



THE BLUFFTON NEWS

A NEWSPAPER DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF BLUFFTON AND VICINITY

BLUFFTON, OHIO, THURSDAY, JULY 26, 1945



VOLUME NO. LXX

NUMBER 14

BIG WHEAT CROP JAMS ELEVATORS; LACK BOX CARS

Double-Normal Yield Is Flood-
Marketing Facilities
Here

Crop Surpasses Early Esti-
mates; Top Yield 51
Bushels Acre

Bumper wheat crop of the Bluffton area, which is turning out to be one of the largest in recent years has glutted local elevators and farmers searched, often in vain, for storage space for the grain.

Scores of farmers in this district reported that the flood of grain from the double-normal crops have found facilities totally inadequate to take care of the harvest.

Elevator men declare that there is a huge demand for transportation throughout the wheat belt and a poor supply of box cars suitable for carrying the harvest to terminal storage bins.

As a result of this situation elevators are jammed to the limit with grain are accepting more only as freight cars are supplied to enable them to load wheat from their already overtaxed storage bins.

Altho adequate transportation facilities had been promised elevators here, the number of cars required to move the crop has proved far greater than previously estimated.

Meanwhile favorable weather for harvesting has kept grain flowing from combines and threshing machines in an uninterrupted stream making more headaches for elevator and railroad men while farmers are filling every available bin on their farms, dumping the grain on barn floors and in some cases fitting up temporary storage facilities.

Yields Uniformly Good
Yields are uniformly good, running generally from 35 to 40 bushels per acre. Best yield of the district was reported Tuesday when Fred Mueller residing north of Bluffton on the Dixie highway got a yield of over 51 bushels per acre. Mueller marketed 563 bushels from an 11 acre field adjoining the Kermit Kibele residence.

Despite the large crop the price is holding steady, being quoted at \$1.56 per bushel, Wednesday morning. Test is generally from 57 to 59, slightly under last year which was exceptionally good.

Altho the major portion of the stand is cut, there remains much threshing to be done and threshing rigs will be busy until well into next month.

Head Of New Haven Junior Commerce Body

Roland M. Bixler, formerly of Bluffton, son of Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Bixler of West Kibler street, last week became president of the New Haven, Conn., Junior Chamber of Commerce, an organization of approximately 425 young men between the ages of 21 and 35.

About 125 of the members are in the armed services. The rest carry on a heavy program of civic activities, such as work with boys, bond rallies, get-out-the-vote campaigns, and pop concerts.

Bixler, who is president of J-B-T Instruments, Inc., has attracted wide attention to the Junior Chamber this summer by heading the Jay Cee pop concert committee. A crowd of 8,000 to 9,000 turned out for the first of five outdoor concerts in the Yale Bowl. The programs feature the 80-piece New Haven Symphony Orchestra and various radio and operatic guest artists in well-known musical selections.

National newspaper coverage was given to the unique mosquito control for the concerts. The committee obtained the use of a helicopter and an experimental supply of the new insecticide, DDT, as used so successfully during the war. The plane sprayed the huge stadium and 80 acres surrounding from a height of 25 feet. Not a mosquito showed up for the first concert.

Home From Germany On Month's Furlough

Pfc. Earl Montgomery who spent 21 months overseas in France and Germany is spending a 30 day furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Montgomery of Orange township. Pfc. Montgomery who saw service with Patton's army wears five campaign stars.

Hot Weather May Break Unusual Season Of Heavy Milk Production

Top Quality Oats
Crop In Prospect

One of the best quality oats crops in recent years is in prospect in the Bluffton district, it was learned Wednesday.

Although none of the crop has yet been harvested early testing of samples from stands in this area showed a test of 44, which grain men here said was extremely high. Average test for oats is around 32, they stated.

Acreage of oats in this district is average and a good yield per acre is anticipated.

Believed to be reflecting prospects for a bumper crop, price of the grain slumped on the Bluffton market, being quoted at 62 cents a bushel, Wednesday morning. The price a week ago was 70c.

LAGGING POLITICAL INTEREST SEEN IN CAUCUS PICTURE

No Activity Apparent As Time
Nears For Party Caucuses
This Friday

Situation May Be Same As That
For Municipal Offices Which
Went Begging

Lack of interest in the November election, which resulted in no contests for municipal offices and cancellation of the August primary here, apparently also is prevalent in Richland township.

With Democratic and Republican caucuses slated for this Friday night in the Bluffton High School building, there so far has been no indication of political activity leading to candidacy for Richland township or Bluffton Board of Education offices.

Both caucuses will be held Friday at 8:30 p. m., with Republicans meeting in the high school study room adjoining the library, and Democrats gathering in Room 211 in the old section of the high school building.

Lack of interest in the forthcoming caucuses has led to the belief that township and school board tickets may offer a repetition of the situation which arose with respect to municipal nominations, fall election.

Politics Lacks Appeal

With everyone busy with their usual vocations, local elective offices, none of which carry large salaries, have lost much of the appeal they had in depression days when political interest was greater.

All public offices now carry a salary, altho the board of education, the only one which formerly provided no remuneration, has a salary limit of only \$20 a year per member. At the caucuses this week, Democrats and Republicans are to name candidates for two posts on the township board of trustees; two justices of the peace and two constables. Three places must also be filled on the Bluffton Board of Education in the fall election, with candidates to be named this week.

Three From Here Enlist In Navy

Two Bluffton youths and one from Columbus Grove have enlisted recently at the U. S. Navy recruiting office in Lima, Chief Fletcher P. Meade announced this week. They are Robert E. Gratz, Route 2, Bluffton; Donald F. Root, 156 N. Mound street, and Pleyel D. Fett, Route 2, Columbus Grove.

Lt. Augsburger With Air Group Ferrying Home-bound Veterans

Second Lieut. E. R. Augsburger, son of Elias Augsburger, of 212 S. Jackson street, a 15th Air Force Flying Fortress navigator, is now serving with a home-bound task force carrying Fifth Army combat veterans on the first leg of their homeward air journey from Europe.

Converted bombers are used in transporting passengers from an airfield near Naples to Port Lyautey, French Morocco. There, the passengers board C-54 transport planes for the final phase of their trip to this continent.

The B-17 planes in the home-bound

Over 75 Tons of Milk Being
Received Daily at Page
Plant Here

Heaviest Production for This
Month in Seven Years;
Price Good

Hot weather in its first sustained assault of the summer is expected to bring a break in an unusually long-continued season of heavy milk production, farm observers pointed out this week.

The most-favored season for milk production since 1938, yield from dairy herds has continued at high levels until this week.

Ordinarily the amount of milk received from cows begins to taper off the latter part of June, after reaching a peak early in the same month. This year's unusually heavy milk production is attributed to cool weather and abundant rainfall which kept pastures in good condition and provided plenty of grass for dairy herds.

Reflecting unseasonably heavy production, the Bluffton plant of the Page Dairy Co. is receiving a daily average of some 155,000 pounds of milk, about 30,000 pounds more than the average volume at this time of the year, according to Harry Turner, manager of the plant. The milk, more than 75 tons a day, comes from some 900 farmers in this area.

This summer's sustained milk production is the longest on record in seven years. Unlike 1938, however, the price of raw milk is considerably higher. Present base price is \$2.80 per hundred, plus a government subsidy of 35 cents per hundred and a production bonus allowed by the Page company.

In addition, the volume of milk handled here is materially greater than in 1938, reflecting a continuance in this area's trend toward greater emphasis on dairying, Turner pointed out.

Filling Station Is Looted Second Time

For the second time in less than three weeks thieves broke into the office of the Hi-Speed filling station on North Main street operated by Dick Habegger and looted the cash register of its contents.

The latest theft occurred about daybreak Saturday morning it was stated by police, between the hours of 4:15 a. m., when Habegger arrived at the station with a load of ice and found nothing disturbed and 8 o'clock in the morning when he opened the station for the day business found the cash register rifled.

The loss is reported to consist of about \$20 in cash, a quantity of gasoline ration stamps and flashlight batteries.

Entrance to the station was gained by breaking a panel of the front door, the same as was done in the previous robbery three weeks ago.

Assistant prosecutor Clarence Fischer stated that he believed it to be the work of a juvenile gang who have been perpetrating a series of petty thefts between Lima and Findlay recently.

In the previous robbery perpetrated the night of July 2, the cash register was carried off. It was later found lying at the side of the Dixie highway near Van Buren and returned by the State Highway Patrol to Habegger.

Promoted

William Klass of the Navy who has been in England since June has been promoted to seaman first class, it was announced the first of the week. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Klass living west of Bluffton on the Col. Grove road.

task group make the 1250-mile trip to French Morocco in approximately six and one-half hours.

Planes used to carry passengers are stripped of all combat equipment and fitted with seats to accommodate 20 passengers and a five-man crew.

Lt. Augsburger is a graduate of Bluffton High school, and a former student at Ohio State university.

Flying seven combat sorties before VE Day, Lt. Augsburger has received the Air Medal, and is authorized to wear the distinguished unit badge and the European-African-Middle East theatre ribbon.

NARRATE CAPTURE OF WAKE ISLAND AND LT. KIEWER

Escaped Prisoners Tell of Treatment at Hands of Japanese

Marine Lieutenant Was First
Bluffton Prisoner to be
Captured

Japanese treatment of Lt. David Kiewer, formerly of Bluffton and other Marines captured when Wake Island fell to the enemy in the first days of the war was described last week by two American officers who escaped from the Japs only recently, and who have recounted the first details of the Wake island surrender.

Lt. Kiewer, son of Rev. and Mrs. P. A. Kiewer of Albany, Oregon, former residents here, was credited with sinking a Japanese submarine during the spirited defense of the Pacific outpost.

Details of Japanese treatment of the American captives were told by First Lts. John A. McAlister, and John F. Kinney, who only recently escaped from their captors.

Survive 23 Attacks

Before giving up to the Japs on Dec. 23, 1941, the little garrison on Wake island had survived 23 fierce attacks from overwhelming enemy sea and air forces. Finally they surrendered to prevent further slaughter of unarmed civilians.

Lives of 50 marines and 70 civilians were lost to the Japanese, who admitted that their own casualties totalled about 500.

The escaped lieutenants said the Japanese killed two wounded men in a surrendered hospital, forced their captives to strip and tied them to posts for hours. The Americans were allowed no food and little water for two days.

On Christmas night the captured marines were moved to barracks and thereafter received two meals a day from their own stores.

On Jap. Prison Ship

Except for 300 civilians and a few specialist military personnel left behind as a labor battalion and a few too ill to move, the island's garrison was put aboard a Japanese liner on the afternoon of Jan. 12. No one was allowed to take more than the clothing they wore and all were locked in holds below deck, sleeping on the bare floor.

Arriving Jan. 18 in Yokohama, a few enlisted men and officers were taken off, and the rest went on to Shanghai before debarking. Food in the prison camp consisted of small portions of rice and occasionally some cabbage or carrots, with a tiny piece of meat about every third meal. Red Cross packages helped supplement this meagre diet.

Kiewer is believed to have been among the group removed from the prison ship at Yokohama and is thought to be now in a Japanese prisoner of war camp at Zentshi on the island of Shikoku, one of the Japanese home islands.

New Clerk To Take Over Duties Aug. 1

Paul Augsburger newly appointed clerk of the Board of Public Affairs will assume the duties of his office August 1, it was announced Tuesday.

Augsburger, a veteran of two years in the Pacific war area, succeeds Edgar Hauenstein who resigned as clerk of the board after 25 years of service.

Beginning next Wednesday when the new clerk assumes his duties, the office of the Board of Public Affairs will be moved from the Hauenstein pharmacy temporarily to the Mayor's office. The clerk will be at the mayor's office to receive payment of July electric current and water bills.

The Board of Public Affairs will open its permanent office on Vine street at the rear of the Basinger furniture store as soon as remodeling of the room is completed.

Start Promotion For Buckeye Lake

Sale of sponsoring memberships for promotion of Buckeye lake, Bluffton's municipal swimming spot, will be started this week by the Lions club and the Community Sportsmen's club.

Sponsoring memberships, which carry with them swimming privileges for the summer are being sold at \$2 for adults and \$1 for children. Proceeds from the sale of memberships go toward development of the lake.

Showers Bring Break In Summer's Hottest Spell; Humidity Continues

Showers early Wednesday brought a moderation of temperature after the thermometer reached the highest point of the summer, 96 degrees Tuesday afternoon at 4 o'clock.

The moderation in temperature, however, was more theoretical than real, as there was an increase in humidity which added to discomfort of the hot weather and offset any measure of relief brought by the rain.

Relief, however, is promised with a weather forecast of scattered thunder showers and cooler Wednesday night and Thursday.

Bumper Yields From Gardens Spur Record Vegetable Canning In Area

Vegetable Canning Undertaken
To Offset Limited Home Can-
ning of Fruit

Custom Canning Popular With
The Housewives To Supple-
ment Home Canning

Spurred by unusually productive gardens favored by good growing weather and plenty of moisture, an all-time record for summer canning of vegetables will be established in the kitchens of Bluffton area housewives during July and August.

Early indications are to the effect that housewives are capitalizing on the bumper yields from gardens to offset limited canning of fruit occasioned by the sugar shortage, and as a hedge against possible shortages of commercially canned goods next winter.

CUSTOM CANNING
Supplementing home canning, many housewives are turning to custom canning as a means of increasing their supply of canned foodstuffs, conserving ration points and relieving themselves of the tedious task of working over a hot kitchen stove during the warm days of summer.

Operators of the Amstutz cannery, north of Bluffton, said that the volume of custom canning handled by them so far this year is much larger than in any other season.

Housewives prepare the fruit and vegetables for canning and take them to the cannery where they are placed in tin cans, without ration points being required. Principal items now being canned are peaches and string beans. Last month the emphasis was on peas.

CAN SWEET CORN, TOMATOES
Height of the canning season at the cannery and also in the kitchens of housewives is expected when the sweet corn and tomato crops ripen.

The tomato crop is late, because of a late start, but prospects are unusually good and the crop should be good. Tomatoes require no sugar, only a little salt, and a record number of cans probably will be in Bluffton area fruit cellars by fall.

Sufficient labor to handle canning has been available at the cannery this year. Twelve persons are working there now, and the force likely will be doubled when the peak of the season arrives next month.

Post Office Job To Returned Veteran

Edwin Rice, World War II veteran, discharged last month, has been appointed substitute city mail carrier it was announced Tuesday by Postmaster Ed Reichenbach. Final confirmation of Rice's appointment is expected from Washington within the next few days, the postmaster said.

Rice, veteran of campaigns in Africa, Sicily and Italy was returned to this country last March after nearly three years' overseas service. He and his wife, the former Ethelyn Oyer are residing for the present with her mother Mrs. Adella Oyer in the Hauenstein apartments on North Main street.

Births

The following births at Bluffton hospital:

Dr. and Mrs. B. W. Travis, Bluffton, a girl, Marcia Waring, Friday.
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Smith, Arlington, a girl, Elaine Dee, Saturday.
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Amstutz, Bluffton, a girl, Marjorie Eileen, Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Johnson, Jr., of Malenta, a girl, Martha Jane, June 30 at Heller Memorial hospital, Napoleon. Mrs. Johnson is the former Lenore Amstutz of this place. Mr. Johnson is the eldest son of M. B. Johnson of South Main street.

Compile Record Of County Service Men

The Allen County Historical society is compiling a record of service men who have been killed or missing in action, wounded or prisoner of war.

In order to make this record as complete as possible, blanks have been left at the public library here and members of families of such service men are asked to call and fill them out. The librarian, Miss Ocie Anderson will then forward the blanks to the historical society.

FIVE DISTRICT MEN DISCHARGED FROM ARMED SERVICES

Draft Board No. 3 Reports
Honorable Discharges For 31
In First Half of July

Number Discharged From Arm-
ed Forces Greater Than July
Induction Call

Five Bluffton area men were honorably discharged from the armed forces from July 1 to July 15, according to a report released this week by Draft Board No. 3, which has jurisdiction of rural Allen county including Bluffton and Richland township.

The men from this district were among 31 released during that period who presented their discharge papers to the draft board, as required by selective service procedure.

Those from here receiving discharges in the two weeks period include Ralph E. Augsburger and Kenneth L. Gable of Bluffton; Marion E. Downey, Beaverdam; Dwight Yarger, Beaverdam; and Harold E. Andrews, Route 2, Bluffton.

Discharges for the first half of the month, according to the report, are considerably greater than the number of men drafted in July by Draft Board No. 3.

Only 17 men were taken into the armed forces in the July call, one of the smallest in recent months, in comparison with 31 discharges for only the first half of the month, it was pointed out.

Gospel Quartet Will Appear Here

A women's quartet from Grace Bible Institute, Omaha, Neb., will appear in two programs here, it was announced the first of the week.

First appearance will be a concert at the Defenseless Mennonite church on Thursday night at 8 o'clock.

The quartet will also appear at the Ebenezer Mennonite church Sunday night at 7:30 o'clock in conjunction with an address by Dr. C. H. Suckau.

Former Bluffton Man Now In Guam

Lt. Neil Baumgartner, formerly of Bluffton was recently dispatched by plane to Guam where he is instructor in a radar training school, it was announced this week. Lt. Baumgartner is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lysle Baumgartner of Mishawaka, Ind., former Bluffton residents.

Longsdorf Is Named Library Board Head

A. J. B. Longsdorf, member of the public library board was named president for the coming year at a reorganization of the board, Monday night. He succeeds Edgar Hauenstein who resigned the presidency but will continue as a member of that body.

Other officials elected for the coming year are Mrs. Ralph Stearns vice president and Leland Diller secretary.

Pvt. Clarence Jones Gets Infantry Badge

Pvt. Clarence Jones, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Jones, of Route 1, Bluffton, has received the expert infantryman badge after a rigorous course in the infantry replacement training center at Camp Blanding, Florida.

Before entering the service in March, 1945, he was employed by the Page Dairy Co. in Bluffton. He is a graduate of Mt. Cory High school.

PUSH PLANS FOR SUMMER STREET REPAIR PROGRAM

With Tar And Asphalt Avail-
able Street Improvement
Plans Are Made

Resurfacing of Harmon Road
And North Spring Street
Will Be First Projects

With heavy road tar and asphalt now available for street construction and repair, Bluffton's street improvement program for the summer was being mapped this week by municipal authorities.

Extent of local street improvements during the next two months will depend principally on how far available funds will reach in covering the costs of projects under consideration, Mayor W. A. Howe reported.

First on the improvement schedule will be resurfacing of Harmon road from Poplar street to the Bentley road, and of North Spring street between Elm and Riley streets. Street patching of considerable extent also is mapped on College avenue and Elm street.

Estimates of the cost of the projects under consideration will be submitted by the Churchill Construction co., of Lima, which last summer resurfaced Main street and a portion of Cherry street.

Data on the extent of the work required has been prepared by Mayor Howe and Street Commissioner Lee Coon, and submitted to the Lima contractors for their bid. Estimates of the cost are expected to be ready for submission to the municipal council at its next meeting.

Should funds be available, additional improvements to other streets also will be considered as a part of the summer program, it was pointed out.

With road tar and asphalt available for the street work, fears which arose early this summer that materials might not be available for improvements because of new government restrictions appear to have been groundless.

The only material which cannot now be obtained is light road oil, used as a primer coat in the initial preparation of unpaved roads for hard surfacing. Only the tar and asphalt are required where streets already have a hard surface to provide a suitable base.

Mother Of Bluffton Dentist Succumbs

Mrs. Jacob W. Basinger, 93, mother of Dr. Evan Basinger, Bluffton dentist, died at her home in Columbus Grove, Tuesday night at 11:30 o'clock. Death resulted from infirmities of age and followed a nine days' illness.

Funeral services will be held Friday from her late home in Columbus Grove at 2:30 o'clock, fast time, and at 3 o'clock at the Reformed Mennonite church northwest of Bluffton of which she was a member for 75 years.

Rev. William Rupp of Archbold will officiate at the services and interment will be in the church cemetery.

Mrs. Basinger, the former Mary Neuschwander, was born in Richland township March 10, 1852. She was a granddaughter of Michael Neuschwander II, first settler in what is now the Swiss Settlement northwest of Bluffton. The family resided on what is now the Harley Marquart farm.

She was married February 21, 1892 to Jacob W. Basinger who died September 5, 1924.

Besides her son of this place, she is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Floyd Myers of Fayette, Ohio.

Also surviving are the following stepchildren: Rufus Basinger of Pandora, Dr. Francis of Bluffton and Clarence of Columbus Grove; a sister, Mrs. Sarah Basinger of Pandora; seven grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren; 18 step grandchildren and 14 step great grandchildren.

The body was taken to the Stanley E. Basinger funeral home in Bluffton and will be returned to her home in Columbus Grove this Wednesday evening.

Real Estate Deal

Residence of the late Jack Filhart at North Jackson and Washington streets was purchased Saturday by Clarence W. Grismore of Pandora for \$2,500. The property was sold in settlement of the estate of Filhart who was killed in an accident here last fall.