



VOLUME 4 NUMBER 5

DECEMBER 1982/JANUARY 1983

HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER 25¢

THIS IS OUR FOURTH CHRISTMAS ISSUE!



'Twas the night before Christmas and all through
the house

The only creature stirring was Mathilda the mouse.
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
Hoping that St. Nick soon would be there.
Baby mice were nestled snug in their bed,
With visions of cheese filling their head.
Mathilda in her nighty and fancy bed cap,
Had just settled down for a pleasant nap
When on the lawn arose such a clatter,
She scurried to see what was the matter.
The moon gleamed on new fallen snow,
Giving a luster of day to objects below.
To Mathilda's wondering eyes did appear,
A miniature sleigh and eight reindeer.
With a fat little driver, lively and quick,
Mathilda realized it must be ole St. Nick.
Then in a twinkling she heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of many a hoof.
Mathilda took her brood to see St. Nick
Who came down the chimney mighty quick.
A bundle of toys he had on his back and
He looked like a pedlar opening a sack.
He had a broad face and a big round belly.
He laughed and shook like a bowl of jelly.
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head
Showed Mathilda she had nothing to dread.
All the mice watched Santa trim the tree
It was indeed a beautiful sight to see.
The stockings were filled with a zesty cheese,

For jolly ole Santa was bound to please.
The mice began to cavort all around as
Up the chimney St. Nicholas did bound.
As they nibbled on the delicious cheese,
Santa called out in a funny loud wheeze,
"Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!"

. . . Parodied by John Read
with apologies to Clement Moore

A CHRISTMAS GHOST

by Don Dekker

It was the day before Christmas in Heath in 1966.
I had been surprised to find no snow on the ground
when I had arrived the night before from New York.
We had come up to spend a traditional New England
Christmas, and for that, snow was needed. However,
the sky was leaden and the air was damp, so we all
expected some snow very soon. Sure enough it did
come, and come, and come.

A few flakes began coming down as we were out in
the woods dragging the tree back to the house. In
just a few minutes the ground was white and, by the
time we were back, we knew we were in for a real
storm. We set up the tree, decorating it with apples:
strings of cranberries, and tiny white lights. The
snow was whirling down outside, while inside the
stoves were going, wine was flowing and Christmas
cheer was everywhere.

We were happy to greet friends from Amherst, sur-
prised to see that they had made it up the hill. The
cars were all parked down at the corner of Dell Road
for Long Hill Road was not plowed. All afternoon and
evening the snow came down. By dark there must have
been several feet of it, and it was still falling.

After dinner our friends decided they had best
leave, if they wanted to get back that night. We
all trudged through the snow down to Dell Road to
see them off. The road had not been plowed - after
all, it was Christmas Eve. We pushed the car out of
its drift; it went about 20 feet, then slid off the
road. We had a snowball fight; got nice and wet, and
then struggled back to the house.

I got enough sleeping bags and blankets together
and, with people sleeping all over the house, we
settled down to our long winter's nap.

Continued on page 3

LETTERS

To the Editors:

... Also the article by Caroline Smith "Early Heath Schools" (Vol. 4, No. 4) is very interesting but there was one correction, probably should be directed to Pearle Fanner - Ida Lively married Albert Clark not Stanley Clark. I know because I am a Lively, and Florence, Rose, Ida, and Lewis, as well as Walter, Francis, Caroline, Agnes, Emma are my aunts and uncles; their brother Henry is my father.

ELLEN L. JENKINS
Charlemont

To the Editors:

Pleasant the day when the HEATH HERALD arrives! We especially like the lore of the old houses, the skill and humor of the pen sketches and the way the items in the various departments are written.

What would you think of noting the time of the Church service and the hours of the Library in some issue?

With thanks to all the Staff.

Helen and Carl Sewall
Colrain

THE HERALD GROWS

The HEATH HERALD now goes to almost 400 readers in 116 cities and towns beside Heath, in 21 states.

HEATH PRECIPITATION

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

October precipitation was 2.45 inches; November was 2.52 inches. Total precipitation for the first 11 months of 1982 was 41.2 inches. Average annual precipitation over the past 15 years is 51.08 inches. Unless we have a lot of rain or snow in December, 1982 will be a dry year.

We had a trace of snow on November 14, and 2 inches of snow fell the day after Thanksgiving.

HEATH HERALD

Volume 4 Number 5 December 1982 - January 1983

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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)

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

LETTERS

SNOW PLOWING PROPOSAL

To the Editors:

On October 25 I submitted a proposal to the Board of Selectmen to help the town Highway Dept. with snowplowing during peak storm conditions. This proposal would not only speed up the operations, but could also result in a cost savings to the town.

The essential parts of this proposal follow:

- (1) The town would provide a high speed plow and maintenance of the plow.
- (2) This would be mounted on my own dump truck which I would use at the going rate of \$20 per hour.
- (3) The roads to be plowed are No. 9 Rd. and tributaries; 8A from No. 9 Rd. to the Charlemont line; 8A to the Town Garage; clean intersections at Dell, at intersection of 8A and Ben Rd., at intersection of No. 9 and 8A, and intersections on No. 9 Rd. The total length of the above roads is close to 8 miles.
- (4) I would be called to plow by the Road Superintendent whenever he decides that all of the town roads shall be plowed for that storm. Taking care of drifting conditions and slush removal would be at the discretion of the Road Superintendent.

Here are some of the reasons why I think this proposal should be accepted:

- (1) It's a mutual benefit situation. In this north country the excavating business gets slow in the winter, so I have time to plow snow. I like to plow snow - not everyone does. From the town's standpoint it allows them to have a service that would cost them much more due to machinery overhead and added labor costs. The state uses this method for plowing state roads.
- (2) It gives the town reserve power during machinery breakdowns, with another plowing rig available.
- (3) When substantial snowstorms occur, there is greater assurance of having the roads plowed on time for school busses, mail carriers and emergency vehicles.
- (4) There would be less stress on town equipment and on the road crew. Last year the road crew complained about working too many hours. When workers get too tired, their effectiveness decreases and breakdowns and accidents increase. Last year breakdowns related to snow removal amounted to more than \$5000.
- (5) Acceptance of this proposal would reduce excessive overtime pay, as much of the plowing is done in the early morning hours. It is a function of management in any business to try to hold overtime costs to a minimum. Citizens can expect this from their selectmen.
- (6) Accepting this proposal would not be a new undertaking for the town. We have worked together before. I have the necessary equipment, the plowing experience, and the willingness to get up in the middle of the night and go out to plow snow. This would come at a good time for the town when, because of turnover of town employees, the highway crew has less plowing experience than it had last year.
- (7) Finally, this service would be provided by a Heath taxpayer. Currently practically all hired equipment comes from out of town.

PAUL LIVELY
Heath

CHRISTMAS GHOST (continued)

Never am I one to go to sleep immediately on going to bed. I always review the day and run my thoughts around for a while. Since it had been quite a busy day, this was taking longer than usual. I was very conscious of being in my bed, in Heath, on Christmas Eve. I was not asleep. It was then that I felt someone was at the foot of my bed and needed help. I instinctively knew it was not one of my friends. My first thought was that someone's car had gotten stuck on the road and, on seeing the tracks we had left in the snow earlier, had followed them up to the house, looking for help. My bedroom is at the opposite end of the house, but I never thought of how this person had gone through the whole house without waking anyone. I just knew that help was needed.

I looked at the foot of my bed and there he stood. He was a young boy, around 14 or 15, dressed in a fringed skin jacket. As I sat up in bed asking what was wrong and how I could help, I suddenly realized that not only could I see the boy, but that I could see through him too. My body temperature dropped; my blood ran cold; adrenalin pumped in and my heart pounded away. I was seized with a fear, which was totally irrational. I knew that I was confronted with something not normal. All those feelings took just seconds to occur. Almost at once I gave a terrified shriek but, just as I did, the boy raised both of his arms to me in a gesture of supplication. I shrieked anyway and, as I did, he disappeared.

My scream woke everybody in the house. All were asking what was going on? Who yelled? I felt terrified. In order to express my fear, I said that I had seen someone with a gun. Why I said that, I truly don't know, for there was no gun. I was really frightened and perhaps that expressed my fear more than any other image.

I soon described just what I had seen and experienced. Most everyone said it was a dream and to forget it. After a few minutes things settled down and people were going back to sleep. I got back in bed, but I was much too affected by what had happened to go to sleep.

All was quiet. I began to relax. A sound then began to penetrate my consciousness. "Crunch - crunch". It sounded like someone walking on snow. What now, I thought. I was quiet, but finally someone said in the darkness, "What is that?" Lights were turned on, flashlights shone out the windows, but on to pristine, untouched snow. Well, no one could figure anything out, so we all went back to bed. Soon, "Crunch - crunch." Lights back on, but again the snow was untouched. Another mystery. Who was walking around on the snow without leaving footprints? What a night! Again back in bed. Again came the sound. "Crunch - crunch." This time no one moved. Then one of my friends yelled, "Oh God, something wet is falling on my forehead - it's red - I think it's blood!" We rushed to his bed and there saw the red, wet marks on his forehead, but it was not blood. But what was it?

While we were trying to figure this one out, someone happened to look up into the rafters of the room. Sitting there was a flying squirrel eating an apple. As we watched, he crunched away and spit out the peeling in small red pieces. There was the blood. Someone looked at the Christmas tree. It was full of flying squirrels having a Christmas feast of apples, cranberries, and popcorn! We turned off the lights and were silent. We all heard the crunch then. One mystery solved at least. Gratefully we got back into bed and finally everyone, including me, went to sleep. At first light my friends left, vowing never to spend another night in such a house.

It is easy to scoff at people who have had experiences with ghosts. They are bad dreams, or "a bit of underdone potato" as Dickens says in A Christmas Carol. I am not sure what a ghost is. I do know that I had the same kind of experience that many people have had. I began to read many books and articles about this, and my feeling and what I saw were repeated over and over again. It has never happened again. I tell myself that if it does, I would try to still my fear and help, if I could. That would, for me at least, be very difficult.

HEATH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

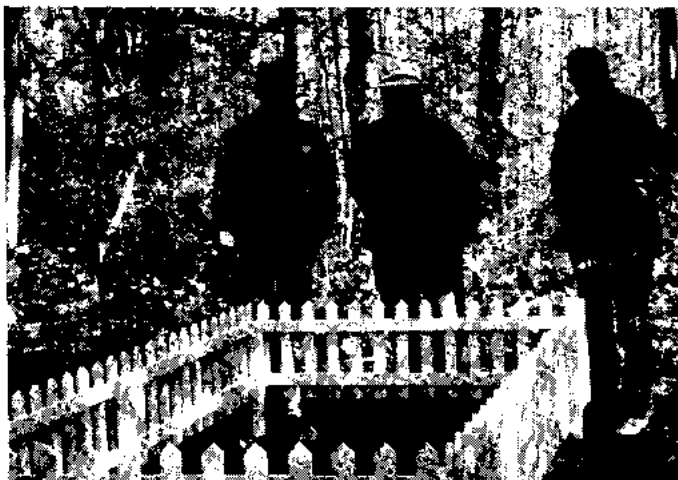
by Ruth Law, President

At a meeting of the directors of the Historical Society on October 20, it was voted to proceed with restoration of the Emerson painting by the Williamstown Art Conservation Center. Fund raising to help meet the cost of this project will commence in the spring.

This fall Dominic Musacchio constructed a new white picket fence to surround the Fort Shirley grave of Anna Norton. This was installed on October 23 with the help of Richard Housner, David Howland, and John Read. Dave Howland also used his tractor to clear brush on the trail to the site of the Fort.

Several items have been donated to the Society by Fay Shippee and by the Heath Union Church.

Our Curator, Amy Barry, has closed the Museums for the winter, and spring will find her ready to open them with new items for us to examine.



New Picket Fence at Ft. Shirley Grave

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Alan L. Nichols
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ON GIVING

by Rev. Lynn Dooley

Christmas is off to its same slow start again this year at our house. That will result in a last minute rush of shopping, wrapping, mailing, and worries that will take away from the spirit of the season. If I'd started earlier, I could have reflected more over each gift and made each one more meaningful, because I had taken the time to know why I was giving it and what would be special. But it's not too late in the season to take time to think about Christmas and giving: just how they are related and why a tradition of gift giving has developed.

I think in the life of a Christian, gift giving should be a conscious effort to recall God's greatest gift to his children - the gift of his son, Jesus Christ. In remembering His birth, we are moved to follow God's example of giving by making or selecting things for special people in our lives. Therefore, to capture the true spirit of giving, we should reflect more seriously on the Incarnation, God's gift of himself to humanity. The Hebrew Scriptures give us an account of all the ways God tried to bring his creation back to himself. He tried judges and kings, prophets and punishments, but nothing seemed to work. So, in the end, he sent his only son to lead us back, to show us the way. What does God's gift of Jesus Christ show us about the kinds of gifts we should give this Christmas?

First, God's gift to us was a gift of himself. If we are to pattern our giving after one aspect of God's gift, let it be this one! We should strive to make every gift we give a gift of ourselves. What would this mean? It would certainly demand much more than a last minute shopping spree! I recall seeing a very pertinent list of gifts for the elderly in "Dear Abby" last year that included gifts of food and services. Maybe some people on our lists would prefer a promise of an afternoon of errands or help around the house this year - instead of another bottle of perfume!

The second thing we can learn from God's example is the true motivation for giving - love. How many times do we buy gifts for the wrong reasons? Do we give because we know it's expected, because we received something from them, or perhaps because we want to impress? Gift giving becomes nothing more than a trade off for the wrong reasons. We could all learn from a very wise Jewish rabbi, Maimonides, who listed what he called the eight levels of giving entitled "The Golden Ladder of Charity".

GIVING (continued)

The first and lowest degree is to give - but with reluctance and regret. The second is to give cheerfully, but not proportionately to the distress of the suffering. The third level is to give cheerfully and proportionately, but not until we are solicited. The fourth is to give cheerfully, proportionately and even unsolicited; but to put it in the poor man's hand, thereby exciting in him the painful emotion of shame. The fifth is to give charity in such a way that the distressed may receive and know their benefactor without their being known to him. The sixth, which lies still higher, is to know the objects of our gifts, but remain unknown to them. The seventh is still higher, namely, to bestow charity in such a way that the one giving and the one receiving remain unknown to each other. The eighth and highest level of giving is to anticipate charity by preventing poverty, namely to assist the reduced brother either by a gift or loan or by teaching him a trade, or by putting him in the way of business, so that he may earn an honest livelihood and not be forced to hold his hand up for charity.

This takes our discussion of giving into the greater realm of charity, but what better time than Christmas to turn our thoughts from gifts to our loved ones to gifts to the needy. God's gift at Christmas - the gift of Jesus Christ - was definitely of the eighth level because it anticipated our spiritual poverty. God's example for giving gifts should guide our giving this season: Jesus Christ God's gift of himself, God's gift of love. God's gift which anticipated the need of all ages.

CHURCH NEWS

by Amy C. Barry

The Heath Union Church joined with the Rowe Community Church for a potluck luncheon at the Heath Community Hall on November 14. After the luncheon, several people went with Mrs. Dooley to LaBelle's Nursing Home in Shelburne Falls for a hymn sing and worship service.

The annual ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve service was held November 24 at the Federated Church in Charlemont. A community choir composed of members from the Rowe, Heath, and Charlemont churches sang, and Mrs. Dooley was the guest preacher. Two offerings were taken; a cash offering for Church World Services, and gifts of non-perishable food to be distributed to local needy families through the Good Neighbor's Group.

Plans for the Christmas season are well underway. A very special event will take place at 10 AM on Sunday, December 19, when the Heath Church will host a joint Heath and Rowe Sunday School Pageant. Following the pageant, coffee and donuts will be served. The Heath Christmas Eve Service of carols and candlelight will begin at 8 PM on December 24. On Sunday, the 26th, there will be a regular worship service at 11 AM. Everyone is cordially invited to participate in our celebration of the Christmas season.



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SCHOOL COMMITTEE NEWS

by Richard Housner, Chairman

At the last meeting of the Heath School Committee we accepted the resignation of Amy Barry. Amy served our school system with insight and intelligence. The Committee was faced with a difficult decision - one of us must resign to allow for a new appointee willing to serve on the Mohawk School Board. No member wished to resign, but each realized it was necessary. Just prior to drawing straws, Amy volunteered her resignation.

Patrick Venneri has been appointed to be the third committee member. At a reorganization Richard Housner was elected chairman, Patrick Venneri became vicechairman and Mohawk representative, and Susan Gruen secretary.

Eight student clubs involving cooking, embroidery, quilting, chess, knitting, painting, ceramics, printmaking, and drama have begun at Rowe School. These clubs meet on Friday afternoons. Community members are encouraged to assist.

The newly elected Rowe Student Council is sponsoring a square dance on Friday, December 10 at 7:00 PM to raise money for the sixth grade trip. Freddie Walker of Shelburne Falls will call the dances.

The Rowe School Christmas production will be at 7:00 PM on Thursday, December 16. The play, "The Nature of a Gift", directed by Principal Anita Page, will involve acting, vocal and instrumental music. Students under the direction of art teacher Linda Taylor will make the scenery and costumes.

BOY SCOUT NEWS

by Bill Thane

On October 22, 23, & 24 the Boy Scouts of Troop 86 camped at the site of Fort Shirley. In attendance were Scott Porrovecchio, Ian Gallup, Ken Thane, Mike Smith, Danny Hytenen, and Scoutmaster Bill Thane.

The object of the outing was to clear the path to the monument and the grave of Anna Norton. We also cleared an area to be used on future campouts. The weather was cool, but dry. We managed to stay warm and everyone had a good time.

LADIES AID

by Edith C. Royer

We had a very successful Christmas Sale on November 6, making \$328. There will be a potluck luncheon on December 16. After that there will be no further meetings until next April.

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H. C. ROBBINS LANDON, MUSICOLOGIST

by Catherine Nichols

Listeners to Public Radio's "Morning Pro Musica", especially Hayden lovers, may have heard the name of H.C.R. Landon, musicologist. He is the son of the late William and Dortha Landon, former owners of Myrifiel on the Avery Brook Road.

This fall Mr. Landon taught at Middlebury College in Vermont as a visiting professor. He lectured recently in Old Deerfield and is now in Washington where he will lecture at the Library of Congress. He and his Austrian wife, Elsa, will return to their home in Vienna for Christmas and then travel to the University of Cardiff in Wales for another visiting professorship.

When in New England, the Landons stop in Heath to visit Mr. Landon's cousin, Helen Nichols, and her family. He loves visiting Heath, having fond memories of summers spent here as a child.

MOHAWK VALLEY MEDICAL CENTER

The incorporators of the Mohawk Valley Medical Center, now in its second decade of service to the ten West County towns, are considering a change in the facility with the idea of its becoming a private practice center. A negotiating committee has been formed which is charged with working on the details. Because the doctors' salaries come from the federal government, the doctors leave as soon as that money dries up leaving concerned people. The center is now served by two full-time physicians and one half-time physician, all three of whom hope to stay in the valley and to build up their practice here. The private practice system envisions the doctors to be responsible for their own salaries and eventually to own necessary equipment and records. The proposal also considers maintaining the private non-profit corporation as owner of the facility responsible for high quality medical services and community health programs. Arthur Schwenger of South Road is chairman of the committee.

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SELECTMEN'S REPORT

by Anne Steinbock, Chairman
Heath Board of Selectmen

Good News: Town Clerk Catherine Nichols has been revising the voting list by removing the names of voters who have moved away. We now have a truer picture of the voter turnout on Nov. 2 than was reported in the papers at the time of the election. Out of 286 registered voters, 210 voted; an impressive 73%. Let's make it 100% in May.

Highway Dept. Selectmen are preparing a request to the DPW for state money (100%) to build a salt shed. Salt leeching into the ground will continue to cause problems with the town garage and Fire Dept. water supply until this is done. It may take several years to get the money, as there is a waiting list of towns that need sheds.

Selectmen voted on the following guideline for driveways needing a culvert at the access to a town road: The owner is to pay for the culvert and the town highway department will install it.

The new sander should be in town by the time the HERALD is out. There were some problems with having it installed on the truck.

Dogs: "It is other folks' dogs and children that make the most of the bad feelin's between neighbors."

. . . E.B. Parker 1907

Contrary to popular belief all three Selectmen like dogs: However, due to numerous complaints about dogs, the Selectmen voted to have dogs restrained during daylight hours, effective Dec. 1, 1982, following state laws. As one might imagine, this action has caused a furor. The Handbook for Mass. Selectmen has this to say about dogs:

"There are few things more likely to pit neighbor against neighbor, to evoke tirades from otherwise serene citizens and generally to cause trouble for selectmen, than dogs. Oddly enough, almost every community is evenly divided between dog owners and dog despisers - and during an average term of office, a selectman will hear frequently from both sides.

"Although the town clerk is actually the licensing authority for dogs, the selectmen are required by law to see that all dogs are properly licensed, to order them restrained during certain times, and to order them removed or destroyed if they are unduly annoying or vicious. . . ."



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SELECTMEN (continued)

This ruling does not apply to hunting dogs that are out hunting (with their owners, of course) or working dogs on the farm. It does not mean the dogs must be tied up constantly. The American Heritage Dictionary has this to say about "restrain": it "implies restriction of one's freedom of action by either moral or physical force, frequently for one's own good." Restrain is also synonymous with restrict defined as "to set bounds."

This is a problem that has been festering for years; if everyone cooperates and tries to see their neighbor's point of view, life will be a little easier for all of us.

"And in that town a dog was found,
As many dogs there be,
Both mongrel, puppy, whelp, and hound,
And curs of low degree."

. . . Oliver Goldsmith

"An Elegy on the Death of a Mad Dog"

Appointments: Brenda Clark and Jaiyme Ingraham have been appointed alternates to the Planning Board.

Selectmen Hold Sale: The town has the following items for "Best Offer" - (3) adding machines, (1) 3M Dual Spectrum Copier, (1) Porch railing with spindle.

Contact Selectmen or Catherine Nichols on Monday, Wednesday, or Thursday morning at the Town Hall.

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

by John Holdsworth

The Fire Department has been cleaning chimneys again this fall. At this writing, eight chimneys remain on the list but these should be taken care of by December 11.

Our good fortune continues - we have had few fires in the past several years. However, a recent chimney fire could have become a problem: the chimney was an older one, brick with no liner; the fire had a good start by the time the first firemen arrived in cars. A few small, dry chemical extinguishers slowed the fire but it was not extinguished until the fire truck, delayed because of uncertainty of the fire location, arrived with large extinguishers. Had a good extinguisher been available in the home, the early firemen could have put out the fire immediately and possibly prevented some chimney damage.

The Fire Department recommends that at least one dry chemical extinguisher of the five pound size be present in every home, particularly those heating with wood. It should be mounted in an obvious place in the same room as the stove.

Dangerous chimney fires can be put out by discharging short bursts from the extinguisher into the chimney cleanout or, in emergency situations, directly into the stove firebox. Prompt and correct response by a homeowner with an extinguisher can minimize damage. Anyone wanting more information on extinguisher type, use or location should contact Chief Earl Gleason. Department personnel will be happy to explain extinguisher use to homeowners.

Fire Department notices will be posted on the old United Farm blackboard at Peters' Store in an effort to improve department channels of communication with members and the rest of the community.

Department meetings are presently the first and third Thursdays of every month at 7 PM sharp at the Station House on Branch Hill Road, unless otherwise announced.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

by D.F. Howland, Chairman

The most significant recent business of the Finance Committee was consideration of the Mohawk Regional School proposal to change the method of allocating operating costs to the member towns. This was voted on at the December 6 special town meeting after the HERALD went to press.

The present method proportions the cost on the basis of the number of students each year from each town to the total number of students. The proposed method would allocate costs on the basis of the average number of students over a five year period. The purpose of the proposal is to smooth out extreme changes in a town's budget from year to year. In the case of Heath, our school population has been high for the past two years, and our Mohawk budget was accordingly high. If the proposed averaging method had been used for our current year the Mohawk assessment would have been reduced to \$85,000 from the present \$102,000. All towns in the district must accept this proposal for it to be effective next year.

Although the proposal has merit, the Finance Committee did not recommend it because it links Heath costs to uncontrollable factors in other towns. The downward trend of students in Heath means a reduction in our share of the budget of about \$25,000 for next year. To change now means increasing Heath's costs for the next several years.

Also on the town meeting warrant was an article to swap about one acre of Bill Clark's land across from the town garage for land behind the garage. The Committee recommended this transfer and also voted to take from the Reserve account \$887 to pay for survey costs connected with the transaction.

The Committee met with Selectmen to discuss the school proposal, the 911 emergency proposal, the status of Chapter 90 and federal funds available for Colrain Stage Road, a proposed audit of the town's books next year, and the problem of salt in the water at the town garage.

Preparation of the town budget for FY 1983-84 is now in the planning stage.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

by Sandra Gilbert, Tax Collector

I would like to thank our taxpayers for any tax payments received on their back taxes made in response to demand notices issued in September. There has been a good response to my mailing demand notices and I hope to receive more. It is important to our whole town that the very large sum of unpaid back taxes be reduced. I am working on a warrant for any bills still not paid and will be turning this over to my deputy for his collection in the near future. Work is being done on past due motor vehicle bills and it is expected to get these demands mailed the first of December. It is suggested that anyone having outstanding bills due should make every effort to get caught up on these as soon as possible.

Everyone should be reminded that the 1983 estimated real estate tax bills, mailed last month, are due on December 16, 1982. Interest on any unpaid amount will be charged from that date.

Finally I would like to thank everyone for their patience, help and support given to me as a new collector of taxes.

PLANNING BOARD REPORT

by John Holdsworth

In September, an application was received from Steven S. Barrada for a special permit to open a restaurant on the premises of the former Mountain Top Lodge on South Road. A public hearing on the application was set for November 15, 1982. Prior to the hearing, Mr. Barrada was compelled, by unusual circumstances arising out of disagreements with the property owner, to withdraw the application.

The Planning Board held its monthly meeting on November 15 and moved to cancel the public hearing. Letters were received from two non-resident abutters to the proposed restaurant property; both were strongly opposed to establishment of any facility in that area. Comments received from South Road residents also indicated opposition. It is unlikely that the Board could have approved a permit under these circumstances.

Earlier in the month, the Planning Board held a special meeting to consider what action should be taken on the size of the lot being sold with the west school house. The deed indicated that the lot, approximately one acre, should be considered a 'Grandfather Clause' case. The Board agreed with this interpretation and the town attorney corroborated it. The Planning Board discussed development of a standard procedure for similar cases where the property owner rather than the town would pay attorney cost for such queries.

The recent Franklin County Planning Board meeting was used to discuss the proposed County Energy Authority. This body would finance selected conservation and energy projects in the county; its funds would come from grants and from borrowing through revenue and general obligation bonds; it would have the power of eminent domain. The Board did not vote on the Authority but will discuss it further at a future meeting.

The next Heath Planning Board meeting will be Monday, December 13 at 7 PM in the Library. The agenda will include Subdivision Regulations and Standing Bylaws.

ASSESSORS REPORT

by Richards Steinbock

The Assessors are too busy assessing for a report in this issue of the HERALD. There will be a long report in the next issue.

LARRY'S
of Shelburne Falls

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## THE DEACON WHITE HOUSE

by Walter and Susan Gleason

(This is the eleventh in a series of articles on the older houses of Heath. The present Gleason house is one of the oldest houses in Heath and is located on Bassett Road just south of the turn in South Road.)

Living in an old house keeps us in touch with history by a very personal connection. Every time something wears out and we start to fix it, we find reminders of the people who lived here before us.

We just replaced the ceiling of the dining room. Along with peeling whitewash, two abandoned rats' nests, plaster and lath that seem to measure in the tons, we found above the old ceiling the heavy beam supports for the hearthstone of the fireplace that had heated the bedroom above.

James White purchased the land in 1770, marrying soon after. The Whites probably lived in temporary primitive quarters for a few years before constructing the house, a conventional saltbox, that is now our home. Our detective work at times of destruction and before repairs indicates that the Whites built five fireplaces in the massive central chimney: one in each of the large south rooms, a nine foot kitchen hearth in the north room and two in the upstairs. Life in the early settlement revolved around the main chimney, as our more recent memories of dogs and children and tricycles spin around this house in circular traffic patterns.

The house stayed in the White family until 1834 when the farm was sold to Hart Leavitt, who transferred soon afterward to R. H. Leavitt. In 1858 he sold it to Joel Canedy. We think the original chimney was altered or removed during this period. Folk history tells of Joel Canedy sleeping in the old chimney room, warmed in his old age by the stovepipes going through to the new smaller chimney, and protected there in the center of the house from the disturbing noise of the winter wind.

## DEACON WHITE HOUSE (continued)

Certainly there were many changes in the heating arrangements of the old house. Everytime we remove wallpaper or add a coat of paint we find traces of stovepipe holes in the most unlikely places. The most aggravating were two holes hacked in the 16 feet of original paneling in the southwest room. We don't know if this was done in Mr. Canedy's time or in that of Ray Stockwell who bought the place in 1913. It was a challenge to fix the damage, counterfeiting the old craftsmanship as best we could. There is a lot of character in that paneling anyway. It appears to have been assembled in sections, with adjustments for fit being made later and without concern for the levelness of the design. The final product has a distinct list to it. We figure the rum flowed freely at the White house-raising.

In 1922 Mr. Stockwell sold the place to Ethel P. Moors. It was during her ownership that the porch was added and the roof repaired. When she died in the 1950's, the farm passed to Frank and Edith Gleason who had been living there since 1938, and in the 60's it moved on to us.

We, like the previous inhabitants, have made changes. Our alterations of plumbing in the kitchen, for example, showed three different floor levels, each added on top of the previous one like an archaeological tell. Every time we've meddled with the house we've been reminded of the people before us. The pioneers of the 18th century, the farmers of the 19th and the more recent dwellers of the 20th have each left traces of their ways of living.



James White House in the 1940's

(photo by Earl Gleason)




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The Editors



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## PROPOSED EMERGENCY "911" SYSTEM

by N.F. Smith

The same day that this issue of the HERALD went to press, December 6, a public hearing was held following the special town meeting to discuss the proposed countywide emergency telephone system and to acquaint citizens of the advantages and disadvantages of the system. J. Roger Smith, Chairman of the County Advisory Committee on E-911, was to explain this system at the meeting.

For the benefit of those not attending the hearing a brief description follows.

Using this proposed 911 system, anyone in an emergency situation would simply dial 911 on his telephone. The call would be picked up by a central operator where a computer display would immediately show the name and address of the calling number without identification by the caller. Also displayed would be any special conditions pertaining to the location, such as a wheelchair case. The central operator would then alert the appropriate local agency to handle the situation, whether it be ambulance, medical, police, or fire assistance. In the case of Heath, it is proposed that the 911 system make use of the "pocket pagers" provided by the Yankee Atomic plant to key town officials. This would enable the alert to come directly to the proper town official wherever he/she might be. It is believed this would save time in emergencies. The telephone company is expected to pay the cost of the initial installation, with the various towns in the county being assessed for the annual operating cost. It is estimated at this time that Heath's annual cost would be \$1860 per year.

Some individuals in Heath have questioned whether there would be any real saving in time in an emergency and whether it warrants the additional cost to the town over our present "red phones" (\$1100 more per year). Also, after the system is in, Heath would have little control over the cost, which would probably rise with time.

The town of Heath has only one vote on the County Advisory Board which will decide whether to put in this 911 system. The Selectmen are anxious to know how the townspeople feel regarding this system and will welcome their opinions.

## DOG RESTRAINING ORDER

Heath Selectmen have issued an order that all dogs in town must be restrained during daylight hours, effective December 1. This order does not apply to dogs used for working or hunting or dogs out under control of their master.

So far this year only 40 dogs in town have been licensed, and all must be licensed by law. Selectman Anne Steinbock states that the town dog officer is authorized by law to require that a \$200 bond be posted by persons whose dogs violate either restraining or licensing regulations.

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## NEIGHBOR KEN

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The passing of our friend and neighbor Ken leaves a void in our daily lives that will never be filled.

He was a friend of the highest degree and would always help wherever he could. Because of the love he had for the Heath Fair, it has grown to what it is at present.

One can truly say, well done thy good and faithful servant.

. . . Carroll B. Stowe

## HEATH AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

At a meeting of the Agricultural Society on November 9, the following new officers were elected for the coming year: Walter Gleason, President; Ernest Thane, Vice President; Barbara Smith, Secretary; Nancy Briggs, Treasurer; Grace Crowningshield, Ass't. Treasurer. The Directors and Building Committee positions have not yet been filled.

Regular meetings of the Heath Agricultural Society are held on the first Tuesday of each month at the Community Hall. All interested residents are encouraged to attend.

## TOWN OFFICE HOURS

(At Town Hall unless otherwise noted)

Selectmen: Mondays 7 PM

Assessors: Mondays 7 PM

Town Clerk and Treasurer:

Mondays 8:00 AM - Noon & 7-10 PM

Wednesdays & Thursdays 8:00 AM - Noon

Finance Committee: As posted

Planning Board: 2nd Monday of month 7 PM

Tax Collector: (at Sandra Gilbert's residence on Avery Brook Road)

Mondays and Tuesdays 9 AM - 12 Noon

also by appointment 337-4390

Library Trustees: 1st Monday of month 7 PM

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

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## NEW ARTIST IN HEATH

by Caroline Smith

Hidden away on Swamp Road is a home full of vibrant colors and flourishing plants. This is the home of Julianne Hall and Kenneth Rocke where they have lived for the past year. Julianne has transformed her house into a bit of California and Guatemala, for she was born in LaJolla and spent six years in Guatemala.

Julianne is a commercial artist as well as an illustrator of children's books, and a painter in water colors. As a fashion illustrator for Wilson's Department Store she uses her imagination as well as her talents. She is also working toward a one man show at the Pan American Gallery in Washington, D.C.

Julianne went to the Art Center College of Design in Los Angeles, and then worked in San Francisco. Wishing to teach she went to New York City where she got her Masters Degree at the New York Art League, supporting herself as a waitress until she broke into the commercial art field and started to build up a trade. After five years in the city, she moved to Burlington, VT where she ran an art store for seven years. From there she went to Guatemala to visit a friend, who was involved in the AID program, and fell in love with the country where she free-lanced and stayed for six years. There she met her husband, Kenneth Rocke, who brought her back to the States.

Kenneth was brought up in the Chicago area. He later went to Japan where he lived for a while in a monastery studying Zen Buddhism. On returning to the States he looked around the Northampton area for a group interested in Zen Buddhism. He found such a group in Charlemont and settled in Heath. Ken is a carpenter working for a building contractor in Greenfield.

In Julianne's beautiful studio in Heath one is transported to Gualamala with the rich colors of the woven hangings and the paintings of exotic flowers. Panama and Ecuador are also represented with their characteristic art patterns.

## ARTS INFUSION CLARIFIED

Under School Committee News in the last issue of the HEATH HERALD there was a paragraph announcing receipt of an Arts Infusion Grant to the Rowe Elementary School. A number of our readers were confused as to the exact purpose of this program and asked for a clarification.

The Arts Infusion Project, which will begin in January, was developed in the West Springfield School system in order to integrate the arts in a more significant way into the daily learning process. A series of curriculum packets were created by the Project that related art activities such as music, a museum visit, or dramatics to specific subject areas. Rowe School will use the Arts Infusion packets that teach Parts of Speech, Capitalization and Punctuation, and Water Cycle.

### PHIL'S PICK-UP

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## FROM THE LIBRARY

by Edith Gleason, Librarian

As I write this, Thanksgiving has passed and we are looking forward to Christmas.

Our story hours are reflecting the holidays. We have taken down our haunted house and jack-o-lanterns and put away the pilgrims and turkeys. Now it is time to bring out the jingle bells and Christmas trimmings. I have heard by the grapevine that wonderful things are going to be done this year. Come and see. . .

Trustee Teresa Pettengill and I attended a workshop on selection of library material during September and October. This involved one day a week for five weeks plus home study. This used to be called book selection, but it now includes books, magazines, pamphlets, government bulletins, records, cassettes, film strips, slides or anything else through which you may obtain information or pleasure. The name change is the least important part of the course.

We have a new book return. It will be placed between our two front windows and the books will drop into a receptacle in the library. There will be less danger of damage from the weather and the wind will not hit quite so hard. We have no facility for returning records when we are closed, but we are working on it.

During November we noted Children's Book Week. Veronica Smead and her story audience became Indians and the Library rang with war whoops, but the Indians were friendly!

The Bookmobile visit is scheduled for December 8. All are welcome. Now all the Bookmobile books that are in the library are returned and replaced with an equal number of new ones. This is a new policy, but you do not have to return the book you are still reading. Bookmobile visits are scheduled about every eight or nine weeks. That should bring the next one about the second week in February.

A reading club has been organized called the "Heath Older Kids" at the request of several 4th to 6th grade students. The Club will meet Wednesday afternoons after school at the library. The first book they will be reading is Jennie Lindquist's The Golden Name Day. All interested young people are welcome to participate.

The children's book stacks have been enriched by an anonymous friend. To all who have donated books, thank you.



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## SPOTLIGHT ON ENTERTAINMENT

### Big Adventure on the Little Screen

by Mal Lively

I'm sure most of you by now have seen "Raiders of the Lost Ark" at least once - a very exciting film that did very well in popularity and in box office returns. The key to the success of the film was hair-raising big adventure that keeps you on the edge of your seat and makes you feel like a kid again. It also sets in motion a renewed interest in adventure stories that happened in far away places a long time ago.

The television networks are hoping to cash in on this renewed interest by offering a couple of new weekly series - One, entitled "Bring 'Em Back Alive" on CBS, and the other, "Tales of the Gold Monkey" on ABC.

Television has always been more imitative than original. With this in mind, you might be led to believe that these new programs are poorly done. But such is not the case for "Tales of the Gold Monkey". It is surprisingly original and makes a refreshing change from the usual drab TV fare.

Although inspired by "Raiders", it is definitely not a copy. It more closely resembles the classic nostalgia found in the Humphry Bogart adventure films.

The setting is in the South Pacific, on a small tropical island known as Bora-Gora, in 1938. A man by the name of Jake Cutter is the central character. Jake flies a cargo plane known as a "goose" which he appropriately dubbed "Cutter's Goose". Jake is surrounded by a full complement of diverse personalities, consisting of both friends and enemies.

He has two sidekicks - one, his mechanic and flying chum of many years, Corky. The other is his faithful dog, Jack, who answers questions with one or two barks, the first meaning "no" and the latter, "yes". Interestingly enough, Jack has only one eye. He has another false one which is a valuable stone. Jake is always losing Jack's eye in poker games and crooked deals. Thus Jack is usually mad at Jake most of the time, which makes for a very entertaining sub-plot.

What adventure story would be complete without a beautiful girl who doubles as a spy for the U.S. Government? Of course she is Jake's leading lady, and each is attracted to the other - but neither admits it, yet.

Another of Jake's friends is Lovie. He is the owner of what is known as the "Monkey Bar", an oasis of sorts for the many weary who are just passing through.

A questionable enemy is a Nazi spy who is undercover as a priest. The reason I consider him questionable as an enemy is because even though he works for the Nazi's, he is secretly concerned for Jake's welfare. Also no one is aware that he is really a Nazi officer.

"Tales of the Gold Monkey" is truly a unique viewing experience. It combines suspense, drama, excitement, romance, and of course hair-raising adventure. Where else can you find so much variety rolled up into one? If you haven't seen it, I strongly recommend you tune in Wednesday evenings at 8 PM. Hold on tight! It's a series you'll not soon forget.

## BOOK REVIEWS

by Bettie Guganig

Before the publication of this issue if the HEATH HERALD we will have observed Veterans' Day and recalled the "Day of Infamy", December 7, 1941. In the 41 years since the unprovoked attack on the Pearl of the Pacific much has been written on this subject - the whys and justifications for the assault and what followed. I am, as a rule, not an avid reader of war stories, but as a veteran of WW II I was prompted to read the two volumes listed below:

### Goodbye Darkness - Memoir of the Pacific War by William Manchester

Mr. Manchester's account of the Pacific Campaign relates his entry into this conflict as a young Marine, its horrifying and appalling results, their effects on him personally during the war and years afterward. This is in no way a pleasant story but is extremely enlightening. One can only guess at the courage these men exhibited under such conditions.

### At Dawn We Slept - The Untold Story of Pearl Harbor by Gordon W. Prange

The author is no longer living but certainly has left a most comprehensive and factual account of the combat in the Pacific Area. Mr. Prange compiled his account over a period of many years. This volume delves into the planning and executing by the Japanese of their daring "take on" of such a powerful nation as the United States.

In my opinion, any future students of the military would do well to study this volume as there is a fine list of source material, personnel lists, and bibliography following the story itself. This indeed could be a history of why we fought.

Lest readers may think I am war oriented, please let me add my concluding words on this matter - please, no more - never.

Now to a complete change of pace - I recommend highly Norman Juster's So Sweet To Labor - Rural Women in America 1865-1895. Mr. Juster has given us a most enlightening and entertaining story of women of that era. It is liberally enhanced by many illustrations and photographs and points up the contrast in everyday living of those days and this period of, shall we say, Women's Liberation. This is a book to read aloud and discuss. Do read it - I am certain you will enjoy it.

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## MILESTONES

by Edith C. Royer

Ashley Nicole was born on October 1 to Steven and Michelle Barrada. Ashley is the granddaughter of Merrill and Muriel (Stetson) Antes of Conway.

Julia Giard was born on October 12 to John and Laurie Handschuh of Colrain. Julia is the great granddaughter of David and Anita Giard.

Matthew Howard was born on October 23 to Brian and Roseann Gooly of Tuckerton, N.J. Matthew is the great grandson of Anna Kinsman.

Crystal Marie was born on November 6 to Brian and Marjorie Chatigny of East Pepperell. Crystal is the granddaughter of Warren and Dorothy Harding of West Townsend and the great granddaughter of Ralph and Rachel Sumner.

Jacob Alvin was born on November 11 to James and Nancy Richardson of Shelburne. Jacob is the great grandson of Grace Landstrom.

Eileen Louise was born on November 18 to Raymond and Sharon Rice of East Charlemont. Eileen is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Rice.

Matthew Loring was born on November 21 to Loring and Patricia Stevenson of Avery Brook Road. Matthew is the great grandson of Philippine Peters.

Dorthea Robbins Landon died at the Amherst Nursing Home on October 8. She leaves two sons, H.C. Robbins Landon of Vienna, Austria and David Landon of Turners Falls; also two nieces, Helen Nichols of Heath and Frances Malone of Greenfield. She was a summer resident of Heath for many years.

Kenneth Crowningshield died at the Franklin County Public Hospital on October 12. He leaves his wife Grace, a brother William, and his stepmother Martha Crowningshield.

George Burnelle of Turners Falls and formerly of Heath died on October 22. He leaves his wife Frances and eleven foster sons.

A. Fay Shippee died at the Franklin County Public Hospital on December 3. He leaves his wife Eleanor and a brother Gordon of Shelburne Falls. He was a long time summer resident of Heath and had a home in Shelburne Falls.

## HEATH PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Bill Wolf is working on an abridgement of a two volume theological text book for general use.

Chuck Kades was the guest of honor at a reception held by Pegge and Dave Howland at Myrfield on November 6 to recognize the establishment of the Amherst College Department of Asian Languages and Literatures. Chuck was Deputy Chief of the Government Section that drafted the modern Japanese Constitution.

Mike Chrisman has been elected co-chairman of the board of directors for the Transitional Employment Program Collaborative of Massachusetts, Inc. The collaborative of about 30 organizations provides training and employment services to handicapped people. Mike has been the director of the Transitional Employment Enterprises in Greenfield since July.

Tena Smith, Eric Sumner, and Matt Denouden were in the cast of the play "You Can't Take It With You", the senior class production, at the Mohawk Regional High School on December 3 and 4.

Dawn Peters is a patient at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital in New York City undergoing tests. Cards sent to her home in Heath would be welcome.

Nicole Fogarty, a member of the Western Mass. champion girls cross country team, has qualified for the National TAC Cross Country Championships in Cincinnati, Ohio on December 11. She placed fifth out of a field of 170 runners in the Western Mass. meet and placed 16th with a time of 18:25 over the 3 mile State Championship course.

### CARD OF THANKS

I would like to express my thanks and deep appreciation for the wood bee that my neighbors and friends gave me on Saturday, November 13, 1982. Thank you again everyone for helping and to the farmers who donated the wood.

Grace A. Crowningshield  
Heath

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