



VOLUME 13 NUMBER 5

DECEMBER 1991/JANUARY 1992

HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER 50¢



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

ARTS LOTTERY COUNCIL

by Jayne Dane

Due to funding cuts the Arts Lottery Council is now on a once yearly cycle. The town will be allocated \$1,000 per year. This money includes the previously separate PASS (Performing Arts Student Series) Fund. The application deadline in Jan. 10.

Last spring the Council approved \$250 for the concert "Swing into Spring" with "Sweet, Hot, and Sassy" performed at Rowe School as a benefit for the sixth grade as well as \$100 for the Mohawk After-School Arts Program. Two PASS applications from Rowe School were approved for a total of \$800. Students will take trips to see the Nutcracker Ballet as well as a performance by the Enchanted Circle Theatre of Creation Myths from Africa.

Congratulations to Fred Burrington for his successful watercolor show featuring various scenes of Heath. The show was on view in the church lobby during fair weekend and was made possible through an Arts Lottery Grant.

For lottery information and application contact Jayne Dane, 337-5736.

OUR CHRISTMAS COVER

WINTER SCENE IN HEATH

(Photo by Michael Peters)



HEATH HERALD

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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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

DECEMBER EVENTS

- 14 Winter Craft Fair
9:30 AM - 4 PM
Community Hall
- 20 School vacation begins
- 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Heath Union Church
7 PM

JANUARY EVENTS

- 6 School vacation ends
- 10 Arts Lottery Application Deadline

FEBRUARY EVENTS

- 3 - 17 Rowe School Regional Study - Southern Africa
- 9 Annual Cross Country Ski Race



ANNUAL CROSS COUNTRY SKI RACE
(Photo by West County News Staff)



HEATH PRECIPITATION

by Ralph M. Dickinson

Observer for Mass. Division of Water Resources

Precipitation in October measured 3.74 inches while in November the total precipitation was 4.16 inches with 2.5 inches of snow. Total precipitation so far this year is 40.68 inches. The first snowfall was on November 12.

PERCS, PERMITS AND TRANSFERS

PERCOLATION TESTS

Percolation testing has been suspended until April except for repairs.

BUILDING PERMITS

James Frank, Rowe Road, chimney.
Robert Barclay, Rowe Road, addition to residence.
Robert Belval, Number Nine Road, pole barn.
Dorothy Hulbert, Avery Brook Road, addition to residence.
Donald Churchill, Colrain Brook Road, garage.
David Adie, Burrington Road, deck.
Dorothy Hulbert, Avery Brook Road, demolish barn.
Karen MacDougall, Ledges Road, demolish, repair roof.
Wieslaw Lisek, Swamp Road, roof and porch on mobile home.
Total: \$167,390.

DEED TRANSFERS

Allyn W. Coombs Inc. to Harry G. Sr. and Elizabeth J. Broadbrook of Milford, CT, Underwood Hill Road, Lot 8, 2.658 acres, \$17,000.

Bruce M. Hubbard to William R. Butcher Jr. and Ruth Bergeron of Chicopee, Mohawk Estates, Lot 25, \$5,000.

Ronald W. and Marie A. Sisco to Paul and Chester B. Mott of East Hartford, CT, Mohawk Estates, Lots 11 and 12, \$7,000.

Martha T. Gurski to Henry A. and Mildred M. Hevey of Chicopee, Papoose Lake Drive, Lot 17, \$13,000.

United Savings Bank of Greenfield to Robert D. and Kara L. Ballentine of Shelburne Falls, 12 Long Hill Road, \$39,400.

Kenneth R. and Donna Bousquet to Mark F. and Sandra Bousquet of Belchertown, Cascade Drive, Lot 9, \$1.

Augusta L. Watson to Sherrill A. Safin of Groton, CT and Augusta L. Watson, Colrain Stage Road, Lots 14, 15, 16, \$1.

Jean T. Hammill of Somerville, SC to Mohawk Estates Property Owners Association, Inc., Mohawk Estates, Lots 31, 32, 33, and 34, \$1.

United Savings Bank of Greenfield to Daniel T. and Kathleen L. Whiteman, Colrain Brook Road, Lots 23, 24 and 25, \$86,000.

MOHAWK ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

by Sandy Magill

From December through February the Mohawk Athletic Association will be running a 50/50 raffle and concession table during all home night basketball games. Workers and people willing to supply baked goods are desperately needed. Anyone willing to help can contact Priscilla Chadwick at 625-6182 evenings.

The 3rd annual basketball tournament will be held in early spring. Specific details will be available at a later date as specifics are set by the committee.

The 3rd Annual Mohawk Funfest will be held in late spring. More specific information will be released at a later date.

Mohawk Athletic Association holds monthly meetings during the school year in the High School cafeteria on the first Monday of the month at 7:30 PM. All parents, athletes, and interested community members are welcome to attend.



MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL SCHOOL
(Photo by Yearbook Staff)



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WILD RAMBLINGS

by BILL LATTRELL

HEATH'S WILD FELINE, THE BOBCAT

As the daylight dwindles, and night becomes longer our landscape becomes whitened with snow. Snow brings to mind many things for the good residents of Heath; skiing, snowshoeing, sledding, and for some like myself, tracking. When it comes to tracking there is nothing that brings me greater pleasure than tracking our local wildcat, the bobcat.

The bobcat, although rarely seen is plentiful throughout our area. Due to human influences it is primarily nocturnal. The best time to catch a glimpse of one is early daylight and dusk. The bobcat is a creature of habit, so once one begins to note the routines of this feline it becomes easier to arrange a rendezvous. Snow makes these habits more easily identifiable. The tracks are four toes without nail prints. They are about two inches wide and two inches long. The track pattern is determined, representing that the cat has a mission; it knows where it is going and what it is seeking. This unusually clever cat has but one failing in its survival techniques and that is it travels the same routes at regular intervals. You can almost set your watch by it. Sometimes it will travel a particular route everyday. Sometimes this pattern is every other day. Once the routine has been established the observer is in pretty good shape for an unforgettable rendezvous.

In seeking out this animal of unusual stealth, power and speed we must first understand its survival habits. Bobcats are primarily carnivores. They feed upon rodents, eastern cottontails, snowshoe hares, birds, and even reptiles and insects in the summertime. In order to locate its tracks one must first find suitable forage habitat. The edge between open field and woodland is a good area. Rodents, particularly field mice, love fields, as do cottontails. Also grouse and upland birds frequent these areas. If a bobcat has repeated good luck in a particular area he will use the area as long as it provides a steady diet. Swamps are another good area to look for tracks. Here, perhaps the bobcats favorite forage delight lives, the snowshoe hare. Once good forage habitat is located the process of locating tracks begins. In an edge area look closely along stonewalls and hedgerows around the perimeter of the open area. The cat uses these for cover while hunting. His natural camouflage makes it very difficult to see the cat for prey and observer alike. The tracks will generally not meander. You will be able to see, if you use your imagination, the motion of tracks; stalking, stopping, and if you are lucky you will find a kill location. It will be obvious that the kill was quick and deadly, a small sign of commotion, a small amount of blood, and then tracks leading away from the area, perhaps a little deeper from the added weight. Sometimes these tracks will stop in a thick cover, perhaps some brambles where the victim is consumed. Sometimes the kill will be brought back to the den.

Bobcats are not particularly large, generally ranging from 15-20 pounds, and about 20 inches at the shoulder. This small size does not reflect the animal's power, however. Bobcats are capable, although they rarely do, of dropping deer, an animal five to seven times its size. Pound for pound the bobcat is the toughest animal in our area, with perhaps the exception of the fisher. An observer should never, ever approach one, particularly if it is

cornered. The man who can lick his weight in wildcats hasn't been born yet. The bobcat has a bobbed tail, hence its name. It also has ear tufts, moderately long pointed hair tips at the tops of its ears. It is generally gray to brown in color, although reddish brown ones are reported locally. It is naturally camouflaged with a mottling of dark spots. The fur is short and thick. It is considered to be a valuable furbearer by those who seek its pelt.

I have had a great deal of luck observing this animal in south facing ledge areas of the deep woods. Here in the early morning the cat will have a favorite sunning spot. It will lazily stretch itself along a piece of ledge rock, absorbing the sun's warmth before it retreats into a den. Over a period of four years I observed the same bobcat many times in one such location. It was fairly close to the animal's den. Sadly, the animal stopped appearing one winter, more than likely having met its demise.

Bobcats will generally breed between November and February, although they frequently breed at other times of the year as well. After a sixty day gestation period, the female will give birth to one to five young. These young bobcats mature very quickly, and in fact are weaned by the age of two months. The idea of family to a bobcat is strictly up to the individuals. Sometimes the father sticks around, and contributes to the food supply, and sometimes the mother will kick the male out before she bears the young. She then takes on the responsibility of caring for the young herself. If an observer, particularly an inexperienced one, locates a den site and suspects there may be young, then that observer should keep a safe distance away from the site. The smell of people puts terror into a bobcat, and she will more than likely try to move the young. This could prove to be dangerous to these young, as moving them puts them at great risk, especially in early stages of development.

The bobcat is famous for its caterwauling. Loud screams that can penetrate the night and frighten the most seasoned woodsperson. This caterwauling is generally related to mating behavior. It is loud, piercing, and unforgettable. About ten years ago, a friend and myself were stalking a bobcat near the edge of a swamp in a very deep wood. It was nearly night. We were on opposite sides of a swamp. Out of nowhere the screams of three cats began suddenly. One was over by my friend and two nearer to me. Although I never saw any of the individual bobcats, one was no more than 10 yards from me. It hissed, spat, and walled for nearly an hour. The other two responded similarly. At first I was terribly frightened. The hackles on my neck were raised. Eventually I realized the cats were not even aware of us, but responding to each other in a most beautiful mating ritual. It is one of the most remarkable experiences of my wild ramblings. I shall always treasure its memory.

The reader, too, can experience this magnificent animal. So early in the morning or late in the afternoon strap on those snowshoes and get out there. If you are patient and observant, then you will be rewarded by an experience that you will never forget. And years from now it will be an experience you will tell your grandchildren as you sit by the fire. Just as I will tell mine.





Green Thoughts

by

ELSA BAKALAR

by Elsa Bakalar

I suppose it really is, finally, time to come indoors and leave the garden to winter. Most of what's left in the flower borders is either standing tall and dry or lying in a blackened, sodden heap. Yet a curious thing happens to me as I am working out there, cutting down and tidying up. Standing before the ruins of this year's garden I'm seeing next summer's flowers. Sometimes I think I smell them, too. My mind has fast-forwarded to June, but my fingers and toes remain in December, and I am glad to move into the indoor warmth.

Always at this time of year, there's an ambivalence. Is it an end or a beginning? Because of the cyclical nature of farming and gardening it's possible to break in anywhere in the circle and declare that to be the beginning. You have only to look at lilacs. Next spring's buds lie in the axils of branches that still bear the rattling seedheads of last summer's flowers. And beech trees - their shiny pointed buds waiting, ready to push off the dead and brittle leaves that will hang there all winter.

Spanning two years, as it does, the December-January issue of the *Herald* seems the right place to ponder the experiences of 1991 and take a nervous guess at the prospect for 1992. One thing is certain: after three years of little or no snow what we need this winter is a thick insulating blanket of the stuff. I don't suppose there's anyone left who doesn't know that the idea of winter mulching is to keep plants' roots cold, not warm. Robert Frost knew that winter needs real winter weather. Here he is - more countryperson than poet - writing of a young orchard:

No orchard's the worse for the wintriest storm;
But one thing about it, it mustn't get warm.
"How often already you've had to be told,
Keep cold, young orchard. Good-bye and keep cold.

Dread fifty above more than fifty below."

(Admittedly more garden columnist than poet in this piece, but the counsel is sound.)

On a more mundane note, the next two months are critical for garden planning. Well, taking into account the holiday season, make that one month most likely beginning January 1. Before you open a single seed or nursery catalog, take time to consider: 1) what kind of garden you and your family want; 2) how much work you're prepared to put into it; and, especially if you're a new gardener, 3) what the land itself has to offer.

There's absolutely no virtue in working at gardening if you don't enjoy it. It's not character-forming and it won't make you a candidate for sainthood; it will merely give you a rotten disposition (modern martyrs leave a lot to be desired and are no fun to be with). So, if you're only going to be around the place on weekends, or if you'd rather be golfing or fishing, get a bumper sticker that says so and forget the gardening. Plant a few tough native plants, and have someone mow the grass. Slingsing a hammock between a couple of sturdy trees sends a clear signal; I have never seen a gardener in a hammock.

MICHAEL COE'S WASHINGTON EXHIBIT

by Susan B. Silvester

Michael Coe is one extraordinary individual. His latest accomplishment combines his love of museum work with his expertise in anthropological studies of the New World. As a guest curator for the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC, Mike was in charge of the Americas section of the spectacular, current exhibit *Circa 1492 - Art in the Age of Exploration*.

Approximately four years ago he commenced work on this monumental project. The greatest challenge, according to Mike, was actually obtaining the artifacts for loan. He and Jay Levenson, managing curator of the exhibition, travelled to countless museums negotiating for the loan of some of the world's most representative works of art. At one point Mike and Jay even visited the Vatican in their quest for artifacts. That particular request was denied; however, Mike successfully negotiated the *Codex Cospi* from the University of Bologna, a major attraction for the exhibit. The *Codex Cospi* is a primary record of the Aztec view of the universe. Mike reports that the Mexicans were especially cooperative and proud to have Aztec pieces being exhibited on the same level as Leonardo de Vinci.

The arrangement of the artifacts was something to behold. Enveloped in soft light and artistically mounted on pedestals or in display cases, each artifact was accorded the dignity it deserved. Room after room, upstairs, downstairs, around corners and through the corridors, the exhibit wove its way through the wonders of ages past. Each treasure captivated the audience with its unique charm. One of my favorite pieces was a gold lobster, handcrafted by the Diquis of southern Costa Rica. Characteristic of their work were handcrafted animals such as bats, spiders and crocodiles that were harmful to man.

While Mike labored for years on this marvelous exhibit, he was duly rewarded when the grand opening was held on Wednesday, October 9. Dinner in the East Wing was a spectacular affair for those who made the show possible. Mike and his wife Sophie had the distinct pleasure of escorting the Vice President and the ambassador of Costa Rica to see the gold artifacts on loan from their country. They shook hands with the King and Queen of Spain and hobnobbed with dignitaries from around the world. The public opening was held October 12, and the exhibit will be open only until January 12, 1992. It is well worth a trip to Washington to see one of the most magnificent collections ever compiled.



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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**

Before I wrote the wagon train piece I was planning to write about a long day that I experienced probably in the summer of 1952. I was working for my folks on our farm in Colrain and we did all kinds of work to pay the bills and this is an account of one such bill paying day. I left the farm early in the morning probably 5:30 and went with our old H Farmall tractor with the cultivators on to cultivate corn in East Charlemont for a John Taylor who farmed out of Colrain Center on North River. He had corn where the Oxbow Motel and Campground is and some up the west Oxbow Road, perhaps ten or twelve acres, maybe more. I never planned to write about that day nearly 40 years later so I don't recall all the exact figures. The tractor rode on our long wheel base D40 International truck and rode there very well.

When I got to the area to cultivate I backed up to a sharp bank to unload the unit and got on with the task of dislodging the weeds in the corn. It's unfortunate that corn is no longer cared for like this. It really seems to make the corn grow after cultivation. With 2 row cultivators the acreage went fast and I was through by late morning and put the tractor back on the truck and came home, my day only partly finished. I probably ate my dinner and unloaded the tractor and stripped the cultivators off and mounted the 7 foot mower unit and because there was no place to unload at the next job. I drove the tractor to the Meszaros place here on 8A.

The Meszaros' place was formerly the Burrington farm, later Santella, and now the John and Nancy Clark Bed and Breakfast. I don't have any idea about the land area but I was to mow the entire farm.

There were no Christmas trees in the lower field as there are now. I don't recall exactly what time I got to this second job of the day, but except for a short time out to drive over to Peters Store for gas, it took 7 hours to mow that entire area. To those of you who read this about a long day's work and are able to travel to upper 8A try to visualize how small those blue spruce trees were and how they've grown. The mower had a hand lift at the time and I could lift the bar over the trees at the back of the house. This was the first and only time that we ever cut the hay there and it's always a bit difficult to mow a strange area.

As I began to mow the north part it was getting near dark and Uncle Bert Burrington knew that I might not see an iron boundary pin, so he very kindly came out to warn me about this pin knowing it would be hard to see. It pleased me greatly that he would be interested or even care. That was a long time ago and I don't recall what time I finished but I do remember my dad and mother came up to see how I was getting along and followed me home. The last hours were completed with the use of head lights but I had no light to the rear, so dad planned to light the rear of the tractor on the way home.

As previously stated my memory of all details of that day are gone, but those cultivators were difficult to put on and remove, the removal was perhaps

the most difficult part of my day. That fine old Farmall never missed a beat all day and I tell you honestly I was one tired boy and at the time I figured that work day was seventeen hours from start to finish. There have been some days and nights at the wheel of a snow plow truck that lasted longer but this is one day I am proud to share with the *Herald* readers and it is a privilege to write it. I did nothing spectacular nor am exaggerating, a good day well done. We were charging \$3 an hour at that time and the mowing of that entire farm cost the Meszaros \$21. Mr. Taylor was very surprised and mentioned later that I had tore up very little of his corn. I told him he hadn't hired us to tear up his corn.

Except for a visit from a young lady admirer at the mowing job, I saw very few people and probably burned 25 to 30 gallons of gas. I truly wish I could still perform that kind of day.

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CONNECTIONS

by
BONNIE WODIN

GEAR FAMILY

There's some new faces over at the fairgrounds this year. The Gear family has moved in along with a variety of animal friends.

The Gear family is Robert and Jane (McHale) with their 29 month old daughter, Alice. Their animal friends are many and varied and all, I am assured, Alice's pets. First there's Ulmo, that's elm in Italian, a miniature Sicilian donkey who keeps up a pleasant braying that drives the kids into gales of laughter. Nickie and Billy are a pair of fluffy angora goats. Baa is, of course, a sheep ... a black Welsh Mountain sheep. Then there is the Chinese rooster and nine nameless ducks. Robert's Arabian horse continues to reside in Leverett where Robert rides him almost daily.

Robert says that their family "came to Heath almost by osmosis", being close friends with Carroll Stowe and a fair go-er for the past ten or twelve years. It was Carroll who introduced Robert and Jane at a plowing contest five or more years ago and Carroll who told them about the tenancy at the fairgrounds being available. And it seems to have been a dream come true. Previously Robert and Jane were farm managers in a noisy section of Deerfield. They "were ready for the peace and quiet of Heath".

For a guy that loves the quiet, Robert has given our fairgrounds a major burst of energy. Since he arrived in early summer, he has repaired and painted nearly all of the fair buildings. He also keeps the grounds mowed ("takes about three full working days between the mowing and the weed whacking, a solid 24 hours, that is"), schedules use of the grounds for special events, oversees winter storage of boats and farm equipment in fair buildings, sets up the midway and trouble shoots for the fair. And that's just the chores he remembered during a casual chat. "Nearly everyone has been real helpful and easy to deal with. I've enjoyed working with Mike Peters, he showed me the routines and where everything was at. The Fire Department was real helpful before and after the fair, especially Earl Gleason."

When Robert is not keeping the fairgrounds all "tidy and spotless", he's masterminding his business, a Greenfield based mail order business specializing in antique agricultural books. Robert sends out to all fifty states and parts of Canada. While he discourages browsers and expects his business to have no local impact, one neighbor stopped by for help in identifying an antique apple, "Gravenstein, turns out there are quite a lot of them around".

Jane and Alice are still living the lives of commuters. Jane's work with the REACH Program, a Greenfield based program, takes her to special needs children in their homes. She specializes in helping children under three who have speech and hearing difficulties. Her territory covers Franklin County so coming up to Heath is a relief after her long days.

Alice continues going to child care in Greenfield but hopes to be part of the Heath Public Preschool next year when she is old enough. She came to the

Halloween costume party and was declared the Cutest Kid in her Raggedy Ann costume. She seems to be right at home at the fairgrounds. Whether playing in the trailer with her toy farm or outside with her living pets, she confidently toddles about giving the grand tour to anyone who will listen.

Robert, Jane and Alice have been enjoying the Heath community. The fall Wagon Train was a real highlight for them with the evening cook-outs and camaraderie. They also have spotted some exciting wildlife: the usual deer, lots of turkeys, foxes ("hope we don't have too many of them this winter"), skunks ("them, too"), and snakes. Just after the last rain Robert found a dead young milk snake, "you know, the one with the red bands, like a copperhead but harmless". He went back the next day to put it in a jar and pickle it for a friend's son but it was gone. "Must have been supper for some hungry critter."

Content to be at the fairgrounds for now, Robert and Jane could imagine making Heath their permanent home. And we Heathens could look far and wide before we found more congenial neighbors.



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MARY LYON EDUCATION FUND

by Susan B. Silvester, Executive Director

Just one year ago this month a group of enthusiastic representatives of local organizations came together to express concern about the plight of public education. Fewer local and state dollars had plunged our school district into the depths of financial despair. The discussions spanning a period of several months were unparalleled, however, in their quest for a solution to the problem of shrinking resources.

From November to February a series of highly motivated meetings transformed the problem into a possible solution. The Mary Lyon Education Fund was developed as a result of much planning, research and soul-searching. Our goal was to support excellence in local public education.

One year later we are seeing the fruits of our labors. A Gift Catalog for the six local schools has brought in approximately \$7,200 worth of donations. A budget of \$10,000 for the first year was raised almost overnight with the support of generous donations from school-related organizations. Russell Munch from San Jose, California and Gordon Russ from Buckland both came forward with exceedingly generous donations. Nearly \$30,000 in grants has been received, and many successful programs are operational. We are indeed fortunate at this point in time to have come so far in such a short while. A spacious office in downtown Shelburne Falls courtesy of Massamont Real Estate is our home, and our friends span all fifty states in America as we communicate with other members of the Public Education Fund Network.

During this holiday season I would like to pause and thank all of those individuals and organizations who made it possible for us to accomplish so much this past year. We appreciate your support of local public education and we extend to you a special Holiday Greeting and Best Wishes for a Happy New Year.



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NEWS FROM THE ACADEMY

by Olga Peters

I've grown up around stories and have learned many lessons from them, so it should not be thought of as surprising when I now tell you a story ...

The academics at the Academy are quite demanding, so a person has to work hard to keep up to par. It's enjoyable work but demanding and things like not handing in your assignments on time for whatever reason (ie: the assignment decides to fall out of its notebook) have their penalties.

Now it just so happened that such a thing as this happened to a friend of mine. You see this friend had a big paper about Hamlet due on Friday at 8:30 AM. This friend was quite aware of this and so had spent a good amount of time on this paper. She was very proud of herself too because she had been able to get all the corrections that needed to be done to it ahead of time so come Thursday night the only thing that needed to be done was the typing. Very carefully she placed the paper inside her notebook so it could be taken home, and to make sure that it could be distinguished from the rest of her assignments she clipped it with a great big blue paper clip. The only problem was that this paper clip made the paper so heavy that it caused the paper to fall out of the notebook when my friend picked it up to go home. When she found this out she frantically called her English teacher to explain.

The moral of this story is not to lose papers or you might end up writing next month's *Heath Herald* article.

Some may remember the Fall Craft Fair and Free Car Wash the Academy held Columbus Day weekend. It was fun, wasn't it? On December 7, the Academy held a Christmas Craft Fair. There were crafts, raffles and most importantly, food.

A "thank you" goes out to Mrs. Dane for all the time and effort she put into preparing the students who tried out for District Chorus. Jessie Bennett of Ashfield was accepted as a soprano and Olga Peters of Whitingham was accepted as an alto.

Seasons Greetings.



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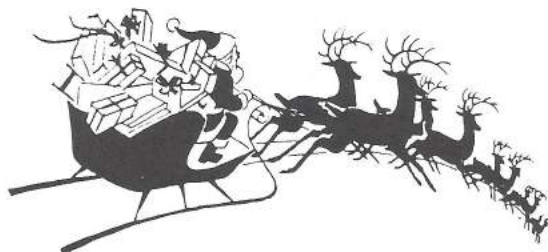
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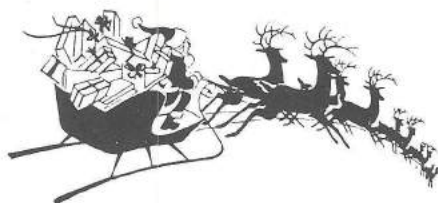


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CHURCH NEWS

by Rev. Roger Peace

At the moment, I am still recovering from the All-Nighter that we had with the Heath Youth Group. This was a fun-filled night which began at 5 PM and lasted until 6 AM the following morning. A great deal of thanks goes to Kirk and Sandy Pettengill for all their help. I am sure this night will be remembered by the entire group for a long time. We now have thirteen puppets and you are going to be meeting them soon. The youth are planning on doing a skit after the 'Gather Round Singers on the night of the Creche. They will also be doing a longer puppet skit during Sunday worship in December. No matter what age you are - you will certainly enjoy the puppets. By the way, the adults were very proud of the behavior of the youth during the All-Nighter. Keep up the good work!

During the month of December the Good Neighbors box will be at the church, and we will gladly accept any non-perishables you would like to donate. This will be added to the money that is given at the Thanksgiving Eve Service and then handed over to the Good Neighbors for distribution at Christmas.

It is almost too hard to believe, but yes, it was time again for our living Creche on the town common. The evening began with the 'Gather Round Singers, followed by the Heath Youth puppet skit. After leaving the church, the townspeople watched the characters and animals, heard the Scriptures and sang beautiful carols. Afterward, everyone moved over to the Community Hall for warmth, food and companionship.

The Heath Choir is working on a Christmas Musical that they will sing during one of the Sunday Morning Services, probably December 22. The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held December 24 at 7 PM. Come and join us as we sing our favorite carols, hear some special music and light the Christ candle from the Advent Wreath. It is a most magnificent picture to see the church lit up with everyone's candle.

May you all know the love of Christ this Christmas season, and then share it with others. Remember, you are all invited to join us each week as we worship together.



ADAGIO

by BETSEY SILVESTER

VIOLENT FEMMES

On November 1 I had the privilege of attending a Violent Femmes concert at the Paramount Theater in downtown Springfield. The Femmes, a three member band whose music is heavily influenced by punk and rock, rely mainly on acoustic instruments. Brian Ritchie, the Femme's bass guitarist, is also proficient with the glockenspiel, ukelele, jaw harp, and the didgeridoo, which he played during the song "Confessions" at the concert. Percussionist Victor DeLorenzo and singer, guitarist Gordon Gano are also quite talented musicians. The Violent Femmes kept the crowd well entertained and provided an incredibly memorable show. They played for over two hours and the end of the performance was high-lighted by two encores. The Femme's set included a variety of songs from all their albums, including favorites such as "Add it up", "Promise", the ever popular "Blister in the Sun" and "Kiss off", and "American Music" from their latest release Why Do Birds Sing?

At 8 PM the Paramount Theater, with it's plush red velvet seats and ornate decorative features, soon became filled with leather-clad Femmes fans and the congestive smell of cigarette smoke. As the show started, and the lights dimmed, all 500 concert-goers rushed the stage, packing themselves into the first three rows. For one night the glamorous Paramount Theater was transformed into a giant mosh pit as a true demonstration of love and enthusiasm for the Violent Femmes.

Editor's Note: This is a new column which will feature various aspects of music. Betsey is a sophomore at Deerfield Academy where she is a member of the concert band.

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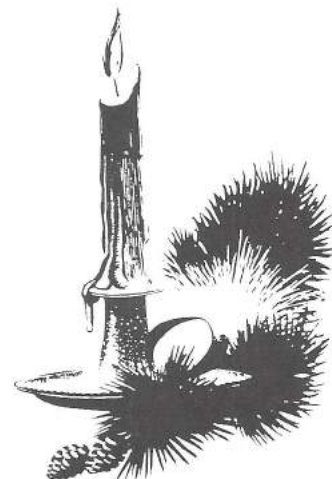
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by MICHAEL D. COE

WHO "DISCOVERED" AMERICA?

The upcoming celebration of the 500th anniversary of Columbus' first voyage to the New World has already turned into a mighty political football, with attackers and defenders of the Genoese navigator battling for the high ground. While on the one side you have the conservative traditionalists to whom Columbus was the heroic remaker of the hemisphere, on the other you have a broad liberal coalition of Native Americans, African Americans, and historians for whom the "discovery" was the cause of the greatest human catastrophe of all time. There seems to be no middle ground at all, which is too bad because that is probably where the truth lies.

That Columbus actually made his voyage in 1492 is not in dispute, but there is little agreement about his exact landfall. A Native American might with reason say "Who cares?": American Indians find the whole notion of "discovery" ludicrous, since they have been in the "New" World since their ancestors first crossed over from Asia, perhaps as much as 20 thousand years ago (even this figure is in dispute, some scholars placing the first peopling only 12 thousand years ago).

If we are talking about the European discovery, then Columbus and his crew were johnny-come-latelies -- no matter what the Spaniards and assorted worshippers of the Admiral of the Ocean Sea claim, the Vikings got to these shores one thousand years ago, a fact that is now beyond dispute among archaeologists and anthropologists. There is a bona fide Viking settlement in the western hemisphere, its name is L'Anse-aux-Meadows, and we have actually seen it.

L'Anse-aux-Meadows is in Newfoundland, at the very northern tip of the Northern Peninsula that juts up north from the rest of the island towards the mainland coast of Labrador. It was discovered by the Norwegian scholar and explorer Helge Ingstad after years of search, guided by his knowledge of the Viking sagas and Viking seamanship. Six seasons of archaeological excavations by Larsen and his wife Anne Stinne proved to the world that at some time around 1000 AD, a small group of Norsemen (and Norsewomen!) had lived here for several years.

By last summer, after several years of working on the "CIRCA 1492" exhibit for the National Gallery of Art in Washington, I was frankly getting sick of hearing and talking about Columbus, and suggested to Sophie a week's visit to L'Anse-aux-Meadows, a trip that we'd been contemplating for a long time but never got around to making. We left Heath in the first week of August, driving to Montreal, and then flying to Deer Lake in Newfoundland, where we picked up a rented car. The drive north takes one through the magnificent scenery of Grand Morne Provincial Park, the attractions of which include a strange, reddish mountain desolate of vegetation and formed from a piece of the earth's mantle.

The Northern Peninsula is northern, indeed, with much treeless tundra and scrubby coniferous forests, and the kind of clear light that is peculiar to the Canadian Arctic (even though we were well south of the Arctic itself). The "Newfies", as the rest of Canada calls them, are a people apart, preserving the

quaint, largely incomprehensible southwest-England dialect that they brought with them from the old country in the 17th and 18 centuries. During the last 20 years, they have seen their economy turned into a shambles as foreign and native fleets depleted the rich cod-fishing grounds on which they almost totally depended. Sophie and I found them as warm and friendly as anybody could be, but there was often a communication problem!

If you like icebergs, this was a great summer to watch them, for they were everywhere off the coasts. We took a ferry across the Straits of Belle Isle to the Labrador side, and saw many, along with spouting whales and flights of puffins. This was a side trip to visit the remarkable site of Red Bay in Labrador, where Basques had established a flourishing whaling station in the late 16th century. The director of the Red Bay project, Jim Tuck of Memorial University in St. Johns, showed us the remains of the sheds where these adventurous people had tried out the whale oil; the ground was everywhere littered with fragments of red roof tiles brought over from Spain. Tuck and his colleagues have located the remains of at least three well-preserved caravelle-type ships of the Basque whalers, lying beneath the near-freezing waters.

Then, back on the ferry to Newfoundland and L'Anse-aux-Meadows. The site itself lies near the shore of a small bay and near a small brook which provided a source of fresh water for the Viking pioneers; one reaches it by a path leading down from a magnificent, modern visitor center. Clearly visible in the grass-covered turf are the foundations of about eight houses and four boat sheds, but for those needing something more concrete, there are two reconstructed Viking dwellings: primitive, turf-built structures with grass-covered roofs. Inside are bunk-like sleeping platforms and centrally placed hearths -- without chimneys, the smoke exited through holes in the roof.

That this settlement is truly of the Viking age is proved by a bronze pin with a ring at one end, a soapstone spindle-whorl used for spinning wool, iron nails (the Vikings smelted iron-ore found under the turf), and numerous pieces of wood cut with metal tools. Probably a major activity, according to the archaeologists, was the repair of their clinker-build (planked) ships, hence the need for iron-smelting.

Who were these people, and why were they here? We think of the Vikings as mighty sea-marauders, bent on rape and pillage, but in actuality they were a farming, cattle-breeding people always in search of new lands; but above all, they were traders, with commercial networks which extended all the way to North Africa and Russia. They discovered and settled Iceland by 874 AD, and travelling in their magnificent ships had colonized Greenland by 982 AD, led by Erik the Red. It is not generally appreciated that these Norsemen were in Greenland for the next 500 years, with farmsteads, churches, and even monasteries; there was even a Bishop in Greenland.

In the year 1000, Leif the Lucky, son of Erik the Red, settled a new land to the southwest, which he called Vinland, "Land of Grapes", a country which had wild grapes. Leif was followed by his brother-in-law, Thorinn, who brought 60 men, five women, cattle, and supplies to Vinland. Was this L'Anse-aux-Meadows? The Vikings needed timber for their ship-building activities back in Greenland, which is essentially treeless. The sagas tell us that they had numerous clashes with "Skraelings", a dark, somewhat squat people with lank, black hair; these were

surely the Eskimo and Indian inhabitants of Newfoundland and who were not only far more numerous than the Viking pioneers, but technologically on about the same level as these medieval Europeans.

Thus, the position of Leif, Thorinn, and their people was precarious in the extreme, on the edge of their known world and surrounded by well-armed enemies. It seemed that after several years of occupation, the pioneers of L'Anse-aux-Meadows left for their homes in Greenland, never to return to the shore of the New World they had "discovered". Europe would forget the existence of these lands for another 400 years, until Christopher Columbus and his three ships set out across the ocean.

HEATH PUBLIC PRESCHOOL NEWS

by Pam Porter

The continued operation of the Heath Preschool is sort of a miracle. Every year we wonder what the future will bring and every year somehow we are able to keep on going. Clearly there are many people of Heath and Rowe that understand the importance of this school, not just to our young children but to our whole community. We are very grateful to the generous response to our Adopt-a-Preschooler campaign. Over \$2000 was raised and pledges are still coming in. Thank you all very much.

Enrollment at the school is now twenty, three and four olds. Two of these children are from Rowe, the remainder from Heath. It has been asked whether parents contribute to the funding of the school. The answer is yes. In addition to participating in numerous fund raising activities, parents pay a yearly tuition of between \$150 and \$350, depending on income.

This fall parents have been busy making craft items to sell at the Hawlemont Hobby Horse Bazaar, Dec. 7 and the Heath Craft Sale, Dec. 14. There are grape vine wreaths, plain or decorated, blown glass ornaments, bird feeders and decorated pillow cases. These items can be purchased at the sales or ordered by calling Michele Cutter, 337-4387 or Judy Almeida, 337-8585. Also, Michele Cutter is donating the profits from the sale of Avon calendars and Christmas ornaments.



MOHAWK ESTATES
(Photo by Susan Silvester)

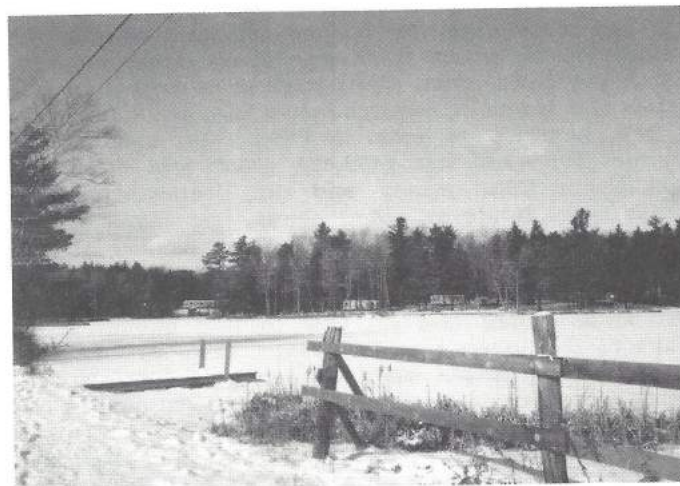


MOHAWK ESTATES
(Photo by Susan Silvester)

WINTER FAIR

The 6th grade is going to put on the Winter Fair to help raise money for their Washington trip. It will be on Saturday, December 14, from 9:30 AM to 4 PM. We're looking for area craft people that would like to come display and sell their arts and crafts. If interested please call Debbie Gilbert, 337-4351. If you can't be there that day but would still like to display crafts we have people to watch over tables.

Please come to browse, buy, visit, have lunch or take home some baked goods. All proceeds will go to the 6th grade class. Thank you.



MOHAWK ESTATES
(Photo by Susan Silvester)

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HEATH AND TAXES

by David F. Howland

It was only when I wrote the above title that I realized a "D" in place of the "H" in Heath raised the thought of the old cliché about the only certain things in life ...

Yes, budgets and taxes are still in vogue! There is evidence that on the state level the combination of budget cuts and the increases in fees and taxes (to us) have stemmed the red ink in Massachusetts. On the federal level we continue to see increased spending, record deficits and a lackluster economy. These events, taken together, adversely affect spendable income and serve to exacerbate the recession.

It is against this backdrop that the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee must now start planning the budget and taxes for FY93. The funding of our schools continues to be the most significant budget item; it was the cause of the largest tax increase in the town's history last year. The following is a brief review of our tax structure:

FY90 - \$10.74 per \$1000 valuation

FY91 - \$13.91 per \$1000 valuation (+29.5%)

FY92 - \$13.37 per \$1000 valuation (-3.9%)

The primary reason for the 29.5% increase in FY91 was the rising school costs at Rowe, where we tuition our elementary school children, and at the Franklin County Vocational Technical School (FCVTS), while incurring at the same time a loss in Equal Education Opportunity Grant (EEOG) funds from the state. The awarding of EEOG monies is based on spending a certain amount of money on education. This is known as the Maintenance of Effort factor, which is determined by the Department of Education. The formula and rules for EEOG are complex and, in any event, we could not meet them. While the town (and the children) have benefited from this money, we also have become dependent upon it, so it hurts when it doesn't come through. Then in FY92 we faced another school crisis when costs at the Mohawk Trail Regional High School (MTRHS) jumped from \$97,700 to \$160,801 (+64.6%) due to (1) loss of state aid, (2) an increase in enrollment and (3) a change in the computation of school costs to the town. However, the crisis was offset by a reduction in costs at FCVTS and our being able to access \$53,016 in EEOG money by prepaying the Rowe budget in the amount of \$40,219. Thus, we were able to reduce the tax rate by 3.9% for FY92. The whole budget process was further compounded by the loss of state aid for our highways, an event that was totally unanticipated. When you read about the problems of managing the cities and towns in Massachusetts they are quite real.

Well, here we go again in FY93. Our total school budget for FY92 was \$498,492 which was offset by \$93,235 in EEOG money and the prepayment with other town funds as noted above, the result was a net school budget of \$405,257. If we assume all the budget numbers will remain the same in FY93, which is quite unlikely, we face issues of (1) how to qualify for EEOG money and (2) how to find enough Free Cash to stay even with last year. It is already evident that we cannot meet Maintenance of Effort criteria, which means our only option is to appeal to the Department of Education for a waiver of said criteria. This is difficult to obtain. Again, assuming the numbers are the same, and we are unable to come up with \$93,235, we could be looking at a tax increase of about \$1.85 per \$1000 valuation or \$185 on a \$100,000

home. It is far too early to make firm forecasts; on the other hand, we thought it prudent to alert property owners now of a possible tax increase.

The next largest budget item is the Highway Department at \$187,122 in FY92. The services rendered by the four employees of the department - Superintendent Jack Cable, Foreman Dohn Sherman and driver/laborers Bob Glard and Fred Lively - are very important to all of us in terms of safety, accessibility to property and the management of road projects. The Selectmen have asked and the road crew has cooperated in making do with used equipment in these uncertain times. Until the Heath/Rowe school situation is stabilized the Selectmen are reluctant to take on more debt. Other areas of the budget that are of concern are the rising legal and health care costs. Increasingly there are more issues involving regulation and litigation that prompt a greater need to protect the town and its taxpayers. Health care costs are a state and federal problem that in no small way affects our town government. The Selectmen are working with other towns in Franklin County to try to control this budget item.

This is just a snapshot of the budget picture before us. The Selectmen realize that (1) the per capita income of Heath is 332nd out of 351 cities and towns in Massachusetts, (2) the unemployment rate in Franklin County is 8%, (3) there are a fair number of people in town on fixed incomes and (4) our tax base is essentially residential dwellings and land. I'm sure all the town departments and committees working on the FY93 budget will be mindful of these characteristics of our town. It's probably too much to hope that priority will be given by the state to local aid as was voted by the people in Question 5 in 1990, but it wouldn't do any harm for all of us to remind the Governor and the legislature of their obligation to pay attention to that referendum vote.



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FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

by Earl Gleason, Chief

Emergency responses were as follows: October 22, nine firefighters under the direction of acting officer Bob Giard extinguished a grass fire on Number Nine Road. This fire was started by an electric fence wire lying on the ground. November 5, 6, and 7 were busy times for the department. An unusual event was declared at Yankee Atomic because of back-up generator problems on the 5th. Usual procedure for this level of emergency is responding that we have received the message and notified key personnel. The event ended about 2 hours later. Four firefighters responded to the station later that afternoon for a reported accident in Heath Center. No injuries were reported so no response to the scene was required. The next evening two EMTs and eight fire personnel assisted Charlemont Ambulance with a woman that had hit a tree with her vehicle. Twelve firefighters responded the next afternoon to a chimney fire that was mostly out on arrival at a residence on Dell Road.

The Department held its monthly Association meeting on October 3. Our annual Radiation and Dosimetry class was presented on October 9 by two representatives of the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency. October 17 saw our local drill on rural water supply. The Priority Committee met on October 31 to accept from the State a 1977 Dodge 4 wheel drive pickup truck. It was voted to accept this truck at no cost to the town. It will replace our 1952 truck. We have asked the Selectmen to advertise our old truck for sale. Our new vehicle will be a Brush-Utility Apparatus. The Committee also discussed the Massachusetts Fire Academy Class to be held in Heath on April 25 and 26. We also discussed the Statewide Fire Mobilization Plan. The Priority Committee also serves as the Safety and Health Committee and later in the evening discussed Hepatitis B shots for emergency personnel and protective clothing requirements for the Department.

Personnel making the news during the last two months are Doug Wilkins, Bob Giard, Ed Croteau, and Mike Smith. Doug recently completed the State of Vermont Principles course. This course includes written and practical testing on breathing apparatus, ladders, salvage & overhaul, ventilation, ropes and knots, hose and streams and fire extinguishers. Doug scored an excellent score on the written test and passed all the practical tests with flying colors. Not to be out-done, Ed Croteau, Bob Giard and Mike Smith went to the Meadowood Training Center in Fitzwilliam, NH, on October 19 and 20 to the Breathing Apparatus Class. These three fellows were also reported to have been highly rated in their class. I would suggest that if you meet these fellows, congratulate them and thank them, because these are some of the people that are giving a considerable amount of their time for your protection.

The Chief attended nine various meetings during the time period. Three permits or approvals were also granted.

POLICE REPORT

by Tom Rabbitt, Chief

It's hard to believe that I have been acting as the Chief of Police here in the Town of Heath for the past four months. Due to an error in communications I did not have an article prepared for the last *Heath Herald*.

In the past four months we have been very busy. I must thank Carl Herzig and Bob Markert for their support and assistance during this transitional period. I believe I would be lost without their help.

I would also like to thank Carl Herzig, Bob Markert, Russell Denison, Sr., Melinda Dyer, Dennis Annear, and Arthur Dobias for their assistance and support during the Heath Fair. I believe they did an excellent job and showed a high degree of professionalism during the entire weekend. We had record crowds each of the days of the fair but because of their presence and professionalism there were almost no problems. GOOD JOB!

In a spirit of cooperation the Police Department and Fire Department have been working together lately. We are sharing a common facility for emergency communications and office space. This has been a fairly slow process but it has been very helpful (hopefully for both departments). By being able to use the firehouse as an office for the Police Department we have a central place for training and record keeping. As a result I have been holding office hours on Friday evenings from 7 to 9 PM. This has been good so far for those persons wishing FID cards or renewals of licenses to carry. I plan to continue the practice until I begin to feel like the Maytag Repairman and then I will reexamine the policy. I am not there just for gun licenses but any other service I can provide. I bring some of the law books and will try to answer anyone's questions. I will also try to give any referrals as needed, or will also just sit and talk (something I'm really good at) with those who would like to do just that.

I would like to address one thing that I have observed during these past months and that is the number of house breaks in town. Many people have experienced the trauma of arriving home to find that someone has broken into their house or camp and stolen their hard earned property. I use the term trauma because it really fits the experience. Imagine knowing someone has gone through your very personal items and/or stolen something that you treasure. The worst part of the problem is that much of it could be prevented with the installation of a simple alarm system.

I'm not meaning anything complicated or expensive but a simple noisemaker. They are professionally installed or, with some planning and common sense, a do-it-yourself project. Most burglars will not hang around long with a siren or bell making much noise. The best part is that most homeowner policies will give you a break on the premiums with an alarm system. For more thoughts on this drop by and we'll talk.



HEATH CONSERVATION COMMISSION

by Bill Lattrell

In October the Heath Conservation Commission reviewed a Request for Determination submitted by Mohawk Beach Estates Association. Because the proposal involved a possible impact on the resource area (land under water body) the Commission ruled that a Notice of Intent was necessary. The Commission also reviewed the Town Wetland By-Law in detail. This review allows for efficient administration of the By-Law.

In November the Commission reviewed two Request for Determinations relative to single family residences. In both instances we ruled that the proposal would not have an impact on any nearby resource areas and issued negative determinations. This determination signifies that no Notice of Intent is needed if the proposal is adhered to stringently. The Commission also opened a hearing on a Notice of Intent filed by Mohawk Beach Estates. The hearing was continued until early December due to the fact that insufficient information was submitted to review the application, and the Dept. of Environmental Protection refused to issue a file number. Also in November the Commission did a number of site visits to determine if the State of Town Wetland Laws would apply. Under our new building permit procedure the conservation Commission has to sign off on all residential applications.

A reminder to all would-be applicants. Winter is a good time to file applications to the Conservation Commission for spring and summer building projects. With required waiting periods, public hearing notification, and response times it takes the Commission about 6-8 weeks to respond to Notice of Intent applications. Planning ahead will save all those concerned a great deal of time and frustration.

ASSESSORS' REPORT

by Don Dekker

The Assessors were pleased to be able to set the tax rate at \$13.38, which is lower than last year's. It is never an easy task and we would like to thank Wendy Luckhurst for her perseverance in getting the job done, again.

Bill Lattrell delivered the new maps of the town to the Assessors' Office. They are indeed beautifully done. The scale is lower - one inch equals 500 feet - than the old map. As soon as we get copies made, the Assessors' Office will have a map file of 8 1/2 by 10 sections of all the town. They will be available to anyone in town who can copy them at the copying machine. We hope this will be in place early next year.

The Assessors have completed, for the most part, the inspection of 1/5 of the town properties. Each year we will inspect 1/5 of the town and completely cover the town over a five year period. We are finding quite a few changes since our last inspection in 1989. It seems that decks are a feature of the time. Many people have added them on recently; many without permits, which makes sense to us.

Alan Nichols, now in his third term, has been making remarks about wanting to end his time of service in the job. Wendy and I would like to have him stay on the job, but we may not be able to do so. If anyone is at all interested in being an Assessor please let any member of the Board know.

TOWN OFFICE HOURS

(At Town Hall unless otherwise specified)

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <u>Selectmen:</u> | Tuesday 7:30 PM |
| <u>Accountant</u> | Monday - Friday, 8:30 AM - 1 PM |
| <u>Assessors:</u> | 1st & 3rd Monday, 9:30 AM - 12 PM |
| <u>Town Clerk:</u> | Monday, 9 - 11:30 AM Wednesday, 8 - 11:30 AM (call for appointment, 4 - 7 PM, 337-4268) |
| <u>Tax Collector:</u> | Monday, 9 - 11:30 AM Wednesday, 8 - 11:30 AM (call for appointment, 4 - 7 PM, 337-4268) |
| <u>Finance Committee:</u> | As posted |
| <u>Planning Board:</u> | 2nd Monday of month 7 PM |
| <u>Conservation Commission:</u> | 3rd Tuesday of month |
| <u>Heath School Committee:</u> | 1st Tuesday of month 7:30 PM Community Hall |
| <u>Library Trustees:</u> | 3rd Monday of month 7:30 PM |
| <u>Library:</u> | Monday 6-9 PM Wednesday 1-5 PM Saturday 9 AM - 1 PM |
| <u>Town Nurse:</u> | Wednesday 9 - 11 AM (call 337-4323 for appointment) |
| <u>Post Office:</u> | Monday through Saturday 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM |
| <u>Transfer Station</u> | Monday 9 AM - 1 PM Saturday 8 AM - 4 PM |
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FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

by Chuck Mackie, Chairperson

In an attempt to project future financial costs to the town, we have met during the past several months analyzing our present status and future projections for costly investments the town will be facing.

Excellent cooperation has been received from Earl Gleason of the Fire Department and Dohn Sherman who was acting Highway Superintendent at the time, in determining our current position on vehicles and equipment and proposals for future needs.

The Finance Committee forwarded a copy of the Highway Department's inventory to the board of Selectmen for their review, and Earl prepared a very complete inventory of the Fire Department materials, and recommendations were made to our Board for future town needs.

A meeting was held a short time ago with several Board chairpersons, interested parties and Margo Jones, an architect from Greenfield, to review the town's current elementary school position and what future steps should be taken to review alternative plans.

In mid-December a financial meeting will be held with representatives from the Department of Revenue, our town accounting firm and those town officials charged with financial responsibilities. A review of past and present procedures for our financial paperwork will be made, and proposals for future plans and improvements.

On the agenda currently, are considerations being given to Heath's share of the costs involved in covering the old three town landfills according to DEP Requirements; the proposal being developed to make Mohawk a K-12 regional district; cost for school bus routes for the upcoming year; and negotiations on the elementary school tuition contract with the town of Rowe for next year.

We have attended several meetings with representatives from other member communities in dealing with our trash costs and future plans. A legal and accounting review is being considered by the communities to improve our existing contract with the SRRI facility on Bondi's Island, where our trash is delivered.

All of these ventures cost the taxpayer money, yet it is extraordinary to witness the apathy in town to these and other issues. When a voter turnout of 12 individuals at a special town meeting has the authority (7 people, a majority) to spend money for over 700, something is wrong. We in town government try to make the right decisions on important issues, but it would be very productive to hear from the citizens as to their needs. Most of us are newcomers to Heath, and we moved here because of the quality of life it offered. All the meetings are public and your input is important.

ROCKY ROAD TO FREE CASH CERTIFICATION

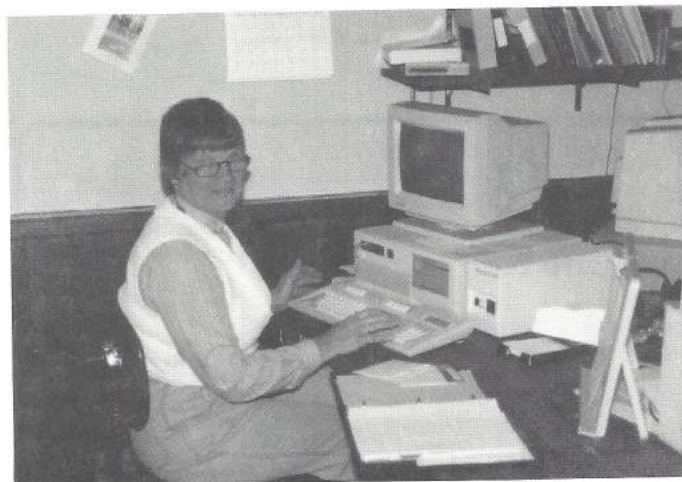
by June Day

Our first attempt to vote from Free Cash was at a Special Town Meeting to vote the \$2,086 support for the Preschool this fall. Following posting of the warrant it was learned that the FY91 Free Cash was null and void at the end of the Fiscal Year on June 30 until there was a new free cash certification which must follow the submission of the FY91 Balance Sheet to the Department of Revenue (DOR). Therefore on October 1 the single article was passed over and the meeting was adjourned with no action taken.

Then it was decided to sell some of the highway department equipment and use the proceeds to purchase another used truck to get us through this winter. We checked with DOR and learned that money raised from the sale could not be turned over to the highway department for a purchase. Therefore a Special Town Meeting was scheduled in order to vote both \$10,000 to purchase a truck and the \$2,086 Preschool support, both to be voted from free cash. The Balance Sheet was faxed down to our man at the DOR, Joe Boudreau. A couple of days later Joe called with the word that we had a deficit! However, he suggested a solution having to do with 60 days of tax collections running two weeks into the present Fiscal Year. Back to the fax machine with an additional \$25,398 of tax collection to count and the documentation to substantiate it. By this time we were at the day of the meeting when the outside accountant and I realized we had neglected to make the journal entries planned last February to straighten out the '87 Flood. We made a valiant effort to get that down to DOR in Springfield. From there it had to be run by the powers that be in Boston and we were both late and lacking in credibility at that juncture.

The Special Town Meeting met and voted to reconvene at a date certain, November 21. Fortunately the Free Cash Certification of \$15,490 came through in time and the meeting was able to vote to purchase the truck and to support the Heath Preschool.

Townspeople and town officials were patient and understanding, and the Selectmen and I wish to thank anyone who came out on October 1 and November 14 to meetings that were unable to act.



JUNE DAY

(Photo by Heath Herald Staff)



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HEATH PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Caroline and Newland Smith, formerly of Hosmer Road, will be sadly missed by their many friends and neighbors who wish them much happiness at this holiday time in their new home. Their address is: Kendal at Hanover, 80 Lyme Road, Apt. 432, Hanover, NH, 03755.

Glass sculpture by Robert Dane is featured on the cover of the Corning Museum's 1992 calendar of Contemporary Glass. The sculpture was purchased by the museum in 1984. The calendar is available at Boswell's Books in Shelburne Falls or through the Danes. For more information call 337-5736.

Fred Burrington, a Heath resident and water color artist, has received much publicity recently for his house renovation projects. He is carefully dismantling the Samuel Potter house on Route 2 in Charlemont and plans to rebuild it piece by piece at a site on Route 8A in Heath. The historic, 1760 cape could not be moved by flatbed due to the covered bridge and narrow roads.

Francis Rollo Kinsman of Alexandria, VA and Heath has been elected President of the Armed Forces Recreation Society (AFRS). The AFRS is a branch of the 21,000 member National Recreation and Parks Association and represents the many thousand recreation personnel who plan and operate recreation facilities and programs for personnel of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines stationed around the world.

The presidency of the AFRS is an honorary position. In his official capacity Mr. Kinsman serves as the Chief of the Army's Recreation and Sports Division, at Headquarters, Department of the Army in Washington, DC.

As AFRS President Mr. Kinsman's first official function was to deliver the keynote address at the opening of the Europe Recreation Society's Annual Conference in Germany on November 18.

Editor's Note: An excellent article by Mr. Kinsman entitled "Military Recreation and Mission Accomplishment" appeared in the October issue of *Parks and Recreation* magazine.



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MILESTONES

A son, Benjamin Andrew Kaipainen Gibbons, was born October 25. His parents are David and Nan (Kaipainen) Gibbons of Rowe Road.

On October 30, Samuel Lee, a son, was born to Janet (Gary) and Gregory Gary-Kerstetter of East Hawley Road, Ashfield. He is the grandson of Dorothy and Richard Gary of Heath.

Timothy Lawrence, a son, was born November 23. He is the son of Barbara (Thompson) and Larry Martin of Sterling, CT. He is the great grandson of Clarence Cutter of Heath.

John and Dolly Churchill celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary on October 23 with a family party at the Community Hall.

Michael R. Pettengill, son of Ray and Terry Petten-gill of Heath, and Joanne Knapp, daughter of John and Agnes Christina of Groton, CT, were married in Oakdale, CT on November 2, 1991. Mike and Joanne live in Uncasville, CT.

CARROLL STOWE'S ANNUAL SELIGH PARTY

JANUARY 1, 1992
10 am - ??

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

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