



**In the News:** Oxford County Sheriff office now at Norway Savings Bank building—West Bethel water system connected to main Bethel supply—Art Show at Gould Academy—Timberlake Company and Shaker Chairs—New billboard from Senior College Players—Rotary News and Coming Events—Model Railroading: the Andover Bethel and Norway—Wood pellet heating for county courthouse—new house goes up in Birch Wood

### **Follow-up news**

Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, Sunday River opened with the Today at Sunday River box showing open: 1 trail, 1 lift, 7 acres. Wednesday and Thursday when I checked, the score was 0, 0, 0. Now it is Saturday, November 5 and Sunday River is open with 2 trails, 1 lift and 9 acres of snow.

Overlooked putting our snow depth into Bethel News last week; it was less than three inches and only a third of our driveway had any snow at all. We were lucky. Our daughter reported that Flanders, NJ, where she lives, got 18 inches. By this last Sunday it was all gone.

Oxford County Sheriff has moved its Bethel office to the Norway Savings Bank building.

### **Bethel Water District has made connection to West Bethel system**

Friday morning Lucien Roberge reported we have already crossed Route 2 and made the connection to the system. We are pressure testing and disinfecting the new mains now. On Monday and Tuesday, if the pressure test is ok, we will flush and sample. When we get two consecutive tests passing I will separate the W. Bethel wells from the system and open the Bethel system and we will be consolidated. The earliest time would be Wednesday afternoon. And, again, only if everything goes as planned

**L to R—  
Disinfecting;  
water line  
crossing at  
RR crossing;  
testing water  
on south  
side of Rt. 2**



(BWD continued) At noon on Friday, the disinfecting process was going on at the Ferry Road and Don Katlin was testing disinfecting results on the Kendall Dowell Mill side of Route 2. Besides Roberge and Katlin from the Water District, Hodsdon Engineer David DiProfio and Cross Excavation personnel were on hand.

### Art Show and Reception at Gould Academy

Friday evening there was an opening night reception at the Owen Art Gallery at Gould Academy for an exhibit by artists associated with Painters, Players and Poets. On display are paintings and the art of chair making. Musical compositions presented by this group can be heard through DVD players available to all visitors. The exhibit will be at the gallery all month and is open daily.

Ross Timberlake has a Timberlake Shaker Chair in the exhibit. Pick a painting and chair of your preference; slip on a head set and give your visual and audio senses a treat.

Some exhibits are: *Salvation*, compassion for a suffering elder, shaped fresco by Barbara Sullivan; the artist lives in Solon, Maine and teaches drawing foundations and painting at the University of Maine at Farmington. *Cecile*, a harbor and boat scene, oil on gessoed linen, by artist Cynthia Stroud who attended the Maryland Institute College of Art graduating in 1978 magna cum

laude, she has completed commissions in bronze, wood and clay. **Shaker Chair**, exhibited by Ross Timberlake of Bethel – Ross is the owner of S. Timberlake Co which he co-founded with his father in 1974. See more about the S. Timberlake Company which follows in this column.

**Orion over Northern Maine** by Sean Beavers is a canvas on panel work. Sean teaches drawing and art at the New Hampshire Institute of Art and the University of New Hampshire, Manchester.



To see photos from this exhibit at the Owen Art Gallery go to [http://www.thebetheljournals.info/News/Bethel\\_News110811.pdf](http://www.thebetheljournals.info/News/Bethel_News110811.pdf)

### S. Timberlake Company

Ross and his father, Sam Timberlake, founded the S. Timberlake Company in Bethel in 1974. At the time Ross and his dad were looking to change their career paths. Sam Timberlake had years of experience in the engineering side of wood manufacturing and Ross was eager to try some of his design ideas. They combined talents to make a family business based on the clean looking, traditional Shaker Chair.

In phase two of their business, Ross ran the sales end of things from a store in Portland on Exchange

Street. Manufacturing stayed in Bethel at the Timberlake's residence on Church Street.

Currently, the Timberlakes - Ross and Carole - handle sales and manufacturing from their 158 Mayville Road home, shop and studio opposite Rooster's Roadhouse in Bethel. Much of the company's retailing comes from Internet sales and advertising. Stop in at The Timberlake Company's studio to see their line of kitchen, dining and bedroom furniture in addition to chairs; it is very convenient for Route 2 travelers heading to and returning from Sunday River.

Chair and furniture making had been a main stay Bethel industry that was started in 1886 by James Barrows who was a Greenwood native. Mr. Barrows claimed that in 1878, before coming to Bethel, he got out a new line of chairs from any being made and put them on the market call-



ing them the —"Shaker Chair". "This was the first time the name "Shaker" was applied to chairs in this state or any other so far as I know", he wrote.

The Bethel Chair Company and later the Bethel Manufacturing Company lasted until 1914. The 125 x 40 ft. building was later acquired by Hugh F. Thurston who went on to run the largest dowel manufacturing mill in Bethel. In 1886, however, the Bethel voters appropriated funds to construct the mill building as a move to boost the town's economy. The chair company later added a nearby finishing building that lasted until torn down by the Bethel Station development in the mid 1990's.



Bethel Chair Co. chairs in collection of Bethel Historical Society

Bethel's first chair enterprise lasted only 28 years compared to the S. Timberlake Company's 37 years and still going. At last Friday evening's reception at the Owen Art Gallery, Norm Milliard cracked that the future Shaker Chair will (probably) be a wheel chair.

## SENIOR COLLEGE PLAYERS BACK FOR SIXTH YEAR

Senior College Players have been rehearsing for the past two months at the Bethel Congregational Church, polishing up their nine comic and serious plays. Next week they head for the Trustees Auditorium at Gould Academy to begin dress rehearsals. Their weekend of theater promises to entertain you with super polished performances and is scheduled for Friday, December 2, from 7-9 pm and Saturday, December 3, from 7-9 pm. Four of the nine plays will be performed each evening. The remaining shorter plays will be divided between the two evenings.

Director Lynn Arizzi takes pride in her 16 member troupe where all but one, Cayte Vogt, are veteran Senior College Player Thespians. She says that Senior Theater is based on the premise that participation does not require memorizing scripts. However, after six years, her veterans' talents and abilities have grown to the point that many no longer see the need to use their scripts.

For the debut of Bethel's "twilight series," you'll be treated to "Almost the Bride of Dracula" by Dennis Snee. Bethel's former Post Master, Norman Milliard, plays a dramatic Dracula, now 580 years old. Lorrie Hoeh plays his mother who longs for grandchildren. However, Dracula's potential



(Senior Players continued from page 4.) brides played by Tineke Ouwinga, Joanne Morse and Carole Timberlake don't seem to fit the bill. Lynn Mason and Joe Arizzi play Carole's parents. You've got to be prepared for the not so bloody ending.

"While Shakespeare Slept," by Tim Kelly, has veteran Ross Timberlake as Shakespeare in his early years. He's decided to abandon the theatre and become a stable boy. Barbara Dion runs the Inn. Rosabelle Tifft, a serving girl, tries to convince him to return to the theatre. He falls asleep and is plagued in his dreams by all of his heroines past and to be. These include Juliet (Carole Timberlake), Rosalind (Roberta Taylor), Lady Macbeth (Joanne Morse), Portia (Lorrie Hoeh), Kate (Tineke Ouwinga) and Cleopatra (Arita Zitoli). Lynn Mason delivers the prologue. The creative Players have come up with some unique costumes for this play!

"They're None of Them Perfect" by Sophie Kerr is another delight as five ladies meet to encourage or perhaps discourage their friend, Amanda (Barbara Dion), from getting married. The ladies, Carol Campbell, Tineke Ouwinga, Rosabelle Tifft, Roberta Taylor and Arita Zitoli all have horror stories about the unusual habits of their husbands. Don't we all! Ross Timberlake plays Amanda's fiancé, whom she decides is "perfect."

"Creative Dating," by V. B. Leghorn, has Carole Timberlake and Tineke Ouwinga playing two ditsy broads to perfection. After being discouraged with all dating services, they decide to rob a bank just to get a date with the bank manager (Norman Milliard). They scare the bank customers (Joe Arizzi, Cayte Vogt, Carol Campbell, Lynn Mason and Roberta Taylor) and enjoy their interaction with the policemen (Read Dickinson, Walter Brough and Ross Timberlake).

"One Tennis Shoe," by Shel Silverstein has Harvey (Ross Timberlake) trying to convince his wife (Joanne Morse) that she is becoming a bag lady. Wait until you see what she has in her purse. Read Dickinson is the waiter.

"The Third Scourge" by Vin Moeale, Jr., has Woodrow (Read Dickinson) plagued by the computer age. Many can relate to this one.

In "Whose Turn Is It" by Philip Potak, two old codgers (Joe Arizzi and Walter Brough) play checkers while taking lots of pot shots at each other.

"The Lemonade Stand" by Bryan P. Harnetiaux has a poor woman (Lynn Mason) selling very special lemonade. A high powered real estate salesperson (Roberta Taylor) would like to buy some of this delicacy.

"The Magic Bandit" by Mark Steven Jensen has two very high stake rollers (Rosabelle Tifft and Barbara Dion) competing for jackpots, which tests their loyalty to each other.

Their won't be any lag time between set changes as you'll be treated to some humorous takes by Lorrie Hoeh, Roberta Taylor and Joanne Morse. They'll delight you as they go "Jogging Along," a play by Dory Kaiser.

You may want to attend both weekend performances and see all the plays. Admission is free but donations will be accepted to offset the royalty fees for these plays.

## Rotary News and Events Coming Up

Rotary's Fall All-You-Can-Eat Buffet at Ordway Hall, Gould Academy, Church Street, Bethel will be held on Sunday, November 27. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$3 for children 12 years or younger. Tickets purchased in advance \$7. Advanced tickets can be purchased from Club members or at the River View Resort and Mt. Mann Jewelers. Proceeds benefit the club's community projects and scholarships.

Rotary Senior Christmas Luncheon will be held at the American Legion Hall, Locke Mills on Tuesday, December 13 at noon. A great ham dinner with all the usual trimmings prepared at the Good Food Store by Rotarians under the careful eye of Dave Nivus and his staff. All seniors are welcome to enjoy a good meal and fellowship. There is no cost.

Our club President Ellie Andrews has volunteered to join a Rotaplast surgical team in Togo, West Africa. Non-medical volunteers are financially responsible for all their travel costs and gratuities. Ellie apparently has nervous hands; she knits or crochets during her free time. She has knitted an afghan to be raffled off on November 15th to help defray some of her expenses. She will depart Boston November 25 and return December 10. Ellie previously volunteered to go to Peru as a "Sterlizer" in 2008. Raffle tickets are \$2 or three for \$5. Tickets can be purchased from Ellie 592-9614; We've Got The Look - 875-2887; and River View Resort - 824-2808 (Rene McGrew).

## HOBBY CORNER – Model Railroading – the Andover Bethel and Norway

Tis the season for indoor pursuits; in 1972 our HO gauge model railroad started growing on a 6 x 3 foot table. It had to have a name so it became the Andover, Bethel and Norway even though we were in England. A used model steam switch engine from a store near Trafalgar Square cost 8 pounds (in 1972 about \$20.), now they are around \$250.

The A B & N RR Co. has had three homes but has lain sleeping for many years now. It is time to wake up. Why? Well space, money and time confine hobby ambitions. But a camera with video capability has changed my model railroading future.

(See Bethel HO Rail on You Tube)



Little men at work on the A B & N

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In its early days the A B & N carried lake bound passengers to a South Arm station in Andover and carried birch to Paris Manufacturing. Going through Bethel and Rumford Point it was a good, economical but frill-free ride for passengers on a train with old passenger cars, pulp cars and box cars. The home office was a caboose parked in Bethel – near Martha’s Restaurant of course.

Today it has a booming passenger business from Andover, through Bethel, West Paris and Norway to Oxford where its new southern terminal is the Oxford Wal-Mart.

### **Oxford County Courthouse wood pellet heating news**

Monday’s Sun Journal reported that its new wood pellet heating system at Oxford County’s Courthouse was finally up and running. Oil fired boilers were replaced with three wood pellet boilers from Maine Energy Systems of Bethel. Scott Cole is quoted in the article by Tony Reaves as saying, “They’re running surprising well”. County Commissioner Caldwell Jackson strongly supported the change because wood pellets create Maine jobs and save money for the county, according to the article.

### **New Construction in Birch Wood**

A new home is going up in one of the large, west facing lots in Birch Wood. The new home owners will have a splendid long range view of local mountains all the way to the White Mountains.

### **That’s All Folks**

See you next May. Kathy and I are heading to Florida. Hope you enjoy the holidays.

