

Blaska Has Little Campaign Time But Neighbors Know His Record

To his town of Sun Prairie neighbors, fellow farmer John M. Blaska is a long-familiar figure, both in public life and in neighborhood farm circles.

A Dane county resident all his 65 years, and on the same farm for 41 years, Blaska began a third decade in public office last year as assemblyman from the county's eastern (second) district.

Before knocking off a veteran Republican incumbent in 1948 to win his assembly seat, Democrat Blaska had served on the county board since 1929 by virtue of his Sun Prairie town chairmanship over a 20-year span.

For 10 of those years he was on the important county highway committee, serving as committee for six years.

At present he is a director of the Dairyland Milk Cooperative at Juneau, where he has been a member for many years. A co-op truck picks up milk from Blaska's 30-cow Holstein herd—grade cows, but accredited—for sale on the Chicago market.

This year Blaska is a candidate again for the Democratic nomination for assembly, and reelection, after a first term which he considered both interesting and successful.

Last session, for instance, four of the five bills he introduced were passed, although Democrats were outnumbered three to one. He was an active member of the committee on agriculture.

He hasn't put much time on his primary campaign this year, figuring that voters who've known him most of a lifetime know his views on state issues.

Running a 560-acre farm, even with two hardworking sons as partners and the most modern equipment, doesn't leave much time for summer campaigning.

The home farm is 300 acres. Gregory lives on the old homestead adjoining, where John's father settled in 1806 after farming for a few years in the town of Medina. Jerome, the other son, has a nearby farm, and the three rent some land in addition.

It's a family enterprise, with all equipment and labor pooled. There are five tractors, and other machinery to match. Only piece of modern equipment missing is a combine; John has threshed for the last 46 years in the neighborhood, and still runs his rig every fall.

Cash crops are an important part of the Blaska operation. They grew 80 acres of peas for the Oconomowoc Canning Co. this year. Another 40 acres of "foundation stock" barley were raised for the University of Wisconsin on contract. This fall they put in 25 acres of winter wheat for the university as well.

The family grew eight acres of tobacco this year, including three acres that Mrs. Blaska put in. It went into the shed last week;



—State Journal Staff Photos by John Newhouse

Assemblyman John M. Blaska (D-Marshall) isn't spending much time in legislator's clothes these days, or campaign garb—there's too much work to do at home.

Blaska is seeking a second term in the assembly from Dane county's eastern (second) district, after more than two decades in public life that has included long service as town chairman and county board member.

Here he lights his pipe before giving a State Journal reporter his views on state legislative issues. The picture was taken in the living room of the farm home where the family has lived for 41 years.



Father and son talk over the day's work. John M. Blaska, town of Sun Prairie farmer (seated on tractor) shares the work of running 560 acres with his sons, Gregory, pictured, and Jerome, who live on neighboring places.

Gregory is on the old Blaska homestead, where John's father settled in 1806. They've raised the best maling barley in Dane county the last two years.



Mr. and Mrs. John Blaska, busy harvesting tobacco on the home farm last week, take a minute to admire an extra good leaf of binder grade. They've raised tobacco for years, and most years Mrs. Blaska has a few acres of her own.

While their nine children were going through high school, and some of them to college, Mrs. Blaska helped pay their way with her tobacco crop.

infected animals. State and federal funds should cover most of the slaughter loss. He's in favor of putting all property in the state in an operating storage.

As a milk producer, Blaska rates brucellosis (Bang's disease) control high among state farm problems.

"The farmers have got to clean up in the next few years," he said last week. "Another two or three years, and markets like Chicago won't take our milk unless it's from accredited herds."

"The next legislature will have to work out a plan for vaccination and compulsory slaughter of

high school district—a plan that was defeated in 1949. Then high school tuition could be wiped out, transportation problems lessened, and consolidation simplified. Now only about a fifth of the state's area is within a high school district.

Consolidation should be "directly up to the people," pretty much as the present law calls for. All nine of the Blaska children are Sun Prairie high school graduates. Two attended the university, and one daughter, Lila, went to teachers college.

Sons, besides Jerome and Gregory, are the eldest, Cy, who is production manager for the Oconomowoc Canning Co., and John J., in business at Medford. Daughters Elaine and Juanita are at home; Lila, a wartime Wave, is teaching in the Philippines; Burdette is in the navy nurse corps; and Mrs. Evelyn Owens lives at Sun Prairie and works for the state welfare department.

Three sons and two daughters served in World War II.

THOMPSON TO TALK

Carl W. Thompson, Stoughton attorney and Democratic candidate for nomination for governor, will give a 15-minute campaign address at 5:45 p. m. today over station WKOW.

This will be Thompson's last major address before the primary election on Tuesday.

More Arrests Seen In Investment Swindle

LEWISTOWN, Ill. — (U.P.) — Investigators said Saturday they will make still more arrests in a drive to stamp out a "million dollar" swindle ring which has fleeced nearly 400 persons in the last 10 years.

State's Attorney Arthur Young said "at least several more persons" will be arrested as members of the ring which used the name of the Ford Motor Co. fraudulently to solicit "investments."

Five persons, described as leaders of the ring, were seized Friday. Beverly Kemper, 40, Canton, Ill., patternmaker, waived a preliminary hearing and was held for the grand jury on \$10,000 bond.

The other four were held pending a hearing, which was postponed 10 days at their request to give them time to obtain lawyers. Investigators charged that the ring used Ford Motor Co. stationery and forged the name of

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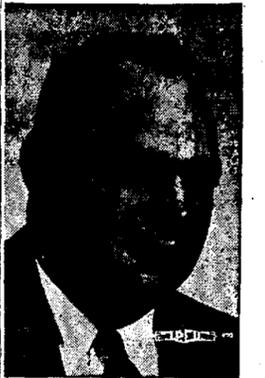
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They go in for good malting barley. Their entry last year took the Dane county prize in a state contest. This year John tied for first in the county, and Gregory placed third, and John's entry was sixth in the state contest at

Blaska is still for the Brannan plan of farm price supports "or some plan to keep surpluses down."

He sees no sense in government buying and storing of perishables like butter and eggs that keeps prices too high for many.

He feels that perishable surpluses, where they have accumulated, should be put out promptly to welfare and relief agencies instead of paying good money for

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