

VOLUME 11 NUMBER 6

FEBRUARY/MARCH 1990

HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER 35¢

SKI RACE

by David Gibbons

Well, it actually happened. The Heath Cross Country Ski Race took place as planned. Park Commission members (who organized the race) were understandably nervous the week before the race when large sections of the courses were bare dirt. The big storm at the end of January took care of that problem and, in fact, the big problem on race day was not too little, but too much snow. Whilst the skiing conditions were excellent, the weather left a lot to be desired. Several would-be participants found that they could not get to Heath because of the road conditions, and the race was delayed to accommodate late-comers.

Those few problems aside, the race was an enjoyable one. The skiers found the new course scenic and challenging. The kids had fun with their races. And, of course, the chili, other hot food and drink supplied by the preschool were much appreciated.

Art Schwenger apologized for the delay in the awards ceremonies, pointing out that it was due to the new "efficient" computerized results tabulation.

So who won? The women's 15K race was won by Trina Housner of Pelham in 1:17:49 followed by Patty Crane of Dalton and Barbara Levan of Woodford. In the men's 15K David Johnston of Brattleboro won with a time of 1:00:26. John Bye of Cummington and Ed Hamel of Westhampton took second and third.

In the 10K races the women's winner was Jeanne Mangan of Cummington (1:21:03), then Veronica Brelsford of Putney, VT, and Sandy Gilbert of Heath. Mark Rugbee won the men's in 0:55:56. Mark lives in Savoy. Colrain resident Gabe Lapollo and Shelburne Falls' Bruce Phillips took second and third.

Heath was well represented among the ninety-eight contestants. Lark Miller led the Heath men in the 15K followed by Stephen Marcotte and Robert Dane. John Henry, Al Canali, Paul Dabrody and Richard Housner also competed. Jayne Dane represented Heath in the women's 15K. In the 10K men's race L. McCutcheon led Heathens Glenn Gleason, Budge Litchfield, Bob Gruen, Justin Lively, Colin Gruen and Doug Wilkins. In the women's race Sandy Gilbert finished ahead of Anne Steinbock, Sheila Litchfield, Carol Anne Eldridge, Susan Gleason, Martha McCutcheon, Lynn Miller, Kathy Tallen and Cathy Wilkins.

In the children's 1 1/2K and 1/2K races Heath's Olin Schwenger-Sartz, Katelyn Litchfield, Nicole Rainville and Eugene Marcotte all competed.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

by Chuck Mackie

Beginning in mid-February, the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen will be interviewing Department Heads and Board Chairmen to develop budgets for FY91.

Due to the "Trickle Down" method of financing we presently enjoy, (the Federal Government gives little to the State, which in turn gives less to the cities and towns) more and more of the burden of Town expenditures will have to be met by property taxes.

The receipt of financial aid from the State has been an important item in the equation of determining local budgets, but this aid is being drastically reduced over a wide spectrum including highway funds, education and social services.

In contrast to reduced State Aid, the cost of providing services in town is increasing. Fixed costs such as insurance, wages, capital equipment and education are escalating.

Depending on the figures presented during the budget process, particularly the school budgets, it is reasonable to assume that the town will be asked once again to vote an override of Proposition 2 1/2 to furnish adequate funding to run the town's business.



Young Racers Prepare for Annual Heath Cross Country Ski Race
(Photo by Dan Wessman)

LETTERS

To the Editor:

I hope you will transmit the following check to the Heath Friends of the Library Society. I would like to make this modest donation in the name of Mr. Bruce Phillips. Bruce was involved in an antique show in Bridgehampton, Long Island which my four year old son Max and I attended this summer. Max was enthralled with the jewelry that Bruce displayed. Bruce spent an enormous amount of time talking to this little boy - even in the face of the affluent society of Long Island! I wanted to get something for Max to remember this by - but Bruce's available wares were not suitable for a four year old! He promised to make up a collection of stones to send to Max at home. Just before Christmas a beautiful pouch arrived containing a fine collection of labeled stones of various types. This was a wonderful and unexpected present for a little boy. Bruce did all this gratis - there was no bill. I wanted to do something in return. Max sent Bruce a thank you note with a picture; this is a 'thank you' from his father.

Kenneth L. Tyler, M.D.
Assoc. Prof. Neurology
Harvard Medical School

Editor's Note: It was a delightful surprise to receive such an unexpected gift in honor of a Heath resident. Bruce Phillips was quite pleased by the generous donation made on his behalf by Dr. Tyler. The letter and check have been delivered to the Friends of the Library.

LETTERS

To the Editor:

Monday, the first of a new year and decade, was a rather questionable looking day. Would it be an agreeable day to have a New Years Sleigh Party? Well, we'll just have to try it and see.

The Saturday previous, Steve Marcotte and his dad, a nephew and I had put Mrs. Carey's double sled together and cut a supply of standing dead wood for a fire. So that much was in readiness.

Monday turned out to be a good day for a sleigh party. It snowed and the wind blew, the sun shown and people came and had a grand time or at least they said they did. A team of pony mules from West Sand Lake, New York, a larger span of mules from South Williamstown, a black team of Percherons from North Adams and Mrs. Carey's team were on hand.

A fire was set on an old car roof so that it wouldn't settle down into the snow; two large concrete blocks at either end of the fire and two used snowplow blades on the blocks created the cooking area. The Sleigh Party brought out some of the most mouth watering edibles, and there was a lot of them. There was even a container of rather potent cider. One newly transplanted Heath couple came and was shortly introduced to a collector of cast iron machinery seats. The friendships created at a sleigh party or wagon train are perhaps the best part of them.

I enjoy people, food, animals and good conversations around a fire, and to see folks of a like mind really pleases me. I am most fortunate to have Mrs. Carey as a friend. Her small team is at my disposal most any time and her lower field off Stone Hill Road in Rowe is a most accessible spot.


One might wonder about the saneness of people who at a little more than a moment's notice load any manner of runnered equipment and the power to pull it and travel as much as 50 miles for a couple hours riding, eat a bite, undo the whole thing, load it back up and head for home. Strange or not I will always be proud to be included in a circle of friends who are willing to do such things. I have always enjoyed making sled tracks in the snow, hauling wood, logs, sap, hay or people. There's a most pleasant feeling that comes to me when I can see the gentle curve of a sled road as it breaks over a hill out of sight. Add to this the pretty jingle of a runner chain and my day is complete. It should go without saying that some hay burning power is a must to create this scene. Sleighs, sleds, animal power, good conversation around a cook fire and a bowl of stew create a sleigh party.

Carroll Stowe
Heath

HEATH PRECIPITATION

by Ralph H. Dickinson
Observer for Mass. Division of Water Resources

November precipitation was 3.27 inches. November snowfall measured 6.5 inches. December precipitation was 2.01 inches with snowfall measuring 16 inches. January had a total precipitation of 4.36 inches and a snowfall total of 26 inches. Total snowfall for this season is 48.5 inches. The total precipitation for 1989 was 51 inches which is also the average annual precipitation for the past 22 years.



HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

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 Classified ads: \$1.00 per line.
 Send all correspondence to Box 54, Heath, MA 01346

HEATH PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Dave Howland retired from Smith College on February 2, 1990. He was Director of Benefits in the Personnel Department. He spent 40 years in business and academe including 15 years as Director of Personnel at Amherst College, finishing his career at Mt. Holyoke and Smith Colleges. He plans to devote himself to his Selectman's duties, establishing a genealogical society and perhaps doing some part-time consulting. He and his wife Pegge will continue to live on Avery Brook Road.

Guy Silvester was elected Vice-President/President-Elect of the Western Massachusetts Association of Special Education Directors on February 8 in North Adams.

Tina Rode, a senior at Mohawk Trail Regional High School, won the Western Massachusetts Lions Club Speech Contest on February 3. Her prize was \$1,000. Ms Rode was sponsored by the Charlemont Lions Club and will participate in the state finals in Hyannis on May 19. The title of her speech was "What Family Means to Me".

Thomas Lively and the Heath Planning Board received an award for rewriting the town's zoning bylaws at the second annual Franklin County Planning Board's awards assembly at the county courthouse.

William Latrell and the Heath Conservation Commission received an award for getting the town's comprehensive zoning bylaws passed.

Alastair Maitland received an award for his work with the Heath Zoning Task Force which helped the Planning Board revise its bylaws.



Speech Contest Winner Christina Rode
(Photo by Susan Silvester)

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LIBRARY LINES

by Alli Thane

Edith Gleason has retired from the Board of Trustees. Her career with the Heath Library began in 1959 when she was elected a trustee; then in 1966 she became our librarian. Edith served in this post for 17 years. She saw the library change from a one room, wood stove heated library to the present 15,000 volumes. Edith has been a dedicated library worker, and we accept her resignation with thanks, appreciation, and regret.

The Finance Committee has asked us all to try to trim our budgets, if possible. Our magazine allotment is \$500 and goes up every year. Is there anyone who would like to give the library a gift subscription to help us through this? If so, please see us in the library for a list of suggestions.

Ruth Fournier is reading to the young children each Wednesday at 3:30 PM.

New books:

Foucault's Pendulum, by Umberto Eco

The Island Within by Richard Nelson

Satanic Verses by Salman Rushdie

The Education of Little Tree by Forest Carter

New Books in large print donated by the Council on Aging:

The Homesman by Glendon Swarthout

Bingo by Rita Mae Brown

Joy Luck Club by Rita Pratt Smith

In the Forest at Midnight by Amy Tan

Talking God by Tony Hillerman

Dead or Alive by Max Brand

Temple of My Familiar by Alice Walker

Richard Burton: A Life by Melvin Bragg

Rainbow in the Mist by Phyllis Whitney

New Video tapes donated by The Friends of the Library:

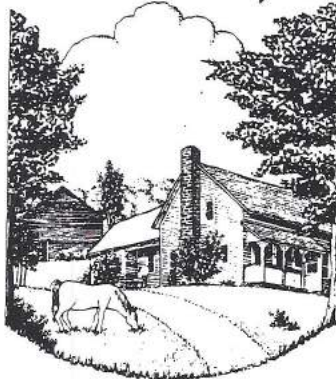
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PERCS, PERMITS AND TRANSFERS

Percolation Tests

Percolation testing has been suspended until April except for repairs.

Building Permits

Arthur Schwenger/Carol Sartz, Burrington Road, wood stove.

Total: \$1,200.
Leonard O'Dey, Number Nine Road, one family.
Richard Gary, Avery Brook Road, horse shelter.
Minor Marchese, Harris Mountain Road, interior, exterior renovation.
Howard Queen Jr., Modoc Street, enclose deck.
Leonard O'Dey, Number Nine Road, demolish barn.
Hazel Porter, Royer Road, rebuild deck.
Total: \$125,360.
Neil Pasquantonio, Number Nine Road, one-family (replace mobile home).
Total: \$40,560.

Deed Transfers

Gerard R. Ethier to Ethier Management Inc. of Greenfield, Number Nine Road, Lot 3. 8.685 acres. No consideration.

Bufford L. and Eva G. Harris to Katherine J. Killoran of Springfield, Mohawk Estates, Lots 54, 55 and 56. \$10,000.
Warner F. Apt to Lesley A. Apt and Joan K. Apt of Philadelphia, PA and Vivian P. Apt of Larchmont, NY, South Road. Gift.
Francis J. and Frances B. Covert to Antoni Moczulski of Boston, Mohawk Estates, Lot 41. \$11,500.
Sharon Jamilkowski to Diane Dahmeyer of Durham, CT. Route 8A. \$1,000.

Carol J. Borowiec to Stanley W. Borowiec of Chicopee, 27 Cascade Drive. \$1.
Rockwell J. and Marilyn K. Lively to John M. and Loretta A. Boyle of Springfield, Avery Brook Road. 13.54 acres. \$112,000.

Albert L. Hager, Sr. to Albert L. Hager, Jr. Naxam Road. Also land in Colrain. No consideration.
Wendy Luckhurst to Peter Sinclair and Wendy Luckhurst. 48 Modoc Street. \$1.
Minor F. Marchese to Patrick E. Miner and Deborah C. Simkus of Greenfield, South Road. \$65,000.
Richard H. Oliver to Ann F. Lovell, Shawnee Drive. Lot 5. \$1,000.

James A. and Dianne B. Cerone to Richard and Gertrude Voytko of Churchville, PA, Route 8A, Lot 5. 16.595 acres. \$35,000.
Alanson L. Nichols to Catherine Nichols. Colrain Road. No consideration.

Forrest S. and Linda J. Osborne to Properties of America, Inc. of Williamstown. Sadoga Road. Lot 13 and part of Lot 23. 25 acres. \$10.

Leon J. Sr. and Grace Vieu of South Hadley to Ugo Guarna and Theresa Guarna, Mohawk Estates, Lot 26. \$7,000.

TOWN OFFICE HOURS

(At Town Hall unless otherwise specified)

<u>Selectmen:</u>	Tuesday 7:30 PM
<u>Assessors:</u>	Wednesdays 7 - 9 PM
<u>Town Clerk:</u>	Tuesdays 6:30-7:30 PM
<u>Assessors' Clerk:</u>	Wednesdays 8 - 11 AM
	(Call 337-4268 between 5 & 8 PM for appointment)
<u>Town Treasurer:</u>	Tuesday & Wednesday 9 - 11:30 AM
<u>Tax Collector:</u>	Tuesday 9:30 AM - 1 PM
<u>Finance Committee:</u>	As posted
<u>Planning Board:</u>	2nd Monday of month 7 PM
<u>Conservation Commission:</u>	3rd Tuesday of month
<u>Heath School Committee:</u>	1st Tuesday of month 7:30 PM
<u>Library Trustees:</u>	3rd Monday of month 7:30 PM
<u>Library:</u>	Monday 6-9 PM Wednesday 1-5 PM Saturday 9 AM - 1 PM
<u>Town Nurse:</u>	Wednesday 8:45 - 10:45 AM (call 625-2829 between 7 & 8:15 AM for appointment)
<u>Post Office:</u>	Monday through Saturday 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM
<u>Transfer Station:</u>	Monday 9 AM - 1 PM Saturday 9 AM - 5 PM
<u>Town Telephones:</u>	Town Hall 337-4934 Community Hall 337-4847 Town Garage 337-4462 Fire, Police & Ambulance 1-772-2133

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INFORMATION SUMMARY - WITHDRAWAL OF HEATH FROM MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

For nearly one year, the Heath Regional School District Planning Committee has met with a similar committee from Rowe for the purpose of examining the formation of a regional school district. The proposed school district would unite the two towns for the purposes of elementary education. In addition, the new district would also have jurisdiction over all grades (i. e. grades 7 to 12).

The Heath Rowe Regional School District, if accepted by voters of both towns would make no changes in how Heath children are educated at Mohawk or at Franklin Tech.

If voters in Heath desire to form a regional school district with Rowe, it will also require that Heath take steps to withdraw from the Mohawk Trail Regional School District as a member town. It is likely that the terms and arrangement of the withdrawal will be similar to those affecting the Town of Rowe which withdrew from Mohawk in 1982.

It is important that Heath voters understand the necessity of Mohawk withdrawal as a part of the proposal to form a region with Rowe, and also what such a change will mean...and will not mean. Planning Committee members have concluded that the best way to summarize this important information is to present it in a question-and-answer format.

- - - - -
Q. WHY MUST HEATH WITHDRAW FROM MOHAWK IN ORDER TO FORM A REGIONAL WITH ROWE?

A. The position of the Mass. Department of Education is that Mohawk withdrawal will be a condition of approval of the Heath-Rowe Regional. The D. O. E. must approve proposed new regional school districts by law.

Q. WHY WOULD THE STATE REQUIRE WITHDRAWAL?

A. State Board of Education policy states that they support measures which lead to full regionalization of partial regional school districts. They are hopeful that the remaining Mohawk member towns will expand the Mohawk from 7-12 to full K-12 status. At the same time, there is growing support for this measure in the other member towns. If voters in these towns choose to form a K-12 regional, then all towns must agree. Herein lies the rub: Heath cannot be a member of a regional with Rowe, and a member of an expanded Mohawk regional with all other towns.

Q. DOES THE STATE POSITION MAKE SENSE?

A. On one hand, it seems that to require withdrawal from one regional as a condition to enter another is, on the surface, illogical. But if one thinks it through, it does make sense. The central issue is this: Heath cannot belong to two full regionals - it must choose which regional district it wishes to affiliate with.

Q. COULDN'T HEATH ENTER INTO A K-6 REGIONAL WITH ROWE?

A. No. The position of the Department is that the Heath-Rowe Regional must be a K-12 regional. If Heath and Rowe formed a K-6 regional, it would

leave unresolved, the 7-12 configuration of Rowe. Even if a K-6 regional were possible, it would create conditions which would prevent Mohawk from expanding into a K-12 configuration if it (and the other member towns) wished. That could only be accomplished with the dissolution of the Heath Rowe Regional District, and that would require assent from the Town of Rowe (a non-member town of the Mohawk District). This, the Department's Legal Division, would not accept.

Q. WILL HEATH STUDENTS CONTINUE TO ATTEND MOHAWK?

A. Yes. The only difference will be that they will be tuitioned to Mohawk rather than attending Mohawk as "member town" students.

Q. IS HEATH GUARANTEED CONTINUED RIGHTS TO EDUCATE ITS STUDENTS AT MOHAWK?

A. Yes. The Amendment will specify this condition, and this would be essential to Heath.

Q. WHAT GUARANTEES WOULD EXIST?

A. The Amendment process is provided by law, and any such agreement would be in the form of an absolute guarantee, and in permanent form. It could only be changed with the approval of Heath voters.

Q. WHAT WOULD HAPPEN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS?

A. Heath students with special needs will have the same rights and same access to special education services as they presently enjoy. Withdrawal will not affect their educational program, even if such must be provided at some other school or facility. The cost will remain the same. These provisions will be included in the Amendment.

Q. WOULD THE BUSING OF HEATH STUDENTS ATTENDING MOHAWK BE AFFECTED?

A. No. Again, Heath students will be entitled to the same level of service as received by students of member towns. This too will be addressed in the Amendment.

Q. WOULD HEATH STUDENTS BE REQUIRED TO ATTEND MOHAWK?

A. No. While guarantees would be in place that Mohawk must accept Heath students, Heath is not required to send all students to Mohawk. The local school committee, if it wished, could tuition grade 7-12 students to other schools (e. g. Whittingham, North Adams). Tuition arrangements involving private schools are forbidden by Massachusetts law.

Q. WOULD THE COST FOR MOHAWK EDUCATION BE CHANGED?

A. Probably not. At the very least, it is presumed that Heath would pay a per-student charge equal to its current "member town status" charge. At this time, the charge for Rowe students is 9% less than the member-town charge. In either instance, the net cost to taxpayers will be less than now exists because there will be added state reimbursement paid to the Heath-Rowe Regional District for secondary tuition expense.

Q. WOULD THERE BE GUARANTEES ON MOHAWK TUITION ARRANGEMENTS?

- A. Yes. The Amendment will specify the tuition charge arrangement and it will be binding and permanent. It could be changed at a later time, but only with the express approval of the Heath Town Meeting.
- Q. WILL HEATH BE REPRESENTED ON THE MOHAWK COMMITTEE?
- A. Yes. Heath will have one representative to the 17 member Mohawk School Committee, as it presently has. This member, however, will not have the power of a vote, as is the case in Rowe at this time. The choice of a Heath representative will be by vote of the Heath School Committee (from its membership) as is the practice at this time.
- Q. WHAT RIGHTS AND POWERS WILL THE HEATH REP. TO MOHAWK HAVE?
- A. All rights and powers except the power to vote at full Board meetings. He/she will be granted rights to executive session, full powers of discussion and debate, and will receive appointments to sub-committees. The Heath member will have the right of a vote on the subcommittee level.
- Q. WHY CAN'T THE AMENDMENT SPECIFY THE RETENTION OF A VOTE FOR THE HEATH REP?
- A. Because legally, the school district (i. e. Mohawk) cannot grant this power to a representative of a non-member town. The state would not approve of such an arrangement.
- Q. HOW DOES A TOWN WITHDRAW FROM A SCHOOL DISTRICT - AND FROM MOHAWK?
- A. The first step is that the town intending to withdraw must at a town meeting vote to request the Mohawk School Committee to prepare an amendment to the District Agreement. The amendment would alter the Agreement and provide for the withdrawal of Heath, in this instance.
- Q. DOES THIS FIRST STEP COMPLETE THE PROCESS - DOES IT COMMIT HEATH TO WITHDRAW?
- A. No. Heath must take another town meeting vote as discussed below. A "yes" vote at the first town meeting only means that Heath is asking to have an amendment prepared. The Amendment will come back to Heath for a second vote.
- Q. WHAT OTHER STEPS ARE REQUIRED?
- A. After an Amendment relating to the withdrawal process has been prepared, it must be approved by all existing member towns, including Heath. The Amendment will be prepared by a special committee comprised of Mohawk and Heath representatives. All towns must approve of the withdrawal (including Heath) before the withdrawal becomes effective.
- Q. MUST THE STATE APPROVE OF THE WITHDRAWAL PROPOSAL?
- A. No. State law does not provide for their approval. Withdrawal is a local issue.
- Q. DOESN'T THIS MATTER SIMPLY BOIL DOWN TO THE FACT THAT HEATH MUST MAKE A CHOICE?
- A. The answer is, essentially, "yes". If Heath is to enfranchise itself on the elementary education level, it must first withdraw from Mohawk. There is a choice to be made respecting which district to affiliate with. A major difference, however, is that an affiliation with Rowe grants rights to Heath

to guaranteed access for elementary education by regional agreement, and rights to guaranteed access for high school education by withdrawal amendment. Non-affiliation with Rowe, while guaranteeing continued access to Mohawk by Mohawk regional agreement, provides no guarantees to Heath for continued access for elementary education.

Q. WHEN WILL THIS QUESTION BE PRESENTED TO HEATH VOTERS?

A. This matter is still under study by local committees. Current and tentative plans call for the first vote (i. e. asking that an amendment be prepared) may occur during February or March. If that vote is affirmative, it is possible that the final approval vote will be on the warrant for the annual town meeting in May.

Q. WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

A. The best sources of information are the three members of the Heath Regional School District Planning Board: Budge Litchfield, Dick Gary, and Sue Lively. The Heath School Committee members are equally informed: Budge, Linda Marcotte and Frank Brower.

HOW BEIJINGERS KEEP WARM

by Pat Leuchtman

Beijing is not nearly as cold as Heath. Temperatures rarely dip into the teens, but the winds do blow and the pale winter sun is further dimmed as it shines through air thick with dust blown in from the Gobi Desert. In the old days, houses were set up to take advantage of the sun, however weak, and girls and women were kept busy stitching cotton padded clothes, knitting woolen socks and sweaters and making heavy quilts stuffed with thick cotton batting.

Nowadays, the sunny warm courtyards have been filled in with more indoor living space and the sun is blotted out. New housing is laid out to meet bureaucratic standards, not the blessings of the sun. And since Beijing is a city of shortages they are not insulated, nor are they heated much because there is little fuel for central furnaces, nor is there sufficient electric power for electric heat. Electricity in Beijing is rationed. Different sections of the city are regularly blacked out for several hours a week; there is simply not enough power to go around. What is personal discomfort for many must be a nightmare for every businessman and manufacturer. Fortunately for tourists, the big hotels are guaranteed heat and power because the central government has pinned so many of its economic hopes on tourism.

What all this means, of course, is that Beijingers are almost always cold in winter. Those who live in new housing hope for the best, and those who live in the traditional old hutong neighborhoods burn what coal they can afford in small stoves. Offices, restaurants, theaters and other public spaces are rarely heated. Old coal-burning, pot-bellied stoves are often set up in the stores near the Friendship Hotel. These stoves are ancient; you would never imagine that air-tight stove technology existed. And where people burn coal, you will find coal yards; this is why Beijing is such a dirty city. The air is full of dust, soot and other forms of pollution.

There is not as much pollution from car exhausts as you would expect in a city of this size. Beijing is the "kingdom of bikes". Even in bitterest winter people depend on their bikes to get them to work and tend to their daily business. They are bundled up in their padded coats, blue or olive green, wear hats with ear flaps and wrap scarves around their necks. These scarves are frequently pulled up over the mouth and nose to make breathing a little easier. Sometimes people wear thick padded surgical masks over their faces. The intent is certainly not to prevent the spread of germs (this is a city where toddlers wear crotchless pants and squat on the street whenever nature calls and people routinely blow their noses into the air and spit onto the street), and only sometimes to mitigate the effects of the dirty air; the main purpose is to warm the frigid air before it is breathed.

As these bundled up souls pump their bicycles through the streets, they do pass motor vehicles. Since so many of the trucks and buses are old, they also need help keeping warm and padded quilts are snapped onto the fronts.

People still depend on padded clothes and long underwear. Knitting is probably not a national pastime, but it is a national necessity. Women knit all the time, as they sit in their free market stalls, waiting for the bus, walking down the street or

riding on the back of a bicycle. And if an article of clothing is outgrown before it's worn out, it won't be passed on to someone else - it will be unravelled and knit into a new useful garment.

Unfortunately, progress is not an unmixed blessing. Much is gained, but things are also lost. It's harder to find wool and people like synthetics because they are modern even though they are not so warm.

But as a visiting New Englander I get most nostalgic about the loss of the "kang". The kang is usually described as a heated stone bed, but in fact many household activities can be performed on the kang. The kang is a large (maybe 6' x 10') heated platform. At the front of the kang, on one of its long sides, is a chamber where a small fire can be built and then there is a series of baffles which carries the heat from one end of the kang to the other. A thick cotton pad covers the top of the platform so that people don't sit on the hard stone. The kang is also furnished with a low table where people can study, write, play games or perform useful tasks. At night the table is removed and in a farmer's home, the whole family will sleep on the warm kang covered by thick quilts.

A Beijing winter is not as long as a Heath winter, but time is subjective and I am looking forward to trading in my cotton padded silk quilt and Beijing's sooty streets for flannel sheets, down comforters, an open fire and snow covered hills.

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SOUTH AFRICAN FORUM & CONCERT HELD AT THE ACADEMY AT CHARLEMONT

by Olga Peters

On Friday, January 25, a community public affairs forum entitled "South Africa in Transition" was held at the Academy at Charlemont. The forum was co-sponsored by the Academy at Charlemont and the *Greenfield Recorder Gazette*, moderated by Mr. Timothy Blagg, editor-in-chief of the *Recorder*.

The Recital Hall was jam-packed, all seats were taken, leaving many people to sit on the floor, the stage raisers, or standing around the room. Five men and women and Mr. Blagg were seated at a long table in the front of the room, with their name neatly printed on a card in front of them. Janet Levine, Leslie Liddell, Mzamo Mangaliso, Seloka Phirwa, and Thom Ranuga, have all lived in South Africa for part of their lives.

The forum opened with each of the speakers giving a small synopsis of themselves. They all had interesting stories to tell. Janet Levine, now a faculty member at Milton Academy and author of the book *Inside Apartheid: One Woman's Struggle in South Africa*, was once a journalist who had the only news column in a black newspaper. She left South Africa because of the government's pressure. Leslie Liddell is a missionary and because of her opposition to apartheid was imprisoned without a trial for two months. She, too, had to leave South Africa for the safety of herself and family. Mzamo Mangaliso is a professor at the School of Management at the University of Massachusetts. He was once a production manager at a plant, but he too left South Africa because of the frustration he felt under the oppression of apartheid. Seloka Phirwa didn't speak much about himself but more on how Blacks are ignored by their government, how so often a Black delegation would go to the government to try to loosen the grip on apartheid and be turned away. He felt that one of the most important changes in South Africa would be the policy of one person - one vote no matter what a person's color. Mr. Phirwa is a member of the banned African National Congress and an observer at the United Nations. The last person to speak was Thom Ranuga, who now works in the Department of Sociology, Southeastern Massachusetts University. He left South Africa because he could not get the education he wanted.

Many of the speakers commented upon how the young Blacks in South Africa want to succeed and hold good paying jobs, but this is a life that is beyond their reach. Education for Blacks is poor. They end up unskilled and unprepared to handle good jobs. Last month, about 190,000 Black students took a test that would determine if they would be able to graduate from high school. Of this number, 58% failed. The audience was filled with able people who had left this oppressive homeland.

Sanctions against South African business was another issue touched upon at this forum. Some of the speakers felt that sanctions were not hitting the right spots, were not tough or consistent enough when begun by countries around the world. Others felt they were, but all agreed that if the U.S. was really serious about stopping the oppression by the white government, that the U. S. could tear down the "white regime" in a month.

Speakers readily brought up the idea of violence. No one wanted apartheid to end in violence but as one of the speakers put it "when you have a gun pointed at your stomach, your attitude is different." Many of the speakers felt that violence was "justified" when it was committed by the oppressor against the oppressed and called another name, but not so when it was the oppressed against the oppressor.

Unfortunately the debate and many comments from the intensely involved audience had to be cut short because of the lateness of the hour. As people were leaving, a small, informal chorus of N'kosi sikele'l, the Black South African anthem, was heard from within the Recital Hall.

The oppression within South Africa is great. The government machine will imprison anyone who is anti-apartheid, even children as young as nine years old. Some people who are taken to prison are never heard from again.

Saturday evening, a concert with the Academy senior chorus, members of Barwa, Amandla and the singer Jane Sapp filled the Recital Hall with music of the Black experience. This too was an event that filled the space with people and song. Although two evenings were too short a time to even conclude what all the problems of apartheid are, the music director of Barwa (a five-college Black African Chorus) said that when the lists were compiled on who aided the anti-apartheid movement, somewhere, the Academy at Charlemont would be gratefully listed.

The evening ended with a community sing and some dancing. The weekend events were a success.

Editor's Note: The Academy's interest in the issue of Apartheid was prompted by the presence of Luthando Maphaso, a Black South African, who is attending the Academy this year. Luthando came over as part of a Black South African Scholarship program being run jointly by several area private schools. Profits from Saturday's concert went into the scholarship fund to help pay for Luthando's successor next year.

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EDUCATIONAL PLANNING UPDATE

by Budge Litchfield

The only way I can imagine presenting anything as complex and detailed as long range educational planning for Heath is to go back and begin with a basic premise. There seem to be three options open to us regarding elementary school education. Those options are: 1) a tuition arrangement 2) a regional school district or 3) a town school. All three options either have been or are now being studied. All three are still open to us. The results of votes taken during May town elections in Heath and Rowe will determine which option we pursue.

In the last *Heath Herald* I described some of the work done on the town school option. This option is "on hold" right now, but if the May elections indicate a strong desire or a necessity, architectural and site planning could begin as soon as planning money is raised and appropriated.

On March 12 an advisory committee comprised of a school committee member, finance committee member and a selectman from Heath and Rowe will begin discussing a new tuition agreement. The old one expires June of 1991, and it makes good sense to have a new one ready in case it is needed.

The last Regional School District Planning board meeting held January 25 was very fruitful. It took 3 1/2 hours, but in the end the board had approved the abstracts for most of the articles that will be incorporated into a proposed Regional School District agreement. Changes can still be made and we welcome your ideas. An informational meeting will be held in Heath on February 28 at 7:30 PM.

Here is an overview of some of the ideas we have been discussing. It is proposed that the Regional School Committee have 8 members, 3 from Heath and 5 from Rowe. This would allow all three members of our school committee to be members of the regional committee and give Rowe a majority they feel they need given the fact that they will be paying a majority of the capital and operating costs.

The district would have jurisdiction over grades K-12. This is one of the "odder" parts of the agreement. On the positive side, a "full" (K-12) regional district will secure the maximum amount of state aid available, and would consolidate much of the decision making regarding our children's education in one regional school committee. On the realistic side the Department of Education and it's policies in a variety of ways "encourage" us in this direction. On the "odd" side, this K-12 jurisdiction would make necessary Heath's withdrawal from the Mohawk Trail Regional School District. Our Business Manager, David Newell, has prepared an excellent Information Summary on this topic, and it is reprinted in this issue; please read it.

Two other very important parts of a regional agreement are the capital and operating cost apportionment articles. Capital (building) costs would be shared in accordance with the following approximate

ratio 9:1, Rowe to Heath. The formula that creates this ratio is controlled by relative equalized valuations and relative populations of the two towns. Additional considerations are that Rowe would retain ownership of the building, it would be leased to the region for 20 years at a cost of \$1 per year, and it is the Board's intention that current community use of the building continue.

The operating cost formula (using current budget information) will divide those costs as follows: Rowe = 62.5% and Heath = 37.5%. This formula creates an amazing sense of fair-play; the cost to the residential taxpayer would be identical for every \$1,000 of valuation on a per child basis. The factors that will control this formula are the towns' relative commercial, industrial and personal property valuations, the relationship of those figures to the towns' relative residential valuations and the number of children.

There is a lot more to the agreement, but much of it is legal "boilerplating". Your questions can and will be answered on February 28 at 7:30 PM or at any time by the Regional School District Planning Committee members Sue Lively, Dick Gary and Budge Litchfield. A lot of misinformation is wandering around, much of it intended to confuse, distract and scare people away from a proposal that I personally feel is excellent. Some individuals have even sunk so low as to unfairly and falsely attack/smear hard-working dedicated professionals like our Business Manager, David Newell. A sample of his work is inserted. Read it and see for yourself the type of high quality assistance we have had in this difficult and confusing project! The Heath School Committee, Long Range Educational Planning Committee and Regional School District Planning Committee all respect his work and thank him for his invaluable assistance.

PRICE INCREASE

by Terry Pettengill

Circulation and Business Manager

For the past several months the *Heath Herald* has been absorbing the increased costs of printing and postage for each issue, and we now find that we must pass on that increase in the very near future. So please be prepared to see a rise in both the subscription price and the store price.

Thank you.



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HEATH PUBLIC PRESCHOOL NEWS

by David Gibbons

Like most if not all programs that receive State funding, the Heath Preschool is in bad shape financially. Last year's budget cuts were severe and the program could only survive by eliminating a staff position and making additional salary reductions. Funding levels for the coming year are unknown at present but are highly unlikely to be good news.

In early January parents met at the preschool to begin the difficult task of planning for this uncertain future. A broad range of options was discussed, both local and regional, short-term and long-term.

Most of the regional options involve contacting state and local officials to make them aware of the very strong, grass roots feeling for major funding of preschool programs. To this end various letter writing campaigns have been held by local preschools. Anyone who would still like to write or call may obtain names, addresses and phone numbers from Pam Porter at the preschool.

Raising money locally to balance the budget occupied most of the meeting and many options were discussed. The Parents Association sold lunch at the Heath Ski Race on February 4 to help raise money for the preschool.

Participation in both the Rowe Old Home Day and the Heath Fair is anticipated. The possibility of providing a "mini-midway" for small children is being pursued.

Several comments were received last year at the Heath Fair about the lottery. Most people would rather just have given a gift and so a simple plea for donations is being prepared; you will probably see a mailing about it soon. In the same letter there will also be an attempt to educate people about the benefits of preschool programs; for instance, the percentage of high school graduates is higher among students who attended a preschool than among those who did not.

A final option that was discussed with considerable reluctance was tuition. Since such a plan would have to involve a sliding scale (to keep any state money), it was felt best to develop such a plan as a back-up and hope it can be shelved once other resources are tapped.

Even with all of these ideas (excluding tuition) the future is far from certain and any ideas on other sources of income would be most welcome. Ideas and comments can be sent to Pam Porter at the preschool.

NEWS FROM THE ACADEMY

by Olga Peters

The second trimester of the Academy year has been a busy one! Aside from holding two weeks of South African awareness (which consisted of concerts, guest speakers and discussions), the Academy has been busy with sports and a new drama program.

Both the alpine and cross-country ski teams are doing well this year even though Mother Nature has not sent as much "white stuff" as desired.*

This year the Academy is trying out a new drama program. The students who are participating are working with a performer by the name of Jody Scalise, who is a member of a theater company called "The Wright Brothers." Students have been working on getting a show together for February. It will include mime, juggling, short skits, and lots of laughs.

For the month of January, Luke Housner of Heath, who is a freshman at Oberlin College, assisted Mrs. Jayne Dane with the music curriculum. While he was at the Academy, Luke was to have accompanied the chorus on the piano and performed with other students in a small school recital, but, unfortunately, the program had to be cancelled because of snow.

*NOTE: The Academy is extremely proud of the alpine ski team which is now in 2nd place in the Mt. Institute series.

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SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT

by Budge Litchfield, Chairman

I'll start this report with some general information and then move into presentations on the ever-popular topic of ... school budgets.

A month or so ago, the Mohawk School Committee found itself in the awkward position of needing to reduce the current (FY90) budget by more than \$100,000. Among the many painful cuts was late bus service. But, due to the concern and generosity of our neighbors in Rowe, we have some good news in this regard. The Rowe School Committee decided to purchase late bus service for this year. They also decided to make this service available to our kids (and those in Hawley and Charlemont) free of charge. The Heath drop-off point is Peters Store. Many thanks to our friends in Rowe!

While on the topic of buses I feel compelled to address a rather difficult incident which occurred a little over a month ago. One day early in January many children reported to their parents that their bus driver for that day was "carrying a gun". That was true. The driver (a substitute) did have, in a pocket, a small caliber handgun. Needless to say, many parents were concerned by these reports. By 7:30 that evening the Rowe School Principal, Assistant Superintendent, Transportation Director, Bus Contractor and the full School Committee were aware of these reports. Beginning at 4:30 that afternoon the answer being given was that this occurrence was unacceptable and certainly would not happen again. By the end of the next day the Superintendent of Schools had reported the following facts to our Transportation Sub-Committee representative, Frank Brower: the driver had been called in at the last minute and was embarrassed that by mistake the handgun had remained on his person while he was driving. The individual has a license to carry a handgun. The driver agreed that this would not happen again. An incident like this is very upsetting to all involved. The School Committee is satisfied that this issue has been resolved in a satisfactory fashion. We hope you agree.

A final "general" topic: our calling chain has had some use recently. Has it worked well? Do we need to change anything? Please call the Rowe School or Budge (337-4957) with your comments and ideas.

Now for the good news - budgets. The process is just beginning at all levels: state, preschool, high school and elementary. Few things are written in stone at this time. We know that the operating budget at the Rowe School will increase by a little more than \$50,000. Our share of the increase should be just under \$40,000. The majority of the increases are in the instruction and special education line items.

It is fairly certain that state monies for education and towns will be decreasing (disappearing for some things). This means major budget problems for the high school and preschool. Preliminary work on the high school budget seems to be creating an odd scenario. To keep the school and its programs basically the way they are now (after recent cuts, with modest pay increases and other cost increases), the assessments to member towns could increase about 25%. Why? What! How? We will be stuck making up for reductions/losses in state aid. Nobody in the educational community is looking forward to this year's budget process. A winning Megabucks ticket may be the only way out of this mess.

Our preschool is left hanging by the state budget situation. We need alternative funding sources, badly! If you have any ideas please contact Pam Porter or Bill Latrell.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

by Karen MacDougall

I will not be available for the month of February. Linda Marcotte, Assistant Town Clerk, will be at the Town Office on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM.

Annual reports for the Town Report are due from all town committees and officials by February 18.

Other important dates to remember are as follows:

February 28 - Special Town Meeting, 8 PM preceded by an informational meeting at 7:30 PM on the topic of requesting a withdrawal amendment be prepared for Heath to withdraw from the Mohawk Trail Regional School District.

March 19 - Last day to obtain nomination papers for anyone seeking office.

April 4 - Voter registration 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM

April 11 - Voter registration 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM

April 14 - Voter registration 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

April 18 - Voter registration 9:00 AM to 10:00 PM. Last day to register to vote in annual town election and Town Meeting.

May 10 - Absentee ballots must be cast by 12 noon

May 11 - Annual town elections 12 noon to 7:00 PM

May 12 - Annual Town Meeting

Anyone interested in being a poll worker or registrar is asked to please contact the Town Clerk or Assistant Town Clerk.

The following town positions are up for election this year:

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>PRESENT INCUMBENT</u>
Selectman	David Howland *
Assessor	Alan Nichols *
School Committee	Linda Marcotte ?
Tree Warden	Thomas Lively #
Moderator	Douglas Wilkins *
Planning Board	Peter Smith #
Finance Committee	Richard Giard # (appointed)
Library Trustee	Edith Gleason # (resigned)
Dog Officer	Debbie Lavigne #
Constable	Charles Kaempfer *
	Robert Markert *
Tax Collector	June Day * (appointed)

* Incumbent will seek re-election

? Incumbent undecided

Incumbent will not seek re-election

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MOHAWK SCHOOL NEWS

by Chrissy Gilbert

There have been a variety of events at Mohawk Trail Regional High School in the past few weeks. On January 22 there was an All Sports Booster Club meeting in the Mohawk cafeteria at 7 PM. This meeting was concerned with the cancellation of late buses. The town of Rowe has its own late bus now, and Heath students may use it.

On January 27 the class ring jewelry sale ended. On February 9 there was a class dance put on by the class of 1994, and on February 13 there was a California kick-off concert sponsored by the Mohawk Music Department.

The winter sports season at Mohawk is here. The following students from Heath are very active: Adam Almeida, Jim Cerone, Andrew Shattuck, Boys' Basketball; Jennifer Gilbert, Girls' Basketball; Betsey Silvester, Cathy Toupence, Ski Team.

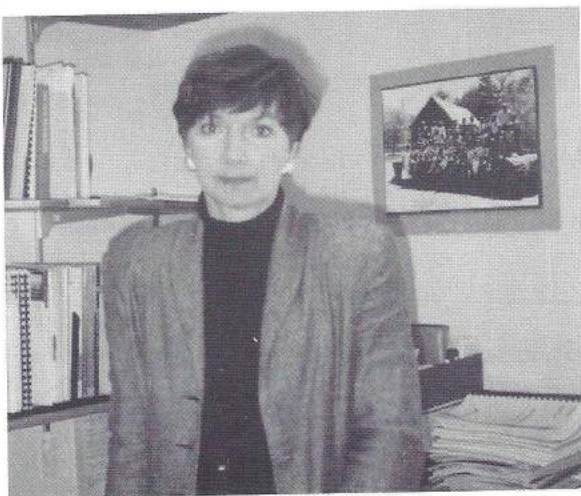
In September the Mohawk Trail Regional School District hired a new Assistant Superintendent named Linda Galton. Originally from Pennsylvania, she taught for eleven years in rural schools in West Virginia. When she arrived in Massachusetts, Linda became Associate Director of the Small Schools Network, a federally funded program that involved small schools in New England, New York, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. She went to these small districts and taught teachers in rural schools how to improve their skills and upgrade the quality of the schools.

Linda's only complaint about her previous job was that she didn't get to know the people, and she wasn't able to see a project through. She believes that her previous job helped her to be better as the Assistant Superintendent at Mohawk.

Linda says that she does not have a regular everyday job. She says that she is always learning new things and dealing with new problems. She has become a counselor as well as a teacher in the sense that she gives advice and is a source of information for many people.

Linda is presently in charge of the teacher in-service programs. She helps find programs for teachers by listening to their individual needs.

A big part of Linda's new job is planning for new facilities. She brings information to the communities so that they can make decisions on what will be



Assistant Superintendent Linda Galton
(Photo by Susan Silvester)

happening in the future. Linda says she is still learning exactly what is happening in our communities.

Linda feels her role as Assistant Superintendent is supporting good teaching, helping the communities decide what is needed and helping make those changes.

She says it's a very challenging yet exciting job for her, and she hopes that she has a lot to contribute. She feels that she is learning quickly and hopes she can be a resource that people can look to.

ROWE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

by Nicole Rainville & Joey Thane

On February 5 the Rowe Elementary School had a winter concert and a pie auction sponsored by the P.T.P. Mr. Bob Gruen was the auctioneer. He auctioned off about twenty pies which raised \$379. The most expensive pie was bought by Mr. Paul Swem, the former Rowe School Principal, for \$47.

The winter concert was a great success! The kindergarten sang the patriotic song "My Country Tis of Thee". The first grade sang "How 'Ya Gonna Keep 'Em Down On The Farm?". The second grade sang the sweetest song they could find, "On The Good Ship Lollipop". The third grade sang "Tiger Rag". The fourth grade took the audience on a trip to the Caribbean with "Jamaica Farewell". The fifth grade tried to free convicts with the "Midnight Special". The sixth grade joined the birds for "Rockin' Robin".

The Rowe School Chorus did a great job with "The Thrush", "Pit, Pat, Pit, Pat" and "He's Got The Whole World In His Hands". The introductory music was played by the Rowe Community Band. They played "Bells of Winter", "The Gay 90's" and "Merry-Go-Round" before the pie auction and they played "Krazy Klock" for the pie unveiling.

The grand finale was "La Bamba" sung by the whole school and played by the band.

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NEW PRINCIPAL AT ROWE

by Richard E. Gary

Philip O'Reilly, the new principal at the Rowe School, invites you into his office as if it were an adjunct to his home. In this comfortable, informal setting you might think those sounds of children were from his own four, but they are home in Worthington, an hour or so away. He seems to relate to the school community as his extended family by spending time circulating among teachers and students, stepping in and out of classrooms, but more importantly by being available. His door is open to teachers, students, parents and visitors like this one.

Homelike though the mood may be, Mr. O'Reilly makes a very clear distinction between the home and school. Home is the formative force that shelters, nourishes and presents our earliest life experience. School is the communities' house of learning. In it the children spend six hours a day, five days a week seasonally. Its function is to supplement and reinforce home learning, Mr. O'Reilly says. The school cannot take over home duties any more than the home can provide for the ongoing educational process. The two must effectively supplement one another.

As our lives and times have grown more complicated, the home/school relationship increases in difficulty and importance. Schools, he stated, are not the institutions we knew as children, full of formality and authority. For better or for worse, institutions and authoritative personages have diminished in these last decades. Unfortunately, he continues, the eighties did not provide us with the insight or direction education needs today. Research and alternative educational approaches were not an active concern.

The schools today have to regain a momentum that will help our children and communities deal with the uncertain opportunities that face us.

It is not that we need to intellectualize, rather that our intellect should inform and strengthen our instinct. It is a sort of good sense approach to education. Focus on the children's needs; listen to them; do not be afraid to be venturesome and build a sense of trust between home and school. Mr. O'Reilly's sense of the wholeness of life and education's particular function in it promise lively and interesting days for the children at Rowe School.

MOHAWK MUSICIANS HEAD FOR CALIFORNIA

by Valerie Belval

We have a very exciting upcoming trip for the Mohawk Music Department on Thursday, February 15. This trip will be to California! We have been raising money since last summer and we will still be fundraising after the trip to help pay off some of the expenses.

As of right now there are 125 people scheduled to go: 89 students, 20 adults and 16 children.

On Thursday, February 15, we will be departing from Logan Airport in Boston on a 9 AM flight and will be landing at the Los Angeles Airport in California at 2:15 PM local time.

On Friday, February 16, we will be seeing a live taping of Full House, Hogan's Family or Mr. Belvedere at the NBC and ABC studios.

On Saturday the 17th there will be two performances at the Seaport Showcase on the Marina Stage. This will be the Concert Band and High School chorus only.

On Sunday the 18th there will also be two performances at the Carnation Plaza Garden Stage in Disneyland. This will consist of Select Chorus and Dance Band. Two clinics for the band and chorus will be put on by Disney. When students are not performing, they will be able to spend time in Disneyland.

On Monday the 19th we will spend the day at Long Beach, and on Tuesday the 20th we will be on a tour of Universal Studios.

Also, in between all that we are going to go to the Hard Rock Cafe and to one of the biggest malls we can find.

While we are away, we assume you will be able to keep up on our activity if you watch the local nightly news. I hope everyone watches and cheers us on.

The following Heath students are going on the trip: Mary Almeida, Heather Gruen, Jen Gulyban, Val Belval, Roger Peace, Joel Porter-DeVriese, Betsey Silvester, Shawna Hyytinen, Jeff Gilbert and Ben Steinbock. We would like to thank the Heath Ladies Aid for donating \$25 for each of us!!



Heath's California Kids

Front row: Betsey Silvester, Val Belval, Mary Almeida, Shawna Hyytinen. Back row: Roger Peace, Joel Porter-DeVriese, Jeff Gilbert, Ben Steinbock, Heather Gruen. Missing from photo: Jen Gulyban.

(Photo by Susan Silvester)



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SELECTMEN'S REPORT

by Art Schwenger

At long last the Board of Selectmen was able to complete and open the compactor at the transfer station. No small feat, the facility is the result of great effort by the Selectmen, Ray Galipo, Kathy Condon, Karen MacDougall, Marcella Lively and others. Walt Gleason acting as clerk of the works gets a special thanks for the major headaches. Under the supervision of the Selectmen, Ray Galipo and newly hired Bud Kaempfer, the mandatory recycling program has also begun. By compacting our trash and taking recycling materials out of the expensive portion of our solid waste disposal, we hope to significantly reduce the cost we have been spending on trucking and tipping fees. Cooperation from each resident will be the key to keeping the program costs low.

Emergency aid applied for in a last minute flurry of activity in November was awarded to Heath - \$34,000. In fact the town is already in receipt of a check hand delivered by Heath's new senator Peter Webber. Unlike the FEMA flood money, this money will not require us to borrow.

Speaking of FEMA, a check for \$80,000 was received by Heath! At last! This concludes the saga of the "emergency" assistance promised almost three years ago. But don't relax, the Federal Highway reimbursements for the same flood are still "in the mail".

The Selectmen voted to close State Farm Road through the Smith State Forest for the winter. No plowing or maintenance will be done until spring.

In keeping with the sentiment of the last annual meeting and recommendations from the Government Task Force headed by Chuck Mackie, the Selectmen implemented new personnel policies for health coverage and life insurance for town employees. Effective 12/1/89 employees working more than 20 hours per week will be eligible for health insurance paid 75% by the town instead of the previous 50%. Now Heath is comparable to west Franklin County towns in this regard.

Some minor repairs to Sawyer Hall have been made and others are underway. Under the supervision of building maintenance coordinator Debbie Gilbert, the winter wind no longer howls through the offices - it just howls. Painting of the exterior is scheduled for spring.

The Selectmen appointed June Day of Burnt Hill Road to replace Betty Beaudoin as Tax Collector. Betty's resignation was accepted with regret and with appreciation for the good work she did while in office.

Also received was a resignation from Charlene Moffett who has served as Town Nurse for many years. She has been hired as the full-time nurse at Rowe School. The Selectmen have interviewed candidates interested in the vacated position and will have a replacement by the time this is published.

A letter was received by the Board of Health from the Mohawk Beach Estates Association listing numerous trailers and structures that appear to be abandoned in Mohawk Estates. The Association is concerned about the potential hazards that they pose. The Board in reviewing the complaint and will be conducting an inspection in the spring when the snow melts and the properties can be fully viewed.

The next major hurdle for the Selectmen is developing the FY91 budget. Given the expected increases in school and municipal costs and the threatened decreases in state aid, we wish us all fortitude and good luck.

REPUBLICAN TOWN COMMITTEE FORMED

On December 13 a meeting was held at the residence of Bruce and Catherine Cromack for the purpose of forming a Republican Town Committee in Heath. There was some urgency in order to meet a state committee requirement for filing papers. Papers have been filed with the State Committee and the Secretary of State. Elected chair was Bruce Cromack, treasurer, Catherine Cromack and secretary, Pegge Howland. A caucus is to be held for selecting delegates to the State Convention on March 10 at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel and Towers.

For more information about the committee please call Bruce at 337-4350.



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FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

by Earl Gleason, Chief

The Fire Department responded to twelve emergencies as follows: December 12 EMTs responded to an 8A residence with Charlemont ambulance; also firefighters responded to Dear Run Path for smoking washing machine; December 16 EMTs responded to a man ill with the flu for an evaluation and on December 17 EMTs and Charlemont Ambulance transported him; December 22 EMTs and Charlemont Ambulance transported an ill woman; December 23 Firefighter investigated a smoking fusebox at an 8A residence; December 27 EMTs and Charlemont Ambulance transported a woman with a fractured wrist; January 14 Firefighter responded to a chimney fire and found it out on arrival; January 18 EMTs and Colrain ambulance responded to a call for a man who had hit his head; January 22 EMTs and Charlemont Ambulance transported woman ill with the flu and transported another woman to hospital; January 29 responded to a chimney fire on Branch Hill Road and found it out on arrival.

An interesting note is that our ambulance and rescue calls totaled 18 for the year and is a large increase over previous years. A total of 39 calls were responded to during 1989.

Three drills were held: December 7, Pre-plans for heat center and introduction to use of the decontamination kits; January 4, firefighter safety and survival; January 18, three units of breathing apparatus and search and rescue. Firefighters attending December and January classes were Roger Peace, Bob Tanner, Bob Gruen, Richards Steinbock, Tom Lively, Glenn Gleason, Walt Gleason, Jr., Roger Peace, Jr., Justinia Tanner, April Tanner and Keith Sherman.

The following training sessions will be held during the spring: February 15, M.F.A. Course entitled "Interior Firefighting", Horimadas Lively, instructor; March 1, Chemistry of Fire; March 15, Fire Extinguishers and Use (everyone is welcome to attend); April 5, Salvage and Overhaul; April 19, Hazardous Materials First Response, Dennis Annear, instructor.

The Fire Chief issued 3 oil burner permits, performed 3 smoke detector inspections and issued 1 permit for a truck mounted fuel tank. The Chief also attended 3 directors' meetings.

The recent survey of "Special Needs Identification" resulted in 100 replies. Several names were added to our list of persons who might need special assistance in emergencies.

IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT OPEN BURNING

The burning season started January 15 and will end April 30 at 4 PM. Permits must be obtained. Calls should be to Franklin County Dispatch (1-772-2133) between the hours of 8 AM and 2 PM the day you wish to burn.

STATE REGULATIONS REGARDING OPEN BURNING

Fires are permitted only between 10 AM and 4 PM. The only items permitted for burning are: brush, cane, driftwood and forest debris.

Permits cannot be granted for grass, hay, leaves or stumps.

Fires must be 75 feet from any dwelling.

Have a safe and fire free season.

STOLEN SNOWMOBILE RECOVERED

by Guy Silvester, Police Chief

Robert and Lorayne Hamilton and their two sons Steven, 13, and John, 15, had a very happy New Year after all. The Hamiltons, who reside in West Springfield, own a summer home in Mohawk Estates. During the winter they enjoy snowmobiling, and in anticipation of an early winter purchased a brand new Ovation snowmobile in November.

Sometime in December the Hamilton's garage was broken into and the new snowmobile was stolen. Fortunately for the Hamiltons their snowmobile was discovered by Heath resident Tom Lively in the woods near a power line. The snowmobile had been damaged and had to be dragged from the wooded area; it has since been repaired and is back in operation, much to the delight of the Hamiltons, who had not yet purchased insurance on their new vehicle.

Robert Hamilton is the President of the Mohawk Estates Association. He is acutely aware of the many thefts and acts of vandalism that have occurred in Mohawk Estates. With the continuing cooperation of local and state police departments and concerted efforts of conscientious citizens like Tom Lively, progress will continue to be made in the fight against crime.



The Hamiltons With Their Recovered Snowmobile
(Photo by Susan Silvester)

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HEATH ENTERPRISE COUNCIL

by Members of the Heath Enterprise Council

The appropriate use of Heath's woodland resources was one of the principal topics raised at the inaugural meeting of the Heath Enterprise Council last fall. It was the theme of the Council's December meeting, at which the guest speaker was Jay Healy of Charlemont, wearing, as he put it, two hats: his Tree Farmer hat and his State Legislator hat.

Jay Healy grew up on Tree Farm No. 2, which is now the oldest privately-owned tree farm in Massachusetts. One of his first jobs as a child thirty-five years ago was to prune the reachable branches of suitable pine trees on the farm. Many of the clear butt logs of these trees today are the most valuable. He wasn't able to receive a fair price for many of his higher quality logs. So, about five years ago, he decided to mill, dry and plane lumber grown on the farm, eliminate middlemen, and sell directly to consumers of forest products. He bought a used sawmill from Maine which is capable of sawing long beams and wide pine boards, constructed a small dry kiln for special orders of lumber, and installed a four-sided planer for turning out finished panelling, flooring and square-edged boards. His guiding managerial principle has been based on sustained yield, i.e., to harvest what is growing on the land but not over-cut, clearcut or diminish the forest resource. This year for the first time, the enterprise has earned a profit.

Some of the problems arising in such an enterprise are fairly obvious. Others are less so. They included small-scale lack of efficiencies, the adverse effect of State regulations, OSHA dust controls, workmen's compensation and labor. The biggest problem, however, is marketing. Presently many of the high quality logs grown in western Massachusetts go out of the state and country for processing (adding jobs and revenues to those places which process our top quality material) material that sometimes comes right back here for final sale. Healy was flabbergasted to learn, back when he sold logs, that they often went all the way to Canada only to come back to Massachusetts for resale. The trend continues; Canada sells well over half of the softwood in Massachusetts stores today. The extensive use of brokering and middlemen in the steps from stump to store increases costs and often results in landowners receiving a far lower price for trees and logs than they would if they could sell their products directly to retail markets.

The challenge for local landowners and the small businesses that deal with forest products is to find ways to add value to these raw materials, add jobs and establish direct markets to consumers. Wearing his Beacon Hill hat Healy described some of the initiatives he and State Senator John Olver have taken with the Northern Tier Project to assist landowners and sawmillers in western Massachusetts. Those concerned are a fractionalized and fiercely independent group of over seventy individual sawmills. Healy is trying to help the industry look at areas where it can cooperate and perhaps establish an umbrella organization which would allow access to larger markets. It could establish a cooperative mechanism to assist in marketing and in such operations as the establishment of a "concentration" or yarding area to facilitate bulk sales of logs for higher prices to better markets. The bottom line is

to help landowners receive the best dollar available for their forest products so that they can afford to keep their land in its natural state.

As an illustration of the potential advantages of a cooperative approach, Healy cited the Pioneer Valley Cooperative Growers Association, a group of vegetable growers who started from scratch a few years ago, banded together to get a fairer price for their farm products and now sell over \$2 million worth of vegetables per year. A cooperative would also make it possible for local businesses and landowners to gain access to the international export market. Lumber demand has been extraordinary on the international scene, and a cooperative could provide the knowledge and muscle to help the small business survive in this era of multinational corporations. Healy realizes that Yankee individualism might deter this type of approach. But one doesn't have to look too far to see its success. The success of the Ocean Spray Cooperative in eastern Massachusetts is undeniable.

NOTE: The Healy tree farm was one of a number of West County farms and gardens opened to the public during last summer's "Day in the Country" organized by the Franklin Land Trust. Jay Healy hopes that it will be included in next summer's program.

Meanwhile, he will be glad to show the forestry operation to anyone who is interested and to talk to landowners about ways and means of increasing profits and more intensively managing their forested land.

His tree farm, he says, "is one of the few ways I can maintain my sanity in face of legislative fiscal insanity."

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Editor's Note: What follows is a copy of a letter sent by the Heath Board of Assessors to the Selectmen on January 15. Copies were also sent to various State officials.

ASSESSORS' REPORT

by Donald Dekker, Alanson Nichols,
Wendy Luckhurst

On Friday, January 12, 1990 the Heath Board of Assessors resigned. Our resignation was caused by unexplained delays, mismanagement and a downright insult from the State Department of Revenue (DOR). The Board later agreed to remain in place after (DOR) agreed to come to Heath on January 17 and resolve the situation.

The Board feels justified in our action and herein will attempt to explain how this situation occurred. After working very hard all of 1989, we notified DOR in early September that we were ready for the recertification visit. After a few corrections, Ms Jacki Barden of the Springfield office did come at the end of September - early October. Although the visit revealed a far from perfect operation, it was our distinct sense when Ms Barden left that she would recommend to Boston that Heath be certified. On her arrival she showed and explained the computer printout of our sales report, and it was within the state mandated guidelines.

The Board reported to the Town and Selectmen that state approval would soon occur. We also informed the Town that we had been advised that our mapping system needed to be upgraded. We heard nothing from DOR for at least a month. Meanwhile, Mohawk Estates was not happy with the land assessments. They had called DOR Springfield who explained the appeal system. The Board met with the President of the Mohawk Estates Association on October 18. In the course of reviewing the assessments, the Board discovered that we had erred in the interpretation of the land schedule given by Stevens Marston of the Springfield DOR Office. We therefore lowered the assessments on land in Mohawk Estates.

In early November we were notified that Mr. Ken Stein and Ms Jacki Barden would visit Heath on November 16. Our assumption was that it had to do with the error in Mohawk Estates. Perhaps that was the motivation, but the purpose of the visit was never really explained. We were told to resubmit the sales reports for Mohawk, so we made the assumption that our changes meant a new computer read out. We felt that it would pass, because the former one had when those figures were higher.

The Board was dismayed when we were told weeks later, about December 4 or 5, that the new figures did not work, and that DOR had rejected them. The State DOR sent three representatives on December 15 to help us on a new land schedule for Mohawk. The paperwork was assembled, and Ms Barden telephoned

the news to Wendy Luckhurst in late December. We submitted sales reports and began to change the records and computer for the third time.

On Friday, January 12, Ms Barden informed the Board that her tentative printout was very close. Our figures were not quite in the state guidelines, but perhaps it would work anyway. She faxed them to Boston and they did not work the first time. The second try was better, but some question remained. The third time she called and said that Mr. Stein of Boston believed it necessary for her to come back to Heath to verify sales. The Board called Mr. Stein to discover exactly what was needed. He informed us that our sample of 18 properties was statistically too small and that he needed to send someone to verify whether the other properties omitted. When it was explained to him that he had all the information on his report that we had here in Heath, and that everything had been reported. His reply indicated a disbelief in the veracity of the information and integrity of this elected Town Board. At this point, the Board, very angry with the unexplained delays, and cavalier treatment by DOR decided to resign in protest.

Kathy Condon, the town Administrative Aide, was present and suggested we contact Heath's legislative representatives. We did so, and when Senator Webber's Aide arranged for someone to come from DOR the following Wednesday, the Board agreed to remain, for to leave would only mean more troublesome delays for the town.

It is our hope that the Town will be certified without any more delay, and this matter can be dropped. The Board realizes that our operation is far from perfect. We, after all, are not even part-time employees, and do the work more as a service to the town than any other reason. We do the best we can and remain willing to cooperate with DOR. However, it is a deeply frustrating business. Last year it took many months for DOR to approve our tax rate. We received different answers from different people and as we submitted each report, a different person would send it back for another reason. We are not in the office every day. We are there when necessary, and all these delays and changes mean that we have had to be available far too long. Heath is a small town and we know that DOR has all 300 odd towns to oversee, but there comes a time when too much is simply too much.

All of this is of course symptomatic of a much broader issue. When the State Legislature required towns to value property at 100% of sales value and charged DOR with overseeing this, a great deal of power flowed from the towns themselves to DOR and its computer printouts. We as assessors find ourselves assessing property so it will fit the necessary limits not because we think it fair. Our town is so small and our sales so limited that for many years sales figures have no statistical validity. Yet that is the mandatory criteria, and if there is any way around this, we as a Board do not know it. Perhaps in large towns and cities where hundreds if not thousands of sales occur, this system makes for honest and logical assessment. It is exceedingly difficult to try and fit the town of Heath into this pattern. As your elected Board, we will try to do the best job we can in an awfully frustrating situation.

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MILESTONES

by Edith C. Royer

Douglas Lloyd, a son, was born December 20 to Georgia Decker and Robert Cass of West Hawley. Great Grandson of Mildred Decker of Heath.

Jacob Edward, a son, was born January 30 to Laurie and Edward Galipault of Turners Falls. Grandson of Helen Galipault of Heath.

Nicole Fogarty of Heath and Misael Ernesto Fossas of Jamaica Plain were married December 9. Nicole is the daughter of Anne Cronin Steinbock of Heath. They are making their home in Jamaica Plain.

Margery Baller, widow of Rev. Albert Baller, died September 13, 1989. They lived in Heath from 1945-1950, while he was the minister of the Heath Church. She leaves two daughters, Barbara and Judi.

Wilbert L. Rainville, Sr. of South Road died December 9. He owned and operated the Mountain Top Summer Camp, which later became Mountain Top Lodge. Survivors include two sons, Wilbert Jr. of Shelburne Falls and Michael of Westminster and two daughters, Jeanne Giard of Colrain and Delores Churchill of Heath, and 26 grandchildren.

Donald H. Finck of Jacksonville Stage Road died in the Brattleboro Nursing Home on December 29. Survivors include his wife Lucia and a son Donald of Jacksonville, VT, and five daughters - Betsy of West Gilford, Lynn Carrier of Jacksonville, Cindy Haynes of Guilford, Laurie Finck of Kaneohe, Hawaii, and Lucia McIntosh of Los Angeles, CA. The Fincks all lived in Heath for many years.

Dana B. Cromack of Land O'Lakes, FL died January 21. He was born in Greenfield and grew up in Shelburne Falls. He graduated from Arms Academy in 1950 and enlisted in the Air Force in 1952. Survivors include his wife Patricia, two sons and a daughter. He also leaves three brothers, Bruce of Heath, Ted of Fairfax, VA, Duane of Amherst and a sister Mae Moore of Shelburne, six grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Richard H. Tanner of East Charlemont died January 22, after a brief illness. Survivors include three cousins. He was the son of Pearl and Homer Tanner who lived in Heath years ago.

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CHURCH NEWS

by David Gibbons

Christmas seems a long time ago, but we should note that the Annual Concert by the Gather 'Round Singers was a great success and the Living Creche which followed it was an enjoyable time (particularly as the temperature was significantly less frigid than last year). Many thanks once again to all those who helped by bringing animals, acting and assisting in many other ways.

The church choir provided special music throughout December, including a longer set of carols on the Sunday before Christmas. The choir is planning to provide special music one Sunday a month starting this month.

A youth group has started meeting once a month, although no regular schedule has yet been set. The most recent event was a snowmobiling party. Many thanks to Fred Crowningshield for the use of his land and to Howard and Jeanette Crowningshield for opening their house afterwards.

A group of 15 also went to an area youth get-together in Gill and enjoyed a time of fellowship, games and movies. Thanks to Sandy Pettengill for providing transportation.

Looking forward, Easter is coming and another joint service is being planned for Good Friday. As with last year's service, it is hoped several area churches will join in. Details will be posted and announced as they are finalized.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

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