MILLINOCKET
MAINE

50th
ANNIVERSARY
1901-1951
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Millinocket, Maine
History of MILLINOCKET, MAINE, 1901-1951

The Town of Millinocket was incorporated in the year 1901 — a raw, new community of some 1,000 people in the heart of the Maine woods. Today it is a thriving modern town of 6,000, one of the most prosperous in the State. This little booklet tells briefly the story of the development of the Town of Millinocket, step by step, from its early beginning as an unincorporated townsite to the present time.

The first twenty-five years of the Town’s history were ably covered in an address made by the Hon. Geo. W. Stearns at the Quarter-Century celebration in 1926, and this address is reprinted herein. The story of the last twenty-five years has been prepared by Mr. J. Fred Tingley and Mr. Roy Hayes.
THE
FIRST TWENTY-FIVE YEARS
1901—1926
An Address by the
Hon. Geo. W. Stearns

The name Millinocket is derived from the Indian language, meaning in Abenakis "Many Islands" and is the same name given by the Indians to Millinocket Lake and to the stream which flows from it through Millinocket into the West Branch of the Penobscot River at Shad Pond.

The first white man to take up his abode in this primitive region was that hardy pioneer, Thomas Fowler of Pittsfield, Maine, who, in the year 1838, came to what was then Indian Township No. 3 and built a log house on the west side of the West Branch of the Penobscot River, just below Grand Falls at the head of Shad Pond. This region was teeming with moose, caribou, deer, bear, water fowl and fur bearing animals. The West Branch and Shad Pond were full of trout and salmon, and at times the shad in their migration up the river to spawn were crowded so thickly into Shad Pond that it was possible to scoop them out of the river with forks into batteaux. Frequently the scream of the panther was heard and at nights the howl of the wolf pack, in pursuit of its prey.

Thomas Fowler and his wife Betsey had eight children who arrived at the age of maturity; Elizabeth who married Samuel Bradeen, who built a log house west of his father-in-law's place; Anna who married Justus Hathaway of Medway; Thomas, Jr., whose first wife was Aurora McAuslin, daughter of George McAuslin, who lived on the Schoodic farm and cleared up the same, now known as Dolby Pond; George who married Martha
Clifford; Adeline who married William Powers; Helen who married Warren Trask; John who married Helen Hale and Frank who married Jane Martin.

Thomas Fowler, Sr., with his sons abandoned the farm at the head of Shad Pond and cleared the farm known as the Powers farm and what is now the Mill Yards of the Great Northern Paper Company. This was located on the old Indian Carry between Millinocket Stream and Rines Pitch on the West Branch of the Penobscot River at the foot of Quakish Lake, and the house was situated on the hillside west and above the present finish room of the Great Northern Paper Company’s mill.

Thomas Fowler, Jr. cleared up the Shad Pond farm so-called at the mouth of the Millinocket Stream, also the farm on the South side of Schoodic Stream now known as the John Powers farm.

Sometime about 1860, Charles and Daniel Watson cleared what is now known as the Rice farm.

In the years 1898 and ’99, the Honorable Charles W. Mullen, a University of Maine Civil Engineer, Railroad Contractor and Lumberman, who was afterwards Mayor of the City of Bangor, Maine, having previously lumbered on Indian Township No. 3, seeing the future possibilities for power development on the West Branch of the Penobscot River, interested Garret Schenck, one of the ablest paper mill experts in the industry, at that time General Manager of the Rumford Falls Paper Company, and who had built and operated successfully, more mills than any other man in the paper trade, and together with his associates, acquired a part of lots No. 50 and 51, 60 and 61, West 1-2 of lots 62, 70 and 71, west 1-2 of lots 71, 75 and 76 and that part of lot 78 which lies east of Millinocket Stream, also the riparian rights on both sides of the west branch of the Penobscot River, Quakish Lake and Millinocket Stream, which included the present power site as used by the Millinocket Mill. The above lots were all situated in Indian Township No. 3 and that part now known as Millinocket, and included the Powers Farm so-called, which was purchased from Charles Powers, a grandson of Thomas Fowler.
In the spring of 1899, work was begun on the mill by James B. Mullen and Company, Contractors, under the supervision of Hardy S. Ferguson, Chief Engineer of the Great Northern Paper Company, who prepared all plans and specifications for the Mill and Power Development. Prior to that time the total population of what is now Millinocket did not exceed four or five persons, and the old Powers house, the Bangor and Aroostook Section House and an old hunters' camp were the only habitations. It became necessary to provide temporary accommodations for several thousand men employed on construction, in fact, to create a town in the forest, in the short space of one year. In the fall of 1900 work was completed on the mill and on November 1, 1900, Garret Schenck, President of the Great Northern Paper Company, sawed, barked and conveyed to the grinder-room the first log to be made into paper at the Millinocket mill. On the night of November 4, the wood room was operated. On November 6, the screen room was started together with two lines of grinders. On November 8, stock was put into the Beaters. On November 9, the first roll of newspaper was made at 9:20 A.M. on No. 7 paper machine. Mr. Clarence Harmon now living in Millinocket was one of
the machine tenders on this machine. The first Superintendent of the Millinocket Mill was the late John A. Decker, formerly of Rumford Falls, Maine. During the period of Mr. Decker’s Superintendency, the output from the eight paper machines was about 250 tons per day. Succeeding Mr. Decker, Mr. George Witham became Superintendent. Mr. Witham left to become manager of the Union Bag and Paper Company at Sandy Hill, N. Y., and Mr. Ingleton Schenck succeeded him as Superintendent. After several years, Mr. Schenck was transferred to the Madison Mill. He was succeeded by Mr. Joseph A. F. Nevins, who is the present superintendent. Since the mill was built, there have been three additional machines installed and production has been increased to about 600 tons of newsprint per day.

The first store was conducted by James F. Kimball and Company, a General Store which occupied a temporary building in the mill yards of the Great Northern Paper Company, back of the Company’s stable. This was followed soon after by stores of Gonya Brothers, Boots and Shoes, and William J. Heebner, Druggist, located near where the Company’s present office buildings are situated. On the opposite side of the street was located the first Post Office Building, with C. H. Eastman, Postmaster, who formerly kept the Post Office in the old Powers farm house. The first religious service was held in Millinocket by Rev. C. E. Young, Missionary, in the Pines, so-called, on Shack Hill, near the present Filter House. The first house of worship to be built was the Chapel, erected by the Interdenominational Society of Maine, which was located on the corner of Cherry Street and Penobscot Avenue, and was later moved to its present site and now known as the Armory. This building was used for Church services evenings and Sundays, and for a long time housed the first school in town. In the latter part of 1899, the present Catholic Church was built, with Rev. Father Clary, Rector. Sometime in 1901 or ’02 the present Episcopal Church was built, with Rev. Fr. Robinson of Winn, Maine, supplying. In 1903, the Baptist Society erected a building on the site of the present church and held its first services on October 23, 1903, Rev. C. E. Young, Pastor.
Sometime in the summer of 1903, the Congregational Church Society erected the present Church Building, and on February 17, 1904, held its first services with Rev. W. J. McNeill, Pastor.

U. S. Post Office Building — Penobscot Avenue

In 1900, the Millinocket Water Company was organized. Water mains and a filter house were constructed, and thirty hydrants were installed for fire protection. During the same year, the present system of Sewerage was begun and Sewers were laid on Central, Pine, Spruce and Poplar Streets, and Penobscot and Katahdin Avenues.

At this time, there was no communication with the outside world except over the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad and a Tote Road leading to Medway, the nearest town. The County Commissioners of Penobscot County, on petition, laid out a route, beginning at Central Street in Millinocket, extending across Millinocket Stream to Medway, along the old Sourdnahunk Tote Road, and a steel bridge with stone abutments over Millinocket Stream was constructed, thus giving an outlet by the way of Medway and Mattawamkeag.

In the year 1899, Shine and Curren of Bangor built the so-called Mountain View House. In 1900, the Little Northern, so-called was built by Barney Kelly, of Bangor. This was
SCHOOLS OF
MILLINOCKET

George W. Stearns High School

Katahdin Avenue School

Aroostook Avenue School

St. Martin of Tours School
destroyed by fire during the morning of July 4, 1901. In the years 1900 and '01 the Great Northern Paper Company erected the Great Northern Hotel, a structure of 52 rooms and leased the same to J. P. Randall, who was its first proprietor.

Prior to the year 1901, there was no town organization and the schools had to be maintained by the State as in all other unincorporated places. There was no police service but Mr. Fred M. Gates, a Deputy Sheriff from Old Town was employed by the Great Northern Paper Company as its officer. On March 16, 1901, an Act to incorporate the town of Millinocket was passed by the Legislature and approved by the Governor, and on the 18th day of April, 1901, the first town meeting was held. The town was duly organized by accepting its charter and the following municipal officers were elected: Selectmen, Assessors and Overseers of the Poor, George W. Stearns, Sylver J. Gonya and John M. Holland, Clerk, Harry E. Reed; Treasurer, William J. Heebner; Collector of Taxes, Benjamin A. Bragdon; School Committee, William J. Heebner, Sidney Stevens and Guy S. Baker. On the 2nd day of May, 1901, at a Special Town Meeting, appropriations were made for Municipal purposes, including a building for the accommodation of Common Schools and High School, which was completed in the winter of 1901-02, and known as the High School Building which was burned on the night of November 13, 1921. A course of study for the schools was adopted and the schools opened with over 300 pupils in attendance with Mr. George W. Snow, the first principal, and Mr. George W. Stearns, Superintendent.

In 1907, a wooden school building consisting of four rooms was erected on Oxford Street. In 1914-15, a modern brick building containing nine classrooms was erected on Aroostook Avenue. In 1919, four rooms were added to the Oxford Street School Building, making it an eight room building. In 1922-23, the George W. Stearns High School Building containing twenty-four classrooms was constructed, one of the most up-to-date, thoroughly equipped buildings for school purposes in the State of Maine. Towards the payment of this building, the Great Northern Paper Company, through its President, Mr.
Garret Schenck, very generously gave the town fifty thousand dollars. At the regular meeting held in March, 1926, the town voted to build and equip the gymnasium in this building at an estimated cost of about $50,000.00, the contract for which has already been let to Greenleaf Brothers, of Auburn, Maine.

At the annual meeting in March, 1919, the town voted to raise the sum of $2,500.00 to establish a Free Memorial Library to be dedicated to the memory of Millinocket’s Soldiers and Sailors of the Great War. This, together with a gift of $1,000.00 from the Great Northern Paper Company and $200.00 from Mrs. Emma C. Schenck, and numerous gifts of books from others, was the beginning of the Millinocket Memorial Library, which has developed until on the first day of February, 1926, there were 6,402 volumes in the Library with a circulation for the past fiscal year of 42,257 books.

In 1920, the town made an appropriation of $600.00 to purchase apparatus for a Playground, and the Great Northern Paper Company very generously prepared the grounds, laid out a running track, built shelters and by its cooperation contributed very materially to the success of the enterprise.

In 1901, upon the organization of the town, provision was made for a volunteer fire department, which was equipped with hose and small hand reels. In 1905, the town received a gift of two lots on Penobscot Avenue from the Great Northern Paper Company and on them erected the present fire station building, installed a Gamewell fire alarm system throughout the town, purchased a hook and ladder truck and complete fire fighting equipment. In September, 1913, the Great Northern Paper Company presented to the town of Millinocket, a Knox Combination, Chemical and Hose, Motor Truck which added very materially to the efficiency of the fire department. In the fall of 1920, the Great Northern Paper Company built and presented to the town an addition to the present fire station, and gave to the town the use of a LaFrance Combination, Pump, Hose and Chemical Truck. In 1925, a Ford Truck was purchased and equipped with a Chemical Tank, Hose, and Fire Fighting equipment to be used principally in handling still alarms, grass and chimney fires. Mr. Fred M. Gates has been the efficient
First Congregational

St. Martin of Tours

CHURCHES OF MILLINOCKET

St. Andrews Episcopal

First Baptist
Fire Chief since the organization of the Fire Department.

In 1903, the Millinocket Light Company was organized and built a plant for the manufacture of acetylene gas, and laid its pipe lines through the streets of the town. At a special town meeting in that year, the town of Millinocket entered into a contract with the Light Company to light the streets. At first, this gave good results but as time elapsed the system became more and more unsatisfactory and in 1920 it was abandoned and the Millinocket Light Company built and installed an electric lighting system which has proved a great improvement over the old method of illumination. On December 6, 1925, Garret Schenck, Jr., President of the Millinocket Light Company passed away. By his demise, Millinocket lost a true and loyal citizen who was always considering the welfare of the people of the town, and was directly responsible for very many civic improvements.

In 1906, Corrigan Brothers started a Foundry on the site of the present Foundry Buildings, since which time, they have rebuilt the main building and added a large machine shop, and increased their manufacturing facilities until at present, the Millinocket Foundry and Machine Company have one of the most up-to-date brass and iron foundries within the State.

In 1907, Mr. Frank W. Rush, built a sawmill for the manufacture of long lumber, laths and shingles, on the bank of Millinocket Stream, near Big Smith Brook, and operated the same very successfully.

In the same year the Millinocket Trust Company was established and the present bank building, a thoroughly modern structure was erected.

In 1908, Mr. Charles J. Rush built a hall to be used by the Modern Woodmen of America as a Lodge Room containing also a large Auditorium for public purposes. In July, 1912, this building was totally destroyed by fire, but the ruins were scarcely cold before Mr. Rush began to build the present Opera House which was completed within the year.

In 1909, the Maine Legislature granted a Charter establishing the Millinocket Municipal Court, and Governor Bert M. Fernald appointed Hon. George W. Stearns as Judge and
Harry E. Reed as Recorder. In 1911, Mr. Reed resigned and William Marden was appointed Recorder by Governor Frederick W. Plaisted, and has held the position ever since. At the expiration of Judge Stearns four year term in 1913, Hon. Frederick E. Doyle was appointed Judge and is now serving his fourth term.

In October, 1910, Dr. Charles S. Bryant, one of our leading Physicians and Surgeons opened a private Hospital at his residence on the Corner of Highland Avenue and Central Street equipped with eight beds and a modern Operating Room and X-ray Machine. This furnished a much needed relief to Millinocket's sick and injured and has proved a boon to its people.

In 1903, the Millinocket Band was organized under the direction and leadership of Roy Harlow, ever since which time Millinocket has had a band. During the summer months of late years, the band has given weekly concerts either on the streets or in the park. A bandstand being very much needed, The Great Northern Paper Company, in 1923, built one of the most attractive granolithic bandstands in the State for the use of the band, which is much appreciated by the members of the band and the citizens of the town.

In the spring of 1925, the Millinocket Odd Fellows Building Association, Inc., a corporation organized by Millinocket Odd Fellows, built a brick two story building with basement to be used for Fraternal purposes. This building has a lodge room on the second floor and an assembly room on the first floor, with dining room and kitchen in the basement and is a building of which they are justly proud.

In the spring of 1925, the Millinocket Chamber of Commerce was organized with a membership of about sixty. The following officers were elected: President, Frank H. Speed; Vice President, Gilbert B. Moran; Secretary, Kenneth E. Reed, and Treasurer, William H. Seaver.

During the present year two bath houses have been erected on land of Frank W. Rush on the west bank of Millinocket Stream in the "Pines" so-called, above the outlet to Big Smith Brook. These were constructed under the direction of a com-
mittee made up as follows: William O’Connell, Chairman; Kenneth E. Reed and Charles Madden. Since their completion, they have been liberally patronized and greatly appreciated by both old and young.

In compiling this brief historical sketch, we wish to gratefully acknowledge the assistance of Charles Powers, and Albert F. Fowler, Grandsons of Thomas Fowler, the first settler in Millinocket, also Frank C. Bowler, Chief Engineer of the Great Northern Paper Company, for the valuable data furnished by them. Lack of time and space will not permit the mention of very many things that would be of interest. We have just reason to be proud of the progress made in the past twenty-five years. We have a beautiful town with well laid out streets and all municipal improvements, the people happy and prosperous, and may the next twenty-five years bring as great returns as the past.
The beginning of the second quarter century of the town saw many important changes and improvements in it. The George W. Stearns High School building, replacing the old one burned in 1921 had been completed and was in use. In this year 1926, the gymnasium, which was to play such an important role in the recreational life of the community was added. This period also marked the beginning of changing from horse drawn to motorized equipment in the fire department. Through the generosity of the Great Northern Paper Company, motorized equipment was acquired to replace one of the two teams of horses. The other team continued in use until 1930 when additional motorized equipment was purchased. Excellent fire protection is now provided by a 500 gallon ladder pumper, a 500 gallon tank pumper belonging to the town and a 750 gallon tank pumper belonging to the Company.
Katahdin Avenue (left) and Penobscot Avenue (right) — 1899

Town of Millinocket — 1951
Katahdin Avenue (left) and Penobscot Avenue (right) — 1899

Town of Millinocket — 1951
The next five or six years was a period of rapid growth and expansion. The western part of the town was building up so fast that the Elm Street railroad crossing was overloaded and another was built at Spruce Street. In 1927 a new bridge was constructed across Millinocket Stream on Central Street to accommodate the increasing number of homes being built in this section and to take care of the increasing automobile traffic out of town. Again keeping pace with modern trends in other communities, the town fathers had the houses numbered, street signs erected, and a mail delivery service started. The recreational needs of the community were kept in mind too, and the first municipal skating rink was established between Aroostook Avenue and Congress Street. In this year, R. M. Hume succeeded Mr. Joseph Nevins as Superintendent of the Millinocket mill.

In the 1928–30 period other facilities conducive to the health and safety of the citizens were added. In 1928 a sewer was constructed on the Medway Road and the first storm sewer was installed along Central Street from Penobscot Avenue to the river. Two years later in 1930 plumbing code regulations were adopted. It was in 1928 also that the first ornamental street lights were afforded.

It was in this five year period, too, that important changes in the town government took place. In 1929 the first Budget Committee, consisting of 15 members, was authorized at the annual Town Meeting, its function being to study the growing needs of the town, estimate costs of the same, and recommend expenditures. Another change was the adoption of the Australian Ballot System of election. Until 1930 the town officers had been elected in open meeting by passing out slips of paper on which to write the name of the candidate, by popular acclaim, or by similar methods. The adoption of the Australian Ballot brought into use the method employed in county, state and national elections elsewhere.

The steadily increasing number of families and consequent number of children had overtaxed the available school facilities and in 1931 the Katahdin Avenue School was built on the site of the former Millinocket High School. This has
eight classrooms and a total capacity of 320 pupils.

In the year of 1932 more land was acquired from the Great Northern Paper Company for cemetery use. The St. Martin of Tours Cemetery was extended to the south about two hundred feet. At the same time a new Protestant Cemetery was laid out east of the Catholic Cemetery and a new fence erected around the entire plot.

It was about this time that Millinocket, like other communities, began to feel the effects of the depression. The town began a program of relief work on what has since become the Millinocket Airport. The high sand bank, at Barbien's Hill, was removed, first by hand loading and later by power shovels, and used as fill in the swamp that ran along the road by the airport.

In 1933 the town, along with the rest of the country, was making use of the various new Federal Relief Organizations. As a result, Millinocket was able to construct sidewalks, build more sewers, and the so-called Abol dead-end road. Eventually most of the relief effort was concentrated in the construction of the airport. Along with these federal projects the town carried on its own, such as building more sidewalks and storm sewers, for at that time there were many alien citizens in the town not eligible for Federal Work Relief.
Several hundred young men known as the C.C.C.'s (Civil Conservation Corps) came to the town. They lived in camps, built along what is now the North and South runway of the airport. These boys, in charge of Army officers and experienced woodsmen, cleared right-of-ways and built roads and bridges between the town of Millinocket and Mt. Katahdin. The work they did at that time has been of lasting benefit to the community and particularly to the hundreds of visitors who spend summer vacations in this area.

From 1934–39 a great deal of construction beneficial to the town and its industries took place. In 1934, the Great Northern Paper Company put in a hydro-electric plant at North Twin Dam, to supply additional power to the Millinocket mill.

The Bangor and Aroostook Railroad had begun to feel the effects of the growing town and the greatly increased mill production and was unable to handle the load effectively in its available yard space. Therefore, in 1936 the entire railroad yard was raised 11 to 13 feet and the yard surface was increased so that it reached north as far as the iron bridge. The station was moved across the main line and turned around. At the same time an underpass was constructed so that the road to the station and to Mt. Katahdin now goes through an underpass at Smith Brook instead of over the track and through the station yard.

In 1937, the Great Northern Paper Company built a steel span across Millinocket Stream at the foot of Cherry Street hill and did away with the old bridge to Little Italy. The new bridge together with the streets and the sewer system in that section were deeded to the town in 1951.

In this same year of 1937 the Federal Government made a
valuable addition to the Community. Up to this time the Post Office had been housed in various rented buildings. In that summer the corner stone for the present Government Building was laid. It was built on the corner of Penobscot Avenue and Spruce Street, and now with its well-kept lawns and hedges is one of the most attractive features of the business section.

Another significant item of school construction began in 1938 when funds were raised among the Catholic parishioners for the building of the St. Martin of Tours school building which was erected in the rear of the church on Maine Avenue. In 1939 the first classes were held there, and twelve years later in 1951 the first class of ten students was graduated from the high school.

Previous to 1939 the need for more adequate quarters for the Fire Company had long been recognized and so in this year a new station facing on Aroostook Avenue was constructed of brick in a style similar to that of the Post Office. The old building which in addition to the fire company had housed the Millinocket Municipal Court since 1909, now became the headquarters for the Street Department, and continued in use for the court until the summer of 1949.

Another important piece of construction occurred in 1939 when the new State Armory was built on Spring Street on what was then the athletic field, the needed room being provided by an exchange of lots between the town and the Company. The old wooden armory was sold to O. S. Gonya, who tore down part of it and made the rest a part of his garage.

With the building of the Armory, the rest of the old athletic field was turned into house lots. To replace the athletic facilities thus lost, the Arthur Russell place was purchased by the Company and a new athletic field, offering excellent facilities for football, baseball and softball was constructed. In 1940 the Company built a new bridge at the North end of State Street leading to the field.

About this time the receiving vault at the cemetery was discontinued and torn down and a more modern structure built on the Medway Road where it was more easily reached in the winter months.
In 1940, too, the town built a bridge across Smith Brook at Rush's Mill, and voted to purchase and maintain a municipal ambulance. This year also marked the beginning of Sunday movies as permitted by State Law.

The following year an auditorium seating more than 1200 people was added to the Stearns High School building. A general Shop Course was also started at that time, and this has been expanded so that now vocational shop instructions are given in both wood working and machine shop practice. A school bus was purchased to transport students who up to this time had been carried by privately owned busses. A second bus was added in the fall of last year. In 1943, the Oxford Street School was discontinued and the building was later turned over to the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

In this same year of 1943, the citizens at the annual Town Meeting voted to accept the provisions of the absentee voting laws in regard to town elections.

The five year period beginning in 1945 saw an extensive home building program, which in turn necessitated changes and extensions in community services. In August 1946 the building of Eastland Avenue was authorized by a vote of the town and lots made available for purchase. The first house was put up immediately by Wilbur Culbertson and later sold to Carl Stockwell, Jr. In the next two years Eastland Avenue and Maple Street, a shorter parallel street, were laid out and soon were bordered by rows of attractive looking homes. In 1948 an extension was authorized to Bowdoin Street carrying it toward the Bangor and Aroostook track to the mill. The new lots thus provided were also soon taken up and filled with new homes.

In 1943 interest mounted for a suitable building to house the various town offices. Annually from this time, a sum of money was appropriated for this purpose, and by 1949 a reserve of $40,000 had been acquired. In November of 1950 the building committee, consisting of: F. C. Bowler, F. E. Doyle, H. C. Gates, G. J. Jones, Ernest O'Connell, E. D. Chapman, Frank T. LePage and J. Fred Tingley, was authorized to accept bids and to proceed with the construction.
Plans drawn by Crowell & Lancaster of Bangor were accepted and the contract was let to the T. W. Cunningham Company of Bangor. The building, which was opened for business on April 9, 1951, is well constructed, attractive in appearance, and beautifully finished inside.

As is well known, Millinocket is off the main highways, and access to other parts of the state was, up to a few years ago, confined to a round-about road by way of Mattawamkeag. In June 1926, Frank Speed brought before the Chamber of Commerce the idea of a road between Millinocket and Brownville. After about twenty years of work by the Chamber, this road became a fact and could be used by crossing the West Branch of the Penobscot over the Great Northern Paper Company’s Dam at North Twin. In 1948 the State built a bridge over the West Branch and opened it to the public.

The record of Millinocket in the two World Wars is an enviable one. In World War I more than 100 of its young men and women served in the armed services. In February of 1941 the whole town turned out to say farewell to the members of Company I of the Third Maine Regiment. These men served in the Pacific Areas and elsewhere to the glory of their country and community and with high honors to themselves.

In all, over 1000 of the young men and women of Millinocket
answered the call of their country and 31 of them made the
supreme sacrifice.

To conclude this history of the second quarter century of
the Town and not further mention the contributions of the
Great Northern Paper Company to the Community would be
unforgiveable. Around this industry the town was built in
the beginning and from the income of its business in large
measure has come that of the great majority of the people.
In its business practices the Company has kept pace with
progressive methods and now boasts one of the most up-to-
date paper mills in the nation. Daily it pours into the market
over 850 tons of newsprint, which later carries the news of
the world to a large part of the nation.

Again and again the community has benefited from its
generosity. Home builders have had free use of equipment and
forms for cement structure. Roads, bridges, and other facili-
ties provided by it have been deeded over to the town. It built
the Band Stand, furnished seats for the park and this year,
bought uniforms for the town band. It has loaned equipment
and men to work on the recreational areas and directly
donated much of the apparatus used. It has given generously
to the charity drives. Added to all this is the fact that at least
73 percent of the taxes are paid by this concern. Certainly
the history of the first fifty years of Millinocket is colored in
most of its aspects by the fact that the Great Northern Paper
Company is the heart of its industrial life.

A word should be added too for the workmen themselves,
for without them money and machinery would not produce
paper. That an unusually fine relationship has existed between
the Company and the employees is witnessed by the fact that
except for a strike of very short duration in 1908 there have
been no labor difficulties throughout the fifty years. That the
employees have been generous toward each other is true, too,
for in the depression era when many men were without work,
the workmen requested voluntarily that the priority system
be set aside and that work be apportioned to everyone needing
it. The cooperative home building project of 1947 and 1948
attracted nation-wide attention.
This fine spirit of cooperation permeates the town and functions not only when there is common cause for helping in local and national emergencies, but in the ordinary everyday business of the community.
THE TOWN OF MILLINOCKET and the Millinocket Mill have grown up together, and their interests are inseparable.

The Millinocket Mill, designed and built under the direction of Hardy S. Ferguson, began turning out paper in November, 1900, the original eight paper machines having total capacity of 250 tons per day. Every detail of design conformed to the most modern practice, and many later mills have been patterned after it. It is a tribute to its designer that nearly 900 tons of newsprint per day can now be produced in little more space than was required for the original installation.

To effect this, however, nearly all of the original equipment has been replaced. In 1914, No. 9 machine, the first paper machine to run at 1,000 feet per minute, was installed, followed by No. 10 in 1916. At the same time, additional grinders, digesters and boilers were added to take care of the higher production. Between 1918 and 1924 the first barking drums were installed at Ferguson Pond, the original hydraulic turbines in the grinder room were replaced with more efficient units, Trimbey Stock Mixing Systems were installed, the Jenssen acid system was put into use, and more boilers were added, with the second chimney which gives the mill its familiar silhouette. In 1924, installation of suction roll equipment was started on Nos. 9 and 10 paper machines, and the replacement of the original machines was begun in 1926, with the rebuilding of Nos. 7 and 8, in 1926 and 1927 respectively.

In 1932, the program of replacing the old two-foot grinders with Great Northern four-foot magazine grinders was started, additional grinders and motors having since been added as production increased, the 30th grinder being scheduled for installation this year. The North Twin Power Station was built in 1934 and 1935. In 1940, the program of replacing the original machines was resumed, new No. 1 being installed in that year and Nos. 2 and 3 in 1941. The program was delayed by the war, following which Nos. 4 and 5 were replaced
in 1949, the installation of No. 5 establishing the almost incredible record of 9½ days from shutdown to start-up. The new No. 6 machine is expected to be installed late this year or early in 1952. All of this work has been engineered at Millinocket, under the direction of Mr. F. C. Bowler, who retired as Chief Engineer of the Great Northern Paper Co. at the turn of the year.

These are only the major items of change which have kept the Millinocket Mill in the forefront as the largest newsprint producing unit in the United States. During the past fifty years nearly eight million tons of paper, made on Millinocket Machines, has carried to countless readers the news of the world, in peace and war. May the Millinocket Mill and the Town of Millinocket long continue to prosper together.
To the Citizens of the Town of Millinocket:

The Board of Directors of the Great Northern Paper Company desires to take this opportunity to extend to the Town of Millinocket its congratulations on the occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the incorporation of the Town, and to offer its best wishes for the years to come.

It wishes to congratulate the Officers of the Town, past and present, on the efficient manner in which the affairs of the Town have been handled. Millinocket’s excellent school system, town buildings and municipal services stand as a record of this able management. It also wishes to compliment the Anniversary Committee on the work which has been done in preparing for this celebration.

Together, the Great Northern Paper Company and the Town of Millinocket have established a proud record of cooperation and achievement over the past fifty years; making the town one of the leading industrial communities of the State of Maine. They have built well for the future.

On behalf of the Board of Directors.

Sincerely,

Wm. O. McKay,
President

August 1, 1951


TOWN OFFICERS

SELECTMEN
George W. Stearns 1901–1931
Sylvester J. Gonya 1901–1902
John M. Holland 1901
Charles J. Rush 1902–1905
Dennis H. Buckley 1903–1904
Harry F. Bragdon 1905–1906
Thomas Quinn 1906–1910
Frank E. Banks 1907
F. E. Doyle 1908–1914
Fred McLawlin 1911–1912
John O'Connell 1913–1921
George E. Clark 1915–1921
Charles O. Hackett 1922
Arthur J. Walsh 1922
Sidney Stevens 1923–1933
William Glenn 1923–1925
Harry J. Walls 1924–1928
Frank O. Daisey 1926–1933
John F. Ward 1929–1932
Fred M. Gates 1902–1935
Wm. H. Lahey 1917–1928
Kenneth E. Reed 1929–1931
Roydon C. Pratt 1932–1951

POLICE—CONSTABLES
Benj. Bragdon 1901
J. D. Thomas 1902–1935
J. D. MacDonald 1936–1951
Wm. Newman 1937–1945

POLICE CHIEF
Fred M. Gates 1902–1935
Allen M. Pickard 1936–1951

CHIEF OF FIRE DEPT.
Wm. J. Heebner 1901
Fred M. Gates 1901–1935
Allen M. Pickard 1936–1951

ROAD COMMISSIONER
C. Flynn 1901–1902
L. J. Butterfield 1903–1904
J. S. Atherton 1905–1907
Fred M. Gates 1908–1922
Geo. E. Jones 1923–1928
Millage Hall 1929–1934
Geo. H. Oliver 1935–1951

CLERK
Harry E. Reed 1901–1911
Oscar H. McPheters 1912–1937
J. Fred Tingley 1938–1951

TREASURER
Wm. J. Heebner 1901–1911
Frank W. Rush 1912–1935
Oscar H. McPheters 1936–1937
J. Fred Tingley 1938–1951

TAX COLLECTOR
Benjamin A. Bragdon 1901
George H. Marden 1902–1910
Thomas Quinn 1911–1913
Solomon Morgan 1914–1916

Joseph M. Tucker 1949

30

Harold C. Gates 1936–1951
John D. Walker 1936–1937
Bernice G. Buck 1937–1945
Simon P. Simon 1939–1940
William Marr 1941–1943
Perley Walls 1944–1948
Carl E. Hall 1948–1950
W. E. Russell 1950–1951
Lloyd Montgomery 1951
SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Wm. J. Heebner 1901
Sidney Stevens 1901–1904
Guy S. Baker 1901–1903
John D. Rush 1902–1904
P. W. Cody 1904–1909
Fred M. Peasley 1905
E. J. Graham 1906–1907
J. F. Stevens 1907–1912
Thomas Griffin 1908
James A. Rush 1909–1914
H. S. Ferguson 1910

Asa Craig 1911–1912
Frank Cimpher 1913–1915
Frank A. Bradley 1913
V. A. Clay 1914–1917
C. B. Fuller 1915–1922
Oscar N. Nickerson 1915–1917
Geo. H. Ferguson 1918–1925
Garret Schenck 1918–1923
Chas. S. Cobb 1923–1924
Fred W. Mears 1924–1925
Kit B. Comstock 1925–1930
Robert M. Hume 1925–1937

C. S. Bryant 1926–1929
Chas. M. Carrier 1930–1932
Alvernon Adams 1931–1945
C. J. McNamara 1933–1950
Lloyd Morey 1938–1943
Warren F. Daniell 1944–1949
Arnold Guptill 1946–1948
John T. Landers 1949–1950
Eugene S. Boddy 1950–1951
Harold B. Jones 1951

MILLINOCKET 50th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

R. M. Hume, Chairman
Frank H. Speed, Secretary
Carl V. Stockwell, Treasurer
Roy G. Akerley
Frank C. Bowler

E. D. Chapman
Charles H. Glaster
Dr. George W. MacKay
Hon. John F. Ward

31
Millinocket is the gateway to Mt. Katahdin and Baxter State Park. No History of Millinocket would be complete without mention of these two picturesque spots.

Henry David Thoreau climbed Mt. Katahdin in 1846, and later wrote, "The Forest looked like a firm grass sward, and the effect of these lakes in its midst has been well compared, by one who has since visited the same spot, to that of a 'mirror broken into a thousand fragments, and wildly scattered over the grass, reflecting the full blaze of the sun.'"

Mt. Katahdin (from the Indian Ktaadn, the preeminent) is the monarch of Maine mountains. Thrusting its spruce clad slopes and rocky summit a mile into the clouds, the Giant of the East is the first spot in the United States to greet the morning sun. Ten miles on the base and 5,267 feet in height, Katahdin, the sentinel of Maine, is the eastern rim of the Penobscot West Branch and Sourdnahunk basins.

Here are dozens of trout-filled gem-like lakes set in the forest — new worlds for the intrepid fisherman to conquer. The big and small gamehunter will find here his conception of paradise. Deer, moose and other wild life are seen daily to the delight of the nature lover and camera sport.

A large area, a gift to the State from the Hon. Percival P. Baxter, includes Mt. Katahdin and is known as Baxter State Park, a game sanctuary for all time and a breeding ground that makes the land adjoining the huge preserve one of the finest game territories in all Maine.