changed last month when it was announced that R. Worth Shumaker, county superintendent during the past 8 years, had resigned, and Ross Bonar, principal of the Buckhannon-Upshur City High School, had been named to his position.

Mr. Shumaker resigned his post to accept an educational position of national scope with the American Legion with headquarters at Indianapolis, Ind. The new position, which is appointive, represents a substantial advancement for Mr. Shumaker. On two occasions he has been the Republican party's choice to make the race for the office of state superintendent of schools.

Mr. Bonar will serve the remaining unexpired term of Mr. Shumaker, and by agreement is to be named for a four-year term by the board of education next July.

Mr. Bonar holds his master's degree in school administration from West Virginia University, Morgantown. His academic work was taken in West Virginia Wesleyan College. For 22 years Mr. Bonar has served the schools of Upshur county, first as teacher, then junior high school principal, and for the past seven and one-half years as principal of the large Buckhannon-Upshur City High School. He has been active in the State High School Principals' Association, has served on numerous state committees, and has been very active in all civic, church, fraternal and patriotic organizations of Upshur county.

Former-Sheriff Ralph E. McDonald of Lewis county recently returned from the Huntington veterans' hospital where he had been receiving treatment.

## NEW COUNTY CLERK



O. H. Carson

Only new county clerk in West Virginia since Jan. 1, 1939, is O. H. Carson of Madison, who was appointed as county clerk of Boone county, succeeding Lloyd Estep, resigned. He took office Dec. 1. Mr. Carson had been chief deputy in Mr. Estep's office for several years.

### DEPUTY CLERK'S DAUGHTER WEDS

Miss Betty Ann Beddow, daughter of Mrs. Elsie Beddow, deputy circuit clerk of Logan county, and Okey Lucas, son of Mr. and Mrs. B. V. Lucas, were married Dec. 18 in Pikesville by Rev. Wright, a Methodist minister.

Mrs. Lucas graduated from Logan high school last year.

Mr. Lucas also is a Logan high graduate and attended Marshall college. He was an outstanding athlete at Logan and has attained prominence at the latter school.

Mr. Lucas is now employed at the Nickle Plate Plant in Huntington. The couple will make their home there after the first of the year.

## Circuit Clerk's Office Has \$2,718 Profit

### Income Increase Caused by Requiring Candidates To File Fee

The Kanawha circuit clerk's office last year netted the county a profit of \$2,718.10.

Clerk Malcolm H. Hix reported fees totaling \$23,375.60 as compared with \$18,639.26 the previous year while operating costs during 1940 totaled \$20,657.50.

Hix explained that the increase was largely due to the law requiring candidates for public office to pay a filing fee.

However, chancery cases instituted during 1940 numbered 1,034, an increase of 272 over 1939, and law cases rose from 491 in 1939 to 568 in 1940.

Last year 520 divorces were granted as compared with 430 the previous year and there were 53 adoptions as compared with 29 in 1939. There were 69 changes of names.

Hix said 7,834 names were added to the general index during 1940 and that 4,155 additional pages were written on the record books. Subpoenas issued totaled 9,055 as compared with 11,663 in 1939.

Murder indictments totaled 15 last year, three less than in 1939, and other felony indictments 574, an increase of 49 over the previous year.

### Flat Tires

Dirty work at the crossroads is suspected by President Dorcel Wedge, of the Mason county court, who discovered three flat tires when he attempted to drive his car out of his garage recently. Near the scene was a jar full of nails, and it is thought that someone deliberately punctured his tires.

Anyhow, the case has been turned over to state police on the advice of W. H. Rardin, prosecuting attorney.

## Kanawha Clerk's Staff Has Party



County Clerk Paul E. Werhle of Kanawha county was host to his staff of workers Friday night, Dec. 20, at their annual Christmas party.

Pictured above, left to right, front row, are: Agnes Risk, Virginia Risk, Mrs. Raymond Young, County Clerk Wehrle, Henrietta Aldridge, Carl Samples, Mrs. Pearl Poteet, Mrs. Jennie Goshorn, Mrs.

Eddie Clement, Eddie Clement, Raymond Young, Margaret Peay, Maurice McConihay, Nanny Akers, Mrs. Jack McCloud and Mr. McCloud.

Back row: Eleanor Hughes, Robert Turner, Kathlyn Pauley, Romie Price, Becky Gumm, James McClung, Mrs. Ella Goodman, Virginia Roberts, Mrs. James McClung, Harold Cox, Mrs. Harold Cox, Reba Blake and Mrs. William Knight.

## Welch Sheriff Heads State Association

### N. R. Henderson, Kanawha, Elected Vice President

Newly elected sheriffs Dec. 20 named Lucien Fry of Welch president at the annual meeting of the West Virginia Sheriffs Association in the Kanawha county court house.

N. Ray Henderson of Kanawha county is first vice president; Gordon C. Enoch of Wood county, second vice president; Russell Nichols of Marion county, secretary, and Okey Patteson of Fay-

ette county, treasurer.

On the executive committee are Harvey C. Taylor of Cabell county, Howard Bartlett of Roane county. Tilden Hendricks of Boone county and Clarence E. Johnson of Monongalia county.

Named to the board of trustees were J. M. Slack, incumbent Kanawha county sheriff, Fred C. Ray of McDowell county and Dell White of Boone county.

Sheriff-elect Taylor was selected chairman of the legislative committee, which also includes Henderson, Patterson and Enoch.

Sheriff Franklin Deem of Ritchie county was in a party of deer hunters who hunted in Pennsylvania during December.

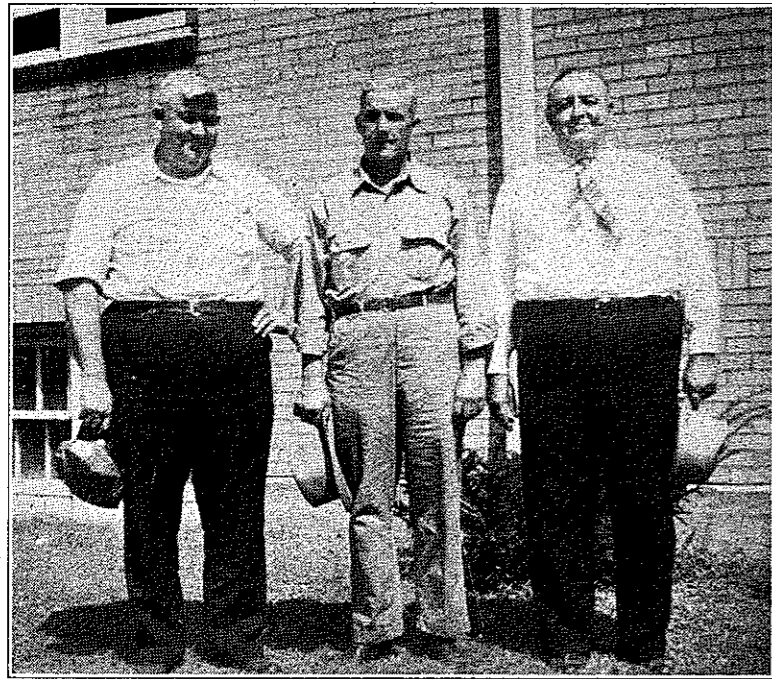
### YOUR LAST COPY?

After this issue of the County NewsTeller is in the mails, the mailing list will be completely revised so as to include all new officials.

If you have been receiving this magazine, but your term has expired, this will be your last copy—UNLESS you write in and ask us to keep your name on the list.

We will be only too glad to comply with this request and there will be no charge or obligation of any kind. If you want The NewsTeller to continue coming, tell us so!

## CAN ANY COUNTY COURT IN WEST VIRGINIA BEAT THIS RECORD?



Pictured above is the Pleasants county court, which lays claim to being the heaviest county court in the state. Together they weigh 841 pounds, an average of 280 pounds each.

They are, left to right: James W. Ruckman, aged 52 (335 pounds); W. Port Jones, aged 57 (220 pounds); and G. Curtis Mitchell, aged 51 (286 pounds).

This picture was sent in answer to the News-Teller's request for contests to decide the oldest clerk, oldest courts, heaviest courts, etc. Now it's YOUR turn.

### Retiring Sheriff Recalls Unusual Similarity

Sheriff Frank H. Patton of Marshall county, whose four-year term expired at midnight Dec. 31, recalled that his grandfather completed a similar office in a neighboring state 100 years ago "to the hour."

William Patton of Woodsfield, O., was elected sheriff of Monroe county, O., in 1836 for a term of four years which expired Dec. 31, 1840. Patton lived to an advanced age and at his death was buried at Mount Rose cemetery in Moundsville.

### Clerk's Son Dies

Kenneth Friend, 15-year-old son of Levy D. Friend, Clerk of the Clay county court, died in a Charleston hospital Jan. 2 after a brief illness of pneumonia.

The NewsTeller extends its deepest sympathy to the bereaved parents.

### Fourth Term

J. Blackburn Watts on Jan. 1 began his fourth term as prosecuting attorney of Kanawha county. On the same day J. H. "Toss" Abbott began his third term as assessor of that county.

## Gilmer Assessor Takes Over Jan. 1

### Lee Taggart to Run Office Himself, He Announces

Gilmer county's new assessor took office Jan. 1, and he is going to run the office himself, except for some extra clerical help during the rush period.

He is Lee Taggart, 42-year-old World War veteran who was elected with a record-breaking majority of 1661. He will have no office deputy, he said, but B. O. Van Horn and Oris Curry will be his field deputies.



It was Assessor Taggart's first bid for public office. He had three opponents in the primary, but romped away with the nomination. Indeed, he had 469 more votes than the other three put together.

Born and reared at Orton, Gilmer county, he was educated in the public schools and volunteered for service in the Navy during the World War. He is married, has a daughter in Glenville college.

His 3,522 votes received in the general election was probably the largest vote ever cast in Gilmer county.

SEND IN  
NEWS ITEMS  
AND PICTURES  
TO  
YOUR  
COUNTY  
NEWSTELLER

## GUESS WHO!



## 32 MORE COURT HOUSE PICTURES ARE NEEDED TO COMPLETE SERIES

### This Month's is 23rd of Series of 55—Officials Asked to Send in Pictures

This month's front-cover picture of the Summers county court house is the 23rd to appear in the series started nearly two years ago.

But the pictures of 32 other court houses are missing and the NewsTeller requests that they be sent in at once, so that the series will not be broken. At the end of the series it is planned to reprint all 55 court houses in one booklet, for free distribution to county officials.

Following is the list of missing court houses. If yours is among them, why not send in a good picture today?

- |            |           |
|------------|-----------|
| Barbour    | Mercer    |
| Boone      | Mineral   |
| Braxton    | Mingo     |
| Calhoun    | Monroe    |
| Clay       | Nicholas  |
| Doddridge  | Ohio      |
| Gilmer     | Pendleton |
| Grant      | Pleasants |
| Greenbrier | Raleigh   |
| Hancock    | Roane     |
| Jackson    | Taylor    |
| Jefferson  | Wayne     |
| Kanawha    | Webster   |
| McDowell   | Wetzel    |
| Marion     | Wood      |
| Mason      | Wyoming   |

Several of the missing counties have sent in snapshots or post-card pictures of their court houses, but our engravers inform us that they will not make up into acceptable cuts. If you cannot secure a good photograph, have your local commercial photographer make up one and send us a bill for same.

C. L. Coe has been named as a member of the Nicholas county board of education, succeeding Brooks B. Callaghan, resigned.

## Letters To The Editor

Charles Town, W. Va.,  
Dec. 10, 1940.

Sirs:

My father and I do so much enjoy the County NewsTeller and the picture of the Berkeley court house was fine. I have often been in the assessor's office in Berkeley county.

My father, F. L. Watson, has been assessor of Jefferson county for 24 years. He first served 16 years and was out of office four years. He was again elected and served eight years. I became his deputy after he served his first four years and have been with him for 20 years.

He will go out of office Dec. 31, at the age of 81 years.

He has had many good friends in the 24 years; some with him every time, some against him maybe for one term, but they have been real friends.

His address will be Kearneysville and he would like to have this little magazine as long as he lives. He looks forward to its coming each month.

Kindest regards,  
Ruth C. Watson,  
Deputy Assessor.

(Note: He shall receive the NewsTeller as long as he lives.—ed.)

W. C. Farrar, member of the Calhoun county court, was a visitor at the office of Casto & Harris this month.

Frank Thorn, clerk of the Wirt county court, visited with NewsTeller publishers recently.

Probably only a few persons will be able to guess the identity of the hardworking youngster shown above in work clothes, with dinner pail, et al.

Here are some clues:

(1) The picture was snapped some 20 years ago, more or less;

(2) He is a native son of Jackson county who went to West Virginia University in the late 'teens to study law. He ran out of money, quit school and found a job in a steel mill near Pittsburgh, where the above picture was taken;

(3) He made enough money to complete his education, get a degree in law;

(4) He went to Charleston and became one of the state's most successful lawyers; and

(5) He is now County Attorney for Kanawha county.

You're right: It's Dale G. Casto. (P. S. He doesn't know we have this picture).

## New Monongalia County Court



Left to right are O. M. Herod of Maidsville, J. F. Loving of Morgantown and George W. Jamison of Westover, making up the new County Court that held its first meeting Jan. 6. Mr. Loving, president of the court, is also president of the West Virginia County Commissioners' association. (See his mes-

sage elsewhere in this issue).

Mr. Herod, the new member, is a dairy and poultry farmer at Maidsville and this is the first time he has ever held public office. He saw overseas service in the U. S. Army during the World War.

### Kentucky Halts Hasty Marriages

Law Requiring Physical Exams, Blood Tests Effective Jan. 1

The last "port of entry" for West Virginians seeking hasty marriages was closed Jan. 1 when Kentucky's new law requiring pre-marital physical examinations and blood tests became effective.

As a result, West Virginia county clerks looked for an increase in the marriage license business during 1941, since there now is no adjoining state where a license may be obtained without either a waiting period or an examination.

The influx of altar-bound West Virginians into Virginia was stopped last August when a law similar to this state's requiring a three day notice and blood test, became effective. Ohio has a five-

day law, Maryland a three-day law, and Pennsylvania a three-day law and blood test.

### WANTED . . . . . COURTING BOOK

According to the Tribune, the following earnest appeal was received by a Chicago mail order house from a customer in Tennessee:

"I am writing to you about some more of your books the first book I am now asking about is a courting book, if you haven't got the book please sir find one some where if it can be found anywhere in this world, or have me one made. The Kind of Courting book, I want a real genuine rattling good Courting book, nothing else but courting in it, through and through with questions and answers. Showing first days of courting life, how to prove love, how to hold love, all the different courting languages, how to start out courting. How to be

handy around the ladies and wait on them how to place my words in talking to the girls in courting, how to lay the foundation and build upon it in courting.

"I would like for the book to show how to court settle age, middle age, young age courting women, and all the women any time I feel like.

"I want a real woman's man courting book, with the pictures if you can find that kind, if it is a large book I want it, with all first class courting complete sweet real finical courting all through to winning good wife."

### Wins Two Pots of Gold

Walden Rousch, superintendent of the Mason county schools, is a lucky man. Twice in the last several weeks he has won pots of gold, each amounting to \$25, which have been given away by Pt. Pleasant merchants.

## GREETINGS . . . AND CONGRATULATIONS! . . . . .

### *Newly-Elected County Officials of West Virginia . . . . .*

With this issue of The County NewsTeller you have become a regular member of our family of readers scattered all over West Virginia . . . from Jefferson to Cabell counties . . . from Hancock to McDowell.

As long as you hold public office—and as long thereafter as you request it—you will receive this magazine free each month. It will be chock-full of news and pictures about county and school officials, their families and their employees.

We hope that you will enjoy receiving this NewsTeller every month. As you can see, it is more than two years old and for the past 22 months we have been printing on the front cover a picture of one of the Court Houses in West Virginia. If you want a complete series, we will send you back copies as long as our present limited supply lasts.

We hope, too, that you will help us make this magazine more interesting and sprightly by sending in articles and pictures. Especially because you are newly-elected officials, we would like to have your picture, cut or newspaper-matrix now, because publication of same, together with a biography, will be of real interest to all readers.

While it is true that the NewsTeller publishers are engaged in a business specializing in the manufacture of county record books, printing, election supplies, office and school furniture and supplies, etc., you can rest assured that we will not clutter up the NewsTeller with obnoxious advertising. Only the back page—as you can see in this issue—is reserved for our message.

\* \* \*

**CASTO & HARRIS, INC.**

(A West Virginia Corporation)

*Telephone 110*

**SPENCER, W. VA.**