



HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER 50¢

ROWE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

by Philip O'Reilly, Principal

As much as the children would like to believe otherwise, summer vacation has not begun. Rowe School children continue their involvement at the school in a myriad of meaningful lessons and activities.

Once again our grade six students have experienced a delightful time in the capitol city. Washington has been good to the children of Rowe School. They have experienced many "once-in-a lifetime" experiences highlighted by an unexpected meeting of the President of the United States.

We are certainly grateful to many people in the towns of Rowe and Heath who have supported this fantastic educational experience for our graduating class. So many of our townspeople have graciously contributed to many of the fund raising activities the sixth grade students have sponsored throughout the year. **THANK YOU!!**

On Friday, May 22, Rowe School children spent much of the morning honoring those who have died in the service of our country at the Center Cemetery in Heath. The occasion was marked by a short program of presentations by Mr. Schoenfeld's fifth grade students. This included a poetry reading, a recitation of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address and the playing of Taps. Students and teachers then visited the various grave sites paying tribute to the dead and making gravestone rubbings. It was a moving experience for both children and adults.

R/1 students have been busily preparing their original play, "The Happy Family". This event is one of the many activities these students will complete while learning about fairy tales. Each child is also writing his/her own fairy tale which will be published in a book and shared with parents and guests at the annual "Authors' Tea" in June.

Kindergarten students are studying ocean life with their teacher, Mrs. Markert. This integrated unit of study will include making a life-size replica of a whale. Students will also create a life-size graph comparing the sizes of whales. Paty Lentz made sand castings with the children and a number of guest speakers will be visiting the classroom.

Recently our fifth grade students spent a day at Bear Swamp. We are thankful to Henry Dandeneau for the time he has spent with our students leading the tour of the facility and explaining its operations.

Teachers at all grade levels recently spent an afternoon planning the science activities that will be featured at our upcoming science challenge on June 10. The activities for this event are created to expand the students creative and scientific thinking as well as problem solving skills.

On June 5, at 10:30 AM the PTP sponsored an instrumental concert performed by students and professionals from the Mohawk Trail area.

The annual Rowe School graduation is Monday, June 22 at 7 PM. Please join us for this event and show your support to our most recent graduates.



ROWE SCHOOL 6TH GRADE GRADUATES

Front row: JOANNE GIGUERE, teacher, GREG NICHOLS
ANDREW GILBERT, DONNA TANNER, MITCHELL BARRE
CORY EDDY, BREE RICHTER

Back row: LAUREN KUEHL, MELISSA GILBERT,
JAMIE BROWN, NICHOLAS WEIR, WILLIAM MARKERT
DAVID SESSIONS, SETH BROWER
(Rowe School Photo)

TOWN ELECTION RESULTS

Write-in candidate Richard Giard of Colrain Stage Road was elected to a three-year term as selectman during the May 8 town election. Of the 386 registered voters, 116 turned-out to vote. The following officials were elected:

Assessor, 3-year term - Joanne Fortune
Assessor, 1-year term - Wendy Luckhurst
Finance Committee, 3-year term - Charles Mackie (declined)
Finance committee, 2-year term - Gerard Gilbert
Treasurer, 2-year term - Dianne Suller
School Committee, 3-year turn - Frank Brower
Planning board, 5-year term - Robert Gruen
Library trustee, 3-year term - Carolynne Armstrong
Constable, two 1-year terms - Robert Markert, Charles Kaempfer
Tree Warden, 1-year term - Thomas Lively
Dog officer - Michael Smead (declined), Carl Herzig (appointed)

CHURCH NEWS

by Pastor Roger Peace

At the time of writing, I am anxiously and excitedly anticipating the first amateur Talent Show. This sounds to be a time of tasty food, good fellowship and a lot of fun. But of course, it is always a good time when you can enjoy the fellowship of the Heath folks. We hope you can join us for some of the other activities we have planned for the next several months.

The first special activity will be held on June 14 at the 10 AM Worship Service. At that time the Sunday School will lead the entire worship service, including the preaching. As of that week, there will be no more Sunday School for the summer. The following week we will honor our fathers during the worship service. Then on Saturday, June 27 the church will be having an auction that will begin at 10 AM and last until 4 PM. Any contributions to this will be appreciated and can be donated through Howard or Jeanette Crowningshield at 339-4406. During that time there will also be food for sale at the food booth and a rummage sale for those interested in clothing. All this takes place at the Heath Fairgrounds.

Coming on July 25 the church will again join the Heath Ladies Aid for the Craft Fair and Ladies Aid sale. Come and show off your craft and maybe make a little profit from the sale of them. This is open to any Heath resident. There are usually some great tasting baked goods on sale to fill that void as the day wears on. Watch for the time!

We at the Heath Union Church hope you all have a safe and happy summer. Be sure to spend some fun time as a family, and if you can, join us for a time of worship any Sunday at 10 AM.



HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

VOLUME 14 NUMBER 2

Managing Editor
General Editing & Layout
Copy Editor
Staff Reporters

Columnists

Staff Photographer
Advertising
Circulation & Business
Typography

JUNE/JULY 1992

Susan Silvester
Pegge Howland
David Gibbons
Edith Royer
Beverly denOuden
Todd Sumner
Karen Brooks
Elsa Bakalar
Michael D. Coe
Bill Lattrell
Carroll Stowe
Bonnie Woodin
Michael Peters
Ray Pettengill
Terry Pettengill
Arlene Markert

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

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

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

CLASSIFIED ADS: \$2.00 per line.

Send all correspondence to Box 54, Heath, MA 01346

LETTERS

TO THE EDITOR:

Town meetings and elections are as sure a sign of spring as warm weather and tulips. By the same token, cuts in basic town services and calls for Proposition 2 1/2 overrides are becoming as dependable as the seasons.

It is during this time of year that town budget negotiations give citizens a yearly glimpse into the increasingly precarious state of small town finances. Rising costs and steadily declining state aid are threatening the viability of everything from our schools to our firehouses. As your state senator, I am working to ensure that a fair share of local aid money makes it out to western Massachusetts from Boston.

With this in mind, I am proposing two amendments to the state budget which will return more money to towns in my district. The first involves restoration of the account for "in lieu of taxes" payments on state-owned land. As the Division of Forests and Parks and the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife acquire land, it is taken off the tax rolls. Since 1988, however, the state has not been paying towns any money to make up for this loss of revenue.

Local officials from throughout Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden and Hampshire Counties are rallying together to support this effort. State land and open space contribute to the rural beauty of our area, but towns can no longer be expected to foot the bill. I am in the process of generating support on Beacon Hill for my amendment, and am optimistic about its passage.

The other amendment I am submitting is designed to ensure that municipalities receive the full amount of gas tax revenue that is legally due them. The 21 cent per gallon gas tax generates approximately \$500 million each year. The state promised to give cities and towns 7.5% of this for Chapter 90 highway projects, but for years this money has not been forthcoming. Many of our roads and bridges are in sad shape as a result.

I am proposing that the state be forced to place \$40 million (this represents 7.5% of gas tax revenues) into a separate account to guarantee that cities and towns receive it in Fiscal Year 1993. Groups from around the state are proposing similar measures, and the administration is being sent a strong message that it must live up to its promises.

The successful passage of these two amendments will go a long way towards alleviating the financial burden many of my towns are facing. If you have questions about these proposals, or any other issue, please feel free to call me. The number for my district office in Pittsfield is 442-5240. My office in Boston can be reached at (617) 722-1625, or by writing to: Senator Jane Swift, State House Room 407, Boston, MA 02133.

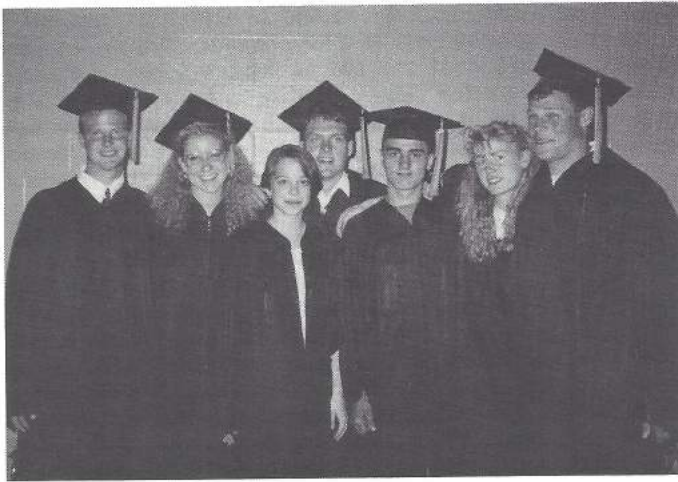
Jane M. Swift, State Senator

HEATH PRECIPITATION

by Ralph H. Dickinson

Observer for Mass. Division of Water Resources

Precipitation for April was 3.48 inches; snowfall was 4 inches. May precipitation came in at 3.07 inches. Total precipitation for the year is 15.8 inches. Total snowfall for 1991-92 season was 40.5 inches. Both precipitation and snowfall are below normal.

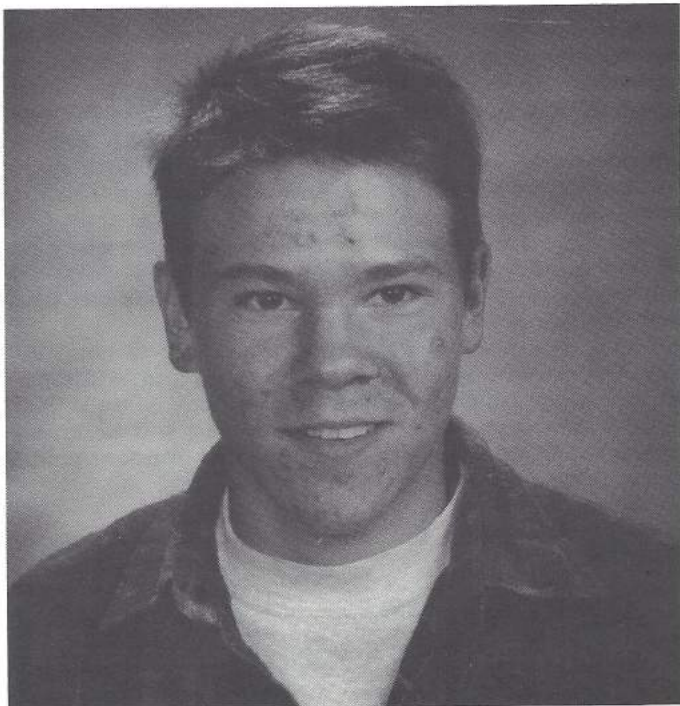


1992 MOHAWK GRADUATES

Left to right: DAVID MUENKEL, CHRISTIN VOYTKO
SIMAYA AUSIKAITIS, ROGER PEACE, KEITH SHERMAN
AMANDA AUSIKAITIS AND JOHN TUTURICE
(Photo by Sue Silvester)

HEATH GRADUATES

Congratulations to Heath students graduating from high school. We salute Jason Lively, who has been awarded the following honors from the Franklin County Technical School: FCTS Teachers' Association Vocational Award, Excellence in Reading Award, Science Proficiency Award, Machine Trades Most Improved Student Award. Congratulations to Mohawk Graduates, David Muenkel, Christin Voytko, Simaya Ausikaitis, Roger Peace, Keith Sherman, Amanda Ausikaitis and John Tuturice. The following presentations were made at Senior Awards Night: John Tuturice, Peer Educators Award, Library Service Award, Bobby Wells Award; David Muenkel, Class Award - Classiest of the Class.



1992 FRANKLIN COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL GRADUATE
JASON ANDREW LIVELY
(Family Photo)

RESPONSIBILITIES AND LIABILITIES OF TEENAGE DRINKING

9 Towns ADAPT (Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Team for Ashfield, Buckland, Shelburne, Colrain, Charlemont, Hawley, Heath, Plainfield, and Rowe) wants **YOU** to know that:

Massachusetts law prohibits sale or delivery of alcoholic beverages to persons under 21 with a fine of up to \$2,000 and 6 months imprisonment, or both.

You are liable for accidents and injuries to or caused by persons under 21 who drink in your home - even if you were not there at the time!

You can be charged for "Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor", "Procuring Alcohol for a Minor", and "Disturbing the Peace", for permitting underage parties with alcohol on your property.

Use of fake identification to purchase alcohol will result in loss of your driver's license for 6 months to a year.

PUBLIC RESPONSE TO TEENAGE DRINKING PARTIES

You need to know that on May 18, 1992 Police Departments in the 9 town region adopted the following policies regarding response to parties involving underage drinking:

1. The Department will make a list of registrations of motor vehicles found in the area which police describe as a teenage party at which alcohol is involved. Parents will be notified that a vehicle which they own was parked at this site. On many occasions parents have been misled as to where the young people were at a given time.

2. The Department will take the names of all those under 21 present, whether or not they have alcohol in their possession. This supplies the Police Chief with identification of those present. He then personally contacts each of their parents, making them aware of problems that can result from a party where liquor is served.

3. Most importantly, the investigator will then contact the owner of the home or property. If warranted, the Police will bring charges of "Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor".



RETHREADS

FINE NEW & USED CLOTHES

LARGE SELECTION OF MEN'S
WOMEN'S and CHILDREN'S CLOTHING

SEASONAL CONSIGNMENTS ACCEPTED

Tues-Sat 9-5

Thurs 9-8

14 Bridge St., Shelburne Falls, MA 625-9759

Gulf
Gas

UCF
Feeds

Moritz
Trailers

CHANDLER'S

GENERAL STORE

Jacksonville Road

Colrain, MA 01340

413-624-3406

David W. Nims, Owner

Maple Syrup
Cheese

Groceries
Hot Coffee

Seedway
Asgrow
Funk
Seeds

SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT

by Budge Litchfield, Chairperson

With the continuation of our annual town meeting (June 27) close at hand, this report will focus on financial matters. There are four school budget items you will be asked to approve; a town contribution for the Preschool program, elementary and administration budget, Mohawk assessment and Franklin County Technical School assessment. Together these four items are the largest category of spending in our town. From a broader perspective, we continue to spend less than the state average for our children on a per pupil basis. But, it "hurts" us more! Our tax impact is greater because our tax base is your back pocket and my back pocket and our town is a relatively poor one: \$11,600 per capita income vs state average, \$17,224. I mention all this to let you know that the school committee takes these budgets and the programs run with them very seriously. We have a very fine line to walk on. We can't bankrupt the taxpayers in our town yet we refuse to short change our children. We feel that these budgets and programs are responsive to both those realities and we encourage you to support all four items.

The numbers and pertinent information regarding the elementary, Mohawk and Tech costs will be quite familiar to most of you so I will devote the remainder of this report to providing information regarding the new item.

This year the school committee is asking the town to make a \$10,000 contribution to the operating costs for the Heath Early Childhood Program otherwise known as the Heath Public Preschool. The question is, do we want a preschool program in Heath? Reality is, without direct town support, it is very, very unlikely that we will continue to have a preschool program in town.

Prior to 1988 there was a private preschool in Heath. It was run on tuition, fundraising and parent labor. In 1988 the state began making available grants for the purpose of operating public preschool programs. The existence of grant funded programs created two problems for the private preschool here. First, they would lose students because the parents wouldn't have to pay or work (in the school) if their child attended a grant funded school. Second, the private preschool would lose its staff because in the grant funded programs staff would be paid like educators, not like babysitters (more on that word later). After much discussion, the school committee decided to assume operating responsibility for the preschool and to apply for a grant to fund the operation. From that time until now we have had a public preschool under the direct control of the school committee. Each year the vast majority of eligible 3 and 4 year olds in Heath (and in Rowe) have attended our public preschool program. During the early years there was no tuition and little or no fundraising. During the past 3 years fundraising has become an essential form of revenue. The towns of Heath and Rowe have been asked to make small (\$2,086) contributions to help close budget gaps and most recently, parents have been required to pay tuition (sliding scale, \$150-\$350 per year). Why? As the state's financial structure deteriorated, preschool grants were reduced. Wages have increased slightly (5% a year approx.) but hours have been reduced to make ends meet. Supplies have been removed from the "grant budget" and covered by fundraising. The real killer has been insurance premiums. To provide our share of the same coverage for the same two employees has

gone from approximately \$1,600 in the first grant to more than \$12,000 in the FY93 grant. That's an increase of more than \$10,400 in just 5 years. Fundraising and tuition alone simply cannot bridge the gap created by a reduced grant and the insane increase in insurance costs. That's why we are asking the town for this \$10,000 which by the way equals about \$.20 per \$1,000 on our tax rate.

In closing, a few words about the preschool program itself. It is not babysitting or daycare. The 3 1/2 hours, 3 days a week for a child in preschool clearly does not serve the purpose of allowing a parent to go to work. That time is carefully structured and planned to meet the cognitive, social, physical and emotional developmental needs of young children. In fact, the Heath Public Preschool has been recognized as a model program in our area. Please give this educational program your support on June 27.

NEWS FROM THE ACADEMY

by David Gibbons

Well, another year is winding down at the Academy. This one has been a really enjoyable one. The spirit at the school has been very positive and the sense of community has come a long way. Like everyone else, the recession took its toll on the school, but there is a very strong sense now that we are out of the woods.

By the time you read this the school year will be over and we will be on summer break. This year we are saying goodbye to seven seniors, among whom is the first student to attend the school for seven years, Simon MacLean. Simon has become such a fixture at the school it is hard to imagine the place without him!

Our sports teams did a remarkable job this year. We may not have won a lot, but our students played very clean, disciplined games, often against much larger teams (both physically and number of players). Many of the visitors at the games were impressed, as were we, with the wonderful attitude of sportsmanship displayed.

One recent event of which I personally am very proud is our first trip to the Westfield State College high-school computer programming contest. We do not teach programming at the school, but I took some interested students to the contest just for fun. It was even more fun when we won! Our win got us a place in the final against schools from as far away as Rochester, NY, and Delaware. We didn't do quite as well there, in fact we came in last, but it was amazing just to make it that far on our first try.

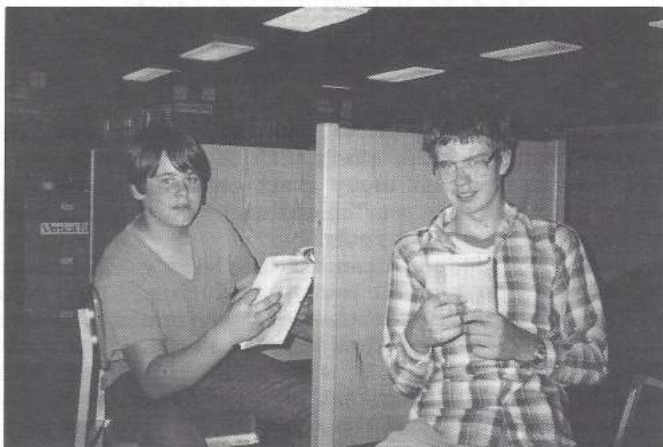
It will be a very busy summer for many of the faculty. There are some exciting changes and additions to our program to be planned out for the fall. The rafting trip that marks our fall opening will be on us all too soon, but I hope we too, like our students, will find a little time to enjoy the summer.

Shepherd Excavation



Rte. 8A, Heath, MA

(413) 337-4215

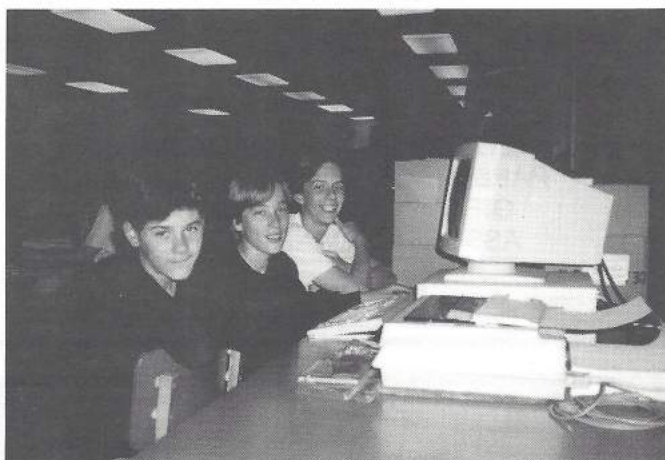


JOE THANE (left) AND LARRY BIGELOW (right)
VISIT THE LIBRARY ON A REGULAR BASIS
(Photo by Sue Silvester)

SEVENTH GRADERS ENJOY MOHAWK LIBRARY

by Susan Silvester

Among the many seventh graders this year who visit the Mohawk Resource Center on a regular basis are Joe Thane, Larry Bigelow, Gabe Porter-Henry, Keith Cerone and Justin Lively. One of the main attractions has been the addition of an IBM compatible computer with CD ROM disks for a Grolier encyclopedia, US atlas and world atlas. These programs have assisted students doing research or browsing for information. Just as popular are paperback books and current periodicals, as evidenced by the number of Middle School students who visit the library every day during study halls.



**HEATH SEVENTH GRADERS USE
THE CD ROM ENCYCLOPEDIA**
Left to right: JUSTIN LIVELY,
GABE PORTER-HENRY, KEITH CERONE
(Photo by Sue Silvester)

Bob DeLisle Electrician

Prompt, Courteous, Reasonable

Lic. #E34969

337-5716

MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL HONOR ROLL

Juniors - High Honors: Joel Porter-DeVriese; Sophomores - Honors: Jennifer Gilbert; Freshmen - Honors: James Cerone; 8th grade - High Honors: Nicole Rainville; 8th grade - Honors: Jeremy Gilbert; 7th grade - High Honors: Keith Cerone, Gabriel Porter-Henry; 7th grade - Honors: Colin Gruen, Tucker Litchfield, Justin Lively, Magen MacDougall, Tim Porter-DeVriese, Janice Shattuck, Cammie Wickline.

MTRS SENIOR AWARDS

Peer Educators Award - Awarded by Kevin Freitas to John Tuterice

Library Service Award - Awarded by Mrs. Susan Silvester to John Tuterice

Bobby Wells Award - Awarded by Bill Canaday to John Tuterice

Class Award - Classiest of the Class - Awarded by Co-Advisors Mr. Chula and Mrs. Mason to David Muenkel

FCTS GRADUATES RECEIVE AWARDS

Machine Trades Most Improved Student Award - Jason Andrew Lively

Science Proficiency Award - Jason Andrew Lively

Excellence in Reading Award - Jason Andrew Lively

FCTS Teachers' Association Vocational Award - Jason Andrew Lively

MOHAWK SPRING SPORTS ROSTER

Boys Tennis: Cory Rothwell; Golf Team: Dan Herman; J.V. Baseball: Jeff Gilbert; Middle School Baseball: Keith Cerone, Jeremy Gilbert; Boys Track: Adam Almeida, Ben Cerone, Jim Cerone, Colin Gruen, Tucker Litchfield, Joel Porter-DeVriese, Andy Shattuck, Ben Steinbock, John Tuterice; Girls Track: Shawna Hyytinen; Girls Tennis: Magen MacDougall, Jaime Hyytinen, Cammie Wickline.

Transition
Hair Design
Facial Waxing
"Manicures, Sculptured Nails, and Parafin Dip"

come change with us
625-6855

Tanning Toning
Ear Piercing

39 Bridge Street

Shelburne Falls, MA

OLDE TYME LAWN CARE

SPRING AND FALL CLEANUP

LAWN CARE

PRUNING

BRUSH CUTTING

PETE ROYER 625-9059

K-12 REGIONALIZATION UPDATE

by Sylvia Smith, Chair, K-12 Committee

An Interim Report on Exploring Full Regionalization is now printed. It is being made available at all town meetings in the nine west county towns. It is also available at the Superintendent's Office at Mohawk for anyone who would like one. Just call 625-9811 or stop in for your copy. Take one for your neighbor, too. It is our goal for each citizen to make an informed decision when the time comes.

The report outlines the three year history of regionalization, our statement of purpose and goal, findings from last year's Regional Information Meetings, recommendations currently under study, and a projected timeline.

The goal the committee had set last September was to bring a proposal to the voters of our nine communities this spring. It is the Interim Report that we bring you instead.

Many had hoped that an Amendment would be "the proposal". However, the delay has not been in our work, but in waiting for information on the Educational Reform legislation currently being debated in the Commonwealth. We have continued to proceed addressing the local issues at the local level. It is the committee's hope that once the reform is enacted minor adjustments can be made and we can continue. Or, if reform is not enacted, that we may proceed.

In order to meet deadlines for potential additional state financial aid (subject to appropriation), all votes on the K-12 Regionalization proposal need to be taken by November. We suggest the following timetable and request your openness to conducting a special town meeting this fall to meet those requirements and access the entitlement for FY94:

MAY AND JUNE - Continue drafting the amendment.

JUNE AND JULY - Review of Amendment by school committees, school counsel, town counsel, and Department of Education.

JULY AND AUGUST - Plan public information programs and hearings. Groups and organizations that would like presentations should contact the Superintendent's Office, 625-9811, Sylvia Smith, 625-2497, or your local representative to the K-12 committee.

SEPTEMBER - Conduct public information programs and hearings.

OCTOBER - Hold special town meetings to consider Full K-12 regionalization.



KINDERGARTNERS PRACTICE CONTRA DANCING
(Rowe School Photo)

MAYDAY CELEBRATION

by David Gibbons

On April 29, a beautiful Wednesday afternoon, the Heath Preschool kids, along with their parents and a few friends, got an early start on Spring. For the third year Mayday was celebrated with song, dance and the traditional Maypole.

About fifty people attended this year's celebration on the common and all had a good time. After some group singing, the preschoolers performed a couple of songs with actions that they knew. Then all gathered at the maypole. It wasn't the tidiest or most precise maypole dance that has ever been seen, but it was a lot of fun and the resulting "knot" was really quite pretty.

If you missed us this year, try to make it next spring--it's a wonderful way to convince yourself that spring may actually show up!



PEN Y BRYN
BED & BREAKFAST

John and Nancy Clark
TEL: (413) 337-6683 OR (212) 316-2977

ROUTE 8A
JACKSONVILLE STAGE ROAD
HEATH, MASSACHUSETTS

Sawyer News Co.

Bridge St. • Shelburne Falls

Monday-Saturday 6:30am-5pm

Thursday 'til 7pm

Sunday & Holidays 5:30 am-12:30 pm

NEWSPAPERS • MAGAZINES
PAPERBACK BOOKS • CARDS
GIFTS • MOVIE RENTALS
ASSORTED CANDIES & FILM

Tel. 625-6686

Don & Kathleen Upton, Proprietors



BEFORE
AND
AFTER

Feel Young Again

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

Chiropractors... We Can Help

SHELBURNE FALLS
CHIROPRACTIC OFFICE
Dr. Michael A. Boyle

10 Kratt Avenue • Shelburne Falls, MA • 625-6359



WHY PRESCHOOL?

by Pam Porter

When talking about preschool, the former Massachusetts Commissioner of Education, Harold Reynolds, used to take a dollar bill out of his pocket and lay it on the table. "See that," he would say, "For every one of those you spend on early childhood education you save six." He meant that money spent on preschool was an investment that paid off dramatically in money saved on special education and human service costs.

Research shows that early childhood education makes a difference for children at risk of school failure and also those with special needs. Children that have attended a high quality preschool program demonstrate dramatic increases in IQ and achievement test scores (Berrueta-Clement, et al, 1985; Consortium for Longitudinal Studies 1983; Illinois State Board of Education 1985; Irvine 1982). These cognitive gains were further strengthened by the children's positive attitudes towards classroom activities (Lazar et al., 1982). Longitudinal studies have provided further evidence of the positive outcomes of early childhood programs. Preschool graduates did better than their peers that did not attend preschool in the following ways:

FEWER: were referred to special education
repeated a grade
got failing grades in school
arrests and antisocial behavior
incidences of absenteeism/detention
illegitimate pregnancies, drug abuse
and delinquent acts

HIGHER: scores from teachers on measures of
social and emotional maturity
future aspirations
employment rates
graduation rates from high school
scores on academic motivation
measures
scores on measures of self-esteem
participation in sports

In addition it was found that parents of preschool graduates had better attitudes towards their children's schooling and had higher expectations for their children's learning.

In fact, research shows that preschool is a benefit for all children. Preschool provides social learning, emotional growth, language development and an opportunity to become acquainted with school materials and routines. Children make friends with their peers and learn to play cooperatively, resolve conflicts, take turns. They begin to be acquainted with their teachers, school and community, gaining important confidence and a beginning of self-reliance. They learn what it means to be a part of a group of children and are introduced to the materials that in subsequent years are used in learning reading, writing, mathematics. In conversations during play, at story time and by singing and acting out stories they acquire new language skills, not to mention poise and confidence. This means that when the day comes for them to attend "the Big School" they begin with fewer fears, greater confidence, friendships already begun, and some idea of what school is all about.

Preschools contribute to healthier families and healthier communities. Parents of preschoolers are generally highly involved in their child's schooling in ways that differ from involvement in elementary

school. Because they bring their child to school and pick him or her up there is much more opportunity for interaction with the teachers and with other mothers and fathers. Families meet and begin to offer each other support in ways that increase parenting skills. Parenting young children can be a very isolating occupation especially in a community like ours in which many are newcomers, many lack a supportive extended family, many work out of town and the opportunities for informal interaction are few. Contact with the preschool can also help young or new families begin to find connections with the larger community as well.

The preschool in Heath has been the work of many hands over the years. It began as a parent cooperative that was supported by those involved as a private enterprise. When Chapter 188 money became available, parents saw in it a way to provide preschool for all young children in Heath and Rowe. Parents were aware as well that the school could not continue to be supported by the level of tuitions that Heath parents could pay and so they worked very hard and won the first Chapter 188 Grant in 1988. The Heath Preschool, Inc. became the Heath Public Preschool. Since then it has belonged to the town and is operated under the authority of the School Committee. Parents have continued to be involved as members of the Advisory Council, fund raisers and classroom volunteers.

Over the years, the school has relied heavily on the support of the townspeople. Last year a mail appeal to all Heath and Rowe residents raised over \$2,500. People have come to community suppers, bought bird houses and raffle tickets, been dunked, bought Christmas items and used sports equipment, all to support the school. Without the support of the community, the school would not have survived.

For its part, the preschool has contributed to the maintenance and improvement of the Community Hall and the public play yard. In addition it has brought in more than \$175,000 in state monies. Parents from Heath and Rowe have worked together to support the school and in this way the school has provided a positive influence on the relationship between Heath and Rowe school communities. This year the Town of Rowe has voted \$5,000 to support the Preschool.

Why preschool? Because it makes sense as a financial investment. Because it is of documented benefit to the children who participate in it. Because it makes for healthier families and builds a more vital community. Because if you ask any three or four year old who has been there, they will tell you it is a good thing. Heath has been a leader in early childhood education in our area and we have good reason to be proud of the efforts of the many townspeople who have worked to see the program flourish. The Preschool belongs to this town and we urge you to continue to support it.

Gordon E. Taylor d/b/a



BLACKMER INSURANCE AGENCY

R. E. Blackmer

On the Mohawk Trail

Joseph J. Judd

Shelburne, MA

Marion J. Taylor

Tel: 625-6527



WILD RAMBLINGS

by BILL LATTRELL

JUST ANOTHER WALK IN THE WOODS

Most of my wild ramblings are just that, rambling about in the wilds from one place to the next physically, while my mind rambles about from one place to the next mentally. There is little doubt that my mind wanders the further distance on most occasions. For me it is a release of tensions built up in day to day life. It is also a chance for me to answer questions I have about life; questions like where do I fit into the scheme of things. And although I have not yet answered some of these questions, I always feel at the end of an excursion I am a bit closer to the answer. Maybe, just maybe, I will find the answer someday. I thought it might be interesting to record some of my observations and thoughts during one of my ramblings. Following are some excerpts, highly edited, mind you.

It is an early morning in mid-May. It is one of the first spring-like days of the season. At least the feeling is one of sincerity: that spring might actually stay with us this time. There is a trail leading into the woods from my back door. Although it leads to tens of thousands of woodland acres, today I will ramble over less than 50. My hike is limited by a time factor of perhaps 1 or 2 hours. As I enter the woods I notice that the clintonia is already up. This spring woodland wild flower is one of my personal favorites. The clintonia is surrounded by ferns and clubmoss. Ferns and clubmoss have always fascinated me. These plant species are ancient, being only preceded by algae, seaweed, and fungi. They, at one time hundreds of millions of years ago, dominated the earth. Both ferns and clubmoss grew to tree-like size. Some ferns may have even been as big as redwoods. These were the first plant species to be able to transport water through a vascular system to leaves feeding themselves through the conversion of sunlight to chlorophyll. We now see the remains of these dense forests in our coal and fossil fuel supplies. Millions and millions of years later we can still feel the whisper of their existence. Ferns and clubmosses are nonflowering plant species, reproducing by unusual means. Each plant produces spores, which when landing in the soil produces a secondary plant, usually without chlorophyll. It is this plant that produces male and female cells which combine and eventually grow into the mature plants with which we are familiar. I think that I would have never known of this if I hadn't read it in a book first. Since then I find myself digging around these plant species to find these small plants. I have found many, but only as a result of reading about them first.

After digging around in the soil for a few moments with a stick, I renew my walk in the woods. There is a cool damp smell in the woods. I think it is the cleanest smell I have every encountered. Somehow it feels cleansing to all of me, but especially my mind. While pondering this, ahead of me on the narrow trail I can see movement. It is difficult to determine immediately what it is. I am frozen. I am aware of the sound of my own breathing. Then slowly crossing the trail I can see a hen turkey. She is very alert. I think she senses my presence. From the right of the trail suddenly appears a turkey chick, and then another and another. I am surprised by the number.

There are perhaps twenty of them. It is early to see such a brood. I suspect they are freshly hatched. I decide to approach them, being careful to not move suddenly. The hen is keenly aware of me, but does not go into a defensive posture. She scurries into the woods and begins clucking to the chicks. Her cluck sounds like a very hoarse chipmunk. The chicks begin to respond to her overture. Being unable to fly, even a short distance, I know they are only 2-3 days old. This time they are lucky, had I been a fox or coyote it would have been a smorgasbord. I am reminded that of the twenty or so only 3-4 will survive to maturity. A triumph for those that make it. A tragedy for those that don't.

Getting off the trail I wander through an oak stand. This is a favorite place for wildlife of all sorts in the fall and winter. When it produces a good mast crop it is perhaps the most valuable habitat in the forest. Here dozens of animal species will feast and receive much needed sustenance to help them through the cold winter. The understory is sparse. Little sunlight penetrates here. I find one small maple sapling that has all of the bark torn off of it. The scars left are somewhat old. There is little doubt in my mind the removal of the bark occurred last fall during deer rutting season.

At the top of the hill I am puzzled by the small wetland I find here. All of the plant species within this area are wetland species. The bedrock is close to the surface, and at some surrounding points is exposed. It has not been a wet spring, so the miniature wetland is not the result of water perched on top of the bedrock. It must be hydrostatic pressure being released from the rock, more commonly known as a bedrock spring. The actual water pressure is from a distant source; another connected piece of bedrock on a nearby more highly elevated hill. The area is lush. Cinnamon fern, spinulose woodfern, and even a silky dogwood shrub are present. Although there is no standing water, the soil is very damp to the surface, and to the east side a small vernal stream channel can be seen by evidence of the erosion that is present. I try to make mental note of this spot. The animals are sure to use it when water is not available elsewhere.

Looking across the view from the ledge I wonder how many people have stood in this exact spot with the same admiration. Although I'm sure it is not many, I am comforted by the thought that others have shared this experience. It is a good place to sit and think, so I find a moss covered piece of bedrock and take a few minutes to relax. My mind wanders to my childhood. I used to fantasize that I would find a hole between time dimensions and suddenly find myself in the woods two hundred years ago. I would imagine that at first I was terribly frightened, but after wandering out of the woods and finding a settlement I am amazed at how curious people are about my appearance; sneakers, cotton T-shirt, and dungarees are very foreign to these individuals. Eventually they will grow to understand that I have great knowledge (all borrowed from the 20th century). I have many adventures in which I am the hero. In remembering these precious thoughts I am reminded that our minds are capable of always going where they want. Sort of the ultimate freedom. I wonder if this is how oppressed people survive such awful circumstances.

The drumming of a partridge in the distance brings me back to reality. He is some distance away, perhaps a quarter of a mile or more. I try to imagine how the flapping of wings can make such a loud noise. It is actually the compression of air that we hear. What power out of such a small creature!

From the top of the hill I can hear my dogs barking back at my house. I am reminded that I still must go to work. Fortunately my work is not that much different from my ramblings. On my way home I think about how lucky I am.

LYME DISEASE

by Dianne Rode, Town Nurse

Lyme disease is an infectious disease caused by bacteria and spread by the bite of tiny infected (deer) ticks which can be hard to spot because they are much smaller than the common dog tick. At one point in their life cycle, they are about the size of a head on a common pin and a little larger after they fill with blood. At various times the ticks feed on birds, chipmunks, white-footed mice, deer, cows, horses, cats and dogs. They fall off these animals into tall grasses in marshes or fields or into brush in wooded areas, develop to their next life stage, and then bite people.

It's more likely to spot early signs or symptoms of Lyme Disease rather than see the tick or its bite. In the early stages an unusual rash appears, which expands in size and forms a "target" shaped rash with a darker reddish ring around the outer area and a pale center. If it's unrecognized and untreated at this time, the bacteria migrate through the body and can infect any organ or organ system. Lyme Disease can commonly cause arthritis, neurologic complications and/or cardiac abnormalities if untreated at this stage.

In its early stages Lyme Disease may be a mild illness with symptoms like the flu, including a stiff neck, chills, fever, sore throat, headaches, fatigue and joint pain that can be easily confused with the type of joint pain that comes with other types of arthritis. However, unlike arthritis the pain seems to travel from joint to joint.

In the later stages, Lyme Disease may be confused with other medical problems that can develop weeks to years after the first tick bite and mimic symptoms of multiple sclerosis and drooping of the face muscles calls Bells Palsy.

Early Lyme Disease can be treated with antibiotics preventing more serious problems. If you notice any of these signs, contact your doctor.

How can tick bites be prevented? You can reduce your chances of getting Lyme Disease by inspecting yourself and your children when you come in from outdoors by checking hair, ears, underarms, trunk of the body, groin and the backs of knees for new "freckles". Inspect your pets, too, since they can carry ticks into the house that may fall off. Use repellents and follow directions on the label. Wear light colored long sleeve shirts and pants (dark ticks can be seen better on light clothing). Tuck pant legs into socks, reducing contact with low-lying brush that ticks inhabit. Be careful clearing brush and cutting long grass near the house. Place wood piles that attract mice away from the house and bird feeders at the edge of the yard instead of close to the house.

To remove a tick, use tweezers to grab the body firmly and pull it out straight. Wipe the skin area of the bite with an antiseptic and wash your hands with soap and water. Place the tick in a jar with moist tissue paper, if later identification by experts is needed.

DREAMS DO COME TRUE

by Jack Cable

I am an auto racing enthusiast and own a 1965 "Bill Bowen Special" race car. With that in mind, an invitation to a prestigious race is what dreams are made of. A dream came true for me on Sunday, May 17, when a friend called and asked me if I'd like to go to the Indianapolis 500 - all expenses paid, including plane fare, car, motel, food and tickets. It didn't take me long to make a decision. Jack Middleton is a P.R. person in a charitable agency in New York City and a long time race enthusiast and promoter. We met in Norwich, CT, drove to Newark Airport for the flight to the race. Friday morning we went to the United States Auto Club Headquarters (organizer of the Indy 500) where I met the P.R. person for U.S.A.C. who gave us VIP passes to the Speedway which included Gasoline Alley (the garage area). We visited this area Friday and Saturday, mingling with mechanics, drivers and other race people.

Friday night we watched a one mile dirt track sprint car race at the Indianapolis Fairgrounds. This race was sponsored by my race idol, A.J. Foyt, who presided over the opening ceremonies assisted by Chuck Yeager. Part of Saturday was spent at the Indy Memorabilia Show at the Convention Center which Middleton had originally organized. He escorted 1952 Indy winner Troy Ruttman through the show. It was quite a thrill to visit with this man. Saturday night we witnessed another race, a midget car race at Indianapolis Raceway Park.

On race day, we arrived at the track at 8 AM. The throng of people was unbelievable. We went into an obscure area known to the "inner circle" where we had breakfast courtesy of CAM-2 oil - with the President of the firm who had given us bleacher seats for the race. After 50 laps and being cold, 52 degrees with a wind chill of 37 degrees and numerous crashes, we went back to the "inner circle" to have lunch and watch the race on closed circuit TV. The last 50 laps - the best part of the race - we spent in the Valvoline Oil VIP suite on turn two overlooking the track. Here we could watch the race in comfort and prestige. In attendance were the Chairman of the Board, the President and other members of the Valvoline Corporation, plus family members of their car driver, Al Unser Jr. Unbelievable, but true, I was in this company when Al Unser, Jr. won the race! There was no better place to be and no better company to be in - certainly a rare and honored time for me, the Highway Superintendent and Blueberry Farmer from Heath. The thrill of a lifetime!!

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

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

(WITH PURCHASE OF A COMPLETE PAIR)

Buy one pair of glasses at our regular price and get the second pair of the same prescription from our special selection, **ABSOLUTELY FREE!**

Includes first quality frames and single vision, clear, uncoated, 1st and 2nd division lenses. Offer precludes previous discounts.

Hampshire Mall
(across from K-Mart)
Hadley
584-8324

**Vision
Showcase**

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



JULIET SEAVER, MsT, AcP
Therapeutic Massage & Acupressure

Relief from pain & stress

337-4866

"Feeling Better is Believing"

CHARLEMONT TV, INC.

Zenith

Sales & Service

High Street, Charlemont

Tel: 339-6685

Howard Crowningshield

Building & Remodeling

Tel: Heath 337-4406

P.O. Charlemont, Ma. 01339



Charlemont Pizza House

Main Street - Route 2

Charlemont, Mass.

Phone: 339-4472

WEST BRANCH BINDERY

Custom Binding

Phyllis Thane
Brunelle Road

Heath, Mass. 01346

413-337-4759

Richard A. Sumner

Journeyman Electrician

Mass. License #E22622

Vermont License #J1245

RFD #2 Box 517, Shelburne Falls, MA 01370

413-625-8239

• FUEL OIL • KEROSENE • BURNER SERVICE

FRANKLIN-WARE

FUEL - OIL
PROPANE GAS

27 BRIDGE ST. SHELBURNE FALLS, MA

625-6470

NIGHTS, SUNDAYS, HOLIDAYS - 774-2014



BONNIE WODIN

Custom Gardens & Landscapes

Design • Installation • Herbs • Perennials

(413) 337-5529



**NORTH RIVER
WINERY**



Jacksonville, Vt.

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

May-Dec.
Open Seven Days
10 - 5

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

802-368-7557

**MOLE HOLLOW
CANDLES**



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

"OPEN 7 DAYS"

by Ali Thane



Green Thoughts

by

ELSA BAKALAR

I began to jot down a few thoughts for this spring-summer column and found they looked awfully familiar. So I looked back at other early-season columns and found they were mostly concerned with the weather. All those phrases -- "Was there ever a spring like this one just past" ... "The weather has been a 'tease' lately" ... "Frost on this date is not fair" ...

Is it a New England obsession? Mark Twain, a sort of New Englander (if you want to go as far south as Hartford), observed that while everyone talks about the weather nobody does anything about it. I know that in "Old" England, people often dispensed with words. The greeting when you met someone, on a particularly trying day of rain...fog...frost...slush, was a slight clucking of tongue against teeth (tsk), a raising of the eyebrows, and a weary exhalation of breath. This conveyed volumes, and did away with the need for words. So, I'm clucking, raising, and exhaling -- and that's my last word on the weather (for now).

I have two ways of getting down to Route 2 from up here on our hill. Either way gives me a great treat: the sight of a horse chestnut tree in bloom in late May. *Aesculus hippocastanum* is a tall, rounded tree often reaching to seventy-five feet, with palmate leaves and large pyramids of white flowers. The two-and-a-half-inch fruits have green husks that eventually split open and reveal one or two shiny brown nuts (the nuts are poisonous). The larger of the trees that I pass is at the entrance to Bruce and Cathy Cromack's house on Burrington Hill. I grew up on a London suburban street lined with such horse chestnuts. From early spring, when the scales fell from the fat, sticky buds, to autumn, when the mahogany nuts split their prickly cases, our parents regarded them as a nuisance. But we children waited for October and the "conker" fight. If the nuts -- conkers -- didn't fall soon enough for us, we lobbed stones up into the tree to bring them down (and this did not sit well with the grown-ups, either). Once you had a promising conker, you would run a string through it and try to smash your opponent's conker. For each victory you put a knot in your string.

I looked up this favorite tree of mine in Wyman's Garden Encyclopedia, only to find that he supports our parents' opinion of this tree, describing it as "having coarse nuts, a nuisance wherever they fall", and generally dismissing them as "dirty" trees, "always dropping something, whether it is leaves, twigs, fruit, or fruit husks". He is kinder about the red horse chestnut and the Ohio buckeyes. But Wyman never drove down Burrington Hill early on a spring morning and saw that particular tree.

CARLISLE WALLCOVERING

PAPERHANGING & INTERIOR PAINTING

MICHAEL CARLISLE

413-625-9733

YOUTH HORSE SHOW

by Alison Miller

The Lucky Horse Lovers 4-H club has been meeting and planning a 4-H and open youth horse show for Saturday, June 13. The show will coincide with the Mohawk Funfest at the Mohawk Trail Regional High School. It will begin at 8:30 AM and consist of 31 classes for both English and Western riders. The committee includes older members of the Lucky Horse Lovers, adults, and the leader of the club, Polly Bartlett.

Club members have been going around to local businesses and individual people asking for sponsors and donations. This money is used to pay judge's fees and buy equipment for the show, as well as money for ribbons, trophies, and prizes.

This show will give points toward championship and will count toward regional competition. There will be a trophy given for each division and an engraved silver plate for Grand Champion.

During the day there will be demonstrations and other public attractions. These include a driving demonstration, a musical free-style class that is open to all riders and two classes such as jumping, barrel racing, and a pairs class. Also, a trail class where horses and riders must complete an obstacle course in a certain amount of time. This will be open for a few hours in the middle of the day. There will also be a class for horse lovers who don't own horses, but will have a chance to learn from and participate in the show. The club will offer pony rides to the public at select times.

Class lists and more information are available at local businesses.

The Lucky Horse Lovers 4-H Club hosts this show in hopes to educate and entertain the public. We hope to see you there.

MOHAWK MANOR REST HOME

45 Water Street

Shelburne Falls, MA 01370

413-625-6860

Level IV Care Facility

Gail A. Bissell, Owner/Administrator

CHARLEMONT GETTY

Low Diesel & Cigarette Prices

U-Haul Rentals

"Propane Gas"

Fresh Seafood Available

3 days/week

call to place order

Erskine Palmer

339-4354



BALD
MOUNTAIN
POTTERY

STONEWARE & PORCELAIN

Sarah Hettlinger

South Rd. Heath, MA 01346 (413) 337-4496

28 State St. (Near the Bridge of Flowers)

Shelburne Falls, MA (413) 625-8110

A Page from the Past

by MICHAEL D. COE

BACKYARD ARCHAEOLOGY

You really don't have to go to the Nile or the jungles of Central America to be an archaeologist: there is plenty of archaeology (if not much romance) in your own backyard. If we define archaeology as the study of the human past through material remains, then it becomes clear that it applies to all of the past, including what happened yesterday. If I drop a pencil on a carpet, and leave it there for some later person to discover, I have created an archaeological event: to an archaeologist of the future, the placing of the pencil has to be later than the laying of the carpet, so already we have a time sequence, and this is what archaeology is all about.

There is a general notion among the American public that archaeologists in this country study mainly Native American sites and cultures. In point of fact, most of them are "historical archaeologists", and are concerned exclusively with the Euro-American (or, often, the Afro-American) past; in the northeastern U.S., this has been focussed on the remains of the Colonial and post-Colonial periods, from the 17th century right up until the recent past, and includes a tremendous range of sites, from New England farmsteads, to 19th century urban Boston, to the Springfield Armory.

Ever since we acquired our place in North Heath some 22 years ago, Sophie and I have been running across artifacts while digging in our garden; this is located about 20 yards southwest of our ca. 1815 farmhouse. Every time I rototill the garden, and it subsequently rains, some of the flotsam and jetsam of past owners floats to the surface. Over the years we have made a shoebox collection of these treasures. While I can't say that they have any monetary value (nothing that we have discovered would be worth more than ten cents in a tag sale), they tell one quite a bit about the people who discarded their trash in this area.

Most of what we have encountered is potsherds: fragments of pottery, almost all of it known to have been manufactured between 1800 and 1850; perhaps most of this stuff was thrown out by Samuel and Sally Kendrick, the dirt-poor farmers who were the first owners of our farm. We hear a lot about Yankee manufacturing ingenuity, and the self-reliance of New England farmers, but just about every type of ceramic from the garden was made in the great pottery-making centres of the English Midlands, and imported. The Kendricks and later tenants ate off creamware plates and platters with decorative "feather-edges" of blue or green, and they drank their tea or coffee from white creamware cups.

Some of the imported English wares were aesthetically quite pleasing, and seem to have been made especially for the American and Canadian market as they are almost never found in historical sites in the old country. These include "sprig ware", which has delicate floral patterns in green, blue, and red on white, and Mocha ware; we have found many fragments of Mocha over the years, all seemingly from a single handled mug, with bands and other designs in dark brown and ocher on cream.

The only locally made ceramic consists of basin-shaped bowls in redware, glazed brown; these were milkpans, in which milk was left to stand overnight,

so that the cream could be skimmed from it the next day. I say "local", meaning that they were made somewhere in Massachusetts, but probably not in Heath.

Except for a few fragments of window glass, glass is rarely found; it was probably too expensive to appear on such poor tables as Samuel Kendrick's.

Iron artifacts are scattered all around the house and in our garden, as my metal detector has shown. Much of it is related to farming: we have picked up, and dug up, horseshoes, and buckles and other pieces of harness, along with cut nails and strap hinges from outbuildings which have long ago disappeared. We even found a polished metal barrette, a hair clip perhaps worn by a daughter of one of the farmers who lived here.

Our garden does not exhaust the archaeological riches of our farm. There is an old, filled-in cellar hole just east of the house. Years ago, when our children were small, to keep them and some of their guests busy, I had them dig an archaeological trench into the fill. The results were astonishing and overwhelming -- vast quantities of artifacts were in this fill, all from the end of the 19th century and beginning of the 20th. This was the era when Robert Stetson and his son Adelbert owned the farm; if the sheer amount of debris that went into the trash is any indication, they were a great deal better off than Samuel Kendrick had been. Glass of all sorts came tumbling out, especially bitters bottles in large quantities.

The history of bitters is part of the history of the American medicine industry prior to the passage of the Pure Food and Drug Act. Bitters was a panacea for all ailments, and many formulas, all of them useless or worse, were turned out by hundreds of companies across the land, and sold in small, flat bottles impressed with the maker's name and the patent number. Why was this stuff so incredibly popular with rural Americans? The probable answer is that it was about 60% alcohol, so that a "medicinal nip" really was a nip, at a time when many of the residents of New England towns had "taken the pledge" not to indulge in intoxicating beverages. I can imagine the Stetsons deriving a fair amount of comfort from a good shot of bitters on a long winter's night in Heath.

So all sorts of treasures are there for the digging in one's own backyard: things broken, thrown away, and forgotten, from a way of life that no longer exists.

BURNT HILL FARM

Jack and Grace Cable



SWEET WILD BLUEBERRIES

1992 is our 26th Year and
We Thank the Folks of Heath for
Their Help and Friendship.

Pete's Store have our blueberries for sale —
Frozen by quart or 20 lb. box
ON SALE NOW

BUDGET CRUNCH TIME

by D. F. Howland

The Annual Town Meeting (ATM) of May 9 was recessed to Saturday, June 27 because the Selectmen and Finance Committee were waiting for an answer to their request for an Equal Education Opportunity (EEO) grant waiver. Receiving this money (\$53,016) is critical to achieving a balanced budget for next year and maintaining a manageable level of taxation. Some other towns in the area have been able to proceed with their entire town meeting agendas because their schools are regionalized which means they can assume they will be receiving their share of school assistance from the state's local aid package. Even though the last three years have witnessed reductions in aid, the regionalized schools in this area have received substantial support for their operating costs ... some 35% on average. Because Heath tuitions their elementary grade students to Rowe, it is not eligible for typical school aid funds; rather, it is considered a non-operating school system as opposed to a regionalized school. Our recourse is to opt for EEO money for which we must qualify yearly by meeting certain school expenditure standards. In any event, as this report was being written we learned that we would be receiving EEO funding. School Superintendent Bruce Willard and David Newell and Catherine Heyl of the Business Office were instrumental in coping with the bureaucratic process; their efforts are much appreciated. Also, the state Department of Education has shown sensitivity to our small town needs for which we are grateful.

With that hurdle behind us the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee can proceed with preparing article 3, which is the lengthy budget article on the warrant that was passed over on May 9. As we go through article 3 on June 27 questions can be raised about changes on each item.

The overall school budget will be up about \$37,000 even after adjusting for EEO money. This is due in part to an increase at Mohawk Trail High School and the fact we defrayed some of the cost of Rowe last year with free cash. There is also a separate article for the Preschool, an increase from \$2,086 to \$10,000. (The uncertainty about obtaining EEO funding for schools is one of the reasons we are so interested in the K-12 concept which by definition presupposes Heath would be considered part of the region and therefore eligible for state aid on a reasonably predictable basis).

The assessors' account will be up another \$1,500 to complete the revaluation process this summer.

Legal and health care costs are expected to rise and we have factored in raises for employees at 2 1/2%.

We are currently reviewing the need for some building maintenance work and a new copier.

There are some modest reductions in insurance costs and interest on some loans. Many accounts are level funded.

We expect to have to use some free cash to help keep the tax rate within reason. That action and the paying of the EEO money to Rowe will require a Special Town Meeting (STM) action. Therefore we have scheduled a STM at 8:45 AM on June 27 just before the ATM. It is possible that the legislature will appropriate additional school aid and highway money for next year. At least it is being talked about at this time. The educational reform package, a very complicated matter, has not been resolved either, and that is linked to certain appropriations. The fact is,

the state does not have a budget for FY93 at this time; we are going on assumptions passed along by the Department of Revenue and the Massachusetts Municipal Associations. We will keep a watchful eye on these affairs and their effect on the Town of Heath and its tax payers. See you on June 27 at the Community Hall.



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

Many years ago this part of the country utilized some of its marginal land to graze small flocks of sheep.

I think it would be good to see those small flocks of sheep return to the area and help keep the brush from over-taking us. I fully realize that dogs can create problems for sheep but dogs should be kept in check by their owners. This new plastic and copper wire electric fence is very quickly erected and with its being hot is much of a deterrent to most predators. We have a growing flock of sheep in the Sumner Stetson Road area. I really enjoy the way that they attack the encroaching brush. Their shepherd hasn't experienced any serious problems yet but he does have that good type of fence.

I would like to see sheep used to graze town common lawns and school lawns and any places where it costs to keep the lawns mowed. I am also aware that this could eliminate work for some but they would be freed for other tasks.

How nice it would be if people with private lawns could have a small flock of sheep take care of the lawn mowing. One person with a flock of six sheep could take care of several lawns during the mowing season. I don't expect to see this idea implemented but I think it a novel idea to save a lot of work and use the lawn grass to feed useful creatures.

BED & BREAKFAST

Y'ALL COME

Forest Way Farm

Route 8A Heath, Massachusetts

413-337-8321

TEL: DAYS 413-624-8843

NIGHTS 624-3783



STONE'S SUNOCO

COMPLETE AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE
VARIETY STORE
24 HOUR TOWING

ROD STONE

ROUTE #112
COLRAIN, MA 01340

SELECTMEN'S REPORT

by Art Schwenger

The Avery Brook Road project including new box culverts seems to have run into delays in the state's Small Road and Bridges grant approval process. Letters to Representative Jay Healy and Senator Jane Swift have been sent asking for their assistance. Reconstruction of portions of the road will be put on hold until a commitment for the box culverts is acquired.

Terms for the Small Business loan program have been completed and the committee is authorized to begin making loans. Although the Selectmen recently accepted the resignation of John Mussachio from the Committee, members Bruce Cromack and Nancy Burrington will be continuing to implement the program while a replacement for John is sought.

Wally Upham has resigned from the Planning Board. Any suggestions or volunteers to be appointed to the vacancy would be appreciated. Leighton McCutchen has been appointed to fill a vacancy on the Finance Committee. Carl Herzig has been appointed to continue as dog officer since Mike Smead declined his election to the position. The Selectmen elected David Howland to continue as board chair, and the firm of Kopelman and Paige was selected to be town counsel for the coming year. Other selectmen appointments necessary to fill the many town committees and positions will be made prior to July 1.

A metals bin has been placed at the transfer station again. It will be available from now until Labor Day. The only difference in acceptable metals this year is that spent propane tanks are no longer accepted.

Speed, stop and school zone signs are scheduled to be installed in Heath Center and other key intersections around town. To further improve the problem of traffic going too fast through the center, the police have been asked to enforce the existing speed limits. Speeding has been endangering people and pets, so the Selectmen are urging drivers to keep their speed down.

At the request of Chief Tom Rabbitt, the selectmen are approving a trial period for the establishment of a target range to be set up off Sadaga Road on the Grinnell property. The use of this range will be limited to Heath police officers using handguns only. The occasional use will allow our officers to qualify for their handgun certifications. The selectmen have stipulated a number of conditions pertaining to safety and approval before the range would be used. The range will not be open to the public.

The Board is continuing to address the problem of alleged salt contamination of a residential well on Ben Road. It has been learned that a suit has been filed but has not yet been served. The selectmen continue to be advised by town counsel on this matter and are hopeful negotiations are still possible that may negate the need for further legal action.

Walter Gleason attended his last meeting as selectman on May 9 after two terms. Attending almost every Tuesday night since May of 1986, not to mention participating in countless groups and activities in his role as selectman, Walt has given generously of his energy to this position. Although he continues to serve on the Board of Health and the Heath Firefighters Association, it is an important point to recognize and appreciate his dedicated service.

Among Walt's contributions to the operation of the Board of Selectmen have been his common sense, his genuine concern for people living in Heath, his sense

of fairness and fair play, and his offers of commitment without hesitation or complaint. Thanks, Walt!!

Richard Giard was welcomed back on the Board. After a 4 year break, Richard has already demonstrated that his recollection of events past and of the reasons for decisions made during his prior term is no less than some elephants. After only two meetings, he is clearly "up to speed".

PERCS, PERMITS AND TRANSFERS

PERCOLATION TESTS

Earl Gleason reports that there were no new perc tests conducted in April, and only one repair was done.

BUILDING PERMITS

Robert Barclay, Rowe Road, carport.
Robert Brown, Ledge Road, interior renovation and skylight.
William Shaw, Rowe Road, roof over deck.
Mrs. William Watson, Colrain Stage Road, deck.
George Tougas, Swamp Road, enclose porch.
Alfred Desautels, Rowe Road, exterior renovation, new shed.
Total: \$11,610.

DEED TRANSFERS

Regina M. Martin, Raymond J. Martin, George R. Martin, Patricia A. Martin, Francis J. Amellin and Mary Y. Amellin to Regina M. Martin, Raymond J. Martin, George H. Martin, Patricia A. Martin, Francis J. Amellin and Mary Y. Amellin of West Springfield, Shawnee Drive, Lot 6. 1/3 to each couple. No consideration

John J. MacDougall of Shelburne Falls to Karen W. MacDougall, Ledges Road. No consideration.

Leighton M. and Martha J. McCutchen to L. Brooks McCutchen and Janis K.P. Steele, Rowe Road, Lot 1. \$1.

Robert A. and Alma R. Jillson to Joseph L. and Melissa L. Janes of Leverett, Number Nine Road. \$105,000.

Paul Robidoux to Steven M. Brochu of Chicopee, Mohawk Estates, Lot 16. \$3,500.

John DeRosa to Stephen W. and Sandy O. Kinsman of Mashpee, Hosmer Road. \$25,000.

Greenfield Savings Bank to Frederick Golba and Sheila Ann Aheam of Chicopee, Colrain Brook Road, Lot 28. \$35,000.

Charles E. Ellsworth Jr. and Sandra E. Kennedy to Bruce T. and Elizabeth A. Davin, Sumner Stetson Road. \$20,000.



**The Baker
Pharmacy**

Tel: 625-6324

Week Days 8:30AM - 8PM

Saturdays 8:30AM - 5PM

Sundays & Holidays 9AM - 12 Noon

52 Bridge Street

Shelburne Falls

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

by Earl Gleason, Chief

The Department has been very busy the past two months. Twelve emergency runs were made with the first on the twenty-sixth of March when three EMTs and two firefighters assisted Charlemont Ambulance with a man on Number Nine Road who was ill. Later that day six firefighters and engine one responded to a mutual aid call to Charlemont for a grass and brush fire. Our brush truck had hardly been put in service, when it responded to Charlemont on April 9. 3 firefighters responded to this grass fire with two others staying at our station. On April thirteenth the brush truck and engine two responded to a grass fire off Jacobs Road. Eleven firefighters responded to this incident. A girl was injured when she fell off her bike on April 14. Two EMTs and three firefighters responded to 8A for this emergency. The firemen may have missed the sunrise service on Easter morning, but fourteen of them and engines one, two and three responded to a chimney fire on Judd Road. Charlemont covered our station for this one. The next incident was on the morning of April 29 for a woman who was ill. Four EMTs, one nurse, one EMT trainee, and two firefighters assisted Charlemont Ambulance. Later at noon, the brush truck and four firefighters were asked to respond to Colrain to a brush fire. The next incident was during a thunder shower on May 2. Eleven firefighters and three engines responded to a Sadoga Road residence for an electrical fire that was out on arrival.

The next day Charlemont Ambulance and two Heath EMTs and firefighters responded to an Avery Brook Road residence for a lady who was ill. The next evening Charlemont Ambulance, one Heath EMT and firefighters responded to an ill woman on Route 8A. The brush truck and six firefighters responded to Colrain to an eleven acre woods fire on May 11.

In addition, several members attended various fire schools. A first responder class taught by Chief Dennis Annear of Charlemont was held on April 16, 23, 30, May 21 and 28. The following members are expected to complete the class: Bob Tanner, Leroy Tanner, Tom Lively, James Thane, Kevin Purington, Ed Croteau and Earl Gleason. The Massachusetts Fire Academy came to Heath on April 25 and 26 with their Self Contained Breathing Apparatus - Search and Rescue class. Tim Lively, Bob Giard, Bob Gruen, and Ed Croteau completed this class. In addition Bob Tanner, Mike Smith, James Thane and Walt Gleason provided lunch and coffee for the students who came from Heath, Charlemont, Shelburne Falls, Ashfield, Buckland, Bernardston, Southwick, Wendall, East Longmeadow and Grafton. David Thane, Kenneth Thane, Bob Giard, Ed Croteau and Earl Gleason completed the Incident Command System class held at Shelburne on the evenings of May 7, 12, 14 and 18. Ed Croteau was sort of a glutton for punishment, for during this time period, he also travelled to Fitzwilliam, NH to the Meadowbrook Fire School on May 16 and 17. On Saturday, May 16, he took Structural Firefighting and on May 17 he took Forest Fire Fighting.

Other activities included two regular Association meetings, one special Association meeting and two drills. In addition, Mike Smith, Bob Tanner, Bob Giard, Ed Croteau, Walt Gleason, Tim Lively and the Chief attended the Tri-State Field Day at the Mohawk School. The doors opened at nine-thirty with about five vendors setting up tables in the gym with sev-

eral pieces of apparatus in the parking lot which included brush trucks, pumpers, tankers, rescue trucks and the state of Massachusetts hazardous materials truck. At noon 175 firefighters sat down to a roast beef dinner, door prizes and a program put on by the Massachusetts Fire Academy.

Two new pieces of equipment were added. The previously mentioned 1977 Dodge brush truck is equipped with a 200 gallon tank and pump donated by Sandri Oil Company. The welding on the tank was done by Chief Ed Johnson of Leyden under the supervision of Mike Smith. Some used tool boxes are to be mounted and some additional painting needs to be done. (We would accept volunteers). This piece of equipment has made 3 mutual aid runs and one run in Heath. Also added to our equipment supply is a 4400 watt generator purchased along with four 500 watt quartz lights.

Heath was represented in the Memorial Day parade in Charlemont on May 25. Engine one entered the parade. Considerable work has been done to make the apparatus more presentable. If you need sunglasses next time you see engine one, it is because Ed Croteau, Bob Giard and Mike Smith polished the aluminum. Also the improvement in water supply at the station makes it easier to wash the trucks now.

The Chief attended fourteen meetings, conducted three smoke detector inspections and located smoke detectors on one set of plans. He also responded on one occasion to a residence with a life line non-response.

ASSESSORS' REPORT

by Don Dekker

The Assessors are very busy looking at population and meeting with our consultants from the State Department of Revenue.

As of this writing, no final decision has been made about the land schedule. We hope it will be made within the next few weeks. If this happens, it will be a reasonable compromise between the realities of land in Heath and the few land sales we had in 1990 and 1991.

We have transferred all the data to Marshall and Swift, so when the land values have been set, we will soon be able to mail to everyone the new values. Then, sometime in the summer we will hold hearings for anyone to challenge our decisions. There will be notification on bulletin boards and in newspapers. Values will be lower, but then the tax rate will go up. We have worked hard to be consistent and as fair as we can. Hope you all agree.

RICHARD C. BISHOP

Attorney at Law

Admitted in Massachusetts & Florida

**SPECIALIZING IN WEST COUNTY
REAL ESTATE**

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

LEVY - WINER, P.C.

625-2574

102 Bridge Street, Shelburne Falls, MA

GOOD GRUB

by Sophie Coe

On Wednesday, May 20, 1992, the media were full of the one hundredth anniversary banquet of the New York Entomological Society. It was on National Public Radio at ten of seven that morning, it was a half page in the *New York Times*, and on the 1 o'clock CBS news broadcast. Why the fuss? Centennials of obscure learned societies usually pass unnoticed by all but their members. Why was this one so special??

The reason for the excitement was that at the banquet they were not going to just talk about bugs, or celebrate famous entomologists of the past. No indeed, the banquet was going to be bugs. The guests were going to eat bugs, namely crickets, mealworms, wax worms, and a few imported exotics like Australian Kurrajong grubs and Thai water bugs. I had gotten an invitation because I subscribe to FIN, the Food Insect Newsletter, and I wouldn't have missed it for anything.

Who was there? There were the entomologists, mainly academic types. There were the foodies, among whom I suppose I must count myself. There were three squat gentlemen in business suits who introduced themselves as being from the pest control industry. There were people who had provided the tarantulas in glass aquariums that formed the centerpieces on every table, and the people who made the bug origami that graced the floral centerpieces, as well as the sculptors who did the wood and bronze sculptures that decorated the rooms of the Explorers Club in New York where the party was held, and the photographers who took the pictures of bugs that were displayed on the walls. Then there was the press. My son Andrew, who accompanied me because his father was curiously unenthusiastic about the whole deal, said that he had not seen as many of them since the Gennifer Flowers interview last fall. Their large cameras were everywhere during the cocktails on the terrace, focussing on the guests, on the waiters with the hors d'oeuvres trays, and on the hors d'oeuvres themselves. Large microphones were pushed in your face as you took a wax worm corn fritter and dipped it in the plum sauce, and if they missed you that time there was someone with a pad and a pencil who wanted to know how the mealworm trail mix was. Actually the hors d'oeuvres, which were mostly made of ground up factory raised insects (they are farmed to supply zoos with food for their reptiles, amphibians, and small mammals) would have passed unnoticed at any normal cocktail party. The wild mushrooms in mealworm pastry didn't taste any different from wild mushrooms in ordinary pastry. The deep fried wax worms and crickets tasted like anything else deep fried, cardboard would not have been much different, but I was impressed at the thought of people sitting around and removing the legs and wings from four thousand crickets, the number I was assured the party would consume.

The best bit came first, when we were invited to take a pair of tweezers and help ourselves to a live honey pot ant, dug up in Arizona a day or two before. Their translucent abdomens are the size of a pea, and filled with sweet liquid. When you bite them you get a combination of the sweet, and a slight touch of the ants' acid. I found it rather citrusy and very good. Not so good were the Kurrajong grubs, brought from Australia, where the more famous witchetty grubs were not available. They were roasted, the size of my thumb, with a leathery skin

and a very fatty interior. I suppose if I had been an Australian Aborigine living on a diet very low in fat they would have seemed delicious.

The main course was insect free, aside from the cricket bread, which was a rather sweet yellowish bread with a few dark flecks in it. They also passed around the Thai water beetles, which had been specially bought at a gourmet Thai food shop in Berkeley, CA, where they are sold frozen. The creatures were about three inches long, quite flat, and served sauteed. They were impossible to cut with a knife, especially with a TV camera looking on, and I finally had to pick mine up and bite it. It was tough and hard to chew, with a strange medicinal flavor, and so salty that neither I nor any of the other people at our table thought them worth finishing. I have no idea if the salt is built into the bug, or if it was an error during the cooking.

There is no banquet without speeches. First everybody who had contributed was named and applauded, then an insect photograph and an insect poster original were raffled off, and finally the guest speaker, Gene Defoliart, a retired professor at the University of Wisconsin who looks rather like Ernie Thane, got up. He is the editor of FIN, so naturally he talked on Insects as Food, and abused the Western world for ignoring this valuable source of nutrients. Then he showed slides of Mexican markets and the many edible insects sold there. After that it was time for coffee, tea, and the dessert buffet.

There were only two insect items among the five choices. You could have a nice big piece of chocolate cricket cake, each slice tastefully decorated with one deep fried mealworm, and you could choose one of the assorted insect sugar cookies. The chocolate cake was very good, with a slight crunchiness that I would have attributed to chopped hazelnuts if I didn't know that crickets were present, but the cookies tasted too much of baking soda.

By this time everybody was thoroughly relaxed, presumably because they had not met anything unconquerably inedible. Inspired by the pictures of Mexican insect eating, there was enthusiastic talk about doing this again, possible with Mexican ingredients. I have a feeling that there will not be a wait of a hundred years for the next insect banquet. I'll keep you posted.

Laundry and Sweet Shop 7 am to 9 pm

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

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

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

**"Now carrying Gourmet & Specialty Coffees,
Espresso and Cappuccino"**

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

ARTS LOTTERY COUNCIL

by Jayne Dane

The Massachusetts Cultural Council has approved \$1,200 in Arts Lottery Grant monies for the town of Heath for the 1992 funding cycle.

Approved was \$100 for an Adinkra Printing Project at Rowe School as part of their African Studies Program. This was taught by Paty Lentz and Arlene Thane. Another \$100 was approved for Zacciah Blackburn to give a workshop at Rowe School titled "Musical Instruments Come From?" \$300 was approved for the Mary Lyon Education Fund for the Summer Enrichment program at Mohawk. This will enable Dirk Xu to teach another painting course. \$400 will go towards a fall Folk Concert sponsored by the Park Commission. \$300 will go towards organizing another Heath Artists Exhibit to be held during the week-end of the fair.

Applications for the 1993 cycle will be due in late September. Contact Jayne Dane for more information.

HEATH PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Betsey Silvester, daughter of Susan and Guy Silvester, has been accepted at Michigan Technological University in Houghton, MI, for a Women in Engineering program in June. Students from across the country will participate in a series of laboratory and field exercises designed to promote career exploration in various areas of engineering. Betsey will be a junior at Deerfield Academy in September.

FRESH WINDS FARM

Paul & Marcella Lively & Sons

Excavating - Loam - Sand Stone 337-4331

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



SMITH & MOREY



CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR & SPORTING GOODS

43 BRIDGE STREET

SHELBURNE FALLS, MA 01370

PHONE/FAX: (413) 625-2443



MAIL TO:

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

HEATH HERALD Box 54, Heath, MA 01346

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: Tuesday, 4 - 9 PM
Saturday, 8 AM - 12 PM
(call for appointment, 4 - 7 PM, 337-4268)

Town Treasurer: Tuesday, 5:30 - 7:30 PM
Saturday, 9 - 10:30 AM

Tax Collector: Tuesday, 4 - 9 PM
Saturday, 8 AM - 12 PM
(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
Wednesday 1 PM - 5 PM
Saturday 9 AM - 5 PM

Town Telephones: Town Hall 337-4934
Community Hall 337-4847
Town Garage 337-4462
Fire, Police & Ambulance 1-772-2133

PETERS GENERAL STORE

No. Nine Road, Heath, MA • 337-5501



LOCAL MAPLE SYRUP FOR SALE



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

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

Deli Case • General Groceries
Snacks • Sunday Papers

Video Tapes & 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