

Apple Orchards

Herald Citizen Newspaper: 26 September 2004 by Lindsay McReynolds

Leon and Edwina Boyd started growing apples when he retired; now it's a full time business.

After 15 years of growing apples it's hardly "old hat" to Leon Boyd, In fact, when the Putnam County native is not working during the heart of apple season, he's still happy to drive a visitor around and show off the apples he and his wife, Edwina, have worked so hard to grow over the years.

"Now this is a good apple," he'll say as he takes a bite of the freshly-picked fruit from one of the 1,600 trees in their 20-acre Hurricane Hollow apple orchard in Buffalo Valley.

The couple have been growing apples since 1989 with the help of their daughter, Tammy.

"We had a hillside not good for anything else," Edwina said. "But it sure does grow good apples."

Edwina said the two got interested in growing apples as part of preparing for Leon's retirement from the Singer Sewing Machine Company in Murfreesboro in 1999 after working for 26 years.

"This was a retirement project – something to do instead of doing nothing," she said.

"It just seemed like a good idea," she said. "Everybody likes apples, don't they?"

So the couple began with a couple of varieties such as the Gala, Jonalicious and the continued getting more as they found what people liked.

"It's a lot of studying said Leon of their start in the apple business. "The hardest thing about this business is getting the right varieties – what people want.

"I would go out and repair (sewing) machines and change the subject to apples," he said. "That's how I picked the varieties I got.

"If I were talking to someone on a plane – a complete stranger – I would change the subject to apples."

"You'd be surprised how they'd give their opinion on anything you asked them," he said.

And Leon found that most people pretty much wanted the same things – a sweet, juicy crisp apple.

But growing good apples takes more than studying and picking the right varieties. It also takes a lot of hard work.

“From daylight to dark, we’re out here seven days a week,” Leon said. “Especially this time a year.

“Picking and packing is a full-time job,” he said. “It’s really hard work.”

From the beginning of what is traditionally known as “apple season” in August, the Boyds begin picking Galas, then Wolf River apples. Before ending the season with Arkansas Black.

Varieties of apples the Boyds grow also include Stayman Winsap, Red Sport, Pink Lady, Cameo, Jonalicious, Lurared, Mutsu, Fuji, Jonared, Braeburn, McIntosh, Blushing Gold, Red Delicious, Rustic, Granny Smith, Honey Crisp and Ozark Gold.

“Thousand of bushels come through here per season,” Leon said.

“We sell everything we grow, just about,” Edwina said. “Some days, it’s just busy, busy, busy.”

And the Boyds’ apples go all over the country thanks to visitors of nearby Edgar Evins State Park. Many times, park goers can’t resist stopping and buying some fresh apples to take back to their hometowns.

“They come from Texas, Washington D.C., Memphis, Kentucky,” he said. “The park is a big benefit to us.”

“We also get a lot of customers out of Nashville, but our biggest percentage come from Cookeville,” Edwina said.

The Boyds say that some people call and place orders for apples ahead of time.

The Boyds also sell apple cider, fried pies, preserves, jellies and butter.

“The apple cider is made from our apples, it’s just not made here,” Edwina said.

And when the Boyds aren’t picking and selling their apples, the rest of the year is spent cleaning and pruning, according to Leon.

“Pruning – that’s the biggest job after apple season,” he said. “Cleaning up is the first thing we do.”

“After apple season, Tammy and Edwina, they don’t do anything,” Leon joked. Leon also expressed appreciation for the Putnam Agriculture Extension Office.

“Without Scott Chadwell (Putnam County Agriculture Extension Agent) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, we’d be in trouble,” he said.

Leon said the research that the department puts into agriculture is invaluable to farmers.

And the Boyds seem to enjoy the rewards of their hard work.

“We enjoy the people, seeing them come back year after year,” Leon said.

To get to the Hurricane Hollow apple orchard, take Exit 268 off I-40 and go towards Edgar Evins State Park. Look for the apple sign on the left. For more information, call (931) 858-2445. Another Putnam area apple orchard is Ken Smith’s orchard in Silver Point. For more information, call (931) 858-4977.

Lineage of Leon Boyd

William Boyd

b. 15 March 1761, Orange Co., NC

d. 14 February 1847, Roane Co., TN

md 1779, 2nd **Mary Wasson**

b. ca. 1765

md 1883, Roane Co., TN, 2nd **Nancy Smalley**

Both Buried: Smalley Cemetery, Roane Co., TN

John Boyd

b. 9 December 1777, Orange Co., NC

d. ca. 1837, Jackson Co., TN

md 1801, Anderson Co., TN, **Mary Elizabeth Leath,**

d/o **Ephraim Leath & Nancy Jones**

b. Shenandoah Co., VA

d. Putnam Co., TN

Both Buried: John Boyd Cemetery, Buffalo Valley, Putnam Co., TN

Alexander Boyd

b. 12 October 1821, Anderson Co., TN

md **Aletha Evans,** d/o **Obadiah Evans & Sally Draper**

b. ca. 1821

William Pierce Boyd

b. 5 February 1852, Putnam Co., TN

d. 16 January 1919, Putnam Co., TN

md **Elizabeth A. Butler**

b. February 1850, VA

d. 29 January 1921, Putnam Co., TN

Both Buried: Mocassin Bluff Cemetery, DeKalb Co., TN

Oliver Boyd

b. 21 September 1881, Putnam Co., TN

d. 27 January 1958, Algood, Putnam Co., TN

Buried: John Boyd Cemetery, Buffalo Valley, Putnam Co., TN

md 10 August 1902, 1st **Martha Anderson**, d/o **Paul Anderson & Betty Carr**
b. August 1879 – d. 20 April 1943

Buried: John Boyd Cemetery, Buffalo Valley, Putnam Co., TN

md 25 September 1943, 2nd **Avo Leftwich**

md 29 March 1951, **Lou Ada Williford**

d. 1958, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN

Ernest Vernon Boyd

b. 4 February 1912, Putnam Co., TN

d. 28 July 1951

md 24 September 1930, **Sarah Geneva Whitehead**,

d/o **Brad Whitehead & Arda Bellar**

b. 23 October 1912, Smith Co., TN

d. 14 April 2003, Carthage, Smith Co., TN

Both Buried: John Boyd Cemetery, Buffalo Valley, Putnam Co., TN

Leon Boyd

b. 26 August 1936, Smith Co., TN

md 27 February 1960, Carthage, Smith Co., TN, **Edwina Key Lynch**,

d/o **Aaron Lynch & Ruth Hindsley**

b. 14 November 1939, Carthage, Smith Co., TN

Children:

Tammy Edwinna Boyd – b. 14 May 1961, Carthage, Smith Co., TN

Aaron Leon Boyd – b. 24 March 1965, Carthage, Smith Co., TN

Reuben B. Alexander md Elizabeth Stockard Johnson=

Louisa Alexander md Thomas Shirley Anderson Jr. =

Paul Anderson md Sarah Elizabeth “Bettie” Carr=

Martha Anderson md Oliver Boyd

*Louisa Alexander Anderson was the sister of Michael Martelia “Mica” Elizabeth Alexander who md Riley W. Anderson and Thomas Shirley Anderson Jr. was the son of Thomas Shirley Anderson Sr. who md Judith Robinson. Ancestors of Audrey J. (Denny) Lambert. *See Chapter 1: <http://www.ajlambert.com>*

SECOND-GRADERS GET CLOSE TO NATURE IN APPLE ORCHARD

Published: November 08, 2002, Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN

On a recent October day, Ken Smith of Silver Point accompanied a group of second-graders at Heavenly Host Lutheran School around his apple orchard and fielded their questions about raising apples.

By BOBBIE BRUTON

Herald-Citizen staff

"The orchards have been successful and this is our way of giving back," Smith says.

Smith raises about 15 varieties of apples including Arkansas Blacks, Golden Delicious, Winesap, Rome and Granny Smith. The orchard on his property consists of 10 acres of apple and peach trees, and he leases another 10 acres filled with apple trees. He has been growing apples and peaches since 1995.

He has been offering free tours to school children and church groups for the past three years.

He says one of the things he enjoys most about the tours is getting to meet the children.

"The kids are a blast and they ask adult questions."

Smith conducts the apple orchard tours in October. Most of his apples have been harvested by then, but he saves some so that children on class trips will be able to pick apples from the tree when they visit.

Retired since 1986, he returned to his old homeplace in Silver Point and began his "retirement job."

Smith does most of the work himself with some assistance from family and occasional hired workers.

Peaches keep him busy in the orchard during the summer months.

In addition to the peach and apple orchards, Smith has working honeybee hives. While on the apple orchard tour, youngsters are also introduced to honeybees and the caring of beehives.

"We let them sample honey and show them a practice beehive," he said.

Smith shows students the feeders used to feed honeybees during the winter months after their honey gets low or runs out. He says the mixture of sugar and water gives the bees a strong start for spring.

Smith likes to schedule the October tours in spring.

Anyone interested in scheduling a tour for next fall, may contact him at 265-3470.

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COLD HITS GROWERS HARD

By ASHLEY BERGTHOLD

Herald-Citizen Staff

COOKEVILLE -- Cookeville and the state of Tennessee saw temperatures plummet following a cold front that moved through the area during the first week of April. Nighttime temperatures reached lows cold enough for frost conditions which damaged many of the area's plants and crops.

According to the USDA and the National Agricultural Statistics Service for the week ending on April 8, the high was 83 degrees for Cookeville and the low was 20. The average temperature was 49, which was six degrees colder than normal for the week.

"It was a harder than usual dogwood winter," said David Johnson, part owner of Johnson Nursery and Garden Center. "We saw warm weather earlier in the spring than normal so plants bloomed sooner than usual. Then we had four days of winter again which was really hard on the plants."

Johnson was able to fit most of his plants into the greenhouses for the week, but business has slowed during the below normal conditions. Johnson said he has received many questions about the recovery of plants and trees after the frost. He said to look for splits in Japanese maples and that it is still too early to determine the damage to other flowering plants.

"Although most plants are looking bad right now, it is too soon to determine the actual effects of the cold spell," said Johnson. "We will have to wait and see what happens when the weather warms up again."

"Commercial fruit, vegetable and nut crops were hurt the worst," said Scott Chadwell, Putnam County Agriculture Extension Agent.

Leon Boyd and his family are already seeing the effects of the dogwood winter on their apple orchard. Boyd has owned and operated Hurricane Hollow Apple Orchard in Putnam County since 1989. The orchard covers 20 acres, which is enough land for 1,700 to 1,800 apple trees.

"The frost got 100 percent of our apple crop for this year," said Boyd. "We have lost half of our crop to frost before, but this was the first time our crop has been totally wiped out."

Boyd is still committed to providing his customers which include locals, Nashville visitors and out-of-state tourists with orchard fresh apples. Boyd has joined with other local growers to look into purchasing a whole apple crop from northern orchards in states like Virginia and Michigan.

"This weather did not just affect our area, it affected the whole southeast," said Boyd.

Other crops have also been affected by the cold conditions across the Upper Cumberland. According to Jerre Cumby of the Putnam County Farmers Coop hay, wheat and corn crops have also been affected.

"I know a couple dairy farmers who risked planting corn in late March for silage, now they will probably have to replant, which is a large expense," said Cumby.

Both Cumby and Chadwell agree that the frost and current drought conditions will most likely cause a hay shortages for the area's many beef cattle farmers.

"The frost killed most of the clover used for hay and the grass in the pastures has been bit back," said Chadwell.

"Wheat that was going to be used for silage may now have to be cut for hay," said Cumby.

On Thursday, Gov. Phil Bredesen requested a federal designation of agricultural disaster for all 95 counties in the state of Tennessee to help farmers who have suffered crop damage.

The designation from the USDA would allow farmers to apply for low-interest loans that could help them manage crop losses and plan for next year. Bredesen made the request in a letter to the US Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns.

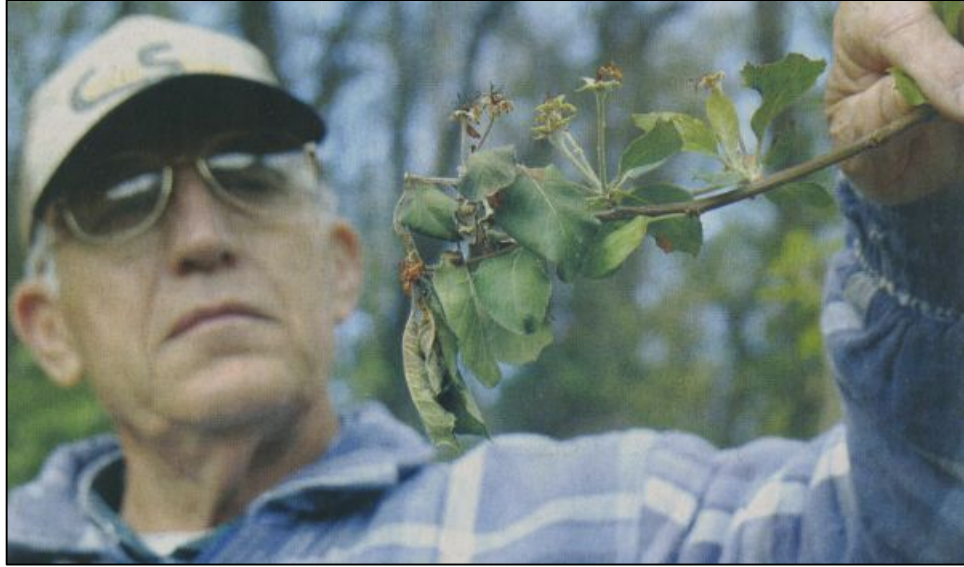
"The deep freeze and record low temperatures have obviously produced heavy losses for Tennessee's farmers, especially for our fruit crops and winter wheat," said Bredesen. "The early spring warm up followed by extremely low temperatures has really created an unusual circumstance for our farmers."

"We fully expect that there is damage in all 95 counties. By making a statewide request, this will allow USDA to begin the process of collecting damage assessments from all counties, and will hopefully help speed up the approval process so that farmers can apply for assistance."

According to state Agriculture Commissioner Ken Givens, it may be days or weeks before the state has a clear picture and can put some kind of estimate on the damages. "Governor Bredesen certainly understands the importance of agriculture to our state, and I appreciate his quick response in helping our farmers at this critical time."

Collecting damage estimates on a county-by-county basis is the first step in obtaining a federal designation of agricultural disaster, which could take several days or weeks in some cases. Once a county is approved, eligible farmers can apply for assistance through their local USDA Farm Service Agency office.

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Leon Boyd examines a damaged branch in his apple orchard in Buffalo Valley. Boyd has lost his total apple crop for this year because of the 'fire blight,' a disease that can develop from extreme weather conditions.

Herald Citizen, 15 April 2007. Photo by: Herald-Citizen/Camille Fliss.



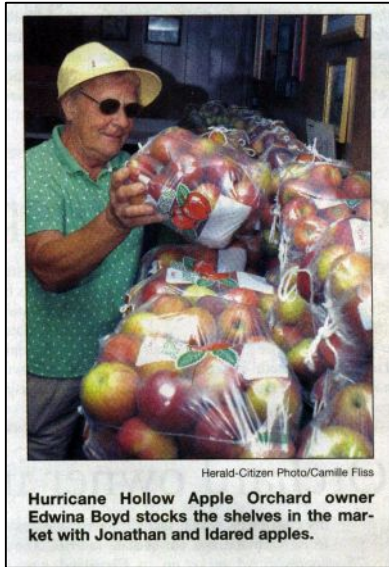
APPLE VARIETY EATING PROFILES				
Averaged from a large group of frequent apple eaters, the data are subjective, and your opinion may differ from the averages. Varieties are listed from highest to lowest firmness ratings.				
Variety	Firmness	Sweetness	Tartness	Juiciness
Fuji	very high	very high	very low	high
Braeburn	very high	medium	high	medium
Granny Smith	high	very low	very high	medium
Honeycrisp	high	high	medium	very high
Pink Lady	high	medium	high	medium-low
Gala	medium	high	low	medium
Pacific Rose	medium	medium	medium	medium
Empire	medium	medium	medium	medium
Golden Delicious	medium	medium	low	medium
Jonagold	medium	medium	medium	high
Delicious	medium-low	medium-high	very low	medium
McIntosh	low	medium	medium-high	medium

A FEW LOCAL APPLE ORCHARD OWNERS SELLING APPLES FROM VIRGINIA

Herald Citizen, Cookeville, TN

By Ashley Bergthold

Sunday, 16 September 2007, pg. D-1



BUFFALO VALLEY: Although Tennessee's apple crop was almost completely lost due to a severe freeze that struck the state in April, apple growers did manage to harvest a small crop. Tennessee apple growers produced an estimated 100,000 pounds, only 10 percent of last year's 10 million pounds and the lowest level on record.

Hurricane Hollow Apple Orchard's owner Leon Boyd understand first hand the effects of the early spring freeze. Boyd has owned and operated the orchard in Buffalo Valley since 1989 and has 1,700 to 1,800 apple trees nestled on 20 acres of hillside.

When the Herald-Citizen first talked to Boyd in April, he reported a 100 percent loss in his apple crop. However, five months later Boyd reports harvesting two percent of

his typical crop.

According to Boyd, some of the apple varieties recovered from the freeze better than others. Boyd has 60 yellow apple trees while produced 80 bushels and 350 gala trees produced only 25 bushels.



Despite the poor apple harvest, Boyd opened Hurricane Hollow Apple Market in August and has already sold most of the apples produced in his orchard. Boyd now drives to Cleveland to pick up fresh apples for his customers, which include locals, visitors from Nashville and out-of-state tourists. The apples Boyd picks up in Cleveland were grown at Timber Ridge Fruit Farm in Gore, VA. This week he is picking up Granny Smith, Fuji, Staymen and Idared apples for his market.

Hurricane Hollow Apple Orchard and market is open from early August to the middle of November from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. It is located at 4956 Medley Amonette Road in Buffalo Valley or 20 miles west of Cookeville. The market offers orchard fresh apples, cider,

fruit pies, jams and jellies. Before making the trip to Buffalo Valley the Boyd's encourage customers to call ahead and check up on the apple supply.

Herald-Citizen newspaper, Cookeville, TN: Sunday, Dec 30, 2007

FREEZE, DROUGHT PLAGUE BUSINESSES IN 2007

Ashley Bergthold
Herald-Citizen Staff
Sunday, Dec 30, 2007

COOKEVILLE -- The early spring freeze and summer drought of 2007 affects many industries throughout the Upper Cumberland. The harsh weather damaged fruit trees, dried out hay fields and lawns, and wiped out the grape crop across the Upper Cumberland and the state of Tennessee.

Commercial fruit, vegetable and nut crops received the worst damage during the frost that hit the area the first week of April. The frost followed weeks of above normal temperatures. Those warm temperatures caused many crops to bloom early.

In April, Hurricane Hollow Apple Orchard, owned and operated by Leon and Edwina Boyd, reported a 100 percent lost of their apple crop. Boyd was forced to purchase apples from northern states that were not affected by the late frost.

"The deep freeze and record low temperatures have obviously produced heavy losses for Tennessee's farmers, especially for our fruit crops and winter wheat," said Gov. Phil Bredesen in a press release to the Herald-Citizen back in April. "The early spring warm up followed by extremely low temperatures created an unusual circumstance for our farmers. We fully expect that there is damage in all 95 counties of Tennessee."

In June, Boyd reported harvesting two percent of his normal apple crop. Despite the poor harvest, Hurricane Hollow Apple Market opened as normal in August with a supply of apples grown in Virginia.

In mid-June, the Tennessee crop weather report issued by the USDA's National Agriculture Statistic Service reported that 67 percent of Tennessee's pastures were in poor to very poor condition, 27 percent were fair and six percent were in good condition.

Poor pasture conditions caused many livestock producers to feed hay early in the summer creating uncertainty about the availability of hay this winter. With an uncertain supply and high demand for hay, the price nearly doubled causing some producers to reduce their herd size.

Stockyards across the state of Tennessee began to see an increase in cattle sales, especially in the culled cattle category, old less productive cows. Some sale barns actually turned away cattle because their facilities could not handle the number of

livestock being brought to them. Cattle prices then dropped as a result of the flooded of the market.

On June 18, Gov. Bredesen's request for federal farm assistance for all 95 counties in Tennessee was approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The request made qualified farm operators eligible for low-interest emergency loans from the USDA's Farm Service Agency.

At the same time, Upper Cumberland wineries were scrambling to find grapes as most of the grape crop in Tennessee and the surrounding states had been wiped out due to the spring freeze and summer drought. Under normal conditions, Tennessee wineries are required to use Tennessee grapes to produce their wines. Due to the grape shortage that took place this fall, the Tennessee Department of Agriculture and the Tennessee Alcoholic Beverage Commission issued J6 waivers, which allowed Tennessee wineries to import grapes and juices for wine production.

Stonehaus Winery in Crossville and Holly Ridge Winery and Vineyard in Livingston, both had to ship in grapes and juices from northern states such as New York. They saw slight increases in price, but neither winery saw a change in the quality of their wines.

Many of the vines at Holly Ridge were killed, leaving owner Curtis Wallin the challenge of rebuilding his vineyard to maintain the quality and quantity of wine it was producing before the freeze and drought.

"A lot of people are interested in wine production and the romance of it, but it is a lot of hard work and factors that you cannot control," Wallin told the Herald-Citizen last September. "You can't control the weather and you don't get rich, but you do get to meet a lot of interesting people."

Even though the harvest season has ended, the drought continues. Many agricultural producers are hoping for a wet beginning to 2008 and are waiting to see if the 2007 weather conditions will affect agricultural production in the next year.

<http://www.ajlambert.com>