

VOLUME LXXIV

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NUMBER 2

### NEW TURBINE AT MUNICIPAL LIGHT PLANT NOW IN USE

2,000 KW Turbo Generator On Line For Test Run Tuesday Afternoon

New Unit Supplies Need For Additional Generating Capacity

Bluffton municipal light plant's new 2,000 HP turbo generator, installation of which was started about 12 months ago, was put on the line for a trial run Tuesday afternoon, and unless trouble develops will be in full-time operation the latter part of this week.

In the test run Tuesday during which the new turbine carried the full load of the plant, a study of the generator's performance was made by Supt. John Swisher and H. Wray Steiner, installing engineer.

With the new turbo generator in use, one of the major causes of power generation shortages at the local plant will be eliminated, Supt. Swisher said.

Before installation of the new generator, the Bluffton plant had a 1,250 KW turbine and a smaller 750 KW unit. With the town's peak demand running about 1100KW, only the larger turbine could carry the load, and when it was necessary to put the smaller unit on the line service to industrial users sometimes had to be on a limited basis.

**Larger Unit**  
Now that the 2,000 KW generator has been added to equipment, the plant has two turbines either of which is sufficiently large to meet peak demands.

Final phase of the plant's expansion program will be ended within the next 30 days, with completion of work on installation of a new 36,000 lbs. of steam per hour boiler, the plant superintendent said. Present operating equipment includes only one boiler large enough to meet peak demands.

The turbine installed at the plant was a Navy surplus unit taken from a destroyer and rebuilt for local use. In connection with its installation, a water softening system to provide soft water for steam generation also was installed.

### Local St. Bernard Wins Four Trophies

A St. Bernard dog, "Joann," from a nine-dog litter raised by Gus Borosky, Bluffton Route 1, and in whom Kermit Herr, of Lawn avenue owns a part interest, this week won four trophies in the St. Bernard Club of America Specialty show, held in Columbus.

For a time, Herr was sole owner of the dog, but she later was consigned to Clarence H. Huber, Columbus Grove, who exhibited her at the show in Columbus.

### Bluffton Girl Named To District Office

Louise Reichenbach, Bluffton high school student was elected vice president of the Future Home Makers of Ohio Region West 2 at the state meeting in Columbus, Saturday.

Genevieve Burkholder will be Bluffton delegate to the National convention in Columbus, July 12-13, and Jean Gratz is Bluffton FHA representative to the Allen County Fair board.

### Magic And Music Program Coming

Reeder C. Hutchinson, magician, will present a magic program at the high school auditorium next Tuesday night at 8 o'clock. Interspersed will be numbers by the high school orchestra and boys glee club.

The orchestra and glee club which received ratings of superior at the district contest at Ada early this month will enter the state finals at Springfield and Columbus respectively and proceeds from next Tuesday night's entertainment will be used to provide funds for entry fees.

### Estimate Kohli Estate At \$6,500

Estate of the late Aldine Kohli is estimated at \$6,500 according to papers filed with the Allen county probate court. Kohli, who died April 13 was a Bluffton insurance and real estate broker and member of the Allen County Board of Elections.

### With The Sick

Mrs. E. C. Ludwig of Poplar street is in St. Rita's hospital, Lima, for observation.

Charles Fisher who was in Bluffton hospital last week is convalescing at his home in Orange township from severe lacerations when a motor driven emery wheel shattered and pieces struck him in the face.

Mrs. Clayton Murray, first grade teacher in the public schools is ill at her home on West Elm street with measles. Miss Helen Rickle of Bluffton college is substituting during Mrs. Murray's absence.

### BUSINESS VOLUME OF POST OFFICE IS AT ALL TIME HIGH

Bluffton Office Does Over \$20,000 Business in Last Six Months

Continuation of Present Rate Would Qualify For First Class Office

During the last six months, comprising the final quarter in 1948 and the first quarter of 1949, the Bluffton postoffice did its biggest business in history, exceeding the \$10,000 mark in each quarter, it was announced this week by Postmaster Ed R. Reichenbach.

Last quarter of 1948, including a record Christmas season, was the highest in the history of the local postoffice, with receipts of \$10,631.79. Business amounting to \$10,274.47 for the first quarter of this year showed only a slight slump from the record pace.

Continued high receipts in the first quarter of this year reflects increased rates on money orders, parcel post, airmail, insurance, registry fees, C. O. D. fees, special delivery and special handling service.

**More Parcel Post**  
In addition, Bluffton hatcheries and some other local industries have a greatly increased parcel post business during the spring season.

The mark of \$10,631.79 in the last quarter of 1948 boosted the Bluffton office's business for the year in excess of \$33,000 and placed the office in the highest grade in the second-class office classification.

There are seven grades in second-class ratings, and the Bluffton office now is in Grade 7, covering offices with receipts from \$33,000 to \$40,000. The next higher step would be a first class office with annual receipts running in excess of \$40,000.

Bluffton sends out considerably more mail than it receives, the report shows. In January 1,678 sacks of mail were dispatched from the local office and 1,414 were received. In February 1,672 sacks were dispatched, 1,340 received, and in March 1,672 sacks were dispatched and 1,476 were received.

Calendar year business of the post office in 1948 was 18 per cent greater than in 1947, postal records show.

### Return From Relief Service Work In Italy

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hamman and little daughter, who have been serving as relief service workers with the Mennonite Central Committee in Europe, arrived in New York City Thursday morning, following a return trip across the Atlantic on the Queen Elizabeth.

Mrs. Hamman is the former Doris Garmatter, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cal Garmatter, of near Bluffton. Her husband is a Bluffton college graduate. The family expects to arrive here Saturday or Sunday to visit with her parents.

Engaged in social service work under the Mennonite Central Committee, Mr. and Mrs. Hamman had been stationed in Turin, Italy.

Mrs. Hamman had been in Italy for two and one-half years, and her husband was assigned there for nearly two years.

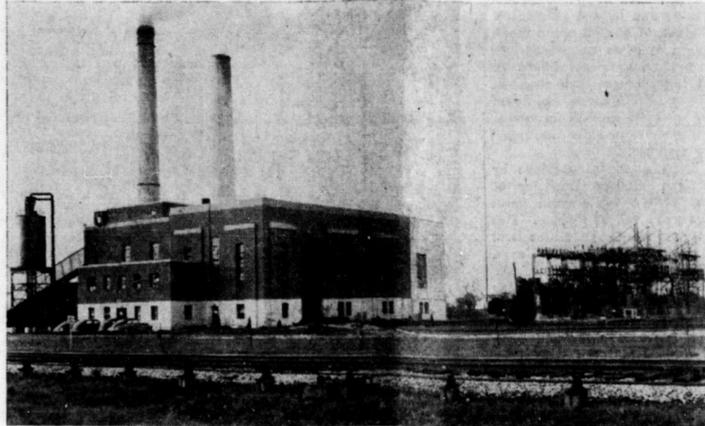
They plan to stay in this country and will not return to social service work abroad.

### Business Men's Dinner Meeting

Bluffton Business Men's association will hold its quarterly dinner meeting at the Elk restaurant this Wednesday night at 6:30 o'clock. Mayor A. R. Baker will lead a discussion on Bluffton's Clean-up, Paint-up, Fix-up campaign, May 5 to 12, with which the merchants group is cooperating.

Giraffes grow as tall as 18 feet.

### \$2-Million Dollar Expansion Program for Utility Plant Here



FLOYD W. Woodcock (left) of Wilmington, Delaware, president of the Central Ohio Light & Power Co., who turned the first spadeful of earth Monday afternoon for the addition to the company's Bluffton generating plant. (above.)

Emory D. Erwin (right) of Findlay, executive vice president who presented to the president a chrome-plated spade for the ground breaking ceremony which was witnessed by high officials of the company together with Bluffton residents and representatives of engineering and construction companies holding contracts in connection with the new building.



### Impressive Ground-Breaking Ceremony Marks Start Of Power Plant Addition

Construction of Third Expansion of Utility Plant to Begin Shortly

High Officials of Central Ohio Light & Power Company Here Monday

Ground-breaking for a \$2,000,000 building and equipment expansion program of the Central Ohio Light & Power company's Woodcock generating station in Bluffton were carried out with impressive ceremonies at the plant, Monday afternoon shortly after 2 o'clock.

The addition, to be built at the north side of the plant, is the third since the original construction in 1937 and the occasion brought here many figures prominent in the utility field.

Floyd W. Woodcock, of Wilmington, Del., president of the Central Ohio for the last 20 years, broke the ground for the building addition which will house a new 120,000 pounds of steam per hour boiler and a 12,000 KW turbo-generator.

In turning the first earth he used a chrome plated spade presented to him by Emory D. Erwin, executive vice-president and general manager of the utility, who has offices in Findlay.

The new addition to the plant building, third since original construction in 1937, will be a 43 by 110-foot extension with exterior walls of brick. Maxon Construction Co., which has contract for the building will start work this spring.

In addition to Woodcock and Erwin, other company officials here for the ground-breaking ceremonies included Harry O. Gray, of Findlay, a vice president; Paul Martinka, of Findlay, former Bluffton resident, who is vice-president in charge of production, and Dan Riedel, a director.

Assisting in the ground breaking ceremonies were J. H. Burckross, representative of Sargent and Lundy, Chicago consulting engineers who designed the improvement, and W. P. Jenks, of the Maxon Construction Co., Dayton.

A large number of spectators, including many from Bluffton, witnessed the ceremony. Later, tours were conducted through the plant in the open house observance.

Power and electrical service is provided by the local generating plant for a six-county area: Allen, Hancock, Wood, Van Wert, Auglaize and Shelby.

Installation of the new turbo-generator will increase the plant's generating capacity to 48,000 KW.

**BIG FISH**  
Francis Kohli reported the catch of two 18-inch bass weighing 2½ and 3½ pounds respectively.

### Sunday School's 70th Anniversary

Mt. Cory Methodist Sunday school will observe the 70th anniversary of its organization at a special service to be held following the Sunday school session next Sunday. The Sunday school dates from May 4, 1879.

The present Methodist church was constructed some months following organization of the Sunday School and several persons still living in Mt. Cory and vicinity attended the early sessions.

### 3-MAN GROUP IS NAMED TO DIRECT TOWN RECREATION

Badertscher, Reichenbach and Chamberlain Appointed To Controlling Body

Altho Town Sponsors Recreation Program No Change In Committee Operation

Transition of the Bluffton Recreation Committee to village sponsorship was completed this week with the mayor's appointment of a municipal commission to control the committee's program of organized recreation in the community.

Named to the commission were Ed Badertscher, one-year term; Ralph Reichenbach, two-year term; and Ed Chamberlain, three-year term. Badertscher is president of the Recreation committee and Reichenbach is the group's vice-president.

No change in the committee's program or its membership is involved in the group's new status as a community-sponsored activity.

**Recreation Committee Members**  
Members of the commission all are members of the Recreation committee and will continue working with the same group. In the committee's request for municipal sponsorship, spokesmen told councilmen the group will continue raising its own funds for operation, as in the past.

Inasmuch as the money expended for recreation purposes does not come from tax levies, municipal authorities will not exercise any control over the use of the funds.

Principal reason for the change in sponsorship was to relieve committee members of liability should damage suits result from any phase of programs to which the public is invited as spectators, it was pointed out. The town will carry insurance to safeguard against such contingencies.

### To Bring Remans Here For Burial

Remains of Paul M. Ridinger, 48, former Bluffton resident will be brought here for burial in Maple Grove cemetery, Saturday morning. Ridinger died Wednesday morning at his home in Detroit following several years' illness of a heart ailment.

He was the son of Warren and Ella (Candler) Ridinger who lived here about 30 years ago. The late Enoch Candler was his grandfather.

Surviving are his wife Ann and daughter Cheryl Ann of Detroit, two sisters, Mrs. Bess Spear, Findlay Route 4 and Mrs. Bernadine Cotner, Lima Route 5 and a brother Lloyd of Royal Oak, Michigan.

The body will arrive at the Diller funeral home Friday night where services will be held Saturday morning at 10 o'clock with Rev. J. J. Anglemeyer of Williamstown officiating.

### Re-burial Services For Soldier Saturday

Funeral services for Sgt. Frank Houston, 22, who died in New Guinea, September 28, 1944, will be held at the Paul Diller funeral home Saturday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock.

Rev. Paul Cramer of the Methodist church will officiate and burial will be in Maple Grove cemetery. The Bluffton American Legion post will conduct military rites at the grave.

The body arrived here Tuesday evening and will remain at the funeral home until services.

A native of Virginia, Houston was married to Marjorie Stratton, who survives. There are no children. Also surviving are his father Edward of Beckley, W. Va., two brothers, Jesse and William Houston of McArthur, W. Va., and a sister, Miss Bessie Houston of Leck, Va.

Clean Up here, Paint Up there, Fix Up, Plant Up, everywhere.

### TOWN'S CLEAN-UP NEXT WEEK WILL COVER WIDE RANGE

Cleanup Campaign Allied With Community Drive For More Healthful Town

Spraying of Creeks For Mosquito and Fly Control To Be Started Soon

Mobilization of Bluffton residents, businesses, industries and organizations in a concentrated municipal Clean-up—Paint-up—Fix-up campaign from May 5 through 12 was nearing completion this week.

In the drive aimed at making Bluffton a cleaner, more healthful community, sponsors are mapping intensified efforts to guard against a repetition of last summer's polio outbreak.

Community organizations, business men, industries and private individuals have been urged to cooperate in the campaign by cleaning up their premises during the week.

**RUBBISH PICKUP DELAYED**

Regular April rubbish collection will be delayed until May 12 to give patrons of the municipal service an opportunity to participate in Clean-up week before the village truck begins its rounds of the town. Rubbish will be hauled only for those who subscribe for the municipal collection service, the mayor said this week.

Cleaning of premises and keeping sticks, papers and debris from gutters also will give town employes an opportunity to clean out all catch basins, in connection with the clean-up drive. Accumulations in gutters also will be cleaned up by town workmen wherever the flow of surface water is affected.

Retail stores here are cooperating in promoting the cleanup campaign, advertising special items and emphasizing the advantages of united community-wide effort to assure success of the program.

**PUPILS COOPERATE**

Grade school pupils will assist in a cleanup of the school grounds during the week, with students dismissed at intervals from class to aid in the program, Supt. Ralph Latham said.

The Community Sportsmen's club has been invited to conduct its annual spring cleanup of the park it sponsors at Buckeye Lake during the clean-up week, and a study is being made to determine if a Harmon field clean-up can be included in the week's program.

Spraying of creeks will be another phase of the program aimed at providing a cleaner, more healthful community. Direction of the mosquito and fly control program has been offered again to W. A. Howe, under whom it has been highly successful, and who inaugurated the plan during his long tenure as mayor of the village.

Spraying of creeks will be started with the advent of warm weather, for many medical authorities have emphasized that both mosquitoes and flies likely are disease carriers in polio outbreaks.

### Births

The following births at Bluffton hospital:

Mr. and Mrs. Francis Geiger, Pandora, a girl, Phyllis Ann, Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Montell Bibler, Continental, a girl, Sandra Sue, Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Downey, Beavertown, a boy, Roger Pat, Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Beemer, Bluffton, a girl, Roberta Elaine, Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Winkler, Bluffton, a girl, Phyllis Ann, Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Traucht, Jenera, twins, boy and girl, this Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm Weick, Lima, a girl, Linda Diane, this Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Hallett, Elyria, a girl, born Friday at Elyria hospital. Mrs. Hallett is the former Rita Hankish of Bluffton.

### Mennonites Meet At Wadsworth Next Year

The Mennonite Middle District conference held at Pandora over the week end adjourned Sunday to meet next year at Wadsworth, April 27 to 30.

Officers elected for the coming year are: President, Rev. E. J. Bohn, Pandora; vice president, Rev. Irvin Rickert, Dalton; secretary, Carl Lehman, Bluffton.

### TRUE TALES about OHIO

BY HARRY L. HALE  
EDITOR'S NOTE—This is one of a series of articles to appear in the Bluffton News dealing with early Ohio history. Others will appear in forthcoming issues.

### He Owned the Jail

Deep in thought, young Tom Morris smiled as he polished the pewter mugs on his back-bar until they shone as nearly like silver as pewter can appear. Morris owned the little log tavern in Williamsburg, the only inn in town, and business had been none too good since he had opened the place.

Now, the young innkeeper believed, he had stumbled on a way to both help the town and his own business. Maybe he could have his town made the county seat of Clermont County, just being formed.

That was in 1801, when Williamsburg, then called Lytlestown, was only six years old. The town, laid out by Gen. William Lytle, early surveyor of the Northwest Territory, in 1795, contained only a few cabins, all of logs, a frontier store, Morris' tavern at the two small empty log cabins closely adjoining it. The vacant cabins belonged to Morris and were part of his plan for the future of Williamsburg and the Morris log inn.

Maybe with the offer of one cabin for a courthouse and the other for a jail, he could lure the county seat to Williamsburg. With the constant comings and goings of persons from all parts of the new county and the residence there of the new county officials, it would mean a great future to the little town. And with the courthouse right next to the tavern it might mean big things to the Morris Inn, too.

**Competition for County Seat**

Williamsburg had competition in its bid for the Clermont County courthouse. Bethel, a bit younger than Williamsburg, being planned in 1798, also had aspirations to become the county seat. In its town plan Obed Denham, its founder, had included a public square, donated especially to hold the Clermont County courthouse. And Bethel was growing faster than Williamsburg, too.

Batavia, present seat of Clermont County, was then wilderness and the town not even contemplated. Bethel appeared to have the edge on Williamsburg. It was at the intersection of the blazed road from the Cincinnati settlements across Ohio to

(Continued on page 10)

### Dr. J. A. Huffman Is Vesper Speaker

Dr. J. A. Huffman, president of Winona Lake School of Theology, well known author on religious subjects and a former member of the Bluffton college faculty, will be the speaker at a vesper service in Ramseyer chapel at 3 o'clock Sunday afternoon.

A teacher in Bluffton college and the Witmarsum seminary from 1915 to 1922, Dr. Huffman later was dean of the divinity school at Marion college, Marion, Ind., and dean of the school of religion at Taylor university, Upland, Indiana.

His subject will be, "What It Means to be a Christian."

Special music will be provided by the Bluffton vesper choir.

### Hancock Chorus At Union Church Service

Music by the Hancock County Interdenominational Chorus will be presented here at a union church service Sunday night at 7:30 in the First Methodist church.

Annual appearance of the chorus in Bluffton for the last several years is sponsored by the Bluffton Ministerial association.

### Starts Construction Of New Residence

Jerome Herr has begun construction of a new residence in Sunny-acres addition on the Allen-Hancock county line a short distance north of the Cherry street junction. Herr recently sold his property at Jackson and Elm streets.

For a better tomorrow—Clean Up—Paint Up—Fix Up May 5-12.