



HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER 50¢

WILD RAMBLINGS

by Bill Lattrell

The Beaver, Engineer for a Better World

Mentioning the animal, Beaver, around these parts can bring a wide variety of responses. There are those, like myself, who marvel at the animal. There are many people, on the other hand, who see the beaver as a menace; an animal that floods good agricultural areas and renders otherwise good land useless. I have always been most curious about this disdain for beaver for it is very similar to the human species in that it is one of the very few animals that changes a piece of land to suit its own needs. As many of us know, the beaver is quite capable of changing a dry piece of land with a small stream into a very large pond with acres of surrounding wetlands. The accomplishment of this deed is no small undertaking.

Few people realize the effect of the beaver on American History. Fortunes were won and lost in pursuit of the beaver pelt. In the early 1800's the beaver pelt was so valuable and sought after that it was considered to be one of the major foundations of the world economy. The entire western part of the United States and Canada were first explored by trappers in pursuit of beaver pelts. These early explorations opened up the entire nation for future expansion. Despite the millions of beaver trapped over the last 200 years the beaver thrives in healthy numbers today. His future prognosis is excellent considering the recent negative pressure on the trapping industry.

In our corner of the world the beaver is quite common. Throughout the northern Berkshires, and particularly here in Heath, the beaver can be found in good numbers. Wetland scientists, naturalists, and others who simply appreciate the natural world find the world of the beaver to be most fascinating. The habitat in which the beaver lives can be surprisingly variable. Most beavers live in beaver made ponds that vary in size from a few hundred square feet to more than 20 acres. But a good number of beaver are perfectly content to set up shop in the deep area of a river, building homes under steep banks, and never building any dams at all.

The environment that the beaver creates for itself, the beaver pond, is one of the richest habitats on earth. The beaver, while trying to create a cozy area suitable for swimming, foraging, and floating sticks and logs, unknowingly produces the perfect habitat for literally millions of other species including macroinvertebrates, insects, waterfowl, other birds, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals. Many

species' populations rise and fall with the beaver populations due to this important ecological dependency. Of course, this wonderful habitat is made possible by one of nature's most spectacular engineering feats, the beaver dam. The beaver will build and maintain these strong mud and stick structures for as long as the foraging habitat in the vicinity of the pond produces adequate food supply. Beaver dams can vary in length from a few yards to more than a half mile. Imagine the diligence it takes a few beavers to construct and maintain a beaver dam a half mile in length. The life of a beaver pond is cyclical. The beavers will build and maintain a pond in a suitable location for a period of about 10 to 20 years. The length of time a beaver family decides to stay in one area is dependent upon the amount of food available. Beavers love to munch on saplings, shrubs, and plants. It holds a special liking for quaking aspen saplings, and young willow shoots. When there is no longer any available forage within 100 yards of the pond's edge, the beaver family will move on to a new location. During the next 10 to 20 years the beaver pond will change from pond to wetland as the dam decays, slowly the aquatic plants will be replaced by wetland plants, and eventually grasses to form a new meadow. In time shrubs, and trees will begin to reappear. And so will the beaver.

Generally a beaver pond will support one family.

Continued on page 3



SNOW COVERED BEAVER LODGE
ON CATAMOUNT
(Photo by Bill Lattrell)

CHURCH NEWS

by Pastor Roger Peace

It is hard to believe that another year has passed by but, when looking back over 1990, for the church it was a very good one. Several people were baptized and joined our church; our musicals continue to be a blessing to those singing and those listening; people are becoming more actively involved; and plans are under way for another full year for our church. Of course, this being the New Year, many of you have already made your New Year's resolutions, and I hope you keep them. Maybe you would add one to your list - that is, to come to church each week. We at the Heath Union Church would consider it our privilege to have you join us.

You might have noticed lights burning at the church for the past week or so. Some of the men of the church have been working on the new Sunday School rooms. Plaster board is being taped and sanded, old walls scraped and repaired, walls are being painted and all the finish work that needs to be done is nearing completion. I personally am very excited about this new addition and I am most appreciative, as is everyone at the church. So to those who are helping, a most gracious "Thank You".

With all that is happening over in the Gulf region, all of us need to be continually praying for our men and women. But just as importantly, we need to be praying for our President and other leaders; they need great wisdom and strength to know how to lead our great nation. May God Bless the U.S.A.



HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

VOLUME 12 NUMBER 6

FEBRUARY/MARCH 1991

Managing Editor
General Editing & Layout
Copy Editor
Staff Reporters

Susan Silvester
Pegge Howland
David Gibbons
Edith Royer
Beverly denOuden

Columnists

Todd Sumner
Karen Brooks
Elsa Bakalar
Michael D. Coe
Bill Lattrell
Carroll Stowe
Bonnie Woodin

Staff Photographer
Advertising
Circulation & Business
Typography

Michael Peters
Ray Pettengill
Terry Pettengill
Arlene Markert

The **HEATH HERALD** is published six times a year in April, June, August, October, December and February.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE - One year, \$4.50 (payable in advance by check or money order.)

ADVERTISING RATES - Display ads: \$4.50 per column inch (Discounts on six or more insertions.)

CLASSIFIED ADS: \$2.00 per line.

Send all correspondence to Box 54, Heath, MA 01346

ARTS LOTTERY COUNCIL

by Jayne Dane

The Arts Lottery Council granted six awards from the fall funding cycle. Fred Burrington was awarded \$450 to begin a series of watercolors portraying landscapes in Heath. This will culminate with a show of completed works sometime in 1991.

The Historical Society was awarded \$300 to publish a book recording all of Heath's gravestone inscriptions.

Paty Lentz was awarded \$400 to do a theater design project with the students at Rowe school.

Rowe school was awarded \$310 to be a part of the Arts Council of Franklin County's Arts in Education program. This program brings area artists into the classroom to work with students on various projects.

Mike Chrisman and Izzy Gesell were awarded \$475 to do an oral history of senior citizens in the area focusing on how humor has affected their lives. This will include a public sharing of the project in Heath.

The Pioneer Valley Folklore Society was awarded \$200 as part of a project to survey, document, and promote rural traditional folkways.

The application deadline for the spring cycle is March 15. For applications and/or information contact Jayne Dane at 337-5736.

LIBRARY LINES

by Alli Thane

Mid-winter is here, and with it comes the urge to browse through garden catalogues and gardening books. We have an abundance of these in the library waiting for you. Keep in mind, too, while you are planning your flower and vegetable gardens, that Heath Fair comes around every August. There have been very few vegetable exhibits in the Hall the last two years, so think about competing.

Mid-winter also brings budget planning time. For us, magazines take a chunk right out of our funds and, although I was forced to cancel several subscriptions, our periodical budget still ranges around \$500. If any of you receive a magazine monthly and would like to donate it to the library, it would be much appreciated. A few of the cancelled magazines are: *Sports Illustrated*, *Discover*, *Atlantic*, *Redbook*, *Time* (we do receive *Newsweek*), and *Better Homes & Gardens*. There are others, of course, that you might receive and would like to share.

We also received a note from the Western Massachusetts Regional Library that we can now order special interest videos. These are educational videos for both children and adults. We have a list of them at the library.

HEATH PRECIPITATION

by Ralph H. Dickinson

Observer for Mass. Division of Water Resources

December precipitation totaled 5.08 inches with 10 inches of snowfall. January precipitation was 3.13 and snowfall in the amount of 16 inches. Snowfall for the season November 1990 through January 1991 was a total of 28.5 inches.

Total precipitation for 1990 was 58.09 inches. 1990 would be considered a wet year, but 4 years since 1967 have been wetter. Our annual snowfall has varied from 132.5 inches in the winter of 1971-71 to 43.5 inches in 1979-80.



CONNECTIONS

by
BONNIE WODIN

THE McCUTCHEONS

What do diving for sunken treasure, fighting to save a baby sperm whale and practicing clinical psychology in Berkeley have in common? The McCutcheons! A generation of McCutcheons, Sharon, Brooks, and Deb, have returned to Heath bringing with them fresh and wonderful perspectives from their world-wide travels and adventures.

Sharon and Deb share a love of the ocean and it's creatures, having spent nearly a year in the Caribbean on a crew with Peter Throckmorton, self-educated 'Father of Underwater Archeology'. While psychics located wrecks of 17th and 18th century ships, Sharon confirmed their locations scientifically. Then crew members would dive for treasures hidden in the deep. And treasure aplenty they found: bronze cannons, sabres and swords, even a musket with the wooden handle and silver casings intact! Deb specialized in mapping their finds and Sharon became a scuba expert.

Their stories ranged from the ridiculous, ("There was a time when we had been out of fresh water and it finally rained. We were all out on the deck dancing around and washing our hair!") to the sublime ("We told the crew that if dolphins came alongside the boat, we were over the side. I was so excited," said Sharon, "that I jumped in, skirt, sweater and all! Two adolescents attached themselves to us. It was wonderful to swim along with them"). Having experienced months of bottled water, when there was water at all, both Sharon and Deb agreed that the water in Heath is "one of the things we missed most."

Sharon went on to do shark-diving in special cages off Catalina Island in southern California. Between leading tourists on these excursions she found time to use her skills as a stunt diver for the television show Baywatch. She also read and researched depositions of diving deaths.

Deb went off to Norway to dive and party before joining a research vessel out of Gloucester, MA piloted by Roger Payne. She had been engaged as a cook but, due to her culinary talents, was soon part of the research team working with humpback whales, recording their songs.

Soon afterwards, Deb found herself in Texas trying to save a 14 foot baby sperm whale suffering with pneumonia. Deb monitored it's sounds for sonar research while the whale fought for its life. Then she was off to Australia to work on a land-based biological study. Now, back in Heath, she is writing a book proposal about her work there.

Meanwhile, Brooks has continued to pursue his love, working with people. After undergraduate work in Bar Harbor, Maine, he worked in the South Bronx as a psychologist with a victim service agency. Then he went out to Berkeley, CA to the California School of Professional Psychology to complete his doctorate in clinical psychology. He has been gone from Heath for ten years but says he "wanted to come back for the past five."

To all three of the McCutcheons, Heath means family. Because their extended family ranges from South Carolina and Tennessee to Texas, they have a deep sense of family among them. Says Brooks, "I really like the rural life. It allows each person to develop their own personality and a chance to develop a lifestyle around the family. Even as kids our lives revolved around the family and the farm. Doing projects was a way that the family would be together."

"It was hard," Sharon admitted, "to come back. But now I feel real comfortable in the area. Heath has changed a lot. I even met my boyfriend at the Heath Fair." For Deb the "changes to open land is balanced by more opportunities for friends and for work. That goes along with more people." Brooks notes, when asked of the changes, "Watching the farms dissolve was like seeing the town lose its character. Heath has changed from what I remember. The town is pulling together to protect itself and define itself. It's exciting to see the town preserving its integrity."

As for the future, Brooks and his wife, Janis Steele, have settled in for the long haul. Janis, "impressed by the variety of things people do up here" found that the "family has created a ready-made community." Brooks, a psychologist at Franklin Clinical Associates is also in private practice with his parents. Deb, who "really loves the four seasons", is glad that her "Mom is feeding me for now" while she works on her book proposal. She doesn't know if she'll stay, but she'll always come back." Sharon is finding new ways to explore her love of the out-of-doors and animals. She works for Zoar Outdoors and Shelburne veterinarian Victoria Howell. She has also returned to another love, the theater. Following a part this summer in the Lillian Hellman play, "Another Part of the Forest", she is continuing in semi-professional theater.

Welcome home Sharon, Brooks and Deb. May your time here be as rich for you as it is for those of us who spend it with you.

Transition

come change with us
625-6855

Hair Design Tanning Toning
Facial Waxing Ear Piercing

39 Bridge Street

Shelburne Falls, MA

Gulf
Gas

UCF
Feeds

Moritz
Trailers

CHANDLER'S

GENERAL STORE
Jacksonville Road
Colrain, MA 01340
413-624-3406

David W. Nims, Owner

Maple Syrup
Cheese

Groceries
Hot Coffee

Seedway
Asgrow
Funk
Seeds

The parents, who bond for life, will raise two, sometimes three young beaver to about a year old. At this point in time the young ones get rudely asked to leave, and make a life of their own. A few years back, while doing a beaver pond study, I witnessed a mother beaver being really nasty to a yearling. They were on the edge of the pond and she would attack the young beaver, biting it and pushing it around with her larger body. The yearling was obviously confused at this crazy behavior from its once loving mother. Over the next few days the yearling moped around the far side of the pond not quite knowing what to do with itself. The next week I noticed that it was gone, probably to find a new home of its own. At first I thought of the incident as sad, and I'm sure it was a bitter taste of reality for the young beaver, but over a period of time I realized that this yearling would find a lifetime mate, and create a new luxurious habitat somewhere else in those great woods.

If you ever get the urge to do some beaver watching, picking the right time and place is most important. Finding an active beaver pond should not be a problem. Ask around, one of your neighbors or a friend will be able to direct you to one. They are very common in Heath. I know of more than 20 in the area. Next, if you want to see a beaver your best luck will be in the warmer months at dusk or dawn. Although beaver are active in both day and night they have learned to be primarily nocturnal, probably as an adjustment in order to survive man's predation. If the beaver sees you before you see him then you will simply hear a very loud clap of the beaver's tail hitting the water. This warning signal will put all other beavers on alert, and probably underwater to the safety of their lodge. However, with a pair of binoculars, and from a good vantage point, seeing a beaver should not be a problem.

Examining beaver sign is just as much fun as seeing the animal. This rodent, like other rodents, has to chew all the time in order to keep its constantly growing teeth worn down. Its habit of gnawing down large trees serves primarily this function. Seldom does the beaver use anything much larger than a human wrist in its construction activities.



TYPICAL BEAVER SIGN
(Photo by Bill Lattrell)

The beaver will also dig canals to float brush and forage to the pond's edge. These canals can be well hidden, so be careful, I have twisted an ankle in several. During the winter you can walk right up to a lodge. If the pond is inhabited then you will see, through the ice, dozens of twigs stuck in the mud in the water under the ice. This is the beaver's winter food supply, and hand it is. The beaver simply exits the lodge via the underwater exit, grabs a few twigs, brings them back into the warmth and comfort of its lodge, and voila, dinner.

Few people realize the effect of the beaver on American History. Fortunes were won and lost in pursuit of the beaver pelt. In the early 1800's the beaver pelt was so valuable and sought after that it was considered to be one of the major foundations of world economy.

When observing or studying a beaver pond, be on the lookout for other inhabitants and users of the environment. River otters are particularly fond of this habitat. I have yet to find a remote beaver pond without seeing otter sign. These playful creatures can provide hours of entertainment. My intense interest in river otters began with studying beaver ponds.

Finding an active beaver pond should not be a problem. Ask around, and one of your neighbors or a friend will be able to direct you to one. They are very common in Heath. I know of more than 20 in the area.

Wetlands once covered over 215 million acres during precolonial times. We now have fewer than 90 million acres of this precious resource due to their destruction by man. Wetlands provide valuable habitat for wildlife, flood retention, pollutant reduction, aquifer recharge and erosion control. In addition, after rain forests, wetlands are the second amongst all habitat types in primary production. That is, they produce more oxygen and use more carbon dioxide than any other plant community, with the exception of rain forest. Global warming and the greenhouse effect are critical global changes that will severely affect the future of our planet. Man, despite this knowledge, has continued to destroy wetlands at a very alarming rate. The beaver, on the other hand, without benefit of this knowledge goes about creating new wetlands everyday. And so, although we both share the ability to create an environment that suits our immediate needs, only one of us creates an environment that is beneficial to all in the future.



The Way It Is In The Country

*"If it's old, works well and has a purpose in life,
don't change it".*

by **CARROLL STOWE**

As one listens to the radio, reads a newspaper or watches the television, it becomes very clear that, for some people, sports is the only thing that matters. If I excelled in any of a number of various sports activities, I could perhaps share others' enthusiasm. But I don't, and never did, so I must seek my sport in another field; namely, the wood lot.

As the fall season presents itself, I start to budget my time to deliver various wood orders, not the least of which is for our household. When the wood lot has been gleaned of the cut and split wood for fuel, I have to plan to recreate those absent wood piles with some new ones.

This is where my sport comes from. I enjoy cutting wood, always have and always plan to enjoy doing so. I enjoy watching pigs grow, and I like to see a wood pile grow with each added stick. The making of a pile of wood entails a number of operations. If, as in my situation, one first has to clean up some blown down trees, your first piles will naturally be made in a close proximity to where these trees tipped over with roots still attached. Our wood lot is very wet most of the year so the roots don't have to go far to reach the moisture, and a shallow root system is the cause for much wind damage.

All wood lots are alike and all are different. While one might cut a mixture of hard woods such as ash, beech, oak, white and yellow birch, soft and hard or rock maple, ours is mostly sugar or rock maple.

The tree is on the ground and you've decided where to start a pile, so measure off the length of wood to be cut and start at the tree top and work back towards the stump as you cut. I perhaps should explain that you start measuring from the stump. As you clean out the top and pile the brush, starting to block it up from the tip end, often you can take advantage of a bit of high ground that may keep the small end somewhat supported. This helps to keep the saw bar and chain from becoming pinched in the cut. There will be places where it will be necessary to cut up from the underside of the log. As you work you will find yourself always evaluating your next move. No one never gets a saw pinched in the cut, but with careful study it will occur less often.

The tree is now blocked up in the proper lengths, so lay a pile bed of as straight as possible limb wood, block up where it could sag as the snow melts, and start to split the blocks. In my situation I use an axe or a splitting hammer and wedges.

I like to split with an ax if all conditions are such that it can be done, since an ax is less heavy than a splitting hammer. With straight grained wood a rather blunt ax works well. Pile the wood as you split, and you keep your area clean as well as get a rest from splitting. It takes a lot of sticks of wood for a cord so it goes rather slowly. I feel that frozen wood splits better because it is already expanded so by striking it with an ax or maul it just seems to pop open.

As the days become longer, I will work a while early in the morning before going to work. It's most pleasant to enter the wood lot before full daylight and work up perhaps a dozen blocks to add to the pile. Sometimes a chick-a-dee will come to entertain me with its antics, or I'll witness a spectacular sunrise. It's a labor of love along with a little nature study and, if I figure my time right, perhaps a cup of coffee before work.

I try to put one end of the pile against a tree to support the wood as the pile increases in height. It isn't always possible to work both ends of the pile against a tree so you can do what's called 'cobbing one end'. As your pile grows, you crosspile that end, 3 or 4 sticks one way, and 3 or 4 the other. The wood has to be uniform to make for a good cob end. Short blocked wood piled against a tree is rather difficult to make stay since when the wind blows it works the tree and pile, and the snow melts, and next thing you know you've got a pile to redo.

A hard hat worn while felling a tree is a good practice as dead limbs don't care whose head they hit. On a cold day a pail with hot coals will keep the chill out of the wedges used for splitting. They'll stick better in frozen wood.

If anyone is interested in watching a wood pile grow bigger, I'd be pleased to show them how to hang up a tree or how not to split a tough stick. In my lifetime I never inherited much wealth or fame but I did inherit from my grandfather Stowe the love of splitting wood. His wood piles were pure artistry but mine are just wood piles.

As a little boy I remember seeing Dick Giard's father chopping wood perhaps a quarter mile away from where I stood. I could watch as he swung his ax and could not figure why it was a few seconds before the sound of the strike reached me. Later in life I came to realize that the distance governed how long it took to hear the sound. Thus the reason for a long ago comment of hearing the sharp strike of a chopper's ax on a cold winter's morning and seeing an honest man at his labors.

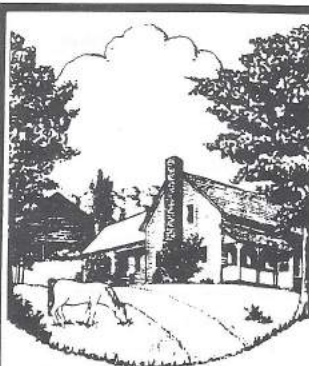
May the building of a wood pile always be a pleasant experience.

FRESH WINDS FARM

Paul & Marcella Lively & Sons

Excavating - Loam - Sand Stone 337-4331

****SCREENED LOAM A SPECIALTY****



PEN Y BRYN BED & BREAKFAST

John and Nancy Clark
TEL: (413) 337-6083 OR (212) 310-2977

ROUTE 8A
JACKSONVILLE STAGE ROAD
HEATH, MASSACHUSETTS



Green Thoughts

by

ELSA BAKALAR

They're here - those exciting seed and plant catalogs, pushing us into another growing season whether we're ready or not. Some are old friends by now, turning up in our mailboxes year after year, but there are always a few we haven't see before. Some are modest in their claims, others not. "At last! The Perfect Carrot!" (well, that would be nice); "World's First Yard'Long Cucumber!" (who wants three feet of cucumber?); and, "At Last! No-Work Tomatoes!" (they're kidding, surely?).

These excesses are not new in the garden world. As long ago as 1850, the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher wrote indignantly about the numbers of trade cards, posters, and catalogs bombarding the public with lavish illustrations and wild promises: "We protest against floral spendthrifts. They will be entrapped and made wild by pompous catalogs of florists and seedsmen!" Well, not to turn you into wild floral spendthrifts or any such thing, but it's a good idea to buy your seeds now, while the selection is good, either by spending a happy hour browsing locally in the seed racks, or by mail-ordering from a catalog.

Buy now, yes, but hold off starting the seeds for a while. Once January is out of the way, and Ground Hog Day behind us, we try to pretend it's spring, but just remember, the last frost around here is anything from 12 to 16 weeks away, and seedlings that have to be held inside too long do not fare well. (There are a few exceptions; tiny-seeded flowers such as petunias, snapdragons, and fibrous begonias take nearly three months before they're big enough to go outdoors.

So, what to grow this year? You know that from Memorial day on you'll be able to pick up flats of all the standard summer annuals, but what about trying something you haven't grown before, and that might not be so easy to buy? Think of the kaleidoscope of color that could greet Heath fairgoers in August as they come into the exhibition hall. Think, too, of the ribbons you could very well win (and the jolly checks to follow). So here are a few suggestions for colorful annuals, all good for cutting and not a problem plant in the lot.

Beyond Marigolds - Bold Colors.

Yellow Cosmos 'Bright Lights'; Blanket Flower (Gaillardia); Nasturtium; Calendula (Pot Marigold); Mexican Sunflower (Tithonia). This last one is always a standout on the Bridge of Flowers at Shelburne Falls.

Beyond Petunias - Gentle Pastel Colors.

Cosmos in pink, rose, and white; Alyssum (low edging plant); Tobacco Flower (Nicotiana); Bachelors' Buttons; Cleome (Spider Flower).

Specially for Children - Giant Sunflower.

Think of the pride with which they'll enter their biggest sunflower head at the Heath Fair.

There are one or two events coming up that you might like to mark on your calendar. One is the Boston Flower Show, March 9 - 17, at the Bayside Exposition Center. This year it's to be "A New England Sampler". We are promised a cranberry bog in full bloom, a village green with bandstand, a conservatory with hundreds of live butterflies, streams, woodlands, cottage gardens, and flowers of every hue, to transport us into spring.

Closer to home, the Northampton Gardening Series (a sellout last year) will bring three topflight lecturers to the area in March, April, and May - Allen Lacy, Wayne Winterrowd, and Pamela Harper.

Closer still - in Greenfield - Educational Enrichment for Elders is operating a repeat of last year's gardeners class, a hands-on workshop, "Get Ready, Set, and Grow!", beginning March 27. Classes meet for two hours each week, on Wednesday afternoons. The exact time and place will be announced later.

With all this, can spring be far behind?



A FIRST SIGN OF SPRING
(Photo by Mike Peters)

MOHAWK MANOR REST HOME

45 Water Street

Shelburne Falls, MA 01370

413-625-6860

Level IV Care Facility

Gail A. Bissell, Owner/Administrator



BONNIE WODIN

Custom Gardens & Landscapes

Design • Installation • Herbs • Perennials

(413) 337-5529

TEL: DAYS 413-624-8843

NIGHTS 624-3783



STONE'S SUNOCO

COMPLETE AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE

VARIETY STORE

24 HOUR TOWING

ROD STONE

ROUTE #112
COLRAIN, MA 01340

MISS JUNIOR HEATH

by Valerie Belval

Hello.

My name is Valerie Belval, and I will be representing Heath throughout 1991. On November 28, 1990, I accepted the City Queen title. I had previously been in a Miss Junior Massachusetts competition before being awarded the Miss Junior Heath title for 1991. Two years ago I had the pleasure of meeting Joyce Smith, the Executive Director of Miss Junior America, Monty Singleton, Director of Operations at Universal Studios and many other pleasant contestants and staff. I was in just that one competition and was judged in several categories, including evening gown modelling and making a commercial. For this award I was selected by the Miss Junior America program committee.

I am available for any parades or special appearances and may be reached at 337-4212.



MISS JUNIOR HEATH, VALERIE BELVAL
(Photo by Jen Morse)

CARLISLE WALLCOVERING
PAPERHANGING & INTERIOR PAINTING

MICHAEL CARLISLE

413-625-9733

BMP BALD MOUNTAIN POTTERY
STONEWARE & PORCELAIN

Sarah Hettlinger
South Rd. Heath, MA 01346 (413) 337-4496
28 State St. (Near the Bridge of Flowers)
Shelburne Falls, MA (413) 625-8110

GCC SALUTES HEATH

by Pegge Howland

"Greenfield Community College Salutes Heath" is the title of the second in a series of events highlighting Franklin County towns by the Pioneer Valley Institute. Beginning on Monday, April 1, the College has designated exhibit space in the new third floor Gallery outside the college Library to focus on Heath's celebration of its 206th anniversary.

Letters were sent to the Historical Society, the Board of Selectmen and the Library inviting Heath to participate in this series of month-long celebrations of the history, culture and traditions of the towns in the Pioneer Valley. The Selectmen and the Directors of the Heath Historical Society have voted to support the effort, and Alli Thane has volunteered from the Library. But we need your help, too!

The Historical Society will sponsor a reception in the Gallery on Monday, April 8 at 7 PM to be followed by a program of readings by Susan Gleason from her very popular book Echoes from a Hill Farm. But we would like input from every town Committee and entity, as well as individuals, regarding the content of the exhibit. Please contact Pegge Howland (337-4980), Dot Gary (337-4741) or Alli Thane in the Library with your ideas. Thanks!



Charlemont Pizza House
Main Street - Route 2
Charlemont, Mass.
Phone: 339-4472

Richard A. Sumner

Journeyman Electrician
Mass. License #E22622
Vermont License #J1245
RFD #2 Box 517, Shelburne Falls, MA 01370
413-625-8239

**Your New Glasses Are Ready...
And Your Second Pair Is... FREE**
Eye Exams Available

WITH THIS COUPON
FREE Second Pair of **EYEGLASSES**

(WITH PURCHASE OF A COMPLETE PAIR)

Buy one pair of glasses at our regular price and get the second pair of the same prescription from our special selection, **ABSOLUTELY FREE!**
Includes first quality frames and single vision, clear, uncoated. 1st and 2nd division lenses. Offer precludes previous discounts.

Hampshire Mall
(across from K-Mart)
Hadley
584 8524

Vision Showcase

36 State St.
(near Bridge of Flowers)
Shelburne Falls
625-9898

SKI RACE POSTPONED

Unfortunately uncooperative weather conditions have caused the postponement of the Annual Heath Ski Race. It is hoped that the alternate date of February 19, 1991 will provide a day of sunshine and plenty of snow for the long awaited race.



1990 SKI RACE STARTING LINE
(Photo by West County News photographer)

CROSSWORD PUZZLE CORRECTIONS

Please note the following corrections to the crossword puzzle featured in the December/January issue of the *Heath Herald*. We regret any confusion caused by these errors.

15 Across - Cautions

50 Down - Siouan language (as in Sioux Indian)

73 Down - Pilfer

75 Down - Me, in Rouen

100 Down - A Kettle (a proper name)

BRUCE A. CROMACK

General Carpentry
Restoration a Specialty

Burrington Road

Tel: 337-4350

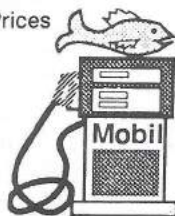
Charlemont Mobil

Low Diesel & Cigarette Prices

U-Haul Rentals
"Propane Gas"

Fresh Seafood Available

3 days/week
call to place order
Erskine Palmer
339-4354



SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT

by Budge Litchfield

The big news is the vote by the Rowe/Heath Regional School District Planning Board to recommend that a Regional School District be formed. At our January 10 meeting the Board, after much discussion, voted 4-2 in favor of a motion to recommend forming a district. The split vote shows the difference of opinion on the Board regarding the advisability of forming a Regional School District at all, as well as the advisability of voting on the recommendations before the Board had adopted the complete text of the agreement. Voting in favor were: Sue Lively, Henry Dandeneau, Dick Gary and Budge Litchfield, and voting in opposition were: Marion Franceschetti and Jack Williams. After that vote the Board turned its attention to the Regional Agreement. We approved nine of the fifteen articles with one vote. At our next meeting (January 30) we continued discussions, revised and voted on each of the remaining articles in turn. Earlier at that same meeting the Board received a petition signed by approximately 60% of the voters in Rowe requesting that town votes on regionalization be delayed until the annual town meetings in May, 1991. The Board voted 6-0 to present our formal recommendation and the Agreement to the Boards of Selectmen no earlier than April 15, thereby allowing the Selectmen to place the appropriate articles on the warrant for either the annual or a special town meeting.

In another area of long range educational planning, on January 3 a presentation was given to the various school committees serving our nine towns regarding the expansion of the Mohawk District into a Kindergarten through Twelfth Grade District. Our School Committee has been active in the early exploration of this concept because it could be something our town either wants to or needs to participate in. You will receive notification about public informational meetings to be held in early February. Please try to attend one. Also at that meeting, our neighbor, Catherine Heyl, was introduced as the District's new Administrative Assistant. Congratulations Catherine and good luck!

It should be obvious that the time has come for the voters of Heath to begin becoming informed about these important and complex educational questions. There is a variety of written information available about each option mentioned above. Also, beginning in February there will be a number of informational meetings on these topics. If you would like information, or perhaps just the name of an informed neighbor, please call Budge Litchfield, Sue Lively, Dick Gary, Linda Marcotte or Frank Brower.

Now that the "free spending" holiday season is behind us, we are beginning to focus on the various school budgets. Given the generally lousy economic climate and uncertainties about what the new administration's spending priorities (and cutting priorities) will be, this year's budget process should be interesting. Our district is working hard on improving our revenue picture through state aid to small towns and school districts, as well as aggressively going after grants and the like. We all intend to hold steady the current level of educational programming, and many members of the Mohawk Committee are committed to restoring some of the positions that had to be cut last year.

In closing, I would like to again encourage the voters of Heath to begin the information gathering process. We have some very important decisions to make in the near future.

NEWS FROM THE ACADEMY

by Todd Sumner

I almost never watch television, but I flicked it on after supper on January 16 and watched Peter Jennings break the long-awaited news of war. I've seen quite a lot of television since. It bothers me somewhat that television news programs regularly air "student-on-the-street" interviews regarding issues like this. The interviews are, as always, edited down to the juiciest bits, the most succinct expressions. For politicians accustomed to speaking in sound bytes, this does not present a problem. Editing adolescent speech in this way almost invariably makes them sound naive, sentimental, and silly. In my experience, teenagers are far more thoughtful than these spots make them out to be.

Our own engagement with the Persian Gulf crisis began last fall, when upperclassmen in a contemporary issues class spent two months examining the situation, formulating policy goals, and drafting position papers. While students agreed on American goals in the region, opinion varied on how best to reach those goals. Positions taken ranged from Wilsonian faith in collective security arrangements to hawkish calls for armed intervention. The papers were circulated and students were given a chance to respond to their classmates, to challenge and to probe.

As the January 15 deadline approached and Congress began its debates, many of us listened with pleasure as partisanship took a back seat to what might well be called statesmanship. For several days running, students and faculty would compare notes each morning on which speeches they'd heard. "Did you hear Senator Cohen last night?..." an eighth grader asked me, "I understood most of it, but I didn't get the part about..." The prospect of war troubled me, but I was glad that students were seizing the opportunity to see the Congress in one of its finest hours. National Public Radio could be heard droning quietly behind closed doors as the debate went on.

It was after Congress authorized the use of force that the posters began to appear. A bulletin board in the Common Room is reserved for posting signed opinions on any subject. This informal free speech forum was soon covered with invitations to join vigils, marches, and other forms of public protest. Rejoinders defending the use of force appeared alongside. We waited and watched as the U.N. deadline approached. It came. We waited.

I was unpacking my books, folders, and other paraphernalia on the morning of the 17th when one of my senior advisees came into the faculty room. I've been his advisor for four years, so we know each other well. He's very bright and can smell a flaw in an argument like a bloodhound. One of his favorite pastimes is trying to detect the flaws in my arguments, so we'd discussed the Gulf crisis many times. His position had been that the use of force would be an appropriate means of reaching our goals

in the region if all others failed. Now that war had begun, he was shaken and wanted to talk. "Are you still of the same mind?" I asked. "Yes," he said, "I thought it through the first time. I'm just sorry it came to this. It's like we were saying about Moby Dick the other day; Ahab is free to choose another course right up until the last minute. He gets three chances to turn back, to give up chasing the whale. After that, the whale takes over."

We had a moment of silence during school meeting that morning. Students and faculty spoke about the war if they were moved to do so. There was a lot of hugging but few tears. We resolved to concentrate on the tasks at hand, to teach and to learn. By and large, we've been successful. Part of that teaching and learning takes place on the Sounding Board and in the substantive conversations engendered by student opinion. I've yet to hear a view expressed that would be well served by the television news.

DOG OFFICER APPOINTED

by D. F. Howland

Carl Herzig of Colrain was appointed Dog Officer of the Town of Heath effective January 2, 1991, filling out the term of David Lavigne (resigned). The Board of Selectmen, in making the appointment, expressed their good fortune in finding someone with Carl's experience. He has been the Dog Officer for Colrain for some 15 years as well as serving as a part-time police officer since 1971. (He also serves Heath as a part-time police officer in support of Chief Guy Silvester). Carl resides on Wilson Road in Colrain with his wife Diane and son, Holland. Two other children are grown and living away from home. For assistance, call 624-3224.

As a reminder, it may be appropriate to repeat current practices with regard to fees and leash control in the center of town. Fines in the event of dog pick-ups are: first offense, no charge; second offense \$5; third offense \$15. The charge for care and keep of a dog is \$5 per day. After 10 days a dog is considered unclaimed and can be disposed of. Persons looking for a pet are encouraged to call Carl. If a dog is not licensed it will not be returned to an owner until a license is obtained. Fines and fees are turned in to the town; Carl is paid from town appropriations. Also, Heath's Selectmen voted on September 22, 1986 "that all dogs in the area referred to as Heath Center must be tied or on a leash. Dogs found to be on the loose after that date will be picked up by the Dog Officer at the owner's expense. Heath Center is defined as within the bounds as follows: On the West - Rowe and Dell Road intersection; on the north - Ledges Road and the power line cross, also Bray Road and Colrain Road intersection; on the east - Avery Brook and Colrain Brook Roads intersection; on the south - the Dickinson farm on South Road."

The Selectmen plan to review the fee schedules and related matters at the Annual Town Meeting.

CHARLEMONT TV, INC.

Zenith

Sales & Service

High Street, Charlemont

Tel: 339-6685

FRANKLIN-WARE

— SHELBURNE FALLS —

Fuel Oils

413-625-6400

Heating

Propane Gas

Water Heaters

Service

ROWE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

by Phillip O'Reilly, Principal

You may notice a different flag blowing in the wind here at Rowe School in the next few weeks. No we haven't changed our allegiance. We are in the middle of a three week intensive, interdisciplinary study of the country Australia. Children are studying the government, geography, history, flora, fauna and people of Australia. Each child is corresponding with a child from Loquat Valley School in New South Wales. Teachers are also relating their social studies curriculum to classroom studies which will serve as a vehicle to compare and contrast with our own culture. Children will attend mini-courses offered by the staff, community and outside visitors. We welcome the community to join our study. Anyone who is interested in attending any of our workshops should call Rowe School, and ask for a schedule of events.

The plan for this regional study was developed when the staff revised the Rowe School's social studies curriculum this past summer. As part of our curriculum, it was decided that each year the children of our school will research a different country of the world. Under the leadership of Lorraine Cetto and Ruth Johnson, the staff has spent many hours planning this new educational venture. It is our hope that the children will develop a stronger global and multicultural education as a result of their experiences. COME AND VISIT US 'DOWN UNDER'!

THE PARTY

by Dominic Musacchio, Grade 3

After Christmas our family went to my Aunt Brenda's for a party. That morning I was sick, throwing-up but I got better. (I just wasn't hungry). When we got there my Aunt Brenda's baby was dressed in a king's crown. It was cute. After I played with their cat, Satan. I can see where he got his name. He kills! Then I had something to eat and I wasn't hungry. I ran into the kitchen and said, "Mom, I had something to eat!" and everybody looked at me like, big deal! Afterwards I hung out with the guys.

Laundry and Sweet Shop 7 am to 9 pm

Do your Sleeping Bags, Quilts, Comforters, Bedspreads, Small Area Rugs, etc., in our Large Front-Loading Machines.

Dry-Cleaning & Shirt Service (washed & pressed)
7 am - 5 pm 7 days/wk or by appt.

**Village Coin-Op Laundry
and
Sweet Shop**

55 State Street
Shelburne Falls, MA
Tel. 625-2345

Hamburgers, Cheeseburgers, Hot-dogs & Grinders
"MUFFINS - Baked-fresh on premises"
Soft-Serve Ice Cream, Yogurt & Fruitage

HEATH PUBLIC PRESCHOOL NEWS

by Pam Porter

While some of us grown-ups struggle against the cold and snow, for most of the children at the Preschool, January and February offer a golden invitation to the most wonderful kind of play. We build snowmen and make snow forts, we go sliding (when you are three even the gentlest slope has its thrills), we walk the snowmobile trails when we can, and enjoy the many birds that come to our feeder. If the winter is getting you down, spend some time watching, or better still, playing with a preschooler outdoors. She or he may put you back in touch with winter's beauty and pleasure.

Good neighbors are one of the blessings and necessities of life in the hills, and Heath Preschool is blessed indeed. When Heidi Lehr of the Rowe Country Store heard of our budget woes, she decided to do something to help. Beginning last fall, she ran a raffle at her store to benefit the school. She offered three prizes: fifteen free movie rentals, two home-baked pies, and a \$10 gift certificate from the store. Ticket sales suffered a set-back when burglars broke into the store and stole, among other things, all the money and the receipts from the raffle. Heidi was undeterred. She managed to track down all who had bought tickets and extended the drawing date to make up for lost time and money. In January three winners were drawn: Kathy Sprague, Leslie McLatchy, and Bruce Lehr, all of Rowe, and a check for \$68.00 was delivered to the Preschool. We are grateful to all who bought and re-bought Raffle tickets, and especially to Heidi for her determined support of the school.

Fund raising efforts continue. In December about \$550 was raised from the sale of bird houses, used toys, and Avon calendars and bubble bath. As in past years, the preschool plans to sell the refreshments at the Ski Race, and on Friday, March 1 the Mohawk Dance Band will be performing a concert in Heath to benefit the Preschool (see below).

As the Herald goes to press we have received no word yet about next year's grant. When Governor Weld's budget comes out we will know better where we stand. Meanwhile parents and staff are exploring alternative funding sources and grant possibilities. If you have any good ideas, please pass them along. It is our intention to do all that we can to keep the Preschool public and available to all young children in Heath and Rowe.

With new higher volume discounts from our distributors, we lowered many of our prices in 1990. We anticipate even greater savings in 1991. There's no need to leave the area anymore for better prices! They've come to you locally.

Come and Compare!
Open daily at 7:00 a.m.

at the Bridge of Flowers!



**MCCUSKER'S
MARKET & DELI**
SHELburne FALLS, MASSACHUSETTS

Quality Foods

OPEN DAILY

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

by Tremus Thompson

Tucked away in the Berkshires, an ambitious group of students is working feverishly to accomplish a goal. Putting on a musical is hard work in itself, much less for a bunch of elementary school students, but that is exactly what is happening. Financed with After School Activity monies, a small group of about thirty students has formed the Rowe School Drama Club. Students from grades two through six attend meetings every Monday. With a unanimous vote from the first meeting, they have decided to do a musical and, of course, they decided on a difficult one. All eyes light up as they choose *The Wizard of Oz*, everyone whispering and giggling with dreamy visions. I smiled and said, "No problem".

"I wanna be Dorothy!" shouted a dozen girls. Little did I know what I was letting myself in for and believe me I'm learning very quickly! So with a call to Mildred Decker of Heath, I ask "Can you sew me some costumes?" "Of course" she replies.

Separate calls from Kathryn Lively, Sharon Brower and Donna Tanner, all from Heath, with offers of help are gratefully accepted. Kristy Coburn and Mary Almeida, students at Mohawk, very kindly donate their time and creativity and after 36 calls and a little detective work, I find Linda Neil of Shelburne Falls, our wonderfully talented pianist. All these people I hold in high regard for their devotion and talent. Meanwhile, I'm running around like a nervous Nellie, they stand there with strength and keep me sane. With over thirty students, it's hard to keep sane!

Well, back to the matter at hand. If you would like to be entertained by a bunch of very talented students, we invite you to come to the Rowe School, March 28, 6:30 PM for our performance of *The Wizard of Oz*. Sets have been made and painted, costumes are being sewn and it seems about a hundred other different little technicalities are being taken care of. We are looking for an hourglass, so if some nice person has one that we could borrow from March 25 to March 29, please call me at 337-5775. Last, but not least, I would like to mention all the very talented

stars committed to "getting it right": Jenny Lively, Donna Tanner, Kelly Thompson, Colin Gruen, Katie Quinn, Adam Howe, Kerri McLatchy, John Paul Almeida, Nicole Brown, Megan MacDougall, Anna Soviecke, Rachel Brower, Kathleen Tuterice, Renee Boudreau, Anna D. Scanlon, Christine O'Dea, Bonnie Thompson, Michael Spritzer, Paul Thompson, Adam Bradbury, Amy Croteau, Christina Foster, Katelyn Litchfield, Mary Ann Foster, Becky Thompson, our stage crew: Carrie Croteau, Amy Decker, Kristy Coburn, Mary Almeida and our announcer Cammie Wickline. We look forward to seeing you there!

REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT

by David Gibbons

The Joint Rowe/Heath Regionalization Study Board took a major step at its meeting on January 10. In a four to two vote it approved the basic idea of regionalization. The exact motion, proposed by Dick Gary, read that "This Regional School District Planning Board recommend to the several Boards of Selectmen and the voters of the towns of Rowe and Heath that said Regional School District have jurisdiction over grades Kindergarten to Six, inclusive, and that said Regional School District become operational not earlier than July 1, 1991 but not later than September 1, 1991.

All three Heath members, Budge Litchfield, Sue Lively and Dick Gary, as well as Rowe member Henry Dandeneau voted for the motion; Marion Franchesetti and Jack Williams of Rowe were opposed.

Mr. Williams explained his opposition at length to the 38 people at the meeting. Among other reasons, he cited the fact that the agreement is not yet in its final, complete form and also suggested an opinion poll of townspeople.

In proposing the motion Mr. Gary pointed out that each of the members of the Board already knew their fundamental position and that it was time they put it on record.

Usually the Board's report would then be sent to the towns' Selectmen. However, since state law requires a town vote on the issue within 30 days of that action, the Board decided to delay sending on its report until after April 15. This was largely in response to a petition from Rowe that had been signed by 60% of Rowe's registered voters requesting that the approval vote be timed for the Annual Rowe Town Meeting.

David Howland speculated that Heath may call a special town meeting to consider the issue.

The Study Board will continue to meet to finalize the details of the agreement so that it will be complete by the time of the towns' votes.



ROWE SCHOOL DRAMA CLUB
(Photo by Sharon Brower)



**The Baker
Pharmacy**

Tel: 625-6324

Week Days 8:30AM - 8PM

Saturdays 8:30AM - 5PM

Sundays & Holidays 9AM - 12 Noon

52 Bridge Street

Shelburne Falls

MOHAWK TRAIL SCHOOL SPORTS NEWS

by Val Belval

This year Heath's athletes and their sports for the Middle School boys are: Basketball with Adam Almeida, Jim Cerone, Jeremy Gilbert and their coach, Bill Canaday. For the girls ski team, we have Cathy Toupenca and her coach Dave Chula. The Junior Varsity Boys' Basketball is John Tuturice with coach Bob Hinds. The Junior Varsity Basketball team is 10-1. The only team to defeat them was Frontier. The next game will be February 19. The Varsity Boys are also 10-1. Their only defeat was against Athol. There will be another chance for the Varsity team to defeat Athol on February 15 at Athol, 6 PM.

Good luck to all the athletes. We're behind you 100%.

I would also like to say to all those involved in Desert Storm, God bless. You are in our every prayer.

BUCKLE-UP FOR SAFETY

by Dianne Rode, Town Nurse

The U. S. Department of Transportation National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that the average American during his or her lifetime has a one-in-three chance of suffering a disabling injury as the result of an automobile collision. Although automobiles are much safer today, most accidents occur due to human error, not mechanical failure.

A car's momentum decreases in a crash, thus forcing the body forward. The car stops, but without a seatbelt the person continues to move forward, hitting the steering wheel, window, dashboard or even, possibly, is thrown from the vehicle. Using your safety belt can reduce the risks of serious injury or death by more than half.

Very young children and infants should be protected in Federally approved child safety seats, and older children should be placed in rear seat lap belts.

By wearing safety belts whenever you ride with children, you set a good example and help them develop a habit that may well save their lives.

Howard Crowningshield

Building & Remodeling

Tel: Heath 337-4406
P.O. Charlemont, Ma. 01339

BED & BREAKFAST

Y'ALL COME

Forest Way Farm

Route 8A

Heath, Massachusetts

413-337-8321

MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL SCHOOL NEWS

by Chrissy Gilbert

The Hawlemont PTO is sponsoring an Educational Fund Raiser along with Berkshire East to benefit the Mary Lyon Fund. The fund raiser is a \$5 raffle ticket with \$500 going to the winner. With the raffle ticket you may receive a discount card at the Berkshire East ticket office for the ski season. The discount prices are lifts: \$6 for adults and \$4 for students and rentals: \$4 for adults and \$3 for students. The discount prices are good for night skiing Thursday and Saturday 5-10 PM and 50% off weekday rates. This is only good for non-holiday weeks.

Mohawk High School has put out a list of local former graduating students that are now participating in Operation Desert Storm in the Saudi Arabian territory. The school has addresses for the following people if anyone is interested in writing to them: David Bennett, Brian Narkewicz, Joshua Lynde, David Ouimette, Sean Raincourt, William Skiffington III, and Joel Burnap are those we know participating in Operation Desert Storm. Please contact Mohawk at 625-9811 or Christine Gilbert at 337-4390 for these addresses.

Mohawk's Music Department has a number of activities planned for the month of February. On February 2, The Shea Theatre presented Mohawk Dance Band and Select Chorus for a night of jazz, swing, show choir, gospel and Broadway melodies. Cast members of the play *Fiddler on the Roof* and members of the Music Department went to New York City on February 6 to see the Broadway presentation of *Fiddler on the Roof*.

On February 9 Mohawk Concert Band presented *The Stan Smithers Lifetime Achievement Concert* in the Mohawk Auditorium. Before the concert there was a roast beef dinner at 6 PM. The concert featured the Mohawk District Elementary Band, the Mohawk Middle School Band, the Mohawk High School Band and the Shelburne Falls Military Band.

Shepherd Excavation



Rte. 8A, Heath, MA

(413) 337-4215

Coming Soon to Colrain

Jeanette's

R.R. #1 Box 215A

Main Rd.

Colrain, Mass. 01340

(in former Streeter's Texaco)

Specializing in Take-Out Food
Mini Convenience
Video

Jeannette Miner (Owner)

ALMEIDA'S WELL

by Todd Sumner

When Joseph and Judy Almeida drilled their well on a Ben Road lot in 1987, the water was fine. They moved into their new house in the spring of 1988 and were glad to be settled in Heath. Mrs. Almeida said in a telephone interview that she noticed "a salty taste" to the water during the summer of 1988, but did not give it too much thought. When the water continued to taste bad, they had it tested. Test results showed an abnormally high sodium content, a condition usually associated with salt contamination. Suspecting that the sand/salt storage area at the town garage might be the source of contamination, Mrs. Almeida contacted the selectmen. "I wanted to work with the town to get this problem cleared up," she said, "I got absolutely nowhere." Concerned about potential health risks, the Almeidas stopped using the well water for cooking and drinking in January of 1989. They draw twelve gallons of potable water each day from a neighbor. Frustrated with the situation, Mrs. Almeida contacted the Better Business Bureau, who put her in contact with a mediator. Mrs. Almeida said that she and her mediator tried several times to meet with the selectmen, but that a mutually convenient time was never arranged.

When contacted by the Almeidas, the selectmen arranged for the well to be tested. According to selectman Art Schwenger, the results showed sodium levels that were "elevated but not dangerous." Selectman Walter Gleason, who also chairs the Board of Health, consulted pollution experts at the UMass Extension Service who told him "there was nothing we could do except put the salt under cover." Mr. Gleason said that all salt and treated sand is now stored under cover. Both selectmen interviewed feel they have acted in good faith. "We made several appointments to meet with them," Mr. Gleason said, "but they never showed up."

There are state laws forbidding the unprotected outside storage of salts or sand/salt mixtures (Mass. General Laws; Chapter 83, section 7A). In order to prevent groundwater contamination, such materials must be stored under cover, either in a building or under a tarpaulin. Selectmen's records indicate that the town was not in compliance with this statute as late as December, 1990.

Conservation Commission chair Bill Lattrell said that of all pollutants, salt is "one of the hardest to clean up—even worse than petroleum." Unlike petroleum or many other chemicals, salt will dissolve completely in water, forming a solution. "The only way to treat it is to distill the water, turn it to steam and then condense it." He also noted that it may take "many, many years for contaminants to reach bedrock aquifers." Unlike sand or gravel aquifers, bedrock aquifers, the type accessed by artesian wells, are protected by the rock itself. When a vein of water within the bedrock is accessed by drilling, a sort of vacuum is formed. Pumping water out of the vein draws water in from other veins, which may explain why the Almeida's well was clear when first drilled.

This situation is, at press time, unresolved. Mrs. Almeida said that she is contemplating litigation as a means to resolution.



FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

by Chuck Mackie

The Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee, together with the Town Treasurer, Accountant and one Assessor met to review the Fiscal 91 budget. This meeting was necessary to review expenditures made to date and decide how to reduce approximately \$40,000 from appropriations in several town accounts in order to balance our budget. This reduction has been caused by a shortfall of about \$60,000 due to the state's failure to fund the highway monies that are reimbursed to the towns on the "Cherry Sheet" annually, as well as the fact that we have not heard from the State Department of Education to see if we qualify this year for Equal Education Opportunity Grant monies of +\$50,000. The difference between the \$60,000 shortfall and the \$40,000 identified in specific accounts will be supplemented by a combination of Free Cash monies and reductions in other town accounts. The work on putting together a budget for Fiscal Year 92 begins in early February and department heads will be meeting with the Selectmen and Finance Committee.

The Finance Committee has two vacancies now that the state has approved the town's authorization to expand the membership from three to five. The work is very interesting, and earnings from membership are non-taxable both at the state and federal level (unpaid position).

TRANSFER STATION REPORT

by David Gibbons

Bud Kaempfer reports that seven months into the "sticker year" there is still a sizeable list of people who have not purchased their 90-91 stickers! We have one of the cheapest user fees around, it would be a shame to have to change that because of a few non-contributors. The rule is a simple one: if your garbage ends up in the Transfer Station, however and whenever it gets there, you must purchase a sticker.

In other news, for any people with return-for-deposit bottles and cans which never seem to get back to the store, there is a receptacle at the Transfer Station for them. The proceeds from those cans and bottles will go towards the Rowe sixth grade trip to Washington, DC.



BEFORE AND AFTER

Feel Young Again

The difference from before and after chiropractic treatment is like night and day. If you are suffering from back pain don't delay. Call us today.

Chiropractors... We Can Help

**SHELBURNE FALLS
CHIROPRACTIC OFFICE**
Dr. Michael A. Boyle
10 Kratt Avenue • Shelburne Falls, MA • 625-6359



ASSESSORS' REPORT

by Don Dekker

Questions have come to the Board of Assessors about how we determine valid building lots in the town. We hope the following explanation will clarify our policy.

Any parcel of land that meets the Heath Zoning Board's requirements as a building lot, either through the current regulations or because it is grandfathered, the Board considers a building lot. The current value is \$15,000 up to two acres and \$500 for each additional acre. The Board will reduce this valuation if the owner can show or demonstrate either a failed perk test or absolutely inaccessible terrain. It is the owner's responsibility to make his case before the Board. The same rule applies in Mohawk Estates, except the size is in lots instead of acres.

If a property owner buys adjoining land, it will remain a building lot and be assessed accordingly, if it originally met the Zoning requirements. This rule remains in force even if the owner added the adjoining land to protect his own property and never intends building on it. The added piece could be sold at any time as a building site, and therefore must be looked upon as separate. Only if the several pieces are joined as one legally, in an official deed, will this be altered. Then the property will be assessed as only one building site. In the future, the owner would need to get Planning Board approval if he wished to create another building site, plus another deed, lawyers, etc.

The Board has the authority to assess every possible building site in town. That would mean large land owners of property along town roads could be assessed for multiple building sites. That policy would be more than likely ruinously expensive for many, probably force many land sales and increase land speculation in Heath, as well as cause many problems determining exactly how many building sites actually exist on a piece of land. The Board of Assessors have decided not to "open that can of worms". The current policy seems relatively fair, and more likely to retain the rural nature of the town.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

by Karen MacDougall

It is time for the Town Street Census. You will be receiving census sheets by mail. Please check to correct all information and return the sheets to my office. This information is very important. It helps to project future school enrollment, determine Jury lists, as well as provide numbers for several state agencies.

Last year I enclosed stamped envelopes to make it easier for you to return the census sheet. However, with the budget in its present state, I have decided that I will not provide these envelopes in order to save some money for the town.

The 1991 Hunting and Fishing licenses are available for sale. The state did not raise fees. However, you are now required to purchase a Wildlife Preservation stamp for \$5.

I am in the office Mondays 9 - 11:30 AM and Wednesdays 8 - 11:30 AM. If these hours are not convenient please call me at home 4 - 7 PM most evenings (337-4268).

HEATH CONSERVATION COMMISSION

by Bill Lattrell

During the last two months of the year, only one application was reviewed. In this case a negative determination was given for a small addition within the buffer zone of a stream on Avery Brook Road. We expect applications to be slow in coming during the winter months, and especially with the economic downturn that has occurred in the area as it affects new construction dramatically. This is good news for the Conservation Commission. We will have time to reorganize ourselves and our records so that we can better serve the Town of Heath and the resource areas we are charged to protect.

This may be a good time to remind people that the Town of Heath has a town wetland by-law. This by-law, passed at town meeting nearly two years ago, has far reaching implications that more thoroughly protect wetland resource areas in our town, and clear up ambiguities in the state laws, as they currently exist.

The state legislature has recently restored a conservation commission's right to inspect private property when wetland violations are suspected. This practice, taken away by a court case heard by the State Supreme Court, was restored by specific legislation that gives conservation commissions this authority. The Town of Heath Conservation Commission has had this right all along under the jurisdiction of the Town By-Law. However, it is the Conservation Commission's policy to contact land owners, when they are available, before inspecting any wetland areas. We feel strongly that cooperation is our best ally, and since most wetland violations are unintentional, the best course to correction is through cooperative efforts. We use this power only with uncooperative parties.

Gordon E. Taylor d/b/a



BLACKMER INSURANCE AGENCY

R. E. Blackmer

On the Mohawk Trail

Joseph J. Judd

Shelburne, MA

Marion J. Taylor

Tel: 625-6527

RICHARD C. BISHOP

Attorney at Law

Admitted in Massachusetts & Florida

**SPECIALIZING IN WEST COUNTY
REAL ESTATE**

- Real Estate Closings
- Zoning and Land Use
- Taxation of Real Estate Transactions

LEVY - WINER, P.C.

625-2574

102 Bridge Street, Shelburne Falls, MA

POLICE REPORT

by Guy Silvester, Chief

Since my last report the Police Department has been busy. Several accidents have been reported with some being the result of winter road conditions and at least one a direct result of speeding. The town has also experienced more housebreaks. Recently two suspects were located, and court action is now pending.

The Heath Police Department has also been involved in two other investigations which have been subsequently turned over to the District Attorney's office. One of these investigations involved an alleged assault and battery and the other concerned a potential civil rights violation.

Heath is changing, and some people feel these changes are for the better and others are not so sure. Yet we are all residents of the same community, and we all need to help one another.

I would like to thank the many people that have been supportive of the Police Department. I know that some of you have made sacrifices and taken risks to do the right thing. This will be my last police report since I am resigning as Chief of Police effective March 1, 1991. I will do everything I can to assist with the transition. During this interim period the Massachusetts State Police will also be available. In summary I would like to thank all of you for allowing me to have the opportunity to serve in our community.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

by Karen MacDougall

Thank you to all who paid their estimated tax bills. For those who are late, 14% interest will be charged from date of mailing on any unpaid balance due.

I have engaged the services of a deputy collector to aid in the collection of excise taxes that have been unpaid. I also will be starting Tax taking procedures for Real Estate taxes soon. If you have unpaid taxes of any type, you can expect to be hearing from me or Jeffery & Jeffery (deputy collector's office).

I am in the office Mondays 9 - 11:30 AM and Wednesdays 8 - 11:30 AM. If these hours are not convenient, please call me at home, 4 - 7 PM most evenings (337-4268).



Downtown Shelburne Falls
Overlooking the Falls
and the "Glacial" Potholes
625-6337

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Nov. 20 1990 to Jan. 20, 1991

by Earl Gleason, Chief

The Department responded to five calls during the period. Five fire fighters and 4 EMTs responded to an auto accident at the intersection of Colrain Stage Road and Bray Road on November 23. The next incident occurred on December 10. Two engines and eight men responded to a wind-blown brush fire caused by wood ashes. On December 15, Engine 1 and eight firefighters extinguished a chimney fire on Branch Hill Road. Nine firefighters spent Christmas Eve assisting the Police Department with traffic control on Avery Brook Road after a tree had blown down and left downed electric wires on the road. A few minutes into this incident a call was received to aid Charlemont Ambulance for a girl with an injured leg. Four fire fighters and 2 EMTs responded to this call.

A full departmental drill was held at the station on November 15, and no drill was held in December. Another full departmental drill was held on January 17. Junior firefighters met on December 13 and January 10. In place of the December Association meeting, a Christmas party was held at the station and an Association meeting was held on January 3. Firefighters Mike Smith, Ken Thane and the Chief attended a National Fire Academy Class held at UMass. This fourteen hour course was entitled "Fire Arson Detection" and was held on January 19 and 20.

The Chief reports that the holiday season did not slow down the meetings. Nine meetings were attended. Also six various inspections were conducted.

The Department had an extremely busy year: 50 emergency calls as compared to 40 for the previous year. It was also a year of satisfaction as interest in the department seemed to rebound with several new members. As Chief, I am very proud of the present department.



RETHREADS
FINE NEW & USED CLOTHES
**LARGE SELECTION OF MEN'S
WOMEN'S and CHILDREN'S CLOTHING**
SEASONAL CONSIGNMENTS ACCEPTED
Tues-Sat 9-5 Thurs 9-8
14 Bridge St., Shelburne Falls, MA 625-9759



D. Wright Loomis
PIANO TUNER

(413) 625-2796
or 772-6357

SELECTMEN'S REPORT

by Art Schwenger

The following is a compendium of some of the more significant actions by the Board of Selectmen since the last report.

The Selectmen appointed a Cemetery Task Force to review the history, practices, and bylaws relating to Heath's cemeteries, including pertinent legislation. The Board met with the Task Force members and charged them to report back with recommendations by March 31, 1991, in order to guide the future management of the cemeteries. The Task Force is composed of Roger Peace, Chair, Howard Crowningshield (representing North Cemetery), Clyde Churchill (representing Center Cemetery), Richard Sumner (representing South Cemetery), Earl Gleason (representing the North Cemetery Association), Dennis Peters (Veterans Graves Officer), Paul Lively (Burial Agent) and Newland Smith (representing the Historical Society). The Selectmen appreciate the willingness of the Task Force members to take on this important function.

The plan to move the road salt into the salt shed and to do the mixing with sand under cover has been carried out. This new process appears to be working without too much additional cost or effort. The large pile that was outside next to the shed has been removed and spread hither and yon over the roads of Heath.

The new International truck has been delivered and is in service. So also is the new used Ford truck. We now have three trucks in working order plus the pick-up.

Carl Herzig of Colrain has been appointed Dog Officer. He will perform this function in addition to his police duties.

The installation of approved road signs will begin in the spring. The Selectmen spent considerable time reviewing and, in some cases, modifying the plans for stop and yield signs at many key intersections in town. A list of the signs and their locations can be found on the bulletin board opposite the postal boxes in Sawyer Hall.

Budge Litchfield and Ed Calver were singled out for awards by the Franklin County Planning Board for their work for the town, Budge for his leadership on the Rowe/Heath Regional District Planning Board, and Ed for his meticulous effort in compiling a history of the Town's roads which may be used in some cases for the purpose of considering discontinuance. The Selectmen believe that Budge and Ed are well deserving of this special recognition.

The FY92 budget process is set to begin in February. Prior to this the Selectmen will be meeting to develop contingency options should the EEO and Chapter 90 highway monies not be received for the present FY91 budget year. To date there is still no word about these promised monies despite diligent efforts of town officials.

Joe Boudreau of the Department of Revenue attended a recent Board meeting to offer the Selectmen, Finance Committee and others a chance to better understand Heath's free cash status. Our free cash was recertified at \$61,825 thanks to some special attention by Town Accountant June Day.

The Selectmen plan to hold a round-table discussion for Heath officers and boards in the near future. It is hoped that the sharing of information about the activities and status of each town department will help as it has in the past to increase the

efficiency of town government.

The Sawyer Hall heating system is now operating as it should. It can be controlled finally. Duane Herzig reversed a thermostat on the 2nd floor. Now town officials will have to go South to find 90 degree temperatures again.

Job descriptions and duties of the Town Clerk and the Administrative Secretary have been clarified. The continuity and effectiveness of our administrative procedures appear to be improving.

Chuck Mackie and Art Schwenger are currently reviewing our solid waste disposal contracts which are soon up for renewal. Dave Howland and June Day are working up a proposal for amending our Community Post Office contract to increase the amount Heath is paid for the service. The Selectmen were represented at the recent meetings of the Rowe/Heath Regional School District Planning Board in Rowe. Heath representatives, Budge Litchfield, Dick Gary, and Sue Lively are to be commended for this long, tedious and very delicate task.

On January 15, the Selectmen voted to send a message to the President to "express support for action taken by President Bush and the Congress in dealing with the Gulf situation, but wish to urge the President to exhaust all possibilities for a peaceful solution before using military force."

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY/ TOWN ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT

by June Day

Among my new responsibilities is assembling the Annual Town Report for Heath, 1990. To that end I have sent out requests to all the boards, committees, schools, and town officials for their reports. The deadline for submission to me is February 28, 1991, so that it can be sent to the printer for completion in time for distribution to town residents well before town meeting.

Another activity I will be involved in this year is the budget process. Again, those in town government have received memos detailing FY1990 spent, FY1991 budgeted and spent to date, and a request for recipients to plan departmental financial needs for FY1992.

NORTH RIVER WINERY



Jacksonville, Vt.

Come visit the winery, Take our short tour,
And then taste our locally made wines. (No charge)

May-Dec.
Open Seven Days
10 - 5

January-April
Open Fri., Sat. & Sun.
11 - 5

802-368-7557

by Todd Sumner

PERCS, PERMITS AND TRANSFERS

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FEBRUARY EVENTS

- 16 Start of school vacation
Berkshire East Family
Ski Night
- 17 Annual Heath Ski Race

MARCH EVENTS

- 1 Concert-Cabin Fever Cure
to benefit Preschool
8 PM, Community Hall
- 15 Application deadline for
Arts Lottery Council
- 28 'Wizard of Oz' 6:30 PM
Rowe Elementary School

APRIL EVENTS

- 8 'GCC Salutes Heath'
Reception and Program
7 PM at GCC
- 10, 17 CPR class, 6-10 PM
Community Hall

THE MOHAWK DANCE BAND PROUDLY PRESENTS

CABIN FEVER CURE

A DANCE CONCERT OF LIVELY JAZZ
TO BEAT THE MID-WINTER BLUES
AND BENEFIT THE HEATH PRESCHOOL

Friday, March 1

Heath Community Hall

8PM

For ticket information call 337-5525 or 339-6677



MAIL TO:

Bulk Rate
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 11
Charlemont, MA 01339

HEATH HERALD Box 54, Heath, MA 01346

MILESTONES

by Edith Royer

Jeffery Allen, a son, was born January 13 to Sandra and Mark Hatch of Greenfield. He is the grandson of Shirley and Matthew Baronas of Greenfield and Claire and Richard Hatch of Heath.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Tripp announce the engagement of their daughter, Roberta M., to William J. Baker, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Baker of Shelburne. Roberta graduated from MTRS and American International College in Springfield and is a special education teacher at the Rowe Elementary School. William graduated from MTRS and St. Michaels College in Winooski, VT and is employed by Barrett & Baker in Greenfield. A June 29 wedding is planned.

Mark William Fogarty, 26 of Anchorage, Alaska, formerly of Heath died January 3 in a skiing accident while descending Mt. Rainier in Washington. He leaves his parents Anne and Richards Steinbock of Heath and John and Charlotte Fogarty of Ware, two sisters, Heather Fogarty and Nicole Fossas, three brothers Michael Steadman, Joshua Fogarty and Benjamin Steinbock. He also leaves a fiancée, Benget Hansen of Kenai, Alaska.

Eleanor Benton Shippee, 83, of Shelburne Falls and formerly a summer resident of Heath, died December 8 at home following a lengthy illness. She leaves a sister Dorothy Adamski of York, ME, nieces Susan Silvester of Heath, Sarah Jane Hite of Lake Ariel, PA, Jane Kennedy of Mountain Lakes, NJ, Judy Sturgeon of Kensington, CT and nephews Alan Benton of Long Island, NY and Richard Shippee of Shelburne Falls.

CPR CLASS OFFERED

by Susan Wright

An American Red Cross Community CPR Class will be offered on Wednesdays, April 10 and 17, 1991 from 6 to 10 PM at the Community Hall in Heath. Sheila Litchfield, R.N. of Heath will be the instructor. Participants will learn adult, child and infant CPR and chokesaving. Class size will be limited and pre-registration is required for all participants by calling Mohawk Valley Health Education Services at 625-2503. The course fee is \$10 to cover the costs of course materials.

PETERS GENERAL STORE

No. Nine Road, Heath, MA • 337-5501



LOCAL MAPLE SYRUP FOR SALE



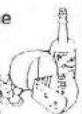
Video Tapes and VCR Rentals
Movie Rentals - 2 for the price of 1 on Tuesdays & Wednesdays

- | | | | |
|-----------|------------|----------------|---------------|
| • Wine | • Chips | • Ice Cream | • Cough Syrup |
| • Liquor | • Pretzels | • Frozen Foods | • Aspirin |
| • Soda | • Popcorn | • Breads | • Bandages |
| • Cheeses | • Crackers | • Meats | • and more |

Deli Case • General Groceries
Snacks • Sunday Papers



Video Tapes and VCR Rentals • Gasoline • Diesel • Kerosene
Worms and Crawlers • Blue Seal Dog Food
Nuts, Bolts, Nails, General Hardware • Brookville Gloves



HOURS: Monday - Saturday 8 am - 7 pm
Sunday - 10 am - 7 pm

77 Years of Service to the Hilltowns - 1913-1990