



VOLUME 12 NUMBER 1

APRIL/MAY 1990

HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER 35¢

1990 HEATH MAPLE SYRUP SEASON



CLARK'S SUGARHOUSE
300 GALLONS THIS YEAR
(Photo by Mike Peters)



FRED AND DOUG CROWNSHIELD'S SUGARHOUSE
160 GALLONS OF SYRUP MADE
(Photo by Mike Peters)



GILL SMITH SUGARHOUSE
OVER 100 GALLONS OF SYRUP
(Photo by Mike Peters)



GIRARD-PETERS SUGARHOUSE
600 GALLONS SO FAR
(Photo by Mike Peters)

NEW PRICE INCREASE

Since the founding of the *Heath Herald*, the price of subscriptions and sales has only increased once, (from 25 cents to 35 cents a copy and from \$2.50 to \$3.50 for a year's subscription). We have not had to increase the price for advertising until now.

Now in our twelfth year, due to operating cost increases, we find ourselves in the red, as do many other small endeavors. This is in spite of an entire volunteer staff, who regularly spend various amounts from their own pockets.

Due to the renewal schedule, starting with the August 1990 issue, the store sales will be 50 cents per paper, and the yearly subscriptions will increase to \$4.50.

The staff of the *Heath Herald* sincerely appreciate all the support you have given in years past and hope you will continue to do so.

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HEATH PRECIPITATION

by Ralph H. Dickinson

Observer for Mass. Division of Water Resources

February precipitation was 4.67 inches with snowfall measuring 21 inches. March precipitation was 4.66 with a total snowfall of 2.5 inches. Total precipitation from January through March is 13.70 inches. Total snowfall this season is 66 inches, well below the average annual snowfall of 91 inches.



HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

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LETTERS

To Friends and Neighbors in Heath:

I have just come in from sawing and splitting wood - a task that seems to be getting harder to do as spring approaches. On this last day of March, a rather snowy and dreary one, my wood cook stove is keeping me warm as well as baking a coconut cake - which perhaps is a compensation for all the confusion and controversy around town over the 1990 Assessors' Revaluation. The beginning of this report is deliberately casual and addressed to my Heath friends and neighbors. This is done to remind all that the Heath Assessors are simply citizens of the town - like all others - simply trying to perform a difficult and thankless job as a service to the town. We are not professionals, but we do have the facts. Many of these facts are unfortunately not understood by the townspeople.

The Board of Assessors does not raise taxes. That is done by the Selectmen and approved by the town at the annual Town Meetings. The Assessors take that request and set the tax rate. This rate is applied to the valuation of individual property. The Board is mandated by State Legislation to evaluate properties at 100% of value. This value comes from sales. In Heath the sales for the 1990 Revaluation are based on free sales in 1987 and 1988. Those years were at the peak of the Real Estate increases in the area. Most of the figures we could use were based on sales to out-of-towners who bought high. The Town has no choice in using these high sales to determine the price of properties. The Assessors must adjust all the properties in town to reflect the cost of all these arms-length sales.

For the years 1987 and 1988 there were fewer than 20 arms-length sales one could use. This small figure makes it statistically difficult in determining the value of similar properties. Therefore the Board begins to generalize to achieve a specific. The trend to generalize becomes more and more the pattern in almost every area. None of the Board are professional appraisers. None of us feel capable in determining detailed specific classifications. We therefore made the decision to rely on general formulae and apply it evenly and fairly throughout the town. Using the Massachusetts manual we got the costs for square foot and the TLM for the current year. We used schedules worked out by prior assessors, and made up a depreciation schedule based on broad year areas, rather than individual years. We followed these rules and tried to be fair. We did make mistakes. The purpose of the two week period March 19-31, was to address these errors when brought to the attention of the Assessors by property owners. We have made adjustments. All of them must be reported to the State. The Department of Revenue reviews all the Board has done and makes its recommendation. If it gets approval, the Board sets the tax rate and the tax bills go out. If all goes as we estimate, our tax rate should be \$11-\$12 per thousand. Last year's rate was \$15.76. If a property were valued at \$100,000 in 1987, the taxes were \$1,576. If that property in 1990 were valued at \$133,000 under the estimated tax rate (\$11-\$12) its taxes would be \$1,576 - the same. Since the \$33,000 increase is about average for properties in Heath, the Board expects most taxes to remain the same. Depending on the sale figures in Heath, the tax burden shifts slightly each time it is done. There has

been a long time shift from large home and land owners to the smaller property owners. This reflects the changing character of Heath as it becomes a more suburban community. Land value is in building sites not farms. Middle class homes have become more valuable. In 1987 and 1988 almost no large homes and land sold. Recent sales and future sales of the Tripp and Smith properties, etc. will be reflected in the next valuation, not this one.

Following the above outlined procedures the Board of Assessors achieved what we considered a fair and equal revaluation. The State (DOR) reviewed the town and gave tentative approval. This procedure and result were questioned and then challenged by Richards Steinbock, and a petition to redo the whole process was circulated and signed by some citizens of Heath. Steinbock is entitled to his opinion and right to do whatever he wishes. I have no comment on the matter. What I wish to address is what the result of this action would produce if the State (DOR) agreed.

If the State (DOR) agreed with Steinbock and a new revaluation were ordered to be done the following would occur:

1. The current Board would resign. We have done our best and would allow others to try.

2. Most, if not all, properties would need to be reviewed, probably by another inspection to determine specific classifications and grades. Depending on who does this, it could take months. Estimated cost: \$5000.

3. All the data would need to be entered on the computers, both in Heath and LHS (our computer service). Estimated cost: \$2,000.

4. The State (DOR) would come and evaluate the process.

5. If State (DOR) approval is granted, the results would need to be printed and mailed to property owners. Estimated cost: \$500.

6. The above 5 steps could take as long as 6 months. During that time the town could not send out the 1990 tax bills and would be forced to borrow money to pay its bills. Cost in interest from borrowing: estimate - unknown but expensive - thousands.

The cost to the town would be at least \$10,000. Add that to the already planned override, and taxes would indeed go up. I repeat. The current Board of Assessors feels it did an honest job to be fair and equal.

Historically the Assessors in Heath have been just residents of the Town. Steinbock was fortunate to have John Moriarty, a professional, to work with him and together do a professional job on the 1984 revaluation. If the Town of Heath wishes to have a professional job done, it will either have to hire a professional firm to do the work or a single person to work every year. This would, of course, cost money. Until then, the Town will need to rely on well intended citizenry to perform this necessary task. When they do this job as best they can, the Town has to live with the result or change the system.

Don Dekker
Heath, MA

CHURCH NEWS

by Pastor Peace

Easter is a time of joyous celebration, for nearly 2000 years ago Jesus became victorious even over death, so that all who trust Him as Savior will join Him in Heaven. Yes, Jesus is the heart of our faith, and He deserves our heartfelt praise. That is what we will be doing on Easter morning. Beginning early that morning we will have our Sunrise Service followed immediately by breakfast at the Community Hall. Then, at 10:00 AM the Heath Union Choir will be singing an Easter cantata. Come and join us as we celebrate Jesus' resurrection in song. Watch for time and place of Sunrise Service to be posted at the Town Hall. On Good Friday we are joining four other churches in the second annual West County Good Friday Service. This year we are meeting at the Colrain Baptist Church at 7:30 PM.

A dedication service was held for our new electric piano purchased from the memorial gifts for Ralph G. Sumner. A special note of thanks to the Sumner family. Ruth Corey led the dedication service and said some very kind words about a loving husband, father and trusted friend of all (see separate article). Joan Adair played a beautiful piece of music on the piano which displayed her talent and also the quality of the piano.

On May 6th at 5:00 PM we are planning a potluck dinner followed at 6:00 PM by a puppet show. A youth group from a Village Missions church in Vermont will do the puppet skits. Come and join us for good food, fellowship and fun. Why not make this a family affair? For more information contact Pastor Roger at 337-5755.

Instead of throwing away that most treasured item as you do your spring cleaning, how about donating it to the Heath Union Church for our church auction to be held June 30 at the Heath Fair Grounds. All donations are most welcome and appreciated.

Don't forget, we meet every Sunday at 9:00 AM for Sunday School and at 10:00 AM for Worship Service. Hope to see you this Sunday.

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DEDICATION OF ELECTRIC PIANO AT HEATH UNION CHURCH MARCH 25, 1990

by Ruth Corey

I will cherish memories of my Dad always. When I tried to gather words to briefly describe those memories, the following seemed to fit: small in stature, big in heart, loving, caring, a family man, friend to many. A water dowsing, carpenter, farmer, road builder, a town officer, a church member. Dad worked at many things over the years, but more than any of his undertakings he took pride in the carpentry and cabinet making he did the last few years.

When I was a freshman in high school my parents bought the only home they ever owned. It took years to modernize the house. We all worked hard together on many farm and home projects, but there was time for fun. Somehow my folks managed to rent a cottage at the Cape, and that was the shortest week of the year. Dad loved his family, but especially he enjoyed his wife. Mom and Dad made a great team, and were blessed with 60 years together.

Dad never quite gave up on the Red Sox. He enjoyed being outdoors, and hunting and fishing were really special when he could share it with Dick, or Todd, or Eric, or Bob, Ron, Bud, Hop, Magee, Uncle Ted, or anyone who wanted to go along. Dad especially treasured the time with his grandchildren. Whether they were working together, fishing, hunting, camping, or playing Trouble or tiddlywinks, there was respect and enjoyment by each generation for the other.

My folks loved to travel. Dad would talk about landmarks and people enjoyed along the way. But that was also true of life's journey. He remembered the many good times along with some hard times, and treasured the neighbors and friends along the way.

This church, the church family, and ministers we've had meant a lot to Dad, especially in recent years. He enjoyed being a part of the parsonage building crew, and especially in bonding a close friendship with other faithful workers, in particular, Ralph Dickinson and Paul Burrington.

When one steps back and looks at life, and what God has put us here to do, it is indeed wonderful. Each of us is important in His plan.

Dad always admired a well laid stonewall. To me a family is somewhat like a stonewall. Each new stone is carefully laid to fill a place on top of the wall. No matter that the stone be large or small, or a different color or shape, there is a special place for it. As future generations are added a stone at a time, the parent stone supports its share, and it becomes a grandparent, and then a great-grandparent, responsible for, and supporting, generation after generation until the end of time. Even as the older stones wear away and eventually disappear, they have left a space that does not go unnoticed, and that cannot be filled by any other. My Mom and Dad lost one son, but Dot, Dick and I, and our children and their children make 17 direct descendants so far, big and little stones upon the wall.

Memories of Dad, and of each person God has called home, are different for each one of us, family or friend. Because of the very generous monetary gifts given in Dad's memory by his many friends and family, my mother selected this piano, that it may be a lasting memory of one of the church family. I know Dad would have loved the music that Joan can get out of it.

So, on behalf of his many friends, and his family, in memory of Ralph Sumner, this gift is presented to his church.

The plaque reads: For the Heath Union Church. Given in loving memory of Ralph G. Sumner, August 2, 1906 to September 4, 1988, by his family and many friends.



RALPH SUMNER
(Photo loaned by Rachel Sumner)

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THE ASSESSORS OF HEATH SPEAK OUT

by Donald Dekker, Alan Nichols
and Wendy Luckhurst

ASSESS - verb - To make judgement as to
worth or value
- noun - To establish and apply
as compulsory

The position of assessor is not one of warmth and endearment. It is the office most difficult to fill, and should it not be one of necessity, there would undoubtedly be no volunteers.

During the past year we have come upon the most difficult part of our job, a revaluation of the whole town. We had two options open to us, one of which would be difficult, putting us in a position of "making judgement", ASSESSING.

The options open to us were;

- 1) to hire an outside firm at an approximate cost of \$30,000. In addition to this amount there was an additional cost of \$34,000 to have state approved aerial mapping done. This would necessitate an over-ride of no less than \$64,000.
- 2) to take it upon ourselves, to spend many hours, and in fact months, of walking, working, constructing methods of fairness, and most of all doing battle with the Department of Revenue.

As a small town, we were fully aware of the impact of a \$64,000 over-ride, a cost on an assessment of \$100,000 of \$142 per year. We therefore decided, as elected officials, it was our responsibility to the taxpayers to conserve the cost, leaving no alternative but to do it ourselves.

We did this with the understanding and belief that what we were doing was fair and equitable. We also were aware that we are not perfect and that there would be errors. To deal with questionable values, or to clarify understanding, we made ourselves available to the taxpayers in our town for additional hours over and above our regular meetings.

We sent out a copy of the new values in the Town of Heath, knowing that errors did exist. Many people appeared at our door. Some asked for abatements (adjustments), some with good cause, and adjustments will be made. Others, when explained the procedure and the effect on the tax dollar, thanked us and left not unhappy.

To simplify the value versus tax dollar, it would take an increase of at least 35% of the prior years valuation before any increase in tax dollars would be seen.

We have been made aware of a petition that is being circulated throughout the Town of Heath. It is very lengthy and, as in the case of most petitions, it is not readily understood, but verbally explained and distorted through interpretation.

Many people after signing it have come to our office to discuss their values, tax dollar effect, and the fact that they were not really clear on what they were signing. Some were led to believe that this would get additional state aid and reduce the taxes we must raise, therefore reducing the tax dollars they would have to pay.

Unfortunately, this is not so. There is a ceiling on the tax dollars a town or city may raise without voting in an over-ride. When the dollar amount to

be raised is determined, the town then puts a value on its total real estate. This value divided into the amount to be raised gives us the "tax rate" for the town. This is the rate per thousand dollars of real estate value.

After many months of work and many meetings with the Department of Revenue our random tests done by the DOR came within 10% + or - of 100% valuation of the 1987-88 test base. If the values are equitable, as we believe them to be, an individual's fair share of tax dollars will also be equitable.

We, as a board, feel hurt that some in the town which elected us, have not given us the courtesy to come forward and ask for an explanation before turning their backs by signing a petition without the understanding or knowledge of what the consequences may be.

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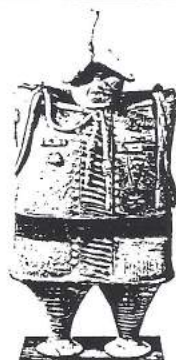
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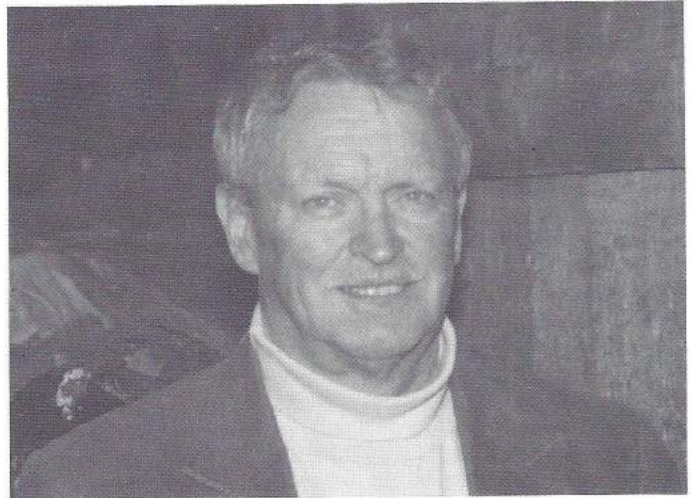
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CANDIDATE'S STATEMENTS



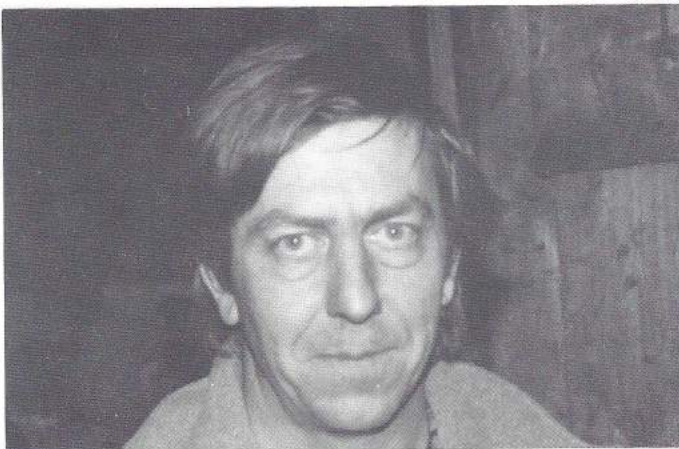
JUNE DAY
CANDIDATE FOR TAX COLLECTOR
(Photo by Mike Peters)

"Perhaps it is surprising that a new resident of Heath would run for tax collector, but I am enjoying the temporary appointment and wish to continue as your collector following election to the office. I expect to bring my experience in accounting to this position and to collect the tax levys produced by the Board of Assessors and the Registry of Motor Vehicles both fairly and firmly. I am enjoying meeting members of my new community and hope our contacts will be pleasant ones despite the onus and inevitability of taxes."



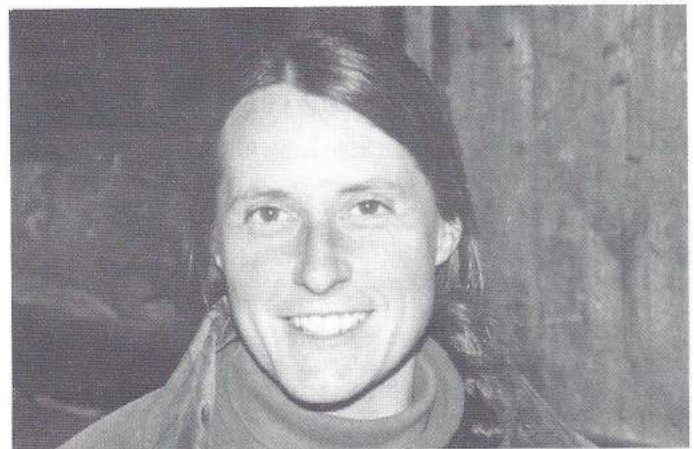
DAVID HOWLAND
CANDIDATE FOR SELECTMAN
(Photo by Mike Peters)

"I have been pleased to serve the Town of Heath as Selectman since September 1988 when I filled the vacancy left by Richard Giard. These are challenging times because of budget problems with state aid, the growth of our town and schools and the continuing need to improve our roads. Much still needs to be done and I would welcome the opportunity to tackle the remaining problems. Thank you."



ROBERT MARKERT
CANDIDATE FOR CONSTABLE
(Photo by Mike Peters)

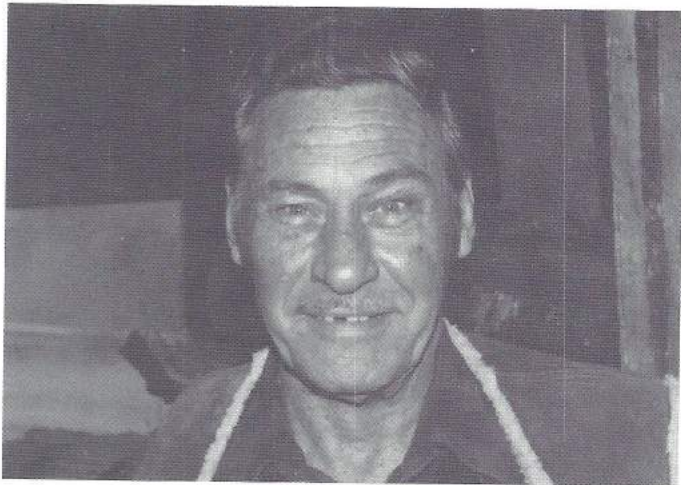
"During the past year, I have had the privilege to serve the Town of Heath as Constable. This position has offered me the opportunity to participate in the functioning of our town and to offer my services to benefit the Town. If re-elected to this position I will continue to make myself available to perform the duties of the office."



KAREN BROOKS
CANDIDATE FOR SCHOOL COMMITTEE
(Photo by Mike Peters)

"In the next three years we may see many changes in the Heath school system as we now know it. These times may be very difficult, not only because of the regionalization option (or lack of it), but also because of the budget constraints we are presently experiencing. It is my hope that I would be able to serve the town wisely through these changing times."

CANDIDATE'S STATEMENTS



CHARLES "BUD" KAEMPFER
CANDIDATE FOR CONSTABLE
(Photo by Mike Peters)

"I have been a constable in town for the past year. I am the Attendant at the Transfer Station and also a part-time school bus driver. Being in town most of the time, I feel I can be a service to the people as a constable."

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TODD SUMNER

WRITE-IN CANDIDATE FOR PLANNING BOARD

"I am interested in serving on the Planning Board because I think there are many challenges to be faced by the town in the coming years and some careful planning might well alleviate any negative impacts. I served on the Rezoning Task Force and think the new zoning bylaws begin to address some of the issues involved. Change is inevitable and healthy, and to maximize the benefits of change the town should try to manage the pace and variety of development. I continue to support a balanced, flexible, and sustainable growth plan for Heath and will work toward that and if elected to this position. If you wish to cast your vote for me, please write in: Todd Sumner, South Road."

ALAN NICHOLS

WRITE-IN CANDIDATE FOR ASSESSOR

"Any Assessor, indeed any citizen, working within our current tax system comes quickly to the realization that the whole structure is so fragmented and so flawed and so adversarial that it's impossible to be really fair: that this town has to raise the money it needs solely through a property tax while the state and the Feds tax income (very inequitably) and won't really share is outrageous. It's no wonder we all foam at the mouth at the very thought of taxes.

All I can say is that I've tried to be as fair as possible working within a tax system that is fatally flawed, and if I'm elected I will do the best I can."

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LIBRARY LINES

by Alli Thane

Spring is here! We are ready for the gardeners with a good supply of books and magazines. We have *Flower & Garden*, *Horticulture*, *National Gardening*, and *Organic Gardening* from which to choose.

Our magazine selection is varied. We subscribe to 20 and are fortunate to receive many others from patrons who pass on their magazines after they read them or give us gifts of new subscriptions. We receive 11 from Michael and Sophie Coe, 4 from Newland and Caroline Smith, 5 from Michael and Elsa Bakalar, 2 from David and Pegge Howland, 7 from the Thanes, 4 from Virginia Gunganig, 1 from Ken Roche and 1 from David Adie. Two new subscriptions are given by Hazel Simons of Connecticut, 1 from Harriet Read, and Pat Leuchtman sends us *Women of China*, the magazine she works for in China. We are grateful for this help.

Another thank you goes to Rhodessa Peace and her three sons who keep our library bright and cheerful with their holiday decorations. They gave us shamrocks and leprechauns for St. Patrick's Day and now have the windows decorated with beautiful Easter eggs and spring flowers.

Our summer reading program features prehistoric animals and is entitled Make Tracks to the Library. This will begin June 18 and go through July. The program is sponsored by the Western Massachusetts Regional Library System with region-wide support from the Basketball Hall of Fame, The Children's Museum of Holyoke, The Eastern States Exposition, The Forest Park Zoo, Mt. Tom Area and Summerside, Northeast Utilities, Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center, and Shakespeare and Co. There will be prizes for the most ambitious readers.

The Friends of the Library have donated a new bookshelf. Ray Pettengill and Bruce Phillips did a fine job of construction and finishing. Thank you, "Friends".

There is an opening for Library Trustee in the May election. Pat Leuchtman will be home from China by then and has taken out nomination papers for this position.

New Books at the Library:

In a Dark Wood Wandering, by Hella S. Haasse

Dance Hall of the Dead by Tony Hillerman

Going Within by Shirley MacLaine

Oh, The Places You'll Go by Dr. Suess

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY PAINTING IN CLARK EXHIBIT

by Pegge Howland

The Heath Historical Society painting of the Dr. Joseph Emerson family by an unknown artist is part of an exhibition of folk painting which opened April 6 at the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute in Williamstown.

The exhibition addresses the golden age of the itinerant portrait painter and is titled "Between the Rivers: Itinerant Painters from the Connecticut to the Hudson". The exhibit focuses on the work of non-academic painters of this region from the late 18th to the mid-19th centuries.

The exhibit will close at Clark on July 22 and will travel to the Museum of Fine Arts in Springfield where the Heath painting can be seen from September 9 to November 4. In early 1991 the exhibition will move to the Hudson River Museum of Westchester in Yonkers, NY, where the Emerson Family painting will be on view again.

The Heath Historical Society is proud of its fine collection and is especially happy to have the Emerson Family painting selected for this important exhibition by the prestigious Clark Art Institute. Remember the dates - April 6 - July 22, and do try to get over and see it!


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SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT

by Budge Litchfield

Most of our work recently has focused on two issues: budgets and regional school district planning. On the budget front, "no news is bad news" seems to describe our plight. The fact that our "leaders" in Boston seem incapable of doing their jobs leaves towns and schools (particularly regionals) without real information on state aid which is necessary in the preparation of realistic budgets. This in conjunction with the fear that overrides would not be successful in many towns had made school budget preparation a horror story of program and staff cuts. There is a strange and perverse mechanism at work on many school budgets and Mohawk's is a prime example. If the school budget is level funded (which is hard to do) in a year like this, where state aid is expected to drop, the assessments to the member towns must make up the difference, causing them to rise "too much". At Mohawk, to keep these assessments at a seemingly more acceptable level, over a quarter of a million dollars in cuts have been made on a budget which was hacked at during the past fiscal year to begin with. There is no fat to be trimmed!

What is being lost are direct services to our children and our children's teachers. In the opinion of this school committee chairman, our society, from the level of the individual taxpayer through the corporate structure and into the legislature is sick with greed. We seem to put our personal or business "cash interest" ahead of our responsibilities to our communities, particularly our responsibility to educate those who will in the future be the leaders of our society. Let's hope they don't learn from our example. Since our children are not the ones responsible for the fact that we adults can't seem to use the tax revenues we have wisely enough and/or accept the need to raise more revenue through taxes, why are they the ones who must pay the price? We all have a role to play in this problem, our children and our schools need our support. When we vote on school budgets, please listen to your mind, not just your wallet.

In late April or early May every household in Heath and Rowe will receive a detailed report on a possible Heath/Rowe Regional School District, so I will only provide a brief up-date here. The agreement is almost completed, much of it is currently undergoing legal review. A "soil study" to determine the suitability of the Rowe School site for an addition is underway. Due to the time required for legal review/revision, the timing of preparation of Rowe's warrant and the need to have results of the soil study available at the time of a vote, it is anticipated that the ballot vote on the regional question will be delayed into June. Other remaining activities are examination of the educational implications of the various options being discussed, preparation of the report and holding informational meetings.

MOHAWK EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

by Valerie Belval

On March 27, 9 students from the King Edward College in Totnes, England, and their chaperone, biology teacher John Roberts, arrived at Mohawk to spend three weeks visiting classes and travelling around western Massachusetts. The King Edward college is a comprehensive secondary school of about 1500 students. The students were hosted by local families. Son Wooten of Heath Stage Road is hosting Jonathan Greene, and former Heath resident Caroline Barry is hosting Claire Tarr.

The first day there was an orientation period and a tour of the school. There have been field trips to Sturbridge Village, Yankee Atomic Plant, the Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge and the Wadsworth Athenaeum in Hartford. They had a potluck supper on April 2 and the next day went on a walking tour of Shelburne Falls. They also had a pancake lunch at Gould's Sugar House in Shelburne. April 13 will be the last day of school before vacation.

From April 14-19 the students will spend time with their families until their departure for New York City and finally home to England.

At the same time the group from England was here, we had another group of 7 students from Mexico with their chaperone, Principal Phyllis Arriaga of Seneca School in Mexico City.

We wish all the students well and feel they will take back great memories with them when they return home.



EXCHANGE PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

Left to right: Son Wooten, host; John Roberts, biology teacher at King Edward College in Totnes, England and Jonathan Greene, Student from Totnes.

(Photo by Mike Peters)



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MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL SCHOOL NEWS

by Chrissy Gilbert

"The King and I" was the 13th Annual All-School Musical. The play took place March 17 and 18 in the Mohawk auditorium and again March 24 in the Greenfield High School auditorium. "The King and I" was a big success and brought in a good profit.

A few Heath students had a role in the play. Heather Gruen, a junior, was one of the ten Royal wives. John Tuturice, a sophomore, was a guard. Mary Almeida, a freshman, was a member of the King's Family. Joel Porter-DeVriese, a freshman, played the trumpet in the Pit Orchestra and Pam Porter did hair and make-up behind the scenes. Betsey Silvester, an eighth grader, did camera editing in the new cable television studio.

Mohawk's Senior prom is taking place this year at the Depot in Northampton on Saturday, May 5. The senior class has decided that the theme will be "Time to Remember". They have also decided that the two main colors will be red and black. The Depot is offering a buffet style dinner to all who go. The prom will be taking place from 7-11 PM. The music has not yet been determined. I hope that everyone who goes has a wonderful, memorable evening.

The honor roll for the 2nd quarter is as follows:

Seniors: Honors, Christina Rode, Charles Shattuck; Juniors: Honors, Brian Sackett; Freshmen: Honors, Joel Porter-DeVriese, April Tanner; 8th grade: Honors, Shawna Hyytinen, Benjamin Steinbock; 7th grade: Honors, James Cerone.

ROWE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

By Nicole Rainville

At Rowe School Mr. Hines, our music teacher, is doing a Junk Band for the recycling project in western Massachusetts. The third, fourth, fifth and sixth grades made instruments from tin cans, cardboard boxes, and other kinds of junk.

A new reading program called "Read a Book, Plant a Flower" has begun. This program is designed to encourage reading at home. For each book read, the student gets a marigold seed and a small flower pot to start it in. In early June when the plants are 6 or 7 inches tall we will plant them around the school, and if we have enough we will put them around the Rowe and Heath Libraries.

PTP NEWS

by Karen Brooks

The PTP met on March 26 to discuss fund-raising for enrichment programs planned for 1990 and to propose programs for 1991. One idea was a school calendar illustrated with children's drawing. Another was a T-shirt chosen by the students from designs done by each class. The Pie Auction in January was very successful, bringing in over \$350.

The PTP will be sponsoring another informational meeting at the Rowe Town Hall on Saturday, April 28 at 10:00 AM. Henry Dandeneau and Budge Litchfield will be on hand to answer questions about the formation of a region between Heath and Rowe. The agreement is close to being finalized and it is the hope of the joint regional committee that it will be ready to be voted on at the annual town meetings in May. Come join us for donuts and coffee!

The PTP's next regular meeting will be at 6:30 PM on Monday, April 30.

HEATH STUDENT ON SKI TEAM

Gabe Porter-Henry, a Rowe Elementary School student, had a successful racing year with the Berkshire East Ski Team. He competed at Bosquet, Butternut and Eaglebrook in Massachusetts and qualified for the Tri-State meets in Connecticut. Gabe finished the year on a high note by capturing first place for his age class at Berkshire East's annual Putnam Classic.

This was his first year on the traveling team, after two years in the development program.

Betsey Silvester also raced for the Berkshire East Ski Team, winning the girls' Division III race at Eaglebrook; she is an 8th grader at Mohawk and races on the Varsity Ski Team during the week.



GABE PORTER-HENRY AT EAGLEBROOK RACE
(Photo by Susan Silvester)

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PERCS, PERMITS AND TRANSFERS

Percolation Tests

Percolation testing was resumed April 1 and will continue through June.

Building Permits

Leonard O'Dey, Number Nine Road, 1 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.
Neil Pasquantonio, Number Nine Road, 1 family (replace mobile home).
Total: \$165,920.

Deed Transfers

Bruce C. Phillips of Clinton and Walter H. Phillips of Harpswell, ME, to Lucia J. Finck of South Lake Tahoe, CA, Route 8A, \$1.
Dennis J. Breton and Joanne J. Breton of Palmer to Gerald Cote of Southington, CT, Cascade Drive, Lot 27, \$1,500.
Stephen Bigelow and Luella Bigelow to Kevin L. Hurd of Millers Falls, Jacksonville State Road, 11,567 square feet. No consideration.
Kevin L. Hurd of Millers Falls to Stephen Bigelow and Luella Bigelow, off Jacksonville State Road, 11,567 square feet. No consideration.
Allen L. Sessions and Richard R. Sessions to Kevin L. Hurd of Millers Falls, off Jacksonville State Road. No consideration.
Richard R. Sessions and Allen L. Sessions to George D. Morse and Bonnie J. Wilcox of Colrain, Jacksonville State Road, \$200,000.
Kevin L. Hurd of Millers Falls to Richard R. Sessions, Jacksonville State Road, 3.7634 acres. No consideration.
Kevin L. Hurd of Millers Falls to Allen L. Sessions, off Jacksonville State Road, 3.6310 acres. No consideration.
Clarence E. Cutter to Darryl L. Cutter, Royer Road, \$1.

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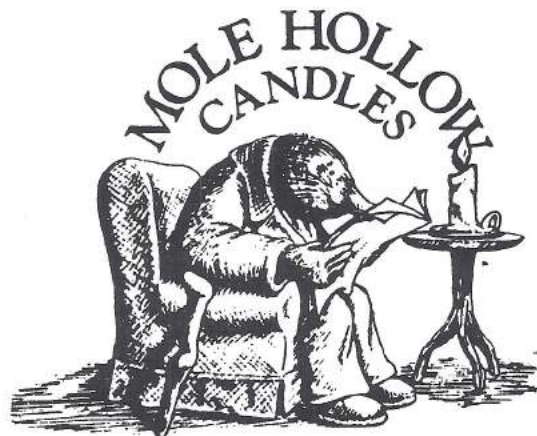
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TOWN OFFICE HOURS

(At Town Hall unless otherwise specified)

<u>Selectmen:</u>	Tuesday 7:30 PM
<u>Assessors:</u>	1st & 3rd Wednesday of Month 7 - 9 PM
<u>Selectmen's Clerk:</u>	Tuesdays 6:30-7:30 PM
<u>Town Clerk:</u>	Wednesday 8 AM - 11 AM
<u>Assessors' Clerk:</u>	Call for Appt. between 5 & 8 PM 337-4268
<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 7PM
<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>	Monday and Friday 9 - 11 AM
<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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SELECTMEN'S REPORT

by Art Schwenger

The Selectmen have completed the FY91 budget hearings with department heads and town boards. The final construction of a workable budget for presentation at the annual meeting is being made difficult by the absence of state aid figures. Although the May 12 annual meeting will consider a wide range of articles, voting on the budget itself may have to be delayed again. It is the Selectmen's opinion that regardless of the amount of state aid, an override of proposition 2 1/2 will be needed in order to fund the increases in school costs. If the cherry sheet figures from Boston are substantially reduced, the amount needed in an override vote will increase.

In an effort to control the town's costs, David Howland, David Newell, and Kathy Condon have prepared a proposal to the state Board of Education to waive the "maintenance of effort" provisions of the guidelines for EEO school funding. If a waiver is granted, Heath would be able to continue receiving these funds which in the past two budgets have had considerable impact in lowering our assessment need.

David Howland has also been active with the Mohawk Municipal Advisory Council which has been meeting weekly to review the impact of increasing school budgets and reduced state aid. This committee is trying to contain the Mohawk Trail Regional High School, Colrain, Buckland-Shelburne and Hawlemont Elementary budgets.

Serving on the Franklin County Building Inspector Program board, Art Schwenger is participating in exploring options in this program to reduce the proposed budget. A proposed move of the office from the courthouse to Gill has been indefinitely postponed.

The first few weeks of the Transfer Station operation appear to have been successful. The white metal disposal program has just started (3/31), and a flyer explaining its operation has been mailed to all residents.

Helen Mackie will be replacing Dolly Churchill as the raiser and caretaker of the Town Common flag. The Selectmen wish to express their appreciation for Dolly's service and dedication to this task over the last 25 years. It should not be left unnoticed that for every day for a quarter century, Dolly has raised and lowered the town flag with care and respect.

Newland Smith has resigned from the Computer Committee. His leadership and expertise have been key to the Town Offices becoming computerized. The Selectmen express appreciation for his volunteer efforts with this committee from its inception.

The Selectmen have continued to develop a plan for creating an appointed Board of Health, separating this function from the Board of Selectmen. After numerous discussions and advice from Hillel Liebst of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, a final vote on this action will be taken at the annual meeting. The 3 month septic system percolation testing season is now open and will close by the end of June.

Please mark down Saturday May 12 on your calendar for the Annual Town Meeting. Your vote this year will be more important than ever.

HEATH CONSERVATION COMMISSION

by Bill Lattrell

As of late the Heath Conservation Commission has been doing much internal organization, including familiarizing ourselves with the local wetland by-law. Potential applicants should remember that Heath has a local wetland by-law in full force, and this needs to be considered with regards to wetland delineations and filings.

In February the Heath Conservation Commission reviewed the first Notice of Intent to be filed under the Town Wetlands Protection By-Law. George Giard filed a Notice of Intent to work in the buffer zone of an isolated wetland. This Notice was approved and an Order of Condition was written.

We are currently reviewing two applications and will be making decisions with regard to these applications in April.

Also the Heath Conservation Commission has been working with Alastair Maitland and the New England Forestry Foundation for a Conservation Restriction to be placed on a 60 acre parcel of Mr. Maitland's land. Formerly the State Department of Environmental Management handled these applications, but due to lack of funds this responsibility has been passed on to the Conservation Commission. Alastair should be congratulated for the placement of this Conservation Restriction on this land for it will preserve a beautiful parcel of open space to be managed with a wildlife habitat objective in the Town of Heath.

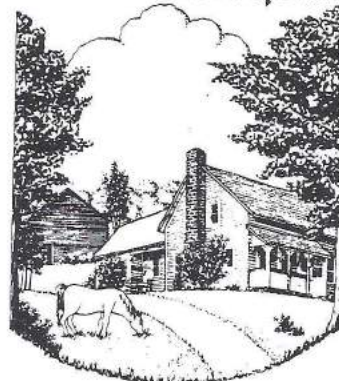
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FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

by Earl Gleason, Chief

The Fire Department responded to ten calls during the last two months. The first was on February 2 when two firefighters responded to a chimney fire on Rowe Road. That evening 3 EMTs and 3 firefighters responded to Route 8A for a man that was having trouble breathing. He refused transportation so Charlemont Ambulance was turned back. The next night 3 EMTs aided Charlemont Ambulance with a man who was ill. Engine 1 and 5 firefighters covered Charlemont station for an hour and one half while Charlemont was at a structure fire on 'I' street. On March 5 fourteen firefighters went to an automobile roll over at the intersection of Dell and Rowe Roads. Charged lines and gasoline containment were conducted while the vehicle was righted. About 7:30 PM on March 8 twelve firefighters and engine one responded to the vacant Kendall building in Lyonsville. Fourteen other departments also responded. Engine one drafted water from the river and fed the Turners Falls ladder truck most of the evening. Seven and one half hours later we were dismissed. Incidentally, pumping at full capacity for this length of time, the truck consumed nearly 65 gallons of gasoline. March 14 saw nine firefighters respond to a fully involved van fire off Burrington Road. Seven firefighters responded to a fire alarm on South Road. This happened at 1:30 AM on March 17. There was no fire but the alarm sure hated to stop working. After several minutes of trying to reset the alarm, the alarm company was informed of the problem. Charlemont requested a cover truck on March 20 while responding to a trailer fire on Zoar Road. Before leaving our station we were asked to stand by our station for a few minutes and then we were released. Three firefighters extinguished a small grass fire on March 24. Other public service details included several EMTs and firefighters working at the Ski Race and 7 firefighters burned a large brush pile for a person who was a little nervous about it.

Three drills were held at our station with a fourth being cancelled because of a storm. One of the drills was a three hour class put on by Horimadas Lively of the Massachusetts Fire Academy. Horimadas grew up in Heath and now is a Deputy Chief with the Greenfield Fire Department. Three EMTs and three firefighters attended a Massachusetts Fire Academy class on Hazardous Materials, The First Responder. This was an 8 hour class held on March 12 and 14. Six firefighters are taking the Massachusetts Fire Academy Mini Course at the Turners Falls fire station. This class was conducted on the evenings of March 14, 21, 28 and April 4 and all day classes on April 7 and 14. The chief attended two 12 hour National Fire Academy field courses. The first was held in Greenfield on April 10 and 11 and was titled Firefighter Safety and Survival. The second was on incident command and was held in West Boylston on March 10 and 11.

Meetings attended were the Tri-State Mutual Aid annual meeting held in Greenfield, Forest wardens' meetings held in Orange and Granby, Western Massachusetts Fire Chiefs in Amherst, Finance Committee and the Selectmen on budget and a meeting with the Department of Environmental Protection in Greenfield. This meeting was on proper procedures as to spills, tank removals, etc.

Four oil burner inspections and permits to store fuel oil were granted. One placement of smoke detectors on the plans for a building permit was issued.

Several events will be taking place that include the local fire department. One is the Annual Tri-State Fire Mutual Aid Field Day to be held at Mahar Regional High School in Orange on May 6. This event includes about ten dealers displaying their wares and about three dealers showing new apparatus. Also, departments will display their new or refurbished apparatus.

On May 12 and 13 the Massachusetts Fire Academy will be conducting a County weekend Fire School at Mohawk Trail Regional School. Twelve or more courses will be offered to all firefighters in the area.

A Massachusetts Fire Academy Class on Large Diameter hose will be held with Charlemont and Heath acting as the joint hosts. The Monday evening class will be held in Charlemont on May 14, the Thursday evening class will be held in Heath on May 17, and the all day class will be in Charlemont on May 19.

BURNING SEASON ENDS APRIL 30. Permits may be obtained by calling 1-772-2133 and the burning hours are between 10 AM and 4 PM. Burning permits may not be granted when conditions are not favorable to burn safely.

RABIES CLINIC

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HEATH PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Elsa Bakalar of Hosmer Road presented a spring lecture on perennials at Smith College in Northampton on March 3; other lectures have been given at Colonial Williamsburg, the Connecticut Horticultural Society, Wadsworth Athenaeum and Morris Arboretum in Philadelphia as well as many other institutions.

Jerry and Joan Gilbert of Groll Road were surprised on April Fool's Day when their 5 year old Nubian goat Willow gave birth to quadruplets, 3 bucks and a doe. Kevin Sprague of Rowe donated beefalo colostrum, and Ernie Thane brought colostrum from his farm to feed the new kids. The Gilberts have a total of 10 goats for sale at the present time.

Haydn: Chronicle and Works by former Heath resident H. C. Robbins has recently been published in 5 volumes. According to a New York Times book review it is "not just a record of an immensely rich life, but a microcosm of an entire age".

Remembering Niebuhr edited by Ursula M. Niebuhr of Stockbridge has recently been published by Harper and Row. In addition to correspondence between Reinhold and Ursula Niebuhr the book contains correspondence from such friends as W. H. Auden, Felix Frankfurter and Arthur Schlesinger. The Niebuhrs summered in the Stone Cottage in Heath Center.



GILBERTS' APRIL FOOL'S DAY GOATS
(Photo by Mike Peters)



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MILESTONES

by Edith C. Royer

Travis Gilbert, a son, was born February 7 to Kris and Terry Wilson. Grandson of Hazel and Gilbert Wilson of East Charlemont and Great Grandson of Elizabeth Wilson of Heath.

Danaige Marie, a daughter, was born February 8 to Robin (Manz) and Vaughn Tower, of Charlemont. Granddaughter of Janice and Russell Manz of Fonda, NY and Marge Sykes of Heath, also Edith and Ken Tower of Charlemont.

Jonathan Daniel, a son, was born February 22 to Karen and Weston Cromack of Greenfield. Grandson of Catherine and Bruce Cromack, of Heath and Great Grandson of Hannah Burrington of Heath.

David Todd, a son, was born February 23 to Wanda Kidder and Forrest Fiske of Turners Falls. Grandson of Margaret Coates of Shelburne Falls and Robert Coates of Heath.

Margaret Savage, of Royer Road, Heath, died March 16 at the Buckley Nursing Home in Greenfield. She had lived in Heath since 1974. She leaves a daughter and grandson in Connecticut.

Louise Stone, of Tucson, Arizona, died March 19. She leaves a son James Stone of Heath. She formerly lived in Colrain.

Maurice J. Lively of Florence, MA, died March 21. He was born in Heath April 4, 1934, the son of Roland and Marie Lively. He lived in Heath and Shelburne Falls until a few years ago. He leaves three sons and three daughters. Also seven brothers, Bernard of Williamstown, Paul and Thomas of Heath, Hormidas of Greenfield, Levi of Poltstown, PA, Felix of Canton, CT, and Michael of Miami, OK, and a sister Mary of Ocean Grove, NJ. Burial was in Branch Cemetery, Colrain.

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