



The Bethel Journals

Bethel Maine History

April 23, 2010

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1967 Bethel News Summary

The Bethel Citizen, John K. Brown, Editor

January

The State Highway Commission announced a \$3.3 million improvement program for roads in Oxford and Franklin Counties in the next biennium.

Ben Pike, public relations officer of the International Paper Co., Jay, gave an interesting talk at the January meeting of the Greater Bethel Chamber of Commerce.

It was announced that 94.6% of the 1966 tax commitment in Bethel was collected as of Dec. 31, 1966.

Renovations were underway at the former Bennett's Garage property preparatory to its utilization as a shoe factory, reportedly to employ 25-30 people.

Peter Howard and Eugene Tebbets, Gould seniors, were announced as National Honor Society Scholarship semi-finalists.

Rumford Community Hospital announced a refresher course for inactive nurses.

A meeting of community leaders was held at Crescent Park School on Disaster Planning.

The curriculum committee of the SAD 44 directors recommended seven additional teachers in the District in 1967.

Michael Houlihan announced his resignation as Bethel Town Manager. Local manager since April of 1962, Mr. Houlihan assumed similar duties at Freeport.

It was announced that Gould Academy interests had acquired the Bethel Inn and Thunderbird Motor Inn properties.

Rudolf A. Honkala, husband of a former Bethel girl, Barbara Hastings, was on his third research expedition in the Antarctic.

Bids were being sought for the construction of the junior-senior high school of SAD 44. The directors approved a total school budget of \$790,000. Of this amount \$321,000 was to be raised by member towns.

Martin Engstrom, TV personality, spoke at a Gould Academy assembly.

Mr. and Mrs. James A. Browne announced that they had joined the New Tribes Missionary Institution.

The old freight shed near the Bryant Pond railroad station was moved to a new location

prior to being renovated for use as a store by Richard Mills.

Mrs. Norma Jodrey was named general chairman of the annual Bethel Winter Carnival. Dr. and Mrs. James Hudson were named co-vice chairmen.

Elwyn N. Dickey of Monroe was appointed as new Bethel Town Manager.

The annual Mel Jodrey Trophy Race was held at Sunday River.

Deaths: Homer R. Luck of Norway, James A. Spinney, Mrs. Ava H. Poland, Roy E. Bean, Mrs. Earlene W. Hertell, Mrs. Agnes M. Pike, Mrs. Helen Mulligan, Dwight E. Morrill, Mrs. Clara B. Merrill.

February

Eight members, four seniors and four juniors, were named to the National Honor Society, at Gould Academy.

Gould Academy was host to the State Class AA Ski Meet.

Mr. and Mrs. Homer Smith, Sr., Bethel, observed their fiftieth wedding anniversary.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Baker, West Paris, was destroyed in an early morning fire.

It was announced that a new A. & P. Store would be constructed at a Railroad Street location.

Lloyd K. Allen, manager of the Maine Recreational Authority, spoke at the annual meeting of the Bethel Area Development Corporation. Henry Hastings was named president of the local group.

The directors of SAD 44 accepted a bid of \$1,742,063 to construct the new junior-senior high school. Brown Construction Co. of Portland was awarded the contract. The name of "Telstar Regional High School" was chose as the name of the new facility.

The Bethel Budget Committee approved a total of \$395,504. Of this amount \$167,640 was the town's share of SAD 44 costs.

A group of 20 Boy Scouts spent a night camping out on Farwell Mountain.

Deaths: Mrs. Mildred M. Nevers, Robert B. Verrill, L.L. Bean, Harold E. Crooker, Miss Florence Converse, Mrs. Blanche C. Mason, James E. Abbott, Chester E. Cummings, Mrs. Vera Alice Stevens, Mrs. Anna B. Coolidge, Archie Young Sr., Ambrose W. Brooks, Mrs. Bessie S. Learned, Mrs. Grace Wilson, Terence R. Hathaway.

March

Miss Beth Andrews, Bryant Pond, was crowned queen of the third annual Winter Carnival sponsored by the Greater Bethel Chamber of Commerce.

Peter Howard, Savannah-Stinnett, Eugene Tebbets and Stephen Trinward, Gould Academy seniors, were announced as semi-finalists in the National Merit Scholarship Competition.

Miss Barbara Lee Douglass of Bethel was one of the nine carnival queen candidates at Nason College, Springvale.

Steve's Garage on Mechanic Street, Bethel was gutted by fire.

Rev. Robert Jackson and Mrs. Musa S. Brown were elected directors of SAD 44 from Bethel. Rodney Eames was re-elected as Bethel selectman and assessor. A new zoning ordinance was also passed at the annual town meeting.

The Whitney place on Railroad Street, Bethel, was razed to clear the site for the proposed new A. & P. store.

William A. Bartlett of Rumford Center was named Oxford County Civil Defense director to succeed Howard Gurney of West Paris.

Miss Cynthia Bell was crowned queen of the 40th Pineland Ski Club Winter Carnival in Andover.

Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Cross of Bethel celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary.

Miss Terri Reid of Kingston, N. H., was crowned queen of the annual Gould Winter Carnival.

Miss Alice Pearson of grade 6, Elm Street School Andover, was winner of the SAD 44 spelling bee.

Bud Howe, Eldon Greenleaf, and Al Charest were named to be instructors at a planned Medical Self-Help Course.

James Perkins, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Perkins, received his Eagle Scout Badge, at a court of honor held at the West Parish Congregational Church.

Miss Catherine Felt, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Linwood Felt, was elected as a Girls State delegate by the Mundt-Allen Unit, American Legion Auxiliary.

Sgt. James B. Bartlett was posthumously awarded the Bronze State with V device. Sgt. Bartlett, 24, lost his life in Vietnam in June of 1966.

Deaths: Archie Farnum, Mrs. Julia B. Morgan, Mrs. Edith M. Cole, William E. Scheibler, Herman A. Richardson, Lester Walker, Paul Korhonen, Grover C. Gorman, Marine Pvt. Leon L. Poland.

April

Dale Thurston was elected president of the newly organized Bethel Lions Club.

Honor parts were announced at Gould Academy: Eugene Tebbets, valedictorian; Peter Howard, salutatorian; and Savannah Stinnett, third honors.

Steel was being erected at the site of the new Androscoggin River Bridge, Bethel.

The Maine-New Hampshire School of Savings Banking held their 1967 session in Bethel.

Blaine D. Moores was appointed resident manager of the Bethel Inn.

Anthony Inman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Inman of Albany, was selected as a Boys State delegate by Mundt-Allen Post, American Legion.

Vance Richardson was named assistant headmaster at Waynflete School, Portland. Mr. Richardson had been at Gould since 1947, and had served as senior master since 1959.

Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Coolidge celebrated their golden wedding anniversary.

Deaths: Lewis G. Cole, Wesley E. Poland, Mrs. Oral G. King, Charles P. Bartlett, Wilbur Swan, Mrs. Winifred Farnum, Mrs. Pearl Bennett Merrill, Henry P. Morgan, Mrs. Ukkiba G. Howard, Mrs. Laura Gardner Foster.

May

Dr. E. Bruce Kirn, optometrist, Rumford, announced office hours in Bethel, one day a week.

A Gould sophomore, Miss Beverly York, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald York of Bethel, was elected State President of the Future Homemakers of America.

The Gould Theater Ars Class presented two performances of "Camelot".

Major General James D. Alger was named Chairman of the Inter-American Defense Board by President Johnson, effective Aug. 1.

Eighty Gould alumni and coaches honored Ordell H. Anderson at a banquet at the Gehring Conference House. Mr. Anderson was to retire in June after 39 years at Gould.

Eugene Tebbetts, Gould senior, was announced as one of 500 National Merit Scholars.

Henry Dombkowski was elected president of the Bethel PTA.

Janice Bailey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Laurence Bailey, was Bethel's poppy queen.

William Eames, son to Mr. and Mrs. Rodney Eames, was selected as a Boys State delegate, sponsored by the Greater Bethel Chamber of Commerce.

Gardiner Brown of Bethel was fatally injured when his car was in collision with a freight train at West Bethel.

Mrs. Carolyn Brooks was installed as president of the Auxiliary, and Rodney Jordan as Post Commander, in ceremonies at the Mundt-Allen Legion Home.

In ceremonies at the Jackson-Silver Post, American Legion, Locke Mills, Mrs. Sylvia Dunham was installed as Auxiliary president and J. E. Howe as Post Commander.

About 70 attended Charter Night festivities of the Bethel Lions Club at the Masonic Hall.

Construction started at the site of the Telstar Regional High School.

Edmond J. Vachon was elected Treasurer of the Bethel Savings Bank. Kimball Ames, treasurer since 1956, was named President.

Deaths: Mrs. Barbara D. Auger, J. Bradley Stevens, Mrs. Mabel Durkee, Fred Record, Marine Cpl. Chester L. Hopkins, Earl E. Bane, Gardiner L. Brown, Michael Onofrio, Mrs. M. Myrtle Perham, Mrs. Ida C. Newton.

June

Sixty-five youngsters had signed up for the local junior baseball program.

By a vote of 160-76, Bethel voters approved the formation of the Bethel Water District. After much discussion at a special town meeting an ordinance restricting the feeding of pigeons in the "compact" area was enacted. The purchase of a vehicle for the use of the night police officer was approved.

Four children, ranging in ages from nine to 15 years, were lost for about four hours in the vicinity of Screw Auger Falls.

The Bethel Dance Theater presented three performances at the Bingham Auditorium.

Diplomas were awarded to 33 at Woodstock High School graduation exercises.

A petition was in the hands of the Bethel selectman that sought the invalidation of zoning in the residential-farming area of the town.

The American Legion Auxiliary Good Citizenship Award was presented to John Trinward, an eighth grade pupil at Crescent Park School.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Keoskie were honored on the occasion of their 25th wedding anniversary.

Syl LeClair retired from his duties at the Luce Oil Co.

Due to the lack of a general chairman, the Bethel Health and Service Council announced that the annual Bethel Bazaar (Mollyocket Day) was cancelled.

Edmond J. Vachon was named headmaster-emeritus of Gould Academy by its Trustees. Mr. Vachon was to retire as headmaster, July 1.

A group of nine boys and five adults, representing Boy Scout Troop 565, were on a 52 mile canoe trip in the Allagash Region.

The L. & F. Country Store at West Bethel moved to their new building.

Deaths: Charles Poland, Mrs. Olive E. Hamlin, J. Ernest Brown, Raymond Celden Foster, Henry Gilman Hutchinson, Winfield H. Noyes, George L. Flanders, Mrs. Alice W. Spotford, F. Eugene Wilson, Claude W. Heath, Miss Deanna E. Rawson, Mrs. Roxie Inman.

July

Samuel Bigelow was appointed assistant headmaster of Gould Academy.

Dana G. Brooks, Albert W. Buck, and Dan W. Manson were appointed as trustees of the recently authorized Bethel Water District.

E. E. Loubier, administrator of Rumford Community Hospital, spoke on "Medicare" at a meeting of the Senior Citizens.

A public meeting was held in Odeon Hall by the Bethel Planning Board. Discussed were several proposed changes in the Zoning Ordinance as well as Subdivision Regulations and Comprehensive Plan for Bethel.

The building on the corner of Main and High Streets was razed. The location is to be the site of new Bethel quarters of Casco Bank & Trust Co.

Earl C. Oliver of Gorham, N.H., was killed when his motorcycle collided with another vehicle in Gilead.

Charles Sweattman of Aurora, Ill., was drowned in a boating incident on Lake Christopher, Woodstock. He was attending NTL session in Bethel.

Six new teachers for SAD 44 schools were named at a meeting of District directors.

Surfacing work was underway at the new highway bridge project on Routes 2-5-26, Bethel.

Arlan Jodrey and Dr. James T. Hudson received certificates as Tree Farmers.

Riverside Farms announced that they were discontinuing the delivery of milk at the end of the month.

Mrs. Shirley White Parkman of East Andover was killed in a motorcycle crash in Frye.

Deaths: Dalphon S. Brooks, Ewen V. Cameron, Mrs. Mildred Garroway Miner, Earl C. Oliver, Elmer Morrill, Mrs. Maude A. Wormell, Frank L. Littlehale, William J. Harrington, Philip H. Marx, Charles Sweattman, Marianne Sorensen Linsley, Shirley White Parkman, John S. Runyon, Ray E. Crockett, Donald E. York, Mrs. Margery M. Mason.

August

James R. Bennett, formerly of Locke Mills, was named visiting instructor of music at the University of Evansville, Indiana.

The Bethel Historical Society announced a membership of 77.

Clarence "Bud" Howe and Robert Lucas of Bethel attended the national convention of the Professional Photographers of America.

Two Canadian bicyclists, M. E. MacDonald, and daughter, Nancy, of Ottawa, Ont., passed through Bethel on a trip from Ottawa to Moncton, N.B. The 710 mile trip was in celebration of the Canadian Confederation Centennial.

Mrs. Phyllis Dock resigned as a director of SAD 44 from Bethel.

Three died as a result of a fiery head-on car-truck crash in Gilead. Dead were Derick Ward of Jefferson, N.H., the truck driver; Alex Aubut and Doris Aubut, of Berlin, N.H., the occupants of the car.

The Bethel highway crew was constructing 600 feet of sewer line on the meadow north of Vernon Street. This line serves Tyler, Kilborn and a portion of Vernon Streets.

The home of Warren Smith and family of Locke Mills was damaged extensively by fire.

Raymond W. Seames of Bryant Pond was the recipient of the Greenwood Scholarship for the 1967-68 school years.

A 28-inch culvert was placed along the course of Sanding Brook in the vicinity of High Street.

The new bridge over the Androscoggin River in Bethel was open. The old structure, in use since 1928, was being dismantled.

Oxford County Sheriff Lester Horton resigned to accept a rural mail carrier's job in the Albany-Stoneham area.

Several Zoning Ordinance changes were authorized at a special town meeting in Bethel. A tie vote on the question resulted in zoning regulations being retained in the rural-farming area. Authorization was received to borrow \$4,000 for the purchase of a snow loader-blower.

Mrs. Earlon Paine was named teacher-director of the Head Start Center in Bethel by the Oxford County Economic Council.

Rev. George Stebbins assumed duties as pastor of the Bethel and Rumford Center Methodist Churches. He and Mrs. Stebbins had served as missionaries in Vietnam. Mrs. Stebbins is a teacher in Woodstock, SAD 44. They have four children.

Deaths: Carle E. Cote, Lynn Bennett, August Kalbitzer, Robert B. Crocker, Loton F. Hutchinson of Rumford, Mrs. Panzie W. Paragard, native of Gilead, Lorenna Westleigh, Glynden Sawin.

September

SAD 44 schools opened with an enrollment of 1,221.

Frank S. Moreau, 72, of Berlin, N. H., drowned at Twitchell Pond in Greenwood.

Eight persons lost their lives in an accident on the Mt. Washington Cog Railroad.

Miss Elizabeth Waldron left to spend a year in Ethiopia.

A dinner honoring the Bethel Red Sox, Northern Oxford County League (junior baseball) champions, was held at the Bethel Methodist Church.

W. Stanley Haskell of Oxford was named to fill the unexpired term of Lester C. Horton as

Oxford County Sheriff.

Bethel Boy Scouts, Troop 565, were hosts to a Fall Camporee at Northwest Bethel.

A Hunter Safety Course for seventh and eighth graders was being held at Crescent Park School.

Allyn H. Emens of Andover was appointed a certified rifle, pistol and shotgun instructor by the National Rifle Association.

Miss Ellen Kennett, Gould senior, was named as a semi-finalist in the National Merit Scholarship program.

Mrs. Joan Wiese of Bethel was named to succeed Mrs. Phyllis Dock as a member of the board of directors of SAD 44.

Deaths: Frank M. Moreau, Miss Elise R. Hatch, Frank Brown, Mrs. Edith G. M. Greenleaf, Mrs. Florence M. Holder, George M. Hodgkins, Cleveland K. Kimball, Joseph A. Mooney, E. Nestor Ruokolainen, Dr. E. Linwood Brown, Francis A. Littlehale, Mrs. Gladys Angevine, Miss Jill Karen Orino, Will Seames.

October

Voters in SAD 44 approved an additional \$300,000 bond issue for building construction and equipment. The total authorized bond issue is now \$1,350,000.

Miss Barbara L. Douglass, a student at Nasson College in Springvale, left to spend a year in Hawaii as part of a student faculty team of the Union for Research and Experimentation in higher education.

Four were injured in a two car collision near Harvey's Restaurant, West Bethel.

William Eames, a Gould Academy senior, received a letter of commendation for high achievement in the National Merit Test.

Frank H. Glazier of Keene, N.H., assumed his duties as guidance director in SAD 44.

No one was injured as a Canadian National freight train stuck and demolished a Sanborn's express trailer on the Carver crossing in Gilead.

Larry Smith joined the Mundt-Allen American Legion Post, the first Vietnam veteran to do so.

Rev. Clifford Patnode, former pastor of the Bethel Church of the Nazarene, was named to be a delegate to the 1968 General Church Convention in Kansas City.

The Poland Spring Job Corps Gospel Singers presented a program at the West Parish Congregational Church.

Mrs. Sharon A. Kaiser was promoted to first lieutenant, Army Nurse Corps, at Ft. Devens, Mass. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gary York, Bethel.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Wing of Bryant Pond observed their 50th wedding anniversary.

Deaths: Mrs. Wilma Hendrickson, Mrs. Beatrice C. Horton, Jessie L. Ferren, Keith L. Emery, Harry H. King, Jr., George F. Burris, Frank R. Ashby, Mrs. Grace Coburn, James C. Cutler, Jr.

November

Work was started on the construction of the new Bethel quarters of the Casco Bank and Trust Co., at the junction of Main, Mechanic and High Streets.

Mrs. James Ring of Locke Mills suffered a fractured right shoulder in an auto mishap on Main Street, Bethel.

Mrs. Alice Wardwell, Department President of the Daughters of Union Veterans, was honored at a reception in Bryant Pond.

The Directors of SAD 44 awarded bids for industrial arts equipment for use in Telstar Regional High School.

Miss Suzanne Kneeland of West Bethel was named chairman of the annual Living Nativity Scene.

Work was progressing rapidly on construction of new quarters for Western Maine Supply Co., on Cross Street. It was expected to be in use by the spring of 1968.

Gould Academy hosted a colloquium on "The Secondary Curriculum Today".

Miss Anita Young, a junior at Gould, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Young of Bethel was chosen district chairman for 1967-68 at the District Convention of the Future Homemakers of America held at Wilton.

Mr. and Mrs. Willis Ward celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary.

Eight persons were hospitalized when cars driven by Stanley Wentzell of Gorham, N.H., and Roland W. Burbank of Manlius, N.Y., collided in Gilead.

Deaths: Ralph E. Verrill, Mrs. Edith C. Abbott, Mrs. Daisy L. Buck, Richard T. Leighton, Wilbert B. Baker, Lura E. Westleigh, Miss Edith D. Abbott, Arthur Johnson, Mrs. Allora Flint Coy.

December

The Oxford County Municipal Officials Association held their December meeting in Bethel.

Dr. Howard N. Waterhouse, formerly of Bethel, joined the staff of Allied Mills, Inc., of Chicago, as a research associate-poultry.

Rev. Robert Jackson resigned as a Bethel member of the SAD 44 Board of Directors.

Mt. Abram Ski Slopes announced they were ready for the winter sports season with enlarged lodge facilities.

Members of the Child Development and Guidance course at Gould Academy were invited to observe and assist in Bethel's pre-school Head Start program.

A reading workshop for SAD 44 elementary teachers was held at Crescent Park School.

The State Liquor Store moved to its new location on Railroad Street, Bethel.

Blaine D. Moores was named as general chairman of the winter projects committee of the Greater Bethel Chamber of Commerce.

Mrs. Clara Hamlin of East Waterford was selected to appear in the annual edition of "Outstanding Young Women of America".

State Senator Norman Ferguson of Hanover was attending meetings in Hartford, Conn., and Cleveland, Ohio.

The Gould Drama Club presented a performance of the Thurber Carnival.

Miss Jean Taylor of Mexico received the scholarship award from the Oxford County 40 & 8.

A loss of \$25,000 was estimated as fire destroyed a barn and shed and gutted the kitchen area at the Harold Carver farm in Skillingston.

It was announced that Fred Burk would be director of Sunday River Ski School during the 1967-1968 season.

A winter program covering eight weeks starting Jan. 28, was announced by Blaine D. Moores, chairman of the Chamber of Commerce committee.

The fourth annual Living Nativity Scene was presented on Bethel Common.

Two Bethel seniors at Gould Academy were announced as winners of awards. Miss Ellen Kennett received the DAR Good Citizenship Award, and William Eames the Bausch and Lomb Science Award.

Richard F. Morse of Hebron was named Maine Forest Service forester for the Oxford County area.

Miss Paula Poor was named as DAR representative at Andover High School.

The preliminary report on Pollution Control Facilities for Bethel was released.

Deaths: Mrs. Katie Mae Bailey, Fred Q. Haines, Irving W. Cole, Mrs. Lena Fleming, James A. O'Neill, Mrs. Hilda D. Crocker, V. Foster Hutchins, Alpheus Coffin, J. Agnes McAllister