



VOLUME 19 NUMBER 6

FEBRUARY/MARCH 1998

HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

50¢

AMERICORPS VOLUNTEERS AT HEATH SCHOOL

The Massachusetts Forests and Parks AmeriCorps Program (MFPA) has recently been established at the Kenneth Dubuque State Forest in Hawley. This program is intended to provide environmental education programs and trail maintenance projects throughout Massachusetts. The AmeriCorps Program, begun in the early nineties, is a national service organization formed with the intent of providing service to those in need. Examples include working with homeless communities, disaster relief, educational programs, and environmental work such as performed by the MFPA. The mission and objectives of MFPA is to provide opportunity for AmeriCorps volunteers to experience creating their own community with its own definitions and methods of living, learning, resolving conflicts, and working together. It is planned to maximize the effect on the individual and community by

accomplishing tangible education, conservation, and environmental service projects which serve to enhance, protect, and restore Massachusetts educational and natural resources. Two of the twenty members of the MFPA, Jim Rothwell and Jeremy Dick, will be working with the staff of the Heath Elementary School over the next three months.

Jim and Jeremy will be playing varied roles at Heath Elementary. First of all, they will act as project coordinators to develop a school community garden, a composting system, and a nature trail/outdoor recreation area. Second, they will work with teachers to provide teaching assistance and tutoring. Finally, the two will provide an additional source of information, fresh ideas and enthusiasm. Both Jim and Jeremy have prior experience with environmental projects and outdoor education.

Both Corps members are enthusiastic about enriching the academic and developmental experience at Heath Elementary School.



Jim Rothwell and Jeremy Dick, AmeriCorps volunteers at Heath School

LETTERS

Dear Fellow Heathens,

A heartfelt thank you to you all. We both had a lovely time on Sunday, January 25th, at "Jack's Roast". How nice to see all you nice people and hear good things about Jack too!

Beverly Cable

Jack left these notes:

Mrs Pearl Duris celebrated her 90th birthday on January 29th. Pearl and her husband Andy owned Burnt Hill Farm which Jack Cable purchased in 1966. Mrs. Duris lives in Jacksonville, Florida

Mary Sherman celebrated her 92nd birthday on January 10th.

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VIEW FROM BURNT HILL

by Jack Cable

Thank you to all my friends, Heath residents, selectmen and state officials who "roasted" me on Sunday, January 25, and those who sent my wife Beverly and I cards. It was great to be "honored", and I will never forget the event and the people. Some have told me it was the "happiest" event ever held in Heath. Thanks again. I enjoyed meeting the challenge of improving our roads and I accomplished what I intended to do. There is much more to do and I hope the future highway department continues the effort.

The historical site on our land is undergoing a three year study by NEARA, (New England Antiquities Research Association), under the supervision of Colgate Gilbert. Mr. Gilbert gave an excellent presentation this fall at NEARA's annual meeting in Mount Ascutney. The Recorder, West County News and Associated Press have written articles on the findings. This study will enhance the APR program. We are working diligently to preserve the "most beautiful view in Massachusetts" from development and anything that would impact this view.

I'm enjoying my new employment at Yankee Candle Car Museum, taking care of the eighty-vehicle collection of outstanding automobiles and greeting the guests.

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RAYS OF INTEREST

by R. C. Pettengill

A few things to make you smile!

"Hamburger Surprise"

The cook said, "I bet you can't figure out what we are having for dinner today!

You had it yesterday and the day before and you certainly did not expect to get it tonight."

"Conflict"

My boss and I had a personality conflict. I had one and he didn't.

"My sentiments on the political position at this time."

If you see three signs on my lawn, each for a different presidential candidate, it isn't that I can't make up my mind which one to vote for, but that my lawn was getting a little brown so I thought I'd put in some fertilizer sticks.

PRESCHOOL NEWS

by Suzanne Crawford

You can tell it's winter at the Heath Preschool by looking at all the snow pants and boots lined up by the children's cubbies. So many layers...but luckily the snow is so much fun that it makes it all worthwhile! There are many options for entertainment in the snow. We always take out the shovels and the big Tonka trucks for imaginative building and snow removal. The sleds are great fun, and occasionally we get the extra pleasure of sharing our sledding time with the K/1 classes. It has been fun to have the playground equipment in the winter. The smaller climber with the double slide has been perfect with the extra challenge of slippery boots and mittens factored in. The swings have been popular, but recently deeper snow threatens to hide them from us. I have brought my littlest cross-country skis and boots from Stump Sprouts for the preschoolers to use, and I'm thrilled to see that every child can succeed and enjoy him/herself skiing on the soccer field. So far we haven't had much good snow for building snowmen and other snow sculptures, but I imagine that we will get more wet snow as spring nears. Recently the children had great fun walking on the crust when they realized that they could stay up on top while walking, but crunch through if they jumped! It was somewhat like having a dozen Jack-in-the-boxes in reverse - walk, walk, walk, jump/crunch.

We recently had our annual visit from Dohn Sherman of the highway department. We really appreciate him making time in his busy schedule to tell the children about his work and to show them how the snow plow works. In addition to delighting those who love big trucks and machines, it gives us an opportunity to learn about and appreciate some of the work that our community members perform that helps us all. (And there is no time like the winter to appreciate the good work of the road crew!) We also talk about keeping a safe distance away from roads and snowplows.

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We have had a change in our schedule as of January. The preschoolers are now able to stay at school for lunch, going home at 12:30. Lois Holm, the Mohawk District Early Childhood Coordinator, was successful in applying for some additional funding from a state grant that has allowed for this extended day. Gail Hall has been most gracious in extending the school lunch program to include the preschoolers. We eat in our classroom which allows the preschoolers to sit at tables their size, as well as making it possible for them to get up and play when they are finished eating. Some of the older students in grades 4, 5, and 6 have been coming in on a rotating schedule to help us get boots and snow pants off, and to get started on lunch. It has been a nice way to share across the grades.

The preschool is planning to sell lunches at the Heath ski race as a fund raiser. We join the Heath park committee in hoping for a wonderfully snowy race day with many happy (and hungry!) skiers. See you there.

HEATH SCHOOL COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

by Veronica Smead and Darlene Corbiel

A thank you for the support that everyone gave to the Volleyball Tournament, which earned \$200 towards the ski scholarship program. We appreciate all those that baked, bought, volunteered and played. It was a fun event!

The children are very excited about the Talent Show coming up on Saturday, March 14, with auditions held during the first week of February. Tickets for the event will cost \$3 for adults and \$1 for those age 5-11. Money earned from the show will be used for the ski scholarship fund. We appreciate all the support that we know you will give toward this event. We will be doing a raffle during intermission at the show so if you know of any items please let Veronica know. The evening will be entertaining and special as the community gathers together. Please join us!

The next Community Pot Luck, sponsored by the Partnership, will be held on March 6. This will be their second Pot Luck. People with last names beginning A-K are asked to bring salads; those in the L-Z range are asked to bring a main dish. The Partnership will provide the drinks, dessert and paperware. All are invited.

Keep your eyes open for the next Partnership meeting. All input is welcome, and childcare is provided. See you there!

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NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL

by Philip O'Reilly

We were fortunate to receive a state grant that financed the cost of Cathy Geyster's training to become Heath's Reading Recovery Teacher. Cathy Geyster began this intensive training during the month of August and continues with it throughout the entire school year. The Reading Recovery "intervention" is a very successful early intervention program for first graders experiencing difficulty learning to read. We are extremely lucky to have the opportunity to begin this proven program at Heath School. Cathy has written an article to specifically describe what she has been trained to do.

Heath School now has two AmericaCorps volunteers who will be working with the staff to develop three school projects. Tim Rothwell and Jeremy Dick have written a press release that describes who they are and a bit about the work they will be doing.

Teachers have recently completed their work with the development of a new computerized report card. This report card contains both skill checklists and anecdotal information from the teacher. This has been another Herculean task to both develop and then put on our computer system.

Staff continues to work on the development of our local curriculum. At recent staff meetings we have decided on a direction for handwriting instruction. We have also begun to "dig into" literature about spelling instruction in the elementary years. Another project we are working on is the development of school-wide student management and behavior procedures. We are grateful to have Deb Porter who is guiding us with this process. Stephen Bechtel and Robbie Murphy are continuing to work with literacy consultant Geri Williams on a monthly basis. This work is in preparation for Robbie and Stephen to work side by side with the remainder of the staff beginning in September.

Our Heath School Council has completed the FY 1999 school budget, which has been submitted to the Mohawk Trail School Committee. I wish to thank members of the Heath Finance Committee and the Selectboard for meeting with me last month to discuss the direction of the school and the financial implications. Many people have worked hard to insure that this budget will enable the school to move forward toward meeting the many goals that have been outlined in our School Improvement Plan.

The Heath School Community Partnership recently sponsored a volleyball tournament to help raise money for ski scholarships. Our ski program began in Mid-January and will continue through the first week of February. Nearly the entire school is involved in this exciting part of our physical education program.

A number of families met recently in the home of Alastair Maitland and Hazel Porter. At this meeting we began the planning stages for the school hosting an intern from Japan beginning next October. The plan is that the

intern will be staying with a number of Heath families for six months and spending each school day here at the school teaching about Japanese culture and language. Anyone in the community who is interested in working with us as we develop plans and pilot curriculum should call or contact me at the school.

HEATH EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

By Timothy Lively

The following calls were answered since the first of October:

10\23\97 - Sumner Stetson Road - Medical
10\31\97 - West Main Street - Medical
11\15\97 - Number Nine Road - Motor Vehicle Accident
11\22\97 - Long Hill Road - Medical
12\14\97 - A. L. Stetson Road - Medical
12\17\97 - West Main Street - Medical
12\20\97 - Route 8A North - Motor Vehicle Accident
12\30\97 - West Brook Drive - Medical

We ended the year with 32 EMT calls as follows:

21 - Medicals
10 - Accidents (motor vehicle, bicycle, snowmobile)
1 - Others ("stand-by's"/Assisting)

For 1998 activity to date has been as follows:

1\3\98 - Judd Road - Medical
1\3\98 - Avery Brook Road - Medical

The EMS association would like to thank Mary Howe and David Thane, who are stepping down after 21 years each of service to the town of Heath. We are grateful for their years of dedication. The association would also like to thank Jenn Giandalone, who has recently moved out of town, for her EMT service to the town. The EMS association would like to welcome our newest EMT, Carrie Croteau, to our department.

We hope everyone had a happy holiday season and has a safe New Year. As always the EMS association is looking for volunteers to become EMTs. If you are interested please let the department know.

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READING RECOVERY AT HEATH SCHOOL

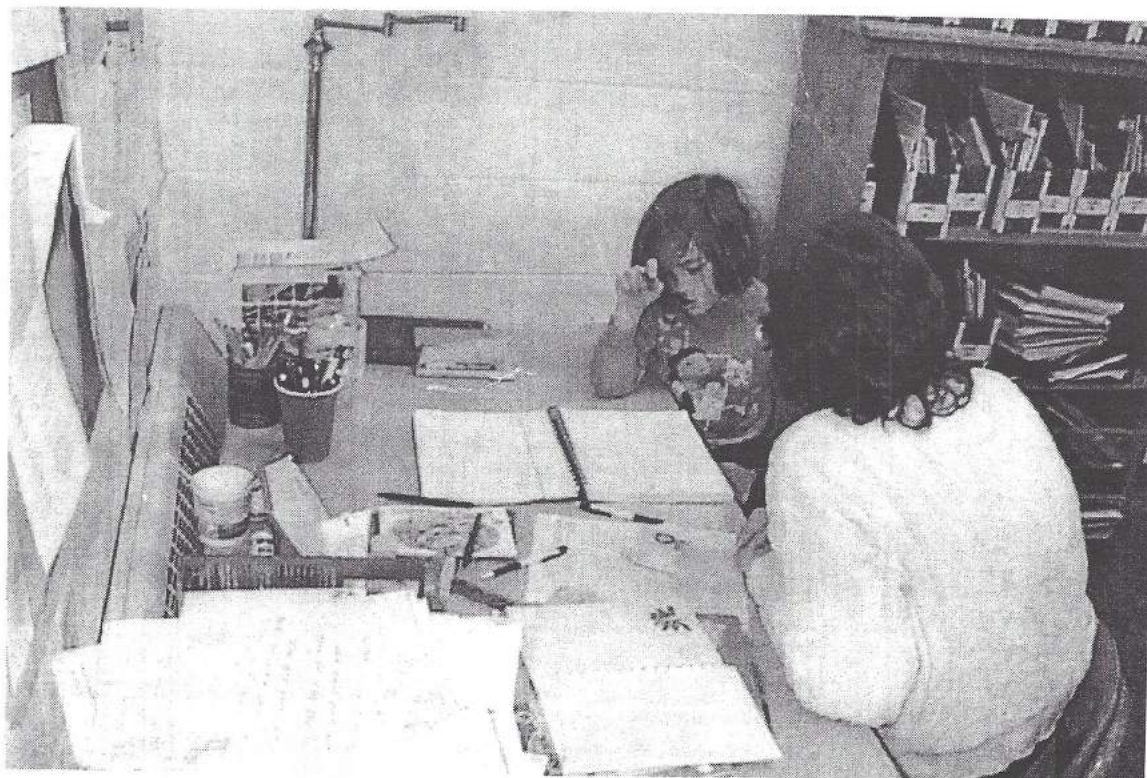
by Cathy Geyster

Reading Recovery is an early intervention program designed for first graders experiencing difficulty learning to read. It is a short term research-based program. Eligibility for the program is determined by administering the "Observation Survey", (an assessment tool), to the lower half to third of the first grade classroom.

Teachers in their training year attend weekly classes facilitated by a Teacher Leader. In addition, the teachers in training all take turns teaching lessons behind a one-way mirror. These sessions, known as "teaching behind the glass", provide an invaluable opportunity for teachers to observe, discuss and learn from actual reading recovery lessons. Teachers in training are observed at their schools on a regular basis by their Teacher Leader.

The goal of the Reading Recovery program is to help first graders at risk of reading and writing failure learn how to use strategies that good readers and writers use. While the framework of the daily lesson is consistent, the reading and writing experiences are tailored to

the individual child. A typical lesson runs 30 minutes in length. The four children participating in the program are seen daily on an individual basis. The lesson begins with the child reading a familiar story. This provides the child with an opportunity to use reading strategies and practice fluent reading. The child then independently reads yesterday's new book while the teacher makes a written record of the reading. The running record will later be analyzed and a new book will be selected based on information from the record. The next part of the lesson begins with letter identification using magnetic letters. Magnetic letters are also used to have a student construct and take apart words; this part of the lesson is known as "Make and Break". Also at this time the student writes a story with support from the teacher. The child writes as independently as possible with the teacher helping the child to acquire new writing strategies. The child reassembles the story after the teacher writes it on sentence strip and cuts it apart in words or groups of words. The last ten minutes of the lesson include the introduction and first reading of the new book. The child reads the book as independently as possible with the teacher doing some teaching during and after the first reading.



Heath School's Reading Recovery Teacher, Cathy Geyster
with 1st grader Megan Kain

LIBRARY LINES

by Laurie Wheeler Burrington

The library has received notification of its fiscal 1998 State Aid to Public Libraries, in the amount of \$1,525. Every year public libraries in Massachusetts are required to meet certain standards to be eligible for this grant; among these, a minimum number of 10 hours open; adequate municipal financial support; and a 20% book expenditure from the library's overall budget. These, along with weekly circulation statistics kept year-round, are what help the state determine our public library's "piece of the fiscal pie". During the times of year the forms are filled out you may notice a harried-looking librarian or trustee. Don't worry, we'll recover. Liken these exercises to taxes, library style. And 99.9% of the time there is a happy ending.

The library has increased its medical section with six new volumes, five of which are about cancer and breast cancer: Breast Cancer, What Every Woman Should Know, Baron-Faust; Close to the Bone, Bolen; Healing Essence, A Doctor's Guide, Gaynor; Breast Cancer, the Complete Guide, Hirshaut; and I Can Cope, Staying Healthy, Johnson. My hope is that no one need them, but they are within our collection should the need arise. They were purchased through a donation from "Rays of Hope" of the Comprehensive Breast Center at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield. The medical center has its own large resource center on this subject and many others. The Baystate Medical Library is open to the public for use, should our library be unable to provide the information from within house or interlibrary loan. Our sixth volume, The Home Merck Manual, to be found in our medical reference collection, has already met with wide usage.

Under "old news", the trustees and I are making progress on our Long Range Plan, and are progressing from the information-gathering stage to the writing of the document. The finished product will both fulfill the state requirement, thus allowing the library eligibility for a number of specific project grants, and will clarify for the library the goals it needs to meet to bring it up-to-date and into the future.

During the past month we have enjoyed a collection of sea shells lent to the library by Ruth Ayers, as well as watercolor paintings by Jack Cable.

For February we will be displaying flowers; flowers in catalogues, in paintings, on our windowsills, because even though the days are getting longer, February seems to need an extra push to get through. For reading material we brought in from the bookmobile a few more gardening books, have on hand seed catalogues, and several gardening magazines; Organic Gardening, Horticulture, and Garden Design.

Many thanks for the number of donations received recently, to Anne T., for her books, videos, magazines and videos; to Helen M. for the beautiful new magazine Watercolor Magic, and thanks to the mysterious donor of

brand new purple, (my favorite color), Heath Free Public Library bookmarks, found by the library doorway on a busy Monday night just before Christmas. If you haven't picked one up yet, stop by, they're on the front desk. With the library hours listed, they're the perfect size for a wallet, a book, or for a spot on your refrigerator. To quote the bookmark, "Joie de livre!"

HEATH HEARS A WHO

by Laurie Wheeler Burrington

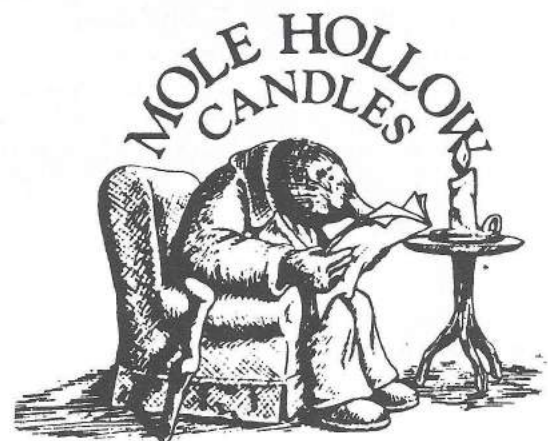
Hang on to your hats! Your "Cat in the Hat"s, that is! March is known for blowing in like a lion. This year it also blows in Read Across America, the March 2 nation-wide celebration of reading, held on the birthday of that writer of beloved books, Dr. Seuss. Have you had your green eggs and ham?

Across the nation school and public libraries will be joining together in this celebration. In Heath the school library and public library will hold a 12 hour readathon, where, at 9am at the elementary school, members of Mohawk Trail Regional High School peer education group are scheduled to present Dr. Seuss stories. Following them will be readings of Dr. Seuss favorites at 10am, 11am, 1pm, and 2pm, with a birthday cake for Dr. Seuss at 12 noon.

The Heath Public Library will continue the readathon by opening its doors early and having a reader at 3pm, 4pm, 5pm, 6pm and 7pm, followed by birthday cake for Dr. Seuss to top off the evening.

Who, you ask, are these readers to be? It could be anyone! Community members have been asked to join us in reading their favorites, either Dr. Seuss or some other favorite. This celebration of reading is for all ages, and all are invited to one or both of their libraries on this day. You never know who could show up! Do I hear a Who?

For information either Heath library may contacted; Wanda at 337-5307 or Laurie at 337-4934.



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HERBS AND HEIRLOOMS

(and the call of the seed catalogue)

by Laurie Wheeler Burrington

Everyone does an article on seed catalogues around this time of year. And everyone notes that everyone does an article. This is not in the category of original thinking.

I had this year promised to not plant a vegetable garden. I have a rehearsed list of excuses; no time; I always plant too large a space to which to properly attend; and our herb garden is in dire need of attention. I wish I could grow "more time" as well as herbal thyme.

Then came a chance encounter with the seed catalogue pile, which had been growing since Thanksgiving, as it toppled to the floor. It issued an invitation to curl up with it beside a sunny window. I succumbed to it, and am presently losing the battle to not plant my vegetable garden. I don't need to buy seeds, as I have five boxes of them, (either saved from previous years or never planted because I had ordered too many), in a closet in my husband's art studio. I am nevertheless sorely tempted to take pen to order sheet. There are times when something in a catalogue sounds just too perfect. Last summer, in the Heath garden of the magical towering Brugmansia, were growing other exotic plants, which I probably will need to grow this year. Gardeners can be an adventurous lot.

Seed lust inherently carries with it responsibility, of which I was reminded just this week. I received in the mail a package of seeds for Abundant Life Seed Foundation, a Washington state seed company which carries an heirloom bean seed I introduced to the Seed Saver's Exchange a number of years ago. Abundant Life asked me to "grow out" another old bean seed I have. Both of the seeds were ones which, (I know you've heard me go on about them before), were unique to this area and not on any company's seed list. I can't say no, just as other seed savers can't say no. And if I grow a little garden for my beans I know I'll have to grow everything else. I try not to play favorites. You can see where this is leading.

I am a creature of habit, and a creature of hope. Despite its dazzling white finery, the winter season can become interminable, leaving people with a longing for tropical climes and green and gardens. The call of the seed catalogue beckons, asking us to believe in greener days to come. The seeds, tiny bundles of promise and life, speak to us of long days of sun and dirt and warm weather and sinuous tangles of plants to which we just couldn't say no.

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HEATH CHURCH NEWS

by Pastor Colin Lucid

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (Genesis 1:1) This is the theme of our Creation Seminar on Sunday, February 22 for the teens and their parents. Anyone else who would like to attend is welcome. Dr. Karel deUbl, a dentist from Greenfield, will be our guest speaker. We will have a Pot Luck supper at 5:30pm while some films are being shown. The talk will begin at 7pm. We will meet at Colrain Community Church.

Other upcoming events include our 2nd annual Community Valentine Dinner on Saturday, February 14 at 6:30pm at the Heath School. Tickets are being sold on a first call basis and may be reserved by calling the Heath Church at 337-5755 or Hilma Sumner at 337-4845. Please come and join us for good food, good entertainment, and good fellowship. This is a non-profit event.

Kid's Club has started and meets after school on Thursdays from 3:10-4:15pm at Heath School. We will once again be learning Character Qualities through our forest friends and will be sharing Bible stories. Kid's Club is non-denominational.

You Are Invited

Our winter schedule is as follows:

Sunday worship service: 10:00am

Children's church: 10:00am

Youth Group: 7:00pm on Sunday at Heath School. Bring your favorite snack.

Prayer meeting is the third Wednesday of each month at the parsonage at 7pm.

Kid's Club: 3:10-4:15pm Thursdays at Heath School.

Monthly men's fellowship breakfast: call the parsonage for dates and times.

Game Night: See our monthly calendar at Peters Store.

We at the Heath Union Church would like to wish everyone a happy New Year.

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WILD RAMBLINGS

by BILL LATTRELL

UNDERNEATH IT ALL

As I walk through the winter forest I am fascinated with my surroundings. The fresh snow bends the hemlock bows so that the lower branches are frozen to the white ground. A cold breeze shivers branches making the sound of tiny bells. When the breeze relaxes there is dead silence. Now the only shiver is the one that runs up and down my spine as I behold the beauty before me.

To my right in the hardwoods I can see fresh tracks. As I plod through the snow I feel a sense of anticipation. Upon close inspection I see there are three sets of tracks, none of them more than a few hours old. There is one set of white-tailed deer tracks and two sets of coyote tracks. The coyote tracks are an example of energy conservation. Coyotes track so that their rear foot frequently lands in the imprint of the front foot. I follow the tracks for about a half of a mile. It is clear that the deer is far in front of the canines. The coyotes begin to lose interest by the evidence of them wandering occasionally off the lone of deer tracks. The coyotes begin to investigate a tree hollow, then a crevice under a large piece of ledge. There is much activity at this location. The tracks are muddled by the activity. Despite a close investigation I cannot discern if the coyotes are successful in finding food there.

The tracks continue to a trail that is used during all seasons. The trail runs back and forth horizontally along a series of ledges, gradually leading to an old apple orchard at the base of the south facing rock ledge. Here the coyotes dig in the snow. It appears that they are in search of apples. Some frozen apples appear to be freshly chewed on.

At this point I abandon following the coyote tracks. I decide to hang around a while given the potential of this area to attract a variety of the local wildlife. Sometimes a notion such as this leads to grand and memorable encounters. In this case my wait yields only a mild case of frozen toes. With one last hope, I scan the distant horizon for signs of activity. The woods are a frozen quiet. At the moment, I feel like I am examining a winter photograph, full of beauty but without life. Given the lack of activity it is time to begin my trek towards home.

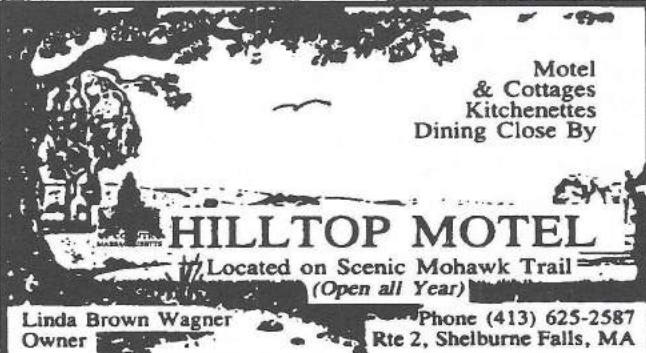
As I turn with my back to the sun I am surprised to hear the rustle of leaves. This is curious because the ground is covered with snow. I try to locate the sound by becoming completely still, focusing all of my senses on my immediate surroundings. I hear the sound again to my left and realize it its coming from the end of a broken apple branch that lies on the ground. I make a wide arc around the branch, keeping a safe distance so as to not disturb the critter that makes the noise.

After several minutes of staring at the hollow

branch I see movement. At first I see just a small head, and then the animal's forelegs. Now, in full view, I can see the short tail and chubby body. It is a vole, busily in search of food. The vole scrambles between the dead branch and a hole in the snow several feet away. Several minutes later it reappears traveling back to the log. My vision is improved with a small pair of binoculars that I bring out from my vest pocket. The dark brown rodent appears to be carrying some sort of food into the snow tunnel. The activity seems to subside, rather suddenly. My curiosity gets the better of me and I examine the snow tunnel. Carefully excavating the hole I find a snow covered corridor at the bottom of the twelve inches of snow. I stop digging the vole's tunnel for fear of impacting his future travels.

As I look over the horizon I wonder how many hidden habitats I have stepped over today. It is clear to me that we are often limited by solely relying on our dominant sense of sight. Clearly the coyotes I had been following earlier had encountered a vole, mouse, or some other small rodent at the hollow in the outcropped ledge. I was so focused on the coyote activity that I failed to investigate the area for sign of these small rodents. Staying in their snowy tunnels is a great advantage to the vole. Here there is cover from the elements, food on the forest floor, and escape habitat from predators and curious observers like myself.

As I begin my journey home, I reflect on the morning's observations, and am reminded that our natural world is not all that meets the eye. It is also what we hear, feel, touch and imagine. Sometimes it is at our fingertips. Sometimes it is music to our ears. Sometimes it is out of sight, beneath our feet under cover of snow. And sometimes it is simply within our imagination.

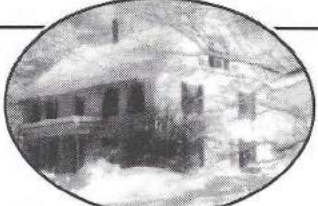


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The Way It Is In The Country

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

by **CARROLL STOWE**

JUST A FEW MAYBES

Jack,

Maybe you swelled with pride as your crew went about their daily tasks.

Got a good feeling as Fred put the finishing touch on a "Reggie-scraped" piece of road.

Held your crew in great respect as the roads were plowed and sanded just ahead of the school buses. Often school was closed, even after you'd gone out.

Got a twinge of pleasure as you witnessed a sunrise over the point of a snow plow.

Had a good feeling for the selectboard long dead who elected to purchase the old Farmall. What a superb piece of iron.

Wished often that a chronic complainer could spend 15 hours in a plow truck.

Got great satisfaction as a new piece of equipment came to compliment the other iron.

Got a bit of pleasure at giving Lucky his name, plus some chocolate chip cookies.

Took the time to plow and sand the elders' drive-ways.

Felt my pride at being invited to Fred's little party at the Inn at Charlemont.

Got the feeling of pleasure and pride I have leading yet another wagon train to your unique location.

Had a treasured moment when you were told you and your crew did a fine job.

Maybe you did feel, and should have, that the road to the school was a fine job.

You can get the feeling of those here today who wish you well and thank you for all you've done for the Town of Heath.

Thanks.

(These are a few words from Carroll Stowe on the January 25, 1998 occasion of a "Burnt Cableberry Roast" held in Jack Cable's honor after his departure as Highway Superintendent From the Heath Highway Department. ed. note.)



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Mohawk Valley Health Education Service is pleased to offer the following classes during the month of February. For more information and to pre-register please call 625-2503.

Too Hot? Too Cold? What Can You Do?

Shelburne Senior Center, Thursday, February 12, 10:30-11:30am

Charlemont Senior Center, Wednesday, February 10, 12:30-1:30pm

No fee or pre-registration required. Just come on down.

Homeopathy for Health Professionals

MVHES, Wednesday, February 11, 7-9pm. A follow-up date will be determined. Fee is \$20.00.

Eating the High Energy Way

Tobacco Free Storefront in Buckland, Wednesday, February 11, 7:30-8:30pm. Fee is \$5.00.

Baby-Sitter Training

Tobacco Free Storefront, March 3, 4, & 5, 3:30-5pm. Fee is \$15.00.

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SELECTMEN'S REPORT

by Eileen Tougas

As we welcome in the New Year we would like to thank the many people who contribute their time and talents in service to the town of Heath. For example, we have eighty-two residents who are serving on the various boards, committees and commissions in town. A few of these individuals can be seen at several meetings because they are serving the town in more than one capacity.

The BOS is pleased to welcome Catherine Heyl to the position of Town Coordinator. Catherine has served the town for many years and brings with her a cornucopia of knowledge and experience that will be an asset to this position.

We would like to welcome our new Highway Superintendent, Mike Smith. Mike is a lifetime resident of Heath and heads our volunteer fire department as fire chief. We are also happy to report that Jason Lively has been selected for the full-time position vacated by Mike Smith as road crew laborer. Welcome aboard Jason.

A special town meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 24 at 7pm for a vote to transfer funds to four accounts: School Project, Highway Miscellaneous Expense, Veterans Benefit and Interest on Temporary Loans. These accounts are expected to be overdrawn by the end of January.

With the onset of the new year, the BOS has developed a tentative schedule for the budget hearings. The annual town meeting has been scheduled for Saturday, May 9. For those who still need to turn in their reports for the annual town report, please do so.

Jay DiPucchio, Executive Director of the Franklin regional Council of Governments and Phil Korman, Program Manager of Resource Development, will meet with the BOS and the finance committee on March 3 to discuss the Fees for Service Programs offered by the FRCOG. Chuck Mackie, Heath's representative and chairman of the FRCOG facilities committee, has provided our library with a video that gives a great deal of insight as to what services and products are available from the FRCOG as well as an introduction to the people who provide these services.

Also available at the library is a video on electric utility deregulation by Paul Rifkin for Cape and Islands Self-Reliance Corporation. This is a topic we should all become familiar with since deregulation will affect each and every one of us in the new future.

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Join us at noon. If you can, call a day ahead or that morning.

POLICE REPORT

For the months of November and December the Heath Police Department logged in 121.25 hours. The breakdown is as follows:

November

Administrative: 10.75 hours
Patrol: 7.00 hours
Community Policing: 1.50 hours
Training: 16.00 hours
Call Response: 5.00 hours

December

Administrative: 8.00 hours
Patrol: 4.00 hours
Training: 64.00 hours
Call Response: 5.00 hours

Highlights from Heath police chief Lorin Gowdy's December Activities Report as given to selectmen on January 27, 1998 are as follows:

Both the DARE money and the Community Policing Grant money have been received. Part of the DARE money went toward the purchase of 25 pairs of snowshoes for use for physical education at the Heath Elementary school and DARE activities.

Mr. Gowdy is looking into bids for a police department motorcycle, to be funded by the community policing grant.

The course in Defensive Tactics Instructor Programming, taken by Mr. Gowdy, was completed in December.

Five motor vehicle accidents were reported during December.

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<u># OF FAMILY MEMBERS</u>	<u>ANNUAL GROSS INCOME</u>
1	\$25,150
2	\$28,750
3	\$32,350
4	\$35,900
5	\$38,800
6	\$41,650
7	\$44,550
8	\$47,400

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

FRANKLIN COUNTY REGIONAL HOUSING & REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
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MILESTONES

by Edith Royer

Ruth Marie Chrisman, of Stephen's Drive, Normal, IL, died on November 19, 1997. Mrs. Chrisman was 80 years old. She was the mother of Michael A. Chrisman of Heath. She leaves her husband of 53 years, Dr. Robert "Tony" A. Chrisman; another son, Dr. Jay W. Chrisman of Downs, IL; a brother Jack W. Osborne of Lake Havasu City, AZ; and five grandchildren. Services were held at the Second Presbyterian Church and burial was in Funk's Grove Cemetery in Mclean.

Leon deLeuw, 66, of Heath, died on December 15 at the Franklin Medical Center. He was born on May 15, 1931 in Paris, France, the son of Marie and Michel deLeuw. He was a graduate of New York University where he also obtained a Master's Degree. Mr. deLeuw was an artist and a college professor of fine arts, and was on the faculty of Montclair State University in Upper Montclair, NJ for the past 34 years. A recent full-time resident, he and his family had spent summers here for many years. Survivors include his wife of 37 years, Jane Birney deLeuw; two sons, David Birney deLeuw of New York City, and Michael Birney deLeuw of Orange, NJ; a niece, and a nephew.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Kevin Duda of Whately is the first Frontier Regional School graduate (1997) to complete a Men's Varsity College soccer season at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University of Daytona Beach, FL. Mr. Duda was selected to the team as a walk-on.

Mr. Duda, an Aerospace Engineering Curriculum student, was named to the Dean's List for the fall semester. He is the son of Ronald and Karen (Stetson) Duda of Whately and the grandson of Ken and Dot Stetson of Heath.

James Cerone, son of Dianne and James Cerone of Heath, has received an engineering scholarship from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. Mr. Cerone is a member of the Class of 1999 and is majoring in engineering at the University. For the fall 1997 semester he traveled to Granada, Spain, to study through a UMass exchange program. He graduated from Mohawk Trail Regional High School in 1995.

Two Heath residents were named to the Greenfield Community College fall Dean's List: Gabriel Porter-Henry, and Mary J. Vilbon.

Birthday wishes to Mrs. Pearl Durvis who celebrated her 90th birthday on January 29. Mrs. Durvis and her husband Andy formerly owned the Cable's Burnt Hill blueberry farm. Mrs. Durvis now lives in Jacksonville, FL.

Birthday wishes as well to Mary Sherman of Heath on her 92nd birthday in January.

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