



HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER 25¢

CHRISTMAS TREE STORY

By John Read

Not everyone knows that Heath has a Christmas tree farm. However, Dominic Musacchio has grown and harvested Christmas trees on his Swamp Road farm for almost 20 years. In 1935 Dominic came from Abruzzi, Italy to Pittsfield and after serving with the Air Force in the Pacific during World War II settled in Greenfield. There he built a successful family business in produce and flowering plants, which many older Heath residents remember. This mushroomed into ten greenhouses supplying customers in several states. During the Holiday season, Christmas trees were a profitable item, even when bought from a wholesaler. Eventually the produce end of the business was dropped, and in 1964 Musacchio purchased 50 acres in Heath containing balsam and douglas fir trees. With the help of his two sons, Dominic harvests 400 to 500 trees, starting around Thanksgiving each year. The trees are sold in Greenfield, while the boughs from unshapely trees are bundled and sold to florists for wreaths. The stand of trees has been maintained through continuous reforestation. Andrew and his father have built several log cabins and a large barn on their property in Heath where the whole family enjoys the summer and many wintery days surrounded by beautiful evergreen trees.

The origin of the Christmas tree lies in the Paradise Tree featured in the Miracle and Mystery plays of the middle ages. It was a wooden, pyramidal stand holding candles and cherished mementoes. After many years, it was replaced by the fir tree, chosen for its shape and, being ever green, as a symbol of immortality. In early times the tree was hung with apples to symbolize Adam's sin, and also with round

wafers to signify the fruits of redemption. The wafers were later replaced by the Germans with different shaped cookies.

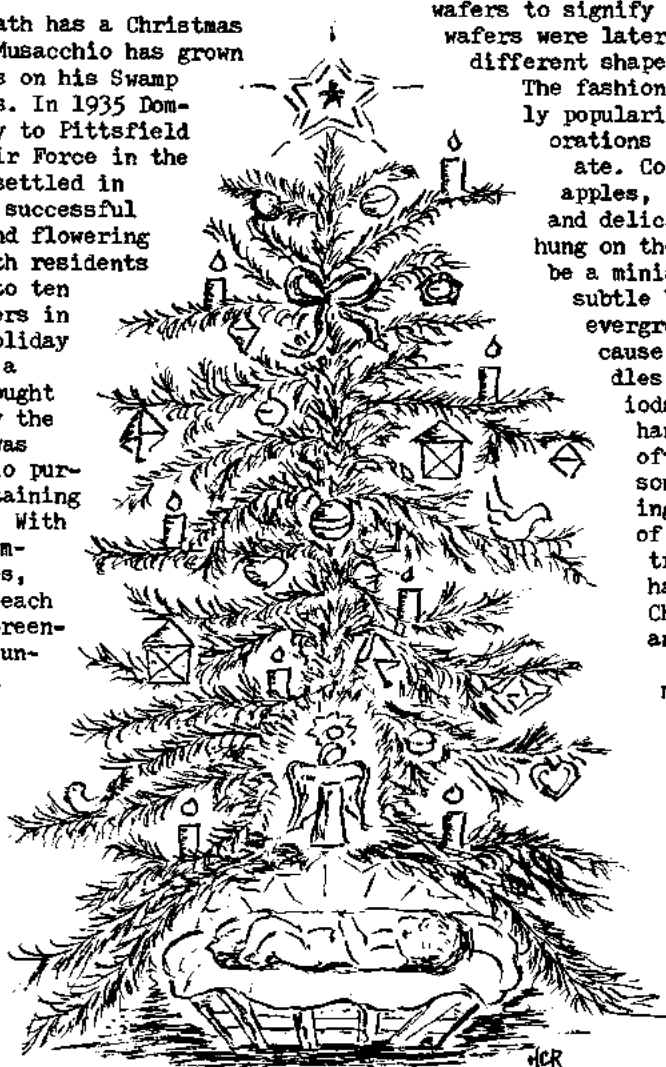
The fashion for Christmas trees was really popularized in Germany where the decorations gradually became more elaborate. Colored paper, gilded nuts and apples, glass beads, figs, candies, and delicately tinted candles were hung on the tree, and under it might be a miniature Nativity scene. The subtle beauty of candlelight against evergreen boughs was a joy, but because of the fire hazard the candles were lit for only brief periods. During the Victorian era, hand-blown colored glass globes often protected the candles and some contained oil wicks floating on water. With the advent of electricity, the Christmas tree took on a new glamor, and has become the center of Christmas festivities in towns and cities across the land.

The Christmas tree trade may have begun in New York, where one Mark Carr sold Christmas trees on the sidewalks in 1851 from ox-sleds laden with fir trees from his farm in the Catskills.

Franklin Pierce of New Hampshire introduced the Christmas tree to the White House in 1856. Calvin Coolidge is linked with the first lighting of a national tree, a gigantic spruce from his Vermont farm placed on the lawn of the White House in 1923, and since

that time the annual ceremony has become an important part of holiday observances in the Capitol.

From that time, this important business has spread across the land, even to Heath. It is nice to know that some of the finest trees around are grown right here at the Musacchio's farm.



LETTERS

To the Editors:

"Few if any of the early Heath families ever lived in a log cabin." So ends the digression with which Michael Coe begins his paper "Sally and Samuel" (HEATH HERALD, October). As the local historian I am obliged to protest. Available data show that in fact many families lived in a log cabin. Anna Maxwell describes Jonathan Taylor's in some detail. She states further: "Their houses were principally made of logs, some covered with bark, it was rare to see a framed house on the hill in 1775." She says also that after the Revolution most of the new arrivals were poor young men with families who set up in a one-room log cabin. Sarah Cheney Emerson writes: "Sixty years ago" (about 1815) "...north of the Branch...a few families were...living in log cabins," and she describes their construction, adding: "Thus began the first settlers of North Woods". Richard Temple is said to have built one. In the Gleason family tradition their ancestor Abijah (mentioned by Coe) lived in one south of the Branch. Artemus Churchill, of whom Kandrick bought, must have lived in something, perhaps a cabin. In my childhood in Michigan a cabin recycled for use as a shed or barn was not uncommon, and it must be remembered that a framed and boarded house made entirely by hand, with a cellar and often with planed paneling for doors and interior walls, took time; and meanwhile the family had to live somewhere.

The change in spelling of Samuel Kandrick's surname to Kendrick reflects a shift in pronunciation. Similarly Canady/Kennedy. The same shift is still going on, as in catsup/ketchup; without respelling it can be heard in marry and carry.

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LETTERS

To the Editors:

Since hearing about the closing of the covered bridge in Lyonsville, I have been most concerned with when it would be repaired and reopened. The first thought I had was to offer some lumber with which to help in the rebuilding project.

The Stowe family offer is very small considering the magnitude of the repairs. My thought was that if someone started the ball rolling there would be other donations.

This old bridge has always been dear to me. It is a fine landmark and to not have the use of it would be most unfortunate.

I regret that I never took a team of horses through that bridge, but in all the years our Dick and Chubby team never got that far from home. I sincerely hope that our local covered bridge can be refurbished and returned to use and pleasure.

CARROLL B. STOWE

(Ed. note: Since this offer was made and at the instigation of the Colrain Selectmen through Sen. Oliver's office, there appears to be a good chance that state highway funds can be made available for repair of the Arthur A. Smith bridge.)

MILESTONES

By Edith Royer

Robert Anthony was born to Susan and Fred Pazmino of Leyden on October 5. Robert is the grandson of Eva and Luis Pazmino.

Bryan Christopher was born to Debra and Steven Crowningshield on November 17. Bryan is the grandson of Jeanette and Howard Crowningshield and the great grandson of Mildred Crowningshield of Charlemont.

Peter was born to Arlene and Iwan Mikolajczuk of Whately on November 21. Peter is the grandson of Pearl Churchill and the great grandson of Grace Landsrom.

Linda Hillman, daughter of Evelyn and Smead Hillman, was married to Donald Chapin on September 26. The wedding was held at the home of the bride's parents, after which they went to Londonderry, Vermont on their honeymoon.

Dawn Marie Corey, daughter of Ruth and Ronald Corey, was married to Walter Kenney of Rowe on December 5. The wedding was held in the Heath Union Church with Rev. Ann Geer officiating and a reception followed at the Community Hall.

Stephen Wolf of Heath and Cambridge died on October 19. Stephen leaves his parents Eleanor and William Wolf and two brothers, Ned and John.

Andreas E. Royer died on November 15. He leaves his wife Edith and a son Ernest of Shelburne Falls, six grandsons and six great grandchildren.

Betty Maitland died on November 15. She leaves her husband Alastair, two sons Ian and Angus and a daughter Anne.

HEATH PRECIPITATION

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

Precipitation in October, 4.02 inches; November precipitation, 1.68 inches. We had our first measurable snowfall on November 28. In the past 15 years our first snow has come as early as October 10 in 1979, and as late as December 5 in 1970. The November snows have varied from none in 1970 to 27 inches in 1972.

165 YEARS OF THE HEATH POST OFFICE

By Esther M. Dickinson

On October 11, 1816 Sylvanus Maxwell was appointed the first Postmaster of Heath, Mass. He kept the office in his home, now Roger Clark's. He served in that office for 17 years, and was followed by John Hastings, Jr., who lived in the Old Red House, the site of the present Town Hall and Library. In the past 165 years there have been 21 Postmasters of Heath. The shortest term was Oliver Kendrick's, from Nov. 1857 to April 1858, a brief five months. Horace McGee served 10 years; George Bolton 12 years; Maria Wetmore 10 years; Edward P. Dickinson 15 years, and Mrs. Marion Peon 17 years.

In 1845 during the tenure of Winslow Buck a $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. letter going no more than 30 miles was 5¢, but a $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. letter going 300 miles or more was a dime. The first adhesive postage stamp came into use in 1847 during Winslow Buck's time. His office was in what was later known as the Stockwell house just south of the Community Hall.

In 1851 when Benjamin Coolidge was Postmaster the letter rate was reduced to 3¢ for a $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. letter going less than 3000 miles; over 3000 miles was double rate.

Money orders came in 1864 while Elijah Carpenter was Postmaster. About this time the letter rate became 2¢ per oz. regardless of distance.

Horace McGee held the office when the penny postal card came into being in 1873. We were still selling 1¢ post cards until 1952. (Last month they went up to 13¢ !)

Parcel Post came in 1913 when my uncle E.P. Dickinson was Postmaster. He had his office downstairs in the Methodist Church, now the Community Hall, and later moved his store and the Post Office to the building that is now the home of Robert Gruen. If anyone wanted a bargain, he would offer 13 two-cent stamps for a cent and a quarter! (26¢)

Other sites of the Heath Post Office include the Heath Center house of Mr. and Mrs. Howland (Samuel Barber, Postmaster) and John Churchill's house (George Temple, Postmaster). In the 1930's Elton Kinsman had the Post Office in the bungalow now owned by Mrs. Alice Meehan; for 14 months, 1950-1951, Mrs. Janet Shepherd was acting Postmaster in Philip Fournier's home on Ledges Road; and I had the office, first in the store (Gruen's home), then for 27 years in the house now owned by Gregory Babineau.



Esther Dickinson-Heath's Last Postmaster

In the early days the Star Route started in Heath and stopped at the East Charlemont Post Office on the way to Shelburne Falls. (It was not until Anthony Cormier was driver that the head of the route was changed to Shelburne Falls.) So it was possible to ride down on the stage to shop or visit relatives for a couple of hours and come back the same day. The drivers often did errands for a fee. George Peon and Andreas Royer drove the stage with horses. Henry Churchill used his Model T Ford. I can remember the following stage drivers: Albert Burckard, Ernest Fountaine, Herbert Smith, Anthony Cormier, Robert Hanks, Ruth Wojcek, Nelson Sanderson, and our present carrier, Calvin Ainsworth.

Since the discontinuance of the 4th class post office in Heath, Montana, Heath, Mass. has been the only post office with that name. (Newark, Ohio does have a station by the name of Heath.)

Twelve years ago the revenue unit was adopted as a measure of postal receipts. A revenue unit is the cost of sending 1000 average pieces of mail - so it goes up with the postage rates. In the first year Heath had 19 revenue units, but in 1980 it had increased to 31.

When Mr. Cormier was carrying the mail, the star route was extended to deliver mail to South Heath. The original 12 boxes on this delivery have nearly trebled as new homes have been built.

At one time there were three other Post Offices in town. Russell Chaffins, who lived where Al Canali now lives, was the first Postmaster of Dell; then came Edward Canedy where Budge Litchfield lives; and lastly Clifford Hager, also where Al Canali lives. During the 25 years of the Dell Post Office, the mail was delivered by the Charlemont-Jacksonville stage.

The North Heath Post Office was also on the Charlemont-Jacksonville stage route. Henry Fairbanks, the first Postmaster, lived where Wendell Brown now lives, but later moved the Post Office to his new home across the road, now Leroy Decker's. When Henry Fairbanks died, Henry Stetson was appointed Postmaster to act until Arthur Fairbanks (Henry's son) became 21. Later the Post Office was at Fred Gleason's (my mother was Assistant Postmaster for several years prior to her marriage); at Hugh Thompson's, now Ken Crowningshield's; and lastly at Hitchcock Mills (J. Louis Giard's) where Bertha Churchill Packard was the last Postmaster. The North Heath Post Office closed about 1920 and was in existence about 30 years.

The Post Office in the Number 9 area was called Cyrus as postal officials wanted a post office with a name, not just a number. Arthur Carley, who lived where Rev. Murray Newman is, was appointed Postmaster in Feb. 1895 and held the position 25 years. The office was named in honor of his father, Cyrus Carley. The mail was delivered by the Rowe-Zoar stage driver.

Zip Code came into use in 1963, and this year they are beginning to use zip + 4. The last week in October, I received a couple of letters with the zip 01346-9998 (the exclusive zip for the Postmaster, Heath, Mass.) I wonder if that particular zip will be used again??

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TEMPERANCE AND A SILK FLAG: THE HEATH RIFLE COMPANY

By Amy C. Barry

On October 25, the Heath Historical Society held an open house at the Center School House where the newly restored silk flag of the Heath Rifle Company was on display. In spite of chilly weather and grey skies, the open house was very successful. Over fifty people signed the guest register, including visitors from Colrain, Northampton, Rowe, and Whittingham. Coffee and cookies were served and special thanks go to Mrs. Harriet Read for her gracious hostessing.

The Heath Rifle Company flag hung for at least eighty years in the Old Town House until it was taken to the Merrimack Valley Textile Conservation Center in North Andover in September 1980. Those who saw the flag on display agreed that it has been beautifully restored and framed by the Textile Center.

In the process of organizing the Society's impressive document collection, the Curator discovered the record book that belonged to the Heath Rifle Company. Included in this fascinating book are the original petition for the creation of the Company, lists of Company members, and a series of orders for review issued between 1828 and 1841 by the captains.

The formation of the Heath Rifle Company was approved by the Governor in January 1821, upon the petition of David Snow and others. The Company was granted the power to enlist men in the towns of Heath, Charlemont, and Rowe and was annexed to the 5th Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 4th Division of the Massachusetts Militia.

According to their record book, the first meeting of the Rifle Company was held on May 6, 1828 in Heath at the home of David Thayer. Men of the company were directed "to appear with arms and equipment required by law...for military duty and inspection." This order was issued by Roger Hooker Leavitt, the first Captain. Captain Leavitt's family ties were firmly rooted in Heath. On his father's side, he was the grandson of the controversial Parson Leavitt, and on his mother's side, he was the grandson of the Revolutionary War hero, Lt. Col. Hugh Maxwell.

HEATH AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

By Dot Scofield

At the annual meeting of the Society, held recently, officers for 1982 were elected as follows: President, Richard Hatch; Vice President, Walter Gleason; Secretary, Barbara Thompson; Treasurer, Claire Hatch.

A discussion of possible capital improvements at the Fairgrounds resulted in the request for state Rehabilitation Funds to help build a road for fairgoers safety and convenience to take in all the exhibits at the fair. Hopefully this work will begin before the 1982 Fair, but will probably take several years to complete.

The next meeting of the Society will be on Tuesday February 2, 1982, at which time active planning will begin for the 1982 Fair. If anyone has any ideas or requests, the Society would certainly like to hear them. We will be looking for a Master of Ceremonies and a Superintendent for the Exhibit Hall. Who will volunteer? (Mrs. Sophie Coe had only volunteered for one year, for which we extend our sincere appreciation.)

At the first meeting of the Rifle Company, Asaph Snow was elected first sergeant, William Gleason second sergeant, Thomas Taylor third sergeant, and Luther Maxwell fourth sergeant. In 1828 Lyman and Adnah Marsh and Cyrus Rugg were appointed musicians of the Company, suggesting that a parade was part of each military drill. Besides Roger H. Leavitt, other captains of the Rifle Company during the period covered in their record book were Timothy Taft, William Gleason, and Rodolphus White. The usual meeting place of the Company appears to have been David Thayer's house and store. They convened twice a year (fall and spring) for military drill and inspection, with occasional trips to other towns such as Charlemont or Deerfield.

The Heath Centennial book says that the silk flag was presented to the Heath Rifle Company about 1835 and tradition holds that the flag was a gift of the ladies of Heath. However, details as to exactly when and from whom the Company acquired the flag are not yet known. It would also be interesting to discover where the flag was made, given the vividness of color and the high quality of the design.

Several people at the Center School open house asked about the significance of the word TEMPERANCE that appears of the Company flag. A notation in the record book dated September 1828 reports that the Company voted unanimously "that we would drink no ardent spirits whilst going to, coming from, or whilst on the parade of the review and and inspection of 1828." It is therefore very possible that TEMPERANCE refers specifically to restraint in the matter of alcohol and not merely to the more general virtue of moderation in all things.

The Heath Historical Society is proud to have such a unique artifact as the flag of the Heath Rifle Company in the museum collection. Now that the flag has been restored and framed, we no longer need to worry about its disintegrating and being irrevocably lost. Many people contributed their time and money to the preservation of the flag and in so doing have shown their commitment to the future as well as the past.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE NEWS

By Richard Housner, Chairman

In preparation for a November 17 meeting with Rowe on elementary tuition, the Heath School Committee received advice from the Board of Selectmen. Following the start of tuition negotiations, we met with our Finance Committee to discuss the economic realities of Heath. At this point in time there appears much to discuss and settle.

Regina Pinkham has been chosen to replace Helen Mackie as librarian in Rowe. David Maloney has been hired to teach instrumental music. Presently 21 students participate in this program. Rowe students will be visiting the Clark Art Institute on Dec. 10, grades 2 - 6. The Institute has matching funds and students will be charged approximately 50 cents, so that expenses are covered without taking from the budget.

The annual Cape Cod trip was described by Ruth Law at the November Rowe meeting. The trip was an educational success despite foul weather, causing cancellation of the whale watch expedition.

The after school use of Rowe School for recreational purposes has become beset by habitual problems that could endanger future availability. Any group that uses this facility should make sure that it is left in appropriate condition. Let's not jeopardize this resource.

HEATH POST OFFICE UPHEAVAL

By the Editors

Esther Dickinson, our Postmaster for 30 years, submitted her resignation late in September to be effective October 31. At the same time, the landlord, Gregory Babineau, indicated that he did not want to continue with the Post Office lease.

The postal officials from Springfield immediately announced the opening and requested applications for a replacement postmaster for Heath. Unbeknownst to a majority of townspeople, they met with the Heath Selectmen on several occasions to investigate alternate sites for the post office. Finally, after looking at one or two sites in town, the postal authorities ignored the applications for a full time postmaster, and proposed a Contract Postal Service whereby bids would be solicited to run the post office on a contract basis. The Selectmen agreed that the Town Clerk's office in Sawyer Hall would be an ideal location for the Contract Post Office, and proposed that the town bid on this contract. Very short notice was given for the receipt of the bid (about one week) which discouraged a number of potential bidders.

At the request of a number of concerned citizens, who had met informally with one of the Selectmen as soon as this information was publicized, a public hearing was held to discuss the reasoning behind the postal decision.

Mr. Jon Steele, Manager-Postmaster from Springfield, explained that it was now the Postal policy to reduce expenses by contracting P.O.'s in smaller communities instead of having a full service P.O. with a postmaster. He indicated the alternative for Heath would be his recommendation to drop the post office and use existing R.F.D. and Stage routes. It was brought out that the Heath Post Office costs had been running about \$25,000 a year with only \$4,500 in revenue generated.

After hearing from many irate citizens concerning the changes in postal service, the Selectmen submitted a bid, subject to a vote at a Special Town Meeting, to operate the Contract Post Office in Sawyer Hall at a cost of \$9500 per year. This bid was accepted as indicated in the Selectmen's Report in this issue. A postal clerk is being recruited and locked boxes, accessible 24 hours a day, are to be installed. It is expected that this new Community Post Office will soon be functioning smoothly with the same Heath Zip Code, 01346.

CHANGES ON THE HERALD STAFF

Catherine Cromack has resigned as reporter on the HEATH HERALD after being with the paper since its inception, April 1979. She is now employed by the Phoenix Insurance Company and is also taking a course at Greenfield Community College. The Staff of the HERALD extends appreciation to Catherine for her excellent reporting. Amy Barry has agreed to fill Catherine's place as staff reporter.

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WAGON TRAIN JOURNEY

By Carroll B. Stowe

Saturday, October 10, dawned bright, clear, and cool, and without the wagon train voyage which had been carefully planned for several weeks. Two weeks of rainy weather played havoc with these well laid plans, and the end result was three teams of horses, one yoke of cattle, seven saddle horses, and a single horse and cart. The voyage which originally went from North Heath to Halifax, Vermont was changed to go to the Heath Fairgrounds.

Arriving there in the afternoon, the animals were cared for, and the riders enjoyed a well deserved meal of so much good food that a small army could have been fed. To me the highlight of the day was the hitching of two teams of horses for a four horse hitch, which I had the thrill of operating. The square dance that night in Heath Center attracted most of the group with only a few left around the campfire.

On Sunday morning, Doug Wilkins came and made fresh doughnuts over our fire. We all agreed a fine time was had by all, and tentative plans are to try another voyage about Memorial Day weekend.

FROM THE LIBRARY

By Edith M. Gleason

October and November have passed very quickly. We resumed our Story Hours with some old faces and some new ones. Two people volunteered to conduct the program and two returned from last year.

Several children are reading for certificates. Chrissy and Jennifer Gilbert have read 15 books each and Justine Babineau has read five since school started. Laura Holdsworth earned an honor certificate for reading 20 books. Others are still working for their first certificate. Also, some children who love to read don't care about keeping track of what they read. This is a voluntary program and we only make it available if the child wants it.

Recent visitors include Mr. and Mrs. Albert Hunt from Olympia, Washington, who were looking for ancestors. I showed them the genealogies and vital statistics. This apparently pleased them as they have written to me twice. Another genealogist, Mrs. Truce (formerly Evelyn Fournier) from Conway, also came in.

Some books that readers like are: Mornings on Horseback, McCullough; Cujo, King; Sweet Betsy from Pike, Parker; Glitter Dome, Wambaugh; I Rebekeh, Take Thee the Lawrences, First; The Lord God Made Them All, Herriot; In the Captain Shoes, Slaattian; Gorky Park, Smith.

If anyone has a copy of The Littlest Angel, the Library would like to use it for a Story Hour.

Amy Barry took my place while I was visiting my sisters and Faye Hamilton comes in to help on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons.



FOOTLIGHTS
"THE DANCERS' SHOP"

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WHAT EVERYONE IS "DYING" TO KNOW ABOUT OUR CEMETERIES AND WAS AFRAID TO ASK

By William J. Wolf

A committee on town cemeteries was appointed last year at the initiative of the selectmen. Ralph Dickinson is to concern himself with the problems of the South Cemetery, including as far as possible the mapping of the old burial sites. Alan Nichols is to work on the extension of the Center Cemetery, seeking volunteers to help him brush out along the West Oxbow Road, burn great piles of stumps and slash when legal, and prepare for removal of the unsightly spoil banks blocking the new extension from the road. Last summer a bee by the Heath Historical Society organized by Don Conlon straightened stones, pierced the north wall for access to the new area, and began the work of brushing out. Betty Eldridge has been studying the endowed funds for upkeep, trying to correct errors in the names of the donors, and in general reviewing policy and management matters. Bill Wolf serves as the chairman. Together with his wife Eleanor as linesman he has been laying the first new lots in the extensions at both the Center and the South Cemeteries. From his rough ground sketches and survey Craig Barry has volunteered to draw the official maps to scale for the town's burial agent, Paul Lively, and for the town archives. The town ought soon to appropriate a modest sum for numbered metal ground markers to advance the process of "lotting out".

There are four cemeteries, three of which are owned in whole or part by the town. The earliest town graveyard is the South which by tradition Jonathan White gave to the town. Edward Calver has shown in his History that White never owned the land. There is instead a deed of Dependence Thayer to Asaph White in 1772 with a "reserve of one acre as a burying-place for use of the town forever where the dead are now buried to lye 8 rods upon the road, and the owner is to have the privilege of pasturing said place with horses, sheep, and calves but no other creatures". Even this list of approved animals was too generous. Horses and burying-grounds do not mix. Much later and in another cemetery came the episode when Kinsman horses broke into one of the graveyards using tombstones as back-scratchers until a few stones cracked off or were toppled over. Being also shod, their hoof pawings were much frowned on. The oldest surviving stone is August 1777 for the three year old Olive, daughter of Lt. Benjamin Maxwell, another of whose daughters, Anna, wrote the early history of the town. One sector with no markers was assigned for paupers who presumably made their anonymous way here from the Town Farm. Any one wanting

to see where "the village fathers (and mothers!) sleep" or "the mute, inglorious" paupers should visit this sightly spot with its gnarled red pines and view across to the blueberry barrens of Burnt Hill. Revive, if you want, the old New England custom of a family picnic in the graveyard. With all lots taken now, there have already been two burials in the new two acre extension which Jenny Duncan thought she had given to the town, but which, to be legally conveyed, had to be donated by Ralph Riddle and accepted by the town in 1977. By the deed six lots have been reserved for the Riddle family. They have been located beside the grave of his wife Lucia.

The Center Cemetery of one acre was purchased from Benjamin Maxwell in 1789 "for twenty dollars to be paid in two years". In 1804 it was "voted to fence the North (i.e. Center) Burying Ground with a stone wall". The oldest stone is dated 1799 for Milton Harrington, son of Thomas and Rebecca Harrington who lived in the Kades' white house. About 1824 the town "voted to buy a hearse and house it" at the Center Cemetery. In a day when the land was open the view must have been spectacular, Mts. Monadnock, Haystack, Adams and Todd in Rowe, and Greylock far to the west. Taken by stage from the Deerfield valley in a climb that seemed endless to Rowe, Charles Dudley Warner, in surprise asked the driver about that still higher land to the east. The latter replied: "That is the Center Burying Ground in Heath. They do say that it is the highest cultivated land in the State." In 1972 Mrs. Lucianna Ross of Faraway donated one acre from her hayfield to the north for a much needed extension, since all the lots have now been taken in the old part. At the donation it was understood that the town should at some future time fence in this acre.

Town minutes reveal many frustrating and somewhat obscure attempts to develop a cemetery in the northern part of the town, culminating in the apparently much delayed conveyance by Edward Tucker (Eric Grinnell's house) of one acre lot for thirty dollars about 1832 or 1836. A tombstone for the Gales in 1821 is apparently the oldest. According to Esther Dickinson, dissatisfaction with the way the town at that time maintained its cemeteries led in 1919 to the incorporation of the Maple Grove Association, which for a modest fee grants an individual deed in an area uphill from the town-owned section of the North Cemetery. For some time annual meetings and



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work bees of the Association to maintain their sector have led also to their caring for the town part as well.

Since the town Burying grounds have nearly doubled in size within the last ten years and these extensions must become the source for new lots, some members of the committee on cemeteries met recently with the Selectmen to clarify the traditional policy and make any needed adjustments. By tradition apparently from the beginning any taxpayer of Heath may have a lot(s) free. This ancient practice will continue for the new areas. The size of the plots, reached after considerable study of modern burial practices and ecological considerations, will be ten feet by twelve feet. Mowing for the calendar year 1980 cost \$436, met partially with a town appropriation from tax money. Projection of interest for the current calendar year from the endowed funds is estimated by Catherine Nichols as approximately \$362. Small areas around the two new graves and a few immediately available lots should now be mowed with the rest. The town ought to have an understanding about mowing its part of the North Cemetery. Since the endowed income will not be enough for maintenance and the town must make annual appropriations for mowing, it is hoped that those able to do so will contribute to the endowed funds when they use the lots. The burial agent has been asked to make this suggestion when he records a chosen free lot.

The fourth cemetery? It is our oldest and smallest. The replica near Fort Shirley of the 1747 stone for Anna, the seven year old daughter of John Norton, the chaplain of the line of forts, is located here. The Heath Historical Society is responsible for this tiny burying ground. After an initial brushing out of the area by Scott Guddell, the Boy Scouts under Doug Wilkins did an extensive tree clearing this fall. Dominic Musacchio has volunteered to build a picket fence around the grave.

Much volunteer labor will always be needed, especially now to prepare the extensions as decent burial grounds. Much of the work can be done by an individual at a time convenient for him or her. Please speak to Alan Nichols, Ralph Dickinson, or Bill Wolf.

STATE BUILDING REGULATION IN LIMBO

- Special to the HEATH HERALD -

By Jay Healy, State Representative

Just this past spring the Massachusetts Legislature effectively abolished the Building Code Commission by cutting off its funding. The major reason for this drastic measure was the apparent inability of the Commission to deal in a straightforward manner either with its constituency or the Legislature. Through an Executive Order issued in September the responsibility for enforcing the rules and regulations promulgated by the old Commission was transferred to the Dept. of Public Safety's Division of Inspection. And, in the latest effort to develop a workable scheme, whereby the old Commission's regulations can be properly administered, the Governor filed a bill November 16 to re-establish the Building Code Commission.

Aside from providing for the administration of the building code, the regulations relative to construction, and the issuance of licenses, this piece of legislation also sets up an appeals board made up of the Commission and an additional eight members. All the rules and regulations developed by the eleven member Building Code Commission will have to be submitted to the Secretaries of Public Safety, Communities and Development, and Economic Affairs for approval.

It will be up to this new agency to sort out the regulatory mess left by its predecessor. Among the regulations which will now come under its aegis is the controversial ruling which requires the licensing of construction supervisors. Still included in this licensing stature is the hotly debated sentence stating that "such term (i.e. construction supervisor) shall also apply to persons supervising themselves." It is hoped that this rule will be reworked so as not to include homeowners, farmers and other "do-it-yourselfers". There is also the possibility that the new agency will extend the cut off date for applying for the construction supervisors' license under the 'Grandfather' clause from Jan. 1, 1982 to July 1, 1982. It is also hoped that the Commission will restructure the whole licensing procedure so that there will be a state wide license with the exam given and half the fees kept at the local level.

Before any revamping of the old Code takes place, of course the Governor's bill must be approved by the House and Senate, go to a Committee where hearings will be held, and then finally voted by the entire Legislature.

If there are any questions concerning the Building Code or the Construction Supervisors license, please feel free to contact me at my office, phone (617) 722-2060, or by mail Room 33, The State House, Boston, MA 02133.



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DRIVING INTO THE NEW YEAR

By Chief Lorin S. Gowdy

More people are injured or killed in motor vehicle accidents in Massachusetts during the month of December than in any other month of the year. Nature adds ice and snow to the roads and you drivers add excessive cheer. Only sober and alert drivers can cope with emergencies that may arise due to crowded highways or poor weather conditions.

Between 1961 and 1971 45,000 U.S. servicemen were killed in Vietnam. It was shocking every time these body counts appeared in the papers. How shocked are you to read that during the same period 274,000 U.S. citizens were killed on the highways in alcohol related accidents.

The facts are that half of all highway fatalities are alcohol related. Thousands of people, many of them are children, pedestrians, and non-drinking drivers, and passengers, are injured or killed by drunk drivers.

What is under the influence? The level of intoxication in Massachusetts is 10% plus alcohol concentration in your blood. Your blood alcohol concentration can be determined very accurately by police. Why give us the chance to determine yours?

Think before you drink. Cold showers, fresh air, black coffee, or exercise have no effect on when you will be able to drive safely after drinking. Generally you will be able to drive safely if you take only one drink per hour. One beer, a glass of wine, or one ounce of liquor will have completely left your body about one hour after drinking. However, if you have five drinks in an hour, you will have to wait five hours before you drive. If you have any doubt about your ability to drive - don't.

If you do intend to drive after drinking, follow these suggestions:

EAT FIRST - Have something in your stomach to slow down the rate of absorption.

DRINK SLOWLY - Sip, don't gulp your drinks. (Remember, one drink per hour)

KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DRINKING - How strong is the drink? Allow more time if it has more than one ounce of liquor.

SET A LIMIT - Plan to stop after a certain number of drinks. Stick to your decision.

STOP IN TIME - Give your body a chance to reduce your blood alcohol before you drive.

BE HONEST WITH YOURSELF - If you don't know you have drunk too much to drive - don't.

BE SMART AND BE SOBER - KNOW YOUR LIMIT SO THAT YOU ARE STILL WITH US NEXT DECEMBER.

COLD WEATHER DRIVING TIP: Sound the horn before starting the engine of your car in the morning. Small animals (cats) have a tendency to crawl up under the hood seeking warmth and a tap on the horn can help you avoid an unpleasant experience.

SAFETY TIES: This is the time of year when we see trees, skis, and a hunter's trophy attached to the roofs of cars. Extra care should be taken to attach objects securely. Think of the person driving behind you, and what it would be like to have a tree or pair of skis smashing through the windshield.

Richard A. Sumner

Journeyman Electrician
Mass. License #E22622
Vermont License #J1245
South Road, Heath
413-337-4930

A HYDRO PLANT IN DELL

By Al Canali

Most people who have passed through Dell here in Heath in the past three or four months have, no doubt, noticed some evidence of a construction project.

I have purposely neglected to tell each of these passers-by what is going on for two reasons. First, I think that curiosity is the spice of life. Second, the traffic coming by has slowed down a great deal. Oggles and pointers will not go so fast. They are also too shy to stop, which isn't bad either. Perhaps I should keep the "under construction" look. It is at least as effective as any of the new road signs on the Jacksonville Stage Road.

"Enough kidding," I said. "When you're on a power trip, you have to be serious."

I am, seriously, on a "power trip" - a hydroelectric power trip, that is. Hopefully, by the time this news is printed we will be generating our own electric power from the Mill River. It is the first time the river has been productive since 1938, when the flood carried most of the mill sites on the river to parts unknown. To my knowledge, which is admittedly scant, it is the first hydroelectric generating system in the Town of Heath.

The six inch Brook Motor Turbine, built by Raymond Miller of Halifax, Vermont, will generate 5 kw of power per hour at full capacity. An output of half that should be enough to meet the needs of our family. The excess will be sold back to the Massachusetts Electric Company, the utility we are cooperating with.

I found that with an existing dam, unencumbered water rights, a cooperative electric company and an enlightened group of neighbors and town officials, the road to generating my own power was surprisingly smooth. Without these, the process could be costly and time consuming. But, "where there is a will there is a way", and the time is right for harnessing hydroelectric power. I will be happy to help anyone interested in turning their babbling brook into a fluent linguist.

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BOY SCOUT NEWS

By Eric Sumner

During the last couple of months the Charlemont-Heath Boy Scouts have kept busy with many activities, including a campout, building a recycling shed, and strengthening our treasury with a raffle.

An overnight campout at Fort Shirley during October turned out to be fulfilling and interesting. Saturday, beginning at 10:00, the scouts busied themselves with clearing trails, cutting brush, and repairing bridges. As everyone cooperated and put forth their best effort, an amazing amount of work was accomplished in a day. Needless to say, after a fine supper of chicken and pheasant, most everyone "hit the sack" early. The interesting part of the campout involved a visit from Newland Smith and John Read who gave the group a guided tour around the historic site. On Sunday the scouts paid a visit to the Heath Historical Society museum to see some of the artifacts taken from the Fort. For participating in the events of the weekend, each scout will receive the Historic Trails Award.

As a troop effort and part of my own Eagle project the scouts have begun to erect a new recycling shed at the town dump. Due to the increase of recyclable materials collected at the new site, we have decided to use the present building to house newspaper, and the new building will store barrels of glass and aluminum cans. In order to fund this project, the troop obtained a \$150 grant from the Franklin Community Action Corp. However, with the price of building materials today, we only got as far as the framing. We hope to finish the building on Dec. 5, with a work bee. Special thanks should be given to Mr. Paul Burrington for providing us with an estimated cost of materials, and to Mr. Win Warriner for supplying us with lumber.

With the cost of the new building, the scouts went on a fund raising drive to make the completion of the project possible. In our Thanksgiving raffle, we gave away a turkey, three pies, and four dozen cookies, profiting around \$75. Thanks to all those who bought tickets, and everyone who has helped us make our efforts rewarding.

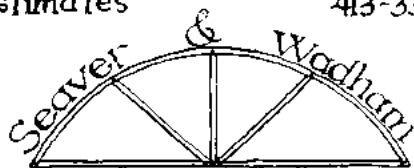
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CHURCH NEWS

By Amy C. Barry

The Heath and Rowe churches continue their search for a new minister. On Nov. 8, Rev. Jed Watson from West Springfield preached in both services. Following the Heath service, a joint Rowe and Heath potluck luncheon was held in the Heath Community Hall in honor of Rev. and Mrs. Watson. Before the membership had the opportunity to act on Rev. Watson's appointment, however, he decided not to leave his present position. The Joint Deacons met Nov. 17, and are planning to invite several other candidates to the Heath and Rowe churches in the near future.

Rev. Kirt Herber will preach, as a candidate, on January 10 at the two churches. Rev. Herber is presently an interim minister at the Congregational Church in East Hartford, Connecticut.

While the search for a new minister continues, the Heath congregation is fortunate to have Rev. George Riggan of Rowe as Interim Minister. He has given greatly of himself in ministering to the whole Heath community.

The Heath Union Church joined in an ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve service hosted by the Catholic Church in Charlemont on Nov. 25. Canned goods and non-perishable foods were collected for distribution by the Salvation Army.

The work on the Parsonage is progressing slowly. Work bees are held every Saturday and all help is much appreciated. The chimney is in place with a woodstove in the basement and heaters upstairs to keep the workers warm.

With the onslaught of cold weather, the Heath congregation has moved out of the main church into the front room for services. Bright new gold chairs contrast cheerfully with the drab of the November landscape and, in these smaller quarters, we seem more closely united in worship.

The Candlelight Christmas Eve service will be held in Heath at 8 PM. All are welcomed to come and share in this celebration of the wonder and joy of Christmas.

ANDY ROYER

1893--1981....

I wrote a piece on the Royers for the August number of the "Herald" at the request of the editors. In it I sketched how it was with them at the time of Andy's eighty-eighth birthday and their fortieth wedding anniversary. Now Andy has slipped away from us, and I have been asked for another. I am disinclined to write "was" for "is". Andy's presence is with us and will be with us. It has been so with his parents; they too were self-secure, realistic, alive, warm, welcoming, and are among us still. A brief run-down of his life story would not convey the reality of an unusual man--and my friend. So in his memory I have given to the town library a book: "The View in Winter--Reflections on Old Age," by Ronald Blythe. Andy would not have read it, but he might have been included in it.

Edward Calver

Howard Crowningshield

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PLANNING BOARD REPORT

By John Holdsworth

In the past two months, the Board has made real progress in its revision of the town zoning bylaws. Many bylaws have been modified only slightly to clear up some ambiguous wording; others have been more extensively rewritten to bring them into compliance with the state zoning bylaw Chapter 40A of the General Laws. A rough draft including all changes will be discussed at the December meeting.

The Board has also briefly discussed formation of a bicentennial planning committee to be composed of members of various town organizations, such as Ladies Aid, Grange, Historical Society, Fire Department. It is a good bet that anyone with the energy and the interest will be a welcome member. This committee will be the subject of discussion at the January meeting of the Planning Board. At that time the Board would welcome suggestions from any townspeople about forming a planning committee and getting the ball rolling toward our bicentennial celebration. (1985 is just around the corner)

The Planning Board now meets the second Monday of every month at 7:00 PM in the Library.

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

By Chief Earl Gleason

The Department responded to four emergencies in October and November. On Oct. 13 a structure fire did considerable damage to one wall and the roof of Robert Randall's home on Royer Road. Two trucks and 19 firefighters saved the house. The other responses were to one chimney fire and two car fires.

A turkey supper prepared by the ladies of the Agricultural Society was put on for the firefighters and families on Oct. 17. Fifty-four attended the supper and entertainment held at the Community Hall. It was considered to be successful as many suggested it be held annually.

Chimney cleaning is nearly over with only a few chimneys left to clean. The Firemen's Association thanks all those who made donations.

Do you know who the officers of the Fire Dept. are? Here is a thumbnail sketch about your officers and their duties. We have two deputy chiefs, Dick Giard and Walt Gleason. Their main duties are to take over for the Chief in his absence or take care of different phases of fire ground operations under the Chief. We have three Captains, John Holdsworth, Tom Lively, and David Thane. The Captain's duties are similar to the Deputy Chief's as far as phases of fire ground operations, and he may also be officer in charge. In addition each Captain also has individual duties. Tom Lively probably has the most time consuming job as Training Officer. He is in charge of monthly drills and has been doing a fine job. David Thane is our E.M.T. and thus a great deal of the medical end of firefighting falls on him. Keeping recertified as an E.M.T. is a job in itself. John Holdsworth is our Fire Prevention Officer, doing such things as inspections and programs at the school. These people put in many hours that don't show and should be given credit for the fine job they are doing.

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REPAIRS AT COMMUNITY HALL

By Terry Pettingill

In the past couple of months several items of repair and renovation have been completed at the Community Hall.

The most basic problem, the foundation at the front of the building, has hopefully been solved. Ed Gulyban dug a deep ditch around the rock and down the side of the building, filling it with drainage material. Repair work can now be done inside that section of the Hall. He also repaired the front steps.

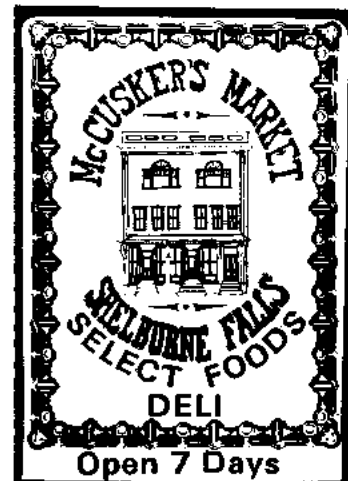
The second major item has been a revamping of the heating system so, when the building is not in use, everything can be closed off except the bathrooms and kitchen area.

Cleon Peters and Ed Moody have repaired all broken windows and cleaned all windows and screens. To some this may seem like putting the cart before the horse as the painting of the exterior came next. We had to take the services when they were available. The cupola will be painted in the spring.

Mr. Gulyban is to repair the top section of the chimney. Cleon Peters has painted the fire escape, added weatherstripping, and is closing off access to the balcony which has been a fire and safety hazard. All fire extinguishers and emergency lights have been updated. Catherine Nichols is making draperies for the dining room, from heavy material donated by a friend of Ed Calver. Ed is donating the hardware to hang them. This will help to conserve heat.

There has been a rash of small vandalism in the Hall for the last couple of years, which is costing the taxpayers money. Broken windows; broken door locks; loosening balcony pews from the floor; carvings in the pews; using the balcony as a trash receptacle for cans, cups, wrappers, and cigarette butts; plugging the toilets; pulling down and tearing window shades; confiscating supplies from the Hall; and general abusiveness have been frequent problems.

Users of the Hall should be reminded that it is to be used as your own home, or better, in order to preserve it for future generations. It is used for many functions and, with the rapidly rising cost of everything, the town would be hard pressed to replace the Community Hall should it be destroyed by fire or vandalism.



SELECTMEN'S REPORT

By Paul Lively, Chairman
Heath Board of Selectmen

Highway Dept. An extended portion of Sumner Stetson Road has been graveled because of a new home being built. Also a section of road below Ernie Thane's place has been graveled. Additional culvert pipe capacity has been added on Long Hill or Rowe Road and Sadoga Road to hopefully eliminate annual road wash-outs in those areas. The culvert work looks very good.

New fuel injectors have been installed in the road grader to correct a rough running engine, so now all machinery is in pretty good shape. The Road Crew has been tooling up for winter and are now ready for nature's onslaught of snow and ice.

Post Office After a positive vote at the Nov. 19th special town meeting allowing the Selectmen to contract with the U.S. Postal Service out of Sawyer Hall, a contract was signed and is now in effect. The town will receive \$9500 per year to cover the cost of providing postal service. Shortly the Selectmen will appoint a postal clerk and an assistant postal clerk, as well as arrange for installation of postal lock boxes and other minor renovations to the office.

Buildings Selectmen accepted James Wilcox's bid of \$1950 for painting the exterior of the Community Hall with two coats of oil base paint. The work has been completed except for the cupola which will be done in the spring. Donald Ward has completed the alterations to the heating system which should result in considerable fuel savings. A posted procedure, by which doors and louvers should be open or closed, will need to be followed for maximum savings.

Edward Gulyban has completed the drainage and concrete patching work and is now working on rebuilding and reflashing the upper portion of the chimney of the Community Hall. He has completed the foundation work to stabilize the chimney and side steps of Sawyer Hall. He has as yet to attach the chimney to the building with bands and close the space between the chimney and the building.

Winterization of the Town Garage and Firehouse needs only action by the Selectmen to get it started which should happen in the near future.

Budget and Finance Town departments are asked to prepare their budget requests for the next fiscal year so that we will have them in early January for our budgeting work. All departments are asked to include a written narrative of how the monies they request are to be used in addition to the budget sheet.

FINANCE COMMITTEE NEWS

By D. F. Howland

Budget planning for FY 1982-1983 is underway. Finance Committee members Walt Gleason, Bruce Warner, and Dave Howland have been attending budget committee meetings of the Mohawk, Rowe, and Franklin Tech schools. It is apparent that it will not be easy to maintain the current level of services while meeting the 2½ % guidelines. Nevertheless, there is evidence that serious efforts are being made to cope with the legislation. School costs represent 50 % of the total appropriation for Heath, so it is important for both educational and tax reasons.

On November 30, the Finance Committee met with the Selectmen to review the quarterly expenditures and cash flow. (The new bookkeeping system seems to be working well.) It was noted that the status of Free Cash Account (i.e., the amount of surplus money over and above uncollected taxes of prior years) was not favorable. Based on last year's information there should be substantial funds in this account. These monies are important to maintain a reasonably stable tax rate this next year or two, which was the main point conveyed to the Selectmen.

It is expected that after the holidays the Finance Committee, in cooperation with the Selectmen, will meet with town departments to prepare other items for next year's budget.

FinCom Glossary

Stabilization Fund - A special fund set up for a rainy day. Money can be transferred at town meetings for capital expenditures, i.e. equipment, buildings, etc. At present there is over \$40,000 in Heath's Stabilization Fund.

Revenue Sharing - Money dispensed to the town by the Federal Government. Approximately \$4000 is received every quarter; it has to be spent within two years unless special permission is given. After appropriate public notice it can be used for operating expenses, with some exceptions, as well as for capital expenditures. There is about \$20,000 in the account at this time.

ASSESSORS' REPORT

By Richards Steinbock

The Assessors have just about finished updating the property record cards in preparation for sending out the Fiscal 1982 tax bills. The next step is to compute the total valuation, figure the tax rate and get it approved by the state. Then the final bills go to LHS Associates to be printed.

Realistically, it appears that, with the time involved to complete the final steps, the tax bills won't be out until after the first of the year. Anyone wishing to pay their taxes before the first of the year should send a payment to the Town Tax Collector, Sheila Litchfield. It looks as though the taxes will be about the same as last year. So a payment equal to or slightly less than one-half of last year's bill would suffice. Prepayment would also help the town avoid having to borrow money in anticipation of taxes.

Revaluation is proceeding on schedule. We have been viewing houses and measuring new construction. So far we have been received pleasantly by all the homeowners. Your courtesy and understanding are making a long and tedious job go very nicely. We have met with our consultant from Spencer-Fitts and pretty much have the land valuation schedule nailed down. It appears that we will finish in time to apply the new valuations to next year's bills, which should get the state off our backs for a day or two.

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HEATH PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

CARD OF THANKS

We wish to thank all of our friends and relatives for the beautiful flowers, money, and food sent at the time of Andy's death.

A special thanks to Susan Gruen and Ruth and Phil Fournier for their help that night. And thanks to all who helped with coffee after the funeral, and to the Rev. George Riggan for his comforting words, also to the Smith-Kelleher Funeral Home.

In fact, thanks to everyone because you have all been such a help to us at this time. We sure have a lot of friends.

To all we are truly grateful.

Edith C. Royer

Ernest and Helen Royer and family

TOWN OFFICE HOURS

(At Town Hall unless otherwise noted)

Selectmen: Mondays 8 PM

Assessors: Mondays 8 PM

Finance Committee: As posted

Town Clerk and Treasurer:

Mondays 8:30 AM - Noon & 7-10 PM

Wednesdays and Thursdays 8:30 AM-12:30 PM

Planning Board: 2nd Monday of month 7 PM

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

Mondays and Wednesdays 9 AM - 12 Noon

also by appointment 337-4957

Heath School Committee: 2nd Monday of month 8 PM

Library Trustees: 1st Monday of month 7 PM

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

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Brenda Sumner has resigned as leader of the Girl Scouts. Anyone interested in becoming the leader of this worthwhile organization call Chris Tower, 339-4736 or Brenda Sumner, 337-4930.

Kevin and Debbie Gilbert and their son Andrew of Colrain have purchased Martha Crowningshield's house on Branch Hill Road and will move there in December when Kevin is discharged from the service. Martha is moving to her new home on State Street, Shelburne Falls.

Brenda Clark has been appointed secretary of the newly formed Massachusetts Ox-teamsters Association organized to promote oxen drawing in the state. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in oxen.

Robert Gruen is the new leader of the Brownies, meeting at Rowe Schol every Tuesday after school.

Melanie Poisson will perform in the AAU district optional gymnastics meet in Springfield on January 30. On March 14, ten finalists will go to Cape Cod for the selection of the finalist.

Marisa and Luke Housner will be performing in the Pioneer Valley Ballet's annual production of "The Nutcracker" at the Academy of Music in Northampton on December 19 and 20. Marisa, a member of the company, will be dancing in the Waltz of the Flowers and Snow Corps and in the divertissement "Spanish", and Luke is a mouse.

Robert Gruen has a role in "Whose Life Is It, Anyway?" playing at Greenfield Community College, December 10-12.

Phil Fournier is in charge of the Square Dances held every other Saturday night at the Community Hall. Music is furnished by local bands such as the Old Timers and there are door prizes and refreshments. The next dance will be on December 19. For more information call Phil.

The Burrington family held their annual Thanksgiving gathering and dinner on Saturday, November 28 at the Community Hall. Forty members of the family attended, leaving only four who could not be present.

Walter Gleason was appointed as representative from Heath to the Franklin County Technical School Committee. He replaces Philip Fournier who resigned.

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