

# Raymond S. Balenger



Raymond Sewell Balenger, born and raised on a Berkley County farm, for more than 35 years was a farmer and leader in state, regional, and national agricultural organization that affected the agricultural policies of the state and nation.

A member of the West Virginia Farm Bureau, for thirty years, Mr. Balenger served as President of the Berkley County Farm Bureau and later as President of the West Virginia Farm Bureau. While serving as President of the West Virginia Farm Bureau, he participated on a panel at a national Farm Bureau Meeting to discuss livestock marketing.

Active in agricultural fiscal affairs, Mr. Balenger served on the Romney National Farm Loan Association and the Winchester (Virginia) Production Board. He was elected a member of the Farm Credit District Board by the Farm Loan Association of Baltimore on January 1, 1955. He was elected Vice Chairman of the Baltimore Board on February 9, 1960. He was serving as Chairman at the time of his death in 1965. While on the Board of the Farm Loan Association in Baltimore, he was sent to Puerto Rico to represent peculiar to an area where sugar cane was the main agricultural crop.

Mr. Balenger was elected to the Southern States Cooperative Petroleum Board in 1947 and to the Board of the Southern States Farmers' Cooperative in 1949.

He was elected to the Berkley County Board of Education in 1932 and to the Berkley County Court in 1936. Later he was named President of the Court at age 33, the youngest president in the state. He served on the Berkley County Draft Board for 15 years.

Close friends comment that Mr. Balenger's philosophy about the land was that "the land was owned by the Lord, was used in one's lifetime, he was left in better condition than when taken over." He did just that, friends say. He was a promoter of agriculture and was a successful farmer whose advice and counsel was sought by other farmers and business people.

A strong supporter of 4-H and Future Farmers of America, he assisted with dairy activities and promoted registered animals as projects. He was an honorary member of the Future Farmers of America. He was a life-long member of the Bunker Hill Presbyterian Church, serving as a Deacon.