



Vol. 1 No. 6 February 1980

HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

25¢

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Heath Finance Committee is very concerned over the increase in the new Mohawk School budget and its impact on our tax rate for next year. The budget, adopted in January by a bare 4/5ths vote of the School Committee, legally overrode the 10% State tax cap limit. This increases the school assessment to Heath by \$12,000 to a total of \$70,698 - an increase of 20% in one year.

The Finance Committee thinks that when funds available to the School decrease, an attempt should be made to keep expenditures in line. Unfortunately, the Mohawk School has become used to spending out of an accumulated surplus for several years and now, that fund is limited. The Finance Committee believes that the Mohawk budget can be held to the State tax cap limit of 10% without adversely affecting any essential educational programs. It would mean a reduction of only \$60,000 out of a \$2 million budget. This position was taken by the Finance Committee publicly, as well as by those from other towns, at School Committee meetings and at the public hearing on the budget. It is now up to the towns to take appropriate action at their town meetings, if they wish to limit school expenditures to realistic and reasonable limits.

The Finance Committee has been reviewing budget requests from several of the town departments, and a date of March 13 has been set with the Selectmen to finalize the 1981 budget for publication in the Annual Town Report. It was recommended to the Selectmen that the Town Report be distributed this year at least one week before the Annual Meeting on May 5.

The Committee found that town expenditures through December 31, 1979 amounted to about 51% of the 1980 budget, and recommended to the Selectmen that some of the Town Funds, such as Revenue Sharing, Stabilization, and Cemetery Funds, be invested in accounts bearing higher interest rates.

ELECTED TOWN POSITIONS OPEN

The following town offices are open for election this year at the annual election on May 5.

<u>Position</u>	<u>Term(yrs)</u>	<u>Present incumbent</u>
Selectman	3	Kenneth Cole
Assessor	3	Walter Gleason
Finance Committee	3	Newland Smith
School Committee	3	Marietta Drummond
Library Trustee	3	Teresa Pettengill
Tree Warden	3	Thomas Lively
Auditor	1	none
Tax Collector	2	Catherine Nichols (resigned)

Any town resident wishing to run for one of the above offices must take out nomination papers from the Town Clerk by March 29. Twenty or more signatures of registered voters are required on the nomination paper which must be filed by March 31.

VOTER REGISTRATION

The Town Clerk has announced the following Voter Registration days for the annual Town elections; March 26, April 2, April 9 between 7 - 10 PM at the Town Hall, also April 12 noon to 8 PM at Town Clerk's home; April 15 between 9 AM and 10 PM (close of Registration) at Town Hall until 5 PM and at home of Town Clerk 5 - 10 PM.

HEATH PRECIPITATION

By Ralph H. Dickinson, Observer
for Mass. Water Resources Commission

January 1980 .85 inch, snow 3 inches
January 1979 11.64 inches, snow 39 inches
January, average for past 15 years -
3.67 inches, snow 19.1 in.

In January 1970 we also had .85 inches of precipitation with 3.5 inches of snow, but in the preceeding November and December we had 44 inches of snow. In 1979 we had 2 inches of snow in October, none in November, and 3 inches in December - Total of 5 inches.

FIRESIDE PUZZLE

If the B mt put :
If the B . putting :
Don't put : over a - der
You'd be an * it

Answer

If the grate be empty put coal on
If the grate be full stop putting coal on
Don't put coal on over a high fender
You'd be an ass to risk it

HOG HOLLOW WORKS

Jewelry Making & Repair

209 Main St. Greenfield 772-0859

HEATH HERALD

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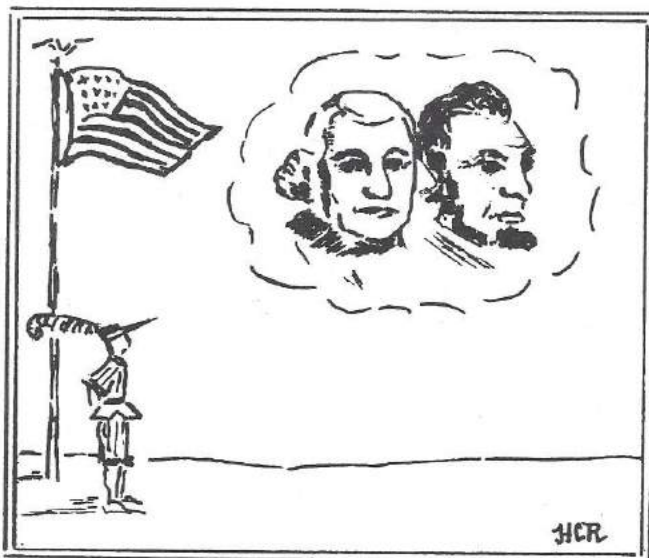
PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY

The Massachusetts state primary election for Presidential nominations will be on March 3. The polls will be open between noon and 7 PM at the Community Hall. All registered voters are urged to turn out.

TOWN CLERK - TAX COLLECTOR HOURS

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 9 AM - 12N
also on Wednesday 7 - 10 PM -Town Hall

Saturday - at home of Town Clerk -
phone for appointment.



Happy Birthday George and Abe.
We sure need men like you today!

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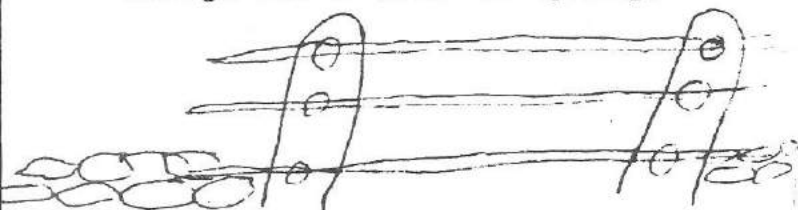
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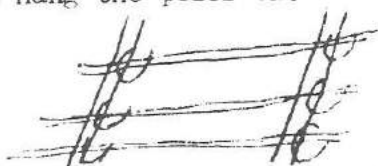
BAR-WAYS AND STONE WALLS

By Carroll Stowe

For some time I have been thinking about doing a story about stone walls and most especially the gap-ways or bar-ways in the stone walls. I feel that these gap-ways have a rather pleasant story to tell. When I can take time to study a bar-way, I am able to read all sorts of ideas into the break in the wall. In this part of the country there are countless stone walls or stone fences. In years past when a wall was built there had to be a place to get through the wall with oxen, horses, and related farm machinery. Sometimes tall stones were set in the ground with several holes in each one so that poles could be put through them to close the opening.



Thus they were called bar-ways. Or sometimes horseshoes were nailed to a wooden post to hang the poles on.



Sometimes a wire gate was used. It all depended on the person making the closure.

I can't help but wonder if when these things were left in their final resting place, the farmer realized that he wouldn't be back again.

If you like, go wander beyond a gap-way and try to realize the tremendous amount of work that went in the clearing of a field. Today that same field has trees in it big enough for sawlogs. The possibilities are as endless as the stonewalls themselves - the hopes and dreams that came and went through these bar-ways!

How I would enjoy taking a sled load of sap, a load of logs or wood through a bar-way behind a team and feel the sled slide and bump against a frozen rut. The pleasures we can think of when we try.

I read a figure some time ago of fifty cents per rod for building a stone wall. When you think of pittance wages this must be the lowest.

There are few things simpler than a stone wall bar-way but I enjoy them and I hope you will also.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT

By First Selectman Ken Cole

As Town Meeting looms only three months away, the Selectmen and the Finance Committee have begun formulating the budget for fiscal 1981. As before, tax cap legislation, coupled with double digit inflation, is calling for sharp-pencil scrutiny of all areas in the town's operating budget. Budget hearings have been held at the county and school district levels to enable the respective towns to respond and criticize their future financial responsibilities. The school budgets will be a critical issue for our town again this year, representing a marked increase over last year's expenditure. Sky-rocketing prices of petroleum products will mean substantially increased costs in maintaining the town's buildings and equipment. Needless to say, increased costs bring with them increased taxes and an increased demand for fiscal conservation on everyone's part.

It has come to our attention that some septic systems have been installed by unlicensed installers. Any contractor installing a septic system must pay a \$5.00 fee to the town, at which time a Licensed Installers Permit will be issued. This permit is good for the calendar year in which it is issued and must be renewed each year that work is to be done in the town. After the system is installed, it should remain uncovered until inspected by one of the Selectmen, after which it may be covered.

As a result of a petition circulated among some thirty voters and the consequent recommendation of the Finance Committee, The real estate valuations (Assessors List) will be published in this year's Town Report.

Sawyer Hall is fast approaching completion of the contracted work. What remains to be done is the installation of the fire escape, a finish coat of paint on the porch area, and any miscellaneous work that may result from final inspection of the premises. The fire escape is presently being fabricated and we are told that it should be installed by the end of February.

We are presently seeking volunteers for the position of registrar. Anyone interested should contact one of the Selectmen or Catherine Nichols.

HEATH SLED VICTORIOUS

By Lisa Cromack

LAKE PLACID, N.Y., Jan. 27 - What is an article from Lake Placid doing in the HEATH HERALD? Well, Heath won the Mayor's Cup in the 1980 North American Championships held for the tenth year in Lake Placid. Last year the Greenfield Community College sled retired the cup, winning three years in a row. In the Mayor's Cup Race, each sled must represent a town. Catherine Nichols, Town Clerk, signed the Heath entry.

Lisa Cromack, John Palmer, and Deb Antonio rode the winning sled over a quarter of a mile to take first place. Other GCC sleds representing Colrain, Amherst, and Greenfield took second, third, and sixth respectively. Even at a quarter of a mile the first and fourth place sleds were within four feet.

On the GCC Toboggan Racing Team this year are Lisa Cromack of Heath, Joe Hart of Amherst, Don Purington of Colrain, Beth Seibert, John Palmer, Deb and Charlene Antonio of Greenfield.

There was competition from Burbank CA, Orlando FL, Michigan and from all over New York state.

It's a fantastic feeling speeding down a chute on to the ice, just gliding along to a victory?

SCHOOLS TO SET MINIMUM STANDARDS

In compliance with state legislation focused upon the setting of minimum standards for K-12 students, committee work began at Mohawk High School on January 14.

The goals of the committee are to establish minimum standards of competence at early and late elementary levels and at the high school level. Also, test instruments, grades for testing, and norms will be decided upon. Basic skills assessments will allow schools to determine which students have mastered the minimum skills established and provide a course of remediation for those who have not. Numbers of students passing and failing the exam will be made public.

Committee meetings are open to the public. The next meeting of the committee will be held in the library of the Mohawk High School on February 25 at 7:30 PM.

ENERGY NOTES

By Richards Steinbock

The wind has been blowing in Heath and hot air has been coming from the government. One would think the two could combine to produce a little cheap energy, but that day seems a piece down the road.

Mark Cherniak of the County Energy Project and I toured the Town a few weeks ago and I showed him some potential wind generator sites. We talked with a few landowners, and a number of people have called me expressing an interest in wind and water power. The gist of Mark's program would be setting up ten or so large generators in Heath to feed into the power grid for which the owners of the generators (Town or individual) would be paid on a KWH basis for the power they produce. The feeling is that Heath could generate about 70% of its electricity right here.

Right now the Energy Project is having a hard time finding the money to set up wind testers, never mind funding the generators themselves. There are some matching funds available, but even that requires a good sized town expenditure. However, if the interest and willingness to spend a few bucks are there, these money sources could be researched and proposals written. Please let me or the Selectmen know of your interest. A friendly letter to your Congressmen might also help. Let them know you're tired of their spending billions on dead end technologies while ignoring some of our inexhaustable resources.

NEW MEETING DATE OF HEATH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The Heath School Committee now meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at Heath Center, at 7:00 PM.

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BOY SCOUTS

By Todd Sumner

The Charlemont Boy Scout Troop No. 86 has become very active this winter under our mentor, Bill Thane. The troop has expanded to include some 20 boys from Charlemont, Heath, Rowe, and Hawley. Our activities have included a winter camping trip to Camp Avery in Greenfield, made possible by the generosity of Greenfield Troop No. 69. Due to the lack of snow, we did not participate in this year's Klondike Derby which was held February 9. In January we took advantage of the facilities of the Greenfield YMCA and enjoyed an evening of swimming. We are helping to run the new recycling center in Charlemont, made possible through the efforts of Mrs. Shirley Rouleau. We're collecting glass (all colors) and newspapers.

Several hiking trips and a first aid course are in the works, and we look forward to more growth under Bill and our Patrol Leaders, Scott Porrovecchio and Eric Sumner.

GIRL SCOUTS

By Brenda Sumner

The Brownies and Girl Scouts will be selling cookies from February 16 to March 2 with delivery around the first week of May. Anyone who is not contacted by one of the girls is urged to call Brenda Sumner or Jeanette Crowningshield.

The Western Massachusetts Girl Scouts Council is supported through the sale of these cookies, the United Way, and donations. Those who support the Council in this way become sustaining members.

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SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE

Applications for the 1980 scholarship awards are now being received by the Fred W. Wells Trust. These awards are made on an annual basis to residents of 15 towns in Franklin County. Last year over 70 scholarships, ranging from \$300 to \$1000 were granted. Two Heath residents, Lisa Cromack and Susan Gruen, were among these recipients.

Application forms, now available from the Town Clerk, must be completed by May 1. Notification of awards will be made by June 13, 1980.

HEATH - CIRCA 1920

The Peons (in present Howland house) decided Marion should learn to drive the Ford. She was taught the necessary lessons - headed her up the sloping field back of the house. When Marion turned around, she couldn't remember what to do with the what-cher-may-call-it. So she let her go and down she went - then up the little rise into the barn - across the barn floor - out the other end - met George - she said "take it"!

Pearle Tanner

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GRANGE FUNDS DISTRIBUTED

by Terry Pettengill

When the Heath Grange disbanded in October, 1979, the members voted to disburse their funds to various persons and agencies that would serve the best interests of the townspeople of Heath.

A check from the Grange was sent to the following: Friends of Heath Library, Heath Police Department, Heath Fire Department, Heath Agricultural Society, Heath Historical Society, and the Heath Herald. Checks also went to the Colrain and Charlemont Ambulance Services, to Richard Hatch, and to the State Grange Educational Aid Fund.

Mutual appreciation is expressed by all.

HEATH HERALD CIRCULATION

December Issue

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81 Cities and Towns

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POETRY

(6th Grade)

Here is a flower, a flower alone.
Here I am on my own, sitting in the sun
I shall not run.
Listen to the birds in the trees.
Listen to the honey bees.

by Nicole DenOuden

* * *

Little green frogs are jumping in the air,
Flowers by the pond.
A little man sitting in the air
And houses by the shore.
Love is in the air,
How lovely of a day.

by Sheli Galipo

* * * * *

COMPLIMENTS

OF A

FRIEND



PLANNING BOARD REPORT

By John Holdsworth

The Planning Board is almost finished with the town five-year plan - a final draft will be presented at the Feb. 11th meeting. Proposals are presented for some conservation action in Heath, as well as for a town recreation area. This particular plan deals exclusively with recreation and conservation, and is being done to satisfy certain state requirements which, when fulfilled, will make the town eligible to apply for some matching funds. At future meetings, the board will be discussing other aspects of town planning, looking especially at possible methods of increasing the tax base and at possible solutions to the "dump" problem.

There is apparently no money presently available for the purchase of anemometers for wind testing at various town site. The Franklin County Energy Task Force will provide some funds for Heath, if it does become available.

The Planning Board will probably recommend at the Annual Meeting that the town join (at no cost) The Franklin Regional Transit Authority (LINKS) in order to gain representation and to learn more about the system. Also the sooner we join, the sooner we get service if we decide we want it.

A suggestion has been made to the Planning Board that a car-pooler's coupon be included in the HEATH HERALD because of its wide circulation. Anyone who is presently carpooling, or anyone who would like to, should fill in the coupon below and return it to the Planning Board. The Board will organize the information and attempt to put interested parties in touch with one another.

HEATH FOOD CO-OP FORMS

By Sheila Litchfield

Plans are well underway toward forming a food co-op in Heath. Approximately 20 families have shown interest in participating and have attended two organizational meetings so far. As members of a co-op, the families will cut down considerably on food costs by ordering in large volumes. Another advantage is access to a wider variety of high quality foods, such as whole grains, unprocessed sugars and flours, cheeses, and baked goods to name a few.

A great deal of organization is necessary for the smooth running of a co-op. Members will share the workload by collating orders, unpacking delivery trucks, dividing foods, and cleanup. There will be one bookkeeper and three work teams which will rotate. To prevent one person from carrying the entire responsibility of management, each team will have a coordinator. A 5% markup on all orders will be necessary to cover the cost of running the co-op (scales, wrapping paper, etc). The Community Hall has been rented as a meeting and distribution center. The Heath Co-op will probably join a federation of consumer cooperatives called "Western Mass. Cooperatives", through which we will order our foods and receive information and technical assistance.

Membership is open to all. Elderly persons will be allowed to order without sharing the workload. Once the order form is finalized, copies will be made available for those who wish to join. The first order will be placed within a few weeks. No date has been set for the next meeting.

For questions please call:

Mary Howe	337-5343
Alice Woznack	337-4818
Sheila Litchfield	337-4957

HEATH CARPOOLING INFORMATION

Name _____ Place of work _____
 Town to which you commute _____
 Road on which you ordinarily leave Heath _____
 and return to Heath _____
 Time of departure from Heath _____
 Time of departure from place of work _____
 Would you be willing to leave Heath earlier and/or your place of work
 later to be able to carpool? _____
 How many riders can you take? _____
 What days do you work? _____

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

The Heath Fire Department is attempting to recruit new members. We need people who are willing to do duties other than fire fighting.

Now that we have a base radio, we would welcome anyone who would be interested in operating radio during emergencies. As we do much of our own repair work, we could certainly use your expertise, if you are mechanically inclined.

Ken Crowningshield stays at the Station when we send all three trucks, as someone must be there to direct cover trucks in case of additional emergencies. Someone who could relieve Ken at school bus time or choretime would also be appreciated.

Of course we are always looking for people who are willing to become trained firefighters. This year we have set a minimum standard requiring first line firefighters to attend at least four of the 16 drills. Drills will be held the 4th Wednesday evening each month at 8 PM. In addition four day time drills will be held, hopefully to be convenient for those who have problems attending evening drills.

Chief Gleason wishes to thank everyone who turned out at the recent fire at Robinswood. Everyone performed in an efficient and professional manner. The only comment might be to those who don't regularly attend fire drills. The point is that roof ladders should always be used when roof or chimney work is performed. If you find our regular men a little persistent about safety measures, it is only because their training has alerted them to the fact that, although you are covered by insurance, the company may refuse to pay if proper procedures are not adhered to. Again the Department wishes to thank you for a job well done.



ASSESSORS' REPORT

By Richards Steinbock

The recap sheets have been sent to the state for approval and the computer people have been tallying up our valuations. With luck, you should have your tax bills about the same time you're reading this.

The building re-evaluation is completed. We are getting close to 100% valuation and it should be time to start thinking about classification. However, the classification law which was voted in November 1978 has been scrapped, and there is now a new law (Chapt. 797) to replace it. As yet the details of this law have neither been worked out nor explained to the state's assessors. The gist is that once a town reaches 100% valuation, it is pretty much free to assess as it sees fit, which puts us all right back where we started. Lest we think this circle game has been in vain it has kept the legislature looking busy and the assessors confused, which is par for the state.

The Assessors will hold an open informational meeting on Friday, March 7 at 8:30 PM in the Community Hall to discuss classification, the recent re-evaluation, and any ideas you may have on a town-wide re-evaluation of land (which is our project for this year), as well as any other questions you may have.

TAX DEADLINES

Mar. 1 - Filing of 3ABC forms unless extended to April 1 with Assessors' permission.

- Farm animal excise returns due.
- Form of list due (Personal property statement). Without a Form of list on file the Board cannot consider a personal property abatement request.

May 1 - Report forest products returns on classified forest land.

By Oct. 1 (or within 30 days if the tax bills are mailed after Sept. 1) application for abatement must be filed, as well as applications for exemption under Clauses 22D, 41A, 42, and 43. The filing of an abatement application does not alter your obligation to pay taxes when due.

By Dec. 15 (or within 3 months if the tax bills are mailed after Sept. 1) application for exemption under Clauses 17, 22, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22E, 37, and 41 must be filed.

LIBRARY NOTES

By Edith Gleason, Librarian

The end is in sight. At long last it seems that our Library can be open again and soon.

Shelving has been built by Walter Gleason, John Holdsworth, and Howard Crowning-shield. At this writing, Alan Nichols is doing the staining and varnishing. The books have been sorted and arranged in the order they will go on the shelves.

Some of you have books that belong to the Library. If you return them this month or within thirty days after this paper is published, there will be no fines. If you are bashful about facing us (though we won't bite you), leave the books in the book return on the porch.

New books this month include: Aunt Erma's Cope Book - Shadow of the Moon - Lamb's War - James Herriott's Yorkshire - Third World War - and Five for Sorrow, Ten for Joy.

Finally, don't forget the movies. The dates are: Feb. 16 - The King and I, Yul Brynner and Deborah Kerr; Mar. 15 - National Velvet, Elizabeth Taylor; April 19 - King Kong, Fay Wray.

BERKSHIRE BUZZERS

The Berkshire Buzzers, a 4-H beekeeping club, meets at the Hawlemont School on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 7 PM. The group is open to anyone from fifth grade through high school who wishes to learn the art of beekeeping. During the next few weeks we will be assembling equipment and preparing for the new bees which will arrive in April. Join us. For information call Dick or Joan Bonney at 339-5320.

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A HEATH INDUSTRY PROFILE

Heath Graphics, now almost four years old, is a pooling of the talents of Richards Steinbock, graphic designer, and David Moir, silkscreen artist. What started out as a last minute whim with the Heath Fair T-shirts has grown into a good-sized business, mostly by word-of-mouth and front-of-shirt advertising.

David, in addition, has teamed up with Eric Carle under the name of DAER Ltd., to reproduce some of Eric's elegant animal drawings on aprons, which are sold world wide. David maintains a shop in Charlemont by the bridge, where he works and offers his items for sale.

When not working with David, "Steiny" freelances for a number of people. For example, his illustrations can be found in New Roots, a national energy magazine published in Greenfield, and in a large number of other publications and businesses.

In addition, as a contribution to Heath, Steiny and David teamed up to produce the seals now on the Heath Fire Trucks.

ART NEWS

Bob Gruen, now a member of The New England Stage Consort, will be performing in Samuel Beckett's play "Waiting for Godot", which will be given at the Actors' Theater in Brattleboro on February 15 and 16 at 8 PM. For reservations call 802-257-1129. The play will also be given at Thornes Market in Northampton, February 29 and March 1, 8, 9, 15, 16. For information call 584-5582.

Marlene and Richard Housner are artists of the month at the Mohawk Trail Regional School for February. Their large-scale paintings and plaster sculptures are being exhibited in the Library Resource Center during regular school hours.

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FRANKLIN COUNTY ENERGY PROJECT

The Franklin County Energy Project is hosting a series of regional meetings throughout Franklin County during February and March. The purpose of the meetings is to present the findings of the Franklin County Energy Study, conducted between 1977 and 1979 by the Future Studies Program of the University of Massachusetts. There will be a slide presentation of renewable energy projects which have been developed throughout the country. A questionnaire will be given to all participants to provide for public input concerning both renewable energy technologies, and the role and directions which can be taken by towns and individuals to respond to dwindling energy supplies and escalating energy prices.

The first in this series of meetings will be held at the Charlemont town hall on Wednesday, February 20 at 7:00 PM (snow date February 21) All interested people from Charlemont, Heath, Hawley, Rowe, and Monroe are invited to attend.

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MILESTONES

Mr. and Mrs. Winthrop Warriner celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary on January 17 with a family party at the Community Hall.

News of Former Residents

Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Stetson of Richfield Springs, New York announce the engagement of their daughter Deborah to Robert Coyle of Utica, New York. A May wedding is planned.

A son, Timothy Guy, Jr., was born to Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Peters of Wilmington Vermont on January 20.

A daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. F. Rollo Kinsman of Alexandria, Virginia in late December.

CLASSIFIED

For Sale: Gretsch Drum Set (grey) Bass Kettle, Tom-Tom, \$175. Snare Drum (blue) w/stand, cymbal, \$50. All for \$200. Also Poloroid Land Camera w/flash, \$50. Call 413-337-4804.

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