

**The "Vice-President's" Sheet of the  
Mountains National Bank of  
Tannersville, N. Y.**

By M. OWEN WARNS

Again we are indebted to David Levitt for supplying us with a photograph of his unusual sheet of the Mountains National Bank of Tannersville, N.Y. This hamlet with a population of 650 is located in Green County in the fabled Rip Van Winkle Catskill country.

The sheet shows a 3-\$10 and 1-\$20 plate layout of the Third Charter period, plain blue seals. It is the first complete vice-president's sheet we have seen. It is signed by Sam Golding, with "Vice" having been added with a pen. The bank was originally established on the last day of June, 1917, with a capital of \$50,000, and was the only bank in Tannersville. The president was M. C. Moseman.



**How-To Book for Counterfeiters**

"I Made it Myself". by M. M. Landress  
with Bruce Dobler

A Review by GEORGE W. BRETT

**T**HIS recently published book is a story of recent counterfeiting—currency and postage stamps. It might be termed the story of a quasi-successful counterfeiter, one who was caught but did not serve a sentence because of turning state's evidence and being put on court probation. Primarily it is a story of currency counterfeiting, the 6c Roosevelt counterfeit postage stamps being incidental to the main story and also not produced by the author.

With some four-letter words the story is somewhat more pungently told than is the custom in the hobby of collecting. Realism? Perhaps. Still I found more troublesome the technique of starting the story by placing a late episode at the beginning. Thus the first chapters relate to a "delivery" of sheets of the 6c Roosevelt postage stamp counterfeits in 1969 and the story doesn't finally straighten out into chronological order until about Chapter 5. However, the chapters are short and Chapter 5 begins on page 14.

The setting is primarily New York City of the early 1960's where the author's father had been an engraver and thus provided him the beginning knowledge for what happened later in his own small print shop. Quite a fair amount of detail is given about printing, particularly how the author did certain jobs and especially his counterfeiting. His efforts in the latter field included such things as travelers checks, a birth certificate, two attempts at \$20 bills, one of a \$100 bill, and one of \$10's. All of the currency was produced on a fairly large offset litho press, an ATF Chief 20, everything from the simulated red and blue threads to the numbers. This is not a massive press but would weigh about 1750 pounds and cover a floor area about 45" by 56". The author was arrested in 1964 while running his last effort on the \$10, using a plate with four up.

While one of the alleged reasons for the book is to give the author's ideas on making our money more difficult to counterfeit and not so tempting for even the little fellow with a multilith press—and still at the same time calling our currency "the best d— money in the world"—my own feeling is that with all the detail he has given on how he made his (imitating engraving, for example, by piling ink on ink by multiple-press runs) that the book could well become contrariwise a primer to future would-be counterfeiters. The human is a pervers: creature and who can say how he'll turn.

He mentions James A. Conlon, the present Director of the Bureau of Engraving (as he calls it) and in general has his facts fairly straight throughout, as I know them, but like most counterfeits most of the author's bills were nabbed before being circulated. Still, apparently those that were circulated were so good that they were not recognized. So it is an interesting book, enlightening in many ways, and depressing in others.

Published in 1973 by Grosset and Dunlap, New York City, 276 p., \$6.95.



**Only known complete National Bank Note sheet signed by a bank vice-president.**