

Register of Deeds

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Starting with a personal view of the Register of Deeds office, I knew that this was going to be an educational interview. Mrs. Willoree Jobe, the Yancey County Register of Deeds gave me a detailed look into the daily life of a government office.

In her twenty eight years of working as the ROD, the county experienced a rapid growth. From 1830 to 1984, there were 197 property deed books filled in the office. Since her term in office, the amount of filled books skyrocketed from 197 to 668. In twenty four years, she's filled almost quadruple the amount of information that it took one hundred fifty four years to complete. Mrs. Jobe said that at one point, they were filling one or two books a week.

Serving in one of the most vital offices in the county, she oversees all aspects of someone's life. Whether a person was born, got married, bought land, or passed away, every single person has stepped foot into her office.

When asked what she enjoyed most about her job, she said "I have an opportunity to help anyone who comes through this door. No matter what they come in this office for, I'm able to help them. And if I can't, I make sure that I'm in the position in the state to be able to contact other Registers to get what I need. What I love most is that I can always help someone."

Mrs. Jobe still has the same passion and vigor as she did the day she started. The idiom "It's not a job if you enjoy what you do" definitely applies. She got her start in the Young Democrats, and the party pushed for her to run for two years. The third year she agreed, and she started campaigning. Using radio spots, newspaper ads, and signs were just a few of the tools of which she took advantage. Her real passion showed when she would campaign door to door, or personally call potential voters while she cooked supper.

Adjusting to her job was no overnight process. She took classes, studied the parameters of her job. Sometimes she would lay asleep at night, recalling her day. Knowing that you're responsible for the written history of an entire county is a heavy burden.

Each day, she greets her career with a smile. Truly an unsung hero, Mrs. Jobe's interview was interesting and educational. I am overjoyed to have had the chance to interview her.