



HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER 50¢



CONNECTIONS

by

BONNIE WODIN

AliMarr and Bandanna certainly seem to be enjoying their first winter in Heath. Although they harken from Long Island, love of the wind and cold from their native Peru runs deep in their veins, as well as in their warm, thick coats. When I joined them on a recent afternoon walk through meadow and woods, the pleasure they took in the crisp air was inspiring. Of course, a periodic gust might spook them as they nervously tossed a stately head or set back their long silky ears. But they took it all in stride.

I felt both proud and humble walking beside these majestic friends. AliMarr with his rich brown coat and white face, neck and legs. And Bandanna, the smaller of the two, with his almost black coat, white leg markings and, yes, a white bandanna around his neck. The walk was not without its challenges: steering clear of the mountain laurel, playing round-the-rosy with a young tree, negotiating the route, picking our way under sharp branches or over dead logs. This walk required perseverance as well as giving pleasure.

For AliMarr and Bandanna are young llamas. Llamas who have taken up residence on Burrington Hill and won the hearts of two local families: Jeffrey and Carolynn Goldwasser and Carol Sartz, Art Schwenger and Olin Schwenger-Sartz. These good people are so taken with their four-legged friends that they are ready to care for Bandanna and AliMarr for the duration of their long (up to 20 years) lives.

Since arriving in Heath mid-summer, AliMarr and Bandanna have grown and are becoming used to their new homes. They have eased into a peaceful coexistence with their neighbors, the horses and goats, although Cocoa still gives them a sideways glance from time to time. Their daily routine is simple: an early morning feeding of mainly oats followed by their blissful daytime hours either in the paddock or snuggled in the barn. Afternoon brings more food. Again oats, this time mixed with barley and various supplements. Week-ends and vacations, when their people are available, yield a good long walk.

The walks are fun, although getting AliMarr and Bandanna haltered is a chore that often calls forth stifled giggles. After a start of offering a handful of oats surrounded by halter which was slipped on, hopefully, surreptitiously, the procedure was



BANDANNA

(Family Photo)

changed. After all, AliMarr and Bandanna are deserving of more respect than a simple bribe. So now coaxing and soft words eventually do the trick. AliMarr seems to be catching on; Bandanna just lowers his head. But all the two-leggeds agree that perseverance will win the day.

AliMarr seems to be the leader of the two. But, I am told, it is Bandanna that is more willing to try new things. They are both really clear about what they do and do not want. But they express it gently. And gentleness seems to be the key for these two friends. The soft gentleness of their warm coats, in their eyes, their probing noses exploring a new world, the gentleness of their spirits and of their people.

So keep your eyes peeled. Sometimes AliMarr and Bandanna take their people for walks along the quiet roads near their home, or through the fields. And by next summer their people hope to enlarge their pasture so we all may be able to watch as AliMarr and Bandanna race across our Heathen fields, chasing the winds and each other.



ALIMARR AND FRIENDS

(Family Photo)

ADAGIO

by BETSEY SILVESTER

The music of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart is especially appreciated this year as people all over the world attend concerts to honor his music. Mozart was a child prodigy who was born in 1756 in the small Austrian city of Salzburg in the Getreidegasse. Although he was one of the world's greatest musicians and composers, he died in poverty before the age of 36 in Vienna.

Mozart came from a family with incredible musical talent. By the time he was three years old, he displayed a remarkable ability. He was playing the piano at the age of 4, and composing music at the age of 5. From the time he was born he was exposed to the contemporary music of the time period. Mozart's father Leopold, who was a respected musician, took it upon himself to foster his son's musical abilities. Mozart travelled to many concerts both to listen and perform. His appearances in the great courts of Europe inspired royalty in many countries. By the time he was 14 years of age his compositions were widely acclaimed as masterpieces. Today we enjoy such magnificent operas as The Marriage of Figaro (1786), Don Giovanni (1787) and The Magic Flute (1791).

Mozart's music such as the Requiem, may be heard in local churches and parts of his symphonies are played in school orchestras.

PERCS, PERMITS AND TRANSFERS

PERCOLATION TESTS

Perc tests have been suspended until April.

BUILDING PERMITS

John Cable, Flagg Hill Road, 1-family.
Steven Crowningshield, Bassett Road, storage shed.
Karen Brooks, Long Hill Road, barn.
Henry Leuchtmann, Knott Road, tractor shed.
Total: \$128,730.

DEED TRANSFERS

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

Patrick E. Miner and Deborah C. Simkus to the United Savings Bank, South Road. \$74,776.

Merle R. Ingraham of Petersham to Jaimye Ingraham and David Adie, Avery Brook Road. Less than \$100.

Gerald Cote to Shirley T. Cote of Southington, CT, Cascade Drive. Lot 27. Gift.

Armand Grondin to Wilfred V. and Carole E. Roy of Granby, Mohawk Estates. Lot 12. \$2,500.

Leonard and Cynthia Greenlaw to Doris E. Sova of Naugatuck, CT, Papoose Lake Drive. Lots 13, 15, 16 and 17. \$1.

Herbert E. Smith to Berkshire Bay Lobster Realty Trust by John Gurney as trustee, of Hanover, Sumner Stetson Road. 32 acres more or less, \$45,000.

David F. Howland and Margaret E. C. Howland to Martha L. H. Rose, Colrain Brook Road. 10.978 acres. No consideration.

Stephen A. Bara to Paul F. and Mary E. Robidoux of Springfield, Mohawk Beach Estates, Lot 1. \$3,300.

Peter R. Compton estate, Lee R. Robins and George Reithoffer as executors, to Howard C. Crowningshield, Jeannette V. Crowningshield, David Thane and Phyllis Thane, Brunelle, Jacksonville Stage and Sadoga Roads. \$28,000.

Howard C. Crowningshield, Jeannette V. Crowningshield, David Thane and Phyllis Thane to Howard C. Crowningshield and Jeannette V. Crowningshield, Jacksonville Road. Tracts 1 and 2. No consideration.

Howard C. Crowningshield, Jeannette V. Crowningshield, David Thane and Phyllis Thane to David A. Thane and Phyllis E. Thane, Brunelle and Sadoga Roads. No consideration.

NOTICE

If you are holding a Library key and no longer have a use for it, please return it to Alli Thane. Thank you.

The Library Trustees

HEATH PRECIPITATION

by Ralph H. Dickinson

Observer for Mass. Division of Water Resources

Precipitation for December was 4.38 inches with a total snowfall of 16 inches. During January a total of 2.90 inches of precipitation fell with 1 inch of snow. The total precipitation for 1991 was 51.12. Total snowfall was 52 inches.

Total snowfall for the season is 19.5 inches. We have had a couple of ice storms and lots of high winds. Much of the time the fields have been bare of snow.



HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

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FEBRUARY/MARCH 1992

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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

MILESTONES

by Edith Royer

A daughter, Bette Lee, was born December 27 to Sean and Charlotte (Decker) Rabbitt of Catamount Hill Road, Colrain. Grandparents are Bette Decker and Thomas and Claire Rabbitt, of Heath. Great grandparents are Mildred Decker and Gilbert and Alice Smith of Heath and Cozmo and Marion Zang of Montgomery, AL.

A son, Kyle Edwin Purington, was born December 30 to Justinia Tanner and Kevin Purington of Jacksonville Stage Road, Heath. Grandparents are Robert and Donna Tanner and Roger and Roberta Purington all of Heath. Great grandparents are Joseph and Lon Lawrence of Hawley and Mildred Decker of Heath, also Geneva Purington of Greenfield.

Born January 3, was a son, Eric Tanner, to April Tanner and Scott Gunn. Eric was the first 1992 baby born at the Franklin Medical Center. Grandparents are Robert and Donna Tanner. Greatgrandmother is Mildred Decker of Heath.

Leah Garland, a daughter, was born on January 26 to Lynn and John Kain of Underwood Hill Road in Heath. She is the granddaughter of Mary Anne and Nelson Tetreault of Colrain, Astrid Kain of Greenfield and Bruce Kain of Heath. Great grandparents are Mary Garland of Colrain, Violet and Alfred Tetreault of Greenfield and Frank Kain of Ithaca, NY.

Edwin H. Decker, Sr. of Jacksonville Stage Road, died December 18 at the Franklin Medical Center. He was the son of Leroy and Mildred Decker.

He leaves his wife, the former Bette Archibald, and his mother both of Heath. Also, he leaves a son, Edwin H. Jr. of New Port Rickey, FL and four daughters, Tracy Frick of Chapin, SC, Charlotte Rabbitt of Colrain, Rebecca Hatch of Heath and Amy at home. He leaves two brothers, Douglas G. of West Hawley and Wayne M. of Arlington, TX and a sister, Donna Tanner of Heath. He also leaves two grandchildren. Burial will be in the North Heath Cemetery in the spring.

Richard G. Hatch of Colrain Stage Road died January 8 in the Franklin Medical Center. He was a self-employed truck driver. He was a past president of the Heath Agricultural Society. He leaves his wife of 42 years the former Claire B. Bovasse and four sons, Dean F. of Granby, Joseph H. of West Springfield, David L. of Northampton and Mark E. of Greenfield. He also leaves a brother Robert of Granby, a sister, Marion Nolan of Belchertown and seven grandchildren. The family moved to Heath from Granby several years ago. Services were conducted at Smith-Kelleher Funeral home, with Rev. Roger Peace officiating. Burial will be in the Center Cemetery in the spring.

Charles H. Miller, of Burrington Road, died January 20 at home. He was a well known writer and poet and founder of the World Eye Bookstore in Greenfield. He traveled extensively and lived in Mexico for many years.

He leaves his wife, the former Lynn Perry and a son, Loren both of Heath. A memorial service was held in the Heath Church, Saturday, January 25. The family moved to Heath in 1973.

Martha L. Crowningshield, of Highland Village, Shelburne Falls died January 27. She was born in Heath, January 19, 1905. She attended Heath School. She had lived in Colrain and Heath before moving to Shelburne Falls.

Survivors include a son Alfred R. Hillman of Colrain, a daughter Anna L. Deneault of Bernardston and a stepson William Crowningshield of Wilmington, NC.

He also leaves a brother Herbert Smith of Heath, two sisters, Mildred Burrington of Heath and Leola Goodell of Colrain. He leaves four grandchildren, seven great grandchildren and a great-great grandson as well as several nieces and nephews.

Private graveside services were held in the West Branch Cemetery in Colrain with Rev. Allen Comstock of Charlemont officiating.

CHURCH NEWS

By Roger Peace, Pastor

As this is my first chance to do so, I would like to thank everyone who helped make this past Christmas holiday a very joyous and memorable occasion for the church and for us personally. Your willing participation and help truly made all the activities a real success. The Christmas gifts we received were most appreciated and welcomed. Thank you for your support and the love you share with our family.

It might not appear that the church is very active during January and February, but there is much planning and work being done. The minister's room in the church is being remodeled, the deacons are setting plans for the spring and summer as well as completing the duties and responsibilities of the various committees, and the standing committee is meeting to set plans and goals for the church building. A committee is being formed, headed by Howard Crowningshield, to make all the necessary arrangements for the church auction. If you do any spring cleaning, maybe you could set aside a few items to donate to the auction. More details will be available for this by the next Heath Herald. The Sunday School is going well, as is the Youth group which meets the first Sunday of each month; and if we ever get enough snow, the youth will be going sledding. A Bible study has started and will meet the first and third Wednesday of each month. Also, an adult Bible study will begin in February and meet at 9 AM each Sunday.

Remember, you are welcome to join us every Sunday morning. If anyone is interested in church membership, please contact Pastor Roger at 337-5755. May the Lord keep you safe and warm these cold winter nights.

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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**

I am most certainly not going to get any argument from anyone that knows me, when I admit that I enjoy food.

I enjoy common workingman's or farmer's kinds of food. My dear mother was one of many women who perhaps started the school's hot lunch program many years back. One dish that she would prepare was corn chowder. I will never forget the delicious aromas as she started to put the chowder together as the first ingredients were salt pork and onions. It's difficult at best to describe the aroma of those two things with the heat under them.

Scalloped oysters were another farmer's supper fare and were they ever good. They were a rather simple meal made with saltine crackers, butter, oysters layered alternately with the crackers and moistened with good fresh farm milk. A bit of salt and pepper for seasoning and baked in the oven till done to my mother's watchful eye. There were always pigs to be dressed off in the fall and before the coming of freezers a lot of the pork was canned in glass jars. This canned pork was kept in the cellar with other canned foods. It no doubt seasoned and cured some in it's own juices. Whenever mother Stowe wanted a rather quick meal she'd open a jar of canned pork and heat it in the frying pan. The meat and gravy were all together and along with boiled potatoes and several vegetables a fine supper was at hand. What a meal to anticipate after a day out in the cold in the wood lot or hauling manure with a fine team of horses. I'd like to enjoy one of those suppers again.

My mother would all too seldom fix salt pork and milk gravy along with boiled potatoes plus a vegetable or two. This was a fine meal for a hungry crew, but mother claimed it to be the hardest meal she could get.

I live with a tremendous culinary wizardress. Our main meal is supper and I often eat a bit more than I need, but it's too good to not enjoy.

Creamed dried beef gravy on toast is a quick meal that Peggy fixes about once a week. She can have it from an empty fry pan to eating in no more than fifteen minutes or less. A great way to appease a hungry fellow. Her spaghetti suppers are without equal and no one has to hold a gun to my head to get me to make it disappear. Also, all too seldom we have pork and sauerkraut. This is another good way to drive away the hunger pangs.

My dad was as good a cook as anyone could be and for Sunday dinner at twelve noon or after going to church, he would have had a piece of beef of questionable tenderness cooking or simmering in a large fry pan smothered with onions for perhaps 3 hours. Potatoes and vegetables and a salad were a great feast. Our shed off our kitchen is a great place to step into and try to sort out what is on the stove for supper. The aromas linger there sometimes overnight.

I am always troubled when I hear someone say they don't like a certain meal. I maintain that all I need is to know who fixed whatever and because I don't

know any bad cooks I sit and eat.

I have been amazed often on our wagon train weekends to watch Steve Morse's wife Terry whip up a batch of pancakes. It makes no difference what she has to work with, a pick-up tailgate or the inner workings of a camper. The pancakes are faultless and well suited to the early morning bustle of the wagon people.

I have said often that I live with a good cook and I've been told that it shows. What better tribute to a kitchen genius than to eat whatever is put before you.

I was almost born too late to have been part of a corn cutting crew, but I have enjoyed a few dinners while cutting corn and was proud to have been included.



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HEATH PUBLIC PRESCHOOL NEWS

by Pam Porter

Someone asked the other day, "What can we do to help children learn to think? How can we improve their ability to use language?"

The pattern of a young child's thoughts differ from ours. The language is new to them, their perspective more self-centered. This is not to say that they are necessarily more selfish than adults, only that their experience is more limited. The need of a child to explain and order the apparently chaotic world of perception is no less compelling than our own, but for them the river of cause and effect can still flow two ways.

Vacation is over. I sit in my chair near the door waiting for the children to begin arriving. In comes the first little boy, cradling in his arms an obviously beloved baby doll wrapped in a blanket trailing out a couple of feet behind them. "Do you want to see my baby?" he asks, laying it in my arms. It is an ordinary baby doll except that it has a long strip of scotch tape encircling its head. "Do you want to know my baby's name?" the boy asks, shifting from one foot to the other and peering solemnly into my eyes. I nod. "It's baby Jesus" he says, "See, here is his silo." As a foreigner coming to a new country, a young child works to learn the native tongue.

"What is that sound?" a child asks as the furnace roars on. It's the furnace, replies her teacher, "It keeps us warm." The child eyes the four corners of the classroom and turns again to the teacher. "Where does it live?" she needs to know. A young child's view of the world is different from the calculating economy of adult reasoning. For them each object has a life of its own, not just a profitable purpose or use.

We visit a farm. Having seen the calves, we follow the farmer as the path narrows between the pens, goes down a little hill and out onto the road that will take us to the pigs. "We're just like garbage!" cries one of the children. His teachers and father each turn a worried eye on him. "So despairing, so young," thinks one teacher, with an existential pang. "Does he think the pigs will eat us?" thinks his father, protective. "What do you mean, dear?" Thank goodness someone has the presence of mind to ask. "See, here we all go", he crows, trotting down the slope, "Right down the chute!" In conversation with a four year old, things are not always what they seem. Close attention is needed to uncover real meaning.

It is as easy for children to misunderstand what we say to them as it is for us to misinterpret them. "Where are we going?" asks another little girl, as, on a fine spring morning we cross the orchard and head for the pond. We are going to visit the Wolf's Pond. "Oh," momentary silence. "Where do the Wolfs live?" she wants to know. "They live right there in that red house," I reply, "Maybe they will come out and say hello to us." The little girl edges closer and takes my hand. Looking up at me all eyes she asks, "Do the Wolfs wear clothes like us?"

The direction of reason is not always quite the same in young children as in adults. "Where's Cabe?" a little girl asks after her classmate. "He isn't here today. He's sick," replies her teacher. "Why he sick?" the child wants to know. "I don't know why. People just get sick sometimes." The child stops a minute then looks at her teacher earnestly. "Maybe him go to the doctors. Maybe that why he sick."

In the struggle to be fair, young children's methods may differ from ours. (Their motives, on the other hand, like ours, can be mixed.) Four boys are packed into a rocking boat. There is no more room and they are having an enviably raucous time. Up comes a friend who wants a turn. "Who wants to give Ben a turn?" pipes one of the rockers. No answer. "Well, he needs a turn. Do you want to give him one?" he asks each child in turn. No one wants to. "Well, someone needs to give Ben a turn." A thoughtful pause. "Who likes him the most?" the same boy asks. Ben's best friend hesitates only for a moment. "I do," he says. "Then you should give him a turn." The conclusion can't be argued. John climbs out and gives Ben his place.

I say this as much to remind myself as anyone: when we listen to young children we and they will be rewarded if we can learn to enjoy humor without laughing at what is not intended to be funny, to be open and active in discovering where they are coming from and to refrain from jumping too quickly to our own conclusions, thus negating theirs. We and they will be rewarded if we can learn to let go of our own agendas a little and so have the time and resources to discover and support theirs.

What do young children need to grow in their ability to think and communicate? The question has been widely studied and the answers can be as complex and valuable as thinking itself. At the very least, though, they need a fair share of the available time, space, and stuff, some caring friends and some willing and helpful listeners.



MARY LYON EDUCATION FUND

by Susan Silvester, Executive Director

The Mary Lyon Education Fund has just been notified by the Governor's Alliance for Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention that a grant for \$4,000 has just been awarded for the purpose of hiring a part-time substance abuse counselor. This program will be in place in the West County area this spring. Project Coordinator is Susan Mason, a teacher in the mathematics department at Mohawk Trail Regional School and organizer of ADAPT, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Team.

A logo contest is underway and is open to all area residents. First prize is \$25 and an invitation to the first annual Recognition Dinner on April 4, 1992. All entries will receive a certificate of appreciation and become the property of the Mary Lyon Education Fund. The deadline for entries is February 14. All designs should be submitted in black and white on paper no larger than 6" x 5". The logo should reflect the organization's support of excellence in local public education. Entries should be submitted to the Mary Lyon Education Fund, P.O. Box 184, Shelburne Falls, Ma 01370 or may be left at the high school office.

A special workshop for members of the Board of Directors was held on Friday, February 7. Facilitator S. Paul Reville, Executive Director of the Worcester Alliance for Education and member of the State Board of Education, led discussions on school reform and goal setting at the local level.

OPEN HOUSE AT THE ACADEMY

by Mary Kay Hoffman

Students in grades 5 through 12 and their parents are invited to an Open House at the Academy at Charlemont on Tuesday, February 18 from 8 AM to 3 PM. The Open House is designed to introduce The Academy to those families interested in exploring independent education and who would like to know more about the curriculum and classes at The Academy. The school is located on the Mohawk Trail in Charlemont, MA. If you would like to attend the Open House, please call Dianne Grinnell at 413-339-4912, for a reservation.

There will be an opportunity to attend classes and to talk to students and faculty. In addition, all Open House guests are invited to lunch at the school. Lunch will be prepared by faculty member Steve Morganelli. Admissions Director Dianne Grinnell and Headmaster Eric Grinnell will both be on hand to meet parents and students and to answer questions.

The Academy at Charlemont serves boys and girls in grades 5 through 12 with a post graduate year. Our students come from Franklin and Hampshire Counties and lower Vermont.

In 1981 The Academy at Charlemont was founded in the conviction that a small school can best serve the needs and talents of each of its students. It remains committed to this principle. The school is organized around the idea of community. Students and teachers agree upon the principles that govern the community. Those principles are set forth in the school's Honor Code -- not a list of do's and don't's, but ideas about how people should treat one another, how disputes should be resolved and how people should help one another uphold their commitment to the community. The Academy's curriculum is traditional in nature - ancient and modern languages, literature, the arts, mathematics, social and natural sciences. Students learn to think clearly and originally and to express those thoughts with precision, clarity and grace. By placing the best teachers with the best students, the natural values of good teaching and good learning follow an inevitable course.

If you are unable to attend the Open House, but would like information about The Academy, call Admissions Director Dianne Grinnell at 413-339-4912.

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ONYE ONYEMAECHI VISITS ROWE SCHOOL

by Sharon Brower

The Rowe School began their study of Africa on Tuesday, January 21 with a day long visit from Onye Onyemaechi. Joined by the Heath Preschool and parents, the entire school gathered in the auditorium at 8:45 for an hour long performance.

The performance began with Onye passing out pieces of African material to children in the audience. He then started a rhythm on a bell-like instrument. There was not a sound from the audience and all eyes were on Onye. Onye then greeted the crowd in his native dialect, and taught everyone the response. This was followed by a general discussion on Africa: where Africa is, the climate, the major religions, and village life. Onye told us that his grandfather was the first settler of their village. This led into a drum rhythm joined by clapping from the audience. We were then taught a game used during a child's rite of passage. We played for only a few minutes, and learned that the game could continue for 2 to 3 weeks. A discussion on drums followed. We learned how drums were made, the different types of drums and when they are used. This led into the real fun part of the performance, dance. Onye explained the importance of dance in village life and showed us various steps. He then had the staff and some students come up and perform. Following this all-school program Onye met with small groups throughout the day.

During the workshop with the fifth and sixth grades, Onye went into more detail on the rite of passage. The students were very interested and had many questions. They also learned how to play a drum using different parts of their hands. This led into the dance portion of the workshop. These students learned the dance performed in villages when the women come to select their husbands.

Onye then met with grades K-2 and 3-4. These workshops involved the students dressing in costume, drumming with their hands, and doing various dances.

The entire school gathered again at 2:15 for a final performance from Onye. There was a great deal of audience participation starting with the clapping of rhythms and culminating with dances done by volunteers from the audience. It certainly was a wonderful way for the students to get a taste of the country they will be studying in depth for the next three weeks.



ONYE WITH PARENTS AND CHILDREN
(Rowe School Photo)

ROWE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

by Phillip O'Reilly, Principal

Once again Rowe School is participating in an "all-school" ski program. Thanks to the generosity of Roy Schaefer at Berkshire East and the hard work of grade 6 teacher, Joanne Giguere, we were able to develop a reasonably inexpensive downhill ski program for all of our children in Readiness/One through grade six. The children and staff will be participating in four full days of skiing this year. We are pleased that all of our energy will be directed towards providing one exceptional winter physical education activity.

Our Africa Study program has begun. This three week cross cultural experience will include many area residents visiting the school, sharing with the staff and children about their experiences in Africa. Children will be studying the people, the cultures, the history, government, and recent changes in the various countries. They will also be spending time exploring the environment, learning about the plant and animal life. Children will have the opportunity to see African Folk Tales acted out by the Enchanted Circle Theatre, a program that is being brought to the school by a grant from the Heath Arts Lottery Council. Our children will be performing in a concert on February 12 when they will be singing many native African Songs. Come join us for that 7 PM performance!

SPELLING AROUND THE WORLD has begun this past month. Children in grades R/1-6 are participating in an all school spelling program geared toward helping children learn to spell the most commonly misspelled words. Karen Brooks and Anne Rocchi worked with Roberta Baker to develop this program which involves many of our student's parents. We are grateful for the effort and participation of our children and parents!



SPELLING AROUND THE WORLD VOLUNTEERS
TREMUS THOMPSON & SANDI GILBERT
(Rowe School Photo)



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

SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT

by Budge Litchfield

Although school committee meetings the past few months have been kind of quiet, we have stayed busy with our "side projects". Linda Marcotte and the other members of the joint transportation sub-committee have almost completed their work on a new transportation contract for the elementary schools and the high school. One hoped for change could be to have a bus route on Long Hill Road.

Frank Brower has been busy at Mohawk where a major issue has been the budget. He reports that Heath will see some assessment increase. The increase will be caused primarily by our enrollment increase and also by a modest increase in the school budget. Frank Brower and Frank Rocchi have recently concluded negotiations for a new tuition agreement with the Town of Rowe. The agreement should be approved at the February meeting of the Rowe School Committee. Under this agreement our costs should increase only slightly next year. Another aspect of the agreement is that the term will be flexible to conclude its long range educational studies.

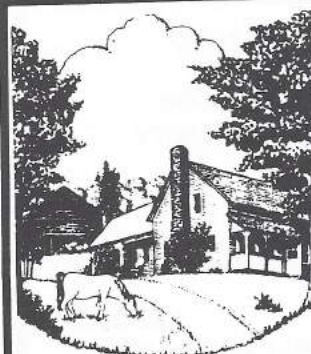
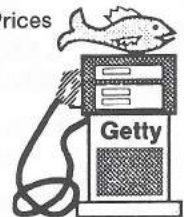
Budge Litchfield and David Howland are our town's representatives to the committee working on a project to expand Mohawk to a kindergarten through twelfth grade regional school district (see related article).

Our newest committee involvement is the School Building Committee which was formed at a special town meeting on January 8. The members of the committee are Linda Marcotte, chair, Budge Litchfield, vice-chair, Sue Lively, secretary/treasurer, John Henry, Henry Leuchtman, Chuck Mackie, Bob Dane and Art Schwenger. This group will be exploring the possibility of constructing a school in Heath as well as other options for providing elementary school education (such as tuitioning to Rowe) and related issues, such as the impact of a possible expansion of Mohawk to a K-12 district. All our meetings are open and the public is welcome. Meeting dates are February 3 and 13 at 7 PM in Sawyer Hall.

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MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULE

GIRL'S VARSITY & JV BASKETBALL

February

12	Pioneer	A	3:15
14	Athol	A	3:15
17	Frontier	H	1:00
19	Greenfield	H	1:00
21	Hampshire	H	5:00

BOY'S VARSITY & JV BASKETBALL

February

12	Pioneer	H	6:00
14	Athol	H	6:00
17	Frontier	A	6:00
19	Easthampton	A	6:00

MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS/BOYS BASKETBALL

February

12	Pioneer	H	3:15
14	Athol	H	3:15
17	Frontier	A	1:00
19	Greenfield	A	1:00

SKIING

February

13 Berkshire - Individuals Western MA TBA

March

4 Berkshire - States 8 AM

MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL WINTER SPORTS ROSTER

Girl's Jr. High Basketball: Jaime Hytinen; J.V. Boy's Basketball: Adam Almeida, Jim Cerone; Boy's Middle School Basketball: Jeremy Gilbert, Ben Cerone, Colin Gruen, Tucker Litchfield, Justin Lively; Boy's Varsity Basketball: John Tuturice; Ski Team: Nicole Rainville, Jason Clark, Tim Porter-DeVriese; Boy's and Girl's Winter Track: Shawna Hyytinen and Ben Steinbock.

MASS. GIRLS & WOMEN IN SPORT DAY FEBRUARY 7, 1992 MASS. STATE HOUSE, BOSTON

by Sandy Magill

On February 7, 1992 the Massachusetts Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance in conjunction with Converse will sponsor Massachusetts Girls and Women in Sport Day at the State House in Boston. Each high school in the Commonwealth is invited to send two female athletes as representatives.

Mohawk Trail Regional High School, Shelburne Falls will be represented by seniors Jodi Tanguay and Hillery Hinds. Both athletes were voted by the coaches of females to represent the school.

Jodi Tanguay participates in three sports: field hockey, skiing, and tennis. In field hockey she has been named to the All League Team as honorable mention in 1990 and first team in 1991. She has received four perfect attendance in practice awards, 1988-1991; has played 6 years, 1986-91; and received most valuable player award 1991. She was also co-captain of the 1991 season. Honors in skiing include: All League, 1989, 1990, 1991; Western Mass. 1990, 1991; league accomplishments: 4th in 1989, 1st in 1990, 2nd in 1991; individuals: 5th in 1990, 2nd in 1991, in the states: 11th in 1989, 8th in 1990, and 3rd in 1991; and in the Institute League: 1st in 1989, 1990, 1991. She has participated in tennis for six years.

Hillery Hinds has been named to the soccer All League Team for four years, All Western Mass second team for 1991, and captained the team for two years. She was All League in track for three years in two events -- 200/400; All Western Mass for two years in the 400 and #10 in the State in the 400.

Lois Chadwick, a senior at Mohawk, is one of three athletes representing the state special olympians. Lois participates in cross-country, winter track, and spring track. In cross-country she was All League for five years, All Western Mass for four years, All State for two years, Western Mass Champion, 11th in the State her Junior year, 10th in Western Mass and 5th in the State her senior year. She is a member of the Western Mass championship mile relay team in track and 3rd in the 1/2 mile for the past three years.



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NEW YEAR'S DAY SLEIGH RIDE

by Arlene Markert

For many people party hats, dancing and champagne help usher in the new year. If you chanced to travel up Rowe Road past Mrs. Carey's on January 1, you would have seen a much different celebration. Approximately 80 people enjoyed the perfect weather and good company of horses on the Annual New Year's Day Sleigh Ride. The pace was leisurely and the scenery breathtaking. It was the perfect chance to connect with people we had not seen since the Wagon Train in the fall. Participants traveled from nearby West County towns, Vermont, Connecticut, New Hampshire and New York for this festive occasion. Naturally, there was an array of fine cuisine provided by those attending. It certainly was a bright beginning for the new year - one that provided good food, good fun and best of all, friendship.



STOPPING IN THE WOODS
(Photo by Steve Morse)



THE GUIDEON S WITH PETEY, SWEETIE
AND FRIEND
(Photo by Steve Morse)



CARROLL OVERSEES THE CHOW
(Photo by Mrs. H. B. Carey)

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"OPEN 7 DAYS"

—OPEN FORUM— REMEMBERING BILL WOLF: THE CASE OF RANDY KEHLER

by Todd Sumner

"I heartily accept the motto, -- 'That government is best which governs least,' and I should like to see it acted up to more rapidly and systematically. Carried out, it finally amounts to this, which also I believe, -- 'That government governs best which governs not at all;' and when men are prepared for it, that will be the kind of government which they will have."

These are the opening lines of Thoreau's essay "On the Duty of Civil Disobedience", the progenitor, if you will, of the various acts of civil disobedience we see around us. I was prompted to return to this essay by the recent arrest of Randy Kehler, who was, incidentally, arrested for precisely the same offense as Thoreau -- refusal on moral grounds to pay a particular tax. I first studied Thoreau at the urging of the late Bill Wolf. We were sitting on his porch of an August afternoon, talking about this and that. I was trying to come up with a topic for my senior honors essay at Amherst, and Bill suggested that I consider writing on Thoreau. Bill had himself already written a book on Thoreau, Thoreau: mystic, prophet, ecologist; (Pilgrim Press, 1974) and had replicated many of the writer's well documented excursions in the Berkshires and wilds of Maine. Their kinship was centered, it seems to me, around a shared sense of awe at the terrible beauty of the natural world, a similar concern for social justice, and a shared passionate engagement with this life. Bill would have followed the Kehler story with interest and have recognized the philosophical underpinnings of this form of protest.

In contemporary parlance, the term "civil disobedience" is used to describe many deliberate acts of law breaking undertaken (ostensibly) in the service of some "higher" law or code. The practice has become a common feature of the political landscape, but we have, I think, lost sight of the theory behind the practice.

Thoreau's essay is not so much an elucidation of all the particular reasons why he should not be forced to pay his poll tax as it is the exposition of a theory of government. This theory is essentially libertarian; "... government is an expedient by which men would fain succeed in letting one another alone." In setting up a government whose primary function is to preserve individual liberty, the electorate does not automatically cede moral authority to the state. "Must the citizen ever for a moment, or in the least degree, resign his conscience to the legislator?" The answer is a resounding NO. Thoreau argues that majority rule is amoral, that voting is not a moral act. He does this by making a distinction between actor and agent; "I (the actor) cast my vote (for an agent), perchance, as I think right (according to the dictates of my conscience); but I am not vitally concerned (willing to take action) that that right should prevail. I am willing to leave it to the majority (but I have not in so doing relinquished my right to act as my conscience dictates) ... voting (choosing an agent) for the right (according to the dictates of my conscience) is doing nothing for it (is not the same thing as a moral action)." In short, civil law has moral force only insofar as it is consistent with the individual's moral code; the state has no moral authority of its own.

I am not sure that Thoreau's conception of the relationship between the individual and the state is

shared by much of today's electorate. Most voters are, I suspect, only too willing to let the state decide what is right and what is wrong, to privilege civil law over an individual's conscience. Civil disobedience as Thoreau imagined it is not, as some critics charge, a publicity stunt or a way of shirking one's responsibility. Rather, it is nothing less than an individual's public acceptance of responsibility. "There will never be a really free and enlightened State, until the State comes to recognize the individual as a higher and independent power, from which all its own power and authority are derived, and treats him accordingly."

When Randy Kehler went to jail, maybe we moved a little closer to that goal. In any case, an individual's struggle "to front the essential facts of life" and simultaneously to follow the dictates of his conscience is one with which my late friend, Bill Wolf, was intimately familiar.

EDITOR'S NOTE: A version of this essay was published in *The Charlemont Review*, a student-edited publication at The Academy at Charlemont.

EDITOR'S NOTE

The *Heath Herald* will sponsor an open forum for guest writers. All copy must be to the *Heath Herald* by the 20th of January, March, May, July, September, or November.

LIBRARY LINES

by Alli Thane

Start the year right by reading some of these new books at the library.

Comeback - Dick Francis
No Greater Love - Danielle Steele
The World is My Home - James A. Michener
Needful Things - Stephen King
Wasteland - Stephen King
Kitchen God's Wife - Amy Tan
Remembering Reinhold Niebuhur - Ursula Niebuhur
Sum of All Tears - Tom Clancy
Night Over Water - Ken Follett
Doomsday Conspiracy - Sidney Sheldon
Scarlett - Alexandra Ripley

We also have several new children's books written and illustrated by local authors, i.e., Jane Yolen, Lauren Mills, Beverly Duncan, Margot Apple, and others.

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by Todd Sumner

There are two other local dances going, one in Greenfield, the other in Bernardston. The Cummington Fair, inspired perhaps by the success of the Heath Fair dance, is considering holding one at their '92 fair. In the meantime, given the driving time to the movies in Greenfield and the long lines in the cold, there's entertainment to be had in Heath two Saturdays a month ... The band's warming up when you walk in. As Ruth Fournier gives you change for a five, tap your foot, smile, and think of Phil.

by **BILL LATTRELL**

My adventure began early in December during the Massachusetts deer hunting season. Near the back of our land I had been noticing a great amount of bear scat. This was puzzling to me because over a period of days it was concentrated in a small area. I attributed it to the heavy acorn mast on the ground but I was still surprised to see it in just one area of oak stand, while in other areas there was no bear sign at all. It occurred to me that a black bear might be getting ready to den in this area. This made sense due to the fact that the black bear will range many tens of square miles in the summer, and contrarily, stay close to its denning site just before the winter sleep. During the second week of hunting season I was stalking a ridge above this red oak stand. I heard an animal crashing away through the underbrush. Assuming it was a deer I decided to circle around the ridge hoping to intercept it on the south side of the mountain. On the back side of this hill there is a ledge adjacent to a stone wall. I was coming out from behind this ledge when my first encounter began. Bounding over the stonewall was a black bear. We were perhaps six feet from each other. The bear stopped dead in his tracks. He stood up on his rear legs. Although he was only about five feet tall I was awed by the powerful look of his body. The bear and I were looking directly into each other's eyes. For about two seconds the look in the bear's eyes was one of curiosity, and then, suddenly, that look transformed to a look of terror. With a sudden leap to my right he bound off

~~~~~

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at an incredible speed. It was as if he were shot out of a cannon. Never before had I seen any animal go from 0 to 40 miles per hour in a split second. He was out of sight in moments. The incident took place so quickly I never had a chance to check with my feeling. I never felt fear, only excitement and an extreme sense of awe.

The next chapter of my adventure took place about three weeks later. My wife, Maureen, had just returned from a walk in the woods. She seemed excited, although she said nothing immediately. In her own time she told me she had encountered a black bear in the woods. The bear was on a ridge digging in the dirt. She had heard it first, and then after several moments had visually located it about the same time that it saw her. The bear exited slowly, seemingly without fear. She also told me there were great amounts of bear tracks in the snow concentrated in this area. I was beside myself with anticipation and immediately planned to go to the area of her discovery the next morning.

The weather in December had been unusually warm, although during the nights we had received several small snowfalls which made for excellent tracking. I was hoping that the many tracks would lead me to the den. Finding a bear den can be very difficult in a cold, snowy winter. Bears tend to stay put, sleeping the winter away, until warmer weather arrives. Occasionally they do come out during a January thaw. Bears will stay active until the energy they spend looking for food exceeds the amount of energy they receive from their findings. This winter, with a record forage crop left from the fall, and very mild temperatures, using little excess energy, the bear's energy budget was running a surplus. They will, however, stay very close to their den (within 1/2 mile radius) assumably to limit the energy spent foraging and to keep the den within safe limits should severe winter weather return suddenly.

Following Maureen's directions I easily found the area where she had encountered the bear. Although she had told me that there were a lot of tracks, I was not prepared for the great numbers that were present. Some were melted almost beyond recognition, some were several days old, but still clearly recognizable, and some were very fresh, perhaps only hours old. Looking over the area, trying to see any patterns, I soon discovered that there were two different bears, one much larger than the other as gauged by their tracks. Finding two sets of tracks from two different bears was beyond my wildest dreams.

I decided to follow first the small bear's tracks. I did this for two reasons. First, the tracks were slightly fresher. Second, I was hoping it was the same bear that I had encountered three weeks earlier about 1/4 mile away. I followed the tracks for hours. The bear never wandered far, but its search for food rambled from one acorn mast to the next. I was quite impressed with the amount of digging that the bear had done. In some places large areas of snow, ice, and forest floor were completely overturned. It seemed that whenever this occurred the bear would also leave a large deposit marking the end of a happy meal. Finally after tracking the bear up hills, down hills, over fallen trees, and straight up ledges I found it's den. Several sets of tracks, both old and new entered and exited a crevice in a ledge that had a fallen tree before it. It was nearing dusk and the fresh set of tracks led into the den. I limited my distance from the den when observing it, and near dark returned home.

The next day I went back to the area early in the morning with the intention of following the other, larger bear's tracks. I had made a mental note the day before that the two bears' tracks never intersected each other. This morning was decidedly colder, perhaps 10 degrees. There were no fresh tracks, but the ones from the previous day were still very easy to follow and identify. The track of this bear was at least 50% larger than the tracks followed the previous day. Following this bear's habits through the woods was almost a carbon copy of the experience of the previous day, except the diggings were much larger, the deposits much larger, and the bear went around ledges rather than straight up them. The two bears generally were working the same area, although they never came in contact with one another. After about two hours I found this bear's den. Surprisingly it was about 300 yards from the other den. This shelter, located in the same general piece of bedrock, was dug out of a large hole created when an oak tree pulled out of the bedrock. The bear had piled some brush in front of the opening. I photographed the den, again being careful to get no closer than 15 to 20 feet away. When walking away from the den I was startled to hear a loud snap from within the den, probably the bear stirring around and breaking a protruding root, as the result of my visit.

I have always held great admiration for the black bear. My winter encounters with this magnificent animal will remain a highlight of my wild ramblings in Heath for years to come. And perhaps I have learned another lesson. Instead of grumbling about these mild winters, I should get out into the woods and see what wild miracles they have produced.



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## HEATH CONSERVATION COMMISSION

by Bill Lattrell

During the last two months the Heath Conservation Commission has been reviewing a Notice of Intent filed by Mohawk Beach Estates and conducting several site visits.

The proposal by Mohawk Beach Estates is for a repair on the lower dam of the pond. The applicant has proposed to build a coffer dam to draw down the water immediately in front of the dam so that it can be inspected to plan the actual repairs. At the hearing regarding this application it was determined that more information was needed in order to approve the Notice of Intent. This information was provided, and the Commission expects to act on this application by January 30. The applicant will be required to file another Notice of Intent for the actual dam repairs. We expect to see this sometime during the spring.

The Commission has also been conducting site visits as the result of perspective applicants requests, and also as a result of the new check-off list needed to acquire a building permit. This new system promoted by the Board of Selectmen and the Franklin County Cooperative Building Inspector's Office seems to be working quite well. Already we have found situations where wetlands regulations do apply. This process is of great benefit to the perspective builders because it allows them to be aware of situations that may affect their project before the actual building begins. We are confident that this process will work well and congratulate all those who have been involved in the planning of this new system.

The Conservation Commission welcomes any questions that the citizens of Heath may have. Please contact any of the commissioners, Bill Lattrell, Brian DeVriese, Dawn Peters, David Thane, or Ruth Johnson if you have any questions. Our regularly scheduled meetings are the fourth Thursday of each month.

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## FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

by Earl Gleason, Chief

The department responded to nine incidents, of which five were mutual aid. The first of the mutual aid calls was to Colrain on November 29, when twelve firefighters and engines 2 and 3 responded. This call was cancelled enroute. December 2 saw eight firefighters respond to a structure fire in Colrain with engine one. Seven firefighters stayed at our station during this incident. The next mutual aid call was to Charlemont to cover their station for two hours during a serious truck accident on Route 2. Six firefighters and engine one were involved. On December 22, three EMTs and two firefighters were requested to respond to Dwight Cross Road in Colrain to assist Colrain Ambulance. January 17 saw five firefighters spend nearly six hours covering the station at Colrain while they were at a structure fire in East Colrain. One firefighter responded to our station. Meanwhile on the local scene, ten firefighters extinguished a chimney fire on December 7 at an 8A residence. The final call of 1991 was to assist Charlemont Ambulance with a man that was ill in South Heath. Three EMTs and three firefighters responded to this December 29 incident. It is of interest that this was the 38th incident of the year as compared to 52 during 1990. We are hoping to decrease that number in 1992, but we have not started out very well. In fact we had our first incident on New Year's day when eleven firefighters and Police Chief Rabbitt responded to an 8A residence for a ceiling fire. Chief Rabbitt and twelve firefighters spent a rather uncomfortable cold and windy three hours at a downed electrical wire that was arcing on Avery Brook Road. This event occurred in the early morning hours of January 15. Also three firefighters were involved in a public service detail for a plugged chimney on December 8.

Three regular drills were conducted during the period, as were two Association meetings. Several special drills were conducted by Mike Smith on using air packs. Incidentally, if you see some Heath Firefighters wearing new bunker pants, they are the personnel that passed the class. The Fire Association voted to buy up to ten pair of bunker pants and to issue them to those individuals that completed an approved air pack class. The Chief has attended a four evening Vermont Training class on Incident Command.

Two firefighters completed their EMT training at the Franklin county Medical Center in Greenfield. This meant going to four hour classes twice a week for three months without missing any of the classes. Ken Thane and Bob Giard are the two firefighters that should be applauded.

The Chief managed to squeeze in nine various meetings during the holiday season.

We have already responded to three incidents this year, so please check your chimney, stove pipes, smoke detectors and any other items so that we can reduce the number of runs we make in 1992.





## ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/ ACCOUNTANT REPORT

by June Day

At the town meeting in November there was discussion about why the town could not use the \$8,700 already raised from the sale of town equipment this fall to purchase replacement equipment rather than the proceeds going into the General Fund. This made it necessary for the town to go through the convolutions we did in order to get Free Cash certified and for the town to vote from that Free Cash. Town meeting members felt it was very restrictive that the town is prevented from doing what appears to be eminently logical. However, municipalities are bound by laws restricting spending in order to ensure that the town meeting, i.e., the voters, have a say in any amount spent by the town whether it be from borrowing, any special funds (as stabilization, machinery earnings), Free Cash, or "raise and appropriate", meaning raised by taxation. Unfortunately there was no mechanism other than the one chosen, appropriation from Free Cash, for this fall. The monies raised through the sale of equipment should become part of Free Cash following the close of Fiscal Year 1992.

The rules do seem very restrictive and they are. But it is all part of our democratic tradition of allowing town meeting members the final say in how the monies coming into the town coffers will be spent. It is unfortunate that so few people actually attend meetings to exercise their vote. But I do believe the lack of attendance is not so much lack of interest but an indication of the trust you have in your town officials to make wise decisions in the best interest of the town.



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## HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT REPORT

by Jack Cable, Superintendent

The Highway Superintendent's job has been very challenging and rewarding. I appreciate the patience and understanding of my crew, the selectmen and the townspeople during my learning period. As many have noted, where we cut back and ditched some roads this fall, the water not only is not in the roadway, but the roads are not as heaved and bumpy as in the past.

We liquidated equipment which was obsolete or unusable and cleaned up the equipment around the town garage, fire station and transfer station. Some of you may have noted that the clutter and brush were removed near the station so that a parking area was created. Two propane gas tanks still have to be removed which will improve the area.

We have responded to distressed vehicles, a downed power lines episode and generally tried to maintain the roads with the equipment we have had to work with, for the safe passage of vehicles. I would like to thank a great crew for their efforts and dedication - Dohn Sherman, Bob Glard and Fred Live-ly. As of this date we will not use highway equipment on private property unless it is a medical, police or fire emergency. If you know of anyone in town who has medical problems which will require our department, please call. We are compiling a list of people and their problems and/or times of emergencies such as medical treatments scheduled at hospitals, etc. Call us at 337-4462 or at my home 337-4454. Please call if you see or hear of possible hazards in the roadways.

According to SRRI, Heath residents are doing very well on their recycling efforts. We do accept passenger car tires (without the rims). Just a reminder to recycle your mercury batteries, such as the ones used in watches, hearing aids, etc. There is a place at the town hall for them. Also, Bud Kaempfer will take them at the Transfer Station. My thanks to Bud for his diligence and dedication to manning the transfer station. He is a great asset to the town.

Keep well and warm and keep us informed through the wintery months.

P.S. The Car I was pictured with in the October/November issue is a car I've owned since 1956. It is a 1938 Packard Super 8 - all original.



**DOHN SHERMAN ACCEPTS NEW SANDER  
FROM FRANK ZWACK, JR.  
(Photo by Jack Cable)**



## POLICE REPORT

Tom Rabbitt, Chief

The Heath Police Department has been busy these past months. We have dealt with a wide range of complaints ranging from suspicious persons to domestic violence. Having handled eleven incidents, eight B & E's and six accidents we are dealing as best we can considering the budget and personnel.

Officer Markert was able to bring to a good end the theft of a snowmobile in Mohawk Estates. Although the machine was damaged it was recovered and, I understand, running the next day. Good work, Bob! We had another attempt to steal snowmobiles, also in the Estates. We believe the would-be thieves were thwarted because the owner had secured the sleds with chains and had used an alarm system.

Because of the weather we have had some automobile accidents here in town. The most serious sent the operator to the hospital. During this time of the year the conditions can change from hour to hour. What may have been a slightly wet road at three o'clock can become an icy roadway by four-thirty. That coupled with other conditions means we all should use caution whenever we drive the roads of Heath. I believe the Highway Department under Jack Cable has been doing an excellent job all things considered.

This brings me to a topic that should be addressed -- being prepared for the unexpected while driving in New England. I have assisted people when their cars have broken down and been assisted by others when my car(s) have broken down. I would bet most of you have done the same. The one thing that I feel is the most important regarding this season is the number of people who are not prepared for anything unexpected. During one snowstorm I assisted a lady who was walking towards home wearing only a light jacket and high heel shoes. This person was cold when she got into my car and very happy for an assist. We should make an effort to have a shovel, tow rope, a pair of gloves and perhaps an emergency blanket in our cars. I also make sure that I have a pair of shoes or boots that are suitable for walking and, if weather dictates, warm.

One lady I assisted this year appeared well prepared for the weather during a recent ice storm. She decided the best thing to do was to give up trying to get to work and park her car and head for home. She was wearing a good pair of boots, warm jacket, hat and gloves. Although she may not have needed the lift I suspect it was appreciated. Many of us warm up our cars before heading out and feel that we can wear light clothing because we will only get out and quickly run into where we work. What we all must consider is the possibility of our car breaking down or, heaven forbid, an accident. We may be afoot before we know it and, as we all can remember, some days the temperature doesn't get above the lower teens all day.

I am still holding office hours at the Fire and Police Station on Fridays from about 7 PM on. Come on over if you like. We can chat about almost anything you like.

## SELECTMEN'S REPORT

by Art Schwenger

The Selectmen called a special town meeting which was held January 7. The voters in attendance approved the formation of a School Building Committee (SBC) to explore the feasibility of constructing a Heath school and related educational options. Also approved was the transfer of \$7,000 for the SBC to use for architects fees and other related expenses in the conducting of this effort. The results of the committee's work will come back before the town meeting for any action recommended. The Special Town Meeting also voted to transfer \$3,000 from a highway account for the purpose of paying expenses incurred while working on a water source for the town shed.

The vacancy on the Board of Assessors created by the resignation of Alan Nichols has been filled by the appointment of Joanne Fortune of Brunelle Road. Brooks McCutcheon has been appointed to the Board of Health.

The Small Business Loan Committee composed of Bruce Cromack, Nancy Burrington and John Musacchio, Chair., have proposed a method for granting small loans from the \$30,500 grant funding available to Heath from the old 3 town economic development grant.

Budget planning for FY93 is scheduled to begin on February 11. Department heads have been asked to submit proposed budgets and will defend them at a series of joint Selectmen and Finance Committee meetings. As usual, not much is known about the town's projected resources at this stage, but the hope is that state aid will be at least level funded.

Donald Ranieri and other owners of a parcel of land off Number Nine and Stone Hill Road in North Heath have filed a claim against the town in Land Court seeking to invalidate the Heath Zoning Bylaws. The owners request for a subdivision permit has been denied due to zoning and conservation issues. Town Counsel Donna MacNicols has been advising town officials on the case.

The Selectmen met with the town's CPA about working our problems and completing conversion of the town's computerized system. It is now nearly complete and functioning satisfactorily.

A new policy clarifying the timing and periods of pay for elected or appointed officials has been developed and added to the town's policy book. This will avoid further confusion at the time of change of office.

The Selectmen voted to support the Planning Board's plan for discontinuance of several old roads in Heath which are no longer used. The process will allow for hearings and public comment. It will come before the voters in its final recommendation form at which time additional public discussion can take place.

The Selectmen are gratified by the willingness and dedication of the many people who have been volunteering for and serving on the many town committees, elected offices and appointed positions. Much progress is being made. Without such public service, Heath would be a much different community.







## Green Thoughts

by

ELSA BAKALAR

The seed and plant catalogs are here and an interesting lot they are this year. My survey is not in the least scientific, but there seems to be an enormous range of style. There are still some catalogs where extravagance is the order of the day (this often runs to the plant prices, too), and we are treated to glossy covers and photographs in unbelievable color on large pages.

One of these catalogs announces a rose named "Desert Peace". In case we miss the point, they go on to explain that the name celebrates the peaceful conclusion of conflict in the Middle East. The color of the rose is such, they tell us, that "its presence is a reminder that we light our wicks of peace from the past and carry the blazing torch brightly into the future." Well, perhaps; let's hope so.

Another company takes a crisp, no-nonsense attitude, explaining that they have discontinued their toll-free 800 number because it cost too much. On the subject of "shared responsibility," they explain that if, in spite of proper care, the plants don't grow, that's their responsibility and they'll make good. In a school-masterly tone, they go on to say that if plants are lost due to extremes of weather, pests, or neglect, "that is *your* responsibility, and while we may share your disappointment we cannot share your loss." Yessir; noted.

It's something of a relief to turn to some of the small, unassuming catalogs, usually printed in black and white, on recycled paper. Here the tone suggests the Back to Basics of the plant world. One quotes Jefferson: "The greatest service that can be rendered any country is to add a useful plant to its culture." One exhorts us to "help us to tread gently on this earth." Another makes a sporting offer: "We'll try to surprise you by getting your order out real fast." Yet another explains: "You won't find an order blank because we didn't print one. We like your personal responses better." Pull up a chair -- you're family.

The nursery staff in the occasional photograph look young and appealing, and as if they're enjoying what they do. Some of these catalogs include recipes, others urge you to attend their free lectures, and, I swear, all of them offer T-shirts with their logo. But I'm an addict and I read them all. Now comes the real problem of reducing my initial pie-in-the-sky order. It looked fine until I added up the last column.

Interest in home gardens is supposed to pick up when times are hard, and there's a great deal of space given this year to salad and vegetable seeds. It may be that growing more of one's own food has multiple benefits. The cost is not always much less, but the food is fresher and tastier. Add to this the psychological value of a healthy and absorbing activity at a time of anxiety and -- another benefit -- the possibility that you can grow enough for family, for friends, and even for folks you don't know at all. Think about it.

## HEATH PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Pegge Howland has just published a new reference book entitled Descriptive Catalog of the Archibald MacLeish Collection at Greenfield Community College: Volume I MacLeish's Library. It contains 1,629 annotated citations to MacLeish's personal library of poetry and prose by authors who influenced him, or were influenced by him. The catalog was made possible by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

Elsa Bakalar, internationally acclaimed gardening expert, will be giving illustrated lectures during February and March to groups across the country. She will be making presentations in Massachusetts, Vermont, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Virginia, Washington, Oregon and British Columbia.

Marlboro College sophomore Lark Miller, son of Charles and Lynn Miller, recently won the College's fifth annual Dick Judd Triathlon. Miller burned through the triathlon's six kilometers of mountain bike trails, two kilometers of kayaking, and a four kilometer run with a time of 46 minutes and 49 seconds.

It was by no means an easy race for Miller, who dislocated his shoulder during the mountain bike run, the first segment of the race, but refused to be stopped by his injury. Although his shoulder hindered him throughout the remainder of the race, Miller won the triathlon with his closest opponent only 18 seconds behind him.

Miller, a 1989 graduate of Mohawk Regional High School, is currently completing his sophomore year at Marlboro College, a small four year liberal arts school located in Marlboro, VT. He expects to receive his Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1994.

The first baby born at Franklin Medical Center in 1992 was Eric Tanner. He is the son of April Tanner and Scott Gunn. Eric was the recipient of many gifts from local merchants.

Pat Leuchtman was recently interviewed on Over the Falls, a special Friday night television talk show broadcast from the Channel 6 cable television network located at Mohawk Trail Regional School. The content of the show focused on the year Henry and Pat spent in China. Pat displayed a variety of interesting artifacts that they brought back from China, and provided the local audience with fascinating stories of China.



PAT & HENRY LEUCHTMAN ATTEND  
WELCOME RECEPTION  
(Family photo)



## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### FEBRUARY

- 7 Mass. Girls & Women in Sport Day  
Mass. State House, Boston
- 12 Rowe Elementary Musical Performance  
Rowe Elementary School, 7 PM
- 6th grade bake sale  
Rowe Elementary School, 7 PM
- 13 School Building Committee Meeting  
Sawyer Hall, 7 PM
- 18 Open House, The Academy at  
Charlemont, 8 AM - 3 PM

### MARCH

- 10 Presidential Primary  
Sawyer Hall, 7 AM - 8 PM
- 18 Last day to obtain nomination  
papers for town elections  
Town Clerk, 5 PM deadline
- 20 Nomination papers for town elections  
due, 5 PM deadline
- Copy deadline for *Heath Herald*
- 22 6th grade Pancake Breakfast  
9 AM - Noon, Heath Community Hall
- 23 Voter registration for town elections  
6 - 9 PM, Library
- 30 Voter registration for town elections  
6 - 9 PM, Library

### APRIL

- 11 Voter registration for town elections  
9 AM - 5 PM, Catherine Cromack's
- 18 Voter registration for town elections  
2 - 4 PM and 7 - 10 PM, Ledges Road

## TOWN OFFICE HOURS

(At Town Hall unless otherwise specified)

- Selectmen:** Tuesday 7:30 PM
- Accountant:** Monday - Friday, 8:30 AM - 1 PM
- Assessors:** 1st & 3rd Monday, 9:30 AM - 12 PM
- Town Clerk:** Monday, 9 - 11:30 AM  
Wednesday, 8 - 11:30 AM  
(call for appointment, 4 - 7 PM, 337-4268)
- Town Treasurer:** Tuesday, 5:30 - 7:30 PM  
Saturday, 9 - 10:30 AM
- Tax Collector:** Monday, 9 - 11:30 AM  
Wednesday, 8 - 11:30 AM  
(call for appointment, 4 - 7 PM, 337-4268)
- Finance Committee:** As posted
- Planning Board:** 2nd Monday of month 7 PM
- Conservation Commission:** 3rd Tuesday of month
- Heath School Committee:** 1st Tuesday of month  
7:30 PM Community Hall
- Library Trustees:** 3rd Monday of month 7:30 PM
- Library:** Monday 6-9 PM Wednesday 1-5 PM  
Saturday 9 AM - 1 PM
- Town Nurse:** Wednesday 9 - 11 AM  
(call 337-4323 for appointment)
- Post Office:** Monday through Saturday  
9:30 AM - 1:30 PM
- Transfer Station:** Monday 9 AM - 1 PM  
Saturday 8 AM - 4 PM
- Town Telephones:** Town Hall 337-4934  
Community Hall 337-4847  
Town Garage 337-4462  
Fire, Police & Ambulance 1-772-2133



MAIL TO:

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

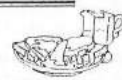
HEATH HERALD Box 54, Heath, MA 01346

## 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 Syrups |
| • Liquor  | • Pretzels | • Frozen Foods | • Aspirin      |
| • Soda    | • Popcorn  | • Breads       | • Bandages     |
| • Cheeses | • Crackers | • Meats        | • and more     |

Deli Case • General Groceries  
Snacks • Sunday Papers

Video Tapes & VCR Rentals • Gasoline • Diesel • Kerosene  
Worms and Crawlers • Blue Seal Feeds  
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