



Volume 2 Number 5

December 1980 - January 1981

HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER 25¢

CHURCH CHRISTMAS EVENTS

By Reverend Ann Geer

On Sunday, December 21 at 11 AM the Sunday School and Youth Group will perform in a special play, "The 365 Days of Christmas".

This year, the Church will sponsor a "live" Nativity Pageant on Monday night, December 22, at 7 PM on the Town Green. (Snow date December 23) The Heath Youth Group, under the direction of Jennifer Corey, will dress as the traditional figures in the Christmas story. All town people are invited to come costumed as villagers and shepherds. Bring a lantern or flashlight for carolling. Livestock will be gathered around the creche and the Christmas story will be enacted with the voices of carollers filling the evening air. Following the singing everyone is invited to the Community Hall for refreshments and congeniality. This project is being coordinated by Eric Grinnell and interested helpers are encouraged to call him at 337-4713.

The Christmas Eve service of candlelight and carols will begin at 8 PM and will include the telling of St. Luke's Christmas story accompanied by congregational and choir singing.

The Youth Group is making decorations for the live Christmas trees which will be distributed to the town's elderly and shut-ins. Fruit baskets will be brought to town residents who are in Nursing Homes. The group plans to go for their annual carolling night on December 20.

CHRISTMAS IN HEATH 1913

By Hannah Burrington

There was no lack of communication in our one room school in Heath Center - we all knew what was going on,

After Thanksgiving our teacher Marion Clark, who later became Mrs. George Peon, announced that we would give a play for Christmas, Bird's "Christmas Carol". We were all excited. We found our costumes in the attics at homes, and we rehearsed and enjoyed it all.

The day arrived and so did all of our parents, sisters, brothers, and friends.

We had the curtain up, the stove going full blast so it was hot, but we did not mind. We knew our parts, and I suppose we did Marion Clark credit. Anyway it was a school project, and all the children and families were interested. Small, homemade gifts were distributed.

As I look back, I marvel at the teacher's ability. Classes went on as usual, but somehow they worked things in together. There were no teachers' aids or helpers, she did these things alone, but she had the co-operation of all the pupils and families.

When I look around at the children's programs now, there seems to be less communication and understanding than in the old days.



TOWN OFFICE HOURS

(At Town Hall unless otherwise noted)

Selectmen: Mondays 8 PM

Assessors: Mondays 8 PM

Planning Board: 2nd Monday of month 8 PM

Finance Committee: Every other Monday 8PM
(starting Dec. 1)

Heath School Committee:
2nd Tuesday of month 8 PM

Town Clerk and Treasurer:

Mondays 8:30 AM-12 Noon & 7-10 PM
Thursdays & Fridays 8:30 AM-12 Noon

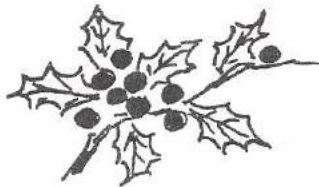
Tax Collector: (at Sheila Litchfield's
residence in Dell)

Mondays & Wednesdays 9 AM-12 Noon
also by appointment 337-4957

Library Trustees: 1st Monday of month 7 PM

Library: Mondays 7-9 PM Wednesdays 1-5 PM
Saturdays 1-5 PM

Dump: Sundays 1-5 PM, Mondays 9 AM-5 PM,
Wednesdays 11 AM-5 PM,
Saturdays 9 AM-5 PM



HEATH HERALD

Volume 2 Number 5

December-January
1980 - 1981

Editorial Staff

Pegge Howland
Caroline Smith
Alli Thane

Advertising
and Business
Art Design
Circulation
Typography

John Read
Harriet Read
Terry Pettengill
Newland Smith

Contributors to this issue:

Catherine Cromack	Edith Royer
Marlene Housner	Catherine Nichols
Susan Sylvester	

Photographs in this issue by
Eric Grinnell

Address all comments, suggestions, and inquiries to P.O. Box 54 Heath, MA 01346

LETTERS

To the Editors:

This issue (October) is of special interest to me - the articles on the Paine-Moors house and the Fair. I was present at one of the meetings to organize Heath Day, which grew into the present Fair, at the Paine-Moors house. So sorry to have to miss this Fair.

A Very Homesick Ex-Heathen
(Mabel Hicks, Westwood, Mass.)

HEATH PRECIPITATION

By Ralph H. Dickinson, Observer
for Mass. Water Resources Commission

October: 4.28 inches

November: 3.61 inches including 1 foot
of snow

This has been the driest year in the past 14 years. During that period the average annual precipitation has been 52.7 inches.

PLAYGROUND UPDATE

Plans for the playground in Heath are progressing. Designs are being prepared for a jungle gym with slide and horizontal bars, a swing set, and a large sand box. Items needed are logs, lumber, large carriage bolts, eye bolts, and strong rope. If you can donate any of these things, call Catherine Nichols at 337-4011.

FOR SALE

TROYBILT rototiller with hiller/furrower attachment. 7 horsepower, barely used last season. \$800 firm. Call 337-4429 keep trying.

HOWARD CROWNSHIELD
Building & Remodeling

Tel. Heath 337-4406
P.O. Charlemont, MA 01339

YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITIES

By Jennifer Fogel-Songer Corey

Much has happened with and within the Youth Group since last writing. Both of the theatrical productions, "Babble at Babel" and "The Importance of Being Earnest", proved to be very successful. It was an exciting experience for both the Youth Group and the younger church school children to work together.

Paul and Nan Burrington generously gave the Group the use of their camping area this summer, and we enjoyed a summer's eve under the stars. The Group elected new officers that evening. Eric Sumner is still our PREZ, Brenda Cromack is our VICEPREZ, Tena Smith is our secretary (only because we couldn't think of anything ELSE to do with her), and Sandy Galipo will officially worry about the Youth Group finances as our treasurer. The rest of the evening was spent eating voluminous quantities of food, knocking down tents with water balloons, and telling spooky stories.

Over the summer the Youth Group membership increased in size. We have been officially joined by Ian Gallup, Melody Wariner and Roxanne Howe.

It was with a great deal of enthusiasm that the Group serenaded the Geers in the middle of the night several weeks ago. Armed with pots and pans and all sorts of nasty noise makers a huge crowd broke into the Geer's house and officially welcomed our new neighbors to Heath. Rev. Geer served us cocoa and cookies while Carroll Stowe and Rev. Wolf exchanged some wonderful stories about past serenades.

As is their yearly tradition, the Group sponsored a Halloween party for the young children who also collected for UNICEF. The Group prepared a haunted house that reduced even the bravest soul to a trembling pile of protoplasm. Prizes were awarded and a new category added, "Most-Like-a-Youth-Group-Member". The recipient received a used telephone book and an official handshake.

We are busy planning our usual holiday activities including a community snowball fight on the common. We look forward to sharing a holiday season of community-centered celebration with all of you.

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

By Chief Earl Gleason

In the period from October 1 to November 15, the Department responded to three chimney fires, and one suspected partition fire which turned out to be an overheated stove. We have responded to 28 emergencies so far this year.

Fire fighters have attended the Mass. Fire Academy courses, five at the Mini Course at Conway, one at a Rural Water Supply in Hinsdale, Mass., and Chief Gleason is attending Arson Investigation II at Greenfield. The last two drills have dealt with water supply and sources.

Chimney cleaning should be completed at the time of the publication of this paper, and the Department thanks everyone for their donations. This is one of our major fund raising activities.

We had three young firefighters help with chimney cleaning. Starting in January drills for young firefighters (14-18 years old) will be held at 6:30 P.M. at the Fire Station on the regular drill nights (the fourth Wednesday of each month). If you are interested, please come.

A committee composed of Richards Steinbock, Richard Giard, and Bruce Warner have updated our "Standard Operating Procedure". This deals with what equipment responds to each type of emergency, firefighters' responsibilities and conduct at the fire scene and at drills, what duties junior firefighters may or may not perform, and regulates the conditions on turnout gear supplied by the Association.

The Fire Association meetings will be January 14, February 11, and March 11 at 8 P.M. at the Fire Station. The drills and proposed subjects are as follows: January 28 - Winter operations, February 25 - Review and updating pre-plans, March 25 - Breathing apparatus. As always, visitors are welcome at all meetings and drills.

MISTHELM FARMS

Announces an outstanding litter of Irish Setter Puppies from their English Imports, CHETRUDA TOP of the POPS and MISTHELM FREYJA

J.M. & J.K. Petkevich
Inquiries welcome

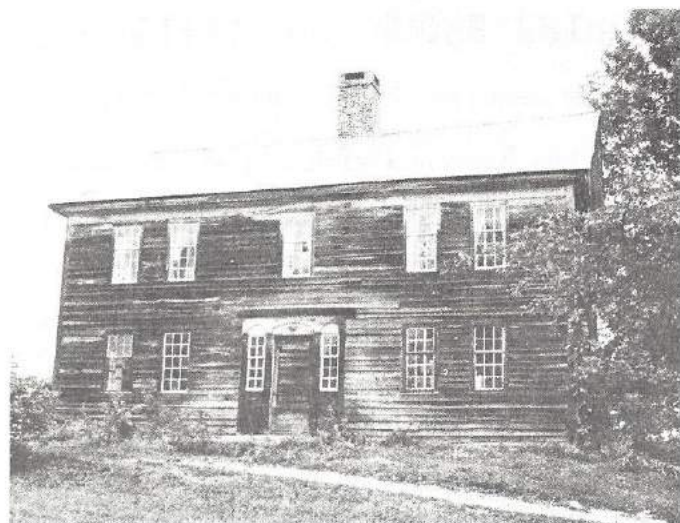
337-6679

TUCKER HILL FARM

(Third in a series of articles
about older houses in Heath)

The house appears to have been built in the late 1790's, and there was an oral tradition a hundred years ago which described an earlier small cabin up on the hill behind the present dwelling. The Pattisons settled and built here; the Tuckers bought the farm from them in the early nineteenth century. They must have raised the roof of the original cape, adding a second floor with its four bedrooms, each with a closet. The old roof line was still evident on the chimney in the attic in 1966, when safety required the chimneys to be rebuilt. The wing at the rear was also added later; evidence of construction and style suggests the late 1820's or 30's, and a brick arch (there were originally two) in the "summer kitchen" corroborates such a date. This arch contains a large iron cauldron; the one torn out in the 1950's had a large iron griddle on top. The Shakers are reputed to have invented such devices, which were an intermediate step between the open fireplace and the iron cooking range. The date given at the Hancock Village settlement near Pittsfield is 1828.

Ebenezer Tucker and his son Edward prospered in North Heath. In addition to farming and selling cattle, they ran a potash mill, a drover business, and a general store. In the 1960's Arthur Cook described digging forty years earlier around the foundation of the store, which stood at the north-east corner of Brunelle and Sadowa roads. He found bits of china and crockery, old nails, glass bottles, old pennies, and a fine Leeds spice castor which is still in the house. He put up a sugar house on the spot; when it burned, he built another, which collapsed under the weight of the snow in 1973. According to France Gillett, who knew Edward's widow Catherine, the Tuckers' drover business was very successful, having as many as thirty wagons and teams in service between Boston and North Heath. Mrs. Gillett was born and reared just up the road and remembered often carrying a pail of milk down to Aunt Kate. As a four-year old she was taken there by her mother to have tea in the fancy parlor and warned to refuse a second biscuit if it were offered; to accept it was not ladylike.



Tucker House in 1966

She described looking in at the long-disused tavern attached to the eastern end of the barn, where the drovers had been housed and entertained. Arthur Cook said their beds were still in the garret over the kitchen when his family arrived in 1924. They were lined up, eight on each side and facing the center. There was a handle at the foot of each, and crude wooden wheels at the head, so they could be lifted and rooled out from under the eaves to be made. He could not remember what had been done with them. Mrs. Gillett also spoke of Aunt Kate Tucker's well-known fussiness about housekeeping; her maids never cleaned thoroughly enough to suit her for long. Other ladies in town frequently competed to engage one of these hired girls who had been let go because they were always so well-trained and hard working.

Mrs. Tucker died in 1910 at the age of one hundred years and ten days; she was buried with the rest of the family in the burying ground across the road. There was apparently a large auction of household belongings, and everything was scattered far and wide. So far as is known, only a handsome breadbasket and Edward Tucker's copper shipping stencil remain of the family things. A family named LaPierre occupied the house afterwards, and it may have been vacant for a while before the Cooks came. In 1966 Arthur Cook sold it to Eric Grinnell, who moved there permanently in 1972.

A large barn complex was struck by lightning and burned in 1941; the house was saved, although Arthur Cook said that the next day people found cinders the size of baseballs up to a mile away. At one time there had been a wing off the west side of the house; Mrs. Gillett described it as a

sort of scullery. Perhaps someone in town knows the circumstances of its disappearance.

The old North School sits on the property at the edge of Brunelle Road. It was probably the eighth schoolhouse in town, and school was kept there until 1953.

There were more than twenty children from grades one through twelve in that last class; several members still live in the area. For many years evidence of when it was built was lacking. In 1974, however, it was being renovated when a section of plaster was removed from the north wall. The outer wall had been lined with a thin

coat of plaster, probably as insulation, and in it, in elegant compass-drawn numbers, was inscribed the date 1825 and a signature, Benj. T. Bosworth. In the same handwriting on the east wall were the last words of each line of the Lord's Prayer. The rest of it had been lost when the attached privies were built. Signature and date were preserved and can still be seen on the wall of the schoolroom.

North Heath was a commercial center of the community at the middle of the last century, and it is pleasant to think of this farm, with all its attendant bustle, as the hub. Yet as industry and trade gravitated inexorably toward the railroad and the towns it nourished, this activity slackened, to be replaced by the more tranquil seasonal rhythm characteristic of an isolated farming community. For those who cherish houses such as this, or who would try to understand the values of the society which created them, it may have been a fortunate isolation. Perhaps more has been preserved out of the world's eye than in it.

E.A.G.



Tucker House (restored)

LIBRARY NOTES

By Edith Gleason

Our first and main event this fall was the meeting in Heath of the "Nine Town Librarians' Club". This is made up of the trustees and librarian of the libraries of the towns which are members of the Mohawk Trail Regional School system. Their chief purpose is to coordinate ideas, and give aid and advice to each other. At this meeting we welcomed the new Bookmobile Librarian Carol Goodger who has replaced Joan Stah^l.

The story hours for the preschool and primary grades are going well. The hours are 3-4 each Wednesday afternoon. All children in this age group are welcome. We can use volunteers to tell or read stories or conduct other activities.

On Saturday afternoons we are planning a program for pre-teens. The time has not been determined. We are aiming for a flexible program, using ideas from the children themselves.

We have a new record browser which makes it much easier for you to select records. It is a big improvement over the boxes we have used over the last eight or ten years.

Come and listen to some of our cassettes which we purchased with our ISCA funds. We have popular and classic titles.

Our latest new books include: Sheen, Treasures in Clay; Eden, American Heir-ess; Lofts, Wayside Tavern; MacInnes, Hidden Target; Golding, Rites of Passage; six books for pre-teens and teens; a 54 volume set of Great Books of the Western World, edited by Robert M. Hutchins, a gift from a friend.

KAYEN'S *Jewelers*
220 MAIN STREET GREENFIELD, MASS.
01301

PLANNING BOARD REPORT

By John Holdsworth

At its last two meetings, the Planning Board made some small progress on the task of revising and updating the town zoning bylaws. Initially, it seemed the Board might have its hearings before the next annual town meeting and present the revised zoning bylaws at that meeting. It now appears likely that 1982 may be a more reasonable deadline than 1981.

As mentioned in a previous report, the Board is using zoning bylaws from neighboring towns to get ideas of general structure and organization, and also perhaps to borrow some specific wording that has already had legal review.

It is very difficult to determine what, if anything, should be deleted and what should be added to the Heath bylaws. The Planning Board wishes to develop a set of zoning bylaws that will be a real asset to the town with minimal infringement on personal liberties, and with restrictions that will be for the good of the community and the individual over the long term.

Once the Planning Board has the proposed revision well in hand, some meetings will be specifically publicized so that townspeople may come and present suggestions for zoning bylaws they would like to see included in the town regulations.

In addition to zoning bylaws, subdivision regulations may face some alterations.

One area over which the Planning Board has no jurisdiction is that of general bylaws, but the Board feels it would be prudent to have all town regulations under a single cover someday.

A recollection surfaced at the last Board meeting that a bylaw committee was formed after the 1979 annual town meeting. The Planning Board would like, at some time, to meet with this committee to discuss their findings.

Planning Board minutes have not been posted after recent meetings because zoning bylaws have been the sole topic of discussion (as in this report).

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, Jan. 12, 1981; agenda, zoning bylaws.

K.R. JEWELER

17 Chapman St. Greenfield Mass. 01301

Fine Selection of Watches & Jewelry
Watch & Jewelry Repair

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY NEWS

By Dot Scofield

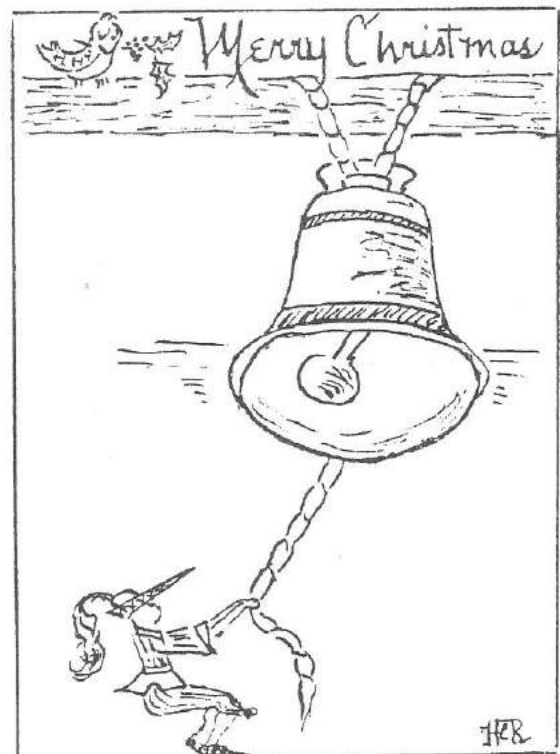
At the annual meeting of the Heath Agricultural Society on Nov. 24, officers for the coming 1981 Fair season were elected. They are President, Richard Hatch; Vice President, Carroll Stowe; Secretary, Dorothy Scofield; Treasurer, Claire Hatch; Asst. Secretary, Wendy Scofield; Asst. Treasurer, Grace Crowningshield. The Directors are Fred Crowningshield, Evelyn Hillman, and Luis Pazmino.

Several Fair personnel resignations were read and accepted with regrets. Bill Wolf, Evelyn Hillman, Marge Deardon, and Ken Crowningshield have all resigned their respective posts and the Society will be seeking persons to fill these vacancies.

The Society is also seeking a copy of the Articles of Organization of the H.A.S. If anyone has a copy, or knows where there is one, the officers would appreciate your contacting them.

The officers would also like to hear some comments on past and future Fairs. They need to know how Heath residents feel about their Fair, and can it be improved. Comments and suggestions can be addressed to any of the officers.

The next scheduled meeting of the Society will be on the first Tuesday in March 1981. The officers would like to see some new faces. Refreshments will be served.



FOREIGN LANGUAGE BOOKS SOUGHT

The Resource Center at Mohawk Trail Regional School is in the process of establishing a collection of books written in a variety of foreign languages. The purpose of the collection is to expose students to the written language of cultures other than our own. Material needed includes grammar books, newspapers, magazines, fiction and non-fiction books, dictionaries and maps. Publications in obscure languages are especially desired. If you have any material to donate, call the school library at 625-2516.

Compliments of

WELLS CORNER COUNTRY STORE

Charlemont

339-6632

THE BAKER PHARMACY

Your Rexall Store

Tel: 625-6324

Week Days 8:30AM - 9PM

Saturdays 8:30AM - 6PM

Sundays & Holidays 9AM - 12 Noon

52 Bridge Street Shelburne Falls

PETERS' GENERAL STORE

The Only Store in Heath

ALL YOUR WANTS SUPPLIED
WHAT WE DON'T CARRY WE GET

We also sell Alcoholic Beverages

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

*

Raymond and Pamela Galipo

Tel: 337-5501

HEATH PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Kirk Pettengill was on leave from the U.S. Army in Korea for one month. He returned to Korea on November 28.

Arlene Thane made the sampler of the Serenity Prayer by Reinhold Niebuhr which was dedicated to Harry Terrill at the Heath Church service on November 23. Richards Steinbock prepared a plaque, explaining the Prayer, which is mounted next to the sampler in the vestibule of the Church.

Misha Petkevich will appear as commentator on the World Professional Figure Skating Championships to be broadcast on the NBC Sportsworld TV programs starting this month.

Ralph Churchill, having returned from the hospital, is receiving therapy treatments at home, and is feeling better.

Ruth Law has returned home from the hospital, and is taking a month's leave of absence from teaching.

REVENUE SHARING REPORT

The Town Treasurer reports that the 1980 Revenue Sharing Survey of Local Government Finances was filed with the Bureau of the Census on October 10, 1980. A copy of this is available for public inspection in the Treasurer's office.

AGWAY, INC.

P.O. Box 145

Shelburne Falls, Mass. 01370

Tel. 413-625-6650

RICHARD A. SUMNER

Journeyman Electrician

Mass. License # E22622

Vermont License # J1245

South Road, Heath

337-4930

CHARLEMONT TV, INC.

Zenith

Sales & Service

High Street, Charlemont

339-6685

A. L. AVERY & SON

GENERAL STORE

Charlemont

339-4915

FOUNDING MOTHERS OF HEATH

By Amy C. Barry

History, even in a little town like Heath, too frequently appears to be the story of men. The mothers, wives, daughters, and sisters are lost in the shadows and are more likely to emerge as a name on a marriage certificate or a gravestone, rather than as an individual personality. As a result, however, of the recent interest in the history of women, considerable information about women in 18th century New England has come to light. With this information as background, we can draw on the writings of Anna and Priscilla Maxwell and the modern history of Heath written by Dr. Edward Calver to gain a clearer picture of what life was like for the founding mothers of Heath.

In 18th century New England the home was the center of production for all the necessities of life. It was in the home that raw materials were transformed into finished products, be the raw material corn to be ground and baked into bread, or wool to be carded, spun, and woven into cloth for blankets and clothes. Most everything used in the home was made there, especially in a rural settlement like Heath. Women made their own soap, brooms, candles, and starch. Cooking was also a major undertaking, for it was done on an open hearth and had to be constantly tended.

When women were not stirring stews or spinning thread, they were having babies. Large families were common in Heath in the 18th century, as they were through out the Colonies. Hugh and Bridget Maxwell had seven children and Hugh's brother Benjamin had eleven children. James White and his wife Ruth (Ballard), early settlers of South Heath, had ten children. Jonathan Leavitt and his wife Sarah (Hooker) had twelve children.

There were important economic reasons for having large families. Religious attitudes also promoted the idea of the "fruitful" woman. However, giving birth to so many children at such frequent intervals was exhausting and many times fatal for mothers. We must also bear in mind the state of medicine in the 18th century. Sarah Leavitt, for example, died in 1791 when she was 48 years old. She left behind 12 children, the youngest of whom was only six years old. Married at 18, Mrs. Leavitt had given birth to a child on the average of one every two years for 24 years.

The Founding Mothers (continued)

The weakened condition of the mother due to frequent pregnancies also had an effect on the health of the baby. The reality of high maternal and infant mortality rates among early Heath settlers is vividly illustrated by the story of the three wives of Jacob Snow, who settled in the Dell about 1810. Mr. Snow's first wife died in childbirth and her baby with her. His second wife died in childbirth, although the baby lived. His third wife bore him six children, of whom two only lived for a few days and another only five years.

Another aspect of life that directly affected women was the house in which they lived. The homes of most of the early inhabitants of Heath were far less grand than Leavitt's house or the Maxwell house on South Road. Hugh Maxwell's daughter Priscilla described her family's first house as consisting of one room and a closet, so poorly built that "often, in the winter's morning, they would find themselves covered some inches with snow that drifted through chinks in the roof".

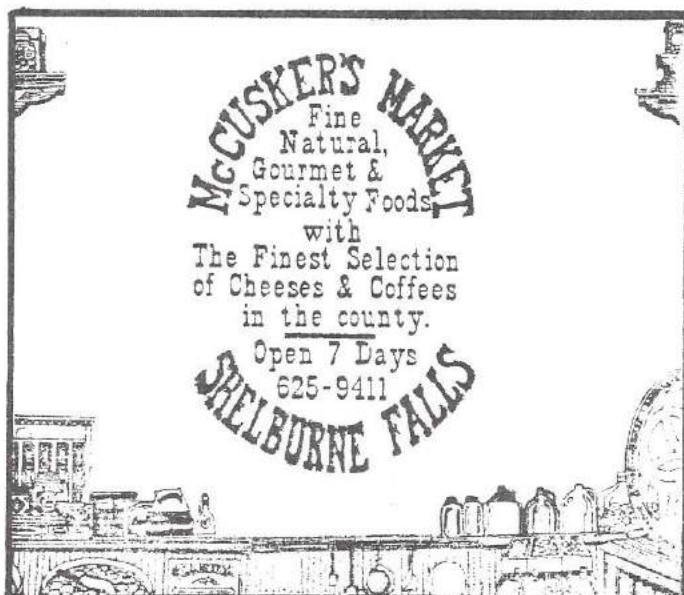
Jonathan Taylor, his wife, and four children lived in a one room log house not more than 18 feet in either direction. When the Taylors first settled near Colrain Brook Road, their nearest neighbors were over a mile away. That children were born and raised, families clothed and fed, and communities like Heath settled under conditions such as these, can be attributed to the courage, vision, and tenacity of our foremothers as well as our forefathers.

Life in early Heath was demanding enough for women whose husbands were at home. What is incredible is that more than one woman was left alone with her children while her husband left home for weeks, months, or years at a time. Concerning the first woman, the wife of the Rev. John Norton, we have only scanty facts that must be filled in with conjecture. Her husband was the chaplain of Fort Shirley during the French and Indian War and she, with their children, accompanied him there in 1746. Rev. Norton was subsequently captured by Indians while on a visit to Fort Massachusetts. Mrs. Norton was left alone at Fort Shirley for over a year, living with 38 officers and enlisted men in a 60 foot square enclo-

sure with rooms 11 feet wide. During her husband's absence, Mrs. Norton lost her daughter Anna. Imagine what life must have been like for this lady, worrying about the safety of her husband, grieving alone over the death of her child, and enduring the cramped, harsh conditions of fort life.

Bridget Maxwell was not the only woman who had to manage alone while her husband fought in the Revolution. She may, however be unique in that her husband was away from home for nine years, with only a few brief furloughs. The many tasks of rural life undertaken by Mrs. Maxwell and her seven children were truly awesome. They had to care for the livestock, cut and haul firewood, and raise and harvest the crops. The hardships caused by Lt. Colonel Maxwell's absence were not always easy for Mrs. Maxwell to bear. This is demonstrated in Priscilla Maxwell's description of her father's departure after a short period at home. "It was against the remonstrance and tears of his wife", Miss Maxwell writes, "who could not bear the thought of being left again in such circumstances of privation and hardship". Hugh Maxwell served his country long and well during the Revolution. Bridgett Maxwell served her country equally well on the homefront.

For women in 18th century Heath there was hard work to do, many children to raise, and adversity to overcome. By learning more about their lives and by recognizing the very real contributions they made, we can take the founding mothers of Heath out of the shadows and make their story an important part of our town's heritage.



Melanie Poisson, age 7, has been training this year at the Pioneer School of Gymnastics in Springfield. She will be in her first public exhibition in April, performing optional and compulsory events.

Marisa and Luke Housner will be dancing in the annual performance of "The Nutcracker" at the Academy of Music in Northampton on Dec. 20 and 21. Marisa is a member of the Pioneer Valley Ballet Company

Arlene Thane, Marlene and Richard Housner each had an art work auctioned at the Arts Council of Franklin County, Artspace, on November 23.

Misha Petkevich has returned to Harvard this year to continue his study of music. His wife, Jean, writer and authority on Norse mythology, is caring for 12 champion Irish Setter puppies and is giving piano lessons to a number of Heath residents.

GIRL SCOUT NEWS

By Brenda Sumner

The Girl Scouts began their year with a happy Halloween party enjoyed by 20 girls.

The leaders are asking for volunteers who have a craft, skill, or exhibit which they could share with the girls. A program of about an hour would be appreciated. Anyone interested in this activity should contact Brenda Sumner at 337-4930.

BENZ SNOWMOBILES

Batavus, Vespa, Motobecane Mopeds

Vespa Motor Scooters

Polaris & Scorpion Snowmoblies

Jacobsen Lawn Mowers

Sales, Service & Parts

Little Mohawk Rd. Colrain 624-3385

H A Z E L'S

Unisex Styling and Hair Care Center

Complete Beauty Services
for Hair & Skin

Super Cuts for Guys & Gals

Walk-ins Welcome

100 Federal St. Greenfield 773-8683

THE MBTA

By Jonathan L. Healy

The Legislature has spent the month of November wrestling with the MBTA, the Mass. Bay Transportation Authority. Legislators have finally taken a tough stand with this mis-managed, expensive transportation system and refused to continue funding the MBTA until strong management rights provisions are adopted. These provisions would institute some fiscal responsibility to the system. Presently the MBTA is almost twice as expensive as ANY other transportation system in the country and the system stinks. Gov. King has refused to crack down on the MBTA and just wants the Legislature to appropriate 41 million dollars to keep the whale afloat until January. Proposition 2½ is forcing many communities to cut budgets yet the MBTA has arrogantly hired over 250 employees during this period. In short, the Governor seems happy to place a different standard upon the MBTA than upon cities and towns.

Even though the MBTA is over 100 miles from us, it definitely affects our pocket-books. First, the state now pays 50% of the deficit. Legislation filed by Gov. King would increase the state's assumption of the deficit to 100%, an extremely outrageous insult to rural taxpayers who never see this service. Another financial problem with the proposal of Gov. King is that any funds approved for the MBTA would come out of local aid, thus effectively reducing our local aid and increasing local property tax rates in direct opposition to the thrust of Proposition 2½.

I feel the MBTA should be disbanded and started wholly over again. Much of the service should be contracted out privately, present exorbitant salaries (\$25,000 for custodians) should be slashed, no new jobs should be allowed, and management rights should be instituted. Until this happens, I'll continue to vote no and speak out strongly against the abuses of the MBTA.

PHILIP FOURNIER APPOINTED

Robert Gruen has resigned from the Franklin County Technical School Committee because of the pressure of other commitments, and Philip Fournier has accepted an appointment to fill the vacancy. Appointments to this committee are made by the town moderator.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT

By Paul Lively

Chairman

Heath Board of Selectmen

Highway Dept. A construction project for Dell road has been approved by the state and the cost will be 75 % reimbursable. Also the state is approving construction on 4000 feet of Avery Brook road starting at the Charlemont town line. This project, which is 100 % reimbursable, could start this coming June and will run for several years depending on available money.

We have been allotted \$10,562 of additional money for Chapt. 90 type construction in 1981. However, we have to appropriate this amount at a town meeting and spend it before being reimbursed.

Several weeks ago the engine on the older International truck blew a rod bearing in the engine. A rebuilt engine has been installed and the truck is back in service.

A wing tower (for attaching a snow plow wing) became available at a bargain price so we purchased it. It is being mounted on the new International truck and should improve our snow removal capability.

Dump At the October meeting of the Landfill Committee Heath officials pressured Chairman Sherman Pike to get things in order at the landfill. Since then a trench has been excavated and trash is now being effectively covered. Recently the Board sent Chmn. Pike a letter asking him to check on rodent extermination, making sure it is done according to the schedule.

Cemeteries Rev. Wolf has selected Alan Nichols and Ralph Dickinson to work with him as the committee to develop the new sections of Center and South Cemeteries. Some brush cutting has been done and an access has been prepared at the Center Cemetery.

L A R R Y' S

of

Shelburne Falls

Clothing

Footwear

BRUCE A. CROMACK
Burrington Road
General Carpentry
Restoration a Speciality
337-4350

JOINT MEETING ON DEVELOPMENT

By D. F. Howland

On Nov. 25 a special joint meeting of Selectmen, Assessors, Planning Board, and Finance Committee was held with Samuel Seskin of the UMass Center for Economic Development. Its purpose was to define Heath's economic problems and to consider a range of possible solutions. Several interested citizens attended.

Concern was expressed about broadening the tax base, providing local job opportunities and the cost of schools. Mr. Seskin opined that Heath's expenditures for education compared favorably with many other communities. He stressed developing ideas for economic development by taking advantage of Heath's resources. There was general consensus that there was no single answer to satisfying all the town's needs; rather it would probably take the efforts of many people in different endeavors to effect a modicum of results. He suggested strongly that the town should not give up attracting firms in the wind power business. Other suggestions included the development of the lumber trade including the building of second homes that improves the tax base with limited impact on services, establishing a development corporation to encourage the growth of small business, and cooperating with other towns in regional endeavors such as the construction of an incinerator.

It was suggested the Selectmen consider creating a task force committee to review and act upon some of the ideas discussed. Paul Lively indicated the Selectmen would consider the proposal at their next meeting.

HOW HEATH VOTED

In the Presidential election on Nov. 4, the voters of Heath supported the national trend giving Reagan 104 votes against 73 for Carter and 52 for Anderson.

Of the 319 voters now registered in Heath, 235 or 74% turned out to vote this year as against 84 % who voted in 1976. Heath has 44 registered Democrats, 36 Republicans, and 239 registered as Independents.

In state and local contests votes were divided as follows. Conte (R) was re-elected over Doyle (D) by 139-88 votes. State Senator Olver was re-elected with no opposition. Healy (R) was re-elected to the State Legislature over Coderre (D) 188-38.

The eight questions on the ballot were voted as follows: #1 Handicapped discrimination, Yes 152, No 70; #2 Prop. 2½, Yes 90, No 136, #3 Limit local property tax, Yes 83, No 127; #4 Salary increases for legislators and officers, Yes 12, No 209; #5 Limit state costs on towns, Yes 148, No 56; #6 Emergency law procedure, Yes 59, No 148; #7 Nuclear weapons moratorium, Yes 140, No 76; #8 Nuclear power moratorium, Yes 109, No 116.



BARTLETT'S, INCORPORATED

THE MAN'S SHOP

HART SCHAFFNER & MARX CLOTHES

280 MAIN STREET
GREENFIELD, MASS.
01301
413 - 774-2374



TEL. 625-6527



RALPH E. BLACKMER

Insurance Service

Gordon E. Taylor

Joseph J. Judd

Shelburne, Mass.

Enjoy your lunch at

DENNY'S PANTRY

Seasons Greetings

Exit 27 off Rt. 91
469 Bernardston Rd.
Greenfield, Mass.

MILESTONES

Dustin James was born to Beverly L. Thompson and Gregory Martino on October 9. Dustin is the grandson of the late Howard Thompson, and the great grandson of the late Oscar Thompson and Clarence Catter.

Christopher Raymond was born to Deborah and Kirk Pettingill on October 20. Christopher is the grandson of Teresa and Raymond Pettingill.

Catherine deNervand was born to Julie and John Wolf of New York on October 17. Catherine is the granddaughter of Eleanor and William Wolf and Barbara and Frederick Wolf.

Ashley Olin was born to Ruth and Roger Milsop of Brimfield on October 21. Ashley is the granddaughter of Ruth and Olin Whipple.

Kristen Rebecca was born to Nancy and Steven Thane of Cortland, New York on November 20. Kristen is the granddaughter of Carolyn and Kendall Litchfield and Alli and Ernest Thane, and the great granddaughter of Leon Stewart.

James Randolph was born to Chouteau and Mark Salwasser of New York. James is the grandson of Lisa and Ted Merrill and the great grandson of Mrs. Randolph Dyer.

Brandon Vincent was born to Maria Elena and Craig Gerry on September 28.

Jenni Lee was born to Cynthia and Lee S. Lively on December 4.

PIANO INSTRUCTION

Jean Petkevich

Hosmer Road

337-6679

TO SUBSCRIBE

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

ZIP _____

RATE: SIX ISSUES (BY MAIL) \$2.50
SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO HEATH
HERALD, BOX 54, HEATH, MA. 01346

ASSESSORS' REPORT

By Richards Steinbock

We have been working two nights a week since September and it looks as if the tax bills still will not be out until Christmas at the earliest.

A lot of taxpayers may be anxious to pay their taxes before the first of the year to claim the payment on their income tax returns. Pre-payment of taxes may be made to the tax collector, Sheila Litchfield. Since it is safe to assume that tax bills will be higher this year, a payment of one half of last year's bill would be adequate, or whatever amount you desire to pay. All payments will be credited to this year's bill. In addition to helping on your income tax, pre-payment will help the town to refrain from borrowing money while waiting for the bills to come out.

Richard Giard and Richards Steinbock received notification they both passed the assessing course at UMass. in September. This is the first small step towards their being certified by the state.

We apologize for the delay in getting the bills out, but with our having to constantly update everything to keep the state happy, while fighting them at every turn, we have quite a time consuming job.

CLASSIFIED

FRESH WINDS FARM Paul & Marcella Lively & Sons. Excavating-Loam-Sand-Stone 337-4331

Additional copies of the HEATH HERALD may be purchased at Peters' Store news stand.

BOX 54 HEATH, MA. 01346
RETURN UNDELIVERED COPIES TO

MAIL TO:



U.S.
POSTAGE