



VOLUME 8 NUMBER 6

FEBRUARY/MARCH 1987

HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER 35¢

WINTER IN THESE HILLS An Insider's View

It may be in the small hours: two, three, four o'clock. John is calling his crew; they will begin in a half hour. Snow has been accumulating or there is freezing rain. If possible the roads must be open for school busses, for workers coming home from the night shift, for a dialysis patient with a pacemaker. They will either plow or sand. There are 55 miles of it.

It is lonely work. Headlights do not carry far in a storm; even without wind to blow it the wipers are going; soft snow flies up from the plow; the grit in it scratches and scores the glass. Wet snow rolls into dead weight and must be shoved aside if possible. If not, if backing for a push is impossible, the barricade must be abandoned until the bucket loader can come, from another such impasse or from the garage, where it is needed for loading sand. Its maximum traveling speed is 16mph. Sanding on hazardous ice is safer going up the steeper hills, even with a truck that throws ahead of the wheels.

John keeps track of them by radio: "How you doin', Duke?" - "I'm down by the lowest bridge on Avery Brook; I'm almost out of sand." In the confusing whiteness a driver misjudges and goes into a ditch; he is stuck. Unless he is in a dead spot he makes radio contact. John, in the pickup, locates the nearest, who may be miles away; that man stops what he is doing and goes to pull the truck out. If there is no response, John calls the base station (Dolly) to attempt a relay. There is no radio on the loader.

They work through the night and all the next day. The snow may have begun at 3:00pm, when they had already worked seven hours. That meant going through the night and all the next day - 32 hours non-stop, with plenty of coffee but no food. Dead-beat, a man may doze in his truck or nap at the garage. It takes stamina and commitment, determination and civic responsibility. And overtime pay. Overtime is in addition to the regular 40-hour work week (the middle 16 of those 32 hours). Part time help may be called in.

Respect for machinery is a requirement of the job, but the work puts a strain on it. There are breakdowns. A plow attachment may snap; the wing is also vulnerable; so are the trucks. An oil leak may develop. A strained hydraulic pump means no steering - a tow job. The U-joint in the grader gives out; a new one can be delivered (from North Carolina) over night and installed when there is time. At this writing only the pickup (no sander) and one big truck are in operation. (Later development: the old sander body on the truck has disintegrated, rusted out, junk. February and March still to go.)

... continued on page 4

TOWN OFFICERS TO BE ELECTED

It is now time for those considering running for town offices to plan on taking out the necessary nomination papers. The deadline date this year for filing papers with the Town Clerk is Wednesday, March 25. A minimum of 20 signatures of registered voters is required for each candidate.

As voted at the last annual town meeting in May, the town election this year has been changed to Friday, May 8. The annual town meeting will take place the following morning on Saturday, May 9.

This year the following town offices are to be filled:

Position	Term (yrs)	Present Incumbent
Moderator	3	* Edward Calver
Selectman	3	Richard Giard
Assessor	3	Dennis Peters
Assessor	1	** Stephen Belitsos
Town Clerk	1	* Catherine Nichols
School Committee	3	Linda Marcotte
Planning Board	5	Susan Gleason
Finance Committee	3	Guy Silvester
Library Trustee	3	Edith Gleason
Auditor	1	Douglas Wilkins

* Present incumbent does not intend to seek reelection

** Filling unexpired term of C.R. Steinbock who resigned

... continued on page 2



Sawyer Hall Rises from the Snow

(Photo by Michael Brown)

EDITORIAL:

PLIGHT OF THE HEATH POLICE

by HERALD Staff

The status of the Heath Police Department has concerned many residents recently. Questions raised at the Round Table discussions have not been answered entirely to the satisfaction of some members of the community. Concerns include the lack of available personnel within the department. Officer Lee Sheperd resigned quite some time ago and will respond only to a life and death emergency. A replacement for him has not been found. Police Chief Lorin Gowdy no longer lives in Heath; he is not available for routine calls on a regular basis. The only police telephone in town rings at the home of Officer Guy Silvester, who is on temporary medical leave from the department due to an injury incurred while making an arrest.

At the present time, if police assistance is needed, a resident must contact the Massachusetts State Police directly. Members of the Colrain Police Department will respond to a request from the Heath Police if there is need for additional personnel. The problem of outside assistance is that approximately half an hour of valuable time is lost while waiting for help to arrive; in an emergency that extra time could mean the difference between life and death.

Other matters plague the department; it seems that the town does not carry insurance on its officers, nor does it provide workmen's compensation. It is imperative that the police department provide effective, timely and professional service to the citizens of Heath. The department has always been an integral and vital component of the town. We would like to see this important issue reviewed and alternative plans for the department outlined as a priority for 1987.

. continued from page 1

Any resident of the Town of Heath may run for one or more of the above offices by taking out the nomination papers. Interested and qualified people who can devote the required time are encouraged to participate in the town government.

New voters may register for the town election through April 19. Registration will be held during the Town Clerk's regular office hours at Sawyer Hall or by special appointment before that date.

The next issue 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).

LETTERS

Recollections of Peters Store

To the Editors:

I just read your October/November (1986) issue of the HEATH HERALD and was very excited when I read all the articles in your paper. Living in the rapidly growing city of Palmdale, California, which is the home of the Space Shuttles, it gives me good feelings when I read about places like Heath, which even though showing growth, is still able to preserve its past and the good values you get growing up in the country.

The article "All in the Family" really brought back memories to me, as Leon and Philippine Peters are my grandparents and whose daughter, Marie, is my mother. I can still picture the General Store. I knew it when I was a child and the thrills of helping my grandparents in the store, whether it was stocking shelves or helping with customers, and I remember the old hand-operated gas pump they had before the electric one was put in. It also brought back memories I had in Heath as a child, especially "Sugar on Snow" during sugar season, and fishing at Rowe Pond for bullheads with my grandfather.

The picture of Heath Center from the air was of real interest to my wife and three children as they are all natives of California and never had the chance to see country living like Heath has. Even as progress marches on, I hope Heath will always keep its past preserved and its good values retained.

I would like to commend the staff and all the reporters of your paper for putting together such a great publication.

Ronald Harmon
Palmdale, California


HEATH PRECIPITATION

by Ralph Dickinson, Observer
for Mass. Water Resources Commission

December precipitation was 6.34 inches; snowfall was 33.5 inches. January precipitation was 5.15 inches; snowfall was 41.5 inches.

Total precipitation for 1986 was 53.82 inches. The average annual precipitation for the past 20 years is 51.37 inches, so 1986 was wetter than average. The average January precipitation for the same 20 years is 3.61 inches.

In the winter of 1970-71 we had 128.5 inches of snow, but our average is 91 inches.



HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

Volume 8 Number 6 **February/March 1987**

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**

The HEATH HERALD is published six times a year in April, June, August, October, December and February.
SUBSCRIPTION RATE - One year, \$3.50 (payable in advance by check or money order)
ADVERTISING RATES - Display ads: \$3.50 per column inch (Discounts on six or more insertions)
Classified ads: \$1.00 per line.
Send all correspondence to Box 54, Heath, MA 01346

LETTERS

Heath Pre-School

To the Editors:

A group of concerned pre-school parents attended a Heath School Committee meeting on February 3. Also present were Bruce Willard, Superintendent of Schools, Kevin Courtney, assistant Superintendent and Paul Swem, Principal of the Rowe School. The purpose was to find out the School Committee's stance on operating a public pre-school.

The state has funds available for towns to operate pre-school programs through the public school systems. Heath is in the unique situation of not having our own school. The grant, called the Early Childhood Discretionary Grant, which comes under Chapter 188, can be written as the town chooses. It covers costs such as transportation, building repairs, teachers' salaries, administrative costs and classroom materials. Under Chapter 188 the state can absorb any costs written into the grant and the town is under no obligation to continue the pre-school after state funding expires. Bruce Willard assured those present that, according to Proposition 2 1/2, the state cannot mandate pre-school programs unless it pays for them.

Many other towns in West County are successfully applying for this program and the parents of the Heath pre-school feel that they will be unable to offer equivalent salaries to a potential teaching staff. Heath pre-school children will be unable to attend public programs in other towns.

It is not clear if the School Board is willing to seriously consider a pre-school, but the parents will be permitted to present a needs assessment to the School Committee on Tuesday, February 17 at 7:30 PM. The public is invited to attend.

Bonnie Wodin
Heath



Light Without Electricity

Wood engraving by Edward Calver

Howard Crowningshield

Building & Remodeling

Tel: Heath 337-4406
P.O. Charlemont, Ma. 01339

LETTERS

More on Joseph Strong

To the Editors:

I am terribly impressed by your HEATH HERALD. Living in a small town which depends on publicity from Holyoke or Springfield, I envy this kind of publicity for the small town. I wish somebody could produce a similar paper for South Hadley.

Thank you for including the quotes from Anna Maxwell. (Ed: Article on Parson Joseph Strong, HEATH HERALD, December 1986). I think it is absolutely choice and in addition it is very rare to get a contemporary expression of opinion on anybody, let alone someone with such a malicious sense of humor.

Jytte Muus
South Hadley, MA

(Prof. Muus researched the Reverend Joseph Strong of Heath and her notes were the basis for the article on him and his house in the last number of the HERALD.)

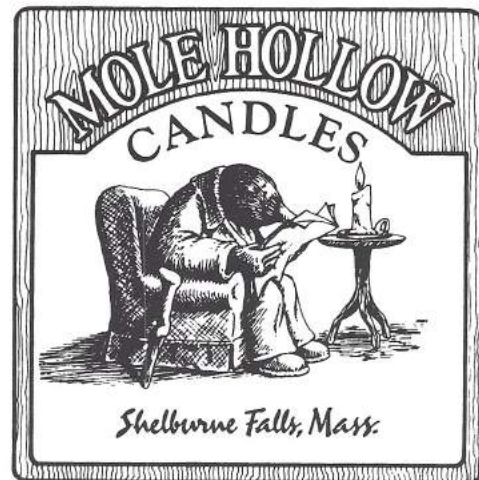
Other Comments from Readers

. . . . I so enjoy the HEATH HERALD! Makes living away from Heath tolerable!

Betty Eldridge
Saint Louis, MO

. . . . We always read with great interest in the HEATH HERALD about the happenings in Heath.

Fritz and Roswita Daemen
Spencer, NY



Storewide Sale 10% off
for month of February

In the center of Shelburne Falls overlooking the
scenic glacial potholes
Winter hours: Thurs., Fri., Sat., Sun. 10 to 5

. continued from page 1

At the garage John and one of the men without wheels make repairs: weld plow brackets; remove and install parts. Replacing the cutting edge on a plow takes two to lift and one to set bolts. They do it often and keep a supply on hand. Only impossible jobs (removing a motor and fitting a new one) are done elsewhere; the truck will be towed and after a week driven back, two men and a truck needed both ways.

Dry snow and wind produce drifting in many exposed places; opened roads must be re-opened; drifted snow can be deep and packed hard; the loader may be needed. After the crisis the roadway will be widened to two lanes. Then the banks have to be moved over and topped off with the wing before the next storm; there has to be room to put the snow; otherwise it falls back behind the truck. There may be time to finish repairs and receive delivery of salt and sand and mix them.

Coping with emergencies and setting priorities are responsibilities of the boss. He has to decide while he is being jolted behind a plow or the grader. The trucks have heavy duty springs; the grader has no suspension system. He has to take into account weather conditions and prospects; the state of his equipment; manpower - a crew of three is only marginally enough, winter or summer. John has been unable to kick the cigarette habit.

By mid-morning the calls come. After no answer at the garage, wheels squeaking for preferential treatment call Dolly. She has kept up with developments by listening to the scanner and is a good PR person (unpaid). She can radio John if need be and can explain to the restless and anxious. He hopes to go skiing; she wants to be in Greenfield by 3:00. She is assured that the road will be open in time; but she calls back twice more. Word comes that two cars are stopped at the foot of Burrington Hill; before a truck reaches them they have moved, somehow. "Hell," says an old-timer, "when the girls were babies we were plugged for ten days once."

Most vexing are the Me-Generation types. A car deliberately parked on the road (to save clearing a driveway) makes plowing both more difficult and unsatisfactory; traffic will have to swerve. And woe to the plowman who happens to scratch it. Snow pushed or blown onto a cleared road is hazardous to traffic. Both are illegal. Enforcement is tedious and time-consuming anyway. Immediate towing at owner's expense is not feasible. Offenders are few, and the hard-working crew steam with resentment that such behavior is one more complication. The offenders get away with it. And no, the men cannot afford time to back up and clear the ridge of heavy stuff the passing plow throws across a driveway. What they deserve is gratitude and recognition.

by Mr. Ed



Town Common Under Snow

(Staff photo)



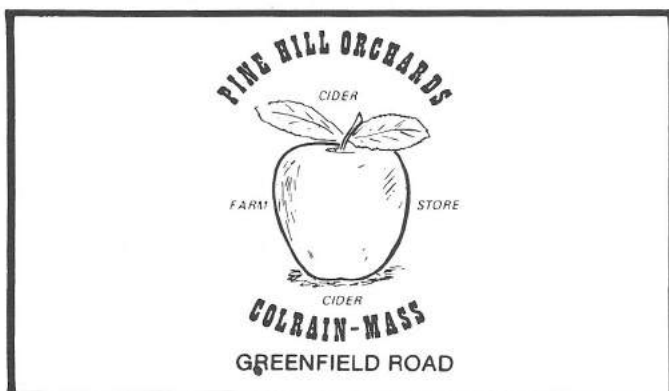
Snow - Either Way

(Staff photo)



Excess Snow at Stephen's Garage
David Clark removing it

(Staff photo)



K.R. Jeweler

17 Chapman Street • Greenfield, Ma. 01301

Fine Selection of Watches & Jewelry
Watch & Jewelry Repair

FARMING IN EGYPT

by Beverly denOuden

Dr. Bernard denOuden, of Number Nine Road in Heath, has recently returned from a trip to Egypt. He is on a sabbatical leave from his position at the University of Hartford and is working on a project which is a continuation of his long standing interest and involvement in issues relating to land use and agriculture.

As an associate of the TCR Education Foundation consulting group in Arlington, VA, Buck is currently documenting a number of relief and development projects which have proven successful, enduring after the original support money has been withdrawn.

Cairo, Egypt, served as the hub for Buck's month stay and from this point he connected, in turn, with representatives from the Catholic World Relief (CRS), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and CARE to video tape and document a number of projects covering nearly all the compass points in the country.

In cooperation with a driver, an interpreter, respective agency project directors and Egyptian government representatives, Buck first visited the village of New Valley between Alexandria and Cairo. The village has been established as a desert reclamation project wherein farmers are given five acres of land to reclaim in five years time, fed by irrigation waters from the Nile. Through the fragmentation of inheritance these farmers had no land. The process of land reclamation is slow, but by the second season there are small harvests of barley, clover and beans. FAO provides the technical expertise and funding for this project which is now in its third year at this site. Farmers are provided with materials and guidance to build their own houses. There is a cooperative structure for rental of tractors and the marketing of farm products.

Only three percent of Egyptian soil is arable. Therefore, the scope of desert reclamation reaches beyond helping landless farmers to feeding the densely populated region which flanks either side of the Nile River.

Buck was on site at this project for four days interviewing farmers and their families as well as project coordinators.

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is the largest private development agency in Egypt. They gave a grant to Environmental Quality International to fund the next project reviewed in the heart of Cairo among the Zabbaleen, ancient Coptic Christians, who are outcasts in contemporary society. This community of 14,000 Zabbaleen dwell within an eleven acre quarry. Here they make their way in the only work available to their sect; the collection, sorting and resale of garbage and trash. The collection vehicles are primitive carts pulled by a team of donkeys. There is keen competition for the right to pick up trash in specific neighborhoods and there exists a racketeering ring of individuals who extort payments for collection rights. Carts are frequently driven by children, with smaller children sitting or sleeping atop the heaped carts to protect the garbage from theft by rival Zabbaleen collectors. The laden carts are hauled into the quarry where the drivers receive the equivalent of \$8 per ton. Here the collected debris is segregated into rags, plastics and metals. The food refuse is fed to the thousands of hogs who also reside in the quarry. The sorting, shredding of rags and crushing of cans is chiefly hand labor accomplished by children.

The focus of development within this society has been directed in two areas - reduction of manual handling through the provision of a rag shredder and a composting machine to mix the pig manure with dirt, thereby adding another resale product to supplement Zabbaleen income.

The Ford Foundation and Oxfam have also participated with grant money for schools, a small hospital and improvements in housing which for the most part lie in close proximity to the animal pens. Additional work is underway to control disease among the hogs and inspect the meat quality.

These are but two of the eight projects visited by Buck on this trip. The other projects include childhood nutrition, beekeeping among farmers on the delta and resettlement of the Bedouin people.

In spite of warning about foreign travel, Buck traveled safely and said he felt threatened only by Egyptian traffic. The prevalent rule of the road is to drive in any open space available - if necessary, simply flash the lights. He will be returning to Africa in the spring to visit principally in West Africa.

HEATH CO-OP NEWS

by Bonnie Wodin

The Heath Co-op had its annual meeting on Sunday February 1 at the Community Hall. We were pleased to find out that we are operating in the black. Members of the Co-op order and receive food from Northeast Co-operative Warehouse in Cambridge, MA, often at great savings. Many types of food are available ranging from bulk grains, flours, cooking oils and sweeteners to cheeses and dairy products to packaged crackers and soups. When the food is distributed, there are often extras. Any member of the community is invited to buy from the "extras" table. Anyone interested in membership can contact Karen Soviecke at 339-5791.



NEW ENGLAND FORESTRY FOUNDATION

Forest Resource Management

offering a program of complete
Forest Resource Management

plus

permanent forest conservation
through our
Memorial Forest Program

Mary K. Wigmore

Resident Forester

RD No. 1, Box 215

Williamsburg, MA 01096

(413) 628-4594

For more information, please call our
Main Office at: 85 Newbury Street
Boston, MA 02116, (617) 437-1441

Professional Forest Managers since 1944

ANNUAL SKI RACE A SUCCESS

by HERALD Staff

Vastly different from the past two winters, when it was nip-and-tuck whether there was to be enough snow for Heath's Cross Country Ski Race, this winter's heavy snowfall was auspicious for the best ski conditions yet in the third in a series of annual events.

Started at the suggestion of Steve Marcotte in 1985 as the first event of Heath's Bicentennial celebrations, the ski race was taken over and sponsored by the Parks Committee. It has now become an annual affair with participants from many other areas. After organizing the race the first year, Steve turned the management of the race over to the Committee headed, this year, by Carol Sartz. This gives Steve an opportunity to enter the race himself, and last year he was the first Heathen to cross the finish line.

Each year Steve, with a small group of loyal helpers, works hard to open up and groom the 15 kilometer trail. He starts in the fall before the race trimming trees and brush. Then, a few weeks before the race, Steve is out again for further trimming and clearing followed by smoothing and grooming - on snowshoes, skis and snowmobiles. Perhaps the hardest section of the trail to prepare is the old Adamsville Road where, in spite of freezing weather, the brook continues to flow, breaking the three feet of snow with deep ravines which have to be filled and packed into snow bridges. Without Steve's commitment of time, labor and inspiration, the race could not take place.

At noon on Sunday, February 8, a record number of 203 anxious skiers waited at the starting line for the opening gun in the Harris' field at Heath Center, including 26 children. There were also 17 adult racers from Heath. After one loop around the field they rapidly took off across Bray Road and "Main Street" and started on the long trail up Burnt Hill, across Mohawk Estates, up the old Adamsville Road, across the old Oxbow and back to the Center. This year a shorter option was available for the skiers, with an opportunity to race only to the 7 1/2 km point, located near the halfway feeding station. A good number of skiers took advantage of this.

This year's winner in the men's class was Vince O'Connell of Plainfield, completing the 15 km course in 53 minutes, 16 seconds. The first Heathen was Steve Marcotte making it in 1 hour 28 minutes, 15 seconds. The first Heathen in the women's class was Jayne Dayne who completed the course in 2 hours, 4 minutes, 7 seconds.

In the 7 1/2 km race 11 year old Nick Cichanowski of Bennington, VT, came in first in 47 minutes, 30 seconds. The first Heathen in this race was Bob Gruen at 1 hour, 18 minutes, 15 seconds. The first Heathen woman in this class was Sheila Litchfield at 1 hour, 29 minutes, 6 seconds.

The start of the adult race was followed by 1/2 and 1 1/2 kilometer kids' races with three classes ranging in age from 4 to 13 years.

Prizes and ribbons were awarded to the top winners in each of the seven classes at a ceremony in the Community Hall. During the race many people enjoyed the sleigh rides offered by Carroll Stowe around the Center while waiting to see the finish. This year the event was co-sponsored by McCusker's Market and by Mole Hollow Candle Company, both of Shelburne Falls.

One couple finding that 15 km was not enough for them retraced the whole course.



On the Trail

(Staff photo)

A.L. AVERY & SON

GENERAL STORE

Charlemont • 339-4915

Richard A. Sumner

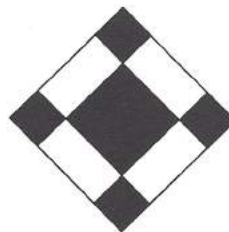
Journeyman Electrician
Mass. License #E22622
Vermont License #J1245
South Road, Heath
413-337-4930

BRUCE A. CROMACK

General Carpentry
Restoration a Speciality

Burrington Road

Tel: 337-4350



WOODEN QUILTS
TO WARM THE SOUL

NARY A STITCH
SPECIAL ORDERS WELCOME

HELEN J. MACKIE
HEATH, MA 01346 • 0026

GLASNOST AND REFUSENIKS

by Alastair Maitland

"In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes." We are all familiar with this remark, which was made by Benjamin Franklin, in a letter to a French friend, back in 1789. But we may wonder why Franklin did not include garbage amongst the things that are always with us. There are people, amongst them the very wealthy, who succeed in avoiding taxes. But like death, garbage is inescapable. All of us, in one way or another, create garbage. And the refuse that we contribute to the "kitchen middens" of today will have its tale to tell in the future. Our trash will one day no doubt be elevated by archeologists to the status of "artifacts" and will offer to posterity its mute testimony to the state of our late 20th century civilization.

Trash was the main topic on January 7 at the fourth in the series of Town Fora or Round Table discussions instituted by the Selectmen in pursuit of their policy of glasnost [openness]. The purpose was to prepare the townspeople for the important vote, at the special town meeting a week later, on the report of the Solid Waste Task Force (sometimes described as the Refuseniks) on problems of garbage disposal after the closure next year of the present 3-town landfill. Newland Smith and Charles Kades were on hand to present and explain the Task Force's proposal, which envisages a total annual outlay of more than \$18,000 (at today's prices) over a period of 25 years on the disposal of our collective estimated annual production of trash.

The Refuseniks are to be congratulated on their highly professional and admirably lucid presentation, which was so persuasive that, at the special town meeting on January 13, their recommendations were approved virtually without discussion. The way is now clear for the Selectmen to enter into a contract with the operator of the planned disposal plant in Springfield.

The voters will have a further opportunity to review the project at the May town meeting when they will be called upon to appropriate the required funds. On that occasion, no doubt, the Selectmen will have further information to impart on a number of outstanding questions, such as the enforcement of procedures for the handling of demolition materials and other unacceptable waste, and the location of the proposed transfer station.

The Round Table discussion and subsequent special town meeting disposed with even more dispatch of the other items on the agenda, the most important of which was an article on the warrant for the funding of the town's share of a thoroughly well-deserved salary hike for Susan Wright, the Shared Administrative Assistant.



Automobile and Truck
Maintenance & Repair

STEPHEN'S GARAGE

HEATH, MA 01346

Stephen P. Belitsos
(413) 339-6616

GM & ASE CERT.
Master Mechanic

FISH - NOT JUST BRAIN FOOD

by Sharleen Moffatt, R.N.
Town Nurse

A recent study released by the New England Dairy and Food Council indicates that fish is rich in oils that may help to prevent heart attacks and reduce serum cholesterol. All fish contain these polyunsaturated oils, known as omega-3 fatty acids. Oilier, fatty fish like mackerel, salmon, sardines, albacore and tuna are the highest in omega-3 fatty acids. One portion of the study found that men who ate an ounce or more of fish daily showed a more than 50% decrease in the incidence of heart disease. Another portion of the study revealed that these fatty acids may help to make blood less sticky; therefore, less likely to lodge in blood vessels and eventually block them.

It also suggested that eating fatty fish may decrease triglycerides and cholesterol levels in the blood, help lower blood pressure, relieve migraine headaches and reduce symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis.

What does this all mean? It makes nutritional sense to help reduce the risk of heart disease by fitting fish into a balanced diet. Have fish for an entree one or two times each week to achieve cardiovascular benefits.

RABIES CLINIC FOR HEATH DOGS

Since the Massachusetts state law requires that all dogs must have had rabies shots, Heath Dog Officer Sue Hunkler has arranged for a rabies clinic to be conducted by Dr. Robert Sidorsky. This will be held at the Community Hall on Saturday, April 4, 9:30 to 11:00 AM. There will be a \$6.00 charge for each shot which is only good for rabies. The dog must be over 4 months old. For dogs under one year, the shot is only good for one year; for dogs over one year, the shot is good for three years.

A new dog license will not be issued this year without a rabies certificate presented at the time. New licenses will be available at the time of the clinic.

All dogs not licensed before June 1 will be picked up by the dog officer and the owner will be subject to fine, dog care and pickup fee. If this is not paid within 10 days the dog will be disposed of.

at the Bridge of Flowers!



Spring is here...

Come on down...

At McCusker's

Now open daily till 8 PM

MCCUSKER'S
MARKET & DELI
SHELburnE FALLS, MASSACHUSETTS

Quality Foods

OPEN DAILY 8 A.M. - 8 P.M.

WOMEN OF THE VALLEY Beyond Hearth and Home

An original theater production entitled "Women of the Valley: Beyond Hearth and Home" has been commissioned of the Old Deerfield Chamber Theatre Group by the Franklin County - Northampton Area Mount Holyoke College Alumnae as their contribution to Mount Holyoke's Celebration Day, marking the institution's 150th year. It seems pertinent to make this announcement in the HEATH HERALD in view of the many girls from Heath who were sent to Mary Lyon's School in the 1800's, first in Buckland and later at Mount Holyoke. Also Roger Leavitt, son of the controversial parson, canvassed Heath with Mary Lyon in her campaign to found Mount Holyoke Seminary and they obtained good response among the Heath citizens as they raised \$1200 for the school.

This new production will premiere in the Indian House Memorial in Deerfield on February 28, the birthday of Mary Lyon, founder of the College, and the same date as the eve of the attack on the Old Indian House by the French and Indians in 1704.

The characters portrayed in "Women of the Valley" are women of the Connecticut Valley from different periods of time over the last 150 years: Lucy Terry, the black slave poet; Mary Lyon, founder of Mount Holyoke College; Mary P. Wells Smith, educator, suffragette and historian; and Dr. Mary Dole, first female doctor in Massachusetts. It is fairly certain that three of the four characters actually visited the original Old Indian House (which was torn down in 1848) and the fourth character is known to have used the loom in the reconstructed Indian House (rebuilt in 1929).

"The play is organized around four rooms of the Indian House," said Tim Neumann, dramaturge for the production and Director of Memorial Hall Museum, sponsor of the Deerfield Theatre Group. "Each character has been assigned a room associated with domesticity: the parlor, kitchen, bed-chamber and loom room. The audience will be divided into small groups which will move from chamber to chamber to meet these remarkable women."

Public performances of "Women of the Valley" will be presented Saturday, February 28 at 8 PM, Sunday March 1 at 3 PM, and again Saturday March 7 at 8 PM and Sunday March 8 at 3 PM. Reservations may be made by calling Tim Neumann 413-773-5206.

FRANKLIN-WARE

— SHELburne FALLS —

Fuel Oils
Propane Gas
Coal

Heating Supplies
Gas Appliances
Burner Service

compliments of

Wells Corner Country Store

CHARLEMONT 339-6632

EDITH GLEASON'S 80th BIRTHDAY

Edith Gleason celebrated her 80th birthday on February 3. Born in Methuen, MA, Edith moved to Heath in 1931 when she married Frank Gleason. Edith was librarian of the Heath Library for 17 years until she retired in 1983. Her interest in the Library has continued and she is currently Chairman of Library Trustees.

Friends and members of the community are invited to an 80th birthday party for Edith, given by her family, to be held on Sunday, February 15, from 2 to 5 PM at the Community Hall.



Young at 80 !
Edith Gleason

(Photo by Chuck Blake)

MARY AND MATTHEW LAW

Mary and Matthew Law - mother and son - respected by many and loved by all will be remembered and missed. Their husband and father, Andrew, was the first of the Law family to work at Burnt Hill Farm picking blueberries. His brother and sister all helped with my harvesting throughout the years, together with their mother, Ruth. Andy had use of my cabin during his college days. Then Mary made her presence known and swept Andy off his feet and into marriage in 1975. Nathan, their first born is my god-child. We have broken bread, swapped tales and debated many times since then; and two more children, Matthew and Bob filled the Law home in Wilmington, Vermont. Theirs is a cozy place overlooking the valley leading to Mt. Snow. Mary and Andy were always busy whether it be working, community service or family. They always had time for others, but still had time for their family. Tragedy struck on New Year's Day 1987 when Mary and Andy perished in an automobile accident. The community of Wilmington has lost principal people - Heath has lost some of the most important fibers of their family. Our hearts and anguish go out to them - with love and sadness.

... Jack Cable

LARRY'S

of Shelburne Falls

CLOTHING



FOOTWEAR

TRIBUTE TO AN OX

by Carroll Stowe

Oxen have been used since long before Bible times. But Heath's Tony ox was a modern day ox. His home was at Clarks' farm here in Heath. Tony had to be destroyed this past week because of an injury from falling from a truck tail gate.

Tony and Mike have hauled many barrels of sap and the logs they have gotten out would stagger the imagination. Tony had immeasurable personality and, if over-corrected was terribly offended. Tony and Mike were the two oxen who participated in the live Nativity scene in front of the Heath Church a few Christmases ago.

I am sure I am safe in saying Tony was known by less than half the people in Heath. But, on the other hand, who would go far out of their way to be friends with an ox? Tony's abilities and personality were a constant source of amazement to me.

I could sit spellbound for hours to hear Bill Clark tell of the tremendous work this fine animal turned out. Several years ago Bill and Brother Darwin were logging near Leighton McCutchen's and they had just come out to the roadside with two loads of logs, Tony and Mike with one sled and Darwin's big Holstein oxen with the other. Three couples on motorcycles stopped to see what strange operation this was in these modern times. These people were from the southern part of this country and were on their way home from a trip through Canada and parts of New England, having travelled over 6000 miles. They were amazed to see oxen working and told the Clarks this logging operation was the most interesting part of their entire trip. If the oxen had been five minutes later coming to the roadside with the logs, this little bit of oxen and human interest would never have been seen.

A man once tried to convince Bill that a crawler tractor would gather sap faster than his oxen. Bill told him to bring his equipment up and try to beat the animals, but he was never challenged.

The Clark household is filled with countless ribbons attesting to Mike's and Tony's ability in the pulling pit. There will never be another ox quite like Tony and it will take hours of patient training to get another animal even close.

The Clarks had to bury a very true and trusted friend. Nothing could be more truly said than, "Well done thou good and faithful servant."



C. W. KAISER

Poultry and Eggs

Route 8A Heath, MA 01346



Tel: 337-5397



**BALD
MOUNTAIN
POTTERY**

STONEWARE & PORCELAIN

Sarah Hettlinger

South Rd. Heath, MA 01346 (413)337-4496

Salmon Falls Marketplace

Shelburne Falls, MA (413)625-6353

HEATH AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

by Barbara Smith, Secretary

The Heath Agricultural Society held an election of officers on January 12.

John Henry was elected as President, Mike Peters as Vice-president, Karen McDougall as Treasurer and Barbara Smith as Secretary. The Board of Directors elected were Pat Smith, Ernest Thane and Carroll Stowe.

The first meeting for 1987 was a busy one. After elections the large task of forming committees was started.

One of the most important committees is advertising. Anyone who is interested in helping us find places to advertise, such as magazines, newspapers and radio, please contact the Fair Committee. Other areas requiring planning are the parade and new forms of entertainment. It is hoped that a fuller schedule of events on the Fairgrounds, such as entertainment and demonstrations, can be arranged this year. Anyone with suggestions and or willingness to help organize these events is asked to contact the Committee. Some suggestions made are wood chopping demonstrations, milking a cow, sheep shearing, tractor demonstrations, pony rides and craft shows with demonstrations. To have these events happen in August takes leg work now. If you are interested, please help out.

Anyone with suggestions or questions is asked to call Barb Smith, 337-5563.

BOOK BY NANCY THANE

Nancy L. Thane has published a book, co-authored with Nellie Edmonston, entitled "Test of Relational Concepts." The book is designed for use by speech pathologists and other special educators to help diagnose language problems in younger children. After more than four years devoted to research, test design and standardization the "Test of Relational Concepts" was developed as a set of 56 relational words with preschool and elementary age children. The comprehension of these concepts is important, both to communication development and to school success. The book is published by Science Research Associates of Chicago.

Nancy is a speech pathologist for the Dryden (NY) School District. She and her husband, Steven, who is a computer programmer at Cornell University, live in Freeville, NY, with their two children. Nancy is the daughter of Ken and Carolyn Litchfield of Dell and White Plains, NY. Steven is the son of Ernie and Alli Thane of Jacobs Road.

**Gilmore
and Watters**

INSURANCE AGENCY INCORPORATED

377 Main Street • Greenfield, MA 01302 • Tel: 413-772-0251

COUNSELOR IN HEATH

by Joan Brownlee

It is not an uncommon story to hear of families or individuals who have purchased summer homes in Heath, only to find themselves building a permanent life in the community. Hazel Porter is such a person.

In the 1960's, Hazel and her husband Perry, along with their four children, spent summers camping in Maine. At that time they were living in Detroit where Perry served as an Episcopal minister. Perry's brother, John Porter, owned a summer home on Number Nine Road in Heath and, on a stopover on one such camping trip in 1969, Hazel and Perry purchased land on Royer Road. Between the years 1969 and 1974 the family spent summers on the land, living in a tent.

In 1974, the Porters began construction of a summer home. The frame was constructed by Howard Crowningshield and the family members completed the interior construction over the following several summers.

In the late 1970's, following the passing of her husband, Hazel began training at the Pennsylvania Foundation for Pastoral Counselors. She had received a Master of Arts degree in 1951 from Columbia University and Union Theological Seminary in Christian Education. In 1980, while still in training at the Foundation, she read a notice concerning the establishment of the Pastoral Counseling Center in Greenfield. She applied for a position with the Center and was accepted.

Hazel believed that accepting the therapist position at the Center was risky, in that the overall population of Greenfield and the surrounding towns was somewhat small to support and maintain a practice. Her love of the area and life in Heath, fortunately, overcame these reservations and in the summer of 1980 Hazel moved to her summer home and began both the necessary renovations to winterize her home and a new career as a therapist.

Hazel's work at the Pastoral Counseling Center mainly focuses on problems related to marriage, divorce, family issues and such specific problems as family violence, depression, unemployment and grief. She conducts group counseling sessions in addition to individual counseling and has conducted seminars and workshops through the Greenfield Community College. Patients come to the Center through referrals from clergy, teachers, physicians and lawyers as well as from individuals seeking help with family problems and depression.

Hazel has recently remarried and she and her husband, Alastair Maitland, are living at his home on Jacksonville Stage Road. Hazel's four children are no longer in Heath. Her daughter Jennella is a first grade teacher in Walpole. Emily is a registered nurse, working at Albany Medical School. Laura is in training at Union Theological Seminary and her son, John, is a senior at North Adams State College.

BED & BREAKFAST

Y'ALL COME

Forest Way Farm

Heath, Massachusetts

Route 8A

413-337-8331

HEATH CONSERVATION COMMISSION

by Susan Silvester

Conservation Commission Chairman Bill Lattrell reports that the \$2000 Incentive Aid grant received a year ago has been expended. This funded the last two workshops for members of the commission held on January 15 and 29. At the last meeting Alexandra Dawson, a land and environmental lawyer, presented information on forest cutting practices, wetlands and on the discontinuing of town roads. This meeting was also attended by a number of interested townspeople. Other workshop topics featured current information concerning Title V, sewage and waste disposal and legal aspects of conservation practices.

The Incentive Aid grant money was also used for materials to assist the Heath Commission. A professional library consisting of books, maps with overlays of wetlands in Heath and aerial photographs has been established. Copies have also been provided for the Planning Board.

The next meeting of the Conservation Commission will be held on February 26 at 7:30 PM. Dawn Peters has been appointed as a new member of the board.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

by Susan Silvester, Secretary

The major project this winter has been a capital fund-raising campaign to pay for the restoration of the Old Town House foundation completed this fall by local contractor Bruce Cromack. According to Treasurer and Campaign Chairman Craig Barry, almost fifty contributions have been received totaling just over \$11,000. While this is excellent progress, another \$4,000 is badly needed to reach the goal of \$15,000. Contributions may be sent to Craig Barry, Treasurer, P.O. Box 20, Heath, MA 01346.

President Michael Coe is on sabbatical leave from Yale University this semester and will return from a trip to Italy early this spring. We are looking forward to a busy spring and summer in anticipation of cleaning and restoring the interior of the Old Town House.

HISTORICAL NOVEL REPRINTED

The historical novel, "Boys and Girls of Seventy-Seven," by local writer Mary P. Wells Smith and first published about 60 years ago, is being reprinted this winter for the Shelburne Historical Society. Paideia Publishers of Ashfield, who also published "The Book of Heath," is producing this reprint.

The book has an introduction by Susan Silvester, Director of Instructional Media for the Mohawk School District. This new reprint is expected to be available in April.



**The Baker
Pharmacy**

YOUR REXALL STORE

Tel: 625-6324

Week Days 8:30AM - 9PM

Saturdays 8:30AM - 6PM

Sundays & Holidays 9AM - 12 Noon

52 Bridge Street

Shelburne Falls

CHURCH NEWS

by Amy C. Barry

Our minister, Kevin Pleas, reports that he has completed all of his course work at Andover Newton Theological Seminary. He began working full time in Heath and Rowe as of January 1. One of his first projects in Heath is the formation of a choir to sing at Sunday services. Anyone interested in joining should contact Kevin.

Sunday school is offered for all ages. At 10 AM, an adult class is held, followed by Sunday School classes during the regular 11 o'clock Church service for pre-school and older children. There is also a nursery available. All are welcome and encouraged to come to Church and to bring their children.

The Heath Church Growth Committee will be involved this February in the Covenant to New Growth Program sponsored by the UCC Massachusetts Conference. The exact date and location have not been set, but all participants are looking forward to this important next step in the Church Growth process.

The Heath-Rowe Youth Group will be planning and practicing this month for a March 1 joint worship service. Also in March the Youth Group will have its annual ski trip and a pancake breakfast fund raiser. At this point the Youth Group is composed entirely of 7th and 8th graders, but any young person grades 7 - 12 in Heath and Rowe is welcome to become part of a very enjoyable group.

LIBRARIANS FETED

by Susan Silvester

On January 22 members of the K-12 library staff representing the six schools in the Mohawk Trail Regional School District feted public librarians from the West County area at a midwinter luncheon buffet. The luncheon and ensuing meeting were held at the High School Resource Center, where librarians were greeted by school Superintendent Bruce E. Willard.

The afternoon discussion focused on ways in which the school and public libraries could work together to better serve their common patrons. Combining orders for greater discounts, sharing print and non-print material, planning programs such as puppet shows and utilizing in-service workshops were a few of the many topics discussed. Two committees were formed as a result of specific needs assessment; a summer reading program and National Library Week activities are being explored for school and public library participation. A late spring book-buying trip is also being considered. The group will visit the Berkshire Bindery in Heath on February 26 when owner David Brooks will demonstrate the art of book-binding.

LIBRARY LINES

by Alli Thane, Librarian

The Library continues to be a very busy place. Circulation of books, cassettes and video cassettes has increased. The use of the Library as a meeting room has become very popular. The price of books and supplies has doubled and our budget is small, so I must inject a line of sincere thanks to the people who donate books and magazines. With these and the help of the folks at the Western Massachusetts Regional Library, we seem to be able to satisfy our readers.

The Friends of the Library have come through! Our new World Book Encyclopedia arrived last week as well as a New World Almanac. This was paid for entirely by book sales and personal donations. Come in to see and use this new addition to the Library.

Bonnie Wodin has organized a children's reading group which will be in session the first Wednesday at 3:30 PM and the third Saturday at 10 AM of each month. Bring your children to see a film strip and hear a story or two. Bonnie also invites any parent or teen-ager who is interested in helping with this group to leave his/her name at the Library.

Some of our new books: Murrow: His Life and Times, Spencer; Beet Queen, Louise Erdrich; His Way, Kitty Kelley; Turnabout Children, MacCracken; Physicians, Noah Gordon; Out on a Limb and Dancing in the Light, Shirley MacLaine; Dr. Mom, Mariann Neifert, M.D.; Quilting Shortcuts, Maggie Malone; A Matter of Honor, Jeffrey Archer; A Taste of Death, P.D. James; A new set of Eric Carle's Book; also several new popular cassettes.

Michael Coe has given to the Library his new book The Atlas of Ancient America which was co-authored with Elizabeth Benson and Dean Snow. Professor Coe used various maps at the Heath Library as a source. He has also contributed a number of other books to the Library.

Gordon E. Taylor d/b/a



BLACKMER INSURANCE AGENCY

R. E. Blackmer

On the Mohawk Trail

Joseph J. Judd

Shelburne, MA

Marion J. Taylor

Tel: 625-6527

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Planning * Improvement * Marketing

Many Local References

WILLIAM D. UNDERWOOD ASSOCIATES INC.

W.D. Underwood
413-648-9560

Chapin Road
Rt. 1 Box 176
Bernardston, MA 01337

LYLE H. HALL, INC.

Colrain, Mass.

BUILDING LUMBER

HARDWOOD & SOFTWOOD SLABS

ROWE SCHOOL NEWS

by Susan Silvester

January 28 marked the halfway point through the 1986-87 school year! It has been an exciting and educationally stimulating first half of the year at the Rowe School with a successful Math Fair, accreditation efforts being realized, an all-school field trip to the Museum of Science in Boston, special assemblies such as MR. FISH, an expanded winter sports physical education program and continued curriculum development strengthening daily classroom instruction for all grade levels.

Principal Paul Swem is preparing a needs assessment for a possible summer school program to be held at the Rowe School during July or August. A questionnaire has been sent home to parents via the school newsletter and responses are needed as soon as possible. Suggested classes include reading, math, arts and crafts and computer education.

Important dates to remember are as follows: February 10, 24, Winter sports program; February 11 and 25, Full days of school; February 10, Rowe School budget meeting at 6:30 PM in the cafeteria; February 12, Postural screening for grades 5 and 6; February 16 - 20, Winter vacation; February 25, District band and chorus practice at Mohawk; February 26, School committee meeting.

HEATH PLAYSCHOOL

by Joan Brownlee

January has been a busy month for the children attending the Heath Playschool. June Aheern, the head teacher, has emphasized animals in her planned activities. The children have visited a farm and learned about animal footprints.

January also was the last month that Maureen O'Malley served as the Playschool administrator. Her service to the Playschool has been exemplary and she will be greatly missed.

Tuition rates have been increased once again, beginning in February. This was necessary, in part, because of the increased costs of salaries and insurance. The Playschool also has failed to meet its funding goals. The School served hot food during the Heath ski race on February 8. The proceeds will help to offset some of the budgetary shortfall. The board also is exploring the feasibility of a public pre-school funded through a state grant. Discussions are currently under way with the Heath school committee.

QUALITY CARS & TRUCKS

SILVESTER'S

Colrain Stage Road
Heath, MA 01346
413-337-4491

SPECIAL

1982 SAAB 900 TURBO
Low mileage - one owner

MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL SCHOOL NEWS

by Tanja Davin, Grade 10

Winter has greeted us with a great bang this year. Mohawk has already had three cancellations because of weather conditions.

Mohawk's winter athletic teams are working in full swing. The Boys' Varsity Basketball team has a record of five wins, four losses overall and three wins, four losses in the league. Girls' Varsity is coming along and the ski teams are still going strong.

All classes reviewed the completed first half of the year in preparation for midterm exams. These exams were held Wednesday, January 21, Thursday, January 22 and Monday, January 26.

Unfortunately, Mohawk was forced to cancel an exciting winter carnival that was to take place on Friday, January 23, and Saturday, January 24. The activities (which were planned with Turners High School) were to include skating, skiing, sledding and a "Powder Puff" football game in which the girls would play and the guys lead the cheers.

Rehearsals for the production of the All School Musical, The Music Man, have begun. Junior, Kate Vetter, and Senior, Scott Verrier, have been chosen to play the leading roles.

On February 28 the Mohawk Music Department will be holding a "Musichthon" to raise money for an exchange concert with Baltimore, Maryland. Students will be performing from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM and will be asking members of the community to sponsor them for a number of songs or donate money.

All schools will be closed for February vacation February 16-20.

FOREIGN TRAVEL CLUB

by Susan Silvester, Advisor

Each year the Mohawk Trail Regional School Foreign Travel Club journeys to Europe combining the excitement of educational travel with cultural enrichment. Previous trips have included such countries as England, Germany, Greece, Italy, Austria, Yugoslavia and Switzerland. This year's tour will include visits to East and West Germany during the April vacation (April 16-24).

Tour participants have been engaged in fund raising efforts as well as informational meetings. Students, parents and members of the community are eligible to participate in the nine day tour. The cost is \$699 per person, including round trip flight, lodging and most meals. For further details about the tour, call the Resource Center at the Mohawk School before March 1.

Tickets for the annual International Dinner, sponsored by AFS and the Foreign Travel Club, are on sale for \$3.50 at the high school or from members of the club. A buffet of food from around the world will be featured at 6:30 PM on March 20 in the school cafeteria just prior to the opening night of the all-school musical, the "Music Man."

GREENFIELD CINEMAS 1-2-3-4-5-6

Route 2 Mohawk Trail
Greenfield, MA

24 Hours Movies

Phone 772-0298

SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT

by Budge Litchfield

The past few months have found your school committee spending most of their "committee time" working with committee members from our neighboring towns.

Linda Marcotte, as chairman of the Joint Transportation Sub-committee, reports that the final details for a five year transportation contract are almost completed. Heath's picture is one of those still missing a final detail or two. The expansion of our population, in both numbers and location, puts major strains on our transportation system. We could have been in the position of having too many students for the buses to carry, not enough time for them to be picked up and buses unsuited for back-road winter travel trying to do that very thing. But Rowe's kind offer to help with a North Heath route will help with the numbers problem. We are still discussing the question of adding a 16-passenger feeder to help with time and safety issues. Even with the remaining questions, the new contract should provide similar services to last year's at a reasonable rate. A decision on the feeder will be made at one of our next meetings. Thanks to Linda and her committee.

Chairman Skip Veneri has been working with representatives from each of the towns in the Mohawk Trail Regional School District to explore long range solutions to space and financial problems encountered in many of our local schools. A major topic has been the possible creation of a regional middle school to serve grades 5-8. A middle school would, by absorbing grades 5 and 6 reduce most of the space concerns in the elementary school leaving them free to continue meeting the needs of towns' children. Often regional status results in improved reimbursement status. With only preliminary discussions so far, much work and study need to be done. The next meeting of the long range planning committee will be at Mohawk on February 25 at 7:30 PM.

Budge Litchfield is Chairman of School Superintendency Union #65 and Heath Representative for negotiations between the School Committee and the Rowe Teachers' Association as well as as secretary of the Heath school committee.

The decision by Ashfield and Plainfield to form a regional school district (K-6) necessitates their leaving Union #65. This would leave Heath and Rowe as a two-town Superintendency Union. The State Board of Education will make a final decision on this matter at the February 24 meeting. All indications are that the decision will be affirmative. Contract negotiations with the teachers at Rowe School have started off well. Due in part to the fact that both parties are avoiding the use of outside negotiators, things are moving slowly but the direct communication should be beneficial.

On February 10 we met with the Rowe School Committee to begin working on the Rowe School budget. In accord with our new tuition agreement, we will be responsible for 50% of any increases in this budget over the last one. Early indications are that some increase might be unavoidable. Your committee will, as usual, be speaking for a balance between fiscal and educational responsibility.

The Heath School budget is basically derived from other budgets (Rowe School, transportation), so our final figures are not yet available. We do know that our town's high school assessment will rise but by an amount that is hardly noticeable. More detailed budget information will be presented in our next report.

This past July the school committee was very concerned with the possibility of a major budget deficit. At this time we are glad to report that a slower than expected enrollment increase and an excellent deal on transportation will help hold our deficit to a more reasonable figure. Also, our Equal Educational Opportunity grant money may more than offset the deficit this year.

The February 3 school committee meeting was, for a change, quite well attended. About 15 parents of pre-school age children came to express their concerns and request information regarding our decision not to apply for Early Childhood grant monies. The committee was happy to see and talk with so many of the people we try to serve as well as to answer, to the best of our ability, the important questions they asked. The discussion was friendly, open and informational. The primary concern is that within a year there may not be a pre-school program open to Heath children. We explained our position as a "non-operating" school committee and described the potential uses, limitations and time lines for planning and implementation grants under Chapter 188 (Early Childhood grants). Since one option would involve the school committee applying for grant money to establish and operate a public pre-school, the future status of the Heath pre-school becomes an important question. At a Heath Pre-school board meeting, to be held the week of February 9, this issue will be discussed and recommendations to the school committee will be formulated. Since any resulting action for a grant application must be filed by May 8, the parents asked that the school committee act promptly on this issue. We agreed to hold a special meeting on February 17 at 7:30 PM and we invite all interested citizens to attend.



TRUCKING • EXCAVATING

**J. M. BLASSBERG
CORP.**

NORMAN R. SESSIONS
President

5 MECHANIC ST.
SHELburnE FALLS, MASS.
BUSINESS (413) 625-2531
RESIDENCE (413) 337-5756



Briar & the Rose

Lingerie & Fine Clothing
by Catherine Nichols

Wooden Furniture
by Alan Nichols

Daily Hours: Tues., Thurs., Fri., Sat. 10 - 5
Sunday 12 - 5

Salmon Falls Market Place
Shelburne Falls, MA

SELECTMEN'S HIGHLIGHTS

by Heath Board of Selectmen

December started off with a snow storm which set the pace for frequent and heavy snows often hitting on weekends and holidays. The dedication of the road crew has been put to the test and, from the Selectmen's view, they have come through with flying colors, working through holidays, weekends and early mornings to keep the roads passable. Making the job even more difficult were a number of equipment failures. Stopping long enough to make repairs, the crew was able to get back on the road in good time. If we get much more snow, the Selectmen will be looking for a place to store it - Buffalo NY or perhaps Miami Beach!

At the end of December, the engine on the Ford truck seized up. The truck is now being repaired with a rebuilt diesel engine complete with clutch and transmission. It will be back in service soon.

Town departments, boards and committees have submitted their budget requests to the Selectmen for Fiscal Year 1988. The Selectmen and the Finance Committee are reviewing them and will hold joint hearings in February.

The Selectmen have approved a list of speed limit, yield and stop signs to be placed at various locations throughout the town. The list has been submitted to the State DPW for approval. Working with Susan Wright, Shared Administrative Aide, application will be made for funding for the signs. The Planning Board and the Police Department are to be thanked for preparing the list.

The Selectmen have been discussing various issues related to the town's part-time police department. A replacement for Lee Sheperd who resigned is being sought. Two recent meetings with the Police Chief were held in an effort to address phone coverage, access to the chief when out of town and other protocol. Insurance for officers was investigated. The town does indemnify its police in case of liability. One policy to protect the town is available for \$500,000 coverage. It would cost \$5,000 per year and would be \$5,000 deductible. The policy is still under consideration. Further study is being given to coverage for personal injury.

While the force is short handed, citizens are advised in case of emergency to call the State Police should there be no answer at the police phone.

A task force has been appointed to develop a priority list and long range plan for maintenance and reconstruction of the Heath town roads. Members of the task force are Jerry Gilbert, Tom Lively, David Brooks, Steve Belitsos, with Catherine Nichols as an advisor. They will make a report before summer.

The town has been successful in its application for a state STRAP grant. Heath has been awarded \$150,000 for reconstruction of at least one mile of Route 8A.

Ron Corey has been appointed to replace Ray Galipo as constable. Dawn Peters has been appointed to the Conservation Commission. Dick Giard has been appointed to the Long Range Planning Committee for the Mohawk School District. A new letterhead has been prepared for any town board's use. Karen Chrisman is to be thanked for help with the design.

Remember to put Saturday, May 9, on your calendar for the Annual Heath Town Meeting.

REPORT FROM THE TAX COLLECTOR/TREASURER

by Linda Marcotte

Most of the past month has been devoted to end of the year bookkeeping, checking balances of the various accounts, putting together my budget requests for the next town meeting and reviewing tax payments to date so that I don't bill someone twice. We still have not had to borrow but I think we might need to take out a short term loan to get us through to when the final 1987 tax bills are issued. It is hoped that this bill won't be much more than a month late in being issued.

Now that payments on the estimated 1987 taxes have tapered off, I hope to get started on collecting the balance of the owed taxes. When I started the collection process for the real estate taxes, there were slightly over 500 entries through the 1984 tax bills (fiscal year ending 6/30/84) totalling \$114,000. Since then I have added the owed 1985 and 1986 tax amounts to the computer. I was pleased to see that, although I had added two additional years of taxes, there were only about 220 entries totalling approximately \$70,000 in tax still outstanding. Although I am not looking forward to placing more liens on properties, it should be less time consuming now that a major portion is complete. The above mentioned figures do not include owed personal property or motor vehicle taxes which still need much work.

Please note that, effective October 20, 1986, the demand fee has been increased to \$5.00 for all demand notices issued after that date.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

by David F. Howland

The perennial planning of the budget for the next fiscal year is underway. It is too soon to make any prognostications, but we have the usual apprehensions about rising costs. Assuming that state aid has leveled off and because federal revenue sharing has been discontinued, the figure we will be watching most is the new valuation that the Assessors are calculating. It will reflect new building that will generate more income and, of course, values in general will rise.

Otherwise the FinCom reviewed the articles for the special town meeting of January 13 and recommended all of them. The first article and the most significant was the authorization granted to the Selectmen to enter into a contract for the disposal of solid waste generated in the town. No money was appropriated at the meeting; that will come later, probably at the annual town meeting. The commitment is for a long time - not more than 27 years! There are more details to be worked out - location for a transfer station, recycling, a stump dump, etc. but progress is being made. The second article authorized Treasurer Linda Marcotte to enter into a compensating balance agreement with local banks. The arrangement will allow the town, for example, to reduce service costs if certain balances are maintained. The third article dealt with the transfer of a modest sum to the Heath portion of the Circuit Rider account. Discussion reflected the continuing support of the program and the benefits the town has received from it.

PLANNING BOARD REPORT

by Robert Dane, Secretary

On December 15 the Planning Board held a public hearing on Sue and Harley Hunkler's request for a Special Permit to operate a used car sales business on their property on Avery Brook Road. The hearing was well attended by neighbors and concerned citizens, many of whom had questions about the nature and size of their business. The Planning Board voted to grant the permit with some restrictions, in response to the questions and opinions voiced at the public hearing. The restrictions include; 1) limit of three business vehicles, 2) permit is for the sale of vehicles only, 3) vehicles must be parked off the public way, 4) permit must be renewed in two years, 5) permit is not transferable.

The Board went over and approved the Selectmen's recommendations for traffic signs to be submitted to the state for funding. We added to the list; STOP signs on Flagg Hill Road and Colrain Brook Road, Swamp Road and Colrain Brook Road, Swamp Road and Colrain Stage Road, both ends of Schoolhouse Road. YIELD signs on; South Road at Burrington Road, Dell Road at Rowe Road.

The Planning Board Task Force met with us at our January 25 meeting. They submitted a work plan for our approval, outlining their intentions for developing a Master Plan for the Town of Heath. The first part of their project includes gathering data and organizing maps. They will then make a report to the Planning Board on their recommendations for the Master Plan. We hope the Master Plan and the overlay maps will be useful tools in controlling the development of Heath.

ASSESSORS' REPORT

by Dennis Peters, Chairman
Heath Board of Assessors

We have completed the revaluation and have had it checked out by Chester Zaik, County Assessor Consultant. We anticipate review by the state in about a month. We are currently sending out the annual Form-of-List for personal property.

HEATH DEMOCRATS CAUCUS

A town caucus to elect delegates from Heath to the May 1987 state Democratic Issues Convention was held at the Town Hall on January 31.

Seven democrats attended. Anne Steinbock was elected to be chairman of the town Democratic Committee replacing Carol Sartz who resigned. C. Richards Steinbock was elected to be the delegate and Michael Chrisman was elected alternate.

PREPARATION FOR ANNUAL TOWN REPORT

Town Clerk Catherine Nichols has started the preparation for this year's Annual Town Report which will be printed and distributed prior to the annual town meeting in May.

Mrs. Nichols has sent a memo to all town department and committee heads asking them to submit their reports to her by February 28 so that they may be included. In the interest of economy in printing, it is recommended that these reports be brief and to the point, but including all important information.

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

by Chief Earl Gleason

The Department responded to four incidents in December and one in January. On December 15 three firefighters and one EMT responded to Heath Center for an injury to a person who was then transported by the Charlemont Ambulance. A firefighter and one EMT assisted the Heath Police in directing traffic on Route 8A on December 20. A car had broken a utility pole allowing the wires to block the road near the bridge over the Branch Brook. There were no injuries but Route 8A was closed for about three and one half hours. Two evenings later 15 firefighters responded to a chimney fire on Royer Road with no damage. Christmas night saw 14 firefighters responding to the station for a mutual aid call to Charlemont. This call was cancelled before the fire truck reached Dell. On January 2 two EMT's responded to a call for Mrs. Pazmino for a shoulder injury. Mrs. Pazmino was transported to the hospital in the Colrain Ambulance.

An Association meeting was held in December but the January meeting could not be held due to lack of a quorum. Snow postponed the December drill and the January drill was devoted to preparation for winter operations.

One oil burner installation was inspected and one smoke detector placement for new construction was conducted.

Repairs and tune up of the two generators was done by Charlie's Repair Service in Bernardston. Also the base radio in the station was taken to Western Massachusetts Communications in Bernardston for repair.

The Chief attended the Deerfield Valley Fire Mutual Aid Directors meeting in East Dover, a Fire Wardens meeting in Gill, and a State Fire Marshals seminar on blasting and fireworks permits granted by the local fire departments. The seminar is the first of six seminars to be conducted on state fire regulations administered by local fire departments. These meetings are being held in South Deerfield with the possibility of a field meeting being held in Westfield.

Early in December several members of the Fire Association went to Wilmington, Vermont, to look at a 1966 Maxim Pumper. This pumper had a 100 gallon per minute pump and tank holding 1000 gallons of water. If purchased, it would replace the 1947 Ford pumper and thus increase our pumping capacity by 500 G.P.M. and our tank capacity by 700 gallons. The truck needed extensive body work and no action was taken by the Association. The pumper has since been sold to Shelburne, VT. It should be noted that the Fire Association is continually looking for ways to improve the Department. It should also be noted that the Association is not limited to Fire Department members, but is open to anyone who is interested in aiding the Department. It annually spends from \$1000 to \$2000 for fire equipment that would otherwise have to be raised by taxation. The meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at the fire station at 8:00 PM.

CHARLEMONT TV, INC.

Zenith

Sales & Service

High Street, Charlemont

Tel: 339-6685

HEATH PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Susan Silvester of Colrain Stage Road has completed her doctoral degree in curriculum development at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. Susan is presently Director of Instructional Media for the Mohawk School District.

Christopher Seaver of South Road was named to the Dean's List at GCC for the fall semester.

Eric Grinnell, Headmaster of the Academy at Charlemont, with his wife Dianne are leading a trip to the People's Republic of China, March 15 - 29. So far 23 people have signed up for the trip with space for a total of 30.

Sophie and Michael Coe are spending Mike's sabbatical leave from Yale University in Italy.

Kenneth Gilbert of Avery Brook Road has just returned from Altus, Oklahoma, where he has received training to become a certified flight engineer on the new C-5 airplanes at Westover Air Force Base.

Pam Porter, who was interim minister in the Heath Church during the summer of 1985, is now director of the new Day Care Center at the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, MA.

Ruth Churchill has returned from the hospital and is getting along very well.

Eva Pazmino, who recently had a serious fall, is now recovering at home.

MILESTONES

by Edith C. Royer

Hazel Porter and Alastair Maitland were married on December 20, 1986 with the Reverend Allen Comstock officiating. The ceremony took place at the home of the bride on Royer Road. A family reception was later held at the home of the bridegroom on Jacksonville Stage Road. After a wedding trip to Williamsburg, Virginia, they have returned to Heath.

Alli and Ernie Thane celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on January 17.

Edith Gleason celebrated her 80th birthday on February 3.

Mary C. Law of Wilmington VT, died in West Chesterfield VT on January 1 as the result of injuries suffered in an automobile accident. She leaves her husband, Andrew Law, formerly of Heath, and two sons, Nathaniel and Robert.

Matthew Andrew Law, 8 years old, died from the results of an automobile accident on January 2. He leaves his father, Andrew Law, and two brothers, Nathaniel and Robert of Wilmington VT; and his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Johnson of Heath, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Law of Barnstable MA.



MAIL TO:

Bulk Rate
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 11
Charlemont, MA 01339

HEATH HERALD Box 54, Heath, MA 01346

TOWN OFFICE HOURS

(At Town Hall unless otherwise noted)

Selectmen: Tuesdays 7:15 PM

Assessors: Mondays 7 - 9 PM

Town Clerk & Town Accountant: Mondays 8:30 AM - 12 noon & 1 - 4 PM and by appointment, call 337-6665

Town Treasurer & Tax Collector: Tuesdays & Wednesdays 9 - 11 AM and by appointment, call 337-4394

Finance Committee: As posted

Planning Board: Mondays 7 - 9 PM

Heath School Committee: 1st Wednesday of month 7:30 PM

Library Trustees: 3rd Monday of month 7:30 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 between 7 - 8:15 AM for appointment)

Post Office: Monday through Saturday
9:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Dump * : Mondays 10 AM - 2 PM Wednesdays 10 - 4 PM
Saturdays 9 AM - 5 PM

* (Permit required - see Town Clerk)

Town Telephones: Town Hall 337-4934
Community Hall 337-4847
Town Garage 337-4462

CLASSIFIED

FRESH WINDS FARM Paul and Marcella Lively & Sons
Excavating - Loam - Sand - Stone 337-4331
* * SCREENED LOAM A SPECIALTY * *

SEAVER AND WADHAM, Inc. Renovations, additions,
kitchens, bathrooms, porches, solar greenhouses.
Quality workmanship - reasonable prices 337-4866

Additional copies of the HEATH HERALD are available
at Peters Store newsstand. . . & at the Heath Library

PETERS GENERAL STORE

The ONLY Store in Heath

INSTANT LOTTERY TICKETS
NOW AVAILABLE

We Sell Alcoholic Beverages



Satisfaction Guaranteed



Michael Peters

Tel: 337-5501