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HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER 25¢

MAPLE SUGARING - HEATH STYLE

By Carroll B. Stowe

Maple sap here in Heath has been gathered and boiled down to syrup for many generations, and always with the same results - a delightfully sweet, character laden liquid which can only improve the things it is used with and on.

Sap has found itself moving to the sugar house by every method possible, from being carried from the hooks of a sap yoke to oxen, mules, horses, crawlers and wheel tractors, trucks and pipe lines.

From a tape of a conversation with Ma Peters of Peters' Store fame, her father sold syrup in the store for a dollar a gallon.

Bill Clark tells me this year it is taking about 45 gallons of sap to produce a gallon of syrup. A pipe line is probably the easiest way to produce syrup, as sap can flow directly from the trees to the storage, thence to the evaporator. It is said that pipe line trees don't produce quite as much sap as those with buckets.

The Clark operation uses steers and oxen to bring sap out of the woods. Here in Heath the oxen are the only animal labor savers used. A yoke of cattle will handle five barrels of sap with no problems.

A suggestion was made this year at the Maple Producers meeting that sugar lots which had a heavy infestation of the Green Saddle worms had best let those trees rest at least one year.

Some sap that is gathered here in Heath goes to Vermont to be sold for so much per gallon depending upon the sugar content.

Our new neighbor and friend, Mike Girard from Simsbury, Connecticut, has about a thousand taps on a pipeline system with a vacuum pump to help pull the sap from the trees.

Fred Lively told me that in 1945 or 1946 his family gathered sap with mules. Fred has about 1500 buckets out this year. Fred gathers sap with a small crawler tractor.

Our late dear friends, Oscar and Howard Thompson, set about 800 buckets and gathered with a real good team of horses. Dick and Jerry were a pleasure to gather sap with until 4 o'clock PM and then Jerry wanted to go to the barn. Jerry had stocked sawmills for so long that at 4 PM he was through for the day whether the work was done or not!

Leon Peters told me one time about the John Hillman family bringing syrup over to the store to trade for the grocery bill and were allowed some less than they would have received for it if they had sold it themselves.

. . . continued on page 3

BEGINNING OUR FOURTH YEAR!

The HEATH HERALD is now three years old - it hardly seems possible! It is an interesting fact that, whereas the number of city newspapers is declining, the number of small town and suburban newspapers is increasing. This may be partly due to labor unions which make the cost of producing city newspapers exorbitantly high, and it may be the impact of television news.

However, it seems to be deeper than this. Perhaps it's a grass-roots interest and pride in "our town", or perhaps the need for a forum of unbiased town news.

In some ways this may seem a paradox, as the HEATH HERALD rarely gets any feed back from readers. For instance, we received only one letter in response to our question as to where the Town should be headed. We do need your comments, pro or con.

Be that as it may, we must be doing something right since the circulation continues to grow about 10% a year. We are grateful for your support and hope we will continue to earn it in the years ahead

. . . The Editors



Bill and Roger Clark with Four-footed Helpers

EDITORIAL

The question as to how best to avoid a nuclear war has been brought up here in Heath, as it has in many New England Towns.

In a letter, printed in this issue of the HERALD from a group of Heath citizens, one approach to resolve this issue is presented along with an article which will be included in the warrant for the Town Meeting. The proposal recommends a mutual freeze with the U.S.S.R. on nuclear weapon build-up.

When complex or potentially controversial issues are submitted to the HERALD, the editors believe other views to such a question should also be considered.

As voters and taxpayers in this nation we have the opportunity of telling our political representatives what we think; but implicit in that opportunity is responsibility for our acts. We think that the article as presented has good intentions, and we certainly do not want war of any kind. It is obvious, even ridiculous, for humanity to create nuclear devices that can wipe itself off the face of the earth. So the issue, as we see it, is not a freeze on the nuclear arms race; rather it is a political commitment by all nations to a meaningful program of general arms reduction and withdrawal that includes nuclear arms. History has shown us that weak nations are subject to take over by strong nations. Thus it is absolutely necessary for this nation to maintain a position of strength in negotiating with other nations. Appeasement and one-way detente have never been a viable approach to maintaining peace. Again, if all nations cared about humanity and all would put effort into improving human conditions, it would be wonderful. We should work toward that state of perfection.... a world of love.

We suggest that everyone think hard about this article and consider any motions of amendments that still provide some hope that things will get better, and we do not have to think the unthinkable.

VOTE ON MAY 3rd

HEATH HERALD

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LETTERS

To the Editors:

We are concerned about the threat of nuclear war. Like a growing movement of people both in this country and throughout the world who are voicing their concern, we are wanting to share ours. At the Heath town meeting on May 3, there will be an article on the warrant which calls for a mutual U.S. - U.S.R.R. nuclear weapons freeze. It reads as follows:

Because it is impossible to defend against nuclear war, and because there can be no winner of a nuclear war, in the interest of national security, be it resolved that: the Town of Heath, Massachusetts
1) Calls upon the President of the U.S. to propose to the U.S.R.R. that together, both countries negotiate an immediate halt to the nuclear arms race. Specifically, we call upon each country to adopt an immediate mutual freeze on all further testing, production and deployment of all nuclear warheads, missiles and delivery systems; and (2) Calls upon the Administration and Congress to transfer the funds saved to civilian use. Concurrently, they should work jointly with labor, management and local communities to develop plans to convert the nuclear arms industry to civilian production, thus protecting jobs and strengthening our national economy.

We consider it important not to confuse the nuclear weapons freeze with the nuclear power issue. The resolution deals solely with an arms freeze. We believe that the freeze proposal is a reasonable and important first step towards eliminating the threat of nuclear war.

As the people in Vermont recently showed, town meeting is a good place to begin to let our elected officials know how we feel. 175 towns in Vermont have endorsed the freeze. Within the next month, similar resolutions will be voted on at most Franklin Co. town meetings. We hope you will consider casting your vote in favor of the freeze. There is strength in numbers.

We would like to invite you to come to an educational and informational meeting prior to May 3, to share your views and to learn more about the article appearing on the warrant: Wednesday, April 21, 7:30 PM, at the Community Hall, Dr. Christopher French, of the Mohawk Valley Medical Center will talk about the medical consequences of a nuclear war. Judy Scheckel, a staff person from the Traprock Peace Center, will show a film entitled "War Without Winners" and talk about the freeze campaign.

We believe it is a critical time. We ask you join us.

CAROL SARTZ & ARTHUR SCHWENGER, TODD SUMNER,
CARROLL B. STOWE, JEAN & JOHN HOLDSWORTH,
SUE GLEASON, JOHN, NEL & DEBORAH PORTER,
WILLIAM J. WOLF

HEATH PRECIPITATION

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

Precipitation in February was 3.11 inches; snowfall 12 inches. March had 3.86 inches of precipitation with 21 3/4 inches of snowfall.

Total snowfall from December 5 through March 31 was 9 feet. Three times over the past quarter century we have had over 10 feet of snow during the winter.

LETTERS

To the Editors:

I would like to say a few words about our little town Heath. I have been a resident of your town since 1953, when I first purchased 50 acres on Burlington Road. Although I only come up there for vacation and weekends, I sure do enjoy every hour I am up there. I have made many friends and have enjoyed all the dinners I have been to on certain occasions. What I have missed is the store that was in Heath Center when I first came there. It was so nice when I was on vacation. We used to walk up to the store after supper and buy some ice cream. That is one thing I think Heath should have again, a variety store, so people around that neighborhood could walk to the store if they couldn't drive.

The zoning laws are good, but I think they have gone too far with them. I wanted to put a small addition on my cabin 10' x 12'. Well you should see the papers they sent me to fill out. After all, I only have a small cabin in the woods. Why should I have to go through all that? If it was a year round house, that would be different. So I decided not to go through with it. It's too bad because I have always enjoyed the country up there.

I read an article in one of your papers that the Gleason boy wrote about Heath. Let's keep Heath as it is - don't try to make it like the city. That is why I came up there to get away from the city. So I say the same - let's keep Heath as it is.

EDNA ANTHERS
White Plains, N.Y.

To the Editors:

Today the absurdity of our late issued tax bills was brought home to us with the realization that both halves of the 1982 bills would really become due at the same time. Many rejoice at receiving no bill yet - I'm sure they'll think twice when expected to pay it all at once.

Due to delayed billing we have had to borrow lots of money at high interest rates. This requires lots of our Treasurer's time, not to mention what we've lost in interest gained earlier due to her careful investment of capital. Late issued bills require an increase in the number of demands the Tax Collector must issue, simply because people don't pay such large bills so close together, even with planning. Prepayments are accepted, yet only 3% of the taxpayers responded to this year's request. Approximately 90% of the calls and letters I receive from January on are requesting information on the next tax bills which should have been mailed back in October!

The problem primarily rests with the Assessors. Theirs is a thankless job, dealing with state regulations, computers, revaluation, and rapid property transfers. Yet it is their responsibility to get these bills out on time. Residents need to cooperate with the Assessors in their revaluation efforts and take a stand to stop the trend in delayed tax billing.

SHEILA LITCHFIELD
Tax Collector, Heath, MA.

THANE'S GUNSHOP
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337-5388

MAPLE SUGARING (continued)

Oscar Thompson told me some years ago that when the barn had to be replaced, because the old one burned, so much lumber was used that when it came time to build a sugar house every soft wood tree that grew on the place was cut to build the sugar house.

So it makes very little difference how sap comes to the sugar house, the end is always the same, a fine tasting product.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE NEWS

By Richard Housner, Chairman

The Heath School Committee, after much study, has entered into a long range agreement with Rowe concerning elementary school tuition. A method of percentages applied to the actual per student expenditures will determine what Heath will pay. Percentage rates will cover a five year period starting at 35% and ending at 47%, rising 3% each year, after which the rate will remain at 47%. This year Rowe's total budget is \$286,190. Rowe's specific expense of \$31,471 is excluded giving a sum of 254,719, which divided by the number of students enrolled gives an actual per student cost of \$3125. In this first year of the arrangement Heath's share is 35%, which results in a per student tuition of \$1094 for the school year 1982-1983. This upcoming figure represents a \$44 rise as compared to the current year.

Percentages are not as crucial as the budget. If expenses can be kept stable, then Heath will continue to pay a price we can afford for a quality education. Both the Rowe and Heath Committees scrutinized the budget and, after much deliberation, arrived at a total that is \$8,023 higher than this year. Our own budget is \$4,075 higher. This is quite good considering that we are almost \$6000 higher in transportation. Transportation costs have become a chief concern - figures approach a 25% of total budget outlays. We feel that changes will have to be made for education to endure at current or better levels.

The Tech School budget has remained constant, while Mohawk is still being worked on. Two potential reductions are being considered. If Rowe discontinues its membership in the Mohawk District, assessments will drop equalling a large increase in state aid. Another potential reduction will center around the way Mohawk acts as a broker for several towns in the district to the Tech School.

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NUCLEAR ALERT - "A LEARNING EXPERIENCE"

By Earl Gleason

On March 25, the Town of Heath participated in a Radiological Emergency Response drill. Following is a report on the activities of the day:

At 7:10 AM we received a message over our radio monitors that the Rowe Yankee plant had reported "an unusual event" (indicates a possible problem at the plant). My duties at this time are to warm up the tube type two-way radio in my car and report to the Greenfield Tri-State dispatch center that Heath had received the message, return to the house to call by phone the Mass State Police Headquarters to verify the message and to call Selectmen Chairman Paul Lively, Civil Defense Director Richard Giard, and Police Chief Loren Gowdy. Calls were completed at 7:15 AM.

At 7:25 AM the monitor received from Tri-State that conditions had been upgraded to an "alert". (This means that conditions may warrant activating the local Emergency Operations Center, "EOC"). Again I went to the car to acknowledge receiving message, then back to the house to verify with State Police Headquarters and call the same town officers as before. In addition under an "alert" status I have to call Selectman Anne Steinbock and Road Commissioner Ray Galipo. I then pick up my Radiological Response plan, my notebook, glasses, pencil, clock and coffee pot and head for the fire station which is our EOC.

At 7:38 our EOC was activated and our base station WRA389 went on the air. In addition to our Tri-State base radio, other communication equipment at the EOC are Franklin Co. Police radio, telephone, weather-alert radio, and AM/FM radio. Also at this time two gentlemen arrived at EOC and introduced themselves as Tom Barrs of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Francis Weagle of Mass. Civil Defense. They were observers during the entire operation.

At 7:44 I placed a call to our red phone network requesting firemen to report to the station. (The red phone people were requested to call the first call list and report back to me how many firemen were available. In our simulation this number of firefighters used although no fighters were actually asked to report to the station.) The firefighters were given docimeters as they arrived by Radef Officer Richards Steinbock.

At 9:07 Tri-State dispatch reported the incident had been upgraded to a "General Emergency" and the public should take cover. Again acknowledged message and contacted State Police Headquarters for verification. No local telephone calls were made as town officials were at EOC. At this time a public announcement was made over the weather-alert radio. Civil Defense Director Richard Giard also asked at this time that the Mass. Civil Defense send additional police officers to Heath to man the road check points. The available firemen were dispatched to Number Nine Road, Sumner-Stetson Road, lower 8A, and lower Avery Brook Road to warn inhabitants who might not have heard the weather-alert message to seek shelter. When these areas were completed they were to do the rest of the town.

At 9:22 Civil Defense Director Giard suggested a simulated accident. I put in a call to Tri-State dispatch requesting an ambulance and that it was a test. Before the clock had reached 9:23, Charlemont Fire Chief had called by phone to see if I really wanted an ambulance to come to Heath. It is gratifying to know that our radio system can respond this quickly.

The rest of the day consisted of receiving phone calls from Mass. Civil Defense and the various town EOC checking and updating conditions. We also spent a great deal of time answering questions from Tom Barrs as to how different aspects of our plan worked.

At 1:40 the radio reported that conditions had been downgraded to an "alert" status and the usual acknowledgement and verification were again performed.

At 3:08 came the message that the drill was over and our last official act was calling the Mass. State Police for verification.

This was a learning experience for us and we feel our plan is basically workable with the improvements that we suggested during the drill.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Anyone whose weather-alert did not go off at 9:08 AM or 2:05 PM on March 25 should contact either Dick Giard 7-4815 or Earl Gleason 7-4948.

CHECKMATE!

By Bruce Warner

Can a game of chess go on forever? No: under the World Chess Federation's Laws of Chess a long game ends in a draw if certain conditions are met. When 50 moves are made without the capture of any piece or the movement of any pawns, the game is a draw. It has been calculated that 6,237 moves are the most a game can last. While the average game lasts about 40 moves, the longest official game on record, in 1907, lasted "only" 168 moves.

A French player named Legal, on the other hand, developed an exciting seven move game back in the 1700's. It has become known as Legal's Legacy:

1. P-K4 P-K4 2. N-KB3 The opening up to this point is common to at least nine well known openings. Black's 2 P-Q3 is Philidor's Defense, and sets the stage for White to consider trying for Legal's Legacy. 3. B-B4 B-N5 Black has pinned White's Knight for the time being, and is doing fine.

4. N-B3 P-KN3 Black is preparing to fianchetto his Bishop - a good move. But now White's trap is set! White now makes what appears to Black to be a huge blunder: 5. NXP?!! A smidgin of "agonized" acting by White might be appropriate now - but only a smidgin. The reason is that Black's next move seems overwhelmingly obvious at first glance - and second glance. The dire consequences are by no means readily apparent. So, 5. BxQ and Black is sitting very pretty for a second. White will now cease any "agonizing" and swiftly pounce: 6. BxP+ Black may well start to feel a bit queasy when it is discovered that only one move can be made: 6. K-K2.

And now the grand finale: N-Q5 mate!

Anyone from 4 to 100, of any playing strength, who would like to join the Heath Chess Club can call me at 337-4073.

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CHURCH NEWS

By Amy C. Barry

The Rowe and Heath Church congregations will join in commemorating Maundy Thursday with a special Potluck Supper on April 8 at 7 PM at the Community Hall. Although traditionally the Lord's Supper has been celebrated only by the sharing of bread and wine, Rev. George Riggan has told us that the early Christians were accustomed to sharing entire meals as a part of this most significant event. We will, therefore, be doing as the early Christians did when we gather on Maundy Thursday to share food, fellowship and Holy Communion.

Easter morning will be greeted with a sunrise service, to be held in Heath his year, beginning at 5 AM at the corner of Colrain Stage Road near the Center Cemetery. A breakfast organized by the Heath Youth Group will follow the service at the Community Hall. All are cordially invited to share in the celebration of Christ's Resurrection by joining us at the sunrise service and at our regular 11 AM church service on Easter Sunday.

FROM THE LIBRARY

By Edith M. Gleason, Librarian

Spring is just around the corner. As I write this, robins are digging for worms on the small patch of what, I presume, will be part of my lawn when the snow melts. It's time to think about gardens. Borrow a book from the Library.

The last two months our story hours welcomed many new faces. On St. Patrick's Day I was very grateful that Debby Porter took over with the preschoolers while I worked with the older part of the group.

Monday evenings the Library is the base for a number of committee meetings. Fortunately our acoustics are such that the north end does not know what the south end is doing, so we can have more than one meeting at a time. It's as good as two rooms.

Wednesday evenings the Firemen are receiving First Aid training in the Library. This saves on heat as the Library was already heated on that day. It was left with practically everything in place when I returned, for which I am appreciative.

We have started a new reading program which includes younger siblings usually called "the me too set". Our theme is taken from the fable "The Hare and the Tortoise". Each child gets a poster which has a place for stamps. When a child has read two books, the child gets a stamp to paste on the picture. Twenty-two books or eleven stamps complete the picture.

Preschoolers or pre-first graders, who cannot read conventional books, "read" picture books and must be able to tell what the story is about. This also applies to older ones. Parental participation may be necessary and is helpful in all cases.

New Books: No Time for Tears, Freeman; North and South, Jakes; Hotel New Hampshire, Irving; Mosquito Coast, Theroux; Book of Lights, Potok.

Because of the bad weather on my birthday, no one saw the beautiful bouquet of flowers which the Library Trustees sent me and I still have some dried flowers from it on the file cabinet.

VOTE ON MAY 3rd

THE EMERGENCE OF A NEW HUMANITY

By Rev. George A. Riggan

The Christian Gospel bids us believe that a new species of mankind is evolving.

The marks of the old humanity, as reflected in the Gospel are quite familiar: greed suspicion, self-seeking at the expense of others, xenophobia, violence, terror. At this level of development, mankind depends ultimately upon the force of arms to maintain a semblance of civilized order and to secure an uneasy prosperity and peace.

The marks of the emerging new humanity are equally clear: openness toward strangers, a respect for the right of others to be different, a concern for the basic well-being even of one's enemies, a sensitivity to systemic interconnections of peoples one with another and with their global home.

In so far as they actually enter upon this stage of human development, persons begin to exhibit a fierce resistance to unfairness and human indignities, not by resort to the force of arms that puts the lives of others at violent risk, but by behavior that places their own lives and safety on the line.

Jesus himself challenged the tendency of his disciples to think they hold a monopoly on this new way of life (Luke 9:49,50). Surely we today can see marks of the emerging humanity in the life of Mohandas Gandhi, for example. Traces are surely to be found in our own Bill of Rights. The Gospel gives us the comforting assurance that the new species of mankind, however fragile it now seems, will yet fully supplant the old.

CHURCH DEACONS MEET WITH MRS. DOOLEY

By Amy C. Barry

On March 26 the Deacons of the Heath and Rowe Churches met with Mrs. Lynn Baker Dooley, the newly appointed minister, and her husband David. Final arrangements were made with the Joint Deacons regarding her salary and ordination proceedings.

Mrs. Dooley, who is a Baptist, will join the Rowe Church on April 18 and expects to be ordained in the fall.

The memberships of both the Heath and Rowe Churches are looking forward to welcoming Mrs. Dooley and her husband when they take up their permanent residence in the Heath parsonage at the beginning of July.

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VOTE ON MAY 3

Town Meeting Day is Monday, May 3, at the Heath Community Hall. All registered voters will have the opportunity to vote for the candidates of their choice between 1 and 7 PM. Then at 8 PM the annual meeting will be held to act upon the articles in the Town Warrant.

There are nine important town offices to be filled this year by ballot. These are listed below with the names of the candidates who have filed nomination papers. In addition write-in votes may be made for any other candidate.

The only position contested this year is for the office of Selectman, where Earl Warriner is running against the present incumbent, Paul Lively. All of the other candidates are presently incumbents with the exception of Sandra Gilbert who is running for Tax Collector replacing Sheila Litchfield who did not choose to run.

Position	Term(yrs)	Candidate(s)
Selectman (vote for one)	3	Paul Lively Earl Warriner
Town Clerk	3	Catherine Nichols
Town Treasurer	3	Catherine Nichols
Assessor	3	Richards Steinbock
Tax Collector	3	Sandra Gilbert
Finance Committee	3	David Howland
School Committee	3	Amy Barry
Library Trustee	3	Alli Thane
Town Auditor	1	Newland Smith

Elsewhere in this issue statements are given as submitted by the candidates on their background and qualifications.

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

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CANDIDATE PROFILES / STATEMENTS

CATHERINE NICHOLS - Town Clerk - Town Treasurer

I am seeking reelection to the position of Town Clerk and Town Treasurer. The past three years have been challenging, interesting, sometimes difficult but never boring. Meeting so many of Heath's people is the best part of the job. I look forward to continuing as I can think of no other job I'd like as well that is so close to home and gives me enough time to raise our two young children.

DAVID F. HOWLAND - Finance Committee

I am very interested in continuing the work of the Finance Committee on which I have served the past three years. While a number of improvements have been achieved, there are still some problems that need resolution, and long range fiscal planning is a must. I believe that my experience on the Committee and in business and academe will enable me to meet the challenges that lie before us.

AMY C. BARRY - School Committee

I am seeking reelection to a three year term on the Heath School Committee after having been elected to fill a one year vacancy this past year. I am willing to continue giving the time and energy required to be a School Committee member because I have a deep commitment to public education and I have found the work challenging and rewarding.

As a former teacher, I believe I can appreciate the educational issues facing elementary and secondary schools today and, as a parent of a first grader at the Rowe School, I have a personal stake in the future of our educational system. I am also, as a taxpayer in Heath, an advocate of fiscal responsibility. Money alone does not make good schools. As a member of the Heath School Committee, I will continue to work for effective, quality public education at a cost we can afford.

SANDRA GILBERT - Tax Collector

As a candidate for Tax Collector, I hope to achieve a number of things. I would like to learn more about our town and its people. Holding this position, I could get to know the people in our community as members and not just names. Hopefully this position could enable me to get a better understanding of our tax situation, evaluation system, etc., and by working close to our assessors, also a better understanding of their positions. This is also a way of working and still being able to spend most of my time at home with my family. I think this could be an interesting and educational opportunity for anyone.

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CANDIDATE PROFILES / STATEMENTS

RICHARDS STEINBOCK - Board of Assessors

I have lived in Heath, up on Burnt Hill, with my family for eight years. For the past six years, I have been a member of the Board of Assessors, serving as Chairman for the past two.

My immediate goal as an assessor is to finish up the final instalment of the state ordered revaluation, set up some sort of system for a fair and orderly update (which must be done every two years) and generally get the office organized so that it can run itself smoothly in the midst of all that keeps coming down from the state.

As for the revaluation, my goal is to get it done on time (which means tax bills next November), get it done fairly, and get it done so that whatever new valuations we come up with will not have an adverse effect on the town. By that I mean that I do not want to see rising valuations change us from a rural agricultural town into a suburban bedroom community against our will. The fact is that with revaluation, Proposition 2½ and inflation any sudden influx of suburban development, especially with school children, would cost the town much more than it could raise in taxes.

I don't plan on being an assessor for the rest of my life, but I do plan on living in Heath at least that long. So as long as I am on the Board, I will do my best to see that the town's interests are served as fully as possible.

When I'm not busy poking my nose through your house or writing nasty letters to the state, I make my living at home as a graphic designer and have also been a member of the Fire Department for the past six or seven years.

ALLI THANE - Library Trustee

I have been a Library Trustee since 1962 when the Library was one room and wood heated. Now we have a library of which the town can really be proud.

Ern and I moved here in 1958 from Maynard, MA, where I was born and graduated from high school. Since then I have completed several courses toward a degree at Greenfield Community College, worked for years in the office of Kendall Company, and with Edith Gleason, have taken part in many library workshops. Books are an important part of my life. I would like to continue as your trustee.

PAUL LIVELY - Selectman

I am seeking reelection as selectman to promote the continuity in the government process. It's been a few years now since a selectman has run for a second term. As selectmen, we now have a combined six years of experience and, if I am elected, we will have nine years of experience by next year as opposed to six if I am not elected. With the increasing complexity of government, it takes time to become familiar with the procedures. I am not suggesting that I have all the answers - I'm still learning.

Accomplishments depend on teamwork and the team that I have to work with, which includes everyone who is working for our town, are the greatest people anyone could ask for to work with, and that makes this job an enjoyable experience. For teamwork to be effective there must be good communication and this town is blessed with excellent communication because all boards meet on the same night in Sawyer Hall, because we have a town newspaper, and most of all because the people are willing to communicate.

As a selectman I am your servant and will accept and respect your decision on election day.

EARL H. WARRINER, Sr. - Selectman

I was born in Readsboro, VT in 1934. My parents, Win and Evelyn Warriner, moved to Heath when I was four years old and we lived where Ernie and Alli Thane now live. I started my schooling in Branch School. My parents then moved to Griswoldville and I finished the 8th grade in Colrain and then to Arms Academy. I enlisted in the USAF and served in the Korean War as a Tail Gunner.

In 1961 my wife Janet, son Earl Jr. and I moved to Heath having bought the old Benson place. We lived there for eight years, during which time our daughter Melodie was born. Having sold our place, we made our way through the country, living in Greenfield, Palacios, Texas, and Charlemont.

In 1977 I started work for the Heath Highway Dept. leaving that department in 1981. I am now employed by the Jacksonville Electric Co. Two years ago we came back to the hills of Heath and built the home we now live in on 8A.

As a candidate for the office of Selectman, I am offering the people a candidate with fresh ideas and new energy. The Town of Heath and its people have always been good to my family and me. I would now like the opportunity to return this goodness by serving as your selectman. I urge all of you concerned with the well being of the Town to give me your support at the town election on May 3.

NEWLAND F. SMITH - Auditor

I am seeking reelection to a one year term as town Auditor, having served in that position for the past two years. Prior to that I was a member of the Finance Committee for two years.

I am concerned over the town finances and want to see that the funds are properly accounted for as voted in the town meetings.



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SELECTMEN'S REPORT

By Paul Lively, Chairman
Heath Board of Selectmen

Highway Dept. Spring is here at last and all the snow and ice are rapidly disappearing. When not plowing spring storms, the Highway crew is putting trap rock gravel on the problem areas of the dirt roads which have become muddy. Repairing snow plows and other machinery has been part of their recent activities. They will be doing repair work on the grader engine and, as time permits, they will be cutting trees along a new section of Avery Brook Road as part of Chapter 90 road construction.

Buildings The new oil burner has been installed in the Community Hall. The insulation work at the town garage and fire house has been completed. The appearance of the Town Clerk's office, Post Office, and the Selectmen's room has been enhanced by curtains installed by Catherine Nichols. The Post Office stamp dispensing machine is finally operational!

Landfill At our last Landfill Committee meeting there was considerable discussion about doing a better job of salvage and recycling at the landfill so that it will last longer and look neater. We have a meeting scheduled for April 20 to come up with a procedure for accomplishing this task. We hope to have representatives from the Boy Scouts at the meeting as they have been handling the recycling project at the landfill.

Budget and Finance Our Budget for the coming fiscal year is essentially completed. We will continue to analyze it for possible improvements and we are still awaiting a final budget figure from the Mohawk Trail R.S.D. which we expect will be lower than the figure we entered into our budget. It appears that a vote to override Proposition will not be needed.

Ann Steinbock is researching information on health insurance plans, which will form the basis for an article for the Town Meeting warrant to see if the Town will provide health insurance for its employees.

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

By Chief Earl Gleason

The Fire Dept. responded to a house filled with smoke on the evening of Feb 20. Firefighters determined the cause was a stove backdraft, and ventilated the house. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Lively came home later that evening to find nothing worse than a slight smoke smell in one or two rooms. Crystal Peters who was babysitting for the Livelys should be commended for the fine job she did. She heard a bang and soon smoke began to fill the house. She grabbed a blanket and wrapped it around the Livelys' son and took him to Peters' Store, where the alarm was turned in. It is nice to know that our babysitters are so capable in emergencies. Other calls responded to were to cover the Charlemont fire station for three hours on Feb. 26, and to chimney fires on Feb. 24 and March 1.

Sixteen persons connected with the Fire Dept. are taking a First Responder course taught by Sheila Litchfield each Wednesday evening. The course covers C.P.R., Standard First Aid, Auto Extrication, and Emergency Child Birth.

The new tank for Engine II is nearly fabricated at this writing. Sand blasting and painting remain to be done. Volunteers to help will be accepted with great appreciation.

HORSE - OXEN ACTIVITIES PLANNED

The Second Annual Plowing Contest with horses, mules, and oxen will be held on Saturday, May 15. This event will take place at 10 AM in the field near the Arthur A. Smith covered bridge off Route 112 in Colrain. There will be lunch on the grounds. At the same time a farm equipment swap will take place.

Over Memorial Day weekend, Saturday and Sunday, May 29,30, a Wagon Train will take place in the Heath area with a hog roast put on by Doug Wilkins on Sumner Stetson Road.



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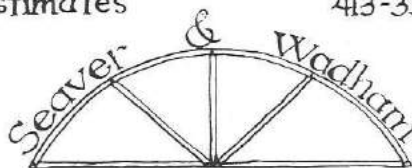
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PROPOSITION 2½ IMPACT

- Special to the HEATH HERALD -

By Jay Healy, State Representative

Massachusetts is now entering year two of what many people are calling the "era of Proposition 2½". Although local officials throughout the state have cut costs wherever possible and begun instituting new management techniques, the coming fiscal year will undoubtedly be an unusually difficult one for many cities and towns. The savings made last year probably won't be enough to cover an expected inflation rate of 8% or 9%, or take care of any additional cuts that must be made under "2½". In order for many of these localities to successfully survive year two of the tax reform, the Legislature will, once again, have to allocate a substantial amount of money into the local aid account. Some experts say the figure will have to be at least 180 million dollars. Local governments and the Legislature will also have to make a concerted effort to work together to make the difficult transition away from Massachusetts' infamous reliance on the property tax as a major source of revenue as smooth as possible.

The implementation of Proposition 2½ has had some definite results in the way municipal and state governments are run. There have been, for instance, substantial cuts in personnel. The municipal work force was cut by 30,400 in 1981. The state work force was cut by 6.2%. The greatest cuts were in the areas of recreation, libraries and public works. The smallest were in the fire and police sectors. Unfortunately, schools really took it on the chin, so to speak. Before we know for sure how the schools in our area will fare, local aid figures will have to be released by the Governor. I will in any event keep a watchful eye on this issue.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

By D. F. Howland

The months of February and March were very busy for the Heath Finance Committee. Members Walt Gleason, Bruce Warner, and Dave Howland reviewed budgets and met with Selectmen to prepare the budget article for the Town Report which had to be sent to the printer in mid-March. The Mohawk Trail Regional School budget is still too high, but efforts are being made to bring it down; transportation costs are the main culprit.

The Finance Committee has hopes of maintaining our current tax rate level next year, but there are several "ifs" that make it difficult to achieve that objective. One important "if" is state aid. We are going on the assumption that state aid will be at least as much as this year's. Another assumption is that there will be some Free Cash to defray certain budget items. Before the articles are posted for the Town Meeting on May 3, additional planning will be done to confirm our hopes and expectations that we can live within the terms of Proposition 2½ and not have to propose articles to override its limitations.

EFFECTS OF 2½ ON MOHAWK

By Todd Sumner

One year ago at this time, the Mohawk Community was in an uproar over Proposition 2½ and what the imminent budget cuts were going to do to local education. As the first school year under 2½ nears its third quarter mark, one may pause and examine in a practical light the actual effects tightened purse strings have had on education at Mohawk Trail Regional.

The most obvious changes are physical. The Superintendent's office is now located within the high school building, which has made some shuffling of office space necessary. In addition to the Superintendent's office, two classrooms have been converted to office space, a loss which is not detrimental because of decreased enrollment for the 1981-82 term. School population has decreased by some 100 persons, leaving the total around 750 students. If this decrease had not occurred, classes would be larger since all available classrooms are in full use.

Aside from physical changes, there is very little which is obviously different. Classes may be a little larger, there is less money available for textbooks, field trips, audio-visual aids, meal subsidies and extracurricular activities, but I don't believe the overall quality of education has declined, yet. If tight budget policies remain in effect, however, the lack of funds will become more apparent, and eventually damaging, as materials need to be replaced and inflation takes larger bites out of the total budget.

In light of this we must keep a watchful eye on the quality of public education and, if there should come a time when education appears to suffer because of insufficient funding, we must realign our goals and spend a few more dollars to insure that America continues to meet her commitment to develop our greatest natural resource, the human mind.

(Todd is a Senior at Mohawk and is presenting here his own views as a student.)

BICENTENNIAL PLANNING

On February 16, the interim Bicentennial Committee, including two of the Selectmen, met and reviewed the many suggested activities for the celebration of Heath's 200th anniversary in 1985.

The importance of obtaining some initial funding to be used in planning these activities was stressed and it was agreed to ask the Town to appropriate an initial fund at the Annual Meeting in May.

It was further felt that, since such a committee would be spending public funds, it should be appointed by the Moderator. The committee would consist of nine members including a chairman.

Subsequently the Selectmen have agreed to include two articles to this effect in the warrant for the Town Meeting. It is expected the Committee will start active planning on this important town event as soon as it is appointed after the meeting in May.

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GROWING THINGS

By Amy C. Barry

Today I started my snapdragon seeds. By the end of the month I will have a variety of flower and vegetable seedlings arranged on the south hall windowsills and spilling over onto my daughter's toy box. As winter wanes, I watch for spring and planting time.

In my teaching days, I was often amused by students who alluded so blithely to the "easy life-style" that came about with the rise of agriculture some ten thousand years ago. I would quickly point out to them that there really wasn't anything "easy" about agriculture and that, on the contrary, farming brought humans more problems than they had ever encountered as hunter-gatherers. Anyone who has a garden can fully appreciate the amount of physical and mental energy involved in planning, preparing, planting, and harvesting. And we also know the profound emotional distress brought on by a killing frost in June, a too dry summer, or an invasion of voracious rabbits in our prize cosmos.

Up here in Heath, Nature appears to work very hard at times to discourage us from growing things. The growing season is short and the soil has little topsoil and a great deal of clay. Had my husband and I known these things when we first moved to Heath, we might have been a little more prepared for our first venture in gardening. As it was, we located our first garden in the field back of our garage, having heard that the previous owners had had a garden in this same spot. Being very exercise-minded and somewhat naive about field grass and clay soil, we staked out our plot in waist-high weeds and proceeded to turn the soil over by hand. I was seven months pregnant at the time and found the work with spade and grub hoe very exhausting. It had also been a very wet spring. As we worked we found ourselves surrounded by heavy clumps of grass roots and oozing mud. "Mother's garden on the Cape never looked like this!", I continually complained to Craig.

Finally the garden was completely turned over and raked. I planted my squash, cucumber, and radish seeds in the midst of a late May downpour. When I went out to check the next day, I discovered that what had so recently been a garden was now a little pond. Needless to say, nothing came up. Only the tomato plants we bought at a local nursery did well that first year.

We have had seven more gardens since the first disaster and most years we have had to cope with a calamity or two. One year we lost half our tomato plants to an unannounced late June frost. Another year all the bush bean seeds rotted in the too cold ground. Last year I had several encounters with our resident rabbit who enjoyed early morning breakfasts of broccoli and snapdragons. And in July an extremely strong wind flattened all of the eight foot tall snap pea vines.

Each calamity has, however, also taught us something useful for next year's garden. The thirty or more wheelbarrowfuls of cow and horse manure we have added to our garden every spring for the past three years have greatly improved the fertility and texture of the soil. Tomatoes now get covered at the slightest hint of frosty air, beans do not get planted until the soil warms up, and that smart little rabbit is going to be greeted by a plastic milk bottle cover when he decides to dine on my broccoli this year.

For all its challenges and frustrations, gardening has definite rewards. Certainly a freezer full of home-grown vegetables or a blue ribbon at the Heath Fair make the time and energy we spend worth while. But gardening also deepens our sense of humility. Not only do we begin to appreciate how much of nature is beyond human control, but we also realize that there is no end to learning about growing things. Each year brings new problems and new wisdom. Each year, sometimes in spite of the weather or our own mistakes, those tiny seeds grow into peppers, carrots, tomatoes, zinnias, and marigolds. As gardeners, we cannot help but be humbled by the infinite repertoire of the living world.

As I look out of the kitchen window, I see a field of white where our garden used to be and I wonder if the snow will ever melt. Upstairs in the south hallway the snapdragon seeds are basking under their blankets of potting soil. Cautiously but relentlessly, the time for growing things is coming.



Richard A. Sumner

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stein•bock (stīn'•böck') n. A species of wild goat. *Capra ibex*, found in the Alps and other mountainous areas of Europe, remarkable for having long, ridged, backward-curving horns. (Ger. *stein*, stone + Ger. *bock*, buck.)

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CINDERELLA AT ROWE SCHOOL

This is a story about the production of Cinderella put on by Mrs. Rillings' second and third graders. Ian Henderson, Laura Holdsworth, Blake Warner and Danny Pinkham talked with Pat Poisson after the play and the following is their conversation:

"The second and third grade put on a play, Cinderella, in the auditorium at Rowe School, Thursday, March 11, 1982. In the morning we put on a dress rehearsal for the kindergarten and play group. Exactly at 2:30 PM we put on the play for the rest of the school, teachers and parents. During the play we were nervous because we were afraid of forgetting our lines or walking out at the wrong time. At the end of the play, everyone told us we did a good job doing our parts. We were sort of glad when it was over. The whole class would like to thank everyone that helped with costumes and scenery."

The play was a rare delight and went off perfectly in spite of the sudden sickness of one child whose part was filled by another on the spur of the moment.

PETERS' STORE - THE BEGINNING

By Alli Thane

A cupboard in the Levi Lively house (the present Paul Lively place) was the actual beginning of our indispensable Peters' Store. The first grocery order was delivered in 1912 and soon the business outgrew the cupboard and was housed in a bedroom of the house. According to Mrs. Phillipine Peters, her father and four brothers delivered grocery orders by means of horse and wagon to an area from Charlemont to Jacksonville, Vermont. In 1923, when Phillipine married Leon Peters, the store was established in the building across the road where it is to this day.

In the early store the supplies were sold out of barrels and drawers. The grains, molasses, vinegar, crackers, and salt pork were sold by the pound and quart out of the barrels, and spices, sulphur, and seeds out of the drawers.

Mrs. Peters recalls that the store had many faithful customers who sent orders by note or telephone, but never came to the store. One, for instance, Mrs. Jadwiga Rouba, who resided near the Vermont line, was a customer for 20 years yet she and Mrs. Peters never met.

The first deliveries were by horse and wagon, then by an "Overland" car which was traded for a truck. The truck also served as the family transportation to church in Charlemont, where services were held once a month. Mrs. Peters remembers keeping her feet warm on a heated soapstone on the cold ride.

During the depression the Peters, having extended so much credit, almost lost their store. Consequently Leon went to work on the town road crew under the leadership of Max Churchill, grandfather of our present road crew member, Skip Churchill. Phillipine ran the store and often traded eggs, wood, potatoes, and syrup for groceries. The surplus eggs were sent to Boston and in turn Boston sent fresh fish by the barrelful.

Most of the store supplies came from Charlemont through Avery's store. Mrs. Peters recalls how difficult it was to travel after the 1938 hurricane because the only road to and from Heath was Avery Brook Road. All other roads were closed because of washed out bridges.

Mrs. Peters did the bookkeeping for the store, having taught herself from an eighth grade text book and with the help of a salesman from North Adams who instructed her on store percentages. She was also the treasurer for the Heath Telephone Company for 17 years and delivered the bills and collected payments house-to-house by means of horse and wagon.

In 1972 the Peters sold the store to their son and daughter-in-law, Cleon and Theresa Peters. They ran it until 1979, at which time it was sold to cousins, Ray and Pam Galipo, who are the present owners.

The elder Peters now reside in Charlemont but will always be remembered for their kind and friendly presence by all of their many customers and friends.

(The above story is based on reminiscences of Phillipine Peters in an oral recording she made about 1975, for which the Editors are very grateful.)

HEATH LADIES' AID

The Heath Ladies' Aid held its first meeting of this year on April 1. From now on they will meet every second Thursday at 11:00 AM at the Community Hall. Everyone is welcome.

PLANNING BOARD REPORT

By John Holdsworth

The Planning Board has utilized most of the time at its regular meetings and at extra meetings in organizing and rewriting the first draft of the revised zoning bylaws. A copy of the bylaws was delivered to the County Planning Department and was returned with a number of helpful comments and some deletions and additions. An expanded section of definitions is planned as well as a new section on guidelines for special permit applicants.

The revision process is going slowly because the Board is endeavoring to design bylaws that will be specific enough to be useful and yet be general enough to be able to endure for a while without need for revision. However, since revisions will be necessary from time to time, the Board is proposing to retain master copies of the bylaws and to distribute photocopies of them on request. This will avoid printing and reprinting costs for quantities of bylaw booklets.

Tom Lively reported on the recent County Planning Board meeting. The county has an automatic traffic recorder that is available for the towns to use. Recording traffic flow on various roads would be helpful in setting priorities for road repairs and in determining possible business locations.

The county is also considering applying for a grant for road striping equipment, since the state will no longer be doing this. Maintenance and operation of the equipment are seen as the major problems. Heath can probably get by without road striping for a while.

The county solid waste project has been further delayed by site selection problems. There is some resistance in Montague to having the plant located there. Use of an alternate site in Greenfield would mean about a one million dollar increase in construction costs.

ASSESSORS' REPORT

By Richards Steinbock

On March 27 the state notified us that our tax rate of \$24.70 had been approved, now that we had the special town meeting to rescind the "free cash" votes of last September. A phone call to our computer service and a follow-up letter ought to have the tax bills to us in a week to ten days.

As valuations generally stayed the same as last year, and as taxes went down (ever so slightly), we are (knock on wood) not anticipating a great number of problems, and hope to get back into the revaluation in high gear.

If you do, however, have any problems with your bill or valuation, or if you just want to come in and see what we do or check out your land on our maps, feel free to stop in the Town Hall any Monday 8 PM to midnight. The more you know about our job, the better off we all are.

The state continues to be a thorn in our sides. Two weeks ago we were ordered to attend (and attend) a meeting which exactly duplicated one which we were ordered to attend (and attend) last summer. We have been threatened with legal action for not sending in forms which we already sent (and sent again). We have received over half a dozen copies of a classification guide, all of which say "this guide is incomplete, later sections will follow..." It makes one wonder just how close 100 Cambridge Street is to the real world.

MILESTONES

By Edith Royer

Kenneth Paul was born to Ronald and Karen Duda of Whately on March 16. Kenneth is the grandson of Kenneth and Dorothy Stetson.

Jillian Lou was born to Gerard and Joan Gilbert of Cyrus Stage Road on March 4.

Kimberly Diane was born to Roger and Linda Hill of Greenfield on March 23. Kimberly is the granddaughter of Robert Coates.

David Michael was born to Michael and Veronica Smead on March 27. David is the grandson of Frederic Lively.

Paul James was born to Brian and Marjory Chatigny of Pepperell. Paul is the great grandson of Ralph and Rachel Sumner. Paul was christened on March 28. Beside Ralph and Rachel, other members of the family attending the christening were Ruth Corey and Richard and Brenda Sumner who were Paul's godparents.

Paul James Chatigny was christened on March 28. Paul is the son of Brian and Marjory Chatigny of Pepperell and the grandson of Dorothy Sumner Harding. Ralph and Rachel Sumner are his great grandparents. Beside Ralph and Rachel, other members of the family attending the christening were Ruth Sumner Corey, and Richard and Brenda Sumner who are Paul's godparents.

Denise Marie Thatcher is engaged to Jay Norman Sessions. Jay is the son of Norman and Joan Sessions. An August 14 wedding is planned.

Rev. and Mrs. Albert Baller celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on March 28 with a service and a reception in the First Parish Church of Berlin. Rev. Baller was the minister in Heath from 1945-1950.

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HEATH PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Hilma Kuzmeskus, daughter of Clyde and Ruth Churchill, is included in the 1982 edition of "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges." Hilma is a junior at Toccoa Falls College in Georgia majoring in religious education and is the editor of the college year book. Her husband, Thomas, also attends the college.

Fred Burrington will be entering GCC this fall in the graphic design program. Fred is a senior at Mohawk where he designed the "Mail-Art" creations and also the silk-screened poster for "Oklahoma". He has designed many of the sets for the Mohawk theatre productions.

Eric Sumner took the part of Judd Fry in the Mohawk School production of "Oklahoma" in March.

Marisa Housner, age 14, danced in the Pioneer Valley Ballet's 9th annual performance, "Flights of Fancy", April 3 and 4 at the Academy of Music in Northampton. She danced the role of a villain in a modern fantasy, "Cosmic Heroes: Truth, Justice &..." and was in the corps of the classic skaters' ballet "Les Patineurs." Marisa will pursue her dance studies this summer in New York City where she auditioned and was accepted into the Joffrey Ballet School for July and August.

Robert Berquist has been named finalist in the New England Regional Fellowship Program for 1982. The program, sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts, gives finishing funds for works in progress to New England film and video makers.

Melanie Poisson, age 9, came in second place at the AAU district optional gymnastics meet in Springfield in January. She will soon hear whether she will be among the ten finalists to go to Cape Cod for the final selection.

Vicky Thane of Brunnelle Road found a toy balloon on her driveway sent by a Pam Ghilson of South Williamsport, PA. The attached card said "Hi, Balloon Finder" and that it came from the Central School of that town. Pam's card asked the finder to write telling about the area and the person who found it. Vicky replied promptly!

Lewis and Helen Nichols have moved back to their house in Heath from their Greenfield apartment. They are now permanent residents of Heath.

Mildred Crowningshield is seriously ill in the Franklin County Public Hospital.

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