



HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER 25¢

THIS IS YOUR LIBRARY

By Allie Thane

Heath has a library that any small town would be proud to own. Yes, it is your library and, therefore, this article is written so you will know how and when it materialized.

The following is a direct quote from Free Public Libraries of Massachusetts, 1899. "The Heath Free Public Library was opened for public use July 17, 1894, the town having voted in 1893 to accept the provisions of the Library Act of 1890, and having received \$100 worth of books selected as a foundation for the library by the Free Public Library Commission."

This was the beginning. The librarian was H. Kirk Smith and the books were kept in his home. The expenses for the year were reported in the Annual Report of 1896 as "Rent of Library Room, fuel, lights, and services of Librarian, \$24."

In 1897, a two story wooden building, 36 by 28 feet, was erected at the cost of \$1,400 to serve as a library and other town uses. The expense was met by contributions, the most noteworthy being \$500 from Ellsworth Sawyer of Phillipston (hence Sawyer Hall), \$100 from William Snow of Westchester, N.Y., \$25 from John Leavitt of Watertown, Iowa, and a liberal donation from Mrs. F.E. Welch who was active in the building program. The town appropriated \$400 which was used for the purchase of a fireproof vault for town records and a room for town officers. Later an addition was built which added a dining room, kitchen, and, on the second floor, a room used as a pool room and a hall used by the Grange for meetings.

During the years 1899 to 1925 the library was the recipient of 30 to 35 books a year borrowed from the Woman's Educational Association of Boston. In 1905 the State sent the first of a series of Vital Records of Massachusetts Towns in conjunction with a fund called the Eddy Fund. In 1908 the Librarian, H. Kirk Smith, introduced the card catalogue system and Grace Burrington was paid \$7.45 for cataloguing 1860 books. After the death of H. Kirk Smith in 1916 the books were classified, arranged, and catalogued according to the Dewey system.

The following are some interesting quotes of facts from past Annual Town Reports.

.. from 1909 - "Because of the condition of the Greenfield Savings Bank where the funds of the Library are deposited, we can make no definite report of the amount due from the bank." This "condition" was finally straightened out in 1913.

.. from 1914 - "H.K. Smith fare to Boston to visit the State Library Commission - \$3.23. M.E. Maxwell

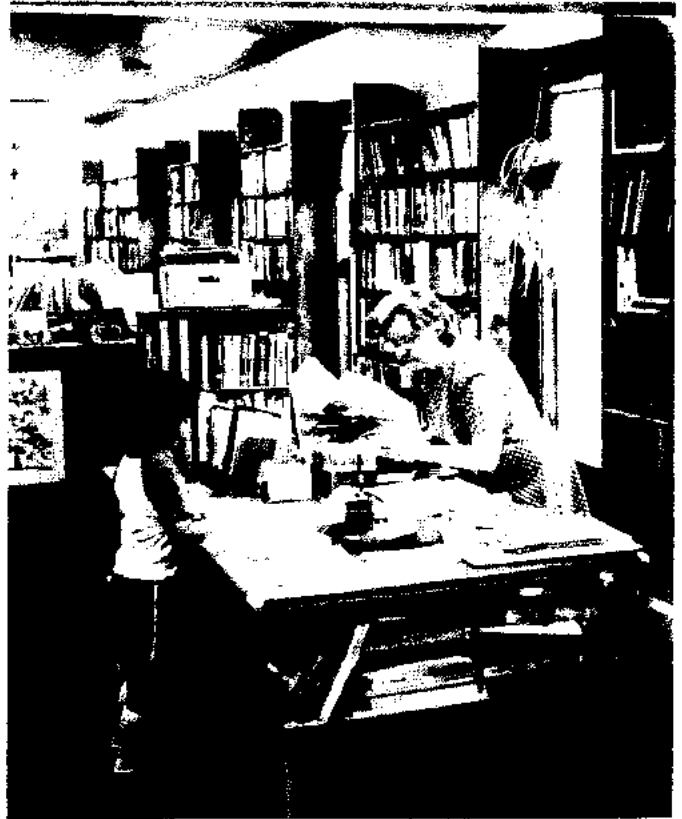
for cleaning the library - \$1.00."

.. from 1914 - "3 blank books \$.15, 1 bottle ink \$.05, 1 dust pan \$.10."

.. from 1922 - "75 books for rebinding \$48.75."

The librarians over the years were H.K. Smith 1894-1916, Miss Mamie Maxwell 1916-1922, Miss Flora White 1922-1923, Mrs. Pearle Tanner 1923-1950, Ruth Fournier 1950-1952, Ruth Corey 1952-1960, Allie Thane 1960-1961, Ruth Fournier 1962-1964, Susan Gleason 1965-1966, and Edith Gleason 1966 to, faithfully, now. Through these years until the mid sixties, when the library purchased a gas heater, the librarian's first job each day was to carry wood from the wood-room out back and light the fire in the black stove. The library was cold and damp and the books on the bottom shelves would mildew.

.... continued on page 2



Our Librarian Serving a Heathen

LETTERS

To the Editor:

This editorial thank you is way past due. Saturday, the 26 of December, a group of my family's friends gathered under the direction of Buck Den-Ouden to get a wood pile up for the benefit of the Carroll Stowes.

On behalf of my wife, daughter, and myself I would like to express our deepest thanks for such a fine gesture. This sort of thing is rather common in country towns and is one of the many things that makes country life so pleasurable.

Our heartfelt thanks go to all who helped with this venture. There wasn't a person there that day that didn't have something else to do, but the call went out and they responded as faithful neighbors.

Please accept our thanks and may God bless you all.

CARROLL, PEGGY, AND DIANE STOWE

HEATH PRECIPITATION

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

Precipitation in December, 5.88 inches; January precipitation, 5.46 inches. Our first measurable snowfall came on December 5. 46½ inches of snow fell in December, the greatest snow depth of any December in the past quarter century. January snows totaled 27½ inches. We didn't get a January thaw, so most of the snow is still with us. If the remainder of the winter keeps on at this rate we may have an old fashioned winter like many of us remember in the mid 1930's and 1940's.

Alan L. Nichols

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HEATH HERALD

Volume 3 Number 6

February-March 1982

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The HEATH HERALD is published six times a year in April, June, August, October, December and February. SUBSCRIPTION RATE - By first class mail; one year, \$2.50 (payable in advance by check or money order only). ADVERTISING RATES - Display Ads: \$3.50 per column inch (Discounts on six or more insertions). Classified Ads: \$1.00 per line. Send all correspondence to Box 54, Heath, MA 01346.

LIBRARY (continued)

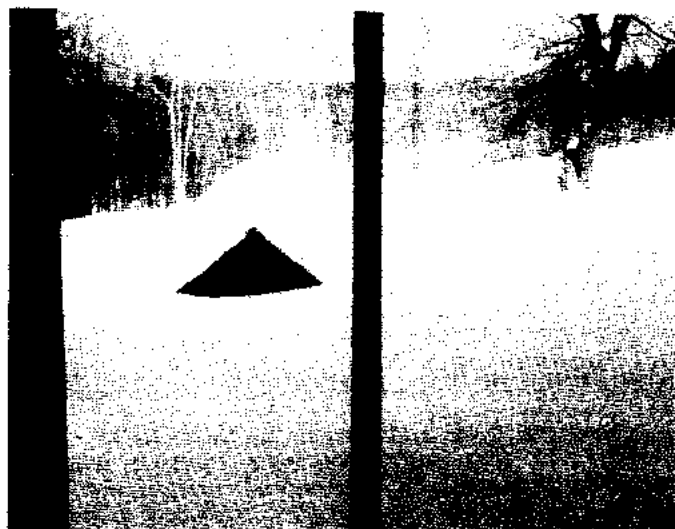
In the years 1978-1980 Sawyer Hall was renovated. The library was enlarged to more than double the space with a magazine reading room on the second floor. The library has a section for small children, teens, and a front area which is often used for town committee meetings.

Edith Gleason states "Currently we own over 9000 books and subscribe to 12 magazines with 20 additional donations. We have 275 records and are starting a collection of audio-visual cassettes. A federal grant in 1980-1981 enabled us to buy media equipment consisting of an audio-visual projector and cassette player with storage for software, and a large number of youth and children's books, games and puzzles. Over 4500 books were circulated in 1980."

The current library operating budget is \$4329 for the year. Of this the town appropriates \$3079 and \$1250 comes from state aid.

There it is. This is your library, created for you not only by your tax dollar, but also by countless hours of work by interested volunteers. Visit the new library, it is yours.

(Thanks are due to Pearle Tanner and Edith Gleason for helping with the research on this article)



DOGGONE!

CHALLENGE

The people of Heath have a challenge! If you want to have a hand in shaping the future of Heath, now is the time for you to come forward with your ideas. Many town boards and organizations have been giving a lot of thought lately to what direction the town should be taking as we near our 200th birthday. Among the many topics currently under discussion are - the Bicentennial celebration, zoning changes, improved tax base, historic district, regionalism, refuse disposal, etc. Won't you let us know your thoughts on these or any other topics that may interest you, whether they are suggestions or gripes? Sometimes a gripe can be turned around into a constructive plan.

Send your offerings to the HEATH HERALD and we will see that they get to the appropriate town group for consideration. Thank you for caring about Heath!:

... The Editors

BICENTENNIAL PLANS UNDERWAY 1785 - 1985

In February 1985 Heath will be 200 years old! The Planning Board and the Historical Society have been thinking about a Bicentennial Celebration for some time. Recently the Planning Board invited all interested people to its January 11 meeting when eight people held a very lively discussion with many constructive ideas being offered. Norman Sessions gave us first hand information on Buckland's Bicentennial in which he was actively involved, and warned us that we were almost too late in starting to make plans. A meeting was then scheduled for January 26, with Newland Smith as temporary chairman, to organize a Bicentennial Committee under the jurisdiction of the Planning Board. Nine enthusiastic people then met in the Library and agreed that a selection committee headed by Earl Gleason would try to locate a suitable chairman and a secretary.

The following is a partial list of activities and programs considered at that meeting.

Winter - Dinner with a speaker on February 14, the date of the incorporation of the town. Skidoo, X-country ski, and sled dog races. Ice sculpture contest and start of a "beard" growing contest.

Spring - Sugar-on-snow festival and a huge square dance.

Summer - 26 mile marathon, Bicentennial Ball, house and garden tour, historical museums open, and, under the auspices of the Heath Fair, a huge parade, wood chopping-splitting contest, tractor pull, etc.

Fall - Bicycle race, wagon train, and other contests.

Other suggested events were: art exhibit and sale, historical pageant, special church service and organ concert, sale of bicentennial items such as T-shirts, belt, jewelry, picture postcards of local scenes, and history books.

Amy Barry and Pegge Howland volunteered to compile a Bicentennial History, to be published in 1984.

To some it may seem premature to plan for three years ahead. However, time will pass quickly in developing new ideas, preparing a historical drama,

collecting a town history, scheduling sporting and musical events, etc. Most important is arranging the financing of the programs. It was agreed to ask the Town at the Annual Town Meeting this year to appropriate a sum of money to be used as "front" money in starting some of the programs. Norm Sessions told us Buckland recouped its appropriation and then some from admissions and the sale of bicentennial articles.

Meetings of the Bicentennial Committee will be held regularly. All interested citizens of the town are urged to attend and to contribute their suggestions for this important event in our history. Notices of future meetings will be announced in newspapers and posted at Peters Store and the Post Office. Watch for them!

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CHURCH NEWS

By Amy C. Barry

The Heath Union Church celebrated the Christmas season with candlelight, singing, and the ringing of bells. The Christmas Sunday service was led by the Youth Group under the direction of its president, Eric Sumner. A Christmas play directed by Brenda Cromack, our Sunday School Superintendent, was given by the children. Those participating in it were Heather Gruen, Laura Holdsworth, Caroline Barry, and Rebecca and Charlotte Decker. The Christmas Eve service included a large and enthusiastic choir organized by Mrs. Ruth Law. At the end of the service of carols and Bible readings, the congregation took their lighted candles out into the night as a symbol of God's light in the world.

Work on the Parsonage has been progressing steadily this winter and Mrs. Rachel Sumner, head of the Parsonage Committee, reports it is nearing completion. Generous gifts to our Parsonage Building Fund have been made by the Heath Ladies' Aid and an anonymous donor. The Church now hopes to be able to finish the Parsonage without having to borrow any money. The Every Member Canvass will begin soon as another way of increasing the funds available for this work.

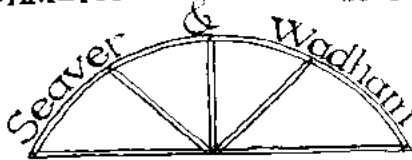
In the search for a new minister, the Joint Deacons invited Mrs. Lynn Baker Dooley to preach on January 31 in the Rowe Community and the Heath Union Churches. Mrs. Dooley is a candidate for the Master of Divinity degree in the class of 1982 at Andover-Newton Theological School. The Heath Church hosted a pot-luck luncheon at the Community Hall following the Heath service in order to give the church members a chance to meet and talk with Mrs. Dooley. At a meeting of the members of the Heath Church, held on February 7, it was voted to call Mrs. Dooley as the minister.

Rev. George Riggan for the past several months has been holding Bible study classes on Thursday evenings. These discussions are wide ranging in their subject matter, but always based on Bible readings. His interpretation and his knowledge, as a former professor of religion, are most helpful and the hour is most rewarding. The place of meeting is listed in the Church bulletin each week.

Spending an hour on Sunday morning in the fellowship of Christ can do wonders for the dampening of the spirit that sometimes comes with winter's snow and cold. The Heath Church invites all members of the community to come and worship with us on Sundays.

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HEATH GETS RADIO ALERT SYSTEM

By now most of our winter residents have become accustomed to checking the weather regularly on their Weather-Alert receivers distributed in December. The receivers, as part of a nuclear alert system required by the regulatory agency, are loaned by the electric utility company to all residents within a ten mile radius of the Rowe atomic plant. The cost of the receivers, some \$60 at the retail level, is buried in our monthly electric bills.

Each Wednesday morning, between 10 and noon, a test alert is activated on the system letting us know with a flashing light and unquelled siren that the system works. A real emergency such as a tornado, flood, or nuclear mishap would be announced in a similar way with voice instructions on what to do.

A great convenience of the system, however, is the continuous, 24 hour, weather forecasts provided by the National Weather Service in Burlington, Vermont, and broadcast to us through a transmitter in Marlboro, Vermont.

So far over 80 receivers have been distributed in Heath according to our Town Clerk, Catherine Nichols. Only two households have declined to use them. Anyone who has not yet obtained his alert receiver can pick one up from Postal Clerk Marcella Lively at the Town Hall.

The whole system is under the local direction of Civil Defense Director Richard Giard. Dick reminds us it is important to leave the off-on switch in the ON position at all times and to have the ALERT button pushed in except when we listen to WEATHER. The test alert signal will leave the weather reports on continuously until the WEATHER button is pushed on and off. So, if you are away during the Wednesday morning test, don't be surprised to hear a voice in your house when you open the door!

HEATH AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

A meeting of the Society was held on February 2, but due to the bad weather very few attended. A further meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, March 2, at 8 PM at the home of Richard Hatch on the Colrain St Stage Road. It is hoped that active planning for the 1982 Heath Fair can begin as well as other business.

BROWNIE TROOP ACTIVE

The Brownie Troop is having an active year under its leader, Robert Gruen, who is helped by Bruce Warner. They meet regularly every Tuesday after school until 4 PM. Soon after Christmas the girls went to see the movie "Cinderella" in Greenfield and then enjoyed pizza. On February 14 the children, with their parents, are going to a sledding party at the Rowe School. Very soon the Brownies will start selling Girl Scout cookies.

PHIL'S PICK-UP

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ZAHARA PACKS THEM IN

Alice Woznack, who has lived in the old Gregoire house on 8A for the past five years, signed up for an education class in Belly Dancing at the Mohawk High School three years ago. There were around a dozen in the class, nineteen years old and up to senior citizens. It was something new to do and she thought it would be fun. It was a ten week course given only in the fall and, at the end, relatives and friends were invited to a recital. She was bitten by the bug and repeated the class three times.

The instructor, Anita Upright, and Alice became good friends and formed a team, Anita calling herself Kamile and Alice calling herself Zahara. Last summer the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce was looking for entertainment for their annual all day picnic at the Millers Falls Rod and Gun Club. They invited Anita and Alice to dance and an enthusiastic crowd of around 200 enjoyed the dancing. Then Mike McCusker invited them to dance at the Bucklandside Cafe where the attendance had been light. Over 40 people showed up for Anita and Alice and they have been asked back in June.

Alice made her costume and Anita had a professional costume designer make hers. The costumes are authentic although there is a wide range in their style. The music is either with records or tapes.

Belly dancing started as a series of exercises in the Middle Eastern countries for women going through child birth. The graceful exercises developed into a dance and the men brought their wives into the villages to dance. Coins were tossed to them and put into a coin belt which tinkled. From this the wearing of jewelry developed.

Belly dancing was brought to this country in the late 1800s in carnival acts. Now it is recognized as a sensuous but not gaudy art form as well as for its health aspects not only in child birth but in the field of general health.

CO-OP REORGANIZES

The Heath Food Co-op met on February 2 and elected a five member steering committee: Bev DenOuden, Marshall Mittnick, Debbie Porter, Richards Steinbock, and Alli Thane. This committee will meet on February 11 at the DenOuden home to compose bylaws and define the duties of coordinator and team leaders. Mrs. Sharon Hiest of Charlemont was elected Co-op Secretary.

The next Co-op days will be on February 22-23 and March 22-23. Orders must be left at Sawyer Hall a week before these dates.

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SELECTMEN'S REPORT

By Paul Lively, Chairman
Heath Board of Selectmen

Highway Dept. Weather wise it's been a comparatively rough winter and the machinery has suffered. Ironically, the newer equipment has given more trouble than the older - Perhaps they're not building it rugged enough for the hills of Heath. The engine blew in the Ford dump truck and, because it had a relatively new model engine, there were no rebuilt engines available for replacement. Thus a new engine was installed at a cost approaching \$4000. The lift cylinders on the loader have been rebuilt. The new International truck has been giving problems with universal joints in the drive train and, more recently, a broken tooth on the pinion gear in the rear end, which is quite serious.

In the coming months we will be considering Ray Galipo's proposals in his five year plan for a new pickup truck and for a new or more modern grader. We have not yet received from him a recommendation on the number of miles of road that need repaving and which roads would be so treated.

Post Office The renovations for the Post Office are now complete, except that the Postal Service has not yet hooked up the electronics of the stamp machine. Selectmen Ann Steinbock and Ed Calver appointed Marcella Lively as Postal Clerk and Catherine Nichols as substitute clerk. It seems to be running smoothly.

Buildings The freeze-up mess at the Community Hall has been repaired at a cost of approximately \$750. The oil burner motor was the cause. A new burner is yet to be installed at a cost of about \$350. Directions for operating the heating system have been written up by Ed Calver and are now posted.

Howard Crowningshield has been awarded the contract to do the insulation work at the town garage and fire house at a cost of \$2660. The work is to begin at any moment.

Budget and Finance We are still gathering budget information and meeting with town departments in the process of working out next year's budget. We are not far enough along yet to know whether or not to have a vote on the override of Proposition 2½.

EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

The Fred W. Wells Trust has just made available application forms for the 1982 scholarships. These can be obtained by any Heath resident at the Town Clerk's office, and are to be submitted by May 1. Awards will be announced by June 15, 1982.

Last year the Wells Trust granted a total of \$70,800 in scholarships to 117 qualified recipients in Franklin County.

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PLANNING BOARD REPORT

By John Holdsworth

The Planning Board has completed the revised first draft of the town zoning bylaws. A copy has been sent to the Franklin County Planning Department for comments and suggestions. One problem area, in which the Board has asked for some assistance, involves sale of property that does not comply with zoning regulations, usually because of lack of frontage or lack of acreage. Because the Board doesn't learn of these sales until after the fact, enforcement of the zoning bylaws is difficult. Some extra Planning Board meetings are being scheduled to prepare the bylaws for presentation at the annual town meeting.

The town still has no representative to the Franklin County Energy Task Force. Anyone interested in energy conservation matters and willing to attend a meeting in Greenfield one evening a month should contact John Holdsworth (337-6611) for more details.

Planning is still going on for the county solid waste disposal project. Committees and subcommittees reporting to the county commissioners, have now been formed to examine the many aspects of collection, transportation and disposal of various wastes.

The Planning Board recently met with interested townspeople to discuss the formation of a Bicentennial Planning Committee. The main point that came out of this and a subsequent meeting was that planning for the celebration must take place now. There are some things that have to be arranged years in advance. Now is the time for people to attend the meetings and to do the groundwork. Later on we can relax; the result of early work will be a much more enjoyable celebration. Dates of future meetings will be widely publicized and it is hoped that more people will attend.

The next Planning Board meeting will be Monday, March 8 at 7 PM in the Library.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE NEWS

By Richard Housner, Chairman

The Heath School Committee has had a fairly busy January. Our main concerns have been economic. We are negotiating with Rowe for elementary school tuition and at this stage we feel that both committees perceive a resolution. Naturally what is decided upon is conditional as both towns must approve educational budgets at their annual town meetings. Superintendent Willard, David Newell, and Phil Dzialo have given both towns excellent help at crucial times. On the other economic front, the Mohawk budget would represent a large increase for our town. A large proportion of this rise would be due to transportation costs. At this point in time, there is talk of an \$86,000 increase for the district. A joint transportation subcommittee has been formed to carefully scrutinize this expensive package. Richard Housner is a member of this group and he would welcome any cost cutting suggestions from the citizens of the town.

Ray Jodoin, Rowe School Committee Chairman, is resigning in order to continue his degree in engineering. Fortunately Wells Foshay will be an able replacement on the committee. We are very well aware of the contributions Ray has made over many years. He will be missed.

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

By Chief Earl Gleason

Three emergency calls were received in December - one for Mutual Aid to Charlemont was aborted on route, and the other two were chimney fires. We responded to 24 emergencies in 1981 as compared with 32 in 1980. The new year has seen one car fire and one chimney fire.

Dedication: No one knows what this means until you have seen a fireman jump out of bed in the middle of the night, climb up a windswept roof at minus zero, and work to put out a stubborn chimney fire. Your firemen have been tested this January with the car fire at minus 10 degrees and the chimney fire at minus 2. They passed the test.

A new fire incident reporting system has been initiated by the State Fire Marshal. The fire chief lists and indexes the form with computer numbers for each category. There are about 75 items to be listed and indexed. Examples of the questions are: action taken, injuries, structure type and construction, degree of fire, water, smoke and other types of damage, method of extinguishment. Among the more difficult to answer are the cause, the origin, and the year, make, and serial number of the equipment involved in the ignition.

It has also been called to our attention that several structure fires in neighboring towns have been caused by laying fires directly on the hearth of a fireplace. Thus the masonry of the hearth conducts the heat to the wooden supports and a structure fire results. Andirons or some means of circulating the air below the fire should be used. This allows the hearth to remain much cooler.

Good news and bad news department. The bad news is the tanker developed a 500 gallon a day leak. The little better news is that John Holdsworth and Walt Gleason, after a couple of tries, patched the leak with a liberal dose of roofing tar and metal. The really good news is that a new tank which is being built to specifications is nearly assembled. This will be paid for out of the fire department's new equipment account for the next couple of years.

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FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

By D. F. Howland

The Finance Committee has been giving most of its attention to the three school budgets, Mohawk, Rowe and Franklin County Tech. These budgets contribute about 50% of the town's tax levy. The Franklin County Tech School held its increase for next year to 1.98 %, which is very much in keeping with Proposition 2½, but the addition of one more Heath student and an overall reduction in the total number of students increases Heath's share of the budget from \$22,910 this year to \$26,358 for next year, a 15 % increase. The Mohawk budget for FY 1983 has been approved by the School Committee, but it is still 16.8 % above last year's budget while enrollment is down overall by 10 %, a very difficult situation. Five towns, including Heath, spoke against the budget at the hearing, but it was approved anyway. It is possible it will be reduced when state aid figures are known. The Rowe School budget is unsettled at this time.

The Finance Committee discussed cash flow problems with the Selectmen and the Tax Collector. The time by which money is collected affects "free cash" which in turn is important to stabilizing the tax rate and, of course, it costs money to borrow money. The lateness in billing for taxes exacerbates this problem.

Massachusetts recently passed legislation that permits towns to override Proposition 2½ and double expenditures to 5 % (Chapter 782 of the Acts of 1981). Implementation of this change is quite complicated and the Finance Committee expects to attend training seminars on this topic. A town meeting is necessary to adopt the law, but the Finance Committee does not recommend such action at this time. Rather, the Finance Committee prefers to complete budget hearings in February and early March, and then see how the fiscal picture shapes up for next year.



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SHALLOW POND

By Jennifer Fogel-Songer

It wore a crown of
hay colored petals and
stinging needles.
Laughing all the while
it told me lies
about having been an ocean once
in a far away place.

Gifts procured from
formless pockets of
silt lined promise yielded little
in the market of meadows and
warm growing things.

My stance--tall. Mirrored
in waist high stature bending
to gestures from wading thighs
and tipling fingers.
Plucking at cool wetness glimmering
in woods before the dipping light.

Overflow into rubber hipboots, the
rivers whisper in their play;
cool down, chilled now you realize
all ponds stand
on feet of clay.

(This poem was inspired by the pond
behind the stone cottage on Rowe Road)

ASSESSORS' REPORT

By Richards Steinbock

The tax bills are coming! Our work cards are off to the computer for final changes and totaling, and the recap sheets are off to the state for approval. If all goes well, the bills should be in the mail by the third week in February.

As the town spent less money this year, our rough figures indicate a tax rate of about \$24.70, or 80 cents less than last year. This is subject to final verification by the state. However, as we are in the middle of a full revaluation, we left property values at last year's figures rather than monkey around with them in some vain effort to please the state. Therefore, unless you altered any structure with additions or improvements, your tax bill should be lower than last year's - though not by much.

Form of Lists will be mailed out again in the next few weeks. Please get them back to us as soon as possible. The cooperation last year was great. If possible, please put a value (replacement cost minus depreciation) on items you list - sofas, refrigerators, skidoos, garden tractors, etc. - It makes our job easier and more accurate. After all, you know the value and condition of your personal property better than we do.

The revaluation is progressing. Once the tax bills are out, we will be able to get back into it full time. Our land schedule is pretty well nailed down and we have about 20 % of the houses taken care of. We will be coming around throughout March and April asking to tour your house. If possible, we'll call in advance. Cooperation on the revaluation has been great and everyone seems to be taking quite an interest in the whole project.

TOWN OFFICERS TO BE ELECTED

The following town officers are to be elected this year at the annual town election on May 3.

<u>Position</u>	<u>Term(yrs)</u>	<u>Present Incumbent</u>
Selectman	3	Paul Lively
Assessor	3	Richards Steinbock
Town Clerk	3	Catherine Nichols
Town Treasurer	3	Catherine Nichols
Tax Collector	3	Sheila Litchfield
School Committee	3	*Amy Barry
Finance Committee	3	David Howland
Library Trustees	3	Alli Thane
Town Auditor	1	Newland Smith

* indicates that 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 27. Twenty or more signatures of registered voters are required on the nomination paper which must be filed by March 29.

In addition to the above officers, a member of the Planning Board is to be nominated from the floor and elected to a five year term at the Town Meeting. The present incumbent is Susan 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 that voter registration will begin on Monday March 22 for voting in the annual town elections. Other dates will be announced in April. However, anyone may register at the Town Hall on any day during the normal office hours of the Town Clerk. The last day to register will be Monday, April 14.

SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED FOR TOWN REPORT

Town Clerk Catherine Nichols has set a deadline of February 15 for submission of 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. This is necessary in order to get the Annual Report printed and distributed two weeks prior to the Annual Meeting on May 3.

KAYEN'S Jewellers
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01301

CETA STILL GOING STRONG

Arthur Schwenger, who has lived on Burrington Hill Road for the past seven years, is the Director of the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) office in Greenfield. Art has been active in social work, first as a VISTA Volunteer in New Jersey and then, in 1973, as Director of the Neighborhood Youth Corps program which has become part of CETA.

In spite of deep federal budget cuts the agency is still very much alive and hopes to serve 230 to 240 persons during the year ending October 1983. The Greenfield and Northampton offices of CETA merged last October. Although the administration is in Greenfield, service offices are still open in both areas. There are a total of 35 staff members. The program serves people from 50 municipalities including all of Franklin County, Hampshire County, and four towns in Worcester County.

At the Northampton Skills Training Center there are training instruction programs in machine trades, clerical business skills, and word processing. Participants are paid a minimum wage stipend during the 18-20 weeks of skill training and are treated as though they are on a job seven hours per day. Most of those in the program secure unsubsidized jobs after training. The Center plans to serve 128 persons this year.

Another CETA program is on-the-job training. Once an employer agrees to work with CETA, the agency helps them develop a training position. When an employee is chosen, the business trains that person for 4-8 months. Employers actually hire the participant on their staff and are then reimbursed for about 50 % of the employee's cost. On-the-job training has served 35 persons since October 1 and 51 more will be enrolling before the end of the fiscal year.

A third CETA program is work experience. This program enrolls people who have a hard time getting and keeping a job because of one or more "Barriers" to getting permanent employment, such as youths, women reentering the job market, or handicapped persons. With counselor support available, the program strives to help each participant to establish a good work record and to find unsubsidized jobs. Job sites are found in public or non-profit organizations such as schools, hospitals, and town offices.

In addition to these major programs, CETA also offers classes in GED (high school equivalency) preparation, adult basic education, and job-seeking skills workshops.

With all the local unemployment, Art comments it is surprising that not more people are applying for the CETA programs. He thinks this is partly because people think CETA is not a going concern. Far from it, CETA is very much alive!

OF LOCK BOXES AND STAMP MACHINES

By Amy C. Barry

The new Heath Post Office is comfortably settled in Sawyer Hall. Thanks to Howard Crowningshield and his crew, the Town Clerk's office has been slightly remodelled to accommodate the shiny new mail boxes and stamp machine. There is still plenty of room, however, for the Town Clerk's desk and files, and for one of Alan Nichol's beautifully made rocking chairs that tempts any visitor to sit down for a while.

Mrs. Marcella Lively, Heath's postal clerk, seems to feel right at home in her new job. She reports that 42 of the 132 locking mailboxes have been rented. The ten large ones were all taken the first day of sale, two having been previously reserved for the Heath Library and the Tax Collector. These large boxes were especially popular with seasonal residents of Heath. Twenty of the medium size boxes and quite a few small ones are still available for rent. Many summer people, of course, have not yet rented a box.

The decision to install 132 mailboxes in the new Post Office was based on long range projections of population and use made by the U.S. Postal Service. Proceeds from the box rentals go to the Postal Service which is providing Heath with the mailboxes and other equipment. Those who are concerned with preserving the past will be interested to know that the antique mailboxes, prominent in the old Post Office, have gone to the U.S. Post Office Museum at the Big E Fairgrounds in Springfield.

Several town residents have requested a mailing slot inside the Town Hall that would be accessible 24 hours a day. With the present set up of the mailboxes and stamp machine in the front alcove of the Hall, there is not sufficient space for a letter slot. According to Mrs. Lively, the mailbox outside the Town Hall is used frequently for mailing letters when the Post Office is closed.

Mrs. Lively feels that the best part of her new job is seeing and talking with Heath people. The Post Office can be a very busy place, Mrs. Lively reports, far busier than most of us realize. She estimates that she deals directly with ten or twelve people every day, which does not include all who come in just to get mail out of their boxes.

Both Mrs. Lively and Mrs. Catherine Nichols, Town Clerk and substitute Postal Clerk, agree that a very positive consequence of relocating the Post Office is that more people are coming into the Town Hall on a regular basis, reading the bulletin board, and getting acquainted with the Heath Library.

The new system of locking mailboxes may be less personal than the old system of hand delivery. Nothing prevents any of us, however, from putting our head around the corner of the Post Office doorway and saying "hello" to Mrs. Lively and Mrs. Nichols. Indeed, Mrs. Lively encourages people to stop by and even have a cup of coffee if they wish. So next week, when you visit Sawyer Hall to buy stamps for your valentines, drop in for a minute and see how things are going in our new community post office.

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FROM THE LIBRARY

By Edith M. Gleason

Now that February is here we begin to think of spring and spring house cleaning. The Library can help you with a good book entitled How To Clean Everything. Also spring is fix-up time for the handyman and here we can give you assistance, too. Come and look at these books.

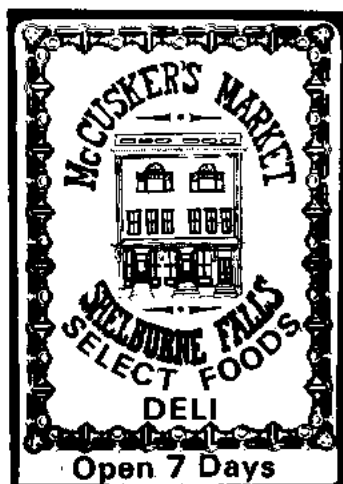
Do you know that the Library has more than 50 magazines dealing with subjects from astronomy to wine? Most of these are donated by friends interested in the Library. We appreciate their thoughtfulness and hope you will too. Magazines are expensive nowadays, so why not borrow from the Library?

If you have been in the Library lately, you will have noticed a new face. Faye Hamilton has been helping several hours a week and we have been shelf reading and taking inventory of our holdings. It is a time consuming job and goes better with two people. She is also working in the magazine room upstairs and is presently learning to file cards and shelve books, so that she can be busy when I am helping you.

Have you heard of Direct Access Borrowing? It is like Inter-Library Loan on a help yourself basis. This is how it works: If we do not own the book you need, I issue a card to you that enables you to borrow from almost any library in the state. You return the book to its home library personally, or possibly by mail, but not to our library. If you want more information, contact me.

Have you read any of these? Indecent Obsession, McCullough; Hotel New Hampshire, Irving; Road from Here, Tsongas; View in Winter, Blythe; Northfield Mountain Interpreter, Sammartino.

On the evening of January 8, three local poets, Jennifer Fogel-Songer and Charlie Miller of Heath, and John MacLean of Rowe, shared their delightful poetry with about 15 friends at the Library. Refreshments were served by Teresa Pettengill and Alli Thane. The evening was a success and it is hoped that other talented writers will come forward for another program.



HANDSHAKES

By Carroll Stowe

What is a handshake? A handshake is different to different people. In the holiday season there is often the occasion of a great deal of handshaking, some the greeting of old friends and some to meet a new acquaintance or say so long to an old friend.

There are as many types of handshakes as there are people giving them.

I truly enjoy the warmth of a good firm hand clasp. To me you can judge the sincerity of the giver by the way he expresses himself at offering his hand.

Some offered hands have a profound feeling of sincerity, while others seem to have almost none.

I feel that when one has the opportunity to shake hands he must try to convey an inner feeling of warmth and sincerity.

The last time I was privileged to shake my father's hand was at the 1980 Heath Fair. I had no way of knowing that I would never see him or shake his hand again. That last handshake from my dad was so firm and strong it would belie his 83 years, a hand not gnarled from hard work but strong, kind, and good from many years of selfless toil.

To me a handshake is to be cherished as I cherished my dad's last hand clasp. There are those of the late Oscar and Howard Thompson, Uncle Dean Hillman, Francis Kinsman, and Uncle Jim Boyd. To have had the handshake of these fine people, to me, is something to treasure for a lifetime.

So let us all shake hands in a very sincere manner so that the recipient will remember.

UPCOMING COURSES AT MOHAWK VALLEY MEDICAL CENTER

Beginning February 12 from 2-4 PM the Mohawk Valley Medical Center is co-sponsoring with the Shelburne Council on Aging classes in Weight-Loss. The eight week course in weight-loss and nutrition will be held at the Shelburne Senior Center, Shelburne Falls. Arleen Thomson, nutritionist at the Medical Center, and Carol Robert, an exercise physiologist, will be the instructors. Pre-registration must be made as soon as possible by calling 625-9717.

Franklin County Public Hospital is co-sponsoring with the Medical Center Childbirth Education classes at the Center. There will be three sessions of seven weeks each from 7:30-9:30 PM. The first session started February 3 with the other two starting on March 24 and May 5. Sandra Clark, R.N. will be the instructor. Preregister by calling 625-9717.

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Assessors: Mondays 8 PM

Town Clerk and Treasurer:

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

Wednesdays & 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
Saturdays 1-5 PM

Finance Committee: As posted

Post Office: Monday through Saturday
9:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Dump: Mondays 10 AM-2 PM Wednesdays 11 AM-5 PM
Saturdays 9 AM - 5 PM

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MILESTONES

By Edith Royer

Tyler Jason was born to Sandy and Jerry McCloud of Charlemont on December 12. Tyler is the grandson of Evelyn and Smead Hillman.

Brandon Scott Peters is engaged to Theresa Jean Chaffee and plans to be married in July. Brandon is the son of Dawn and Denny Peters.

Diane Dewhurst of Jacksonville, VT. and Eric Grinnell were married on January 21 in Heath. Diane teaches English at the Academy in Charlemont and Eric is the headmaster of the Academy.

Alli and Ernie Thane celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary on January 15 at a family party held at the home of Ron and Beverly Andrews in Wilmington.

HEATH PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Corporal Jay N. Sessions, son of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Sessions, was promoted to the rank of sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps. He is stationed at Cherry Point, N.C. He will complete his stay in the service in May and will then return to this area.

Ruth Corey, who broke both of her elbows about a month ago, is progressing rapidly and expects to return to work soon.

Rev. George Riggan has recovered from a bad case of shingles and has resumed his ministry to the people in this area. His wife, Merle, is suffering from a bad back injury and is receiving treatment in the hospital.

Carroll Stowe gave a talk entitled "The Work Horse and Old Stone Walls" on January 30 following the Rowe Community supper.

Grace Landstrom, who has been in the hospital with pneumonia, is recovering at the home of her daughter in Shelburne.

Helen Nichols fell and broke her shoulder recently and is recovering slowly.

May Churchill underwent surgery on her back this week at the Baystate Medical Center.

Walter Kenney, the husband of Dawn Corey, is in the hospital undergoing tests.

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