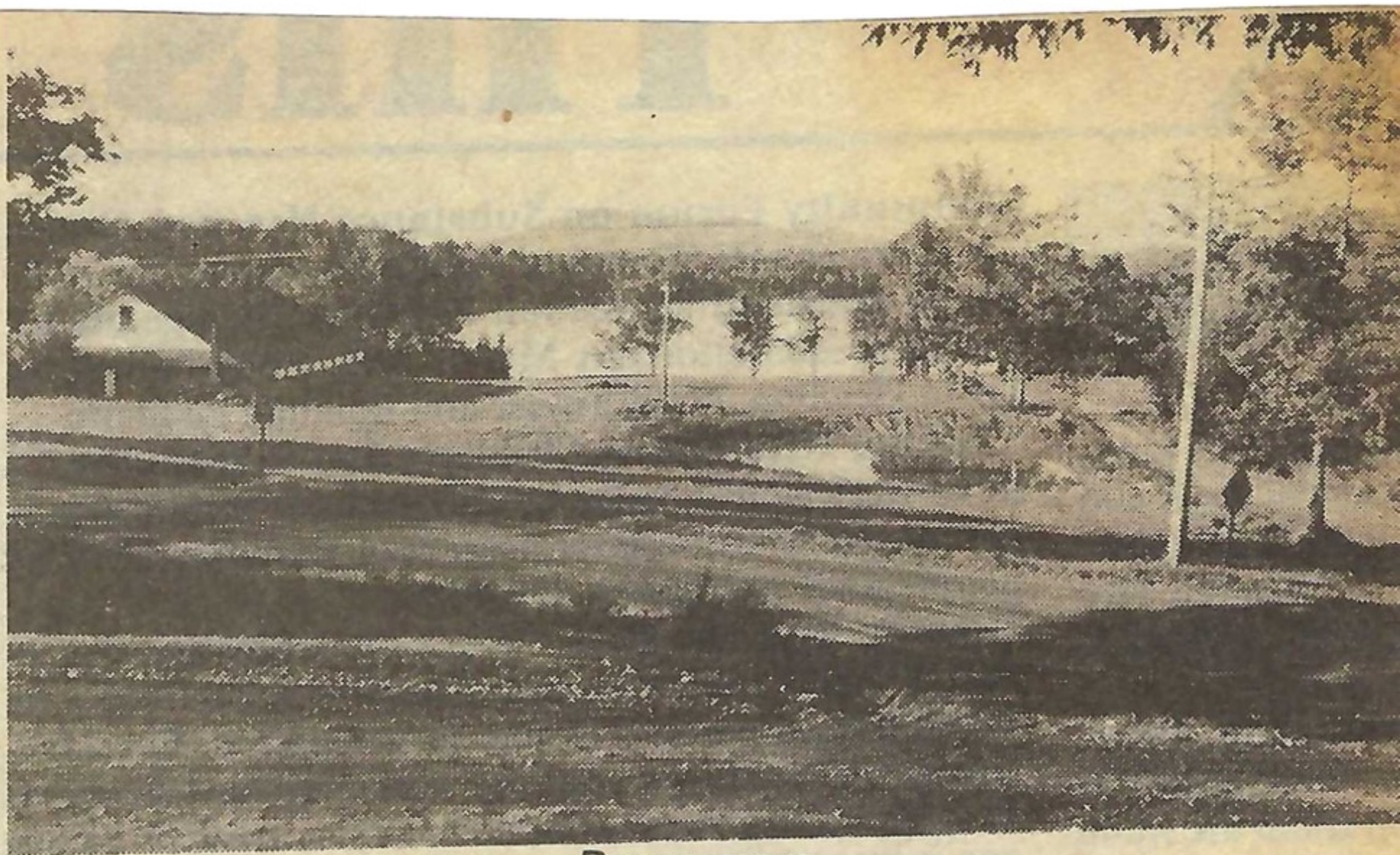


Breezemere

The following is from John Knight of Old Orchard and Pitcher Pond: "Members of my family were involved in its operation during the middle '30s. The dance hall was built around 1930. The man who had it built was Alphonso Wentworth, popularly known as "Phon." The structure was strongly built by a few local boys under the direction of Freddy Gray. I don't know who the first operators of the dance hall were, but I believe that "Phon" always owned it until Freddy became the owner.

About 1934 or 1935, my Uncle Ben and Aunt Priscilla (Mr. and Mrs. B.J. Knight) started running the dances at Breezemere, and did so for the next few years. They also operated the roadside lunchroom or snack shop and managed the cottages on the shore of the pond. During those summers they lived in the old Wentworth house, which still stands on the height of land beside Route 52. I don't recall what arrangement they had with Mr. Wentworth, but I guess that today it would be called a package deal.

On nights when there was a dance, there was a lunch counter or "snack bar" at one end of the dance hall. Uncle Ben and Aunt Priscilla also ran that, although I seem to recall that one season they sublet it to another



Breezemere

couple.

My brother Joe used to work there summers, and he stayed up at the Wentworth place. There were one or two young women who worked around the snack bar part-time. There were a couple of fellows (I don't remember their names) who helped out around the hall on dance nights. The only ones I can name today are my brother, Joe Knight, and Gordon Scruton.

There was a good deal of "action" outside of the dance hall during intermission; however, as I recall, nobody ever got seriously hurt and most of the incidents ended with a handshake.

Actually, I remember it as a fun place. There was little vandalism or theft, even though times were tougher then. I never knew of any muggings or assaults. A lot of us, and I was one, couldn't dance, so we'd hang around outside and listen to the music. It was great fun, and inexpensive.

There didn't seem to be any more drinking around Breezemere than there was around any other dance hall in Knox or Waldo counties, but the name itself seemed to be ripe for parody. It was considered hilarious if you referred to it as "Boozemore."

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