



VOLUME 14 NUMBER 6

FEBRUARY/MARCH 1993

# HEATH

# HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER 50¢

## EDUCATING HEATH'S CHILDREN

by Deborah Phillips  
Heath School Building Committee

How can we secure permanent enrollment for our elementary school students? Can we keep all of our children together in the same school system? Will we have a vote on the board making the decisions which affect those children? How much will providing an education cost us? Whether you are a parent with school-age children, are retired and on a fixed income, or if you are a property owner in Heath, the solution of providing a sound education to the next generation is an important, serious and complex issue. It affects us all.

Since 1987, the Heath School Committee and the Building Committee have been exploring all the alternatives in providing a secure education for our elementary school children. They are committed to finding the best possible solution to meet 3 important criteria:

1. Permanent enrollment so that every child is guaranteed a place in school.
2. Keeping all children together in the same school system. This is important in a town with a population as spread out as Heath's. School is our children's main source of socialization.
3. Voting representation on a school board which in turn provides the residents of Heath with voting control over budgets and policy.

To accomplish these goals, the committees turned to neighboring towns in an attempt to find the most economical solution. They first turned to the town of Rowe and proposed a regionalization plan. This would have met all of the criteria, but the residents of Rowe overwhelmingly voted it down. In October, 1992, the Rowe School Committee voted to cap enrollment at 90 children by limiting the number of incoming students to 12. (Currently, there are approximately 30 students from Rowe and 90 from Heath). Rowe children will be given priority; Heath children would then fill the remaining vacancies. It also looks as though they will be asking for a substantial tuition increase. Committees from both Heath and Rowe are planning meetings to try to negotiate the details concerning enrollment and tuition, and to come to an agreement with which everyone can live. As the policy stands, however, it will leave two Heath kindergarten children without a school next September; and any new families moving to Heath with school-age children will not gain admission to Rowe. Continued on page 3

## HEATH PUBLIC PRESCHOOL NEWS

by Suzanne Crawford, Director

As you may know, there has been a change in the teaching staff at the Preschool. Pam Porter has taken a new job with the Grace Episcopal Church in Amherst. We greatly appreciate the love and guidance that she offered the young children of Heath and Rowe during her years of teaching. We wish her well in her new work. I began as the new head teacher/director on January 4, 1993.

I am enjoying getting to know the children, their families, and more people in the community. It is wonderful to work in a community that has such a strong and long-standing commitment to its youngest citizens. I am also delighted to be able to work with Judy Clark and Ruth Fournier. Their skill and warmth have eased the transition for the children, the families, and for me.

This time of year makes winter play and projects a natural focus. Outside the children have been enjoying sledding, shoveling (wouldn't it be great to save some of that love of shoveling for their teenage years?!), making angels and snow houses, etc. Inside, snow flakes and snowmen adorn the room. We are looking forward to having the road crew bring the snow plow to school for a demonstration. We have enjoyed a visit to the library for stories, and look forward to many more.



SUE CRAWFORD  
PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR/TEACHER  
(Crawford family photo)



## MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

by Amy Croteau

Martin Luther King, Jr. was a very brave man. He fought many laws. He didn't like the words "beat" and "guns". He was a speaker. He fought the Jim Crow laws. Jim Crow laws segregated the blacks from the whites. Even though he fought them peacefully, he was put in jail repeatedly. His most famous speech was "I Have a Dream". He spoke of how someday little black boys and black girls will join hands with little white boys and white girls.

The most important prize that he got was the Nobel Peace Prize. The Kings flew over to Norway to accept the prize. It was a medal and \$54,000. King would give the money to several negro groups. He said it belonged to all American negroes.

There were no Jim Crow laws in the northern cities, but negroes still had problems. Many whites would not let negroes use the restrooms. And most blacks were poor, so they had to live in "slums". In Chicago, over 800,000 blacks lived in row upon row of dirty buildings. There were rats and bugs. Often there was no heat. He didn't care about money or fame. He didn't even think his Nobel Prize was important. To him justice was important. He called himself "a drum major for justice".

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Managing Editor  
General Editing & Layout  
Staff Reporters

Susan Silvester  
Pegge Howland  
Edith Royer

Columnists

Beverly denOuden  
Elsa Bakalar  
Michael D. Coe  
Bill Lattrell  
Carroll Stowe

Staff Photographer  
Advertising  
Circulation & Business

Pat Leuchtman  
Michael Peters  
Ray Pettengill  
Terry Pettengill  
Deborah Phillips  
Arlene Markert

Typography

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Send all correspondence to Box 54, Heath, MA 01346

## MILESTONES

by Edith C. Royer

Theodore Lively, age 91 and a resident of Anchor-age Nursing Home, died January 7. Among survivors are a son, Leander, a grandson, Lee and 2 great granddaughters, all of Heath.

Edward W. Gulyban of Milford, CT and Heath, died January 15. He was a self-employed mason-contractor. He was a member of the Bridgeport Motorcycle Club and the Christian Motorcycle Club of Shelburne Falls. He was also active in Heath and Rowe Cub Scouts. Survivors include his wife, Christine, a son, Edward W. II and 2 daughters, Jenny L. and Natasha E. all of Heath.

Lois M. Rice, age 89, a resident of the Franklin Nursing and Rehabilitation Center died January 20. She was a member of the American Legion Auxiliaries of Charlemont and Shelburne Falls. Survivors include 3 sons, Francis of Heath, James of Hawley and Kenneth of Charlemont and a daughter, Agnes Spencer of Chandler, OK. She also leaves 17 grandchildren, several great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren. Several are living in Heath.

We extend our sympathy to all of these family members.

## HEATH PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

In the December 13, 1992, issue of the Sunday Republican Parade magazine Heath resident, Cecilia Sherman's award winning photograph of graduation day at Cushing Academy is featured in Champions Photography Contest.

Dr. Michael Coe is on a leave of absence this semester from Yale and will be revising his book Mexico. At the same time Sophie Coe will be writing her book on the history of chocolate. The Coes will be in Italy until the end of March, then travelling to Thailand, Cambodia, Bali and Australia.

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## HEATH PRECIPITATION

by Ralph H. Dickinson

Observer for Mass. Division of Water Resources

During the past several months, Heath has experienced a wide variety of weather. The following is a list of the precipitation measurements taken:

August	6.10 inches	
September	3.42 inches	
October	2.52 inches	
November	4.38 inches	4.5 inches snow
December	4.54 inches	25 inches snow
January	2.74 inches	19.5 inches snow

The total precipitation for 1992 was 44.94 inches. Snowfall so far this season is 49 inches. The first measurable snow came on November 18, 1992.

January continued with rapid fluctuations of temperature and several storms going to the north or southeast of our area.



Continued from page 1

The burden of finding a school for these and subsequent children falls on the Heath School Committee. The cost of tuition and transportation to another school falls on the Heath taxpayers. This latest turn of events is very unfortunate for Heath's school children. Rowe is a very good school with excellent teachers, the children enjoy close friendships, and the building may have expansion possibilities. Unfortunately, we have been unable to work out a solution with Rowe, and the current conditions are not in our best interests.

After exhausting all options with Rowe, the committee then turned to other neighboring towns looking for alternatives, but found many obstacles.

**Hawlemont** The size of the existing lot will not allow for expansion. Even if the land around the school could be purchased, it lies in a flood zone. To meet the committee's criteria, we would need to regionalize requiring Hawlemont to restructure. Our joining with Hawlemont would bring increased state aid, but the new laws regarding weighted voting where towns with larger populations have more voting power than the smaller town would not be in the best interests of Hawley.

**Colrain** The school lot might have room for the necessary expansion, yet the existing facility needs renovation. Colrain has formed a building committee as the school is becoming overcrowded, but they have only just begun to consider the possibility of rebuilding. There is also a concern about the distance and cost of transportation.

**Buckland/Shelburne** Again, the existing lot size is a factor in expanding the school. Their school committee has indicated they would not be interested in a large addition. Transportation expense is also an issue. If we joined the BCS regional district, they would gain more state aid, but would also have to restructure.

**Whitingham, VT** There is space for all of our students in their school and they would be accepted on a tuition basis. The cost of the tuition and the transportation will be much more expensive than what we are currently paying and will not meet the essential criteria.

Having researched all possible avenues and weighed all the options, the School Building Committee recently voted to present to the selectmen and the townspeople its recommendation that Heath should build its own school. The process of building a school involves state bureaucracy, regulations, hard work, time and money. The School Committees are now compiling the information Heath residents will need to make an informed decision. This includes:

- \* Negotiating a potential site for the school building. This is a process mandated by the state, requiring that we publish a Request for Proposals in order to begin a bid process for land acquisition. Ideally, the most suitable site would be a fairly flat parcel of land within a populous section of town.

- \* Estimating the cost of construction so that the townspeople will have a realistic idea of the tax consequences. Keep in mind that our taxes are going up for education whether we build or not.

- \* Pursuing regionalization possibilities with BCS, Hawlemont or preferably with a nine town K-12 region. Note that regionalizing does not solve the physical space problem of where to educate our children, but will give us permanence and voting rights. If the Heath School regionalized with another school system, it would reduce our operating costs and our tax burden.

\* Continuing to explore other options.

Once the committees have concrete information, a town meeting will be held sometime this spring to vote on appropriating funds to hire an architect. This is estimated to cost anywhere from \$200,000 to \$300,000 but the state will reimburse us 70% once we build the school. The process of choosing an architect and having plans drawn will take approximately seven months. Once we have a potential site and a building design, we can better estimate the cost of construction. At this point, Heath residents will vote again to authorize funding the project. Then we submit our building proposal to the state. If approved, they will subsidize 70% of the costs. The School Building Assistance Board must receive requests for new construction by June 1. It is impossible for us to have an architect's plan by this deadline, so we will not be approved until June of 1994 at the earliest. Once the bid process begins and construction is underway, it will take approximately 2 - 2 1/2 years to complete.

Providing our children with a proper education is an important and serious issue. The question of the tax burden incurred by building and operating a school is of great concern to everyone. Our taxes are going up whether we building or not -- Rowe's tuition increase will see to that. Our taxes will be higher to build and operate a school of our own, but it would provide all Heath children with permanent enrollment and enable our town to vote on education decisions and policy. We encourage you to attend the meetings, become involved and stay informed. They are scheduled for February 17, March 3 and March 17 at 7:30 PM at the Community Hall just after the regular School Committee meetings.



JOINT MEETING OF THE  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE & SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE  
(Photo by Deborah Phillips)

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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 USEFUL TOOL - A CANT HOOK

A cant hook, cant dog peeve or the more modern term of log wrench is a very important tool for the timber workers. A well sharpened and shaped cant hook can seem like a part of a human being when you watch an artist with one in his hands.

Our late, dear friend, Win Warriner was one who worked a cant hook with an enviable skill. He wasn't a giant, but the logs he used to position in the saw carriage always amazed me.

These logging tools are not as often seen in their day and age because logs are hauled out of the forest by skidders and aren't loaded on sleds or wagons as in the past. With a nicely sharpened hook on a 48 inch handle, you've got a lot of leverage to roll a rather large log.

You can file the sharpness to the hook part but a real blacksmith should shape the arch of the hook itself.

Again, I mention talent of the past in the personage of the late Percy Dodge of Whitingham, Vermont. He was very critical about the way the hook was shaped. With the hook bolted to the larger part of the tool and the wooden handle in your hand and sliding the point and hook across a wooden floor the hook should roll up a thin shaving of wood. Of course, this is not on a good finished floor. Shaped in this manner it would really bite into the bark of a log.

The longer cant hooks were often carried on the logging sleds and good teamsters could help a team greatly if they got stuck with a load by getting a pry on the sled runner. I never had that experience.

In the book, Tall Trees and Tough Men, much is written about the river log drivers' prowess with a cant hook and their ability to break up a log jam. It was also claimed that if a man was to go into the raging water, at all costs save the cant hook. They could always get more men. A rather unfortunate fact of life.

In the photo of various types of log rolling tools, the difference is easily observed. On my left a double hooked tool was used to carry small logs or rail ties. Next to it is a long handled spiked hook for a greater leverage to roll or pry 2 smaller hooks to roll in a sawmill and a shorter handled spiked hook. These all had a place and were well designed for each task.

Many logs have been arranged to load on a sled by what was called crosshooking and was accomplished by one person on either side of the log and a cant dog in hand and lifting together and carrying said stick to the sled.

Threats were made in the direction of a lumber camp cook that if his cooking was not up to par, he could plan to be crosshauled, the same term but worded differently. With skidders and log loading equipment, log wrenches are not used as much as in the past.

A good friend of mine, Stuart Garland of Jacksonville, VT, used to haul logs with various trucks and it was so interesting to watch him put on a load of logs. He would use 2 skidways of different heights. The

lower skidway was used to load the first part of the load and as the load increased in height, he would move to the next higher one. One doesn't often speak of a pretty load of logs but those Stuart loaded were indeed pretty and were loaded by an artist with a hook.

Take the time someday to watch a log rolling artist at work.

On a lot of wood shod logging sleds, there was a hole in the front bunk to put the spike of a cant hook into to carry the hook. When the sled was loaded, the hook rode under the binder chain out of the way, but handy in case of need.

What a satisfying feeling to get a nice load of logs on a sled, bind it down, take the blankets off the team, fold them up to sit on, put on a nice warm beech jacket, pick up the lines to a good team, speak or chirp to them to pick up the load and start for the unloading area. Perhaps a steep grade would require a runner chain for a brake and hear that chain do its job as it keeps the sled under control. All part of the use of a "peeve" or cant hook.



**CARROLL STOWE DISPLAYS THE CANT HOOK**  
(Stowe family photo)



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## Green Thoughts

by

ELSA BAKALAR

by Elsa Bakalar

Last November the New York Botanical Garden put on its annual show and called it "Chrysanthemum Fiesta". I've seen this extraordinary display several times and marveled at the range of colors - pink, red, yellow, bronze, purple, white and everything in between. And the forms! Dainty pompoms, delicate "spiders", "cushions" that look solid enough to sit on, huge, shaggy "footballs", and cascades of flowers from plants trained over wire frames.

Could all these be the humble mum that we've known all our lives? Well, no, as a matter of fact. Apparently, they are not mums at all. They are dendranthema. So what are we going to call them for short? If chrysanthemums are mums, could dendranthema be "thems"?

It's those taxonomist fellows at work again. Just to keep us on our toes, they issue edicts from time to time, changing botanical names. I'm sure it's all very sound, botanically, but what about us poor dirt gardeners? Shastas and other daisies like them are now chrysanthemums. Are you still with me? If you are, did I ever tell you the story of my six-year-old Sweet Autumn Clematis (*Clematis paniculata*) with the beautiful white starry flowers in October? Evidently, the word went forth and its name was changed to *Clematis maximowicziana*. So, I went out and changed the label. Guess what? The poor thing died.

I can't wait to see what happens next fall, when we drive out to a roadside stand and ask for a pot of dendranthema.

The rush of catalogs is upon us once again. A few of them have been scaled down, presumably reflecting tougher times, but the big glossies are as big and glossy as ever.

Alli Thane, always so willing to stretch the services Heath Library offers, will have a box of garden catalogs on hand. Check these out before you send money (!) away for your own. And if you have any you're willing to pass on, you know where they'll do the most good.

The big three flower shows (Philadelphia, Boston, and New York) are coming up in March. Boston's extravaganza is March 6 to March 14.

I'm sorry to tell you that this note is appearing too late for their February 1 deadline, but the Greenfield Garden Club is running two buses this year on March 6 at a very good price for bus and flower show combined. Last year's trip was a sellout.

This new revitalized Garden Club is doing great things, as you many have read in the newspapers. It meets monthly, on Thursdays, offers good workshops, organizes tours of interest to gardeners, and keeps members abreast of what's going on in the garden world locally. New members are welcome, and they're a very friendly group. Interested? Call Janice McGuane, 773-5819.



## FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

A number of West County forest land owners met in Heath in mid-January to hear a presentation by Susan Campbell, State Coordinator of the recently established Forest Stewardship Program, which is administered by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management (Division of Parks & Forests) and is funded by the U. S. Forest Service.

The objective of the program is to encourage good stewardship of forest land. The U.S. Forest Service will cost-share (generally at 75%) a wide range of practices for landowners who have a 10-year Forest Stewardship Plan for their property.

Among the stewardship practices that have been developed by the U. S. Forest Service and are eligible for cost-sharing by landowners enrolled in the program are:

**Wildlife Habitat Enhancement** (grassy openings, plantings, nesting boxes, rehabilitation of small orchards, rare and endangered species survey);

**Recreation and Esthetics Enhancement** (trails, tree pruning, forest thinning, vistas, cultural resources, site protection);

**Soil and Water Protection** (design and lay-out of woods roads, trail and landing rehabilitation, rehabilitation of gullies and gravel pits);

**Wood Production** (forest thinning, tree pruning, tree planting).

The Forest Stewardship Program is not a regulatory program like, for example, Chapter 61. No minimum acreage is required, with one exception. To receive cost-sharing on the development of a Forest Stewardship Plan the property must have at least 10 forested acres and have no previously existing forest management plan. The nature and scope of the Forest Stewardship Plan are for the landowner himself or herself to determine.

Anyone interested in enrolling in the Forest Stewardship Program is invited, as a first step, to contact the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, 55 Federal Street, Room 200, Greenfield: Telephone 772-6810. The ASCS will help with the necessary paper-work. The next step is a call to the County Service Forester, Department of Environmental Management (Division of Forests & Parks), University of Massachusetts, Amherst: Telephone 549-1461, who will be able to supply lists of natural resource professionals (foresters, recreational and open-space planners, wildlife biologists, wetland scientists, environmental consultants and soil scientists).

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# WILD RAMBLINGS

by BILL LATTRELL

## THE CLEVER ONE

The fox finds itself the subject of fable, story, wild tale, and even myth. His reputation sometimes exceeds his abilities in the mind of the human, but only due to the great respect that this small canine has earned. It is known for out-thinking packs of hounds, crows, gingerbread men, and every human excluding Albert Einstein. The fox is known for its ability to turn on a dime, climb trees, dig tunnels almost all the way to China, speak to people when no one else is present, and disappear into thin air. And while many of these exaggerations are meant solely for the pleasure of a reader or a listener, they portray a reverence that we humans have for this magnificent creature. It is an image that is well deserved.

Our region finds itself graced with two fox species, the red fox and the gray fox. Most people have stumbled across the red variety in their travels. In the early morning and evening it can be observed in many of our meadows in search of field mice, voles and other small creatures. It doesn't mind a bit being observed from a distance. It many appear that it is unaware of the lucky observer, but it is most likely keeping one eye on the distant human, and the other eye and two ears on potential prey. This fox has the unique ability of using sound to locate the exact position of its prey. If you look closely, you can see this ability in action. The fox will first move one ear, locating the approximate area of the mouse or other critter; it will then move the other ear. The fox's brain translates these sound bytes through a telemetric process to the exact location of the prey beneath the field thatch without any visual contact whatsoever. The fox will then leap into the air, up to an amazing 12 feet, and pounce on the victim. Research has shown that some have up to 80% success using this ability.

And don't underestimate the cleverness of this wily animal. Believe it or not, when it is the prey rather than the predator, it has an amazing bag of tricks that it can reach into to throw the most worthy predator off its trail. The fox will walk on fence rails, circle on its own path several times, run up a stream, and when it is sure that it has the upper hand, sit atop a ledge and watch the predator run right by. The fox's amazing success at survival is also its biggest downfall. It is often so confident of its own abilities to get out of any situation that it will take risks that will lead to death.

This summer our family was fortunate to have a fox neighbor that enjoyed cruising our small pasture and yard in search of food. It often could be spotted mousing along the edge of our pasture, researching the delectables in the compost heap, and munching on blackberries amongst our many brambles. The red fox is very fond of fresh fruit including blackberries, blueberries, elderberries, and even apples. During the growing season, herbaceous forage can comprise more than 50% of its diet. I even observed our friend eating the remnants of cooked winter squash in our compost.

We had another, different red fox visitor last winter. By different I mean that this red fox was black.

During February I was stepping out our back door to get some wood for the stove. There, standing next to the wood pile, was what I thought was a very small black dog. As he exited quickly from the vicinity I saw the white tip on his bushy tail (the one absolute way to distinguish a red fox), the fox body silhouette, and the famous fox gait, which appears as if the animal is only running from the mid-leg down. I had read about a black phase of the red fox, but never dreamed I would see one, particularly right out my back door. In telling people in town about this experience, Alli Thane told me that her husband Ernie had also seen one that fall. Although it was probably not the same individual, for we live about 5 miles from each other (as the fox runs), it may have been a litter mate.

The other fox of our area is the gray fox. This cousin is much more recluse and rarely ventures out of the forest. For this reason it is seldom seen. It is slightly smaller than the red fox, being 7-10 pounds, compared to the larger red fox's 9-12 pounds. It is usually grizzled gray in color, and has a black tail with no white tip. This small canine has the unusual ability to climb trees, not just those that are at 45 degree angles to the ground, but also the vertical ones. His toe nails are adapted for doing this feat. Apparently this trick is used both offensively when seeking prey and defensively when escaping predators.

I have only seen two gray foxes even though I spend countless hours in the wilds. The first was when I was about 14 years old. I was exploring a stream as a potential fishing area. It was in quite a remote area and near a very large swamp system. As I was investigating a particularly interesting pool with a very deep bank undercut I saw a reflection of movement on the opposite bank. There stood a gray fox with a squirrel hanging from his mouth. He was less than happy to see me standing there, but did not seem to be particularly afraid. As I stood there in awe watching his every expression, he honestly appeared to grin at me, although in retrospect it was probably a snarl, and turned to disappear into the underbrush. Three years ago while jogging on a logging road on the hill behind my house I saw a gray fox run across the road, turn to look at me, and run about 100 yards through open woods before scampering up a large red oak with a crotch and hole about 8 feet in the air. The fox disappeared into the hole. I've always been curious as to whether the tree was actually a nesting site or not. I have since resisted temptation to explore this tree for fear of disturbing a good gray fox nesting site.

The population of the fox in our area seems to ebb and flow with prey populations and the mange. Mange is often deadly to foxes, and seems to spread from fox to fox during dense population times. Manged foxes are apparent by the lack of hair on them, particularly on the hind quarters, and the presence of an abrasion type scab wherever the hair has fallen off. More recently rabies has presented itself as a threat to this noble creature. For this reason observations of the fox should be made at a distance, and any unusual behavior should result in the observer exiting from the scene. The fox has survived hundreds of years of these disease cycles, and will likely survive hundreds more.

So the next time you read a story about Foxy-Loxey tricking Goosey-Loosey, think about this as being a tribute to one of our most interesting animals. The clever one. The fox.





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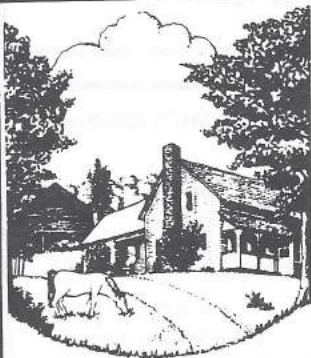
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## ACADEMY AT CHARLEMONT ACCREDITED

by Mary Kay Hoffman

The Academy at Charlemont, founded in 1981, has been awarded full accreditation by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). Academy Headmaster Eric Grinnell attended the association's 107th Annual Meeting at the Copley Plaza Hotel in Boston where he received the Certificates of Accreditation on behalf of the school.

The Academy's accreditation by the NEASC is the culmination of a process begun early in 1991 which included a comprehensive self-study by Academy faculty and staff and an evaluation by peers, a visiting committee of other teachers and administrators from the New England area appointed by the NEASC. Newly founded schools undergo this process seven to ten years after their inception; subsequent re-accreditation is usually done at ten year intervals with periodic progress reports.

The New England Association of Schools and Colleges is an independent, voluntary, nongovernmental organization of educational institutions whose primary mission is to assess educational quality, stimulate improvement and accredit schools and colleges meeting the Association's standards of membership.

The Academy at Charlemont, located on the Mohawk Trail in Charlemont, is a small, private, independent, co-educational day school for grades 5-12 with a post graduate year. Eighty-six students attend the school.



ACADEMY RECEIVES ACCREDITATION  
(From left to right: Edward Shanahan, NEASC  
Eric Grinnell, Headmaster & John Davis, NEASC)

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## ROWE SCHOOL PTP PLANS MAPLE FESTIVAL

by Becky Bradley

The Rowe Elementary School PTP has the answer for those winter doldrums. On March 13 they will sponsor a Maple Festival! Meet at the Heath Community Hall anytime between 10 AM and 2 PM and catch a wagon ride to Burke's Farm on Long Hill Road. At the farm watch the sugaring-off process and see maple sap turn into maple syrup. Have a sleigh-ride through the fields (weather permitting). Roast marshmallows, dance, skip and relax around the bonfire. Sip hot coffee and chocolate with a sandwich if you like.

If you get cold, catch a wagon back to Heath center and shop the craft sale upstairs in the Community Hall. Visit the Art Exhibit at the Town Hall. Shop the Rowe PTP used toy and book sale.

A cake walk will be held from 1 to 2 PM or as long as the cakes last. Take a walk and win a cake! In addition there will be puppet shows from 2-3 PM at the Church. At 3 PM there will be story telling at the Community Hall.

After a full day outside enjoying the wonderful late winter season, join the Rowe Elementary sixth graders for their PANCAKE SUPPER. The pancakes will be topped off with freshly made syrup. How can you afford to miss this opportunity? In addition, you will be helping the sixth grade raise money for their Washington trip in May. DON'T MISS IT!!

The PTP would appreciate contributions of used toys and books. Please bring them to Rowe School and leave them in the bins provided.

Mark your calendars - March 13 (rain/snow date, March 14) at 10 AM.

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## CHURCH NEWS

by Pastor Roger Peace

What a wonderful privilege it was to celebrate Christmas in the month of January. The weekend of the 15th through the 17th the youth group did two puppet performances about the Christmas story, and the Heath Union Choir sang the cantata entitled, "Near the Heart of God". Both were well received and those participating considered it their joy in ministering to others in various ways. I wish you all could see the smiling faces at the nursing home when the youth take their puppets to these people. The youth would also like to thank the Rowe Church for inviting us to their church to do puppets. Thanks also for the snacks and fellowship.

During the next two months it might seem that the church is resting, for we do not have a lot of activities planned. That is not the truth, for we are in the process of making plans for the coming year and are already planning for our next cantata at Easter. Other plans consist of the youth group's trip to New York with the puppets, Sunday School has been challenged to see which class can invite the most visitors, and many committees are busy setting goals for 1993. Now that we know there is so much musical talent in the church, you will be hearing more often from various people as they share their talents with us.

On March 21 at 7 PM we will be having a movie at the church entitled, "Eye of the Storm". Hope you can join us for this movie which stars Connie Sellecca and Jeff Conaway.

The Heath Union Church would also like to say a very special thanks to all who helped and participated through the holidays. It has once again been my pleasure to see so many involved and so willing to help.

As we continue into 1993 may the Lord keep you in His care and direct your paths. Don't forget - the Heath Union Church welcomes all visitors and hope you stay and join our fellowship.

## FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

by Joanne Fortune

The Friends of the Heath Library extend a very sincere thank you to John and Nancy Clark who donated the proceeds of the sale of their Christmas trees (in honor of Mildred Burrington) to the Heath Library. The generous gift amounted to \$340. Thank you to all of you who bought a tree from the Clarks!

Leo Cormier of College Park Books in Greenfield took the books we didn't sell at the Heath Fair. A special thank you, Leo, for the \$60 donation to the library.

Boswell's Books owner Anne Plunkett held a children's author and illustrator book signing in November. Among those autographing their books were Yoshi, Norton Juster, Jane Yolen, Jane Dyer, Margot Apple and Ruth Cuncell. Pat Leuchtman had several books signed for the young Heath readers including: A to Zen, Alberic the Wise, Talking Like the Rain, Snow Angels, Sheep Out to Eat, Handel and the Sword Swallower of Halle, Street Rhymes Around the World and Owl Moon.

The Friends continue to build the children's collection. Encouraging an early love of books is one of the surest paths to a child's academic success and many hours of personal pleasure.

## GOOD NEIGHBORS

by Kathy Parker

The February school winter vacation is coming up in about a month, and after that, Easter. Good Neighbors thanks those who have already so generously donated to our Thanksgiving and Christmas distributions, and now we are asking those who did not donate in the fall please be generous now. We were very pleased with what we could accomplish then; please help us to accomplish it again! The need is still there.

Our winter vacation distribution is intended to make sure that those children who will not get their lunches at school will get their lunches from Good Neighbors. It will be held at the Charlemont Federated Church Social Rooms on Saturday, February 13 because there is an event planned at the church for Sunday. We will pack in the morning and have recipients come to the Social Rooms in the afternoon from 2 to 5 PM. We will also continue to deliver to elders, who are also included.

Our Easter distribution will be Saturday, April 10, the Saturday before Easter Sunday.

All contributions of either nonperishable food or money will be most gratefully received. Please make checks out to Good Neighbors Group.

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## MASTER ROAD NAME GUIDE

The following are road names for the Emergency 9-1-1 system. The Board of Selectmen, the Planning Board, the Assessors, and Earl Gleason met on October 20, 1992, to make choices on roads with more than one name and to choose alternate names where similar road names might cause confusion. Note that a single asterisk (\*) denotes a private road. A double asterisk (\*\*) denotes a road name that has been changed.

A.L. Stetson Rd.		Off West Branch Road (Adamsville or Colrain) to Coe's
Apache Drive	*	Mohawk Estates
Arrowhead Drive	*	Mohawk Estates
Avery Brook Road		Main & Taylor Brook to Charlemont line
Bassett Road		South Road to Charlemont line
Bellor Road		Off Sadoga Road (right) to end of road
Ben Road	**	Now named Branch Hill Road
Branch Hill Road		End of Ledge Rd. to Route 8A
Bray Road		Main St. (Center Sch) to Tee at Colrain Stage Rd.
Brunelle Rd.		Route 8A to Route 8A (Sessions Farm)
Burnt Hill Rd.		Burnt Hill Schoolhouse to end of road
Burrington Rd.		South Road to Charlemont line (Avery Brook)
Cascade Drive	*	Mohawk Estates
Cheyenne Drive	*	Mohawk Estates
Chickasaw Drive	*	Mohawk Estates
Chippewa Drive	*	Mohawk Estates
Clearwater Drive	*	Mohawk Estates
Colrain Brook Road	**	Now named Taylor Brook Road
Colrain Mt. Road	**	Now named West Branch Road
Colrain Stage Road		North of Wolf (Branch Hill Rd) to Colrain line
Deer Run Path	*	Mohawk Estates
Dell Road		Main & Long Hill to 8A & Saunders Road
East Brook Drive	*	Mohawk Estates
Flagg Hill Road		Taylor Brook Road & Swamp to Charlemont line
Groll Road		Left from No. 9 to Rowe line (Wojtasiewicz)
Hosmer Road East		Colrain Stage & Swamp going north
Hosmer Road West		Colrain Stage east of Heath Fair Ground to north
Ingraham Drive	*	Burrington Road to Ingraham-Addie residence
Jacobs Road		Route 8A (Gleason) loops back to 8A at Decker's
Jacksonville Stage Rd.**		Now named Route 8A
Judd Road		Route 8A (Dell) to Charlemont line
Knott Road		Rowe Road to Leuchtman's
Lakeview Drive	*	Mohawk Estates
Ledges Road		Main St. to Royer & Harris property
Long Hill Road		Main & Dell to Route 8A

Main St.		Dell & Long Hill to Avery Brook & Taylor Brook
Maple Lane		DeLisle to Route 8A (near log cabin)
Modoc Drive	*	Mohawk Estates
Mohawk Beach Drive	*	Mohawk Estates
Navaho Lane	*	Mohawk Estates
Newton Road		State Farm Rd. loop to State Farm Rd.
Number Nine Road		Route 8A to Vermont line
Papoose Lake Drive	*	Mohawk Estates
Route 8A North		Branch Hill Road (Ben Rd.) to Vermont line
Route 8A South		Branch Hill Road (Ben Rd.) south to Charlemont line
Rowe Road		Route 8A (West School) to Rowe line
Royer Road		South Road to Dell Road
Sadoga Road		Route 8A (G. Smith) to Vermont line
Saunders Road		Route 8A & Dell to first house
Schoolhouse Road		Burrington Rd. to Bassett & South
Shawnee Drive	*	Mohawk Estates
Sherman Drive	*	Off Route 8A South (Across from Kaiser residence)
Sioux Circle	*	Mohawk Estates
South Road		Main Street to Charlemont line (Harris Mountain)
State Farm Road		Route 8A (Phillips) to Colrain line
Stone Hill Road		Left from No. 9 to Rowe line (No. 9 Schoolhouse)
Sumner-Stetson Branch		Sumner Stetson (Stowe residence to Route 8A at power line)
Sumner-Stetson Road		Route 8A (Branch Schoolhouse) to Vermont line
Swamp Road		Taylor Brook & Flagg Hill to Colrain Stage & Hosmer East
Taylor Brook Road		Main St. & Avery Brook Rd. to Colrain line
Teepee Lane	*	Mohawk Estates
Ten Acre Lane	*	Rowe Road to left to 2 or 3 houses
Town Farm Road		Seaver's to Johnson's
Underwood Hill Road		Sumner-Stetson Rd. (Wilkins) to Sadoga Road
Vincent Road		Right off Judd Rd.
Waterfall Drive	*	Mohawk Estates
West Branch Road		Route 8A to Colrain line (Toward Adamsville)
West Brook Drive	*	Mohawk Estates
Wheeler Drive		Vincent Rd. to Wheeler residence
Wigwam Drive	*	Mohawk Estates
Wolf Road		Section between Branch Hill & Colrain Stage



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## ASSESSORS' REPORT

by Don Dekker

The FY93 revaluation and recertification have been successfully completed. The FY93 tax bills are mostly paid so things have settled down in the Assessors' office.

The town owes many thanks to Wendy Luckhurst, who has served as an Assessor for 4 years; the last year especially to help the town. She will be missed for her expertise in doing the RECAP sheet and handling relations with the state seeking approval of our financial bottom line.

John Musacchio has been appointed to fill the remaining six months of her term, when he then expects to run for election. We welcome him to the Board and applaud his service to the town.

We are investigating computerizing the assessing records. The resultant data base is not only necessary for making the certification and revaluation process easier, but should also make changes in land transfers and new building data easier to accomplish once the Assessors know how to use the computer.

A representative from Patriot Properties demonstrated the computer program and the hardware to the Board and Doug Wilkins in December. When we receive the estimated cost of having the software and hardware, the Board, and eventually the town, will need to make decisions as to which will be the best for the town.

In my opinion that all the changes brought about by requirements asked for by the DOR make it necessary to have professional help for the town. I do not believe an almost volunteer board of any 3 citizens of Heath can really do the necessary professional assessment of the town. We are investigating a variety of proposals for the future, and will report to the town about them at a later date.

## SELECTMEN'S REPORT

by Art Schwenger

Budget planning for FY94 is now beginning. Several Selectmen's meetings are being scheduled to review current and projected expenditures and needs for the coming year by department. Department heads, finance committee members and other interested parties are invited to attend.

Yankee Atomic Electric Company has turned over emergency equipment loaned to the town over the years. The Selectmen voted to accept this equipment which includes such things as police and fire radios, civil defence equipment worth some \$14,000. Also included are the weather alert radios that are in residents' homes and are used to notify people of possible emergencies. The Selectmen voted to give these radios to the homeowners. The responsibility to maintain them (ie; replacement batteries) is no longer the town's or Yankee's. It is suggested that homeowners keep the radios active for use in emergency notification of storms, flooding danger, and other hazard warnings broadcast by the National Weather Service.

The metals bin at the transfer station is now gone for the winter. We expect it to be open for business again in the spring. We certainly gave it the business this last year having filled it four times.

The town was able to purchase two pieces of used equipment - a sander body from Rowe for \$200 and a police cruiser from Colrain for \$500. Both are in serviceable condition and will augment our existing equipment. We also have received \$42,408 in reimbursement for work done on Colrain Stage Road. This money had been in jeopardy because the state highway department forgot to carry Heath's grant over to the next year. We will also have enough money to complete the box culvert project with paving this coming season. Our Chapter 90 money for the next two years will be \$213,590 according to a notice received recently. Our local legislators were helpful in these last two items, especially Representative Jay Healy.

In other road matters, work was completed on the Avery Brook Road bridges which were in need of shoring up until we are able to get the state grant for replacements. And the Selectmen met with Shelburne Selectman Stanley Gawle and Road Superintendent Robert Ormond. This was a very useful session where we learned how Shelburne manages their department and how various road maintenance procedures which may be applicable to Heath could save the town money.

John Musacchio of Swamp Road was appointed to fill the Assessor's position vacated by Wendy Luckhurst. He will serve until the May elections. He is interested in becoming certified by the state which is required within 3 years. The position of assessor is important, detailed and sometimes thankless work. The Selectmen appreciate the civic commitment shown by those who fill such jobs.

In December the annual liquor license renewal was approved for Peters Store. This year the renewal included Sunday sales as permitted by the new law.

Although the recent budget action in Boston has added questions about the benefits of regionalizing into a K-12 school system, the Selectmen are trying to keep informed. This issue and others pertaining to the planning for the education of Heath's children, are of primary importance to every person in town.

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## FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

by Earl Gleason, Chief

The department made ten emergency runs during the past two months. December 1 saw three firefighters and one EMT respond to Number Nine Road for a girl that had been burned with hot water. She was transported in the Charlemont ambulance. Thirteen firefighters responded to a Number Nine Road residence for a chimney fire on December 3. This fire was out on arrival. On a cold night with the temperature at zero, the department responded again to another Number Nine Road residence for a girl having seizures. One firefighter and five EMTs (one from Rowe) responded to this incident on December 10. The girl was transported in the Charlemont ambulance. On the day after Christmas, just to prove that they could respond to other parts of the town, the department sent fourteen men to a stubborn chimney fire on Bray Road. On December 28 a pumper was requested to Colrain but was cancelled en route. Eight firefighters responded to this call. Back again to Number Nine Road for a small child having seizures on December 29. Two firefighters and three EMTs (one from Rowe) responded and aided the Charlemont ambulance. The department started the New Year off right on January 1. The right part was that the structure fire was in Colrain and the house was saved. Thirteen personnel responded with engines one and three. Incident number 2 for 1993 was on January 1. Two firefighters, two police officers and three EMTs (one from Rowe) responded to Number Nine Road for a girl having seizures. Again the Charlemont ambulance did the transporting. On January 1 Fire Department personnel assisted Charlemont ambulance with a snowmobile injury at a Route 8A residence. The injured girl had been transported to that location by snowmobile after receiving the injury in the woods. In addition, although not logged as a Heath emergency, two EMTs assisted in Rowe on November 30.

No drills were held during the period. The December drill was replaced by the first annual family Christmas party. This party was attended by 21 fire department family members and was held at the Community Hall on December 17. The January drill is to be held after the writing of this article. Fire Association meetings were held on December 3 and January 7.

The Chief attend six meetings during the period and did four inspections.

If you see some good looking ladies and gentlemen wearing nice new blue Heath Volunteer Fire Department jackets it is because the Fire Association took some of their hard earned money and paid for one half of the jackets. The members and friends paid for the remaining half.

A Junior Firefighters group will be reorganizing shortly. Anyone between the ages of fourteen and eighteen is welcome to join. Application blanks may be obtained from Chief Earl Gleason.

Have a safe and fire-free rest of the winter.

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## HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT REPORT

by Jack Cable, Superintendent

Winter weather is upon us and the challenge of Mother Nature has been keeping the department busy and trying to outguess what will happen next. Of course the biggest challenge was the storm of December 11-13. We kept the plows going steady for all three days and we only lost one through road - Sumner Stetson Road near Pat Smith's home. Also four dead end roads were lost to drifts. We hired Hillman's to help dig us out.

Emergency measures had to be taken on the three bridges on Avery Brook Road. Our new district office personnel reviewed them with a state bridge engineer, then made recommendations for making temporary repairs to make them safe until they can be replaced. The plans to replace these structures have been in place for a couple of years, with the state promising to release the money, but to no avail. I am now pressuring the state agencies and representatives to get the money released. Avery Brook is a very important life line to the people of Heath. It is the best way to Route 2 for emergency vehicles, buses, trucking supplies for government and private sectors. This road is the best grade out of town and is the road used by most people traveling in and out of town.

The transfer station is running smoothly except we are not to dispose of demolition building material in the compactor. Bud will be monitoring this kind of material. The scrap metal bin has been removed. We will reschedule this activity in the summer.

I'd like to remind drivers to drive with care especially during inclement weather. I am amazed at the lack of realization that drivers have of the size and maneuverability of the trucks and plows. Please try to give us room and courtesy when we are plowing and sanding.

May you enjoy the beauty of Heath in the winter and may we keep the roads as safe as possible.



HILLMANS BATTLE DRIFTS  
(Photo by Jack Cable)



## PERCS, PERMITS AND TRANSFERS

### PERCOLATION TESTS

Percolation testing has been suspended until April except for repairs.

### BUILDING PERMITS

Phillip Bankwitz, Branch Hill Road, interior, exterior renovation.

David Gibbons, Rowe Road, demolish, new addition to residence.

Norman Sessions, Jacksonville Stage Road, sun room addition.

TOTAL: \$48,400.

### DEED TRANSFERS

Robert F. Coates and Edith C. Royer to John A. Churchill, Jr., Ledges Road, \$12,500.

Kim A. Levitch and Catherine C. Tallen to Catherine C. Tallen of Colrain, Sumner Stetson Road. No consideration.

Newland F. and Caroline C. Smith of Hanover, NH to Massachusetts Institute of Technology of Cambridge, Hosmer Road, \$128,160.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology to Mary Stannard Carter of Trumansburg, NY, Hosmer Road, \$217,000.

Jeffrey S. Buchiane to Carol Spencer of Windsor, CT, Diane Y.B. Jarzyna of Chesterfield, Anita Y. Brandl of Millers Falls and Lisa A. Whalen, Route 8A, \$1.

James and Carolyn Evans to Mark F. and Sandra Bousquet of Belchertown, Mohawk Estates, Lot 30, \$1,200.

Agnes Gingras to Sonia R. Hillios of Southampton, Clauvette Y. Beaudry of Granby and Eileen A. Tougas, Colrain Brook Road, Lot 7, \$1.

Michael M., Matthew H. and David A. Baronas to Michael M. and David A. Baronas, Colrain Stage Road, No consideration.

Alastair G. Maitland to Franklin Land Trust Inc. of Ashfield, Route 8A, Gift.

Elizabeth H. Dyer of Newtown PA to Elizabeth H. Dyer Nominee Trust, John Chouteau Dyer as Trustee of Boston, 6 South Road, no consideration.

Elizabeth H. Dyer of Newtown, PA to Elizabeth H. Dyer Nominee Trust, John Chouteau Dyer as Trustee of Boston, 6 South Road, Parcel 2, no consideration.

Douglas A. and Joyce P. Eagles to Clark S. Jarrett IV of Chicopee, Arrowhead Drive, Lots 5 and 6, \$3,750.

Joseph L. Giard to Mary L. Howe, Jacksonville Stage Road, no consideration.



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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 - 8:30 PM  
second Saturday of the month, 8 AM - 11:30 AM  
(call for appointment, 4 - 7 PM, 337-4268)

Town Treasurer: Monday, 3 - 7 PM  
Friday, 1 - 5 PM

Tax Collector: Tuesday, 4 - 8:30 PM  
Saturday, 8 AM - 11:30 AM  
(call for appointment, 4 - 7 PM, 337-4268)

Finance Committee: As posted

Planning Board: 2nd Monday of month 7 PM

Conservation Commission: 3rd Tuesday of month

Heath School Committee: 1st Tuesday of month  
7:30 PM Community Hall

Library Trustees: 3rd Monday of month 7:30 PM

Library: Monday 6-9 PM Wednesday 1-5 PM  
Saturday 9 AM - 1 PM

Town Nurse: Wednesday 9 - 11 AM  
(call 337-4323 for appointment)

Post Office: Monday through Saturday  
9:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Transfer Station Monday 9 AM - 1 PM  
Saturday 8 AM - 4 PM

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