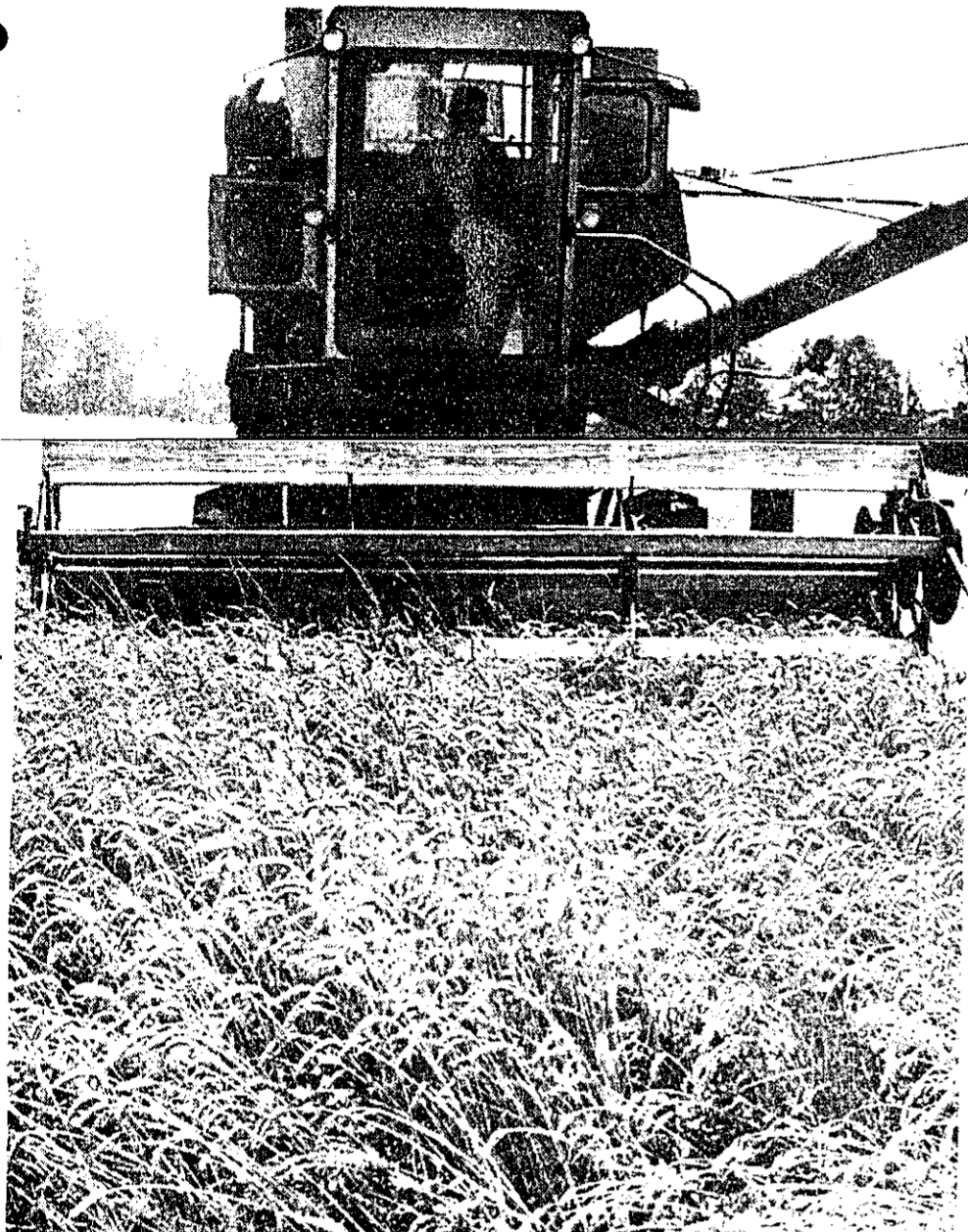


Springport Bldg. (Rawson Library) Springport, MI 49284

SCFJ ACKSON



**DAMAGED OR NOT, wheat still had to be harvested, but because of the rain, it wasn't worth as much as before. Combining a field Friday was Bill Merchant of Cemetery Road, Cass City, who grows 125 acres of wheat.**



**THE DAMAGE doesn't show in the photograph, but the hand of Duane Ertman holds some of the sprouted kernels picked from this handful of wheat. About 25 percent of the kernels in the field farmed by Bill Merchant, for whom Ertman works, had sprouted.**

## Rains mean loss for wheat growers

Rain is usually welcomed by farmers, but of late, it has been most unwelcome. The effect of the unwelcome rain coming during what should have been wheat harvest time has hurt farmers where it hurts most, in their wallets.

Harvesting of what appeared to be a bumper crop was starting to get underway Friday, July 25, but rain the next day brought the combines to a halt.

By the time farmers could get back in their fields last week, the damage had begun.

What the rain did, just when the wheat was ready for harvesting, according to Tuscola County Extension Director Bill Bortel, was cause it to begin sprouting.

Sprouted wheat hurts the milling quality, which means the farmer gets less when he sells his harvest.

He said he had seen some fields where as much as 50-100 percent of the crop had sprouted.

At the Wickes Agriculture elevator in Cass City, Manager Bob Wischmeyer said the average number of sprouted kernels has been 20-25 percent. Yields have been averaging a minimum 50 bushels per acre, which is considered very good. (The 1979 state average was 43 bushels, the highest in at least five years.)

The rain has also hurt the wheat crop in two other ways. Because the longer the delay, the more sprouting there would be, farmers couldn't afford to wait for it to dry naturally.

Friday afternoon, Bill Merchant was harvesting

wheat in a rented field off Schwegler Road, south of Milligan.

One load taken off the field, according to Duane Ertman, who drives a truck for Merchant, had a moisture content of 19.1 percent, whereas normal is 14-15 percent.

Of the first load taken to the elevator, 25 percent of the kernels had sprouted. (One hundred kernels are examined to determine the percentage that is bad.)

The high moisture content means farmers have to pay extra, either at the elevator or for fuel for their own driers, to get the excess moisture removed.

The moisture also puffs the wheat up, making it lighter, which also hurts the price as it requires more volume to make the same weight.

The combination of the sprouted wheat, excess moisture and lighter test weight, Wischmeyer said, can cost farmers as much as 50 cents per bushel.

With wheat otherwise selling for about \$4 a bushel, the loss of 50 cents can mean the difference between making money and losing it.

Only "very few" farmers could make money on wheat at \$3.50 a bushel, he speculated.

Barring further rain, he expected wheat harvesting to be almost all done by Thursday.

Although the rain has been beneficial to corn and sugar beets, Bortel said, it has been harmful to dry beans as well as to wheat.

The moisture has resulted in dense plant canopies,

## Voters split on millages

# Armbruster, Berry, Henry win in primary

It was indeed "Berry pickin' time" in Tuscola county Tuesday.

Deputy Paul Berry of Caro defeated undersheriff Bruce Tait of Caro, the nearest contender, by 617 votes in the Republican race for sheriff.

Other winners in Tuesday's primary election were Stanley Henry, Royce Russell, Loren Armbruster and the senior citizens.

The election drew 9,096 voters, approximately 31 percent of the 29,361 registered voters in Tuscola county.

In the sheriff's race, Berry garnered 2,907 votes to Tait's 2,290. Placing a distant third was Bernie Lenda, Caro, with 1,067. Robert Eigner of Fairgrove drew 301 while Earl Scott Jr. of Caro received 116 votes.

Berry will face Democratic challenger Herbert Clancy, the Millington police chief, in the Nov. 4 election. Clancy received 884 votes Tuesday.

Results from the primary are as yet unofficial and

must be certified by the county Board of Canvassers. Proposition 2, which institutes a 2 mill levy for support of senior citizen activities, passed by a vote of 4,250-2,700. Another proposition, which would have levied a half-mill each for county use and bridge repair was defeated 3,333-3,518.

Stanley Henry of Juniata township was elected drain commissioner with 2,535 votes. His nearest competitor was Lionel



Paul Berry

Emery of Mayville who garnered 2,026 votes, followed by Bob Strye of Caro with 1,195.

In District 2, present county Commissioner, Royce Russell of Gageton, defeated challenger Shirley Olszak of Gageton, by a vote of 853-234. Russell will face Richard Erla, Cass City, on the November ballot. Erla was able to get his name on the ballot as a Democratic candidate with 45 write-in votes.

Rep. Loren Armbruster, R-Caro, easily outdistanced challenger Terry Houthoofd of Unionville to once again capture the Republican nomination in the 84th District of the state House of Representatives.

Armbruster received 4,498 votes in Tuscola compared to Houthoofd's 1,732.

In the rest of the 84th District, Armbruster got 309 votes in Saginaw county, and 288 in Genesee. Houthoofd received 31 and 89 in Saginaw and Genesee, respectively.

Armbruster will face Democrat James McCann of

Akron, who got 836 votes in Tuscola, 40 in Saginaw and 1,082 in Genesee.

In the only other primary race, Donna Rayl of Akron defeated Larry Humpert of Reese for the District 1 seat on the county board. Rayl received 825 to Humpert's 231.

In the 8th Congressional District, Bob Traxler, D-Saginaw, received 1,173 votes and Republican challenger, Norman Hughes of Metamora, got 4,419.



Stanley C. Henry

In Tuscola county, Clerk Elsie Hicks, Register of Deeds John Marshall, Treasurer Elgene Keller and Prosecutor Artis M. Noel were all given their party's nomination. No Democrats are on the ballot to face them in the fall.

Mrs. Hicks of Deford received 5,340 votes, Marshall of Cass City received 4,691; Mrs. Keller of Caro garnered 4,740, and Noel of Caro got 3,326.

Commissioners and candidates running without opposition within their party were: District 3--Paul Nagy, R, 981 votes; District 4--V. Michael Higgins, D, 68 votes, and J. Benson Collon, R, 967 votes; District 5--Margaret Wenta, D, 181 votes; District 6--Robert Russell, D, 106, and George Clark Jr., R, 496, and District 7--Kenneth Kennedy, D, 243 votes.

Presidential hopeful John Anderson of Illinois received 201 votes in his effort to get on the November ballot in Michigan. It was reported that statewide he received enough votes to put him over the top.

## Muxlow wins in legislative race, Smith, Sykora lose in Sanilac

Keith Muxlow came close to winning the Republican nomination for state representative from the 77th district two years ago.

This year, with present Rep. Quincy Hoffman retiring, the ex-Brown City mayor made it, winning by a substantial margin Tuesday over three other opponents.

In Huron county, all the present county officials held onto their jobs, but in Sanilac county, the prosecutor and clerk will be seeking new employment as of Jan. 1.

The bridge millage was defeated in Huron county by only 45 votes. In Sanilac, the levy for senior citizen activities was approved.

Muxlow received 3,777 votes in Huron, 5,230 in Sanilac, 607 in St. Clair, and 352 in Lapeer for a total of 9,966 votes.

His nearest challenger, William Mayes, the middle school principal at Port Austin, carried his home county, 4,839 votes in Huron to 3,777 for Muxlow, but lost big in Sanilac, where his 834 votes were the lowest of the four candidates, the others all being from the latter county. He had 63 votes in St.

Clair county and 24 in Lapeer for a total of 5,769.

Marlette mayor and school teacher Ken Babich came in third with a total of 2,056 votes, of which 1,463 were earned in Sanilac.

Fourth place was the property of Stuart Parsell, chairman of the Sanilac County Board of Commissioners and community education director for the Crosswell-Lexington Schools. He had 2,049 votes, of which 1,497 were earned in his home county.

Muxlow will now face Harbor Beach Democrat Harold Richards, who received a total of 901 votes.

### SANILAC COUNTY

Deputy County Clerk Delene Schultheiss of Sandusky was successful in her bid for the top job with 2,945 votes to 2,748 for the present clerk, Lawrence Smith of Sandusky, who was first elected in 1976.

Deckerville teacher Karl Buhl was third with 1,761

votes and Minden Township Supervisor Joseph L. McCoy fourth with 1,485.

No Democrats are running for countywide races in November, so winning the Republican primary was



Keith Muxlow

tantamount to being elected.

J. Anthony Sykora of Sandusky, prosecutor for four years, was defeated by his ex-assistant, Robert Barnes of Crosswell, by the narrow margin of 4,585-4,607.

Stuart Armstead of Snover, drain commissioner for 25 years, will hold the job for four more, as his 4,292 votes put him well ahead of rivals Wayne G. Laursen of Marlette, 3,184, and Eugene Mancini of Crosswell, 1,249.

Ross E. Dundas, sheriff since 1965, defeated William Lakatos of Deckerville, who first ran against him four years ago. Dundas had 5,484 votes; his opponent, 3,903.

Register of Deeds Maurice Turnbull of Deckerville, who has held the post since 1961, was returned to office with 6,085 votes to 2,693 for opponent Joseph J. O'Conner of Minden City.

Treasurer Ken Rhead was unopposed and received 7,391 votes.

The 2 mill for four years for senior citizen activities was okayed 5,198-3,557. The figures lack results from two townships. In Greenleaf township, the proposal was approved 56-49; in Evergreen, 93-83.

In District 1 for the county Board of Commissioners,

Eugene Foote of Argyle township won the Republican nomination with 493 votes to 235 for Robert J. Patten of Moore township and 230 for Rev. Allen J. Lewis of Snover.

Foote will be opposed Nov. 4 by Eileen Riess of Snover, who received 29 votes. Republican Congressional candidate Norman Hughes got 5,634 votes; U.S. Rep. Bob Traxler, 431.

Votes cast in the party qualification section were Anderson Coalition, 55; Citizens Party, 9; Libertarian Party, 8; and Social Workers, none.

A total number of votes cast wasn't available, but based on the 9,387 votes cast for sheriff, the highest for any race, plus 431 for Democratic Congressman Bob Traxler and 72 in the party qualification section, that would equal a total of 9,890 voters, which would be 41.6 percent of the 23,782 registered voters in the county.

Please turn to page 5.

## Saturday fire leaves family of seven homeless

An early morning fire Saturday in Mushroom Road, Wells township, left a family of seven homeless.

The home, between Plain and Froede Roads, belonged to Jack and Sandy Putnam. They have three boys and one girl, plus another boy lives with them.

No one was home at the time of the fire.

Caro Fire Chief Don Berry said the house was so completely destroyed, it was impossible to determine the cause or even where it began. "I guess the cause will have to remain unknown."

He estimated the house and contents were worth perhaps \$40,000-50,000.

By the time his department arrived at 2:37 a.m., the roof and walls had already collapsed.

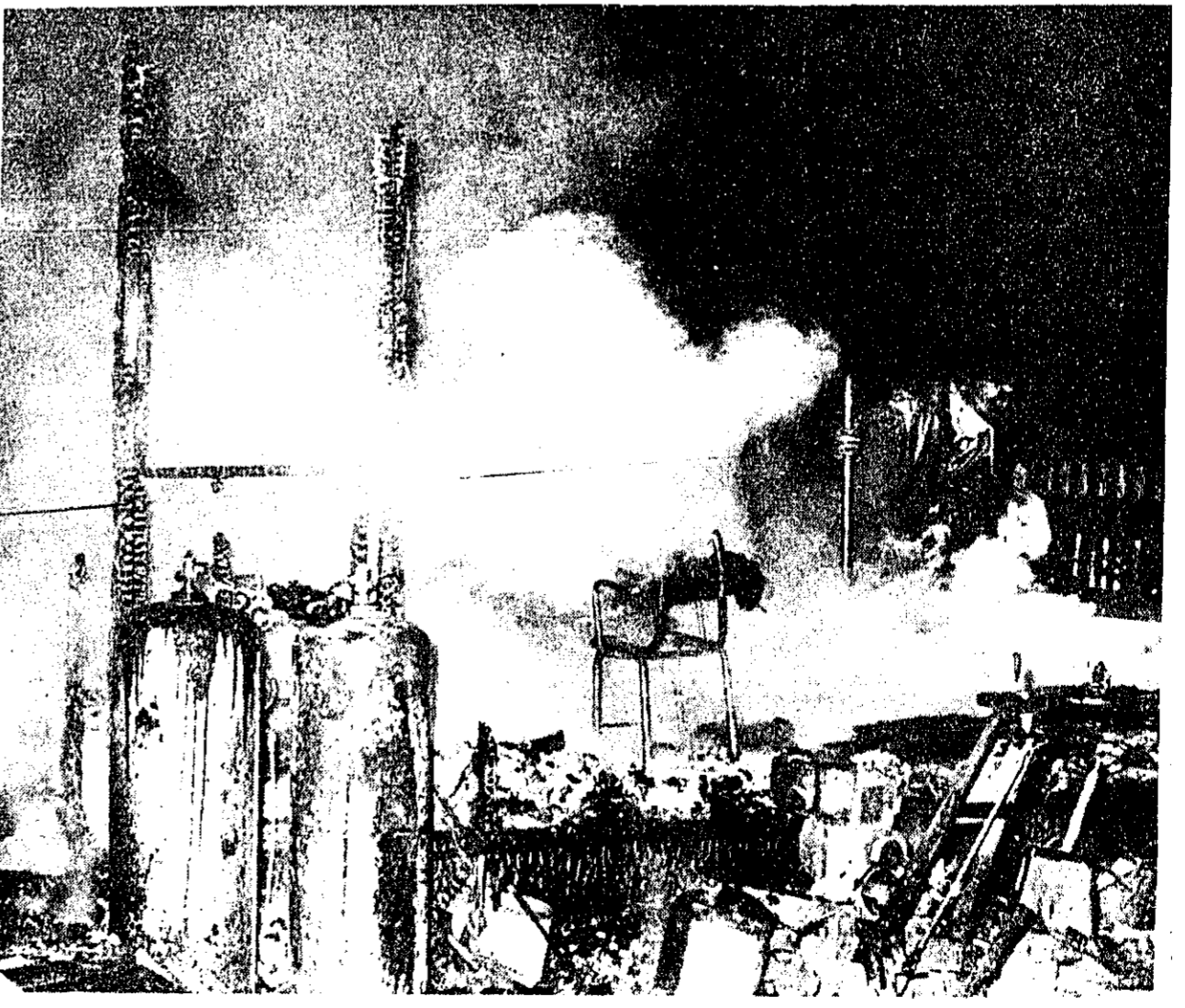
The Elkland Township Fire Department arrived about five minutes later, both having been called by the sheriff's department, apparently out of confusion over which department's territory the burning home was in. The Caro department was called first.

Berry said Monday that according to his map, the Kingston Fire Department should have been the one called.

Firemen from the two departments that were called got back to their respective stations about 5 a.m.

Firemen spent much of their time searching through the still smoking rubble out of fear that one of the Putnam children, 10 years old, had been trapped inside.

Mr. and Mrs. Putnam and some of their children were at a lake in Clare county at the time of the fire and the others were staying in this area. The parents were eventually located by the Clare County Sheriff's Department and shortly before



**AMID THE SMOKE coming from the Jack Putnam home, firemen searched for a 10-year-old boy thought to have been trapped inside. Fortunately, he wasn't. Elkland township and Caro firemen fought the blaze for about 2 1/2 hours early Saturday.**

Please turn to page 3.