



VOLUME 5 NUMBER 4

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 1983

HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER 25¢

SCHOOL ISSUE

A HEATH TEACHER REMEMBERS

by Caroline Smith

"June 30, 1922

Charlemont Superintendency Union
Office of the Superintendent

Grace E. Gleason is appointed to be the Teacher at the Center School in Heath and will receive \$18.05 a week. This appointment is made under the Rules and Regulations of the School Committee which you are expected to faithfully observe during the term of this contract. You are not to resign without the consent of the Superintendent of Schools or the School Committee.

O.H. Morton, Superintendent"

Thus reads the contract of Mrs. Grace Gleason Landstrom who taught at the Center School in Heath for a year and a half. She took the place of Miss Mamie Maxwell teaching 15 children in Grades 1 to 8. The children walked to school or else were brought by horse and wagon. The driver was paid. The grades she taught depended upon the ages of the children. She had a manual to cover each grade and the older ones helped the younger children. A box of letters helped the little ones to read the words. A man from Ashfield came to teach music. There were double seats and desks in the schoolhouse, some of which can still be seen there.

There were no organized sports except for gymnastics, and no swings or playground equipment. However, Grace Gleason went out to play games with the children and she recalls playing baseball games with the boys. She detested the two out-houses, one for boys and one for girls, as they were poorly maintained.

Someone came before school to light the fire in the wood stove. The room was often very cold, the wind blew around it, and they frequently huddled around the stove. It was a long school day, 9 to 4, with an hour for luncheon when some children went home to eat. For those staying, Grace made hot cocoa to drink. The school year was about the same as now with a month to six weeks off for the mud season and a week at Christmas.

The mothers did not visit the school, but asked the teacher to their home for a meal. One older boy was very difficult and Grace told him to stay after school. The boy tried to leave but she blocked his way and sat him down for a talk. Soon after, the

family asked Grace to stay overnight with them. This is an indication of the way she had with children. In another instance, she arrived at school one day to find the front door locked. Unperturbed she went around back and climbed in a window. This never happened again, and the boys responsible must have been disappointed there was no scene made of it. Another time she opened her desk to find a snake inside. Grace detested snakes. However, upon finding it was dead, she brought it before the class for examination. The boys were thwarted!

Grace Gleason taught school both in Charlemont and Heath. She started just out of high school, when she was 17 years old, teaching in Charlemont. She later taught at the West School and at the Center School, both in Heath. She never attended the State Teachers College but did take a six week summer course at Amherst. When she became married, she gave up teaching. In those days a married woman was not allowed to teach school. Grace must have been a born instructor, loving children and needing nothing else except her intuition and a gift of teaching.

Grace Landstrom, who will be 86 this month, lives with her daughter, Ruth Law, on their place in South Heath.



Miss Gleason's Class at Center School
Heath 1923

Rachel Burrington Sumner, Edith Coates Royer,
Caroline Lively, John Hillman, Ernest Kinsman, George
Gleason, Jiles & Harold Whitley & Margaret Whitley,
Gordon Bullard, Nabel & Hedwig Olson.

LETTERS

To the Editors:

When we moved to Heath we received such a warm welcome we feel an old fashioned "Thank you" is necessary and appropriate. Coming from the city we realize more than ever how much it means to have the friendship and confidence of folks like you. Without you we couldn't prosper and grow. We look forward to being your friends and neighbors for a long time to come. Again thank you to all you special people in Heath for making us feel like we belong.

David, Debra, Delia, & Danika Lavigne
HEATH

(Editors' Note: The Lavignes recently moved into the Scofield place on Sumner-Stetson Road. We welcome them to our Heath community.)

To the Editors:

I was disappointed to find no Selectmen's Report in the last issue of the HEATH HERALD. This is the first time this has happened since the practice started in mid 1979.

Leaders must communicate with those they purport to lead if they are to bring about understanding, peace and justice. Those who use the deadly weapons of silence and secrecy beget suspicion, mistrust and corruption.

Our Chief Selectman received a salary increase of approximately 19% and she said in her campaign statement that she had time for the job of Selectman, so let's get with it!

Paul Lively
HEATH

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HEATH HERALD

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MILESTONES

by Edith C. Royer

Jillian Marie was born on August 14 to Cindy and Lee Lively.

Bria Lei was born on September 5 to Martha and Dale Ward of Buckland. Bria Lei is the granddaughter of Eva and Luis Pazmino.

Martha Howland, daughter of Margaret and David Howland, was married on August 27 to James Taylor of Rowe.

Mrs. Hazel Stowe of Greenfield died on August 23. She leaves a son, Carroll, and a granddaughter, Diane.

Mrs. Maude Reynolds of Shelburne died on August 23. She leaves a grandson, Loren Gowdy, and a great granddaughter, Laura.

Mrs. Sandra Belval Moody died on September 11. She leaves her husband, Edward, and a daughter Doreen. Graveside services were held at the Riverview Cemetery in Wilmington, VT.

CARD OF THANKS

We wish to express our thanks to our neighbors and friends for the many acts of kindness and expressions of sympathy during the time of the death of our mother, Mrs. Hazel Stowe.

Carroll, Peggy, and Diane Stowe

POST OFFICE SURVEY

The Heath Community Post Office will be two years old this fall. The Post Office Department is conducting a survey to determine if the users are satisfied with the service. Comments from the customers are requested.

If the postal customers are satisfied, the contract with the town will be renewed automatically.

NOTICE

All meetings to be held in the Town Library must be scheduled in advance with the Librarian.

HEATH PRECIPITATION

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

August rainfall was 3.89 inches; September rainfall was 1.55 inches. The total January through September precipitation was 42.59 inches. In the past 16 years only in 1978 had we received less rainfall during the month of September than this past month. Since June it has been very dry. Many springs are dry, and people are carrying water.



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SCHOOL DAYS

by Sue Silvester

October is here in all its colorful glory and once again the bright yellow school buses rumble by in the crisp autumn air. The bare classroom walls in our district schools are gradually transformed into attractive mirrors of academic activity. For the many Heath students attending school again this season, there is an atmosphere of excitement and anticipation.

Listed below are students from Heath attending the Heath Playschool, Rowe Elementary School, Mohawk Trail Regional School, Franklin County Technical School, Charlemont Christian School, the Academy at Charlemont, and other schools and colleges in the area. The HEATH HERALD extends best wishes to these girls and boys and to our many older students attending institutions of higher learning.

Heath Playschool

Gabe Porter-Henry, Justin Lively, Max Churchill, Tucker Litchfield, Justin Fournier, Michael Garraoui, Andy Gilbert, Missy Gilbert, Greg Nichols, Jesse Seaver, Jason Clark, Amy Decker, Colin Gruen, Magan MacDougall, Carrie Croteau, Amy Croteau, Greg Smith, Nichole Rainville.

Franklin County Technical School

Grade 9: Arthur Churchill, Michelle Howe. Grade 10: Adam Lively, Michael Churchill. Grade 11: Roxanne Howe, Christopher Lively, Dominic Lively, Christal Peters. Grade 12: Daniel Gleason, Todd Howe.

Baypath Junior College: Diane Stowe

Katherine Gibbs: Sheri Ann Galipo

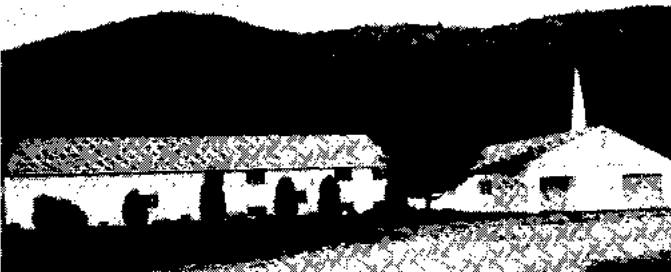
University of Hartford: Matthew denOuden

Johnson and Wales College: Doreen Moody



Academy at Charlemont

Marisa Housner, David Cooper, Kenneth Thane, Luke Housner, Michelle Nicolas, Karen Venneri.



Charlemont Christian School

Amanda Ausikaitis, Simaya Ausikaitis, Noah Ausikaitis, Aurelia Ausikaitis, Melina Ausikaitis, Nathan Ausikaitis, Craig Brown.



Greenfield Community College

Brenda Cromack, Tina Smith, Tami Nelson, Fred Burrington, Eric Sumner, Todd Sumner, Kathleen Reilly.



Rowe Elementary School

Kindergarten: Larry Bigelow, Shanna DeSotie, Jeremy Gilbert, Jaime Hyytinen, Gabriel Porter-Henry, Nicole Rainville, Joseph Thane, Rocco Venneri, Julie Calkins, Delia LaVigne. Grade 1: Michael Babineau, Gregory Gaudette, Beverly Hunkler, Emily Nichols, Robby Sessions, Leroy Tanner, Jeremiah Venneri, Kalob Thurston. Grade 2: Judy Crowningshield, Jennifer Gilbert, Shawna Hyytinen, Betsy Silvester, Ben Steinbock. Grade 3: Caroline Barry, Valerie Belval, Jeffrey Gilbert, Andy Howe, Allen Sessions, Errol Sullivan, April Tanner, Justinia Tanner, Luke Venneri, Justine Babineau, Steve Bigelow. Grade 4: Jason Cote, Michael Johnston, Kim Hunkler, Jason Lively, Keith Sherman, Jamie Thane, Tony Thurston. Grade 5: Rebecca Decker, Jennifer Gulyban, Melanie Poisson, Jon Churchill, Chrissy Gilbert, Heather Gruen, Laura Holdsworth, Jeremy Lively. Grade 6: Tammy Auchambo, Heidi Crowningshield, Charlotte Decker, Amber Sullivan, Joe Canali.



Mohawk Regional School

Grade 7: Tanja Davin, Angela Churchill, Chris Poisson, Scott Cole, Lee Ann Howe. Grade 8: Anthony Lively, Jon Poisson, Victoria Thane. Grade 9: Bonnie Cobb, Kenneth Cole, Nichole denOuden, Sheli Galipo, Glenn Gleason, Jessica Kain, Larry Sherman, Michael Smith, Ree Sumner. Grade 10: Melanie Tripp. Grade 11: John Kain, Laurel Clark, Chris Seaver, Roberta Tripp. Grade 12: Ian Gallup, Nichole Fogarty, Charlene Hamilton, Martha Lively, Sandi Ann Galipo, Sandy Baronas.

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

by Chief Earl Gleason

The Department last responded to an emergency on May 28, but on August 31 our EMT's were requested for a man reported unconscious in a car. On September 7 we had a double header. The Department responded to a slab pile fire. After extinguishing the fire and returning to the station, they were dispatched to a tree that accidentally fell into the power line.

The normal activities have continued during August and September. Events that occurred during the two months requiring one or more people numbered 35. These events range from work bees, equipment checks to inspections and permits. On July 31 an unusual event occurred at the Yankee Atomic Plant. The Red telephone people carried out the pre-planned procedure exactly as it was supposed to be done. The Red phone also participated in Yankee drills held on August 24 and September 16.

On September 26 the Heath Fire Department hosted the Western Mass. Fire Wardens' meeting. The Department, headed by Rich Steinbock, put on the supper and entertainment provided by Earl Gleason consisted of a slide show of various fire schools held in the area.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

by David F. Howland, Chairman
Heath Finance Committee

The good news is the increased amount of state aid the town will receive for the current tax year. The Legislature appropriated about \$6100 more than last year to Heath via the cherry sheet system. Then, because of rules used to allocate monies to the regional school system, the town realized another \$6000 from the Mohawk Trail School. Of this, \$569 will probably be withheld by the school in fairness to the towns in the system who do not participate in the vocational education program. Then Franklin County Tech School also gained income of about \$2700 for the benefit of Heath. These funds are passed through the schools to the towns and can be used to reduce this year's budget or, if not acted upon, will become Free Cash next year so long as tax collections remain relatively satisfactory. The Finance Committee prepared a report to the Selectmen about these monies.

Heath's library also benefited from increased state aid in the amount of \$140.

Other news is that Linda Marcotte will attend Rowe School budget meetings this year while Bruce Cromack is the delegate to Mohawk, and Dave Howland to the Franklin County Tech School. The Committee met September 20 to consider the implications of state aid on the budget and to plan for next year.

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PLANNING BOARD REPORT

by John Holdsworth

This long, hot summer has apparently been the calm before the storm for the Planning Board. Adding to an already considerable work load for the Board, the town attorney and the county building inspector have issued an opinion that building permits cannot be granted for lots in Mohawk Estates unless they conform to the zoning bylaws. Since Mohawk Estates was established as a subdivision prior to the town's acceptance of subdivision regulations, the Planning Board had always assumed that it was protected by the "grandfather" clause. However the state subdivision law (Mass. General Laws, Ch. 41, Sect. 81 FF) says that only lots held in separate ownership from the rest of the subdivision (i.e., lots that have been sold), at the time the town adopts subdivision regulations, shall be exempt from adherence to those regulations.

It appears that only three parcels were sold in Mohawk Estates prior to passage of subdivision regulations in Heath on July 14, 1969. This would mean that all other lots in the Estates would have to comply with our subdivision regulations, and the problem might be easily solved if it ended there, but, because the Estates' development preceded Heath's subdivision laws, the town was not asked to sign its approval of the project. Consequently, Mohawk Estates is not an approved subdivision and all lots must now conform to the zoning bylaws.

The Board has received some suggestions and has several ideas of its own on possible ways of settling the issue, but until a resolution, building permits are only being granted in Mohawk Estates in cases where the Zoning Board of Appeals provides the applicant with a variance.

Members of the Board walked around some potential swimming areas recently. None of the sites were ideal for the development of a diversion pond, but several had some very nice features, and one has the advantage of presently being owned (most of it) by the town. A soil conservationist for Franklin County has agreed to examine the sites and give us opinions and suggestions. Some site criteria are: reliable water flow; good water quality; topography consistent with pond development; reasonable access; available parking space and recreational area. The Planning Board would like to hear from anyone with suggestions for possible town swimming sites.

The Planning Board has also discussed, with the Selectmen, development of a plan for placement of some traffic signs in Heath. The Board needs to clarify several points and will meet again with the Selectmen before proceeding with any plan.

Work is continuing on the revision of the town subdivision regulations. The Mohawk Estates problem may be very helpful in focusing attention on deficiencies in the regulations.

Regular Planning Board meetings are the second Monday of every month at 8 PM in the town hall; additional meetings are announced at least 24 hours in advance.

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A STATEMENT FROM THE SELECTMEN

This view from the inside is offered in place of the "Report" which has usually appeared in the HEATH HERALD.

All town officers, elected and appointed, undertake on oath to perform their duties "truly and faithfully" and "to the best of their knowledge and ability." It must be believed that in this town they are earnest in their promise. The present officers are honorable and conscientious without exception, whatever the deficiencies in their knowledge and ability may be. To say that we are not perfect in these respects is not false modesty; it weighs upon us. We can only try, and we do, the more so because we are of necessity aware of the consequences of bad decisions made by some of our predecessors, who we presume also did their best. The present officers are alert, intelligent, informed, and upright, and have jobs to do and responsibilities to bear which are sometimes difficult. For some, above and beyond the call of duty has no limit. Other than the road crew, we are part-timers. This often means a severe reduction of leisure, relaxation, social and family interplay. There is a good deal to be done after our regular sessions, and some officers are obliged to attend county-wide and district hearings and meetings quite frequently. We expect this. Most of the townspeople, we feel, are aware of our condition, and we need a sense of their support for the sake of our morale.

We may be unduly sensitive, but the theme of this essay is human relations, ours included, and in both directions. We know that in a small community, where not much goes on, our doings are subject--in addition to legitimate concern--to curiosity, gossip, sometimes suspicion, all natural enough. What we wish for is understanding, tolerance, restraint, and more, but not absolute trust. Criticism of town officers for some people is a pastime, not malicious but not harmless either. It would help us if criticism were curbed by a realization that some of the relevant facts are not in the picture and it may be that they cannot be decently published.

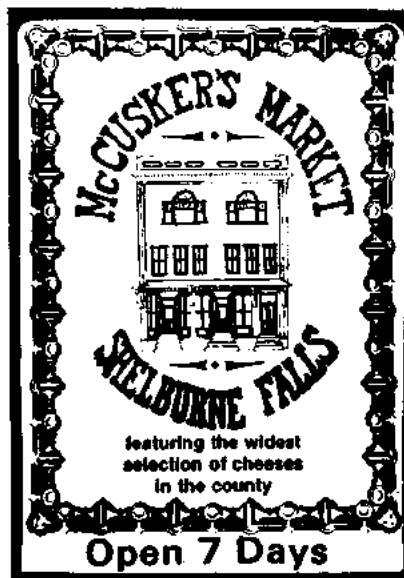
"They don't tell everything that goes on." We do not. Human nature being what it is, there is the unhappy necessity for enforcement. We do it with no enjoyment in the doing. But we are not about to embarrass, humiliate, or distress anyone by pointing a finger or naming names, so we resort to generalities--and let the gossips guess, or as Ann Landers would say, MYOB. There are matters which we are exploring. If we feel a need for advice, we ask for it. A plan may be abandoned. Premature publicity for other plans would be to encourage that bane of democracy--government by pressure groups, whose so-called "input" only complicates matters. In their early stages plans are not publicized. Matured plans are often submitted to a town meeting. We do have to resist pressure in one form: the self-interested person who wants special consideration--"I want my child on and off the bus first"; "I want the road to my place fixed now"; "I object to the penalties on back taxes"; "I object to the tax collector's manner." We try to remember that we are serving all the people. We listen attentively to those whose concern is for the general welfare. Because we are sensitive to human relations we listen to others as politely as we can. Though we may be appalled, we do not publish those names either.

The burden which weighs most heavily is delay. It is chronic. Others may find it exasperating and an-

noying; we find it frustrating, in part because to all appearances it reflects on us and our image. The mills grind slowly, and we clench our teeth and wait. It is not that we don't know, don't care, cannot be bothered. We would be delighted to see immediate results and would enjoy a sense of accomplishment. There are also priorities to be decided. We are grateful for the patience, even the resignation of those who accept delay. Mowing the roadsides has been slow, but we signed a contract last spring. The condition of the Avery Brook Road is a disgrace, as someone thought he should point out for our information. Tax bills are shockingly late.

Personalities must also be considered. Some officials receive a token salary, some receive none. Voluntary workers cannot be managed, nor can they be ordered. Neither can technocrats on a state level. Few town employees are paid a significant amount, and even so giving them peremptory orders, chewing them out, or dressing them down would accomplish nothing, possibly a resignation. Human relations, extending to regard for personal weakness (moodiness, forgetfulness, delay, irritability) are a constant concern, within the town office family and outside it. Sometimes we have to pour oil.

There are legitimate complaints, inquiries, suggestions, and requests, and they are welcome; there is always time for them. The other sorts make our job harder, and harder to bear because they are dispiriting. Who is for the money to buy a new tractor to which a cutting bar for mowing roadsides could be attached? Who is for paid office help? Who is for more money for roads? For finishing the big room on the second floor to provide much needed space? Support for such needs would be constructive.



Gordon E. Taylor d/b/a



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MEMORIES OF TEACHING IN HEATH

by Phyllis Volland

My memories are many, funny little things, but the greatest is how well everyone has succeeded and that I had a small part in it.

We were like a big family, compassion for all, love abound, which I still feel today as pupils write and visit me.

It was a fruitful nineteen years, as one pupil put it. She thanks me a thousand times over for such a wonderful beginning in studies and in life.

(Mrs. Volland taught the Center School in Heath from 1945 to 1950, and later in Rowe where she now lives)

NEWS FROM TOWN HALL

by Caroline Smith

Highway Department John Churchill was appointed by the Selectmen to replace Ray Galipo as Road Superintendent. Steve Marcotte was appointed to the Road Crew replacing Nathan Clark. Under Chapter 90, work will begin this fall on the Colrain Stage Road east of Swamp Road. Anne Steinbock is looking into a contractor with equipment to grade and improve the grounds around Sawyer Hall and also to be used for roadwork.

Cemetery Part of the new section of the Center Cemetery along the west side by the road will be cleared and graded by the Road Crew. If time permits, Don Sherman and Steve Marcotte will work on Saturday mornings thinning out the trees separating the old and new sections of the Cemetery. They will be paid from the cemetery trusts and from the town appropriation.

Circuit Rider The Selectmen have been discussing a "Shared Administrative Assistance" program with the selectmen from Buckland, Shelburne and Colrain. The benefit to Heath would be the probability of obtaining more grants as the assistant would be better able to deal with state officials and might also do secretarial. His time and cost would be shared equally among the four towns. Other towns using the program report that it brings in more money than the expenses. The state decides which group of towns applying will be selected on the basis of their enthusiasm for the program. All three of the Heath Selectmen are in favor of the program. It is still very much in the planning stage.

Dump Since depositing brush at the dump is no longer permitted by the state, a week in October will be designated for Heath residents to use the town wood chipper. Residents may sign up for this use with the Highway Department who will man the chipper.

Council on Aging Mildred Giard has been appointed by the Selectmen to join Sue Gleason on the Council.
Town Counsel Byron Caplice has been appointed as Town Counsel replacing Edward Pepyne. He will be working on a retainer basis.

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HEATH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

by Amy Barry

The successful sale of raffle tickets for the hutch at the Heath Fair raised more than enough to cover the cost of restoration of the Emerson family portrait. It is hoped to use some of these additional funds to have several other portraits in the museum professionally cleaned and matted.

In early August, about 25 members of the Conway Historical Society toured the Heath Historical museums. Their guides were Amy Barry and Newland Smith. The Conway group was especially interested in seeing how items were exhibited as they are about to start a museum for their own Society.

The index for the Calver history of Heath, prepared by Amy Barry, is almost ready for publication, with final proofreading and typing still to be completed. Hopefully it will be on sale by the spring of 1984. Anyone interested in genealogy, Heath families, or specific details of Heath History will find this index a useful tool to locating the pertinent information in Dr. Calver's history.

BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

by Paul Lively, Chairman

At the August meeting Jack Cable reported on the relative advantage of several types of events featuring antique cars. This resulted in the decision to have Jack work on organizing antique cars to use in transporting people on tours of old houses. Alicia Tripp has agreed to be in charge of organizing the tour.

Some time ago Eric Grinnell asked if the Committee would be interested in having the Mohawk Trail Concerts Association present some performances in Heath as part of the bicentennial celebration. This suggestion was very interesting and, at our last meeting, Eric told us what might be possible in the way of performances. He reported that the Mohawk Concerts is able to get financial grants for such performances and they are eager to do so for us. Eric has agreed to serve as the Committee's representative in charge of this project.

Next month the Planning Board will report back on their study of the proposed bicentennial recreational development project.

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WEST SCHOOL HOUSE HAS NEW OWNERS

by Caroline Smith

In the old West School House on Route 8A, a writer and an anthropologist are enjoying their house, the country side and their animals.

David Wheelock was born in Connecticut but spent most of his life in Plymouth, MA. He watched the town grow to become too much like suburbia, losing its attractiveness. The schools could not absorb the growing number of students and open classrooms were the rule. David, a committed writer, went to northern California where he attended a community college, but the culture shock was too much for him. He returned east to participate in an archaeological dig in Virginia where he was the field cook for 32 people. There he became acquainted with Kathy who was one of the archaeologists working at the dig on prehistoric Indian sites, sponsored by the University of California from which she had graduated. They were married and lived in Plymouth until they started to look for open spaces. Looking north and west they finally arrived in Heath where they are happily settled.

They are both very interested in the history of their old school house and the town. Kathy is thinking of going into hotel management as this is closely allied to anthropology, the study of people. David writes poetry and short stories, when he is not rebuilding a shed for the animals.

Their menagerie now consists of Gilly, a family rabbit, two puppies, sheep, and ducks now residing in the freezer (their turkey did not survive). David has built a pen for the sheep and they have hope of a barn in the spring for a horse. Meantime the wales of the coyotes and other animals still surprise them at night, but the open spaces of Heath prevail.

PTO FOR HEATH AND ROWE PLANNED

by Amy Barry

A meeting for the purpose of starting a Parent Teachers Organization at the Rowe Elementary School was held at the school on September 15. About ten parents attended, including three from Heath. Johanna Weinstein, the 4-5 grade teacher gave an interesting presentation on the use of local history in the social studies curriculum. A lively discussion of the benefits and goals of a PTO followed. Polly MacLean of Rowe and John Henry of Heath were chosen to be this year's Co-Chairmen of the group, and Gail May of Rowe to be Treasurer. There will be another meeting in early October to elect other officers and to decide on the Rowe PTO's goals and activities for this year. All School parents, as well as interested community members and the Rowe School staff, are welcome to attend.

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A THIRD WAGON TRAIN TO ROLL

by Carroll B. Stowe

For a long time previous to the fall of 1981 I had waited to put together a fun wagon train. Much thought went into the first one as had the second and third. I probably spend thoughts on the plans for the wagon train that could be put to better use, but this venture, like the plowing contest, gives me a goodly amount of satisfaction.

To see a group of people, many of them strangers to one another a short time before, getting along and enjoying the scenery and each others company, is most heartening to me.

The first time I saw the wagons assembled and I called 'Wagons-Ho' I couldn't help being pleased.

My friend Earl Rice from Contoocook, NH is a constant pleasure to me and I've had the privilege of knowing him only three short years. His company is most treasured and I dearly wish I could have known him for many more of his 80 odd years.

I cherish the two days of the wagon train. These are days taken from cutting wood and doing other neglected chores.

The Saturday evening camp fire is most enjoyable because of the good company and the fantastic stories told by long time teamsters. It has been known to get a bit thick but a dash of salt here and there helps to give these stories great sentimental worth. I have tried to develop this venture into a memorable inexpensive weekend to promote the use of draft animals and to see overworked people have a good time.

To enjoy this wagon train one only needs to give me a call and let me know that they would like to attend, hopefully with animals and their provisions and sleeping gear.

The event will take place this year on October 15 and 16. The cattle sheds at the Heath Fairgrounds will provide a shelter. There is no charge for this weekend of memories. The route we take each day should not overtax the animals. If anyone would like to come on Friday evening, it will be fine to do this. If I know about it, I can make arrangements with the grounds keeper.

Contact Carroll B. Stowe - (413) 337-4498

PARK/PLAYGROUND NEWS

by Catherine Nichols

To concentrate our efforts, the Parks Committee is working in two subcommittees. Debbie Porter and Doug Wilkins, with the assistance of Kenneth Rocke, are designing the climbing structure. Pat Fielding, Chris Burke and Catherine Nichols are working on fund raising. Maggie Striebel, at the County Planning Office, is investigating the possibility of obtaining state grant money.

A workbee is planned for October 15 from 8 AM to noon. We will be clearing brush and preparing the site. Everyone interested is invited to come and help.

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ACADEMY IN THIRD YEAR

by Jayne Dane

The Academy at Charlemont began its third school year September 7 with an enrollment of 62 students. Four new students from Heath have joined us this year. Kenneth Thane of Burnelle Rd. has entered the freshman class. Karen Venneri of Colrain Brook Rd., Luke Housner of Hosmer Rd., and Michelle Nicolas of Burnelle Rd. have started 7th grade. Michelle, a summer resident, is staying with the Venneri's until the residence hall is completed.

Two Heath students are beginning their second year at the Academy. Marisa Housner of Hosmer Rd. is a sophomore, and David Cooper of Modoc Rd. is a freshman. David will live in the residence hall.

Elsa Bakalar of Hosmer Rd. has joined the staff this year as the 7th grade English teacher. Charlie Miller is teaching creative writing to the six seniors. Doug Wilkins has returned to teach the senior high computer, and intermediate computer classes. Eric Grinnell, the headmaster, teaches Latin, Modern World History, and Humanities. Diane Grinnell is the English teacher. Jayne Dane is the Music teacher.

When completed, the residence hall in Charlemont will house 12 students. Bob and Jane Wishart will be the house parents. Jane is also our new town librarian. Eva Pazmino will work at the residence hall preparing breakfasts and lunches, and helping with the cleaning.

MEMORIAL FUND STARTED

by Alli Thane

Raymond and Dorothy Scofield of Westminster, MA, formerly of Heath, have established a fund in memory of Ken Crowningshield, who was President of the Heath Fair for 15 years.

This fund will be used to award a cash prize to a Heath youth under 18 years of age who raises the best calf of the year. The trustees of the fund are Dorothy Scofield, Grace Crowningshield and Ernest Thane. Contributions to this fund will be welcomed and appreciated.

RAFFLE PAYS FOR RESTORATION

by David Howland

At the Heath Fair on August 21 the Historical Society's fund raising efforts for 1983 culminated in the raffling off of the native cherry hutch, made and donated by Dominic Musacchio. Excitement was high and ticket sales were brisk right up to the time of the drawing, especially in the Exhibit Hall where the hutch was on display. Chief Loren Gowdy drew the winning name from over 2000 tickets. The lucky person was Mrs. Marion Avery of Rowe, who had bought just one ticket the previous day!

The sale of the raffle tickets raised over \$2600 for the Society which more than covered the cost of restoration of the Emerson family portrait.

The cooperation and support of many people and organizations made this raffle a great success. So many people helped in the sale of tickets that it is impossible to name them all. Among the businesses that promoted sales were McCusker's Market, The Village Variety, West County News, Shelburne Falls Hardware, Shelburne Falls Supermarket, Peter's Store, The World Eye Bookshop, and The Music Store and, of course, Dominic. . . Also the Heath Agricultural Society and the staff in the Hall were most cooperative in supporting this endeavor.

The Heath Historical Society thanks each and everyone who participated in this worthwhile, historical happening.



The Winner and the Craftsman

Marion Avery and Dominic Musacchio
(Photo by John Read)

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LOCAL GIRL OFF TO COLLEGE

by Sue Silvester

On September 3, Peggy and Carroll Stowe made the one hour and fifteen minute drive to Longmeadow. They were taking their daughter Diane to Baypath Junior College where she will spend the next two years. At age 17, Diane would be entering a freshman class of 360 female students. A June graduate of MTRS, Diane had made a commitment to continue her education and, like so many of her Mohawk classmates, was embarking on an exciting college experience.

Driving onto the campus, Diane felt butterflies in her stomach. She had been to the college only once before, and now the fleeting glimpses of new buildings and coeds mingling on the attractive campus sailed past as she and her parents drove to the new dormitory where she was to reside for the next two years. The nervousness increased as Diane located her room, only to find it vacant; the long awaited introduction to her new roommate was postponed yet another few hours until her arrival. In the meantime some "very nice guys" carried all her belongings upstairs to the room. She was still not really sure she wanted to stay, but busied herself with unpacking.

Finally upon returning to the room one last time, there stood her roommate, Jeanne, from East Greenbush, NY. Diane assisted her friend while her parents were sent scurrying to a nearby store for Jeanne's forgotten towels and pillow.

Lunch ensued with "excellent food" served in a dining room atmosphere complete with small round tables covered with honey tablecloths.

Goodbyes were quickly said, and as anxious parents climbed into their cars, 360 freshman girls were ushered off to orientation.

The first activity was a game fair at nearby St. Mary's H.S. gym, and participation eased the meeting of other students. Then it was back to the dining hall where hungry girls held a "make-your-own sundae party". A few hours of free time allowed Diane and Jeanne an opportunity to settle their room and stroll around the campus. At the Blake Student Center they happily discovered the intelvision screen and watched *Journed* Concert before the floor meeting at the dormitory. Upperclassmen met with the new girls on Diane's floor about important aspects of campus life, but "one girl talked two hours about her prom date last year, and we all just about fell asleep."

If Saturday had been fun and frivolous, Sunday promised inspiration and delight. The girls attended a special honors convocation at church, and 24 coeds received the coveted maroon key signifying their 3.25 academic average. Diane tucked that goal away for safe keeping.

A reception at the home of Dr. Jeannette Wright, President of Baypath, gave the girls an opportunity to talk over punch and cookies in the elegant garden. The ubiquitous name tags still helped. . . . It was getting to be fun.

Monday was TESTING day; placements were determined in math and English. Diane felt it was difficult after two years of no math, but was relieved to learn she did very well - she was exempt from taking a math course and was placed in an advanced English class. "Mohawk prepared me pretty well," she said.

The IQ test was given to compare incoming freshmen to the rest of the college-bound students across the country. "It was kind of strange," says Diane, but that completed the battery of tests.

LOCAL GIRL (continued)

Tuesday students attended a quick version of classes just to meet the teachers, and Wednesday there were lengthy meetings with advisors. Thursday "classes really began." Diane's schedule includes shorthand, typing, English composition, introduction to psychology, principles of economics and one evening horseback riding class. She likes all her instructors very much, even though "one of them just rattles on and on, sometimes."

College is expensive these days, and Baypath is no exception. Room, board and tuition are about \$7500 per year and, as Diane adds, "of course, when you call Renaldi's for pizza every night, it gets even steeper." (She hasn't called. . . . yet.)

The best part for Diane is that her teachers really care, and they tell the students they are paying for an education. If they don't understand something, students are urged to ask. And to think Diane almost didn't go to Baypath. An open house invitation had come to her last year from the college and she was going to throw it away. However, her mother had said, "Let's just go and see what it's like." That initial visit coupled with an important conversation with the admissions director about financial aid were major factors in her decision to attend this college.

Settled now at school and happy with her studies, Diane feels she will come home often "because I miss my animals." But her goals are set and this Heath student is now pursuing a dream that has become a reality.



Baypath Freshman

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A HALLOWEEN ADVENTURE

by Marcella R. Lively

The Halloween of my fifteenth year is one I will never forget. My brother, Paul, and I with a group of our neighborhood friends, plus a couple of my girl friends from high school decided to have some scary fun!

My brother and I and our friends knew of this old house about half a mile from our house, sitting in the middle of a field, looking very forlorn and very much abandoned. We decided it was the perfect place to conjure up some spooks and ghosts. So we headed up the street which was called Union Street.

It was a nice night as Halloween nights go, not too cold, with clouds scudding across the skies and playing hide-and-seek with the moon! In fact we decided it was the perfect night for an encounter with the powers that be!

On the street we could see the haunted house to our right, sitting smack dab in the middle of the field, just daring us to pay it an unwelcomed visit. From the street we took a right down a short gravel road, and another right through some bushes where we were on the edge of the field itself!

As we started our approach to the house, we were giving each other some scary and petrifying encouragement in the form of ghost stories, and also we threw in a few details on the devil, which was pretty scary at the time from the point of view of fifteen year olds! My girl friend, Connie, was starting to shake in her boots and decided she didn't want to go the rest of the way! I calmed her down and told her there was nothing to worry about, as we were all together and that it was fun, at least I was having fun!

The wind was whistling gently through the trees, almost like a sigh of the spirits abounding around us. From the street not a sound was heard. We crept gingerly closer, and when we were within five feet of the door there was a very loud crash! In two shakes of a lamb's tail we were on the run, our hearts pumping wildly and our breath coming in gulps. I believe to this day we were running two feet above the ground! We broke through the brush and headed down the short gravel road to the street. I was midway in the group when I heard my girl friend Connie screaming for help! Though I was scared, I didn't want to leave her in that state of mind. I turned around and saw that she was on the ground. I ran back and grabbed her by the arm and helped her up. We made a beeline to the street where all the other kids were.

We were wondering what the crash was when along came our friend, the neighborhood cop, in his cruiser. He asked what had happened as he could see we were upset about something! We told him about the crash in the haunted house, and he decided to investigate the house. We begged him to let us come along and he said we could if we stayed back a bit. When he got within a few feet he shouted out "Who goes there?" From within the house a clatter arose as a group of kids from another part of town ran in all directions into the woods! Our police friend came back and said we had better get on home and be careful.

The night hadn't, after all, been a total loss, because we shared together a sense of magic and wonder on a most special night of Halloween many years ago when I was fifteen.

All of us are made up of both body (animal) and soul (angel). We are a combination of the two! We,

Halloween - Lively (cont'd)

as Carl Sagan said, are searching for something we cannot put our finger on. I believe every human being has a built in homing device implanted at the time of conception, and when the time comes, which is the moment of death, it will help us to go back to our Creator. It will help us find our way past the Milky Way and all the other constellations, back to the beginning, before the big bang, to the Creator of all. . . . "God Himself."

So, no matter what kind of spirit we are, living or dead, if we do as the Creator wants us to do, we will all be together someday in the Kingdom of Heaven, forever!

ACADEMY NEWS

by Luke Housner '89

The Academy at Charlemont opened its 1983-84 year with 62 students on September 7th. There were 28 new students, some coming from as far away as California, Mexico, New York, and Qatar. In addition to new students are new teachers. There are special ones, like Elsa Bakalar and Jane Grant, who come in just to teach one course, English or Spanish. Mrs. Beebe, from Ashfield, teaches various subjects to the 7th and 8th graders.

Throughout the school, students are taking French, German, Spanish, and Latin on different levels. Along with our regular academic subjects, we also take music, art, computer and various electives.

There are five different publications that Academy students are working on this year: The West County News, Ashfield News, Heath Herald, The Grove (school year book), and Archimodo (school comic).

The fall sports program consists of tennis, soccer, ballet, aerobics, horseback riding, and bicycling. The school store, named "The Honeybear Hut", has expanded to include school supplies and snacks.

The Academy hopes that its third year is an exciting and productive one.

CHURCH NEWS

by Amy Barry

Sunday, October 9, promises to be a special day in the life of the Heath Union Church. During the morning worship there will be a hymnal dedication service with singing and special music to help get acquainted with the new Pilgrim Hymnbooks that were recently purchased as memorial gifts by several Heath families. In the afternoon there will be a Fall Foliage Lunch for the benefit of the Heath Sunday School. After repainting and decorating the upstairs Sunday School room it is hoped to purchase a new carpet to insulate the floor and complete the renovation.

This year's Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service will be held on November 23 in the Rowe Community Church at 7:30 PM. Area pastors and lay people will be involved, along with a joint choir and an opportunity to share a variety of gifts with a local missions group.

Howard Crowningshield

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WEST COUNTY FAMILY PHYSICIANS PRACTICE OPENS

by Caroline C. Smith

The Mohawk Valley Medical Center in East Charlemont is going through a period of transition. The end result will be a better facility on a firmer foundation to serve Heath and the other area towns.

To go back to the Center's beginning, the non-profit Center was first organized in 1971, according to Ariane Krumholz, Administrative Director. The support for funding from people in the area was overwhelming, and in 1973 the doors to the Center were opened. Three physicians, internists, and pediatricians served the area people for about five years. From 1973 to 1975 the community funds and patient fees were sufficient to cover the costs.

In 1975, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation made a grant to the Center for health services. For two and a half years this grant helped support the medical practice and was a stabilizing influence. Then in 1978, government money became available under the Federal Rural Health Initiative program. The Center qualified for this funding as the community was underserved by physicians and also had many elderly, some poverty, and was remote from facilities in Greenfield. This money has helped fund the physicians and certain operating costs. A small part of this funding continues through 1984.

Up to the present there has been a certain turn-over of physicians. Past physicians served in the National Health Service Corps to fulfill scholarship obligations for two to three years of practice.

After a year long analysis, the Corporation has decided to gradually convert the health center into a private practice. The conversion is now in place with the opening on October 1 under the new name of West County Family Physicians. Dr. Christopher French, who is in his third year at the Center, has accepted the offer of the Board of the MVMC to assume the responsibility for the care of the patients. Dr. Robert Miller has joined him in the practice. Dr. Miller attended Jefferson Medical College and returns to the northeast after three years of family practice in rural Wisconsin. He will begin working three days a week but as the practice grows will increase his hours.

The WCFP will continue the high standard of care established at the MVMC. Services in pediatrics, adult medicine, gynecology, and minor surgery will be offered. There will be no obstetrical care. The sliding scale of fees will continue to be offered and the policy to help those unable to afford medical care will continue.

A sizable grant from the Fred W. Wells Trust will permit the MVMC to continue health promotion programs while the delivery of medical services will be undertaken by WCFP.

Some of the upcoming programs sponsored by the MVMC and open to all interested women are listed below.

Weight loss support group - 1st and 3rd Fridays, starting Oct. 7, 9 to 10:30 AM at Shelburne Falls Senior Center, conducted by Arlene Thomson, R.D., fee \$3.00.

"Weight Loss Through Behavior Modification", starting Oct. 7, 2:30 to 4 PM at the Senior Center, classes for eight weeks conducted by Arlene Thomson, fee \$25, or \$20 for seniors 60+, rebate of \$5 on completion.

CPR Training, Oct. 13, 18 & 20 from 7 to 10 PM at Shelburne Town Hall. Fee of \$6. Call MVMC for required preregistration.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE NEWS

by Richard Housner, Chairman

A study committee of Walt Gleason, Debra Porter, and William Lattrell has been formed to investigate the potential economic and educational advantages of a possible regionalization, joining Heath and Colrain schools. Public meetings will be arranged to open this topic to the scrutiny of the townspeople and eventually it will be the citizens who determine which direction we will go in this matter.

At the September Heath-Rowe Elementary school meeting a revision of kindergarten was instituted after much deliberation. To enter kindergarten a child must now be 5 years old prior to August 31. Although, upon parental request and before August 15, a child whose 5th birthday is after August 31 can be tested for kindergarten readiness by our district staff and, if recommended, will be accepted.

Amy Barry has been selected to be the new librarian at the Rowe Elementary School.

Richard Housner is attending the Mohawk Trail School Board meetings as representative from Heath.

The Heath School Committee meets on the second Tuesday of each month at the Library.

LIBRARY LINES

by Jane Wishart, Librarian

October is "Fine-Free" month at the Heath Public Library. There are many overdue books which we'd like to see returned to our shelves. So, as you are doing your fall cleaning, please check to see if any of "ours" have gotten mixed in with yours.

During the past several months many new children's books have been added to the collection. Shorter days and cooler evenings often provide time to cuddle up with your children and a good read-to book. Also, Wednesday afternoons the Library is filled with children joining our Story Hour. The Play School group participates in this program, and your child is welcome, too.

And for adults we have some of the current best sellers: The Name of the Rose, Little Drummer Girl, Ascent Into Hell, and The War Lords, to name a few. With winter on its way, our collection of books on home improvements, winterizing you home and heating with wood may be of special interest to our readers - and doers!

The Library is now open Monday evenings, 7 to 9, Wednesday afternoons, 1 to 5, and Saturday mornings, 9 to 1.

Remember, October is "Fine-Free" month, and we'd appreciate the return of all overdue books.

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HALLOWEEN PARTY TO BE HELD

by Amy Barry

This year's Halloween Party, sponsored by the Heath Youth Group, will be held at the Community Hall on Friday October 28 beginning at 7:00 PM. Since Halloween trick-or-treating will be held on the following Monday, there will be a box available at the door for UNICEF donations.

This year each child will receive a book of tickets to use at the party for such activities as donuts-on-a string, apple dunking, penny pitch, and a jello contest. Extra tickets may be purchased for a small fee. Families are encouraged to attend and special prizes will be awarded for the Best Costumed Family and the greatest number of family members in costume. The Youth Group is asking for donations of food for the party. If you are willing to bring some refreshments, please contact Ree Sumner.

NEW SESSION AT PLAYSCHOOL

by Judy Clark

This fall the Heath Playschool added an afternoon session for children 4 1/2 to 5 years old. This offers a program for kindergarten children and for children going to kindergarten next fall. Throughout the year, as children reach this level they will have the opportunity to attend.

HEATH YOUTH GROUP

by Amy Barry

The new officers of the Heath Youth Group are: President, Ree Sumner; Vice-president, Laurel Clark; Secretary, Sandi Galipo; Treasurer, Melody Warner. The Youth Group had a sleep-over at Lynn and Dave Dooley's on September 23 to begin planning this year's Halloween Party. Meetings will be held every other Wednesday night at the Parsonage and all Heath young people, grades 7-12, are welcome to join the Group.

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HEATH PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Kevin Pettengill has completed a course on computer file technology. He and his wife recently visited his parents in Heath.

Ralph Sessions is recovering nicely from an operation and expects to be home soon from the hospital.

Ruth Smith has returned home from Mary Hitchcock Hospital. Her brother, Aaron Cromack, and his wife from Phoenix, Arizona are visiting her now.

Betsy Dyer expects to return home soon from the hospital in Boston.

Richard and Dorothy Hulbert have moved to Paris where they will be living for about four years. Richard is setting up an office there for his New York law firm.

Chuck Kades is recovering after an operation and has returned home from the hospital.

Mike and Elsa Bakalar attended Mike's 50th high school reunion in New York on October 1.

The denOudens from Holland visited the denOudens of Heath recently. Although Bernie denOuden has been to Holland he had never met these distant relatives who live outside of Amsterdam.

LADIES AID

by Edith C. Royer

The Heath Ladies Aid held their first fall meeting on Thursday, September 22. We will be meeting every two weeks through the winter, weather permitting. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The Christmas sale will be held on Thursday, November 3.

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