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coming season. All last winter I

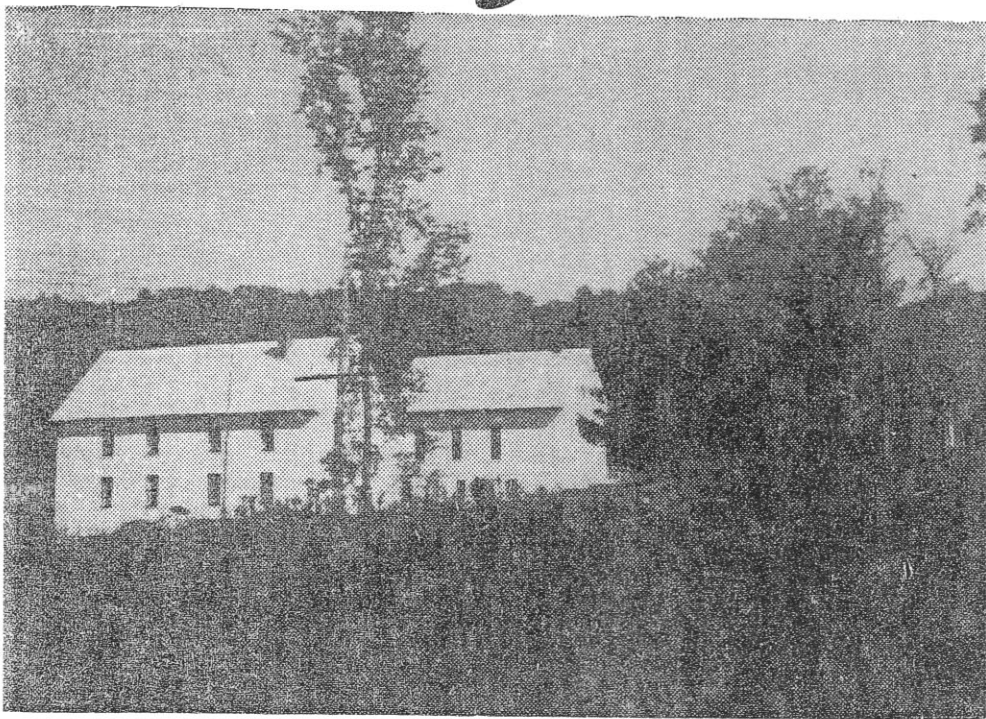
Homemakers Page  
Eloise Jordan Column  
All About Books

# LEWISTON MAGAZINE

LEWISTON-AUBURN, MAINE

Saturday, August 2

## Albany Is Typical



RANGE HALL AND CHURCH .. Mountain Grange, left, and the Albany Congregational Church are the centers of activity for the Township of Albany. They stand on a slightly elevated location at Hunt's Corner overlooking the White Mountains and the Mahoosuc Range. In background is Round Mountain, 1,820 feet above sea level.

By EDITH LABBIE

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In this, our Bicentennial year, the Historical Committee of Albany, Maine, made up of Harlan Bumpus, Mrs. Richard Bennett, Mrs. Kenneth Ames and Mrs. Edith Labbie, presented the results of their research. Scattered records and old pictures were gathered and old timers were interviewed. The

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In 1793 Benjamin Proctor was given a gore of land by the Proprietors of Oxford Plan-

For many years it was a very busy Albany. The Lyr manufactured wood and matches. A spoon built in 1871 by Ellicott and Lynch. For 35 years worked there turning for the Coats and Clark Company.

### Other Mills

Stephen Libby Kneeland, Charles Chesley Fernald operated of the other mills Crooked River. They shingled, staves, logs and even cider.

Bumpus Mine on the Valley Road. It was a six ton school of golden beryl shaped like an ice cream cone. Because of the manner in which it was embedded it was not possible to remove it in one piece. A picture in the Bethel Historical Society's archives shows part of this crystal as large as a log, being moved by a team of horses. The largest piece is now enshrined in the New York Museum of Natural History.

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FAMILY REUNION — One of the many fun

# THE JOURNAL

## THE SECTION

Church Page

Edith Labbie Column

Our Children

August 9, 1975

8 PA

# Maine Community

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"Patte" Brook. Later mill  
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and Eliphalet Burbank.  
Throughout Albany's history,  
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#### The Albany Basins

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natural scenery attraction in  
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**FOREST ENCRUSTED WHALE** — Round Mountain guards the Grange built in Albany that bears its name. The Albany Grange will celebrate its 100th anniversary this summer. This snapshot was taken from the writer's yard.



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#### First School

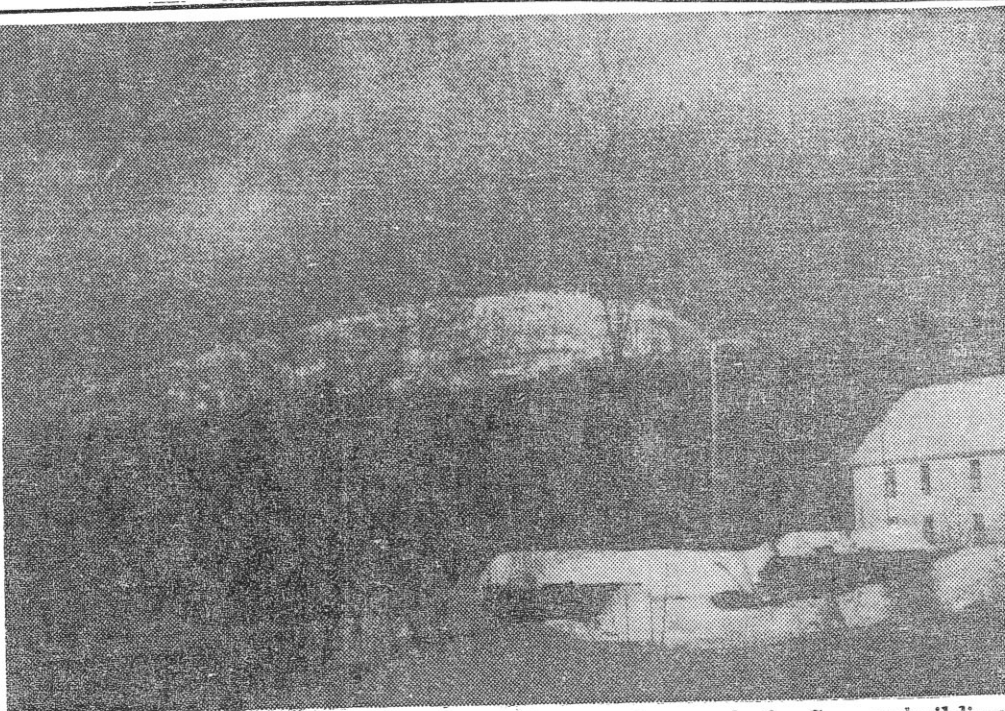
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# Laine Community

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Lovejoy's wife was said to be the prettiest white woman in Albany. She had no competition. No other women! Such are the memories that color the bare bones of local history.

## Plantation of Oxford

In 1788, on Dec. 29th, twenty-four men from Andover, Mass. and surrounding towns bound themselves to purchase a tract of land between Sudbury Canada and Waterford. By today's standards they paid approximately \$1,000 in cash and \$5,000 in notes. Each lot included 160 acres. Four lots of 320 acres each, were designated for a church, school and municipal purposes. Most of the signers were listed as yeoman, but there were two gentlemen and, surprisingly, a hatter. These men are listed in the reprint of the Town Register for

Waterford, Albany, Greenwood and E. Stoneham published last year by the East Stoneham Church.

Most of the men came here and became leaders of the community. Some sold their holdings to men who were willing to let the sunshine into the forest. Other settlers were paid for their services in the Revolutionary War with tracts of land. Samuel Titcomb surveyed the area and called it Township No. 5. After a settlement was established it was known as the Plantation of Oxford.

The pioneers were ready to become a town in 1803 and petitioned the Mass. Legislature for acceptance as the town of Oxford. This wish was denied. Their next choice of a name was Montgreen, for green moun-

tains, but this was too fancy for some of the residents to accept.

## Town of Albany

We do not know why the name of Albany was chosen. As far as it is known none of the pioneers came from Albany, N.H., incorporated in 1766. One historian wrote in exasperation that if the Legislature of Mass. hadn't passed the act of incorporation when it did, there is no knowing what the name of the town might have been!

## First School

Even before Albany became the 144th town in Maine, a log cabin school had been erected near the present Hunt's Corner Cemetery. Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Stearns have a hand written manuscript written in

Continued On Page 6A Col. 1

chair series of deep pot holes formed by the eddying current of the Crooked River as it flows over soft ledges while carrying hard scouring stones.

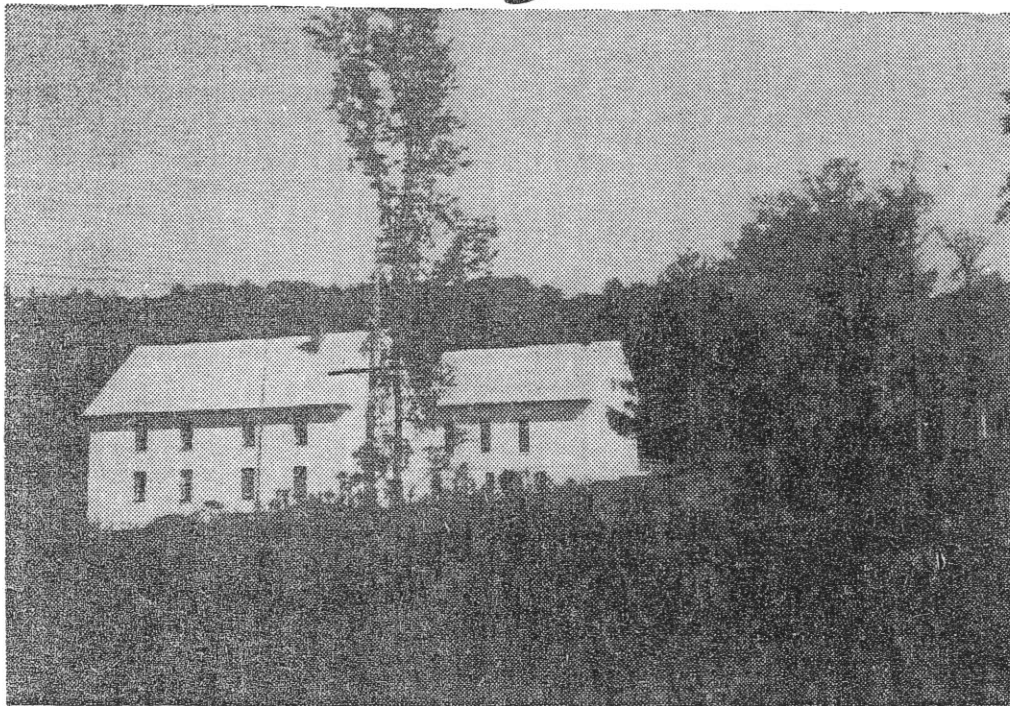
One basin is 70 feet deep and 40 feet wide. An old timer told me that he rated it as being as remarkable as Screw Auger Falls in Newry.

In 1880 Cyrus Kneeland operated the Albany Basins House for stage travelers and summer guests. It is now the property of Chester Ader, a summer resident, and is not open to the public.

## First Pioneers

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### Topography

The geographical features of this seven by ten mile block of land are most interesting. The highest peak, Albany Mt. is 1900 feet above sea level. It peers down on the Crocker Pond — Patte Brook area. Round Mountain is the second highest, 1820 feet high. Square Dock has a dramatic brow of granite that is used by the Fryeburg Academy students while training for mountaineering feats. A score of lesser mountains and hills create hidden valleys with beautiful vistas in the Township of Albany.

Fourteen ponds are pocketed within the boundaries of Albany. Songo Pond, the largest, covers a 2½ square mile area. Eighty-five cottages line its shores.

Songo is an Indian word meaning source, presumably referring to the Crooked River.

Hutchinson Pond, located in southern Albany is 40 feet deep. There are 15 cottages along its shores. Chalk Pond midway between Lynchville and South Albany, is noted for its chalk deposits. It was not economically feasible to mine it so it stands rimmed by the silent forest and inhabited by pickerel and water snakes.

### Rock Hounds' Paradise

A diagonal band of semi-precious minerals crosses the Albany Township from southeast to southwest. Rock hounds flock there in summer to explore abandoned mine dumps.

The largest beryl crystal in the world was uncovered in the

Bumpus Mine on the Valley Road. It was a six ton school of golden beryl shaped like an ice cream cone. Because of the manner in which it was embedded it was not possible to remove it in one piece. A picture in the Bethel Historical Society's archives shows part of this crystal as large as a log, being moved by a team of horses. The largest piece is now enshrined in the New York Museum of Natural History.

The Bumpus mine is also famous for its rose quartz. At one time 100 tons of feldspar were removed each week from this quarry. It was operated by Harry Bumpus. Albert Kimball is the present owner. A fee is charged for exploring the mine.

### Frustration!

Near the top of Lovejoy Mountain is the General Electric Mine where quartz of the finest quality has been removed.

In 1926 a large mass of quartz was removed and taken by train to California where it was ground in preparation of becoming a lens for the Palomar Observatory telescope. At the crucial moment air bubbles caused it to crack. Synthetic lenses are currently used, but The General Electric Company still owns the Albany site.

The Wardwell Mine produced feldspar for the West Paris grinding mill. At one time a South Carolina firm, employing a dozen men, took out a large

amount of mica and shipped it south. There are several other mine locations in Albany. This would be well to recall when snowmobiling in this area. Old quarries never disappear.

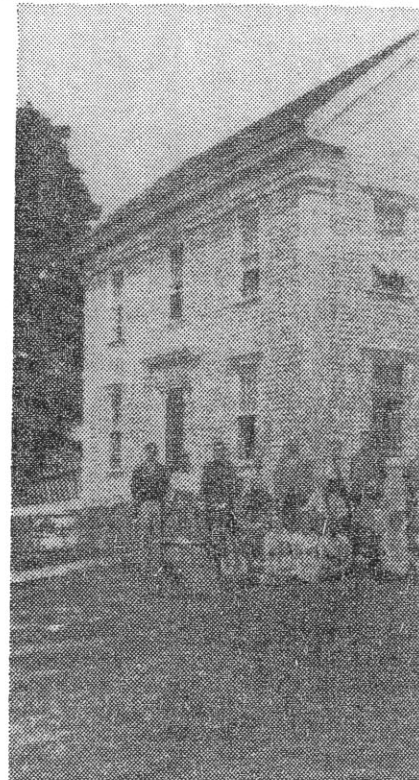
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**FAMILY REUNION** — One of the destroyed by fire. This was the parents of 12 children. The picture eil was a dance hall that also stands now is the granite foundation hole of the once handsome house

tation for building a saw mill and grist mill.

Successive owners were Daniel Brown, James Osgood, Moses Petty and John Lynch who acquired it in 1850. At one time that region was known as Lynch's Mills. Its present name, Lynchville, is familiar to travelers because a sign there lists nine places in Maine named for foreign countries or cities. Once this sign was kidnapped and reappeared in Grand Central Station in New York City! It would be interesting to know who conceived the idea of the sign in the first place.

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# Winds Of Change Are E



**BEFORE THE FIRE** — Nancy and Abel Andrews are pictured in front of their home at Hunt's Corner. In 1925 the buildings were destroyed by lightning. Albany neighbors, under the guidance of the Rev. Hilda Ives, rebuilt the Andrews' home. The touching story of "The Sacred Sill" is told in Hilda Ives' book "All in One Day" and it was reprinted by the Reader's Digest.

By EDITH LABBIE

To pick up the story of Albany, Maine, is to tell the story of many small communities in Maine. During the years between the close of the War of 1812 and the beginning of the Civil War, Albany's population reached an all-time peak. In 1860 census there were 853 people listed. One hundred years later the count was 228.

Some of the Albany soldiers were lost in action, some died of disease, and many of them, in the years after the Civil War, settled elsewhere. Imagine the impact on a community the size of Albany when 56 men left for the Civil War battlefields. Only the very young, the very old, and the infirm remained to keep the farms running.

During the bleak years of the Civil War the ladies of Hunt's Corner refused to become despondent. As one long winter followed another, they circulated little hand written literary efforts to which they contributed original articles.

**Various Publications**

These were called, "The Evening Star", "The Golden Branch," "The Gem" and "The Calliope." They contained verses that were the outpourings



Rev. Hilda Ives procured a truck load of books from a Massachusetts library while she served the Albany church. Two thousand books are in the collection.

**Tavern In The Town**

A tavern was built in 1805 at what was to become Hunt's Corner. This was the year when a road was opened up from North Waterford to accommodate travelers on the Portland to Bethel stage route.

Timothy Holt was the original proprietor. He was succeeded by Timothy Hutchinson, Reuben Beard, John Hunt, Arch S. Cole and a Mr. Chamberlain.

John Hunt ran the hostelry for 50 years. As a result the neighborhood is still known as Hunt's Corner and the last of the three hills that rise from the Town House is known as Hunt's Hill.

Two great barns housed the

administration. Amos Bean's postal records kept from 1845-48, were given to the writer by Mrs. Ray MacBeath. It is an accurate source of the list of periodicals read during those years because it was customary to pay the postage on them to the local postmaster. There are also entries noting who sent letters to whom. Writing a letter was an important undertaking.

**R-F-D- It's Free!**

That part of Albany westerly of the Round Mountain notch is served from a mail route out of the Bethel Post Office. The remainder of the township



**AMOS BEAN'S PLACE** — The C Cummings in the front room of this bullet wound in his hip, received during the Civil War, kept him for the rest of his life from neighbor, Deacon Jacob Lovejoy, years.

receives mail from East Stoneham. area. One still have

During an interesting interview Earl Davis of Bethel, who served Route 3 for 36 years, spun colorful yarns about his experiences. The only paved road on his 24 mile loop through Bethel, Greenwood, Hunt's Corner, the Valley Road and Songo area, was in Bethel Village.

In the winter he used a snow boat fashioned with runners on

to remain plan worked was on the next year. in 1839 by paying for Aroostook was going dependent Albany. G carpenters helped ea remain dependent. Hunt's Cor piece by Lynchville

At overnight There is the Croc White Mt Sor Mrs. the happ Dance It was Kimbal Spinney constr

# Blowing In Albany, Maine

self sufficient. The bounty system the practice ceased because Maine was the expenses of the War and a depression on. There were stores at the Town House, in and the Songo Pond

home made bread and doughnuts she made for sale. One of the Songo Pond landmarks is the log clubhouse and boat landing owned by Bethel Inn.

### Oil Pipeline

New England's only crude oil pipe line crosses Albany lengthwise. It was built in 1941 to cut down transportation costs of oil to Montreal. Through the 236 mile route an average of 436,000 barrels a day are pumped. Every 10 days the route is inspected by a helicopter pilot. A computer in



**HUNT'S CORNER TAVERN** — When the Old County Road was put through Albany to accomodate the stage passengers, Timothy Holt built this tavern in 1805. Two large barns, plus a big pasture, accomodated animals brought by the drovers spending the night at the hostelry. Today, only a cellar hole and lilac bush marks the spot.



ivil War veteran was married to Angeline's house when he returned from the war. A during the fighting at Spottsylvania, prevented doing "heavy work." Amos Bean and his were the postmasters of Albany for many

during the haying season. Her wish was granted.

Later, after Mr. Andrews' death, his wife moved into town and rented her country home. During her years alone the windowsill had become an altar. Its backdrop was the blue-green fan shape of Tuckerman's Ravine. The lady to whom she rented her home did not realize this and the window ledge became cluttered with odds and ends.

Mrs. Andrews timidly asked that the sill be cleared. She consulted the Rev. Hilda Ives who reassured Mrs. Andrews that the request was not out of order. It was suggested that Mrs. Andrews explain to the lady that the window was important and it must be cleared so that she could see the glory of God through the window of the sink.

Rev. Ives related this story in her book, "All In One Day." It was picked up and rewritten for the Reader's Digest.

mountain every Sunday to attend services in the little church. She enjoyed every minute even if she was nearly stone deaf.

Who can forget Amos Bean as he went limping about his shop. He was a gunsmith, shoemaker, jeweler, jack-of-all-trades. A bullet went through his hip at Spottsylvania so he was unable to do "heavy work."

Mr. and Mrs. George Marock who have lovingly restored the Ephrian Flint homestead at the base of Flint Mountain, told an interesting story. A visiting orchardist was conversing in the dooryard with them when he spied two gnarled apple trees in their meadow. With great excitement he leaped over the stone wall and inspected some of the dropped fruit.

"Blue Pearmains! They're Blue Pearmains," he exclaimed. This variety was believed to be extinct. They were very popular during the Civil War days.

**Town Fathers**

Not as long as miles of stone walls outline the pioneers' holdings. As long as these things remain, the roots of Albany will stabilize the lives of those who call it home.

## US Honey Production Down

Even honeybees are affected by the high price of sugar. They can't afford to eat it either.

Bees need their own honey for nourishment, but some beekeepers used to cheat them by taking part of it and substituting a sugar syrup. But with keepers now paying more for a pound of sugar than they get for a pound of honey, they are leaving more honey for the bees.

Honey-eating bees have contributed to a decrease in

the last two places such conveniences.

time there were cabins in Lynchville. Now a camping area in the Songo Pond area of the National Forest.

### Dance Pavilion

Hilda Gorman recalled times when the Songo Pavilion was operating. It was built in 1937 for Abner's father, Jim

Portland keeps track of the automatic pumping stations.

On Sept. 2, 1965, there was a fire on the pipeline in the Songo Pond area caused by a leak. 150 barrels of oil were consumed before fire fighters and heavy rains contained the blaze.

### Greatest Enemy

Destructive fires have always been Albany's greatest enemy. Many a fine homestead has been sacrificed to the flames.

Abbie Kimball. Who delights her needle to thread? Echo answers, Jane Shedd. Who is bound to have a spree? Echo answers, Walt Bisbee. Who is the nimrod of the town? Echo answers, Mr. Brown. Who has a bewitching squint? Echo answers, Sara Flint."

#### 100th Anniversary

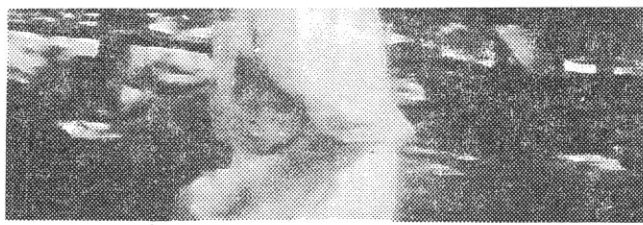
Albany had its day of glory when the 100th anniversary of its incorporation was observed in 1903 with a celebration held in Beckler's Grove near the Town House. By 8 a.m. people began arriving in hayracks, teams and automobiles. Red, white and blue bunting decorated the entrance.

A band stand was erected and a large tent sheltered the dining tables. More than 2,000 attended. Historical items from Albany were on display. The Bryant Pond Concert Band entertained. Mrs. E.A.K. Grover gave an historical address. Souvenir copies of the centennial poem were sold, Mrs. Alma Judkins was the poet of the day. Uncle Sumner Hutchinson, the oldest resident of Albany, reminisced about the early days.

#### Readers

The people of Albany have always enjoyed sitting down with a good book. As early as 1797, six years before the town was incorporated, 10 precious dollars were set aside to purchase books for a library. A committee was chosen to make the selections. Where do you suppose those books are today?

In 1890 Elbridge C. Whitney,



**WONDERFUL COOK** — The late Mrs. Daisy Kimball is fondly remembered in Albany for the wonderful doughnuts and homemade breads she sold in the tea room that she and her daughter, Miss Ivy Philbrook, operated in conjunction with the Songo Pond Beach. The bathing area now is restricted to parties making advance reservations.

the Yale theological student who filled the Albany pulpit, is credited with "doing good work getting up a library." Frances Wardwell was the first librarian. Wallace Cummings donated the first books.

In 1902 the Albany Public Library evolved from an informal collection of books into a formal library with 44 charter members listed. It was voted to set the life membership fee at 25 cents and the librarian received \$1 a year for her services. No immoral books were to be allowed on the shelves. Religious books from various denominations would be accepted, but none was to be featured in any way.

It was in 1928 that the books of the Albany Public Library were donated to the Albany Congregational Church which also had a collection of books. It was to be referred to henceforth as the Albany United Library.

animals owned by drovers taking the cattle, sheep and turkeys to market. It was an overnight stopping place for such traffic en route to Portland.

The tavern was razed by Henry Skeelee to open up the view from his summer home, the old Deacon Lovejoy place.

#### Albany Postmasters

The first mail was brought by horseback from Waterford through Albany to Bethel. The postman made the circuit twice a week and received \$190 a year. In those days postage was 25 cents for 400 miles and three cents for less than 30 miles. This was for one sheet of stationery. Little wonder that our ancestors wrote on the margins and between lines.

For many years Amos Bean and his neighbor, Deacon Jacob Lovejoy, served as postmasters. The post office moved from one home to the other according to the politics of the incumbent

keep the roads open in later years.

During mud time Mr. Davis bought an old Model T Ford for about \$20. He kept it at the Town House and would use it for the circuit up the hill, along the Old County Road and down to the Valley Road. One time during a raging blizzard he was overtaken by darkness. His car was stuck and he walked a couple of miles to the nearest home. In the morning, when he returned his car was completely buried except for a small patch of its roof where the snow had blown away.

#### Romance On The RFD

The mailman was an obliging person. In the spirit of helpfulness he picked up grocery orders that had been telephoned into town, filled prescriptions at the drug store, cashed checks and answered questions. All RFD men in those days were Justices of the Peace because driver's licenses had to be notarized.

One day a patron was waiting for Mr. Davis. He looked worried and confessed that he had a problem. State officials had discovered that he and the lady of his house had never got around to getting married. They cared for a State girl whom they loved dearly. Unless the ceremony was performed the girl would be taken away from them.

Upon the mailman's advice the man obtained a marriage license in town. Mr. Davis brought his daughter along for a witness and the marriage was legalized. The mail was delivered without further incidence.

#### "Cars" and "Trains"

One of the first sources of cash in Albany was the sale of potash. It was transported in "cars." These were long poles of tough, well-seasoned wood lashed to either side of a horse and dragged on the ground. A box containing the potash was nailed to the ends. Several of these cars traveled together, for mutual assistance, and were called a train. We can see how these terms were picked up by the railroad people.

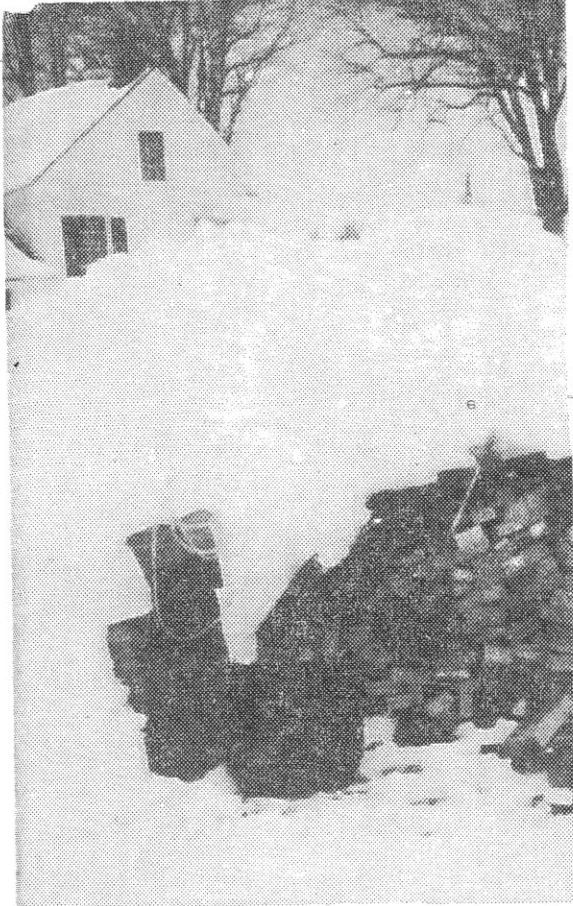
Wool, butter, cheese and ship masts were other sources of income. There were fine orchards in Albany. In a single year the Dresser family shipped 750 barrels of apples to England.

The opening of the Erie Canal indirectly affected the farmers of Albany. Freight prices dropped from \$100 a ton to \$15. Western products flooded the market. Wheat sold for such a low price that the Albany farmers and their Maine associates stopped growing the crop.

The State subsidized wheat for a year in 1837. Two dollars was paid for the first 20 bushels grown and six cents was paid for each additional bushel. This was to encourage the Maine farmers



**ALBANY TOWN HOUSE** — The town identifies the building as the Albany Town Hall, but to residents of the area it always is the Town House and is so identified on the map. Here the citizens of Albany sadly voted to give up their town charter in face of unsurmountable difficulties. The Town of Albany charter was turned over to the State of Maine and the area became a township. The empty building stands at the junction of Routes 5 and 35.



**OW** — Winter in Albany is something “to with” as we say. Last winter the Amos Bean was almost obscured from sight. Keeping stacked with wood and carrying out ashes seems to be a year-round occupation. The has lived here since 1970 and speaks with age, BUT — would I live anywhere else? )!

ery first dance was held 4th. After Abner Kim- leath the pavilion was George Logan. Poor orced him to sell to Mr. Ray Andrews who ran ces. In 1967 Leonard bought the pavilion to a recreation hall for his area. The snows of 1971 bed it. Some of the logs ivaged and made into a serve the campers in s camping area.

0 years the Lawrence s have operated a camp the southern end of Pond. For three weeks ummer, boys and girls 13 years of age may amp Nygren where, on o-one basis, tutorial ee is provided. lvy Philbrook owns the n the northern shore of Pond. It is one of the t spots imaginable for ng and relaxation. At ent time it is available to ho make reservations. many years. Miss ok and her mother, Mrs. imball operated a public nd tea room in the pine he late Mrs. Kimball is remembered for her mile and the wonderful

As far as is known only one house has ever been rebuilt in Albany, and therein lies a story. Abel and Nancy Andrews had cause to be thankful in the year of 1925. They had paid off the last of their mortgage and as Senior Citizens they were looking forward to some years of security. One of the sacrifices they made to clear up the mortgage was to stop payments on their fire insurance.

A sudden savage thun- derstorm struck Hunt's Corner. In a flash the lightning struck the Andrews place. Lack of water prevented the neighbors from saving the homestead. All that Nancy and Abel had left were the clothes on their back and her mother's brooch rescued from the ashes. But they had each other and together they went that very day to the little church they had served so faithfully.

Then the people of Albany rolled up their sleeves, dug into their savings and rebuilt the house. It was exactly like the original except for one thing. Nancy Andrews yearned for a window over the sink so she could look unto the hills while she washed stacks of dishes

the simple legends on the monuments. Here is the pathetic record of the death of two of Wallace Cumming's children on the same day from Diphtheria. It has been said that 200 Albany people attended the services in the little church.

When a car failed to make a curve near the Phelps Cemetery, four elderly men, on their way to the Fryeburg Fair, were drowned in the brook.

#### Happy Days

How people's eyes shine as they told me about moonlight bobsled rides down the mountain. May baskets, husking bees and singing schools.

What suppers were served when everyone ignored calories. One man was always on hand to make his feather light biscuits. At one supper a good lady brought a pot of beans. She did not realize that the pork was rancid. In order not to offend her, the beans were given a decent burial behind the church.

For many years Stella Bean wrote a column of weekly news from Albany for the Oxford Democrat. “Clarence Mcallister traded horses. He said he got the best one but that is what they all say. Mrs. Dora Beckler says she is quite well. She must be the way she helps with the chores. Ladies of the party line have been calling to see if Mr. Bragg is coming tomorrow with his Grand Union goods and pretty things for Christmas.” Like a homespun thread her brief paragraphs wove a picture of family life in Albany.

#### Gentle People

In Albany's book of memories is little Mrs. A.A. Bruce who walked two miles up the

Maine Registers as attending to the town duties.

All problems were considered in the meetings held at the Town House. There was a special attraction at one of these meetings. The Charles Becklers became the parents of a daughter on that very day.

In a burst of pride Mr. Beckler invited all the residents to come see Albany's newest citizen. His wife's remarks are not preserved.

#### Last Town Meeting

As the population of Albany dwindled, taxes climbed and operating expenses increased. Many homes had been lost by fire. When the town lost nearly 5,000 acres of taxable land to the White Mountain National Forest during the depression, the rug was snatched out from under its financial framework.

Realities had to be faced. It was a sad day when the charter for the Town of Albany was turned over to the State of Maine and the area became a town- ship.

This is not an obituary for Albany, but a bringing up to date. There are more stories yet untold, more fragments to fit into place. The winds of change are blowing through the mountains.

New residents are coming into Albany. Young couples are reclaiming some of its land. Retired people have exchanged a high intensity life for deep intensity living.

Albany dead? Not as long as Lawrence, Flint and Cummings Mountains march along the horizon. Not as long as Swett Brook, Hutchinson Pond and Lynchville remain on the map.

Foreign imports are the slack, the Geographic Society in recent years Mexico ticular has become honey exporter to the States.

So-called “jungle honey” a dark variety from the is favored by health fo because it derives fro in the jungle where st there is little or no po

The growing into natural foods has increase the market fo especially the dark kin wheat honey is rich in giving rise to the sayu honey for pale people colors range from wate wine-red, flavors from pungent. It all depend nectar.

Without nectar, the honey. A pound of ho hold the essence of ty blossoms. Bees require of their renowned e gather it. Even in regi flowers abound, a b may need 37,000 trip combined flight m 50,000 miles to pro pound of honey.

The flower nectar, r enzymes within a b breaks down into dex levulose, both simpl This thin, partly ripe is stored in open cells hive, and the bees wings in front of evaporate excess wat

There are as many v honey as there are

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“GOING DOWN TO AB'S” — That is the way Albany young people from surrounding towns expressed it when they planned to spend at dancing at the Songo Lake pavilion. The structure was built in 1937 for Kimball. The snows of 1971 demolished it. Some of the logs have been into a store to service the Lawrence Kimball Camp Grounds.