

### Church Of Christ Youngest In Town

The local congregation of the Church of Christ, whose new home is located on Main street, near the intersection of Burleigh street, is the youngest of Houlton's family of churches.

The congregation was organized

here in July, 1950. For two years the American Legion Home on Pleasant street served as a meeting place.

The site for the church was purchased from Linwood Anderson in 1951 and is a section from property formerly owned by the late Governor Llewellyn Powers. The building was completed in 1952.

The edifice was designed by the members for their own specific purpose from plans furnished by Nile Yearwood, a Tennessee contractor. Anson Taber of Houlton was in charge of the construction.

Rev. Marvin Martin has been minister of the local church since its organization here seven years ago. The edifice is one of 1600 owned by congregations of the church throughout the world.

agent in Cumberland County, with headquarters at Portland. During Dunning's tenure the title of the agent was advanced to county agent. Previously it was assistant county agent.

New county agent in Southern Aroostook is Kenneth S. Chapman, formerly of East Corinth and a graduate of the University of Maine. Chapman has taught dairying and has served as Extension animal husbandman at the University of Vermont. He holds a master's degree from that institution. Other Extension agents working out of the Extension office are Mrs. Joan H. Horton, home demonstration agent; and Mrs. Pauline H. Andrews, 4-H club agent. The clerk is Mrs. Madeleine Lambert.

### POTATOES NUMBER ONE CROP

Potatoes are the Number One crop in Southern Aroostook, of course. Dairying has been growing at a fairly steady pace and H. P. Hood & Sons has been operating a milk plant at Island Falls for several years. Sheep and poultry have expanded somewhat in recent years.

But potatoes are still king here and probably will remain so for many years to come. Maine has the soil, the climate, and the know-how to raise large yields of high-quality tubers.

A little over half of the acreage of potatoes in Southern Aroostook is devoted to seed production, according to Mosher. Most of this seed acreage is devoted to production of "Blue Tag" certified seed

which is bought and planted by potato growers all over the East and South. Some of it is foundation seed which is planted by other seed growers. Most of the foundation seed is not in Houlton but is in outlying towns in more isolated areas where it can more easily be kept free of disease.

### METHODS HAVE CHANGED

In the century that this newspaper has been published, agricultural methods have changed rapidly. A farmer can now produce many times as much food as his ancestors did in 1857. Tractors, spray rigs, even potato combines and rock pickers, have come into use. We have milking machines, pipeline milkers, and power machinery of all kinds. Chain saws ease and speed woods work tremendously.

Agriculture is changing rapidly along with Houlton and the Southern Aroostook area. But agriculture continues to be basic to the economy of this section, and

## First National Bank Is Celebrating 75th Birthday

The First National Bank of Houlton, Aroostook County's oldest commercial bank, is this year celebrating the 75th year of its service to the people of this community and southern Aroostook County.

As the Sesquicentennial celebration is being carried on in Houlton the bank will be almost exactly three quarters of a century old because it opened its doors to its first customers on August 5, 1882.

The records show that, at the conclusion of that day's business there had been accumulated \$9,125 of deposits as a start on the bank's sound and steady growth that reached a figure of \$10,331,569 of deposits on June 1, 1957.

### STOCK QUICKLY SUBSCRIBED

The idea to establish commercial banking facilities in Houlton was first conceived by a group of interested local citizens in 1881. Subscriptions for stock were opened on Monday morning, Nov. 7 of that year and the Aroostook Pioneer of the following week proudly announced that "The stock of the proposed First National Bank was promptly taken when subscriptions were opened . . . and a large surplus of capital above the \$50,000 with which it was thought best to organize."

That same evening a meeting of the subscribers was held at the office of Pierce and Donnell in Market Square and a preliminary organization was effected. Eben Woodbury acted as chairman of the meeting and James F. Holland was secretary.

It was officially voted to adopt the name of the First National Bank of Houlton. Messrs Charles P. Tenney, Llewellyn Powers and James F. Holland were chosen as a committee to prepare and forward to the Comptroller of the Currency at Washington, all papers requisite to secure legal existence of the bank under the banking laws.

### OPENING IN AUGUST

At the time of the application it was hoped that the bank might be able to open for business in April, 1882, but it was not until four months after that time that the small wooden building on the north side of Market Square was officially in existence as a banking institution.

were held with the representatives of several firms dealing in these things as well as burglar proof doors. Negotiations were finally concluded with the George Damon Company of Boston.

Early in April the committee on by-laws reported and their recommendations were adopted by the board of directors.

The first election of officers of the bank was held on April 29, 1882 at the same office of Pierce and Donnell. Walter P. Mansur was elected president, Charles P. Tenney, vice president and William C. Donnell was chosen cashier. On his election to this office, Donnell resigned as a member of the board and Willis I. Shaw, who was a resident of New Limerick, was elected in his place.

### STEADY GROWTH

The first eight years of the bank's existence saw a steady growth. In 1890, deposits had increased almost nine times those of the first day, standing then at \$82,631. The following ten years, up to the end of the century, was another period of sound growth with deposits increasing to \$116,674.

During the ensuing decade, while patronage of the bank's facilities was showing a continuously health growth, the need for larger and more modern quarters became more and more apparent. The necessary steps were taken in 1906 when a contract for an entirely new building, on the site then occupied, was let to a contractor by the name of George H. Wilbur of Dark Harbor, who had just completed doing the brick work on the newly finished Bowdoin street schoolhouse.

### LOCAL GRANITE

The building was to be of brick but with a granite front featuring two full length pillars in the center and the entrance was to be on the east side next to the Mansur block. Local granite was to be used. While the new building was being built, following razing of the original quarters, the banking business had to be maintained and the facilities were moved to a vacant store which had formerly been occupied by the Cash Furniture Company so that there was no interruption of the bank's services to its customers.

## It Served Public For 62 Years Between Two Fires



This once famous Houlton hostelry had a long and successful life from the time it was rebuilt in the early eighties, after being destroyed by fire in 1880, until it was again a victim of flames in 1942. In its heyday it provided carriage connections for its roomers for all trains in the horse drawn coach that is shown standing at its door and had a first class livery in connection where "a single or a double hitch, together with the latest style hacks or hearses for funerals, also large or small buckboards can be procured at short notice."

## Worst Fire In Forty Years Destroyed Exchange Hotel In 1942; Took Two Lives

Houlton had its most disastrous fire in 40 years on May 7, 1942, when flames from a gas tank explosion spread swiftly and engulfed the Exchange Hotel causing the death of two guests and the hospitalization of three others and complete loss of the 60 year old hostelry.

Damage was placed at \$75,000, partially covered by insurance, by Earl and White, owners and operators of the business.

The dead were Afton Stetson Rowman 39 of Pittsfield and

second degree burns as well as a fractured vertebra when he leaped for safety from a third story window. Mitchell sustained severe burns over most of his body.

The fire is thought to have started in a small shed in the rear of the hotel shortly after 11:30 Saturday night. Soon after the arrival of the fire department a terrific explosion occurred as the flames reached a gas container. Soon thereafter the interior of the hotel became a mass of flames as the blaze followed the gas into

Silhouette Beauty Shop, Stephenson's Tobacco Store, Scott's Barber Shop and the Exchange Restaurant.



# CONGRATULATIONS

# CONGRATULATIONS HOULTON . . . on this your 150th BIRTHDAY



. . . and to the HOULTON PIONEER TIMES for  
your 100 years of service in Aroostook County

## Squeeze Bottling Works

Military Street, Houlton

ern Aroostook area. But, agriculture continues to be basic to the economy of this section, and there's no question but what it will largely shape Houlton's future.

*It happened in . . .*

# 1884

### NEW CHURCH BELL

The new bell for the Free Baptist Church arrived last week and was rung for the first time on Wednesday. It was purchased in Baltimore, weighs 1138 pounds and cost \$250. It is a very fine toned bell.

### FIRE IN PRESQUE ISLE

May day was a sombre occasion indeed for Presque Isle. A disastrous fire broke out which, before it was extinguished, had laid waste to almost all of the business section of the town, 23 buildings being destroyed with a total estimated damage of \$125,000 with only \$68,000 of insurance.

ly in existence as a banking institution.

The first meeting of the shareholders was held on the second Tuesday of January, 1882, a day on which, henceforth, each annual meeting would be held.

Again James Frank Holland called the meeting to order and Eben Woodbury was chosen as chairman. A committee of three were named to act as judges for the election of directors and Albert W. Madigan, a Justice of the Peace, swore in James F. Holland, Charles P. Tenney and Willis I. Shaw for this duty.

There were 434 shares of stock represented and the meeting chose the following nine men to act as original directors of the First National Bank of Houlton: Charles P. Tenney, Walter Mansur, Clarence H. Pierce, James F. Holland, Hudson T. Frisbie, William H. Gray, William C. Donnell, Stephen Lake and Almon H. Fogg.

### COMMITTEES AT WORK

For the next few months various committees were at work getting things in readiness to start operations. It was finally decided to accept a proposition from Walter Mansur to occupy premises to be fitted up by him at 36 Market Square for the first banking quarters. It was also necessary to procure a safe and vault and meetings

rupture of the bank's services to its customers.

In January, 1901, Clarence H. Pierce, who had been a member of the bank's board of directors since its organization and had long served as its vice president, was elected to the presidency following the passing of Walter Mansur who had died the previous September. He was to continue in this capacity until his death on September 18, 1933.

In 1910, when the First National Bank had been three years in its new quarters, its deposits had risen to a respectable \$304,046 and were constantly growing. In 1920 they had more than doubled, reaching \$812,308 and in 1930 had passed the million dollar mark, having grown to \$1,492,489.

### A MEMORABLE PERIOD

The First National Bank entered the memorable period of the thirties in a sound condition and emerged from it even sounder. Its deposits mounted and more than doubled again and, in 1940, stood at \$3,365,843. Between 1930 and 1933 had occurred the only faltering in the bank's consistently steady growth when its deposits fell off slightly.

Its soundness was attested by the fact it was one of the few banks in this state which was permitted promptly to reopen its

ators of the business.

The dead were Afton Stetson Bowman, 39, of Pittsfield and Skowhegan, George B. Moore, 74, a native of Woodstock but a resident of Houlton, both of whom died when they were trapped in the flames.

### THREE INJURED

Elmer Mitchell, 33, of Old Town, an employee of the Bangor Daily News and Pvt. Harold Bowers, 21, of Martinsburg, West Va., stationed at the Houlton Airforce Base were both on the danger list for some time at the Aroostook General Hospital.

Miss Alice Bolter, 56, of Monson, Field Secretary for the Maine Institute for the Blind was also treated at the Aroostook Hospital for burns about the head and face.

Bowers sustained first and

Soon thereafter the interior of the hotel became a mass of flames as the blaze followed the gas into the building.

### VALIANT FIRE FIGHTING

The Military Police from the Airbase performed valiant service in assisting guests to safety as did the members of the Houlton Fire Department. Volunteer firemen also joined the fire fighters as did the fire department from the Airbase under the direction of Bart Donovan.

More than a dozen streams of water were played over the burning structure by members of both departments and their volunteer assistants and tons of water were showered on the burning embers during the night.

Mercantile establishments in the building, that were destroyed, included McIlroy's Hat Shop, the



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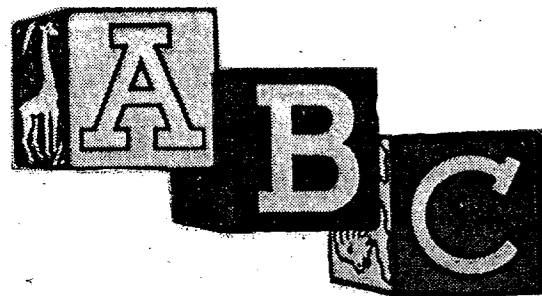
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## ENRICHED BREAD

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## HOULTON SESQUICENTENNIAL

is our first opportunity to participate in a

### 150th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

We are pleased to extend our warmest greetings to our many fine friends in Houlton.

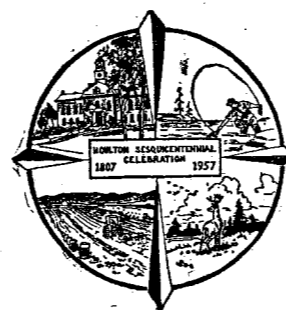
AROOSTOOK BAKING COMPANY, PRESQUE ISLE

# CONGRATULATIONS HOULTON . . .

ON THIS YOUR

## 150th BIRTHDAY . . .

Best Wishes . . . To The Houlton Pioneer Times on Your 100 Years of Service in Aroostook County.



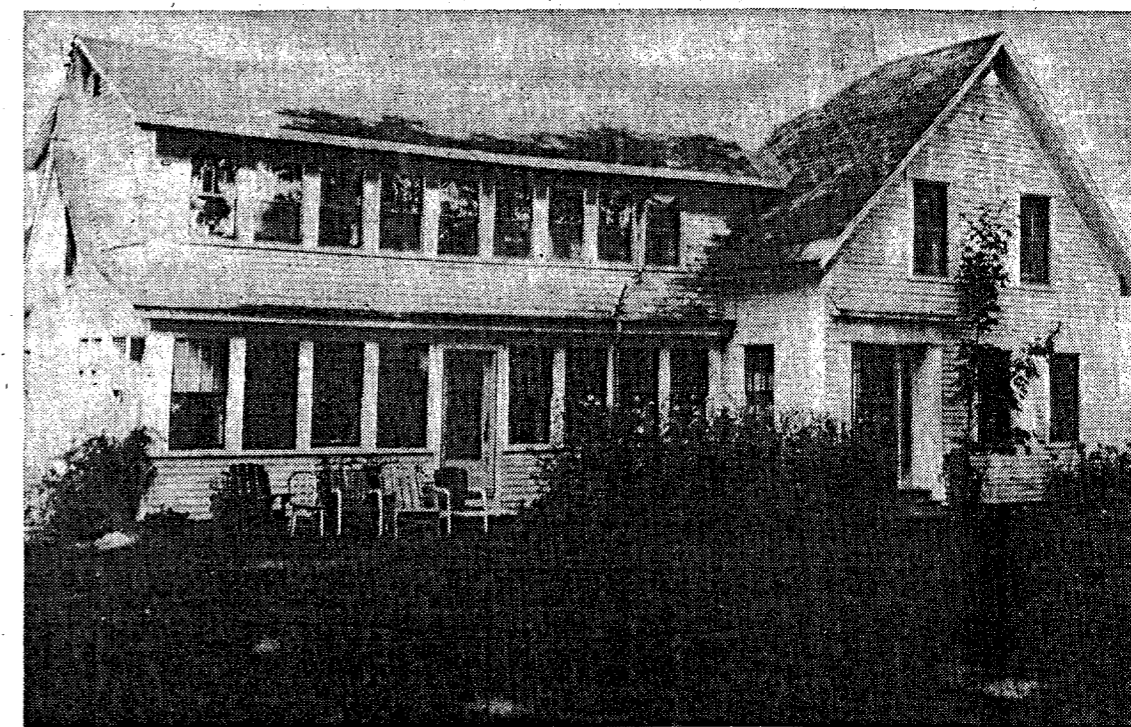
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# CONGRATULATIONS HOULTON . . .

on this your

## 150th BIRTHDAY . . .

. . . and to the Houlton Pioneer Times on your 100 Years of Service in Aroostook County.



## MAPLE GROVE REST HOME

CALAIS ROAD

Mary Haley - Prop.

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