



VOLUME 18 NUMBER 5

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HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

50¢



MERRY CHRISTMAS



AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!



PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Valerie J. Belval of Heath, along with Bob Chernis of New Ipswich, NH and Paul St. John of Laguna Beach, CA were VIP guests of the Venus Swimwear International Model Search International Finals held 16-20 September in Jacksonville, FL. All three VIPs were there representing Style Magazine of Milan, Italy, The Beverly Club of Beverly Hills, The International Cover Model Search of Irvine, CA and The International Model Testing Workshops of New Ipswich, NH and Heath, MA. During the week long event, contestants were selected and photographed for a feature article titled "Baywatch Venus Style" for an upcoming issue of Style Magazine, which publication makes its US debut in January 1997. Additionally, one of the Venus contestants, Rhonda Lefker of Cincinnati, OH, was scouted by the three VIPs and offered a major modeling contract worth a guaranteed minimum of \$10,000.

Jack and Beverly Cable attended an 85th birthday celebration for Jack's father Chauncey Cable Thanksgiving weekend at the Harwinton, CT home of Jack's brother Lee.

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HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

As the 1995-96 legislative session winds to a close, I wish to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the citizens of Heath and other residents of the Berkshire, Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin District. Six years ago you placed your trust in me and I pledged to serve you to the best of my ability. I have truly enjoyed the opportunity to represent the people of Heath and citizens of Western MA in the State Senate.

Throughout my tenure in the Senate I have had the privilege of working with a great number of dedicated local officials and citizens who are concerned about the well-being of our district and our state. I have consistently worked to be a strong advocate for the interests of the people of the district and am proud of the results which we have been able to achieve. Together we have worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life in our communities.

I recently met with Senator-elect Andrea Nuciforo and will work with him to ensure a smooth transition to the new legislative session. My staff and I will continue to be active in addressing Senate and constituent issues throughout the remaining weeks of my term. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with your comments or concerns.

Again, thank you for a wonderful six years in the MA Senate. It has been a great honor to represent the people of the Berkshire, Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin District. In closing, I would like to extend my best wishes to all for a happy and healthy holiday season and a successful New Year.

Jane M. Swift
State Senator

OUR COVER

"Country Village" by Walter Wall



(L-R) RHONDA LEFKER AND VALERIE BELVAL

LIBRARY LINES

by Laurie Wheeler Burrington

All has not been quiet on the library front. During the past two months the library has received a grant, classes have been attended in Library Cataloging, Library Collection Development, and Massachusetts Library Information Network (MLIN) computer training, the notorious State Aid and Compliance forms filled out, and a holiday cookie swap held.

Even though the snow is just beginning to stay in place, the summer reading program is being planned. This summer we will be celebrating reading and books by writing, illustrating, and binding our own books. A grant written to the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation of Brooklyn, New York, has resulted in being awarded an Ezra Jack Keats Mini-Grant to pay for the expenses incurred for the presentation of this program. The grants are awarded by the foundation "to instill a love of literature in children, and to foster literacy and creativity." More details will follow closer to summer.

To start the New Year in the right manner, I will begin introductory MLIN Internet access classes. The first class will be two hour-long classes scheduled for January 8 and 15. People need to commit to both weeks, and class size is limited to five people. (The computer area isn't very big.)

Story hours for children will also begin in January on Saturday afternoons at 12 noon. If there are people interested in volunteering their time to read let me know.

Lest we lose sight of the present (not recommended by the Ghost of Christmas Present), reading books and decorating for the upcoming holiday season go hand in hand this year! Stop by the library and pick up a holiday picture, which may be colored in and on which books you finish reading may be written. When you fill up one bring it back and we will hang it up in the library.

And as always, I don't think I can say thank you enough to those who take time to volunteer at the library, and to those who have made donations to the library. Your input to this community resource is greatly appreciated!

HEATH CULTURAL COUNCIL

The Heath Cultural Council (HCC) met on November 12, 1996 at the Heath Elementary School to review and discuss 27 applications for grants submitted to the HCC. Of the 27 applications, the council is recommending to the state, funding for nine of the projects. These preliminary recommendations are being submitted to the state for final approval.

The HCC meets once or twice during the year, and is looking for people to serve on the committee. If interested call Cathy Tallen at 337-5770.

HEATH FAIR SILO MUSEUM DEDICATION

by Grace Crowningshield

On July 29, 1996, the silo was pulled down by Lee Shepherd of Heath with his backhoe, being gently guided by cables to fall in the right place. It was amazing, after fifty years outdoors, that it should lay staked like a lumber pile with no damage, except the roof which just fell apart. It was saved and put back together again. Also, 18 staves were replaced by new ones and two feet cut from the bottom which had rotted in the use of filling the silo in past years.

Three days before the Heath Fair the roof was shingled and painting finished, to preserve this wonderful masterpiece for years to come. It is with great strength and endurance and sure footedness that this silo has been erected and dismantled and erected again for the third time.

It is deeply appreciated, with much happiness, to give this silo to the Heath Agricultural Society, in memory of Ken, who loved the Heath Fair and farming so much. It was his life.



NEW SILO AT HEATH FAIRGROUNDS
(L-R) Mr. and Mrs. Charles Stafford, Grace Crowningshield, Mrs. Ira Graves and son Jim, Ed Croteau, Carpenter
(Photo by Sue Croteau)

HEATH SCHOOL COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of November 4, 1996

Convened at 6:40 PM, this meeting was used as a forum for an overview of the Literacy Model in place in Heath School.

Overview of Literacy Model

David Matteson, Kathryn Darrow, and Philip O'Reilly described in detail the literacy model that is being used at the Heath school to teach children to be lifelong readers and writers and to provide a model to look at what drives learning in the classroom. It is being used to develop an understanding of teaching and learning that carries through the entire school - applied across all grades, all students, and all topics. It is a program of long term teacher professional development that puts teachers and children in center stage. Over the next few years, with an effort on the part of the entire school, the staff will make it fit our school and the needs of our learners. It is a program for schools that want to change the way children are educated in very fundamental ways and does so with support and guidance. It becomes the activity of the school.

Goals of the Program

- *Establish education in a school with a unified theory of teaching and learning.

- *Develop consistency of application in theoretical principles across all grades and with all students.

- *Develop the capacity of a school to meet the needs for lifelong learning.

- *Develop independent learners by providing the mechanism for self-sustaining and self-renewal in learning.

- *Develop the desire in students to be lifelong readers and writers.

- *Quality education through assessment, evaluation, planning and teaching.

- *Consistency throughout the grades through similar understanding of how children learn and how to teach.

Steps of Incorporating the Model

The Literacy Model is from the Learning Network. All staff attended the Literacy Learning Summer Institute this past summer.

A critical Triangle has been formed to lead the program: the principal, the program coordinator for Heath Elementary school at the Literacy Project, and the teacher leader David Matteson.

Staff began to incorporate the model into their language arts program this fall. Teachers set goals for their classroom instruction.

Staff are observed by David and/or the program coordinator and suggestions are given to both the teacher and the teacher leader.

There are weekly meetings with the whole staff to review how it is going. The teacher leader attends monthly meetings at the Literacy Institute to bring problems or get suggestions for implementation at Heath Elementary School.

HEATH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COUNCIL

Minutes of November 7, 1996

Sharon Brower was nominated and elected to be the secretary of the Council. Judy Thrasher has been nominated to serve as co-chair. Each of these positions are one year terms.

There was discussion about the Council's bylaws. People brainstormed a variety of suggested bylaws including: community members, term and limit; teacher members, term and limit; quorum and the need for representation for each constituency; hiring team, representation to serve with principal; number of meetings throughout the year; establishment of subcommittees; how meetings are conducted; how to adopt bylaws; and how to change bylaws. A subcommittee was established to look at these suggested ideas. Carol Sartz, Alice Lemelin, Clark Johnson and Deb Porter will meet to create bylaw drafts.

There was also a discussion about the current Statement of Purpose and Core Values written this past summer. We recognized that there were people within the community who expressed concern that this Statement of Purpose did not include an academic focus. Many acknowledged that we would add additional pieces to existing statement. We discussed next steps and agreed that we should look at this statement as an umbrella statement and we could add essential learning areas and essential skills. Members agreed to come to the next meeting with a draft of their own ideas regarding a format for a comprehensive framework.

Members also agreed to look at the information distributed, called The Basic School.

Our next meeting will be on December 12, from 4:30 to 6 PM, in the central meeting area at the Heath Elementary School. Townspeople are encouraged to attend these public meetings. A schedule of these meetings will be created the first of the year.

The agenda for December 12 meeting is as follows:

- Watch Basic School Video, Discussion

- Discuss and Pull Together Statement of Purpose

- Discuss bylaws

HEATH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL KITCHEN NOTES

The Heath School Kitchen sells Cinnamon Buns daily (\$5 per dozen or \$2.50 1/2 dozen) and 14" home-made oven ready pizza (Cheese \$6 and Pepperoni \$7) every Friday. Quantities on both items are limited. Orders can be placed by phone 337-5307.

Also, please join us for Christmas Pot Roast Dinner (\$2.25) Thursday, December 19 at 11:45 AM. Please call for reservations.

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HEATH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL UPDATE

by Philip O'Reilly

We are off and running now and after three months of operation, we are beginning to feel like a school, look like a school, and act like a school. For those of you who haven't spent any time recently at the school, I urge you to come by. Each Friday morning we have an all school meeting which gives us the opportunity to join together as a school community. Students share recent experiences or accomplishments, we sing, and even dance together too! This would be a wonderful time for you to see us together. As you know, our breakfasts and lunches are open each day to all of Heath's community members. This would be another wonderful time for you to visit. I am sure you would enjoy seeing children working in the various spaces throughout the building.

The building is working well for children and teachers. I am happy to say that it seems to be working well for many of the townspeople also, as we are open for community purposes nearly every night. (At our recent Spaghetti Supper we served just over 300 plates of spaghetti!) We have basketball, volleyball, exercise classes, committee meetings, and many other events happening regularly. Call the school if you are interested in using the building for a community gathering.

Clearly, we all have quite a bit of work in store for us this winter. Teachers continue to learn more and more about our children and one another, as we slowly put together an elementary curriculum. As many of you know, much of our focus is directed toward literacy learning for our youngsters. At a recent Heath School Community Partnership meeting, several staff members explained the program that children and teachers are learning this year with our "Learning Network" support. Our goal remains (and it is a huge one) that we will carefully put together a curriculum that reflects the goals for the school, district, and state, one which is student centered, well articulated, and continuous throughout all grades. Our staff meets weekly as a team, and regularly

with one another, as we inch along on this critical task.

Our furnishings are nearly complete throughout the building, with only a few items left to acquire. Recently our computers have arrived with most of the classrooms having three computers in each of them. We have slowly begun to explore the educational uses of this technology, while we receive much support from Heath's Henry Leuchtman and Mohawk Trail's Technology Coordinator, Doug Wilkins. Using these powerful tools in a true educational manner will take some time. Our staff members have begun weekly training sessions that will allow us, in greater detail, to explore the far-reaching potential of these machines.

The success of these first three months is really due to the incredible team effort of so many people. Townspeople, staff members, and district staff all have contributed a bit of themselves to help begin shaping what happens inside of this beautiful school building. This continues to be a challenging, exciting time for all of us. Please consider being a part of the formative process. We have many opportunities for you to be involved. Perhaps you have an idea too.

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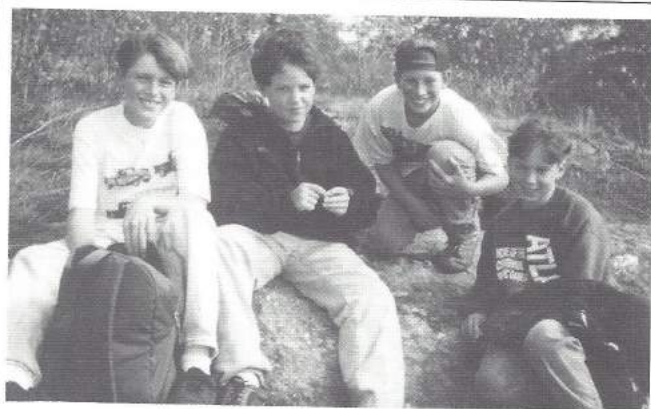


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HEATH STUDENTS ON THE ALL SCHOOL HIKE
Luke Inman, Dominic Cerone, Walker Blue,
Liam Lattrell



**PHIL O'REILLY AND NURSE ROBIN BOOTH
SHOW NEW HEALTH KITS TO STUDENTS**
(Photo by Sue Silvester)

JOHN M. SHAPIRO LAND

by Richard R. Giard

When Mr. Shapiro offered his land in the Town of Heath to the residents of the Town of Heath as a gift for recreational and forestry, but not for development or commercial use, the Board of Selectmen (BOS) discussed the gift and possible uses the Town would have for it now or in the future. So the suggestion was made for "municipal use" the Town might have in the future that is unforeseen now. It was thought to give the Town as much freedom for choice and leeway of use with as little restriction written in the deed as possible.

This idea was presented to Mr. Shapiro with the reason for the request. Mr. Shapiro was agreeable to the "municipal use" clause but stressed that no commercial development or public housing be allowed, which the BOS unanimously agreed to.

The gift was then presented to the Town at a special town meeting on October 27, 1992 where 70 voters accepted the gift unanimously with uses "restricted to forestry, conservation, parks or general municipal purposes". The BOS, not wanting to be manager of the land, set up a task force to get input from the townspeople, surrounding Town Committees that owned town land, and foresters, to bring back ideas of possible use. When the task force completed their study and presented it to the BOS, the major part of their research came from conservation oriented individuals or groups and a forester. There was not broad base input from town people or other surrounding town committees. The only recommendation the task force made was to put the land into conservation land, and the conservation commission would manage it, which meant the term "municipal use" would have to be removed from the agreement of accepting the gift. Also, it would mean that the Town would lose "home rule" over any other use of the land because it would take a two thirds vote of both the House of Representatives and the Senate to approve any change of use outside of conservation use. The BOS thought it was too important to not remove the term "municipal use", that would assure the rights of the Town and its residents to use the land as may be needed in the future, without having to go to the State government for its approval.

The Conservation Committee was asked if they would manage the property with a memorandum of understanding with the BOS. The Chairman of the Conservation Commission said that without the land being put into conservation land they didn't want anything to do with it. It was the original hope of the BOS to set up a committee made up from other town board members to manage the land and set up rules and regulations with a two thirds vote of approval at Town Meeting. This way we would be able to keep "home rule".

ADDENDUM ON THE SHAPIRO LAND

by D. F. Howland

As one of the Selectmen involved in the Shapiro Land decision, I wish to add a few comments to Dick Giard's report. It is worth repeating, I believe, that 70 people voted unanimously for the Board of Selectmen (BOS) to accept the land with its conditions on behalf of the Town. The BOS believed that support could be transferred to a management study group that paid heed to the wishes of the Town at large and thereby define the uses and duties of the land; the BOS did not think it could take on that task of the management function. The BOS envisioned a range of activities some of which are:

Forestry - a forestry plan that would encourage healthy growth and generate income for the Town.

Conservation - a forestry plan combined with a proactive open space plan to preserve natural features.

Parks - a recreational plan that would benefit the Town - trails, scenic areas, historic sites and cellar holes, a nature center...

Municipal - planning of space that might be needed in future years such as a safety center (fire/police), water town for Mohawk Estates, highway storage area...(The locale did have a school at one time and the blueberry farms are concentrated there creating substantial traffic at certain times of the year.)

Frankly, the BOS was surprised with the Study Group's recommendation of turning the whole thing over to the Conservation Commission. Further, there have been no suggestions as to what or how the Commission would proceed in this regard and no evidence of willingness to discuss a compromise. The BOS expected a cooperative spirit with respect to establishing guidelines for the use of the land.

One last point. Last year the BOS asked the Planning Board to complete its effort to create a Master Plan for the Town, an effort started over ten years ago. In the meantime Zoning Regulations and Wetland Regulations were instituted and old roads were discontinued, all of which took a lot of work and cooperation. A Master Plan establishes goals and objectives, a vision for the future, if you will. It is very important, I believe, for Heath to plan for the future...economic development, agricultural preservation, land use, open space, historic preservation and water resources. We have the data and maps to proceed and, it is possible to get some volunteer help from the County Planning Staff. With nearly one third of the land in Heath already under restriction it does not seem prudent to commit the Shapiro Land to State Conservation Regulations prematurely. If, when a Master Plan is adopted by the Town it seems the appropriate thing to do, then so be it, but in the meantime I suggest there be a hiatus about the Conservation Commission issue and that the BOS and members of town boards proceed to address management matters that are in the best interests of Land and the Town of Heath.

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SHAPIRO LAND MANAGEMENT

by Brian De Vriese

As many residents of the town are aware, we have been given a 330 acre parcel of land near Burnt Hill by Mr. Edward Shapiro of New Hampshire. The land was given with the stipulations that it not be developed, that it should remain as close as possible to its natural state, and that it be named in memory of Mr. Shapiro's son, John M. Shapiro. The gift to the town was suggested by the forester Christopher Powell who managed the land for Mr. Shapiro who originally intended to give it to the state or to a local land trust or conservation group. Powell argued that the town had no public land and that it might be better enjoyed by town residents if it was owned by the town.

In 1993 the board of selectmen asked members of all the town boards to participate in a group which would study potential uses for the land and the problem of developing a management structure for it. The group consisted of Fred Burrington, Harvey Carter, Brian De Vriese, Gerry Gilbert, Jeff Goldwasser, Mike Smith, and Richards Steinbock. A report with the group's findings was to be submitted to the selectmen and a public hearing was to be held.

The group met to discuss the issues and to interview professionals in the field of public land management. Field trips were made on the property to try to assess the existing features of the land and to determine the potential uses that might be compatible with it. After more than six months of study, meetings and interviews, it was clear to the committee that the most conservative and prudent course of action with regard to the responsible management of this land was to place it under the care of the Conservation Commission. As we learned in our investigations, the value of this land is not in its marketability for development, for it is poor land for building with its wetlands, steep slopes, ledge rock and poor access. Its value is not in the marketability of its resources either. The forester estimates that even with careful management only \$4,000 - 5,000 worth of timber might be harvested per year. The real value in this land lies in its animal and plant resources, its proximity to the state forest in Colrain, its size and potential for recreation and appreciation of nature. On a less anthropocentric note, a real contribution to the preservation of the ecology of the area would be made by placing the land in conservation. With proper protection and management, the land will be available for the enjoyment of all generations of Heathens to come.

The study group voted unanimously to recommend placing the land in the care of the Conservation Commission. The report was presented to the selectmen who rejected the recommendation due to concerns of limiting the town's options for development and losing control of the land. The BOS suggested an alternative committee to do the job of managing the land. This proposal was reflected by the study group due to the fact that the alternative committee would serve at the pleasure of the BOS and would not offer the assurance of protection that the Conservation Commission is legally bound to provide. Under the plan suggested by the selectmen, a single board could over-rule the committee and take actions which may not be in the best interest of the land or reflect the wishes of the town. It is not impossible to undo the action of placing the land in conservation should some compelling reason arise in the future to change the use of the land. It takes a majority vote of the Conservation Commission, a 2/3 vote of a town meeting and 2/3 vote of both houses of the State Legislature. When the reason for the change is compelling, the requests rarely fails although it takes considerable effort and time, as it should. This is the built-in safeguard against expedient use of fragile and irreplaceable natural resources.

Many outdoor recreational activities are permitted on conservation land although the town may wish to restrict some of them which it might consider a nuisance. Some types of motorized vehicles may need to be restricted or prohibited which are determined to pose a threat to wildlife habitat, cause erosion or spoil the enjoyment of other activities on the land. Hunting, fishing, riding, biking, walking, camping and bird-watching are examples of permitted activities. Forestry is permitted. Building and utility construction is generally not permitted except for low impact structures related to the maintenance of the property such as sheds, lean-tos, access roads and trails. The town may wish to encourage or restrict permitted uses as it sees fit by adopting regulations after holding public hearings on the matter.

The original report was published in two of the last three Town Reports and the issue has been discussed at the last three town meetings. Each time a request was made that the selectmen hold public hearings on the matter so residents might become more familiar with the issues. The BOS held this public meeting on October 29, 1996 at the Community Hall as requested. Members of the original study group, the previous selectmen and interested residents presented and discussed their positions and concerns. A large majority of the meeting, as witnessed by the West County News account, supported the recommendation of the original study group to place the land in the care of the Conservation Commission. We hope that the issue will be resolved in the best interest of the land, the people of the town and the generations to come.

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SHAPIRO MEETING HELD

(This originally appeared in the West County News, and is used with the permission of Mr. Don Douglas, WCN correspondent for Heath).

The proposition that "all politics is local" was proven again at a public meeting on October 29 concerning management of the 330 acre parcel of land donated to the town in memory of John M. Shapiro in 1992.

The purpose of the meeting, chaired by selectman Rollo Kinsman, was to elicit ideas and opinions on uses of the land. The issue causing disagreement is whether to turn over management to the town's conservation commission or to a different group. None of the 56 attendees spoke out for any use of the land other than conservation; instead, disagreement appears to be over the political process of formalizing town ownership.

Several speakers said that the original intent of the donor was that it be preserved as pristine conservation land, but selectmen had inserted the term "or other municipal uses" in their acceptance with the approval of the Shapiro family.

In 1993, selectmen established a committee to study and recommend uses for the property donated the year before. The committee consisted of members of various town boards, including conservation, finance, health, planning and the highway superintendent.

The property, which lies close to Catamount State Forest in Colrain and includes the 1.872 Mt. Pocumtuck with a view over the Pioneer Valley, is swampy and hilly, with ledge near the surface over much of its area.

After study and testimony from land use specialists, the study unanimously recommended to the 1994 board of selectmen that management be placed with the town conservation commission, eliminating the "municipal uses" phase. Brian DeVriese, chair of the study committee, told the meeting that the 1994 board accepted the recommendation, but later reversed their decision and disbanded the study committee.

Under state law, land managed by conservation commissions cannot be built upon or otherwise developed unless approved by a two thirds vote of the residents.

Richard Giard, a selectman in 1994, told the group that their decision to reject the committee's recommendation was based on home rule issues. "We don't know what will happen in the future; maybe the town will need some of that land. If we turn this land over to the state, we've taken away the rights of our children"

David Howland, another 1994 selectman, suggested that another committee be appointed to look into the question, but Harvey Carter, who had served on the study committee, said that the group had already made a recommendation and that he thought that what was being proposed was an attempt to "get the right mix" so that the eventual recommendation would be to not assign the land to the conservation commission.

The committee's suggestion was given very short shrift, said Mr. Carter. "I want to know what process the board will use to determine use, and if we don't hear a process, we will put it to town vote next year."

Most of the other speakers said that their positions were in favor of preserving the land through the conservation commission.


Mr. Kinsman said that the present board had not discussed the subject specifically, and had not yet voted on what to recommend. He said that residents will be informed of their recommendation well before annual town meeting next spring.



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The Way It Is In The Country

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

by **CARROLL STOWE**

A WELL BUILT LANDMARK

An untold amount of years ago on the road we live on, Sumner Stetson by name, there were many walls built for barn construction.

At the Sumner place, most recently the Wilson place, there's a high wall on the immediate edge of the road. This well constructed wall was built to create the approach to the large barn many years gone. I always stand in awe of those artisans long since passed on who created such sturdy works.

One can stand on three sides of this stone work and think back in time and realize the stoutness of the animals that delivered these large stones to the site and into place. Very easily those studying this great wall barn approach can determine why a large stone was placed just so.

Not far up on the lower southeastern edge of this landmark rests a stone that would have laid better the other side up but that would have meant the stone had to be tipped over, plus perhaps the face would not have been so pleasing to the stone artist.

As I plowed snow years past for the Town of Heath and negotiated the wall area I would cut the snow from the wall to the east side of the road to avoid the road narrowing up there. There are perhaps times when I may have preferred the wall not be there. I am truly sorry that I might have felt so.

The bridge area over the road was more than likely two inch plank placed across sturdy stringers to carry the

large loads of hay into the storage. I have in other barns enjoyed the dull thump of the shod horses' hooves as they took a load onto the barn floor. I have at times heard that thump when my hands were on the lines. I must make it clear that I never saw or heard a faithful farm team make the approach to this Sumner barn. I am only able to assume that many years previous to the horses there were numerous yoke of cattle that made the trip onto the hay floor. In my years of travel past this stone landmark it looks today as when I first studied the workmanship. It is truly a monument to those sturdy yankees who conceived the idea. The photograph shows the south face of the wall. I had hoped for a road side view. Apparently that photo didn't come out.

For the casual observer it would be difficult to comprehend the days required to construct this long lived landmark.

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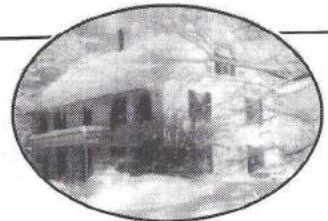
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SOUTH FACE OF THE BARN APPROACH WALL
(Photo by Carroll Stowe)



WILD RAMBLINGS

by **BILL LATTRELL**

CHANGING TIMES, CHANGING ENVIRONMENTS

With the recent results of the binding referendum on trapping and hound hunting in MA, it will be interesting to monitor the results on our ecosystem in Heath. The people of MA have recently decided to outlaw most forms of trapping, and hunting black bears and bobcat with hounds. I suspect that most voters made the decision on an emotional level without regard to potential changes to our wild lands. That is not to say that change is bad. But it will be interesting to chart the changes in our animal populations and their impacts on the natural world.

While I never was a huge fan of trapping, I have long recognized that it has a role in wildlife management, particularly in controlling animal species that pose a problem to humans. As most of my readers know, I have long been an advocate of people learning to adapt to the environment, rather than expecting the environment to adapt to them. We may all now have the chance to see how willing we are to live with the results of our collective decision, for we may be seeing some unexpected results.

Trapping has been on the decline for years due to the decline of the fur trade. As we all know, in some circles it is not chic to wear the pelts of dead animals. In fact, it may be a risky undertaking in some of our urban areas. As a result, the price paid for certain animal skins has steadily declined for about a decade. Most trappers who were mostly interested in the money aspect of this activity have simply quit the business and stayed at home to pursue more profitable activity. During this time in which trapping has declined I have noted a decisive change in our forest and field wild inhabitants. For instance, snowshoe hares, once common, have become scarce. More predators, especially fox, bobcat and coyote have steadily whittled down on the hare population. The same can be said for cottontail rabbits. I have also noticed that while nesting wild duck populations are about the same, there seems to be a decline in their offspring. I have often wondered if the increased mink, otter, and weasel population had anything to do with this.

Beaver populations, already at an all time high in my lifetime, will continue to rise. I must admit that in recent years so few beaver were trapped in our area it seemed this activity was having little effect on their population explosion. I'm sure those living close to dammed up streams, highway personnel trying to keep roads from flooding, and farmers trying to keep agricultural land in productive use will have to struggle a bit more with this situation than they did in the past. There should be some balance with beaver populations due to the limited amount of available habitat, but keep in mind that there are still areas of potential use that are, so far, undiscovered by these industrious critters.

I suppose black bears can be a nuisance to a farmer trying to grow corn. In fact, I imagine it can be downright frustrating seeing a significant portion of a corn crop destroyed by marauding bears. But, in general, bears do not pose any threat to humans or human activity in our area. There is still a relatively small population of black bears, and some pressure will still be applied to their populations through nonhound hunting. Personally, I am partial to black bear and seeing one will make my whole week a success.

Bobcats are found around Heath, but not in such numbers that we should even consider any form of population control.

But make no mistake. The biggest threat to any animal population is still, and always will be, destruction of habitat. Humans reconfiguring land to suit their own individual needs have done far more to lessen and impact animal and plant populations than all hunters through eternity. Many people who live in their suburban communities are the first to criticize sportsmen and outdoor enthusiasts without considering the fact that their lifestyle may have been a major contributor to lessening the diversity of the natural world.

As I have written, change is not necessarily bad. So over the next few years I will be observing and recording changes in our environment. I am curious as to what impact this new law will have on the natural world. As so should you be. If at times you feel inconvenienced by changes created by our changing environment, try to remember that the changes you are experiencing are far less than those changes that the natural world has experienced for hundreds of years of exploitation. Think of any inconvenience as the will of the people, not the design of the natural world.

And, in case you are wondering, I voted against the referendum, primarily because I felt it had no scientific validity. But I'm willing to live with the results cheerfully, and I'm sure it will bring me many new adventures as I observe the natural changes in my wild ramblings.



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CONNECTIONS

by
PAT LEUCHTMAN

THE LUCIDS

At the end of September Pastor Colin Lucid brought his wife Anne-Marie and his four children, Andrea, Katie, Pamela and Colin Jr., to Heath to begin serving as pastor of the Heath Union Church. Although the Heath Church is Pastor Colin's first church, he has spent his adult life in a variety of nurturing professions, including baker, caring for the mentally retarded and for the elderly in a nursing home.

He began as a bakery manager in Storrs, but the hours were long and after ten years he realized he'd never get to spend the time he wanted with his growing family so he finally left.

After that he spent five years at Southbury Training School in Connecticut working with the mentally retarded. Colin really enjoyed working with the students on the school farm which included a dairy herd, and pigs and chickens. When the state closed the school he not only lost his job, but was also scheduled to lose their housing which came with the job.

Colin lost his job and Anne-Marie, who had been working for Unisys as an assembler for the Trident submarine, lost her job when that company moved to Florida.

Colin and Anne-Marie prayed for guidance, but Colin admits he was very angry and bitter. One day he went out, but Anne-Marie wanted to stay home and pray. When he returned that evening Anne-Marie said the answer she had heard in her heart was that Colin was meant for the ministry. Colin was willing to continue to pray on this and during the next few days several friends mentioned that they thought this is what he should do.

The Lord not only answered their prayers asking what they should do next, He made it possible. For all the five years that Colin had worked at the Southbury Train-

ing school he had not received any raises, but as the school was closing, not one, but two retroactive raises came through for a total of \$5,000. However, that was still short of the \$15,000 that the family needed to move to Florida where Colin could attend Florida Bible College. Then, a young man they knew came to them and said he knew that they were making the right decision and gave them a check for \$10,000.

Pastor Colin's studies took 4-1/2 years. While he was attending school he held down a full time job as a Certified Nurses Assistant at a nursing home, worked part-time as a guard at the school, and received scholarships. At the same time, Anne-Marie did her part, working for a carpet cleaner, at a bookstore and in the Records Office of the Bible school.

During the last two years of his studies, Pastor Colin worked under another pastor, learning what it was like to run a church on a day to day basis. After being ordained in August he was assigned to the Heath Union Church.

The Lucids are in Heath under the auspices of Village Missions which sends people to small struggling churches with the hope of building them up so they can be self-sufficient. Anne-Marie will act as her husband's secretary and assistant and will not seek other paid employment.

"Right now, I'm just getting to know people," Colin said. "I've been doing a lot of visiting. One thing I have to say is that I'm just so impressed by the talent of the people in this town."

"The Youth Group has begun meeting on Sunday evenings at the Parsonage and we have a good time. I'm also thinking of having a kids' club for younger children, and we hope to have a vacation Bible School. Several area churches are going to meet here the evening before Thanksgiving, and of course, the Living Creche is already scheduled for December 8," he said.

The Lucids' two younger children are attending the Heath School, Colin Jr., is in first grade and Pamela is in fifth. Katie is 15 and Andrea is a senior at Mohawk.

The Lucid family is glad to be back in New England and with a cellar full of wood supplied by their congregation they are ready for their first Heath winter.

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## OF HERBS AND HEIRLOOMS

by Laurie Wheeler Burrington

"A veritable medicine chest by itself" says David Hoffman in his *Holistic Herbal*, of the Elder, *Sambucus nigra*. Native to our parts is *Sambucus canadensis*, the common Elder, which has many of the same properties as its English cousin. In either case, the Elder is not an herb to be found in the common herb garden, but is rather an herb for which one must seek. It grows in the wild, in rich, damp soils, alongside streams and even roadside ditches. A friend and I once tried to transplant an elder from my family's home in Colrain, and despite meticulous care, and a good deal of praying, we failed and the plant died.

It is an "elder" in the true sense, worthy of respect; cultivation of its knowledge and secrets is rewarding. It has been described and lauded in many herbals; in Maude Grieve's *Modern Herbal* she devotes eleven pages to it. Historically, it has been referred to as Pipe Tree, Hylder Eldrum; Pipe Tree, because of its uses as a wind instrument, and Hylder which comes from 14th century Anglo-saxon. Those are but a few of the names that give testament to some of its former uses. Historically, it is said to be the tree from which Judas hung himself, while in another story it is said to be the tree from which the cross of Calvary was made. From these early beliefs a number of myths and superstitions grew, giving the Elder the mystique and connection to magic it has had throughout human history.

Its uses are varied, and, as always, when collecting from the wild, do not over pick, and do not damage the plant. A word to the wise, eat the ripe berries only when cooked, and the flowers only when dried and cooked. Eating any other part may cause reactions such as vomiting, diarrhea and nausea, according to Peterson's *Field Guide and Edible Wild Plants*. Those same qualities, in the hands of a practiced herbalist, are some of what have earned the Elder a place in medicinal herbals.

The leaves are considered cooling and have been used as external washes and ointments for bruises or sprains. The ointment may be made by mixing one part Elder to two parts of shortening, and applied to unbroken skin. Test it on a small patch of skin first though, to check your reaction to it, as the leaves have also been used as insect repellant.

The flowers, which blossom in June-July, may be dried and used in combination as an infusion with herbs such as peppermint or yarrow to help with colds and fevers. They may also be made into elderflower water, which is used cosmetically to remove freckles and wrinkles, and for treating sunburns.

The ripe berries, which are rich in vitamin C, may be made into jelly, juice, wine, or syrup, or dried for winter storage and rehydrated by boiling them in water.

During last winter's cold season there was a "Russian Tea" recipe being shared by people in the community. This one was a juice, cinnamon, citrus concoction and was pretty tasty. A friend from England said that their Russian Tea as children had been elder syrup and peppermint.

To make elder syrup, or "Elder Rob", five parts ripe elderberries to one part sugar are boiled down to the consistency of thick sugar. It must be stored in a glass container and refrigerated.

With this very potent plant be certain to read several herbals and understand the plant before making use of its bounty. With this in mind, have a happy and healthy season of light!

## MILESTONES

by Edith C. Royer

Born August 28, a daughter, Lillian Rachel, to Mary N. and Glenn J. Boyd of Heath.

Born August 29, a son, Garrett Steven, to Vicki S. and James D. Woodward of Heath.

Born September 30, a daughter, Jasmine Marie, to Donna Tanner and Dan Richotte of Greenfield, granddaughter of Becky and Dennis Richotte of Greenfield and Donna and Robert Tanner of Heath, great-granddaughter of Cecile Coutu of Griswoldville, Pat and Charlie Richotte of Turners Falls, Mildred Decker of Heath and Lula and Joe Lawrence of Hawley.

Born October 8, a son, Elye Michael, to Crystal A. (Barton) and Michael D. Smith of Heath, grandson of Patricia Early of Leyden, Wendell Barton of Northfield, Susan and Peter Smith of Colrain and Lyn and Cliff Baker of Columbus, GA, great-grandson of Marguerite Barton of Leyden, Anna and Charles Early of Greenfield, Alice and Gilbert Smith of Heath and J. L. Davis of Columbus, GA.

Elizabeth Huntington Dyer, 90, of Heath and Newtown, PA died on October 13 in Newtown. Mrs. Dyer was the widow of Randolph H. Dyer. She had been a summer resident of Heath for 60 years and had recently returned to Pennswood, the retirement community that has been her winter home for 16 years. Survivors include two daughters, Lisa Murill of Shelburne Falls and Clarissa Gordon of Warwick, NY, a son John Dyer of Cambridge, MA, a sister Mary Pettit of Wilton CT, nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Services were held in the Heath Church and burial was in the South Heath Cemetery. Reverend Pamela Porter officiated.

Geneva (Susie) Purington of Buckland died October 20 in Greenfield Elder Care Center where she had been a resident for ten years. She was the daughter of Byron L. and Alice C. Call. Survivors include three sons, Edward A. of Colrain, Roger J. of Heath and Sammy of Buckland, six daughters, Marion A. Burnap of Mesa, AZ, Ellen Miller of Colrain, Virginia Fellows of Warwick, Doris Johnson of Buckland, Elsie Corse of Whitingham, VT and Agnes Steele of Southboro, a brother Calvin Call of Shelburne, 34 grandchildren, 45 great-grandchildren and five great-great grandchildren. Services were held at Smith-Kelleher Funeral home with the Reverend Ivan Crossman officiating. Burial was in West Branch Cemetery, Colrain.

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## EVERY BROOK PROJECT

by Jack Cable

Avery Brook box culverts are finally in place, the road is open and much safer than the old very unstable bridges. The next phase of the Avery Brook Project is materializing. I had two meetings with the residents of Avery Brook Road. One was held September 28, the second, a "walking tour" was held October 19. A public hearing was held November 8. An informative presentation was given by William Silvernale of MA Highway Office and myself. Many issues were addressed. This road will not look like Colrain Stage Road when done! Trees will be preserved (except for not more than four which are necessary to remove). The path of the road will not change. The width where the road has been improved is 22 feet and the rest of the road from between the bridges and from the upper section to center will be 18 feet - the minimum allowed for safe travel. There will be more guard rails - something badly needed - but will be limited to the most dangerous areas. The most controversial item raised was the painting of a double yellow line down this road. Some residents resist this item as being "out of character with the rural atmosphere", that it will look like a "super highway", that vehicles will travel faster. Others expressed the safety of these lines by designating the travel path - also that it is a two way road as some people take "their half in the middle". Also, at night, especially in foggy and rainy weather, it is a guide as to where the road is located. Although I am very sensitive to the environment and rural features, I am an advocate of SAFETY. This road is a rural road, but more importantly, it is a major collector - a major route in Heath. It is the only road that is a direct route into town from Route 2 capable of handling heavy vehicles such as trucks hauling sand, salt, gravel, cement, logs, contractor's supplies, school supplies, store goods, food and farmer's supplies. It is the most traveled by the populace. This road also serves as the major route for all emergency vehicles, school buses, mail, etc. It serves Heath in mutual aid system as it is the most direct and reasonable grade road into town. Because of the above as to its importance as our life-line road, major road I put SAFETY as priority one.

The trees in question are, as all agree, hazards that impair travel. Other trees will be removed, but these are dying or dead trees that I strive to remove in all parts of Town. As Heath's Tree Warden - nominated by the townspeople at the annual meeting - my responsibility is to manage and maintain trees owned by the Town. As a graduate of University of CT in Forestry Management and having worked in many areas of forestry, I feel qualified to do my job. The road geometry of the layout of the original roadway will be retained - no land taking - no straightening of culverts, etc. The road width will be 18 feet in unimproved sections. This is the minimum allowed by the State. When you imagine an eight foot wide bus meeting our snow plow with a width of eleven

feet you must realize that 18 feet is really not enough. There will be added width in areas for badly needed drainage. Most of this will be grassed where possible and stone lined in areas where water and steepness would erode grasses. It is important to address that this project, now being designed by the MA Highway Office in Lenox, is still under my supervision. I am working hand in hand with Mr. Silvernale and District I Supervisor Ross Dindio. We are striving to make a pleasant, rural but safe road. Think of it this way - if the road surface is smooth, then motorists will be able to look at the beautiful area rather than trying to traverse the potholes and dips and bumps of the road. The state plans to put the construction bid out in February with hopes of construction beginning in Summer of 97. The estimated cost of this project is running around 1.7 million. Representatives Steve Kulik and John Merrigan, Senator Jane Swift, and Franklin County Commissioners are all to be applauded for their support. I also want to thank the people of Heath that attended the public hearing. Special thanks to Bill Silvernale. This project would not be possible without this man.

## ASSESSORS REPORT

by Don Dekker

Finally the new computer system was straightened out, and all the other information assembled so we could set a tax rate. We are happy to report that it went **DOWN** from \$19.36 per thousand last year to \$18.82 per thousand. As of this writing, the bills will be going out on November 25 and be due by December 20. Joanne Fortune should be congratulated for all her meetings, calls and work getting this difficult job done. Just a reminder to elderly folks in Heath that there exists a few personal exemptions for which you may qualify to help with your taxes. If your gross income minus social security is less than \$13,000 if single or \$23,000 if married, your whole estate less the value of the home is less than \$28,000 if single or \$30,000 if married, and you are over seventy, you qualify for an exemption of \$500. If you think you qualify contact the Assessors. You need to apply by December 15.

There also exists a deferred tax program whereby all real estate taxes are deferred until your death or sale of the property wherein all the deferred taxes are paid to the town then. Again, contact the Assessors if you are interested.

Hope the tax rate keeps going down.



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## SELECTMEN'S REPORT

by Eileen A. Tougas

The season has transformed itself from fall to winter in what seems to most of us as a mere blink of the eye. Our snow shovels are close at hand as we wait in anticipation for that first storm which will require their use. Mother nature seems to be ahead of schedule this year, most certainly ahead of my schedule.

Please be assured that plans to build a stone wall and flower garden on the town common are still in place though, due to scheduling problems, the project must now be postponed until spring.

You may have noticed the new street signs around town. These signs, made by Alan Corey and installed by our Highway Department, are mandated by the new 911 emergency telephone dialing system to assist emergency crews in locating residents, and help to prevent unnecessary delays in finding the people who are in need of assistance. The remainder of the signs will be in place as soon as they become available.

Whoever said "once a tax rate goes up, it never comes down"? In fiscal year 1995 our tax rate was \$21.94 (per thousand); in 1996 we paid \$19.36, and now in fiscal year 1997 we are down to \$18.82. Let's hope this trend continues.

The Department of Revenue has informed us that the amount of Certified Free Cash available to the town for appropriation is \$170,651. This money is not free nor is it cash. It is, however, the approximate total of cash and receivables less current liabilities and earmarked reserves. At the Special Town Meeting held on Tuesday, November 12, the town voted to transfer from Free Cash \$26,460 to pay for interest due on the School Project Bond Anticipation Note, \$4,239 to pay down the permanent debt on the School Project and \$1,154 for Special Project, Community Hall/Town Hall. Thus far \$31,853 has been expended reducing the balance of Free Cash to \$138,798.

The bid for the Handicap Access Project was awarded to Dole Brothers. A preconstruction meeting was held on November 19. Work will commence early January and be completed by May 15, 1997. It is expected that due to inclement weather, the inside work will be done first and the outside work will be accomplished in the spring.

Highway Superintendent Jack Cable reported that the new loader was delivered on Friday, October 25 and was put into use immediately. A new plow has been purchased and is available for use this winter. Our present plow has done a great job, but Mr. Cable is confident that this new plow will enable the operator to push the snow back further and be more effective in the long run. The old plow will still be available for use and will be especially beneficial in clearing snow at intersections.

A task force has been created by Sue Gruen to investigate whether there is a need for a Town Nurse. This task force is comprised of Sharlene Moffatt, Cathy Tallen, Sheila Litchfield and Sue Gruen. Sue said that this group will discuss, investigate, share ideas and later present their findings at the next Town Meeting in May.

On November 13, the BOS closed on the loan for the Heath Elementary School construction with Farmers Home. This loan was in the amount of \$3,180,000. The Mary Lyon Education Fund raised \$67,400 as local share contributions. This raised the State share to \$167,000. The State share has to be borrowed as part of the long-term borrowing and will eventually be reimbursed by the state. A letter of resignation

was received from Linda Marcotte as a member of the School Committee. The BOS regretfully accepted Linda's resignation and would like to thank her for the countless hours of time, talent and energy she has contributed to this Committee.

The BOS is pleased to announce that they have appointed Bob Viarengo to fill the vacancy left by Mary Carter on the Planning Board. We thank Bob for his willingness to serve the Town of Heath and feel that his input will be an asset to our community. Bob will hold this position until the next town election.

## POLICE REPORT

The time spent in policing the community has risen to 90.75 hours in September and 74 hours in October, from the 59.5 hours and 49 hours spent in July and August.

For September and October 14.25 hours have been spent in responses and complaints, 4.5 at meetings and in community policing, administrative 46.5, on patrol 62.5, assisting other departments 5 and 32 hours in investigation.

Several motor vehicle accidents have been responded to, most of them due to excessive speed. Regular patrol time has been increased, and speed enforcement continues on all roads. An increased number of citations has been issued. Particular attention is being paid to No. 9 Road, 8A and Jacobs Road.

Chief Gowdy and Officer Markert have spent a great deal of time in investigations during the past two months. Investigations have included a burglary and vandalism of a house in town, which Chief Gowdy and Officer Markert are working on with the Granby, MA Police Department. There have also been complaints and actions taken concerning the theft of a chain saw from the Town Garage (in which the saw has been recovered and an individual charged), theft of an ATV, a suspected house break, and loose cows.

On a brighter note, the department has received official notification from the state confirming a community police grant. This grant is in the amount of \$4,500, and will be used for extra hours in community service policing. Heath has also been awarded a \$6,000 DARE grant for use primarily for playground equipment at the new school. Chief Gowdy has spoken with Heath Elementary School principal Phil O'Reilly about Heath's DARE Program, but the program is temporarily on hold. The department also helped sponsor a children's Halloween party at the elementary school.

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## ELECTION REPORT

by June Day

Heath can be proud of the turnout of Heath voters on the Presidential Election Day. There were 445 voters registered and 370 or 83% came out to vote. We set up the Community Hall downstairs for voting, a polling place familiar to long-term residents of Heath. There was a question raised on handicapped accessibility, but by May 9, when we return to the polls, the Community Hall will have the elevator installed and other modifications.

I want to extend thanks to all those who helped on voting day. Alli Thane and Terry Pettengill are the troopers, there for the duration! Val Kaempfer and Don Dekker each filled in a half-day for Eileen Tougas; Bud Kaempfer and Robert Markert shared the constable role.

The counters are also an indispensable part of the crew. As the day wore on and our numbers grew, I accosted voters with a request to return to help count. We did have a full complement of 16 counters to make up eight teams so that there was no need for any team to count more than the 50 per tally sheet, and Alli and Terry could go home after their 13 hour day. I had collected the tally sheets by shortly after 9 PM and was able to complete the summary sheet by 9:30 PM, make my calls and head for home. Thank you to all who were so willing to take part.

Election results for Heath are as follows. These are the main candidates on the ballot, excluding blanks and write-ins:

### President

120 Dole/Kemp (Republican)  
180 Clinton/Gore (Democrat)  
43 Perot/Choate (Reform)  
1 Hagelin/Tompkins (Natural Law)  
1 Moorehead/LaRiva (Workers World)  
5 Browne/Jorgensen (Libertarian)

### Senator

170 Kennedy (Democrat)  
140 Weld (Republican)  
54 Gallagher (Conservative)  
3 Stowe (Natural Law)

### State Senators

16 Miller (Natural Law)  
149 Babeau (Republican)  
163 Nuciforo (Democrat)

### State Representative

274 Merrigan (Democrat)

### Councillor

243 O'Brien (Democrat)

### U. S. Representative

182 Swift (Republican)  
162 Olver (Democrat)

### Register Probate

269 Browne (Democrat)

### County Commissioner

134 Hammock (Democrat)  
220 Stobierski (Democrat)

Question 1: 140 Yes, 211 No

Question 2: 295 Yes, 33 No

## 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

Sonia E. Smith to Enrique Garay of Springfield, Mohawk Estates, lot 5. \$8,000.

William R. and Judy C. Foley to Lloyd W. and Annette A. Robinson of Chicopee, Shawnee Drive. \$5,000.

Richard A. and Bernadette M. Barbeau to Zolia Kusy of Newington, CT, Papoose Lake Drive. \$5,000.

Kendall D. Litchfield to Carolyn S. Litchfield of Schenectady, Jacksonville Stage Road. No consideration.

Jean M. Gran to William H. and Jean M. Gran, Rowe Road. No consideration.

Fred J. Herzig to Town of Heath, land on Colrain Stage Road, two acres more or less. \$1.

Christine Louise Herdell to Anne Palmer Plunkett of Charlemont, Jacksonville Stage Road. \$1.

Richard E. and Beth H. Morel to Steven A. Michel and Floumoy C. Holland of Andover, Main Street. \$145,000.

Leon H. Babbitt, Jr., to Roger C. and Robin A. Guay of West Springfield, Chippawa Drive. \$10,000.

Lorraine M. Chambers to Mohawk Estates Property Owners Assoc., Inc., 12 Wigwam Drive. \$1.

Amond Rouillard to Mohawk Estates Property Owners Assoc., Inc., 12 Wigwam Drive. \$1.

Mohawk Estates Property Owners Assoc., Inc., to Kenneth and Lorraine G. Bishop of Springfield, 12 Wigwam Drive. \$3,250.

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## HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT REPORT

by Jack Cable, Superintendent

The new loader has arrived and is working perfectly. We have done a lot of work with it already and it is a great improvement over the old one. A new, better designed plow has been purchased for the one ton truck. Most of the street signs have been installed. STOP signs will be installed on Colrain Stage Road at Hosmer/Swamp Roads. This will be a four-way stop.

We had problems with beavers plugging a culvert on Long Hill recently. The passage of Question 1 will certainly impact our road system. One pair of beaver will produce over 600 offspring in five years. There were six beavers working to plug the culvert on Long Hill. Eight hours of highway crew time plus a hired backhoe opened the culvert. Some towns near Boston are already budgeting more for beaver control than snow plowing! Before Question 1, people harvested beavers for food and pelts (Europe is still buying beaver pelts). These people were also getting an income from the harvesting. Humans are the only natural enemies beavers have so now the real problems begin.

The school road money has not arrived, but weather dictated that we do something to help with the snow plowing. We did some widening and removed stump and widened the school entrance to help the buses turn right when snow is plowed.

We also replaced and lowered the culvert by Thane's barn. This was done to prevent the fire hydrants from freezing. We installed a drainage ditch of stone and filter fabric to the culvert from the hydrants. We also installed a culvert at Tanners to help drainage in that area. The road will remain ONE-WAY until the hump, which is ledge is removed - as you leave the school driveway you will notice the lack of visual clearness if someone's coming over the hump - the sight line, as it is called, doesn't meet our local code -so go ONE WAY - its the law and its legal!

As Christmas nears and our winter season approaches - be careful of children, buses and driving conditions. When you see our trucks coming - slow down - move over - let us sand and plow for everyone's travel.

Our hearts go out to the Art Schwenger family.

Happy Holidays to all from Fred, Dohn, Dave and Jack.

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## TOWN COORDINATOR'S NEWS

by Janice Boudreau

**Tax Bills.** Since the fiscal year 97 tax bills are about to arrive, I thought it would be a great reminder to indicate that Betty Nichols, our Tax Collector, holds her hours Tuesday night from 7 to 9 PM or by appointment by calling her at home at 338-4485. The Assessors' hours are on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month from 4 to 6 PM. The Chair of the Assessors, Don Dekker, is frequently in the office on Monday evenings.

**E-911 Signs.** A reminder to residents that have not as yet complied with the E-911 requirement to attach to each dwelling street numbers to do so. As adopted by Town Bylaw in 1992, it is the responsibility of each property owner in the Town to obtain, maintain, and display the assigned street number or be subject to fine. It has been noticed that in some cases, though artfully displayed, the signs are not clearly visible. Once a substantial snow arrives many signs will not be visible. It is for your own safety that your sign be visible and legible since, in the event of fire or emergency, you would want to be found in the most expedient amount of time.

**Community Hall News.** The Community Hall Committee has asked that anyone who has Community Hall property to please return it as soon as possible. In particular, dishes, silverware, chairs and a table are missing. If you want to return items or schedule an event, please contact Dolly Churchill at 337-6680. Due to the Handicap Access Project construction commencing in January, the Hall will not be available for rental or use for the month of January.

**Removing Underground Heating Oil Tank.** Information from the Department of Environmental Protection is available from the Board of Selectmen or Board of Health regarding removing an underground heating oil tank and replacing it with an above ground tank. Fuel oil releases from underground heating oil tanks can cause significant environmental damage and add huge expense to the homeowner.

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# 100 YEARS OF THE AMERICAN AUTOMOBILE 40 YEARS OF AN ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE CLUB

by Jack Cable

One hundred years ago Charles E. and J. Frank Duryea of Springfield, MA manufactured and sold thirteen automobiles. This was the beginning of the automobile industry. Automobiles have been bought, sold and driven into the beginning of the twenty-first century. R. E. Olds made and started selling his oldsmobiles in 1902. Henry Ford got into production in 1906. Ford brought out his famous Model T in 1908 and put America on wheels. At first the automobile was a curiosity, then a plaything for the wealthy, but it quickly became a convenience and then a necessity. Two thousand, two hundred different manufacturers later we are still relying on these "horseless carriages".

The automobile has shaped us and defined us. No other product has reshaped and changed the way we live. From urban spread, shopping malls, regional schools, and industrial parks to interstate travel and very diverse vehicles moving our masses of humanity.

Forty years ago, in 1956, this writer founded an antique car club - the Litchfield Hills Historical Auto-

motive Club - in Litchfield County, CT. My goal was a family-oriented club with varied automobiles enjoying the motoring of the past. The Club has a monthly newsletter "the Clutch Chatter", an annual car show in Goshen, CT and other shows and outings throughout the year. The car show boasts "no judging" except by spectators for "people's choice". All money raised is given to charities such as scholarships, historical societies, hospitals (donated a dialysis machine), soup kitchens, etc. In the early years an annual "corn roast" was held at my parents' farm in the Torrington section of Torrington. One year we roasted 800 ears of corn and had a buffet for over 300 entrants. These corn roasts are still remembered as the good times in the old car lobby - before the high priced group hit the lobby. The club celebrated its 40th year with a "corn roast" for past and present members. It was held Augus 24 in Litchfield, CT with Beverly and me attending as honored guests.

The Green in Litchfield allows individuals or organizations to dedicate park benches if the recipient is of outstanding community service. The Club has been honored to dedicate a bench. The plaque reads "In honor of Jack Cable founder of the Litchfield Hills Historical Automobile Club".

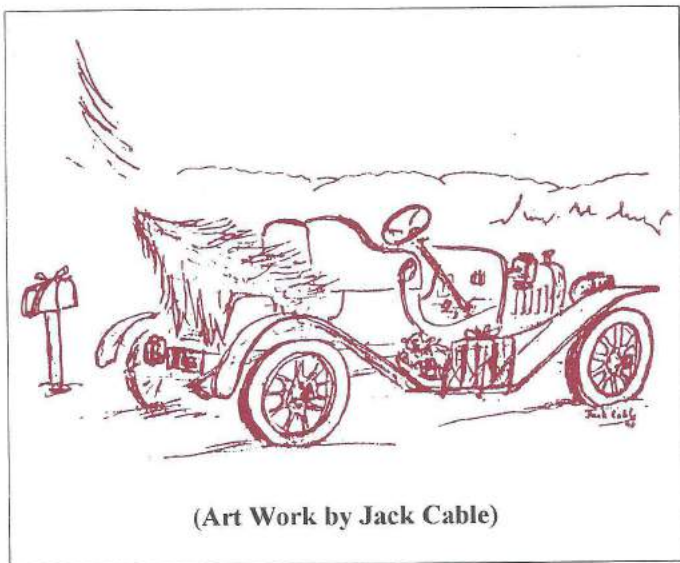
## HEATH UNION CHURCH NEWS

by Pastor Colin Lucid

"For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6

Christmas is a great time of rejoicing in the fact that God has sent His only Son to redeem mankind.

We, at the Heath Union Church, will be celebrating Christmas with the Living Creche, on Sunday, December 8. Our annual Christmas Cantata will be during our worship service, Sunday, December 22, at 10 AM. We will also have a candlelight service on Tuesday, December 24, at 7 PM. Please come and join us as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



(Art Work by Jack Cable)

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