



VOLUME 6 NUMBER 3

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 1984

# HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER 25¢

## HEATH FAIR RECOLLECTIONS

by Carroll B. Stowe

When I was a child, from seven to the present, the happiness of the annual fair of one day to the present two and a half day festivities were and are looked forward to by me with great longing. Little did I know, when I was all of seven, that I'd ever be involved with any part of the modern Heath Fair.

My dad was always engaged to judge the Holstein cattle when the fair was held at Dickinson's Grove. Sanford Hager judged the Ayrshire cattle and I have no idea who judged the other breeds.

I am sure that Cleon Peter's mother served me the first ice cream cone I ever had at my first Heath Fair. I remember a man sold balloons out beside the road and Albert Burkardt sold admission tickets at a card table also by the edge of the road.

I recall the Kinsman boys, Russell and Rollo had a goat and a small buckboard wagon and they sold rides with goat as the power. I did so want a ride in the wagon, but was sure that for me to get in the wagon it would break even though I had seen bigger kids than myself get out of it.

How I did like to wander among the cattle and the farm teams as they waited to compete at the Heath residents-only horse pull.

I recall one Fair Day, perhaps 35 years ago, Stewart (Bud) Stetson didn't go to the Fair, but worked on a truck instead. I was astounded that anyone from town would pass up going to the wonderful Heath Fair. I think I might have had my first taste of a cigarette at a many years gone by Heath Fair. I think I saw the first Farmall Cub tractor there in the Dickinson's Grove and little did I ever think I would, many years later, spend so many hours on one.

I saw a hand saw played for the afternoon entertainment one time. It was a thrill to watch Leon Peters compete in a chopping contest. How the chips did fly!

The early Heath Fairs were a wonderful way to spend the day for a young boy or girl and I sincerely hope that today's youth feel as I did.

As the last yoke of cattle is loaded to leave the grounds and the last hamburger and cup of coffee is sold and the Fair is a memory, it is good to have it over for another year.

I have sat in the loader and had the late dear friend Win Warriner bring me a cheeseburger and coffee just out of kindness and had a moment to enjoy his friendship. The Fair can never have too many supporters like Win.

Here's hoping for a successful 1984 Heath Fair!

## NEW TREE FARMS IN HEATH

by Mary and Robert Wigmore, Foresters  
New England Forestry Foundation

Forest lands in Heath owned by Elizabeth Eldridge, Elizabeth Witzgall, and David Giard, Sr. were approved for membership in the American Tree Farm System at the 1984 Massachusetts Tree Farm Committee meeting. The American Tree Farm System is a nationwide program which gives public recognition to private forest owners who are doing an effective job of growing trees as a crop. The system promotes the wise use and management of forests for timber, wildlife, recreation, scenic and water benefits.

Mary and Robert Wigmore of Ashfield, Foresters for the New England Forestry Foundation, inspected and certified the three Heath properties for membership under the industry sponsored program.

A dedication ceremony was held on July 16 at the Tree Farm of Newland and Caroline Smith on Hosmer Road. At this service Mrs. Witzgall and Mr. Giard were presented with a green and white Tree Farm sign and a certificate from the Massachusetts Committee signifying that their forest lands are managed. Mrs. Eldridge, who will also receive the sign and a certificate, was unable to be present at the dedication. . . . continued on page 3



New Tree Farmers

Elizabeth Witzgall and David Giard, Sr. (center)  
with Mary and Robert Wigmore, Foresters  
(Photo by John Read)

## LETTERS

To the Editors:

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the Board of Assessors for a job well done.

C. Richards Steinbock, John Moriarty and Dennis Peters have spent many hours in the field measuring, inspecting and taking pictures of the houses in town; then compiling all this information on new individual field cards, including a photo and a short running history about the property. I believe this to be one of the most realistic, complete and fairest valuation this town has ever had.

I think we are very fortunate to have such a dedicated Board of Assessors. With John Moriarty's knowledge of the revaluation procedure and Steiny's knowledge of the town, a quick and easy certification from the state should be a sure thing.

Even though the revaluation has taken longer than first planned, the saving to the town will outweigh what was spent on loan interest to keep the cash flow as against hiring the job to a revaluation company.

So Steiny, John, and Denny, thanks for a job well done and keep up the good work.

RICHARD R. GIARD  
Heath

## HEATH PRECIPITATION

by Ralph Dickinson, Observer  
for Mass. Water Resources Commission

June rainfall was 1.72 inches; July rainfall was 7.92 inches. Total precipitation, January through July 1984 was 44.47 inches.

It was the driest June and the wettest July in over 18 years. We have had more precipitation in the first seven months of 1984 than we have had in the dry years of 1970, 1978, 1980 and 1982.

## HEATH HERALD

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## HEATH PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Neil and Marty (Ekwall) Beasley, with their son Cyrus, visited Heath recently visiting with old friends. The Beasleys now live in Newburyport but still own land in Heath adjacent to their old place on Bray Road.

Todd Sumner has been appointed to the Greenfield Community College Board of Trustees.

Buck Denouden and his daughter Nichole have returned from Europe where Buck attended meetings.

Heidi Crowningshield, daughter of Howard and Jeanette Crowningshield, won the Carpenter Award at the Rowe School.

Michael Girard is secretary of the North American Maple Syrup Council. The NAMSC is the primary educational and policy making arm of the maple syrup industry. Mike, who lives in Simsbury CT, has a place on Number Nine Road where he sugars each spring.

Bill Clark is doing well at home after a stay in the hospital resulting from being hit by a falling tree.

Alastair Maitland has returned home from a trip to Jerusalem, France and England. In Jerusalem he visited with Newland Smith, 3rd, son of Caroline and Newland Smith, who is working at the St. George's College Library for the summer.

Mal Lively and Ian Galup are at Fort Benning, Georgia completing their basic training for the Mass. National Guard. They will graduate on August 16 to full Infantrymen.

Eric Grinnell has been elected a director of the Pioneer Valley Symphony.

Michael Coe and son Andy has returned from a trip to the Arctic where they were fishing for char.

Jenifer Smith of Evanston, Ill., has been visiting her grandparents, Caroline and Newland Smith, for a month. She flew into Logan after two weeks in Israel.

Marine Lance Cpl. Laurel C. Finck, daughter of Lucia and Don Fink, has been transferred to El Toro CA where she is in the 3rd Marine Air Wing. After a month's duty in Korea where she operated heavy equipment and acted as dispatcher and record clerk for the Landing Support Company, Laurel received a Meritorious Mast awarded for outstanding service.

Mrs. Dorothy Gunganig is home from the hospital. She is improving each day.

Mrs. Martha Smith Gilbert of Somers NY spent two weeks last month at Pondsides, the Litchfield house in in Dell. Martha, who formerly lived there, enjoyed seeing her old Heath friends again.

Mrs. Grace Landstrom, who has had a remarkable recovery from her illness of last winter, has been spending a month with her daughter, Ruth Law, at her home in Heath.

David Giard, Sr. recently flew to Omaha, Nebraska for a short visit with his son John.

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## UP NORTH FOR CHAR

by Michael D. Coe

You'd never know it was the third week in July. I had on long johns, pants, a shirt, two sweaters, and a rain jacket, and I was still cold. My son Andy and I found ourselves standing on an ice floe at the edge of the Cumberland Sound ice pack, about 25 miles south of the Arctic Circle, on the eastern side of Canada's Baffin Island. In front of us was the spectacular, breathtaking scenery of Pangnirtung Fjord, dominated by rugged, snowcapped mountains in a landscape deeply carved by Ice Age glaciers.

We were fishing for Arctic char, a salmonid closely related to our own brook trout. In my estimation and in that of other fishermen, this is the finest eating fish in the world. It is highly prized by the Inuit (incidentally, they don't like our word for them - "Eskimos" - since it is a nasty Indian name meaning "Eaters of raw meat"). Further south, in Labrador and northern Quebec, where the Inuit catch both salmon and char, they throw away the salmon and keep the char!

Char readily take lures and fight like mad on light spinning tackle. They virtually commit suicide on red-and-white Daredevil and silver Pixie spoons, which is what we were throwing at them. Our Inuit guide showed us how they do it: he ran the umiak or freight canoe up on an ice floe, then the three of us got out and jigged our lures in clear water between the ever-moving floes. Great grey shapes came out like ghosts from beneath the ice and went crazy trying to get at the dancing lures. Andy and I caught many fish this way, but our Inuit friend, without the benefit of an Orvis graphite rod (in fact, with only a line wrapped around a stick), caught three fish to our one!

The Inuit live in the settlement of Pangnirtung, a large village of about 900 souls on the edge of the fjord. About half of them occupy rather ugly pre-fab houses provided by the government, but the other half live by preference in Inuit-style canvas tents. Discarded trash is just about everywhere, especially snowmobile parts; it doesn't really matter since for ten months of the year the floesam is covered by snow. Although Pangnirtung is one of the remote settlements in Canada's north, it is served by six flights a week, and by a freighter which comes in when the pack clears from the Cumberland Sound. Incredibly, you can direct dial Heath from "Pang" - I did, and the connection was better than between Heath and Colrain. On the south edge of the town a huge Bell Telephone dish antenna points to the Anik communications satellite. Through this the Inuit can enjoy TV soap operas and even broadcasts in their own language through the long winter night.

You see seal skins drying everywhere in Pang, even on the chain link fence surrounding the communications station - testimony to the fascinating combination of primitive and "high tech" so typical of Inuit life. Other than fishing for char, working for sport fishermen and tourists at the local lodge, and carving soapstone for sale, the hunting of ringed seals is the mainstay of their economy. The local Hudson's Bay Company store (which disappointingly looks like a fifth-rate Caldor's) pays them \$4.00 for a good skin, and the Inuit consume the meat. In mid-summer they take their scope-sighted rifles among the pack ice to get the seals, while the rest of the year they hunt from snowmobiles trailing wooden sleds.

Life must get pretty tedious up there, especially in the dead of winter when "daylight" is just a faint

noon glow on the horizon (when we were there it never got dark, which made it difficult to sleep). Although Pang voted itself a dry community, there is plenty of alcoholism, and teenagers manage to get drugs; they even sniff gasoline in their boredom. Unemployment is high, so any kind of job is good.

Nonetheless, the Inuit are a cheerful, fun-loving people, always laughing at some prank or predicament. They live in one of the world's most beautiful landscapes. Although it is completely treeless, in July and August alpine flowers are everywhere. Rivers come tumbling down through the tundra and the glaciers and snowfields, falling into the turquoise-colored waters of the fjord. At the head of the fjord is the entrance to Auyuittuq National Park, a great big hunk of genuine Arctic wilderness, much of which is covered by the Penny Ice Cap, one of the largest in the world. The adventurous visitor to this awesome land has to pack in everything, for there are no facilities in the Park. We had no camping equipment, so we did not go beyond the entrance, but maybe next time. . .

So what did we do with the fish we caught? Most of it we gave away to the Inuit guides so that they could air dry it for winter use. Some of the char we feasted on ourselves, in lieu of the standard fare at the lodge, which was almost inedible. The rest is now happily smoking away in a Connecticut smokehouse. Some bright December day in Heath we'll dine on char, and I'll think of my Inuit friends some 1600 miles to the north, sitting in perpetual darkness with howling winds, 40-below temperatures, and no prospect for "ice-out" until next July. Under those circumstances, I think I'd be sniffing gasoline, too.

. . . continued from page 1

Other Heath property owners who have had their forest lands certified under the Tree Farm system include Erwin Deutsch, Mike Girard, Adolph Gudell, Phyllis Kades, Kim Levitch, and Newland Smith. There are a total of 1365 acres under the program in the town of Heath.

The American Tree Farm System has no connection with the Massachusetts State Chapter 61 certified forest land program which offers certain property tax benefits to qualified land owners. However, some Tree Farm owners have elected to enter the Chapter 61 program also.

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## WAGON TRAIN 1984

The fourth annual Wagon Train will be held again this fall in Heath on October 6 & 7. Carroll Stowe is planning another interesting and challenging route for the wagons this year. Anyone interested in participating in this event is asked to call Carroll at 337-4498.

## LADIES AID FAIR A SUCCESS

On July 25 the Heath Ladies Aid held their annual fair at the Community Hall. The sale featured baked goods, fancy articles and a white elephant table and netted \$451.

The Ladies will hold their Christmas sale in November.

## FRESH AIR CHILDREN IN HEATH

by Sue Silvester and Karen MacDougall

The morning of July 12th dawned crisp and clear, promising more than just another beautiful day. Two families in Heath scrambled to make beds, feed the animals and get everyone assembled in the car for the 30 minute drive to Greenfield.

A large touring bus was scheduled to bring 29 "Fresh Air Kids" to families in the Franklin County area. For 22 years buses have been bringing children aged 5 to 12 from New York City to the peace and tranquility of western Massachusetts with money provided by the Fresh Air Fund. This non-profit organization provides underprivileged urban children with an opportunity to escape the sultry city for two weeks.

Area coordinator Ruth Anderson was on hand at the long-awaited hour not to introduce the new arrivals, but to regrettably inform us that the bus would be at least two hours late. While waiting in line for a Big Mac we chatted with a dozen other families, all trying to make the two hours disappear.

At long last the official Greyhound wheeled into the parking lot of Greenfield High School and the door opened, revealing many anxious faces peering out at us. For Karen and Jack MacDougall there were smiles and words of greeting as they spotted their returning guest, 8 year old Michelle Clarke of Staten Island. Their daughter Magen waved excitedly as Michelle was called forward. Reunited with their fresh air child of last summer, the MacDougalls confidently gathered up all Michelle's belongings and happily piled into the car. For the Silvesters there were many more anxious moments heavily laden with, "Which one is she?" and "Do you think she will like the dog?" A muffled megaphone called them forward and a tiny, warm hand was placed in theirs. Denise Rojas of the Bronx was here for two weeks! Breaking bread with strangers always breaks the ice we thought, so it was off to MacDonald's (again) for a late lunch. Overcome with hunger, Denise managed to shake her head yes and no to the many queries launched in her

direction, but it remained several hours before she spoke. Thus began the two week celebration of two little girls who came to Heath.

Michelle soon found that the kittens of last year had been replaced by bunnies, and that this year she had her own bedroom. Among her favorite things during this two week sojourn were Jack's chili, playing with Ebony, the dog, swimming, going to the fireworks in Rowe, seeing a beaver, playing with the bunnies and going to the movies. It was a full, normal calendar with no emergencies or homesickness. Michelle and Magen were constant companions, summer sisters in the center of Heath.

Denise and Betsy were on the road more than at home. The soft-spoken Puerto Rican girl had never seen the ocean, ridden a horse, or swung in a hammock. We climbed Mt. Greylock, made lasagna and sprawled out on the floor to paint rainbows. But the best part for Denise was the neverending saga of the Bobbsey Twins every night just at bedtime. We are sure she had a good time, but feel that she taught us much more than how to count to ten in Spanish. She captured our hearts, and as the MacDougalls had already learned, love is contagious.

Both families plan to invite their fresh air guest back next summer, circumstances permitting. We urge other Heath families to consider the possibility of hosting an underprivileged child from the city.

## REVALUATION LISTINGS TO BE PUBLISHED SOON

The 100 % revaluation of all town properties which the HEATH HERALD expected to publish in June has been delayed due to a longer than anticipated time required to finalize and proofread. The more than 1000 listings of land and property parcels is now completely entered on the Assessors' property description cards and also on the town computer in a form suitable for publishing in the HERALD.

The Assessors have sent a summary of the new valuations to the state for preliminary approval. As soon as our computer service company, LHS Associates, updates the mailing list, the special number of the HEATH HERALD with all of these new listings will be mailed by the Board of Assessors to each taxpayer of Heath. It is expected that this mailing will be made before the end of August.

The completion of this revaluation culminates three long years of hard work by our Board of Assessors and they are to be congratulated on this tremendous task.

## KEN CROWNSHIELD AWARD

A new award in memory of Ken Crownshield to be given at the Fair for the first time this year has been announced by the Heath Agricultural Society. Ken was president of the Society for many years and, because of his great interest in the Fair, in children and farming, Ray and Dorthy Scofield of Westminster and formerly of Heath have donated this prize. This award of \$25 will be given at the Fair to a Heath youth who shows a heifer of good quality and good care.



Fresh Air Children

Denise Rojas, Michele Clark, (center)  
with Betsey Silvester (l) and Magen MacDougall (r)  
(Photo by Sue Silvester)

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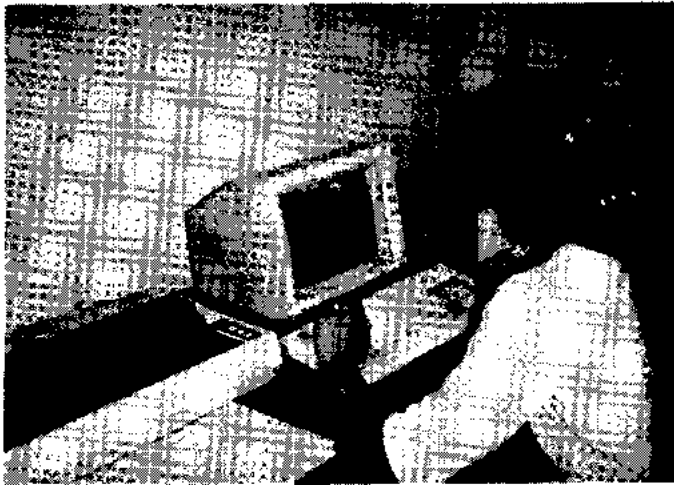
by Newland Smith

The last piece of hardware for the town computer system was delivered on July 25. The next day members of the Computer Committee had the system set up and tested out in the town hall.

The equipment is set up on a special table, made by John Holdsworth, at one end of the Selectmen's room. The six foot table has plenty of room for the large Epson printer, the keyboard with display unit, and the IBM system unit, still leaving space for working papers.

Town Treasurer Catherine Nichols has already started using the new system, under supervision of Committee members, for some records and is rapidly becoming familiar with its operation.

During the next month, the Computer Committee expects to select several software programs for use on the town system.



Computing Town Payroll  
Catherine Nichols at IBM PC

## MEDICAL CENTER PROGRAMS

The Mohawk Valley Medical Center announces its fall/winter program calendar will be mailed soon. This season's health education programs vary from "CPR" and "Stress Relaxation" to an overview of "Chinese Medicine" and "Aspirin-free Headache Relief". "Aerobics About Town," an exercise program taught by Cyndy Mansur, formerly of the Greenfield YMCA, will be held here in Heath as well as in other towns. There are courses especially for youth, parents, men and women - something for everyone. Contact the Health Education office if you would like to be included on the mailing list, 625-2503

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## DAIRY FARMING - THEN AND NOW

by Alli Thane

Our life in Heath began on Memorial Day 1958. We bought our farm from Arthur and Phyllis Volland who with Phyllis's parents, the Chamberlains, had raised milking Shorthorn cattle. We were reminiscing about this the other day and trying to recall the number of dairy farmers Heath had at that time.

We came up with nineteen farms. Ted Burrington on Burrington Road had recently sold his cattle but on the next farm, where Art Schwenger presently lives, Ron and Ruth Corey were farming. Ralph and Rachel Sumner had cows not far away and also Frank and Edith Gleason where Walt Gleason now farms. Then there was Oscar Landstrom and Bob Law on the Law place and Belle Dickinson and her family on the Dickinson place. Down the road in the Center were Dana and Carol Malone. The Peons on the present Howland place had just stopped farming. David Giard was in East Heath, and Oscar and Howard Thompson where Bill and Brenda Clark are now. There were two Sessions farms; Ralph toward the south and Richard north on 8A. There were two Lively farms on Number Nine Road; Medric, Frederick's father and Roland, Paul's father. There were three Crowningshield farms; Herbert, where the Rodriguez family summers; Arthur, where Fred and Esther now farm; and Ken and Grace where Grace lives. John Hillman had cattle where Doug Wilkins lives; and Luis and Eva Pazmino on Summer Stetson Road where the Lavigne family is now. Jadwiga Rouba was on Sadawga Road and Howard Hurd was on Number Nine at the Gulleban place. Doug and Nada Stetson later bought Ron Corey's farm but at that time they had a chicken ranch on the present Cromarty place.

This is how dairy farming has dwindled in Heath in 26 years - from nineteen to six. Now we are the Sessions, Fred Lively, Fred and Arthur Crowningshield, Walt Gleason, Earl Gleason, Ern and Alli Thane.

In comparison I'd like to add that around 1960 milk sold for about \$3.60 per cwt; now it sells for around \$14 per cwt. Grain was \$3.70 a bag and now fluctuates around \$10. The Gleasons told me they bought a baler in 1956 for \$1400. Now the same machine costs \$6950. Earl also mentioned that Ern and I are the last people to start a farm in Heath and who have still managed to keep going. How - I don't know, when we recall how little we knew about farming when we came here. But, with a book in one hand and a milking machine in the other, good health and hard labor, we are still here.

Will the small farms disappear from Heath as they have from so many other towns? How wonderful it would be to see more young people go into farming full time. We've had so many great experiences we would have missed if we had stayed in suburbia.

Gordon E. Taylor d/b/a



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## BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

by Paul Lively, Chairman

A special meeting was held recently to plan an entry for the Heath Fair parade. We will be putting it together the week preceding the Fair.

Medallions inscribed with the town logo on one and a half inch round antique pewter have been ordered and, hopefully, will be here by Fair time.

Jerome Lively has proposed a bicentennial film festival and is researching the feasibility of presenting this event.

Robert Dane has agreed to be in charge of organizing an arts and crafts fair.

James Coursey is working on organizing a lawn party to be held at his home on Bassett Road in South Heath.

Work on previously mentioned projects is proceeding smoothly.

## LIBRARY LINES

by Jane Wishart, Librarian

Children are invited to our summer library program beginning August 1. Each Wednesday between 2 and 3 PM we'll have stories, crafts, and games plus a special "Draw-a-Story" Contest. Come, join your friends.

For adults, we have a new selection of titles from the Bookmobile including the current best sellers, new craft and hobby books and current magazines.

I'll be leaving on September 1 to accept a full time position at the Rowe Elementary School. I want to thank you for your support and friendship.

## LIBRARIAN RESIGNS

The Heath Library Trustees accepted with regret the resignation of the town librarian Jane Wishart, who will be leaving to accept a position at Rowe Elementary School in the fall. Mrs. Wishart says she will miss the pleasant surroundings of the Heath Library and her many friends. She has held the position for one year.

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## 1985 BICENTENNIAL CALENDAR

On sale at Peters' Store and the Library

12 old photographs of Heath

Only \$6.00 each

\*\*\*\*\*

### FOREST MANAGEMENT

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## HISTORICAL SOCIETY EVENTS

August 4 was a busy day for the Heath Historical Society with a long day of activities including the Festival on the Common and the Annual Meeting in the Community Hall.

The Festival started at 10 in the morning with many flea market items for sale. Rachel Sumner and Bev Denouden organized a table for the Society of many fascinating objects which sold well. Teresa Peters kept the many people attending from going hungry with food and drink. Dolly Churchill, besides organizing other flea market booths, entertained the young children with her perennial merry-go-round just rebuilt by Dominic Musacchio. A new Arts and Crafts exhibit of Heath artisans, organized by Catherine Nichols and Jayne Dane, attracted a good crowd on the grounds of the Schoolhouse Museum. The occasion also brought many visitors to the two Historical Museums where Amy Barry had set up special displays.

The 1985 Bicentennial Calendar has been selling well and many people took advantage at the Festival to buy their copies. If you have not yet bought your Calendar, you can still pick up copies at Peters' store or at the Library for \$6.00 each. Or you can have a copy mailed for \$7.00 by writing Pat Leuchtman, Jacksonville Stage, Charlemont MA 01339, with your check payable to the Heath Historical Society.

The Annual Meeting of the Society started at 8 PM with an address by Dr. Arthur W. Shaw of the Greenfield Community College. His talk was entitled "From Stirrup to the Laser: The Story of Economic Development in the Pioneer Valley." After the talk a brief business meeting was held. At this time officers were elected to fill the positions of those whose terms had expired. Michael Coe was elected president taking the place of Ruth; Jayne Dane elected vice president taking the place of David Howland who was elected director replacing Newland Smith. Michael Bakalar was reelected director for a second term as was the treasurer, Craig Barry, and also the secretary, Alice Woznick.

Don Conlan will organize a group to work at the Center Cemetery on Saturday, August 11, at 9 AM. All interested volunteers are asked to come and help clear brush and other maintenance.

In all it was a successful day.

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## PLAYGROUND PROGRESS

by Catherine Nichols

Work on the new playground next to the Community Hall is progressing on two fronts.

Parent volunteers are working weekends building a climbing structure. It is an impressive post and beam construction encircling the large maple tree. The beams were donated by Michael Girard. When complete the structure will include two slides, swings and other fun features.

Since July 1, a CETA summer work crew, under the supervision of David Turcoletti, has been working at the site. The crew of seven dug the holes and set posts for the structure under the supervision of Dominic Musacchio. They cleared brush and trees extensively and graded the slope. A few of the boys built two picnic tables and are currently erecting a jungle gym. In their three remaining weeks here their work will include making a staircase down to the meadow and erecting a fence along the road.

Donations are still coming in and are most appreciated. The Park and Playground Committee is cooperating with the Playschool on a raffle this year. There are many great prizes. Please support us. The drawing will be on August 19 at the Fair.



Volunteers Erecting Playground Ramp

## WELLS SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

by Jean Holdsworth

Fred W. Wells, a lifetime resident of Shelburne Falls and Greenfield, died in 1946 but his generosity has helped many young men and women of Franklin County obtain a college education thanks to a trust fund provided in his will. A portion of the income generated by the trust fund is used to provide scholarships to students with outstanding records of academic achievement and extra-curricular activities.

The following students from Heath were selected to receive scholarships to attend college for the 1984-85 school year: Nichole H. Fogarty, Sherri A. Galipo, Richard E. Housner, Martha J. Lively, L. Diane Stowe, Eric E. Sumner, Todd A. Sumner.

Congratulations to all of you for a record of outstanding achievement and best wishes for the school year to come.

## HEATH CEMETERIES TO BE INDEXED

Under sponsorship of the Historical Society Bicentennial Committee, a program has been started to index the four cemeteries of Heath. This program was inspired partly by Mrs. Edith Nyman of Greenfield, who has indexed a number of cemeteries in Deerfield, Greenfield and other area towns.

This is an important project, not only as a record of Heath families and genealogy, but also to preserve the inscriptions of many stones which are becoming illegible due to age and weather.

After a fruitful meeting with Mrs. Nyman on the index system and techniques involved, a committee has been formed to start on this project. The committee presently consists of Bill Wolf, Betty Eldridge, Newland Smith with Caroline Smith as chairman. Any interested volunteers willing to work on this project are asked to contact Caroline Smith.

The indexing will consist of identifying each gravestone in a cemetery with its location and type of stone, and making a copy of the inscription and epitaph, if any. The information will then be accumulated in a booklet with cross indexing set up on a computer system. It is hoped that a map can also be included for each cemetery. Copies of the final index will be made available in the Historical Society Museum and in the Town Library. Later, if there is sufficient interest, additional copies can be made up.

While it is recognized that this is a long term project, and probably could not be completed in time for the Bicentennial, it is felt desirable to work on this important program during the Bicentennial period.

## CHURCH NEWS

Have you noticed the bright gold dome on the Heath Church? Ron Corey became a steeple jack climbing a high ladder to paint the dome with a specially ordered paint. He wanted to do this before the building is repainted, as gold spots on the white sides would not be appropriate. Bids are out for repairing the west roof which had been replaced before the east side. Ron is also building frames for new storm windows for the Church.

The Church supper following the Ladies Aid Fair on July 25 was a great success with a full house netting \$265. Rachael Sumner worked hard organizing the group of dedicated workers.

The Daily Vacation Bible School of the Heath and Rowe Churches ended a week of activity with a picnic on August 3. At a joint children's service in Rowe on Sunday, August 5, the children showed the results of their week of Bible study.

On August 19, the annual Joint Service will be held at the Heath Fairgrounds at 9:30 AM.

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## PLANNING BOARD REPORT

by John Holdsworth

After a year of effort, the Planning Board finally put together a zoning bylaw designed to make Mohawk Beach Estates a separate zoning district in the town of Heath. A preliminary inquiry indicated the Attorney General's office found the bylaw revision acceptable. The response at town meeting was more critical, but the bylaw was passed by the required two-thirds majority. Henceforth, the building inspector may act on building permits requested by Mohawk Estates residents. In some cases, approval of dimensional variances by the Zoning Board of Appeals will be necessary before building permits can be issued. There should be relatively few such cases.

Now the Planning Board can go back to its list of priorities and get on with other business. One item on the priority list was emphasized at the recent town meeting. There are concerns that pollution from various sources might affect ground water quality in the Estates and surrounding areas. Chemicals used to treat the pond may present a problem; extensive development of leach fields may cause a sewage/waste water problem. The latter possibility could conceivably lead to requests for a sewage disposal system for the Estates. Concern was expressed at the meeting that pressure might be put on the town to assist in providing such a system. The Planning Board will be looking at these matters in future meetings.

Some other topics of discussion at meetings this year and next year will be: updating town subdivision regulations; examination of the need for speed and warning signs at specific locations in town; long-range planning for the town dump and alternative systems; methods of broadening the tax base in town; updating the town five year conservation and recreation plan; consideration of a town swimming area; planning for working with a shared town administrator.

Meetings will continue to be held on the second Monday of each month at 8 PM in the town hall.

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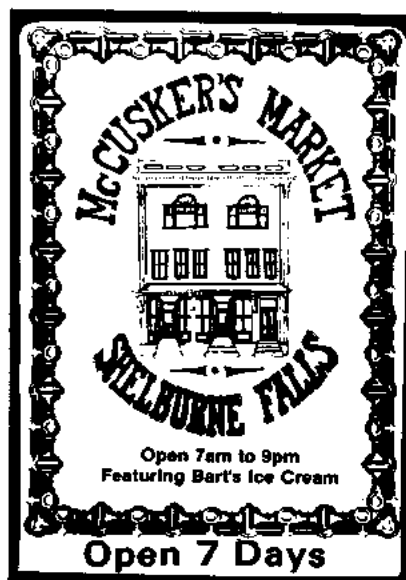
## NEWS FROM TOWN HALL

In accordance with permissions granted at town meetings, a grader and a computer have been purchased. Purchase of a fireproof file cabinet for storage of valuable records has also been authorized and two old safes, bulky and not fireproof, have been disposed of, as a first step in rearranging the two downstairs offices. As part of this process and because of the changed status of telephone equipment, the least expensive instruments are being purchased. Included in this arrangement is a separate call number for the phone in the Community Hall, to be effected in the near future. The CETA crew engaged by the playground group has been at work on rainy days clearing the large upstairs room preparatory to its renovation, and bids for this work will soon be advertised. Bids for interior painting and floor refinishing in the Community Hall are under consideration. Applications for a town nurse, who it is expected will also serve the town of Rowe and the elementary school, are due to be opened at this writing, as are the applications for an administrative assistant to be shared with Buckland, Leyden, and Shelburne. Most of the work planned for this year on the Colrain Stage road has been completed. Two large storage tanks have been acquired to be used as culverts replacing bridges on that road. Delivery and erection of the salt shed is expected shortly. The dump continues to be a headache, and Anne Steinbock has been named chairman of the three-town committee.

## FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

by David Howland, Chairman

The Finance Committee held its organizational meeting on June 11. David Howland was named chairman and Bruce Cromack, secretary. Guy Silvester was welcomed to the Committee and will be representative to Rowe School Committee meetings. Bruce will attend Mohawk School meetings and Dave will go to Franklin Tech budget meetings. Other meetings were held to prepare for the special town meetings. The Committee approved the transfer of \$2914 from the 1984 Reserve Account to balance accounts of Civil Defense, Town Office, Interest, Town Building, Blue Cross, Highway Department Salaries and Highway Machinery.



## FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

by Chief Earl Gleason

Emergency runs during June and July started with three firefighters responding to South Road for a tree fire on June 15. June 28 saw Deputy Tom Lively head up a small crew to investigate the smell of smoke on Brunnelle Road. Four firefighters and Police Chief Gowdy aided a victim at Mohawk Beach Estates on July 14. This person was transported in the Charlemont Ambulance as was a Burrington Road resident on July 13.

Four members of the Department and the tanker attended a rural water supply school taught by Joe Gervais of the Mass. Fire Academy. The school was held in Colrain on June 16 and 23. The class ended with a two hour drill with firefighters from Colrain, Shelburne Falls, Buckland, Shelburne Center, Halifax and Heath transporting water from near the Roberts Farm to the Colrain Fire Station. A flow of better than 450 gallons per minute was maintained for the two hours.

The Department has spoken to the Finance Committee and the Selectmen about replacing the 1947 Ford pumper in about five years. In planning for this, the Fire Association has named Walt Gleason, Rich Steinbock, John Holdsworth and Mal Lively to the committee. June 28 saw four members of the committee go to Williamsburg to see their new pumper.

Real estate has apparently been moving as the chief has issued five smoke detector inspections for the transfer of property during the last two months.

Although the lightning of recent storms has caused no damage to structures, it has kept the Chief busy. He has made numerous trips to the Fairgrounds either to check the equipment, meet with repairmen, or to change equipment, a trip to Bernardston for radio parts, and two hours on the phone trying to get Ma Bell to repair damage to Red Phone equipment. I am happy to say that the radio is now working. I am less happy with my success with Ma Bell.

Heath Fair is coming. The Firemen are looking forward to seeing you play our wheel, eating one of our barbequed chickens and we hope you will enjoy the Firemen's games.

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## TWO TOWN MEETINGS IN JULY

by David Howland

Two special town meetings were held in July. The first, on July 2, dealt with a deficit of \$12,010 in the Highway Account caused by heavy sand and salt purchases. This was paid by a transfer from the Elementary School Account which was in an overage position. Four other articles were designed to transfer monies from Revenue Sharing and other accounts to pay for a used grader, costing \$30,000, and to balance accounts.

A flurry of discussion occurred when Norman Sessions asked if funds could be transferred after the end of the fiscal year at a special town meeting. He thought that unused funds should revert to free cash. Dave Howland, of the FinCom, called Public Accountant Tom Scanlon who verified that such appropriated funds, if available, could be spent so long as the town's books had not been closed which normally occurs by July 15. The grader will enable the town to do a variety of road jobs and earn income from state financed highway projects.

At the second town meeting held on July 30, the first article asked the town to appropriate \$700 for a new fireproof file for town records. It passed unanimously after discussion about the disposal of the two old safes. The Chief Selectman reported that one safe had been given to the Heath Historical Society and the other to an individual in Shelburne Falls. A second article proposed accepting \$110,000 from the federal Municipal Highway project. A contract was signed some years ago, but inadvertently had not been submitted to the town for acceptance. After discussion about the necessary borrowing, it was passed unanimously.

The major article of the meeting was the setting up of a separate zoning district for Mohawk Beach Estates. The Planning Board has worked on this zoning problem for a year, ever since it was learned that building permits could not be issued as the subdivision was not legally created in 1968.

Chairman Tom Lively of the Planning Board offered an amendment to match wording of the subdivision law, but withdrew it when town counsel Byron Caplice agreed the new wording confused the intent of the proposed zoning bylaw. Dave Howland offered an amendment that caused protracted debate. He sought to clarify the role of the town with regard to water and sewage requirements of Title V of Mass. Public Health laws. He expressed concern about the potential impact of building on lots of 10,000 square feet as proposed in the bylaw. Anne Steinbock did not think such language was necessary as people had to comply with the state law anyway. Howland noted that if the town provided sanitation support in any way, it could become obligated for the entire area. Jean Dean of Chippewa Drive said it was erroneous to think that large numbers of homes could be built. There was concern over adding this amendment without research and of the possible cost to the town if landowners were not allowed to build. Howland withdrew the amendment after the Planning Board promised to investigate the measure. The bylaw passed 12 to 6 thereby meeting the two-thirds voting requirement. Moderator Ed Calver added his "yes" vote to make sure there were enough votes. The meeting adjourned after about an hour.

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## HEATH FAIR 1984

by Alice Woznick

As everyone should know by now, the 1984 Heath Fair is almost upon us - specifically August 17, 18 & 19. The Franklin County Fair in Greenfield is the only other agricultural fair left in the county where there used to be so many. In Carroll Stowe's article in this issue one can sense the changes since the first fair started here in 1916.

So don't forget to get your exhibits ready and be sure to file your entry blanks before the deadlines on Friday August 10 and Wednesday August 15.

The Heath Fair is organized by a small group of volunteers in the Heath Agricultural Society who began work on the '84 Fair right after closing the '83 Fair. As the Fair approaches, more participation is needed by volunteers for selling tickets at the gate, placing posters in other towns like Orange, Athol and Turners Falls, and helping on other committees. Contact Barbara Smith at 337-5563 or Alice Woznick at 337-4818 if you can help.

If you want to help but don't know what needs to be done, please come to the Heath Fair meeting on August 14, at 8 PM at the Community Hall.

A new award in memory of Ken Crowningshield has been announced. Ken was president of the Society for many years and, because of his great interest in the Fair, in children and farming, Ray and Dot Scofield of Westminster and formerly of Heath have donated this prize. The award of \$25 will be given to a Heath youth who shows a heifer of good quality and care.

The Heath Fair is now a nice balance between musical entertainment, exhibits, and agricultural events. This year's Fair is offering something new in entertainment - Rosenshortz. What is Rosenshortz? It is Gary Rozen and Bill Shortz who offer a musical entertainment for the whole family. Children especially will enjoy the music and humorous skits written by Gary Rozen whose songs have appeared on Sesame Street. Rosenshortz has appeared from British Columbia to Washington DC, and this year will perform at the Heath Fair on Saturday August 18 at 2 PM. Also on Friday evening, August 17, David Green will play his guitar and sing with a new repertoire of folk songs.

This is our Fair - So come, participate and enjoy it!

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## AGRICULTURE IN EUROPE

by Caroline Smith

Buck Denouden and his daughter Nichole recently returned from four weeks in Europe on a combined business and pleasure trip. Since 1978 Buck, who runs a small farm on Number Nine Road in Heath, has been involved in research and consulting for the European Economic Community in agricultural planning. This summer he visited the Swiss and French governments and the Ministries of the Economic Community in Brussels.

Buck reports that Europeans are ahead of the United States in agricultural planning and that they see it as a way of dealing with economic problems. Because of the density of their population, the governments subsidize operation of marginal farms up to 20% of their income. They are convinced that this form of support is far less expensive than having people unemployed. The Europeans also use land consolidation - bringing farms together to improve their economic structures and they are highly advanced in the use of technologies appropriate to the size of the operation.

"Less favored regions" is another program to help those with difficult land to farm. This policy is also geared to minimize flights from the countryside and unemployment.

Buck is encouraged in this work by the University of Hartford where he is a professor of philosophy. He is interested in the relationship between theory and practice and whether some theories are shortsighted. He believes there is strong interest in this country to save and put in practice some of these European policies, but we are far behind and in dire need of long term agricultural policies and planning.

## MOHAWK SPORTS PHYSICALS

The dates for the Mohawk School sports physical examinations for the coming school year, are on Monday, August 20, for grades 7 - 9 and Tuesday, August 21, for grades 10 - 12 at 3:30 PM. The physicals are given in the nurse's office at Mohawk. Shorts and shirts are required to be worn.

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## A WOLVERINE IN HEATH?

by Sue and Guy Silvester

It was at precisely 8:35 PM on the evening of Wednesday, June 13, 1984, that Bill Wolf stepped out the door of his Heath home. President Reagan's press conference had just ended. Heavy clouds loomed on the horizon camouflaging the setting sun.

There, by the large maple tree, stood an animal at once dismissed as a dog. Another glance triggered disbelief and Wilda, his sister, was hastily summoned.

Realizing immediately that he had never encountered such an animal, Bill methodically set for himself the task of memorizing every feature, every exciting detail. In the fleeting moments that followed, he engraved the image of that creature on his mind forever.

Unconcerned and seemingly unafraid of its observers, the animal lumbered down the nearly abandoned dirt road near the house, passing within 75 feet of the porch, then turned and continued into a hayfield and out of sight.

Quoting from a letter which Bill Wolf later sent to his friend Brendan Whittaker, Secretary of Environmental Conservation for the State of Vermont, the description of the animal follows,

"The animal moved somewhat slowly with a lumbering gait, but also with a certain agility considering its solidity. I think I described its gait to you on the phone as 'almost a swagger.' 'Lumbering' would be better. It did not 'lope.' It did not sniff along the ground except, I think, once when it turned to the right. I estimate the body alone to be 24" - 28" in length with a bushy tail about 8" and no more than 10" of additional length. I felt the animal must weigh at least 30 lbs., probably more.

"Its center of gravity seemed very low. The most striking feature was its handsome, reddish brown coat of very thick fur along its back. It gave the impression of being far too heavily furred for the summer. The reddish brown gave way lower down to blackish brown with a continuous streak of light grayish brown extending from just below small, slightly pointed ears (not prominent) around the sides to just above the tail area. From behind, the pattern seemed like a horseshoe. This feature was also striking. The massive strong legs, resembling in shape (but not size) a bear's terminated in heavy blackish fur. The head was distinctly bear-shaped (but not in size) and constituted for me another key feature. Overall the animal might be described as a composite picture of a bear and a skunk with the former predominating. I have learned that some Indians call the Wolverine the skunk-bear."

The observations made that evening during the brief interlude with this rare animal were calculated and factual. Although local and state environmentalists that were contacted feel that the animal sighted was probably a large male fisher, it is still possible that the animal was indeed a wolverine.

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## A TOWN NURSE FOR HEATH

by Sheila Litchfield

The vital tradition of town/school nurse will continue in Heath and Rowe, thanks to the foresight of taxpayers. Since the breakup of the previous four-town nursing district a Heath/Rowe nursing search committee was formed to develop a nursing position for these two towns. Maggie Rice RN, Rowe School Committee; Susan Gruen, Heath School Committee; Dennis Lively, Rowe Selectman; and Sheila Litchfield RN, Heath Selectmen's representative comprise this committee.

Nine applications and resumes were received and reviewed; interviews conducted and our choice made. Mrs. Sharleen Moffatt will fill this 22 hour/week position. Her time will be divided into eight hours for Rowe School, and seven hours for each town. Sharleen is well qualified for this job with 13 years' experience in hospital, geriatric and community nursing. Mrs. Moffatt lives with her husband and two children in Shelburne Falls.

We need to call upon the assistance of townspeople for appropriate space for our nurse. We need an accessible location where residents can reach Mrs. Moffatt for blood pressure checks and telephone contacts. A telephone will be installed if necessary. Office equipment is also needed. Anyone able to assist should contact either Mrs. Gruen (337-4235) or Mrs. Litchfield (337-4957).

## MERRY-GO-ROUND RESTORED

Dolly Churchill's little merry-go-round which had become very tired has been rejuvenated and was carrying children 'round-and-'round at the Historical Society Festival.

It had become broken after many years of use. Wilbur Rainville, Dolly's father, built it back in the '40s for the carnival he ran and it travelled extensively. When the Rainvilles moved up to Heath, Mrs. Rainville was lonely. Wilbur gave up the carnival to stay home. In the '50s he gave the go-round to the Heath Agricultural Society, but as the Fair grew concessions overpowered it so it was finally returned to Dolly.

Recently Dolly persuaded Dominic Musacchio to help repair the go-round. A few nights before the Festival the two of them painstakingly laid out the new 16 foot diameter track on the floor of the exhibition hall at the Fairgrounds. And so with new life, it is expected to run on its merry way for many more years.

## POLICE REPORT

by Chief Lorin Gowdy

Newly appointed to the Police Department is Guy Silvester of the Colrain Stage Road.

Heath residents are reminded that the police business telephone number is 337-5505. The number 337-4086 is a home telephone.

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## MILESTONES

by Edith Royer

Alexis Justine was born on June 10 to Fred and Heather Law of Auroa Col. Alexis is the granddaughter of Ruth Law and the great granddaughter of Grace Landstrom.

Kelly Ann was born on June 15 to Robert and Pearl Burrington of East Charlemont. Kelly Ann is the great granddaughter of Hannah Burrington.

Akiyoshi McAfee was born on June 26 to Paul and Allison (Brown) Ehara of Oakland CA. Akiyoshi is the grandson of Robert and Sidney Brown of Heath and California.

Gregory Francis was born on June 29 to Steven and Nancy Thane of Cortland NY. Gregory is the grandson of Ernest and Alli Thane and of Carolyn and Kendall Litchfield, of Heath and White Plains NY, and the great grandson of Leon Stewart.

Christopher Baker was born on July 9 to David and Lynn Dooley.

Brandy Lynn was born on July 9 to Sandra and Jerry McCloud of East Charlemont. Brandy Lynn is the granddaughter of Evelyn and Smead Hillman.

Megan Thompson was born on July 11 to Brenda and William Clark. Megan is the great granddaughter of Clarence Cutter.

Matthew Robert was born on July 13 to Jeanne and Howard Boyd of Conway. Matthew is the greatgrandson of Dorothy Sessions.

Tessa Rae was born on July 13 to Tammy and Ronald Stanford of Warwick. Tessa is a great granddaughter of Ida and Leon Brown.

Faith Burrington and Arnold Jones of Ashfield were married on June 23 in St John's Episcopal Church in Ashfield. Faith is the daughter of Constance Burrington and the great granddaughter of Hannah Burrington.

Emi Ito and Ian Maitland were married on June 23 in St. Paul MN. Ian is the son of Alastair Maitland.

Mark Brown was married to Karen Friedland on July 1 in the Redwoods Forest CA. Mark is the son of Robert and Sidney Brown of Heath and California.

Mabel Tripp of Granville died in the Holyoke Hospital on July 23. She leaves her son, Robert Tripp, and two granddaughters.

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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

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## HEATH SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT

by Susan Gruen, Chairperson

The summer is half over and the School Committee has been surprisingly busy. these last few weeks. This is generally considered "quiet time." There will be 18 new kindergarden students at Rowe School. We hope that Ruth Law will return well rested from her vacation.

The school bus route will be determined about August 15 when David Newell returns from his well earned vacation.

From August 6-17, Mr. Schoenfeld will conduct a woodworking class in the mornings at Rowe School and a computer class in the afternoons. Hopefully there will be a follow up class for parents so that we can understand our children's new lingo, "Computer 101 - Parents Only".

Skip Veneri will be handing over his Mohawk representative position to Linda Marcotte in the next few months. Hopefully this transition period will help Linda adjust to this demanding role. We thank Skip for his numerous hours at Mohawk and hope that Mrs. Veneri will be glad to see her husband again!

Other news includes the appointment of Mrs. Moffatt ~~Shelburne Falls~~ to the position of school nurse as ~~as town nurse~~ to both Heath and Rowe. Mrs. ~~Moffatt~~ comes to us after many hours spent in the selection process and interviewing applicants. She will begin her job on August 8.

The 6th grade class has been raising money this summer for their trip to Washington. At the present they have raised approximately a third of their monies. How exciting this trip is going to be in view of the presidential campaign and elections!

Just a reminder to all Heathens that the School Board meets the second Tuesday of each month and we look forward to having any interested citizens attend. Our next meeting is September 11 at 7:30 PM.

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