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WHEAT YIELD IS SURPASSING PRE-SEASON FORECAST

Early Reports Indicate Yield from 35 to 40 Bushels Per Acre

Grain is of Good Quality; Dealers Promised Cars to Move Crop

Marketing of a bumper wheat crop, described by farm observers as one of the best in many years, is well under way in the Bluffton district this week.

Pre-harvest estimates of returns of 25 bushels to the acre have proved a low on the basis of the first returns reported after marketing got under way here last week.

First of the 1945 crop of wheat was sold last Thursday to the Farmers Grain Co. by Amos Reichenbach, three miles north of Bluffton, who reported that the yield from his stand ran 35 bushels to the acre.

On Friday, Wade Augsburger, four and one-half miles southwest of town, marketed wheat at the Bluffton Milling Co. which averaged between 35 and 40 bushels to the acre.

Tests on both marketings were 59, with 14% moisture. Dealers pointed out this is excellent quality wheat with low enough moisture content to be stored in bins. Wheat sold here the first of the week continued to show similar test ratings.

Wheat is coming out the market this year two weeks later than in 1944 when the first wheat was sold to local elevators on July 1. Last year's crop, however, was harvested unusually early and this year's wheat was slower than usual in reaching maturity.

Price received for the first wheat sold here this season was \$1.55 per bushel, in comparison with \$1.52 paid last year.

Combines Busy
Major portion of the wheat on Bluffton farms is being combined, although some of the crop is being cut with binders. Harvesting is progressing rapidly, with rain last Saturday delaying cutting of the crop for the first time after it started on a broad scale at the first of the week.

With a resumption of favorable weather permitting cutting without interruption, harvesting is believed to have passed its peak in the area.

So far, there has been no jam at local elevators because of inability to obtain sufficient cars for shipping, a situation that was generally feared a few weeks ago. Bluffton dealers say they have been promised sufficient cars to handle the local crop, and farmers who are combining their wheat are hauling the grain direct to market.

This year's wheat enjoyed unusually favorable growing conditions from the time it was seeded last fall. A heavy blanket of snow protected it during the severest period of the winter, and plenty of moisture and cool growing weather this spring and summer produced a crop that grew fence high, with the heaviest stand of straw in years.

Produce Firm Sells Business Interests

The Gray & White company of Tiffin, dealers in farm produce have disposed of their branch interests in Bluffton to the K & M Produce company in a deal closed the first of the week.

The K & M company is a locally owned partnership consisting of Robert Murray and Charles Kinsinger. They announced that business of the Gray & White company would be handled at their station on North Main street and that truck routes previously operated thru the country for the buying of produce would be continued.

Triplett Company Director Is Dead

Albert A. Frederick, 66, director of the Triplett Electrical Instrument company died at his home in South Bend, Ind., Sunday afternoon. His death followed a six months' illness.

He was a former executive of the Oliver Plow company of South Bend and at the time of his death was partner in a Chicago sales agency.

Funeral services were held Wednesday afternoon at South Bend followed by burial at that place.

Surviving are a son Lee Frederick and daughter Mrs. Dorothy Anderson, both of South Bend. A brother is Dr. H. O. Frederick of Ashtabula, former Bluffton dentist.

Sgt. John Romey One Of Three G. I. Soldiers Governing A German City

Continue Religious Education In Schools

Mrs. S. F. Pannabecker, religious education instructor in the Bluffton schools was re-hired for the coming year at a meeting Sunday afternoon of the Board of Religious Education composed of the various sponsoring local churches.

She will receive a monthly salary of \$80 for the nine months school term. The salary has been underwritten by the participating churches and the Bluffton Ministerial association.

JEFFERSON STREET MAY BE IMPROVED BY HIGHWAY DEPT.

State Proposes Improvements To Part of Street Traversed By Route 103

Municipal Council Approves Suggestion If Without Cost To The Town

Re-surfacing of Jefferson street from North Main street east of the city limits loomed this week as a distinct possibility for inclusion in an extensive summer improvement program on State Route 103, which follows that section of the street into Bluffton.

Negotiations between the State highway department and the municipal council are under way, with the projected improvement providing for application of a new surface of heavy asphalt tar and chips.

Proposed re-surfacing of the street had its inception in a request from the state highway department, asking the municipal council's permission to improve that section of Jefferson street over which State Route 103 passes. A distance of approximately one-fifth mile is involved.

Permission to complete the work was granted Monday night at a meeting of the council, on condition that the town would not be asked to share any portion of the cost.

Council Attaches Rider
Council stipulation that the village would not assume responsibility for any share of the request was attached as a rider in answer to a form request sent by the highway department and returned to them.

Estimates by the state indicate the cost of improvements within municipal limits would approximate \$535, and under ordinary procedure the town's share of the expenditure would be about \$90.

Altho no official action has been forthcoming so far from the highway department with regard to the rider, unofficial belief here is that the department will assume the entire cost because that part of Route 103 within the corporation limits is a comparatively small part of the larger project mapped for Route 103 east of Bluffton.

Pfc. Byron Betz Home On Furlough

Pfc. Byron Betz, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Betz, of south of Bluffton, arrived home Monday morning for a 30-days furlough after being in Europe with United States troops for nearly one year.

In Europe he was a member of the 347th Infantry, First Battalion of the 87th Division, which received a presidential citation for its services.

Following the close of his furlough, Pfc. Betz will report at Camp Atterbury, Ind., from where he will go to Ft. Benning, Ga., for further training before reassignment.

Shortage Of Soap May Revive Lost Pioneer Art Of Making Soap At Home

Soap-making at home—an art half-forgotten since pioneer days—may be practiced again here this summer should the present soap shortage continue.

So far there has been no improvement in the laundry soap famine which first struck Bluffton nearly three weeks ago, and shelves of dealers are bare of any semblance of a supply of soap or soap powder.

Occasional small shipments are received at irregular intervals, but all the available soap or soap powder is quickly snapped up by eager

housewives and the incoming supply in no way comes near measuring up to answer the demand.

Home soap making, on the other hand, would require kitchen fats which housewives have been turning in at the local meat markets to aid in the war effort. Altho use of fats in soap would reduce the total amount provided from Bluffton households, the procedure would permit soap makers to further conserve their fats by reducing their outlets, thereby releasing those fats for the armed forces.

Staff Sergeant John Romey of South Main street is one of three American G. I.'s who have the responsibility of operating the only municipal court functioning in Gross Umstadt, a German city of some 5,000 population about 30 miles south of Frankfurt on the Main.

None of the three speaks the German language which is one of the minor difficulties which besets them in keeping in operation a court for which they must serve as investigator, prosecutor and arresting officer, as well as judge and jury.

A graduate of the law school at Ohio State university, Sgt. Romey has an excellent background for the assignment, but with Nazi and anti-Nazi factions bitterly hating each other and attempting to gain their ends by bringing pressure to bear thru the American occupation court the three American soldiers charged with dispensing justice have their hands full.

Serving on the three-man court Tribunal are Sgt. Romey, Lt. George L. Kiley, of Paris, Ill., and Corp. Bill Rosentreter, of Peoria, Ill.

Some of the difficulties encountered—

Don Smucker Resigns Wadsworth Pastorate

Don Smucker, formerly of Bluffton who has been minister of the First Mennonite church in Wadsworth, has resigned his pastorate at that place and will enter Princeton Theological seminary at Princeton, N. J., for graduate study in the fall.

He and his family are spending several weeks at the home of his mother, Mrs. B. D. Smucker of South Lawn avenue after which he will spend the summer visiting civilian public service camps and churches thruout the western states as a representative of the Mennonite Central committee.

His wife and little son Timothy will spend the summer at the home of her parents in Newton, Kansas.

Two Draft Inductions Postponed By Board

Allen County Draft Board No. 3 announced Tuesday that postponement had been granted to two selectees who were scheduled for induction into military service this month. They are: Harold James Crawfords of Columbus Grove and Miles V. Whittington, Jr., of Lima.

Richard Wenger Is Home From Europe

Sgt. Richard Wenger, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wenger who was with Patton's Army in Germany is home on a thirty day furlough. Sgt. Wenger who was overseas for ten months brought with him a large collection of Nazi trophies, including a flag and pistols which are on exhibit in the window of the Basinger furniture store.

Births

The following births at Bluffton hospital:

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Thiessen, Bluffton, a girl, Elizabeth Renette, Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Orval Clymer, Mt. Cory, a girl, Sunday.

Pfc. and Mrs. Robert Wilson, Arlington, a boy, Philip Charles, Sunday.

PARTY CAUCUSES WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY, JULY 27

Democrats and Republicans Will Meet on Same Night in High School Building

Candidates For Richland Twp. Offices and School Board To Be Named

Political activity marking the final phases of Democratic and Republican preparations for next November's general election will come to a climax Friday night, July 27, when members of both parties will hold caucus meetings to name candidates for the Richland township and Bluffton school board tickets.

The Republican caucus will be held in the high school study room, adjoining the library; and Democrats will meet in Room 211 in the old section of the high school building. Both meetings will start at 8:30 p. M.

Places will be open for six offices (Continued on page 8)

TOWN'S OPERATION TO COST \$129,148 DURING NEXT YEAR

Expenditures Of Bluffton For 1946 Will Be \$8,490 Less Than In 1945

Receipts For Coming Year Estimated At \$143,842; Bonded Debt Is \$20,000.

Bluffton's municipal expenditures during the 1946 calendar year will aggregate \$129,148, approximately \$8,490 less than the amount earmarked to be spent this year, according to the 1946 municipal budget approved last Monday night at a meeting of the town council.

Receipts for the coming year, together with balances that will be on hand next January 1, will give the town a total of \$143,842.53 during the next 12-months period, according to the budgetary forecast.

With expenditures for 1946 estimated at \$129,148, a balance of \$14,694 is expected on hand at the close of 1946, most of which will be reflected in the balance of the municipal light and water works fund, the budget prepared by Town Clerk Wilford O. Geiger shows.

Expenditures of \$137,638 by the town in 1945, based on actual first-half reports and estimates for the balance of the year, will be \$34,427 more than last year, because of increased cost in operating the many municipal services, and including the amount paid out for a new fire truck, and increased expenses at Buckeye lake and park.

This year's expenditures also are greater than those anticipated for 1946, with the 1945 total \$8,490 in excess of what is expected in the coming 12 months.

Bonded debt of the town at the start of the next year will amount to \$20,000. This is reflected in four funds, as follows: Fire apparatus bonds, \$8,000; Main Street Resurfacing bonds, \$5,000; Water Works bonds, \$6,000; and Refunding bonds, \$6,000.

Expenditures for 1946 are estimated as follows, with 1945 figures in parenthesis: General fund, \$17,768 (\$17,258.60); Street Maintenance and Repair, \$3,000 (\$3,000); Gasoline Tax Receipts applied to Street Maintenance, \$2,500 (\$2,500); Bond Retirement, \$5,880 (\$13,880); electric light and water works, \$100,000 (\$100,000).

The approved budget will be submitted to the county budget commission, for their review and approval.

Chemicals Extinguish Blaze In Automobile

Prompt action in operating a chemical fire extinguisher saved a burning automobile parked on North Main street Thursday before much damage was done.

The blaze originated from a short circuit in the car's electrical wiring. In the automobile at the time were Mrs. Donald Stratton, and children of Jefferson street.

A chemical fire extinguisher obtained from the fire department nearby was operated by Jesse Wiess. The car sustained only minor damage.

Sgt. Richard Cookson Wins Bronze Star For Heroic Service Under Fire

For maintaining wire and radio communications between artillery forward observers and their batteries during the hotly-contested crossing of the Danube river below Regensburg, Germany, Sgt. Richard R. Cookson, of Bluffton, has received the Bronze Star medal.

Sgt. Cookson is the husband of Mrs. Betty Cookson and the son of Mrs. Mabel Cookson, both of 327 South Jackson street.

A liaison sergeant with the 869th field artillery battalion, Cookson accompanied the first infantrymen across the Danube on April 26. Carrying parts of a heavy army radio on his back, Sgt. Cookson supervised the installation of telephone wires across the river.

When infantrymen were pinned down by machine guns after cross-

ing, Sgt. Cookson continued to move forward; setting up his radio and calling for fire missions whenever necessary despite complete lack of protection from enemy snipers.

His radio antenna, sparking in the sunlight, drew fire from snipers occupying the high ground beyond our lines. At times, according to the 65th division citation accompanying his award, Cookson operated within 150 yard of the enemy.

The citation continues: "Thruout the operation Sgt. Cookson was subjected to continuous enemy fire. He coordinated and controlled the work of his men during night operations so that even tho they were working at different places none was lost. Sgt. Cookson's leadership and determination reflect great credit upon himself and the military service."

Potatoes From Victory Gardens Help Ease Acute Shortage Here

Amateur Gardeners Who Never Regarded Efforts Seriously Relieve Famine

Yields From Backyard Gardens Are Good; Shortage Is Relieved Here

Early potatoes raised by amateur victory gardeners who have always regarded their crop more or less as a hobby are credited this summer with finally relieving an acute potato famine existing here for the past six weeks.

Scores of back yard plots—each one small—but large in the aggregate are producing enough to break the deadlock in the tight supply situation that found many local families going without potatoes.

Victory gardeners who were foresighted enough last spring to plant several rows of potatoes have been digging tubers for the last week to supply their own tables, with the result that the demand at food stores for commercially grown potatoes has been relieved to a marked degree.

YIELD IS GOOD
Practically all victory garden potato patches are producing excellent yields, and even the rank amateur has had surprising results because the spring and early summer provided unusually good growing weather.

Commercial growers report that the stand in lowlands on some farms were "drowned out" this year by excessive moisture, but this condition was not encountered in the average back yard garden.

In addition to potatoes from victory gardens, a supply from Bluffton area commercial growers is being marketed directly to consumers to help ease the shortage. Altho the crop is not fully matured, town residents are going to the country and buying potatoes in quantities sufficient for day-to-day needs.

Meanwhile food stores are reporting slightly improved commercial supplies, but sales are being limited to five-pound lots. Ceiling prices for that quantity are 29 cents for southern potatoes and 31 cents for those grown in California.

Minister To Speak On World Charter

Rev. Charles Donaldson, pastor of the Bluffton and Rockport Presbyterian churches will speak Sunday morning on the topic "The United Nations and the Christian Citizen."

The sermon will be in support of the United Nations Charter adopted at San Francisco last month. Church services are held at Rockport at 9:30 and at Bluffton at 11 o'clock.

The sermon to be delivered on the possibilities of the charter as a step toward world peace is part of the program of the Presbyterian denomination supporting the document which is now before the United States Senate for ratification.

Lt. James Whooley Gets Army Discharge

First Lt. Jimmie V. Whooley, of Route 1, Bluffton, was released Friday from Camp Atterbury, Ind., on inactive status, under the Army's adjusted service rating plan. He was an officer in the air force.

Real Estate Deals

George Rauenbuhler of Cherry street has purchased the former Close property on North Main street from Miss Marcella Basinger of this place and Mrs. Lila Looker of Wheeler, Ind. The property is occupied by Mrs. Brice Henry.

MOST OF DRAFT DEFERMENTS GO TO FARM YOUTHS

Farm Boys Get Three of Four Deferments Granted by Appeals Board

Local Board Upheld in A-1 Classification of Five Registrants

Allen County Draft Board No. 3, announced Tuesday decisions in 9 cases handed down by the Board of Draft Appeals.

Of the 9 cases classified A-1 by the local board, the appeals board continued 5 in this classification while in the 4 remaining cases deferments were granted.

Some observers saw in action of the board of appeals a more liberal attitude toward farm laborers, since three of the four deferments were granted to selectees engaged in agriculture.

Board's Rulings
Rulings of the board are as follows:

Robert Eugene Shaw, Lima, Classified in Class 1-A by the local board. Registrant appealed. Classified in Class 2-C by the Board of Appeals until Dec. 1, 1945. Registrant is 25 years of age and engaged in agriculture.

Joe Dwight Rose, Harrod. Classified in Class 1-A by the local board. Clair Patterson, chairman of Allen County USDA War Board appealed the case. Classified in Class 2-C by the Board of Appeals until Nov. 1, 1945. Registrant is 25 years of age and engaged in agriculture.

Daniel Allen Long, Ada, classified in Class 1-A by the local board. John L. Long, father, appealed. Classified in Class 2-C by the Board of Appeals until Dec. 1, 1945. Registrant is 18 years of age and engaged in agriculture.

James Otto Lang, 111 Sutter Street, San Francisco, California. Classified in Class 1-A by the local board. J. Edgar Hoover, Director Federal Bureau of Investigation, appealed. Classified in Class 2-A until Sept. 14, 1945 by Board of Appeals No. 21, San Francisco, Calif. Registrant is 26 years of age.

Paul Anthony Rahrig, Delphos, Classified in Class 1-A by the local board. Lima Locomotive Works, employer, appealed. Classification of 1-A upheld by the Board of Appeals by vote of 3-1. Registrant appealed to the President. Presidential decision Class 2-B to Dec. 31, 1945. Registrant is 29 years of age.

Leonard Alva Crumrine, Lafayette, Classified in Class 1-A by local board. Mrs. Everett Crumrine, employer, appealed. Classification of 1-A upheld by the Appeal board.

James Bernard Klausung, Delphos, Classified in Class 1-A by local board. Registrant appealed. Classification of 1-A upheld by the Appeal board.

Elza Basil Hall, Lima, Classified in Class 1-A by local board. Elza Hall, employer, appealed. Classification of 1-A upheld by the Appeal board.

Emmett Penrose Setters, Lima, Classified in Class 1-A by local board. R. H. Setters, employer, appealed. Classification of 1-A upheld by Board of Appeal by vote of 3-1.

Rev. Bigelow With Occupation Troops

First Lt. Ernest N. Bigelow, pastor of the Bluffton and Rockport Presbyterian churches before he went into the service, is chaplain of the 1132nd Engineering Group which has been assigned to the Fifteenth U. S. Army in handling the military government of occupied Germany.

Among the duties assigned to the 1132nd are construction and repair of roads, reconnaissance of German border patrol areas; building of bridges and air fields; maintenance of river gauging stations along the Rhine, and establishment of water supply depots.

Among the tasks completed by the Unit since it joined the Fifteenth Army are revival of operations in 50 sawmills, removal of tactical bridges across the Rhine and construction of permanent bridges; operation of stone quarries; repair and construction of railroad trackage, etc.

Members of the unit are veterans of combat operations with the Ninth U. S. and Second British armies in France and Germany. Its principal duty was to keep roads and bridges open for combat traffic. The group crossed the Rhine with Ninth Army units shortly after the airborne invasion at Wesel.