



VOLUME 2 NUMBER 6 FEBRUARY/MARCH 1981

HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER 25¢

ELECTED TOWN OFFICES OPEN

The following town offices are to be filled this year at the annual election on May 4.

<u>Position</u>	<u>Term(yrs)</u>	<u>Present Incumbent</u>
Moderator	3	Edward Calver
Selectman	3	*Timothy Henderson
Assessor	3	Richard Giard
Finance Committee	3	*Robert Gruen
School Committee	3	*Cecelia Sherman
School Committee	1	*Lynn Miller (resigned)
Library Trustee	3	*Brenda Sumner
Auditor	1	Newland Smith

* indicates incumbent does not plan at this time to run for reelection.

Any town resident wishing to run for one of the above offices must take out nomination papers from the Town Clerk before March 28. Twenty or more signatures of registered voters are required on the nomination paper which must be filed by March 30.

In addition at the Town Meeting a member of the Planning Board is to be nominated and elected to a five year term. The present incumbent is Earl Gleason.

Also, the following positions are to be filled by nominations from the floor: Fence Viewers (3), Measurers of Wood and Bark (3), Field Drivers (3).

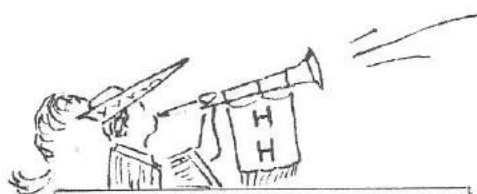
VOTER REGISTRATION

The Town Clerk has announced the following voter registration days for the annual town elections: March 30 and April 6, 7 - 10 PM at Town Hall; April 11, 12 noon to 8 PM at home of Town Clerk; and, last day, April 14, 2 - 4 PM and 7 - 10 PM at home of Town Clerk.

ANNUAL TOWN REPORT DEADLINE

In order to get the Annual Town Report printed and distributed at least two weeks prior to Town Meeting, May 4, our Town Clerk, Catherine Nichols, has set the deadline of February 15 for all town reports and articles for the printed Town Warrant. This is required in order to get the information typed in final form and to the printer by March 1. Information supplied later will have to be presented verbally or distributed at the Town Meeting.

Final closing date on articles for the official posted warrant for the Town Meeting will be April 18 to allow for action by the Finance Committee and Selectmen prior to typing and posting on April 27. Any resident can submit an article for the Town Warrant if he has the signature of 10 voters and/or the approval of the Board of Selectmen.



Welcome Home
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HER

HEATH PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Mrs. Mildred Burrington has been hospitalized for a few months, and is now recuperating in Franklin County Rehabilitation Center.

Gary Longley has been elected treasurer of Franklin County Emergency Medical Technicians Association for 1981. Gary works in the accounting office at Franklin County Public Hospital, and is an EMT for Mercy Ambulance Service of Greenfield. Gary and his family live on Burrington Hill Rd.

Ralph Sumner has returned home after a short stay in Franklin County Public Hospital.

Deborah Gleason Pettengill and her son Christopher left last month to join her husband Kirk in Seoul, South Korea where he is stationed with the Army. They will all return to the States in September. Kirk is the son of Raymond and Teresa Pettengill.

HEATH PRECIPITATION

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

1980 was a very dry year. Total precipitation for the year was 39.31 inches, a foot under the average annual precipitation of the past 14 years. January has continued the dry trend with only .76 inches of precipitation. We have already had 38 inches of snow from October through January as compared with 9 inches during the same period last year.

HEATH HERALD

Volume 2 Number 6 February-March
1981

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Catherine Cromack Edith Royer
Catherine Nichols Marlene Housner

Photographs in this issue by
Janice Boudreau

CHURCH NEWS

By Rev. Ann Geer

Your community church continues to be alive and well; despite the frigid temperatures of late, we are warmed by the results of a faithful witness. In the spirit of energy conservation we have moved the Sunday worship into the front room of the church. The children come to the opening of the service and then go upstairs to their Sunday School classes.

Work is continuing on the parsonage and the fellowship of the volunteer workers is well worth a stop on your way down Bray Road any Saturday!

We are excited about the Sunday evening fellowship group which meets each week in various homes in the community. We use the time together to explore and exchange issues of our times and to find the relevance of the church to these concerns. There are many who are "turned off" when it comes to the traditional church so we use this time to more fully explore ways of becoming more inclusive and meaningful. We invite anyone who can help us to join in as we look to broader concerns of justice and human potential.

On Sunday, March 1, we will celebrate Missions Sunday at the church. Our guest will be Gifford Towles, a retired missionary from India, who will speak to us of his concerns for Third World countries and ways in which we can participate in human rights efforts. Our missions committee is meeting in order to help us be in closer touch with local as well as world missions. Following the service there will be a potluck luncheon at the Community Hall, joining with the Rowe Church. We hope to use this time together to strengthen our union and to explore a joint commitment to missions programs.

Easter services will be announced in the April issue of the HEATH HERALD.

Of course, as in all our activities, everyone in the community is invited to join.

RICHARD A. SUMNER
Journeyman Electrician
Mass. License # E22622
Vermont License # J1245
South Road, Heath
337-4930

CRUMBLING COMMUNITY HALL

The following is a copy of a letter sent to the Board of Selectmen from the Community Hall Committee. It is a list of repairs they feel have been neglected too long, and, if ignored much longer, could cause another "Sawyer Hall Incident".

Feb. 2, 1981

Board of Selectmen, Heath, MA

After a thorough inspection of the Community Hall, we would like to point out the following problems to you.

Mandatory Repairs and Purchases

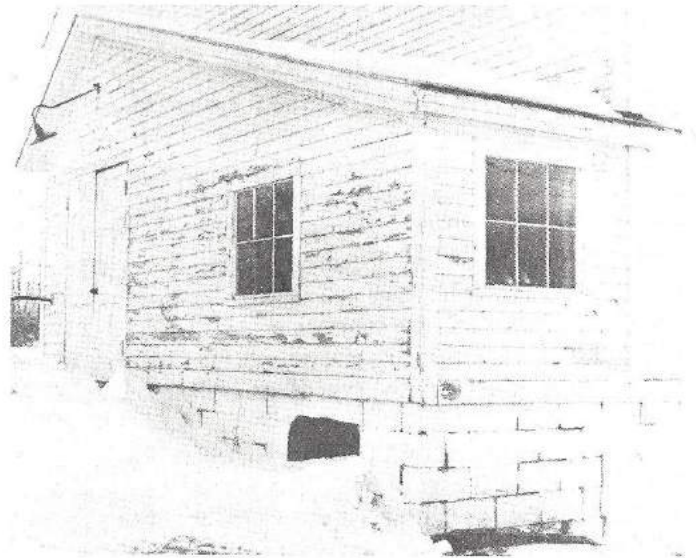
1. Repair leaks in roof.
2. Repair cracks in foundation.
3. Insulate water pipes in kitchen.
4. Install light in stage stair well, ladies room side, with 2 way switch.
5. Install wall switch for light in ladies room.
6. Repair bottom step of fire escape.
7. Install doors on balcony stairs.
8. Purchase new emergency lights for upper hall and dining room.
9. Put cap on well pipe.
10. Repair broken window in ladies room.
11. Repair loose bricks on chimney over fire escape.
12. Purchase tall step ladder for repair work.
13. Make a complete evaluation of heating system.

Suggestions

1. Purchase all new drapes or shades for upper hall.
2. Hire window cleaning service to take care of both halls Spring and Fall.
3. Evaluate scraping and painting of hall in near future.
4. Have stage curtains cleaned and fire-proofed.
5. Enlarge community hall committee to include men who have knowledge of repair work.

Respectfully submitted,
Community Hall Committee:
Lucia Finck, Teresa Pettingill, Alli Thane

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SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

By Cecelia Sherman
Chairman Heath School Committee

This year began with the reignation of Michael Chrisman, the newest member of the Heath School Committee and Mohawk Representative. Richard Housner has been appointed to fill this vacancy and we are looking forward to working with him. I see a problem in Heath; enough interested and dedicated people to run for school committee.

As everyone knows, Proposition 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ is having its greatest impact on schools. It is unfortunate the children will suffer by losing extras such as band, vocal music, sports, art, and physical education; "extras" that round out the child's education and make the child a better person. Why can't the State be stopped from mandating more laws to the schools until they finance them?

Lynn Miller is resigning from the Heath School Committee effective at the Town Meeting 1981.

I do not plan to run for reelection when my term expires at this year's Town Meeting. My new job interests have conflicted with the time needed to do a good job on the School Committee. I've decided to announce this at this time to enable people to give thought to running for the School Committee. This is my seventh year on the Committee and it's time to step down and allow someone else to take my place. I have enjoyed my position on the Committee, working with wonderful people. Lynn Miller has been a valuable and dedicated member and a real credit to the Committee and community. The help of the Rowe School Committee is much appreciated. They appointed us as their Advisory Board and I hope we will continue to work together in the future. The Central Office with Supt. Bruce Willard and Business Manager David Newell has two hard working people. Most of us don't realize how much time they put into their jobs with all the night meetings and travel to keep the nine-town district running smoothly.

The Committee will be meeting soon with the Finance Committee and Selectmen to discuss budgets.

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339-4915

MOHAWK SCHOOL BUDGET

By Todd Sumner

(Todd is a Junior at Mohawk and presents his views here on the school budget as a student.)

In light of Proposition 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ and other expressions of public outrage against runaway government spending and high taxes, the Mohawk Trail Regional High School district has had to make many changes in their proposed budget for 1981-82. Monies in excess of \$150,000 have been cut from the original budget, bringing the total assessment to the nine towns to some 1.6 million dollars. The impact of these cuts will definitely be felt by the student body, but, in my opinion, no programs have been reduced to the point where our education is compromised. If, however, too much more money is cut from the budget, I think the students will really start to suffer as valuable teachers and courses are dropped to save money.

Even with all the cuts that have been made, Heath's share of the operating costs will increase substantially. The reason for this is an increase in the number of students attending Mohawk next year. I think it is our responsibility as a community to pay our share and support a budget that our school committee has recommended. I think the committee has made a brave attempt to stay within the ways and means allowed it by the nine towns. They deserve our support. If nothing else, talk to Heath's School Committee representatives and let them know how you feel. If they do not know what you are thinking, they can not represent your views very well, can they?

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Insurance Service

Gordon E. Taylor

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ASSESSORS REPORT

By Richards Steinbock

Finally! All of our cards have been updated, processed by our computer company, and the tax rate set. We are waiting for the state to approve our figures. I would hope that by the time you read this the tax will have been approved and you have your bills in hand.

The rate this year is (pending approval) \$ 25.50, five cents less than last year. However, as valuations have increased to meet state mandates, and expenses have risen, you can look for higher tax bills. With the known whopping increase in next year's Mohawk School budget, and other probable increases, you can expect an even larger bill next year. Sorry, but unless spending (especially in the areas of energy and transportation) can be cut, that will most likely be the yearly trend. It is encouraging to note that the Rowe School is seriously considering retrofitting to lower their energy bills.

Form of Lists were mailed late this year, due to working on the tax rate. We are giving everyone a month's extension, until April 1, to get them back.

This year's major project will be to work with our tax maps, neighboring assessors, state personnel, and possibly outside consultants to undertake a full revaluation of all of the land in town. We are aiming for state certification by the issuance of the fiscal 1982 bills.

This will mean the end of a \$ 200/acre across the board value. If the sales reports are any indication (and they must be used) most land in town will be going up in assessed valuation. We don't like to think what this may do to some people - farmers, large land owners. Did you every try growing hay on \$ 1000/acre land, where your profits might be \$ 50/acre and your taxes \$ 25?

We are open to suggestions as to how to deal with this dilemma. Thoughts we have had include zoning the whole town agricultural, thereby ending new building and its attendant high land valuation. Another thought was a total rejection of state aid. That would add \$4 to \$5 per \$1000 on the tax rate. But if we weren't taking state money, we wouldn't have to take their bull. Neither of these are entirely satisfactory solutions. However, if you have an idea, let us hear it. We do not want increasing taxes to change the character of Heath or make it impossible for people to live and farm here.

LIBRARY NOTES

By Edith M. Gleason

It has been business as usual at the Library since our last news brief. While circulation dropped off at Christmas, it picked up the last half of January.

Our craft books have been in heavy demand as well as the gardening books. It's my guess some of you are not only looking to the future but satisfying the present as well.

The upstairs room has now been straightened up, and is ready to be used as a study area or a meeting place for small groups. Downstairs is also available for meetings, but please call me to set a date.

Story hours for the children, Wednesday afternoons from three to four, are still popular. Please bring your children. We have a lot of fun and it is very informal with the children participating freely. Other activities are frequently introduced and some pop up on the spur of the moment. We could use more volunteers for the program. It does not require much work with one hour every week or so. I can promise you a lot of fun.

Whenever I have a few moments, I am shelf reading and up-dating the card files. I check every book and add any missing card to the files. When I am finished, each book will be identified by at least three cards, one each for the author, the title, and each subject covered by the book. The first segment, Biographies, I hope to finish this spring. If you are interested in helping, get in touch with me.

Our new books include: Michener, Covenant; Collins, Fifth Horseman; Bergman, My Story; Doctorow, Loon Lake; Stone, Origin; Swanson, Swanson on Swanson; and two juveniles; Gray, How Things are Made; Lengyel, Presidents of the United States.

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TRAINING FOR NURSE PRACTITIONER

By Susan Gruen F.N.P.

I have returned to Heath from a very long year away at school. With the help of a scholarship from the Fred W. Wells Trust I completed a course at Albany Medical College as a Family Nurse Practitioner. Many of you may remember me as the Visiting Nurse, but now my new position is Nurse Practitioner at U. Mass.

I went to Albany Medical College for my training, and for 20 weeks lived in Albany attending classes from 9AM to 6PM; Monday through Friday with weekends at home. The classes covered common medical problems. Living away from home and missing the family were the most difficult parts of the program.

The second half of my educational program consisted of internships in adult medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics, and gynecology under the sponsorship of two doctors. This lasted six months. Working eight hours a day, five days a week in Bennington, VT. helped me gain experience and a great deal of courage.

It has all paid off, for my job at U. Mass. is exciting as well as interesting. As one of 16 nurse practitioners, my job begins at 8AM. I manage to see 16 to 20 students a day with a variety of illness. The students come from all over the U.S. and foreign countries, each bringing a different illness and challenge. There are sore throats, athletic injuries, and skin rashes to see. The main focus of the practice is prevention. We encourage physicals when needed and annual Pap smears. I enjoy teaching the students about their bodies and how to take good care of them. There are approximately 28,000 students at U. Mass. and I try to reduce the case load of the doctor with whom I work closely, thus allowing him more time to be with the more seriously ill students.

The job isn't too different in concept from the midwife, except I am not supervised by an obstetrician but by a family MD. There are about 30 nurse practitioners in Franklin County and more in big cities like Boston. The concept is a new one and takes time to become recognized for the vital part it can play. All in all, it's a pretty special job and I really love it.

LETTER OF RESIGNATION

To: Heath School Committee and Citizens of Heath

It is with a sense of sadness that I have come to the decision to resign from my position as Heath School Committee member, effective by the Town Meeting 1981. For some time now, work and career interests have conflicted with the time and dedication I feel is needed to do a good job on the School Committee. Especially now, with increasing educational expenses, the mandating of substantial cuts, and growing pressure on administrators and educators to teach more specific skills with fewer resources and teachers, the job of a School Committee member is a difficult and challenging one. I hope in these next several years we who are concerned about the quality of education will not lose sight of educating the whole child. It is, in my view, its professional dedication to educating the whole child as scholar, social being, and private individual which makes the Rowe Elementary School unique and excellent and, unfortunately, especially vulnerable in these times.

Thanking you for this opportunity to serve the Town of Heath,

Lynn Miller

TECHNICAL SCHOOL BUDGET

By Philip L. Fournier, Sr.
Rep.F.C.T.S. Committee

On December 17, 1980 and January 14, 1981 I attended the Franklin County Technical School Committee meetings. The budget was discussed thoroughly. The committee has not decided just what will have to be done to cope with Proposition 2½. The operating cost for the next year will rise by 4.7% over last year for the Town of Heath if Proposition 2½ does not change it.

I feel this is a very good job of trying to keep costs down on the part of all the school officials and also the school committee.

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THE HUGH MAXWELL HOUSE

By Rachel M. Sumner

(This is the fourth in a series of articles on the older houses in Heath. This, the present Sumner house, is on South Road.)

I would like you to go back in time with me, if you will, to 1785, the year our town was incorporated and the approximate time our house (the former Colonel Hugh Maxwell house) was built.

Can we imagine Heath at that time? Most of our first settlers lived in South or Center Heath, or Charlemont Hill as it was originally called. There were few roads, little cleared land and few neighbors.

Hugh Maxwell was born in Minterburn, Ireland on April 27, 1733. He came to this country, with his parents, when he was six weeks old. The family settled in Bedford, Mass. Hugh and his six brothers and sisters had no advantages of a school when young. Their mother taught her seven children from her Bible and other religious books and prepared them for useful lives; several of them holding public positions of trust and responsibility. Hugh alone attended school for a few weeks to learn surveying.

Mr. Maxwell fought in the French and Indian War for five years, and in 1759 he married Miss Bridget Monroe. In 1773 he moved his family to Charlemont Hill (Heath was still a part of Charlemont), where he purchased a small farm and cleared a few acres. There was a small house of one room and a closet, later another small room was added, (we do not know just where this first house was located). His daughter describes this house in her book, The Christian Patriot: "It was poorly built, open and uncomfortable, often, the winter's morning, would they find themselves covered some inches deep with snow that had drifted through the chinks in the roof."

When Mr. Maxwell joined the Revolutionary Army he left his family, (his wife and seven children, the oldest about eleven and the youngest a week old), in this small house, with only a few neighbors, and no man to help them. Their water was 20 rods from the house and had to be carried. Their grain must be procured from a distance of seven or eight miles and carried five miles to a mill by Mrs. Maxwell or the children. Their wood was in large logs, green and covered with snow in the winter. The fire must be kept going night and day



or they would freeze. They raised a few potatoes and vegetables each year for food. Can we even imagine the privations these families endured?

After serving nine years in the Revolutionary Army, Colonel Maxwell returned home to his family to continue clearing his land, build a new house and barn, dig a well, and help in the incorporation of our town.

Can we picture the beautiful virgin timber that was cut to clear the land and make lumber for the buildings, and the hard work of doing all this by hand labor? Some of the trees must have been huge as we have boards 36 inches wide in our house.

Can we imagine the excitement of that family as the house started to take shape? It must have appeared more beautiful than any mansion they had ever seen. ROOMS- a kitchen, pantry, dining room, living room, and most of the children could have their own bedrooms. After living so many years in two rooms they must have felt like millionaires.

The builder must have been very ingenious. The house is well designed, many of the rooms have beautiful paneling. The chimney is a work of art with its five fireplaces, the brick oven and warming oven, and the smoke room which is built into the chimney. This room is shaped like an igloo. The meat was hung from the top of the room and a smoke fire was built on the stone floor. Even though our house is approximately 200 years old, it is in better condition than many of the newer houses.

I am often reminded of Edgar Guest's poem--It Takes a Heap of Livin' in a House to Make it Home. Our house has certainly had a heap of livin'.

CRIME PREVENTION

IT'S EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS

By Chief Lorin Gowdy

All towns in Massachusetts and all states across the nation are putting new emphasis on Crime Prevention. I consider crime prevention to be an important part of our law enforcement function, and this department supports the concept of crime prevention and the state-wide "Massachusetts Watch" program. This article and future articles bearing the Massachusetts Crime Watch Symbol are written to help you protect yourselves and your neighbors against crime.



Crime prevention made good sense for the town in 1980. Because the people in this town care about themselves and about each other, the police budget will remain the same this year. Prices went up for repairs, insurance, and most of all for gasoline, but because we are actually called on to do less the money will go further.

Money seems to be on everybody's mind these days. Don't get caught by a con man. Flim-flam artists, con people, magically appear whenever money is tight. Here are a few guidelines to help you protect yourselves.

Con artists can not be identified by their appearance. They look and act exactly like the rest of us, but they are experts in human psychology and behavior. Anyone can be swindled, regardless of education, perception, income, sex, or age.

The American Association of Retired Persons has isolated some key words which, when heard, should trigger suspicion.

Cash: Be cautious whenever you are asked to turn over large amounts of cash to anybody particularly a stranger.

Secret Plans: Don't permit yourself to be drawn into a secret deal in which you are asked to surrender anything of value. (Ask yourself: Why are you being instructed not to tell anyone about this?)

Get Rich Quick: Any scheme promising rich rewards should be viewed with misgiving.

Something for Nothing: You will usually get nothing for nothing no matter what is promised!

Haste Makes More Than Waste! It makes money for the con artist. If someone urges you to act quickly or you will lose out, then look out!

A common con for this area is called the "Home Repairman". Beware of the phoney "repairman" or "engineer" who rings your doorbell and offers to check your chimney, furnace, septic system, or other installation. Such a person might say he has just completed a job in your area, and it happens has enough material left to fix your roof, or blacktop your driveway and must be paid in cash. The job, if you say yes to the pitch, may be done with black oil that never dries.

Beware of phoney inspectors who will check your chimney, heating, or plumbing, and find damage that "must be repaired" to prevent "an expensive accident". You will be offered a contract which contains a down payment, but the salesman never returns.

If your car should be damaged and someone comes with an offer to fix it for a low price, you may find the damage has been repaired with plaster and one coat of paint, both of which will fall off as soon as the car hits a small pot hole.

Additionally you should remember not to discuss personal finances with strangers. Do not expect to get something for nothing especially from people you don't know. Do not withdraw cash from the bank at the suggestion of strangers.

You will read this and say "this will never happen to me", but this does happen every day. I know people that have had their roof coated only to have it wash off in the next rain. Information for this report was provided by the Municipal Police Institute, a Boston based organization, but con artists pray on the rural areas as much if not more than the urban areas. If you have been victimized, swindled, or think someone is trying to talk you out of your money, report it to the police. No need to be shy. You have lots of company!

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FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

By Chief Earl Gleason

The biggest recent event is the changing of the tank from the 1960 truck to the 1974 truck. The truck committee and most of the active members worked the weekend of January 2, and several members worked each day and several nights the following weeks. Many things are left to be done, but the tanker is now in service. A front mount 500-gallon-per-minute pump was added, making the present apparatus a pumper tanker. Manufacturers' prices for something new, comparable to this, would be in the 40 to 50 thousand dollar range.

The big disappointment of the changeover was the lack of response by the public to our request for help on the project. The most active men averaged 75 hours last year at fires, drills, schools, equipment checks, and work bees. This is nearly two 40 hour weeks each year for these fire fighters at no cost to the town. One has to wonder what happens when these ten men get discouraged because of the complacent attitude of the public. The cost could be fairly large.

Some warnings have been received by the Department to be relayed to the home owners:

1. Some defective chimney blocks have shown up on the market. These chimneys crack during the first or second year. Before building a chimney, contact the Building Inspector, Ed Crafts.

2. Some manufacturers of Metalbesto chimneys claim they are only good for three years. Check on yours.

3. Bernz O-Matic Foam Extinguishers are known to explode. If you have one, discharge it immediately and replace it.

Two new officers were appointed to the Department recently, Thomas Lively and David Thane. The officers are: Chief, Earl Gleason; Ass't Chiefs, Richard Giard and Walter Gleason; Water Supply Officers, John Holdsworth and David Thane; Training Officer, Thomas Lively.

Again the burning season is upon us. The dates are January 15 to May 1 and a permit is required from the Fire Chief. Please call at his home phone, as a call on the fire phone disturbs four families, ties up the emergency phone, and will probably result in the caller being told to call the Chief at 7-4948.

THE TIES THAT BIND

By Pegge Howland

Off in the woods at the end of Knott Hill Road a most amazing business is flourishing. David Brooks is binding books in the hills of Heath.

Seriously though, David Brooks and his wife Dorothy own and manage the Berkshire Bindery in their home on Knott Hill Road. Mr. Brooks dropped in at G.C.C. a few weeks ago to make his services known to me, and we were amazed to find out we were neighbor "Heathens". I thought the rest of you would be interested in his story and prevailed upon him to give me an interview.

David was born and raised in Quebec, Canada and Dorothy is from Malone, N.Y. so they both know all about our frigid winters. They have two married daughters and four grandchildren living in the midwest which David says is "too far away".

Brooks first got into the binding business in 1959 when he and his wife were living in Leominster, Mass. It was about that time they bought the land and a summer camp in Heath. In the mid-sixties they moved to Minneapolis, Minn. to manage a bindery there and later to Lincoln, Neb. where David managed two binderies. The pace was heavy though, and his health began to show the strain. So in 1979 they returned to Heath and began building a year-round home on Knott Hill Road.

Brooks claims they are now "semi-retired" even though they have a full fledged commercial bindery in their basement which includes an over-sewing machine, two stamp-machines, a hydraulic building-in machine and a cover glueing machine. They specialize in binding periodicals and do work for the University of Hartford, area doctors, and a hospital in Albany. Although most of his work is commercial, he can and does do custom (i.e. hand) binding if the patron is willing to pay the price. One of the most important custom jobs they've done was a complete set of National Geographics from 1800-1968 valued at \$2,000 before binding. Because he does work for people in Connecticut, Vermont and New York as well as Massachusetts, he feels they can all identify with the name "Berkshire Bindery". We certainly can and welcome them to our community.

PLANNING BOARD REPORT

By John Holdsworth

The Planning Board continues to work on revision of the zoning bylaws. The Board is presently considering some alteration of the residential-agricultural zoning status to provide for development of small businesses in town. Many respondents to the survey of two years ago indicated a willingness to allow some business or light industry to become established. The aim of the Board is to draw up a bylaw that will encourage the development of desirable business in Heath. Animated discussions are anticipated.

The Franklin County Planning Board met in January to discuss regional solid waste disposal. At issue were questions on what type of a regional system to pursue and how to administer the planning stage. The county board voted support for an incineration system with heat recovery in the form of steam. A customer is available for purchase of all the steam the plant could generate. The only alternative considered at the final meeting was a regional landfill system. This would initially be considerably cheaper than the incinerator, but a break-even point would occur between these two systems after less than nine years. Beyond this point, the landfill would show a large increase in operating cost per ton of waste, while the incinerator would decline in cost because of the heat recovery, coupled with projected increases in energy costs.

The county board also voted to have the County Commissioners manage the continuous planning and implementation phase for the incinerator. A committee, composed of representatives from each regional town (one per town), was established to give the towns more control over the solid waste project.

It is hoped an FHA grant will cover expenses that will be incurred in the next six to eight months. If everything goes smoothly, the incinerator could be operational in eighteen months to two years.

Even with the incinerator, it would be necessary for the town to have access to a dump area for the deposit of white goods (old stoves, etc.), large wood items (stumps, beams, etc.). Towns might be given some incentive payment to separate cans and bottles from the rest of the trash. Eventual passage of a bottle bill would limit the number of bottles and cans to be discarded.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT

By Paul Lively
Chairman

Heath Board of Selectmen

Highway Department John Churchill has submitted his resignation as Superintendent effective at the end of the fiscal year. The Selectmen have not acted on the resignation. We are working on a job description for the position which is planned to be completed by the end of February. At that time we will seek applicants for the position if there is no change in the present status.

Appointments Richard Housner has been appointed to the Heath School Committee replacing Michael Chrisman who resigned.

John Holdsworth has been appointed to represent Heath on the Franklin County Solid Waste Committee. His duties are to keep the Town informed on the progress of county developments in this matter. We have no financial commitment to this endeavor.

Financial We are currently receiving budget requests from town departments for the next fiscal year and working on our budget for the 1982 fiscal year.

Buildings The Community Hall Committee has submitted to the Selectmen a report of needed repairs as well as suggested improvements to the Hall building. They will be meeting with the Selectmen to go over details of that report. We are particularly concerned about improving the heating efficiency of that building.

On the last rainy day I climbed over the stage area and pinpointed the roof leak. To keep the figures from being lost, I'll list them here; on the south side of the roof the leak is localized in an area 9'8" down from the peak and 9'10" in from the overhang on the west end.

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The next regular meeting of the Planning Board will be Monday, March 9, at 8 PM in the Town Hall. The agenda will include zoning.

HISTORIC FLAG TO BE RESTORED SHEILA LITCHFIELD RECEIVES AWARD

The Heath Historical Society has just announced a new project to restore the flag of the Heath Rifle Company.

In 1827, the Heath Rifle Company was formed with Colonel Roger Leavitt as its first captain. The company was made up of the best of our young manhood. They wore handsome uniforms and were carefully drilled on the Heath Common. They even had an identifying flag made, hand painted on silk about four feet by six feet. It showed a rifleman wearing a shako in the military dress uniform of the time. The design was done in gold leaf and color.

For many years this same flag has hung from the ceiling of the Old Town House at the Center. Unfortunately, time and environment have taken their toll on the flag. The silk had become brittle and had begun to disintegrate, with pieces of the flag falling to the floor.

In 1978 the flag was taken down, under the direction of Curator Amy Barry, and carefully laid in a large flat box, made for the purpose, with the hope that at least the pieces could be kept together.

During this past year it was found, through friends at Historic Deerfield, that the Merrimac Valley Textile Institute was specializing in the study and preservation of old silk flags. After taking the large box with the flag down to the Institute in North Andover, an analysis showed that the flag could best be preserved by carefully placing the silk pieces together on a soft inert backing and sandwiching the whole flag between two large pieces of clear Lexan plastic.

The work of preservation is now being undertaken in the laboratory of the Textile Institute, and it is expected that it will be completed this summer. The historic flag, thus preserved, will again be mounted and displayed in the Old Town House as a reminder of an early Heath activity.

In order to defray the cost of this preservation, a special fund raising program has been set up by the Society under the direction of David Howland, Chairman of the Development Committee.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY TO MEET

The Heath Agricultural Society will hold its first meeting of the year on Tuesday, March 3 at the Community Hall. This will be the first meeting with the new president, Richard Hatch, and everyone is urged to attend to give him their support.

Sheila Litchfield has been selected as an "Outstanding Young Woman of America for 1980" and her biography will be published in the annual awards volume. The program is designed to honor and encourage exceptional young women between the ages of 21 and 36 who have distinguished themselves in their homes, their professions and their communities.

Sheila graduated from U. Mass. with a nursing degree. She works for the "Visiting Nurse and Health Nurses", formerly "Franklin County Home Health Care". She applied for and has just received a grant, sponsored by the Mohawk Medical Center, for teaching a course in parent education.

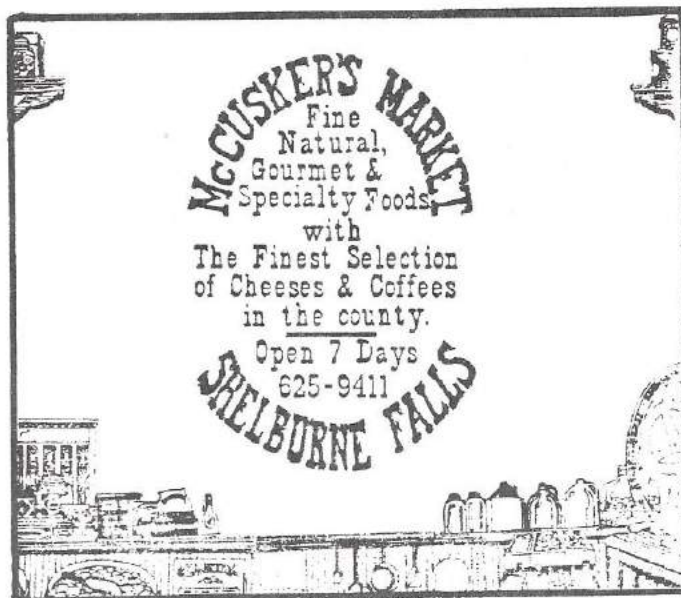
Sheila and her husband have lived in Dell since 1978. Budge works in special education at the Rowe Elementary School. They are the parents of Tucker and are expecting a baby in April. Sheila was elected to the office of Tax Collector for Heath last year.

ARTS LOTTERY

Now you can support the Arts in Massachusetts by buying a \$ 5.00 lottery ticket. The incentive is not only that you might win, but also that you will be contributing to the many grants that will be given to Massachusetts Artists bi-annually.

Bob Gruen is the representative from Heath for this new lottery. An Arts Council has been formed by the three towns of Hawley, Charlemont, and Heath to review grant proposals of resident artists.

For more information, contact Bob Gruen. Deadline for proposals is in March.



LICENSING OF HOMEOWNERS

- Special to the HEATH HERALD -

By Jay Healy, State Representative

I have been actively working against a proposal being considered by the State Building Code Commission which would require home owners to take tests, obtain a license, and pay fees for doing construction, repair or alteration to their homes. I do not have any objections to the proper licensing of large scale construction supervisors. I do, however, take strong exception to the last sentence in the proposal, i.e., "Such term (construction supervisor) shall also apply to persons supervising themselves". This language could also apply to individuals who construct their own home or even do small repair or alterations to their home. To require a homeowner who has the aptitude to do these things himself to become licensed, take tests, and pay hefty fees is totally ridiculous.

I cannot believe that the Building Code Commission wants to license the majority in my District who could easily fit into this definition. Thousands of Massachusetts citizens do their own work on their homes. Thousands of farmers could be required to be licensed as well as part-time carpenters, and carpenters who presently should be encouraged, rather than discouraged, from obtaining employment in this state. The proposal as it now stands, is far too broad to be implemented successfully and will result in large numbers of people simply breaking administrative regulation by refusing to obey it.

If they attempt to license homeowners, I have assured the Building Code Commission that I will do everything in my power as a Legislator to file legislation which would allow homeowners to continue to fix their own homes without governmental red-tape. It is time to give the citizens of Massachusetts some relief from bureaucratic gobbledegook.

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FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

By D. F. Howland

Budget preparation for the fiscal year 1981-82 is underway. Finance Committee members have attended meetings with the Mohawk School Committee, the Assessors, Fire Department, Police Department, Civil Defense, and Highway Department. Further discussions are to be held with the Library Trustees, the Heath School Committee, and the Selectmen.

Of special concern is the rising Mohawk budget and assessment due to an increase of Heath students from 38 to 51 (13 more), general price increases, no improvement in state aid and the absence of reserves to draw on. The Mohawk Committee has made across-the-board budget cuts in an effort to keep costs within reason. Proposition 2½ has had more of an effect on some of the large communities in the district than on Heath but it is causing some problems in the funding of the Mohawk School. Further, the School Board no longer has autonomy as a result of 2½ which adds to the complexity of the budget process. In any event the Mohawk assessment for Heath can be expected to be up substantially next year.

It appears that a special expenditure for a revaluation of town properties will be necessary in order to be in compliance with state assessment guidelines. This situation is under review.

The audit of the Town's books is nearing completion. The work includes the establishment of a new bookkeeping system that will provide ready information about the financial condition of the Town. Catherine Nichols, Town Treasurer, has invested Stabilization and Revenue Sharing Funds of approximately \$38,000 in high interest bearing instruments, thereby doubling the annual rate of interest income from these monies.

Considerable work on next year's budget remains. The Finance Committee invites town-wide participation in the process to help with the deliberations at the annual Town Meeting.

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WINTERING IN HEATH

By Amy C. Barry

I admit that I had second thoughts about spending the winter in Heath. "So you are going to live there year 'round, are you?" my friends in the Valley asked, incredulity mixing with admiration in their voices. "We hear it is pretty rough up there in the winter", said others, hinting at snow, ice, and wind just short of Siberia. I was personally haunted by the image of cold feet, icy bathrooms, and long, gray, house-bound days.

My first winter in Heath is now half over. I have seen the thermometer dip far below zero many mornings in a row. I have lived through bouts with frozen pipes, and I have acquired well-developed biceps from carrying twenty-five pounds of wood at one time. Am I ready to pack up my family, buy a camper, and move to Florida? Not at all.

Wintering in Heath has been a rich and rewarding experience for me. I have come to recognize the wonderful array of gifts that winter has to offer. The snow-covered landscape has its own special vitality and the barren fields and quiet woods speak to me of beginnings as well as endings.

The higher elevations of Heath provide us with a certain quality of winter sun light that brings images into sharp focus. The leafless trees with their intricate network of branches cast finely etched shadows on the snow. This winter the view from my den window towards Mount Greylock has been spectacular. For a brief time each day the sun paints the load of uncut slab wood in my front yard with gold, reminding me that there is still work to be done on this year's wood supply. Milkweed pods, the dried stalks of August goldenrod, and the red berries that mingle with the branches of the old apple tree contrast sharply with the whiteness of the ground. January sunsets set the sky a fire in rosy flames. In the winter light, I am reminded once again of the symmetry and endless form of nature.

For many animals winter is the time for a long nap. However, I have been surprised this year to discover how much activity continues in the animal world during the winter months. Although the robins have left and I will have to wait until next summer to see the hummingbird in my flower garden again, a great number of birds are

spending the winter in Heath. A flock of evening grosbeaks frequently descend to crack seeds from my maple trees with their strong beaks, and I have also seen pine grosbeaks with their touches of pink. One day, quite by accident, I spotted two downy woodpeckers. Chickadees perch in the cherry tree, singing out cheerful greetings.

Birds are not the only creatures busy in the winter. The number and variety of tracks in the woods and around my yard tell silent stories of other animals. From the prints in the snow I suspect that there is a very large rabbit living somewhere in our raspberry patch. The woods are full of deer tracks, sometimes leading to uncovered clumps of moss, and the delicate prints of prowling cats are everywhere.

What I have come to appreciate about winter is that it gives us the opportunity to enjoy a slower pace of life. With the wood supply piled up and the summer's harvest in the freezer and basement, winter gives us time to sit, watch, think, and dream. Winter is time for remembering the past and for savoring the present. It is also a time for planning and for anticipation. The days have begun to grow longer and the sun rises higher in the sky. Winter is a beginning as well as an ending.

I no longer have second thoughts about spending the winter in Heath. I wear my long underwear everywhere and I put on three pairs of socks when it gets cold. What is most important is that I look at winter in a different way. For the cold, the ice, and the snow are as much a part of the rhythm of nature in New England as are our glorious summer days and celebrated fall colors. Winter has special gifts for us, although they may be more subtle and secretive than those of other seasons. Let the cold wave come again! I will put on my extra sweater, stay close to the woodstove, and order my seeds from the Burpee catalog.

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HEATH CENTER SCHOOL - 1910

By Hannah Burrington

We all carried our luncheons except the ones near school. Some of the fathers used tobacco, and their children used the tobacco boxes for luncheon boxes. Some were red and others were blue with a lot of advertising on them. How we envied these children their boxes which had a hinged lid and a little fastener. The rest of us had plain lard pails with a cover that pushed on and a bail to carry it.

Each day, as school closed, we all went to the store and post office that was run by Edward Dickinson. The store was in the basement of the Community Hall, and the entrance was the same as it is now. It was rather dark with a wood floor. He was very good natured and accomodating, but there was a limit to what he would take from the boys. One day our regular driver, Mrs. Sherman, could not come, so she asked Anna Burrington to get us. She was a little late so we were all ready to go when she came. We all had a bag of "store bought" candy, and as we rode out the South Road one of us offered her some. She took a chocolate and ate it, and then turned to Ted (her son) and said "Where did you get this candy?". Ted said "Ed gave it to us"; then "Why did he gave this to all of you?"; "Oh, the rats got into the candy case." I shall never forget the look of horror that came over Anna's face, and she turned and grabbed all the bags and threw them over the fence while we looked longingly at our gift of "store bought" candy. It was a quiet, subdued group that rode the rest of the way.

MILESTONES

Jesse was born to Deborah Porter and John Henry on December 26. Jesse is the grandson of John and Nellie Porter of Heath and Detroit, Michigan.

Robert Dwight, Jr. was born to Susan and Robert D. Ryan on January 29. Robert, Jr. is the grandson of John and Dolores Churchill and William and Florence Ryan and the great grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Wilburt Rainville.

Jefferson M. DeLutio, 87, died at the Anchorage Nursing Home on December 19. He leaves a daughter, Marion Mascola of Heath.

Mrs. Hilma Borklund, 94, died at the Poet's Seat Nursing Home on January 8. She leaves a daughter, Ruth Churchill of Heath.

Bruce and Catharine Cromack announce the engagement of their daughter Cynthia to Allan Smith son of John and Carolyn Smith of Hopkinton, Mass. Cynthia is a graduate of Greenfield Community College and is employed by Rice Oil Co., of Greenfield. Allan is a 1980 graduate of Stockbridge School of Agriculture and is employed by Smiaroski Farm in Deerfield. A summer wedding is planned.

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