



VOLUME 16 NUMBER 5 DECEMBER/JANUARY 1994/5

HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER 50¢



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Emily Nichols, daughter of Alan Nichols and Catherine Heyl of Heath, has been selected as a semifinalist in the 1995 National Merit Scholarship Program. Only about one half of one percent of each state's graduating high school student population is selected for this honor. Emily will be competing in the spring against approximately 6,700 other students across the country. Emily is a senior at Mohawk Trail Regional High School.

CORRECTION

Tena Smith, the daughter of Mary Smith and the late Ernest "Pat" Smith was married to David Shippee, son of Muriel and Edmund D. Shippee of Buckland on May 9, 1994. They were married at the home of Muriel and Edmund Shippee in Buckland with Rev. Allen Comstock performing the services.

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HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

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MILESTONES

by Edith Royer

Born on October 27, was a son, Theodore Lewis to Gina (Tetreault) and Bernard Barnhart III of Hawley. He is the grandson of Linda and Robert Tetreault of Ashfield and Gloria and Douglas Decker of Hawley. Great grandparents are Vata Janek of Holyoke, Cecile and Ovila Tetreault of Saint Camille, Canada, Esther and Gorden Pratt of Charlemont and Mildred Decker of Heath. Harold Pratt of Greenfield is the great great grandfather.

Catherine Osciak, daughter of Linda Osciak of Greenfield and Frank Osciak of Turners Falls, was married on October 1 to Roger L. Peace, Jr., son of Rhodesa and The Rev. Roger Peace of Bray Road, Heath. See related article.

Wendy Luckhurst and Christopher Giard of Heath were married on the First Tee at the Country Club Golf Course in Greenfield on October 15. They plan a honeymoon at the end of March.

William Adamski of York, ME died October 4 following a long illness. Survivors include his wife, the former Dorothy Benton, 2 daughters, Susan Silvester of Heath and Sarah Hite of Lake Ariel, PA. He also left a sister Jennie Demara of Sunderland, two granddaughters and a grandson. Services were held in York, ME with burial in Arms Cemetery, Shelburne Falls, MA.

Edna M. Cobb of Shelburne, died October 10 at home. She was a member of the Leyden Methodist Church and the Shelburne Falls Senior Center. She was an avid gardener and loved to crochet. Survivors include Martha Mitchell of Pinellas Park, FL, two sons Gordon R. of Leyden and Randall of Heath. She also leaves 11 grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren and 3 great great grandchildren. Several of them live in Heath. Another daughter, Evelyn Rice, died in 1975.

Lorraine P. Phillips, of Heath, died on October 12 at home. Survivors include a daughter, Patricia Lentz of Heath, a son Michael Phillips of Enfield, CT and one grandson. Services and burial were in Chicago, IL.

ALAN'S ALMANAC

by Alan Nichols

Observer for Mass. Division of Water Resources

	Actual	Normal
October	1.01"	1.41"
November	3.65"	4.69"

October, the fourth wettest month in our year statistically, was very dry and warm. Delightful in fact. November which is the wettest, continued the trend up to the 21st. We had also three strong storms of wind which brought down many dead and diseased trees. And swept away the autumn leaves.

CATHERINE OSCIAC/ROGER PEACE, JR. WEDDING

Catherine Osciak of Bernardston Road in Greenfield and Roger L. Peace, Jr. of Heath were united in marriage on October 1, 1994 at the Heath Union Church. The 11 AM service was officiated by the groom's father. Jason Peace, brother to the groom was the soloist and Joan Adair was organist.

Attending the bride was Kelly Fernette as maid of honor; with bridesmaids Johanna Clapp and Debbie Ange. Lisa Crowningshield was her flower girl.

The groom's best man was Jason Peace. Ushers were Michael Osciak and Bradley Peace. John MacDougall was the ringbearer.

The newlyweds were taken for pictures in a horse drawn surrey provided by Carroll Stowe. A reception was held at the Heath Community Hall with about 125 attending.

The couple took a honeymoon to the Thousand Islands and Canada. Their new address will be P. O. Box 859, Schroon Lake, NY 12870. The bride is a 1993 graduate of Greenfield High and the groom is a 1992 graduate of Mohawk Trail Regional High. Both are 1994 graduates of Word of Life Bible Institute where they are both presently employed.



MR. AND MRS. ROGER PEACE, JR.
(Family photo)

AREA CRAFTSMAN HONORED BY NATIONAL MAGAZINE

by Patricia Graybill

Jayne Hare Dane of Heath has been selected to appear in *Early American Life* magazine's exclusive 1994 Directory of American Craftsmen in its October issue. Every year, *Early American Life* selects the top craftspeople working with traditional tools and techniques in the styles of early America to be featured in the directory.

Entries from all over the country were evaluated and rated by an independent panel of judges using the criteria of fidelity to period style, quality of craftsmanship, and ability to increase in value over time. This year's judges were Robert Shaw, curator of the Shelburne Museum in Shelburne, VT; Philip Zca, curator of Historic Deerfield, Deerfield, MA; Don Carpentier, craftsman and creator of Eastfield Village in East Nassau, NY; and John Curtis, formerly curator of Old Sturbridge Village and now a restoration consultant in Brimfield, MA. The craftspeople who received the highest scores are featured in the directory. Jayne Hare Dane was chosen for outstanding work in Black Ash Basketry.

The *Early American Life* Directory of American Craftsmen showcases baskets, clocks, furniture, glass, leather, miniatures, metal, needlework, painting, paper, pottery, textiles, toys, dolls and wood, as well as Christmas items and a miscellaneous group for unusual work. A brief description of each craftsman's work is included, as well as the address and phone number so readers can contact craftspeople directly. The work of many of the artisans is featured in photographs in the directory.

The October issue of *Early American Life* went on sale on newsstands nationwide on August 16, 1994. *Early American Life* magazine features practical, authentic ideas to bring the timeless American look into homes of the 1990's - from country Chippendale rooms and period gardens to 20th-century tips on how to make the home a colonial showplace.



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LIBRARY TRUSTEES

by Pat Leuchtman

Many library patrons stopped at the Library's exhibit at the Heath Fair this summer where our theme was CHANGE. As you know there has been discussion about ways the Library has changed over the years, and some speculation about the ways it might change in the future.

There are two challenges (we would never use the word "problems") facing the Heath Library at this point. The first is simply the shortage of physical space. There always seem to be more books coming into the library, books we need and want, than books we can weed out from the old collection. Certainly, those officials from the State Library Commissioners who have visited us consider us to be seriously overcrowded.

It would be nice to have room for our books, magazines and tapes, and still have room for browsing, reading and studying comfortably, and for our noble librarian, Alli Thane, to do her work comfortably.

The second challenge is the ever more insistent demands of information retrieval - which is to say - computerization. Computers are going to be more and more important in libraries, which means some extra expense, and going back to the first challenge, the need for extra space.

We Library Trustees, Carolyn Armstrong, Maureen O'Malley and I, have been asking for your ideas and suggestions on how to meet these challenges. One idea that has been discussed is the possibility of moving the Town Library into our new school, and operating a joint Town-School Library. There would be two budgets, the Town Library budget as it exists now and a School Library budget which would be part of the school budget. There would be cost savings because of the shared facilities and resources. If we did have a Town-School Library we would have to work out all the governance issues, but I think that in Heath, where we are so committed to working cooperatively, this would not be a problem.

Town-School libraries do exist in Massachusetts, but if we were to put an addition onto the new school library (and the design for utilities in the school would allow for this) it would be the first time a Town-School library was built.

The state finally announced the reauthorization of the Massachusetts Library Construction Program for \$45 million. Letters of intent for the first of two rounds of funding were due this past October. In order to file a letter of intent, the town must have a town approved library building project, that is, the project must get a majority vote at a town meeting.

In the interests of gathering more opinions and suggestions we asked Sue Silvester who is head of the regional school library system, and Don Dekker, our assessor and Heath library assistant, to give their views about the future of our library. We certainly hope to hear from many more of you in the future.

LIBRARY QUESTION

by Don Dekker

In the near future the people of Heath will need to make some decisions about where the library should be and what kind of library they want. When it became clear that Heath would build a school, and when it was suggested that the library should be moved there, the move first seemed like a good idea to me. After all, why have two libraries in such a small town? Combining them seemed logical.

After reflection on such a move, I have reservations and doubts that such a move would be a good idea; at least right now. On the positive side: the people who use the library seem very happy with the library and where it is. Having the library where it is adds to the Town Center, and is convenient for people using the Post Office and attending meetings. Not building a library at this time will save money now when the tax rate is already very high.

There are many questions about administration being shared with the school. Would there be a school library and a town librarian or just one? How would materials be separated within the library? Who would buy what, and within which budget? Could the town library ever be open at the same time the school is open? What about security at night when the public town library is open and not the school? Would a woman alone at night feel safe in the library at the Thane's field, as she would in the Town Center?

Probably some, or most, of the questions could be worked out, but it seems best to allow the school to be started up and running before adding additional questions. One question the school planners and committee will decide is what computer facilities will the new school have. Will it join the "information highway"? The library is going to need to decide if it wants to enter this "highway" also. Some local libraries in the area already offer computer terminals and CD ROM programs, and other libraries are planning on doing so. Is this service needed in Heath/ Right now it is not clear to me if the Heath library should plan on this. If the school will offer this service, perhaps all the computer terminals, programs and services could be at the school not only for students, but for any resident of Heath.

The Town library could remain a purely recreational library which it really is anyway. One hears of government programs which would fund the "information highway". We need to investigate whether it would be better to have this for the library or the school in order to get the best funding.

All in all, it seems to me that many questions need to be answered before we can make an intelligent choice about what to do about computers and their programs. Funding them is one question above all. That is why it seems wise for the town to keep the library where it is and where most people want it for the time being.

A COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP: IN SUPPORT OF ONE LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER FOR HEATH

by Susan Silvester,
Mohawk District Library Supervisor

Education reform underscores the importance of forming community partnerships to promote excellence in local public education, and the proposed merger of the town and new school libraries is a wonderful example of a true partnership that will benefit not only the children, but the whole community. I am in favor of combining the public library with the school library/media center for many reasons.

A partnership between the two libraries would promote community involvement in the school. Current research indicates that schools with parental and community involvement produce high achievers. The vicarious advantages of moving the crowded public library from its present home in the Town Hall include the ability of the town offices to expand, the relocation of the public library into a new and larger space specifically designed for a library, and the cost-saving ramifications of not duplicating services and materials.

Our town should have one library serving all of its populace instead of two smaller libraries each competing for tax dollars, time, volunteers, and patrons. Imagine a spacious new library open from 8 AM to 8 PM most weekdays and again on Saturdays. Maybe even Sunday afternoons! Two librarians could overlap their hours enough to coordinate displays and programs for patrons ranging from toddlers to senior citizens. Instead of the public library trying to stretch its budget to purchase books for all ages, it could concentrate on the high school level and up. The school library budget could focus on preschool through middle school reading levels with each library budget paying for the corresponding cataloging and circulating supplies. Instead of each library purchasing a new set of World Books and the costly but indispensable Books in Print, there would only be a need for the expenditure to occur once.

Each librarian would be responsible for the same duties, reporting to the principal or Board of Library Trustees respectively. Summer programs, reading incentives, faculty use and curriculum coordination would be much easier if the two libraries merged at the school location.

It would seem to me that if we are going to spend three million dollars on a new school, we would want the library/media center coordinated with the other school libraries in our district. They are in the process of computerizing the collections so all books are on-line using Winnebago library system software. Work stations allow patrons to conduct a computerized search (much faster and much more thorough than the traditional drawer by drawer manual library card search). The school district now owns the union card

catalog software to ultimately connect all existing collections in the nine town area. And the telecommunications and CD ROM potential for our school/community library is unlimited! Why shouldn't the townspeople come to one location and take advantage of the computer technology that most certainly will be present in the school?

Imagine for a moment attending a parent/teacher conference and then stopping at the library to take out a good book. Or spending an hour researching the poetry of Emily Dickinson and then walking down the hall to a PTP meeting or school play. If you need to wait for your child to finish a trumpet lesson, where better to sit than in the library reading the latest issue of *Time Magazine*.

The school building will truly belong to the community if it is utilized to its fullest extent by everyone in town. The merger of the public and school libraries will bring us into the twenty-first century with a community project of which we can all be proud. The GOALS 2000: Educate America Act urges all communities to unite in support of excellence in local public education, and this unique project will provide a very special opportunity for us to accomplish this task.

PARK COMMITTEE NEWS

by Judy Thrasher

The annual Heath Cross Country Ski Race will be held on February 5, 1995 with a rain date of February 19, 1995.

Last year the race was a great success, with the warmest temperatures yet. We can't promise great weather again this year, but we are looking forward to another race.

Again, we are looking for volunteers to help. Anyone interested in doing trail work can call Judy at 337-5327. We will be planning work bees on Sundays throughout December and January.

We would also like to thank our sponsors and the many volunteers who helped to make our race such a success in the past. We look forward to seeing you all again this year. Thanks for your support.

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HEREABOUTS

by Jesse Seaver

HAPPY PAST THANKSGIVING, MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY HANUKKAH AND HAPPY WHATEVER!

There are so many holidays right now that my head is getting clogged with what I'm going to do with all my vacation time that I have coming up so soon for me. I'm excited. I'm sorry for anyone out there who doesn't have a nice long warm comfy vacation coming up around Christmas or Hanukkah. I know I do. Ahaa! I thought of another holiday! New Year's Eve. I love that holiday. You stay up late and watch the big light bulb crash down and blast it's 1995. Or you can listen to the people in Times Square play manic panic and scream like you've never heard before. It's really something, really something. Of course here in Heath, we make Times Square look like little ants going after jam. We have our own huge ball that gets shot up into space and when it's 1995, it explodes and we all hoot and toot and scream so loud people can hear us in Swahili land. It's REALLY, REALLY SOMETHING. Yep, that's right, the greatest show on earth I like to say. Of course the reason no one ever hears about it is because, only Heath citizens are let in and no one is let out. And everyone is sworn to secrecy. That's right, you got it, total silence. So don't ever talk about it, because you are not allowed to (Jesse Seaver's Law Phase 323; sector 454).

I was in the foyer at the town hall, and I guess people put mail they don't want in a box there. Well, I found a pretty nice sweepstakes offer in there and I might have won, I hope. Go check it out, it's pretty cool. I would advise people not to put checks in there, though. PLEASE don't put any checks in there. I wouldn't want to find any in there, it would devastate, I mean devastate me.

Have you heard about those Primestar Mini Dishes. They are quite amazing. I am glad they finally came out with a satellite dish that isn't as big as a football field. Especially since you can hide these Primestars out in the woods or something. Well, I have just about stopped spewing out ideas to write about, so I guess I'm done. Happy Holidays!

NEWS FROM THE ACADEMY

by Jesse Seaver

The girls' soccer team ended the season with a bang by winning the championship. The boys' team, on the other hand, did not. They lost. One of the boys' team members said this though, "We all tried hard to have a great season, and we did. We had lots of younger students who didn't know how to pass the ball at the beginning of the season and by the end they could dribble around people twice their size." Congratulations to everyone who played in the tournament.

It's November 17 and it's the last day of exams. The Academy has exams every trimester unlike most other schools which have semesters. After these exams all students will have a ten day vacation which is looked forward to immensely.

The Academy has a system called the "Honor Code". This is a sort of Constitution to our school that has to keep things in order. The honor code works for the school, as the "national supremacy" does for the U.S.A. There is also a council called the Honor Council. This council takes care of any violations or concerns, concerning the Honor Code. I am on that council and it is really complicated. Right now we are deciding if and when to have all the students sign the Honor Code. When a student signs the Honor Code they are taking an oath to live by it while in school. If a student cannot sight this document, this commitment with the Academy is questioned. This is why you will not find locks on the lockers and will find open mail boxes at the Academy.

The next sports are skiing and basketball. Skiing will have two parts, recreational and racing. You are welcome to come and watch the Academy race if you get a chance. If you have any questions on any of the above please call/fax P# 339-4912 or F# 339-4324. Thank you.

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HEATH PRESCHOOL NEWS

by Suzanne Crawford, Director

We have had beautiful weather this fall, and at the preschool we have really tried to appreciate every day of it. Tricycle riding is one of the favorite outdoor activities; but we also enjoy going for walks, rustling in the leaves, using sidewalk chalk, and playing in the sandbox and on the climbing structure. We try to spend time outside every day.

In October we went on a field trip to the Scott's Orchard in Buckland. Mr. Scott treated the children to a tour of the packing house and cold storage room, and to a wagon ride in the orchard. Mr. Scott also showed the children how to see the buds for next year's apple blossoms, and how to find the "star" inside an apple by cutting it crossways. We were able to see how professional pickers do their work, and then had a turn to be amateur pickers ourselves. We have enjoyed making applesauce and apple crisp and have had fresh apples for snack a number of times.

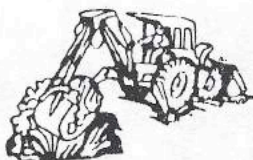
Fire Chief Earl Gleason came to visit to help the children learn about fire safety. He brought his "turn out gear" and let the children examine all the special firefighting clothing. He also showed us the hoses, gauges and tools on the fire truck. We appreciate his generosity in visiting and helping to keep our young children safe.

We have also enjoyed a visit to the library for stories with Alli Thane. The children often have an easier time enjoying stories in a smaller group and Alli has been kind enough to allow us to visit with just half at a time. We are fortunate to be welcomed to visit the library a number of times each year.

The Heath Preschool held an Open House in October. It serves as a way for preschool families to enjoy a recreational time together, and for community members and prospective families to see the preschool. We greatly enjoyed stories told by Debby Cuthbert and music lead by Doug Wilkins.

We do many special activities in the preschool at various times. Some of the recent highlights have been: using puppets and a puppet theater, learning about our senses and "seeing" with our fingers and our ears, playing with our giant soft blocks, using glue with glitter and numerous collage materials, and more. It's safe to say that there's never a dull moment at the Heath Preschool!

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BLUEBERRY SORTING SHED MEMORIES

by Jack Cable

On November 16, another significant building in Heath was demolished. It was the first building erected and used for sorting blueberries - the birthplace of the first commercial blueberry farm in Heath. During the 1950's Andrew Duvis and Robert Tripp (Jake's father) both of Granville, MA purchased land on Burnt Hill and Colrain Brook to commercially raise blueberries. The land was cleared, burned and domesticated and is now owned and operated by Jake and Alicia Tripp, Leonard and June Day and Jack and Beverly Cable. Jake's land was his Dad's, Day's land was Jake's (formerly his Dad's), and Cable's land was Duvis'. Because electricity only went down Colrain Brook from the direction of Swamp Road, Duvis and Tripp had their sorting operations on the southwest corner of Flagg Hill and Colrain Brook. When I purchased the property in 1966, I used the sorting shed of Duvis' - a 1/2 acre piece carved out of the corner - the remainder owned by Tripp. A couple of years later, I moved the cabin, which was also on the corner, up onto Burnt Hill and built a barn there also. Thus the old sorting barn has been abandoned, vandalized and was rotting. I chose to demolish it although I was sad to see it go.

Good times are remembered on that corner - living in the cabin with no bathroom and water running gravity feed from the brook into the kitchen. All the farm families that helped harvest the crop and sorted in the building - the Stetsons, Hamiltons, Thanes, Giards, Gilberts, Shermans, Churchills, Sheppards, Livelys, Crowningshields, Cromacks, Laws - good families - good friends. Thanks for the memories.



PRESCHOOLERS LEARN ABOUT HARVESTING
(Photo by Suzanne Crawford)

HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

by Pegge Howland, President

I thought you might be interested in this letter that I received in November from Arlene L. Willard of Wyoming, Delaware to whom I had sent photos of the old Maxwell House.

Dear Pegge:

I am quite late in thanking you for the trouble you went to for the pictures of my old family farm. I have been waiting to finish a roll of film that I had in my camera so that I could send you a picture of a quilt that I thought you might be interested in.

I don't know a lot about the history of the quilt except that it was on my Grandmother's bed and she said it belonged to her mother.

If you will notice, along the top are 5 squares that spell out the word "HEATH". In the center of the quilt is either a church or a school and above the door is a date plate with 1890 on it. That was the year my Grandmother was born. Below the barn on the right is a square with many small patches and the initials "R.E.G.". I looked in the Gould Genealogy Booklet that I have and there was a Rosie Ella Gould who was born in 1858 and died in 1922. It seems possible that this may have been the person who sewed this square because she would have been 32 in 1890.

I have hung the quilt on the wall in our spare bedroom because I felt it was too nice to pack away and too fragile to use every day.

If you know anything more about this quilt or if you would like more detailed pictures, please let me know.

A little of my background: My father was Deane Maxwell Davis; my Grandmother was Gladys Louise (Ward) Davis; her mother was Ella Louise (Maxwell) Ward; and her parents were Louisa Emeline (Gould) and Hugh Maxwell [The owners of the old Gould/Maxwell] farm. The farm was owned by Louisa's parents, David and Sarah (Green) Gould who purchased it in 1853. At the time of the purchase it was called "The Ephraim Hastings House".

Thank you for listening to my rambling and again thank you very much for the pictures.

Sincerely yours,

Arlene L. Willard

If any of you have any information on the Heath quilt described in her letter and shown below, please contact me at (413) 337-4980. Thanks.

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MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL SCHOOL NEWS

by Magen MacDougall

Mohawk's Booster Day football game was held on October 1. The team played and beat Ludlow. During halftime, the band performed a few songs, then the Booster Day king, queen and court were presented. This year's crown went to King Jim Cerone. Also, the football field was dedicated as the William "Bill" Pollard Field. Mr. Pollard worked at Mohawk for 26 years as a football, baseball, basketball and softball coach; he was a gym teacher and Athletic Director. There is a bronze plaque on a white stone on the north side of the football field with Mr. Pollard's picture and the dedication date inscribed on it.

The 14th annual Middle School Musical "Annie Warbucks" was the very successful sequel to last year's "Annie". It was held November 11, 12 and 13 at Mohawk, and November 18 and 19 at the Shea Theater.

Emily Nichols is a semi-finalist in the National Merit Scholarship competition. In order to be eligible, one must score in the top 1-2 percent of students nationally on the preliminary scholastic aptitude test, which is taken by over a million students each year.

The teen center in Shelburne is now open. "The Back Door" is open to seventh through twelfth graders in the West County area. There are two pool tables and video games and pinball machines in the game room. There is a big TV and VCR in the movie room. There is also a music room with a D.J. The Back Door is open on Fridays from 7 -10 PM to Middle School students and on Saturdays to High School students under age 19. It is monitored by older high school students with adult chaperons.



HEATH QUILT
(Photo by Arlene Willard)

A GIFT CATALOG FOR THE HOLIDAYS

by Susan Silvester, Director

Long after the initial onslaught of donations for local school teachers at the commencement of the school year, items requested in the annual Mary Lyon Education Fund Gift Catalog are still rolling in, much to the delight of local educators.

Included in the long list of material donated to the schools by individuals, businesses and other sources are boxes and boxes of three ring binders for just about everyone who requested them, a calculator for science teacher Kathy Stier, tennis balls for Tom Hecklinger and a bean bag chair for Mary Tighe donated by Chrissy Lynch, arts and crafts supplies for Carol Agrillo, an Apple IIe computer with two disk drives and a printer for Jim Finney, cleaning cloths for Neil Potter, brand new Polaroid film for Jennifer Fisk donated by John Taylor, math manipulatives for Helen Hayden, classroom supplies for Joe Zadroga, and cloth for Virginia Gary.

Some rather impressive gifts have recently been donated as well. An IBM compatible computer for Mike Ellis and Dean Frentos arrived at the high school as did a VCR for Judy Oleson, and a vise for the Bridgeport miller donated by Mayhew Steel Vice President Bill Lawless went to industrial arts teacher Mark Megliola. Prentice Crosier sent samples of brand new textbooks and workbooks to many middle school and high school departments. The next major Gift Catalog item slated to arrive in the next few weeks is a mini-van courtesy of Dillon Chevrolet in Greenfield requested by ecology teacher Bill Kiendzior at the high school.

Monetary gifts have also been received to purchase items requested; for example Michelle Hillman, manager of the Colrain Central School cafeteria was able to buy badly needed equipment and supplies for food services with a very generous donation from Margaret Jones. Other cash donations have helped purchase supplies for classroom projects in several schools.

These are just a sampling of the many wonderful gifts that have been contributed to the local schools through the Gift Catalog "wish list". Copies of the catalog are available at local schools, Massamont Insurance Company, Peters Store, Sawyer News, Baker Pharmacy and various other local stores. Please take a copy of the catalog and see if there is something listed that you might be willing to donate. All gifts are tax deductible and go directly to classrooms in the school district.

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MARY LYON EDUCATION FUND RECEIVES MAJOR BEQUEST

by Susan Silvester, Director

A major bequest of an undisclosed amount of money from the estate of the late Harriet Read of Greenfield, formerly of Heath, has been left to the Mary Lyon Education Fund, Inc. No restrictions were placed on the gift. The Board of Directors voted to add the considerable donation to the Endowment Fund, which was started by a \$5,000 gift from Bill and Camille Cosby of Shelburne.

Harriet Read was a supporter of local education, having established the Carpenter Award in memory of her father. It is given annually to a member of the sixth grade class at the Rowe Elementary School who is a Heath resident and has achieved significant success in the areas of academic excellence and social aptitude.

Harriet Read (1904-1994) resided with her husband John in Heath for many years. Together they helped establish the *Heath Herald* and were supportive of many town organizations and activities. Harriet's artistic ability, her sense of humor and interest in local affairs will long be remembered. Her generous donation to the Mary Lyon Education Fund will benefit local education in all nine towns.



HARRIET READ
(Family Photo)

Richard A. Sumner

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HEATH UNION CHURCH NEWS

by Pastor Roger Peace

"Joy To The World" is what we wish for this Christmas. With people wishing for so many things today, I cannot think of anything better. We at the Heath Union Church would like to say a Merry Christmas to everyone, and a very blessed New Year.

I would like to extend a special thanks to those who volunteered to head up this year's Living Creche which took place December 4. I am also very thankful for those who so willingly bring or lend their animals; they do play a major role! This has always been a fun and exciting time, and it makes the Christmas story so much more like it was nearly 2,000 years ago. Of course I shall not forget those who participate, those who set up the nativity set and the people who warm us up at the Community Hall with hot cocoa and cookies.

Then on December 10 we are taking a group of people to see the Word of Life presentation of "Every Knee Shall Bow" in Pittsfield, MA. The next morning at 10 AM during the morning worship time the Youth Group will be presenting their puppet program. That evening they will travel to West Halifax for their second program with puppets. We are so very proud of these young people to spread a little joy to their part of the world. If you have not heard yet, the church in West Halifax is also a Village Missions Church.

The following weekend, we will have Herb and Edi Hutchinson on Saturday, December 17 at 7 PM. They will present the Christmas story in music and multi-media screen. The evening will begin at 5 PM with a potluck dinner at the Community Hall. Everyone is invited to join us, just bring a dish to pass. We will also exchange Christmas ornaments. If you would like, you can also bring a special gift that will be added to the Christmas package that Good Neighbors supplies. The following morning the choir will present their cantata "Christmas, Sing Noel" during the 10 AM service. We are planning to present this another time at the Colrain Community Church sometime in January.

To bring our celebrations to an apex, the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held Saturday, December 24 at 7 PM. There will be no church Christmas day, but remember the greatest gift God ever gave mankind - Jesus.

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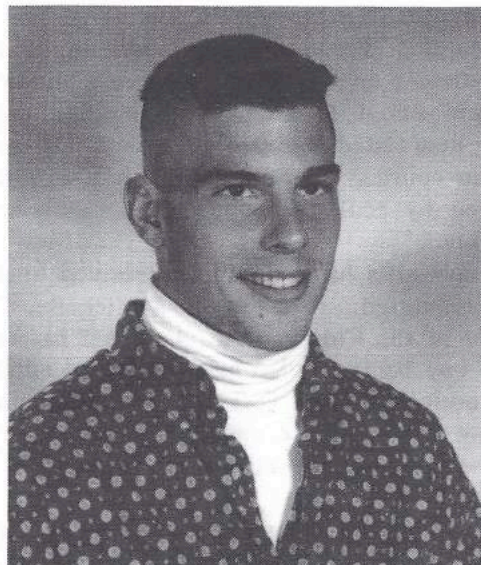
ANDREW SHATTUCK WINS THE WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS CROSS COUNTRY RACE

Andrew Shattuck, age 18, is a senior at Mohawk Trail Regional School:

"I enjoy playing soccer, cross country, and indoor and outdoor track and field. I have been a goalie in soccer for four years. This year in soccer we missed the tournament by one game, leaving us with a record of five wins, eight losses and two ties. The team worked very hard and I'm sure we are all going to miss each other later on.

At the same time when soccer was going on, I was competing in cross country meets. The first couple of meets I didn't know what to expect, since this was my first year out. What helped me out through this cross country season, was that I wasn't really intimidated by the other teams. So basically I just ran my own race, which helped me to win Western Massachusetts. Overall our team came in first which qualified us to the state meet. At the state meet in Boston we came in second and overall I placed 9th.

With my outstanding performance, I ended up being athlete of the week. My future goals are to continue my running and to go to college."



ANDREW SHATTUCK

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OF HERBS AND HEIRLOOMS

by Laurie Wheeler

The winter months are a "dream time" for the soul; our bodies naturally slow down, giving us time to re-energize, to contemplate the season past. Thoughts turn inward, for musing and planning our lives when the snow again melts. Snowbound hours (not days, one hopes!) may be spent with pencil and paper in hand making plans for next season's garden. Along with the vegetables and flowers an herb plot is a must.

Throughout the centuries herbs have enjoyed widespread use in various cultures, for food and seasonings, medicine, cosmetics, magic, and decoration. In many cultures references to herbs are found dating back to that society's inception; initially the knowledge was transmitted by word of mouth, later it was recorded with the written word. Some of the first herbal histories written, the Indian Ayurvedas, the Chinese Pen Tsao, the Greek teachings of Hippocrates and of Dioscorides are the foundations of much of present day herbal knowledge.

Herbs were used daily, as salads, seasonings, or in soup pots, serving both as nourishment and as tonics for the body. Many a woman of the household had her own particular book of "receipts" or recipes and a cupboard stocked with herbs gathered from her cottage garden or the surrounding countryside. These journals contained recipes for cooking as well as treatments for illnesses.

Later scientific studies verified the inherent medicinal properties of herbs. Many of today's prescription drugs are based on botanical medicine.

As modern science analyzed and standardized and gave rise to technological medicine, interest in the natural world waned, and with it the use of herbs.

Within recent years there has been a renewed interest in herbs. Chemical sensitivities, illnesses which do not respond to traditional western medicine, and a growing awareness of the responsibility of our actions for personal and planetary health are leading people to relearn the herbal traditions of their ancestors. As a result there are numerous herbals available.

I have recommended a few titles for your winter reading pleasure: The Complete Book of Herbs: A Practical Guide to Growing and Using Herbs, by Lesley Bremness, is well-photographed and illustrated; The Green Witch Herbal by Barbara Griggs, talks about lifestyle and herbs in the home; Magic and Medicine of Plants by Reader's Digest has a good history of herbs as well as a "gallery of medicinal plants" with photographs and color drawings; A Modern Herbal, Volumes I & II written by Mrs. Maude Grieve in the 1930's is a two volume set in which each herb is thoroughly described.

These common "weeds" are our allies; it is immensely satisfying to traipse out to your garden knowing you have something for that cold, or spring

greens to awaken a sluggish winter stomach. Because herbs are powerful, before using any of them for healing do your research or if of a more serious nature consult with a professional. Take some time to read about these unique plants, and you may get hooked!

Happy dreaming!

LADIES AID NEWS

by Edith Royer

The Ladies Aid had a very successful Christmas Sale on November 5, making about \$600. We thank everyone that helped in any way. We will be closing our meetings for the winter on December 15 and starting again in April. Have a good winter!

ASSESSORS' REPORT

by Don Dekker

As I write this article, a representative from the State is helping Joanne Fortune with the RECAP sheet. From all indications the tax rate for FY95 will be \$21.94 per thousand, an increase of \$2.35 over last year's \$19.59. \$1.52 is from the request for \$68,000 for the new school. \$.83 is for a general increase in town spending. Getting this done has been a nightmare. We have always had problems with the computer program getting correct totals to match and this year has proved to be no exception. Joanne Fortune is to be commended for all the frustrating hours she has devoted to completing this task.

With this high rate and the prospect of going higher, we are investigating along with Harvey Carter and the Committee on tax Fairness making adjustments in abatements for the elderly and the needy. I see no great relief in sight, but we may find something and ask the town to approve a request.

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Green Thoughts

by

ELSA BAKALAR

I'm sure that by the time you read this it will all be over, but I'm writing in the third week of November and the sunshine and the warmth are playing tricks with my reason. I feel more like fiddling and dancing with grasshoppers than toiling conscientiously with the ants (Aesop, with his fables, certainly knew how to spoil a person's fun).

We retreat from the hilltop garden in Heath and make the move to Ashfield in late October, not, I hasten to add, that Ashfield is your usual winter resort (nary a palm tree in sight), for temperatures are approximately the same in the two hill towns. Outdoor temperatures, anyway. Indoors is another matter. With no heat but the fireplace and a water system that's turned off for the winter, I'm more than ready for the move.

Almost immediately, it seems, the weather turns warm and sunny and the fidgeting begins. I am seized by an urge to go back and begin putting the garden to bed while it's still warm enough to work. So it's up to Heath (November 5) for a day's work, with a car full of the very tools that have made that round trip for so many years each spring and fall. I have enough at each garden, but there's always the Absolutely Favorite Fork, the Very Special Spade, and the can't-do-without, really Best Hand Trowel. I expect I'll have them under my arm at Saint Peter's gate, if I make it there.

The first sight of the garden gives me a pang of conscience. How could I have left it? It's green and gorgeous; better, in fact, than in those hot, dry days of mid-summer. But I think of the check-list of fall chores: "Cut down and compost annuals" it begins. And what's the first thing I see? The biggest, greenest clump of snapdragons with stems as thick as your thumb, tall flowers in stained-glass colors, and buds galore, promising more bloom; cosmos, which had lost some bloom to an early frost, glistening again with fresh white flowers. Tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*) and white are blooming on stout new stems, as if they didn't really hail from South America. And seedlings that the little annual candytuft (*Iberis umbellata*) scattered in July are themselves in bloom, at no more than three or four inches high.

So I put aside all stern thoughts of cutting down, hauling away, and other such negative jobs, and elect instead to enjoy what I see on this lovely day.

Another try, on November 13. A few brave and beautiful flowers are surpassing themselves in the perennial beds. Delphinium, of course, always the last to give up, though only half the height of the June spires; white pincushion flowers (*Scabiosa caucasica*) so much bigger, and on thicker stems, than in summer; tall bushes of *boltonia asteroides* starred with little

white daisies, and in front of these Japanese anemone in pink silk, tangled with a few wands of a late perennial salvia (*Salvia grandiflora pitcherii*) in brightest cobalt blue. A butterfly bush, nothing more than bare, dried-out sticks in October, shows tufts of blue-green leaves opening from buds along every stem. I daren't look at the lilacs - for fear they, too, have been fooled by the weather and may waste next spring's flowers in the cold that's due any day.

One more week, and another visit: November 20. And much of the garden has received the *coup de grace* in two severe nights with the mercury down to 20 degrees and lower. Even this late, here are the little faces of johnny jump-up (*Viola tricolor*) many of them grown tall enough to lean into the lavender bushes they surround.

Now, finally, I turn to my list and begin cutting down in earnest. I see there are five buds on the tall Queen Elizabeth roses, tightly wrapped, darkened by frost. I'll come back for them another day.

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HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT REPORT

by Jack Cable

Massachusetts voters passed Question 8 by the widest margin of victory of any of the ballot questions or candidates. Seventy-four percent of the voters were in favor of Question 8. You, the voters have sent the state a clear mandate - spend the gas tax revenues and motor vehicle registration fees on their intended purposes - road and bridge repair. The plan will provide for the repair and reconstruction of at least five percent of highway and bridges per year. Thank you, the voters of Heath, for your support of this bill.

The South Road project is winding down for the winter. It has been paved and most of the shoulder and culvert work done. Seven hundred feet of guard rails have been installed on Dell Hill. Safety-wise I feel that this project was the most important one in town. There is a 40 foot drop to the brook in this area and traffic including school buses had no barriers on this dangerous hill - until now. We should all breath a sigh of relief!

The dirt roads have been graded - some gravel also added. Hard surface roads are patched and more ditching and cutback have been done. Culverts, one on Flagg Hill and one on Taylor Brook, have been replaced and one repaired. Fred and Jeremy Lively have been working on the bridges, welding, repairing, painting and replacing wooden railings. Bridges on Taylor Brook, 8A, Avery Brook and Sadoga Roads have been done. Some bridges need to have the approach repaired or replaced.

This fall has been a busy one for me with meetings and conferences. On October 17 and 18 I attended a Bay State Roads seminar in Northampton on "Pavement Design for Local Roads". On October 27 Chris Ahmadjian, Director of Bay State Roads Programs, spoke at the Berkshire County Highway Superintendents meeting in Dalton; November 2 I attended the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency Aazmat/S.A.R.A. conference in Northampton. Following that, I attended the Annual Meeting of the Tri-County Highway Superintendents - Massachusetts Highway Association in West Springfield on November 3. Speakers at this day long meeting were: OSAA Regulations by James F. Lally, Kevin Sullivan the Massachusetts Highway Deputy Commissioner, Ross Dindino, Chief Engineer, Michael Swanson, Deputy Secretary for Capital and Transportation Planning. Then on November 10 I was back in Springfield at a seminar sponsored by Foley Laboratories on Drug and Alcohol Testing with which we must comply by January 1996 with all municipal drivers.

We are prepared for winter weather with our equipment and crew except for the new one ton truck which we desperately need. As of this writing it hasn't even been built yet!

The Transfer Station is running smoothly under the

watchful eyes of Bud and Cleon. Make sure you separate the bottles and cans from the garbage. Please so not throw away those small batteries for hearing-aids, cameras, etc. Recycle them. Small as they are, they are a significant impact on the environment. They contain Mercury. I have been attending all the monthly meetings of the SRRI, our garbage disposal site, in West Springfield. The over charging, EPA regulations and problems at the plant warrant my attendance.

As the holidays approach, drive with care and allow extra time because of the weather. From Dohn, Fred, Dave, Jeremy and me, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

PERCS, PERMITS AND TRANSFERS

PERCOLATION TESTS

Perc testing is suspended until April.

BUILDING PERMITS

There were no permits issued this period.

DEED TRANSFERS

Brenda J. Sikorski to Brenda J. Sikorski and Glen E. Sikorski of Lebanon, CT, Branch Hill Road, \$1.

Louise Rush by Norman F. Drew, Deputy Sheriff to Robert G. and Barbara M. Porter of Danvers, Navaho Lane and Colrain Brook Road (Mohawk Estates, unit 3), lots 7, 38, & 39, \$2,100.

Paul Murdock to Daniel J. Kelly of South Hadley, Mohawk Estates, lot 35, \$500.

Morel and Norma Mazerolle to Katherine G. Beaulieu, Mohawk Estates, lots 17 and 18, \$1,500.

Robert E. and Jeanette I. Underwood to Paulette Lamp of Winchester, VA, 36-40 Shawnee Drive and 23 Cheyenne St. \$6,000.

Armand Dorelas Grondin Estate by Denise Claudette Fontain, Collette Turgeon and Carole Roy and Lise Mongeon to Renald Turgeon and Collette Turgeon of Granby, Mohawk Estates, lot 24, \$1,000.

Leonard M. and Mary Ann Fontaine to Daniel A. McDonald and Andrea L. Humason of Chicopee, Mohawk Estates, lot 20, \$2,500.

Earle W. and Joan Vamey to Stanley and Jeannine Fadziewicz of Newington, CT, Cascade Dr., Mohawk Estates, lot 10, \$2,500.

Leo James Hoar, Matthew J. O'Connor and Richard A. Riendeau to Mark Duane Scranton of Colrain, Route 8A, 150 acres more or less, \$30,000.

Erwin Q. Elliot to Joseph F. and Delloris J. Grochmal of Springfield, Mohawk Estates, lots 14 & 16, \$1,000.

Daniel J. Ducharme to Garry LaMothe of Easthampton, Apache Drive, lot 10, \$2,800.

Paul A. and Nanci Giard of Colrain to United Savings Bank, West Brook Drive, lots 7 & 8, \$45,000.

Jerome W. and Lucille Pare to Andre L. Cote and Carmen M. Roman of South Hadley, East Brook Drive, lots 7-9, \$51,000.

**SPECIAL BALLOT VOTE FRIDAY,
DECEMBER 9 AND
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 10**

For the purpose of casting official ballots, the polls will be opened at 12 noon and may be closed at 7 PM and you are further directed to notify and warn the inhabitants qualified to vote in Town affairs to meet in the Community Hall on Saturday, the tenth day of December at 9 AM to hear the results:

QUESTION #1: Shall the Town of Heath be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the Town's apportioned share of the amount required to pay for the bond issued by the Mohawk Trail Regional School District in order to construct, reconstruct, add to and equip the regional high school? **YES /NO**

And you are further directed to notify and warn the inhabitants qualified to vote in Town affairs to meet in the Community Hall on Saturday, the tenth day of December next at 9 AM, then and there to act on the following articles:

ARTICLE 1: To see if the Town will vote to approve the amount of \$5,016,947 debt authorized by vote of the Mohawk Trail Regional School District School Committee on October 12, 1994, for acquiring land and constructing and equipping a new Ashfield-Plainfield elementary school.

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to approve the amount of \$3,078,186 debt authorized by vote of the Mohawk Trail Regional School District School Committee on November 9, 1994, for reconstructing, adding to and equipping the Colrain Central Elementary School.

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to approve the amount of \$250,000 debt authorized by vote of the Mohawk Trail Regional School District School Committee on November 9, 1994, for designer services consisting of architectural and engineering drawings, management, and related services for the preparation of plans and specifications for construction of the proposed reconstruction, addition to and equipping of the Buckland-Shelburne Elementary School.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to approve the amount of \$750,000 debt authorized by vote of the Mohawk Trail Regional School District School Committee on November 22, 1994, for designer services consisting of architectural and engineering drawings, management, and related services for preparation of plans and specifications for construction of the proposed reconstruction, addition to, and equipping of the Mohawk Trail Regional High School.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to borrow pursuant to MGL c.44, the sum of \$174,886 for the maintenance, repair, improvement and construction of town and county highways, or for any other purpose allowed under G.L. c90 section 34(2)a., which amount

shall be reimbursed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts through funds made available by Chapter 85 of the Acts of 1994, or take any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will transfer approximately one acre of land on Jacksonville Stage Road described in the deed recorded with the Franklin County Registry of Deeds in Book 1120, Page 133 from the care, custody, management and control of the Board of Selectmen for school purposes to the care, custody, management and control of the Board of Selectmen for the purpose of conveyance, or take any action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey and grant all or part of approximately one acre of land on Jacksonville Stage Road described in the deed recorded with the Franklin County Registry of Deeds in Book 1120, Page 133, on such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen shall determine, or take any action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire, by purchase, gift, eminent domain, exchange, or otherwise, approximately one acre of land off Jacobs Road, as shown on a sketch plan entitled "Sanitary Plan" Sheet CE1, Dated May 26, 1994, prepared by Margo Jones Architect and Macleay Associates, a copy of which is on file with the Town Clerk, being all or a portion of the land described in a deed to Earl Gleason, dated 1964, and recorded with the Franklin County Registry of Deeds in Book 1176, Page 323, or any land, abutting or across the street from the 12 acres, more or less, of land described in Article 2 of the March 26, 1994 Special Town Meeting, that is suitable for the construction of a subsurface sewage disposal system for the elementary school to be constructed on said 12 acres, on such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen shall determine said land to be acquired for general municipal purposes, or take any action relative thereto.

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FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

by Earl Gleason, Chief

The Department responded to six emergency calls during this reporting period. On October 4, two EMTs and two firefighters assisted Charlemont Ambulance with a South Road woman who was ill. Two EMTs, two firefighters, Engine One, Charlemont Ambulance, and Charlemont Rescue were called to an automobile accident on Taylor Brook Road. This run was aborted enroute. The preceding call was on October 8 and the next call was on October 15, when four EMTs and six firefighters responded to a motorcycle accident on Sumner Stetson Road. Charlemont Ambulance transported the victim and was met enroute by Mercy Ambulance's paramedics. November 7 saw Engine Two respond to Colrain for Mutual Aid. This was for a reported brush fire caused by downed power lines. Six firefighters attended to this incident and returned shortly to Heath. On November 16, eight firefighters responded to a Mutual Aid call to Whitingham with Engines Two and Three. Firefighters and apparatus from Wilmington, Readsboro, and Halifax also assisted Whitingham with this fire which included a horse barn full of hay and another woodworking building that held a considerable amount of lumber. The Department was out from just before 2 AM until nearly 4:30 AM on this fire. Four EMTs on November 22 assisted Charlemont Ambulance to an unresponsive male on Bellor Road. Again Mercy Ambulance paramedics met the ambulance enroute to the hospital.

The Department held two Association meetings, and the EMS Association met once. The October drill was held at the fairgrounds on the 23rd and was preceded by a picnic with the families invited. Afterward Bob Gruen, Budge Litchfield, Ed Croteau, and Walt Gleason competed in various driving skills and became driver qualified. On November 6, several firefighters and EMTs practiced their skills with the new airbags. The Department has two air bags capable of lifting 22 tons each. These air bags along with the necessary equipment to go with them were purchased for about \$2,500 with funds raised by the members of the Department. The November drill was held at the station with Mike Smith instructing members on the use of the new air packs purchased recently. In addition one EMT and one firefighter attended a class on radiation in Charlemont, and one firefighter did his annual CPR recertification in Rowe.

If you saw Engine One parked on the common on November 2, it was because it was making its annual visit to the preschool in both the morning and afternoon. Also, a short presentation was given inside the school.

Engine Three was out of service for a couple of days a while back. Its thirty-three year old radiator decided not to hold antifreeze any more and had to be sent out to be soldered.

The Chief attended eight out of town meetings and conducted or granted 11 permits or inspections.

As the heating season approaches, brush down your chimney periodically, clean out the creosote from the bottom, and remember to let the appliance burn five or ten minutes a day with the drafts open to discourage creosote build-up. Have a safe and fire-free winter!

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SELECTMEN'S REPORT

by D. F. Howland

The Board of Selectmen has met with several of the Town's committees over the last few months. In October, the Board met with the Committee on Commercial Development. Committee members Richard Voytko and Jim Gleason discussed Heath's potential for economic development including grants and projects to attract businesses to the area. Richard Voytko generously offered to contact local businesses for their input and interest in future meetings.

The Cemetery Commission, comprised of Ron Corey, Dick Gary and Clare Rabbitt, met with the Selectmen in November. The Commission is exploring ways to organize and simplify the administration of the Commission while still maintaining the character of country cemeteries. The Commission is also proceeding with the re-mapping and re-marking of the cemeteries.

The Selectmen and members of the Board of Assessors and Tax Fairness Committee met with Chris Woodcock, Representative Carmen Buell's assistant. Representative Buell was scheduled to attend but she had to cancel due to a scheduling conflict. Carmen Buell will be replacing Steve Kulik as Heath's representative on January 1, 1995 due to redistricting. The Selectmen scheduled the meeting to familiarize Representative Buell with Heath's needs and concerns. The group discussed the distribution of federal transportation funding and lottery money. Also discussed was the state's reimbursement of the elementary school building project. The Tax Fairness Committee, chaired by Harvey Carter and with members Art Schwenger, Debra Porter, and Leighton McCutcheon, were active in the discussion of the equalized valuations which are used to determine state aid programs as well as certain assessments. The Committee has been researching how state aid is allocated and recommending steps that the Town might take to alleviate the tax burden on Heath's property owners. A future meeting with Representative Buell is

to be scheduled.

The energy audit for the Town Hall, Community Hall, and Town Garage has been completed. The audit detailed the current lighting, the proposed lighting and fixture changes, and the estimated annual savings. Massachusetts Electric pays 80% and the Town contributes 20% of the total cost of the electrical work, and new energy efficient fixtures and light bulbs. The Town's cost will be paid back within three years from the monthly electric savings. The new fixtures give off more light in addition to being energy efficient.

Heath participated in the county-wide hazardous waste collection program offered by the Franklin County Solid waste Management District. The hazardous waste collection generated a lot of interest and 12 households participated.

The Selectmen would like to thank the Square Dancers and Doug Wilkins and the Catamount Band for their contribution of \$135 towards the repair of the electrical wiring in the Community Hall. Feedback from the microphone was causing problems and needed to be repaired.

The meeting schedule of the Board of Selectmen is every Tuesday evening at 7:30 PM at Sawyer Hall. The public is welcome to attend.

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