

1970 Bethel News

Compiled by John K. Brown, Editor
The Bethel Citizen

Bethel News for 1970

News Highlights: After 100 years of operation at Bryant Pond, *L. M. Mann and Son* closed its doors on Thursday, December 21, 1970. Gould Academy built a new dormitory, Davidson Hall. Gould's enrollment dropped to 184 from over 300 during the early 1960's when enrollment included a large numbers of public school students. S.A.D. 44 had a turnover in superintendents, Ralph Ryder departed and Robert Gerardi arrived as new superintendent. A. James (Jim) Fiske, a member of the Telstar faculty, was selected as Maine's "Teacher of the Year". Keith Cunningham, Telstar principal since August of 1968 (opening of Telstar Regional High School), was named Teacher-Education Coordinator for the State Department of Education.

Rev. Tom Caton was announced as new Pastor of West Parish Congregational Church. March – American Legion Hall, Main Street and Bethel General Store, Railroad Street, were torn down. A 30 inch culvert was installed to carry Sanding Brook along the Philbrook St area. June – Sudbury Inn and lounge re-opened under new management. September – Joseph Gmuender became the new general manager at Sunday River Ski Area. June - new Legion Hall going up on Vernon Street. Callahan Bros. from Mechanic Falls constructed new bridge over Alder River. The "Window Box" was opened by Mr. and Mrs. John Willard at the corner of Church and Main.

**Telstar's Jim Fiske named
Maine's "Teacher of the Year"**

January 1970

The Telstar Athletic Boosters were sponsoring a junior basketball program Saturday mornings for boys, grades five through eight, at the Telstar Gymnasium. John Head gave a talk on "Asian Impressions" at a meeting of the Bethel Historical Society. Ski teams of the U. of M. and Bates College held training sessions at the farm of Richard Carter, Middle Intervale. Three families in West Bethel were marooned when the road leading to their homes was blocked following flooding conditions.

Denis Corrin was appointed director of Oxford County Mental Health Services. June Bailey was announced as "Homemaker of Tomorrow" at Telstar Regional High School. An exhibition of paintings by William Koen, former Telstar faculty member, was on display at Gould Academy.

Mr. and Mrs. Roger Conant of Bethel were named as co-chairmen of fund raising for Oxford County 4-H Clubs. A portrait of Edmond J. Vachon was unveiled in the Gould Library in recognition of his eight years as the school's headmaster and 27 years as a faculty member. Rev. Thomas Caton was announced as new pastor of the West Parish Congregational Church. The S.A.D. 44 board of directors approved a gross budget of \$1.5 million for 1970. Leigh S. Flynt of Poland and Rev. Patrick J. Haynes of Portland, lost their lives as a result of skiing accidents at Sunday River Skiway.

February 1970

Samuel E. Sulliman, son-in-law of Mrs. Gladys Guerney of Bethel, was promoted to agent in charge of the Vice Presidential Protective Division, W. S. Secret Service. The home of Mr. and Mrs. John Hemingway, North Woodstock, was gutted in an early morning fire. The Bethel Budget Committee approved \$137,148 for non-school spending in 1970.

Miss Susan Pierce of Carmel was crowned as queen of the annual Gould Winter Carnival. A forest management workshop to be held during March at Telstar Regional High School was announced. S.A.D. 44 voters approved a gross budget of \$1.5 million for 1970 by 219-163 margin.

Miss Sally Rice reigned as queen at the second annual Telstar Winter Carnival. Gould Academy skiers placed third at the New England Prep School races in Middlebury, Vt. The Telstar ski team successfully defended its Western Maine Class "B" title. Gould Academy defeated Buckfield High School, 86-69 to gain Western Maine Class "S" basketball honors.

Twelve members of the Telstar Latin Club enjoyed a foreign trip, spending 15 days in Italy.

March 1970

Miss Margaret Joy Tibbetts of Bethel was honored as one of six recipients of the 10th Annual Federal Woman's Award. Miss Tibbetts, a career Foreign Service minister, has been State Department deputy assistant secretary for European Affairs since June of 1969. Four hundred thirty-six ballots were cast in the annual Bethel election. Samuel Timberlake was elected as selectman-assessor, and John K. Brown and Clarence Remington as members of the S.A.D. 44 board of directors.

Gould Academy skiers won the State Prep School title. The Gould Theater Arts Department presented a production of "Under the Yum Yum Tree". Rev. Thomas Caton was named president of the Bethel Health and Service Council at the organization's annual meeting. The resignation of Ralph K. Ryder as superintendent of schools S.A.D. 44 effective July 31 was announced.

The former American Legion Hall on Bethel's Main Street was being razed as was the former Bethel General Store on Railroad Street. Western Maine champion Telstar Regional High School won State Class "B" ski honors, leading second place

Oxford Hills by 16 points. Ground was broken for a new student dormitory on the Gould campus.

John Cole, editor of the Maine Times, was guest speaker at a meeting of the Greater Bethel Chamber of Commerce. Western Maine Champion Gould Academy was defeated 86-64 by Jonesport-Beals in the State Class "S" title game. The Telstar girls' ski team were runners-up to Oxford Hills in the State Meet held at Mt. Abram Ski Slopes.

Mr. and Mrs. William Young were honored on their golden wedding anniversary. The junior high youth group of the Methodist and Congregational Churches enjoyed Easter week end at Rockcraft Lodge, Sebago.

April 1970

A late season storm left about six inches of heavy snow in the local area early in the month. Miss Cynthia Tiffit was crowned as the area's Spring Queen during a program at Bingham Hall sponsored by the Greater Bethel Chamber of Commerce. The Misses Karen Bailey, Mary Ellen Andrews, Kathy Jo Morrill and Kristin Wiese were members of her court. W. Albert Skillings was installed as commander of Barracks No. 2943, World War I Veterans.

A demonstration of girls' and boys' physical education was held at Telstar Regional High School. Eight members of the Telstar track team participated in a road race sponsored by the Lewiston Recreation Department. Ethel L. Martin and Lloyd Cole of Locke Mills were chosen as delegates from Local 77 to attend the United Furniture Workers of America (AFL-CIO) convention in New York City in May.

Two groups of Telstar students enjoyed European trips. One group visited London, England, while the other spent two weeks in Paris, France. Terry Swan, Lincoln Fiske, Frank Gibson III, Florence Kimball and Ruth Durgin were announced as the top five students of the class of 1970 at Telstar Regional High School. Susan Hatch, Dale Jones, Robin McKinley, Paul Merz, Barbara Parks, Brigitte Sanden, and Stephen Stokes were named as top ranking members of the class of 1970 at Gould. Miss Hatch was announced as valedictorian.

A series of child health conferences was being sponsored by the Bethel Health Council.

May 1970

The S.A.D. 44 board of directors elected Robert J. Geradi of Vineland, NJ, to succeed Ralph K. Ryder as superintendent of schools. Donald Fifield, general manager of the COMSAT site at Andover was the speaker at a meeting of the Greater Bethel Chamber of Commerce. Michael S. Stowell, formerly of Bethel, accepted a position as staff supervisor at the ESS Technical Center, Drainsville, VA, for the American Tel & Tel. Co. Frank Hollis was elected president of the S.A.D. 44 Chapter, Dollars for Scholars.

Miss Alice Ballard and Mrs. Libby Kneeland were honored at a reception honoring their retirement from teaching. Miss Ballard had taught school for 43 years and Mrs. Kneeland for 27 years. It was announced that Theodore Stringer, noted science fiction writer of Los Angeles, Calif., would be the speaker at Gould's commencement exercises in June. "The Wizard of Oz" was presented at Telstar Regional High School.

June 1970

Roger Spugnardi resigned as administration assistant in charge of elementary education in S.A.D. 44. Mr. Spugnardi, in the District since 1967, accepted a position as director of the Portland Day Care Center.

Cornerstone laying ceremonies were held at Davidson Hall, the new dormitory being erected on the Gould Academy campus.

Thirteen received diplomas signifying completion of their high school requirements through the S.A.D. 44 adult education program. Gould Academy's 130th commencement exercises were held at Bingham Hall. "Coppelia for Students," the annual recital of the Bethel Children's Dance Theatre, was presented to capacity audiences.



Mrs. R. R. Tibbetts received the Senior Citizen's Award at the annual awards night of the Greater Bethel Chamber of Commerce, held at Bethel Inn. Wilbur R. Myers received the Henry H. Hastings Memorial Award. Receiving Citizenship Awards were Telstar Students, Wayne Howe and Amy Kennett. Mrs. Colista C. Morgan, longtime teacher at the Greenwood City School received a Citation

for Meritorius Service at Farmington State College.

Joseph Smallwood was named as full time deputy sheriff for this area by Oxford County Sheriff Stanley Haskell.

Eight-one seniors were awarded diplomas at the second annual Telstar commencement. John E. Howe of Bryant Pond was named Department Commander of the American Legion at its convention in Waterville.

The Sudbury Inn and lounge re-opened under new management. Callahan Bros. of Mechanic Falls were awarded the contract to build a new bridge spanning Alder River in Bethel. The bridge and .2 mile of highway was paved in mid-November. Work was underway on the steelwork for the new dormitory on the Gould campus and the new Legion home on Vernon Street.

July 1970

It was announced that a program of meter installation by the Bethel Water District would be instituted. Orland Jordan retired from Ekco Housewares Co., at Locke Mills. He had been employed by the firm and the predecessor, E. L. Tibbets Spool Co., since 1921 (49 years). Oxford County Mineral and Gem Association held its ninth annual Gem and Mineral Festival at the Rumford Center School. The "Window Box" owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. John Willard opened at the corner of Main and Church Streets.

A display featuring services and products of the Bethel area was established at the Maine Information Center at Kittery. Dog like animals, three of which had been shot in the Upton area, were identified as Eastern Coyotes by the Maine Fish and Game Dept. Robert J. Gerardi assumed his duties as superintendent of schools for S.A. D. 44. Timothy Lavalley and A. James Fiske of the Telstar faculty was enrolled in a special physics program at Harvard University. Miss Katheryn Dunham and Ricky Seames received the Greenwood Scholarship. Mark Bailey of Bethel was the winner of the demolition derby at Oxford Plains Speedway. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Swain of Andover were honored on the 25th wedding anniversary.

Miss Christine Grover reigned as Miss Mollycokett over the 1970 Mollycokett Day activities. At Bryant Pond the Maine Conservation School was in operation for its 15th (?) year.

August 1970

John C. Anderson assumed his duties as Ranger in the Evans Notch District, White Mountains National Forest, and succeeding Noyes D.

Shirley who retired in July. The Bethel Braves defeated Rumford Point 9-6 in the final game of a local Little League tournament. David M. Bishop of North Windham was named by the S.A.D. 44 directors as assistant superintendent.

Lt. Gen James D. Alger retired following 35 years of service in the U.S. Army. Mr. and Mrs. Winfield Howe of Hanover celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Mr. and Mrs. Irving Brown of Bethel observed their 25th wedding anniversary. National Grange Master John Scott and Mrs. Scott were guests at a meeting of Round Mountain Grange in Albany.

The Bethel highway crew installed a 30 inch street culvert along 200 feet of Sanding Brook in the area of Philbrook Street. Mrs. E. Louise Lincoln was a delegate to the 23rd National Legislative Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah.

December 1970 News

Al Barth Picked to Go Down Under

Alvin Barth of the Gould faculty was selected as Maine's participant in the International Teaching Fellowship Award sponsored by the State of Victoria, Australia.

Mr. and Mrs. Barth and two children will leave in January to spend two years "down under".

September 1970

A two day orientation program was held for personnel of S.A.D. 44. Robert Bean Sr., of Sunday River celebrated his 86th birthday. Leland Mason, Mrs. Grace Morrill, Franklin Burriss, Mrs. Frances Bennett, Albert Bennett, Mrs. Ruth Gilbert and Mrs. Mabel Walker received 25-year membership certificates and pins at a meeting of Pleasant Valley Grange, West Bethel. Peter A. Rosenberg, Jr., of Bryant Pond and Lillian M. Cross of Locke Mills received scholarships given by Local 77, UFWA. Mr. and Mrs. Harold Stanley observed their 64th wedding anniversary. Mrs. Irene Stevens of Greenwood and Miss Anita MacDonald of East Rumford were recipients of scholarships granted by Rumford Community Hospital.

S.A.D. 44 schools opened with a total enrollment of 1,465. Sunday River Ski Area announced Joseph Gmuender as its new general manager. Gilbert B. Churchill was assigned to Evans Notch District, White Mountain National Forest, as Assistant Ranger. Annis's Alleys, the former Central Alleys, were opened under the management of Howard and Shirley Annis.

Gould Academy opened with an enrollment of 184 as classes started on September 17th. Nearly 500 elementary students of S.A.D. 44 schools received free Rubella vaccine at a clinic at Telstar Regional High School. Mrs. Maude Kimball, formerly of Albany, now residing at Mechanic Falls, celebrated her 85th birthday. Mr. and Mrs. Ervil Curtis, Jr., , formerly of East Bethel and now residents of Skowhegan, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary.

October 1970

A basement explosion caused considerable damage at the CITGO service station on Route 2, Bethel. Alan Chapman of Northwest Bethel took first place in the class competition chain saw steeplechase at the Saco Valley Woodmen's Field Day.

Avery Angevine received the Industrial Achievement Award given by the New England Kiln Drying Association. Gould Academy hosted their second annual Autumn Alumni Day. Frank Hunt Jr. submitted his resignation as supervisor of buildings and grounds of S.A.D. 44.

Miss Margaret Joy Tibbetts of Bethel, Emil E. Winter of Kingfield and Howard Chivers of Hanover, N.H., were elected trustees of Gould Academy for a term of three years. The Bethel Booth at the Rumford Hospital Fair collected a total of \$356.00 it was reported. Telstar Ski Coach, Tim Lavalley, was elected president of the Maine Ski Coaches at a meeting in Waterville.

November 1970

John E. Howe, Maine Department Commander, American Legion, attended a conference on Children and Youth at Burlington, Vt. An official count of 1,044 voters cast ballots in Bethel during the biennial State election.

Dr. Sidney M. Schnittke opened an office for the practice of medicine in Bethel November 9th. He and Mrs. Schnittke were guests at an open house on November 15. David Robertson left for an eight week Portuguese language course at Brigham Young University, Salt Lake City, Utah, in preparation for a two year mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Bernard Getchell of Lewiston has assumed duties as supervisor of buildings, grounds and transportation in S.A.D. 44, succeeding Frank Hunt Jr. It was announced that Miss Erma Bisig would be the ski school director at Sunday River this season. Dr. Alexander Tanous, psychic, and John Shelley, downer, were featured in a program at Telstar, sponsored by the Dollars for Scholars. A. James (Jim) Fiske, a member of the Telstar faculty, was selected as Maine's "Teacher of the Year".

A bomb threat at Telstar Regional High School caused suspension of classes for one-half a day. The 402 acre tree farm of Fred Wight of Newry was dedicated at a meeting of Bear River Grange. Miss Donna Rosenberg of Bryant Pond, a Telstar senior was selected as the school's D.A.R. candidate.

Limited skiing at Sunday River on man-made snow was enjoyed at Sunday River on Thanksgiving Day.

December 1970

BRYANT POND MILL CLOSES AFTER 100 YEARS OPERATION

After 100 years of operation at Bryant Pond, L. M. Mann and Son closed its doors on Thursday, December 21, 1970.

The wood working company was founded by Lewis M. Mann and Walter E. Mann in 1870. The major product was bale handles used on paint cans and other containers. Due to the increase in plastics in the handle business, wood handles have been used less and less, according to Mrs. Gertrude Andrews, company treasurer.

A second mill owned by the Mann family in West Paris is scheduled to be closed in the middle of February 1971.

Officers of the L. M. Mann & Son Company are Earle A. Palmer, Jr., President; Mrs. Edwina Palmer, Vice-President; Beatrice Jackson, Secretary; and Mrs. Gertrude Andrews, Treasurer. Earle E. Palmer has been plant manager.

Marshall Wiebe, executive director of the Conservation School at Bryant

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Pond, was engaged by the Maine Department of Education as a consultant in environment education. Early in the month a small Special Forces group from Fort Devens, Mass., visited the area by helicopter preliminary to larger groups undergoing training during the winter months in this area.

Alvin Barth of the Gould faculty was selected as Maine's participant in the International Teaching Fellowship Award sponsored by the State of Victoria, Australia.

Mr. and Mrs. Barth and two children will leave in January to spend two years "down under".

Leland Brown of Bethel was named to the board of directors of Rumford Community Hospital. The seventh annual "Living Nativity Scene" was presented on Bethel Common. Patrick Wahle of Norcine, France, was announced as racing coach at the Sunday River Ski School. Elsie Brooks, a junior at Telstar, was the school's winner in the VFW Voice of Democracy Contest.

The Girls' Athletic Association at Telstar conducted a successful "Toys for Tots" campaign. Alme C. DesRoches was named as DAR Good Citizen at Gould Academy.

A concert of Christmas and other music was presented by music groups of Telstar Regional High School. Mr. and Mrs. George Gilbert of Bethel observed their 25th wedding anniversary. Nearly 20 inches of snow blanketed the area on the day before Christmas causing hazardous road conditions and inconvenience to holiday travelers.

Keith Cunningham, Telstar principal since August of 1968, was named Teacher-Education Coordinator for the State Department of Education.

Deaths in 1970

1970 Deaths

JANUARY: Mrs. Ina Berringer, Miss Sandra F. Cayer, Albert H. Dunn Sr., Miss Alta Winona Smith, Roscoe C. Doughty, Mrs. Mieme McKeene, Thomas W. Bresnahan, Mrs. Maggie C. Newton, Mrs. Ida Farnum, Daniel DeRoche, Ezra N. Webster, Enoch Foster Sr., Leigh S. Flynt, Mrs. Annie E. Morgan, Archie M. Smith, Orrie O. Bachelder, Rev. Patrick J. Heyman, Floyd Earl West

FEBRUARY: George L. Wight, Clifford A. Buckman, Joseph F. Harrington and Samuel N. Blackwood (Mr. Blackwood was Bethel Inn manager during the 1930's.)

MARCH; Miss Rose B. Roxek, Mrs. Mary E. Heino, Frank W. Bjorklund, Charles J. Cornell, Peter M. MacDonald, Mrs. Alice H. Merrill

APRIL: Herbert Berryment Sr., Ernest E. DeNormandie, Mark W. Rix, Mrs. Myrtle M. Emery, John e. Kingman, Mrs. Blanche M. Tyler, Anastole E. Philippe, Mrs. Celia S. Lamb, Clarence F. Ring, John W. Shannon, Alfred L. Curtis

MAY: Harry R. Powers, Stanley Carter, Mrs. F. Alma Lafayette, Clyde E. Oakes, Harry W. Seeley, 1st Lt. Ronald O. Smiley, Elmer R. Briggs, Lottie Maude Warren, Mary C. Stanley, Barbara K. Newman, Clayton S. McIntire, Herbert Hall, and Mrs. Elle H. Cole

JUNE: Fred W. Palmer Sr., Timothy M. Perry, Dr. Robert Clunie, Bernard L. Harrington, Percy Upton and William A. Danforth

JULY: Mrs. Mildred Andrews, Sidney M. Abbott, Oswald Ramage, Theodore P. Emery, Mrs. Velma Spencer Bendler, Dana O. Dudley, J. Harold Neal, Jason R. Bennett, Dr. Harry M. Wilson, Mrs. Ada C. Tanner

AUGUST: George A. Decoster Sr., Fremont E. Marshall, Guy M. Crouse, Mrs. Kathryn M. Dadmun, Mrs. Bessie Andrews, Earle W. Chainey.

SEPTEMBER: Martin V. Bolster, Donald M. Fraser, James Johnston, Mrs. Grace B. Ethridge, Mrs. Mae E. Wheeler, Vervion L. Lapham, Wesley B. Hawkins, John Sennett, Mrs. Nellie E. Hobson, John Carlton Conant, Mrs. Lena B. House, Mrs. Adelia H. Morton

OCTOBER Donald Rice, Charles F. Knight, Henry S. Godwin, Harold S. Stanley, Frederick Barron Freeman, 2nd, Mrs. Helen B. Packard, Wendy Ann Carrigan

NOVEMBER: Herman C. Lewis, Edna B. Douglass, Stanley O. Merrill, Mrs. Florence Stiles West, E. Lester Tebbets, Mrs. Edith Poland, Mrs. Winona Bickford, Cindy Marie Barker

DECEMBER: Mrs. Estella Smith, Mrs. Katherine B. Peabody, Shelby L. Douglass, Walter Stearns, Archie E. Gould, Mrs. Robert S. Haldane Sr., John (Jack) Matheson, Ira M. Bodwell, Ralph L. Dean, Albert L. Bennett, John Akers, Archer H. Hutchins

The Bethel Journals

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PO Box 763

Bethel, Maine 04217

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