

But the Thames Borough Council still had a heavy load of debt and insufficient income. While the departure of Commissioner Clarence Grange was announced on June 28, his Borough farewell on August 30 also welcomed his successor A.L. Burk, who would remain till 1947.

On January 1, 1938, the Thames Star noted there were no organised New Year celebrations.

January 20, 1938. It was noted, however, that the appearance of Thames was much improved. It had been noted a few days before that there were now crowds doing their shopping in Thames ever since the opening of the Kopu Bridge a decade before. (The omens were therefore quite good for raising money locally by such means as a queen carnival.

January 25, 1938. It was noted that the Paeroa Municipal Band, which had been recently revived, played at the first sod of the Paeroa-Pokeno railway. (Stopped by World War II, this railway was not taken up again.)

January 28, 1938. At the opening of the new Thames post office by the Postmaster-General, the Hon. F. Jones, "stirring music was rendered by the Hauraki Regimental Band."

February 3, 1938. "Members of the Sixth Hauraki Regimental Band are taking their training for the Easter contest at Thames seriously. In the evenings the Band assembles at the High School grounds and goes through marching practice."

February 11, 1938. The population of Thames was 4,260. (It would increase.)

March 23, 1938. A monthly meeting of the Thames Band Contest Committee was held on the 22nd, K.S. Hetherington presiding, with large volume of correspondence. "It was decided that the massed bands assemble at the Brian Boru corner on the Sunday at 1 p.m. and then march to Rhodes Park from the Hymn Contest."

"On Monday the street inspection of the Bands will be held at the point of assembly, to be the Warwick Arms hotel corner, at 12.15 p.m.

"The piece of music for the massed Bands' march will be the 'Victoria' march, and the hymn 'Lead Lindly Light.'

"The tender of the Thames Star for the printing and selling of the official programme was accepted, as was the tender of Messrs. Young and Co. for the supply of medals.

"The grounds committee will inspect the grounds before the weekend."

April 7, 1938. (Meetings were now weekly). "The weekly meeting of the Thames Band Contest Committee was held last evening, K.S. Hetherington presiding, with a full attendance." There were over 35 letters. "The report from E. Watson showed the Accommodation Committee had been very busy and had completed a difficult task."

Satisfactory reports from the Grounds and Advertising committees showed that arrangements were well in hand for the Contest.

There was much favourable comment on the large volume of clerical detail so efficiently handled by the secretary, E.O. Brownlee.

A. Garrett (Fire Brigade Superintendent and of the Band) reported that arrangements with the proprietors of Thames theatres for use of King's Theatre had been made in case the weather was unfavourable.

April 14, 1938. Bands participating were approximately 12 strong. A complete programme in booklet form had been printed. A summary was given.

Easter Saturday, 1:45 p.m. Rhodes Park, Test Selection.

7 p.m. St. James's Hall, Open Solos.

Easter Saturday (Sunday?) 1 p.m. Massed bands assemble at Brian Boru corner and march to Rhodes Park. 1:45 Hymns test (own choice).

Easter Sunday. After Church Service. St. James's Hall, Boys' Solos.

Easter Monday. 12:15. Bands assemble at Warwick Arms hotel corner for street march and inspection before marching off to Rhodes Park.

1:45. Rhodes Park. Quickstep competition.

7:45 p.m. St. James's Hall, Quartettes and Trios.

Presentation of trophies.

Judge of music points, R.J. Estall, conductor of Woolston Band, Christchurch.