

# 1940, Hanover Co. Buys Stowell Mill

## DOWEL CONCERN WILL OPERATE IN BETHEL, MILL IDLE 4 YEARS

The Bethel Citizen February 1, 1940

Good news for Bethel this week is the purchase Monday of the local mill property of the Stowell-MacGregor Corporation by the Hanover Dowel Company. The deal follows some two months negotiations following the destruction of the company's mill at Hanover by fire on the afternoon of Nov. 25.

Although trucks started hauling birch to the mill on Tuesday, it will of necessity be some time before operations here will be started. For several weeks the company has had a dowel machine, a pin machine and a planer in operation in the plant of Newton & Tebbets at West Bethel, to care for their orders until permanent quarters were secured. This machinery with other equipment will be installed in the local mill as soon as possible.

Nearly all of the machinery used by the Stowell-MacGregor Corp. had been removed, but included in the deal were the shafting, boiler, two engines and two motors.

It is understood that electric power will probably be used for a time, and at the beginning not more than eight or ten men will be employed.

The company's product is confined to dowels and glue pins, and they had enjoyed a flourishing business at their Hanover plant.

A large amount of finished goods in process of manufacture and stock was saved from the

Hanover fire, so they will be in a good position to resume production here.

Officers of the company are president and treasurer, Cheslie F. Saunders; vice-president, Addison Saunders; secretary and clerk, Addie Saunders.



Bethel Journals 1962 photo of Hanover Dowel Company property

The new quarters of the Hanover company were built by the Merrill, Springer Company in the summer of 1908. Their mill at West Bethel was burned on March of that year, and that spring they also erected a birch mill at West Bethel.

By vote of the town both mills were exempt from taxation for a term of years. The plant of the Bethel Light Company was included in the Bethel Mill.

After completion the mill was in active operation until Oct. 26, 1935, and since that date has been idle, although when closed it was said to be one of the most modern and best equipped of the company's mills.

Through the years spools were the principal product, although large quantities of dowels and hardwood novelties were also manufactured. The mill was in the hands of Merrill, Springer Company until about 16 years ago, when it was purchased by N. S. Stowell & Co., later becoming part of the Stowell-MacGregor properties.

The property includes about eight acres of land; a two-story mill 36 x 100 feet, with basement; several storerooms and ample office space, also dry house, engine and boiler rooms, and truck shed, all attached to the main mill., besides several large dry sheds. The plant is equipped with a complete blower system and a modern sprinkler system.

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## **MAPLE INN TO RE-OPEN UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP— MANAGEMENT**

**October 31, 1940**

After being closed for a year the Maple Inn (the Sudbury Inn in 2011) will open with a few days under the ownership-management of Robie L. Watson. The new owner has had a varied and complete training for his new position, with 22 years experience in the hotel business. He has been manager of hotels in Rangeley, Belgrade, and Biddeford and comes here from Newport where he was resident manager of Jones Inn for the Day's Hotels.

The Maple Inn property is well designed and located to meet local needs and the requirements of the traveling public, and under

good management in the past has been a noticeable asset to the town.

Mr. Watson has the best wishes and support of the townspeople in his venture.

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## **Going Out Of Business**

February 29, 1940

Entire stock and fixtures of **C. Rowe & Son** of Bethel, Maine will be sold to the public, starting March 1st, and to continue for 30 days so as to enable us to clean out everything to the bare walls.

Stock consists of Men's, Women's and Children's furnishings, shoes, dry goods, etc.

Examples: Men's and Boy's Suede Leather Jackets. Sale price \$4.98 each.

Ladies' Men's and Children's Moccasins—Sale price \$1.98

Men's Silk Neckties Sale price 98 cents each

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## **GOULD ACADEMY EXPECTS LARGER ATTENDANCE**

**September 13, 1940**

Advance registration indicates that Gould Academy will be over crowded this year, thus making it necessary to strictly enforce the rule that only registered dormitory students and residents of the town and vicinity will be accepted. There will be no room in the school for those pupils planning to room in the town and attend the Academy. This represents no change in policy, only an enforcement of the past regulation, namely; that all non-resident pupils must live in the school dormitories.

## **SOUTH PORTLAND TRUCK DRIVER LUCKY IN TRAIN CRASH**

February 1, 1920

While crossing the tracks at the Bethel Grand Trunk station Wednesday morning an empty International truck, Portland bound, was thrown some 30 feet when struck by the west bound express train. When it stopped the truck was headed in the opposite direction and was on the siding near the section house.

After being towed from between the rails, it proceeded under its own power. Damaged was confined mostly to the rear of the body. The locomotive's headlight was smashed and braces were bent.

The truck driver of South Portland was mostly unharmed except when thrown against the steering wheel during the violent encounter.

The truck is owned by Cobb & Shackford, Inc. of Portland who operate a fleet of trucks between that City and Berlin.

Meeting the truck on the crossing was a Ford sedan driven by Stephen Abbott of Middle Intervale with Herman Mason as a passenger.

The locomotive missed this car by a few inches. According to witnesses the crossing warning signal was in operation and the train whistle was sounded as usual.

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## **CAR BREAKS OFF GAS PUMP**

February 1, 1940

A Chevrolet coupe driven by Miss Beatrice Brown, backed into a gasoline pump at the Amoco Service Station of Gardiner Brown on Railroad Street Saturday evening, breaking the pump connection and electric wiring.

The resulting blaze, caused from the broken wires, threatened to be a serious matter when the efforts of Mr. Brown with two extinguishers were of no avail. Two members of the fire department responded with the pumper and the fire was finally controlled with three extinguishers.

The loss which was confined to the pump is said to be about \$300.

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## **EBEN S. KILBORN**

September 12, 1940

Eben S. Kilborn passed away Friday noon at the C.M.G. Hospital, Lewiston, after an illness of several weeks.

He was born in Harrison July 1, 1846, the son of Enos and Rhoda Kilborn. Coming to West Bethel with his mother in 1854, he attended school there.

At an early age he has saved enough to purchase a half interest in the old grist mill on Mill Brook, and he soon purchased the remainder and carried on a flour, grain and feed business. He later acquired the saw mill nearby where he built a new mill and manufactured long and short lumber.

In 1892 he purchased the Clough carding mill on the same stream, which he converted into a spool stock and dowel mill. For many years he was a large timberland owner and dealer in lumber, spool stock, pulp wood and cord wood. He retired from active business about 20 years ago.

He served the town of Bethel five terms as selectman, several years as road commissioner, and represented the district in the legislature. He was a trustee of Gould Academy, Bethel Savings Bank and a director of the Bethel Water Company.

He married Miss Joan Stearns of Paris. He was a 70 years member of the Bethel Lodge F. and A.M. and was considered an outstanding example of a self made man. His burial was at Woodlawn Cemetery.

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## **J. B. CHAPMAN TO REBUILD CENTRAL SERVICE STATION PROPERTY**

October 24, 1940

Work started the first of this week in preparation for the construction of a 30 x 97 foot building on the site of the Central Service Station which has been owned and operated by Jesse B. Chapman the past 17 years. The present building will be razed and the new structure will be designed to house a bowling alley, pool room, heating plant and a 29 x 18 foot office.

The office will have four large plate glass windows and ample facilities for the display of tires and accessories. The entrance to the

bowling alley and pool room will also be at the front of the building. The entire work will be of latest design.

Philip Wight of Norway will be the contractor in charge of construction, which will be started as soon as the ground is cleared.

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## **SUNDAY RIVER**

May 2, 1940

The American Realty Co. have gone into Ketchum to start the pulp drive.

Two teams have gone to Ketchum to work for the Bartlett Brothers.

Ernest Bennett was in town Monday inspecting the roads.

August 8, 1940, A crew of men are cutting bushes and are preparing to put a new bridge across Miles Notch brook at Ketchum.

October 17, 1940, The Edward Fishers have returned home to Everett, Mass. (The Fishers home was the well known Sunday River home called the Bartlett—Bean place with the original part of the house dating to 1790.)

December 5, 1940, Royal Reynolds and Johnnie Nowlin are cutting soft wood pulp on the Julian Howard lot or Jackson place.\*

\* The former Julian Howard lots on the Sunday River Road in 2011 contain the Sunday River Skiway's water reservoir pond east of the road and on the west, the former Howard property is known as The Colony development subdivision and the Newry Fire Department's Sunday River fire station.

## **LADIES CLUB ENJOYS TEA AT BETHAVEN**

October 24, 1940

On Thursday, October 17, Mrs. Henry Boyker opened her home, Bethaven, to the members of the Ladies Club and several guests.

The feature of the afternoon's program was a review of the new book, "Hereditry and You" given most capably by Mrs. Philip Chadbourne.

Tea was served with Mrs. H. T. Wallace pouring and Mrs. P. S. Chapman, Miss Virginia Chapman and Mrs. Philip Chadbourne assisting the hostess.

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## **NORWAY AIRPORT**

February 1, 1940

The Civil Aeronautics Authority has approved construction of an airport at Norway. Work will start at once under the supervision of the National Youth Administration, which will advance \$2,266 in labor. The Norway Flying Club will advance the balance, \$1,000, in materials and equipment.

## **FEDERAL INCOME TAXES**

February 1, 1940

The U. S. Treasury Department is preparing to collect Federal income taxes from state and local government officials this year for the first time. Treasury spokesman announced such employees number 2,621,818. Due to their low average salaries of \$2500 less than \$20,000,000 is expected as tax yield.

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October 31, 1940

## **Maple Inn to Re-Open Under New Ownership-Management**

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ownership-management of Robie L. Watson. The new owner has had a varied and complete training for his new position, with 22 years experience in the hotel business. He has been manager of hotels in Rangeley, Belgrade and Biddeford, and comes here from Newport where he was resident manager of Jones Inn for the Day's Hotels.

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October 31, 1940

## **Border Patrol to be Stationed Here**

A group of men in the U. S. Immigration Border Patrol will be stationed in Bethel to begin work on Friday of this week. It is expected that four men will be on duty at the start. This patrol is a branch of the Department of Justice and one of their duties is to check traffic as has been done regularly at points nearer the border.

The local group is in charge of Senior Patrol Inspector James H. Ireland, who has been stationed at Rouse's Point, N. Y. It is expected that this activity may cause a slight inconvenience at first, and the members of the Patrol will appreciate the cooperation of the people of the vicinity until they become better acquainted.

Bethel seems to be a strategic point for this sort of work being located on five Maine and U.S. numbered routes with black surfaced roads as good as or better than the average in this section.

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