



## 1958 BETHEL NEWS SUMMARY

The Oxford County Bethel Citizen

Carl Brown Editor

### January

The new town of West Paris joined the Bethel-Gilead-Greenwood-Newry-Upton School Union. This included the school system of West Paris and North Paris.

Robert Blake retired as chief of the Bethel fire department and was honored at a supper preceding the regular monthly meeting at the American Legion Home.

Following a four day cold period two feet of snow fell in a 24 hour period. Roads were drifted and schools closed one day. The month's weather included several storms of snow and rain.

Dr. John Trinward was elected president of the Bethel Chamber of Commerce.

The Tucker Harness Shop at Norway was closed when James N. Favor, its proprietor for 66 years retired.

The Wildcat Mountain Ski Area in Pinkham Notch was officially opened with ceremonies attended by Governor and Mrs. Lane Dwinell of New Hampshire.

Robert Billings became proprietor of Bethel General Store, the store established by the late Niles Kellogg and later carried on by Ernest Buck.

H. Stanley Andrews became owner of Cole's Hardware Co., Bryant Pond. The business had been in the Cole family for four generations.

### SKIWAY REPORT

January 1, 1959 Bethel Citizen

On Monday, Dec. 22 Sel Hannah and several of the directors inspected the progress that had been made on Barker Mt. this fall. Mr. Hannah reported that he considered the snow conditions excellent since there was no evidence of drifting or wind pack in spite of the high winds we have had. Snow depths varied from 18" at the base area to 20" at the so called 3000' level. Mr. Hannah is planning to visit the area once more during the winter to check the snow conditions and has asked us to check them occasionally in the meantime. He states that one big factor in the success of a ski area is in laying out the trails and slopes so that the wind does not blow the snow off. This does happen at some areas and it appears that we will be fortunate in this respect.

The television appearance originally scheduled for Dec. 30 on channel 13 has been set ahead to 7:15 a. m. on Jan. 2nd. Jean Kailey and Murray Thurston are planning to appear and anyone else who wishes to go along for the ride is welcome. Let either of the above know and be prepared to leave Bethel at 5:15 a.m. that morning.

The question is still being asked "is there a possibility of having a lift on Barker Mountain this winter." We regret that the answer is "No". Installation of a large ski lift is a major undertaking and requires four to six months. However, the directors are well pleased with the progress that has been made at this time. It will be impossible to continue the clearing operations on the mountain during the winter but sale of stock and other promotional activities will be pushed as fast as possible.

It is planned to take aerial photographs of the mountain within the next day or two for use in the television appearance and it is hoped that they will appear in the Citizen shortly.

Deaths: Walter M. Chandler, Mrs. Hattie L. Buck, William Cunningham, Miss Electa C. Chapin, Edward Silver, Guy H. Morgan. Mrs. Bertha Wing, Andrew J. Olson.

## **February**

Raymond E. Parsons was named town manager of Oxford, succeeding Mrs. Beulah Staples who had that position two years.

The heating boiler at the Dixfield grade school exploded “shaking up” 29 pupils.

A safety exhibit, sponsored by the Maine Highway Safety Committee, was shown at Gould Academy. It included a wrecked car in which the driver was killed and the passenger seriously injured. The exhibit was being shown throughout the state with the cooperation of the Maine Truck Owners Association.

The Bethel Area Development Corporation was organized with Howard Cole elected president. Seventy-five members joined during the first five weeks.

Brooks Brothers, Inc., of Bethel bought the hardware firm of Clough & Pillsbury of Rumford. The purchase the three story building occupied by the store on Congress Street.

Deaths: Mrs. Gertrude K. Allen, Mrs. Marion Chandler Bunting, Winsor L. Abbott, George L. Taylor, Mrs. Doris Kimball Houle, Miss Mildred Morrill, Miss Cleon A. Russell. J. Bennett Pike, Frank J. Wheeler, Dr. Raymond R. Tibbetts.

## **March**

With three feet of snow on the level the first of the month and continued snowfall damaging high water was anticipated throughout the month.

Bethel voters at the annual meeting raised less money than in 1957, although school appropriations increased \$5,500.

At the annual meeting of the Bethel Health and Service Council, Inc., the balance in the general fund was reported to be \$335.73. Mrs. Ruth Lanni was elected president.

William Perkins was elected clerk and treasurer of the town of Rumford, succeeding Douglas Griffin who resigned after serving one week.

It was reported that 29 Oxford County farms were accepted in the Soil Bank program. Those in Bethel included Edith H. Eypper, Leslie E. Davis, James C. Bartlett, and P.H. Chadbourne & Co.

Mr. and Mrs. Lester S. Turner of Buckfield observed their 74th wedding anniversary.

Goodwin's Inc., opened their new insurance office building on Paris Street, Norway.

Albert J. Silver retired after 30 year service as carrier on Route 2, Bethel. He was honored at a supper planned by the post office personnel. Members of the Oxford County Rural Letter Carriers Association were guests.

Deaths: Peter P. Schutt, Mrs. Alice Smith Brown, Miss Alice Bennett, William B. Hall, Mrs. Lena Olson Thurston, Tappan D. Blake, Mrs. Mary Edna Spring.

## **April**

John H. McKeen of West Paris was named an Outstanding Farmer at the Annual Farm and Home Week ceremony at Orono.

Richard L. Davis purchased the Thurston mill property from Charles E. Merrill to provide space for concentration yard for lumber of the Burritt Lumber Sales Corporation of Bridgeport, Conn. The local plant is to sort for grade, width and trim, stack for drying and to plane and ship. An inventory of one to one and a half million feet is expected.

A surprise party was tendered Mr. and Mrs. Addison C. Saunders on their 25th wedding anniversary at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Dana Douglass, Jr.

The Sunday River Skiway Corporation was organized with Addison C. Saunders, president. Work was started by volunteers in clearing land on Bald (Barker) Mountain, Newry, for ski development.

Deaths: Barbara Jean Walker, Marshall R. Hastings, John L. Spinney, John C. Gilman, Harold D. Peaslee, Jr.

## **May**

The Noyes Block at Norway was gutted by an early morning fire. Damage was estimated at \$52,000.

Elisha Stetson of Dixfield who retired after 50 years service at the Rumford Bank & Trust Co. was honored at a testimonial banquet.

Six senior girls of Gould Academy were honor guests at a pre-nuptial shower given by their girl classmates at the Community Room. The girls honored were Barbara Plummer, Cleo Cole, Janice Saunders, Jane Bennett, Carolyn Tibbetts and Claudia Hatch.

The Ladies Club established a fund of \$4,000 for the West Parish Congregational Church of Bethel.

Deaths: Charles Mason, Frank R. Bartlett, Mrs. Mildred E. Tyler, Mrs. Lucille B. Hooper, Mrs. Laura A. McKeen, Eugene Andrews, Eugene Stevens, Mrs. Pearl A. Howard.

## **June**

Wedding anniversary celebrations included Mr. and Mrs. Asa O. Bartlett, 50th; Mr. and Mrs. Albert Bennett, 35th; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Bartlett, 25th.

Jesse P. Edwards of Norway celebrated his 93rd birthday.

The two-family house of Mrs. Mabel B. Robertson on the Bethel-Locke Mills road was burned. Very little was saved. It was occupied by the families of Francis Palmer and Kenneth Swan, neither of whom were at home.

Jefferson Lodge, F. & A. M., Bryant Pond, honored their oldest living member, Sidney Littlefield. He was presented a 75 year medal. Mr. Littlefield was 100 years old.

High winds damaged telephone and power lines and blew down several trees.

Deaths: Mrs. Nellie E. Hodsdon, Mrs. Marion Frost Hudson, Walter S. Chandler, Dwight Thurston, Benjamin R. Billings, Patrick E. O'Brien, William W. Wight, Leslie Corbett, Harold W. Marshall, Harold B. Hollis, Mark C. Allen, Mrs. Hennie M. Billings, Mrs. Leona B. Farwell, Wilfred Drouin.

## **July**

The Bethel Grand Trunk station went on a five-day schedule, closing Saturdays.

The Sunday River Skiway slope was laid out by Sel Hannah of Franconia, N.H.

Central Maine Power Co. acquired the Rumford Light Company, which serves the towns of Rumford, Mexico, Roxbury, Byron, Hanover, Peru, Canton, Andover, Dixfield, and Milton Plantation.

Bethel Theater closed and Max Zallen, the owner who built it in 1940, announced his plans for converting the building into a two-story motel.

Herman Mason was honored by a party of relatives and friends on his 84th birthday.

Surfacing was underway on the 4.2 miles of highway in Hanover, the contract of Frank Rossi of Gardiner.

The barn of Frank Benson at Northwest Bethel was struck by lightning and burned.

Mr. and Mrs. Jasper Cates observed their 54th wedding anniversary.

O. T. Rozelle, Bethel's town manager, 1954-57, succeeded the late Bion Jose as town manager at Milo.

Bethel Dowel Corporation was rebuilding their plant at Skillingston. Since their mill burned in October 1957, they had operated at the Grafton Lumber Company planning mill.

Deaths: Mrs. Katherine S. Maxim, Mrs. Mertle E. Hardy, Mrs. Grace Sadlier, Harrison M. Hunt, Carroll E. Abbott.

## **August**

Clayton Kendall of West Bethel suffered painful injuries when he was pinned under a load which fell from a fork lift.

Dutch elm disease was discovered in twenty trees in Fryeburg village.

Joel Merrill suffered a broken leg when a car ran into the hayrack he was driving.

Norway National Bank held open house in celebration of its 25th anniversary.

Lynn Koenizeberg, 14 year old Lawrence, N.Y., girl was found by Burton Newton of West Bethel after she was lost overnight on Speckled Mountain near Evans Notch.

Swimming lessons at Songo Pond, sponsored by the Red Cross, finished with 170 completing the course.

The orchards of John H. McKeen, West Paris, were damaged between \$40,000 and \$50,000 by a hailstorm.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Childs of North Paris observed their golden wedding.

Deaths: Stephen G. Rich, Edwin Lovejoy, Mrs. Delia Glines Bennett, Mrs. Mabel O'Brien, James Barnett, Dr. H. Louella Noyes, James D. Uhlman, Jasper Cates, Horace E. Littlefield.

## **September**

Ground was broken for the new furniture stock plant of Roger Favreau at West Bethel.

About 56 voters attended a special town meeting in Bethel. Zoning ordinances were accepted as discussed at previous meetings and proposals to discontinue unused portions of several roads were passed over. Burton Newton was elected selectman and assessor for the remainder of the term of the late Carroll Abbott.

The home of Max Zallen was moved to the rear of the Bethel Theater building. Five old elm trees were taken down on the Bethel Theater grounds.

Mr. and Mrs. George E. Emerson of Norway celebrated their golden wedding anniversary.

Deaths: Frank Annis, Mrs. Amy B. Lyon, George Daniels, Mrs. Alice I. Ring, Nathan Sacks, Auremus M. Morrill, Herbert Duran.

## **October**

A 32x52 foot house, purchased by Arlan Jodrey from the Portland Pipe Line Corporation was moved from the Waterford station of the pipe line to a new foundation on Vernon Street.

James Johnston of Northwest Bethel was seriously injured when his car left the road at the Valentine farm and struck a tree.

Over 600 attended the Parents' Day activities at Gould Academy.

Charles Burnham of Hanover was wounded when a pistol fell from his holster and discharged.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Hodge were honor guests at a party on the 50th wedding anniversary.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Jackson at North Newry was burned with all furnishings.

The Bethel Catholic parish purchased a building lot of Herbert Lyon on the Bethel-Locke Mills road.

Representative Lucia Cormier of Rumford was elected Democratic floor leader for the coming legislative session.

Mr. and Mrs. James Robertson of Rumford celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary.

The Mundt homestead, owned by Mrs. Charlotte Whalen of Somerville, Mass., was destroyed beyond repair. Furnishings on the ground floor were saved.

The Harris Tyler family escaped in their night clothing when fire destroyed their home, the former George Knight place on the Locke Mills-East Bethel road. Nothing was saved from the two-story house, 60 foot barn and tool shed.

Deaths: Mrs. Linnie Abbott, J. Cleveland Bartlett, Lelan Mills, Mrs. Eva M. Hill, Mrs.

Ellsworth D. Curtis, Sr., Mrs. Lillian A. Russ, Herman E. Bennett, Mrs. Emma W. Ordway, Mrs. Nettie A. Brown, Lewis Olson.

## **November**

Wedding anniversaries celebrated included: Mr. and Mrs. Guy Parker, Sr., 35th; Mr. and Mrs. Herbert R. Rowe, 25th; Mr. and Mrs. C. Augustus Bonney, East Sumner, 61st.

Gerald Cushing, Wilton-Jay superintendent of schools, spoke on his experience with courses in remedial reading and help with handicapped children at the Bethel Parent-Teacher Association meeting.

A skating rink was under construction at the Crescent Park School grounds.

Frederick Grover was appointed substitute clerk at Bethel Post Office and Ronald Kendall substitute carrier on R. F. D. 2

A trailer-truck from New York jackknifed and landed in the brook at Harold Bennett's. Mayville, in avoiding a collision with a car stopped in the middle of the road. The driver was not hurt.

The month ended with heavy snow and below zero weather.

Deaths: Mrs. B. G. Stiles, Raymond H. Jackson, Mrs. Maidie A. Hutchinson, Mrs. Grace M. Swan, Albert L. Allen, Mrs. Martha M. Heikkinez, Mrs. Blanche Hatstat, Mrs. Minnie M. Crawford, Edwin T. Bisbee, Mrs. Marguerite Abbott, Miss Ruth Stearns.

## **December**

Bethel Lions Club celebrated its 30th anniversary with ladies night at the Hotel Rumford. Charter members honored were Henry Boyker, Dr. S. S. Greenleaf, Dr. E. L. Brown and Hugh Thurston.

Sheriff James Lassiter spoke on juvenile delinquency at the Bethel P. T. A. Meeting.

The board of directors of the Bethel Area Development Corporation visited the new mill of Roger Favreau at West Bethel extending an official welcome.

Fire caused damage estimated at \$15,000 to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Chester Bean, Bryant Pond.

The cold weather which started with the first snowfall the last of November continued through the month, more than half the mornings being below zero in many places. Although most roads were in good winter condition, many accidents resulted from the few icy patches.

Western Union telegraph service was removed from the Bethel railroad station.

Mr. and Mrs. Harris Tyler moved into their new home Dec. 1, built on the site of their place which burned Oct 31.

Deaths: Elmer J. Stearns, Mrs. Minnie M. Stearns, Clifton A. Pinkham, David M. Forbes, Archer L. Grover, Mrs. Helen Smith Cole, Henry Perkins.