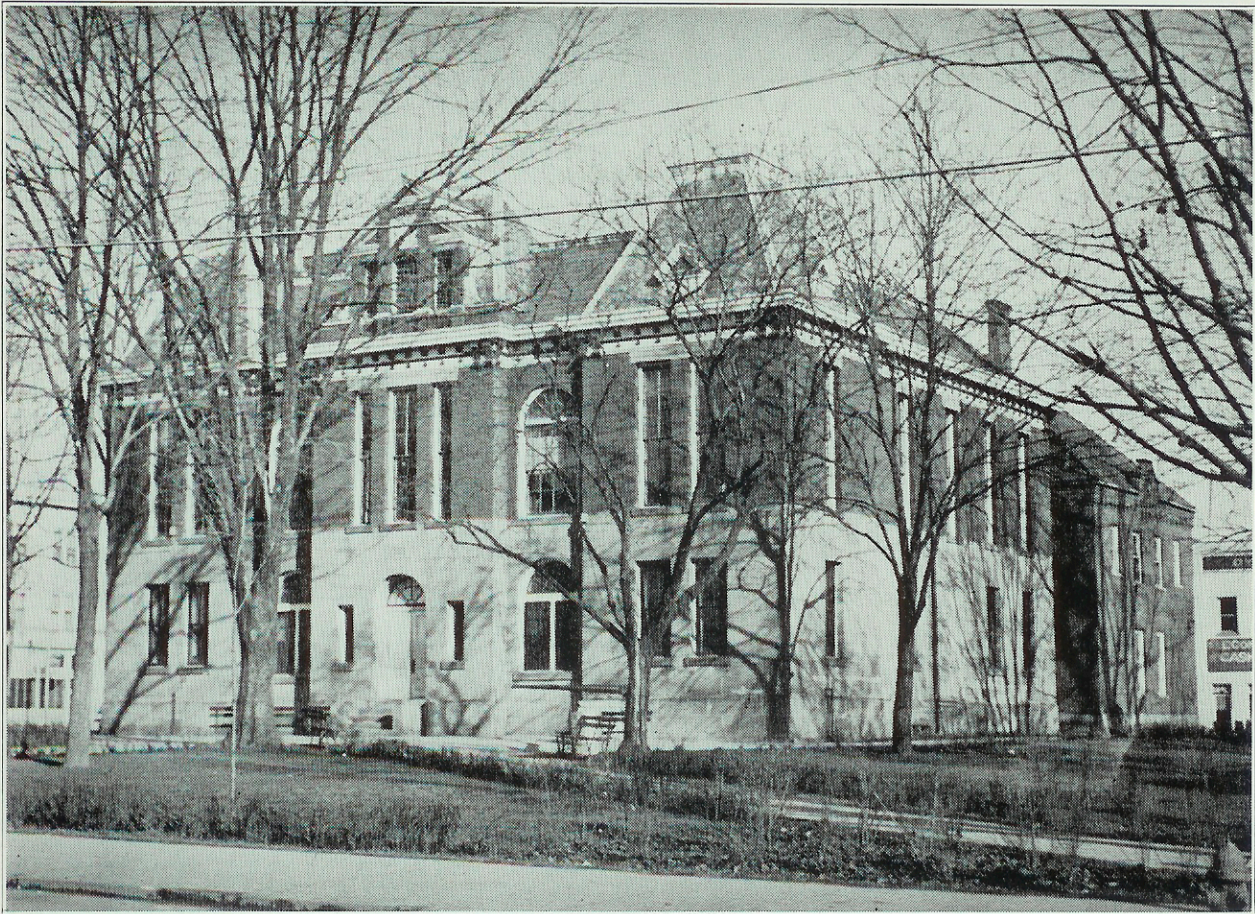


The County
NEWSTELLER

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

ROANE COUNTY COURT HOUSE

Spencer, W. Va.



(See Page One)

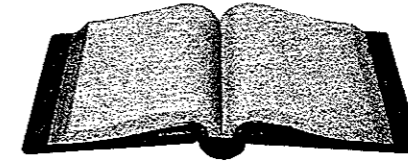
(No. 24 in a series of 55 front covers being used to present the Court Houses of West Virginia)

VOLUME III

FEBRUARY, 1941

NUMBER 5

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

FEBRUARY, 1941

Number 5

Gilmer Editor Boosts Women For Office

Points Out That They Are
As Well Qualified
As Men

(An Editorial in The Glenville Democrat)

Mrs. Julia Reed Kee qualified as one of the two justices of the peace for Glenville district before the county court one day last week, and on Wednesday, Jan. 1, 1941, became the first woman to hold an elective office in Gilmer county. Mrs. Kee was nominated at the primary election of last May over a large number of competitors by a large majority, and she was overwhelmingly elected in the general election of last Nov. 5.

The ease with which Mr. Kee was nominated and elected might well encourage others of her sex to seek political preferment. The women constitute one half of our population and they do half the voting. Why, then, should not they share in the distribution of such offices as are at the disposal of the people? There is certainly no good reason. There is no county-wide office in Gilmer county, with the exception of that of prosecuting attorney, which a woman, otherwise qualified, could not properly administer.

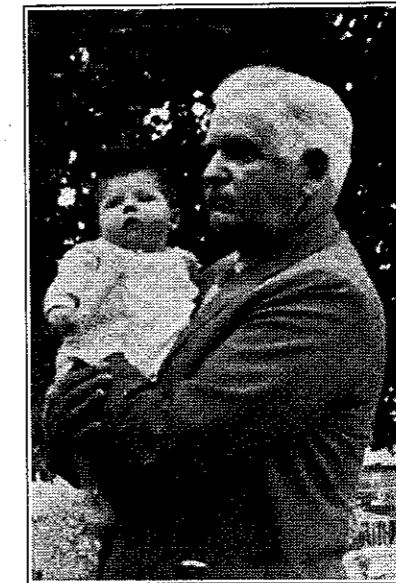
With the exception of the office of prosecuting attorney, recent legislation has made all other county offices purely clerical, and

(Continued on Page Two)

Tyler Sheriff Is Veteran

Has Served in Many
Important Public Posts

C. H. Watson, the newly-elected sheriff of Tyler county, has had plenty of experience in public of-



Sheriff & Granddaughter

He is now 60 years of age, he has served in the following offices:

Deputy sheriff from 1913 to 1916, inclusive;

Assessor from 1916 to 1919, inclusive; and

Sheriff from 1920 to 1923, inclusive.

On Nov. 5 he was again elected sheriff.

He is pictured above holding

(Continued on Page Two)

James Brewster, Jr. Awaiting His Call

Prosecuting Attorney James H. Brewster, Jr., of Lewis county, who holds a rank of captain in the United States Army Reserve, has received information that a call is en route to him, directing him to report for military service. Last summer Capt. Brewster spent several weeks in camp at Fort Knox, Ky. Then he was informed that he would not be called unless war developed or some other emergency arose. However, there has been a change of plans and he is now awaiting a call to a year's service with the Army. A gigantic training program is now underway and Reserve Officers all over the land are being called to the colors.

Meanwhile, the Lewis County Court has named George I. Davisson, assistant prosecuting attorney of Lewis county, as prosecutor. His work will begin when Capt. Brewster is called. Attorney Davisson accepted the appointment and has qualified for the post. Under the law as now set up, Lewis county is permitted an assistant prosecuting attorney, if needed.

(FRONT COVER)

ROANE COUNTY: Created in 1856 from parts of Kanawha, Jackson, and Gilmer counties; named in honor of Judge Spencer Roane, distinguished Virginia jurist; Area: 486 square miles; Population (1940) 20,780.

Lewis Court Rented Stove

Called for Bids for Its Use Until June, 1828

In December, 1827, the Lewis county court authorized the renting of a stove to the highest bidder, stove to be returned the following June, according to Miss Laura Lister, deputy county clerk, who dug up this information.

Under date of Dec. 4, 1827, the following order was entered:

"Ordered that the Sheriff of this county rent out the Stove belonging to the court house for the best price that can be had until June court next taking Bond & Security for the delivery of said Stove at the aforesaid time & the payment of said rent."

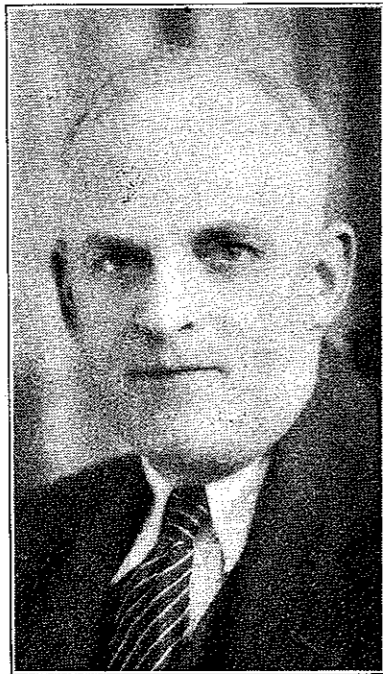
GILMER EDITOR

(Continued from Page One)

in most instances, perfunctory. What is there about the office of Clerk of the Circuit Court, Clerk of the County Court, Sheriff, Assessor, County Commissioner and County Superintendent of Schools that an intelligent woman could not efficiently administer? Could not a woman write out a summons in chancery, a marriage or a fishing license, or discount a tax bill? The election of Mrs. Kee is ample evidence that the voters of Gilmer county have no prejudice against women office holders, and her example could be well emulated in the other fields.

And did it ever occur to the average voter that it is much more difficult and exacting to be a good justice of the peace than it is to be a good circuit clerk, a good county clerk, or a good sheriff? A justice of the peace deals with perplexing questions, compromising situations and conflicting agenda; they must be able to distinguish between the relative and the irrelative, the true and the false; the responsibility of making decisions, in meting out justice where the demarcation

NEW ASSESSOR



E. J. Coberly

Mr. Coberly assumed his new duties as assessor of Randolph county Jan. 1. It is the first public office he has ever held.

line is not always clear. On the other hand, in most of the county offices, the work is already mapped out, it is filling in a blank here and a blank there, putting a figure here and a figure there, and signing a name on a dotted line.

Mrs. Kee is a daughter of the late Lewis S. and Joanna Goff Reed. Her father, in his time, was also an office holder, having served two full terms as a commissioner of the county court. Her uncle, George B. Reed, and her brother, Clacy A. Reed, in their time, were also members of the county court. The last named died while serving as a member of that distinguished body.

The office of justice of the peace will hardly be something new to Mrs. Kee. Due to the impaired vision of her husband, Will Kee, who has just relinquished the same office after a tenure of eight years, Mrs. Kee did substantially all the clerical work of the office, including the correspondence and other paper details.

Court House Pictures Wanted

Only two counties responded to our SOS of last month for court house pictures, so that our series of front page covers will be complete. They were Mineral and Roane. The latter picture appears on this month's front cover and Mineral's will appear in March.

However, the following counties are still counted among the missing:

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

TYLER SHERIFF

(Continued from Page One)

Granddaughter, Karren Lee Keys, of Hamlin, W. Va., in his arms.

Sheriff Watson was also employed for about a year in the automobile department of the State Road Commission and later served as chief inspector on road construction. He has worked in the following counties: Marshall, Ohio, Brooke, Hancock, Jackson, Roane, Wetzel and Ritchie.

This has given her an insight into and a comprehension of the technique of the office not always available to newly inducted members. In her younger days Mrs. Kee was a school teacher. In addition to now being a full-fledged justice of the peace in her own right, she is also local manager of the Railway Express Company. Her office is located in the Whiting Hotel property on Bridge street, just off Main.

"Too Many Pups"

Chauncey D. Twyford, assessor of Tyler county, has been trying to solve the dog problem, and after he had made a checkup he finds that too many people do not know when a pup passes from that stage to that of a dog. Twyford had printed in the county papers a story informing the people that they were taking advantage of the pup law (eight months old before assessable), received the following letter from one of the dog fanciers of Tyler county:

"Mr. Chauncey Twyford,
"Assessor Tyler Co.,
"Middlebourne, W. Va.
"Dear Mr. Twyford:

"I saw in the Tyler County Journal a few weeks ago an article wherein you stated that Citizens owned pups and never turned them in for Taxation. Also you desired to have a description of these pups so that they could be identified by you when they had reached maturity.

"I have a pup. She is a Female and since she comes from Royal blood must not be confused with the ordinary 'Bitch.' She is a Princess in her own right and we have the papers that say: 'Her Grandmothers for Nine Generations have never known to be indiscreet.' She points with pride to the true fact that her Great, Great, Great Grandpappa was Champion Peter Blackacre and if some Hitler Bomb hasn't blown him to Smithereens, He is still traveling with Royalty in London, England.

"She is a Pomeranian. her fore-parents originated in Prussia. They claim relationship to the Esquimax or some Artic Tomcat.

"She is Cream Color which runs to a deep orange behind her ears. Where her tail makes a Ferris-wheel turn up and over her back, the color changes from Cream to Orange. She has what we Dog fanciers call 'Curtains' on her hind legs but people who know little about dogs, compare this long hair to a pair of 'Droopy-

SERVING 4TH TERM



Stanley Bosworth

Apparently the people of Randolph county are well satisfied with Stanley Bosworth as their prosecuting attorney. On Nov. 5, 1940, he was reelected for the fourth consecutive term.

Stanley was educated at the West Virginia University and was a fraternity brother of the junior member of Casto & Harris, Inc.

Drawers.'

"When she passes through the adolescent age and takes her place among the Social Set of the town, I'll come into your office and pay the Tax on her. You'll not have any difficulty in telling her from Herm Crumrines mongrel pup, a dog born in obscurity and with no other purpose in life than that of peddling fleas to dogs in his own strata of Canine Society.

"Yours truly,
" 'Doc' McCuskey."

Clerk's Son Marries

Kingsley R. Smith, son of Circuit Clerk and Mrs. Ernest G. Smith of Lewis county, and Miss Anna Mabel Ballard, also of Weston, were married recently.

The groom is a member of the 1941 legislature.

Stenographer Thwarts Thieves

Miss Katherine Dotters, who took office Jan. 1, as stenographer for Prosecuting attorney W. E. Lemon of Wetzel county, proved herself an alert young lady and gave indication of being a real asset to the crime preventing agencies of the county, Christmas night.

Miss Dotters, who lives with her grandmother, Mrs. Flora Walker, next door to the Grocery Company offices and warehouse in New Martinsville, was sitting in their living room, awaiting the arrival of her brother, who was due home for a holiday visit, about 12 o'clock Christmas Night.

She noticed a car park in front of the house. Three strangers got out.

Becoming suspicious, she went out and copied the license of the auto, and got a description of it. Upon the arrival of her brother, they noticed the men monkeying around the Grocery building. The watchman at the warehouse opened fire on the prowlers, and they ran, getting away in their car. Miss Dotters and her brother, Charles, jumped in his auto and followed the fleeing car north on Route 2, until convinced they were going north. They then notified Sheriff Frank Berger, who broadcast the description of the car and men to police in up-river towns and started on the chase, accompanied by City Patrolman W. C. Rector.

Three men in a car answering the description secured by Miss Dotters were caught in Benwood, and brought back to New Martinsville by the sheriff and officer.

Two guns were found in the auto, Sheriff Berger said, along with a wrecking bar or "jimmy."

SEND IN
NEWS ITEMS
AND PICTURES

TO
YOUR
COUNTY
NEWSTELLER

National Association of County Officials

By George F. Simmons
Executive Director, N.A.C.O.

(As Published in "Weston's Record")

In this modern age, the general public demands rather than solicits our very best efforts. In order to succeed, any business or enterprise must be up-to-date in every respect. To compete successfully, it must adopt and use, as fast as they are developed, the very latest devices and systems.

But successful business men are not satisfied merely to use the ideas of other people. They have found it pays to contribute ideas that help otherwise. Because of this continuous creation of new ideas—and the free use of them—American business leads the world.

To stimulate the development and dissemination of new thoughts and ideas, business makes wide use of the conference, the convention, the consultation and meetings of all kinds. Training men and women in the art of operating a business with greater economy and efficiency is a major activity. All progressive people recognize the importance and value of these activities and admit the absolute necessity of them.

Yet when county officials, many of whom are successful business men and recognize the need of constant improvement, try to apply these modern business principles to county government, many objections arise. The old cry that the taxpayers' money is being wasted sounds loud and long. And this, in spite of the fact that, in many instances, county government, because of a lack of applied knowledge, is lagging far behind in modern administration methods.

In many of our counties, methods of fifty years ago are still in use. Is it any wonder that county government is criticized, condemned, and accused of being wasteful, inefficient and out-of-

date?

Is it any wonder that many progressive individuals interested in providing and using the very best methods known in business administration, are disgusted and want to make a change?

In counties where the officials have been alert, progressive and have introduced modern methods in office management and modern improvements in office equipment, very little, if any, complaint is heard. In counties where the officials are active in civic affairs, where they participate in improvement enterprises designed for the welfare of their communities, they are usually respected and held in high esteem by their people.

It is only because of such outstanding public officials that the opponents of county government still admit that it is the best government known for the use of a free people and that there is still enough hope for improvement to justify its continuation.

Realizing that county government was losing favor in the eyes of many of our people, and that unless something was done about it, an attempt to abolish or change it would be made, a small band of patriotic county officers, who were extremely concerned about the situation, met and organized the National Association of County Officials. The purpose of the organization, primarily, was to promote improvement in county government. Since its inception, however, other important functions have developed.

The Association publishes a magazine called the "COUNTY OFFICER." This magazine prints useful information that is intended to encourage county officials to greater activity and provides a medium for the exchange of ideas and opinions that may help in solving some of the county problems.

Conventions held once a year in different states, are planned to furnish information that will inspire county officials to take more interest in their work. These plans include addresses from experienced public officials on important subjects pertaining to

county work. Contacts with county officials from all parts of our country are arranged. Displaying and demonstrating the latest methods and devices used in modern business administration is also a part of the planning.

In order to keep down expenses, a modest yearly membership fee of \$2.00 has been established. This fee includes a subscription to the "COUNTY OFFICER." The organization is entirely controlled and operated by county officials. Its aims and objectives are of the highest type. Many state associations of county officials have adopted and incorporated them into their by-laws. Affiliation and cooperation with state associations are being developed rapidly. In this way the usefulness of the National Association is being increased very materially.

The need of such an organization is recognized and subscribed to by many outstanding public officials. All county officers interested in improving county government and in doing a good job better, should join the National Association.

Deputy Marries

Miss Louia Hoback, for several years a deputy in the office of J. G. Lambert, clerk of the Wayne county court, was married in December to Mr. Kenneth Martin. The ceremony was performed at Grayson, Ky. The couple will reside at Kenova.

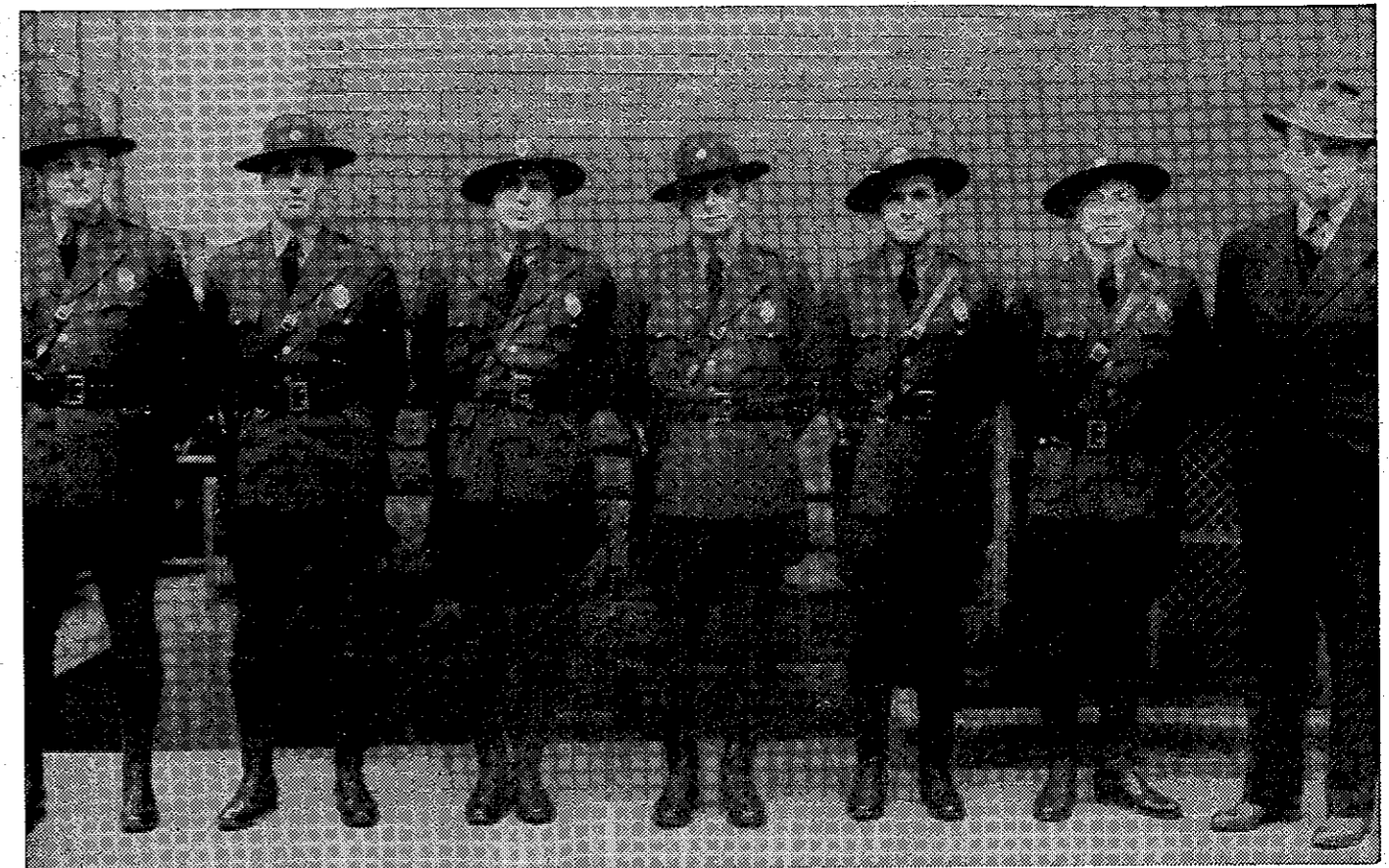
Miss Lillian Tabor was appointed deputy to replace Mrs. Martin.

Assessor Marries

Guy F. Dudgeon, assessor of Jackson county, and Mrs. Ocie M. Starcher, Ripley, were married Jan. 23 by the Rev. L. R. Mahoney of the Ripley U. B. church. The vows were exchanged in the parsonage of the church in the presence of members of the pastor's family.

Mr. Dudgeon is serving his second consecutive term as assessor of the county.

New Monongalia County Sheriff With Field Force



—Courtesy Morgantown Post.

Sheriff Clarence E. Johnson (right) with his force of field deputies. Reading from the Sheriff are Bill Bowers, William Jamison, Paul McDowell, Gerald Kelly, Andy Vecchio, and Chief Deputy David Pitman.

GIRL OWNS OLD PAPER SIGNED BY PATRICK HENRY

An old land grant signed by Patrick Henry, governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1786, is in the possession of Margaret Martin who lives in Clarksburg.

Its edges browned in spots, yet with the rest of the document in excellent condition considering its 154 years, the land grant which shows the very legible signature of the fellow who dramatically delivered his immortal "Liberty or Death" speech in an impassioned plea for freedom, is a model of early American legal documents. Its dimensions are 12 by 16 inches.

WOOD COUNTY CLERK IN GOLF TOURNEY

Earl Wolfe, clerk of the Wood county court, who is spending his vacation at Daytona Beach, Fla., participated in the Daytona Beach golf championship played late in February.

Mr. Wolfe qualified in the second flight and went all the way to the finals.

Deputy Dies

C. W. Frazier, aged 73, deputy circuit clerk of Wayne county, died last month of heart disease. He had served as a deputy circuit clerk for 20 years and had worked in the Wayne court house for more than 30 years.

Engagement Announced

Announcement has been made of the engagement of Miss Julia Terrill Lambert, daughter of Prosecuting Attorney and Mrs. J. T. Lambert of Wayne, to Raymond C. Wheeler, of Wayne and Logan, Ohio.

The wedding will take place April 11.

"CASTO & HARRIS"

That new voice you hear, when you telephone the publishers of The NewsTeller, belongs to Bess M. Payne, who recently resigned from government service to become secretary-stenographer for Casto & Harris. She began her new duties Jan. 15.

Sage of Tucker County Answers "Men Only" Article in NewsTeller

Taking good-natured exception to the "Men Only" article which appeared in October's NewsTeller—sent in by Miss Frances McGrew, deputy circuit clerk of Jackson county—Ernest Moon, Tucker county clerk, comes through this month with the following letter and stirring White Paper "In Defense of Men." The entire letter and article are reproduced as follows:

Parsons, West Virginia,

Dear Clay:

Read with growing interest—and several quiet chuckles—the shameless dissertation "Men Only" in the October issue of the otherwise most excellent The County NewsTeller. After several days' meditation, it dawned on me that innocent and mere man had been done wrong and considerably messed up by that rough article. And it raised my gorge. Now, Clay, you know I'm not the sort of fellow to sit idly by when I've had my gorge raised and not do something about it. So I called in one of my my Spies named Okeyharris Claymiller Gordondupue Bellzebub—whom I call Jonah for short—and unburdened my heaving bosom at him. He listened to me read the defamatory account for the fifth time to the last period. Then a faint glow, it seemed to me, lit up his upper story. He squirted a quart and a half of Copenhagen juice at my Casto & Harris waste basket, helped himself to a handful of my left-over campaign cigars, lit one with his self-starting blow-torch—which he carries at all times in his hip pocket, geared up and ready just in case he needs to shave in a hurry—but never does—and unburdened his state of mind with this wise cogitation, viz: "OK, Boss, tell me some more what this fellow you want killed looks like—and, Boss, where the devil

is Spencer?" Then I had to talk him out of his lustful intentions and tell him not to try to find Spencer by himself—because it is even farther away from Parsons than Louse Camp Run, where his grandmammy lives, and he will get lost trying to find it. That nobody was to be murdered—just yet—and that all I wanted him to do was to dig up some derogatory data on the contrary sex. The accompanying is the result of his first week's work.

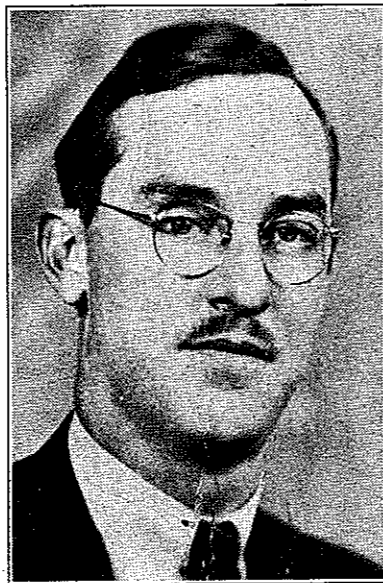
As you will understand, it is only a slight beginning to even up our side in the behalf of that maligned worm in the dust—man. Spy Jonah is still digging dirt, and if you will cast your discerning and eagle eye over this and do the polishing and what not, and get it into print in Us the Men's defense—we men have to stick together, don't we—then as soon as my next batch comes along from Spy Jonah, I'll send you some more.

Sincerely your injured friend,
Ernest.

WOMEN ALSO

Women are the people who marry men. They feel that they would just as well make a fool out of a man as let some other girl do it. It is not true that woman was made from man's rib; she was really made from his funny bone. Women were made before mirrors and have been before them ever since. They talk so much now about professional women. Personally, we have never met an amateur. But women are mathematical wonders; they can reduce men to a common denominator in no time at all. The best way to tell a woman's age is a mistake. Ordinarily a woman is afraid of a mouse, but not if she has promised to love, honor and obey him. She says that she is a great comfort during all those troubles which a bachelor

NEW SHERIFF



Floyd G. Whetsell

"Jeff" Whetsell, as he is best known, is the new sheriff of Randolph county. He attended Elkins high school, Davis-Elkins college and the West Virginia University. Born in 1907, he is one of the youngest sheriffs in West Virginia.

never has. Before marriage a man yearns for a woman. After marriage the "Y" is silent. Marriage is an institution which gives the man double duties and half the rights. It so happens that none of the men who would make perfect husbands are married. A woman is a person who can hurry through a drugstore aisle 18 inches wide without brushing against the piled-up tinware and then drive home and knocks the doors off a 12 foot garage. There are a lot of married men who wish they could throw over a dictator as easily as some of the European nations do. We expect that woman will be the last thing civilized by man. A young man should make no mistake these days in choosing a wife—he certainly can see what he is getting.

No woman is truly modern unless she has a vanity case, a cigaret case, and a divorce case. The

(Continued on Page Seven)

Boone Sheriff Gets First Check



"I am sending you herewith a photograph of our present sheriff, Tilden Hendrick, receiving his first pay check from Lem Jarrell, President of Boone County Court, which we shall be pleased to have you use in your next issue of the NEWSTELLER. Mr. Hendrick, as you know, succeeded Mr. Dell White, the present Vice-Chairman of the State Executive Committee of the Democratic Party, as sheriff.

"This check is for \$208.33, the largest amount ever paid a sheriff of Boone County for a month's salary. The sheriff of Boone County formerly received \$175.00 a month, but this amount was increased by the amendments of the legislature of 1932 and 1937 to \$2,500.00 a year or \$208.33 a

month for this county.

"Knowing the two men as I do, (and the County Court being the supervisor of fiscal affairs of the county, and as such the 'watch-dog of the treasury'), one gets the impression from their expressions that Mr. Jarrell is 'sizing-up' Mr. Hendrick as to whether or not he has fully earned that amount; and, from the complacent expression on Mr. Hendrick's face, it seems that he feels that he has.

"If you wish to use this letter, as it is, you may do so; or, if you prefer, you may use the information given to construct your own news-item.

"Best regards,

"Yours very truly,
Walter Hendricks,
Deputy Clerk."

SAGE OF TUCKER

(Continued From Page Six)

modern girl admires spinning wheels, but she wants four of them and a spare. Woman's complete emancipation will never come until some genius has perfected a home that can be run by a steering wheel, a clutch and a brake. The modern woman's idea of being a helpmeet is to thread the needle for her husband when he goes to sew his buttons on. "Rise every morning," a magistrate advised a man in court,

"with the fixed determination to make your wife realize that you are the master of the house, and see what happens." We know what will happen. He'll have to get his own breakfast. If women's clothes did not change so often there would be more change in men's. We never expected to see the day when girls would get sunburned in places they do now. Women are steadily growing more beautiful, says an eminent English painter. Why not? They have been steadily trying for several thousand years. The

New School Head For Lewis County

Robert T. Crawford has resigned as superintendent of the Lewis county schools and his assistant, Marion G. Rogers, has been elevated to the superintendency.

Mr. Crawford resigned to join the faculty of Glenville State Teachers College.

Robert W. Beeghly, a member of the Weston high school faculty, has been named as assistant to Mr. Boggs.

FIRST BABY OF YEAR

H. C. Taylor, Jr., deputy clerk of Cabell county, is a mighty proud father and it is mighty safe to say that he was one of the first fathers of the year 1941.

Exactly at 12:03 a. m. New Year's Day the Taylor's first child, a daughter, was born. She has been named Dorothy Carter Taylor. Her grandfather is H. C. Taylor, newly-elected sheriff of Cabell county.

(Incidentally, the NewsTeller has been trying to get the youngster's picture for nearly two months, but Carter hasn't sent it in.—ed.)

Snappy Comeback

The candidate for office had finished his speech when a loud voice called out: "Mister, if you was the angel Gabriel himself, you'd never have my vote."

"My friend," quickly retorted the office seeker, "if I was the angel Gabriel, your name would not be on my register."

census reports that widows are twice as numerous as widowers. This seems to confirm the belief that women learn quicker than men. Modern romance is brief: she loved the lad with the pigskin; she rode with the lad with the coonskin; she admired the lad with the sheepskin; but she married the man with the frogskins.

Lost Surveyor's Compass

By Mark C. Kyle

(In Clay County Free Press)

Although by no means an old man, Sheriff Abner Hamrick of Clay county is well advanced in experience. He has seen his native section, not so long ago a "howling wilderness," develop into the most prosperous industrial section of the county. By reason of his employment for almost thirty years by the Elk River Coal and Lumber company in various capacities, he has had some part in this development and naturally likes to talk about some of the happenings.

Sitting in the lobby of a Clay hotel recently in a reminiscent mood, Sheriff Hamrick related a very remarkable incident with which he was connected some years ago. Here is the story, not in the sheriff's own words, but in the parlance of the writer:

Being an engineer, Mr. Hamrick was detailed to survey a line of the large land holdings of the company by which he was employed. The line to be surveyed passed through and over a rough mountain section on Robinson Fork of Buffalo, in Nicholas county, some distance from the nearest habitation. Having advanced along the line to a point near the top of the mountain, the surveyor set his compass and sent his helpers ahead to cut the underbrush on the course to the summit. Before his men had reached the mountain top Mr. Hamrick detected some odd-looking object on the skyline, and when the brush cutters reached the point, much to their surprise, they found a surveyor's compass in position as though it had just been set to run this course. The jacobstaff had been thrust deep into the ground and the compass left on it.

When the surveyor reached the spot he found that the metal tip of the staff was so deeply imbedded and the wood so decayed that when it was pulled out of the ground the rotted wood gave way leaving the metal socket in the

DEPUTY CLERK



John B. Chenoweth

Right-hand man to John Caplinger, clerk of the Randolph county court, is John B. Chenoweth (above), deputy county clerk. Mr. Chenoweth has also been secretary to the superintendent of schools and also was a deputy sheriff of Randolph county.

ground. It was plainly evident that some surveyor had left his instrument here many years ago. But who was the surveyor, and for what reason was the compass left here in this rough mountain section for so long that all other signs of the work had completely disappeared? There was in fact little evidence that anyone had heretofore set foot on the rocky peak covered principally by huckleberry bushes.

It developed that the compass had belonged to J. Haymond Robinson, a man who had engaged in the occupation of land surveyor for many years and who had probably surveyed more of the Nicholas county farms and other tracts of land during his long residence at Muddlety, than had any other person who had engaged in this class of work.

But what was the secret of the

presence of the surveyor's instrument here on this lonely mountain-top years after the death of the man who had used it for so long? Here is the answer:

Something like 35 years prior to the discovery made by Abner Hamrick's crew, Mr. Robinson, it was learned from a few folks still living who had known him well, was engaged in running this line to determine the exact limits of a tract of land owned by James McGraw and which abutted on the company land for some distance. At lunch time the surveyor had reached the mountaintop, and setting his jacobstaff on the line, he had placed his compass on the staff and left with his helpers to go and find something to eat. Returning to the woods after lunch, a search failed to disclose the instrument they had left. No trace of it could be found although Mr. Robinson was sure he had gone to the exact spot where it had been left. The disappointed surveyor and his party reached the conclusion that someone had followed their trail and had stolen the compass.

But, strange as it seems, the lost compass had remained there, in the exact position in which it was left by Mr. Robinson so long ago. Through all the intervening years, notwithstanding the fact that the timber had been removed from the land, and hunters had probably passed within a few yards of the silent sentinel, with its staff standing upright and the compass as if in position to continue the course it had been set to run, this ancient instrument had kept its lonely vigil awaiting the surveyor's return.

The story of the lost compass as told to his neighbors by Mr. Robinson following the event, is still remembered by a few of the older citizens who heard it a third of a century ago.

New Job

Marshall Nutter, former sheriff of Doddridge county, has been appointed manager of the Montgomery-Ward store at West Union.

“A Stitch In Time . . .”

Rare indeed is the public office in which some of its record books are not in need of repair. Backs are coming loose . . . stitches are rotting away . . . canvas jackets are wearing out . . . pages are tattered and torn.

Immediate attention to needed repairs insures longer life for valuable records and is much less expensive than to wait until the books have literally fallen apart.

Tight-bound books—if not too far gone—can be re-sewed, re-bound if necessary and new canvas jackets furnished, all for a most reasonable fee. Loose-leaf books can be repaired or the fillers placed in new binders at comparatively low cost. If contents are too badly worn or faded, they can be photo-copied, restoring their original legibility for all time.

Without obligation, let us go over your books and give you an estimate for putting them in first-class condition. Our skilled book-binders, backed by our unconditional guarantee, can do the job right in your office, without taking the books from the building.

Your county's future depends on its written records of the past, and these public records must be preserved.

* * *

CASTO & HARRIS, INC.

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SPENCER, W. VA.
