



# The Bethel Journals

Bethel Maine History

April 7, 2010

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## 1960 BETHEL NEWS SUMMARY

The Oxford County Bethel Citizen

Carl Brown Editor

### January

The general store of Russell Dudley at East Stoneham was destroyed in a Sunday afternoon fire with \$20,000 loss.

Guy Rowe, Norway High School principal, was named to represent Maine teachers at the NEA convention at Los Angeles in June.

Mr. and Mrs. Millard Clough celebrated their golden wedding.

Sam Smith of Bethel was critically injured when his car left the road and struck a tree at South Woodstock.

The car of Lawrence Davis of Bethel was stolen and found three days later in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Organizational meetings of the Bethel Junior Chamber of Commerce were held.

Joanne Bickford, eight year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Bickford, was rescued from drowning in the pond at Locke Mills by Lee Mills.

Deaths: Clarence E. Cole, Lewis V. Verrill, Allen H. Walker, James Wiles, Mrs. Martha C. Pike, Mrs. John Meservey, Robert M. Young, James W. Hibbs, Olaf W. Dwinal

### February

The "metro system" of mail distribution started Feb. 6. Rail transportation (for mail) ended in this area and mail was routed to and from Auburn by truck.

Mrs. Helen Emery, Bethel native, of North Waterford celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Mrs. Charles A. Smith, East Bethel, suffered severe leg cuts and a fractured elbow and Paul Shaw, Bethel, a broken knee cap, when their cars collided at South Bethel.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Bradford, Norway, celebrated their 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

Bethel local talent presented two performances of "Hell's A' Poppin'" minstrel directed by Win Howe.

Theodore Dunham was honored at a meeting of the Oxford County Rural Letter Carriers Association. Personnel from 11 post offices on the route between Bethel and Lewiston attended. Mr. Dunham had served on their route most of the time since 1933.

Crowds were visiting the new Sunday River Skiway. Waits of up to 12 minutes were reported for the T-bar service.

Mount Sugarloaf Grange, Dixfield, observed its 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Deaths: Bion F. Brown, Mrs. Capitola Knight, Mrs. Mary McCrea, Robert W. Ferris, Dr. Ralph W. Bucknam, Paul Robillard Jr., Hollis W. Morse, Mrs. Mabel Robertson, Ezra P. Chapman, Miss Annette D. Chapman, Mrs. Ruby S. Cunningham, Arthur S. Guerney, Mrs. Mabel Farrington, Frank McAllister, Mrs. Constance D. Alger.

### **March**

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Corey Bonney and six children, North Paris, burned. The family escaped in their night clothing.

Bethel town meeting appropriations were \$5,000 more than in 1959.

About half of the 100x200 foot Stanley Arena, Hebron Academy, collapsed.

Two parties were tendered Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Myers in observance of their silver wedding.

Miss Lillian Porter died in a fire at her home on Alpine Street, Norway.

Mr. and Mrs. Leslie G. Turner, Buckfield, observed their 76<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

Deaths: Hazen B. Lowell, Clarence Hinckley, Mrs. Blanche W. Flint, Willie Heikkinen, Frank R. Boyker, Col John F. Farnsworth.

### **April**

The trailer home of Lloyd McGuire, Paradise Street, and the apartment occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Leighton, Mechanic Street, were ruined by fire.

Winner of the School Union 22 spelling contest at West Paris was Alan Chapman. Runner-up was Grace Haines. Both were grade 8 pupils of Bethel.

The men's camp at Charlie Brown's Magalloway logging job burned. All furnishings were lost, besides tractor tools and chain saws.

The one time stable on High Street, owned by Gould Academy, was razed. The building was once owned by John M. Philbrook. Other owners include Charles L. Davis, Runnel Machine Co. and Harold F. Bennett, as a welding and machine shop.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Mason, Locke Mills, celebrated their 57<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

Deaths: Mrs. Crystal Swan Gorman, Mrs. Harry M. Swift, Lucien J. Andrews, Miss Barbara Cushman, Mrs. Charles Poor, Mrs. Bertha N. Storey, George K. Wight, Mrs. Erland S. Wentzell, Mrs. Ethel W. Peabody, Carroll Buck, Mrs. Bill Pulkkinen.

### **May**

Bear River Grange Hall, Newry Corner, was moved to a new site opposite the home of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Morton, Jr., on the road toward North Newry.

Development of the Mount Abram Ski Slopes area by Stuart, Donald and Norton Cross was beginning to attract attention as it was seen from Route 26 near Locke Mills.

Shelburne Inn, the former Aston estate residence at Shelburne, N.H., burned.

Mr. and Mrs. John Tebbets and family of Bethel left for a two year stay in Japan.

A tank truck with 35,500 pounds of cream was damaged at Rumford when the rear tires caught fire.

The Bethel PTA voted to sponsor a paper to be circulated for signatures of those in favor of having a driver training course in town.

Miss Margaret Tibbetts of Bethel was in Leopoldville, Belgian Congo, as leader of a study group with the International Cooperation Administration.

A new post office was authorized for South Paris, to be located at Park and Deering Streets.

Deaths: Arthur L. Gordon, Mrs. Marion A. Buck, Frank A. Hodgkins.

## **June**

Over 350 Scouts participated in events at the Abnaki Cub Scout Rally at Norway fair grounds.

The National Training Laboratories started their 14<sup>th</sup> year at Gould Academy.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Newton, West Bethel, held an open house at their 50th wedding anniversary.

Five men were killed when a KC97 tanker plane exploded and crashed on Jonathan Smith Mountain in Newry.

The Bethel Zoning Board of Appeals decided against permitting maintenance of a large sign of Thunderbird Motor Inn near the corner of Main and Railroad Streets.

The Shell oil distribution business of Ruth Carver Ames was purchased by the Luce Oil Company.

Open house was held by Mr. and Mrs. Victor C. Keene, Buckfield, on the 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

Deaths: Mrs. Carrie M. Merrill, Mrs. Alforetta F. Edwards, Joseph H. Littlehale, Harry R. Jacobs, Mrs. Mabel F. Blake, Lawrence A. Sessions, Mrs. Irene M. Foster.

## **July**

Telephone service was disrupted nearly 24 hours between Rumford and Lewiston when lightning struck a cable.

The contract for relocation of about one and one-half miles of Route 26 in Grafton and Upton was awarded to Owen M. Taylor & Son, Inc., of Winthrop, at \$121,765.10. The construction was designed to bypass the winding road and steep grade at Brooks Hill.

An estimated 1,000 barrels of crude oil was lost when the 18 inch pipe of the Portland Pipe Line Corporation broke near the Waterford pumping station.

The North Waterford Church noted its 100<sup>th</sup> year with morning, afternoon and evening services. Rev. Hilda Ives was principal speaker in the afternoon.

The instrument and equipment in the telephone booth at West Bethel were torn from the building. Most of it was found, including the unopened money box, between West Bethel and Gilead. Similar damage was reported in several other places.

The Church of the Open Bible of Bethel completed its organization as an independent church.

“Mollyockett Day,” sponsored by the Bethel Health and Service Council, attracted large crowds. \$1,000 was netted.

Stanley “Peanut” Gallant suffered slight injuries when the fire department’s small tank truck, drive by him, crashed into a passenger train at Bethel station after the brakes failed.

Deaths: Mrs. Jennie Cates, Mrs. Minerva A. Akers, William H. Marquis, Dr. Gard W. Twaddle, Lloyd Sweatt, Rev. John F. Conoley, Miss Francis Buck.

### **August**

T. F. Spear, vice president for public relations, retired after 41 years service with Oxford Paper Co.

Charles Tuell was a patient at the Norway hospital, after suffering severe burns.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Luxton were not seriously injured when their car rolled over twice on the West Bethel Flat road.

Donald M. Christie was elected superintendent of the Gray-New Gloucester school district. He had served as superintendent here since July 1946.

Dr. John Lanni, formerly of Bethel, was appointed a member of the department of urology at Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital, Hanover, N.H.

A new steel and cement bridge replaced the old wooden one over the Maine Central tracks at Rumford.

Construction was started on the new road at Lynchville by H. E. Sargent, Inc., of Stillwater. Their bid on the nearly two miles of road, half of it in new location was \$151,710.70.

Eric A. Sahlberg of Lincoln, Mass., was elected to succeed Donald Christie as superintendent of schools.

Buckfield High School was enlarged by an addition built by Frank Lowell of Bethel.

Deaths: Oscar S. Dyke, Mrs. Ellen Chapman Watts, Mrs. Jennie M. Richardson, John H. Carter, Mrs. Ida Blake, Melvin A. Jodrey, Mrs. Gladys B. Tyler, Mrs. Minnie B. Jodrey.

### **September**

Passenger train service ended on the Grand Trunk between Portland and Island Pond.

The farm home of Mr. and Mrs. Murray Ring, North Waterford, burned. Loss which included all furnishings, personal belongings and 13,000 baby chicks, was reported at \$20,000.

Two 15,000 gallon tanks were added to the oil storage plant of Brooks Bros Inc.

About 200 attended the Republican supper at Bethel Congregational Church.

A group of Democratic candidates visited Bethel business places and mills and also met many at a coffee on the lawn of Mrs. R.R. Tibbetts.

Contract for building 1.856 miles of road in Peru was let to Ross Construction Co. of Augusta at \$196, 850.80.

Eleven tree farm certificates were awarded at a meeting sponsored by Oxford Paper Co. Wood Department at Sunday River.

Deaths: Orié Bachelder, Gerald B. Whiteman, Arthur F. Pfaudler, Mrs. Lula C. Eames, Jeffrey Linnell, Harold Hastings, Earl F. Coffin.

### **October**

Bethel Masonic Lodge observed its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary with programs at William Bingham Gymnasium and banquet at the Congregational Church.

Mrs. S. H. Browne and Mrs. G. L. Kneeland of Bethel were injured in an automobile accident near Montpelier, Vt.

Mr. and Mrs. Carroll M. Curtis, East Bethel, were honor guests at a party on their 35<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

The Echo satellite was seen by many during September and October.

Winthrop Libby, Dean of Agriculture, U. of M., was speaker at the annual meeting of the County Extension Association at Bethel.

Mr. and Mrs. Dana C. Douglass, Sr., celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

Deaths: John Heikkinen, Ernest Morrisette, George H. Currier, Carl F. Larson, Sidney A. Russell, Elmer A. Trask, Mrs. Emily S. Chapman, Mrs. Helen A. Emery, Mrs. Walter Readie.

### November

Owen M. Taylor & Son, Inc., of Winthrop, was successful bidder, at \$185,587.80, for building 3.21 miles of road in Lovell.

Viola, Patricia, and Sharon, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Roy McKellick of Rumford died when their home burned.

Golden wedding anniversaries included Mr. and Mrs. Archie D. Guerney, South Paris, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Bean, Newry.

H. Blain Sanborn of Norway, vice president of Sanborn's Motor Express, was critically injured when struck in the head by an airplane propeller.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Amedee Fisette, Gilead, burned.

Damage estimated at \$2,000 was caused by fire in a building near West Bethel owned by Paul Head.

Deaths: Forest MacDaniels, Asa O. Bartlett, William K. Hall, Ralph I. Peabody, Ray Carson,

Floyd E. Coolidge, Harlan W. Childs, Mrs. Dollie S. Carroll, Allison I. Lowe, Philip D. Wight, Mrs. Mabel C. Dunham, Edwin A. Glines, Rev. George T. Duke, Lee Corliss, Mrs. Lillian Vail, Ernest M. Skinner, Guy E. Rowe, Sr., Duane S. Murphy, Mrs. Sabra M. McCalister.

## **December**

Mount Abram Ski Slopes opened with an event attended by 250.

The new post office on Riverside Drive, Mexico, was dedicated.

Bruce and Michael, 4 and 3, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Lionel Turbide of Mexico, drowned in Webb River.

Gould Academy bought the Gallant service station on Church Street, which was razed and the lot became a parking area.

Construction was begun by Ernest Blake and Frank Lowell on a residential project on Bridge Street.

Wyman & Simpson, Inc., Augusta, were low bidders at \$433,530 on three miles of road construction in Paris.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Stearns, Rumford Point, held an open house on their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

The home of Robert Henderson near the North Waterford pumping station burned.

Thirty-fifth wedding anniversaries were noted by Mr. and Mrs. Guy Morrill and Mr. and Mrs. Leon Wilson.

Stanley Davis bought the retail lumber business of Charles E. Merrill, to be continued as Davis Building Supply.

Deaths: Mrs. Horace A. Tibbetts, Mrs. Earle W. Eldredge, Mrs. Robert M. Bean, Dana C. Douglass, Sr., Miss Joan B. Hopkins, Mrs. Alfred Curtis, Arthur E. Verrill, Mrs. Alice Herrick.