



Election Tuesday, November 7th 1916

Edward R. Hughes

Republican Candidate for

SHERIFF

Your Vote and Influence will be Appreciated



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HORSE AND BUGGY LAWMAN

1963

Ex-Sheriff Hughes Recalls Perry County Boom Days

By DAVE MATHEWS
Dispatch Staff Writer

NEW LEXINGTON, Ohio—Ed Hughes, 74, Perry County Common Pleas Court baliff, holds a different job, but he's back in the same room of the Perry County Courthouse where he first served as sheriff 46 years ago.

Hughes operated out of the one-room sheriff's office in the horse and buggy days of law enforcement.

HIS PREDECESSOR had a personal car, but the county did not provide a car for the sheriff in the early part of Hughes' tour of duty, starting in 1917.

"Cars weren't too impor-

tant in those days," Hughes says. "We could only drive them for a couple of months each year because all the roads were mud roads."

STATE LAW LIMITED country treasurers and sheriffs to only two terms in those days, and Hughes left office in 1921.

After selling cars for many years, Hughes returned to the political arena in the early 1940s and served 12 years as county commissioner. He came out of retirement last summer when Judge Robert Tague appointed him bailiff.

Hughes smiles as he recalls his career and even laughs at his one political

defeat. "Getting run over by a tractor" is his way of referring to it.

HIS FONDEST memories are his days as sheriff when Perry County was a booming coal mining area. One of the busiest spots was Santoy.

Today, a deputy can drive to Santoy, deliver a summons and return to New Lexington in an hour's time without too much difficulty.

But not in Hughes' days as sheriff. Often he would board a train for Corning at 9 a.m., then hire a carriage for the four-mile trip cross-country to Santoy and back.

PASSENGER trains often had made their last run when he got back to Corning, so Sheriff Hughes would ride the caboose of a freight back to the county seat. Often it was midnight or 1 a.m. when Hughes got home.

It's hard to believe today that the quiet hamlet of Santoy was once a booming town. Hughes remembers when the village had a hospital, a theater and five or six saloons.

OFFICIAL census figures show 976 residents in the village in 1920. The population dropped to 128 in 1930. It became unincorporated in 1931, and no official census is now available.

Although Perry County is quieter these days, Hughes is content to limit his law enforcement to the third floor of the Perry County Courthouse, where he has jurors and spectators under control at trials. His sheriff's days are behind him, Hughes as-



EX-SHERIFF ED HUGHES