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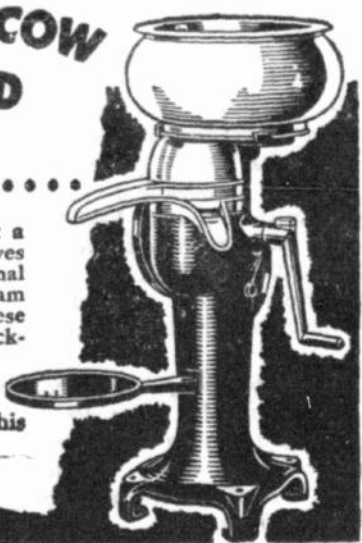
Bluffton, Ohio

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Mainly Personal

July bowing off the stage—month marking mid-summer and Bluffton's airport dedication and rodeo—and Bluffton's top vacation month—and now they're talking that next summer may see the boys hopping off by plane for weekend fishing jaunts in northern Canada . . . and if you're keeping a score sheet on the weather mark up the regular Monday shower—however, it came in the afternoon and didn't interfere with the night ball games under the Harmon field lights—and speaking of showers, the heavy downpour last Thursday night washed up plans for the Presbyterian Sunday school picnic—Clair Fett local long range weather forecaster told them two weeks before that they picked the wrong day . . . and speaking of rain, wet weather has hobbled wheat harvest—and now some of the boys are talking of cutting oats first and wheat later since oats shatter more readily . . . Cloyce Bame hospitalized last winter with an heart ailment on the streets looking quite hale and hearty . . . and here it is the end of July with mighty few mosquitoes—none of the swarms that have made life miserable not too many summers ago—thanks to ex-mayor W. A. Howe who has combined knowledge of habits and habitat of mosquitoes with a lot of hard backbreaking work in spraying the creeks . . . mosquito control—there's something for a young fellow who wants to pioneer in a little-explored field of public health—and we'll venture that his services would be much in demand.

We like the idea of holding school reunions—there's the Black, Owens, Rayl which we happen to recall, al-



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though there are others including the Stager which has been dropped in recent years. After all there is something of camaraderie between teachers and pupils of the old-time district schools which was lost when centralization came into vogue and education was put on a mass production basis. Perhaps it's more efficient this way—and maybe we couldn't have kept on in this pioneer setup but we can't help but believe that in the changeover there were lost some very worthwhile values even though they can't be measured in terms of graph sheets or mathematical equations. The aura of romance that clings to the little red schoolhouse of a past era is a heritage of the older generations—like the faint scent of delicate perfume—difficult to describe but nonetheless real for all that.

It was a pickle—but it looked for all the world like a turtle—that curiosity exhibited in the Bluffton News window over the weekend by June Gallant, enterprising granddaughter of the J. R. Fishers who found the pickle in her grandfather's garden in Orange township. Just to make the likeness more real, June supplied toothpicks for legs and the display attracted considerably more than a casual glance from the passersby.

Congratulations to Postmaster Ed Reichenbach who is observing a birthday this Wednesday—and receiving well wishes from a host of friends who wish him many more happy birthdays.

And Wednesday marks the 40th wedding anniversary of the Cleon Triplets on S. Main street—and it's the 59th wedding anniversary of the M. M. Murrys. The Murrys are Bluffton's oldest living couple, married July 28, 1889. Mr. Murray is 80 and his wife 79. Every year they have enjoyed an anniversary dinner together, altho for the past two years it's been in the Bluffton hospital where Mrs. Murray has been a patient since the fall of 1946.

According to press reports weddings in St. Louis will be quiet hereafter. The city's police department is preparing pamphlets wishing newlyweds "many years of happiness," but reminding them that "nerve-racking" parades through the streets with auto horns honking and cowbells ringing are against the law.

All of which reminds us that one Bluffton resident just the other day complained about the same thing following a parade through Main street here about midnight. He pointed out that Bluffton has a city ordinance against "unnecessary noises" and unless these celebrations are stopped he will insist on enforcement of the statute.

Beaverdam had a bad case of jitters—as did most other northern Ohio towns last Thursday when it was known that two dangerous killers, West and Daniels, reformatory parolees were on the loose. In such an atmosphere it didn't take much imagination to conjure up a lot of things when a truck quietly drove into the yards of the Nelson Tile Co., on the outskirts of the town about 11 o'clock at night. A hurried call to the sheriff's office brought a carload of deputies with guns ready for action. However, a search of the premises disclosed no truck—but next morning evidence pointed to the fact that the truck, object of the search had merely brought a load of trash to the nearby village dumping ground and quietly went on its way.

Mrs. Harry Shrider, Jr., British born war bride who has been visiting this summer at her former home in Grimsby, England, is due to sail this week on the return to her home in Bluffton. Things are still austere in post-war England she writes. Meat is still very scarce and rationed and bread, altho not rationed is still available usually a loaf at a time. Vegetables, however, are plentiful. Heavy rains have damaged farm crops this year. Last year crops suffered from drought, she writes. The Shriders live on Harmon road. Mr. Shrider is employed at the C. F. Niswander implement store.

Back 100 years ago in the days

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of the 49'ers the trek to a new homestead in Oregon was a long, hard journey in a covered wagon. Nowadays, it's just a matter of overnight travel as Mrs. Robert Potts, former Bluffton resident will tell you. Mrs. Potts and two daughters Rene and Faviann made the trip by plane last Friday night, leaving Bluffton airport at 7 p. m. and arriving at their destination, Salem, Oregon, Saturday morning at 9 o'clock, according to word received by friends here Tuesday. From Bluffton they flew to Toledo and then to Chicago where they boarded a transcontinental plane carrying 53 passengers. Their breakfast Saturday morning was enjoyed at an altitude of 20,000 feet over Boise, Idaho.

The Potts family, former Spring street residents, have moved to Oregon where Mr. Potts who left earlier in the summer has purchased a 17-acre fruit-growing tract which he will cultivate besides being employed as a carpenter in the building trades. Their address is Rt. 4, Box 139, South Salem, Oregon.

A handsome silver-wrought cigarette case arrived in the mails last Friday addressed to Rev. E. N. Bigelow, Presbyterian pastor, from a family in Germany with whom he became acquainted during his service as an Army chaplain and whom he has since befriended.

The cigarette case an heirloom, came from the family of Mrs. Manuela Oertel of Zimmern, Rhineland. Inscription in German inside the lid indicated that it was presented to her father, Prof. Franz Bucheler, a teacher, by his pupils in the year 1886.

A small silver plate inside the case with inscription in English said it was presented to the Bluffton pastor in grateful appreciation of his aid to them in time of distress.

The memento, apparently of Russian origin, is an unusual example of craftsmanship. Inside the lid appears the imperial coat of arms of old Russia, the date 1866 presumably when it was made and some Russian characters, apparently the name of the manufacturer. Outside lid bears exquisitely wrought in silver the figure of a Russian troika, three-horse-drawn sleigh, traversing a snowy waste.

Rev. Bigelow became acquainted with the German family when he received permission from Oretel to hold services in the Reformed church at Zimmern. Oretel's father was pastor of the church for many years.

Farmers reported on June 1, they were keeping about the same number of sows for fall farrowing as they kept in 1947. Even with an average number of pigs saved from fall litters, the total 1948 pig crop will be the smallest since 1940.

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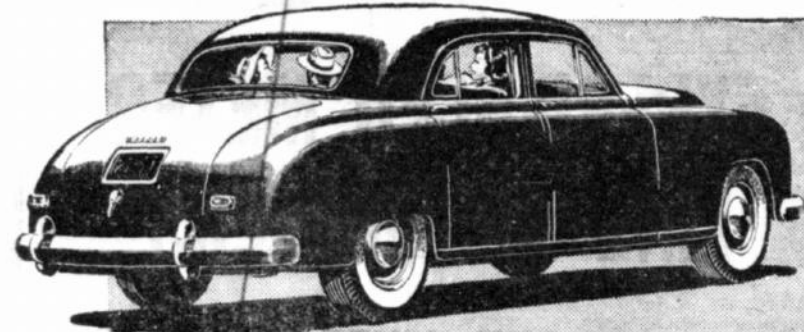
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Bluffton, Ohio



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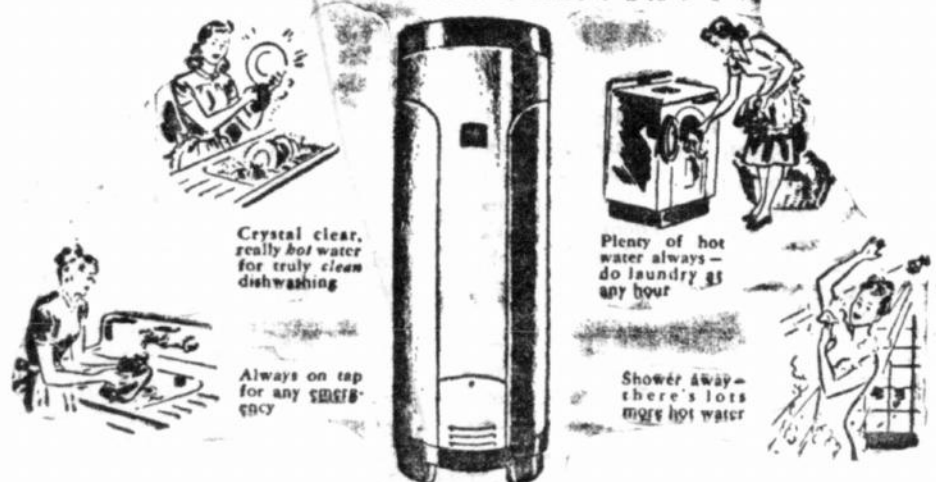
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