

## 1966 Bethel News Summary

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[Town Managers Report](#)   [Town Officers for 1966](#)

### January

Miss Christine Sanborn of Norway was chosen for the DAR Citizenship Award at Gould Academy.

A budget of \$649,100 was approved by SAD 44 directors for the 1966-67 school year.

The bell of the Gilead Congregational Church was removed and crated for shipment to an African mission.

Richard Bryant was named president of the Greater Bethel Chamber of Commerce.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Chester Herrick of West Bethel was destroyed in an early morning fire.

Terms of a \$400,000 grant from the Bingham Betterment Fund were approved by the directors of SAD 44.

Deaths: Lamont A. B. Brooks, Roy F. Perham, Daniel G. Brown, Mrs. Lila Bennett Heath, Emery R. Bowdoin, Mrs. Florence S. Bean, Mrs. Alice Briggs, Frank D. Vail, Mrs. Maude E. Richardson, Mrs. Kate Autonen, John Eames Fuller, Leon Valentine Walker, Robert David Coolidge, Alfred Joseph Mercier, Guy Edward Nice.

### February

Ralph K. Ryder was named curriculum supervisor of SAD 44 schools.

Donald C. Loubenstein of the Central Maine Power Co., spoke at the annual meeting of the Bethel Area Development Corp.

Miss Sandra Stecher of Bethel was named Betty Crocker Homemaker of Tomorrow at Gould Academy.

A break in at Gilbert's Trading Post netted thieves "loot" worth about \$1,900.

"The Golden Fleecing", a farce in three acts, was presented at Gould Academy.

The Bethel Budget Committee approved a budget of \$277,170.86.

Tokens of appreciation were presented to Clarence Remington and Ernest Perkins for their work as Bethel Scoutmasters.

Gould Academy placed second in the Maine interscholastic ski championships.

Deaths: Mrs. Etta E. Cone, Allan A. Brooks, Eino F. Heikkinen, James H. Cobb, Wilma Croteau Daley, Duncan MacPherson, Urbain Decormier, Mrs. Cecil Smith Reed, Vivian M. Akers, David A. Glines.

### March

Burdick W. Pierce was transferred from the Andover Earth Station to San Francisco, Calif., by A.T. & T. Co.

Carroll E. Valentine of Bethel and W. Earle Graves, Jr., of West Bethel, received Tree Farm Awards.

The second annual winter carnival of the Greater Bethel Chamber of Commerce was held. Miss Gayla Farrow of Bryant Pond was carnival queen. Members of her court were the Misses Vickie Robertson, Maryvonne Rolfe, Barbara Douglass of Bethel, and Bonita Zinck of Rumford.

Pineland Ski Club of Andover staged its 39<sup>th</sup> annual winter carnival.

A science fair was held by the Bethel elementary schools.

Miss Elaine Treworgy of Calais was named queen of the Gould Winter Carnival. Her attendants were Barbara Douglass, Ginevra Bean of Bethel; Christine Sanborn of Norway; and Jane Howe of Waterville.

Rev. C. W. Laws was named president of the Bethel Health and Service Council.

Dexter Stowell was re-named chairman of the SAD 44 directors.

Miss Eileen Saunders was selected as Girls' State Delegate from the Mundt-Allen Unit, American Legion Auxiliary.

Linda Hathaway of the eighth grade at Woodstock Central School was the winner in the SAD 44 spelling bee.

The University of Maine decided against acceptance of the Gould Academy facilities for use as a branch of the university.

Samuel Timberlake was named Republican Town Chairman for Bethel.

The Democratic Committee of Bethel named Mrs. Bette Gilbert as chairman.

Deaths: Roy O. Brown, Ernest A. Buck, Mrs. Ava Austin, Marilyn Ann Clark, Russell Graham, Mrs. Anna P. Immonen, Krusti A. Maki, Mrs. Elli M. Komulainen, Benjamin B. Inman, Alex Bloom, Albert A. Allen, Mrs. Myrtle H. Roberts, Helen D. Robinson.

## **April**

Col. S. E. Ernst (USAF, Ret.), director of the Job Corps Center, Poland Spring, was the speaker at the April meeting of the Greater Bethel Chamber of Commerce.

A policy of no 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation exercises was announced by the directors of SAD 44.

Jack M. Rendall of Oxford began his duties as clerk-bookkeeper at the office of the Superintendent of School, SAD 44.

Mrs. June Hess of Bethel was severely injured in an auto accident in Lewiston.

Miss Darrell Nichols and Miss Elaine DesRoches were named valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively, of the senior class at Gould.

Secretary of State Kenneth M. Curtis addressed the Oxford County Democratic Committee at Bethel's Odeon Hall.

Brian K. Buck of Bethel was awarded a four-year scholarship by the Oxford Paper Co.

Sumner Burgess of Bethel was appointed chairman of the Keep Maine Green Committee.

A crash of a light plane in Northwest Bethel resulted in the death of Sid Dyke of Bethel and Ormand Andrews of Bryant Pond.

Franz B. Martin of Woodstock High School was awarded a Merit Scholarship.

Deaths: Lois Faith Lane, Otis W. Magown, Alton J. Ames, Dr. Stafford Cassell, Rudolph L. Belanger, Duane E. Cross, Mrs. Alta Cummings Meserve, Sidney A. Dyke, Ormand L. Andrews, Dr. Lowell J. Reed, S/Sgt Robert E. Foster.

### **May:**

Gov. John Reed spoke at the May meeting of the Greater Bethel Chamber of Commerce. Later he addressed a larger group at Bingham Hall, Gould Academy.

Health Career programs were held at Gould Academy and for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades at Crescent Park School.

A performance of the "Taming of the Shrew" was presented by Gould students.

The Director of Health and Physical Education, Fred Douglass, was the speaker at the annual lettermen's banquet Gould Academy.

Melinda Bean was named "Miss Poppy 1966" by the Mundt-Allen Unit, American Legion Auxiliary. The Auxiliary announced that Randy Littlefield and Judy Angevine, Crescent Park School, were Poppy Poster contest winners.

Voters of SAD 44 approved a bond issue of \$1,000,000 to finance a new junior senior high school.

Thirteen cars of a 30 car freight train were derailed in a train mishap in Gilead.

Deaths: John W. Ellis, Porter E. Swan, Clarence H. Emmons, Roger N. Truman, Dr. Garfield G. Defoe, Edward Bartlett, M. Lewis Abbott, Elmon Jordan

### **June:**

Harold Bean, former Bethel town manager began his duties as Farmington manager.

Bethel Area Development Corp. officials were working with Frank Lowell to secure a new site for his building supply business now located on Summer Street (the former John Harrington feed and grain store).

"Pinocchio" was presented at Bingham Auditorium by the Children's Dance Theatre.

Professor Herbert R. Brown of Bowdoin College was the commencement speaker, and Rev. W. Harper Welch of Portland the baccalaureate speaker at Gould Academy exercises. Dr. Erma Scott, retiring president of Farmington State College addressed the annual alumni luncheon.

Allen Walker received the scholarship awarded by the SAD 44 Faculty Club.

Rickie Seames, student at Crescent Park School, and Celeste Gauthier and Martha Gauthier, Raymond C. Foster School, were winners in an "Let's Eliminate" poster contest sponsored by the Greater Bethel Chamber of Commerce.

The June meeting of the Bethel Chamber of Commerce featured a talk by Theodore H. Warner, vice president, Senior Trust Officer, Casco Bank and Trust Co., Portland.

Gerald Smith was assigned as State Trooper in the Bethel area.

Callahan Bros. of Mechanic Falls were awarded the contract to construct a new bridge over the Androscoggin River at Bethel.

Addison C. Saunders sold his interest in the Hanover Dowell Co. to the company Wallace Saunders, president and treasurer, announced.

The Misses Vicky Brown and Ruth Tebbets were on an eight week bicycle tour of Europe.

First use was made of new dining facilities in a new building on the grounds of the NTL Conference House, Broad Street.

Bethel Civil Defense acquired a used panel truck for use as an emergency vehicle.

Deaths: Gerry L. Brooks, Rodney S. Linnell, Dr. Ralph O. Hood, Roscoe W. Larue, Mrs. Beryl B. Morgan, Mrs. Nellie Marlin, Vivian White Martinson

### **July:**

Dr. Loy S. Harrell, D.O., commenced his practice in Bethel.

Callahan Bros. started work on the construction of a new bridge to replace the "steel bridge" over the Androscoggin.

A foreign car reported stolen in Massachusetts in late June was discovered wrecked in Evans Notch.

Work was underway on the construction of two emergency exits from basement rooms at the Ethel Bisbee School.

A cave-in at the Bumpus mine in Albany caused the death of a worker, Oliver Frechette of Norway.

A group of 30 Boy Scouts from Indianapolis, Indiana, were camped at Crocker Pond for a week.

Mollyockett Day was held sponsored by the Bethel Health and Service Council. Jackie Brooks was Miss Mollyockett.

C. Richard Vaughan was named principal of the proposed junior-senior high school by the SAD 44 directors.

Deaths: Mary E. Twitchell, Jean Claude St. Hilaire, Sgt James R. Bartlett, Oliver E. Frechette, Mrs. Carrie F. Logan, Mrs. Hattie Anna Vail, Mrs. Rose G. Lowe, Frank W. Mayhew.

### **August:**

Work of clearing the site for construction of the SAD 44 district high school was started.

Blake McKay accepted a position of State Electrical Inspector for Maine.

U.S. Ambassador to Norway, Miss Margret Joy Tibbetts, of Bethel was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree by the University of Maine.

Morris Pizer, International President of the Furniture Workers, AFL-CIO, address a meeting at Locke's Mills sponsored by Local 77.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hunt, Jr. and family returned home from a trip to the West Coast and Prince George, Canada.

At a special town meeting voters enacted an anti-loitering ordinance. A curfew was defeated.

Frederick Raynes, a native of Richmond, was named elementary principal of Bethel schools.

William R. Crosbie, of Scituate, Mass, was named instructor of science and social studies at Gould Academy.

Work was started on renovations of the former Bethel Universalist Church. The property has been acquired by the Nazarene Church of Bethel.

Deaths: Herman Fuller, Gilbert P. Brown, George L. Robertson, Mrs. Leona M. Swan, John H. Deegan, William F. Bryant, Alfred Bedell, Arthur F. Lincoln, Mrs. Mae B. Taylor, Constantine (Gus) Balores.

### **September:**

A youth council was formed following a meeting on youth needs at Odeon Hall.

Schools of SAD 44 opened with an enrollment of 1,191.

An enrollment of 268 was announced by Gould Academy at opening.

Edward M. Scheibler, formerly of Hebron Academy, was named Gould headmaster, effective July 1, 1967.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Stanley celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

Burton P. Rolfe of West Bethel was licensed to practice as an attorney in Texas.

Paul Carter completed the installation of a six inch water to his property the former "Bethel Inn farm". The line is 2,650 feet long.

Leslie Lapham was attacked by a rabid fox which bit him.

Peter Howard, Eugene Tebbetts, Miss Savannah Stigneti, Stephen Trinward, Gould seniors were awarded Merit Scholarships. Semi finalists John Pollack, Misses Nancy Chapin, Elise Hatch, and Barbara M. Knight received letters of commendation.

Deaths: Mrs. Emma Van Den Kerckhoven, Mrs. Elizabeth Chayer, Eldon R. Gillander, Mrs. Linnie Cole, Frederick Dudley, Alphonse Brown, Mrs. Gertrude Hanscom, Galen J. Curtis, Mrs. Vesta Barrows Bennett.

### **October:**

The new Post Office in Bryant Pond was in use for the first time.

Lew Colby, WCSH-TV, was the speaker at a regular meeting of the Bethel Chamber of Commerce.

Alton Howe of Bethel resigned as full time deputy of the Oxford County Sheriff's Department.

Bethel Republicans sponsored a rally for Howard M. Foley of Bangor , candidate for Congress.

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Saunders were assigned to El Salvador as Peace Corps volunteers.

Gould Academy held its annual Parents Day.

The Bethel Health and Service Council was sponsoring a series of Family Life Conferences.

A representative of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration gave demonstrations at Bingham Hall for Gould and SAD 44 students.

Clarence Staples of the Central Maine Power Co. spoke at a meeting of the Bethel P.T.A.

Bennett's Garage, Inc. closed its door after serving Bethel for many years.

The Independent Schools of Northern New England met at Gould Academy.

Gould's cross country runners won the State Class M Championship in a meet at Orono.

Damage was estimated at \$5,000 when a fire destroyed the stable at the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Jeffries and family on Paradise Road. The property formerly belonged to Charles Heino.

Deaths: Philip R. Burns, Melville R. Chapman, George Howard French, Frank Howard Gunther, Mrs. Eunice Winslow, Eldon E. Adams, Mrs. Alberta Roberts, David E. Roberts, John M. Piet, Arthur E. Herrick, Charles I. Smith, Mrs. Irene Avis Elliott, Clyde Elliott, Sr., Worley Charles Hancock.

### **November:**

Two days of rain caused flooding in some areas. An earth slide west of West Bethel closed Route 2 for a short time.

Directors of SAD 44 announced that the new school would not be ready before September 1968.

Sixty percent of Bethel's eligible voters participated in the biennial elections.

Members of Mundt-Allen American Legion Post hoped to send Christmas gifts to all service personnel from the Bethel area.

Secondary students of SAD 44 chose members for a joint student council.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Butters of Northwest Bethel was gutted by fire.

Deaths: Hugh David Thurston, Eric O. Stowe, Mrs. Gertrude V. Grover, Earl Williamson, Herbert R. Noyes, Verna K. Carter, George Meisner, Mrs. Susan E. Capen, Mrs. Dorothy H. Perkins, Richard T. Young, Norman Allen, Clara T. Barlow, Mrs. Herbert W. Durant.

### **December:**

Arthur A. Dexter of the Gould faculty was named principal of Lincoln Academy, Newcastle, and effective July 1, 1967.

A University of Maine traveling art show was set up at Andover High School.

The D.A.R. Good Citizenship Award at Gould Academy was won by Miss Eileen Saunders of Bethel.

James E. Bennett, formerly of Locke's Mills received his masters degree in wind instruments at the University of Michigan.

George Gilbert of Bethel was appointed full time deputy by Oxford County Sheriff, Lester Horton.

The Bethel P.T.A. announced plans for a Cabaret on December 31.

Horace P. Maxcy resigned as Superintendent of SAD 44 effective June 30. Ralph K. Ryder was selected as his successor.

The Greater Bethel Chamber of Commerce heard a talk on town planning by Lewis Lubka, principal planner of the James Sewell Co., Old Town.

The consensus of an open meeting to discuss public ownership of the Bethel Water Company appeared to favor the acquisition.

Eugene Tebbetts of Bethel received the Bausch Lomb Award at Gould Academy.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Mason of the Bog Road, Gilead, received a Tree Farm Award.

Universal Bible Sunday was held at the West Parish Congregational Church.

The third annual "Living Nativity Scene" was held on the Bethel Common.

Charles Heino, formerly of Bethel, was named Superintendent of Schools, Union 29, Mechanic Falls, Poland and Minot.

The final plans for the district high school were approved by the SAD 44 directors.

Ralph Hall, Mrs. Norma Jodrey and Miss Nancy Lincoln, all of Bethel, and Mrs. Lester Bickford of Locke's Mills were first place winners in the Christmas House Decorating Contest sponsored by the Greater Bethel Chamber of Commerce.

Mrs. Norma Jodrey announced that effective January 1, 1967 John E. Grover would assume ownership of the Bethel Spa.

Deaths: Edward E. Bennett, Mrs. Mary M. Swift, Beryl A. Martin, Mrs. Lora H. Brown, Harry T. Sawin, Ernest Scott Bennett, Mrs. Mary Abbott, Mrs. Blanche Worcester, Amos M. Barnett, Robert J. Wermenchuk, Mrs. Mary E. Farnum, Mrs. Julia Violet Lithgow Campbell, Mrs. Dorothy F. Butler.

## **Excerpts – 1966 Town Manager's Report by Michael J. Houlihan**

Miscellaneous account: The most important item for the future in this account should be new office equipment and furniture. I see no need for large expenditures in this account but T should mention the inadequacy of the Selectmen's Office as a general meeting room. The use of the room at least doubled last year. If an alternative becomes available, it should be closely investigated.

There was a change in night officers in July of 1966. The expenditures in the police account have increased a lot for police protection the past three years. The selectmen presented a proposal to the budget committee for a town owned police car. Cost and maintenance figures indicated that it would be cheaper for the town to own a police car. However the original reaction of the budget committee was to oppose the proposal.

A lot of work was done at the town dump last year. The area of the dump was decreased to about one-third the size that has been used. The dump area was built up with gravel and a fence was put up. The work done at the dump resulted in a cleaner, more presentable dump and the fire department had far fewer fire alarms to answer. The major things needed for the future are improved fencing and a fire break that will meet Maine State Forest Service approval

The street reconstruction fund now has \$8,000.00 and \$4,000.00 should be raised each year until there is enough to construct a major street such as Main Street. The reconstruction of Main Street should spruce up the business area and lead to other improvements along the street.

The maintenance work on sewers was much less than usual and new manhole construction was less than the last few years. The manhole construction in recent years has resulted in less maintenance. Manhole construction should be continued at the same rate as past years whenever trouble spots occur.

The sidewalk account for 1966 was not used but the money will be carried forward so that a sizeable project can be undertaken. There is room for a great deal of improvement in the sidewalks in town. The small appropriation each year should be increased and accumulated so that some badly needed repairs and reconstruction can be made.

The Parks and Cemeteries account was overdrawn for 1966. A new lawn mower was purchased at a cost of just over \$100.00. The last mower lasted several years but it was completely worn out. Mr. McAllister and Mr. Morrill do a fine job keeping the parks and cemeteries groomed.

The Dutch Elm program was continued for 1966 but only about half of the diseased trees were removed. The town is raising a lot of money for trees but the trees of Bethel are a great asset to the town. The diseased ones will have to come down sooner or later and the sooner they come down, the less likely the healthy trees will become infected. Some pruning and planting has been done but this phase of the program should be greatly expanded. The Tree Committee, headed by Sumner Burgess, has done a lot of work on the tree program and their advice should be followed in the future.

Some excavation and fill work was done at the Bethel Air Park last year. There was an unexpended balance at the end of the year that should be carried forward. There are several possibilities of expanding the facilities at the airstrip. Besides help from other levels of government, there is the chance of private help. The airport holds many possibilities for future growth of the town. Small improvements should be made each year and any large improvements would pay for themselves in future years.

The fire station was paid off last year. The only debt of the town at present is the four-wheel-drive truck. There is the possibility of indebtedness from utilities and schools, All indebtedness should be considered before any large new projects are started.

Two major improvements and several repairs were made in the West Bethel Water System last year. The capital improvements were a drilled well that produces seventeen gallons of water per minute and a new pump. Four leaks were repaired and the system operated without trouble the last six months of 1966. The system should be in fairly good condition and future trouble should be less than past conditions. A rate increase is needed to pay the debt and interest of the system. The rate will be quite high but that is the only way that the situation can be realistically handled.

Tax collections for 1966 were the best in ten years. Over 94% was paid by the end of the year and I believe that is a very commendable effort. I believe that charging interest after the end of the year helped.

#### ADDENDA Municipal Water System

During the past year the Board of Selectmen has been investigating the possibility of public ownership of the Bethel Water Co. The privately-owned utility has been offered for public acquisition at a price of \$165,000.



A public meeting was held at Odeon Hall on Dec. 12, 1966, to discuss the advisability of public control and the consensus at that time was apparently in favor of a change in status of the company provided it did not become a general tax burden.

### Change of Town Managers

At a meeting of the Board of Selectmen on January 5, 1967, Michael J. Houlihan submitted his resignation. He assumed similar duties in Freeport on January 23.

#### Mr. H Change of Town Managers

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Mr. Houlihan came to Bethel in April of 1962, succeeding Harold Bean, now town manager at Farmington. After commuting between Freeport and Bethel for three weeks, Mr. Houlihan, his wife, Marilyn, and four children moved to the coastal community (Freeport) on February 11.

Following interviews with several interested applicants, the Selectmen appointed Elwyn N. Dickey of Monroe, to succeed Mr. Houlihan. Mr. Dickey assumed his duties in Bethel on January 30.

Town manager at Monroe for two years; Mr. Dickey had previously served as a selectman in the Waldo County town and as a director of S. A. D. #3. He and his wife, the former Phyllis Giggie of Monroe, are the parents of two daughters, ages 12 and 15.

## **Town Officers for 1966**

### **Selectmen and Assessors**

JAMBS HUTCHINS, Chairman Term Expires 1968

RODNEY EAMES Term Expires 1967

JOHN BROWN Term Expires 1968

DR. JAMES HUDSON Term Expires 1969

J. JAY WILLARD Term Expires 1969

**Town Manager** MICHAEL HOULIHAN

**Secretary to Manager** KATHERYN EAMES

**Health Officer** JOHN YOUNG, ~M. D. ; .

**Sealer of Weights and Measures** HENRY ROBERTSON

**Fire Chief and Fire Inspector** RODERICK S. McMILLIN

**Director of Civil Defense and Public Safety** JOHN GREENLEAF

**Moderator** HENRY H. HASTINGS

### **Constables**

EARL BARKER, PATRICK GRENIER, RODERICK McMILLIN, JOSEPH PERRY, FREDRICK BURK, CHARLES FARRAR, THOMAS BAHR and OAKLEY GODWIN

### **Budget Committee**

SUMNER BURGESS, RICHARD STEVENS, WILLIAM COUSINS, CHARLES KEOSKIE. ROBERT HASTINGS, SAMUEL TIMBERLAKE, ANDREW BOYD and RICHARD WALDRON.

RICHARD DAVIS, BRUCE BAILEY, DONALD STECHER and JOHN FRANKEVICZ

### **Dog Officer**

OAKLEY GODWIN

### **Auditor:**

STATE DEPARTMENT OF AUDIT

### **Tree Committee**

SUMNER BURGESS, Chairman, STEPHEN JACOBS, RICHARD WALDRON, HARLAN HUTCHINS and ERNEST PERKINS

### **Fence Viewers**

STANLEY CARTER, MAURICE KENDALL and HUGH D. THUESTON

### **Surveyors of Wood and Lumber**

MAURICE KENDALL, HUGH D. THURSTON

### **Planning Board**

HENRY H. HASTINGS, Chairman Term Expires 1970  
EARLON PAINE Term Expires 1967  
NORRIS BROWN Term Expires 1988  
RUTH CARYER AMES Term Expires 1969  
THEODORE CHADBOURNE Term Expires 1971  
CHARLES HEYWOOD, Assoc. Term Expires 1967  
CARROLL YALENTINE, Assoc. Term Expires 1967

### **Zoning Board of Appeals**

RICHARD WALDRON, Chairman Term Expires 1968  
CHARLES HEYWOOD Term Expires 1967  
LELAND BROWN Term Expires 1969  
CLAUS WIESE, Associate Member Term Expires 1967

