

# 1937 News Highlights

From The Oxford County Bethel Citizen

*Oxford County's Only Tabloid Newspaper*



**Australian ballot for town voting receives favorable response from voters.** Congregational Church's steeple replaced, the building repainted, new furniture designed by John Calvin Stevens ; new Bethel Library building designed by Stevens; Bethel cited by State committee for winter sports potential; the Eliphaz Chapman (the man who named Bethel) home burned; Bethel Lion's Club opens new skating rink; Skillings'

Steam Mill sold to Massachusetts buyer. Leslie Davis buys former J. B. Ham grain store; W.P.A. rebuilt the Songo Road.

**GET YOUR TICKETS FOR "LIFE ABOARD THE SOUTHERN BELLE"**

January 7, 1937

**Bethel's winter possibilities recognized** January 7, 1937 Herbert R. Rowe and O.B. George of the Bethel Outing Club attended the meeting for the formation of the Maine Winter Sport Federation at Augusta Tuesday. The president of the new organization is H.H. Sampson: principal of Bridgton Academy and Philip Marx of Rumford is head of the Oxford County district.

The secretary of the Federation, Wallace Lovell of Augusta, has made an extensive survey of the State's winter sports possibilities. His review of Bethel's facilities for development was most encouraging. He said: "The town of Bethel has in and around it, an ideal location for extensive development. It is easily accessible, has good hotels and inns, also facilities for every phase of winter sports. On Sparrowhawk Mountain which has an elevation of 1425 feet, excellent ski trails could be cut and brushed out, the most ideal location on this mountain for such trails would be north and south as the east slope which is the steepest, runs almost to cliffs. Then there is Ellingwood Mountain which climbs to the height of 1500 feet, its steepest slopes being on the south south east side. Trails cut to the north and northeast would be most advisable. Barker Mountain with an elevation of 2582 feet and reached from North Bethel is also an ideal spot for the cutting of ski trails. Caribou Mountain which is 2828 feet above sea level comes under the territory of the White Mountain National Forest. It has a fire lookout and ranger

trail, also a cabin at the halfway mark. Best location for ski trails on this mountain would be in the general direction of the trail already cut.”

Bethel is one of the very few towns having good skiing so far this season. Although not widely known, members of the Outing Club have had excellent sport for some time past on good woods trails. Although a good skating place has not been developed near the village as yet, the ice covered fields and meadows are providing an unlimited and safe skating area.

**Musical Show to Benefit the Bethel Band** Musical entertainment to be presented January 21 and 22 will picture life along the Mississippi at the close of the 19th Century. It is called “Life Aboard the Southern Belle” and the personnel of the crew, captain, and guests stars will guarantee the excellence of the show. Mr. Harry Cohen of Rumford with his orchestra will play the overture.

Captain Handy Hawkins, owner of the “Southern Belle,” is impersonated by Roy Davis and following the introduction of the troupe the entire cast sings “Here Comes the Showboat.” Mrs. Roy Davis plays the part of Samantha, the Captain’s spinsterish wife. Mrs. Lawrence Lord plays Petunia the ship’s cook.

A lively number is played by a five piece band made up of some of our best old-time musicians: Mrs. Arthur Herrick, cornet; Mrs. Robert (Ruth) Lord, clarinet; Ralph Young, trombone; Robert Lord, bass horn; and Fritz Tyler, alto horn.

**Edmund C. Smith to Broadcast Jan 22** January 14, 1937 Every Thursday and Friday for several weeks Maine radio stations will broadcast talks during the noon hour on the soil conservation program in Maine. One of these broadcasts will be delivered in person by Edmund C. Smith of Bethel, Chairman of the Oxford County Soil Conservation Committee. Mr. Smith will go on the air over WCSH, Portland at noon on Friday, Jan. 22

**Printed Ballot Draws Out Record Vote** March 6, 1937 A total of 591 ballots were cast in Monday’s town meeting in Bethel, probably a record number of voters being in attendance. The occasion was the first use of the Australian ballot in a town election, and the new method operated to the satisfaction of all. More or less criticism occurred throughout the forenoon over the method of listing candidates for selectmen, assessor and overseers of the poor. The order in which candidates appeared on the ballot seemed to be the cause for concern. However, when discussion of the ballot was invited after the 48 articles of the warrant were disposed of, this point was not brought up.

**Other 1937 Bethel town meeting news:** Town Officers were: Clerk, Alice Brooks; Selectmen: Ernest Bisbee, Carroll Abbott, John Howe; Treasurer, John Harrington; Tax Collector, Walter E. Bartlett; Road Commissioner, Bert Brown; Auditor,

Fred Merrill, School Committee, Edith K. Howe. Hugh Thurston was the Moderator; after the town the Moderator appointed the 1938 Budget Committee as follows: Ernest Bisbee, Carroll Abbott, John Howe, F.E. Russell, John .P. Butts, H. N. Head, Guy Bartlett, Herbert C. Rowe, Leslie Davis, F. F. Bean, Irving L. Carver and Bert Brown.

Fritz J. Tyler and Paul C. Thurston spoke in favor of the \$200 appropriation for the Bethel Band. Selectman Bisbee spoke of the Band's intention of giving weekly concerts during the coming summer.

Fred Clark and Mr. Bisbee also offered support of the hydrant in Mayville which was unopposed. It is expected that the cost will be \$30 a year.

The selectmen were authorized to make necessary arrangement for the best fire protection possible outside the limits of the village corporation. \$200 was raised for 1937 fire expense and \$400 for additional hose.

A total of \$50,000 was appropriated. \$12,000 was raised for Common Schools, \$9,500 for high school tuition, \$400 for the Bethel Library.

**Fire Department Saves Chadbourne Songo Road Mill Property** March 11, 1937 Bethel's Fire Department pumper crew handled a fire at Chadbourne's portable mill on the Songo Road promptly and efficiently preventing heavy loss. Fire was discovered near the stove in the garage and shop and was confined to that building. By the time the pumper arrived the building appeared doomed, but the blaze was extinguished with the contents of the booster tank. This event seemed to be a test of the pumper operation as much as a routine fire emergency. Evaluating the crew's positive response it seems the damage could have been much greater if the town's new equipment had not been available.

**Maine Alpine club plan several trips in this section** March 25, 1937 According to plans made by the Maine Alpine Club program committee the club has 14 trips ahead of them. Trail making is part of the proposed activities, and some of these trips include over night ones plus a three -day trip to Katahdin.

Among the ascents planned by the committee are East and West Royce, Speckled Mountain, Tumbledown, Aziscohos and sections of the Appalachian Trail above Andover—also Caribou Mountain and the Ice Caves in Greenwood.

Some of the climbs are for experienced alpinists but there are good scheduled climbs for beginners. Trail-making will be aimed toward making Goose-Eye easier to approach for Maine residents.

**L.E. Davis Buys Former Grain Mill,** June 3, 1937 The store property of Farm Service Stores Inc. at the foot of Main Street has been purchased by Leslie E. Davis who will remodel it to fit the needs of the retail department of his growing lumber business. The buildings offer much needed space as the present quarters of this concern on Upper Elm Street have been crowded for some time.

The premises have been used the greater part of the time in the grain business since first used by Woodbury & Purington in 1881. After Mr. Purington's death the place was vacant for a time but since 1926 has been occupied by the J. B. Ham Co. and their successor, the Farm Service Stores.

After this week the Farm Service stock will be removed. Mr. Davis has not completed his plans for the use of the building at present.

**Mrs. Tibbetts Writes A Novel of Aroostook**, June 10 1937 Pearl Ashby Tibbetts of Bethel has written an outstanding novel of the early days in Aroostook County. "Land Under Heaven," was just issued by the Falmouth Book House of Monument Square, Portland. It is based on an authentic historical background beginning with the scenes of the bloodless Aroostook War. Mrs. Tibbetts shows a splendid sympathy with the sufferings and problems of the pioneer families. Her realistic portrayal of the growth of the potato industry, the intimate home life of the settlers and their ultimate success, makes the book a welcome change from the typical novel of today.

The story's high point comes when the first bushel of seed potatoes was planted in virgin ground. Many of the incidents are based on actual tales as told the author by her grandmother. Wife of a busy country doctor in Bethel, Maine, born and raised on an Aroostook farm, Pearl Ashby Tibbetts writes about a people whose traditions are her own.

**Skillington Mill will operate under new ownership of Massachusetts men** August 26, 1937 A transaction of vital interest to the townspeople took place the first of this week when the buildings, plant and good will of the Skillington mill were bought by Edwin W. Childs of Needham and his son, Arnold C. Childs, of Quincy, Mass. The mill has been closed for the past four months and orders have been filled from another plant, but the new owners expect to resume operations of the mill here within two weeks. While the present output of the mill is confined to spools it is expected that the manufacture of hardwood novelties may be taken up later and a birch mill to supply material for the mill established. It is understood that the business will be continued under the Skillings name as it has been for over 70 years.

The manufacture of spools will be in charge of Elias Robinson who has had many years experience in this work. Arnold Childs, who has been in the sales department of the Anderson Engineering Company, will be the manager of the business here assisted by Russell Davis of Bridgewater, Mass. Mr. and Mrs. Childs will move to Bethel as soon as arrangements can be made.

Many years ago this enterprise was the property of the Bethel Steam Mill Company manufacturing lumber and dower stock. In 1869 it came under the control of W. E. Skillings and in 1880 the saw mill was converted into a spool factory, In 1873 Mr. Skill-

ings installed a saw mill supply plant at Gilead which ten years later was purchased by J. P. Skillings. In 1886 the brothers formed a partnership which continued until 1890 when the business was absorbed by the American Bobbin, Spool and Shuttle Co. The following year Julius P. Skillings acquired possession of the property which since has been operated under his name.

Julius P. Skillings died in 1925 and his widow, Mrs. Alice Stowell Skillings being sole owner of the business took charge and continued the business, with the assistance of Nahum P. Moore as Sales Manager and Elias S. Robinson as Superintendent of the mill. In 1931, Mrs. Skillings married Mr. Robinson, and on the death of Mr. Moore in 1932, continued the business. In spite of vicissitudes, two disastrous floods in which the business lost a great deal of money, and the depression of 1929, Mrs. Robinson continued the business, being actuated by the fact that some 50 people depended on the mill for their livelihood. The Skillington mill community and the men and their families were always the first consideration of Mr. Skillings, and since his death Mrs. Robinson has assumed this attitude.

### **Night Blaze Destroyed the Rev. Eliphaz Chapman Home on the Northwest Bethel Road**

The Bethel Citizen, September 30, 1937 Fire was discovered about 11 o'clock Tuesday night (September 28, 1937) in the buildings of Mitchell A. Naimey on the Northwest Bethel road. The fire evidently originated in the shed at the rear of the house but had made such progress that it was possible only to save the nearby buildings. Little was saved from the house although a large crowd soon gathered to do all that could be done. The loss of the building has been estimated at \$3,000 and loss of house hold furnishings is said to amount to another \$1,500, with only partial insurance. Over 100 jars of canned goods were destroyed.

The place was bought by Mr. Naimey in 1930. Since his purchase he has repaired the buildings, torn down the old barn and nearby erected a two car garage and large shop, where he spends much of his leisure time. This structure and the nearby vacant cottage owned by William C. Chapman were saved through the efforts of the Bethel Fire Department with the booster tank equipment. After the building was down hose was laid to water on the intervals and the ruins were drenched. Wednesday forenoon, it was necessary for the pumper to extinguish the blaze which lingered in a pile of 15 cords of wood was in the shed.

The house was one of the oldest in town and was built on the site of the original log house by Rev. Eliphaz Chapman who gave the town its name. The farm on which it was located is said to have been the second cleared in the town, the first being the Moses

Mason place, now known as Bethhaven. The place was for some time owned and occupied by the late Horatio N. Upton and is familiarly known as the Upton place.

**Letter to the Citizen about the Chapman Home fire** —the building was over 130 years old. An October 14th letter from Mrs. Elizabeth K. Chapman of Portland informs us that the Naimey house that burned to the ground on September 28, which was for years known as the Eliphaz Chapman or the Upton place was built between 1800 and 1804. The site of the original log cabin was on the intervale near the big elm on the riverbank. The road was changed from the riverbank to the higher ground almost the time the home was built. Until recent years traces of the old road were visible in places further up the river and probably might still be found.



**Top: The former Eliphaz Chapman home on the Northwest Bethel road; middle: the former J. B. Ham grain store purchased by Leslie Davis; bottom: the L. W. Ramsell Co. store on the corner of Main and Church Streets.**



**Congregational Church to be repaired** June 3, 1937, A Parish meeting of the West Parish Congregational Church was held on Wednesday afternoon to take action upon a proposal to redecorate and renovate the Church. Fred B. Merrill was Moderator. Dr. Frank E. Hanscom was Parish Clerk. Rev. H. T. Wallace announced the receipt of a very handsome and generous gift made to the Church by William Bingham, 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. Bingham's gift will enable the Parish to carry out the proposals made by the Architect, John Calvin Stevens of Portland who had been engaged some time ago. The Bingham gift is to be supplemented by a sum raised by the Parish sufficient to carry out the proposed renovations.



The interior of the church auditorium is to be completely renovated. Outside the church steeple, removed some years ago, is to be restored as nearly as possible like the original and the whole building repainted.

Colored sketches prepared by Mr. Stevens illustrated the renovated interior and the restored steeple, which will make the old church erected just 90 years ago this year (1847), more worthy of its beautiful surroundings.

Inside work will see the present metal ceiling replaced by plaster, a screen erected on either side of the organ and the choir and pulpit platform enlarged. The walls are to be covered with decorator's canvas and the whole interior repainted. Work was planned to begin by the end of June.

Committees for the church renovation were: Building Committee: Rev. H. T. Wallace; John P. Butts; Fred B. Merrill; Mr. A. Van Den Kerckhoven; Mrs. Dana C. Philbrook. Finance Committee: A. Van Den Kerckhoven; Mrs. W. J. Upson; Robert Hastings. Grounds Committee: Dr. R. R. Tibbetts; H. C. Rowe; L.W. Ramsell. Rededication Committee: F. E. Russell; Mrs. W. R. Chapman; Mr. W. D. Twaddle; Mrs. H. T. Wallace.

**From the Citizen's pages** Church directory: Methodist Church: Rev. P. J. Clifford, Minister; West Bethel Union Church: Rev. Alton Verrill. Christian Science Society: Sunday Services at 10:45 AM.

**Bingham \$300,000 Gift to Further Aid Doctors** August 12, 1937 Country physicians from all New England are to be trained in the new diagnostic hospital of the Boston Dispensary under the terms of a \$300,000 gift from William Bingham II of Bethel.

The gift was announced by Frank E. Wing, director the institution, who said it would supplement a previous gift of \$400,000. He explained that patients of rural physicians taking the post graduate courses would be cared for by exchange doctors.

The medical center will be called the Joseph H. Pratt Diagnostic Hospital and on its staff will be the doctor for whom it is to be named, Dr. D. H. Proger and Dr. S. J. Thanhauser, a noted German medical professor.

It is Mr. Bingham's desire to provide a medical center at which the development of rural medicine may be planned and supervised and physicians keep pace with scientific developments.

**Bethel to Be Featured in New York Newspaper** August 16, 1937, "Bethel, the Gateway into Maine from the White Mountains," is the title of a feature article to appear in the New York Herald-Tribune next Sunday. The two column write-up of the town has been prepared by Herald-Tribune staff writers and is said to give an authentic and interesting account of the locality. It will be found in section six.

**Superintendent Announces Teaching Staff** August 16, 1937 Miss Carrie Wight, Superintendent of Schools announced the following list of teachers in the Bethel union for the coming school year. Schools opened Sept. 10.

Bethel

Principal Grammar School and Grade VIII, J. Omer Drummond, Falmouth Fore-side

Grade VII, Gwendolyn Stearns

Grade VI, Helen Starling, Portland

Grade V, Millie F. Williams, Boothbay Harbor

Grade IV, Alice Ballard, Fryeburg

Grade III, Dorothy Tucker

Grade I and Principal Primary School, Ethel Bisbee

East Bethel Grammar and Principal, Floribel Nevens, Mechanic Falls

East Bethel Primary, Alta Brooks

West Bethel Grammar and Principal, Olive Lurvey

West Bethel Primary, Iva Hutchinson

South Bethel, Alene Hinkley

Northwest Bethel, Ruby Bennett

Middle Intervale, Eleanor Buck, Rumford

Newry

Head of Tide, Claire Quimby, Harmony

Branch, Velmore Coy, Mechanic Falls

Powers, Dorothy Edwards, South Portland

Sunday River, Hazel Grover, Bethel

Gilead .. Vacant



Greenwood

Upton

**Gould Academy Opens** September 9, 1937, Local students who wish to attend and have not yet enrolled should see Mr. Sayles at the Principal's Office in the Academy Building.

The exteriors of the Academy Building, Gymnasium, Boy's Dormitory and Home Economics Cottage have been painted during the past summer and some of the rooms in the Students' Home and Holden Hall have been repainted and the floors refinished.

The faculty will be made up as follows: Principal Philip S. Sayles, Carroll P. Bailey, Lorene E. Roop. Clayton F. Fossett, Lucille Simpson, Margery E. Bailey, Ordell H. Anderson, Margaret Lundy, Wilbur Myers, Dorothy J. Hanscom, Ruth A. Leavengood, Charles W. Combs, Margaret Stevens, Anton E. Maiuent, Sarah L. Staples as Nurse-Dietitian, Mrs. Ann A. Walton as Matron and Esther F. Burris as Secretary.,

**Local Freight Traffic at High Point**, September 9, 1937 Outbound freight traffic at the Bethel Grand Trunk station reached a high level last month and perhaps broke previous records according to O. A. Pratt, local station agent. During the month 51 cars were load at this station. Of this number 38 carload of pulp were shipped to Berlin, one car of lumber went to a Grand Trunk point and 12 to destinations on other railroads. Besides these car lots shipment of dowels and other merchandise brought the total tonnage for the month 1,479 tons.

**Cong. Church Restoration Well Under Way** September 16, 1937 Except for painting the work at the Congregational Church is in charge of F. E. Jose of Googins & Clark, Portland contractors. The new steeple is presently receiving the copper work and shiplap.

**Work Begun on New Library Building**, September 16, 1937, Work started Monday on the new foundations for the present Library building which is to be moved back 16 feet to allow for the erection of a ne building upon the (Broad) street front. In excavating the new space at the rear the builder in charge of the work, John Burbank, found that there had been an earlier cellar upon the lot, filled in with stones and huge boulders, for a building which none of the old-timers in Bethel seem to remember. The present building has been where it stands upwards for fifty years. (The present building had been Judge Enoch Foster's law office and had also housed the Bethel Savings Bank.)

At its annual meeting the Library Board approved the project of either erecting a new building or enlarging the present one and appointed a committee consisting of Dr.

H. T. Wallace (Congregational Church minister), Mrs. S. N. Blackwood (wife of Bethel Inn manager), A. Van Den Kerckhoven (Bethel Telephone Company), Dr. R. R. Tibbetts (Bethel physician), and Paul Thurston (mill owner and bank president) to secure plans and report later to the Board. John Calvin Stevens of Portland, after consultation with the committee, drew the plans for a Cape Cod cottage, 36x21 feet, to stand on the street line with the present building to be attached to the rear as an ell.

The interior of the new building is to be all in one room with a fireplace opposite the entrance and a doorway into the ell at on side from which a stairway upstairs and down will be build. It is planned to remove the partition in the stacks and also to build shelves around the main room with an alcove a reading room and a children's corner as well as the Librarian's desk. In this way ample accommodation for books will be secured for many years to come. These plans were approved at a recent meeting of the Board and the committee authorized to proceed at a total expenditure estimated not to exceed \$5,000.

During the building operations it will be necessary to vacate the building and remove the books and it is hoped that arrangements can be made to secure the use of the ground floor of the "brick building" next door.



**John Calvin Stevens** was a highly acclaimed architect whose specialty was the shingle style and the colonial revival style according to Wikipedia. Mr. Stevens was born in Boston October 8, 1855 making him 81 years old when he was participating on the Bethel church and library buildings and interiors in 1937. He died in Portland, Maine at the age of 84 on January 25, 1940. Photo Wikipedia circa 1900.

**Lot Purchased For Skating Rink**, October 14, 1937 ,The Bethel Lions Club has purchased land on Paradise Street for the purpose of an ice skating ring. Local skating fans are assured of an ideal location for the sport for years to come. The land was bought of C.C. Kimball and with little preparation can provide an unexcelled surface. It is expected that a 75 by 150 foot rink, about twice as large as the largest space used on the Common a few years ago, will be made. The land purchased is ample to allow space on all sides of the ice and access to the street. Work was started Wednesday morning.

**Big volume of local freight continues** November 4, 1937 Freight shipments continue to make the Bethel Grand Trunk station one of the busiest places hereabouts. Besides the outbound shipments of pulp wood and lumber, which continue at the highest point for many years, at the present time there is being loaded a 350 ton shipment of old

steel and iron. Plus, on the local tracks Wednesday were also a carload of 40 tons of salt for the State Highway Department and three carloads of coal for Ernest Bisbee.

**Mail delivery extended to Sunday River** November 11, 1937 Beginning on Nov. 16, Star Route No. 1201, now operating between Bethel and Rumford Point, will be extended to include residents on the Sunday River road between Swan's Corner and the home of Roland Fleet. In this way about 10 families living along the river will be accommodated besides several more who spend the summers in that locality. Five families who now receive mail from the Upton star route will change to the new arrangement so that the mail to Upton will proceed direct on the new road across the Hastings intervale at North Bethel. Others to benefit by the change will be crews of 200 to 300 men who are logging in the vicinity.

Some years ago the Sunday River people had regular mail service. This was discontinued when the Ketchum post office was given up, and for several years their mail was delivered to the North Bethel post office. For the last 10 years or more their nearest post office has been at Bethel and the neighbors have co-operating in getting their mail delivered as best they could.

**Llewellyn W. Ramsell (1878-1937)** November 4, 1937 Llewellyn Walker Ramsell died in his sleep about three o'clock on November 3, 1937. Mr. Ramsell was born in Boston, February 2, 1878, the son of James L. and Catherine Walker Ramsell. He came to East Stoneham at the age of 11 years. He received his education in the school of Boston and East Stoneham and attended business college at Rockland. As a young man he clerked in the store of Winfield Perkins at North Waterford, and worked at Guildhall, Vt., and Winthrop for a few years. He then purchased the (Calvin) Bisbee store at Newry Corner and also served as postmaster. Twenty-nine years ago (1908) he came to Bethel and worked in John S. Allen's grocery store. After Mr. Allen's death he continued to operate the store for several years. He worked in the store of Irving L. Carver, and in the C.G. Hamlin store at Gorham, N.H., for a while and in 1916 he formed the L.W. Ramsell Company which has since enjoyed a generous patronage. The company purchased the stock of the Lucas store at the corner of Main and Church Streets and expanded the business to include a most complete line of meats, groceries and staples.

He married Miss Addie M. Holt of Albany in 1889. They have two daughters, Miss Adelaide and Miss Kathryn. The family has a town house on Broad Street and spends their summers in a modern cottage on the shores of Songo Pond.

Mr. Ramsell was of a fine personality and was popular alike with residents and visitors of the town. He is a member of the Bethel Lodge F & AM, and Mt Abram Lodge, I.O.O.F.

**Central Maine power line (CMP) to reach Gilead** November 18, 1937 The town of Gilead voted to purchase poles to extend the line of the Central Maine Power Com-

pany from West Bethel to Gilead village. Work is understood to begin this fall going as far as the farm or A. R. Mason & Sons on the south side of the river, crossing the Androscoggin there to the home of J. A. Chapman. From there the line will run west, accommodating several farm homes and crossing the river to Gilead village. This will enable many residents of Gilead to have their home wired for electricity and in addition the streets, schoolhouse and town hall will be illuminated in the modern way.

**Re-dedicate Cong. Church Sunday** November 18, 1937 After nearly five months of services in the Universalist Church, the Congregationalists will resume the use of their own church on Sunday. While extensive alterations have been made in the interior, the effect of the old church has been admirably preserved. The color scheme has creamy woodwork, darker walls and new dark red carpet. The new pulpit furniture designed by the architect John Calvin Stevens and made in Portland adds greatly to the richness of the interior. Restoration of the steeple has made a notable landmark on the Bethel skyline.

The special service of re-dedication of the new communion and pulpit will be held on Sunday morning at 11 o'clock. Rev. Prof. Marion J. Bradshaw of Bangor Theological Seminary will be the preacher of the day. The Choir, under the direction of Miss Catherine Lyon, will sing two appropriate anthems.

The following Sunday will be observed as an Open House Sunday with an afternoon service at three o'clock specially planned so that the ministers and people of the neighboring churches will be able to attend. There will be brief speeches of congratulation and special music.

**Bryant Pond Has New Industry** November 18, 1937 The manufacture of toy barbed wire entanglements, the invention of John Morrison of Mamaroneck, NY, is providing employment for nearly 50 people at Bryant Pond this fall. The article is manufactured in the plant of Burton L. Newton with much of the finishing being done in homes in the village. Work on the toy must be completed a week before Christmas and total production will be 1,000 gross. Two types of the toy are made, both of which can be assembled to make a line of the entanglement for war games. The barbed wire is made by cutting single wires from netting so that the cross wires become "barbs" and the strands thus made are strung to make a realistic barrier which seems to be on its way to popularity as a Christmas toy.

**Albany Reverts to Township** November 25, 1937 Saturday at a special meeting the town of Albany decided to discontinue its town form of government. There was only one dissenting vote. The Legislature had granted permission in its recent special session. Albany's new status becomes effective on January 1, 1938. The town's status will be the same as that of the town of Mason which made this change last year.

The township form of government was explained by State Assessor Frank Holley of Augusta, who also answered questions on the subject. As a township the affairs will be in charge of the State and County Commissioners will have supervision of the roads.

The town of Albany was incorporated June 20, 1803. In the last 80 years the largest population was recorded in 1860 when it was 858. It dropped to 651 in 1870 and swelled to 693 in 1880. Since then it has decreased at each census to 309 in 1930. The valuation over the period reached its highest, \$203,430 in 1920, dropping to \$162,741 in 1926.

### **Williamson Shot While Guiding** Oct. 28, 1937

Harry Williams, a registered guide, of Upton was instantly killed Thursday (Oct 21, 1937) when shot through the head. Charles D. Hilferty, 69, of Westfield, N.J., was held on a manslaughter charge and gave \$1,000 bail for appearance before the grand jury at the November term of court. Williamson was guiding Hilferty and had gone ahead to drive back game. His return through a nearby thicket was not anticipated and stooped in the brush, he was mistaken for a bear.

Mr. Williams was born in Newry, April 11, 1895, the son of Frank and Bertha Swan Williamson. He married Miss Esther frost of Newry and four children were born to them. For several years they lived on Sunday River, moving to Upton about 10 years ago.

He is survived by his wife; three children, Phyllis, Richard and Doris of Upton; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Williamson of Bethel and a brother, Earl Williamson of Newry.

Funeral services were held at the Greenleaf funeral home, Saturday afternoon, Rev. P. J. Clifford officiating. Interment was in the Sunday River Cemetery.

### **Maine Central Buys Bus Line** December 23 1937

Maine Central Transportation Company has been negotiating for the purchase of the Maine and New Hampshire Stages, Inc. A bid of \$14,000 had been received and the receiver, Thomas B. Dunn, had asked for authority to accept it. The deal must be approved by the public utility commissions of Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont and the Interstate Commerce Commission.

It is said that the Maine Central will continue the present routes of the Maine-New Hampshire line, which included service between Portland and Berlin with branches to Lewiston and Rumford and during the summer to Beecher Falls, Vermont.

The following page displays some the 1937 Bethel advertisements

**Crockett's  
Garage**

Sales—Service  
**FAIRBANKS-MORSE  
RADIOS**

Repair Work on All Makes

**ELECTROLUX DEALER**

Batteries — Tires  
Alcohol

A Special Winter Tune-up No

Tel. 101

**HARDWARE**

**SKIS SKATES**

**SLEDS**

D. Grover  
**BROOKS**

BETHEL, MAINE

**SALE PRICES ON  
DRY GOODS**

**Sheeting**

81 in. Pequot	50c
81 in. Pepperell	48c
81 in. unbleached	27c
72 in. Pepperell	35c

**Percales**  
Plain and figured 18c

**Towels**  
10% reduction on all Towels  
and Toweling  
**CHILDREN'S ONE PIECE  
Snow Suits**  
were \$7.00, \$4.00, \$3.10, \$2.00  
**\$8.50 \$5 \$4.80 \$4**

**ROWE'S**

**I. L. CARVER**

**SHELL**

**Range and  
Fuel Oil**

**PROMPT SERVICE  
METERED TRUCKS**

BETHEL, MAINE

**GIRLS' UNION SUITS**  
Knee Length — Sleeveless  
**25c** while they last

**GIRLS' AND MISSES  
DRESSES**  
Six and Sixteen Gores  
New Fall Colors  
**\$1.00**

**ALSO LARGE ASSORTMENT  
GLOVES, MITTENS AND  
HOSE FOR WINTER**  
at  
**BROWN'S  
VARIETY STORE**

MORE ADVERTISEMENTS ON NEXT PAGE

Donald G Bennett  
The Bethel Journals  
PO Box  
Bethel, Maine 04217

**CROCKETT'S  
GARAGE**

**G. M. C. TRUCKS**

Sales—Service  
**FAIRBANKS-MORSE  
RADIOS**  
Repair Work on All Makes

---

**ELECTROLUX DEALER**

---

Automobile Repairing  
Batteries  
Tel. 101

Church Street

**FOR THAT COLD CORNER**

**A**

**PERFECTION  
ROOM HEATER**

Will Solve the Problem

**\$5.75 TO \$12.50**

**J. P. Butts**

**HARDWARE STORE**

Main Street

**MAINE-NEW HAMPSHIRE  
STAGES**

New Schedule Effective Sept. 26  
Standard Time

Leave Bethel for Lewiston and  
Portland, 8:40 a. m. ; 5:40 p. m.  
Leave Bethel for Berlin and  
Rumford, 10:20 a. m., 7:20 p. m.  
Arrive Bethel from Rumford,  
8:40 a. m. and 5:40 p. m.  
Direct connections in Portland  
for points South and West

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Source of material in this article: Micro-film copies of the Bethel Citizen property of the Bethel Historical Society.