



VOLUME 6 NUMBER 5

DECEMBER 1984/JANUARY 1985

HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER 25¢



THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

by Jeremy Lively

The day after Thanksgiving is the day when the Christmas Season begins. That day is known to be the biggest shopping day of the Christmas season. People start to buy gifts and decorations for Christmas. People buy cards to send, wreaths to hang, and turkeys to eat.

But the biggest thing of Christmas is the birth of Christ. Some people are home early on Christmas Eve waiting for guests. Some are out late shopping at the last minute and get home late.

Some people never get the Christmas spirit and don't think much of Christmas. Then later they learn the true meaning of Christmas and are happy. But some people can't learn the true meaning of Christmas. But really it is very easy.

Joseph and Mary are going to Bethlehem. It was a long hard journey. Mary was pregnant and was going to have her son very soon. When they reached Bethlehem, they went to an inn to stay until their child was born. There was no room available so they stayed in a manger. Mary had her little child shortly after. All the animals gathered around to see the little king. The shepherds were watching their flock when they heard a choir of angels singing. An angel appeared and said "Do not fear, a king, a savior has been born who is Christ the Lord in Bethlehem. You shall find him wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger."

The manger was right under the North Star. The shepherds started out at once. Three wise men noticed the star and followed it until they reached the manger.

And that is the true meaning of Christmas.

* * *

(Editors' Note: Jeremy is in the sixth grade at Rowe School.)



Winter at Heath Center
Painting by W. Wall
(Owned by Eleanor Shippee)

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

by Sue Silvester

As the holiday season approaches, it is interesting to note various traditions that local families observe. Some traditions have been handed down from one generation to the next; others are barely a decade old. One definition of tradition in Webster's is "a long established custom that has the effect of unwritten law."

... continued on page 2

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

HEATH PRECIPITATION

by Ralph Dickinson, Observer
for Mass. Water Resources Commission

October precipitation was 3.93 inches; November precipitation was 3.37 inches. Total precipitation, January 1 through November 1984 was 55.42 inches.

The first snowfall was November 12. Although we had a trace of snow on four mornings, it was not enough to measure. They would be called snowfalls, as each time the ground was white, and there was snow enough to "track a cat."

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 6 - 8:30 PM Wednesdays 1 - 5 PM
Saturdays 9 AM - 1 PM

Town Nurse: Mondays 9 AM - 12 Noon Tuesdays 2-4 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

Town Telephones: Town Hall 337-4934

Community Hall 337-4847

Town Garage 337-4462

HEATH HERALD

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Editorial Staff Pegge Howland
Caroline Smith

Editorial Assistant Helen Nichols
Staff Reporters Edith Royer
Susan Silvester
Alli Thane

Advertising and Business John Read
Circulation Terry Pettengill
Typography Newland Smith

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. . . continued from page 1

In one family I know it is in keeping with family custom to have two tables during the holidays - one for the children and one for the adults. The sheer number of people dining together for the Christmas meal was the determining factor in beginning this annual custom. Sometimes customs are born of necessity; more often they begin with a special event, a wish, or an idea. We all observe traditions whether we think of them as such or not. The little Christmas village that has been unpacked for countless decades and lovingly displayed on the mantel and the annual family trek to the far corner of the woodlot to select the family tree are both examples of traditions.

Culinary traditions are among the most common during the holiday season, and the Bruce Cromack family was kind enough to share a couple of favorite recipes. Catherine's grandmother came from Sweden and, after living in Waltham, came to Heath with her husband, Victor Landstrom, and children. At that time Catherine's mother, Hannah Burrington, was ten years old. A special Spritz cookie recipe she used has been passed down from generation to generation, and each Christmas season Catherine uses these recipes:

Spritz Cookies

1/2 lb Butter
2/3 cup sugar
yolk 3 eggs
1 tsp almond extract
2 1/2 cups flour

Mix ingredients and place
in star cookie press.
Bake 6 min. at 375

Chocolate Spritz Cookies

1 cup sugar
1/2 cup or 1/4 lb butter
2 tsp milk
1 egg
2 sqrs melted chocolate
2 cups flour

Mix ingredients and put
in cookie press - she
uses one that is 1"
wide and has a scal-
loped top. Bake 5 min.
at 350 to 375.

Clyde Churchill remembers some wonderful Christmas customs from his boyhood. The Churchill homestead where he and his family now live was bought by his grandfather from his uncle in 1869 (for the sum of \$1150!), and Clyde's father left in 1907 when he married Avis Taylor and moved to Charlemont. With so many children in both the Taylor and Churchill families, it was no wonder that there were grand festivities when they all got together. Clyde recalls coming to Heath for Christmas by horse and sled with all the children on a special rack filled with hay for the cold ride up the mountain. His Aunt Bertha would have made popcorn balls with molasses and there was a double row of homemade pies of every description on the broad shelf in the pantry. Clyde's mother always wanted to surprise her relatives on their arrival, but the element of surprise was thwarted when the Canedy family, who lived near Ralph Session's home, would call Grandma Churchill as they passed by their house and tell them their company was on the way.

Clyde recalls they used to have quite a Christmas party each year, but before they left for home names were placed in a hat and each person drew a name for next year's Christmas present. The toys were simple and often homemade. They must have been treasured and very well taken care of, as Clyde still has a wheelbarrow, a sled and a doll's chair made by his uncle for some of the Churchill children.

THE REUBEN RUGG HOUSE

by Jayne Dane

(Editors' Note: This is the sixteenth in a series of articles on the older houses in Heath, which have been published over the past several years. The present Dane house is located just west of Heath Center.)

We saw our house on a chilly October day. It was love at first sight. Upon completing the inside tour, the bond was sealed. The relationship with new old-homeowners and their house is similar to that of new parents and their child. It takes a tremendous amount of energy and responsibility, which at times is overwhelming, but through lots of hard work and care one will appreciate the results.

Living in an old home opens a door to the past and, like most homeowners, we are interested in the history of our house. Reuben Rugg built our house around 1790. He left his farm east of the center to his son and built here. The site was chosen wisely as it is in a very protected location. There is a rock ledge to the northeast and an upward sloping field on the north side. Only on the most violent of nights does old man winter rudely rattle our windows. According to Ed Calver's Heath History, this "is the first known dwelling in the Center (it has since been enlarged), and in any case either it or Strong's is the oldest still standing house". Other residents include Reuben Porter, Gardner White, Amy and Gayton Williams, and Lowell Stowe. Lowell lived here with his mother and distilled cider brandy in the cellar and in the sugar house (no longer standing). They sold the brandy at Davis Mine. Maude Mantor Gleason Fairbanks lived here until the early 1960's surviving two husbands, both named William. She is described as being a "very proper lady." A neighbor, who was a family friend of Maud's, told us about the time they invited her to a cookout. She arrived dressed in her white gloves and Sunday best!

Richard Tedeschi bought the house in the mid 1960's from Maud's nephew. He is responsible for many of the renovations and modern conveniences such as plumbing, and electricity. He also put in a kitchen and a bathroom. At the back of the house Dick built a stone patio with a sunken garden, and a large grape arbor. He was never able to enjoy the bounty of this arbor which is now very prolific. Piles of cat food cans from Maud's "family" were discovered when landscaping the backyard.

John and Rosamond Dauer bought the house from Dick Terdeschi in 1974. They summered here with their two boys for several years. There was a large barn to the right of the house that had to be dismantled in the late 1970's. We bought the house from John in November 1982.

There are two rectangular sections to our cape. the right section sits back from the left. This contains two rooms, and a shed area (with the original four-holer!) and an attic. The main room once contained a copper sink through which water, piped in from the spring, flowed. There is still evidence of water damage on the flooring. The pipe was later transferred to a holding tank in the cellar, still in use today. Dick installed a large picture window on the north side creating a wonderful view of the field, brook and surrounding woods. A Glenwood cookstove is on the right side of the room, and is similar to the one that stood there many generations before. The small room off of this room was turned



Reuben Rugg House
c.1790
(Photo by Jayne Dane)

into a kitchen with a pantry in the mid 1960's. This had been a bedroom and closet. In the attic at the right section of the house one can see the clapboards of the left section of the house. Thus it appears that the right section was added after the left was completed. The puzzling thing is that the foundation under the right is believed to be older than that under the left.

The left section of the house consists of a living room, bedroom, bathroom, and two small rooms upstairs. There is no cellar under the bedrooms and bathroom on the south side. These probably were additions off of the living room, which may have been the original part of a half-cape. The living room at one time would have included a central fireplace. There is an old chimney here, and a newer fireplace on the northside of the room. When Maud lived here this section of the house was divided into many small rooms. She created a home for the elderly by renting these rooms, as well as the two upstairs.

Owning an old house is a privilege which we embrace with pride, and we look forward to many happy years in Heath. Now back to my stenciling.



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THE ASBESTOS AFFAIR or HOW I SPENT AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

by Sue Silvester

The week of November 11-17, 1984 was slated to be celebrated as not only American Education Week, but this year it coincided with Children's Book Week as well. For a librarian this was a special opportunity for displays, library contests, story telling, reading projects and programs. It was to be the week of the annual Open House at Mohawk. It was to be a week of enthusiasm and celebration. It was a week of striving for educational excellence in a very special way.

Instead of putting up posters and decorations, teachers took them down. Instead of dressing up for Open House, faculty donned bluejeans and sweatshirts. There was a great deal of work to be done, but not the kind we had anticipated.

The administration had acted wisely and swiftly; school was closed for two weeks while the entire downstairs of D building was cleared of all classroom furniture, equipment and teaching material. Already cramped for space, the two building brick complex was transformed into a honeycomb of educational compartments. The cafeteria has now been sectioned off into four middle school components, the library transformed into three eighth grade classrooms. The stage area now houses special education rooms, and the dislocated faculty lounge is in the upstairs planning room. Home economics is taught where secretaries once worked. And chemistry experiments will be done carefully, if not by teacher demonstration, in an upstairs classroom. The computers, typewriters and offset press are dispersed to other areas of the building, and the auditorium is now home to study halls.

School opened on a staggered basis November 26 with the 9th and 10th grade classes coming Monday, the 11th and 12th graders Tuesday and the entire student body Wednesday. It is a difficult situation at best, but due to the concerted efforts of all the staff and careful planning by administrators, we will survive, I hope, till removal of asbestos can be completed.

Concern for the health of everyone in the building has been paramount in the thoughts and plans of the administration. Next year will mark my fifteenth year at Mohawk and, like many of my colleagues who have served this fine institution for many years, I am concerned about the exposure to asbestos fibers in the air. Lung cancer and mesothelioma, a cancer of membranes lining the chest and abdominal cavity, are inextricably linked to asbestos exposure. What is this toxic carcinogen? Asbestos is a natural mineral mined to make textiles, cement, insulation and thousands of other commercial products. All over the country there is a sharp increase in asbestos-related disease. In California alone there are 3,000 businesses that use asbestos. We must be cognizant of it in many other locations than just in school buildings. The crushed white rock is found in acoustical ceilings, brake linings, fireproof roofing shingles, floor tiles and pipe insulation. The rock, serpentine, is a form of asbestos and is found in a natural state. According to Ernest Kelly, assistant engineer with the state Division of Occupational Hygiene, Rutland, Vermont is one of the most highly contaminated areas in New England where asbestos has been found in abundance in its natural state.



Testing for Asbestos
Teacher Terry Smith and Business Mgr. Newell

(Photo from Sue Silvester)

World production of asbestos is about four million tons per year. Substitutes such as fiberglass have been found for insulation, but as yet there is no good substitute for uses such as in brake drums. Asbestos won't burn or conduct heat.

The nation's leading asbestos researcher, Dr. Irving J. Selikoff of the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York has said that the dangers of asbestos have been known since 1935. Asbestos gloves can be found in places where ovens are operated and around laboratories. In labs there are asbestos heating tapes, insulating pads, filtering materials and asbestos paper. These items can flake after prolonged use. Talcs also contain varying amounts of tremolite asbestos. A multiplicity of uses are made of talcs - fillers in scouring soaps, solid lubricants, such as the interior of balloons, polishing rice and peanuts and used as a filter for beer, wine, and hard liquor.

It behooves each and every one of us to remain informed and concerned. We are indeed fortunate to have such dedicated and concerned administrators in the school district who take every conceivable precaution to eliminate a health hazard.

It cost Yale University \$250,000 to overcome its asbestos problem - every ceiling in its nine story art and architecture building had to be removed as they had all been sprayed with asbestos.

We are fortunate that the incidence of asbestos at Mohawk is not more severe than it is, and we are hopeful that state and federal money will pay for the costly removal.

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TAXES ARE HISTORY

by Sue Silvester

The following article from a North Adams newspaper in 1921 was recently found by my aunt, Eleanor Shippee, and is being donated to the Heath Historical Society.

* * *

1866 HEATH 1921

I have just received from my brother in Heath a copy of the report of the assessors of the town of Heath in the year 1920, and as my father was one of the board of assessors of the town in the year 1865, I find among his papers a list made by the assessors of that year. I will give the figures as I find them. It may interest the non-residents as well as the inhabitants of the good old town of Heath to know how conditions of today compare with conditions of 54 years ago.

	<u>1861</u>	<u>1920</u>
No. of Polls	149	102
Val. Real Estate	\$178,070.00	\$151,845.00
Val. P. Property	\$ 66,199.33	\$118,638.00
No. of Horses	114	154
No. of Cows	230	366
No. of Sheep	1064	89
Total Tax	\$ 2979.52	\$ 8,311.16
Tax Rate	\$ 10.75	\$ 25.50

F.E. Benson
North Adams
February 15, 1921

* * *

It is interesting to note for comparison that for the year 1984 the total town real estate valuation is approximately \$19,500,000, personal property valuations are \$1,100,000 and the the total tax to be raised is \$340,000 with a tax rate of about \$16.00.

Note: Accompanying the article is a small bound notebook, rich in geneological data for Heath and many surrounding towns. The earliest date I found was for George Hubbard, who was born in 1595 in England and, came to America in 1633, having married Mary Bishop. They had four children.

QUILTING CLUB

Would you be interested in joining a Quilting Club? Heath now has such a club which is open to all who are interested. The Club meets every other week at the Community Hall on Saturday mornings from 9 to 12. People are invited to bring their projects, large or small. Some of us are making wall-hangings and pillows. We meet to give each other encouragement and assistance. For more information call Catherine Nichols. Our next meetings will be January 5 and 19, February 2 and 16.

PHIL'S PICK-UP

You Chuck It - I'll Truck It

Call 337-4360

ASSESSORS' REPORT

by Richards Steinbock, Chairman
Heath Board of Assessors

We are getting very close to sending out Fiscal 1984 tax bills. On Friday, December 6 a Department of Revenue person came to Heath for what is known as a classification review. On Monday, December 10, the Selectmen held their mandatory tax-rate hearing. After final approval of both the review and the hearing, the state will allow us to send in the recap sheet, set the rate and mail out bills. We are hoping to get the bills out before January 1 - not a very nice Christmas present.

As of press time, it had not been decided whether we were having a single tax rate (business as usual) or a dual rate. The chances are it will be a single rate of somewhere around \$16/1000. If you wish to make a payment to the town before January 1, you could figure your tax quite closely by multiplying your valuation (as it appeared in the HERALD supplement) by .016 to get a dollar amount.

Fiscal 1985 bills will probably be out sometime in February, only six months late. 1986 will see us back on a normal schedule.

TAX COLLECTIONS

by Sandra Gilbert, Tax Collector

Thanks are due to all taxpayers who made generous prepayments on their '84 real estate bills. It is expected to have our actual bills out by the end of December. Any payments made now will be gratefully accepted and will be of help to our town treasurer.

With the end of the year approaching, people may wish to make a prepayment for income tax deductions. Feel free to make any payments now and these will be credited to your account at bill time. It is also likely that our '85 bills will follow very closely to the '84 second half bills, so a payment now will lessen the other amounts due in the near future.

TOWN NURSE

by Sharleen Moffatt, R.N.

With the winter months upon us, it becomes equally important to take extra care of our health. I am at the Town Library in Sawyer Hall every Monday from 9 to 11:30 AM. I have a variety of information on diabetes, hypertension, clinically special diets and other topics of health concern. If you are on medication for high blood pressure or would like to keep track of your blood pressure, stop by and visit. A singular blood pressure check is rarely an accurate picture, so by stopping by every other week you can be in possession of an accurate depiction of how your blood pressure runs.

I realize that for some people the home visit is the only way they can receive the medical attention they require, but for others I urge you to see me at the Library or call me at Rowe Elementary School. I need the company!

Howard Crowningshield

Building & Remodeling

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by Sue Silvester

Included here is one recipe that the children followed during one of their afternoon sessions:

Boil. Lower heat, simmer 20 min., then strain.

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the best soups too !



Syllabus

- Wassaf!**

- Core apples. Bake in 300 degree oven without water until they are soft, but not broken. This is tricky. Watch carefully. Combine 1 pint of ale with brown sugar, spices and lemon peel. Simmer 20 minutes. Add sherry and rest of ale. Heat but do not boil. Serve in punch bowl or heavy goblets or glass beer mugs. Put a heavy silver serving spoon in each glass as you pour in the ale-wine mixture.

by Allie Thane

Interest seems to have fallen off completely. The people who work so hard at the Fair in August do not come to the monthly meetings to plan ahead. This planning is important. Money should be raised throughout the year and entertainment decided upon and booked in advance. We must back up our officers, whoever they may be next year, and go to the meeting on December 11, 8 PM, at the Community Hall. Bring nominations for the annual election and ideas for 1985 - the important Bicentennial year.

CLOTHING

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CHURCH NEWS

by Amy Barry and Sue Silvester

Christmas Programs

A joint Heath-Rowe Christmas choir will sing on Sunday, December 23, at the joint Sunday School pageant in Heath and at the Christmas Eve program in Rowe. Choir practice will be held on Wednesday December 19, 7 PM, at the Rowe Community Church.

The Heath Church will sponsor Christmas caroling on Friday, December 21. Everyone is welcome and it is hoped that former Heath Youth Group members will participate. Meet at the Parsonage at 6 PM and after caroling there will be a time for refreshments and fellowship at the Parsonage.

The joint Sunday Schools will be sharing the Christmas story on Sunday the 23rd at 10 AM at the Heath Church.

There will be joint Christmas Eve services. The one in Rowe will be at 7 PM with the combined choirs singing and communion shared. In Heath at 11 PM there will be a service with candlelight and carols.

For the Thanksgiving holidays many meals were distributed to needy families. Non-perishable goods or money now may be left at the Church so that Christmas dinners may be distributed to families in need living in Heath, Rowe, Charlemont and Hawley.

Ongoing Programs

Heath residents are invited to attend the Thursday evening prayer meetings at the parsonage from 8-9 PM.

Our Sunday School class has been immersed in various timely projects for the holiday season. According to Sunday school teacher Karen MacDougall, the children have enjoyed a variety of planned activities. For Thanksgiving they made napkin rings for each member of the family. The rings consisted of a Bible verse and holiday sticker.

Another ongoing crafts project has been the creation of decorations for the Christmas trees for shut-ins. Each Sunday the children add to the collection of beautiful handmade decorations that will adorn local trees.

The children are also practicing a play to be performed on December 23 in a joint Christmas service in Heath and are reading the original Christmas story from the Bible.

Heath youngsters of all ages are invited to participate in the Sunday School program held each Sunday at 11 AM in the Heath Church.

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NEW PEOPLE IN HEATH

Jim and Roxanne Shearer are renting Bob Berquist's house on Bray Road. With their two children, Robbie three years old and Kristen 15 months, they moved from Plainfield in August when Bob left for three to five years in Africa.

Jim, based in Shelburne Falls, is currently working for New England Power Service Company as an electrician. His next assignment will be at the Vernon Power Plant, and then on to other power plants in the system. He has ties to this area among which are the Burringtons and the Stetsons. His mother, Margaret Fish Shearer comes from Christian Hill. She, with Jim's father and two brothers, own a 300 head dairy farm in Northfield which also employs Matt Lively of Heath. Jim was involved in the Tercentennial of Northfield so maybe he can help with Heath's Bicentennial.

Roxanne grew up in the Plainfield area. She helped organize the Play School there and she still takes Robbie and Kristen to it. Roxanne is also an amateur artist, painting mostly country scenes.

The Shearers would like to find some land in the area and build a home on it.

AWARD TO HEATH WRITER

Last spring Pat Leuchtman entered the New England Regional Newspaper Division Competition by Bedding Plants Inc. of Okemo, Michigan. Her article entitled "Bedding Plants Make Getting Started Much Easier", published in the Greenfield Recorder last spring, won the award and the letter she received commends her contribution to the gardening public by presenting good, accurate information on the use of bedding plants. Bedding Plants is sending Pat an appropriate recognition as a memento of her fine achievement. Pat also writes on gardens for the HERALD.

STEVE THANE - COMPUTER PROGRAMMER

Stephen Thane visited his family in Heath over the Thanksgiving holidays. He is now working as a member of the Computer Programming Department at Cornell University. Steve brought with him a program he had developed for the SUNY Library which automatically prints out an order for new books when basic data is inputted to the computer. He demonstrated this in Heath on an IBM PC and has given a copy of his program to the town for use in our Library or for possible adaptation in other applications.

While here he also reviewed applications of the town computer system and offered suggestions, as he does most of his work on IBM machines.

**Gilmore
and Watters**

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PLANNING BOARD REPORT

by John Holdsworth

In recent meetings the Planning Board has had difficulty adhering to its proposed agenda. In September and October, much time was spent on details for the refurbishment of the meeting room in Sawyer Hall. An estimate has been made of the cost of the work and it is hoped that specifications can be drawn up and work put out to bid fairly soon.

At the Franklin County meetings, it was reported that there will be a special hazardous waste collection in the spring for farm and home chemicals. More information will be forthcoming about dates and pickup locations.

The county incinerator project appears to be dead. This means that county towns will have to be considering other solid waste disposal plans for the future. Both Holyoke and Keene, NH are intending to have incinerators and are interested in having county towns join their systems. With the awareness that our landfill is nearing its capacity, Heath officials are considering alternate solid waste disposal facilities.

The Board has received copies of the state environmental code - Title 5 - from the Finance Committee, and hopes soon to discuss the requirements of sanitary sewage in both zoning districts in Heath.

The Attorney General has approved the changes to the Heath zoning bylaws that were passed at the special town meeting in July. Copies of the changes will be posted at Peters' Store, the Town Hall and Community Hall and complete bylaws, including the changes, will be available at the Town Hall as soon as copies can be printed.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT

by Patrick Venneri, Vice Chairman

This has been an especially active year for the Heath School Committee. The Rowe School is experiencing an exceptionally large enrollment of children. The situation at Mohawk Trail Regional High School with the asbestos problem has had the committee members working very hard to insure quality education, a safe environment and to keep Heath in a financially sound position.

There were some minor problems at the start of the school year for the busing of elementary children. Hopefully all of the kinks have been worked out in the routing.

Rowe Elementary school started the year with two new teachers: Mrs. Beebe, teaching 2nd and 3rd, and Miss. LaPointe teaching 1st. Both teachers are doing a fine job in preparing our children in the basic skills.

Patrick Venneri has stepped down from being the Mohawk representative and Linda Marcotte has assumed this responsibility. She is on the Budget and Transportation sub-committees. With her experience from the Town Finance Committee we can expect a close examination of the forthcoming Mohawk budget.

The School Committee was disappointed that more parents of Mohawk students did not look further into the asbestos problem. The Committee was contacted by only one concerned parent. The safety of your children is ultimately your responsibility.

The Committee invites you to the School Board meetings which take place the second Tuesday of each month.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

by Michael Coe, President

In preparation for next year's Bicentennial, a work bee was organized at the site of Fort Shirley on Saturday, November 3. Participating were Scott Guddell, Dominic and John Musacchio, David Howland, Newland Smith and Michael Coe. The path up to the site itself was cleared and enlarged, and John's somewhat terrifying brushcutter was used to clean up the area of the fort and the palisade which once surrounded it, as well as the location of Anna Norton's grave. Since we anticipated a problem with parking next summer, two parking areas were cleared on both sides of the path near the excellent entrance (with culvert) recently created by the Town of Heath road crew.

We have recently received as a donation from Mrs. Florence W. Haerberle a painting by her cousin Robert Strong Woodward (1885-1957). The subject of this magnificent canvas is the view looking west from Burnt Hill on a late autumn afternoon.

The Society intends to publish a book in time for the Bicentennial; this will consist of a number of essays by various Heath authors on little-known aspects of our town and its history. William Wolf has already submitted his contribution on the original Mohawk Trail and on General William Heath, for whom the town was named. Richards Steinbock has generously offered to illustrate the book.

Membership in the Society now stands at 227, and includes members as far afield as London and Paris. With the Bicentennial and its many activities soon to be upon us, this would be a good time for all those interested in Heath's history to join. Annual dues are a bargain: \$2.00 for adults, and \$0.50 for Junior Associates (under 18). Anyone wishing to join may do so by contacting any of the officers: Michael Coe (President), Jayne Dane (Vice-President), Craig Barry (Treasurer), Alice Moznack (Secretary), and Amy Barry (Curator). We would be glad to have you aboard for 1985!



FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

by Chief Earl Gleason

The Fire Department responded to several emergencies during October and November. On October 2 firefighters responded to Walt Gleason's property for a tree fire, apparently set by hunters attempting to smoke out a squirrel. Six firefighters responded to a permit fire that got away on October 16. Five days later, firefighters spent four hours extinguishing a four or five acre forest fire near Flagg Hill Road. A deserted campfire was the cause. The next evening firefighters fought a smokey basement fire at the David Mantell residence. No structural damage resulted from this fire. The biggest problem was from cars of non-firefighters blocking the road for the second and third truck responding to the fire. It should be remembered to keep narrow roads open as we also need apparatus from Mutual Aid.

November 20 saw E.M.T.'s aiding a patient early in the morning at his home. Later that evening the Department was called to a chimney fire that was out on arrival.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

by D. F. Howland, Chairman

The Finance Committee has been more active than usual this fall. Seems that a spate of commitments and/or potential obligations are before us. First, the recent special town meeting supported the Selectmen's application for state money to improve Route 8A. It was an offer difficult to refuse, because the state will provide 70% of the funding, which means the town will have to pay somewhere between \$3000 and \$4500 for a period of ten years. The Finance Committee did not recommend the article, albeit it wants to see the roads well maintained, because it believed such an obligation should be the topic of an annual meeting. The amount will be about 50% of the allowable 2 1/2 % annual increase in the town's budget and it wanted to see similar enthusiasm for developing the town's tax base to meet rising costs.

Second, the asbestos problem at Mohawk Regional School may require substantial expenditures to meet safety standards.

Third, public education bill H-6262 has received wide attention because of its financial impact on local government and educational institutions. (The Finance Committee has gone on record as opposed to the general concept of the bill, but supports its objective to establish standards.)

Lastly, the Finance Committee has prepared a five year capital equipment improvement plan for the Selectmen and department heads. The plan is a tool for determining equipment replacement needs and the necessary funding allocations which are substantial.

All these events have conspired to generate concern within the Finance Committee about the expectations of the future and the limitations of resources of the present. We expect to be addressing these problems during the next few months.

SELECTMEN'S HIGHLIGHTS

The selectmen's office is in a holding pattern. There has been routine business: pole hearings, the weekly warrant, authorization of repairs to the town vehicles. Another effort has been made to contract out the grading of grounds around Sawyer Hall. The fire door in the furnace room has not been installed. Switching offices of the town clerk and the selectmen has been delayed. Precisely what should be done about the Grange room, so-called, has not been determined. Meanwhile the porch railings, weakened by weather and dismembered by mischief-makers, are unsightly. Laying a leach field for the Community Hall's septic tank has been put off until spring. Blasting of ledge rock at the site of the salt shed has been done. A wood-burning furnace to heat the garage has arrived; the concrete foundation and floor of the annex to hold it has been poured; and the materials to build it are on hand. All four articles on the warrant for a special town meeting, proposed by the selectmen--authority to apply for a grant from the state for re-paving route 8A; money to pay for improvement of the septic system; money for the furnace and its housing at the garage; and money to pay the overhead expenses of an administrative assistant for one year--were passed by the voters (about 30) of the Town. Susan Wright has been appointed as a shared administrator (circuit rider) for the towns of Heath, Colrain, Buckland and Shelburne. She starts her job on January 7 and will move into the area from New Salem.

LIBRARY LINES

by John Holdsworth, Librarian

The Library will be closed the last two Monday evenings in December: the 24th, Christmas Eve; and the 31st, New Year's Eve. Otherwise, normal hours will be observed: Monday 6 PM to 8:30 PM; Wednesday, 1 PM to 5 PM; and Saturday, 9 AM to 1 PM.

Beginning in December, fines will again be collected on overdue books at the rate of two cents per book per library day. Books can be renewed during regular library hours or by contacting me at home, 337-6611.

The Library has a number of Christmas books, records and magazines; these will circulate for one week and can be renewed if there is no demand.

Bookmobile just came on November 28 and, with the very capable help of Don Dekker and Amy Barry, we managed to obtain many mysteries, westerns, adventure stories, historical novels, romances and fiction. There is also a larger-than-usual selection of young adult and juvenile fiction. In non-fiction, there are books on crafts, cooking, skiing, baseball cards, magic, skateboards, gardening, health, religion, creationism, natural history, vegetarianism and much more.

For readers who prefer large-print books, there are some in nearly every fiction category.

We are particularly fortunate to have received a gift from Carol Malone in memory of Dorothea Landon, William Landon and Lewis Nichols. This gift has enabled the Library to purchase a wonderful book on American impressionist artists. I think everyone in the community will find something to enjoy in this book.

I know that there are former Library users who haven't been in the Library since it was enlarged nearly five years ago. For all you folks who have gotten out of the library habit, come in and see the new space and all the books. I'm sure you will be pleased. If we don't have what you want, it can be requested from the regional system. More than half of the Heath requests have been filled in two weeks or less.

The Library also has a good selection of magazines and circulates them for three weeks, as it does books; included are Life; Time; Newsweek; People; McCall's; Ladies Home Journal; Better Homes and Gardens; National Geographic; Smithsonian; Natural History; Country Journal; The New Yorker; American Forests; Animals; Modern Maturity; Audubon; Hot Rod; Popular Science; New England; Technology Review; Astronomy; and others, including several computer and electronics magazines.

I am planning to add subscriptions for some adult and juvenile magazines in the new year and would welcome suggestions on what might be popular.

Finally, if the regular Library hours are not suitable for everyone who would like to use the Library, please let me know and I will make every effort to accommodate your schedule. I look forward to seeing all of you during the Holiday Season.

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15 KILOMETERS

1 1/2 Kilometer Kids' Race-13 & under

Sunday Feb. 10, 1985

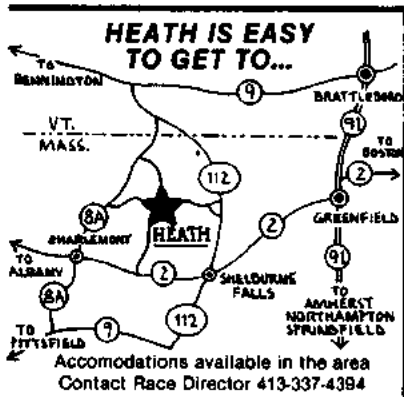
Snow Date Feb. 24

12:00 Noon

Free Refreshments for Entrants

Souvenir Number Bibs

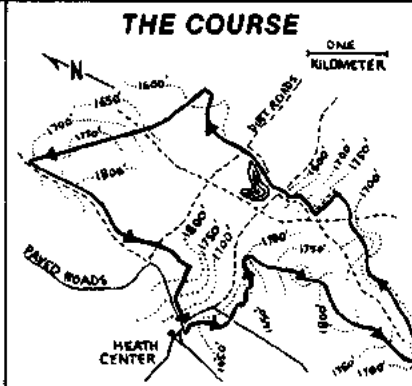
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- CLASS III • 16-19
- CLASS IV • 20-29
- CLASS V • 30-39
- CLASS VI • 40-49
- CLASS VII • 50-59
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BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

by Paul Lively, Chairman

It's very close to the time to strike up the band, so to speak, for the start of Heath's two hundredth anniversary!

The first event is the cross country ski race to be held on February 10th at 12 noon. The race starts and finishes at Heath Center. Preparations are right on schedule under the leadership of Steve Marcotte.

The anniversary of the town's incorporation is on February 14th and will be celebrated with a pot luck supper at the Community Hall at 7 PM. At this supper the Bicentennial cane will be presented to the town's eldest citizen. Also a talk on General Heath will be presented by Rev. William Wolf. Those who attend are encouraged to bring dishes of the past that were served by parents and grandparents.

At our last meeting James Coursey, who heads the lawn party committee, presented plans for that event which is scheduled for Saturday, June 29, at the Manse on Bassett Road. The plans were discussed and approved.

Bill Thane reported on progress being made on the diorama of Fort Shirley that he is creating with the assistance of Michael Coe and Richard Housner.

The Beard Growing Contest begins the first week in January under the direction of Carroll Stowe. You will find details of this event in another section of this paper.

We'll see you in February at the ski race and pot luck supper!

HISTORIC SITES TO BE MARKED

As one of the Bicentennial projects for next year, the Heath Historical Society has selected a number of historic sites and buildings in Heath where appropriate signs designating their history and date are to be placed. This project is being coordinated by Jayne Dane, working with members of the Society's Bicentennial Committee.

The twelve sites selected so far are Hitchcock Mills 1807-1938, South Cemetery 1772, Old Town House 1834, Whittemore Spring, First School House c. 1770, Site of Heath Fair 1916-1962, First Post Office 1816, Stone Cottage 1933, Reinhold Niebuhr, Holland's Dell c. 1860, Mill Sites, Arad Hall's Rake Shop 1842, Town Common 1796 - Nearby were Creamery, Mills, Tavern, Mary and Flora White 1896-1948.

The signs, constructed by Dominic Musacchio and John Read, are engraved in wood with white letters on a dark red background. Several of the signs are already erected on solid wood posts and the remainder will be installed next spring as a reminder of our past history during the Bicentennial year.

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BICENTENNIAL GARDEN PARTY TO BE HELD

by Susan Gleason

Among its many planned activities for 1985 the Heath Bicentennial Committee invites you to an elegant Edwardian garden party at The Manse, home of James B. Coursey, on Bassett Road. This fete is set for Saturday, June 29, 1985. The price of your ticket includes transportation to The Manse from the Heath Fairgrounds in antique automobiles.

Guests, who so choose, are invited to join with the organizers, who will attend in period dress. Marlene Housner of Hosmer Road has offered to provide advice on costuming to anyone who needs help or encouragement. Attic raids and thrift store excursions will produce surprising results.

Young people of Heath are involved in planning the party. A group of dancers will be performing to music of the Edwardian period, as choreographed by Marisa Housner. Todd Sumner will be in charge of the preparation of elegant party food, including meringues and cucumber sandwiches, with the expert advice of Elsa Bakalar. Other young people will be helping serve, or assisting Art Schwenger in the organization of the children's games.

In addition to dancing on the outdoor dance floor, participating in children's activities, parading in costume, and nibbling delicacies, guests will have ample opportunity to enjoy a game of croquet or badminton, or sit and enjoy a quiet chat.

COUPON

EDWARDIAN GARDEN PARTY

THE MANSE

Saturday 29 June 1985

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Rain Date: 05 July 1985

Return coupon with exact payment (check payable to Heath Bicentennial Committee) for the number of tickets required to: THE MANSE, HEATH MA 01346. Single Tickets \$5.00 each. Family Tickets \$10.00 each, and family ticket includes two adults and children under twelve years of age. Tickets will be mailed to you. Please provide your mailing address.

BEARD GROWING CONTEST

Carroll Stowe announces that the Bicentennial Beard Growing Contest will officially start on January 1, 1985. Each participant must start with a clean-shaven face on that day and must sign the entry book at Peters' Store by January 6.

A second category has been established for men already wearing a beard. Entries in this category must also sign in at Peters' Store by January 6.

Judging for the best overall beard in each category will take place at the Bicentennial dinner on June 29. At that time appropriate awards will be made and each participant will be recognized.

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TOWN COMPUTER

After analyzing and testing several accounting software programs, the town Computer Committee selected the BPI General Accounting program for use by the Town Treasurer. It is expected that some town accounting functions will be started with this program beginning with the new year. This program has the capability of automatically printing out payment checks when the proper data is posted from the weekly town warrants. However, this feature will not be utilized until some of the more basic accounting functions are set up and debugged. In the meantime the weekly payroll will continue to be calculated and printed using the Advanced Visicalc program which has now been in use successfully for several months.

The Town Clerk has set up the Heath street listings on the computer using the PC-File III program recently purchased. Using this data base a voter registration list is easily extracted using selected data. This was completed and printed out for the recent election in November. This program greatly simplifies and facilitates the revision of these lists, providing more up-to-date and accurate information.



COMMUNITY HALL UPDATE

by Terry Pettengill

The painting of the upstairs of the Community Hall was completed the first week of October - a beautiful job, well done.

Since that time, Alan Nichols has installed Shaker-style coat racks in the outer hall to replace the old metal hooks. It gives an "elegant" look.

Many thanks to John Holdsworth, Bob Gruen, and Alan Nichols for rehanging the stage drapes which have been cleaned and fireproofed.

A special thanks to Amy Barry who courageously climbed the very tall, but shaky, stepladder and cleaned the high panelling in the big hall, and to Debbie Porter who helped me finish the rest of the panelling.

Lastly, thanks to my husband who has patiently done several "odd jobs" for us around the hall.

Shades have been ordered for the windows, stair treads for the balcony stairs (for safety precautions) and runners for the entrance areas. With all that and a few more "odd jobs" the Hall should be in its glory.



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SEWING THE CIRCLE OF TIME

by Amy C. Barry

Anyone who has ever been to Heath Ladies Aid knows the incredible variety of handiwork produced each year. Heath Ladies Aid is one of the few organizations of its kind that still sews together at every meeting. We come together on alternate Thursdays from September to July to embroider pictures in cloth books for toddlers, to sew felt dinosaurs and hem-stitch sets of table napkins. Members may remark on a delicious apple pie baked by the Dessert Committee, and everyone enjoys the chance to socialize, but the focus of our meetings is scissors, needles, thimbles, and thread.

What makes Ladies Aid special is a group approach to sewing. Very few items are completed by just one person. The Work Committee is responsible for preparing work for a given meeting and it is quietly understood that the work should include everybody. The spirit of sharing can be seen in the making of the pink-cheeked rag dolls with their cheerful dresses and pinafores that are a traditional part of every Ladies Aid sale. Every doll has at least three mothers. One member sews the bodies and draws on the faces, another makes the dresses and does the hair, and a third person stuffs the dolls. The talent and energy of several women combine to give the dolls their special charm. Whether it is potholders or padded hangers, sewing together creates a strong group purpose that joins the individual members of Ladies Aid in a seamless design.

Sewing together not only creates a bond of sharing, but also serves to maintain and strengthen the continuity of time and generations. Last week we tied a quilt at Ladies Aid. As I helped stretch the quilt out on the frame and made knots at the corner of each square, I remembered the butterfly quilt owned by the Heath Historical Society that was tied in the same way about 100 years ago. This simple skill of quilting, one I have learned only since moving to Heath, has been practiced by generations of women. All of us seated around the quilt frame, poking our needles down into the quilting layers and bringing them up through again, would have been perfectly able to tie the Historical Society's butterfly quilt in the late 1800's. Unlike many manual skills of one hundred years ago, knowledge of needle, thread, and fabric has not been lost. Rather, it has been passed down from one generation of women to another, thanks in part to groups like Heath Ladies Aid. When we tie a quilt, with each thrust of the needle and each completion of a knot, we connect the quilt top to the batting and the present more firmly to the past.

The Christmas sale is over. The members of Heath Ladies Aid sit around at a low table in the Community Hall, making things for far off July. The early December sun illuminates the pile of embroidery floss, the assorted sewing baskets, pincushions, scissors, and several unfinished teddy bears waiting for black button eyes. As we work together, sharing ideas and talents, we sew an invisible circle that connects all of us to each other. And with the needlework skills we practice, we sew an even wider circle that connects us to the flow of time.

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POTTERS IN HEATH

by Caroline Smith

Tucked away in Heath on South Road where it can not be seen is the home of Sarah Hettlinger and Jim Gleason, founders and owners of Bald Mountain Pottery. Their workshop and studio is now located in the old Wirthmore Building in Shelburne Falls. They worked out of their home in Heath until this past summer when, because the cramped space was causing Jim to break some of his ceramics and the kiln was in the chicken coop, it was evident another place must be found for the expanding business.

So it was a real find when the Wirthmore Building became available. The large 15 foot high room in which they now work is interesting in itself with sturdy wood posts and beams, and a stone wall against the steep bank by the railroad. Against this wall are the perforated shelves where ceramic objects dry slowly in the cool atmosphere with natural air circulation from beneath. After the object dries, Jim glazes it by plunging it into a huge container of pumice and water. It then takes only 20 seconds to dry. The large kiln into which it is next placed is a new investment as the smaller one used in Heath is not large enough for their expanding business. Unlike many pottery makers, Jim fires his pieces in two stages taking six hours at 2000 degrees. Sarah does the painting free hand and tries to pick up the shape of the piece in her designs which have a little oriental feel to them and are lovely. No two pieces are alike.

Jim had been in India to study Yoga and found Heath through his friend Jyoti Hansa, a Yoga teacher, who rented Robinswood several years ago. He lived in what is now the Charlemont Academy dormitory for four to five years and it is here the pottery business started. Sarah comes from Ohio and went to Maine where she was an apprentice to a potter. She has a natural talent and is constantly trying new shapes and designs. She and Jim have a baby, Deirdre, about a year old.

Jim and Sarah had a booth at the Old Deerfield Craft Fair this fall and exhibit at 25 to 30 other craft shows a year. They also have dealer accounts with stores in New York, Maryland, Connecticut, and Lake Placid. Their ultimate hope is to go to fewer craft fairs and spend more of their time at their workshop and studio in the Falls. Jim and Sarah add to the growing number of talented young people in Heath in the creative field.



TREE LIGHTING AND CAROL SING

On Sunday December 9, as the lights on the Christmas tree by the old Center Schoolhouse came on, the Gather 'Round Singers led an enthusiastic crowd singing carols. It was hard to pull away to the Community Hall where hot cocoa, cookies and good fellowship were enjoyed.

The tree, donated by Dominic Musacchio and erected with the help of John Read, will be lighted each night throughout the Christmas Season.

RECEPTION FOR SUSAN WRIGHT

On Tuesday, December 18, the Selectmen will hold a reception at the Town Hall at 7:30 PM for our newly appointed Four-town Administrative Assistant, Susan Wright. All are invited to come to meet her.



Casserole made at Bald Mountain Pottery

(Photo by Jim Gleason)

HEATH PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Susan Silvester has been elected President of the Franklin County Library Media Association. This is her third non-consecutive term as president.

Rev. Allen Comstock, former minister at the Heath Union Church, has left the Jonathan Edwards Church in Stockbridge and has taken up his duties as minister of Church of the Covenant on Newbury Street in Boston.

Pegge Howland took the part Lady Bracknell in "The Importance of Being Earnest" by Oscar Wilde presented at Greenfield Community College December 5, 6, 7 & 8.

David Dooley will leave December 15 for an American Chemical Society Conference in Hawaii. He will be joined on December 15 by Lynn and Christopher Dooley at his parents' home in California. The Dooleys will stop in Minnesota on their way home to visit Lynn's parents during the holiday season.

Lance Cpl. Laurel C. Finck, daughter of Don and Lucia Finck, has reported for duty with the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing at El Toro California.

Selectmen's Chairman Anne Steinbock recently attended the first workshop in the New England Leadership Program developed by the Cooperative Extension Services of the N.E. States. The subjects of the sessions, held in Fairlee VT, were on concerns of local government.

Ruth Fournier of Ledges Road has been appointed senior aid at the Heath Play School. The senior aid program is federally funded and is directed by the Franklin County Home Health Care.



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ACADEMY NEWS

by Luke Housner '89

These two quarters at the Academy have definitely been eventful. Students and faculty have participated in the Second Annual Road Race (4.7 mi.), Oxfam Day, a school dance at Berkshire East, and a poinsettia selling spree.

Oxfam Day heightened our awareness of world hunger. Students and teachers each picked out one label from a hat which determined what their meal would be. Ten received full meals, sixteen just vegetables, and thirty-nine people only had rice, using no silverware. This was very effective.

Fourteen Academy students earned a place on the Honor Roll this term and one had High Honors.

We are selling our beautiful Christmas poinsettias again this year to raise funds for the return of Shakespeare & Co. Last year they spent a week at the school doing workshops and performances, many of which were enjoyed by the community. The plants are available from any Academy member or by calling 337-4912. The cost is a seasonable \$6.75.

Our Christmas concert will be held at the Federated Church in Charlemont on Decemebr 18th at 2:45 PM. The public is most welcome to share in this holiday spirit with us.

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MILESTONES

by Edith Royer

Laura Ann was born on October 3 to Mr. and Mrs. Brian Gooley of Tuckerton, NJ. Laura Ann is the great granddaughter of Anna Kinsman of Heath.

Carly Nichole was born on November 4 to Charles and Kristi Martowicz of Taylor Brook Road, Heath. Carly Nichole is the granddaughter of Kenneth and Dorothy Stetson of Heath.

Mary Elizabeth Burns and John Misha Petkevich were married on August 25 at the Wayside Inn in Sudbury, MA. They are making there home in Rye, NY. Misha formerly lived on Hosmer Road in Heath.

Maud Helen, daughter of George and Katherine Harris of the Creamery in Heath, was married to Alvin Clayton White on Sunday, October 14. The wedding took place at Congregation Beth Elchim in Brooklyn, NY. The couple will reside in Woodbury, CT. and plan to visit Heath as often as possible.

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