



The Bethel Journals

Bethel Maine History

April 5, 2010

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1959 Bethel News Summary

The Oxford County Bethel Citizen

Carl Brown, Editor

The past year, while not a “boom” period, has been one of noteworthy progress in the Bethel area. In nearly every woodworking industry additions have been completed, and at the Chadbourne plant a new sawmill replaces older equipment. Machinery for converting waste lumber into chips for paper manufacture is in use at the Davis, Chadbourne and Hanover Dowell Co. mills.

Other construction includes a 40x40 block addition at Bennett’s Garage for body and paint work and the new 50x60 ft block building of Lloyd Lowell’s Western Auto on the Locke Mills road. New motels completed were the Thunderbird Motor Inn of Max Zallen on Main Street and the Red Rooster built and operated by Roland Glines at Mayville.

The town’s progress includes construction of the Evergreen Road sewer and the West Bethel water system while of importance to the entire area is the opening of the Sunday River Skiway last month (December, 1959).



Thunderbird Motor Inn

January

A three day blizzard following a short warm spell and light snowfall caused much damage to property and blocked roads temporarily in a few places.

Announcement was made of the retirement of Clayton P. Fossett from the Gould Academy faculty where he had served 24 years.

Richard Perkins of Bethel was named to succeed Fred Smith as trust officer of Norway National Bank.

Plans for improvement of the West Bethel school building were discussed at an open meeting.

Six of the eight children of Mr. and Mrs. Luther Tripp, formerly of South Bethel, died when fire

destroyed their home in Ashland.

Harry C. Brown, former Dixfield High School teacher, was elected principal of Pennell Institute Gray.

February

It was announced that Elwood F. Ireland was to retire as headmaster of Gould Academy in June to be succeeded by Edmond J. Vachon. Vance Richardson was named senior master.

The boiler room at the new factory of Roger Favreau at West Bethel was burned.

Fifteen were made homeless at Upton when a night fire destroyed the store and home of Kendrick Judkins and family, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Cedric Judkins and the former Abbott House, occupied by Mrs. Ran Barnett, their son Malcolm and family.

No injuries were reported in two accidents on the Bethel—Locke Mills road involving loaded pulpwood trucks. A truck driven by George Paine of South Paris overturned when its two left rear wheels fell off strewing the load over the road. When its motor stalled in the hill near Kozy Korner Restaurant, a truck driven by Gaston Gauthier of Lewiston left the road in backing down the hill.

Deaths: Wesley N. Ferris, Anothony W. Berryment, John Pentilla.

March

Bethel town meeting appropriations totaled \$190,480.

Donald Angevine and Melvin Jodrey of Bethel were skiers in the National Junior Championships at Yakima, Wash.

Miss Lee Ann Grover was Gould Academy Carnival Queen.

The school committee voted to close the schools at East and South Bethel.

Mr. and Mrs. Guy Bartlett of Bethel celebrated their golden wedding anniversary and Mr. and Mrs. Claude Cushman of Bryant their 40th anniversary.

Elwood F. Ireland, Jr., M.D., completed requirements to be certified as a member of the American Board of Urology.

Mrs. Gladys Conant of Canton was honored as an Outstanding Homemaker at the Farm and Home Week program.

Deaths: William A. Dyer, Mrs. Hester K. Sanborn, Norman E. Jordan, Carleton S. Fuller, Mrs. Florence M. Westleigh. Mrs. Olive A. Douglass, Oscar H. Gould, Fred W. Tyler.

April

Mr. and Mrs. Wallace F. Clark of Bethel observed their 60th wedding anniversary.

Rev. Donald M. Hinckley, for four years pastor of the West Parish Universalist Church, left to take a pastorate in Worcester, Mass.

Leon E. Haskell, retired accountant, became town manager of Oxford.

Discovery of pure cesium ore deposits in West Paris was reported.

The woodworking plant of Chester Ranger in Canton was burned with \$20,000 loss.

A Sunday afternoon fire at the Bethel Dowel Corporation plant (Skillington) was confined to the boiler room.

Trustees of the Bethel Health Council announced that although their funds were "dangerously low" because of lack of interest the annual bazaar would not be held.

Deaths: Mrs. Edward E. Bennett, Archie Donald Cameron, Mrs. Fritz Tyler, George H. Bennett, Mrs. Mabel Beckler, Stanley R. Bean, Eugene Thurlow, Mrs. Laura N. Richardson, Carleton Libby, Thomas W. Burriss, Leroy W. Coffin, Mrs. Tilda Koskela, James Weston, Dennis E. Hudson, Frank S. Douglass, Mrs. Frances Wiske (or Winke), Vernon R. Smith.

May

Howard Lowe, 12, of South Paris was severely injured when struck in the eye by an arrow.

Rodney Brooks began manufacture of picket fences, trellises, and furniture in the Frank Bartlett shop at the foot of Mill Hill.

Woodland fires included 400 acres of Charles Bartlett in Roxbury, 10 acres in Fryeburg, 50 acres in Brownfield and about two square miles in Denmark.

Two Augusta young people were injured in a crash on the Grover Hill road. The car, reported stolen, had previously been driven through Bethel's Main Street at a rapid rate in an attempt to escape State Police.

Mr. and Mrs. William Cushman, South Paris, celebrated their 57th anniversary.

Deaths: Mrs. Anna Morgan, Mrs. Mary Stearns Merrill, George S. Freeman, George Duran.

June

The home of Fred Auger at North Newry was damaged by fire and water. The blaze was confined to the upper part of the house.

Stanley Wheeler of South Paris was honored at a dinner at the Bethel Inn for 53 years of service with the Providence Washington Insurance Co.

Lester Turner of Buckfield celebrated his 100th birthday.

A hearing by the State Highway Commission on the construction of an overpass at the junction of Routes 2, 5 and 26 was held at Odeon Hall.

The Robertson house at the Corner of Main and Elm Streets was razed to give space for the Thunderbird Motel parking lot.

John F. Ellingwood of Buckfield was guest of honor at a party on his 81st birthday and the 50th anniversary of the Ellingwood Turning Co. which he founded.

The Western Maine Sanatorium at Hebron closed. Some of the 32 patients went to the Fairfield sanatorium.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert York moved to Brownfield (from Bethel) where he became town manager.

Deaths: Mrs. Jessie S. Chapman, Mrs. Fred Jordan, Glenn S. Martin, Lindon I. Philbrook, Mrs. Inez Emery, Mrs. Roxanne Downs, Clayton F. Fossett, Mrs. Ella Stevens Grover, Robert Grover, Chester Knowles.

July

Miss Dixie Lea Brown of Bethel was a delegate to the National Convention of Future Homemakers at Chicago.

Dr. John Young of Jonesport began the practice of medicine in the Dr. Boynton office, vacated by Dr. John Lanni.

Sgt Stanley Haskell of Oxford retired from the State Police force.

The building at Hanover occupied for many years by J. B. Roberts as a furniture store burned.

Two Bethel men received promotions in the woods department at Oxford Paper Co. Arthur F. Lincoln became manager of wood procurement, and Sumner P. Burgess was advanced to superintendent New England Rail and Long Haul Area.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Cotton celebrated their golden wedding.

The cottage of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Verville on an island in North Pond, Woodstock, was burned.

Approval of a loan from the Small Business Administration assured completion of Sunday River Skiway for the 1959-60 season.

Deaths: George E. Waldron, Mrs. Betty B. Thurston, Ralph S. Osgood, Raymond K. Cummings, H. Eugene McAllister, Mrs. Thelma L. Witter, Mrs. Myrtle Treworgy, Mrs. Eugenie Annis, Mrs. Carrie French, Mrs. Agnes Brooks, Edwin E. Swain.

August

The transmitter of radio station WRUM, Rumford, was knocked out when lightning struck the house.

The home of Arthur Theriault in Milton burned with loss estimated at \$5,000.

Expansion at the furniture stock plant of Roger Favreau, West Bethel, included construction of three 13x34 foot kilns, a 40x52 foot temperature shed, 20x40 foot boiler room, and an office building.

Deaths: Olin K. Boothman, Mrs. Winifred H. Bartlett, Clement Worcester, George Emmons, Harry Spring, Harry Inman, Herbert G. Mason, Dr. John A. Tillema, Mrs. Edythe M. White, Charles M. McEwen.

September

Gould Academy opened with registration of 315. The senior class led with 82, juniors, 80,

sophomores 80, freshmen 73.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Cleve Waterhouse, Grover Hill, was burned with all contents.

The barn and shed at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Estes Yates, North Bethel, burned and the house was damaged by smoke and water.

The former residence of Harlan Hutchins, Clark Street, was bought by Renton Robertson and moved to Paradise Road.

Mr. and Mrs. Allen Walker held open house on their 40th wedding anniversary.

Deaths: Arthur E. Dean, Arthur H. Browne, Frank A. Hunt, Sr., Ernest F. Bisbee, Mrs. Ida P. York, George L. Haines, Mrs. Mary Greig, Chester A. Ladd, Rodney T. Grover, Leslie H. Coburn, Mrs. Anna K. Ray, Surrilas T. Tripp, Alfred R. Clark, Mrs. Marie B. Lowe.

October

Three breaks in one night were reported at West Bethel, at the Abbott Garage, L & F General Store, and the souvenir shop of Mrs. Helen Fuller.

W. H. Hinman, Inc., was low bidder on 1 and 1/2 miles of road on Route 117 in Norway.

Two buildings, including equipment for the annual bean festival, at the Norway fair grounds burned with \$6,000 loss.

Two days and nights of rain brought the Androscoggin River to flood stage about six inches lower than the March 1953 point. Much damage to property and roads resulted.

Mr. and Mrs. William Von Zintl celebrated their silver wedding at the Top Hat Pavilion.

Deaths: John M. Beane, Willard J. Farr, Osman K. Clifford, Neri Babineau, John Salo, Herman E. Brown, Mark E. Arsenault, Mrs. Minnie Eagle Woodard, Mrs. Gladys Bean, Mrs. Leslie E. Davis.

November

Harry T. Sawin of Farmington, formerly of Bethel, a member of Oxford Lodge, IOOF, of North Waterford, received his 70 year membership jewel at the Franklin Lodge, Farmington.

Clinton Everett was fatally shot while hunting near his home at Paris Hill. Jerry Freeman of Bethel was taken to the Norway hospital after suffering a knee wound while hunting.

Deaths: Mrs. Linnie S. Hutchinson, John C. Files, Lafayette Waterhouse, Mrs. Mertella Wheeler, Homer E. Crooker, Mrs. Estella Millett, Mrs. Ethel Y. Penley, Mrs. Maude J. Emerson, Howard Thornton, Freeland W. Clark, Mrs. Ruth C. Coolidge, Ernest W. Cole and Mrs. Lavinia Coffin.

December

Work on the 3.986 mile road project in Bethel, Newry and Hanover on Route 2 was started by H.E. Sargent, Inc. of Stillwater.

The trailer home of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Cole, Jr., on the Bethel-Locke Mills road was gutted by fire.

Little was saved in the \$20,000 farm home fire of Mr. and Mrs. Winston Jasper at Canton.

The Rumford area was connected to the system of the Central Maine Power Co.

Fire damage of \$2,000 was reported in the home of Richard Comeau, Buckfield.

The 2000 gallon tank for the West Bethel water system was installed.

Governor Clinton Clauson died in his sleep.

Mr. and Mrs. Ezra Chamberlain of Canton observed their 57th anniversary.

Homes of Mr. and Mrs. Herman LeBlanc, Rumford, and Mr. and Mrs. William Stevens, North Paris, were total fire losses.

Deaths: Mrs. Addie Leach Braun, Wallace F. Clark, George A. Hutchins, Donald F. Brown, Miss Hattie M. Harris, G. Philip Parlin, Erlon C. Burns, Eino A. Kyllonen, John F. Irvine.