



VOLUME 15 NUMBER 4

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 1993

HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER 50¢

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT REPORT

by Jack Cable, Superintendent

8A is being paved - finally. As of this writing, the paving crews are in Heath headed for the Vermont line. After paving, the edges will be graveled and the pavement lined. **WARNING -- USE EXTREME CAUTION** driving on this new surface. It will be slippery when wet - add leaves and cool temperatures and the surface will be dangerous. Black ice will be a factor to be aware of. Unfortunately speeds will increase therefore alert and careful driving will be required. Working on this road this season was quite dangerous to the crews as many drivers ignored or showed no respect for workers on the highway -- many near misses occurred. A very dangerous situation happened on Dell Road when someone **STOLE** a "Workers Ahead" sign. Unknown to the crew - the tree specialists - there was no sign warning of their presence on a dangerous curve. Anyone seeing or knowing of individuals removing signs maliciously, please notify the Police. The highway crew will be grading dirt roads, repairing potholes and preparing the roads and equipment for our winter season. Crack sealing, an excellent repair maintenance, was done on Dell, Main St., Bray Road and Colrain Stage.

The Transfer Station is on its winter schedule and we still need cooperation separating bottles and cans from solid waste. Please recycle these items. Also please save you button batteries (from hearing aids, cameras, etc. The Town Hall and Transfer Station are equipped to receive these batteries. **RECYCLE.**

Remember school is in session. Drive carefully.



EROSION CONTROL ON 8A
JEREMY LIVELY, FRED LIVELY, DAVE CLARK
(Photo by Jack Cable)

Halloween Party

by Michele Cutter

The annual Heath Halloween Party is scheduled for Sunday, October 31 from 5 - 6:30 PM at the Community Hall. The party is free and is open to Heath children age 12 and under. Interested teenagers are asked to volunteer (in advance) as helpers for the evening. Parents are encouraged to stay but seating may be limited. Included this year is a costume parade, balloons, nutritious snacks, and a special magical show. There will also be a carved pumpkin contest with prizes awarded for the best entry in each category: scariest, funniest, and most original. Money donation cans are at the Post Office and at Peters Store. If you can bring snacks, would like to volunteer, or have questions, please call Michele Cutter 337-4387 or Cathy Tallen 337-5770.



RUNABOUTS TIE FOR SECOND
(Photo by Kris Nartowicz)

THE RUNABOUTS PLACE SECOND

by Kris Nartowicz

The 1993 Heath/Rowe Runabouts finished the year tied for second place in their division with a record of 8 wins and 2 losses. Thanks to the coach David Schwartz and his assistants Mike Smead and Bill Lattrell. Pictured (standing) are Abby Lively, Brendan Lattrell, Sara-Jane Wodin-Schwartz, coach David Schwartz, David Smead, Joe Lively, Liam Lattrell, Melissa Boutwell. Bottom row: Brad Nartowicz, Aaron Wodin-Schwartz, Tim Bradley, Olin Schwenger-Sartz and Steven Smead.

ARTS LOTTERY COUNCIL

by Jayne Hare Dane

The Arts Lottery Council approved \$1,917 for the 1993 funding cycle. \$400 was given to the Mary Lyon Education Fund for the Children's Literature Festival which took place in August. \$200 was given to the Academy at Charlemont to support a student production of "Dracula" in February. Mohawk Trail School received \$47 for tickets to "A Christmas Carol" as well as \$100 for a concert by Jeffry Steele. The Heath Artist's Exhibit committee received \$200 to reimburse out of pocket payments. Dirk Xu was given \$100 to teach watercolor classes. \$475 was given to Yankee Notions to perform at the fair. Rowe Elementary School received \$395 for a PASS (Performing Arts Student Series) performance by StageWest of "Don Quixote".

Applications for 1994 are due October 15. Heath will be eligible for \$2,000 for this cycle. For information or applications contact Jayne Hare Dane, 337-5736.

Bob DeLisle Electrician

Prompt, Courteous, Reasonable

Lic. #E34969

337-5716



HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

VOLUME 15 NUMBER 4 OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 1993

Managing Editor
General Editing & Layout
Staff Reporters

Columnists

Staff Photographer
Advertising
Circulation & Business

Typography

Susan Silvester
Pegge Howland
Edith Royer
Beverly denOuden
Elsa Bakalar
Michael D. Coe
Bill Lattrell
Carroll Stowe
Pat Leushtman
Michael Peters
Ray Pettengill
Terry Pettengill
Deborah Phillips
Arlene Markert

The HEATH HERALD is published six times a year in April, June, August, October, December and February.
SUBSCRIPTION RATE - One year, \$4.50 (payable in advance by check or money order.)
ADVERTISING RATES - Display ads: \$4.50 per column inch (Discounts on six or more insertions.)
CLASSIFIED ADS: \$2.00 per line.
Send all correspondence to Box 54, Heath, MA 01346

GOOD NEIGHBORS

by Catherine Cromack

Several months ago several interested people from Heath, Hawley, Rowe and Charlemont met to formally organize the Good Neighbors Group.

It was decided to serve community meals the 3rd Monday of each month at the Charlemont Federated Church. A social time with coffee or tea is held at 5 PM, the meal is served at 5:30 PM. This is a volunteer project, so anyone who would like to help (in any way) to work or donations, please call Cyndie Stetson at 339-4231. This is a social time to meet and visit with your friends and neighbors and enjoy a delicious meal, and it's free!

The Group is also working on a Trading Post II to be located in a room at the rear of the Charlemont Federated Church Parsonage. Volunteers are needed; if you can help call Cyndie Stetson, 339-4231.

ANNUAL OPEN STUDIO SALE

Robert and Jayne Dane invite everyone to their Annual Open Studio sale December 4 and 5 from 10 AM to 4 PM. On Saturday, December 4, there will be glassblowing demonstrations. There will be many gift items of glass and baskets. If you are unable to make the sale they are always open by appointment. Call 337-5736.

7 AM to 9 PM

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

Village Coin-Op Laundry

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

at the Bridge of Flowers!

"Lamson Cutlery Sets
for Holiday Giving"

Now Opening at 6 AM - 7 PM
Weekends 7 AM - 5 PM



McCUSKER'S
MARKET & DELI
SHELBURNE FALLS, MASSACHUSETTS

Quality Foods

CALL 625-9411 for Deli Orders

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

EDITOR:

I write as a citizen of Heath. The topic is the school proposed by the School Building Committee that will require an estimated bond of \$3,000,000, 70% of which is assumed to be reimbursable by the state and which will take several years to complete. Let me say early on that I support an affordable school for Heath that meets the educational needs of K-6 grades. Further, I appreciate and respect the efforts of the School Committee and the School Building Committee over the last few years, but the single option of a 24,000 square foot brick and mortar facility requiring architectural planning costs of up to \$240,000 prompts my opposition for the following reasons:

Affordability

1. Heath's per capita income is in the bottom 10% of the state and its tax base is almost entirely residential.
2. There is no evidence of economic growth in the area; rather, there is evidence of loss - Yankee Atomic Electric Co., Shelburne Falls Market, small stores here and there ...
3. A number of people on low and/or fixed income cannot pay for substantial increases in taxes.
4. An increase in uncollected taxes in Heath is forcing the town to press harder to collect them.
5. One banker's opinion is that, as a small town Heath may not qualify for a bond of \$3,000,000 which might mean a smaller bond plus a loan from another source. Another complication to deal with.
6. We do not have a bond/credit rating yet from a place like Moody's Investment Service. (Moody's may give us a preliminary opinion soon) In any event the credit standing of Heath is not established; therefore it is imprudent to commit to a major expenditure at this time.
7. In the last analysis affordability is a political decision made by the people of Heath. Are we willing to pay? Can we pay a long term obligation of the size suggested by the School Building Committee? I don't think so.

Need

1. There appears to be support for a school in Heath. But what kind, for how many kids and how large is not universally agreed upon. No supporting demographic data have been forthcoming by the School Building Committee. The Department of Education wants and apparently is willing to finance a school for a minimum of 150 children. Our K-6 group numbers in the 90s. Are there any valid projections? Yes. The population of Heath is projected to go down 4.2% by the year 2000 according to the Massachusetts Institute for Social and Economic Research in a sophisticated statistical study dated September 17, 1990. The age group 0-19 is expected to decline from 247-215 by 1995 and from 215-183 by 2000.
2. The capping of class size by Rowe has forced Heath to bus two kindergarten kids to Hawlemont. That in itself suggests a need for a school, which is too bad after all our years of association with the Rowe people. A modest addition to the Rowe School paid for by Heath could have solved perceived space problems, but that simple solution elicited governance issues. In any event it says we need our own school or to make changes acceptable to parents.
3. Having our own institution would give the town and the townspeople an identity that is lacking in

the present tuition arrangement with Rowe. However, there is no data justifying the need for a 24,000 square foot building per se; rather, it is the state dictating the criteria.

Building Options

1. The School Building Committee has looked at cooperating with other local school districts and with Whitingham in Vermont. These options are complicated, can be costly and require political support. Also, adding facilities in these other locations such as those mentioned does not seem to be viable because of engineering and site problems; hence the decision to build our own school seems preferable.
2. One of my first suggestions was to enter into a long term lease with the Agricultural Society and complement the Exhibit Hall with classrooms. This would have been an Agricultural/Educational/Cultural Center. It fell on deaf ears even though the Fair people were willing to consider it and an architect for the modular concept thought it ideal.
3. Until six months ago the School Building Committee did not consider alternative structurally designed buildings. That occurred when I gave them a brochure from the Alphabet Structures Co. of New Hampshire. This company specializes in modular schools. The structures qualify for long term mortgages, are made of wood, are attractive and are designed for the cold New England climate. The states of Vermont and New Hampshire reimburse school districts 30% to 55% of their cost. Some are going up in Maine; Athol and Leominster are looking at them in Massachusetts. They come carpeted and with black boards, wired, plumbed, etc. at a cost of about \$50/square foot. Site work and furnishings are extra. Six classrooms plus a multi-purpose area, kitchen and library can be incorporated within about 10,000 square feet. The School Building Committee said this would cost over \$900,000, a figure very close to the amount we would have to pay for a state supported school. I question their numbers. Maybe \$750,000. Also, Alphabet can do the architectural work that is needed. All buildings require maintenance and I believe a 24,000 square foot brick and mortar job is going to be more costly to maintain, heat, etc.
4. Massachusetts allows modular construction for public buildings. Middlesex Community College and several prison structures have been built on the modular concept using steel with brick facing. It is faster and the state saves amortization costs; construction costs are not too dissimilar.
5. Then there are other steel-type, turn-key buildings in the market place. Typically the cost is in the \$50 per square foot range plus site work and furnishings. Very attractive, but they have not been explored by the School Building Committee. It appears to me that more homework is necessary to determine the most cost effective structure suitable for Heath.

Time

1. Time is a factor, something the School Building Committee seems willing to disregard. I would like to see a school in place by the Fall of '94. Rowe has doubled our tuition over the years of '94, '95 and '96. This year the increase amounts to \$109,042! To build a facility with state reimbursement requires us to pay architect fees up front without a guarantee of reimbursement. Also, it could be several years before Heath is approved. If we go ahead and build, then we probably would pay at least two years full interest costs or about

\$4.50 on the tax rate before the 70% payments kick in. We also lose two years amortization which makes the payments higher for the eighteen years left on the bond. By that time Heath will have well over a \$25 tax rate and be in jeopardy, fiscally.

2. We could finance an alternative type structure entirely through the Department of Agriculture's Farm/Home Loan Agency with lower rates, longer terms if we wanted them and less cost for arranging the loan. (A bond requires annual audits, bond counsel at a cost of about \$25,000 and a Moody Investment rating for \$5,000) Thus, it would be very possible to build a school by the Fall of '94 and save money and aggravation plus have a place with which Heath can identify and be proud. We need to proceed but with caution.

Operating Expenses

1. Building a school is only half the problem; the other half is operating costs. Until a K-12 concept is voted in, Heath will have difficulty financing the operation of the school. Of course, we are experiencing that right now. There are indications that the School Building Committee's estimates could be reduced. The district needs the money badly. If it does go through there is no reason to delay building something we can afford. With Rowe upping the costs it is better to spend our money here rather than there.

2. Education Reform may also help us with operating costs, but the interpretation of the new law and the number crunching is arcane to the point that it is difficult to assess the future impact of the legislation on us. By December 1993 we should either know about K-12 or develop an operating cost plan we can live with in a new facility.

Summary

I would like to see the town united on this issue. We usually are on most matters. The close votes to date on the debt exclusion of architect's fees suggest a lack of consensus on the concept the School Building Committee is promoting. I do not think there is lack of consensus for a school, but we do not really know, do we? In any event I think at this time we need to forge a consensus on a structure and also find out if K-12 aid will be forthcoming this fall. Until then I cannot support the article for architect fees to be acted on at the special town meeting at 9 AM on October 16 in the Community Hall.

David F. Howland
Heath

CARLISLE WALLCOVERING

PAPERHANGING & INTERIOR PAINTING

MICHAEL CARLISLE

413-625-9733

BED & BREAKFAST

Y'ALL COME

Forest Way Farm

Heath, Massachusetts

Route 8A

413-337-8321

LIBRARY LINES

by Alli Thane

The year is flying by and it is time to start thinking about Christmas, that is, if you are planning to do handicrafts. We have a good supply of instruction books to inspire you.

Then again, the evenings will be longer and there will be more time to read, so here is a list of a few of the new books purchased recently:

Without Remorse - Tom Clancy

Gai-Jin - James Clavell

Vanished - Danielle Steele

Ageless Body, Timeless Mind - Deepak Chopra, MD

Pigs in Heaven - Barbara Kinsolvec

The Scorpio Illusion - Robert Ludlum

Homeland - John Jakes

Chains of Command - Dale Brown

Virgins of Paradise - Barbara Wood

The Horse You Came In On - Martha Grimes

Sacred Clowns - Tony Hillerman

The Night Manager - John Le Carre

Honor Among Thieves - Jeffrey Archer

Hollyhocks, Lambs & Other Passions - Dee Hardie

Don't Know Much About History - Kenneth C. Davis

Dragon Tears - Dean Koontz

The History of the Connecticut Valley in Massachusetts

Decked and Snagged - Carol Higgins Clark

and other mystery books

There are also several Sci-Fi series including Edgings, McCaffrey, Alexander and Brooks.

REMEMBER TO VOTE!

FRIENDS OF THE HEATH LIBRARY

by Pat Leuchtman

As usual, we had our Book Sale at the Heath Fair, but this year we had a new twist. In addition to books donated by many generous readers in town, we sold beautiful children's clothes, courtesy of Deborah and Bruce Phillips, and also held a successful raffle. We want to thank those who donated prizes for the raffle, Alli Thane, Bob Dane, Karen Brooks, Sunny Day Blueberry Farms, Terri Pettengill and Deborah and Bruce Phillips. Our booth at the Fair is our main fundraising effort and this year we grossed nearly \$700. We also want to thank all those sturdy friends including Don Dekker, Clark Johnson, Joanne Fortune, Bob Delisle, Henry Leuchtman and Maureen O'Malley who helped set up the booth and staffed it during the Fair.

Elsa Bakalar once again asked the garden groups who toured her garden to make contributions to the Friends, in lieu of charging them an admittance fee, and for that we thank her. Elsa is a great reader, as well as a great gardener, and we are all anxiously awaiting the spring day that her first book about making and keeping a garden will be on the Library bookshelves.

After such a busy summer, we Friends are glad to find a cozy chair and settle down to some serious reading - with gratitude to all those who help make that reading possible.



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

THE NEW HERD OF CATTLE IN HEATH

All too few people are acquainted with David Freeman and Christine O'Brien. They have built a timber frame home on the Town Farm Road in South Heath. This timber frame story should be written in all builders' manuals.

This story concerns David's interest in making use of unmowed fields near home and also to produce a good healthy type of beef.

David's research lead him to this breed of bovine which originated in Australia. Imported to this country around 1907 they are little known in our area.

David made lots of phone calls to John and Pat Chapman of Parkersburg, West Virginia to culminate the purchase. A major amount of bureaucratic paper work took place along the way. Negotiations took place and all the proper shipping papers were arranged prior to even considering a trip to West Virginia to get these animals.

After months of planning we left Colrain on Wednesday, August 11 at 6 AM. We went with Fran Crosier's 1 ton Dodge pick-up and goose neck aluminum trailer. This trailer is so light it is hard to realize it is behind you.

David is a practiced traveller and knows the things to take and makes use of regular gas stops to grab a coke or a bite to eat. He had a well stocked cooler that included many types of sandwich fixings and canned soda. By eating as we refueled the truck we refueled ourselves and lost very little time stopping.

Fran Crosier and I've hauled cattle for years but this was the first trip of this distance. We made rather good time. We crossed Massachusetts, Vermont, New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland and West Virginia. I think David said he'd miscalculated the distance by about 200 miles. I stand corrected if I'm wrong. With a bit of minor engine trouble about 60 miles from our goal we were able to continue and got to Chapman's home at about 11 PM Wednesday evening. I got into the wrong drive way next door to where we belonged and took a bit of maneuvering to get out and into the proper drive.

We were most graciously received at the Chapman home and were straight away set down to a lasagna supper. After a bit of exchange about our various areas etc. we were shown to our sleeping arrangements and sleep didn't come easily but rather fitfully. Morning found Mrs. Chapman at the task of biscuits and gravy. What a meal. Franny said I ate enough for two. It was a first for me and I truly enjoyed.

We found things to correct the truck's troubles and David installed a new gas filter and air cleaner element and the truck ran fine.

The Chapman's rent a farm some distance from their home so we spent a good part of the day observing the cattle on that place and saw those that would make the trip with us. The sad fact of our entire tour was the shortage of rain in some areas. Too much rain in some parts of the country and too little in others.

David had taken some of his own hay with him to feed on the return trip so Thursday afternoon we gave the cattle 2 bales of that hay and by the time we left it looked like they'd had a strong laxative. Truly not this area's best hay but too rich for those cattle. Thursday evening we had another fine supper at Mrs. Chapman's hand and more conversation about their breed of cattle and a more restful night's sleep and a busy day to follow.

Friday morning we made ready to load up and head for Heath. The larger bull was loaded at the home place and we said good-bye to John Chapman's mother and we found ourselves at the local Hardies fast food place and a commercial biscuits and gravy. Very good, but to please Franny I only had one helping. We went to the rented farm and loaded the rest of the animals. With our adieus said we were on the highway at 10:30 AM with a long lot of miles in front of us. We tried to keep a good speed to circulate the warm air over the animals as much as possible. We could have wished for cooler temperatures but had to make due with what we had. Each time we stopped for fuel the cattle didn't appear too warm but some messy.

We made good time and stopped at a McDonalds for what was our only restaurant meal on the road. Shortly before dark in Wilkes Barre, PA we had a problem with a leaky oil pressure line and with David's expertise he was able to create a repair and after dark we were rolling again. Had David not noticed oil leaking near the back part of the engine we could have had a spoiled engine. Thankfully it was prevented. With no more trouble we rolled the black top out behind us. With only stops for fuel we bore on. On the return trip we dropped down from New York to Connecticut on to route 84 and because it was early morning could come through Hartford to 91 with very little traffic.

It was so good to begin to see familiar areas of the ribbon of asphalt as we neared home. We arrived in David and Christine's dooryard at 6 AM Saturday and after a great Christine breakfast, Franny and I took David's car and went home.

David rested a while and set out to unload Heath's first herd of Murray Grey cattle. It was recommended that we not feed the cattle enroute. When David opened the trailer door these cattle strange to this area, took only a few steps and went to eating grass on the former Hamilton farm. David had hoped to have them on display at the Heath Fair but in these strange surroundings they are a bit of a problem to handle.

We all enjoyed our trip and I would have been hard pressed to have found more pleasant travel companions and I was honored to have been asked to go and share the driving and adventure.

TEL: DAYS 413-624-8843

NIGHTS 624-3783



STONE'S SUNOCO

COMPLETE AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE

VARIETY STORE

24 HOUR TOWING

ROD STONE

ROUTE #112
COLRAIN, MA 01340



WILD RAMBLINGS

by BILL LATTRELL

COMMON SENSE(S)

It has been said that the one thing that is constant is change. This is true for both the human and natural world. However, human influence on this earth has created change that does not allow natural evolution to keep pace. For example, it took the human race three million years to gradually build to a population of about two and a half billion in 1940. It only took the next fifty years for that population to double to about five billion in 1990. At current population rates the earth's human population can be expected to reach 10 billion by the year 2020, a mere twenty-seven years from now. As our population has increased so has our influence over the earth's natural world. Human use of natural resources has increased correspondingly, technology has exploded to allow us to serve ourselves more efficiently, and traces of the human "fingerprint" can be found in every nook and cranny of the world.

The human is an intelligent animal. We are beginning to realize our influence on the earth extends beyond the world of our own needs. Slowly, we are coming to the realization that we are a part of a larger system, and although we are certainly at the top of the evolutionary heap, we have a definite responsibility to be stewards of our environment. That environment extends throughout the world, but must begin in our own backyard.

Living with, rather than above, the rest of the natural world is a concept that has become foreign to us. Yet, strangely, we only have to look as far as our own five senses to understand that solutions are close at hand.

Here in Heath we are truly blessed with the beauty and advantages of the natural world. That is not to say that the human has not had its influences, but rather our influence has not yet extinguished many of the natural systems around us. We are blessed with clean water, diverse forests, open fields, and unspoiled wetlands. These environments support and maintain the natural system that many of us enjoy. For example, clean water is a necessary environment for brook trout. Diverse forests support hundreds of animal species ranging from the wood turtle to the black bear. Open fields provide habitat for field nesting birds, hunting habitat for hawks, and owls, and browsing for the white tailed deer. Our wetlands are a necessity to many reptiles and amphibians, the river otter, and waterfowl.

One of the many things that we share in common with much of the rest of the animal kingdom is something we refer to as senses. Humans have five of these; sight, hearing, touch, smell, and taste.

Because all animals share several to all of these senses with us, we can use our senses to preserve and create a better environment for them. It is just a matter of learning how to translate our sensual experiences to their sensual experiences.

Take sight for example. Most animals have a strong need to see and be unseen. This is why evolution has provided for natural camouflage in many of our animal species. We humans, as stewards of the land, can help these critters through site oriented management. When we are managing our fields we can leave an area of brush along the edge to provide

escape and camouflage habitat. When we are managing our forests we can leave the understory and pile the brush so that the strata diversity will provide a variety of sight habitats. When we are landscaping our yards we can create a gradual edge so that animals have habitats in which they can navigate around the human influence.

Hearing is another important sense that we can pay attention to in sharing our world with the rest of the animal kingdom. Many animals use hearing as part of their defense mechanisms. Loud sounds will often send them into an escape mode, interrupting their normal behavior patterns. Yet, most animals are adaptable, and once they get used to a sound will learn to recognize it as "normal" and not a threat. How can we use our sense of hearing to act as better stewards to the natural world? We can regulate our behavior so as to create the least disruption of animal behavior patterns. People who use Off the Road Vehicles (ORV's) can stay to established routes, avoiding off trail use and needless destruction. Hikers can learn to hike quietly which will also increase their chances of observing wildlife. And in general, we can all learn to tone it down a bit by remembering that our sounds are being shared with the rest of the world.

Like humans, much of our wildlife has a fine appreciation for food that tastes good. When humans interrupt a natural environment by creating a house lot, managing an area for forest products, or other common activities, we often unknowingly remove valuable food and forage that our wildlife enjoy. This is an area where we can make amends easily, however. We can plant native plants that wildlife forage upon such as fruit bearing herbs, shrubs, and trees. We can manage forests to maintain understory as well as forage bearing crops that are so important for wildlife use. We can create hedgerows around our fields that provide a smorgasbord of tastes for birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians.

The world of touch or feeling is very important to the animal kingdom. Different animals require different textures, moisture regimes, and diverse habitats. By maintaining a variety of habitats such as forests, fields, wetlands, and aquatic habitats we will preserve varying moisture regimes, forest floors, gravel nesting areas, and aquatic environments necessary for species diversity. Species diversity is the most important measurement of a healthy environment.

Our sense of smell is one of our weaker senses, particularly as compared with many other mammals and birds. This being so, it is difficult to imagine how smell affects the rest of the animal kingdom. Many mammals, such as members of the canine family, can smell hundreds, if not thousands of times better than humans. Our impact on their world of smell through use of machinery, wood smoke, automobile exhaust, just to mention a few must be staggering. I suspect, that like sound, most animals adapt to smells if they are regularly associated with activities that are not threatening. So, it is our change of behavior patterns and activities that we must pay attention to if we are to create the least amount of disruption. The world of smell is a place that we humans really know little about.

Using our five senses as a simple way of minimizing our impact on our fellow earth inhabitants is just a simple way of reminding ourselves that we, as human beings, are responsible for the preservation of this place called earth. We must tread lightly in all respects if we are to maintain a good relationship with the natural world. After all, this bubble in space called earth is the only place we have to live. With respect, and common sense(s), it will be a precious place to live for generations to come.

Authors and Illustrators at Boswell's

by Pat Leuchtman

Christmas will come early for me again this year because Anne Plunkett of Heath, owner of Boswell's Books, is planning her Third Annual Children's Book Week celebration which will take place at Boswell's Books on Saturday, November 13.

I've worked with Anne on the festivities which comes a close second to Christmas preparation and anticipation in my book - if you'll forgive the pun. And one of the best parts is that I get to see some of the books straight from the publisher, even before they are ready for store bookshelves. I've had a peek already at Margot Apple's delightful illustrations of a most eccentric lady, the owner of 16 dogs in Have I Got Dogs by William Cole, a noted poetry anthropologist.

The book signings were actually Margot's idea several years ago and this year Anne has arranged for some wonderful writers and illustrators to join Margot. John MacLean of Rowe will be on hand to sign his two books for older youngsters. His first books, Mac, tells the story of an adolescent boy dealing with a traumatic event. He covers more familiar ground in When the Mountain Sings, the story of a boy on a ski team.

Jane Yolen has written for children of every age - and fantasy for adults as well. She will be at Boswell's in the morning along with Jane Dyer who has illustrated several of her books, including the Pig-gins books, a kind of porcine Upstairs-Downstairs, The Three Bear's Rhyme Book and Baby Bear's Bed-time Book.

Christin Couture came to last year's book signing and showed us the first book she had written and illustrated, The House on the Hill which showed a group of children exploring an old Victorian house. In her new book, A Walk in the Woods, those same children wander the fields and woods, enjoying the kinds of experiences that we and our children have shared.

While Christin is new to our hilltowns, Norton Juster is a familiar face on the streets of Shelburne Falls. His books like the Phantom Tollbooth and As a Book of Similes really appeal to all ages even though they are sold off the children's bookshelves. Last year I told him that my brother read The Dot and The Line (a mathematical romance) which I had given him as a Christmas gift at the holiday dinner table because he was so delighted by the humor, not to mention the insight into romantic dilemmas. Norton said other men had also found it quite apropos. He said he gets lots of letters from children who have read his books and they tend to include their age. Once he got a letter from "Bob" who said he found The Dot and the Line absolutely true, and that he had experienced the exact same problem. When he signed the letter he added, "I'm 37 years old."

So no matter what your age, whether you are looking for books for your beloved, your children, or your grandchildren (and I personally will be doing all three) you'll be able to find just the right book and then you have the author or illustrator personally inscribe and sign it. I'll hope to see you there.



SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT

by Budge Litchfield, Chairperson

Heath now stands at a very important crossroad. The school building decisions now before us involve strong emotions as well as a great deal of complicated information. During the past six years a number of committees have spent hundreds and hundreds of hours looking at the general question of how to best provide elementary school education for Heath's children. Over two dozen Heath citizens have served on these committees. Each committee has agreed on the following assumptions: our solution needs to be permanent, include all our children, be affordable and provide the citizens of Heath with a reasonable level of control over educational and financial decisions. During these six years many different solutions have been explored, with some pursued as far as town meeting votes here and in other towns. After all this work, after over 40 town meeting votes and who knows how many regular and informational meetings, the School Committee, School Building Committee and also the Finance Committee have come to the same two conclusions: 1) Heath should build an elementary school, 2) the design should be of a type which is approvable by the Department of Education's School Building Assistance Bureau (SBAB) and therefore eligible for a 70% cost reimbursement.

Different committee members have given a variety of reasons for arriving at these conclusions. Some emphasized their interest in seeing Heath develop its own educational program, one that might draw in all of Heath's citizens, from the youngest to the oldest. Others emphasized traditional financial considerations. When you can get seventy cents on the dollar paid for by the state, take advantage of it.

A few things have happened in the past month or so that have helped to ease some of our financial concerns. First, financial advisors from two large Boston banks indicated that they judged our SBAB proposal to be financially viable. One director of municipal finance indicated that he felt we would receive an "investment grade" BAA bond rating. Second, as the new Education Reform law is becoming better understood we have realized that it contains some good news for Heath finances. For years we have known that we need some relief from our skyrocketing operational (tuition) costs. One of the varieties of new aid in the law is called Tax Equity Aid. Simply put, its purpose is to have the state pay for any education costs beyond \$9.40 per \$1,000 of our tax rate. There is a bit more to it but the concept should prove helpful. In fact our FY94 "cherry sheet" already shows Tax Equity Aid that Heath will receive this year. Third, K-12 might still fly and that \$670,000 of new state aid would be very helpful.

Please come to the special town meeting on October 16. The decisions made there will be very important. We will be voting on authorizing the hiring of an architect for a school building project. The authority to borrow up to \$240,000 will allow an architect to design an SBAB approvable building. It is the firm belief of a large number of your elected officials (as reflected in committee votes) that this is the best course for Heath to follow. Please come out and voice your opinion. We will also vote the full town budget including the school budgets. The school committee feels that Mohawk needs and deserves our support. Overrides are no fun but an inadequate high school is worse. Please vote on October 12 and 16.

FRESH WINDS FARM

Paul & Marcella Lively & Sons

Excavating - Loam - Sand Stone 337-4331

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

CHARLEMONT TV, INC.

Zenith

Sales & Service

High Street, Charlemont

Tel: 339-6685

Howard Crowningshield

Building & Remodeling

Tel: Rowe 339-4406

P.O. Box 286 • Rowe, MA 01367



Charlemont Pizza House

Main Street - Route 2

Charlemont, Mass.

Phone: 339-4472

A.L. AVERY & SON



GENERAL STORE

Charlemont • 339-4915

Richard A. Sumner

Journeyman Electrician

Mass. License #E22622

Vermont License #J1245

RFD #2 Box 517, Shelburne Falls, MA 01370

413-625-8239

• FUEL OIL • KEROSENE • BURNER SERVICE



FUEL - OIL
PROPANE GAS

27 BRIDGE ST. SHELBERNE FALLS, MA

625-6470

NIGHTS, SUNDAYS, HOLIDAYS - 774-2014

Heath Brook Studios

Glass and Baskets

"Bob and Jayne Dane"

By Appointment Year-Round In Heath Center

337-5736

NORTH RIVER WINERY



Jacksonville, Vt.

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

May-Dec.
Open Seven Days
10 - 5

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

802-368-7557

MOLE HOLLOW CANDLES



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

"OPEN 7 DAYS"



**The Baker
Pharmacy**

Tel: 625-6324

Week Days 8:30AM - 8PM

Saturdays 8:30AM - 5PM

Sundays & Holidays 9AM - 12 Noon

52 Bridge Street

Shelburne Falls



**BALD
MOUNTAIN
POTTERY**

STONEWARE & PORCELAIN

Sarah Hettlinger

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

28 State St. (Near the Bridge of Flowers)

Shelburne Falls, MA (413) 625-8110

Your independent Insurance Agency. . .
For all your insurance needs.



**Blackmer
Insurance
Agency, Inc.**

1000 Mohawk Trail

Shelburne, Massachusetts 01370

Tel. 413-625-6527



RICHARD C. BISHOP

Attorney at Law

Admitted in Massachusetts & Florida

**SPECIALIZING IN WEST COUNTY
REAL ESTATE**

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

LEVY - WINER, P.C.

625-2574

102 Bridge Street, Shelburne Falls, MA

NEW at MOHAWK MANOR Elder Social Day & Respite Care

Want or need a vacation?
Leave your loved ones for a day, week
or month in a loving and caring home.
Home cooked meals, Experienced Staff
and daily planned activities.

Contact Gail or Chris at 413-625-6860

45 Water St.

Shelburne Falls, MA 01370

M P M Disposal

Cash for Foreign Cars & Trucks
4 or 6 Cylinder,
Diesels, also Domestic.
Will go anywhere

Call us toll free at
1-800-531-3169



**PEN Y BRYN
BED & BREAKFAST**

john and nancy clark
TEL: (413) 337-6683 OR (212) 316-2977

ROUTE 8A
JACKSONVILLE STAGE ROAD
heath, massachusetts

Sawyer News Co.

Bridge St. • Shelburne Falls

Monday-Saturday 6:30am-5pm

Thursday 'til 7pm

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

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

Tel. 625-6686

Don & Kathleen Upton, Proprietors

CHURCH NEWS

by Pastor Roger Peace

Just what I said back two months ago has happened; the Sunday School program began on the same positive note that it ended on in June of this year. It was wonderful to see all those excited and happy faces in Sunday School, but we missed a few of you. Sunday School is not just for young people, it is for everyone. So it still is not too late to join in all the fun and activities each Sunday morning at 9 AM.

Two months ago we were planning a special music program for September 26, but with all the other obligations of our choir members, we had to make a change in plans. But what a blessing for the church. The choir is now singing those numbers that they have been rehearsing in church Sunday mornings. Some of these songs are old favorites, both patriotic and spiritual tunes. It is such a joy to have a choir now, and so much fun to practice. By the way, we can always use an extra voice if you are interested. Another positive note about the choir is that we will already be working those vocal chords, and that will help with the Christmas Cantata.

As for the youth, they are back practicing the puppets for future ministries. We as leaders must tell you that we were proud of their behavior, their enthusiasm and their willingness to do something for other churches and God. As a Pastor, it does my heart good to see promise in these youth; and I would not think twice about doing another trip in the future. Thank you, youth!

The church people are busy planning activities for the next few months. With the coming of the holidays comes some wonderful family times, and since we at the church are part of God's family, we look forward to some very special times, throughout November and December. You too could be part of that family, and we would welcome you with open arms. Sunday School begins at 9 AM, followed by Worship at 10 AM. Each Monday we have prayer time at 7 PM often followed by choir practice. If you are interested in a Pastoral call or if you would just like to talk to me, call Pastor Roger any time at 337-5755.



YOUTH PUPPET MINISTRY
TRAVEL TO WESTERN NEW YORK
(Photo by Roger Peace)

FOURTH ANNUAL ART AND CRAFT FAIR THE ACADEMY AT CHARLEMONT

by Mary Kay Hoffman

The Fourth Annual Art and Craft Fair sponsored by The Academy at Charlemont, will be held on October 9 and 10, 10 AM to 4:30 PM. The event, which attracts about 50 artists and crafts people, is held rain or shine at the school which is located on Route 2, The Mohawk Trail, in Charlemont. Admission is \$2 per person and children 12 and younger are admitted free.

West County exhibitors include Bittersweet Herbs of Charlemont; from Shelburne Falls, Mole Hollow Candles, folk artists Cindi and Dan Kelleher, graphic artist Polly French and Teresa Hicks who makes mustards and relishes; ceramic artists Mona and Dennis Johnson of Colrain. Alan and Dawn Shippee of Shelburne will have a food concession at the Fair. Other artists/crafts people representing everything from dried flower arrangements, braided rugs, hand woven fabrics and jewelry to wreaths, Italian mosaics, bird cages and stuffed animals will display their work. They will travel from as far away as Cambridge, MA, Averill Park, NY and Waterbury, CT. The Fair is expected to attract 4,000 visitors.

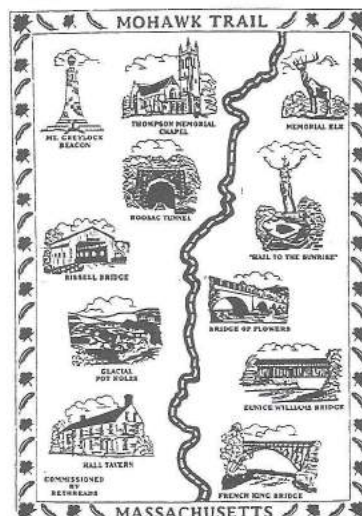
Fair organizer, Steve Morganelli who teaches biology and math at The Academy, predicts this "will be the best Fair yet! This is an all-school event in which students, faculty and parents participate as volunteers. It's a tremendous effort but the results are very rewarding. Everyone has a good time." Net profits from the Fair are used for the school's scholarship fund.

For more information, call The Academy at 413-339-4912. The Academy is an independent, co-ed, college preparatory school serving grades 5-12 with a post graduate year.

RETREADS

Fine New and Used Clothes

Introduces the Mohawk Trail AFGHAN



50" X 70"

100% Cotton

Blue
Green
Cranberry
&
Mauve

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

HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

by Pegge Howland

A lot of important things have happened since my last *Heath Herald* report. The Society's Annual Meeting on August 14 went very, very well. Over 40 people turned out to hear and see a most enjoyable slide/talk presentation by Ellsworth Barnard on "The Flowers at High Ledges", and to see the progress on our Solomon Temple Barn foundation. Thanks to 16 dedicated, hard working volunteers headed up by Buck Denouden, Carroll Stowe, Bruce Cromack and Mike Slowinski, and 17 donors of lumber or logs, the huge job of building and capping the barn foundation was completed by Fair time.

The Heath Fair was a big success for the Historical Society, too. "Squire Solomon Temple" in the person of Jack Cable was present at the Fair on Saturday, selling raffle tickets to help support the Barn campaign. The raffle prizes were: an original watercolor painting of the barn by Fred Burrington, won by Paula Jepso; an antique stenciled Boston rocker, won by Brian DeVriese; a 20 lb. box of blueberries donated by the Days, won by Debora Danek; and a gallon of maple syrup donated by Peters Store, won by Reid Isaac. My thanks once again to everyone who helped with the foundation and made the Historical Society Fair booth and events a success.

But there's more! In August we also launched our Solomon Temple Barn Campaign fund drive. Over 125 letters went out to Historical Society members and friends explaining the project and asking for their help in matching a \$15,000 anonymous donation. I am extremely happy to report that we have raised over \$10,000 so far, and the contributions continue to come in. So while we are very pleased with our progress, we will still need more help to meet our goal by the spring when we will begin the task of reassembling the barn.

And that brings me to the last item of news. As you know, the Solomon Temple Barn is located on the property of Dick and Dot Gary. We had a work bee on Saturday, September 25 to help them clear some bales of hay, wood and other things out of the barn so that we can begin to take it apart. Bruce Cromack estimates that with the money from our fund raising campaign, phase 2 of the project, disassembly, can get under way by October. That's great news and we hope to have all the pieces numbered and under cover at the fairgrounds before the snow flies.

BARN FOUNDATION PROGRESS

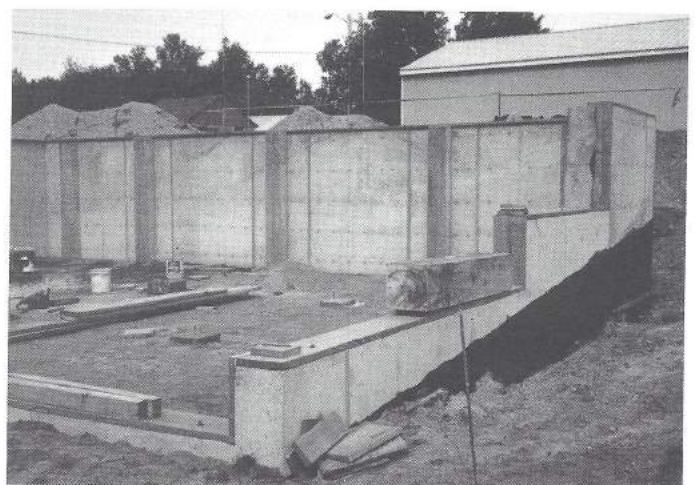
Photos by: Pegge Howland



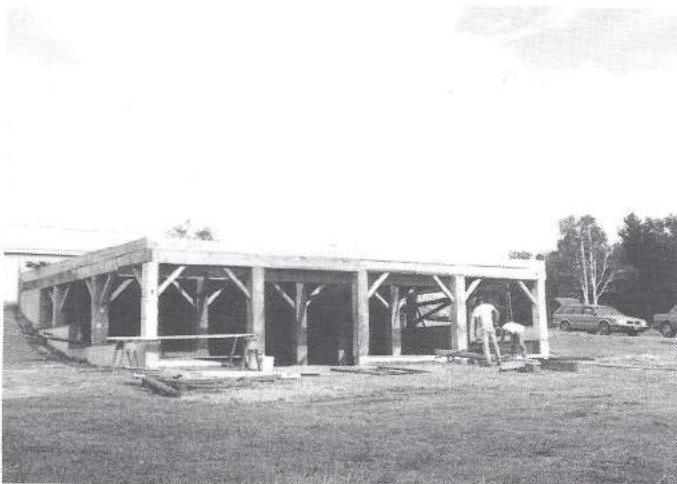
1 - FOOTINGS



2 - POURING THE FOUNDATION



3 - STARTING TO BUILD



4 - READY FOR THE BARN

HEATH PUBLIC PRESCHOOL NEWS

by Suzanne Crawford, Director

Our school year is off to a wonderful (and busy!) start. We have a big group this year - 25 students at the moment, with 2 more expected to enroll soon. Of these 25 children, 21 are from Heath and 4 are from Rowe.

Each year we begin with home visits - a chance for the children to meet us in their most secure setting, and to share with us a few of their favorite toys or activities. Next, we have a "drop in" day in which the parents accompany their child on a visit to the preschool. This allows for time to explore the room and begin to feel comfortable with a parent still close at hand. Then the children each come for 2 days with just half of the class. These smaller groups allow us to give the extra attention and encouragement that are sometimes needed to help young children feel confident and safe in new surroundings. The smaller groups also help the children get used to school routines easily. This careful introduction really pays off, and it is gratifying to see the whole group happily at play.

Our 2 main "rules" for the preschool are: We take good care of our friends; and we take good care of our school. Especially in the beginning of the year, we take time to talk about how we do this and ways in which we see the children taking good care of friends and school. I believe that these are eternal lessons, and I can't help but think that adults and nations are still working on learning these same basic rules.

We are fortunate to begin this school year with our funding primarily in place. In late August we received notification that our state Department of Education grant was level funded. That, combined with the continuing generous support from the townspeople of Heath and Rowe, a successful fundraising effort in August, and parent tuitions will allow the preschool to proceed for the school year.

Once again, we have many, many people to thank for their contributions to the preschool. There are 2 long time members of the preschool's Advisory Council that deserve our grateful thanks. Dianne Cerone and Michele Cutter have both devoted countless hours to fund raising and other efforts on behalf of the preschool. They are stepping down from the Council this year. We wish them both well and know that they will be missed. Many parents and community members helped out in a variety of ways at the Heath Fair and the Yankee Picnic. We appreciate everyone's efforts that helped our fund raisers to be successful, and especially thank those folks in the dunking booth who braved the splashes on our behalf. Thanks are also due to Jim Lively and Bruce Phillips for their help in moving the preschool furniture back to the Community Hall. The Heath Preschool is certainly fortunate to have so many helping friends!

Shepherd Excavation



Rte. 8A, Heath, MA

(413) 337-4215

MARY LYON EDUCATION FUND

by Susan Silvester

As the new fiscal year begins, appropriately enough at the same time as our school year, changes are inevitable. We are unfortunate to lose two excellent members of the Board of Directors from Heath, Catherine Heyl and Eric Sumner. They have helped our organization grow and expand over the past few years. Catherine served as our first Treasurer, and Eric has played a vital role in the publicity for our annual Recognition Dinner. Both of these valuable Board members will be greatly missed. Others who are no longer on the Board include Cyndie Stetson of Hawley and Ellen Kaufmann of Buckland.

Joining the Mary Lyon Education Fund Board of Directors are Jane O'Connor of Hawley, Hugh Knox of Buckland, Carolyn Jarmulowicz of Shelburne, Patricia Itzkoff of Ashfield, and Donald Paye of Shelburne. We welcome these new Board members and appreciate their interest in local public education.

The new President is Dr. Bruce Willard of Ashfield, our former Superintendent of Schools and one of the original founders of the organization. Other officers include Vice Presidents Barbara Bishop, Pamela Kelleher and Henry Samoriski, Secretary Sharon Hudson, Treasurer Irene Gifford, and Assistant Treasurer Dorothy Richardson. Executive Director Sue Silvester was reappointed for a five year term.



PRESCHOOL ON PARADE AT THE HEATH FAIR
(Photo by Alli Thane)



RETHREADS

FINE NEW & USED CLOTHES

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

SEASONAL CONSIGNMENTS ACCEPTED

Tues-Sat 9-5

Thurs 9-8

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

SELECTMEN'S REPORT

by D. F. Howland

Personnel matters and the FY94 budget have dominated discussions of the selectmen for the past two months although other topics were dealt with, the most important of which are reported here. Because the budget and related override questions merit special attention they are reported elsewhere in this issue of the *Heath Herald*.

Two employees of the Highway Department, Fred Lively and Bob Giard, have had serious medical problems that have limited or prevented them from meeting requirements of their positions. Fred recently asked for and was granted a leave of absence to have his knee joints replaced. The request prompted the development of a viable leave of absence policy that would be applicable to eligible employees for a variety of reasons in addition to medical purposes. The policy developed allows for up to three months unpaid leave with renewals possible for as long as nine months subject to approval by the Board of Selectmen. Fred has had one knee replaced and the results are so favorable that he is planning to have the other one done. We hope it works out well for Fred. Bob Giard incurred a back injury over a year ago and it has become so chronic that he cannot perform highway department work any longer. He is covered by worker's compensation insurance and will be assigned to a rehabilitation program where he can acquire skills for some other type of work. Thus, he has been separated in accordance with worker's compensation regulations so that the town can replace him with a regular, full-time employee. We are recruiting for this position now. Also, Treasurer Dianne Suller is moving to Greenfield and has resigned her position. The Selectmen accepted her resignation with regret and are recruiting for replacement. Other appointments made are the Reverend Richard Gary and Smead Hillman to the new Cemetery Commission. Ron Corey is the other member so now this full commission can proceed with its business. Elizabeth Canali was appointed to the Committee on Commercial Development. We still need three more members for this five person committee. (Dick Voytko is the other member). Please call one of the Selectmen if you are interested.

The Selectmen approved bids for gasoline, diesel fuel, propane and heating oil for the year and for sand and salt for the winter season.

Meetings were held with Building Inspector Victor Staley, the Planning Board and with residents of Mohawk Estates. The Mohawk Estates Association was represented also and it has been very helpful in resolving problems in that area of town. The issues involve interpretation of the zoning regulations with regard to permits for structures. The Planning Board is in the process of reviewing the regulations and will be making its recommendations in the next few months.

At the invitation of the Board of Selectmen, Steven Knight, vice president for municipal financing at Baybank and William Gouzounis, Loan Specialist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture attended a joint meeting of the School Building Committee and other interested citizens to discuss school financing information and options. Mr. Knight explained that Moody's Investment Service would have to establish a bond rating for the town at a cost of about \$5,000 and that bond counsel should be engaged soon to make sure legal requirements are met. Bond counsel can cost \$20,000 to \$25,000. Further, the annual

audits are necessary for towns that finance with bonds and banks will offer financial advice on the basis of hoping to get the bond business. He opined that because Heath is a small town with limited resources it might not qualify for a \$3,000,000 school bond. Should that be the case one alternative might be to divide the funding, i.e. a bank could finance a \$1,500,000 bond while the Farm/Home loan services of the Department of Agriculture could do the other half. Mr. Gouzounis noted that the Farm/Home loans did not require annual audits and all the legal requirements of bonds. Also, those loans have lower interest rates and more flexible amortization schedules. He indicated that it would be possible to fund the entire amount of a lower cost modular school structure through the Farm/Home loan agency and avoid the costly and time delayed process of building a state reimbursement facility. It was an interesting and informative meeting.

Tree Warden's Report

by Jack Cable

As Tree Warden, I feel compelled to disclose my background on the subject of the job. In Connecticut where I was raised, we lived on my grandfather's farm and it was surrounded by farms. The farm next door was basically dairy, but logging and a sawmill were winter activities. At eleven, I was familiar with forest management, cutting, loading and sawing timber. My job at this early age was skidding the logs to the landing with a horse (please note, Carroll Stowe!) and at one time a mule. After high school, I attended and graduated from the University of Connecticut in Forestry Management. Five years of surveying also taught me respect for land and forests. 27 years of owning and managing the blueberry farm which has many acres in the Forest Management program also puts me in line for the obligation I have accepted.

Future articles will cover such topics as acid rain, diseased, insects and my major concern, the death of our beloved sugar maples.

REMEMBER TO VOTE!

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

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

(WITH PURCHASE OF A COMPLETE PAIR)

Buy one pair of glasses at our regular price and get the second pair of the same prescription from our special selection. **ABSOLUTELY FREE!**
Includes first quality frames and single vision, clear, uncoated, 1st and 2nd division lenses. Offer precludes previous discounts.

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

**Vision
Showcase**

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

FY94 BUDGET, OVERRIDES, K-12

by D. F. Howland

On June 26, 1993 the town voted to level fund the budget for FY94 so that money would be available on July 1 to conduct the business of the town. This was necessary because of the failures of the override votes. Since then the Education Reform Act was passed and state aid information received via the Cherry Sheets. The new aid and the adjusted assessments reduced the Mohawk Trail Regional High School Budget by \$24,922 to \$237,674 and the Rowe School budget by \$31,790 to \$263,754. While we are grateful for this aid it still leaves us with override votes of \$56,372 for Mohawk Trail Regional High School and \$46,173 for Rowe School. The Selectmen and Finance Committee have reduced general government expenditures by \$9,500 in the Highway Department, \$4,000 for the new Administrative Aid position because one third of the year is gone already and \$8,500 for the Assessors' new computerized system which they graciously postponed to July 1, 1994. The School Building Committee has indicated they need approximately \$3,000 to continue its work and we adjusted the swimming instruction account down and the computer Committee up so the net reduction is about \$19,000. This will put us below the levy limit maximum so that an override for General Government can be avoided and still give us about a \$3,000 margin under that limit, if we should have a need for something unusual.

The override balloting occurs on Tuesday, October 12 at the Town Hall. Polls are open from 7 AM to 8 PM. On the following Saturday, October 16 at 9 AM a special town meeting will be held at the Community Hall to vote on the budget and one article proposed by the School Building Committee. It is to see if the town will authorize the Committee to engage designer services, i.e. an architect, at a cost up to \$240,000. The vote to make this an expenditure not subject to levy limit restrictions passed narrowly in August after being voted down narrowly last June. The article will require a two thirds vote.

The override votes for the schools have consequences of which we should be aware. Since July 1 the Mohawk Trail Regional High School has operated on a 1/12th basis, because fewer than six towns supported their assessments. Four towns still face overrides - Shelburne, Buckland, Colrain and Heath. If two of these communities do not pass overrides the 1/12th arrangement will continue until subsequent overrides pass. Failing this the Department of Education will assume control of the Mohawk Trail Regional High School on January 1. No one is quite sure what will happen as regards demands on the towns to run the Mohawk system. If six towns support the assessments then the other two have to pay their amounts like it or not. If the votes fail to support these new assessments then Mohawk has to go back and cut some more or somehow convince everyone to pay up ... until 12/31/93.

The wild card in this scenario is K-12. If a K-12 district can be formed by 12/31/93 there is about \$670,000 additional aid available to the entire new district. It is expected that the additional aid would negate or nearly negate the overrides the towns now face. The K-12 Committee has been meeting to work out differences with Charlemont and Hawley. Let us hope they can be resolved soon.

The Heath/Rowe School situation is a little different in that we contract with Rowe for school services and

somehow the bill has to be paid. The Department of Education does not have a role in this arrangement as they do with regional schools. The town did vote to pay Rowe something on June 26, but not the whole amount. We, therefore, must pass an override sometime or if K-12 comes through we may be able to avoid it. As for K-12 the last resort would be to ask the Legislature to step in, but the parties would rather see cooperation amongst the towns prevail.

What is the effect of all this on taxes? If the overrides and Article 3 (the budget) pass we are looking at a rate of about \$20 versus \$16.43 last year or about a 21% increase. This is substantial and especially so in light of a 30% increase in 1991 and a 9% in 1993. In 1992 it was down 3%.

In summary, if the overrides fail this time we may get bailed out by K-12. If K-12 does not materialize then we face another override vote later. If overrides are not passed sometime, then other services will have to be cut to pay for schools. It would mean cutting the Highway Department, Police services and Town Hall staff support. Obviously, we do not have the margins in our budgets to do that; therefore, somehow we have to pay for schools.

ASSESSORS' REPORT

by Don Dekker, Chairperson

At the request of the Selectmen, the Board of Assessors has postponed our request to purchase the assessing and collecting program, and computer hardware from Patriot Properties this year. The financial problems of the town at this time are such that we will wait until next year to present our request. It would be best to have the program this year to become familiar with it before the next valuation in FY96, but we can wait another year and hopefully still succeed. There is not much assurance that the town's fiscal position will be much better next year, but we can hope.

Because of the override vote causing the lateness of the town meeting budget vote, the tax bills will be late. In all probability you will not receive a tax bill until mid-November. This means most of you will be paying your taxes in December, so budget accordingly.

Recently Jack Cable in the town truck took this assessor up Sadoga Road for a look at properties up there. Due to the poor road, it has been pretty hard for us to get our modern, low slung cars up there. I corrected some mistakes, picked up a few sheds and shacks and deleted a destroyed mobile home. We thank Jack for his help to the Assessors and the town.



COLLECTIONS

CONTEMPORARY CLOTHING
Jewelry & Accessories

15 Bridge Street
Shelburne Falls, MA
(413) 625-9267

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

by Earl Gleason, Chief

The department responded to nine emergencies during the period since the last report. The first was on July 30 when the brush truck responded to Colrain with smoke in the woods after a lightning strike. August 1 saw two firefighters assist Charlemont ambulance with a lady on Avery Brook Road who was ill. The next day two firefighters started to respond with an apparatus for Mutual Aid to Colrain. This incident was aborted about four minutes after the call. On August 13 the Heath cruiser took a person to meet the ambulance on Route 2. Two firefighters and an EMT responded to this call. Heath Fair was a busy time for the department. On Friday evening four EMTs assisted Charlemont ambulance with a man at the fairgrounds thought to be having a heart attack. Saturday saw a person with a bee sting. The ambulance was called, but later turned back when the person refused transportation. Three EMTs attended to this incident. On Sunday morning a call came for a trailer explosion with four burn victims. Engines one and three and seventeen emergency personnel from Heath responded. Ambulances from Charlemont, Colrain, Shelburne Falls, and Mercy arrived on the scene. Life Flight was called out of Worcester and landed at the fairgrounds, where Mr. Michael Bouten was transported to Bay State Hospital in Springfield. The other three victims were transported by Ambulance to Franklin Medical Center. Suddenly Heath became more than a spot on the map. Calls were received from Channels 40 and 22, the Springfield paper and radio station WBZ in Boston and interviews by the *Greenfield Recorder* and Channel 3 in Hartford. The state fire marshall's office was immediately notified. In addition the propane company came on Monday and took numerous pictures. On Wednesday the propane company's insurance investigator spent about four hours making an investigation. He was accompanied by the insurance company's lawyer. On August 31 the medical examiners from Boston called for information as Mr. Bouten had died. At the time of the writing of this article the lawyer and investigator for the Bouten family will be making an investigation. On September 4 two firefighters and two EMTs responded to the recreation hall at Mohawk Estates for a woman with an injured leg. Labor Day morning saw four EMTs and three firefighters assist Charlemont ambulance with a woman who had fallen in her home.

Three drills were held, the largest on July 27. This was a joint drill with Colrain at our smoke house. About 20 emergency personnel were involved in wearing air packs and entering an atmosphere filled with smoke and fire. This drill was supervised by Mike Smith. Also the Association meetings were held.

Heath Fair and the Yankee Picnic have come and gone. These are the two big money-makers for the department. The Chief wants to thank all that helped out.

Ironically enough, just two days before the incident with the burn victims, Life Flight had been notified that the Heath Fairgrounds would be designated as a landing site for their helicopter. On Monday, August 23, Life Flight landed at Mohawk School and a tour for other sites in western Franklin County were logged. Tim Lively headed up this project.

Labor Day evening saw the brush truck hit by an errant driver and pushed sideways into a telephone

pole. The truck was sitting in the parking lot of the fire station at the time. Most likely the truck is totaled.

The replaced equipment that was bought at the end of the fiscal year has arrived and includes a radio for the tanker, 900 feet of 4" hose, 700 feet of attach lines for Engine one, new tire for the brush truck (they had not been mounted at the time of the accident) and a few fittings for 4" hose.

The Chief had only one out of town meeting, but met with the Selectmen on several occasions. Eight permits and inspections were granted and made.

As the fall season approaches, it is time to check our heating appliances as to performance and safety. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Have a safe fall and winter.

MARY LYON FUND BANNER GOES TO COSBY LECTURE

by Susan Silvester

On Tuesday, September 28, 1993, a group of students and adults from the Mohawk Trail Regional School District attended a presentation on multiculturalism by Bill Cosby in the new Mullins Center at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. The Mary Lyon Education Fund had procured free tickets for the two dozen people who expressed an interest in the lecture. Heath resident and Mohawk senior Jennifer Gilbert was one of the people in attendance.

Since Bill Cosby and his wife, Camille, recently donated \$5,000 to the Mary Lyon Education Fund Endowment Campaign as "seed money", it was our opportunity to not only see him in person, but to reiterate our thanks in the form of a banner displayed during the lecture. Although we arrived early to select the best seats in the house, a large sign stating "The Mary Lyon Education Fund Loves the Cosbys" probably went unnoticed by our benefactor due to dimmed lighting during the presentation. Undaunted, we clapped and cheered for a man who has emphatically supported excellence in education.

University President Hooker first introduced an old Cosby video on prejudice which portrayed the "man-on-the-street" (Bill Cosby) doing a monologue on bigotry. Then the famous Shelburne resident appeared in casual clothes to speak on a topic of major concern - our multicultural, heterogeneous community. Intertwined with the wonderful Cosby wit, his message was clear and simple. We should act, and act now in the interests of mankind. The Cosby's seventy-eight year old houseguest, Herbert Akbechter of San Jose, California, was introduced as a testimony to one man's lifelong struggle to fight prejudice. As a major in the United States Army, for example, Akbechter was even discharged from the service for having "friends of color."

The tone of the evening was upbeat and positive. It was a thrill for all of us to hear our famous benefactor speak in person!



come change with us

A FULL SERVICE SALON

625-6855

39 BRIDGE ST. • SHELburne FALLS, MA • 01370

PERCS, PERMITS AND TRANSFERS

PERC TESTS

Perc testing is suspended until next April except for repairs. Earl Gleason reports that there was one repair in the period August-September.

BUILDING PERMITS

Darrell Cutter, Royer Road, replace and add to deck.

Mike Armstrong, Rowe Road, addition to residence.

David Howland, Avery Brook Road, tennis court and fencing.

Bruce Phillips, Route 8A, demolition, replace ell on residence.

TOTAL: \$168,850.

DEED TRANSFERS

Theresa E. Swain to Paul B. and Theresa E. Swain of West Springfield, Mohawk Estates, Lot 42. No consideration.

Daryll McCloud to Daryll and Linda Lee McCloud, Papoose Lane, Lot 1 \$1.

Dorothy I. Breveleri Estate by Larry Dean Breveleri and Linda Wilonski as executors and individually to Charlene Hevey and Susan Gouin of Westfield, Mohawk Estates, Lots 8 and 9. \$5,000.

Robert H. and June M. Kratz to Paul E. and Denise C. Frazier of Greenfield, 17 Colrain Stage Road. \$8,500.

Associates Financial Services of America, Inc. of Irving TX to Robert C. and Kathleen N. Malloy of Montague, Sadoga Road, Lot 6. \$8,000.

Margaret S. Jones to Brian F. and Marsha L. Drumme, Route 8A, Parcel A. \$100.

E.R.C. Realty Trust, Dorothy L. and Robert C. Caruthers as Trustees to Susan E. Musante and Marvin E. Taylor of Wendell, Sumner Stetson Road. \$20,000.

Vivian C. Weston of Bristol VT, Frederick R. Call of Canal Zone, Panama, William J. Call of Nouakchott, West Africa, and Douglas C. Call of Colrain to The Valley Land Fund, Inc. Colrain-Heath Road, 69 acres. \$1.

Frank E. and Blanche M. Garington to Kenneth A., Lerlee D. and Arlen J. Carlson of Enfield, CT, Mohawk Estates, Lot 11. \$3,000.

Frank E. and Blanche M. Garington to Kenneth A., Lerlee D. and Arlen J. Carlson of Enfield, CT., Mohawk Estates, Lot 29. \$1,500.

Edward J. and Patricia A. Solzak to Jeannine R. Patrick of Chicopee, Shawnee Drive, Lots 48 and 49. \$5,000.



MAIL TO:

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

HEATH HERALD Box 54, Heath, MA 01346

TOWN OFFICE HOURS (At Town Hall unless otherwise specified)

<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>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

PETERS GENERAL STORE

No. Nine Road, Heath, MA • 337-5501

LOCAL MAPLE SYRUP FOR SALE

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

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

Deli Case • General Groceries
Snacks • Sunday Papers

Video Tapes & VCR Rentals • Gasoline • Diesel • Kerosene
Worms and Crawlers • Blue Seal Feeds
Nuts, Bolts, Nails, General Hardware • Brookville Gloves

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

77 Years of Service to the Hilltowns - 1913-1990