



VOLUME 17 NUMBER 1 APRIL/MAY 1995

# HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER 50¢

## HEATH PRESCHOOL NEWS

By Suzanne Crawford

The Heath Preschoolers have been on the move recently, with a number of outings and field trips. The morning class was fortunate to be able to attend the WingMasters Birds of Prey program at Rowe School for a close up look at real owls and hawks. We appreciate having been invited to that fascinating and informative program. We also have enjoyed a tour of the Heath Post Office with Marcella Lively and several visits to the library with stories by Alli Thane. In early March we traveled to my home, Stump Sprouts, for a day of cross country skiing. The children had a great time, and it is remarkable how well they all do with those slippery boards on their feet. Most recently we visited Gould's Sugar House as part of our maple sugaring experience. We appreciate the opportunity to safely observe them boiling syrup, and the maple ice cream cones are a special treat. We tapped the maple trees behind the Community Hall and made a little syrup to enjoy on pancakes and French toast we've cooked for snack. We also had fun creating a pretend sugar house inside our classroom. Our thanks go to the parents who have provided transportation and assistance to make these field trips possible.

We have been fortunate to have Michelle Howe volunteering at the preschool on Tuesdays. We've taken advantage of the extra assistance by doing a number of cooking projects, and we all enjoy her friendship and help. With the return of warmer weather, we are able to ride trikes again and to enjoy the sandbox, as well as other outdoor activities. If anyone has a good sturdy tricycle or a Tonka-type truck that their family has outgrown, we would be happy to put them to good use.

The Early Childhood Advisory Council has undertaken two fund raising efforts recently. In February, we sold lunches on the ski race day. Our thanks to the Park Committee for their decision to hold the ski race in a modified format. We are also planning to serve lunch to motorcycle enthusiasts on

Sunday, May 21. AJ Cycle of Gill is sponsoring a 100 mile ride that will end here in Heath for lunch. We are especially thankful to David Adie and friends at AJ Cycle for their generosity with this fund raiser. The advisory Council and the parents are also participating in the annual program evaluation of the preschool.



MMMM-MMMM GOOD  
(Photo by Suzanne Crawford)



PRESCHOOLERS TRY CROSS COUNTRY SKIING  
(Photo by Suzanne Crawford)



## THANK YOU

From the bottom of our hearts, we extend a warm and sincere thank you to the Heath First Responders, EMTs, our neighbors and friends for your skill and compassion in responding to our frightening experience a couple weeks ago.

Joanne Fortune  
Cabe DeLisle  
Bob DeLisle

## TOWN NURSE CHANGE

The Board of Selectmen accepted with regret the resignation of Dianne Rode as Town Nurse effective March 20, 1995. Dianne has accepted a teaching position at Greenfield Community College. The Selectmen thank her for her five years of service to the town and wish her all the best.

The services of Town Nurse will be performed by several visiting nurses' agencies covering this area. The Selectmen will be sending a letter to each resident currently being seen by Dianne informing them of the change and information about the agencies. When the new school is built, a school nurse will have to be engaged and at that time the possibility of combining the two positions will be reviewed.

## HEATH HERALD

### HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

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Send all correspondence to: Box 54, Heath, MA 01346-0054

## LETTER

Senator John W. Olver  
Conte Federal Building  
78 Center Street  
Pittsfield, MA 01201

Dear Senator Olver:

The Town of Heath supports the current effort in Congress of creating grant programs through the Crime Bill. We are familiar with the COPS AHEAD and COPS FAST grant programs which provide new full-time police officers to cities and towns. However, for small towns like Heath with only part-time police departments, these programs are not applicable.

Heath (population 821) is in need of funding in other areas besides full-time police officers. The Town budget cannot cover the safety and communication equipment needs of the police department. The Crime Bill could better service small municipalities with more flexible, direct funding to towns.

We are aware of your round table discussion with local law enforcement officials from District One in 1994 and of your crime bill amendment to create grant programs for court advocates. We applaud your efforts and urge you to support greater flexibility in the Crime Bill grant programs to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of small town police departments.

Sincerely,

David F. Howland, Chair.

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# STATEMENTS OF CANDIDATES FOR TOWN OFFICE



## JUNE DAY - TOWN CLERK

"I ask for your vote so that I may serve as the Town Clerk for the Town of Heath. The duties of the Town Clerk and those of my position as Town Accountant dovetail nicely. The experience in town government I have gained over the past five years will enable an easy transition. Serving as

clerk of the Town Meeting, certifying appropriations and other documents, keeping Town records up to date, are tasks for which I am well suited. It will be a new experience to be the election officer serving at the grass roots of American politics. I look forward to the camaraderie of Town Election Day and to visiting with my fellow Heathens as you come into the polls, that is if you do indeed elect me as your Town Clerk."

## ROLLO KINSMAN - SELECTMAN

The question most often asked of me since moving here last summer is "Well, how does it feel to be back in Heath?" My response: It feels great, just great! Another often asked question is, "What have you been doing all these years?" To answer that, for those of you I do not know, I probably should go all the way back to the beginning.

I was born and raised on the Kinsman farm in East Heath. I attended Heath Center Elementary School and Arms Academy in Shelburne Falls. Afterwards, I farmed for several years before leaving Heath to study at the Hartt College of Music in Hartford, CT. Following came two years of military service in Korea, assigned to Army Special Services. Next came 34 years of civilian service managing music, theatre and recreation programs for Army personnel in Korea, Louisiana, and Washington, DC.

Now to the important questions:

(1) Why do I want to serve as Selectman? First, I love the town of Heath. As a sixth generation Heathen, my roots are here. Although living and working elsewhere for many years, it has always been our plan to return to the farm as permanent residents of Heath. Secondly, I believe working as Selectman presents an outstanding opportunity to serve the residents of Heath.

(2) What are my qualifications for Selectman?

- Living and farming in Heath gave me a basic knowledge/understanding of the town.
- Managing governmental programs provided experience in resource management, contracting and personnel administration.
- As Chief of the Army's Recreation Division,

Washington DC (1986-1994), I developed Army-wide policy and procedures, published guidance for the planning and design of community facilities and conducted training for the workforce.

(3) What would I do as Selectman? Initially, I would do a lot of listening. Many people have been and are working hard to improve our town. I will join them. Like many of you I am concerned about ever escalating taxes and will try to find relief in this area. I am also concerned with building community spirit which is essential to keeping Heath a great place to live.

## ELIZABETH NICHOLS - TAX COLLECTOR

I have been a resident of Heath for the past 12 years. I work with my husband, Alan Nichols, making Shaker & Windsor style wooden furniture. I also raise, train, and show Tennessee Walking Horses. I am the show manager of the Heath Fair Horse Show and have recently become a leader of a local 4-H group. I have two daughters, Andrea and Christina Beaudoin, who attend Rowe School and Mohawk.

In 1987 I was appointed tax collector for the town when Linda Marcotte resigned. I continued as tax collector until 1989 when I too resigned because I had accepted a full time job at Amherst College and could no longer give tax collecting the time it required.

Linda worked hard to collect a rather substantial amount of taxes owed from previous years. As collector I continued to reduce the amount of uncollected back taxes and to keep current years from adding to the problem. Regular, consistent tax collection reduces the need for town borrowing and ultimately benefits the tax payers.

Previous to tax collecting I was the Heath correspondent for the *West County News* and attended selectmen's meetings weekly. I am thus acquainted with the way town government functions, I have a thorough knowledge of the duties of tax collector, and I have the time to do the tax collector's job effectively. I would be pleased to serve again as the tax collector for the town of Heath.

## JOANNE FORTUNE - BOARD OF ASSESSORS - 3 YR. TERM

Hi. I am running for reelection to the Board of Assessors for my second 3-year term. I've lived in Heath for 16 winters and have served on the board for 4 years. I enjoy doing my part for this Town and look forward to continuing in this valuable service. Thanks for voting for me in May!

## REMEMBER TO VOTE !



## MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL SCHOOL NEWS

by Magen MacDougall

This year's high school musical was "Carousel", which is about how a woman who works at a cotton mill, and a man, who is a barker at a carnival, fall in love. The man Billy Bigelow, is a rebel who beats his wife. They have a little girl, and eventually he commits suicide. Billy's daughter is going through the same problems he did and so he comes back as a ghost in order to help her make the right decisions in her life. The cast consisted of the following Heath students: Jim Cerone was Captain; Adam Almeida was Mr. Bascombe; Cory Rothwell and Kathy Kenderick were in the chorus. The crew was made up of stage manager Nicole Rainville, and cameramen for Channel six were Andy Gilbert, Seth Brower, and Greg Nichols.

A new performance group has been formed. The Theater Project is an acting group which was started here by Mark Gaudet. Mr. Gaudet has been involved with theater since he was twelve years old, when he was a member of the Boston's Childrens' Theater. He had acted in or directed over thirty productions and has earned a BA from the University of Massachusetts, and a MFA in directing from Florida State, and a theater studies degree from the University of Paris. The group read some scenes from a few different plays and then finally decided on a comedy entitled "Wild Oats".

This year's science fair was held March 2 in the school library. The first place winner was Carmen Tedesco who is automatically entered in the state science fair which is held at MIT. The second place winner was Megan Duncan-Smith who went on to regionals which were held at the University of Massachusetts on March 14, at which Megan received first place and sixth place overall. Megan, too, will go on to represent Mohawk at the state science fair.

The Mohawk cheerleading squad went to two competitions in March. The first was Western Massachusetts Championships, held at Chicopee High School on Sunday, March 5. There were 31 of the best squads in western Massachusetts competing in different divisions, depending on the experience of the squad, and if the squad was composed entirely of girls or if it was co-ed. The Warriors received ninth place in Division One. On the following Friday, March 10, they travelled to Minnechaug High School to compete in the regional cheerleading competition. There were around 20 squads in total, divided into their respective divisions, according to school size. Here, the cheerleaders got fifth place, thus ending the winter cheerleading season.

## NEWS FROM THE ACADEMY

by Jesse Seaver

Well, the Academy just had two weeks for spring break. It was fun, but it went by toooooo fast. I guess that's how most vacations go. Fast. Before you know it, you have four days left and nothing much to do.

On other school topics, lacrosse will be starting on the 27th along with spring soccer and other sports.

Interview with Wezo Jame:

Wezo is an exchange student here at the Academy from Butterworth, South Africa.

SEAVER: Why did you come to the Academy?

JAME: I've been dreaming about coming to America. It's been my life long dream. More seriously, I was promised an academic opportunity which was better than the one I had back home.

SEAVER: What do you think of the Academy?

JAME: At the Academy, life has been good so far, both socially and academically.

SEAVER: Are you planning to go anywhere else while you are here?

JAME: I would like to go all over the U.S. There is no place particularly special to me.

SEAVER: What do you think of the teachers here compared to the teachers in South Africa?

JAME: I wouldn't want to compare teachers, but rather compare the systems of education on a small scale, of course. The quality of the education that I have received here is far better than what I was getting back home, but so far I think I've managed to live with the gap between here and S. A.

SEAVER: How do you feel about sports here at the Academy?

JAME: Well, that part has been really exciting to me. I haven't been doing many sports. I've been playing soccer, which I found to be a really thrilling experience. Back home I didn't play soccer; I was just a fan of soccer. I'm really sad that the soccer season ended so soon. I hope, wherever I go, I will be able to play soccer. I do have a little interest in hockey; I haven't tried it yet though. In regards to basketball I tend to be an outcast. I do like it, but wouldn't go for it because of its popularity here.

SEAVER: Thank you.

JAME: Thank you, too.

If you have any questions for Wezo, you can leave messages or talk to him here at the Academy at (413) 339-4912.

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## HEATH UNION CHURCH NEWS

by Roger Peace, Pastor

As I drove into my driveway the other day, we noticed the daffodils that are coming up in front. Now as I look out my study window I see the squirrels and chipmunks running around, birds arriving daily in Heath, sap buckets and lines on the trees gathering the sap for that delicious maple syrup and candy. Trees will be budding soon (if not already) and just yesterday I saw five new baby goats only a few hours old - what a treat! The list could go on thinking of spring, but it all reminds me of how loving God really is. He gave all this for our enjoyment - thank you Heavenly Father!

With the arrival of spring brings Easter, and the Heath Union Church is busily preparing for that most blessed event. On Friday, April 14, there will be seven West County (plus W. Halifax) churches joining together for our annual Good Friday Service held this year at the Colrain Community Church at 7:30 PM. Our choir has been practicing for another Cantata entitled "Rock of Faith" that we will be singing Easter morning during the Worship Hour at 10 AM. The following Sunday the choir will sing the Cantata in West Halifax at 7 PM. For those of you who enjoy the early morning hours, the Sunrise Service will begin at 6 AM at the top of Bray Road. Following this we will go to the Community Hall for another delicious breakfast. Everyone is invited to join us for all these wonderful events; see you there!

The Youth Group would like to thank all of you that supported their pizza sale. Final sales are not in yet, so I cannot give you a total to show you how well they did. The Youth have been asked to do several puppet ministries this summer, so they needed to raise money to help in this area.

Our Sunday School would like to invite you to join us every Sunday morning at 9 AM. We have classes for ages 4-104, so join us as we sing and learn about the Bible. Hope you all have a great and safe spring.

## MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL SCHOOL SECOND QUARTER HONOR ROLL

**Seniors:** High Honors, Emily Nichols; Honors, Andrew Shattuck.

**Juniors:** Honors, Nicole Rainville.

**Sophomores:** Honors, Tucker Litchfield, Tim Porter-DeVriese, Gabriel Porter-Henry.

**Freshmen:** Honors, David Sessions

**Eighth Grade:** Honors, Kathleen Tuturice

**Seventh Grade:** High Honors, Katelyn Litchfield; Honors, Christina Beaudoin, Anna Dever-Scanlon, Jillian Gilbert, Christina O'Dea

## PERCS, PERMITS AND TRANSFERS

### PERCOLATION TESTS

Perc testing resumes in April and runs through June.

### BUILDING PERMITS

No building permits were issued this period.

### DEED TRANSFERS

Ernest F. and Alli I. Thane to town of Heath, Jacobs Road, Parcel 1, 11.89 acres, \$75,000.

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## TOWN OF HEATH WILD ANIMAL PROCEDURES

### Direct Contact to Humans or Animals

\* Follow Massachusetts Department of Public Health recommendation procedures to prevent rabies.

\* Contact physician, hospital emergency room, or veterinary

\*Contact authorities:

- Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MDFW) Pittsfield Office - 413-447-9789

- Heath Board of Health

Walter Gleason 337-4479

Dawn Peters 337-4014

Brooks McCutcheon 337-8301

-Massachusetts Division of Environmental Law Enforcement

Dispatch 800-632-6075

Northampton Office 413-586-3247

- Heath Police Department

Emergency Dispatch 772-2133

Wild Animal Nuisance (No Direct Contact with the Animal)

\* Contact Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife for referrals. Depending on the species they may be able to assist.

-Northampton Office 413-586-3247

-Pittsfield Office 413-447-9789

\*Contact Pest and Animal Control, licensed by the MDFW - Cost assumed by the individual

- Douglas Hillman, Gfld. 772-6556

- Alan Foster, Montague 367-9521

Domestic Animal Problems

\* Contact Dog Officer

- Carl Herzig 624-3224

\* Contact Animal Inspector 337-4331

For more information contact:

\* Massachusetts Department of Public Health Division of Epidemiology 617-522-3700 Ext. 420

Dave Rich, Game Warden

- MDFW Emerg. Dispatch 800-632-8075

\* Massachusetts Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

- Boston Office 617-522-7400

- Springfield Off. 413-736-2992

- Law Enforcement Dept. 413-448-6046

\* Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association

- Executive Office 508-839-6155



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## THINGS YOU CAN DO TO HELP CONTROL RABIES

by Massachusetts Department of Public Health

The biggest way to reduce your risk of rabies is to protect your pets and to decrease your contact with wild animals. These goals can be met by following a few simple guidelines:

\* Have your dogs and cats vaccinated. Obey leash laws and report strays to the local dog officer.

\* Don't feed your pets outdoors -- it could attract wild animals and strays. Never feed wild animals, especially near your home.

\* Keep your distance from wild animals, even if they seem tame. Never try to keep wild animals as pets -- it's against the law! Don't touch dead animals.

Reduce your home's appeal

\* Install a chimney cap to prevent raccoons and other animals from living inside your home.

\* Seal areas around your house that animals may use as a den. This includes under porches, crawl spaces beneath your house, your attic and openings in sheds and other out buildings. Make sure animals have left before you seal up the space!

\* Secure your garbage cans so they don't attract raccoons, skunks and strays looking for food.



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## Green Thoughts

by

ELSA BAKALAR

It's hard to realize that ten years have passed since those glorious June days in 1985 when Heath celebrated its bicentennial. Everyone who was around remembers that event, but do you remember the Heath Bicentennial Garden Tour that Pat Leuchtman and an energetic committee put on that year? I recently came across the maps and instructions and was impressed, again, to note that there were twelve gardens on display that day, every one of them in our town of Heath.

And all this, mark you, before the great wave of garden visiting broke over us. Perhaps we can claim to be early pioneers, and look with pride at how the idea of fund raising through Open Garden Days had grown. It has proved to be a fine way to help any number of worthy causes. (Not least among the worthy causes is the sheer pleasure and spiritual refreshment of so many of the visitors.)

Garden visiting has long been a tradition in Britain. The National Trust, of course, is the best know listing, and those gardens figure prominently in the itinerary of many American visitors to Britain. But back in 1927, well before the trans-Atlantic rush began, an enterprising group launched something called the National Garden Scheme, and in that first year, 600 private gardens were opened in aid of the work of the "visiting nurses". Of course -- since it was England -- it had to have a royal personage in it somewhere. (The organization was the Queen's Nursing Institute, but for any royalty-watchers I should point out that the Queen in this case was Queen Alexandra, widow of Edward VII.)

By 1983, the last year for which I have a copy of the listing, the number of gardens had grown to over 1,600, and I know it's still growing.

Realizing that this was a great idea that had proved its worth in Britain, the Garden Conservancy here had just issued a listing of gardens and the dates they will be open in the summer of 1995. If you are interested you can write for a copy, enclosing \$8 (\$5 for Conservancy members) to: The Garden Conservancy, P.O. Box 219, Cold Spring, NY 10516.

In this inaugural publication (The Open Days Directory), they have listed 110 private gardens and 32 public gardens in New York State and Connecticut. Good maps and local directions are included.

Now, admittedly, many of these are absolutely splendid gardens that have been featured and photographed in numerous magazines, and a visit to more than one might be a little too rich for the likes of you and me. But I've been thinking that we could all benefit from visiting friends' and neighbors' gardens more than we do. Locally, we're all in the

same boat; we share the ice storms, the late snows, the ruinous winds, the droughts, the same too-little or too-much of whatever is being sent our way, and what could be better than some over-the-back-fence exchange of problems and solutions? To be followed, I would hope, by over-the-back-fence exchange of plants.

I've just read a very funny book (Allen Lacy, in his foreword, calls it "a hoot and a holler"); it's a garden book, but rather different from most. It's by a couple of friends, Steve Bender and Felder Rushing, and it's about much more than its title, "Passalong Plants", might suggest. One of the pair lives in Alabama and the other in Mississippi, so, as you can imagine, there's a good bit about Southern gardening, but enough about people and their feelings for plants and gardens to give it wide appeal. The authors maintain that most plants can be had if you know where to look, and may be obtained through conventional methods (I think they mean buying them!) or "through guile, networking, and horse trading."

Ever heard of the "milk-of-magnesia tree"? You'll find one in the chapter called "Well, I think it's pretty", which I'm sure is what made Allen Lacy hoot and holler. The authors get their tongues out of their cheeks long enough to produce a final and serious chapter on how to organize a plant swap. The book is in the Heath Library. Check it out.



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## HEREABOUTS

by Jesse Scaver

Well, if you haven't noticed, I am now writing for *The West County News* as well as *The Heath Herald*.

I'm sort of having trouble thinking of what to write about because I just wrote another article for another paper earlier. I have trouble writing two articles a day. My brain gets hooked on one thing for the day and it's hard to get off it. I could write two articles about the same thing, of course, but that would be sort of stupid. If I were writing about factual news, that would be different than just talking. There sure is a lot of stuff to write about in this world, isn't there? I don't think that all writers in the world could ever write about it all.

Oh man, I have been having the best "luck of the draw" lately. I am winning and winning and winning at all the card games I play. Well, most of them. Now card tricks are a different story. With those I seem to get everything going fine, keep it that way for a while, but then at the end, it all falls apart. I never seem to be able to find the person's card or do whatever it was that I was intending to do.

Let me tell you a simple card trick.

1. Shuffle the deck, or let the other person shuffle it if they are one of those types who like to make sure there is nothing fishy going on.

2. Look secretively now, at the bottom card. Remember that card. (If you have a bad memory, you might want to write it on your hand, or on the bottom of your foot or something).

3. Place the deck down, with the card you just saw, or wrote down, on the table.

4. Say, "Now then, split the deck into three piles." Then say, "Try to make the piles relatively the same size." Note: the person you are doing the trick to should say "O.K."

5. Now tell them to take a card off the top of any of those three piles. Tell them to remember it, or if they have a bad memory refer to the #2. Now tell them to put it back on top of any of the three piles. (If they put it back on the pile that used to be the bottom of the deck, tell them to split that pile).

6. Now (if they put it on one of the two piles that didn't have the bottom card) take the pile with the bottom card and place it ON TOP of the pile where they put their card. (If they put it on the pile with your special bottom card, after they have split that pile in two) put the pile of the original bottom card pile that has the bottom card on top of the pile that does.

7. Now, put them all together. DON'T SHUFFLE THEM OR MESS THEM UP!! Lay them out so you and the trick receiver can see them, and when you see that card that you originally saw at the

beginning, it's the card below the one that is their card. Get it? I sort of got confused writing that. I hope you got it. It almost always works.

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## OF HERBS AND HEIRLOOMS

by Laurie Wheeler

Seeds, Glorious Seeds! This time around I fear I've strayed a bit far afield. As a seed-saver, I have little constraint concerning seeds, whether they be vegetable, flower, or herb.

These tiny sprouting miracles are very sacred. They contain the genetic information of their ancestors' responses to varying weather conditions, disease and insect resistance, and climactic changes. These genetic threads, when woven together with the stories of our human ancestors, create a grand tapestry of our life and history on this planet.

Until the turn of the century almost all gardeners and farmers produced their own seed, handing down seeds from one generation to the next, as cherished family heirlooms. Whether our families came from overseas or are natives of this continent many of us have heard stories of wonderful old plant varieties that a grandparent grew; Howling Mob Sweet Corn, Brandywine Tomato, Mostoller Wild Goose Bean ... (such names!)

These open-pollinated, non-hybrid seeds and plants were kept because each had qualities; beauty, earliness, resistance to disease, slowness-to-bolt, nutrition, or taste, which made it desirable to the home gardener or farmer. The offerings in the seed catalogues also reflected these needs.

During this century a great amount of change has occurred in how we farm; our seed, our fertilizers, our methods of treating the earth. The successful marketing of the F1 hybrid during the 1950's both secured its place in modern agriculture, and initiated the demise of the old time seed. Because of how an F1 is created it is not meant to be "grown out" again; it must be purchased every year. Despite this drawback many forsook their heirloom seeds.

Vast numbers of old-time varieties were dropped from catalogues, and gardeners and farmers stopped saving their own seed. The results of this? Irrecoverable lost seed strains, lost genetic material, lost cultural practices.

The decrease in genetic diversity is a worldwide problem. Should there be a devastating blight or virus which could wipe out entire populations of plants there is less in the genepool from which to draw upon in the development of resistant strains.

Seed storage facilities, or Seed Banks, are found worldwide, but because of the incredible quantity of plant material, the occasional devastating war, or lack of funding, the seeds are not always grown out while still viable.

Enter the Home Gardener as Preservationist. A growing number of people are helping to halt further genetic erosion, by collecting, buying, and saving their own open-pollinated seed, or joining organizations such as The Seed Savers Exchange. The SSE

has a yearbook which lists over 1,031 members who are maintaining over 17,000 vegetable types. Many of these varieties were saved from extinction by gardeners who talked with their older neighbors who had been maintaining strains for a century or more. In my care are two beans given to me by a gentleman from Orange, MA. These strains are both over 100 years old.

A small handful of seeds, planted, cared for, harvested and saved, season after season. The cycles repeat themselves, spiraling down to your children, grandchildren, great grandchildren ... The seeds of our past are the seeds of our future.

If anyone is interested in talking seeds just drop me a note at P.O. Box 96 in town.

### TOWN OFFICE HOURS

(At Town Hall unless otherwise specified)

Selectmen: Tuesday 7:30 PM

Accountant Monday - Friday, 8:30 AM - 1 PM

Assessors: 1st & 3rd Thursday, 9:30 AM - 12 PM

Town Clerk: Tuesday, 4 - 8:30 PM

second Saturday of the month, 8 AM - 11:30 AM

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

Town Treasurer: Monday, 3 - 7 PM

Friday, 1 - 5 PM

Tax Collector: Tuesday, 4 - 8:30 PM

Saturday, 8 AM - 11:30 AM

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

Finance Committee: As posted

Planning Board: 2nd Monday of month 7 PM

Conservation Commission: 3rd Tuesday of month

Heath School Committee: 1st Tuesday of month

7:30 PM Community Hall

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

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

Saturday 9 AM - 1 PM

Town Nurse: Wednesday 9 - 11 AM

(call 337-4323 for appointment)

Post Office: Monday through Saturday

9:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Transfer Station Monday 9 AM - 1 PM

Saturday 8 AM - 4 PM

Town Telephones: Town Hall 337-4934

Community Hall 337-4847

Town Garage 337-4462

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## The Way It Is In The Country

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

by **CARROLL STOWE**

### ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF MONEY WELL SPENT

Years ago the annual town meeting took place in early February. At the annual town meeting of 1964 there was an item for the expenditure of \$800 to purchase a new town truck. I was rather anxious to see this article pass because I would have this new truck to operate.

The expense of this truck without question would raise the taxes a bit and was without a doubt frowned upon by some. The fortunate part of this truck purchase was that like most town equipment the minute it hit the highway it started to repay for its cost. This purchase was approved and the bid process took place.

An 80 series Chevrolet truck was agreed upon and ordered. It was difficult to comprehend the speed of this truck's arrival. Town meeting was early in February, the bid was awarded and the truck was to be built on the 25th of March. I have trouble understanding the slowness of getting new equipment today considering how rapidly this truck came. This new truck was smashed up in transit and had to be fitted with new fenders and grill and hood before we saw it.

I drove the trade-in truck down to Blassberg's to have it there so the dump body could be installed. Norman Sessions did the work and painted the body the same blue as the cab. The town had that new truck up and working by the 15th of April. Everyone will not understand that I had tears in my eyes as I took the old truck to town for the last time. We'd had a few long hard days together.

The new truck was one of a kind for this area. A 409 cu. inch engine was under the hood and a twin plate clutch connected that massive power to the drive train. Everyone that appreciated good iron under them should have that thrill in their lifetime and I'm proud to have been that truck's driver for a little more than 2 years. This truck had an extra gas tank so that it carried 52 gallons of fuel so that it would last all day without coming back to the pump to refuel mid-day. This unit would haul 4 loads of pea stone to any point in town in an 8 hour day and do it easily. The extra gas was the reason.

We hear a lot about how much better an automatic transmission is to eliminate hauling to replace clutches. That 80 Series truck came to Heath and spent its work life with the original clutch. That says a bit of usefulness about manual clutches and that equipment had a lion's share of hard use.

This truck carried the town's first mounted sander

and under John Churchill's direction was installed with a wing plow. This iron fit the description of a real work horse.

The 100 percent only way to measure the value of anything is by the good it does the most people. That truck did a great deal for many. It's unfortunate that all municipal purchases can't be so useful.

Time passes and things change.

### TAX FAIRNESS COMMITTEE

by **D. F. Howland**

With the advent of ever higher taxes for school operating and construction costs the Tax Fairness Committee was formed at the suggestion of former selectman Arthur Schwenger. Its purpose was to examine the town's tax practices and sources of income to see what options were available to ease the burden on property owners. Harvey Carter became chair; Leighton McCutcheon, Debra Porter, Jennifer Giandalone and Art rounded out the team. The Committee has traveled to Boston to meet experts on tax data and since February 1995 it has met weekly. There is a sense that Heath is not getting its fair share of state aid for education because of falling land values, low per capita income, rising population and concomitant increases in the cost of educating the children. The Committee is developing data to support its thesis that our portion of educational costs are out of hand and plans to journey to Boston to get some help. Catherine Heyl of the Mohawk District, Representative Carmen Buell and Senator Jane Swift are assisting in this endeavor.

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# FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

by Earl Gleason, Chief

Seven emergencies were responded to by the fire department during the period of January 30 to March 26. The first was a chimney fire at a Sadoga Road residence on February 8. Five firefighters and engine one extinguished this chimney fire. Eight firefighters went to a South Schoolhouse Road residence for a reported chimney fire when a neighbor saw what they thought was an excessive amount of smoke coming from the chimney. This February 21 call was cancelled while engine one was enroute. On February 27, five EMTs and three firefighters assisted Charlemont Ambulance with a lady on Sumner Stetson Road who had fallen. EMTs and three firefighters responded to Burnelle Road along with Charlemont Ambulance on March 5 for a child who was ill. Charlemont Ambulance, two EMTs and two firefighters responded to Avery Brook Road for a woman who had cut her finger on March 10. A woman having chest pains and difficulty breathing was the call for March 22. Two EMTs and two firefighters assisted Charlemont Ambulance. On March 26, a call for a permit getting away and into the woods resulted in a great deal of smoke drifting into the Oxbow area of Charlemont. Heath responded with ten firefighters and one EMT, as well as engines one and three. Because of the high winds and unknown size of the fire the Chief also requested aid from Charlemont and the State brush truck from Erving. Charlemont responded with an engine and a tanker manned by six firefighters. The State brush truck was halted in Greenfield as a quick knockdown was accomplished.

Two Association meetings were held as well as two drills. The February drill was on Volunteer Fire Department Management and the March drill was a Massachusetts Fire Academy class on car fires led by Deputy Chief Lively of the Greenfield Fire Department. The EMS Association also met on one occasion.

Bob Gruen attend a National Fire Academy class for two days in Dalton on Firefighter Safety and Health. The Chief attended a two day Massachusetts Fire Academy class on Volunteer Fire Department Management, a one evening and one morning class on ice rescue and is attending a two day National Fire Academy class on Company Officers Management.

Bob Gruen, Ken Thane, and Richards Steinbock are serving on a committee to encourage more participation in the fire department. Our present membership is 22 members, down from 33 members two years ago. The department is looking for men and women that could serve on the department. The requirements for firefighters today are not easy and take considerable time, but I can tell you from

experience that after a good save or helping someone that is in trouble, that good feeling about yourself is hard to beat.

The Fire Chief attended nine meetings during the reporting period. Three were in Heath. Two of the were with the TriState Training Committee. This committee is charged with providing an accountability system for Mutual Aid fires. A system has been set up for ID tags and scene accountability. TriState Mutual Aid voted to purchase a camera, tags, laminator, and hooks at a cost of less than \$3 per member. The Committee was also charged with upgrading the training in the next year to provide training that brings all mutual members up to Firefighter 1 classification in the next two years. This is no small feat as to get to that level requires 72 hours of training. To accomplish this, a train the trainer program has been installed to have more local trainers so that the classes may be offered in many areas of the country.

Have a safe spring.

## ASSESSORS' REPORT

by Don Dekker

The Assessors have received a reply from the Department of Revenue lawyers about exemptions. They clearly state the eligibility requirements. Under clause 41, if you are over 70 and have lived in Heath the required time, have an income (minus social security) less than \$6,000 if single or \$7,000 if married, and your whole estate, less the value of your home, of \$17,000 if single or \$20,000 if married, then you get an exemption of \$500.

This request must be submitted on the appropriate form by December 15 for the following fiscal year. So if you qualify and have never before applied, you should get the form from the Assessors next fall. Then the exemption, if approved, will be on your tax bill for fiscal year 1997.

We are beginning the work for the 1996 fiscal re-valuation. It should be easier this time with the help of our new computer. You will be getting notices from us about this in the summer.

Our five year re-measurement of buildings in the town will be completed this spring. South Road along with its tributaries will be visited this spring and complete the process.

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## SELECTMEN'S REPORT

by D. F. Howland

February marks the beginning of budget reviews that lead to a vote at the Annual Town Meeting which is scheduled for Saturday, May 6 at 9 AM. It may be preceded by a Special Town Meeting at 8:45 AM, but we are not quite sure about that at this moment. The State's Cherry Sheets that parcel out state aid were due March 1 and, true to form, they have not arrived nor are they likely to very soon. The major impact on the budget is, again, schools. The operating budget for K-12 is up \$16,090 and the full brunt of capital expenditures will be felt in FY96. We expect that improvements for the high school, if passed, will add \$19,407 to that school's capital cost and the Heath School expenditure will increase from \$68,000 this year to \$79,000 next year. Further, the Franklin County Technical School budget is up \$12,321 over last year because of increased enrollment. The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee are cutting costs wherever we can, but so far there is little relief in sight.

Fire Chief Earl Gleason has proposed an incentive award system based on points to encourage participation in training, meetings and response to fires by volunteers. Details will be explained at the Annual Town Meeting.

The Board of Selectmen sent a letter to Congressman John Olver (see letter elsewhere in this issue) asking that funds in the Crime Bill be allocated to rural communities like Heath not for personnel, but for equipment. Police Chief Tom Rabbitt reported a decline in traffic violations and criminal activity which he believed due to the doubling of cruiser time. (We have two cruisers now, you know!) Tom also purchased three Monarch II

protective vests at a cost of \$1,428 via a state program that relieves the town of any cost.

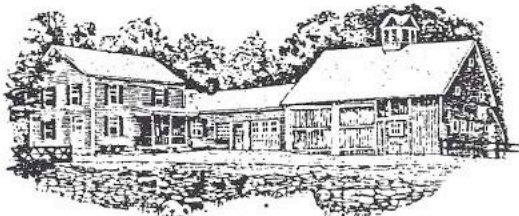
The new one-ton Ford truck with a sander and plow finally arrived; it is a major addition to Highway Department's fleet of two relatively new International trucks and one old (but running) Chevrolet. Fortunately this has been a light winter (so far) so we have gotten by with the help of local contractors. Also, proper and required insignias have been added to all the town's trucks.

Procedures for handling incidents involving wild animals have been promulgated. (see related letter in this issue). The need for such was prompted by a fox of questionable health seen in Heath Center. While there are public agencies that deal with this sort of thing many of us do not know to whom we should turn in this kind of emergency. We hope this information is helpful.

The Personnel Handbook is nearing its final stages with the help of a consultant from the Peer-to-Peer program. It has taken considerable time for Joyce Karpinski to bring it together and for the Board of Selectmen to review it.

The Board of Selectmen made a proposal to the Shapiro Land Study Committee to set up a management committee of five members with representation from the Conservation Commission, Park Committee and Planning Board and two at-large from the community. Its purpose would be to make the land self-supporting with revenue from forestry products, recreational activity and grants and gifts. The Committee should have a revolving account and could engage administrative help if needed. The Board of Selectmen propose that, in the beginning at least, Joyce Karpinski spend up to four hours a week to organize the program and seek funds to enhance nature trails, bird watching, historical site development and improving areas for scenic viewing and

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recreation. The Board of Selectmen have some discretionary funds to do this so it would not cost the taxpayers any money. The Study Committee (except for one) did not support the Board of Selectmen's proposal; it wanted the land to remain strictly conservation land. If that were done the terms of the acceptance of the land would have to be changed and, further, if at some time in the future the town wanted to use some of the land for municipal purposes, as it now can, it would take an act of the State Legislature to do it. Also the Conservation Commission did not want to manage the land or see it used for recreational purposes. The Board of Selectmen will propose a revolving account management at the Annual Town Meeting; it believes the 330 acre tract can be a major asset for the community and area.

The town received another \$13,090.84 from the Franklin County Regional Housing Authority as a result of the closing-out of a loan on a house in Heath. We probably will not get money like this in the future as funds will be returned to the agency. However, we have received some \$36,000 to date from it. A loan program for local business was established with some of it and we would use a few thousand to pay for the Shapiro Land project under-way.

The Board of Selectmen and Tax Fairness Committee worked with Senator Jane Swift to prepare legislation asking for an increase in the amount of aid for funding Heath's new school. We'll have to wait and see if the legislature gets acted upon favorably.

Several resignations have occurred recently. Dianne Rode, Town Nurse, is leaving to assume a teaching job at GCC. Library trustee Pat Leuchtman has returned to China. Town Clerk and Tax Collector Karen Thereault is working full-time; thus her resignation. The Board of Selectmen expressed regrets and best wishes to all these public spirited citizens. Kim Richter was appointed temporarily to the Library Board. Other vacancies are expected to be filled at the Annual Town Meeting. The Town Nurse function is being turned over to the Visiting Nurse's organization. (See article elsewhere in this issue.)

### Richard A. Sumner

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## POLICE REPORT

by Officer Margo Newton

Now that spring is here we will be seeing the return of bicyclists to our roads. Operators of motor vehicles are required by law to grant bicycles the same rights as other vehicles regarding intersections, turns and night operations. Chapter 90 section 14, requires that when you, the operator, approaches or passes a person on a bicycle, you shall **SLOW DOWN** and **PASS AT A SAFE DISTANCE**.

The Massachusetts bicycle safety law that was passed in 1973 states that bicyclists have the right to use all public ways except limited access or express highways. All bicyclists must follow the traffic laws of the Commonwealth which includes riding with the flow of traffic, riding in single file, obeying all traffic signs and signals, yielding the right of way of pedestrians and signaling by hand for stops and turns.

A reminder to parents that there is a law requiring children under 12 to wear a helmet. Many serious injuries and deaths can be prevented with their use.

Another issue regarding children is their safety while allowing them to ride in the back of a pickup truck. The law states that no person shall operate a motor vehicle (pickup truck), for a distance more than five miles in excess of five miles per hour with persons under twelve years of age in the body of such trucks, unless part of an official parade or a pickup truck engaged in farming activities.

With the improving weather you will also see an increase in our police patrols. As with many of our small towns in this county we do not have the resources to have a full time police force. This department is always trying to work a balance between answering calls, which have increased over the last two years and providing some proactive patrolling. Your input as a community is very valuable and helpful to us, and as always please call us with your questions and concerns. The department can be contacted through Franklin County Dispatch at 772-2133.

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## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Olga Peters, daughter of Beverly Cable, granddaughter of Ernest and Alli Thane, is this spring in Roanoke, VA. She is attending Hollins College as a selected Rubins Writing Scholar. The first day of spring, Olga reports, finds daffodils in bloom.

Christine M. Gilbert, daughter of Ken and Sandy Gilbert of Heath was named to the dean's list at Keene (NH) State College for the fall 1994 semester. Students must achieve a 3.5 or higher grade point average on a 4.0 scale to earn dean's list honors.

Dr. Martha McDonough, D.O. started her medical career as a Registered Nurse before becoming a physician. She was graduated magna cum laude from Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa and received her medical degree from the University of Osteopathic Medicine and Health Sciences in Des Moines. Dr. McDonough is Board certified by the American Board of Osteopathic Family Physicians. In addition to traditional medical care, she is specially trained in osteopathic manipulation therapy which emphasizes the holistic approach to medicine and the relationship of structure to function of the body.

Before moving to Loudoun County, Virginia, Dr. McDonough was in practice in Iowa and active in the community. She has served as a scout leader, little league coach and an officer of the local swimming team. She is a private pilot and enjoys skiing, painting, reading and crossword puzzles.

Dr. Martha McDonough is the daughter of Mary Sherman and the late Elmer Sherman.

## MILESTONES

by Edith Royer

Born on January 23, a daughter, Colleen Elizabeth to Diane and Gerry Waitkus of Richmond Hill, NY. She is the granddaughter of Pat and Henry Leuchtmann of Heath.

Willow Nichole, a daughter was born to Rebecca and Thomas Hatch of Heath on January 24. Grandparents are Shelly and Carrol Hatch of Warwick and Bette Decker of Heath. She is the great granddaughter of Myrtle and Eugene Hatch of Shelburne Falls, Ruth Thompson of Orange and Mildred Decker of Heath.

A daughter, Kelly Marie Corbeil, was born on February 17 to Darlene Marie (Purington) and Joseph Alfred Corbeil of Heath. Grandparents are Roger and Roberta Purington of Heath and Eugene and Rose Corbeil of Chicopee. Great grandmother is Geneva Purington of Greenfield.

On March 5 a daughter, Katarina Marie Clark was born to Judy Crowningshield of Greenfield. Grandparents are Dokmai and Michael Perry of Greenfield. Great grandfather is Frederick Crowningshield of Heath.

Marion K. Patterson, 91, died February 21 at her home in Burke, VA. She was a long time resident of Heath and more recently the Mohawk Trail in Charlemont. While a resident of Heath she was active in church, youth and community activities. Her husband, Albert Patterson, died in 1957. Survivors include two sons, Bruce of Burke, VA and Neil of North Merrick, NY, a daughter Joyce Thompson of Lorton, VA. She leaves eight grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. Graveside services were held in Cypress Hills Cemetery, NY. Her grandson Rev. Donald Richmond of Manitoba, Canada and formerly of Heath officiated.

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