



VOLUME 19 NUMBER 5 DECEMBER 1997/JANUARY 1998

HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

50¢

MERRY CHRISTMAS



Photo by Janice Boudreau

HAPPY NEW YEAR

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

After a year that saw some gains for the people of Heath, I look forward to working on several issues that aim to bring further improvement to the town and region.

The state recently awarded the town a share of a \$1,000,000 grant for a small business assistance program and for housing rehabilitation, and a \$150,000 grant for the schools. The state also awarded the town a share of a \$98,000 grant recently as part of the Mohawk School District for early childhood education programs. These are just a few of the highlights for the town this year.

In the coming year I will continue my efforts to help the town win the grants it needs, to work toward gaining state funding to improve Heath's roads, and to see to the creation of a tourist information center along Interstate 91 that will bring in new tourist dollars throughout the region.

I look forward to working with the people of Heath in the coming year, and urge anyone with a state-related question or problem to call my office for assistance.

John F. Merrigan
State Senator

Richard A. Sumner

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HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

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The Heath Herald is published six times a year in April, June, August, October, December and February.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE - One year: \$5.50 (payable in advance by check or money order.)

ADVERTISING RATES - Display ads: \$4.80 per column inch (discounts on six or more insertions.)

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Send all correspondence to: The Heath Herald, P.O. Box 54, Heath, MA 01346-0054.

CAN THE SKI RACE HAPPEN?

by Cathy Tallen

In addition to snow for the February 8, 1998 Heath Ski Race, the Park Committee is also in need of 10 volunteers. Work on the trail needs to begin now, but the task is too big for the three of us to accomplish. Unless we hear from enough willing people by January 1, we will not be able to hold this year's race. When Mother Nature helps with snow, the ski race is enjoyed by many for the racing, the skiing, as well as the comederie of others. And many loyal volunteers help the day happen. Proceeds maintain the park in the town's center. Please help us to continue this unique Heath tradition. Call Judy at 337-5327 if you are able to help. And the next challenge? - SNOW!

RAY'S OF INTEREST

by R. C. Pettengill

My son Michael sends me stories once in a while that are sent to him from a beer club he belongs to. One of them told how over in England the pubs used to be so noisy that whistles were built into the rims of the mugs so that when you wanted another drink all you had to do was blow on the whistle. Thus the saying, "Guess I'll go wet my whistle" originated from this.

I wonder if the saying "May as well whistle in the wind" came about when the noise in the pubs got so loud the bar maid couldn't hear the whistle.

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ALAN'S ALMANAC

by Alan Nichols

July with 5.60 and August with 6.16 inches of precipitation were both wetter than normal.

September with 3.92 and October with 2.88 inches of precipitation were dryer than normal and delightful.

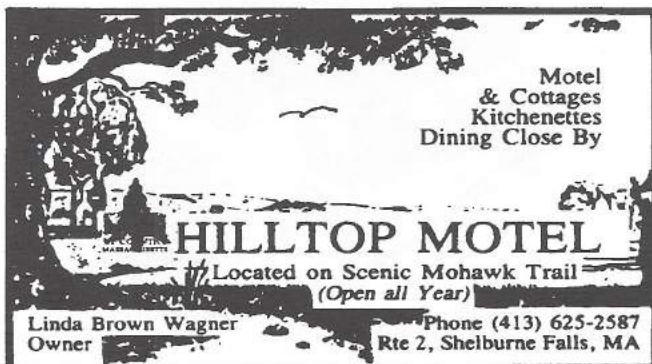
November had 7.34 with 10.5 inches of snow. The snow arrived on the 15th - a little too early for my taste but with no serious cold. Something to look forward to.

HEATH PRESCHOOL NEWS

by Suzanne Crawford

The preschoolers have been enjoying an assortment of reading activities this fall. The children are always free to choose to listen to a book on tape at the listening center, or to look at books independently. In addition, many enjoy having a story read to them individually or in a small group. In fact, there are some whose favorite way to start the school day is by hearing a story or two. Each week we look forward to our visit with Mrs. Musacchio in the library for a story and an opportunity to take home a book. About twice a month we have "reading buddies" from Robbie Murphy's 2/3 class come to read to us. Five reading buddies come at a time and they each team up with a couple preschoolers in various locations around the room. It is a great scene to see the older students who have practiced their read-aloud skills sharing with our little ones. Our class also made a BIG book together this fall. Working with their families, each child made a page with a big picture of themselves and a story about one of the things they like. When all the pages were done, we laminated them together into a giant accordion-style big book called, "Our Friends at School." Now each family is having a turn to take the book home to read. After all families have had a chance to enjoy this special book at home, we plan to display it in the school for the entire school community to enjoy.

Almost every day we play outdoors, and for many of the children this is a favorite time of the school day. The sandbox continues its age old magic, being a place for the imagination to be free - whether road building with the trucks or creating culinary delights with scoops and pans. Our young children have been challenging their strength, balance and confidence on the new climbing structure and swings at the playground. It is fun to watch them each extend their skills at their own rate. Some begin as fearless climbers and sliders; others are more cautious as they test out being up so high. Sometimes we have special activities like riding tricycles, drawing with sidewalk chalk, or using the parachute. Sometimes we go for walks or enjoy raking leaves. Recently the children were delighted with the early snowfall, and we got a head start on making snow angels and snow sculptures as well as shoveling.



MTRS FIRST QUARTER HONOR ROLL

The following Mohawk Trail Regional School Heath students were named to the school's first quarter honor roll.

Seniors: Honors, Melissa Gilbert, Lyra Johnson, Elizabeth Kinsman, Lauren Kuehl, Bryony Richter

Juniors: High Honors, Jesse Porter-Henry; Honors, Jenni Lively, Kathleen Tuturice

Sophomores: Honors, Christina Beaudoin, Lindie Donelson

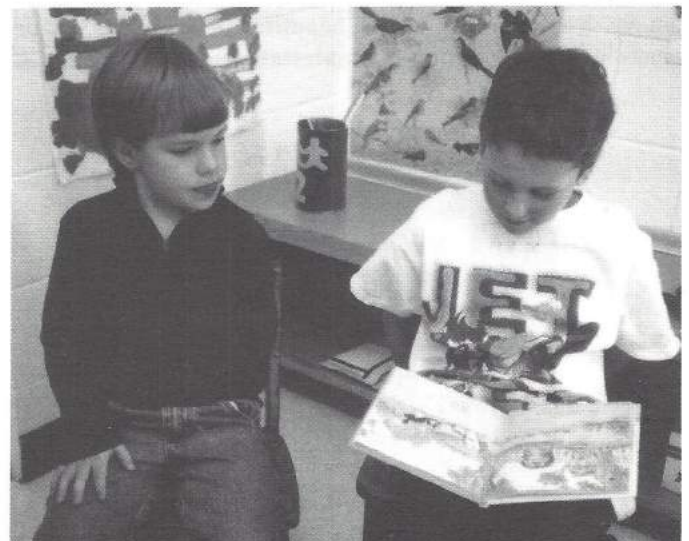
Freshmen: High Honors, Katie Lucid, Seth May, David Smead; Honors, Paul Ferretti; Andrew Kuehl, Brendan Lattrell, Robert Law, Daniel Levitch, Jillian Lively

Eighth Grade: High Honors, Joy Tuturice; Honors, Liza Burke, Maya Donelson, Monica Duff, Maryrose Shattuck, Steven Smead

Seventh Grade: High Honors, Mary Lemelin, Amelia Rocchi; Honors, Carly Nartowicz, Sarah Woodin-Schwartz



"READING BUDDIES" FROM 2/3 CLASS
(Photo by Suzanne Crawford)



READ-ALoud TIME FOR PRESCHOOLERS
(Photo by Suzanne Crawford)

LIBRARY LINES

by Laurie Wheeler Burrington

This month's column is rather a potpourri of doings at the Heath Free Public Library. There is no set recipe for what makes a library a good library; we try to have a little of everything with the hopeful result of meeting as many of the community's needs as we are able, within our means.

It has been almost two years at the Heath Free Public Library for me and I am still amazed at the workings and challenges of our library. As with almost everything its layers of complexity are multiple. A recently completed 12 hour Basic Library Training Reference has added yet another layer to how the library can be used more fully, truly offering a window to the world.

We are in what is touted as an information age. Our senses, bombarded by all that is out there, attest to this. We cannot pretend to know everything or try to store it all, but with the right tools and a little time most information can be obtained. In many of the larger libraries they have reference librarians, whose specific charge is to find information; in small libraries, such as ours, the reference questions are fielded as a matter of course by the one or two librarians who work in the library. These questions may be for formal education, self-education, pure enjoyment, or, just about anything. One of my favorite parts of the class I took is finding out that if I cannot find the answer within the walls of our own library or via the internet, if I have exhausted my resources, I can contact or put a patron into contact with a local law library, medical library, or genealogical archives. There is an incredible wealth of information and resources for all of us to use, and almost always a way to get the information. This is one thing that we at the library have done all along, but more tools have now been added.

As you look around the library you will notice a few changes, as we are making the library a little easier to move around in. A set of beautiful new shelves, made possible by a donation for materials from the Friends of

the Library and the time and workmanship of John and Dominic Musacchio, have opened up the library a great deal. New arrivals, both bookmobile and our own, are to be found on the new shelves; new mysteries are on the carousel.

Two programs are in the works for December. We are having a "Decorate the Library" children's program to help promote reading. Any age may join us; for every book read by your child, she or he may decorate one of our holiday decorations which will be displayed in the library.

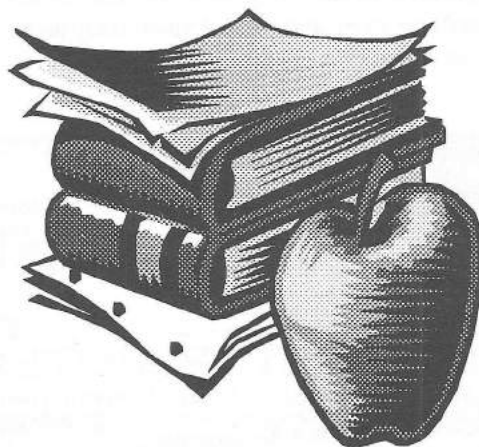
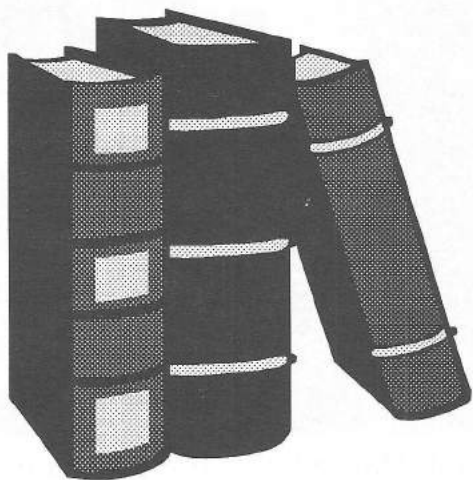
Our other program is our second annual holiday cookie swap. It is slated for December 15 at 7:30 PM at the library. For this swap individuals are asked to bring four dozen cookies, of which three dozen are wrapped in individual dozens for the swap, and the fourth dozen to be shared that evening. The library will have warm cider to go with the cookies. Last year's cookie party was a success, with good company and good fun!

During the past month the library has featured in its window display the Heath Family Literacy Network. The idea behind this state-funded pilot program is to help promote a sense of community and literacy in our children by giving them a series of books and developmental materials. If you haven't heard from Carrie Ferretti, Judy Clark, or Jill Kuehl, have a child aged birth to 2 1/2, and are interested in receiving the books provided by the Heath Family Literacy Network, please contact one of the above Heath folks.

Following the display of lovely wooden quilts made by Helen Mackie, for the month of December art work by Jack Cable will be on display in the library. Dylan Johnson has lent a collection of matchbox cars for our display case. If you are interested in having your art or a collection in the library please let me know.

And, as the year is winding down, I especially wish to thank everyone who has helped our library with their gifts of time, books, audios, donations, cheerful suggestions, even multi-colored paper clips. The library is for the people of our community, and it is wonderful to know that it is supported and cared for by our community.

Happy Holidays!





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**

AN EXPERIENCE OF DISAPPOINTMENT

Disappointment comes at various times to everyone. I'm not sure if I've had my share of this part of life but it leaves one unhappy for a bit. True, we get over it in time. Let me first admit to having disappointed folks around me - it was never planned.

In the late Spring there was an invitation to bid on a piece of used fire equipment at the Northfield MA Fire Department. My interest was sparked by a 1942 K5 International 1 1/2 ton truck. Less than 10,000 miles on the rig, a hearty new engine and six nearly new tires. This unit had a hand shifted two speed rear axle. Had it had a vacuum shift it would have been difficult at best to find shift parts for it.

When the time came to bid I was sure that my bid would not be the highest but my boss David Freeman bid for me and I would work for him to cover the bid if successful. Disappointment came in the form of missing the winning bid by \$56. I did so hope to have been able to own that old iron. I had searched out a small

dump body and hoist and this vintage unit would have shortly been helping folks in the area with its services. To be sure this old set of wheels would have been slow and not overly powered but slow and steady is supposed to win the race.

I had owned this model truck years back and it was so handy. It was a short wheel base with a small dump body. I sold this unit simply because I was unable to see beyond my nose end. Shortly after selling my truck I changed jobs and started my work for the Town of Rowe. Fire wood was becoming popular again and I could have used that truck so perfectly.

These old vehicles were some under powered but they didn't tear themselves apart with too much power. My line up of simple equipment would have been well complimented had I been successful with my bid. If any one reading this Heath Herald article knows of such an old rig I would truly like to be told of it. It is said things happen for the best. I had hoped something better might present itself, but not yet.

Frederick M. Burrington Artist
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HEATH UNION CHURCH NEWS

by Pastor Colin Lucid

Luke 2:14 says, "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

We at Heath Church also echo these praises for the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We invite you to join us for our Christmas cantata "Wonderful, Counsellor, Prince of Peace" on Sunday, December 21 at 10 AM; we also invite you to our Christmas Eve Service, December 24 at 7 PM. We will be singing hymns and looking at how each Gospel paints a different portrait of Jesus. You are invited to join us afterwards at the parsonage for a birthday cake for Jesus and other refreshments.

We will soon be starting our series titled "Experiencing God". This series is designed to help us in our walk with God and to learn how to discern His will for our lives.

We will also be starting "Kids Club". Details will be announced. We would like to invite the area youth to Youth Group on Sunday nights from 7 to 9 at Heath Elementary School. Please bring your Bible, a snack to share and wear sneakers for basketball. Extra Bibles are available if you need one.

As always, Pastor Colin's office is open anytime if you should need to talk with him. He may be reached at 337-5755.

The Heath Church Winter schedule is as follows:

Sunday Morning Worship: 10 AM.

Sunday Morning Children's Church: 10 AM.

Sunday Evening Youth Group: 7 PM at Heath Elementary School.

Monday Prayer and Devotional: 7 PM at Dot Sessions. All are invited.

Monday Mothers' Prayer Group: 7:30 PM at Charlemont Community Bible Church. Pray for your teenagers with other concerned area ladies.

Wednesday Kid's Club: 3:10 PM at Heath School, starts Jan 28.

Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 7 PM at the parsonage, last Wednesday of each month. We pray for our church needs and the needs of our community. All are invited.

Thursday "Experiencing God" series: 7 PM at the parsonage, starts Jan 15. All are welcome. The cost of the workbook is \$11. If the cost is a problem, please let us know.

We would like to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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HEATH FAIR NEWS

by Robert Gear

The Heath Agricultural Society, "The Fair", closed its 1997 season with our annual meeting, old business was completed and the new season started with the election of officers.

Two fair traditions that had fallen by the wayside over the years were reinstated and updated. Formerly the Agricultural Society, in addition to the regular Executive Board, had a Board of Directors and a Building Committee. Both of these valuable bodies had fallen into disuse and it was decided that the Agricultural Society would benefit by bringing them back.

The Board of Directors was expanded from the traditional three people to five. Members are Carroll Stowe, Bradley Tombs, Janet Giard, Grace Crowning-shield and Joe Corbiel.

The Building Committee was also expanded from three to five members with Ernie Thane as Chairman. Ernie served for many years with Earl and Walt Gleason on the committee. Ernie and I will be approaching prospective Building Committee members between now and our first 1998 meeting. The function of the committee will be to analyze new building and repairs, make design suggestions, compile materials lists and in general

be concerned with construction projects.

We all hope that reviving these necessary committees will not only make the fair operation more efficient but will also give members a personal stake in the year round behind-the-scenes activities that make the fair possible. Thanks to all committee members for your interest and participation.

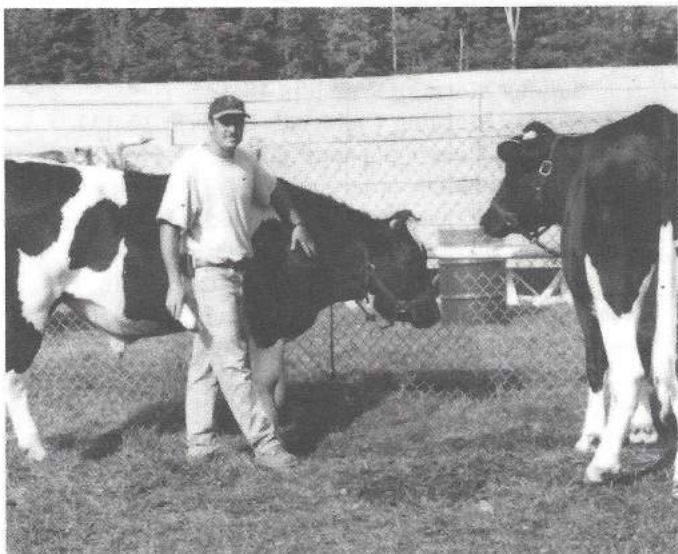
1998 members of the Executive Committee are President Conrad Halberg, Vice President Shirley Tombs, Second Vice President Robert Gear, Secretary Mary Smith, Treasurer Darlene Corbiel.

Several new people have begun to attend our meetings and have proven to be more than active contributors. Special thanks to Police Chief Loren Gowdy who has given us many innovative ideas and suggestions. We all appreciate having Loren on the team.

Jack Cable has consistently proven to be a friend to the fair with his many behind-the-scenes contributions. We all want to congratulate Jack on his exciting new job with Yankee Candle at their Car Museum. Good Luck!

The Agricultural Society will begin meeting in January 1998. Please consult the West County News for meeting dates.

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish everyone who continues to make the fair the exciting and rewarding experience that it is, a Happy Holiday Season. Please drive safely this winter. See you in the Spring.



DAVE COTE WITH OXEN
(Photo by Robert Gear)



DIANE STOWE WITH "JOEY"
(Photo by Robert Gear)

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TOWN ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT

by June Day

A single audit was required this year because the source of our long-term bond for the new Heath Elementary School is a federal bond from the Farmers Home Administration. The town was fortunate in getting the bond from this source at 5%. One of the requirements when a town has over \$100,000 from the Federal Government is a single audit. Such an audit is a regular audit with particular emphasis on the project funded with federal funds.

The Town had an outside audit in 1989 and again in 1992. The Audit Committee formed in 1992 advised that the Town have an audit every three years, but this one was delayed knowing that the single audit would be required. We expected that we would have to have it for FY 96, but it was not required until the funds came to us in November 1996, making the audit a requirement for FY 97.

I have been doing the Balance Sheet each year and becoming more adept each time I go through it. This year we had pressure to get the Balance Sheet in ASAP for the pothole money application and I had sent it in before the auditors came in October. I feel good that the Balance Sheet I prepared was satisfactory and the only changes made were to clean up our tax receivable balances which have been a source of concern for many years. Scott Sawyer had done a Tax Collector Audit for FY 95 when Betty Nichols was elected. He has recommended and prepared journal entries so that the General Ledger Tax Balances will match the Tax Collector Balances. We all have confidence in Betty figures, particularly since they were audited in 1995.

Since 1995 Betty and I have made it a practice to check all the categories to make sure that our figures match and that no error creeps in. If the two ledgers are not checked against each other it is easy to wind up with a tax receivable posted to the wrong year and hard to find later if not corrected immediately. I believe that is what had occurred over many prior years. The discrepancy in our receivables was just \$440.93, so the General Ledger will reduce receivables just that much, an immaterial amount.

Scott Sawyer was complimentary about the status of our books so we in the Financial Department of Heath can be proud that we are carrying on in accord with the MA DOR and Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

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SELECTMEN'S REPORT

by Eileen Tougas

Winter has arrived a bit early this year. There is a definite chill that permeates the air and a good coating of snow on the ground to put joy in the heart of anyone that takes pleasure in winter sports. I am reminded of those good old fashioned winters of days gone by when it was fun to romp around in the snow and the bitter cold didn't seem to bother me as much. Ah yes, those were the days!

It's a good possibility that most everyone has received their 1998 tax bill. We are very grateful for the \$150,000 pothole money that we received from the Department of Education's Foundation Reserve program. This money enabled us to keep the tax rate down once again this year. This year's tax rate of \$19.73 is a .91 cent increase from last year's rate of \$18.82. Better news is the nearly \$100,000 per year in permanent tax relief beginning in fiscal year 99 (see details in the Finance Committee Report elsewhere in this issue of the Heath Herald).

Alan Nichols has been appointed as a temporary alternate for the zoning board of appeals. Alan will be filling the vacancy left while one of the regular members is away. Janice Boudreau has submitted her resignation as Town Coordinator. The BOS regretfully accepted Janice's resignation and would like to publicly thank her for the many hours of time, energy and skill that she devoted to this position.

A letter of resignation was also accepted with regret from Ruth Fournier who has served as a member of the Council on Aging. Ruth offered a few suggestions for the council to consider in order to provide more activities for senior citizens such as rides for doctor appointments, sing-alongs, games and activities that could be held at the Community Hall. Thank you Ruth.

We also accepted with deep regret the resignation of Jack Cable, our Highway Superintendent. Jack's resignation will be effective December 7, 1997. There is no question that Jack's efforts have resulted in significant improvements in Heath's roads. He has not only done an excellent job in road construction and maintenance, but has also been instrumental in securing the funds to pay for these improvements. He will be sorely missed.

Best Wishes for a Happy and Blessed Holiday Season.

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HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT REPORT

by Jack Cable, Superintendent

SNOW, SNOW, SNOW - It's November and our town is blanketed in snow - looks like we are in for an "old fashioned winter". Snowing on Thanksgiving was not a happy time for the highway crew - would the pilgrims have had their "picnic" in this kind of weather? Even though the snow came early, trucks, sanders, and plows were ready to roll. One of the large trucks almost ended up in the brook at Burrington Hill and South Road and the lug bolts broke off the infamous 95 Ford during these storms, but we did OK - hopefully our problems are over for the rest of the season. Warning to all - any vehicle which is parked along our highway - even dead-end roads thus hampering our plowing and sanding will be towed at owner's expense! I know that I keep bringing this up but people are still driving too fast especially under winter conditions. We cannot keep the roads absolutely bare and dry in this weather. Also snow tires and studs should be required in Heath. All weather radials are not sufficient up here!

Fred Lively is enjoying his retirement, Mike Smith is doing fine and Jason Lively, our summer help, did an excellent job. Branch Hill was chip-sealed and will be coated with black top in '98. Also, Branch Hill and Bray Road were chip-sealed as preventative maintenance. We started reconstructing more of South Road and Colrain Stage. These projects will be paved in '98. Also work will start on reconstructing Adamsville and #9 roads. We did a lot of work this summer and I am proud of the highway crew and our contractors for their excellent work plus the able assistance of Bill Silvernale of Massachusetts Highway District I.

Bud Kaempfer is doing a great job at the transfer station, being assisted by Fred Lively. The metals bin is returning revenue thanks to Paul Ferretti. SRRI is making excellent progress with our trash. As the burning produces electricity, which is sold, now the ash is having the metals removed and sold; also, contractors are looking at the leftover ash for making cinder block, tiles, asphalt, etc. So our garbage is being recycled almost 100%!

Mike Smith attended a two day "Road Management" course at the University of Massachusetts and I attended an environmental seminar for the day; also attended a snow and ice seminar on improving winter road maintenance. Massachusetts Highway Association had its annual meeting November 6 at Westover Air Force Base where DEP and EPA issues were highlighted and tours of the basic weather station and a C5A aircraft were offered. I was given a personal tour of the C5A by the "best navigational engineer in the nation" - our own Kenneth Gilbert of Avery Brook Road. Thanks Ken - we're proud of you.

This will be my last highway report as I have accepted a position on the staff of the Yankee Candle Car Museum. Thanks to all who have made my job a proud one - I feel I am leaving you with a better road system. Thanks to all for your support!

Happy Holidays from John, Dave, Mike, Jason and Jack.

BOB AND JAYNE DANE

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will hold their

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**Saturday, December 13th
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FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

by D. F. Howland

The major news about Heath's finances is the award of \$150,000 by the Department of Education (DOE) from the Foundation Reserve Program, aka the "Pothole Fund". Out of a total of 152 cities and towns that applied for this aid, 96 were approved for assistance. There was a total of \$15 million available for distribution with no community receiving more than \$500,000. Because Heath had already appropriated funds for school operations in FY 98, the Town argued that its obligations not only exceeded its ability to pay but placed an undue strain on other municipal services; therefore, the Town should be entitled to municipal tax relief aid. In addition, the program required Heath to apply for a waiver from the Department of Revenue (DOR). The waiver is a request to lower Heath's local contribution to meet school spending requirements prescribed by the Education Reform Act. Catherine Heyl, Bob Viarengo and Dave Howland worked on the DOE application while Joe Boudreau of the DOR, Joanne DeLisle and June Day compiled fiscal data for the DOR waiver. Janice Boudreau (no relation to Joe) prepared the final drafts for submission after approval by the Board of Selectmen. The DOR responded favorably to the Town's application with a permanent reduction of \$98,588 in the Town's Minimum Contribution beginning in FY 99 rather than in FY 98 because of Mohawk Trail Regional School District (MTRSD) budget difficulties. The "pothole" award was made in part in recognition of that difficulty and also because of errors made by MTRSD in submitting Excess Debt information to the DOE. Excess Debt is the difference between what the Town is spending for school construction and the State's average construction cost on a per pupil basis. Last Spring the Town caught part of the error in time to reduce assessment costs for this year, but a subsequent review of Ed Reform data revealed that further credit should have been given the Town. Staff at MTRSD and at the Town will be watching the reports very closely henceforth.

What does all this mean to Heath taxpayers? It means that the \$150,000 award will result in a tax rate for FY 98 of \$19.73 rather than a rate of over \$23. In FY

96 the rate was \$19.38 and in FY 97 it was \$18.82. For FY 95 the rate was \$21.94, but as a result of "pothole" money the rate has come down the last two years. There is no guarantee there will be "pothole" money in FY 99; the State is trying to get out of the program through such means as granting waivers which are designed to create equity in the face of a very complicated Ed Reform program. For FY 99 Heath will have the advantage of seeing its required Minimum Contribution for education reduced by the waiver amount of \$98,588 plus benefits from the Excess Debt calculation which also reduces the Minimum Contribution figure. Because the Ed Reform formulas have so many variables it is difficult to hazard a specific guesstimate as to what next year's school costs will be at this time, but overall the changes won this year should help Heath achieve some degree of stability with regard to its obligations and level of taxation...so long as we all "mind the store". Thank you letters were sent to our selected representatives - John Merrigan and Andy Nuccifero, Stan Rosenberg, Chair of the Senate Ways and Means Committee and Robert Antonucci, the Commissioner of the DOE.

On October 28th a Special Town Meeting was held in the Community Hall. Two articles were on the warrant - one for \$750 for the Board of Assessors to pay for additional software support and the other to see if the Town would enter into an agreement with the State enabling the Board of Health (BOH) and residential property owners to participate in a loan program to finance septic system repair or replacement. The Assessor's article passed, but the loan program, which was well described by the BOH, was finally passed over after an hour's discussion. It may be reconsidered in the future when there is a clearer picture of what it means to the Town.

Brian Vilbon and Dave Howland have been attending meetings of the reactivated Mohawk Municipal Advisory Committee which has been effective in the past in resolving school financing problems and promoting cooperation. Jim Cerone is serving on the new Space Committee that is reviewing facility and office needs of the Town.

FinCom members Dave Cote, Mike Smead, Jim Cerone, Brian Vilbon and Dave Howland wish everyone the best for the Holidays and for the New Year.

HEATH SCHOOL KITCHEN

Now Serving: Cinnamon Buns, Pizza,
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All items available frozen; call ahead for freshly-baked.

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PERCS, PERMITS AND TRANSFERS

Percolation Tests

Ray Pettengill reports that there were three perc tests conducted in October, all of which passed.

Building Permits

No building permits were issued this period.

Deed Transfers

Eleanor Dun Wolf to Brown Family Trust of Palo Alto, CA, Robert M. and Sydney T. Brown, trustees, Ledges Road. \$1.

Alanson L. Nichols to Wilmeth Family Trust, Don B. and Judy E. Wilmeth, trustees of Providence, RI, 15 South Road. \$195,000.

David S. Green and Virginia Shaw to Earl M. Gleason, Jacobs Road. \$1.

Earl M. Gleason to David S. Green and Virginia Shaw of CT, Jacobs Road, parcel 2. \$1.

Ernest F. and Alli I. Thane to David S. Green and Virginia Shaw of CT, Jacobs Road, parcel 1-C. \$1.

Michael Kinsman to William H. and Jean M. Gran, 118 Royer Road. \$95,000.

Leo Thomas to Leo and Mary J. Thomas of Easthampton, Mohawk Estates, lots 26 and 27. \$1.

Hugh W. Klockars Sr. to Hugh W. and Marilyn E. Klockars, 5 Clearwater Drive. Less than \$100.

Kristi Nartowicz to Jeanne Charles and Scott Bryant, 3 Flagg Hill Road. \$1, 625.

Commercial Credit Corporation of Springfield to Jennifer L. Beattie of Chicopee, 168 Number Nine Road. \$73,000.

James L. Buechi to Joan G. Dolan of Brookline, 2 Rowe Road. No consideration.

Gerard W. and Pauline Ashe to Stephanie Ryback of Yonkers, NY, 25 Moduc St. \$65,000.

Sanford Roth to Sanford Roth Trust, Sanford Roth, trustee, Royer Road and Route 8A. \$10.

J. Gilbert and Hazel D. Wilson to Priscilla W. and Christian W. Brackett of Kingston, Sumner Stetson Road, Lot 2. No consideration.

Mary E. Kelley to John J. Kelley of Holyoke and Francis X. Kelley, Mohawk Trail, lots 1 and 37. Less than \$100.

Wilbert L. Rainville, Jr., Jeanne Giard, Dolores Churchill and Michael Rainville to Roger A. Desreuisseau and Laura A. Cooper, South Road. \$20,000.

Andrew O. Law to Andrew O. and Patricia T. Law, Town Farm Road. No consideration.

John C. and Gertrude P. Ringuette to Dorothy Kenna and Martin Murphy of Sound Beach, NY, Clearwater Drive. \$4,500.

ASSESSORS' REPORT

by Don Dekker

The tax bills went out at the end of November with a tax rate of \$19.73. It is up some from last year's \$18.82, but 3 to 4 points lower due to the "pothole" money obtained from the State.

Remember that you have 30 days from the mailing of the bills to ask for an abatement. After that we will not change anything, unless it is our mistake; i.e., computer error, entry error, etc. Even in the case of our error, you should notify us within 30 days anyway.

You do not need to come in person to apply for an abatement. Call, drop a note, or pick up a form which are always in an envelope hanging on the Assessors' door. Please call if you have any questions.

POLICE REPORT

For the month of October, the Heath Police Department logged in a total of 85 hours. A breakdown is as follows:

Administrative: Issue summons, firearms permits, prepare warrants, return calls, attend meetings, and correspondence: 16.5 hours.


Patrol: 16 hours.

Community policing: 12.5 hours.

Training: 40 hours.

The Heath Police Department has received notification that the DARE grant was increased by \$2,000 and the community police grant was increased by \$2,500.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS

HAPPY NEW YEAR



(Photo by Janice Boudreau)



(Photo by Janice Boudreau)

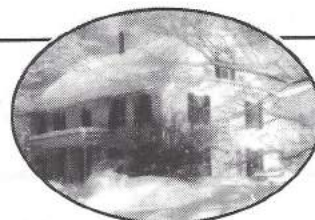
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MILESTONES

by Edith Royer

Born November 10, a son Rowan Gordon to Janis Steele and Brooks McCutchen of Heath, grandson of Shirley Steele of Montreal and Martha and Leighton McCutchen of Heath.

Mrs. Jean Johnson, 93 years, died August 1 in Mansfield, OH. She leaves a son, David Johnson of Mansfield and two daughters, Carol (Rogers-Malone) Norem of Sonoita, AZ and Marcia Rogers of Philadelphia, PA and four grandchildren: Roger Malone of College Station, TX, Jeffrey Malone of Tucson, AZ, Polly MacDonald of Henrietta, TX and Penny Malone of Casa Grande, AZ. Her husband, Sherman Johnson, died several years ago. The Johnson family spent many summers in Heath at their home in Dell.

LADIES AID

by Edith Royer

The Ladies Aid held a very successful Christmas sale at the Community Hall on November 8. Thanks to everyone who helped in any way.

We will meet again in April. Have a good winter.



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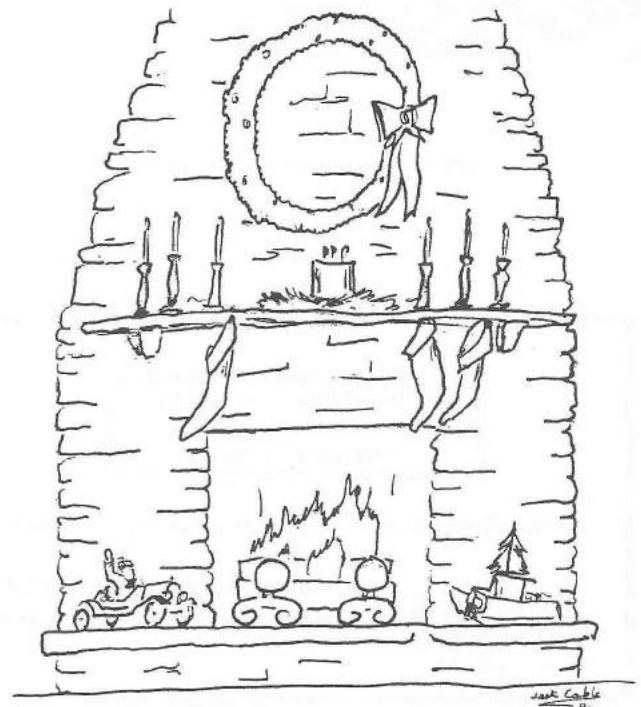
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Mark Howland of Longmeadow and grandson of Pegge and Dave Howland will be a participant in a special national invitational soccer tournament in Cocoa, Florida December 26-30. Mark is a midfielder for the Western United team, a finalist in a statewide program for boys under 15 years old, and one of only two soccer teams from Massachusetts competing in the event.

MERRY CHRISTMAS



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