



HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER 35¢

VOTERS DEFEAT 2½ OVERRIDE

by Newland Smith

In a written ballot vote on January 6, Heath citizens expressed their concern over increasing expenditures and taxes by defeating the proposal to override Proposition 2 1/2 with the overwhelming vote of 111 to 20. The override would have meant an increase in town assessment of almost \$50,000 with a corresponding potential increase in the tax rate of about \$2.30 per \$1000 valuation.

At a special town meeting following the ballot, some 60 voters went on to question the need for additional expenditures above the record high budget already voted at the annual town meeting last May. The ten articles on the warrant obviously could not be accepted if the town was to stay within the levy limit for this year in light of the defeat of the override. The Selectmen, apparently not prepared for a defeat of the override, hastily scrambled to find unspent accounts that might be available for transfers and, with about \$12,000 still available between the current levy and the levy limit set by 2 1/2, proceeded with the articles as read by Moderator Ed Calver.

Article 1, calling for \$30,000 to pay an outside contractor to conduct the 3-year revaluation, was quickly passed over since that amount was clearly not available. Article 2, which was to pay the town assessors an additional \$15,000 to do the same job, was also voted down after much discussion about different methods and costs to recertify the original revaluation. Neither article had been recommended by the FinCom. The Selectmen claimed the state would step in and do the job with a substantial charge to the town, if the town did not complete the revaluation itself. This was later modified by Assessor John Moriarty who indicated the state would merely require the town assessors to select a contractor from an approved list to get the job done. Several motions modifying this article were proposed and discussed at length, including one to pay the assessors \$5000 to do the revaluation. This was defeated after the Chairman of the Assessors said they would not undertake the work for only \$5000. A motion, which finally passed by a 26 to 16 vote, gives the assessors \$5000 to start the job with the hope that the next annual town meeting would appropriate additional funds to complete this work by September 1, 1986. There was no positive indication, however, whether the Assessors would start the work under these conditions or what the consequences would be if the additional funds were not appropriated at the May meeting.

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SECOND ANNUAL SKI RACE FEBRUARY 9

Hoping for the ideal weather and snow conditions of last year's Bicentennial successful ski race, the Heath Park and Playground Committee has planned the second annual Heath cross country ski race to take place on Sunday, February 9. This year's race will follow the same trail as last year, starting from Heath Center, up the steep western slope of Burnt Hill, north through Mohawk Estates, through the Kinsman field, west along the power line to the West Oxbow, and south back to the Center.

The 15 kilometer adult race has seven age classes for men and women. There will be a 1 1/2 kilometer race for ages 10-13 and a 1/2 kilometer race for ages 9 and under.

Registration for entrants will take place in the Community Hall during the morning prior to the 12:00 noon starting time from Heath Center. The children's races will start shortly thereafter. The entry fee is \$6.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children.

Last year's winner was Bruce Lindwell of Northfield who completed the rugged course in 1 hour, 16 minutes, 19 seconds. Michael Armstrong was the first Heath resident completing the course, coming in 20th in 1 hour, 52 minutes, 43 seconds.

Ribbons will be awarded in all classes. Medals and maple syrup are the prizes for the overall top finishers. Children's prizes will also be awarded. The awards ceremony will begin at 3:00 PM in the Community Hall.

Soup, sandwiches and other refreshments, provided by the Heath Playschool, will be on sale at the
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Skiers Take Off!
Almost 90 Skiers Starting 1985 Race
(Photo by Janice Boudreau)

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Community Hall. Also as a special attraction this year, Carroll Stowe will be providing free horse-drawn wagon rides from the Center.

It promises to be an exciting day for racers and spectators alike. A snow date of February 23 will be scheduled if necessary. For further information contact Carol Sartz at 337-4077.

CARD OF THANKS

The family of Mildred Giard would like to express our thanks and appreciation to all the relatives, friends and neighbors who gave their love and support at the time of our loss.

We would like to extend special thanks to the staff at the Farren Memorial Hospital, Dr. Rowley, Father Bombadier and Father Green for their care, support and comfort.

Special thanks to our friends and neighbors from the Town of Heath for the many donations of food and help, and the Rev. Kevin Pleas for his offer of support in our time of need.

We would also like to thank the many friends and relatives for your donations to the St. Joseph's Renovation Fund and the many lovely flowers.

God Bless You All!

Joseph L. Giard
Mary Howe and Family
Kathleen Phelps & Family
Phyllis Thane & Family
Linda Giard

Arlene Gazza & Family
Joanne Fournier & Family
Joseph A. Giard
Robert Giard & Family

1986 STREET LISTING

Town Clerk Joanne Fournier has announced the annual town street listing process has been started for this year. All households will be contacted by the Clerk or Marcella Lively to list information on each resident. This information required by state law includes name, address, date of birth, occupation and nationality.

HEATH HERALD

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Helen Nichols
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Advertising and Business
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HEATH PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Stephen Belitsos is now operating Stephen's Garage at Robbinswood on Rowe Road. Steve has extensive experience on GM as well as on foreign cars. In addition he can service tractors and anything on wheels!

Michael and Janice Brown exhibited their photography recently at the Quinsigamond Gallery at Quinsigamond College in Worcester. Both Janice and Michael teach at the Hallmark Institute of Photography in Turners Falls. Michael works primarily in black and white while Janice works in color.

Carol Sartz has resigned as the director of the Drop-In-Center in Greenfield which she founded seven years ago. Carol wants to have more time to complete her Master's Degree in Human Development which she will receive from Pacific Oaks College in Pasadena, CA.

The following Heath students have been named to the Dean's List at their respective colleges: Sandi Galipo, daughter of Pam and Ray Galipo, at Bay Path Junior College; Roberta Tripp, daughter of Alicia and Bob Tripp, at American International College; Jeremy Lively, son of Fred Lively, at Greenfield Community College; and Patricia Poisson, in continuing education at Greenfield Community College.

Melanie Poisson is in the cast of "The Sound of Music" to be given at Mohawk High School. Melanie plays the role of one of the Von Trapp children. She is the daughter of Jon and Pat Poisson.

Jennifer Fogel-Songer is producing and starring in two one-act plays at the East Street Studio Theater in Hadley. "The Lover" by Harold Pinter and "Sandra and the Janitor" by William Packard will be given on Fridays and Saturdays, February 14, 15, 21, 22. Jennifer is a former resident of Heath.

Anne Steinbock traveled to Washington, DC on January 25-29 with approximately 100 delegates from all six New England states as part of her involvement in the New England Rural Leadership Training Program. The trip, a culmination of the two year project, featured visits with Senators Kennedy and Kerry, sightseeing and meetings with officials at such places as the Chinese Embassy.

Sandy and Kenny Gilbert with their children Chrissy, Jenny and Missy spent a week recently in Orlando, Florida, visiting Disney World and the surrounding attractions.

Two Greenfield law firms, Trudel, Bartlett & Barry and Levy, Winer & Hodos, have established the Valley Title Company Ltd., the first title company in Franklin County. They will provide real estate title services to attorneys and the public. This new company will be managed by the real estate partners of the two firms, Craig Barry and Hubert Hodos.

HEATH PRECIPITATION

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

Precipitation in February was 2.49 inches; January precipitation was 4.93 inches. The total precipitation during the year 1985 was 45.42 inches.

January snowfall amounted to 10.5 inches. The total snowfall, November through January, was 35 inches. The extreme temperature changes in January brought us more rain than snow.

WHY I DON'T WANT ELECTRICITY

by Ed Calver

[Editors' note: This is the 19th in a series of articles on the older places of Heath. Ed's house, where he has lived in a 19th century manner for many summers and winters, is hidden away on Saunders road in Dell. It was rebuilt from a shed on the old Langdon place, which has withstood the need of electricity for over 200 years. This year, however, Ed has a new experience, wintering in Heath Center - which may change his mind!]

At the March meeting in 1769 the town accepted a road running from Will Rainville's corner north to Dell. At the end of it was Champion Crocker, already there. No deed is registered, but a son was born to him and Joanna in 1767 and a daughter in 1769. In 1771 an extension northward on the other side of the ravine was "laid out as a stage road" passing into Myrifiel. The party headed by the Rev. Cornelius Jones (armed with "a bayonet fastened to a rake's tail") which went to confront Parson Leavitt would have passed by Crocker's house. He was with Hugh Maxwell's company in 1775 and served twice more during the Revolution. (None of this information is in my town history.) Miss Anna Maxwell tells the story of Leavitt and the cow in words suggesting that she quoted it as it came down to her, beginning: "A Mr Wheelock came to Heath purchased a farm of Mr Crocker; there was a few acres cleared." There is no deed for this transaction, whether in 1785 or a little earlier. The John Wheelocks, father and son, were the first millers. The son sold out in 1799, followed by David White (farmed by Joseph White II), Jacob Snow (who had the fulling mill) and his widow Mercy, Ira Langdon and then his son Dwight until 1924. Elderly natives of the area still know it as the Langdon place.

The very old house was demolished in the 1930s by the first of three city people but not before Fred Gilbert, son of the bishop, took a snapshot, source of the drawing on the cover of my history, although the attached stables had been taken down. When the place became mine the cellar hole was still open; I salvaged more than enough old bricks to build a second chimney when I added to the converted barn in which I live. The original central chimney was large in proportion to the story and a half house. One hearthstone is my doorstep; another, the seat of a garden bench. At least two more hearthstones are built into my foundation walls. When the hillside spring goes dry I use the dug well, about 30 feet deep, situated near the old front door. When I lowered the intake to the spring, 6 feet deep and stoned up, the end of an old pine pipe log was revealed; this line led some 30 feet to a wet place where a wooden tub had been set. Inside was worn-out lead pipe; extracting it allowed insertion of a plastic hose without trenching. So the old pump logs are still in use. (Implements for boring and connecting such logs are in the collection of the historical society.) My predecessors had stored some salvage in a shed. There were enough boards, knot free, to finish one wall. The showpiece is 28 inches wide. Weathered hemlock siding from the old icehouse is on another wall. The heavy hand-made salvaged outer door is hung on long hinges beautifully styled.

The land is steep, so I did some terracing, by hand. Just under the grass roots an iron peel, a flat shovel for use with a brick oven, came to light.

Early terracing had been built up on the downhill sides of the old foundation, and this allowed easy disposal of small discards by tossing. I used the land below these terraces for gardens and turned up: nails aplenty, a thimble (unharmful), two German silver spoons, the brass rosette ornamenting a bedpost, a pot-bellied male figurine which auctioneer Bill Hubbard says was part of a meerschau pipe, bits of luster ware, Canton china, hobnailed glass, redware, two usable whetstones, and a large penny coined in 1787 in Connecticut.



The coin is too much corroded to be of much value to a serious collector but can be identified in good light, including the inscriptions: AUCTORI: CONN: and INDE: ET: LIB: . William Bentley, of Salem, says in his Diary (1787): "About this time there was a great difficulty respecting the circulation of small copper coin," and goes on to describe those put out by Connecticut, Vermont, and New York. Until the Constitution was adopted in 1789 (and its bicentennial will be heralded in the press before long, so get ready) there was no American coinage. These emergency coins were made to look like "real" money without being counterfeit--there is a male head in profile "in general form resembling the Georges" says Bentley, and on the obverse a seated figure, not Britannia with a trident but a woman holding an olive branch in one hand and a staff topped with a liberty cap in the other.

Near this coin were many small nails all of the same size, suggesting they had been in a container; above them, with other large metal objects, flattened pieces of stove pipe, presumably thrown out during the demolition and suggesting that the house had been modernized, probably by the Langdons. I turned up a flatiron (doorstop type) and found a bottle blown to hold popcorn whiskey.

There are also golden glow and old roses, I think Rosa Gallica, which are sturdy and spread. (I have other old roses taken from other sites.) There are red currants and cherry rhubarb; the 20-foot row there when I came now much reduced. So the old place is not altogether gone after all.



Harriet And Dwight Langdon With Son Edgar
c. 1925 (Shed at right edge became present Calver house)
(Photo from Edith Royer)

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Another article causing more discussion and questioning, was the amount of \$6400 requested for the overdrawn interest account. It was brought out by the FinCom and others that large interest costs (about \$11,000 last year) were due to continued town borrowing in lieu of getting tax bills out on time, which has been prevalent over the past several years. While this pattern of delay was known to have occurred before the annual meeting last May, only \$1500 was appropriated in the expectation that tax bills would be issued on time this year. The article was voted as a transfer from "flood repair" funds which had been reimbursed to the town and which were believed to be available.

An article calling for an additional \$8000 for the insurance account was finally voted, again after much discussion. The main point brought out by the FinCom was that in the past there has been little attempt to secure bids or seek other opinions regarding insurance needs. Selectman Steinbock indicated that an effort to obtain bids had been made in the past, but that securing bids did not represent any saving as the town was already using a non-profit agency, the Massachusetts Municipal Insurance Association.

One other article causing some discussion concerned the acceptance of a state grant to Franklin County Tech School which would possibly increase teachers' salaries and have a long term impact on school costs. This article was passed over on recommendation of Heath School Committee Chairman Venneri.

Other articles more quickly voted included the transfer of \$1000 from the Overlay Surplus account to pay for completion of the town septic system while \$1500 for assessors' office supplies, \$1500 for tax taking processing and \$5.00 in support of the formal creation of the Conservation Commission were funded by appropriation.

It was clearly pointed out that, with all of these additional expenditures, the town is left with practically no reserve for any further emergencies that may occur during the balance of this year.

After more than three hours of lively and spirited debate the town meeting was finally adjourned leaving no doubt that the town taxpayers are extremely concerned over continuing demands for increased expenditures and over the need for more effective planning and administration in the future.

HEATH: MICROCOSM OF THE NATIONAL BUDGET STRUGGLE

by David F. Howland

On January 6 the town voted down the proposal to override the 2 1/2 levy limit by an overwhelming margin. The special town meeting that followed appropriated \$8005 within the allowable levy limit and transferred \$15,443 from other accounts to pay bills. Why then the request to override? Partly due to some miscalculations and partly due to trying to fund the worst possible economic scenario. With this vote, however, the taxpaying citizens of Heath exercised their right to control their fiscal destiny.

It was only a few years ago that Proposition 2 1/2 in Massachusetts and Proposition 13 in California were passed amidst much hand wringing by government leaders. The public supported these measures because they felt local and state governments were increasing expenditures at too rapid a pace. Something was wrong with the budgeting process; something had to be done. It wasn't easy to adjust to the restraints, but the state and many cities and towns adopted sound management practices and learned to live within their incomes. Generally they are leaner and more effective now.

The whole point of budgeting is to make economic choices and to anticipate problems rather than react to crises. Most families, business firms, non-profit institutions and local/state governments use it that way. In recent years we have seen the inability of the federal government to budget itself while incurring huge interest costs for the deficits. The recently passed Gramm-Rudman bill (the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985) is a legislated way to cope with the failure of the budgeting process.

Thus, in Heath and in Massachusetts and in the Nation the public is demanding and getting responsible budgeting. Sure, the issues on the state and federal level may be more complex, but the dynamics are similar, and the results affect everyone much the same way. Revenue sharing for example is likely to be cut on the federal level in FY '87 which will directly affect Heath by about \$16,000 in lost revenue per year. The state, however, set up reserves for this sort of thing, so we have to put pressure on the state to distribute this money in local aid. The very same thing happened on the state level when Proposition 2 1/2 went into effect. Yes, it will be a struggle and it isn't always a smooth, orderly process; however, hard choices have to be made and it is refreshing, I think, to see the collective wisdom at work. Get ready, because in May 1986 we will have another chance to plan our economic future.

[David Howland is Chairman of the Heath Finance Committee]

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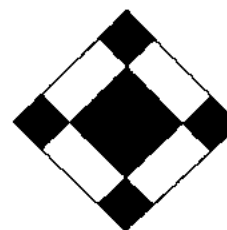
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PLANNING BOARD SURVEY

by Susan Wright
Shared Administrative Assistant

In 1975 the Heath Planning Board sent out a survey to all Heath taxpayers covering different issues regarding land use, conservation, recreation and the future of the town. This past year, the Board sent out the same survey as part of their work on the Open Space and Recreation Plan. In 1975 there were 98 responses to the questionnaire; in 1985, 31 responded out of 171 distributed, or 18%.

What follows is a summary of the results and some interesting comparisons with the earlier (1975) results.

About 45% of the landowners (compared with 33% in 1975) permit public activity on their land; primarily snowmobiling, hunting, fishing and hiking.

Posted land is on 13% of the responders' properties, down from 23% in the earlier survey.

Of those landowners in Heath, 48% responded that they use conservation practices to improve their timber stands and only 26% indicated they had erosion or other soil conservation problems on their land.

Eleven landowners responded they had a pond to develop as a fire pond, and 12 replied they had water sources on their land that could be developed to supply a pond.

This year 74% said they would like to see the town acquire land for recreational purposes compared with only 48% in 1975.

When asked whether the town should obtain and/or maintain rights of way for certain activities, the following were the top five activities: town swimming area, hiking trails, cross-country ski trails, horse trails and a picnic area.

When asked whether the respondent would object to a facility for general public use, 39% said yes compared with 44% in 1975. When asked if they would still object if the town were to collect fees from all persons not having permanent or summer residence in Heath, 58% said they would not object to the fees.

With regard to the present Agricultural/Residential Zoning, 45% responded that the present zoning should be maintained while 52% said some modifications should be made. Most of the responses for modification wrote that small businesses should be permitted but planned and regulated to preserve the rural character of the town. Businesses that were considered suitable included: cottage crafts and computers, cheese making, forestry products, dairying, greenhouses, orchards and vineyards, and various other types such as auto repair, welding, bed and breakfast type inns.

Changes of the past five years that were liked: playschool, remodeling of Sawyer Hall and Community Hall, ability to get mail 24 hours a day, Avery Brook Road reconstruction, play area near Community Hall and library remodeling. People disliked the deteriorating road surfaces and road widening projects, Mohawk Estates, lack of participation at town meeting, more traffic, lack of enforcement of health and sanitation codes, decrease of dairy farming and lack of an elementary school in Heath.

Suggestions for the future of Heath were: promote small business development, encourage agriculture, swimming area for townspeople, house numbering, marked speed zones, more say in elementary education system, expand tax base, prompt tax collection, better upkeep of roads.

The Planning Board Survey, as you can see, is a valuable tool to direct the town on a number of issues. This information will be incorporated into a planning process for the Heath Open Space and Recreation Plan. A public hearing will be held to solicit input on the plan when it is initially drafted by the Planning Board. We hope to have as much input as possible so that the final plan reflects the real needs and wishes of Heath residents. Look for a notice in the local papers regarding the Open Space and Recreation meeting.

PLANNING BOARD REPORT

by Robert Dane, Secretary

The last two Planning Board meetings have centered around three projects. A final draft of our revised subdivision regulations has been submitted to Liz Kidder, the Franklin County Planner, for critique. When we get this back, we will organize a book containing the zoning bylaws, subdivision regulations and associated materials for easy reference by town officials, townspeople and other concerned parties.

We have also been trying to come up with ideas in regard to expanding the town's tax base, particularly in response to the Proposition 2 1/2 override vote. We feel the encouragement of certain small businesses in town could help bring in more tax dollars. A few of the businesses we thought of targeting for possible location in Heath are: a restaurant, ski touring center, laundromat, craft businesses and bottled spring water.

Finally, we are working with Susan Wright to update our open space plan. She has submitted a grant proposal for assistance in writing an open space plan, and the mapping of open space and recreation areas.

Our meetings are held at 8 PM on the second Monday of each month. All are welcome to attend and offer input.



Peter & Marie Royer At Their House In The 1920s
(Photo from Edith Royer)

[Note: This photo was omitted from the December number of the HERALD for lack of space. It is printed here to complete the story on the Pelatiah Smith/Royer House.]

HEATH MAKES AP NEWS

The following story was on the AP newswire last fall and appeared in papers across the country. This clipping from the Southern Illinoisan (11/19/85) was sent in by Joan Brownlee's mother from Carbondale, Illinois -

BOUNDARY WALK IS NO SUNDAY STROLL

Heath, Mass.(AP) - Officials didn't know what they were in for when they decided to resurrect the colonial tradition of "perambulating the bounds," walking the town's perimeter to locate stone boundary markers and carve the date.

"I just thought it would be a nice thing to do because it was the (Heath) bicentennial," said Anne Steinbock, chairman of the Board of Selectmen in this town of 480 people located five miles south of the Vermont border.

Mrs. Steinbock suggested officials from Heath and two neighboring towns of Colrain and Charlemont begin the project after she noticed it had been ten years since Heath last checked the boundaries.

Selectmen from the three towns began the task last Saturday, and it still isn't done.

After walking down the Massachusetts-Vermont border, across a mowed field, through some woods, over a stream, they found the 4-foot granite marker on the spot where the two towns and Vermont meet.

It took about 15 minutes to find the marker and 20 minutes to chisel "85" to mark the year.

Back at Mrs. Steinbock's house, . . . they set off to find the marker where Charlemont, to the south, and Colrain to the east, intersect Heath, which they thought was close to Mrs. Steinbock's house.

The party drove down a road, then hiked up Pocumtuck Mountain to admire the view. Using a topographical map and a 1914 atlas, they began searching for the marker, which records described as a 4-inch by 8-inch by 1-foot stone.

After a three hour trek up steep slopes and down steep drops, the main party found the marker. But they somehow lost the man with the chisel. They propped up the marker, and left, with Heath officials planning to return another day to chisel on this year's date.

The Charlemont-Heath-Colrain marker was actually about a 10-minute walk from the road, Mrs. Steinbock said.

"It was where it should have been," she said. "But it was a lovely afternoon in the woods."

Mrs. Steinbock said Heath selectmen hope to perambulate the border with Charlemont today. Because of a number of angles in the boundary, there are six markers to be found.

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SELECTMEN'S HIGHLIGHTS

compiled by HERALD Staff

In preparation for the coming fiscal year and the annual town meeting in May, the Selectmen have scheduled a series of meetings with the various town departments and committees for submission of their annual budget proposals and reports. These meetings are to take place on Monday nights from February 3 through February 24 and the Finance Committee has been invited to participate.

The broken axle and bearing on the new (used) grader has been repaired. The repair is estimated to cost between \$1200 and \$1300.

Howard Crowningshield reported several areas in the town buildings which need weatherizing. The fire door at the Community Hall needs more insulation and some of the storm windows are shaking loose. No action has been taken so far.

All four towns participating in the shared administrative assistant program (circuit rider) have agreed to continue with the program. The cost to Heath for the fiscal year 1987 will be \$3500 of which \$2500 will be reimbursed from the Block Grant program. This is still subject to vote of the annual town meeting in May.

The Selectmen are applying to the state for \$8115 for damage caused by Hurricane Gloria last fall. Town roads and culverts were badly washed out at that time requiring extensive repair.

A change in the formula and rules for state aid on local roads was passed by the legislature. As a result, Heath is expected to receive \$71,000 instead of the previous \$48,000.

The Selectmen approved an application prepared by Circuit Rider Susan Wright for Open Space Planning assistance for the Planning Board at no cost to the town.

An agreement, following several meetings between the Selectmen and the Assessors, is being developed. This will spell out the revaluation work to be done following the appropriation of \$5000 to begin this job as voted at the January town meeting.

REPORT FROM THE TAX COLLECTOR/TREASURER

by Linda Marcotte

As I mentioned in my last article, I am now working at home for a few months. This is due to the arrival of the newest member of the Marcotte family (Eugene Stephen). Hopefully this change won't be too much of an inconvenience. If anyone would like to see me in person, I suggest they call first (337-4394) as I don't have all of my tax books at home and we might have to meet at the Town Hall.

If all goes well, Fiscal Year ending June 30, 1986 tax bills should be mailed during February. Quite a few people have responded to the Town's request for voluntary tax payments which have been a great help to the Treasurer. These payments will be indicated on the bills when they are mailed. It should be noted that when you receive your bill, only one-half will be due 30 days from date mailed (unless the total amount is less than \$25.00). As approved at the January 6, 1986 town meeting, any tax bill in an amount less than \$25.00 is due in one payment. The second half of the bill is due May, 1 1986 and will be mailed to you by April 1.

TOWN OFFICERS TO BE ELECTED

The annual town meeting will be held this year on Monday, May 5, at which time the following offices are to be filled:

Position	Term (yrs)	Present Incumbent
Selectman	3	Anne Steinbock
Assessor	3	John Moriarty
School Committee	3	Skip Venneri
Planning Board	5	Earl Gleason
Finance Committee	3	Bruce Cromack
Library Trustee	3	* Teresa Pettenkill
Auditor	1	* Newland Smith

* Present incumbent does not intend to seek reelection.

Any resident of the town of Heath may run for one or more of the above offices by taking out nomination papers obtained from the Town Clerk by Saturday, March 22. The signatures of twenty or more registered voters are required on the nomination papers which must be filed by March 24. New voters may register for the town election through April 15; registration will be held during the Town Clerk's regular hours at Sawyer Hall or by special appointment before that date.

The next number of the HEATH HERALD will list all candidates who have filed nomination papers and will publish statements on their positions.

In addition to the above offices which are elected by ballot the following positions are to be filled by nominations from the floor at the annual town meeting: Fence Viewers (3), Measurers of Wood and Bark(3), and Field Drivers (3).

BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

by Paul Lively, Chairman

I am happy that our final Bicentennial event was a great success. Carol Stowe reported at our last meeting that a good time was had by all who attended the New Year's Eve sleigh rides and supper. Our thanks to Carroll for his dedicated effort in that undertaking.

We are at work producing the historical book which will, in essence, be a recounting of the Bicentennial events which occurred during the past year. Committee members have their assignments and we hope each will have a written rough draft of their assigned chapter by our next meeting in February.

The Bicentennial account has a little less than \$2000 which is going to make it rather tight budgeting in producing this book. We'll do our best.

Gordon E. Taylor d/b/a



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FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

by Chief Earl Gleason

The Department responded to four emergencies during the past two months. On December 3 several fire-fighters aided a woman who had cut her hand, and on December 7 we responded to a very hot chimney fire on Rowe Road. Our January responses included a run on Colrain Stage Road to an alarm sounding which later turned out to be a burglar alarm. Also there was a call on January 23 to a chimney fire which was out on arrival.

We were extremely fortunate that we did not have a barn fire on December 5. The owner saw flames coming through the wall and extinguished the fire with a pail of water.

On the administrative side, two smoke detector inspections for property transfers were made, and directors meetings of both Deerfield Valley Mutual Aid and Tri-State Mutual Aid were attended. Also the Fire Officers Training Class has ended after twelve weeks of instruction. This was an enjoyable class which covered methods of communicating, memory courses and strategy, and ended with the use of a simulator where each student worked as a member of a team.

Beginning February 6 the Department will be starting the required first responder class. This class includes standard first aid, CPR and instruction in other emergencies.

TAX BILLS TO BE ISSUED SOON

by HERALD Staff

A tax rate of \$18.00 per \$1000 of valuation for the 1986 Fiscal Year has been approved by the state, according to Richards Steinbock, Chairman of the Heath Board of Assessors. This compares with a tax rate of \$16.60 for the previous year; up \$1.40 per thousand in spite of a significant increase in property valuation by new construction. This is the result of the increased appropriations voted at the town meetings.

Steinbock reports that the new tax bills should now be out in about another week and a half. He also states that he is working with the Selectmen to complete an agreement for beginning the 3-year revaluation of the town as required by state law.

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BRIGHT MINDS IN THE COUNTRY TOWNS OF 40 YEARS AGO

by Edward P. Guild

[Editors' note: The following article is extracted from a story which appeared in the Greenfield Gazette and Courier about 1914. Edward Guild was one of the founders and first president of the Heath Historical Society in 1900. It was supplied by Helen Nichols.]

At the close of the Civil War Heath was a town numbering nearly twice its population of today although it had been steadily falling off since 1830. The foreign element had not arrived and a large proportion of the farms were occupied by the same families that had been in possession two or three generations. No railroad was nearer than Greenfield from whence the mail arrived three times a week by Sherman's stage which ran through to Monroe. Sherman did not carry a post horn but was wont to give a peculiar penetrating whistle announcing his approach a long distance in advance. Very few daily papers were seen in town, but nearly every family seemed to have the Gazette and Courier then published on Monday.

The Heath Postoffice and store at that time were kept by Dr. Cyrus Temple, succeeded a few years later by Horace McGee. Distribution of the mail was an exciting event. There were a few postoffice boxes but nobody used them. The postmaster would read in a loud voice the name on each letter or other piece of mail matter; the one addressed, if present in the crowd, would call "hi," a deft throw, a catch, and Uncle Sam's responsibility was completed. "The store" in those days was the general rendezvous for the male population on stormy days and evenings, for lack of a tavern, the "Old Red House" having then outlived its public function - and here around the big stove was free discussion of politics, horse trades, the new school teacher, etc.

On certain days the farmers brought in their butter for shipment to Boston and, if it was winter, a good many came in wearing the blue army overcoats which remained in evidence some years after the war.

With its remoteness from the railroad, Heath was a more self centered town at that period than nowadays. The people had a reputation for being rather brainy and their intellectual aspirations found expression in that good old institution, the lyceum. The regular meetings were held each winter in the old town house. Men and their families drove from remote parts of the town in zero weather to debate or hear debated - no petty local propositions - but "Resolved: that the American Indian has suffered more at the hands of the white man than has the negro"; or "that the works of nature are more to be admired than the works of art"; or, "that whatever is, is right." There were good debaters in those days, and the tide of eloquence often ran high.

Music, which meant singing, came in for much attention in those years. Perhaps not a person in town had even studied at a conservatory but the old-fashioned singing school was in vogue and was well patronized by those having natural voices for singing and some who were sadly lacking in such a gift. When there was no singing school in session "sings" were held around at various houses.

Not far from the year 1870 a regulation cattle show was held in Heath. The quiet Common and adjacent field were transformed into a typical fairground with all the accessories of tents, booths, fakirs and catch-pennies of every kind. There were exhibits from

far and near and it was quite a big affair, but the Deerfield Valley Society was organized soon after and the Heath show was not repeated.

Farmers for many years took their grain to Mill Hollow - not then known as Dell - for conversion to flour and meal at the well equipped and thriving grist mill of Charles Coates.

The old district school system was then in force and schools were held in all the nine districts of the town with possibly one or two exceptions. Occasionally there was a term of "select" school in the town house conducted by a teacher who for a small tuition fee offered instruction in somewhat more advanced studies.

The town fathers in those times were astute, conservative citizens, of the old stock, such as David Temple, John Read, John Burrington and others. Of well known people other than those already referred to may be recalled the several sons and daughters of Capt. David Gould, the Bensons, including the still active Squire and his genial brother Charles who lived on the place recently acquired by ex-Attorney General Dana Malone, and who some years later was killed by lightning; Monroe Maxwell and sons, Hugh and Orsamus; several Temple families; numerous Gleasons; Dea. Aaron Dickinson, Aaron Smith, William Hunt, Dennis and Joel Canedy, and the families of Sumner, Gale, Henry, Vincent, Kinsman, etc. Doubtless others were no less prominent.

Such was Heath 40 years ago. There was then no telephone, public library, grange or Historical Society. Some houses of that time have yielded to fire or decay. Customs and modes of life have changed to some extent, but probably there have been fewer changes here than in many other hill towns. Most of the people are still of the old time families and old traditions are more or less preserved. Whether there is more interest and value in the present day life than the former is an open question.

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LIFE IN HEATH

by Pat Leuchtman

When we moved to Heath six winters ago, I was glad to leave the petty irritations of New York City living - subway strikes, noise, landlords, noise, rodents, lack of space and noise - for the glories of country living. In Heath I found my own forest of Arden, a place with "no enemy, but winter and rough weather." I was tired of battling the transit system; Nature would be a noble and worthy foe.

It's just as well that I felt that way because Heath is a town where time is measured by winters survived.

Once a neighbor answered her door in tears, declaring that life did not have to be so hard! "You all think you've proved something by getting through the winter!"

I guess she was right, and I know there were times I felt survival was in serious doubt. Once we considered ourselves - and the Litchfields - fortunate because we smashed into their woodpile, and not their house, when the car went out of control and slid down the Dell hill.

Worse than that was the time Win Warriner convinced Henry and me to sit in his open trunk to give his car the traction needed to get UP the Dell hill. I closed my eyes and gritted my teeth, but figured either the trunk door would come banging down on our heads and kill us, or we'd topple out of the lurching car, falling under the wheels of the unballasted car which would crush us, or at best we would spend the night in the icy Dell trying to figure out other ways to get up the hill. However, we were only a half hour late getting home.

Heath is always cold and in the summer coming home is a welcome relief after the heat of the valley. But in winter it is colder than cold. We were scheduled to go to the Wozniak/Dabrody household for Christmas dinner in 1982, but the temperature dipped to -35 degrees. Neither one of us could get our cars going until 4 in the afternoon when Paul finally picked us up. Even with the wood stove going full and the kitchen oven on, the house was so cold that the butter on our mashed potatoes never melted.

Last November when the pig stickers came the Heath wind was blowing snow across the hill and there was mud everywhere. When you added gore from the pigs and the slaughterers' torch flames, the scene in the barnyard was positively primeval.

Henry stood around swapping lies with Mr. Nugent and his two young helpers while they worked and Paul Dabrody and Alan Nichols (who had a stake in the pigs) also commented on the quality of Heath winters. Henry pointed out that all the trees on our hill have a definite list to the southeast because of the "Canadian Express," the ferocious northwest wind. Even the bark is split and scarred on the northwest side.

The pig stickers wondered how we ever got off the hill in the winter. We said getting out was easy. The trick was getting back. There have been starless, sleety nights we have crawled up the last icy hill to the house on our hands and knees because the car refused to make it while Henry asked me if "rough weather" was a worthy enough foe for me.

During the great April storm of 1983 it took us almost four hours to make it from Greenfield, including walking in the last mile and a half through knee deep snow and 9-degree temperatures. Our progress was spurred by the thought that if we did not get home and get the wood furnace going again, the pipes would freeze.

Getting out after that storm was "almost easy." The snow was so deep and had drifted so badly across our road that we had to ski out for two days until the town bucket loader was repaired and could clear the road.

"But," said the pig sticker with awe, "you wouldn't live anywhere else, would you?"

Well, no.

Once I asked Henry why Heathens take such a delight in telling others how difficult life is in Heath. Alli Thane says it's because we don't want everyone rushing to live in our Arden. Fred Burrington says it's because Heath is more a concept than a reality.

Henry says it's because people who live in Heath have a sense of humor. That's the real reason we survive.

A DIFFERENT NEW YEAR'S EVE

by Carroll Stowe

December 31 was a Tuesday and not a bitter day but rather cloudy. The scene of an early evening sled party was Mrs. Carey's field on Stone Hill Road in Rowe.

While other people readied the Heath Community Hall, I cut wood and broke out some wood roads in the snow to get ready to entertain a group of people not too familiar with sled rides - horse powered that is.

The people began to arrive a little after 4:30 PM and the fire was giving off a cheery glow and warmth. No food was brought to the fireside as the plan was to return to Heath Center to share potluck at the Community Hall.

The original plan was to go out of Heath Center with teams and wagons in an attempt to recreate a New Year's party which took place here in town in 1946. Sleds could not be used as the roads are now plowed and sanded. When I started to organize this party, people were agreeable to provide horses. However, as the 31st came closer, there were not enough horses so I decided to have the party in the field in Rowe with Jim Lively's team and Mrs. Carey's team. These two teams made up the horse power.

As we rode around the field and sugar lot the riders were most thrilled with the slow pace and the safety of being removed from vehicular traffic. Singing could be heard and pleasant conversation around the fire. As a rough guess, I felt there were about 60 people there. Most but not all returned to Heath Center and a bounteous potluck meal was enjoyed by all.

With suggestions to repeat it again in 1986, people cleaned up the dishes and the Hall and everyone was home safe and sound and in a sober attitude before 10 PM. Again I would like to thank all who helped make the last event of Heath's Bicentennial a complete success.



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BLOOPERS (AT THE HEATH POST OFFICE)

by Marcella Rachel Lively

In the four years and two months I've worked for the Town Of Heath, running the Post Office, I've found it very rewarding. Looking back at the beginning I can now laugh at certain things that happened. I hope you will too!

After most of the P.O. boxes were rented out, presided over by Catherine, Mike and Elsa came in to acquire one from Yours Truly, Me! Though I was kind of nervous about the whole thing, the three of us went out in the front entry to look at the boxes. I let go of the door and - YOU GUESSED IT - I had forgotten to fix the lock! I felt like slipping through the nearest crack in the floor. Hoping Bob was at home, I ran over to see if I could borrow his key to the door. Thank God, he was there! Though I was feeling rather foolish, Bob was his normally nice self. With the key in hand, I made it back in a couple of leaps. They were very understanding about the whole thing and even laughed it off with me!

Another instance was when Danny, the mailman's son, came instead of his father. Actually it was one of his first times at this job. Sorting through what seemed like a ton of mail, I finally finished. Danny picked up his drawer and said, "bye." I began putting mail in my boxes and turned to see the first class pouch sitting merrily on its chair almost grinning at me! With the panic button activated, I thought I would pass out. After calming myself down, it occurred to me that if I called the last stop on his route, they could be at the box and tell him to turn back. Mrs. Cromack answered and said Brenda would go to the box. Sure enough, Danny returned a few minutes later, smiling and said, "Forget something?" I reminded him that "So did you!"

Another blooper happened when, after getting the mail out of the outside box, I put the key in my coat pocket which I didn't usually do. Bet you can guess again what happened the next day? After opening up, I reached for the key and it wasn't there. True to form, I duly pressed the old panic button, searching high and low for the key. The only place it could possibly be was in my coat pocket which was hanging on a hook at HOME! Calmly as I could, I rang up my telly praying all the while my eldest son, Malvin, would answer. Thanks be to God, he did! "Please check to see if there is a flat key in my checkered coat hanging on the nail in the corner," I pleaded! He returned to say that it was there. I asked if he could bring it right over to me at the P.O. and he said he would. Getting right in the car with the door ajar, it caught on a large stump sitting by the side of the house, springing the door off the hinges - Murphy's Law at play! Poor Mal felt badly and tried to fix it but, alas, it never closed properly again!

Have no fear, 'cause things have gotten better. Experience is a great teacher and age does temper one's personality somewhat. I could cite a couple of more events, but I'd best leave well enough alone for now! I'm not nearly as nervous as I used to be - just ask anyone who knows me! Now, "Where did I put that darn key?"

LARRY'S
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CLOTHING

FOOTWEAR

BED & BREAKFAST, Y'ALL COME

by Alastair Maitland

Looking out one morning, some weeks ago, across the field towards Cindy and Kenneth Cole's house I was startled to see the banner of the Lone Star State billowing out from their flag pole. "This is it," I thought. "We have been invaded." I remembered the Alamo. I also considered the awful possibility that the ignoble J.R. might be lurking in the backwoods of Franklin County; or, worse still, that a Dallas Cowboy tight end might have penetrated the Patriots' West County secondary.

In fact the invasion could not have been more benign or more welcome. My new neighbors to the south, in what is now known as Forest Way Farm, are Jimmie and Paul Snyder from Dallas, Texas, and their family consisting of Jimmie's daughter, Yolanda Campbell, and Yolanda's son Jason, now an enthusiastic sixth grader at Rowe Elementary School.

Like most Dallasites Jimmie and Paul come from somewhere else, Jimmie from southern Mississippi and Paul from the Amish country of Pennsylvania by way of New Jersey where he had operated a very successful machine shop. But why on earth did they choose to go against the grain and desert the Sun Belt for the snows of New England? Part of the answer is that Paul's grandparents were Mainiacs. But, as Paul says, it is mostly because the house on BA "smiled at them" and continues to smile as they work themselves into it and adapt it to their life style. Much of the physical adaptation is the work of Paul, a man who is clearly gifted with great manual dexterity and who, amongst other things, builds models of ancient sailing vessels - the frigate "Old Ironsides," the English clipper "Thermopylae." Jimmie is a cordon bleu cook, one of her specialties, reflecting her Southern and Tex-Mex experience, being chili con carne. Yolanda has a range of skills, including chair caning, punched tin work and the fabrication of Christmas ornaments.

The Snyder family intends to turn Forest Way Farm into a bed-and-breakfast establishment. Guests will be offered four room selections: 1 room with king size bed, 1 room with queen size bed, 2 rooms with double beds, 1 room with twin beds. Rates will be \$35.00 single, \$40.00 double, and reservations will be requested. It seems an unbeatable combination: New England in all four seasons plus Southern hospitality. The Snyders say they have been captivated by the friendliness of New Englanders. The feeling is mutual. After all, the word Texas comes from the Caddo Indian word *Texia*, meaning friends or allies. The Lone Star flag is most welcome here.

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DOLLY'S DOLLS

by Pat Leuchtman

Dolly Churchill has been sewing since long before she was married. Then, when her children were small, she made little toys with the scraps left from sewing their clothes. These toys were so attractive and the children got such pleasure from them that other mothers asked her to make more and sell them.

Sewing gives Dolly a lot of satisfaction and enjoyment. She usually sews in the evenings after supper and finds it is the only way to relax. She makes clothes to order. Eva Pazmino has been a regular customer for years and other friends have come with a length of fabric and gone home with a new skirt after the men have done visiting.

But her dolls have been a bigger and bigger part of her business for about the past ten years, or since the Heath Historical Society has been holding its summer Bazaar at the Town House Museum. She exhibits the soft fabric dolls that are complete with belly buttons, dimpled knees, elbows - and bottoms - and then finds one customer after another coming to ask her for a doll with specific characteristics, like red hair, green eyes and freckles.

When she works without those specifications Dolly says that she begins with two yards of fabric and cuts out a large doll, 24", then cuts out a smaller 18" doll from the scraps, then still a smaller doll. Usually the smallest doll she makes is 6" tall, but with New England thrift, she uses most of the scraps in her quilts.

After the dolls are assembled and their facial features painted on, Dolly says she just looks at the doll and can then tell what color and kind of hair it should have. "It's like naming a child. The child - or doll - tells what you should do."

Dolly has refused opportunities to sell her dolls in stores. She feels the dolls would have to be more standardized and she wouldn't like the pressure of having to meet quotas and deadlines. She considers sewing her business and depends on it for part of her income, but she likes to be able to work at her own pace, in the evenings, or when she knows she is going to have to spend some time waiting in doctors' offices and other places.

"I love my doll babies. I don't want them to be so expensive that parents won't let the children play with them; it is the children's pleasure I like to think about."

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FLY YOUR KITE FOR THE LIBRARY

At a meeting of the Heath Friends of the Library on January 23, it was decided to hold a kite-flying event and picnic at the Fair Grounds on Saturday, April 19, at 1 PM. You are asked to bring your own picnic lunch. Refreshments will be provided at a nominal cost. Bob Gruen will be in charge of the kite flying. There will also be a book sale at the Fair Grounds. This is the first in a new series of events to show support for the Library.

So mark your calendar for this fun filled afternoon and come fly your kite for the Library.

LIBRARY LINES

by Alli Thane, Librarian

Starting the week of February 24, the Western Massachusetts Regional Library System will begin circulating video cassette circuits to the sixty member libraries that register to participate in the project. This will permit the patrons to borrow cassettes as well as books.

The Heath Council on Aging has contributed funds for the purchase of large print books. These are on order.

The Bookmobile delivery was on February 5. Come in - there is a lot of new material to choose from and borrow.

HEATH COMMUNITY HALL

by Sheila Litchfield

Our Community Hall continues as a center of activity for all ages. We have seen recent Hall use increase from five or six times each month to nearly that often each week. The majority of people use the Hall and its belongings with care, respecting the privilege that we all share. Cooperative, energetic spirit has surrounded the development of the Community Hall ever since it began. Policies for building use are directed at preserving the equipment it has taken so long to acquire.

The most recent improvements to the Hall include two new doors and a septic system. Other improvements are planned and workbees will be scheduled as needed.

A couple of reminders. Please avoid getting the upstairs floor wet and keep all food and drink downstairs as much as possible.

The current Hall Committee is: Dolly Churchill, Lynn Miller and Sheila Litchfield. Mary Smith is custodian and schedule keeper.

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CHURCH NEWS

by Amy C. Barry

Several important events have taken place in the Heath Church in the last few months that have contributed to the Church's missionary work. A special offering taken at the Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service held this year in Heath netted \$185 and was donated to the Good Neighbors. A portion of the donations collected at our successful Christmas Concert, given by the Gather 'Round Singers, has been sent to assist Linda Moore, formerly of Shelburne, in her missionary work in Ecuador. Miss Moore, a niece of Bruce and Catherine Cromack, spoke about her experiences at a joint service held in Rowe on January 19. The service was followed by a brunch featuring Craig Barry's whole wheat buttermilk pancakes.

Kevin Pleas, our new minister, recently attended a six day conference in Shrewsbury, VT entitled Small Churches are the Right Size. The conference was led by Rev. David Ray, former pastor of the Warwick Church and author of a book on small churches. Rev. Ray's creative fund-raising ideas in the Warwick Church were the inspiration for the Talent Fund undertaken by the Heath Church in 1984.

Although summer seems far away in February, we would like to remind everyone that the Church will be holding an auction this summer, the date to be announced later. Please keep us in mind when spring cleaning comes along.

Wooden chairs are very much needed for the Sunday School room. Anyone having chairs to donate is asked to call Karen MacDougall at 337-4268.

MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL SCHOOL NEWS

by Sue Silvester

Rehearsals have begun for the all-school musical, Sound of Music, to be presented on the evenings of March 7 and 8; a matinee will be held on Sunday, March 9. Tickets go on sale February 10; to reserve seats call Mohawk Trail School (625-9811) after that date during school hours.

The district teacher center located at the Mohawk School is being reorganized this winter by volunteer members. An inventory is being taken of all professional material and the results will be published in a catalog.

The music department has continued its active schedule; the jazz band will sponsor a dinner dance at the Shelburne Grange in March, and the select chorus will join the jazz band for a week in April at the national competition at the Orlando Music Festival in Florida. More details about both of these activities will be available soon.

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY RECEIVES GIFT

by Sue Silvester, Secretary
Heath Historical Society

The Heath Historical Society recently received the generous gift of \$5,000 from Donald S. Groll of Middlebury, Vermont, in memory of his father, Otto Carley Groll, who was born in Heath on October 25, 1897, the son of C. Adolph and Arlie Groll. They lived on Number Nine Road at Cyrus on the northwest corner of the junction with the road to Rowe that is sometimes called "Groll" Road. Otto Groll left Heath in his late teens or early twenties and became successively a power plant fireman, operating engineer and chief operating engineer, working in Griswoldville, Northampton, Boston and Cambridge. From about 1936 until his retirement he lived in Walpole and worked in Norfolk, Massachusetts. He married Nellie Haan on November 4, 1936 in Walpole and died April 4, 1985 in Norwood, MA.

The money in this gift will be used by the Society for the badly needed restoration of the Old Town House on the Common. Estimates for this project run as high as \$24,000. Fund raising and grant writing projects are presently being discussed by the directors.

HISTORICAL COMMISSION APPOINTED

The Board of Selectmen have appointed the following Heath residents to the Historical Commission: Jayne Dane, Esther Dickinson, Edith Royer, Bill Thane and Alan Nichols. The appointments are for one to three year terms. Members of the commission will be involved in the inventory of historic buildings and sites in the Town of Heath.

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SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT

by Budge Litchfield, Secretary

Some questions have arisen regarding inclement weather days. Because of lack of liability insurance protection, the Superintendent is compelled to err on the conservative side when delaying or cancelling school due to poor road conditions. We regret this understandably necessary inconvenience. Related to this is the school calling chain. Please make sure you have a copy of the revised chain which was sent out on December 5. If you have any questions, please call Budge Litchfield (337-4957).

Julie Aron is a new half-time fifth grade teacher at the Rowe School. Because the fifth and sixth grades are so large and have a large percentage of students who need remedial work, it was decided that splitting these groups would be the most effective way of providing a good education for all. So far this change seems to be working well.

Your school committee has been actively working on educational grants for the past few months. Because of the negative impact on future school budgets we voted to refuse to accept the Equal Educational Opportunity Grant. At the same time we decided to form an Early Childhood Education Advisory Council to develop proposals for an Early Childhood Education Grant that can be used to foster preschool education opportunities for Heath children. At Mohawk, a unique cooperative arrangement between the teachers and the regional school committee will allow the use of a Professional Development Grant to improve teachers' pay without financial risk to the towns.

We are currently in the middle of very amiable discussions with the Rowe School Committee regarding our tuition rate. One of our major goals is to achieve long-term stability of cost through some reasonable short-term increases.

One final note. My first grader reported that skiing on the first afternoon of the Rowe School ski program was terrific. He had had such a good time he never noticed that the temperature was in the single numbers the whole time. Please remember to dress those kids warmly.

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ROWE SCHOOL NEWS

by Sue Silvester

The Rowe ski program commenced on Tuesday, January 14, at Berkshire East, where students enjoyed a half day of skiing with lessons. Continuing every other Tuesday through February, the program will end on March 5.

To meet the requirements of the School Improvement Act of 1985 and to be eligible for \$970, a School Improvement Council has been formed. The committee has met once and will meet again in mid-February. Heath representative Frank Brower or Principal Paul Swen may be contacted if anyone would like to offer suggestions for utilization of the funds. The money may be used to expand services to students, establish innovative academic programs, purchase instructional materials, create alternative educational programs or increase community involvement in the school.

Grades for the past quarter closed on January 24 and report cards were mailed on Monday, February 3.

An all-school variety show is a possibility for early spring. The California Achievement Tests will again be administered to all students in Grades 2-6 in May.

ACADEMY NEWS

by Karen Venneri

The Academy at Charlemont is now bringing the second quarter to an end. Exams will be taken this week to conclude the first half of the year. To start off the second half, we were able to raise enough money from the poinsettia campaign for Shakespeare and Company to come to the school. They will be here for four days, presenting theatrical workshops to the students.

Also concerning theater, the senior school students are starting to work on The Play of Daniel, a thirteenth century Latin musical drama. Mrs. Jayne Dane, the music instructor, has cast members of the senior school chorus for the leading singing parts. Work for the performance has already begun and it's expected to be presented sometime in April.

Another event that will be going on is the semi-formal dance on February 15. There will be dinner and after dinner there will be dancing. This was organized by Mr. Stephen Morganelli and the Activities Council. We're sure that it will be a success as will the second half of the year.

WELLS SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Scholarships from the Fred W. Wells Trust Fund will again be made available this year according to Jean Holdsworth, who represents Heath on the Board of Trustees. Last year \$102,700 was awarded in educational grants to 155 students of the area by the Trustees.

Scholarship applications, which are due on May 1, 1986 for the 1986-87 school year, are now available at the Town Hall in Heath. For any further information you may contact Jean Holdsworth.

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MILESTONES

by Edith C. Royer

Caleb James was born on December 14 to Joanna and Robert Delisle of Brunelle Hill Road.

Eugene Stephen was born on January 21 to Linda and Stephen Marcotte of Flagg Hill Road.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cominoli of Vernon VT, and Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Cromack of Heath announce the engagement of their children, Karen and Weston. They plan to be married in May.

Polly Malone, daughter of Carol Malone and the late Dana Malone, all former Heath residents, was married on December 21 to Stephen McDonald of College Station, Texas. The wedding was held in Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church in Bryan, Texas. Polly was given away by her brother Jeff. Her sister, Penny, was maid-of-honor and her brother, Roger, and Steve's son, John, were ushers. Polly's grandfather, Sherman Johnson of Vallejo CA and a former Heath summer resident, assisted in performing the ceremony. Both bride and groom will graduate in May from the School of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A & M University.

Marsha Freeman and Norman Sessions were married in Greenfield. Norman is the son of Dorothy Sessions of Heath. They will make their home on Route 8A in Heath.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest P. Smith celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on December 25. Mrs. Smith is the former Mary Bell Ladd. Following their wedding ceremony in Colrain in 1945, they enjoyed a honeymoon trip to Maine.

Marfisa M. Rocchi of Judd Road died on January 17, and her husband, Frank Rocchi, Sr., died on January 31. They leave two sons, Frank, Jr. of Heath and Michael of Duxbury.

Mildred Giard of Route 8A died on January 22. She leaves her husband, Joseph (Louie); two sons, Joseph A. and Robert A., both of Heath; six daughters, Mary Howe, Phyllis Thane and Joanne Fournier - all of Heath, Kathleen Phelps of Colrain, Arlene Gazzo of Connecticut and Linda Giard of Greenfield; and several grandchildren. Burial was in the Center Cemetery.

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TOWN OFFICE HOURS

(At Town Hall unless otherwise noted)

Selectmen: Mondays 7 PM

Assessors: Tuesdays 7 PM

Town Clerk: Mondays 7 - 9 PM

Tuesdays 7 - 9 PM, Saturdays 9 AM - 12 noon

Town Treasurer & Tuesdays,

Tax Collector: Wednesdays & Thursdays 8-11:30 AM

and by appointment, call 337-4394

Town Accountant: Mondays & Thursdays 8:30 AM - 12 noon

Finance Committee: As posted

Planning Board: 2nd Monday of month 8 PM

Heath School Committee:

1st Wednesday of month 7:30 PM

Library Trustees: 3rd Monday of month 7 PM

Library: Mondays 6 - 9 PM Wednesdays 1 - 5 PM

Saturdays 9 AM - 1 PM

Town Nurse: Wednesdays 8:45 - 10:45 AM

Fridays 12:45 - 2:45 PM

(call 625-2829 for appointment between 7 - 8:15 AM)

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

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