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BLUFFTON
A Good Place to Live

THE BLUFFTON NEWS

A NEWSPAPER DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF BLUFFTON AND VICINITY

BLUFFTON
A Good Place to Trade

VOLUME LXXII

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NUMBER 35

TWO FIRES BREAK OUT TUESDAY IN BUSINESS BLOCK

\$5,000 Damage Sustained by Mrs. Edith Mann Building on North Main Street

Occupants of Second Floor Apartments Routed from Bed by Morning Blaze

Two fires of undetermined origin in the Mrs. Edith Mann building in the North Main street business section Tuesday morning kept the Bluffton fire department busy from long before daylight until noon.

Three occupants of second floor apartments were routed out in their night clothes by the first outbreak which resulted in damage to the building and contents estimated at more than \$5,000.

The fire was reported at 5 a. m. by Harry Beals, semi-invalid, who was awakened by smoke and found furnishings of his room ablaze. Beals who occupied the rear apartment of the building aroused Carl Long and the latter's elderly aunt, Mrs. Rosa Bowsher and then called to Merle Duffman, a passing pedestrian, who gave the alarm.

Call For Aid
Fears that the fire would imperil the North Main street business section and the stubborn character of the blaze resulted in Mayor W. A.

In connection with Tuesday morning's fire, Chief Guy Corson issued a stern warning to motorists not to drive over hose lines laid across the street during a fire. Such practice seriously hampers efforts of the firemen and motorists are subject to severe penalties, he added.

Howe authorizing calling for aid from the Lima fire department a half-hour after the Bluffton fire had arrived on the scene.

A pumper and crew dispatched from Lima to Bluffton, however, failed to arrive when it skidded off the snow-covered Dixie highway near Swiss Inn three miles south of town in attempting to avoid a collision with a gasoline truck which jackknifed in front of it.

Walter Hydaker, Lima fire chief continued in his automobile to Bluffton where he found the fire under control and returned his pumper to Lima after it had been pulled from the ditch. A fender and fire extinguisher were damaged on the Lima truck.

Fire Damage Restricted
Actual fire damage was confined to the second floor apartments occupied by Long and Beals but water considerably damaged counter stock in the A to Z meat market operated by C. F. Brunn, Gerald Rone and Ralph Neely all of Lima. The market was closed Tuesday to retail trade. Frozen food lockers which are operated in connection with the business were not damaged and were accessible to patrons.

Not in the apartment at the time of the fire was Beals' sister, Miss Etta Beals, bedridden, and a patient in Bluffton hospital. She previously occupied the apartment with her brother.

Sidney's Drug shop, and Vel's Beauty Box, business places adjoining the A to Z Market sustained only slight damage from smoke as did apartments above them.

One of the apartments above the Sidney Drug shop is occupied by Mrs. Edith Mann, owner of the block who was called to Atlanta, Ga., last week because of the illness of her son Maynard Mann. Mrs. Mann, notified of the blaze by telephone Tuesday is expected here shortly to supervise renovating of the building. The loss is reported as covered by insurance.

Second Fire
Firemen extinguished the blaze and left the scene at 8:30 a. m. only to be called back two hours later when Tony Preen, an A to Z employee discovered a blaze under the roof in a back room used by the market for storage.

It was quickly extinguished with negligible damage. Fire Chief Guy Corson said after investigation that it could not have been caused by the fire in the building earlier in the day. Chief Corson said there was a fire in the same place about four years ago originating from a nearby trash fire. There is no electrical wiring in the room.

"You can fool some of the people all of the time and all of the people some of the time, but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time."

Mayor W. A. Howe's 12 Consecutive Years In Public Service Unique Record

Get Busy With That Snow Shovel If You Want Mail Delivered

BETTER get on the business end of that snow shovel if you want mail delivered to your home. That was the warning issued Tuesday morning by Postmaster Ed Reichenbach when it developed that a number of residents had failed to clean off their sidewalks after Monday night's snowfall.

Postal regulations require that patrons keep their sidewalks free of snow if they are to have mail delivery, the postmaster said and the order will be enforced, he added.

EVERYONE WANTS SMALL TURKEYS; THAT UPS PRICE

Small to Medium Birds 10 Cents Pound Over Thanksgiving Cost

Little Change in Prices of Big Toms, Chickens, Ducks or Geese

If you intend to have chicken, duck or goose for Christmas dinner your cost will be about the same as at Thanksgiving, but should you have your mind set on turkey you'll find that prices have risen sharply in the last month.

While prices for other poultry have remained virtually unchanged, the cost of choice turkeys has jumped about 10 cents a pound over the Thanksgiving level.

If you are like most everyone else, you'll want a small hen turkey—eight or 12 pounds dressed—and will find them scarce and consequently high in price. In contrast to Thanksgiving prices of 40 to 50 cents a pound alive, they now bring 60 to 65 cents retail, with little sign of the market weakening.

Turkey raisers, faced with high feed costs, marketed most of their turkeys for the Thanksgiving trade, and the smaller birds as a rule were the first to go, a factor which also contributes to the shortage of preferred types for the Yuletide dinner.

Larger Costs Less
If you can use a big tom turkey, 20 pounds and up in weight, you'll probably be able to get one at considerably less per pound, because there is little demand for fowls of that size. Some smart housewives, however, reportedly are outsmarting the market by buying one big turkey and then splitting it between two or three families.

Average turkeys dress away about one-third when ready for the oven, and an eight to 10-pound dressed bird is sufficient for the average family dinner of six to eight persons.

Since there are few of the old-time big Christmas dinners when all the family from near and far get together, there is little demand in these days for the big turkeys that were so popular years ago.

Chicken prices are approximately the same as last Christmas, with top grades, heavy springers, quoted at 41 cents a pound retail live weight.

Funeral Rites Held For Alfred Sanner

Funeral services were held last Sunday afternoon in the Basinger funeral home for Alfred Sanner, long a resident of Bluffton, who died last Thursday afternoon in a Toledo hospital. He had been seriously ill one week.

A native of Switzerland, Sanner is survived by his wife, Laduska; a brother, Harman Sanner, of Lima and several nieces and nephews.

Rev. E. N. Bigelow, pastor of the First Presbyterian church, officiated at the last rites. Burial was in Maple Grove cemetery.

Births

The following births at Bluffton hospital:

Mr. and Mrs. Evan Sommer, Bluffton, a girl, Shirlene Joyce, Saturday.
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Schumacher, Bluffton, a girl, Gloria Ann, Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Eddington, Rawson, twin boys, Keith Louis and Kenneth Harold, Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Lehr Reese, Rawson, a boy, David Lee, Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Herrman, Mt. Cory, a boy, Wednesday morning.

Retiring Mayor Has Not Missed Council Meeting Since First Elected

Mayor And Councilman For 12 Years Serves Longer Than Anyone In History

An unparalleled record of public service to Bluffton municipality entered its final act Monday night when Mayor W. A. Howe presided for the last time at a meeting of the town council, and made ready to turn over the reins of government to new hands on January 1.

For 12 consecutive years, Mayor Howe has attended every council meeting, first as a member of that body, later as council president, and for the last nine years and two months as mayor.

His consecutive record of municipal service over more than a decade is longer than that of any other elective official in the history of the town. It is made all the more remarkable by his unbroken record of attendance at council meetings, held at least twice every month over the 12-year period.

Elected In 1935
Elected to council in the fall of 1935, Mayor Howe served his first term beginning in January, 1936. Re-elected to his second term in (Continued on page 5)

October Admissions Tax Collection \$125

Collections during October, the first month of Bluffton's new admission tax levy, amounted to \$125.52, it was reported this week by Town Treasurer Sidney C. Stettler.

The town's three per cent admissions tax, patterned after a state levy discontinued in September, applies to theatres, athletic contests, home talent productions or any other entertainments or recreation.

A license fee of \$1 per year also is required.

Post Office Hours

Bluffton postoffice will be open daily, except Sunday, from 7 a. m. to 6 p. m. until Christmas, it was stated by Postmaster Ed Reichenbach Tuesday.

Scout Honor Court Here On Wednesday

Allen county court of honor, a Boy Scout honorary meeting generally held in Lima, will be conducted at 8 p. m. this Wednesday in Ramseyer chapel on the Bluffton college campus.

Awards will be presented at the session to Scouts from all parts of the county. Included will be three Eagle awards; second and first class awards; merit badge awards and tenderfoot investiture.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Miss Marie Imbach who resides at the Noah Hochstetler home on Spring street received a long distance call Tuesday from her brother in California with best wishes on the occasion of her birthday anniversary.

"IS THERE A SANTA CLAUS?"

The world-famous editorial by Francis P. Church, long a newspaper classic, which first appeared in the New York Sun fifty years ago—in 1897—was written in reply to a letter from a perplexed little girl. The little girl is now Mrs. Edward Douglas, 58-year-old widow.

New York, N. Y.
Sept. 21, 1897

"Dear Editor—I am 8 years old. 'Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. 'Papa says 'If you see it in The Sun it's so.' 'Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?'"

"Virginia O'Hanlon, 115 West Ninety-fifth street."

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the

COLORFUL AND GAY YULETIDE SEASON USHERED IN HERE

Old-Fashioned Christmas With Gay Lights Will Be Observed This Year

Holiday Shopping At Its Peak As Christmas Setting Takes Definite Form

Against a setting of traditional color and gaiety, Bluffton's plans for the Yuletide were taking tangible form this week as all community events geared themselves to the observance next week of America's best-loved holiday season.

A heavy snowfall Monday night which continued intermittently Tuesday and Wednesday brought a traditional white Christmas setting for the holiday season.

Highway crews were kept busy with snowplows clearing north and south roads which were drifting shut in spots as a high wind whipped clouds of snow and ice covered pavements added to traffic hazards.

In the downtown district a giant Christmas tree, brilliantly ornamented and illuminated, stands in a central location at the corner of the Presbyterian church yard; show windows are bright with Yuletide cheer, and holiday lights, trees and decorations brighten every section of the town's residential area.

Heavily burdened postal workers already are struggling to keep abreast of the heavy floods of Christmas mail, with the greatest volume not expected until the end of this week, and the first two days of next.

Windows at the post office usually closed on Saturday afternoon will be open this week on Saturday until 6 P. M.

Shopping At Peak
Shopping in local business establishments is at its peak this week, with some easing in trading expected after next Saturday, although stores will be open next Monday and Tuesday evenings to accommodate belated buyers.

Christmas Eve business places will close at 6 P. M.

Much of the credit for Bluffton's Christmas setting goes to the Bluffton Business Men's association, which (Continued on page 4)

Child Is Unhurt In Fall From Moving Car

James Drew Bayliss, 4-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Z. E. Bayliss of Toledo escaped with minor cuts and bruises when he fell out of a car in which he and his parents were riding in Bluffton, Saturday night. The accident took place on the Main street pavement near the Bentley road junction.

The child was taken to the hospital where he received first aid treatment and was discharged after an examination failed to disclose any further injuries.

Real Estate Deal

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Balmer are occupying the former Ingalls property on North Main street which they recently purchased. They previously occupied the former Bertha Balmer property on South Main street.

Snow, Ice, Drifted Roads And Cold Wave Bring Winter To Bluffton

Heavy snowfall, drifted roads, ice, and biting cold, the aftermath of a Monday evening snowfall that froze on trees, shrubs and buildings in fairland fashion, gave Bluffton its first real taste of winter this week.

With the snowfall came a decided drop in temperatures that provided below-freezing weather all day Tuesday, and found the mercury dropping to 15 degrees, a new low mark for the season, Wednesday morning.

Rain and sleet on Monday's weather agenda changed to snowfall early in the evening, and by Tuesday morning the town was covered with a four-inch blanket of snow.

Ice-packed streets and highways made traveling by automobile extremely hazardous, and a strong wind by early afternoon Tuesday drifted snow and kept highway snowplows busy keeping north and south roads open.

Weather forecasts predict a continuation of cold weather, with little indication of relief in the immediate future.

Dr. M. R. Bixel, long one of the community's leading patrons of music, will hear last Sunday's rendition of "The Messiah" by the Bluffton College Choral Society, despite the fact that he is critically ill in the Community hospital here.

A wire recorder owned by The Triplett Electrical Instrument Co. was used Sunday afternoon to make a recording of the entire two and one-half hour program, and it will be played for Dr. Bixel in his room at the hospital.

The recorder used is one of the latest type, which records on a fine wire. It was operated by Norman Edinger, of the Triplett organization.

Dr. Bixel, long a follower of local musical activities, was prevented from hearing "The Messiah" this year by a serious heart condition.

Style In Santa Claus Changes For The Better In Nation's Stores

Santa No Longer Is The Ill-Kempt, Scraggly Individual of Yesterday

Today's Impersonators Must Measure Up To Rigid Requirements

Style in Santa Claus has changed over the years in commercial establishments who have Saint Nicholas in their stores at the Yuletide, and the jolly, rotund, well-coached individuals who greet the kiddies these days represent a far cry from the straggly characters who formerly played the part.

To prevent eager young minds from unfavorably comparing imaginary Santas with the real life impersonators they meet in stores, requirements for those who take the part have become more strict over the years.

Today's Santa must meet rigid physical measurements. Height ranges must be from five feet, nine inches, to six feet; and weight can be no less than 180 pounds. His girth, with padding at the right places, must measure 48 inches by the tape in most cases.

After physical requirements, Santa is considered on the basis of having a jolly, deep-seated laugh.

Other individual problems department store Santas face includes giving individual attention to each child. Most good Santas can handle four children a minute, and they must be careful not to devote more attention to some kiddies, else bring on the wrath of mothers of others.

Parents also are likely to complain if store Santas are too quick to promise a shiny new \$50 bicycle to a youngster whose folks already have decided on a less costly gift. A Santa also must know which toys appeal to which age groups.

Santa's costume also has come in for careful study. Stringy, dirty whiskers and wear-wrinkled, poorly

fitted suits are out, if the illusion of Good Saint Nick is to be preserved.

New NKP Signal System Operating

Central traffic control of trains operating through Bluffton over the Nickel Plate railroad was started Monday, as the concluding phase of an improvement program launched in September, 1946.

Cutting in the new control system of a 40-mile stretch of the railroad between Lima and Arcadia was started last week, but Bluffton was not included on the automatic control basis until last Monday. The system between Arcadia and Lima is expected to completely be in operation by the end of this week.

In the new system signalling is almost entirely automatic and is said to represent the highest possible degree of safety.

Bonus To Employees Of Glove Factory

Employees of the Boss Manufacturing company will receive a Christmas bonus of five per cent of their earnings, it was announced Tuesday by Charles Lloyd, manager of the plant here.

Lloyd said that all who were in employ of the company November 30 will be paid an additional compensation amounting to five per cent of their total wages within the period December 1, 1946 to November 30, 1947, exclusive of the five per cent paid December 27, 1946.

This payment will be included in the amount of the pay check to be paid December 19.

Whether similar action can be taken next year depends entirely upon production and business conditions, Lloyd said.

BLUFFTON MARKETS

Grain (bushel prices) — Wheat \$2.95; corn \$2.45; oats \$1.15; soybeans \$3.80.
Poultry—Heavy hens 24c; leghorn hens 19c; heavy springers 33c; leghorn springers 20c; stags 13c.
Eggs—Large white 56c; large brown 54c; medium white 49c; medium brown 47c; pullets 40c.
Butterfat—87c.

HIGHWAY PATROL IS CHECKING MAIN STREET SPEEDING

Patrol of Street Is Being Made On Intermittent Basis Here

Jackson Street In Front Of Grade School Will Be Blocked This Week

State highway patrolmen have started an intermittent check of speeding on Bluffton's Main street, in opening a campaign against unsafe traffic conditions here, Mayor W. A. Howe announced at Monday's meeting of the municipal council.

Acting on a request from a citizens' group, Mayor Howe on Nov. 18 asked highway patrol cooperation in helping to control the operation of cars over the Dixie highway in Bluffton.

Also there is an insufficient number of patrolmen to assign a car permanently, intermittent checking of cars traveling over Main street is being made, and four arrests already have been reported.

Highway patrol officials also have recommended the erection of signs at the city limits cautioning motorists to watch their speed, the mayor said.

A letter to the Greyhound bus company, protesting the speed of buses thru the town, also produced results, with a survey being made here by the district traffic superintendent of the lines.

Mayor Howe also told councilmen that signs have been completed to be used in closing Jackson street in front of the grade school building over the noon hour, and that program will be put into effect this week. Closing of the street for the protection of grade school pupils also had been requested by a citizens group.

100 Acre Augsburg Farm Brings \$23,180

Farm of 100 acres, belonging to the late Eli Augsburg southwest of Bluffton brought \$23,180 when put up at auction at an administrator's sale Friday afternoon.

The land was bought by Kenneth Chidester in two tracts. One of 80 acres with buildings was bid in at \$230 an acre and the other without buildings brought \$239 an acre. Bidding was lively among several prospective purchasers. It was appraised at \$14,500.

Chidester will occupy the place before March 1, moving from the former Santas farm on the Dixie highway. Alvin Augsburg, now living on the place will move to Pandora where he has bought a property.

Santa Will Return Here This Saturday

Santa Claus will pay a return visit to Bluffton next Saturday afternoon to talk to kiddies who failed to get an audience with him in last week's rush of enthusiasm.

The jolly patron saint of the Christmas season will be in the downtown district again from 2 to 3 p. m., and will distribute favors to the kiddies who greet him.

A hut will be erected for Santa this week by the Bluffton Business Men's association, sponsor of the event.

Sportsmen's Club Names New Officers

Kenneth Dearth was elected president of the Bluffton Community Sportsmen's Club Wednesday night with Gerald Clever elected vice president.

Other officers were Morris Fett, secretary; Robert Benroth, treasurer, and directors Roy Rogers, Si Diller, Gene Benroth, A. E. Kohli, Ray Mumma and Wilbur Fish.

Woman In Hospital After Auto Skids

Mrs. Marie Somody, 47, of Akron, is in Bluffton hospital with chest and leg injuries sustained in an accident Tuesday afternoon when the car in which she was riding with her son John skidded into a concrete abutment on Route 30 four miles east of Beavertown. She was removed to the hospital in the Diller ambulance.

Her condition was reported satisfactory Wednesday morning and she is expected to leave the hospital later this week.