

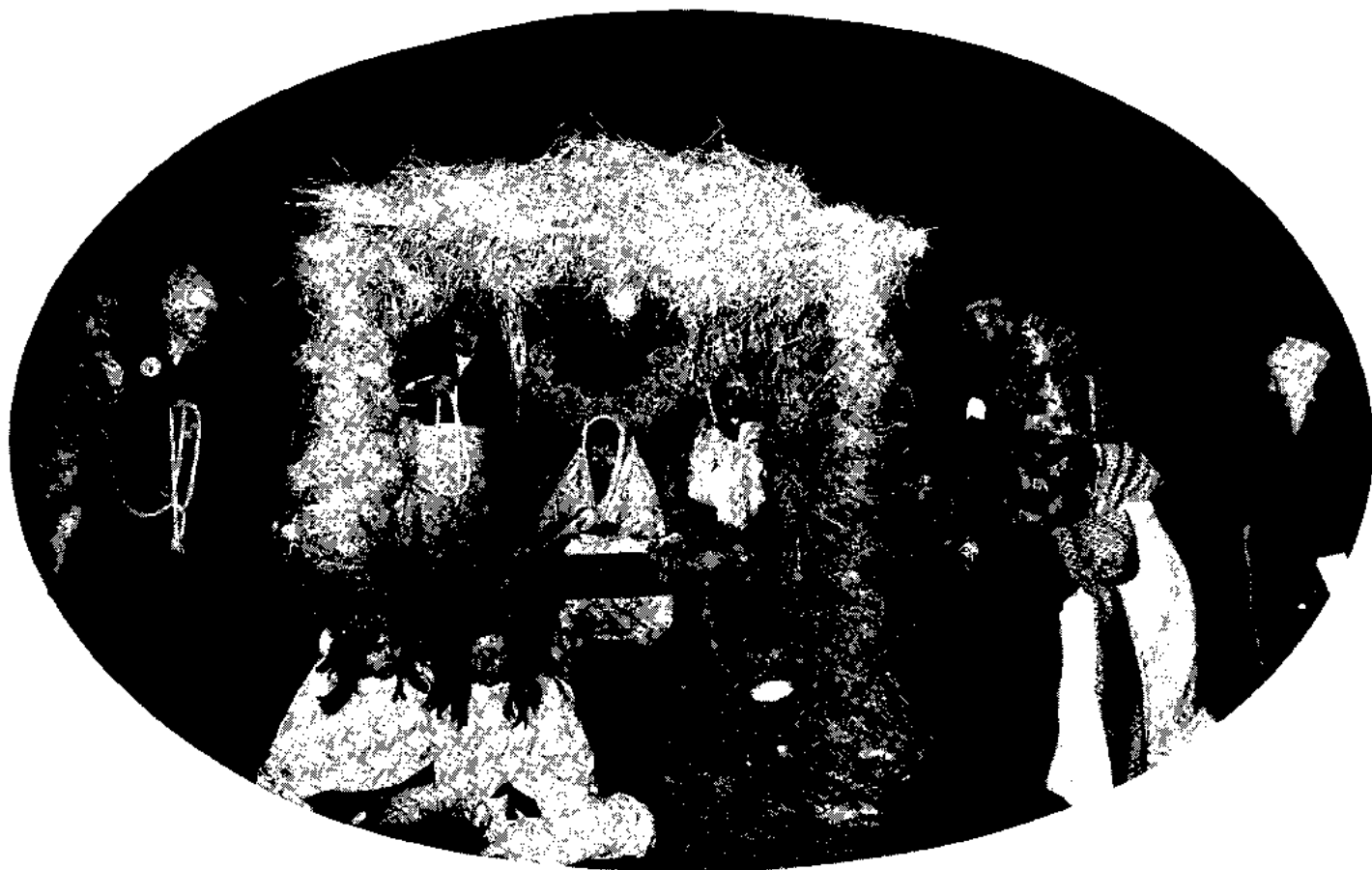
VOLUME 5 NUMBER 5 DECEMBER 1983/JANUARY 1984

HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER 25¢



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



Living Crèche on Heath Common - 1980

LETTERS

To the Editors:

I was somewhat surprised to discover in your recent School Issue that two members of the Heath School Committee have children enrolled this year at the Academy in Charlemont. As a former member of the Heath School Committee, I have the greatest respect for the Committee members and in no way are my comments meant as a personal criticism. While I am a firm believer in public education, I am also glad that such alternatives as the Academy and the Charlemont Christian School now exist.

However, the fact that School Committee members choose private school over Mohawk raises some real concerns in my mind about what is going on educationally at Mohawk. My first reaction is to ask, "What do you know that the rest of us do not?". Furthermore, although I do not know whether or not the Mohawk budget is going to increase this year, I wonder how enthusiastically the Heath School Committee can defend a budget and a high school that some of the Committee has decided against for their children. "Actions", as the adage goes, "speak louder than words." I know that my already shaky confidence in

Mohawk has been even more eroded by the fact that the Heath School Committee members, whom I knew to be committed to quality education, elect not to send their children there.

AMY C. BARRY
Heath

HEATH PRECIPITATION

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

October precipitation was 3.16 inches; November was 7.15 inches with 6 inches of snowfall. Total precipitation from January 1 through November 30 was 52.9 inches. The first measurable snowfall came November 15. Our first ice storm was November 28.

The November rains have helped fill up the springs.

HEATH HERALD

Volume 5 Number 5 December 1983-January 1984

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To the Editors:

This letter is a response to the Selectmen's Statement in the last HEATH HERALD and an expression of my own views on the subject of human relations in the governmental process in a free democratic society.

I am happy that the Selectmen had the courage to publicly express how they feel because, if understanding is to come about there must be communication.

I have no argument with the matter of the Selectmen's job being time consuming, sometimes frustrating, and having many difficult matters to deal with. However I feel that selectmen should be open in dealing with matters where citizens have requests or constructive criticism.

From their statement it is apparent that the reason the Selectmen have difficulty being open is that they are afraid that they will embarrass someone. It is not the end of the world if a person becomes embarrassed and this should not be a reason for Selectmen not openly representing the citizenry. With their reasoning one could argue that the Justice Department should not have made public their investigative findings concerning the Watergate break-in because it caused embarrassment to former President Nixon.

I agree that when Ann Landers says MYOB it applies to the situation she is dealing with. But in matters where public funds, property and policy are involved the citizen who knows of something that needs attention; not only is it his business, but his duty and responsibility to bring the matter to the attention of the Selectmen. If the Selectmen fail to deal openly with the matter, the rest of the citizenry is denied the opportunity to offer ideas in solution of the problem. Failure to be open breeds suspicion.

Now what of the future? The underlining motivation of my words and actions for some time now has been the promotion of the spirit of community through communication by dialog. With that as a goal, there is no reason why we cannot be friends because of a particular policy, issue or fault that we may disagree about. Persons have been created equal and their value and dignity should be recognized.

As we approach the birthday of the Prince of Peace, I would like to recall some words from Francis of Assisi. "Lord make me an instrument of thy peace, Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon..." Let us all strive for peace which starts with each one of us.

PAUL LIVELY
Heath

HEATH PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Charles Miller participated in the Auden Festival as a guest of the New York Institute for the Humanities. Charlie is the author of Auden; An American Friendship.

Marlene Housner recently exhibited a group of her paintings at the Fisburn Gallery on the Mount Hermon Campus in Gill.

Lucia F. McIntosh, daughter of Don and Lucia Fink, has been promoted to Lt. Commander, US Navy Reserve Active Nurse Corps stationed at Stockton CA.

Robert Dane recently exhibited a group of his glass sculpture at the Philadelphia Craft Show sponsored by the Philadelphia Museum of Art. He is also exhibiting at the opening of the Habatat Gallery in Miami, FL.

A group led by Carol Sartz and Lynn Dooley has held two meetings in Heath to discuss the TV film The Day After and its implications. The group hopes to have on-going discussions on the government's nuclear weapon policy.

ONE YEAR TO THE BICENTENNIAL!

by Paul Lively, Chairman
Heath Bicentennial Committee

It's now only a little more than a year until the beginning of our Bicentennial Celebration! Things are shaping up and falling into place quite well. We will be concentrating our efforts of preparation in the coming months. Shortly we will be able to use the funds allocated by the town for the Bicentennial Celebration.

We had only one meeting since the last report. At that meeting the Planning Board made a report on the recreational project that they have been studying. With the Soil Conservation Service they analyzed several sites in town. They all have possibilities for development, but the drawback is the lack of funds. Perhaps grant money could be acquired. The Planning Board will continue to work on the proposal.

HEATH COOK BOOK

by Alli Thane

The Heath Fair Cookbook has been a success so far. Since advertising in a couple of national magazines, we have had requests for copies from as far away as Alabama and Idaho. One lady ordered a copy because she lived in Heath many years ago. Another ordered because her name is "Heath"; another person because he never misses our Heath public suppers.

The proceeds from these sales will go to increase the prize money for non-agricultural exhibits at the Fair. Have you bought yours? How about putting one on your Christmas list? They are for sale at Peters' store, Village Variety, from Sophie Coe, Terry Petten-gill or Alli Thane. Believe me, there are some great recipes in there!

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CHRISTMAS TREE-LIGHTING AND CAROL SING

The HEATH HERALD, in cooperation with the Historical Society and the Heath Church, is sponsoring a community Christmas tree-lighting and carol sing. This event will take place on Sunday, December 18, at 5 PM in front of the Center School House Museum. The tree will be lit throughout the Christmas season.

Jayne Dayne and members of the Gather Round Singers will lead the caroling after which there will be hot cocoa, cookies and an opportunity for fellowship at the Community Hall. This is a first for the town and it is hoped that the community will join in this celebration of Christmas tide and make it an annual event.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

by Rev. Lynn Baker Dooley

Christmas is upon us again in full force. The calendar is filling up with carolling, parties, rehearsals and programs while every free moment is spent shopping, decorating, wrapping, baking or writing greetings to friends. All in all, "the most wonderful time of the year" would more appropriately be called "the most hectic holiday of all." The news constantly reminds us that in 1983 Christ is not welcome in Christmas anywhere except in the privacy of our homes and churches. Lawsuits against public creches and the singing of carols abound. On that very first Christmas, Mary and Joseph found that there was no room for them in the inn at Bethlehem and today, the risen Christ finds there is no room for Him in the celebration of His birthday! This year the words of a not-so-familiar Christmas song haunt me:

No room, only a manger of hay;
No room, he is only a stranger today.
No room, there in his world turned away,
No room, no room.
Angels in heaven up yonder
Watch with amazement and wonder
To see the Son of the Highest treated so.
No room here in the hearts of mankind,
No room, no cheery welcome to find,
No room, surely the world is blind,
No room, no room.

(No Room by John W. Peterson)

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WAGON TRAIL 1983

by Carroll B. Stowe

After a good amount of letter and post card writing and numerous telephone calls to various people whom I thought might be interested in attending, the 15th of October arrived in full blow. A very nice day but rather windy; it wasn't so windy that you couldn't lay a stone wall, but nearly. To say that I was rather disappointed would be putting it rather mildly.

No one had called to say that they weren't coming but I feared that with so much wind many would stay home. But soon people, horses, oxen, and donkeys began to appear. So I began to feel much relieved.

By the time all had arrived it was nearly noon, so we fed the animals and ate a little lunch before hitching up and starting out. To my extreme pleasure the line of rigs reached the whole length of Bray Road out of Heath Center. Our first stop was in front of the Church for photographs. My good friend and co-worker Dick Tower was on hand to take pictures. He was engaged by The Evers, a draft animal paper, as their official photographer. Dick got shots of most of the participants in many different areas of our Saturday afternoon trip.

We left the Heath Fairgrounds and went into Heath Center and out of town by way of Long Hill Road, crossed 8A and into Rowe and onto Cyrus Stage Road; thence to No. 9 Road past Peters' Store, to the Ben Road, to Branch Hill to the Fairgrounds. A fire was soon going for those who wanted to cook over it, and others made the small animal barn into a sort of smorgasbord kitchen. All the food was pot luck and delicious.

Animals fed, watered and variously cared for left the remainder of the evening free for a story telling session and square dancing in which many took part. The sleeping arrangements took various ideas but most were comfortable.

Sunday dawned bright and clear and windless. After a sumptuous breakfast and good conversation, we started around the Oxbow Road to the power line, turned left past the power line and traveled by way of a wood road to the power line again, following the right-of-way to the Sessions' mowing; took a few pictures and continued on and turned off into the orchard on the Kinsman farm, stopped to let Mrs. Kinsman know we were going by, and down the hill to Colrain Stage Road, and returned to Fairgrounds.

My good friend Earl Rice from New Hampshire was unable to attend this year as he had an accident with his lawn tractor, tipping it over himself. He would have fared much better if he had been 25 instead of 81.

Back at the Fairgrounds, saw the group have another good meal and then the bittersweet task of packing up to head for home. All concerned considered the 1983 Wagon Train a complete success.



Wagon Train Rolls in Heath Center
(Photo by John Read)



Wagon Train Rolls on East Oxbow

CHRISTMASSES PAST

by Edith M. Gleason

"What was Christmas like when you were little?" is a question often asked by the younger generation of every era. So what can you tell them?

I remember clearly my mother, just before Thanksgiving making fruit cakes (from a traditional recipe) and plum puddings. The plum puddings were tied into squares of strong sheeting or muslin and tied to form a ball. A long string was left on each one. The wash boiler (you may have to explain this) was thoroughly scrubbed and filled with water. When the water was boiling the puddings were put in with the strings hanging outside. Mother would admonish "Every time you go by, pull the strings to jiggle the puddings." We needed no prodding and the puddings got plenty of jiggling! Often impatience forced us to sample the products and somehow the puddings disappeared, so the whole process had to be repeated which didn't hurt our feelings.

Other memorable Christmases included one when we borrowed Aunt Polly's Gramophone. While father was assembling it, a small cousin (a pesky boy) was peering into the morning glory horn. Father quietly placed his lips on the small end and spoke, scaring the cousin much to our merriment.

These are only a few, but the others will have to wait for another time. May all your Christmases be memorable!

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TOWNS MAY DISSOLVE PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICT

by Shiela Litchfield, RN

The purpose of the Western Franklin Public Health District is to protect the health and welfare of the 2247 residents of Charlemont, Hawley, Heath, and Rowe. With the retirement of Janet Bliss RN these towns are investigating the options available for providing community health nursing services.

Currently our property taxes support the nursing district, enabling visits to anyone in these towns without further charge. Heath is paying \$2800 for the current fiscal year. A review of monthly reports for 1981 and 1982 shows an average of 116 home visits per month. Visits consist primarily of taking blood pressure, monitoring chronic conditions and providing health guidance. The district nurse provides health services to both Hawlemont and Rowe schools, conducting state mandated school health programs, monitoring school health problems and providing prevention programs. In addition, annual flu clinics and monthly blood pressure screening clinics are held. More difficult to quantify are services the district nurse provides simply by her presence in the community. It is evident from observation and interviews with town residents that her availability generates a sense of security in simply knowing that she is there to answer health questions, handle emergencies, provide encouragement to patients and families who are going through a particular crisis.

In deciding whether to retain a district nurse, we need to consider what kind of nursing services we want, how to provide them in a most cost effective manner and how best to provide school health services.

One option is to have the Visiting Nurse and Health Services of Franklin County provide nursing visits. This agency, which is based in Greenfield, provides excellent nursing care and has supportive services available as well, such as physical therapy and home health aides. This agency already provides services here but they could be contracted to do more. There is no charge to those with health insurance policies. However, a recent review of a week's visits of our district nurse showed that only one or two out of 35 visits could have been paid by insurance. The V.N.H.S. could be paid by the towns for those visits not covered by insurance. However, the average cost per person in the four town district to maintain the district is \$6.30 per person per year. The present fee per visit of the V.N.H.S. is \$35.

As a community health nurse and a resident of Heath I feel that community nursing is much more than visiting the sick and injured. It involves nursing of the entire community with screening clinics, well-child information, prevention of illness, and health education courses. Knowledge of a community can best be obtained from close local contact by the nurse and concern and interest by the townspeople. There is much the towns could lose if the district nurse position were unavailable to us. However, a combination of services is an option that would allow a much broader range of community health services.

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Cooperation between a local district nurse and the services of a larger agency could be arranged to serve all the towns thoroughly.

To date the Selectmen of all towns have decided not to hire a replacement for Mrs. Bliss for the duration of the current fiscal year. Mrs. Bliss will continue with the school health program and the V.N.H.S will continue as they have been. Town vote at the annual town meeting is required for any permanent changes. Notify selectmen of your feelings now and attend the town meeting to vote.

WATER FOR CHRISTMAS

by Susan Silvester

Since late this summer many families in Heath have experienced severe water shortages. In some instances wells and springs ran completely dry and water was painstakingly hauled from other locations for livestock as well as human consumption.

Although the problem is by no means completely alleviated, recent precipitation seems to have revived many dry wells. One of the fortunate households to report a slow if not exuberant recovery is that of Phyllis and David Thane. They ran out of water about Labor Day and, when contacted on November 27, Phyllis related their excitement that "TODAY we have water again!" Although they are using the water "sparingly", it is at least a sign that their water situation is improving. Like many other residents with no water, they are grateful to friends and relatives who helped with such arduous tasks as laundry and hauling tanks of water for livestock.

Several families decided to drill wells while others are still hauling water and hoping for the water table to rise again. The main common denominator appears to be that the source of the water was shallow. Deep wells in the same geographical region were usually unaffected, while shallow wells in other areas of Heath went dry. There was no geographic continuity or patterning of the dry areas as might be expected.

Mike Christman, who has been without water for some time, researched this problem extensively. He finds a widespread shortage as a result of greater housing development lowering the water table. Mike is hopeful that low interest loans may become available for people to drill deep wells.

The situation this fall was indeed alarming and has by no means been completely rectified. However, with the advent of increased precipitation and the promise of much more to come during the winter months, it is anticipated that most households will have at least a partially restored reservoir of that precious natural commodity, water - for Christmas!

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FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

by Chief Earl Gleason

The Heath Fire Department responded to five incidents during the period from Oct. 1 to Nov. 24. The emergencies were two structure fires, one brush fire, one car fire, and one chimney fire. The most serious occurred on Oct. 9 at 8:15 PM when a call was received that Paul Lively's barn was afire. Upon leaving the station, Chief Gleason called Tri-State Mutual Aid requesting three tankers and a cover truck for our station, and contacted Deerfield Valley Mutual Aid for Whitingham's tanker. Shortly after arriving at the scene, Tri-State reported that tankers from Rowe, Charlemont, Colrain and Whitingham were responding and that Shelburne Falls was sending an engine to cover our station. Heath's tanker went to the scene and set up the portable tank and emptied the load of water. Meanwhile Heath Engine No. 3 was setting up a loading site at the brook near the old Branch school. At approximately 8:40 our red phones were notified of a structure fire on Stone Road and they dispatched Shelburne Falls. Chief Gleason contacted the Whitingham officer at the Lively fire requesting that they dispatch another pumper to the second fire. At this time Rowe alerted their station that they had a fire on Stone Hill Road. (It later turned out both fires were the same.) At this time Chief Gleason requested three tankers from Tri-State to the second fire and a cover for the Heath Station. Tri-State dispatched pumper tankers from Colrain, Charlemont and Halifax to the fire, and pumpers from Halifax, Shelburne Center, Ashfield and Conway to cover Colrain, Rowe, Charlemont and Heath stations. Deerfield Valley dispatched Wilmington to cover Whitingham's Jacksonville station. The second fire was found to be in Rowe by the Shelburne Falls engine, the first engine on the scene.

Meanwhile the tanker shuttle at the Lively fire continued until 2:30 AM when all apparatus but the Heath units were released. The Whitingham driver thought each tanker made 14 trips. Heath Engine No. 1 remained at the scene until 1:30 the following afternoon.

The following Wednesday Trooper Jay Bowman of the Fire Marshal's office and Chief Gleason investigated the cause of the fire which is still undetermined.

An October meeting of the officers was called because of Dick Giard's resignation as Deputy Chief. Tom Lively was promoted from Captain to Deputy Chief, Richards Steinbock was made Captain, and Jack Purkis as Civil Defense Director was also given Captain's status. The present Fire Department officers are as follows: Chief Earl Gleason, Deputy Chiefs Tom Lively and Walt Gleason, and Captains Dave Thane, Steiny, and Jack Purkis. The Fire Department wishes to thank Dick Giard for the many hours he spent as Deputy Chief. Dick is continuing as a fire fighter but feels he cannot give the time needed to be a deputy chief.

The long awaited tone-alert system was installed recently. This system allows the red phone personnel to put out a tone over the base station radio which will open the monitors and pagers and then give the message as to location of the fire or emergency. This means the firemen will all be alerted at once. Also the system has the capability to broadcast and receive over the base station from any of the red phones, thus allowing the red phone operator two-way communication with any of our apparatus or any Tri-State radio within reach of the base station. The base station is located at the Fairgrounds and will be equipped with battery backup in case of power failure.

Four Thursday evenings lately were devoted to a Mass. Fire Academy class held at the Community Hall. The class was entitled "Burning Process" with instructors from Ware, Amherst and Greenfield. It was attended by firefighters from Buckland, Shelburne, Whitingham, Halifax and Heath. Seven of the 27 students were from Heath.

The Fire Department wishes each of you a safe and happy Holiday Season and a Fire-Free New Year.

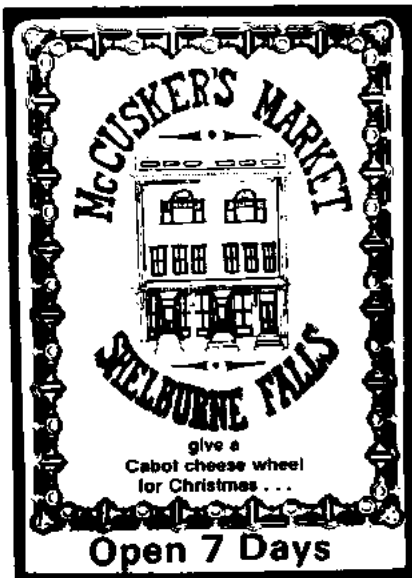
TIDINGS FROM THE SELECTMEN

by Caroline Smith

There is a certain hiatus in town affairs now before the first of the year brings a rush of budgeting and work. So the story of the Selectmen's activities is short.

The Selectmen are recommending a shared administrative assistant (circuit rider) in spite of the fact that Shelburne turned it down leaving three towns (Buckland, Colrain, and Heath) to share the expense. As the cost per town would be less with four towns, it is hoped another town can be found to participate. According to the Selectmen, the circuit rider program will help the town in obtaining more state aid, filling out forms for grants, following up on state regulations, and group purchasing. There is a good chance the program will return more to the town than it costs. However, the town can pull out if it does not work out. The vote on this will come up at a special town meeting on December 14.

Recently, a letter was sent from the Selectmen to owners of unlicensed dogs in town. Half of these owners have already appeared to take out proper licenses for their dogs. Any unlicensed dog will be picked up by Dog Officer, Michael Smead, at a charge to the owner of \$5 and \$3 a day for keeping the dog plus mileage for the pickup.



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PLANNING BOARD REPORT

by John Holdsworth

Early in October, with days still warm, leaves just beginning their harlequin changes and ground water levels a little lower than we ever again hope to see them, John Holdsworth hiked around the town with Russ Mader of the Soil Conservation Service to look at potential swimming/recreation sites. A number of areas were considered but the choices were narrowed to five sites in three different areas: first, in North Heath, two sites on the West Branch Brook, below the bridge on Rte. 8A across from the north schoolhouse; second, in South Heath, two sites in the angle created by the convergence of South Road and Burrington Road, receiving their water from a small but durable stream and from the overflow of Whittemore Spring; third, in South Heath, on an existing pond off South Road (or Harris Mt. Road) on property formerly belonging to Wilbert Rainville and still known as Rainville's Pond.

The first site on the Branch presently belongs to the town and would probably offer the best combinations of water quality and quantity, area for other recreational use and available parking space. Other sites are now privately owned and would have to be purchased or leased. In addition, they all present some problems of accessibility or water quality or quantity, or of development of parking or recreation areas. In all cases, expenses, still not estimable without some digging and actually planning, would probably be fairly considerable.

The Planning Board met with the Bicentennial Committee to discuss this project. Both groups are interested in investigating financial assistance for such an undertaking. At that meeting, Susan Gleason proposed that we also consider construction of an in-ground pool on the Fairgrounds. As other recreational uses of the Fairgrounds expand, such a proposal makes good sense and might, if grants can be found, be less expensive than purchase or development elsewhere. There is still much work to be done before we can take this project seriously, but, with the hope of an administrative assistant coming to town, help may be getting closer.

In other business the Board had been examining and making minor revisions to the town subdivision regulations. This task has been set aside to allow the

Board to devote its time to resolving the zoning/building permit impasse in Mohawk Estates. Some details of the problem were presented in the last issue of the **HEATH HERALD**. At that time, the Board had asked the town attorney for advice. The sum of his response has been that we can create a separate district in Mohawk Estates by vote at a town meeting, or that the state legislature can write some special legislation to provide relief for residents of the Estates.

The Board had hoped to have some idea of how to proceed prior to the year's end but that is no longer possible. Now the Board has requested a meeting with the Selectmen, town attorney and a health/sanitation official to discuss the Estates problem. Beyond this, the Board has asked the attorney to prepare, for the meeting, a draft of a zoning bylaw that would create a separate district for Mohawk Estates.

Some property owners in Mohawk Estates have made financial or time commitments which they have been unable to honor because they are unable to obtain either building permits or variances. It is essential that solutions to the problem be expeditiously sought by town officials and that the vicissitudes of the permit process be eliminated for Estates residents and a reasonable zoning/permit system be established.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING TO BE HELD

by N. F. Smith

An important special town meeting will be held at 8 PM on Monday, December 12, in the Community Hall. Two articles are on the warrant for the meeting.

The first is: "To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$200 for legal expenses or act in relation thereto." At the annual town meeting \$800 was appropriated for legal fees since it was estimated that figure would be sufficient for the current fiscal year. Since that time the new town counsel has been retained on the basis of \$1000 for the year requiring this additional amount.

The second article on the warrant concerns the proposed "circuit rider" program for Heath, Colrain, Buckland and Shelburne. Since the proposal was made, Shelburne has turned it down at their town meeting. The article reads in part: "To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$700 as the town's share of the Shared Administrative Assistance Program, to accept any other funds as may be available to support said program during fiscal year 1984, and to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a cooperative agreement as prescribed by . . . Laws . . . for the program's administration and management subject to approval of funding from other entities involved . . ."

There are several factors to consider in this last article which will be brought out at the meeting. All town voters are urged to attend.

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LIVELY BARN UPDATE

by Susan Silvester

On Sunday, October 9, the 32 year old barn of Paul and Marcella Lively was destroyed by fire. Since that tragedy occurred, the Lively family has experienced many acts of kindness and has been the recipient of numerous donations.

Marcella reports that not only did friends and neighbors assist that fateful evening with food, coffee, firefighting and moral support, but the generosity of the Heath community continues to flourish.

A square dance held to raise money for the construction of a new barn netted over \$200. St. Joseph's parish made a donation of \$300, and Astrid Kain collected about \$170 in her diligent door-to-door campaign. The outstanding generosity of those who donated 100 bales of hay will not be forgotten soon, nor will the many envelopes with money and notes, which still come trickling in. Some of this money has already been used for closing in and winterizing the lower level of the barn for the animals.

Next summer a new barn will be raised in the old location. Most of the wood that will be used in the construction of the barn will be from the Lively place. Although almost \$1000 has been donated so far, it is still not nearly enough to complete another structure.

Donations as well as pledges of building material or labor are still greatly appreciated by Paul and Marcella, who plan to individually thank the numerous donors. They are very grateful to the many generous and caring people.

Marcella says, "We still think about it a lot and really appreciate what everybody did," and that they will "never, ever forget how great everybody was.... ..thank you..!"

ACADEMY NEWS

by Luke Housner '89

The Academy is beginning its second quarter and able to boast seventeen students on the honor roll! This number is three times the amount of last year's total. Three of these students are from Heath.

At 6:20 AM on November 8th the telephone rang and, when I answered, someone announced, "Mountain Day!" This is the annual event in which the whole school climbs a mountain. This year the challenge was Mt. Monadnock, located near Keene, New Hampshire. It was a success. At the summit, after climbing up five plateaus, you could see for miles. We all began looking for poinsettia customers.

The Academy is selling poinsettias. These plants grow up to ten inches and last until early May. The money raised will go towards a five-day drama workshop with Shakespeare and Company of Lennox, which will be visiting the Academy in February.

The Academy sports program is waiting for snow to arrive. The soccer season has ended with the A-Team (Senior School) having 5 wins and 4 losses record, and the B-Team (Junior School) having 5 wins - 0 losses - 1 tie.

There are two upcoming Christmas events scheduled. One is the Madrigal Dinner to be held on December 2nd at the University of Massachusetts. Most of the school family will be attending this singing Christmas feast. There also will be a school Christmas Concert on December 16th, in which students will sing and play musical instruments. This will be at the Federated Church in Charlemont and open to the public.

A CHRISTMAS CONCERT AMID OTHER SCHOOL NEWS

by Richard Housner

Parents and townspeople are cordially invited to attend the Holiday Concert at Rowe School on Monday, Dec. 19, at 7 PM. In addition to performances by the school chorus, the band, and individual instrumentalists, each class will offer either a musical or dramatic presentation.

Parents are urged to attend the PTO meeting on Thursday, Dec. 8, at 7 PM. For further information call John Henry at 337-4715.

On November 14 the Rowe 4th and 5th graders went on the now biannual environmental education field trip to Cape Cod. Ruth Law directs this program and teacher Karen Fournier with parents John Pinkham and Polly MacLean accompanied the students on a five day stay. The trip included hikes to inland forests, cranberry bogs, the coast guard beach, and visits to Pilgrim Springs, the Marconi Station and Plymouth Plantation.

For the sake of our children our District is trying to crack down on motorists who ignore school bus safety regulations. When a school bus stops to load or unload students, all traffic in each direction is required to stop. If you see any motorist not observing this rule, take down the license number and notify me.

The next Heath School Committee meeting is on Tuesday, Dec. 13, at 7:30 PM.

CHURCH NEWS

by Amy C. Barry

There is a song in the air as the Heath Church prepares for the Christmas season. Rehearsals for the joint Heath/Rowe Christmas choir, which will sing at the service on December 18, will be held at 9 AM in the Heath Church on December 17. The Sunday School Pageant will hold rehearsals at the Heath Church after school December 7, December 14, and on Saturday, December 17 at 10 AM.

Be sure to be around to greet the Heath Youth Group who will be carolling beginning at 5 PM on December 17. These dauntless young people brave the cold and ice every year to bring a touch of Christmas joy to homes in Heath.

The combined Heath/Rowe Sunday School Pageant will be at the Heath Church at 10 AM Sunday, December 18. Following the service coffee and cookies will be served. At 5 PM on the same day there will be a tree-lighting ceremony and carol sing in Heath Center.

The Christmas Eve Candlelight service in Heath will begin at 6:30 PM on December 24. And on Christmas Day we will have a joint Heath and Rowe service at the Rowe Community Church at 10 AM.

Everyone in the Heath Community is welcome to join with us in any or all of these church events and to share with us in celebrating the wonder and mystery of Christ's birth.

NEW FAMILY IN HEATH

by Alli Thane

Kevin and Debbie (Vight) Gilbert purchased the Martha Crowningshield house on Jacobs Road in December 1981. They are both natives of Colrain and came to us from Griffith Air Force Base where Kevin served as a Sergeant. They have two children, Andrew 3 1/2 and Christopher 1. Kevin works at Kendall Mills as a mechanic on the card line and Debbie stays at home with the young ones.

THE ELDRIDGE HOUSE (The Deacon Daniel Brown House)

by Betty Eldridge

(Editors' note: This article is the fourteenth in a series of articles on the older houses in Heath. The Eldridge house, located on the west side of the old Oxbow Road, was built around 1795.)

One of the joys of living in an old house is its age - but age can have its problems, too! Because of its aging deterioration, we undertook this summer a much needed repair project - to save our old house - now nearing its 200th birthday. And in the process we experienced a great deal of its history, which came to light as our basically "classical cape" got torn apart and its "beginnings" became more visible.

As the crumbling living room fireplace came down (which had slowly been sinking into the cellar), we learned what the original fireplace was really like; - we saw into the central chimney - the lovely handmade brick of it - and the hazardous cracks now exposed! Seeing the beautifully designed beehive oven - and the back of it! - (now that paneling was removed) - was a rare privilege. In the cellar, because the four foundation walls (leaning in every direction but straight!) had to be rebuilt, we had a chance to marvel at how these huge stones were moved in for those first walls - and for the foundation of the central chimney, presently needing attention too. The renovation became the door through which we walked back into the lives of our predecessors - and into that of the first inhabitant - Deacon Daniel Brown.

Ed Calver (continuing, reliable source for so many of us) says in his Heath History that the land on which our house sits was "deeded by Dr. Bulfinch, Dec. 31, 1794" to John Brown .. "and turned over to his brother Daniel .. in 1802." We believe Daniel to be responsible for building our house around 1795. In 1805 he married Nancy Spooner, widow, and they had five children. Their son Hart, presumably the last Brown to own it, died in 1865. It was his granddaughter Alice who started the Sweetheart Tearoom in Shelburne Falls.

A long line of Heath and nearby Heath people, both past and present, have been important over the years in helping us to hold our old house (and its glorious view) together; Henry and Ella Churchill; Cy Gould - and now Donnie Ward; Andy and Edith Royer; John and Dolores Churchill; Dick Sumner, Cleon Peters - and many more. And now - over this past summer - comes contractor Jerry Pratt, and his crew (how I wish I could name each one!). Special thanks to Jerry, who courageously undertook what we thought was an impossible project - and to his helper, stonemason-sculptor Mike Sari.

Heath is a special place - with a special kind of history. And "this old house" has always been a kind of "home away from home" for us - giving us a sense of permanence in spite of our family's moving hither and yon.

TAX BILLS TO BE OUT NEXT MONTH

According to Chief Assessor, Richards Steinbock, the 1984 tax bills will have to be made up on an estimated basis again, as the revaluation is not quite completed. He expects the estimated bills to be out in January. In the meantime, anyone wishing to make payment before the end of 1983, can pay the same amount as in their last year's bill. Payments made in this manner will be credited toward the final bill and will help the town, as money is having to be borrowed in anticipation of tax receipts.

Later owners include O. Kemp (on an 1871 map); Lysander Estee; and (from Ed Calver's History) "...either here or in the house north across the road ... were also Robert Stetson ... and S. Gleason ..." A cellarhole now marks that house's existence - and a wonderful tree - known to our young boys - Elsom Jr., Stephen and Mark - as their "treehouse."

In the 1890's Peter and Lucy Gilbert lived in our house, Frederick Smith, of Charlemont tells me, and that their daughter Edith (his mother) remembered when Charles Benson was struck by lightning in our doorway on August 19, 1892. Living then at what is now "Faraway," he had been visiting his neighbor.

In 1911 a deed from Lysander Estee conveyed our house to Dana Malone Sr. It then became known as "Farther Away," and his farmer, Anders Overgaard, lived here. In 1930 Farthest Away was purchased from the Malone family by the Rev. John U. Harris and his family, as a summer residence; and in 1946 the Eldridges bought it from the Harrises.

The continuing history of our house intrigues us. We like to think of the number of persons in its history who are ancestors to Heath people of today.



Deacon Brown House about 1920
(Photo from Heath Historical Society)



Brown-Eldridge House 1982
(Photo by Betty Eldridge)

CANCER DRIVE A SUCCESS

The American Cancer Society announced that Heath raised \$544 during the annual drive this year. Again thanks go to all who participated in it.

MY EARLY RECOLLECTIONS OF DELL

by Clifford H. Wheeler

As a young teenager, I was frequently invited to be a guest of my Aunt Cora Bailey at Bonnyplace, the name she gave to it and which it is called today. I remember getting off the train at the station in Charlemont and being met by the stage which took me, bag and baggage, to the little settlement of Dell.

My Aunt Cora had a sister Julia, who was married to Frank Hager, brother of Clifford Hager, who lived in the Bishop Gilbert house (presently Canali). He operated a country store and a post office there for some time.

Aunt Cora used to visit them often and fell in love with the area. When her son Leonard was very young, he was in quite poor health. At that time they lived in Cranston, RI.

The doctor told Aunt Cora that her son's health would improve if he could spend a summer or two in clear, fresh country air. Aunt Cora replied, "There is only one place I can think of where I would like to spend the summer and that is the little place called Dell."

Hence Bonnyplace came into being in the summer of 1912 when it was built.

I remember spending time at the blacksmith's shop, now the summer home of Kendall Litchfield. It was owned by Mr. Fournier, of Orange, where I lived. I also recall the saw mill at the head of the dam which was washed away by the 1938 hurricane.

My cousin Leonard and I used to roam over the hills - they were all open then. Blueberries grew everywhere. We used to follow an old lumber road to the top of a hill behind the house to two cellar holes. There were abandoned sulfur and copper mines around, which we were cautioned to watch out for.

The house was really just a camp, no electricity of course. The water came from a well in the corner of the meadow, gravity fed into a galvanized tank in the kitchen. It ran constantly into the tank and out into the sink, so the water was always cold. The milk and butter were put into containers and lowered down into the cold running water.

Aunt Cora did all the baking on an oil stove, three-burner, with a separate oven that set over one burner. She used to make my mouth water with those heavenly odors of bread right from the oven. She used to take some to Mr. Judd, who lived in the house later owned by Sherman Johnson (presently Budge Litchfield), and to Mrs. Coates, a former resident of Rev. Sanders' house.

Aunt Cora was a nurse and one summer she helped bring twin babies into the world to a family who lived where Ed Calver lives. She used to give her grocery order to the stage driver, who would purchase the items and leave them at the mailbox.

As time went on Aunt Cora spent fewer and fewer summers at Dell. When she finally made the decision to sell Bonnyplace, I was glad that I was in a position to purchase it as I had always loved the place.

That was in 1931. Our daughter Janice was two years old. Our son Donald was born three years later. Since that time, my family has spent all or part of each summer at Bonnyplace. Since I retired, we now spend four months here and cannot think of any spot more delightful. The house has undergone many changes since we purchased it. Bonnyplace and we are celebrating its 71st birthday this year.



Winter at Pondsides in Dell

(Photo by Chuck Blake)

MEMORIAL FUND

by Allie Thane

Raymond and Dorothy Scofield of Westminster, MA, former residents of Heath, have established a fund in memory of Ken Crowningshield who was president of the Heath Agricultural Society for 15 years. This fund will be used to award a cash prize at the annual Fair to a Heath youth, under 18, who raises the best calf of the year. It is hoped that this award will provide a stimulus and inspiration to our young people to learn and care for their animals.

The trustees of the fund are Dorothy Scofield, Grace Crowningshield, and Ernest Thane. Contributions to the fund will be welcome and appreciated and can be sent to Grace Crowningshield, Treasurer of the Fund.

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Please to put a nickle,
Please to put a dime.
How petitions trickle
In at Christmas time!
Come and save a scholar
Bring the heathen hope,
Just enclose a dollar
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Implores you to assist
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They've got you on their list,
Demonstrate your mettle
For many, many causes
Fill the yawning kettle
Of the corner Santa Clauses.

Christmas is coming,
The mail is getting fat
Please to put a coin in every proffered hat.
If you haven't got a coin, just let it be
Because you haven't a coin left, you're just like me.

. . . Phyllis Mc Ginley

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WINTHROP WARRINER

He died on November 12, a few days short of his seventy-third birthday. The following tribute is taken from a memorial written by Carroll Stowe at that time.

Win, Uncle Win, or Gramp, as he was known to me and to many. A fine neighbor and a true friend.

Everywhere you look in Heath and surrounding towns one is able to see the effects of his sawmill. Win seemed to cultivate friendships as some would a garden.

As a selectman he tried to have the interest of the entire town at heart. He served in that office for nine years.

It is very sad to think of the area without him but we all have very fond memories of him, as everyone he touched was richer for the touch. He will be missed.

NEW JURY LIST

Town Clerk Catherine Nichols has announced a new Jury List for Heath. The following names were chosen in a random drawing from all the names on the 1983 Street List:

Patricia Poisson, Patrick Venneri, John Desotie (drawn for Grand Jury on 11/29/83), Nancy Cote (drawn for Traverse Jury on 11/29/83), Hazel Porter, Raymond Hargreaves, F. Walter Gleason, Robert Dane.

Alternates: Dokmai Crowningshield, Dorothy Sessions, Veronica Smead.

If you have custody of and are responsible for the daily supervision of a child under the age of 15, or if you are a person over the age of 70 you may elect not to have your name on the Jury List. If you wish to claim this exemption, contact the Town Clerk or the Board of Selectmen.

STOWE FAMILY IN AUTO ACCIDENT

The Carroll Stowe family was in a serious automobile accident on November 27. Carroll and Peggy were taking Diane back to college when their car, on entering the Trail at Avery Brook Road, was struck by a west bound car. Their large dog cushioned Diane who was unhurt but both Peggy and Carroll were hospitalized. Peggy has now returned home after treatment for bad bruises and broken bones. Carroll, who has been in the hospital for a week, is expected to be home by the time this is printed.

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Theodore G. Penick, CPCU

MILESTONES

by Edith C. Royer

Dolores Marie was born on November 27 to Robert and Susan Ryan of Colrain. Dolores is the granddaughter of John and Dolores Churchill of Heath, and of William and Florence Ryan of Colrain, and the great-granddaughter of Wilbert Rainville.

Mr. and Mrs. G. Valiton announce the engagement of their daughter Lisa Anne to Daniel J. Lively. Daniel is the son of Frederick Lively. The wedding is planned for August 1984.

Anita Giard died on October 2 in the Providence Hospital in Holyoke. She leaves her husband David J. Giard, Sr.; two daughters, Sister Mary of Holyoke and Rita May Lollie of West Springfield; seven sons, David J. Jr. and James of Shelburne, Raymond A. of Deland FL, George L. and Donald, Sr. of Colrain, John A. of Omaha NB and Richard R. of Heath; 27 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren. Burial was in the Branch Cemetery, Colrain.

Lawrence E. Burrington of Charlemont, formerly of Heath, died on October 9 in Worcester after a brief illness. He leaves his wife Connie, his mother Hannah Burrington, a son Robert of East Charlemont; three daughters, Arriesta Veber of Rowe, Faith of Ashfield, and Wanda at home; a brother Paul of Heath; two sisters, Catherine Cromack of Heath and Irma Lowd of Middlebury, VT; and several nieces and nephews.

Ralph W. Sessions died on October 26 at his home after a long illness. He leaves his wife Dorothy, two sons Norman of Heath and George of Greenfield, a daughter Janet Mello of Northfield, and eight grandchildren. Burial was in the Heath Center Cemetery.

Fred Churchill of Shelburne died on November 3 as the result of a logging accident. He leaves his wife Norma, his mother Pearl Landstrom Churchill, three sisters and two brothers. He also leaves his grandmother, Grace Landstrom, and his aunt, Ruth Law.

Winthrop P. Warriner died on November 12 at the Franklin Medical Center. He leaves two sons, Arthur A. of New Salem and Earl Sr. of Heath; three daughters, Shirley Miller of Colrain, Winfred Herron of Williamstown, Donna Mazanec of Buckland; 12 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. Burial was in the Center Cemetery in Heath.

Mabel Hicks died on November 5 in Westboro, MA. She and her late brother, Father Clarence Hicks, were residents of Heath for many years. She leaves her good friend and companion, Margaret Foster.



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LIVING CRECHE IN HEATH

The photograph on the front page (taken by Chuck Blake of the Recorder) shows the live nativity scene organized by Rev. Ann Geer when she was the minister here. The year was 1980 and the place was the Common in front of the Church. It was a beautiful cold early evening with a few snow flurries, and carols were sung as the shepherds and wise men gathered around the manger. Shown in the picture are Diane Stowe with her horse, Carroll Stowe, Peggy Stowe as Mary, Angel (unidentified), Ray Galipo, Eric & Dick Sumner, Beth Geer, Jennifer Strules, Craig Brown, Rebecca Decker, and Brenda Sumner.

TOWN OFFICE HOURS

(At Town Hall unless otherwise noted)

Selectmen: Mondays 7 PM

Assessors: Mondays 7 PM

Town Clerk and Treasurer:

Mondays 8 AM - Noon & 7-10 PM

Wednesdays & Thursdays 8 AM - Noon

Finance Committee: As posted

Planning Board: 2nd Monday of month 8 PM

Heath School Committee: 2nd Tuesday of month 7:30 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

Saturdays 9 AM - 1 PM

Post Office: Monday through Saturday

9:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Dump: Mondays 10 AM - 2 PM Wednesdays 10 AM - 4 PM

Saturdays 9 AM - 5 PM

OMISSION

In listing all of the Heath students attending local schools in the last issue of the HERALD, the name of Lark Miller was inadvertently omitted from those at the Academy at Charlemont. The HERALD apologizes for this omission.

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