

## **Pickens County's Probate Court**

*-by Gerald Reid*

The Probate Court of Pickens County is located in the center of the courthouse. If you walk in the front door of the courthouse and keep walking, you will walk straight into the office. This office is a picture of efficiency. It has to be to fulfill all of the responsibilities of the office.

The Probate Judge is Rodney Gibson. He will complete his 25<sup>th</sup> year of service at the end of 2001. He is probably one of the most popular elected officials in Pickens County. Amma Dell Whitsell just completed her 24<sup>th</sup> year in the Probate Court. Scottie Crowe is the "new" member. She has been there for about five years.

The Probate Court no longer has the responsibility for elections. That now comes under the jurisdiction of a board of citizens.

Traffic court is part of the Probate Court. Judge Gibson has observed that third offense DUI's are getting rarer. The campaign against drunk driving is having positive results.

### **Some of the duties of the Probate Court**

**Probate Wills** – There are two types of probate solemn and common. Solemn requires notice to heirs; common does not

**Administration of Estates** – When a resident dies without a will, an administrator will be appointed by the Probate Court

**Marriage License**

**Birth Certificate**

**Death Certificate**

**Misdemeanor Traffic Cases**

**Bench Trials on Not Guilty Pleas**

**Guardianships for Mentally Incapacitated Adults and Temporary Guardianship of Minors**

**Fireworks Permit for Holiday Fireworks**

**Swear in Board Members and Elected Officials**

**Concealed Weapons Permit**