

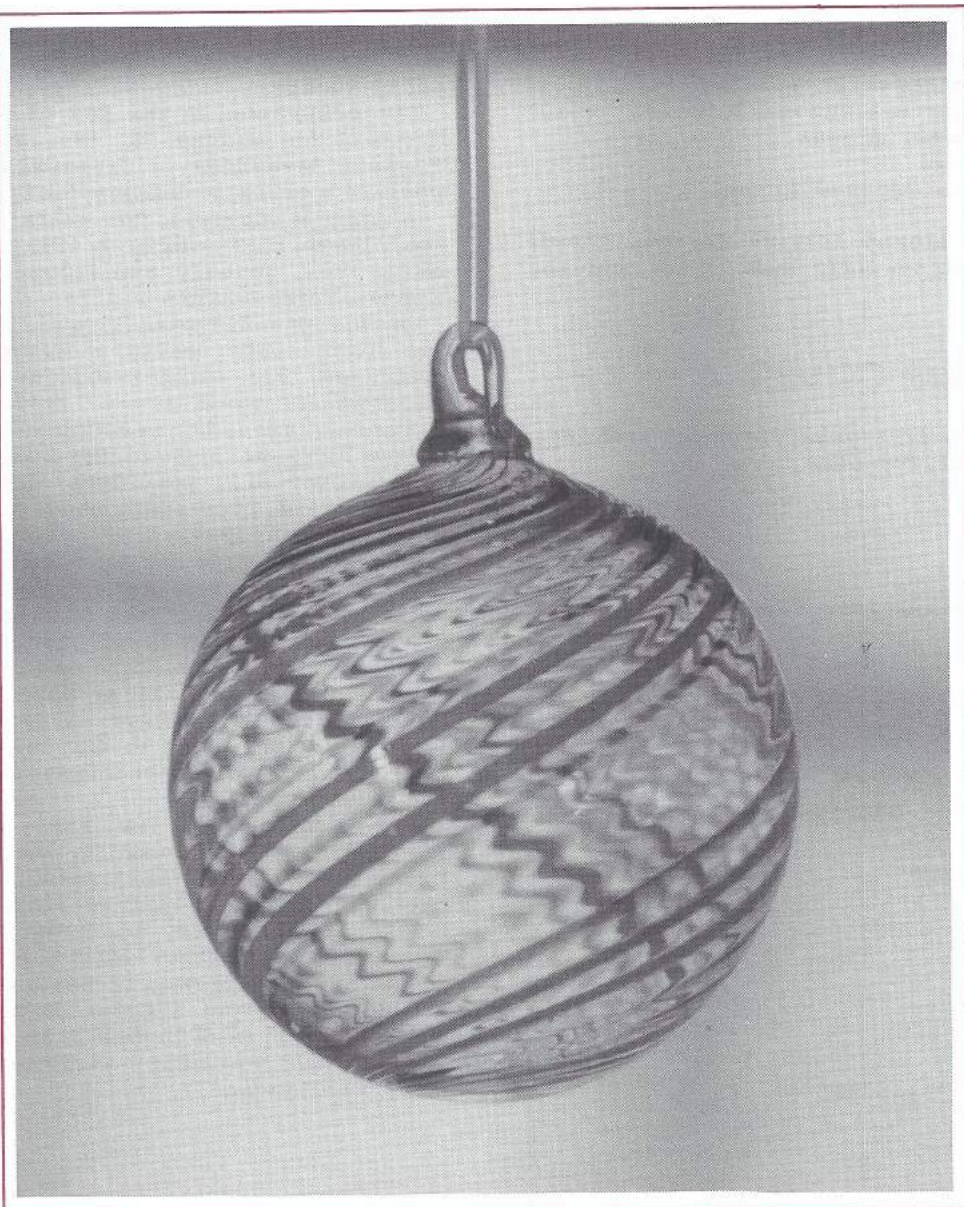


VOLUME 14 NUMBER 5

DECEMBER 1992/JANUARY 1993

HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER 50¢



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

WINTER IN HEATH

Now the best place to be
during thick winter storms
is in the hills of Heath.
Where there is wood to keep warm
when the snow begins to fall
and the wind begins to blow
we don't mind it at all
for then everybody knows
that to the house they will stay close
with barns full of hay
and sheds full of wood
cellars full of food
then for the winter we are set for good
as cold nights come as cold nights will
down to the cellar we go the cider jug to fill
it helps to drive away the chills
Then to pass away the evening
around the fire together we sit and sing
we don't care if winter is tough and long
for we know once winter is gone
it will not return again
till we have had a few weeks of spring.

This was written around 1935 by Theresa (Giard) Shippee, while living on their farm on 8A near the Vermont border.

OUR COVER

On our cover is featured a glass Christmas ornament by Heath glass-blower, Bob Dane.

MILESTONES

by Edith Royer

A son, Anthony Michael, was born on October 20. Parents are Michelle Fitzroy and Michael Cooper of Ben Road, Heath. He is the grandson of Kris and Ken Royer of Heath, Janet and Wayne Cooper of Brich, NJ and Deborah Sattler of Cool, CA. He is also the great grandson of Betty and Ken Pruett of Auburn, CA, Helen and Ernest Royer of Shelburne Falls and Emerson Cooper of Scranton, PA. His great-great-grandmother is Helen Webber of Shelburne.

Ree Alane Sumner and Edward L. Martin of 152 Munson St., Greenfield, were married October 24 in the Heath Union Church with the Rev. Ann Geer officiating. Church musicians were Todd and Eric Sumner, brothers of the bride. The bride is the daughter of Brenda Stafford of Shelburne and Richard Sumner of Buckland.

The bridegroom is the son of Ginnette and J. W. Martin of San Antonio, TX. The reception was held at Brickers Restaurant in Greenfield. The newlyweds will take a cruise in January for their wedding trip.

Dorothy M. Guganig, 100 years old, of Burrington Road, Heath, died October 2, 1992. She lived in Shelburne Falls, Millbury and Sulton before retiring to western Massachusetts in 1974.

She leaves a daughter, Virginia Guganig with whom she lived. She leaves a grandson, two granddaughters, two great-grandsons, a great granddaughter and three nieces. Burial was at the convenience of the family in Millbury Cemetery.

Faye Rupp, 82, of Four Mile Brook Road, Northfield died October 26 in Greenfield. She was born in New York City and lived there many years before moving to Northfield in 1969.

Survivors include her husband of 60 years, Walter Rupp, two daughters, Marlene Housner of Heath and Harriet Kinter of New York City. She also leaves six grandchildren and a great grandchild. A memorial service will be held in Heath on August 15, 1993.

James W. Sherman, 76, of Davis Mine Road Heath, died October 30 in Pioneer Valley Nursing home. He was the son of James W. Sr. and Lena Sherman of Charlemont. He lived in Charlemont until moving to Heath in 1950.

Survivors include his wife, the former Viola Lawrence, two sons, Donald L. Sherman of Palmer and Walter J. Sherman of Charlemont. He also leaves four daughters, Lillian Fielders of Troy, NH, Louise Sherman-Frazier of Keene, NH, Ruth Sherman of Tarpon Springs, FL and Arlene Petrie of Shelburne Falls, two brothers Elmer Sherman of Heath and Floyd Sherman of Charlemont, and a sister, Doris Taylor of Charlemont. A son, Cecil E. died in 1979. A memorial service was held November 7 with burial in Leavitt Cemetery, Charlemont.

STOWE'S ANNUAL SLEIGH PARTY

Come One, Come All

Carroll Stowe will again host the Annual Sleigh Party on January 1, 1993 at 10 AM. This annual event is held at Mrs. Anne Carey's on Rowe Road in Rowe. Please bring a hot dish to share - a fire is provided to keep food hot. Come enjoy the fellowship and beauty of the new year!!



HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

VOLUME 14 NUMBER 5 DECEMBER 1992/JANUARY 1993

Managing Editor	Susan Silvester
General Editing & Layout	Pegge Howland
Copy Editor	David Gibbons
Staff Reporters	Edity Royer

Beverly denOuden

Todd Sumner

Karen Brooks

Columnists

Elsa Bakalar

Michael D. Coe

Bill Lattrell

Carroll Stowe

Pat Leuchtman

Staff Photographer

Michael Peters

Advertising

Ray Pettengill

Circulation & Business

Terry Pettingill

Typography

Arlene Markert

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Send all correspondence to Box 54, Heath, MA 01346

MARY LYON EDUCATION FUND

by Susan Silvester, Executive Director

Recently elected to the Board of Directors are the following community members: Judy Vetter, Greenfield; Pam Kelleher, Shelburne; Jim Boulger, Colrain; Irene Gifford, Charlemont; Henry Samoriski, Shelburne and Janet Swem, Ashfield. These new members all bring to the organization a wide variety of skills ranging from architectural knowledge to financial expertise.

The annual meeting of the Mary Lyon Education Fund was held in late November, and the following officers were elected for the 1992-1993 fiscal year: President - Barbara Bishop, three Vice Presidents - Sylvia Smith, Ellen Kaufmann and Bill Lawless, Recording Secretary - Sharon Hudson, Corresponding Secretary - Betty Russ, Treasurer - Janet Swem, Assistant Treasurer - Dorothy Richardson. Past President is Gordon Russ.

An Evening Enrichment pilot project was initiated in October, and three classes for teachers, students and members of the community are currently in progress at Mohawk Trail Regional School. It is anticipated that next fall another Evening Enrichment program will be provided for area residents, and such courses as personal typing, woodworking, German, gardening and painting will be offered. Coordinator of the program is Susan Mason, a math teacher at Mohawk.

The successful Japanese Culinary and Visual Arts program last summer will be expanded next year. During the first week in August approximately 100 elementary and middle school students will be able to enroll in a Children's Literature Festival featuring local authors and illustrators. Boswell's Books will have autographed copies of books available for purchase. The program will be held at the Buckland-Shelburne Regional School in Shelburne. The cost will be \$32 per participant for the week with a major share of the expenses being underwritten by area Cultural Councils. At least three scholarships will be available for students.

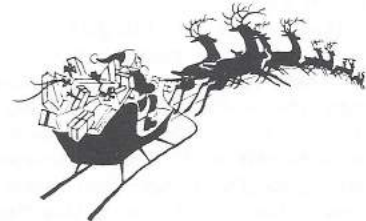
The summer tennis program will also be co-sponsored by the Mary Lyon Education Fund and the United States Tennis Association. It will be held at Mohawk Trail Regional School for the month of July, and will be divided into 4 sessions of one week each. Scholarships for this program will also be available for any youngster residing in the 9 town school district.

The annual Recognition Dinner will be held this year at the Swift River Inn in Plainfield on Sunday, March 28, 1993. The event will be co-sponsored by the Swift River Inn with additional support from the Housen Foundation. The Recognition Dinner will feature distinguished guests, a special dinner prepared by the fantastic Swift River Inn staff and recognition of our many volunteers and benefactors. A social hour and musical presentations by the Mohawk Dance Band and Select Chorus will also be an integral part of this special evening. Tickets will be on sale for \$30 per person with all proceeds to benefit the programs sponsored by the Mary Lyon Education Fund.

The Student Assistance Fund is administered by the organization and has money available to assist students grades K-12 with medical, dental and clothing expenses as well as anything else that would help a child succeed in school. If you know of a student who needs a warm coat for winter or a dental appointment, please let us know. If you are a parent

and your child needs to see a doctor, but you do not have medical coverage, please call the Mary Lyon Office at 625-2555 or write us at P. O. Box 184, 5 Bridge Street, Shelburne Falls, MA 01370. There are funds available to help. This fund was established by Russell Munch of San Jose, California to assist children in our school district. His generosity has enabled many children to attend school healthy, happy and ready to learn.

On behalf of the officers and Board of Directors of the Mary Lyon Education Fund, I wish you all a very Happy Holiday Season.



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CONNECTIONS

by
PAT LEUCHTMAN

SUE GRUEN

As a nurse practitioner working out of Kaiser Permanente in Amherst, Sue Gruen is in a good place to understand the stresses on our health care system nationally and locally. However this information was not gained overnight.

Sue graduated from a hospital based nursing school and worked as a registered nurse, first in Brooklyn and then here in Franklin County. When she moved here she worked as a visiting nurse. "For three years I covered a big area, from Monroe Bridge to Deerfield and Northfield. I even worked at the Elm Street Jail in Greenfield because they had severe budget cuts back then and asked the Visiting Nurses to help them out. A lot of the nurses weren't too keen on that, but I was used to being out on the streets of Brooklyn at all hours of the night. I figured it was safer at the jail because there were guards! That's when I first started doing routine physicals and taking health histories."

At about that time Sue started hearing a lot about nurse practitioners (RNC) and realized that she was doing the work of an RNC. However, nurse practitioners need to have a baccalaureate degree. Since she lacked that degree, she didn't think too much about it, until her husband Bob said she should pursue it.

She was admitted to Albany Medical School, but only after studying anatomy and physiology on her own and passing an exam, and after inspiring a female bank officer to give her the school loan. "The woman looked at me. I was 30 years old, had Heather, and a baby at my breast, but I wanted \$10,000 to go to school. She was so glad to think of a woman making that kind of professional effort that she gave me the loan after I had been turned down by other banks."

"When I started at Albany Medical, Colin was 9 months old. I lived in the nurses residence and neither Colin nor Bob was allowed in my room. No men allowed on the floor! Bob was wonderful because he managed the kids and the house by himself that year. Ruth Fournier took care of Colin during the day while Bob and Heather were at Rowe School. I was home on the weekends, but I worked at Farren and had to do my homework. The first six months was all classwork, and the second six I did my clinical work in Bennington, covering adult medicine, pediatrics and obstetrics, plus little forays into other specialties like endocrinology, coronary health and dermatology. I finally graduated in September 1980 with my BSN and became a nurse practitioner, RNC."

"I got a job at the UMass College Health Services after graduation. About 50% of my work was in women's health, but I also got the pediatric work I wanted because I saw the children of professors and students. At UMass I became interested in sexuality and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and AIDS."

To prepare for the writing of a sex education curriculum, Sue did research at a rural high school and came up with some amazing statistics. The results of her survey showed that by graduation 60% of the students had been sexually active and 30% had more

than three partners. It also showed that teens tended to engage in sex and alcohol or drugs at the same time which meant they were not using condoms as a contraceptive or as a safe sex practice.

Sue then wrote an article for the August 1991 issue of *Nurse Practitioner Magazine*, "Setting Up a School Based Sexual Education Program to Help Prevent AIDS and Other Sexually Transmitted Diseases".

First she designed curriculum for grades 9-12, then curriculum for grades 7 and 8 and now she and Bob, who is the Coordinator of AIDS Education for the Orange School District are working on curriculum for grades 4-6. "It is imperative that kids have information so that they can make good choices. There is no question that home is the best place for this kind of education, but there are so many children who won't get it unless the school does it."

While Sue was working at UMass she also managed to earn her Master of Public Health. "In 1990, we had three graduations - I got my MPH, Heather graduated from high school and Colin from 6th grade."

She is currently working at Kaiser and sees an



SUE GRUEN
NURSE PRACTITIONER
(Family Photo)

average of 22 patients a day. This includes about six physicals, a couple of follow-up visits and the rest are acute problems.

In early November she attended a meeting of the Nurse Practitioner Associates of Continuing Education in Boston. Over 800 people attended and the focus was on what is happening in all the states and setting up guidelines for practice. This spring legislation was passed in Massachusetts that allows RNCs to write their own prescriptions; no longer would they have to be signed by a physician. The legislation is not yet in force because that prescriptive ability is now undergoing regulation, determining what kinds of limits will be set on RNCs.

Sue is excited by President-Elect Clinton's promise to set up a Health Council which will include a nurse practitioner and physician's assistant. She feels that nurse practitioners can play an important part in providing primary health care and preventative health care in a cost effective manner. "We need to examine WHY health care is expensive - because so much paperwork is required and because the system

is more geared to curing problems than to preventing them. RNCs can do physical exams, office surgery, lab procedures, provide patient education and counseling at about half the cost of a doctor."

"I think a school based health center would be a good idea in rural areas. Kids wouldn't have to be pulled out of school for routine exams and shots, blood pressure clinics could be held, flu shots and firemen's hepatitis shots given."

Sue says people ask her whether she isn't frustrated not to be a MD, but she says no. She's doing exactly what she wants. "I want to educate people as well as treat them."

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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

A VERY WISE AND PRACTICAL CHOICE

In late May or early June of 1947 for the price of \$1,474 a new John Deere Model B tractor was delivered to the Dickinson farm.

As Howard Dickinson had plowed all the land that the Landstrom, Gleason and Dickinson families used for their crops with an older B model John Deere tractor, Mr. Dickinson felt that this would be a great help to the horses. It wasn't done to drive the horses off the farm but to make their daily tasks less demanding. I've written of all manner of tractors and machinery and while none have feelings, this iron does have personality.

It is my contention that the only way to measure the value of anything is by the amount of good it does the most creatures, be it human or beast. As that 1947 B John Deere has no hour meter on it, it is most impossible to even hazard a guess as to the time it has run. That slow speed, 2 cylinder thump is very familiar to all who've heard it out of Heath Center. I clearly remember it being in the Heath Fair Parade the year it was new. Let's just review it's tasks here in Heath.

How would you count the acres of land plowed, hay land mowed, hay raked and baled, loads of manure spread, corn planted and cultivated, the corn planters attached to the cultivator frames, the belt power it provided to fill many silos and sawed countless cords of firewood? How do you begin to count the meals prepared by Ralph, Esther, and Howard's mother with the wood sawed by that wise purchase?

The mounted 2-way plows that were later gotten for the B were so popular and in short supply that it was 2 years before they could be found. They did a first class plowing job. Those plows were much the same as what Howard had used on his Uncle Oscar Landstrom's old tractor. Because they did a great job of plowing, the plows were hard to find. The John Deere Number 5 mower that it has mowed so much acreage with was a well designed unit and built to serve many years as it has done, and still working as needed.

These old style tractors and related attachments were so greatly over-built, it was assured that they would have a long and useful life. Every time money is spent for a purchase like that long-lasting B John Deere, one should always be able to see that same amount of useful years from it.

Dickinson's old B tractor was sold by the Harrison Raymond dealership and was delivered into town by Robert White. It was a wise choice of well-spent money and still works every day it's needed.



HISTORICAL SOCIETY HIKE A WINNER

by Pegge and Dave Howland

It was a brisk, sunny morning when fourteen eager hikers age 9 through 70-something gathered on the Town Green to board a bus for the Annual Historical Society Hike.

Brenda Thompson, the driver, arrived promptly at 9:30 AM that Saturday, October 3, to take us to the Flagg Hill Schoolhouse. It was there that she turned the bus around and deftly backed it up the narrow Flagg Hill Extension to the Steinbock place which was the starting point for our hike. Thus began a six-mile trek on land in Heath and Colrain that is steeped in history, offers magnificent scenic views and reflects the work of the ice age glacier.

Muriel Russell of Colrain, our very knowledgeable guide, had suggested that the hikers should bring along a flashlight, a snack, a lunch and an extra pair of socks, and that we should wear loose, layered clothing and eat high carbohydrate meals for two days before the hike. Everyone brought a lunch, some brought flashlights, and a few brought snacks, but her other recommendations were largely ignored, which, of course, many of us regretted by the end of the day! As hearty country folk we apparently thought the hike was nothing more than a walk in the backyard. NOT! While the terrain was generally passable, it was up-hill and down-dale over very rocky abandoned roads and mountain trails. Nevertheless, it was exhilarating, interesting and we all got to know one another better.

The first part of the hike was on land owned by Edward Shapiro, who recently announced that he would like to donate 330 acres to the town of Heath. (The town has voted to accept the offer and the Selectmen are studying ways to set up a long-term management program that will preserve the area).

A map provided by Muriel identified cellar holes, old roads, caves and wetlands, and as we came upon these sites she would regale us with stories about the place and its inhabitants. A half hour into the hike, as we trudged in a long line along the trail with eyes lowered watching for bear spoor, suddenly a shriek went up from the leaders of the column. "Wild boar, wild boar" they shouted. We all stopped and hastily make a path for the creature. But what to our wondering eyes should appear but a small black Vietnamese pot-bellied pig. No bigger than a cocker spaniel, the pig was extremely friendly and allowed us all to pet her. After much laughter and picture-taking we continued on our way and she on hers, her tummy almost dragging on the ground. What a sight!

As we approached the Catamount Hill area we noted several bear tracks in the road and kept a sharp eye on the lookout for a live one. But instead of a bear, we were met by Bill Lattrell and his son who reported seeing a bear further up the road. We never did come across it, however. Different kinds of trees and wild flowers were spotted and named by the more botanically astute among us, and as we ascended Catamount Hill the trees became noticeably thinner and smaller. Suddenly we were at the precipice of the hill overlooking the valley that encompassed Shelburne, Buckland and the Mohawk Trail into Charlemont. Spectacular! The respite suggested lunch would be in order so we retreated a short distance to an open area to eat and relax. The sun was high and most of us stretched out on the ground with our eyes closed and drank in the fresh air and forest odors.

In the afternoon, the trail took us past more cellar holes to the south and then turned northward along

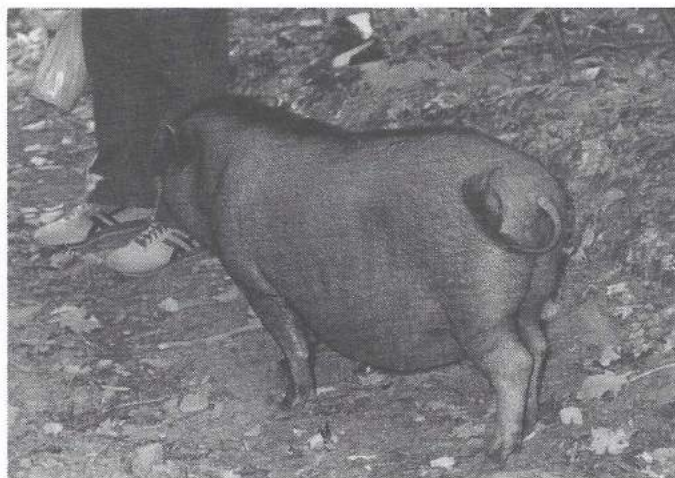
the high tension lines. The old roads are attractive routes for all-terrain-vehicles and we met a party of three jeeps. Friendly exchanges were accorded as we moved out of their way. The Catamount Dens were the next attraction on our itinerary. The rock formations left by the glacier have created a maze of nooks and crannies. You can start at the ground level and exit at a number of different places all the way to the top of the rock pile some 50-60 feet above. Some of the less timorous of us ventured into this eerie world with their flashlights and much bravado. The children loved it!

By this time it was mid-afternoon and weariness was setting in. Continuing north we viewed the 1812 Schoolhouse Monument and then had to practically wade through a swampy area towards our final destination on Colrain Brook Road in Colrain. The time was 4 PM. Instead of the bus, Brenda met us with her pick-up truck because the bus could not traverse the narrow bridge she had to cross to get to our meeting place. We all piled into the truck, gratefully, to return to our cars and homes.

Each year the Society arranges a hike of historical interest in our area. Michael Coe of Heath and Nan Williams of Rowe started the program several years ago and it has become an annual event that everyone looks forward to. Why not plan to join us next year?



BEV DenOUDEN IN FRONT OF A
CATAMOUNT CAVE
(Photo by Pegge Howland)



"WILD BOAR, WILD BOAR"
(Photo by Pegge Howland)

ADAGIO

by BETSEY SILVESTER

SPIN DOCTORS

On October 2 the Paramount Theater in Springfield, MA was host to the Spin Doctors. Led by front man Christopher Barron, the Spin Doctors have achieved a brilliantly unique sound slightly influenced by the Blues. The band successfully packed both the main floor and balcony of the theater, making the task of finding a decent place to sit exceedingly difficult. Some enthusiastic concert-goers, crowding close to the stage, balanced precariously on seating armrests in an attempt to get a good view.

The Spin Doctors were able to play two full sets due to the fact that the opening band cancelled. Lights flashing, cameras rolling, the Spin Doctors played old as well as recent material from their latest album Pocket Full of Kryptonite. Also performed was material not previously recorded which the audience participated in with cues from lead singer Christopher Barron. Songs such as "Little Miss Can't be Wrong" and "What Time is it?" were definite favorites. The Spin Doctors closed their second set with an extra-long version of "Lady Kerosene" which included a fantastically energetic guitar solo, compliments of Eric Schenkman.

The Spin Doctor's increasing popularity has given them a much greater audience. Subsequently, their music has received more air time since the release of their latest album. The four-member band from New York has been together for a good number of years now. They occasionally play at private schools and local clubs around the Northampton area and have also appeared recently on Saturday Night Live.

LIBRARY LINES

by Alli Thane

The holiday season is upon us and the library has a display of craft and cooking books to motivate you into a busy and delicious Christmas spirit. Come in and browse.

The library purchased a one year free pass for four people to the Children's Museum of Holyoke. Please use it. If you haven't taken children there, you are in for a very enjoyable experience.

Every now and then I try to find new ideas from you the patrons, so here is a question or two to which I hope you will respond.

Are the library hours convenient for you? (Monday night, Wednesday afternoon, and Saturday morning).

Are you satisfied with the magazines we choose?

Are there any books you would like to see in the library?

How about other ideas, such as programs or whatever?

New Books:

Mexico - James Michener

Every Living Thing - James Herriot

Mixed Blessings - Danielle Steele

The Vampire Series - Anne Rice

The Mummy - Anne Rice

Sharks and Other Creatures of the Deep - Philip Steele

Dinosaurs and How They Lived - Steve Parker

Several Janette Oke books and many large print books

Videos - J.F.K. and Beethoven

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

by Terry Pettengill

John and Nancy Clark of Route 8A have Christmas trees to sell at \$10 each, the proceeds of which are being donated to the Friends of the Library. Bring your own saw and cut your own tree -- Pay Terry Pettengill across the street.

Once again the Friends have purchased several children's books autographed by local authors and illustrators.

A profit of \$100 was made by selling refreshments at the recent "Utah" Phillips concert held at the Community Hall.

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HEATH PUBLIC PRESCHOOL NEWS

by Pam Porter, Director

Somehow the preschool report for the last issue of the *Heath Herald* got misplaced in transit. It was an important one because in it many were acknowledged for their help to the preschool, at the fair, with donations and in many other ways. In particular, we wanted to say thanks to all who were dunked and helped out in other ways at the Heath Fair. \$750 was raised for the scholarship fund. Also, we wanted to thank Tom Richardson of Woburn, MA, brother-in-law of Lesley and Paul McLatchy and uncle of Preschool alumni, Wendy and Meghan McLatchy, all of Rowe, Ma, for his contribution of a beautiful piece of stainless steel for the Preschool slide. Jim Cerone did the installation and the Metal Works, 468 Conway St., Shelburne Falls, contributed their labors to preparing the slide for installation. Many people helped get the playground ready for school. Wood chips were donated by Alice Hageman of Rowe.

Some parents have asked whether they might enroll their children in January and this is certainly a possibility. Children who turned three by August 31 are eligible to enroll at any time during the year. For more information call 337-4847.

On Saturday, December 5, the Preschool held an Open House. Entertainment was provided by our own Doug Wilkins.

Finally, I must tell you that I have asked the school committee to accept effective January 1, 1993, my resignation from the position of Head Teacher/Director of the Preschool. I will be leaving to serve as Assistant Rector of Grace Church in Amherst. Serving the Preschool and the Town has been challenging and important work, full of both personal and professional significance. I am grateful to parents, co-workers, school committee members, neighbors and of course the children themselves for the rewarding association of these past years and look forward to being a supporter of the Preschool as it continues to flourish in years to come.



CHURCH NEWS

by Roger Peace, Pastor

The song says, "It's the most wonderful time of the year", and it truly is. Why? Because everyone is celebrating the birth of God's dear Son. Of course, this also means a very busy time of the year for all of us with shopping, making presents or visiting friends and relatives. This also means a very busy time of the year for the church as well. It all began on December 6 with the Heath Youth Group doing a special Christmas puppet presentation. The same evening, everyone enjoyed the Gather-Round Singers, the Living Creche, lighting the Christmas tree and fellowship at the Community Hall with cookies and hot chocolate. Then on December 13 at 10 AM the Heath Union Choir will perform a Christmas Cantata entitled "Near To The Heart of God". We will then celebrate our Christmas Eve Service at 7 PM on the 24th. We do hope you can join all these special times as we honor the birth of Jesus. By the way, Advent began on November 29. We lighted the four candles of our Advent Wreath, one each week. Come and join us at this exciting time as we lift up the one who is called Wonderful, Counselor and Prince of Peace. Peace to all and God's Blessing! Merry Christmas.

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CLASSROOM MUSIC NOTES

by Edward Hines, Music Director
Rowe Elementary School

For the past few weeks, students at the Rowe School have been studying music in television, film and video. So far, our examples have included commercials, situation comedies, cartoons, a murder mystery and a musical. We have learned how music is used to set the mood or tone of a show, support special effects or even sell a product. We have seen how music can make a scene strong or weak, effective or ineffective or even condition us to behave in certain ways. It has been an exciting unit thus far for the children and myself.

I am offering a series of evening lectures/-discussions entitled Television: Messages and Meanings; Helping Children Make Choices. This is a version of what I am teaching during the day designed for older viewers such as parents. In it we will discuss messages and the impact of television on behavior. We will also look at the problem of television content and how it affects young viewers. The lectures will be free and will probably run for 2 or 3 weeks starting in the spring.

If you are interested, please call the school any Monday, Wednesday or Friday.

ROWE SCHOOL GYM AVAILABLE

Beginning January 8, Rowe Elementary Gym will be available for use by Rowe and Heath middle and high school students. The gym can be used for basketball, volleyball, aerobics etc. from 7 - 9 PM each Friday. Kathy Sprague will supervise. If you have any questions, please call 339-8381.



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ROWE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

by Phillip O'Reilly, Principal

The days are shorter, the nights are glistening with a bit of frost and Rowe School children are settling down into classroom routines that will carry them through the long winter months.

Children in grade six have begun the D.A.R.E. training with Officer John Dalton. The children are also working, with their parents' help, to raise money for their spring trip to Washington, D.C. In class, sixth graders continue to study ancient history and the development of civilization. This month the sixth graders also spent part of an afternoon at the Rowe Historical Society Museum.

Grade six students and their teacher, Mrs. Fournier, organized a mock election for the school. Children had the opportunity to vote for a Presidential candidate and to vote on a referendum question. Sixth graders were hosts of a debate on Question #3 and presented the pros and cons of this issue to the remainder of Rowe School students. They also organized a "meeting of the electors" after the popular vote at school had been taken.

Grade five students recently returned from their week-long adventure to Cape Cod. This eventful trip again brought many new and memorable experiences to our students. Again the fifth graders were fortunate to be part of a whale watch tour that gifted them with the rather unusual sighting of the rare right whale. (So named because it was historically the "right" whale for whalers.) In addition, children visited museums, bogs, swamps, tidal flats, Plimouth Plantation and innumerable other sites.

Grade four continues its daily scientific explorations into the worlds of other living organisms and plant and animal adaptations.

Grade three has completed their unit on maps with an exciting trip to the Children's Museum in Holyoke. At the museum, children had the opportunity to visit the museum's "Map" and "Shadow" rooms, practice bubble making and visit the museum's model television studio.

Grade two has been studying Native Americans while the R/1 continues its book-making process. The R/1 also prepared their annual "Fall Food Festival".

Kindergartners presented their interpretation of Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? by Bill Martin, Jr. They have also spent considerable time learning about color in the world around them.

The school staff continues to prepare for our study of Japan. We are grateful to Jim and Georgia O'Brien for opening their house to a Japanese intern later this school year. Having a native of Japan at the school for three months will certainly enrich our study of the language and culture of Japanese people.

During the month of November our fifth and sixth grade students were trained to be student mediators. Several teacher workshops are being planned and preparations for the holidays will begin. Our music teacher, Edward Hines, will continue offering his new unit "Music and the Media".

We are still looking for community volunteers to join our Rowe School Community Band. Please call the school or stop by if you are interested in this cooperative venture.

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FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

by Earl Gleason, Chief

Three emergency calls were responded to in the last two months. The first was an ambulance run to Avery Brook Road to aid Charlemont with an elderly man. Two EMTs and a firefighter responded to this call. Fourteen firefighters responded to a chimney fire in the Center on October 25. A car fire on Jacobs Road on November 3 resulted with nine firefighters responding.

Two Association meetings were held and three drills were conducted. One was a mutual aid drill with Whitingham.

Five members of the department also responded to an accident just over the line in Colrain on Adamsville Road on October 16.

Chimney cleaning except for one that we are to go back to, is over for the year.

The thirty year old heater in the fire station decided to die so a new heater had to be installed. Getting ready for the new installation resulted in two work-bees moving material so that the heater and piping could be installed.

A dry hydrant was installed recently at the new fire pond at the Hurlburt residence on Avery Brook Road. This will give us a water supply in an area where we had little or none before.

The Heath EMTs recently formed a Heath EMS group. The reason for forming was to better enable Heath to be available for equipment through different grants.

Several firefighters spent many evenings in Colrain recently completing the first responder class. I hope that the townspeople appreciate the many hours of mandated training that are required to remain a firefighter or emergency responder.

Fire calls are down, but there seems to be just as many meetings. The chief attended eleven meetings other than the drills and Association meetings. Two inspections were made.

Lastly, it has been called to my attention that our fire phone stickers say dial 1-772-2133. Unfortunately if you dial the one, you will get an operator who will tell you to redial without using the one.

YOU SHOULD CROSS OUT THE "1" ON YOUR EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBER STICKER TO READ:

772-2133

PERCS, PERMITS AND TRANSFERS

PERC TESTS

Perc testing has been suspended until April except for repairs.

BUILDING PERMITS

Heath Union Church, Main Street, sign.
Guy Woods, Shawnee Drive, enclose deck.
Budge Litchfield, Route 8A, demolish roof.
Peter Charnow, Number Nine Road, shed dormer.
Charles Seaver, South Road, addition to residence.
Andrew Liberator, Number Nine Road, reactivate house permit.
Ed Francoeur, Westbrook Drive, demolish/replace deck.
Gerard Gilbert, Groll Road, storage shed.
Robert Hudson, Saunders Road, storage shed.
John Henry, Number Nine Road, storage shed.
Mike Armstrong, Long Hill Road, deck handrail.
Mike Peters, Number Nine Road, expand retail space.

TOTAL: \$35,465.

DEED TRANSFERS

Francis A. Rice to Pamela J. Gilbert of Charlemont and Michelle L. Cutter, Avery Brook Road, \$1.

Ovila T. Hurlbut to Robert J. Jr. and Donna K. Coombs of Ashford, CT and Thomas S. Hurlbut of Stafford Springs, CT, Mohawk Estates, Lot 22. \$3,600.

Bruce S. Litchfield to Kendall D. Litchfield of Sanford, NC, Jacksonville Road, no consideration.

Leverett F. Dods to Catherine E. Dods and Keith A. Rolland, Long Plain Road, Parcel 6A, \$1.

Mohawk Estates Property Owners Association Inc. to Peter M. Powers of Lawrence, NY, Teepee Lane, Lot 11, \$2,000.

Mohawk Estates Property Owners Association, Inc. to Michael L. and Marjorie A. Gingras, Apache Drive, Lot 22, \$2,850.

William C. Jr. and Mary B. Anderson to Peter M. and Helen U. Staron of Plainville, CT, Apache Drive, Lots 28 and 29, \$17,000.

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SELECTMEN'S REPORT

by Art Schwenger

Progress. Slow but sure. The Selectmen heard a recommendation of the special audit committee who had done considerable work in exploring the type of audit we need and interviewing candidates. From among three interested firms, Scott Sawyer of Greenfield was hired to conduct a full audit including the books of the tax collector. He will provide training and technical assistance to the various staff who have votes on the handling of the town's money. A management letter will also be provided. His fee will be \$6,500. He will conduct the audit between December 1 and the end of the year. This audit will be the first thorough job done for many years. It is expected to provide the town and its officers confidence that our systems (including the computer functions) are all working and effective. Since we have had many turnovers in the Accountant, Tax Collector and Treasurer positions, the reassurance that we are working with good balances will be provided to those now working in these jobs. Many thanks for a very complete job to Jean Holdsworth, Dianne Suller, Linda Marcotte, June Day, and Karen MacDougall.

The state has decided to resurface Route 8A through Hawley, Charlemont, and Heath this spring. This will not involve the reconstruction of the road as it is still being planned by the four towns. As far as we know, no major changes will take place, paving will remain pretty much in the same place and width as the current road. Discussions are still underway concerning drainage and the role of each town in the project.

The management task force has provided an outline of the job they expect to perform in looking at how the town administers itself in studying the roles of the town jobs and in recommending changes to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of our operations. Bill Gran, Beverly Denouden, and Tom Lively have willingly agreed to do this needed task. They will report back to the Selectmen on their findings.

The Selectmen reviewed and accepted a complete package of police policies presented by Chief Tom Rabbitt. These written policies will help to protect the town by requiring consistency and informed decision-making by the town's police officers in enforcing the law. A lot of work went into the writing of these policies. Thank you, Tom.

The Selectmen met with Constance Burrington concerning the transfer to Heath of land containing the old Three-Town Landfill. After long delays, this action is now on the front burner again. The disposition of the issues surrounding the permanent closure of the landfill will continue to be reviewed over the next few months.

The Selectmen, Finance Committee, and Highway Department have been busy since town meeting voted funds for a new truck. After careful review of numerous bids received, a new 1993 International truck with sander body and plow will be purchased. With radial tires and a load cover the cost will use about \$57,000 of the \$60,000 appropriated. Delivery is expected sometime in January.

Fire Chief Earl Gleason presented a proposed list of road names to the Selectmen as part of the 911 Emergency system. The names were discussed and revisions made. The list is posted in Sawyer Hall. Any comments or suggestions about the names should be forwarded to the Selectmen.

Repairs have been conducted on the roof of Sawyer Hall. Some 50 slates were replaced and a new cap was installed. Other repairs to the building are also being done.

The donation of the Shapiro property off Burnt Hill extension is being worked on. In order to serve the long-term interests of the town, the questions of management, formal receipt, liability, and acceptable uses are being explored.

The Board of Selectmen is anxious to hear the suggestions and comments of Heath citizens. Because the Tuesday night meetings have been so full of business and action, it is helpful to have notice if a person wishes to bring an issue before the board. Although it isn't required, a call to David Howland or June Day will allow a planned place on the Selectmen's agenda so that people won't feel rushed and that the issue can be fully discussed.

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HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT REPORT

by Jack Cable, Superintendent

Through the efforts of the selectmen and the finance committee, a concerted effort is being made to upgrade the Highway Department equipment. The only reliable piece of equipment is the 91 International truck with the sander which was purchased last winter. We have no grader, our tractor is a 1940 model, our chipper is of an old unsafe style. At this time the loader and pickup are functional but will need to be upgraded in the near future. We have two other trucks -- one an '81 Chevrolet purchased last winter as a "quick fix" and the other is a '77 Ford purchased three seasons ago as another "quick fix". The sanders on these trucks are a constant repair item. Thanks to the voters for approving the purchase of a new truck and sander. These were needed to improve our road clearing of winter storms.

We are going through a transition period with the State Highway Department because of consolidation of districts. We have been in District Two out of Northampton; now we are in District One out of Lenox. Lenox office personnel have been to Heath and viewed our highway system and reviewed our paper work. On the latter they require different procedures than District Two.

Our summer activities included designing, drainage, sub-drainage, graveling and oil and stoning 6,500 feet of roads. We did drainage and cutback work on all major roads and some of the lesser traveled roads. Dirt roads are in dire need of gravel and ditching and we expect to rehabilitate another one half mile of hard surface road next year. In the spring we expect to hard top the roads we recently oil and stoned. Through special state aid, 8A will be resurfaced from the Vermont line to the Charlemont line this coming spring.

The transfer station has enjoyed a smooth operation this year. The attendant's office has been sheet-rocked and Bud finds the office cozier.

May the winter season be a safe one. If you see or have a problem call us at 337-4462 or 337-4454. Merry Christmas and Happy New year from the Heath Highway Department.

SMALL BUSINESS LOAN PROGRAM

by Catherine Heyl

The recently formed Small Business Loan Committee has completed its initial task of developing the guidelines for the loan program and is pleased to report that the program is fully underway. Our goal is to encourage small business development by providing seed money that will help a business to start up or expand and will create new business opportunities in Heath. Loans of \$1,000 to \$5,000 are being offered to qualifying Heath businesses at very reasonable rates and terms:

Loan Term is 2 to 7 years. For the first twenty-four months payments are interest only.

Option 1. Repay loan principal in full at end of twenty-four months - all interest is refunded - the only cost is a 1.5% Origination Fee.

The source of funds for this program is from repayment of loans originally given under a Community Block Grant Loan Program which served Heath, Colrain and Monroe Bridge. A number of Heath businesses benefited from that program. By using the repayment funds for our own loan program we are continuing to provide support to Heath businesses.

In August the Committee approved its first loan for \$5,000 to Mike Peters, owner of Peters General Store. The loan will go toward expanding and improving the floor space in the store. Mike sees this as an opportunity to continue his longterm plan to offer more inventory and a greater selection to his customers.

The Committee would like to encourage anyone who is considering starting or expanding a business to find out about the program. With the fund balance currently at \$26,000 there are ample funds available. Loans may be used for many purposes for all types of businesses. Examples could include: equipment or materials needed for a new craft product; machinery for a wood products business; construction or remodeling of retail or work/studio space; a promotional package for a service business or an agricultural product. The possibilities are limitless. There has been a lot of discussion lately in surrounding towns about what can be done to encourage business development. Heath also needs to build up its business base. The Loan Program is designed to help do that by offering needed financing to businesses that will complement and enhance our town.

For more information regarding the Heath Small Business Loan Program contact Bruce Cromack, Chair of the committee at 337-4350.



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Merry Christmas

HEATH LADIES AID

by Edith Royer

The Heath Ladies Aid held a Christmas sale on November 7 at the Community Hall, making around \$500. I would like to thank everyone that helped to make this a success.

ANNUAL HEATH SKI RACE SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 1993

Volunteers are needed to help groom the trail. Please contact Judy Thrasher, 337-5327 or Jeffrey Goldwasser, 337-6672 if you are available to help.



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TOWN OFFICE HOURS

(At Town Hall unless otherwise specified)

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



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