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HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER 50¢

HEATH PRESCHOOL NEWS

by Suzanne Crawford

We can tell that it's winter at the Heath Preschool by glancing at the coat rack crowded with snow pants and boots! This year two-thirds of our children entered the year as 3-year olds, and for most of them this is their first year for mastering the fine art of bundling themselves up. There are many different kinds of skills needed for a complex task like getting dressed: following a sequence of about 10 steps, using large muscle and small muscle coordination and strength, staying focused and organized, etc. It's a good thing that playing outside in the snow is so motivating! And of course the sense of mastery is also highly motivating. It has been great to see how well all these young children are doing.

Although the snow has been a bit sparse so far this year, we've had fun shoveling, making a snow house and snow mountains, sliding and rolling down the hill, driving our toy trucks in it, and more. We hope to be able to do some more sledding and to try out skiiing in the weeks ahead.

We thoroughly enjoyed our annual visit by Dohn Sherman from the Heath Highway Department to give us a close-up look at the workings of a snow plow. Dohn does a wonderful job telling the children about the road work he does throughout the year and demonstrating the lights, plow and sander. A real highlight for many, though, is the chance to sit up in the truck and honk the horn. Many thanks to Dohn and the Highway Department for sharing with us. We like to follow up this visit by creating a snowplow inside our classroom. The children haelp make the plow, lights, steering wheel, radio, etc., and enjoy dealing with all the major snow storms that occur within the classroom.

Last month Bruce Phillips treated us to a slide show with pictures of children from many different countries. For many preschoolers the idea of our whole earth with people living in different ways is hard to imagine. But Bruce's beautiful pictures and his warm and humorous stories helped us to consider and appreciate our similarities and differences with others. Many thanks to Bruce for this wonderful opportunity.

Some of our other special activities recently have included: making pizza and having a pretend pizza shop; acting out stories; drawing and writing in journals that we use throughout the year; and having an "indoor sand box" in the water table with sea shells, scoops, trucks and other toys.

We have had a change in our custodian position recently. Dick Newton has left to pursue another job opportunity. We thank him for the excellent, excellent work that he did, and will especially miss his assistance with our minor maintenance. We welcome Karen Mozelak to the position, and look forward to her conscientious approach. Karen has a son at the preschool and is a member of our Advisory Council. It is an extra plus that she lives in the center of town.

The Advisory Council is planning to once again sell lunches at the Heath Ski Race as a fund raiser. We appreciate the help of the many parents and community members who contribute to this effort. We also appreciate the hungry appetites of skiers and supporters. We hope to see you there!



WINTER FUN (Photo by Suzanne Crawford)

LETTER

GOVERNING A SMALL TOWN - 101

by Chuck Mackie

We are very fortunate to enjoy a pure form of Democracy by having a Direct Town Meeting process, and enabling the voters to elect candidates for various Town governing functions.

The down side of this is if voters do not show up to make their feelings known, at meetings and elections, a well organized minority govern the Town.

Our Town Government is run as a small corporation, empowered by the state. The Board of Selectmen is the executive branch, and to a very large extent the legislative and judicial branches as well.

There is some sentiment in Boards of Selectmen throughout the area that in order to run the government better, more town functions should be controlled by the Selectmen. This would include town accountants, tax collector, etc.

The Board of Selectmen enjoy a great deal of authority (power) in running the community. The writer feels that in order to maintain a separation of powers, the town's voters should maintain the

HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

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prerogative of ELECTING other officials.

Vacancies in positions due to resignations, etc. are filled by the Board of Selectmen, and the town's budget is essentially prepared by the Board. Other office holders have to go "hat in hand" with their budgets each year to ask for more monies to run their departments, committees, and request more hours to do a job, or an increase in compensation. The present structure is for the Finance Committee to advise on these matters, but the SELECTMEN prepare the budget and warrant articles. This is pretty close to absolute power.

Our town has been very fortunate throughout the years to have capable citizens essentially volunteer their time to take on the position of Selectman. However, "checks and balances" of government is best served by the voters retaining ultimate authority.

Consider that once elected, a town official enjoys the position until the next election, up to five years, since we don't have a mechanism in place to "Throw the Rascals Out".

NOTE OF THANKS

Thanks to everyone in Heath who made our Christmas extra special.

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ALAN'S ALMANAC

by Alan Nichols Observer for Mass. Division of Water Resources

January is the second snowiest month of our winter. December is the first.

On the 15th of January last year the temperature at 8 AM was -21 degrees and there were 28 inches of snow on the ground. On January 15, 1995 the temperature was 50 degrees at 8 AM and we had no snow on the ground.

December 3.60" precipitation

3.2" snow

January* 4.09" precipitation

6" snow

* as of January 29, 1995

HEATH FAIR NEWS

by Mike Peters

With the fair behind us, all committee members have been enjoying our three month vacation before we have to start on Heath Fair 1995, in January. I am also using this as an excuse for not submitting Fair News in the last issue of the Herald.

Heath Fair 1994 was a financial success despite a couple of problems that could have had disastrous results had they happened earlier in the day.

The power outage that shut down all five of our meters at once and burned out the transformer, will not be forgotten for a long time. The activities and lighting on the Fairgrounds were drawing some 800 amps. Although a huge amount, the transformer should have been capable of handling twice that. The power company figured it burned out because it was damaged in a severe lightning storm a couple weeks before the fair. Everything was going so perfectly even the committee chairmen were having a great time. It was an amazing sight to see the entire Fairgrounds with 4,000 people, loud bands, loud rides, bright lights, and noisy compressors go totally silent and black in the blink of an eye.

There is a particular Heathen upon whom we can jokingly blame all of this catastrophe, a tall slender lady who was the cause of the whole problem. Not more than one minute before the total outage, this sweet lady came up to me and told me how fantastic the whole event was and how flawless everything was going and what a great time they were having. I felt great, thanked her very much and went on my way. One minute later Poof, lights out. I will remember that conversation a long time, Mrs. Heathen!!!

The other problem was the downpour on Sunday afternoon. Man alive, how it came down! We had a brook going through the middle of our big tent.

Neither of these misfortunes severely hurt the Fair's total net income, because they happened after the ticket booth was closed. This is what saved us from financial ruin. We are, however, very very cash DOOL.

I think we will remember the fireworks show for a while, also. The finale was beyond words in

Frederick M. Burrington

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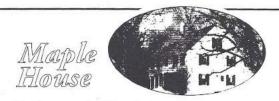
entertainment value, but it was very dangerously flawed which few of the spectators noticed. The problem with the finale was it was supposed to take two to three minutes to go off, but it went in only forty-five seconds. There were 400 shots, four to a tube, and one hundred tubes all pre-set up. The professionals blamed it on our dry air that night, and said the fuses were too dry, so they went off faster than planned. They came out so fast that they were bouncing off each other and going sideways and all ways for a while. However it happened or whatever went wrong, two men were lucky to be not seriously hurt. One got hit in the shoulder and another in the stomach and both had big holes burned through two coats. They were lucky. It was an exciting finale, though. Thank you to the Heath Fireman who went searching in the woods for burning embers because the fireworks trajectory was off considerably.

Attendance was down from last year; we blamed it on Sunday's weather which looked threatening all afternoon.

Our new septic system proposal is now officially dead. Between the cost, that rose to \$60,000, and absolutely no help from the State, the project is no longer in the plans. The short term plan is now our long term plan that worked perfectly at this year's Fair. All weekend the grey water was pumped into the huge tanker parked near the septic tank; this worked perfectly and will become the standard plan from now on.

The Horse Show went very smoothly this year and showed a profit under the leadership of Betty Nichols. They had almost 80 entries and cancelled only four classes or so before being shut down by the rain. Many thanks to all of the volunteers who built the new announcer's booth in record time at the last minute.

We will be building another pole barn before Fairtime, with money donated by a faithful donor. This one will be used exclusively to hide the tanker that will be used from now on for sewage removal from the grounds. This proved to be the most economical solution for the Fair. We can handle our sewage like this for 30 years, and end up paying about the same cost as a new septic system with payments \$1000 less per year than if we installed a new one. The committee could not see giving future



The house on the hill with the view of yesteryear Within 5 minutes:

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Lodging and breakfast from \$45 Middletown Hill Rd. Rowe, MA (413) 339-0107 generations of Heathens the responsibility of making huge payments for this many years. It wouldn't be right.

The annual pig roast and potluck picnic for Fair workers was a huge success. We had about 75 people and food so good that we ate everything, even all the pork. Thanks to all who attended.

The committee will be holding monthly spaghetti suppers at the Community Hall starting after the holidays. The Ladies of the Committee have made it very clear that they realize the Fair is very cash poor right now, (which is very true) and needs old fashioned support. The Fair used to put on ham suppers for fundraisers years ago, and several times saved the Fair from going broke financially. Please support and attend these spaghetti suppers as often as you can.

Annual elections will have been held by press time. We expect the same slate of officers as last year. This will be the 7th consecutive year with basically the same executives in the same positions the whole time. The only obstacle we face is financial hardship. We need your financial support more than ever. Last year the Heath Agricultural Society paid almost \$7,000 directly to the public for prizes and premiums. This was paid directly out of our profits as in years past.

All donations are greatly appreciated, even small donations (\$10 - \$20) will help keep the Heath Fair from possibly going bankrupt. This Fair belongs to the citizens of Heath, and it needs our financial support more than ever.

Thank you to all of the Heathens and Neighbors who made Heath Fair 1994 a success once again.

Enjoy The Winter.

ART SHOW PLANNED

The new year brings new ventures for Heath artist Frederick Burrington.

Frederick's new art show, Elements of Design, will be at Artspace in Greenfield during the month of May. For this 20-30 piece exhibit his paintings will be primarily watercolor, with a few pen and ink, and larger pieces done in pastel. (Known primarily for his detailed drybrush watercolor paintings and pen and ink drawings, he has expanded his palette with pastels.) Potter Robert Woo of Shutesbury is joining him in the May exhibit. Watch the local newspapers for details as the date gets closer!

As a way of making his images more available Frederick finished his first set of limited edition notecards just before Christmas. These handmade cards are signed and numbered, each with a print of one of six Heath scenes the artist painted for this print run of 100. They are sold in sets of the six images, and are available at Boswell's Books and Artemis in Shelburne Falls, as well as from the artist, at 337-4426.

LIBRARY LINES

by Alli Thane

To move or not to move. The Library Trustees have been conducting an opinion poll for some time. At this time, the results are about half for relocating and half for staying put. Please share your thoughts with them. You may drop them a note or come into the library and fill out the questionairre they have provided. Some people have strong feelings that the library should remain in the "village" and yet others would like to combine the school and public library, thus using the same books, computers, etc. How do you feel?

Meanwhile, the library continues in a busy congenial way, filled with students on Monday nights desperately searching for information for that paper which "is due tomorrow", Wednesdays, reading to the little ones, and Saturdays just plain full of people "visiting". Some new books to pick up as you visit are:

Dolly - Dolly Parton
A Fisherman of the Inland Sea - Ursala LeGuin
Troubling a Star - Madeline L'Engle
Last Train to Memphis - Peter Garalnick
The Lottery Winner - Mary Higgins Clark
Insomnia - Stephen King
Barbara Bush: A Memoir - Barbara Bush
Soul Mates & Care of Soul - Thomas Moore
Celestine Prophecy - James Redfield
Sweatshirts With Style - Mary Mulasi
Nature Crafts with the Microwave - Dawn Cusick
1995 Cooking Light Cookbook
One True Thing - Anne Quindlen
and many new mysteries

HEATH CULTURAL COUNCIL

by Jayne Hare Dane

The Cultural Council is looking for at least three new members. This must include someone to chair the committee as terms for Jayne Hare Dane, Jullie Hall, and Fred Burrington have expired.

The Council meets once a year (November) to review applications and make requests for allocations. If interested contact Jayne Hare Dane at 337-5736 or a selectperson.





The Way It Is In The Country

"If it's old, works well and has a purpose in life, don't change it".

by CARROLL STOWE

A LESSON I'D WAITED YEARS TO LEARN

I started working for the town of Heath in the late summer of 1962. I came to work with a great respect for those before me that had worked at these various tasks not the least of which was the feeling for those who plowed snow with the crawler tractors with vee plows and wing assemblies. These machines were rather basic with an enclosed cab and doors that closed but no heater. It was just the warmth of the engine that got back to the operator and not much of that.

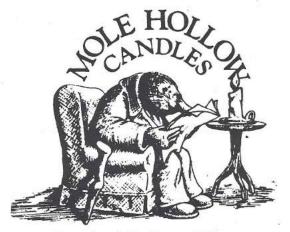
Much to my surprise one morning after a great deal of snow Francis Galipo took me up near the center cemetery and fired up the town's TD9 International tractor and told me to go up to Victor Vreeland's. He lived on the Knott Road where the Leuchtman's now live. I was all kind of excited and apprehensive for the thought of this new experience. I had operated this kind of crawler some but not to plow snow and to say the least a bit shaky. I stopped at the town shed and fueled the tank and greased the machine and started on my new adventure. The ride down the Ben Road and down 8A gave me a bit of time to familiarize myself with this strange iron. This tractor had a 5-speed transmission with one reverse and a hand clutch and was very easily controlled. Two steering clutches with foot brakes were the direction controls. Hydraulic power controlled the wings and vee plow. On a narrow road you'd keep one wing in the up position because with a lot of trees to watch one wing is all a green operator needs to worry about. This plow tractor had a rear mounted hydraulic pump so that when the clutch was disengaged you had no pump pressure so you had to plan the use of the valves. When I reached the foot of the hill below where Victor lived that road was level full. Of all my years of plowing snow I never worked any harder that I did in that short stretch of unimproved country road. I really felt rather insignificant in that depth of snow but I did get through it and Mr. Galipo came up and cleaned it up after me and I never ran that tractor again. Francis and Gerald Galipo and John Churchill were true artists with that old iron and I would have liked to have gotten more talented with it but the opportunity never presented itself again, but I'm pleased with that one chance.

That old tractor at the hands of it's various operators was responsible for opening bad drifting areas and pulling out stuck trucks of various applications.

That first winter that I worked for the town there were some people that lived past the fairgrounds and they were trapped in there with the first bad storm so Francis shoveled the road out with the bucket loader. He told these folks that they'd best follow him out to the main road but they felt they'd be all right where they were. So the next morning the road was full again so Mr. Galipo had to go down in with the tractor and open it up again. These people had their 3 small cars tied together with clothesline. They wanted Francis to pull them out. The rope didn't last very long and there they sat. I don't remember how they got out. This old tractor came into town and lived out its useful life and was very inexpensive to use and maintain. Another sensible purchase. It was always good to hear that engine bark and realize someone was being helped by its use.



GERALD GALIPO DRIVING 1946 TD9
ON NUMBER 9 ROAD ABOVE PETERS STORE
(Photo by Richard Tower)



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OF HERBS AND HEIRLOOMS

by Laurie Wheeler

We've lived in them our entire lives, but we often don't pay attention to what our bodies are telling us. The onset of illness in your body is indicative of a "dis-ease", or imbalance in your system. The imbalance may stem from improper food and drink intake, not enough exercise, and/or high stress levels.

During the winter months especially there is a tendency to eat heavier foods and fewer greens, drink less water, and slack off on physical exercise; the common cold is likely to develop at these times when your body is unable to properly eliminate its toxins through its usual channels. The body then tries to find balance by creating alternative ways of getting rid of toxins; excess catarrh, coughing, sneezing, fever, etcetera.

When you find your body working overtime and catching a cold, modify where you can, and call upon herbs to help regain your balance. (As always, check with your health practitioner to be certain it is a cold you have first!) The various herbs may be taken internally as tea, tincture, or capsule, and externally in your bath, as a salve, as an oil, or as a compress. Check your herbal or with an herbal practitioner to find each herb's most effective form, restrictions, and dosage.

Here are a few herbs I have found useful for the common cold: Echinacea, (Echinacea angustifolia), is one of the standard herbs used to help the body rid itself of infections, and to help the immune system. Horehound, (Marrubium vulgare), a popular oldtime cough remedy which was made into syrups and coughdrops or teas. It relaxes respiratory muscles while promoting mucus production and expectoration. Goldenseal, (Hydrastis canadensis), acts as a tonic to the body's mucous membranes, as well as being astringent, and anti-catarrhal. Peppermint, (Mentha piperita), added to many herbal formulas because of its overall therapeutic effects, makes an aromatic, relaxing cup of tea. When combined with elderflower and yarrow it is particularly effective against colds. Yarrow, (Achillea millefolium), a diaphoretic, is considered one of the best herbs for lowering fevers. See above. Ginger, (Zingiber



Sarah Hettlinger South Rd. Heath, MA 01346 (413) 337-4496 28 State St. (Near the Bridge of Flowers) Shelburne Falls, MA (413) 625-8110 officinale), also a diaphoretic, promotes perspiration and gets the blood moving. Elder, (Sambucus nigra), the entire Elder tree is useful, but elderflower tea taken in combination when you first feel a cold coming on will warm you up and often nip the cold in the bud. Fenugreek, (Triginella Foenum-graecum) is an expectorant as well as a tonic. Fenugreek tea clears mucus away from the whole body, and when gargled eases a sore throat.

The herbals speak of many remedies, both old and new. Your family probably has stories of remedies from long ago. You may find you enjoy sitting down with a hot cup of tea, or even a special tea you remember your grandmother making for you.

CHERISHED FRIENDS

by Jack Cable

This winter I have lost two friends who meant an awful lot to me. First - Elmer Sherman -a gentle man, a man in harmony with his surroundings and nature. I worked for Elmer - "Sugarin". He was one of my first employers in Heath and my first friend. I enjoyed listening to his wisdom and outlook, especially on his favorite subjects -sugaring, wood, machinery, coon hunting and dogs. I bought a Plott hound named Peter from him and he was the best dog I've every known. Elmer cut the timber, had Winn Warriner saw it and built my blueberry sorting shed. All the cutting was done with Elmer's 020 Stihl chain saw. There was no electricity at the barn site so Elmer's saw cut all the boards, rafters, studs, etc. One of the items that Elmer made many years ago was a blueberry rake or scoop - long before they were "invented". It is made out of a can and nails and he used it to pick berries on Burnt Hill. He would use this rake every time we would go out and "pick a few".

The other cherished friend is Donna Mazanec. Donna was Winn Warriner's daughter who married William "Bunk" Mazanec, built and raised their family in the house that Cleon and Tricia Peters now own. Donna, along with Donna Sheppard ran the blueberry sorting barn for a couple of years back in the 70's. With these two women and their children plus other kids the time was the happiest and best years I had in the blueberry business.

Donna was a good mother, wife and friend to many people. She helped many people and always gave so much of herself to everyone. She could always lift your spirits and make you laugh. She was a good lady and I miss her laughter.

Richard A. Sumner

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LEAD IN MAPLE SYRUP

by Mike Peters

In order to inform the public, and especially pure maple syrup lovers about the latest lead testing studies on one of New England's oldest crop, I want to offer these facts from several sources in the Maple Industry.

After the first discovery of lead in maple syrup in Vermont this past spring, the state of Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture decided to undertake their own testing of all maple syrup producers in the state that produced 200 gallons and over each season. The test was professionally handled and asked each producer (including myself) to submit a sample of "Liquid Gold" to a collector who was covering all towns in Franklin County, so it could be professionally tested by the State at no charge to the maple syrup producer.

Some possibilities for lead to be detectable in syrup are: lead from shotgun pellets being fired into trees, sap buckets being soldered with high lead content solder, tin pans on the evaporator, solder repairs on pans, acid rain, and many other things. This is what was offered on the subject by the North American Maple Syrup Producer's Association Annual Meeting. The meeting will not come around to Massachusetts again for 13 years because it rotates from state to state and all Provinces of Canada as well.

The first wave of test results showed very little trace of lead and most with no detectable trace in western Massachusetts. Complete test results won't be available for another month or so.

Having absolutely no Standards for Lead Tolerances set in Massachusetts is going to keep the Department of Agriculture busy for quite some time establishing some.

The State money being spent on this test is in my view a tremendous good deed for the public and the maple syrup producers of this state. It lets everyone on both sides know where we stand on the issue. The North American Maple Syrup Council has already developed new filtering techniques to remove all lead from maple syrup if needed. They have developed a new type of filter aid that removes lead along with all other contaminants.

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I want to be one of the local producers to thank Jay Healy for his prompt and professional handling of this matter.

With all of the different types of contaminations of food going on these days, we hope not to include one of the first things the Native Indians taught the first Settlers of America: How to make Pure Maple Syrup.

More updates in the next Heath Herald.

CHURCH NEWS

by Pastor Roger Peace

You might not be thinking about Easter when it is only January or February, but the Heath Union Choir is gearing up for the next musical cantata entitled "Rock of Faith". As a matter of fact, I was just listening to it, and it is another beautiful piece, which I am sure you will want to hear at Easter. It is also a good time to thank the choir for singing again in January at the Colrain Community Church.

Another reason to thank people was for last year's pizza sale by the youth. They earned \$350 and plan to paint the front of the church with their money. We are thinking seriously about another pizza sale soon. If you are interested let us know. The youth would also like to thank the people who helped out with the finances so they could attend Word of Life Snow Camp this past weekend. The seven who went had a great time. If you ask them they will be glad to tell you all about it.

Don't forget about our Sunday School program which is designed for all age groups - including adults. The adult class is studying the books of Matthew right now. We all have a good time in Sunday School - so join us this week at 9 AM. Then stay for church at 10 AM. Some changes have taken place which I hope you will enjoy.

Have a safe and fun winter and look forward to spring. Remember God loves you, and so do we.



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WILD RAMBLINGS

Many people do not realize that there is a distinct difference between a hike in the woods and wildlife stalking. Although hiking is an admirable activity, it is primarily good exercise and useful for admiring the landscape. Stalking, on the other hand, is a planned activity where the goal is to closely observe and to come into contact with wildlife.

For the novice, the successful stalk may begin at the library. Studying an animal's eating preferences, cover necessities, mating rituals, and other habits can go a long way in helping one in a successful stalk. Once you have some of these facts logged into your noggin, it is a good idea to do some thinking before you hit the trail. If you just learned that the animal you have studied prefers hardwood habitats, try to remember a good stand of hardwoods that you might have spied in a previous tour around the woods. As my grandfather, who had a habit of reducing all ideas to their lowest common denominator, used to say "If your looking for a beaver, you ain't gonna find it in the desert."

Before you begin your stalk, give some thought about reducing your exposure. Most animals have some well developed senses. It is a good idea to try to make yourself as inconspicuous as possible. Attempt to reduce your smell to zero. Although baths are always a good idea, you might also try washing your clothes in baking soda. Avoid alcohol, tobacco, spicy foods, or other odor producing substances that might give you away. Occasionally, I will use a musk smell, such as fox urine, to disguise myself from animals with a particularly keen sense of smell like



BEAVER DAM ON DELL ROAD (photo by Mike Peters)

white tailed deer, coyotes, or bear. My wife tells me it does not mask my presence from her olfactory senses.

Try to select some clothes that will help you blend into the background. Although camouflage is rapidly becoming a fashion statement, its original purpose was to aid an individual in blending into the surrounding environment. You don't necessarily need commercial camouflage material; sensible color selections will do just fine. White works well in the winter, drab green in the summer, and brown is quite good in the fall. If it is possible to break up large solid areas of color, it will improve your camouflage. Wearing a different color vest or a belt can aid with this aspect of trying to blend into the background.

As your stalking adventure begins, always try to plan your entrance and exit so that you can walk into the wind. The air currents will carry your smell away from you and your intended target. When really intent on not being noticed, I have walked extra miles to approach an area with the wind in my face. Move about slowly, taking only 3 to 4 steps at a time. This reduces the noise you make, and it mimics the way many animals move in the wild. It will also force you to look around and observe more. You will be amazed at what you will notice when you choose to move slowly. Try to "feel" with your feet, placing toe down first, avoiding objects such as dry sticks that will make loud noises and direct an animal's attention to you. It takes a lot of patience to move slowly in the woods. I know it took me years to learn to restrain myself from quick movements that would have gotten me places a lot faster. I'm still not sure if I really learned to move slower, or if age just started to catch up with me.

When you finally get to a place that you might want to be, find a comfortable place to sit. Try to conceal your silhouette against a tree, a rock, or some large object. Plan on sitting for quite some time, especially if you are waiting on an animal to forage or take cover in a particular habitat you have



BEAVER HUT (photo by Mike Peters)

chosen to observe. Sometimes you can sit for hours and not see what you intended to observe. For me, if I know what I want, I generally get something else. Come to think of it, this has a direct application to much of the rest of life.

I often observe wildlife from a tree. Either climbing a tree or setting up a tree stand is a very effective way of observing without being observed. You will find yourself above the animal's line of sight. Your smell will be carried by the air currents above an animal's head. In many situations, you will find that a tree gives you a better view into the distance. It's not particularly a good place to hide when observing squirrels, however.

Bringing a notebook to jot down thoughts and observations is a great idea. I don't know how it works for you, but I usually can't remember my best ideas or observations unless I've written them down. Lugging a camera along is also a very good idea. This is a wonderful piece of advice that I can never remember to do. Probably because I haven't written the idea down.

Try stalking alone. Stalking takes great concentration which is easier done in solitude. It also is a great way to get in touch with oneself. Just you and the forest. For the time in which you are engaging in this activity there is nothing else.

With practice you can learn to be stealthy. Eventually there will be that one big payoff, an observed bobcat or bear, for example, that will hook you for life. It is an activity that you can improve on with time, and actually get better at with age, or so they tell me.

Happy stalking.



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ROWE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARENT TEACHER PARTNERSHIP

by Mary Vilbon

The first PTP meeting of the year was a success and very productive!!

On May 16 the school will host a group of seniors that call themselves the "Young at Heart Chorus" at 10 AM. They have received outstanding reviews for their musical performances. One member of the chorus will be turning 100 years old that week. Please join us in singing Happy Birthday!

A four week computer lab is scheduled to begin for the children that have already signed up. The lab started the week of January 30. (K-2 Tues., grades 3-4 Mon., grades 5-6 Wed.) Please note the week of February break there will not be a computer lab. This will allow the younger children to familiarize themselves with a computer and for the older children it will give them extra time for projects. The PTP understands there may be more children interested, so a second four week program will be organized if there is enough interest.

For a great "FAMILY NIGHT" out the PTP will be sponsoring a Valentines Dance on February 17 from 7 PM to 9 PM. Each grade in one way or another is involved in making this night a success! So come and enjoy!!

The annual CPR course and FIRST AID training has been scheduled. As usual we encourage all ages to participate. In a recent study from John Hopkins University, adults between the ages of 51-70 years of age, only 10 percent are trained in CPR. Unfortunately this is the age group that will need these skills the most.

The schedule is as follows:

CPR

Tues., April 4, 6-10 PM

Wed., April 5, 6-10 PM

First Aid

Tucs., April 11, 6-10 PM

The fee for the course is only \$5. If you wish to be recertified, you only need to be present on Wednesday, April 5, and the certification card is \$3. The CPR and first aid book will also be available to purchase for \$10. If you are interested please call Sharon Brower at 337-4220.

One final note, the PTP is a PARENT-TEACHER-PARTNERSHIP. If you have suggestions, concerns or questions please feel free to contact Mary Vilbon at 337-4347 or Becky Bradley at 339-0107.

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MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

by Magen MacDougall

Every December the Mohawk student council puts on a talent show for the school. It is open to anyone who wants to perform in front of the entire student body, and have a chance at winning some money. There are judges that determine the first, second, and third place winners. This year's judges were: Mr. Freites, Dr. Hoyt, Mrs. Garcztynski, and student council members, Holly French and Janson McNay.

There was everything from Laura Minor singing "I'll Never Fall in Love" to her senior class; to people dancing, to bands and a performance titled "Dueling Nostrils" (It involved flashlights up the nose. Use your imagination!) The winners were third place and \$15, Cathy Hyer who did a ballet/gymnastic dance; second place and \$25 went to a band called Frog. Frog also plays at the Teen Center in Shelburne. And the first place winners of \$50 went to Steve Mugen and his band.

This year's mid-terms have a new format. There is no longer any half-days during exams. Mid-terms cover all of the work since the beginning of the year up to the end of the second quarter. These were held on January 24th to the 27th. There was one exam in the morning from 7:45-9:30, and then five of the usual classes until 12:35, which is when the second exam of the day started and finished at 2:10 when school is over.

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Lessons and classes continue for strings, woodwinds, brass, percussion, guitar, piano, voice and organ.

The school is held at Greenfield Community College. Brochures of course offerings will be available in all county libraries.

For information or to register at the school, call 774-3131 ext. 306.

SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

by Budge Litchfield

This spring something other than the usual, beautiful greenery will begin sprouting from the ground in Heath. Barring any last minute surprises, construction should begin on the Heath Elementary School in March or April. By the time you read this article the land acquisition process should be just about completed and bids from sub-contractors and general contractors will have been opened. Also at this time we are in the process of advertising for and eventually hiring a Clerk of the Works.

As the business of building proceeds we are reminded of two other areas of interest, and will begin addressing them in the upcoming months. First, an interest expressed by a number of people in volunteering to help with some construction related activities. Second, an interest in helping to shape and develop the educational program of our new school. During our next few meetings we will try to put together procedures and sub-committees to work in each of these areas. If either of these activities spark an interest in you please contact a member of the School Building Committee or attend one of our meetings, usually the second and fourth Thursdays of each month.

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CABIN FEVER

by Pat Leuchtman

Cabin fever is an old New England complaint, attacking in mid-winter when the days are short and dark, the snow is high and the spirits are low. There was a time when people literally couldn't escape their cabins/cottages/farmhouses for long periods during the winter and bit by bit each indoor activity would slowly lose its charm. What to do then?

Even though I haven't been snowed in much this winter, I find my energies lag. And in my own defense I demand to know how it could be otherwise. Even the sun doesn't want to get going in the morning.

Unfortunately, necessity being what it is, we can't even give ourselves up to cabin fever, lounging under the quilt in front of the woodstove, snoozing and reading. Maybe playing an occasional game of gin rummy. No. There is bread to be won.

So we brave the gray dawn, crank up the car and go to work, happy to seek out that woodstove at the end of the day.

The automotive revolution certainly changed the world, and put its own kind of dent in attacks of cabin fever. No longer does distance put the country dweller out of reach of mass entertainments. It just means country dwellers are too tired from commuting on dark icy roads to want to go anywhere but home.

Now there is a new revolution and a new highway. The information super highway.

A few years ago the Heath Library participated in a grant that supplied it (and the other hilltowns) with a video tape player and TV for the Library, a tape player that could circulate, and a collection of video tapes. Many people didn't have VCRs and the circulating player was in constant use. Over time more and more people got their own VCRs. When the circulating player finally broke, it was decided not to replace it; most people had their own machines. Watching videos had become necessary and routine.

I mention this because it shows how fast technology becomes affordable and becomes an everyday part of our lives.

Nowadays the talk is all of the information highway, the NET, bulletin boards and chat mode. Friends with children find they can do amazing research for school projects, searching the electronic literature on a subject, and sending out a call for information from other individuals.

Kids can also spend a lot of time in front of the screen playing games or chatting electronically, but they are gaining a valuable familiarity with the hardware and the many, many ways it reaches out into the world.

Adults find it difficult to get through a dinner

party without conversation veering to CD-ROMS, how to operate list-serves and how to subscribe to various electronic publications. Much of their interest is in recreative uses of their computers, in the sense that their pursuits are not work related. But I am an auto-didact, and I find it gratifying to see how much people are learning about new and wonderful things as they 'surf the Net'.

My husband and I are among the many who are connected to the Internet through work, at no cost to us. This means I receive and send e-mail to friends and family in England, Washington, D.C., California, Iowa, Hong Kong and other places near and far. Far from being isolated on my hillside, or in some dark technical corner, I find the world right at my hearth, and friendships thrive in this immediate kind of long distance communication.

Some people like the ephemeral nature of e-mail and don't print out their messages, but one of the reasons I have resisted the lure of long distance telephone calls is because I have nothing to hang on to afterwards. I do print most of my e-mail and toss my letters in a box to be savored again. Of course I am blessed in my correspondents who are happy to share their thoughts on life and love, on art and politics with intelligence, compassion, and great good humor.

Cabin fever still strikes during the winter and as happy as I am to curl up with a book and a cup of cocoa, I'm also happy to snuggle up to my IBM clone to chat with a friend about that book, learn more about the book or author and generally enjoy knowing that in the Heathen winter silence I can summon up voices of wisdom and humor from all around the world.

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SELECTMEN'S REPORT

by D. F. Howland

The Selectmen accomplished several things in the last couple of months. After about three years of delay funding for the box culverts on Avery Brook Road was approved by the state. We expect the job to be completed this summer. The Board of Selectmen is pursuing additional funding for reconstructing the rest of Avery Brook Road and East Main Street under the Transportation Improvement Program. However, it is difficult to obtain funding because of competition with the cash needs of the Central Artery project ("The Big Dig") in Boston. We would like to do both projects this summer. We'll keep you informed. Also on the matter of highways, the Town received a \$3,000 grant from the Governor's Highway Safety Bureau to fund the installation of roadside delineators (reflectors), a good safety feature. Joyce Karpinsky was instrumental in this effort.

A comprehensive schedule of fees for all kinds of town services such as building permits, Planning Board applications, etc. has been completed by Joyce. Copies are available at the Town Hall at no cost.

The Board of Selectmen met with Mark Lundgren of the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association to review the Town's total insurance package for FY96. The meeting was very informative and needed corrections in coverage were noted.

The Board of Selectmen and School Building Committee met with Catherine Heyl, Business Manager of the K-12 District, and Richard O'Meara, Financial Advisor from the State Street Bank, to review payment arrangements for the new school. The Board of Selectmen expect the closing on the Thane property to occur shortly. The payment schedule for the land has been changed from two annual payments to three annual payments.

Tax bills were issued in December and reflected a rate of \$21.94 per thousand valuation, which we believe is the highest residential rate in the State. Efforts are still being made to obtain additional state aid for the new school, but it is tough going. It should be noted that the Mohawk Trail High School is proposing an expenditure of some \$12,000,000 for maintenance and expansion which can increase Heath's tax rate by another \$.75 if voted for this spring. Undoubtedly there also will be an increase in operating costs which are not known at this time.

Three personnel changes have occurred. Dick Newton resigned as Building Manager/Custodian and was replaced by Karen Moselak of East Main St. John Musacchio resigned as Assessor and was replaced by Clark Johnson of South Road. (The Assessor's position will be up for election in May.) Also, Henry Leuchtman resigned from the Planning Board, also an elected position. All resignations were accepted with regret. We appreciate the work Dick, John and Henry did for the town.

There are a few miscellaneous items to report. Joyce Karpinski's title was changed from Administrative Assistant to Town Coordinator to better reflect her role. A utility pole hearing was held to move telephone/power company poles on Colrain Road. The relocations, which will improve service access, were approved. In a gesture of cooperation Police Chief Tom Rabbitt and Sergeant Mike Smith agreed to temporarily serve the Town of Rowe while their chief is out of town. Rowe will provide appropriate liability coverage when Tom and Mike are on duty there. Heath has had a Vietnam veteran apply for veteran's benefits. The town has to pay them upfront, but is reimbursed for 75% of the cost in the following fiscal year via cherry sheet credit.

We experienced an early mud season in the middle of January. The Highway Department has done its best to cope with the situation, but patience and prudence seems to be the best medicine to avoid getting stuck! Half of Heath's roads are dirt (26 out of 52 miles) so it's a job to keep them passable under current conditions. We appreciate everyone's patience in this regard.

ASSESSORS' REPORT

by Don Dekker

The new year brought a new assessor to the town. Clark Johnson was appointed by the Selectmen on the advice of the Board of Assessors to fill the position left vacant by the resignation of John Musacchio. The appointment will be until the town elections in May, when Clark will run to fill the remainder of John's term. Joanne Fortune will run for re-election at the same time. We are happy that Clark was interested in the job. He has some knowledge of how town government works, so he comes to the job with some background which will help.

We are sorry to lose John, but the pressures of his business and family responsibilities left him with too little time for the assessing job. The Board and the town thank John for his efforts and work.

We are changing our hours again. Clark works mainly at night, and since most of our work can be better done during the day, we moved our hours to the first and third Thursday of each month from 9:30 AM to 12 noon. If this is not convenient, we can set up special meetings, if warranted.



HEATH HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

by Jack Cable, Superintendent

The new year started off busy - New Year's Eve we started sanding roads at 11 PM and finished all major roads by 2:30 AM, then started sanding at 6 AM and did all the roads. At 1:30 AM a person called my home - was very nasty to my wife who was already worried about me out there sliding on the ice trying to get people home. The caller also called the garage and informed us to make sure "Colrain Brook and Flagg Hill were sanded so she could get home from a party in Greenfield. I called her back and told her our roads were sanded, but Route 2 was closed! I don't feel that we deserve this kind of call at our home. We have an answering machine at the garage number, 337-4462 and there is no reason to call my home unless it is an emergency and there certainly is no reason to be disrespectful to my wife.

Our other January problem was the rain that hit us January 16 and turned all our roads to a sea of mud. To add to our problem people with four wheel drive pickups found our muddiest areas and used them for fun - mud bogging - tearing through the roads, back and forth - totally destroying about one-half mile of roads which we had fixed this fall. They kept repeating their acts of destruction throughout the week. The roads were posted "Closed" and we would fix them during the day and at night they would ruin them plus run over the signs and barriers.

The roughness of our dirt roads now is the result of these irresponsible persons. There is a law forbidding damaging a country way and also persons using a road which is "Closed" are subject to trespassing charges. Beware! The Heath police are out to enforce these laws! If the road is "Closed" use an alternate route.

As of this writing, our new one ton truck is at a dealer having the dump body, sander and plow installed. Hopefully we will have it in town about February 10. Maybe we will have substantial snow by then.

The transfer station is doing well. The metals bin has left for the season and will be back in the spring. Our recycling effort is above 25 percent and everyone is doing a good job of separating recyclables. Thank you. Don't forget the little mercury batteries.

We are working on the upcoming summer road projects and other items that will be needing attention in the spring. The Avery Brook bridges will be going out to bid soon so watch for "Road Closed" signs on that road because we're finally getting our bridges! Another stretch of Avery Brook road will be fit to travel. The Selectmen, state aid, county planners, and myself are diligently working on a federal program to rebuild the rest of Avery

Brook up to the center.

Selectman Dick Giard and I attended a Massachusetts Highway Department hearing on January 20 at Franklin County Court House. "Our fair share" of federal and state money was the united voice of those attending. Associate Commissioner Marvin Churde of Boston conducted the hearing attended by highway superintendents, selectmen and state aid representatives.

Drive safely. Slow down when roads are ice and snow covered. Too fast for road conditions has been the leading cause of accidents in the area this winter.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

by D. F. Howland

A special town meeting was held at 9 AM on Saturday, December 10, 1994 with 34 voters in attendance. The meeting was preceded by a debt exclusion ballot vote on Friday; it passed by a margin of 57 to 32. (A majority vote only was necessary.)

The special town meeting had 8 articles to consider.

Articles 1, 2, and 3 dealt with proposed expenditures for school construction by Ashfield/Plainfield, Colrain, and Buckland/Shelburne. Heath exercised its prerogative under CH71 S16(d) to vote on such expenditures by other towns in the district. The articles passed unanimously.

Article 4 was a proposal by the Mohawk Trail High School to spend up to \$750,000 for designer services for a new roof, improvements and 14 additional classrooms. School authorities estimate actual costs will be about \$12,000,000. After considerable discussion the article passed. It is estimated the project will add \$.75 to the tax rate. The designer services will allow for precise cost projections which will be voted on by all the towns in the district at their annual town meetings this spring.

Article 5 authorized the Town of Heath to borrow \$174,886 for highway work all of which is reimbursable by the state. It passed unanimously.

Articles 6, 7, and 8 were required to transfer (swap actually) property across from the former Branch School for an acre of Earl Gleason's land adjacent to the new school site. The acre is necessary to satisfy septic system requirements. All passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:20 AM.

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FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

by Earl Gleason, Chief

The department responded to six emergency calls since our last report. The first was a mutual aid call to Colrain with engine one and tanker two with seven firefighters to a trailer fire. Two days later an EMT and firefighter responded to Taylor Brook Road for an infant that would not stop crying. No transport was made as the infant seemed to have recovered on arrival of the ambulance. Two firefighters responded on December 24 to a report of downed wires on Taylor Brook Road. The highway department had already taken care of the situation. The last call of 1994 was mutual aid to a reported structure fire in Charlemont. Four firefighters responded to the Heath station but no response was made as it was cancelled before leaving the station. The first call for 1995 was on January 6 to a chimney fire on Burnelle Road. Seven firefighters responded to this incident. Five EMTs and two firefighters were called to aid Charlemont ambulance on January 21 to assist with a person injured in an auto versus telephone pole accident.

The Fire Association met on two occasions during the period. The EMS group met once. The January drill was on the topic of cold water rescue. Instead of a drill in December a Christmas party for firefighters and EMTs was held at the station.

The chief attended 12 meetings during the past two months; all of them were out of town. He also attended a two day workshop in Springfield put on jointly by the Hamden County District Attorney's office and the State Fire Marshall's office. This seminar was for fire, police, and District Attorneys state wide to present better ways to attack arson problems. The chief also stayed home long enough to make five inspections of various kinds.

Brush burning season is upon us and as I am writing this report, we have little snow in the brush

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piles and it is an excellent time to get it done. Permits may be obtained by calling the emergency number at the dispatch center (772-2133) between 8 AM and 10 AM the morning you wish to burn. Permits are good for only the day that you call and burning is to be done after 10 AM and fires should be out by 4 PM. Brush is the only material that may be burned and fires must be 75 feet from any building.

We have something new in the area. One of the two lifeflight helicopters from University of Massachusetts Medical Center in Worcester is to be stationed at Turners Falls Airport from 10 AM to 10 PM each day. This means during those hours Heath has an emergency helicopter with a doctor and flight nurse about 10 minutes away. At present our only landing site is the fairgrounds. This site becomes unusable when we have more than six inches of snow. The department is looking for other sites in town, something that is 100 feet square with no obstructions such as trees and wires and is plowed. Both the EMS group and the fire department are adapting our operating procedures to accommodate this new service.

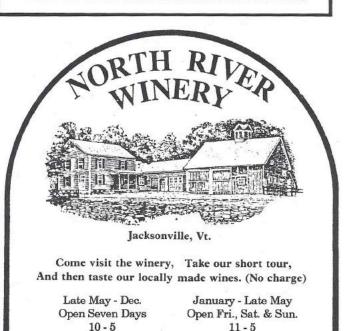
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PERCS, PERMITS AND TRANSFERS

PERCOLATION TESTS

Perc testing has been suspended until April except for repairs.

BUILDING PERMITS

No building permits were issued this period.

DEED TRANSFERS

Jerome W. and Lucille Pare to Andre L. Cote and Carmen M. Roman of South Hadley, East Brook Drive, lot 6. \$3,000.

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

David and Dorothy Brooks to James and Dianne Thane, 2 Knott Road, \$63,500.

David and Dorothy Brooks to James and Dianne Thane, Knott Road. No consideration.

Mohawk Estates Property Owners Association, Inc. to Mark F. and Linda Wasiulewski. Mohawk Estates, lot 34, \$3,000.

Lyle and Teresa Hall to Robert T. and Arlene Markert, Hosmer Road, 80 acres more or less. \$5,000.

Jonathan H. Fitt to Daniel J. Kelly of South Hadley, Mohawk Estates, lot 36. \$725.

Susan L. Deraway to Robert H. Deraway, 144 West Hawley Road. \$76,000.

Kevin M. and Deborah L. Gilbert to Don and Tammie Powell, 4 Jacobs Road. \$69,900.

Glen E. and Brenda J. Kikorski to David D. Cote of Buckland, Branch Hill Road, 3 parcels. \$65,000.

June I. Guild Day to David S. and Edward B. Watt, Flagg Hill Road, lot 1. \$20,760.

United Savings Bank of Greenfield to Mark A. Williams and Jennifer M. Terrill of Shelburne, West Brook Drive, lots 7 & 8. \$42,000.

Steven M. Brochu to Gerald P. Couture of South Hadley, Modoc Street, lot 14, Mohawk Estates. \$6,000.

John A. and Arlene N. Ausikaitis by Nicholas and Rose-Anne R. Malnick to Commercial Credit Corp. of West Springfield, Brunelle Road, 25 acres more or less, \$35,000.

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Selectmen: Tuesday 7:30 PM Monday - Friday, 8:30 AM - 1 PM Accountant: Assessors: 1st & 3rd Thursday, 9:30 AM - 12 PM Tuesday, 4 - 8:30 PM Town Clerk: second Saturday of the month, 8 AM - 11:30 AM (call for appointment, 4 - 7 PM, 337-4268) Town Treasurer: Monday, 3 - 7 PM

Friday, 1 - 5 PM

Tax Collector: Tuesday, 4 - 8:30 PM

Saturday, 8 AM - 11:30 AM

(call for appointment, 4 - 7 PM, 337-4268)

Finance Committee: As posted Planning Board: 2nd Monday of month 7 PM Conservation Commission: 3rd Tuesday of month Heath School Committee: 1st Tuesday of month 7:30 PM Community Hall

Library Trustees: 3rd Monday of month 7:30 PM Monday 6-9 PM Wednesday 1-5 PM Library:

Saturday 9 AM - 1 PM

Town Nurse: Wednesday 9 - 11 AM

(call 337-4323 for appointment)

Post Office: Monday through Saturday

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MILESTONES

by Edith Royer

A son, Kyle Landon Taylor was born on November 23 to parents Lynn M. (Hay) and Alan Taylor, of Ashfield. Kyle's grandparents are Linda and Roland Taylor of Ashfield and Sherry and Allen Creso of Athens, ME. His great grandparents are Ernest Taylor of Ashfield, Phyliss and Edward Guilford of Conway, Phyliss and Kenneth Beals of Williamsburg and Ruth Hay of Greenfield. Great grandmother is Grace Fournier of Heath.

On December 5 a son, Corbin James Thane was born to Dianne (Keyes) and James Thane of Heath. Grandparents are Phyliss and David Thane of Heath, Cindi and Paul Keyes of Belchertown and Cyndi and George Wheeler of Whitingham, VT. His great grandparents are Alli and Ernest Thane of Heath, Joseph Giard of Heath and Sally and Pearl Keyes of Pelham.

Conner Brooks, a son, was born on January 3 to Janis K. P. Steele and Leighton Brooks McCutchen of Heath. He is the grandson of Shirley Steele of Montreal and Martha and Leighton McCutchen of Heath. He was born on his mother's birthday.

A daughter, Amber Lynn, was born on January 5. Amber's parents are Stephanie Wood and Wyatt Fournier of Brattleboro, VT. Grandparents are Elizabeth and Chuck Fournier of Jacksonville. Great grandmothers are Grace Dix of Jacksonville and Ruth Fournier of Heath. Great great grandfather is Rudolph Fournier of Heath.

On November 30, 1994, Mary E. (Hamilton) Kimberly of Unity, NH died. She was born in Heath and was the daughter of Earl and Della (Mathis) Hamilton. She is survived by her husband, Norman; three sons, Edwin and Robert of Claremont and Eugene of Unity and a daughter Della Penn of Gasburg, VA. She also leaves two brothers, Charles Hamilton of Heath and David of Jonesport, ME; a sister, Margaret Boyd of Colrain; a granddaughter and several nieces and nephews.

Elmer L. Sherman, 83, of Heath died December 8

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He was born in Charlemont the son of Lena and James M. Sherman. He had been a resident of Charlemont and Heath for most of his life. Survivors include his wife of 57 years, the former Mary Larry of Heath, a son Leland of Heath, a daughter, Dr. Martha McDonough of Leesburg, VA and a step daughter, Patricia Guilbault of Turners Falls. He also leaves a brother, Floyd, of Charlemont and a sister, Doris Taylor of Charlemont. Elmer also leaves behind seven grandchildren and three great grandchildren. A daughter Mary Lena Sherman died in 1964. A memorial service was held at the Heath Community Hall with Rev. Allen Comstock, pastor of Charlemont Church, officiating. Burial will be in the Heath Center Cemetery in the spring.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Lara Thane, daughter of Arlene and William Thane, and Justin Hare, nephew of Jayne and Bob Dane, were named to the fall trimester Honor Roll at The Academy at Charlemont. Lara, who is in the seventh grade, and Justin, an eighth grader, had all A's or B's in all subjects.

Jayne and Bob Dane have welcomed their nephew Justin Hare into their home this year. Justin is from Island Pond, VT and is here to attend The Academy at Charlemont. He is 14 and in the 8th grade.



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