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FEBRUARY/MARCH 1988

HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER 35¢

4th ANNUAL SKI RACE RESCHEDULED

by Beverly denOuden

All eyes were on the sky and ears trained on the weather reports as Heath counted down the days to the 4th Annual Cross-Country Ski Race. The January thaw, a welcome relief to a very cold month, was the undoing of much work by Mike Smead and Bob Dane in trail grooming. Mike went out for a snowmobile run on February 2 and discovered numerous bare spots and rivulets on the course. The Thursday snowstorm unfortunately was still not adequate to form a good ski base, so the Park Committee is looking forward to their established Snow Date on Sunday, February 21.

The Heath Park Committee has devoted innumerable hours to organizing the day. Carol Sartz and her group, Judy Rainville, Veronica Smead and Lynn Miller, have worked the phones to solicit supplies, EMTs, sponsors and publicity.

McCusker's Market and Mole Hollow Candles have graciously sponsored the event once again this year. Their generosity covers race expenses, freeing all proceeds for the benefit of the Heath Community Park.

Prizes as well have been donated by local businesses and craftspeople. This year a new prize category has been added. The first male and female Heath residents to finish the 15 K will each be awarded a dinner for two at the Charlemont Inn.

Last year approximately 200 people registered for the race. Publicity again was focused locally as that number was a near capacity field. There will be safety services available, as always, from the Nordic Ski Patrol with assistance from the local police.

..... continued on page 2

TOWN OFFICERS TO BE ELECTED

Again it is time for those considering running for town offices this year to plan on taking out the necessary nomination papers. The deadline date for filing papers with the Town Clerk is Wednesday, March 23. A minimum of 20 signatures of registered voters is required on the nomination paper for each candidate.

As the change in date for the annual town meeting to a Saturday was well liked by the townspeople last year, it will be continued this year on a Saturday. The town election will be held on Friday, May 6, with the town meeting convening the next morning on Saturday.

This year the following town offices are to be filled:

Position	Term (yrs)	Present Incumbent
Selectman	3 U	Arthur Schwenger
Assessor	3 Y	Chris Burke
Town Clerk	3 Y	Karen MacDougall
Town Treasurer	3 U	Linda Marcotte
Tax Collector	3 Y	*Elizabeth Beaudoin
School Committee	3 Y	Budge Litchfield
Planning Board	5 Y	Thomas Lively
Finance Committee	3 Y	David Howland
Library Trustee	3 Y	Patricia Leuchtman
Town Auditor	1 Y	Douglas Wilkins
Constable	1 N	Ronald Corey
Constable	1 N	Newland Smith
Tree Warden	1 N	Thomas Lively

Y = Incumbent intends to run again
N = Incumbent does not intend to run
U = Incumbent is undecided at this time
* Appointed - Filling unexpired term

Any registered voter in the Town of Heath may run for one or more of the above offices by filing the nomination papers. Interested and qualified citizens who can devote the necessary time are encouraged to participate in the town government.

New voters may register for the town election through Monday, March 28, when the last registration period will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 PM at the Town Hall. Prior registrations can be made by contacting the Town Clerk during her regular hours or by calling her at 337-4268.

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 officers, who are elected by ballot, the following positions are to be filled by nominations from the floor at the annual town meeting: Dog Officer; Fence Viewers (3); Measurers of Wood and Bark (3) and Field Drivers (3).



STEVE MARCOTTE CROSSES THE FINISH LINE

1987 SKI RACE

Photo by Michael Peters

... continued from page 1

The ski race encompasses the skills, time and efforts of a large segment of Heath's 600 some population. Estimate:

- 50 race-day workers, registering, snow shovelling, etc.
- 30 town residents skiing
- 15 preschool parents selling soup
- 4 committee members
- 2 trail blazers
- 15 muffin makers
- 19 landowners granting passage
- 135 Total Heathens involved

Nearly a quarter of the community is poised and ready for skiing action on Sunday, February 21.

HEATH PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Christopher Seaver has been named to the Dean's list at GCC. Christopher is the son of Juliet and Charles Seaver.

Roberta Tripp, daughter of Alicia and Robert Tripp, was inducted into Alpha Chi, the national academic honor society. Roberta is a Junior at American International College in Springfield where she is majoring in special education.

Jayne and Bob Dane recently flew down to Florida for the opening of the Palm Beach Invitational Exhibit where some of Bob's glass sculpture is being shown.

Susan Silvester and her daughter Betsey spent four days in January in Madrid, Spain, where Susan made arrangements for several foreign exchange students for Mohawk Regional High School.

Lea Shattuck is in the Providence Hospital, in Holyoke, awaiting back surgery. She appreciates cards and calls.

Buck denOuden participated in a three-day conference on "Science, Technology and Society" in Washington, DC, on the February 5 weekend, sponsored by Penn State University. The title of Buck's talk was "Appropriate Technology for the Developing World." Buck is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Hartford, when he is not farming in Heath.

An Editorial

A SAWYER HALL COMMITTEE?

It is now almost 10 years since our Town Hall was rebuilt at a cost to the town of over \$100,000. The project was never fully completed; now, many years later, the building shows signs of disrepair and is in need of paint. The lack of sufficient funds in the annual town budget is part of the cause for its condition. On the outside, grading around the foundation and landscaping were never done. The exit doors from the rear of the hall open to a flourishing growth of weeds and brush in summer. The front entrance railing, originally painted, gradually fell apart and finally was broken off, allowing now for a dangerous drop to the ground.

The Selectmen still meet in a small overcrowded part of the Post Office room - not an appropriate place for visitors to be where private mail boxes are open to the public. An adjacent room stands unused except for the important and widely used town photocopy and file cabinets.

The second floor large Grange hall, never completed in the rebuilding project, was partially refinished by volunteers for the Bicentennial Art and Crafts Exhibit in 1985. More recently floor carpets were partially laid in this room by more volunteer help and the room is now used for much needed office space and a conference area. Again much is lacking to make it an effective work area. Carpets need to be trimmed and fastened down. Office furniture is either missing or that which is present is broken or in bad repair. The Collector of Taxes uses an old card table for a desk with her files kept in cardboard boxes. Temporary telephone extension wires are strung across the floor and down the hall presenting a hazard in walking and also the risk of a possible break in telephone service. Wall-mounted bookshelves planned for storing records have never materialized and books are strewn around the floor.

Housekeeping in the building has improved considerably in the past few months, so perhaps there is hope for some of these other important items. As it now stands Sawyer Hall is not a building that outside visitors would be impressed with nor one which we would all like to see as the center of our town government. Good planning and, of course, more funding in our budget would help. Perhaps a Sawyer Hall Committee should be appointed to help the busy Selectmen take care of many of these problems. We do have an effective Community Hall Committee - why not one for the Town Hall?

HEATH PRECIPITATION

by Ralph Dickinson, Observer
for Massachusetts Water Resources Commission

December precipitation was 2.34 inches; snowfall was 18 inches.

January precipitation was 2.89 inches; snowfall was 28 1/2 inches.

Total precipitation for 1987 was 51.44 inches. The average annual precipitation since 1967 is 51.44 inches.

Total snowfall so far this season is 64 1/2 inches. Since the winter of 1968-69 our average snowfall per season is 92.72 inches. Last year's snowfall was 120 inches, but I notice that during four years we had less snow throughout the entire winter than we have had between October 4, 1987 and January 31, 1988.



HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

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LETTER

To the Editors:

For all of the people with their more than generous donations, our lives have become settled much faster than we ever expected. We know it will probably take a long time to pick up where we left off, but with all the wonderful friends that we have, this tragedy will be much easier to put behind us.

We thank everyone who donated clothes, furniture, appliances, linens, money, all of the special children who were so giving in parting with some of their favorite toys, and also the people who offered things that we found we didn't need.

We give thanks to Rachel and Ralph Sumner and the entire Town of Heath for the use of this beautiful parsonage and giving us a temporary home; to Meaghan MacDougall for the beautiful Xmas tree she decorated for us at the parsonage; to the Charlemont Lions Club Good Neighbors Group for their donations; to the many fire departments in their efforts to save our home; to Heather Gruen for her efforts in keeping us warm with hot drinks and sandwiches she served the day of the fire.

We also want to thank the 1776 Union and Steve Arnold at Rowe Yankee and Ron Bosely at NEPSCO for gathering a donation, Deerfield Plastics, the Kendall Co., The Franklin County Hockey Association and Sears Roebuck. We are grateful to those businesses in Shelburne Falls who gave donations of food and clothing, and to the Rowe School and the Heath Preschool for the peace of mind in knowing that Chris and Amie are in the very best of teaching and guiding hands.

Also we thank Joan Bruno for our new dog, Mindy, who is the most special addition to our family.

And to God we owe the greatest thanks for taking no human lives - those would have been irreplaceable. We also ask God to watch closely over Paw, our dog that we lost in the fire. It will take a long time, if ever, to lay him to rest in our hearts.

Lastly thanks to our family for everything they did and continue to do. We love you all so much.

This verse has become very special to us. It is a verse from the poem "Thank Someone" in the Marlo Thomas and Friends book "Free to be a Family."

*Friends are like a family
and families are like friends.
All the world's your family;
the chain will never end.
When the night is lonely
and we're feeling miles apart,
if you forgot to thank someone
say thank you in your heart.*

Debbie Gleason Pettengill
Chris and Amie Pettengill
Lee Williams

CARD OF THANKS

We are very grateful to all of you who extended God's love to us at the time of our son Peter's death. Your visits, cards, delicious meals and desserts which were sent to our home and to the Community Center and the hundreds who attended the Funeral Mass, along with Bishop McGuire, all expressed to us your care and goodness at time of great pain.

Peter now lives forever with God and we rejoice in his happiness. Our very deepest gratitude to all.

Charles and Lea Shattuck

EMILY PORTER - A TRIBUTE

From the start there was never any question about what little Emily Porter wanted to be when she grew up. She wanted to be a nurse. And she never deviated from this.

For her third birthday her aunt, Nelle Porter, made a nurse's uniform for her. It had a large red cross on the front. And there was a proper nurse's cap, with a ribbon around it, as well as a nurse's kit, complete with miniature stethoscope and thermometer and an ample supply of Band-Aids. All this enabled her, with impressive authority, to minister to the frivolous or deadly serious ailments of a variety of dolls and stuffed animals and of whatever adults and real live animals were available to play make-believe with her.

But this preoccupation with caring and healing and rescuing wasn't all make-believe. She alone would tackle the delicate surgery required to extract porcupine quills from the muzzles of a succession of family Dalmatians. Abandoned cats, in need of morale boosting or physical rehabilitation, would find ready refuge with her.

She was barely in her teens when, one day in Lake George, New York, - a grey and nasty day in early spring when there were still ice-floes on the lake - the infant child of a neighbor wandered from her home and made her way down to the lake's edge. When, an hour or so later, a search party found her it was Emily Porter, herself a child among the adults and other children there, who plunged into the water and swam out to recover the body.

Such steely courage perhaps helps to explain why, after graduating from the Albany Medical Center School of Nursing, Emily Porter chose to pursue her nursing career in the Medical Center Burn Unit and in the Emergency Room as well as in the helicopter rescue team. In the course of her short span of service she became all too familiar with the implacable sound of the slamming of death's door; and, more important, she learned to recognize and to nurture even the smallest and faintest flickering of life.

Emily Porter died on January 13, aged 34. Whom the gods love die young, we are told. But what consolation is there for us who remain?

Perhaps some small measure of comfort may be found in the thoughts expressed by the English poet, Laurence Binyon, about an earlier generation of lost youth:

*"They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them."*

We that are left will remember a gentle, kind and sensitive girl, endowed with an extraordinary inner strength. A golden girl, so bonny as to deserve a poem by Robert Burns all to herself. A young mother of a son, who has inherited her warm and sunny nature.

You who may read these lines and who know that I am her stepfather may well think that I am prejudiced. How could I be otherwise? For, like the gods, I too loved her. But the gods prevailed.

... Alastair Maitland

REMEMBER TO VOTE!

THE DROWN HOUSE REMEMBERED

by Martha Beasley

[Editors' note: The following are excerpts from a letter written by Marty (Ekwall) Beasley, after she learned of the disastrous fire at her former house on Bray Road. The place was passed on to her father, the Rt. Reverend George Ekwall, an Episcopal clergyman, by Mrs. Drown when she died in the 1950's. The Beasleys now live in Newburyport but still visit Heath occasionally]

We had just returned from a trip when we received the sad news about the fire at "our" Heath house....

We have, of course, always loved coming back to Heath--spending much more time thinking about it than actually doing it--right now we're glad we don't have to drive past a skeleton on Bray Road as you do. I can't imagine it's gone, and I just don't want to see that it is. We keep letting go of Heath bit by bit, but I never thought of having to give up returning to our part of it so completely. Still, I suppose we'll never stop coming back. It is changed each time, but our relationship with the place always has been one of absence and return.

That come-and-go relationship and the simple fact that someone else has owned and tenanted it for about 10 years, certainly gives us far less claim to the misery of losing a house. But its claim on our memories is strong.

I must have spent a small part of nearly every summer of my first thirty-five years in that house, and the remainder of each of those years longing for it, off and on. Those were our vacations, so of course we were more relaxed and happier, enjoying an escape and the quiet crystal beauty of "Heath days." Who wouldn't remember such a place with love? The cool woods, the hot blueberry fields, riding Peons' truck through the pastures, leaping from Dickinsons' hay-loft--all surrounded it.

While Mrs. Drown was alive, those two weeks each summer were the only ones when my father was around all day, not working. And Mother--usually around all day at home--didn't have to be. Didn't have to plan menus or entertain. Mrs Drown did that. Didn't have to cook. Wonderful Kathleen did all of that at the Glenwood E (which may have started the fire if it was still there). We were simply guests. We did have little chores--not the least of which was morning prayer right after breakfast every day but Sunday, but the days were long and lazy, the house usually full of sunlight. Back in our suburb we dreamed of these days and the sight of the warm yellow walls of the front hall and the worn curve of the wide floorboards, the steep rise of the stairs, the small friendly rooms so different from the cavernous rectory that was supposed to be our real home.

So there was an expectation of the place which partially fulfilled itself every time we returned. The

immense silver-black doorstep stone would look the same, with the single peony plant not blooming beside it. The splintered porch boards, the elegant sidelights flanking that solid door, its handsome brass, and then the smell. I never tried to define the smell. Probably it was only musty, a combination of woodsmoke, old books, and other things. I have just never smelled the same combination anywhere else. Right now I can walk into my dining room and recapture the same nostalgic smell from the sideboard that stood in the dining room at Heath. Dishes and silverware kept in it pick up a cave-like flavor, but I never wash them before setting them out. I like to taste it.

We would stand in that front hall and breathe that air deeply. Then my brother Dick and I would try out the stairs again, stepping high and bumping our toes against the risers. Next was a race for the iron beds, and then a plunge through the "subway", the low attic over the center of the house which connected the front bedrooms with the two that faced the woods. There we were for another July with a view of the road from our sunny front room in case anyone should go by or anything at all be happening--rare and marvelous in our early years at Heath.

When we were children those back apartments were off limits. The rustic rooms over the shed, one with its entire wall open to the woods, were Mrs. Drown's. She kept the more finished part of the house for her guests.

And there were always guests--house guests, afternoon guests, evening guests. Mrs. Drown lived for conversation and there were times of day and rooms of the house in which guests were expected to converse with a spirit and as much intelligence and wit as they could muster. As a young idiot with nothing to say, I learned to listen lengthily, but also open my mouth and be agreeable at three meals a day in the dining room, sometimes at tea, and after supper in the living room. I was tolerated and once or twice even encouraged, so I felt on the edge of becoming an adult in an elite society.

I was right about one thing. It was an elite society. I always had the impression that everyone there preached--or at least taught--travelled everywhere, read everything, and spent every morning posting letters all around the globe as Mrs. Drown did. She brought along with her companions and habits of her life in Cambridge as she had been doing since her mother gave her the house as a wedding present in 1917.



THE DROWN HOUSE c.1838
as it stood in the 1960's
(Photo by Martha Beasley)

BED & BREAKFAST

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Heath, Massachusetts

Route 8A

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COMMUNITY HALL NEWS

by Karen Brooks

When she died in the late fifties that routine went with her. For a while the house without her customary formality was peculiar enough to seem like a kind of betrayal. At the same time our family began to learn new ways to love the place. We no longer had "help," so we used the kitchen. We kept the house open more of the year and the cooler weather also drove us toward the kitchen and its big comfortable woodstove. We did use the front rooms, but kept more and more to the back, stoking the stove, cooking, and reading there in the evening. In their last years at Heath my parents even forsook the larger upstairs bedrooms for the warmer ones just off the pantry and kitchen. Guests were not always received on the front porch anymore. The back porch had the best view of Heath Center available anywhere, and no one but the cook had enjoyed it since 1917.

So my nostalgia for the place included more of the pantry and its old tin pans and enameled buckets, the summer kitchen, out in back of the kitchen, and especially the woodshed where I learned to split wood and mastered the intricacies of the water system. One of the few pieces of my father's handwriting which I still have is three pages, illustrated, of his instructions on the care and priming of the pump. He handed them to Neil and me as we departed for our honeymoon in Heath in October of 1963. They are still a pleasure to read, though the heartbeat of that old pump has probably been still since long before the fire.

Selling the house was heartbreaking, and driving by it has been ever since, a mixture of happiness at seeing it again and pain at being unable to go in, light up the stove and be at home again. I never visited it afterward, though we were kindly invited by Bob Bergquist. I probably just didn't want to share it, but I may also have been afraid to dislodge my visual memories. If I never saw it change, I could still see the Morris chair with my father in it; the pantry as it was the day Bill Wolf became a lion for the Heath Fair parade; the side bedroom with pink Japanese lettering by Ed Calver and visiting theological student Hickaroo Yanagahara; Mrs. Drown at her living room table playing anagrams; my Mother on the porch with bird glasses, my husband on his knees at the dining room fireplace praying for a draught, and everywhere else in the house painting, repairing, plumbing, and wondering how long the old structure would continue to hold up so well. To see what new owners had done would only have blurred my old images. And yet to live in repeated sight of empty space is to see day after day that what was there is gone--the first step to forgetting that it was ever was. It teaches us the value of the artifacts that help to carry our lives on to others'.

The Hall had a very successful Winter Fair on December 12. Considering the weather (snow and slippery roads) and the newness of the event, most of the crafts people did very well and we hope to make this an annual event. Many thanks to everyone who helped, especially to our famous emergency "Santa" (Walt Gleason) who came in from a "roofing bee" to help out. The funds raised in the Fair will be used to repaint the front part of the Hall and to help refinish the upstairs floor.

The piano to be sold is still available; we had several calls back in September and realized we needed to do a "best-offer" sale. So anyone still interested should call Dolly Churchill (337-6680) or myself (337-6614). Best offer takes it.

We are thinking of establishing a "Friends of the Hall" organization to enable people in the community to help out with events at the Hall (fund-raisers, parties, the Winter Fair, etc.) without having to be involved in the building maintenance or having to attend regular meetings. If anyone is interested in participating in such a group, please call Dolly or me.

1988 STREET LIST

The annual listing of all residents of the Town of Heath has been started again by Town Clerk Karen MacDougall. This is a requirement of the state that it be made each year. All households will be contacted, principally by telephone, to update the previous listing with verification of names, birth dates, and other statistics for each member of the household. All new households in town will also be added at this time.

After the listing is compiled on the town computer and sorted it will be published and made available by the Town Clerk. This Street List will also be used by the state later to select names for the Jury List.

REMEMBER TO VOTE!

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A NIGHT IN THE STORM

by Carroll B. Stowe

As a young fellow on our farm in Colrain, I had a tremendous desire to be out at night plowing snow. I surely thought that to be out with a truck and plow and wings helping people to have a passable road would be just the ultimate in things to do.

I got my first shot at it the winter of 1962. I had started working for the town of Heath in the early fall of that year. I could hardly wait till the snow started to fall to try out this thrilling type of employment.

Our crew consisted of five regular men, Francis Galipo, Gerald Galipo, Victor Vreeland, Edwin Joy and myself. Victor never drove a truck but did feed the old tail-gate sand spreaders as automatic sanders were unheard of in this town. We were able to take care of the early storms that season without calling in the spare drivers.

As the season neared the first of the year, the snow banks got higher and it was more difficult to get rid of the snow.

The town's fleet of snow fighting equipment consisted of two dump trucks, a 1960 70-Series Chevrolet and a 1961 F800 Ford. This particular evening started out with no great problems. Francis, Gerald and Edwin were off for the evening and Bob Law and Paul Burrington were driving the Chevy truck and were trying to keep 8A and the north end passable, while Howard Thompson and I with the big Ford were at the task of clearing the drifts in South Heath. Both of these trucks had single small gas tanks and they used about 10 gallons of gas per hour.

Consequently you could have the drifts open and, when you went to get more gas, a section of the road could be plugged when you came back to check the next time. Our problem areas were by the old Fairgrounds, up toward Doug Stetson's (Burrington Road) and beyond near the Galipo house, Schoolhouse hill, over toward Rainville's and down where Walt Gleason is plus around by the South Cemetery. By the end of the new Fairgrounds we encountered some trouble but we could cope with it so far.

Bob and Paul were having their troubles up on 8A above the Sessions farm and wanted us to try to give a hand up there. Hard packed snow with one-way snowplows creates a problem when the plow can't discharge. If great care isn't used, the snow will crowd the truck sideways and your right rear wheels will be in the right snow bank. We were of little help up 8A, so when we got back to the garage to fuel up we had lost that road.

While we were absent from the south part of town we lost more of that area and in coming back for gas one time earlier we had lost the road up by Rainville's. The four of us had a conference at the garage and decided to get Bob Law home so he could be there to milk. There were four of us in the cab of the big Ford and we set out for South Heath. It had been nearly two hours since Howard and I were by the Fairgrounds and that road was plugged.

This was my first year at the controls of a plow truck and my limited experience did not stand me very well and I soon was impossibly stuck. This was a bad situation made worse by the gale force winds and below 0° temperatures. We had another conference in the cab of the stuck truck and concluded we would have to walk back to Thompson's and reconnoiter. I surely hated to leave that truck in the snow bank, truly a monument to my inexperience.

We started walking in the bitter cold and made many comments about the situation. It was a very clear night and the wind was blowing straight from Mount Greylock with nothing to stop it. When we reached Thompson's we were told the wind chill factor was 60° below zero. We had made the trip almost without mishap except that Howard, wearing two wool pullover hats - one over the other - froze his left ear.

Paul and Bob walked to the town shed and were able to drive down to Charlemont. They were able to walk up Harris Mountain to the Law farm and were there for milking. With the wind at their backs it was less severe than out in the open.

I slept fitfully on Thompson's couch with their dog, Sandy. In the morning we got a call from Francis and I had to tell him where the Ford was and all about the plugged roads. Francis was able to get to Heath Center where the crawler tractor was kept. Fortunately he had a mechanic come several days before and got the tractor ready to plow snow. With its better traction and V-plow, Francis was able to get to the town shed. He nearly ran into the stuck truck as very little of it could be seen.

Francis plowed snow all day with the tractor and Howard and I did what we could with the Chevy truck. Late in the day we went up to the Fairgrounds, took the plow off the truck, and pulled it out with the tractor, slid it around in the road and pulled it back to the shed, and pulled it inside. It was two days before we could start it. Hindsight works very well after the fact, but had we gone and got the truck and pulled it out before it got drifted in so badly, it could have been in service sooner.

I will always be proud to have been associated with those three other fellows on that winter's night many years ago. For a number of years after, I'd call Howard and ask him if he'd like to walk back from the Fairgrounds again. He always felt that once was enough! Until the road was resurfaced past the Fairgrounds, those tire chain tracks were still in the tarred surface. This town was indeed fortunate to have dedicated servants like Mr. Galipo. He did a tremendous job with what he had to work with.

Written in the interest of remembering things of the past.



Heath Stage en route from the Falls March 15, 1936

Henry Churchill, Stage Driver, with Roger pulling sleigh on Trail in East Charlemont. Heavy snow and ice jam from river made roads impassable for cars.

(News photo courtesy of Dolly Churchill)

NEW NEIGHBORS

by Beverly denOuden

In September Bruce Phillips and Deborah Lockhart purchased the house on 8A which was formerly owned by Lucia Finck. The Massachusetts natives, Bolton and Hyannis respectively, were directed to Heath by a friend in Charlemont to find their country home. Bruce is a "fixer", so they had decided to look for an older place and Heath, plus the 50 acres with the house, provided the setting for which they were looking. With only a short time from moving in to cold weather, they are now busy stacking wood and repairing the exterior doors on the buildings.

Bruce has been engaged in an import business for a number of years. Deborah, a graduate of Boston University with a degree in marketing, gave up her job as a stockbroker to join Bruce in his business. Together they focus their purchases in New Delhi and Bombay, India as well as Katmandu, Nepal. They specialize principally in clothing and folk art. The imports are then wholesaled to shops in metropolitan areas.

Their travels have enabled them to see and record in slides many fascinating cultures and customs. Bruce will present a slide show on March 3 at the Community Hall where he will show many of the scenes in India, Nepal and Thailand.

This reporter enjoyed a pleasant evening with this exuberant young couple as they discussed plans for their business and their new home. Indeed, Heath seems to be a place of synthesis for them as they decided two weeks ago to marry in Hyannis in the spring.

A warm welcome to our new neighbors.

SUPER TUESDAY - MARCH 8

On March 8 Heath will participate in the Presidential Primary being held throughout Massachusetts and some 20 other states.

Voters will have the opportunity to vote for the nomination of the presidential candidate of their choice by selecting delegates to the National Conventions. Voters registered in either party will receive a ballot with candidates of that party. Independent voters will have a choice of ballot for either party. The last date for voter registration for this election was on February 9.

Polls will be open in Heath for 13 hours, as required by the state, from 7 AM to 8 PM. Voting this time will take place in Sawyer Hall, which has handicap facilities. Registration will be in the main hallway with voting booths set up in the room adjacent to the Post Office.

**Gilmore
and Watters**

INSURANCE AGENCY INCORPORATED

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REENACTMENT OF THE 1788 CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

by HERALD Staff

On Saturday, February 6, approximately 364 high school students from Massachusetts and Maine (in 1788 Massachusetts included what is now Maine) gathered at the State House in Boston for the culmination of a six month research project - the reenactment of the 1788 Convention which ratified the Constitution.

The delegates representing towns in this part of the state were eight Mohawk students who portrayed the original delegates from Northfield, Buckland, Shelburne, Ashfield, Charlemont, Cummington/Plainfield and Colrain. Heath was not represented! The overall research project director for this reenactment was Dr. Susan Silvester who is Director of Instructional Media for the Mohawk Regional School District. The students, known as John Hancock Scholars, were supervised in their research for this project by their Social Studies teachers at Mohawk, Dennis Bushey and Robert Wiley, as John Hancock Fellows.

Each student Scholar researched his own delegate's selection in 1788 and prepared a lengthy biographical paper on him. The Massachusetts ratification, carried by only a small majority, was a pivotal issue in the overall ratification, as the ratification here influenced a number of the other 12 states at that time. It is interesting to note that the farmers of western Massachusetts were the ones at the Convention in Boston who did not want to see the Constitution ratified. Massachusetts became the sixth state to ratify by the narrow majority vote at the convention of 187 to 168.

The opening ceremony in Boston was presided over by Speaker of the House of Representatives George Keverian, who also introduced Dr. Silvester who gave a short talk. This ceremony as well as the reenactment itself were televised live on Channel 44. The ceremony was attended by numerous representatives from Washington as well as the National Bicentennial Commission. The U.S. Postal Service released a new stamp in honor of the ratification in Massachusetts at a ceremony in the House chamber. First day issue stamps were available during the afternoon.

Following the reenactment a roll call vote was taken. Students adjourned to the State House steps to receive a 13 gun salute in appreciation of all their hard work. A replica of the Liberty Bell was then rung before the group proceeded to the Old State House for a tour and refreshments.



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by Catherine Nichols

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by Alan Nichols

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HYPOTHERMIA

by Sharleen Moffatt, R.N.
Town Nurse

Although our friend the ground hog says spring is just around the corner, be assured that more cold weather is also in the offing. There are some simple ways of preventing the problem of hypothermia. A proper diet and adequate exercise are always important. "Fuel" for the system helps the body ward off the cold. Loose fitting layered clothing is best. Since a majority of heat is lost from the head, hats are extremely important. For small children and older adults, the extreme temperatures can be dangerous. The body, due to size or aging process, cannot stabilize its internal temperature as readily.

As a footnote, be aware that certain medications such as anti-depressants and some anti-hypertensives actually inhibit the body's ability to maintain adequate temperature control. If you are unsure consult your physician.

Special thanks to the Quota Club of Franklin County and the Shawmut Bank Mitten Tree for their donation of hats and mittens to the Rowe Elementary School. They were greatly appreciated.

A HEATH SKATING RINK

Several people in town are attempting to develop a public ice skating area. Several possible sites have been suggested including the play area parking lot in the Center and the Fairgrounds.

If you have any interest in skating or are interested in working on the project, please call either Steve Belitsos at 337-4466 or 339-6616 or Sheila Litchfield at 337-4957.

PERCS, PERMITS AND TRANSFERS

December 1987 and January 1988

Percolation Tests

There were no Percolation tests conducted in December 1987 or January 1988. Earl Gleason reports that perc tests have been suspended until sometime in the spring at a date to be announced.

Building Permit

Robert Barclay, Rowe Road, addition; Debbie VandeBogart, Colrain Stage Road, temporary roof over trailer. Total \$4,400.

Deed Transfers

Hazel M., Donald G. and Janie L. Churchill to Properties of America Inc. of Williamstown, Number Nine Road, \$20,000.

Edmund J. Guay to Robert E. Guay of Chicopee, Swamp Road, Lot No. 44. No consideration.

Josephine L. Smith and Allen W. Rice to Morgan D. Lynch of Vernon, VT., Colrain Road, Lot 25, \$10.

Morgan D. Lynch to William J. and Lenore E. O'Connell, Colrain Brook Road, Lot 25, \$2,500.

George E. Moreau to Jeanne O'Connor of South Hadley, Mohawk Estates, Country Road, Lots 1 and 2, \$5,000.

Diana J. Sweeney to Jeanette K. Edwards of West Springfield, Mohawk Estates, Lot 25, \$1.

Elizabeth Ann Hendrixson to David B. Donoghue and Mary Pratt of Holyoke, Mohawk Estates, Lots 17 and 19, \$6,000.

David B. Donoghue and Mary Pratt to David B. and Margaret Donoghue, Mary Pratt and Marguerite Miller, all of Holyoke, Mohawk Estates, Lots 17 and 19. No consideration.

HEATH AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY NEWS

by Michael Peters

The Fair meeting for January was cancelled due to lack of business to discuss. This does not mean we are doing nothing, however. We are getting the roots or basic agenda lined up for another exciting Fair. We already have several concessions registered to come, and entertainment is in the works.

Listed under new news would be the decision of having the ice cream booth back in the previous location and in the hands of Howard and Jeanette Crowningshield once again. The price will also go down so everyone can afford a double scooper cone without feeling like you've just financed a car. We will also have a new ice cream concession trying their luck with novelties down near the pulling ring. They will not be allowed to sell cones though. This will also give everyone a greater choice of ice cream products.

On other news, Barb starts her computer course in March, and the State's new computer program for agricultural fair premiums and records should be arriving about the same time. This will allow us to keep an entire year's records on one disk and also make the work a lot easier on the secretary.

The first load of wood has been delivered to the grounds but there has been some delay due to the ice storm recently. Plans are still being made for rebuilding the old exhibit hall. This should make a very exciting work bee for the community and, hopefully, everyone will pack picnic lunches and make a day of it. There has been talk of planting some trees on the grounds; something for future generations of Heath to enjoy. The shade will also be rewarding.

Some news that's not entirely Fair business is the possible making of a skating rink by flooding an area on the grounds. Several people are working on this and have contacted the committee regarding permission. The next Fair meeting will consist of voting to allow this and also to check on the insurance liability, if someone was to get hurt. However, this should not pose a problem as long as everyone remembers the Fair Association is not liable and in no way can be held responsible. Interested people should contact Steve Belitsos about the details. Considering that we don't have a place to swim in the summer, it would certainly be nice to have a place to skate in the winter.

Even though winter is supplying the nasty ingredients for skating, and of course the big ski race coming up, cheer up, spring is almost here!

NOTICE TO HEATH RESIDENTS

In preparation for snow removal, the Board of Selectmen is requesting that all parked vehicles be kept clear of the roads and shoulders of the Town Highways.

Parked vehicles hindering snow removal may be removed at owners' expense.

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LIBRARY LINES

by Alli Thane, Librarian

Our television and video tape equipment has finally arrived! We have a large television and VCR for use in the Library and a VCR to loan out. This equipment was purchased with a seven-town grant. Our thanks to Pat Leuchtman of Heath and Noah Gordon of Ashfield for their efforts in making this possible. Included in this grant will also be approximately 280 video tapes to be used by the seven towns - coming soon! Anyone wishing to borrow the VCR can do so a week at a time. Anyone wishing to use the other equipment in the Library can do so by contacting the librarian.

The Heath Council on Aging has again donated money for audio cassette books and large print books. The Friends of the Library are purchasing a cassette player for use with these books.

Veronica Smead continues to read to the little ones at 3:30 every Wednesday afternoon. Join us.

New books recently added include: Legacy, James Michener; Man of the House, Tip O'Neill; Straight on Till Morning, Mary Lovell (which is a biography of Beryl Markham); Mac, John McLean; The Great Depression of 1990, Dr. Ravi Batra; Beloved, Toni Morrison; Spaceshots, Timothy Ferris; The Sense of Wonder, Rachel Carson; Presumed Innocent, Scott Turow; Bonnie's Big Day, James Herriot; Tales of Uncle Remus, Julius Lester; and several paper back books for teenagers.

FRIENDS OF LIBRARY PLAN SLIDE SHOW

On Thursday, March 3, at 7 PM Bruce Phillips, of State Farm Road, will present a slide show at the Community Hall. Bruce will show slides which he took during his recent travels in India, Nepal and Thailand.

Parents are encouraged bring their children for this educational meeting. Refreshments will be sold and the proceeds will be used to update the children's non-fiction books in the Library.

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HISTORIC RECORD FOUND IN LIBRARY

In a recent re-arrangement of the Town Library, Alli Thane uncovered an interesting section of wood inscribed as follows in pencil:

A. Rollins Bullock

Builder and Carpenter

Built June 1896

This Vault and Mason work was done

Charles A. Hawks

This piece of old wood from the original building was apparently left by the contractors when Sawyer Hall was rebuilt about 10 years ago. The year 1896 does correspond to the date of the building of the Library. Ed Calver's History of Heath does not give any reference to either the builder's or the mason's name. So, perhaps, these men came in from a neighboring town. If anyone has a record of either of these two men, the HERALD will appreciate hearing about it.

The old board will be turned over to the Heath Historical Society for safe keeping and display in the museum.

CHURCH NEWS

For the winter months the Sunday morning services are held in the front vestibule in order to conserve heat.

The Reverend Allen Comstock, from the Charlemont Federated Church, continues to serve as guest pastor and conducts this service and his wife, Linda, frequently plays the organ. Sunday School for the children is held during the service in the upstairs room of the church. Both adults and children are welcome to attend these services.

Calisandra Davis Griswold was christened on January 10. Calisandra is the baby daughter of Kimberly and David Griswold who live on South Road.

Members of the Church held a potluck luncheon following the Sunday service on January 24. After this a representative from the Village Missions addressed the group and explained the services provided by his organization which supplies full time ministers to small churches on a subsidized basis until the church can be self-supporting. Another informal meeting of the members held January 31 discussed the proposal of the Village Missions as well as other possible approaches to locating a permanent minister. It is expected that some action will soon be taken.

Howard Crowningshield

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NEWS FROM THE ACADEMY

by Olga Peters '94

This trimester has started off slower than the last one did, much to the relief of the faculty and the students. Don't think nothing exciting has happened; it surely has, but not all at once.

Beginning the accreditation process was one important thing that happened this fall. Earning accreditation takes approximately five years. All schools, public and private, must go through this evaluation process. The Academy has its first visiting committee, and a written evaluation has been done. The Academy passed the first level with flying colors!

The future move of the Academy to the present site of the East Charlemont Bible Church is going along well. The property will be purchased this spring. Headmaster Eric Grinnell has found an architect and work should begin shortly after purchase. We should move in September 1989.

Winter sports season has begun. Both the alpine and cross-country ski teams have held their first races and a busy season is ahead.

The 7th grade held their first dance of the year which was very successful. The decorations were great; the food good and the music superb. We want to hold another one soon.

A new program for the school this winter is a leadership program for the upper class men. This program will teach individuals to become leaders in the school.

Scheduled for February is an exchange program with Ransom-Everglades, a private highschool in Miami. Approximately 15 students will come to enjoy New England winter and in turn about 10 Academy students will go to enjoy a week in the sun. Students will attend school with their hosts.

One very sad event happened this trimester. The school lost their good friend Phil Babcock. A memorial service was held at the Charlemont Federated Church, followed by a reception at the Academy's Oddfellows Hall, which has been renamed Babcock Hall. Phil was an important part of the school and is sorely missed by us all.

MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL SCHOOL NEWS

by Tanja Davin, Grade 11

Half of the school year at Mohawk has already been completed. Students participated in the mid-year examinations on January 21, 22 and 25.

The week of January 11 was AIDS week at Mohawk High School. Students were given the chance to listen to guest speakers, including the mother of an AIDS victim, and to ask questions. During social studies a representative from the Greenfield Planning Center showed a video tape on the problem of AIDS. Previous to this the faculty at Mohawk themselves listened to speakers and learned the facts on AIDS.

Rehearsals for the All-School Musical, Little Shop of Horrors, have begun. The female lead, playing Audrey, is Leslie Pease. John Shearer plays Seymour, the leading male part. The play will be presented on March 18, 19 and 20.

Winter athletics are in full swing. The boys' and girls' ski teams face a difficult season in the loss of their two top skiers, Bill Schaeffer and J.J. Tanguay. Both students will be out this season due to injuries.

ROWE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

by Susan Silvester

The winter sports program is in full swing for another year. All students in grades K-6 are engaged in at least one form of outdoor sport as part of their physical education program. On Thursdays through February 11 students in grades 1-6 ski in either the downhill program at Haystack or the cross-country ski program at the nearby Hermitage in southern Vermont. The response to this all-day plan has been very enthusiastic. The kindergarten children remain at school and participate in a half day of outdoor activities such as snow-shoeing.

The Basic Skills tests were administered recently to all students in grades 3, 6 and 9 in the Commonwealth. Principal Paul Swem states, "Overall the school did very well this year. There was improvement in the three areas of reading, writing and math." Individual test scores have been mailed home to parents, and in mid-February school-wide results will be made public.

Report cards for the second quarter were sent home on Monday, February 1.

The accreditation process for the Rowe School is an on-going project continued from last year. At the present time the staff is putting the finishing touches on nine additional standards of membership.

Again this year the Rowe School did exceptionally well in the MS Read-a-thon, a state-wide effort to raise money for the cure of this disease. Students who wish to participate ask parents, friends and neighbors to sponsor them with a pledge for reading books. Parents verify the completion of each book and students then collect a pre-determined amount of money from each sponsor. This year the student who again raised the most money was 2nd grader Seth Brower who read a total of 75 books and collected \$141. Congratulations to this prolific reader!

Winter vacation is scheduled for the week of February 15-19.

Assessment tests will be administered to all students in grade 4 from March 22-25; these are statewide mandated Chapter 188 tests.

The sixth grade received school committee approval to go to Washington, D.C. this year for their class trip May 2-6.



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SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT

by Patrick W. Venneri, Chairman

The good news first. The Heath Pre-School has been awarded (without even asking for it) \$4500 from the state. The school committee has suggested to Pam Porter that she invest this money in non-consumables; i.e., a permanent piece of equipment. No word yet on whether the state will continue funding the pre-school or not, but Kevin Courtney thinks that they will.

Rowe is in their budget process and we will have more to explain to you in the next issue about the fiscal state of the Rowe School. The ski program seems to be a success and accessible to all students. Some parents have expressed concern about the school's policy in regard to cold weather and the children being made to go outside. The school has come up with guidelines set forth by the medical profession as to danger times. Any problems about this matter can be brought up at the next Heath School Committee meeting. Basic skills testing scores are in and first reports seems to indicate that our children are where they should be academically.

On to Mohawk. The budget process there is in a bit of difficulty. I am on the operations committee and will be meeting to pare the budget down, but even if that is accomplished, the budget and assessments levied to the nine towns for this year AND AT LEAST NEXT YEAR, if not for many years, is going to be substantially greater than in past years. The reasons for this are complex, but essentially boil down to lower than anticipated state revenues and the fact that surplus revenues, which have kept the budget within a 2 to 3 percent range for the past five years, have all but melted away. We will do everything in our power to lower the assessments, but most towns will be looking at an 8 to 14 percent increase this year. We will take out of the budget all non-essential items, but I personally will not cut any program that will impair the education of our children. Basic skills at Mohawk were (?) very assuring and I would like to extend congratulations to the staff for their efforts.

Long range plans are progressing nicely and I will allow Budge Litchfield to write this column next time so he can better explain where the long range committee is going with their plans. By this time next year, plans will have to be firmed up to present to the state. As you can see this is a priority committee with much work to accomplish before that time so the town can vote upon their recommendations.

HEATH PRE-SCHOOL

by David Schwartz

Our topic for January was Winter! We went sled-ding, built snow mountains and made life-sized Frosty-the-Snowman out of cotton, paper and imagination. Some of the children made muffins for the road crew to thank them for all the work they do keeping the roads clear.

As we begin February, our hearts will be turning to thoughts of love and Post Offices and valentines. Toward the end of February we will be looking forward to sugar season and playing with dinosaurs. If you are a Heath family that is sugaring this year, and might like a visit from enthusiastic admirers, let us know.

Just recently we played Groundhog's Day. When the lights came on we could see our shadows (weather forecasters, please take note).

The Heath Public Preschool was fortunate to have been awarded an additional grant of \$4,500, through the Massachusetts Department of Education. Grant monies were made available to all Chapter 188 preschool programs. The majority of the money will go for the purchase of playground equipment and enlarging the fenced-in portion of the play area. Any remaining money will be used for furniture.

MOHAWK MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

by Valerie Belval

Now that we are all acquainted with the new school and teachers, they have dared to bring us to Old Deerfield. We learned a lot about the way people used to do things in Old Deerfield. That was the last of our field trips for a while.

We also had a great presentation about the disease AIDS. We learned that we can't get AIDS from drinking out of the same cup or holding hands. AIDS is hard to get.

We have just finished taking our mid-term exams. We all got pretty good grades and would like to thank our teachers for all their help and support.

And now we are waiting patiently for our report cards. It will never end!

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PLANNING BOARD REPORT

by Bob Dane, Secretary

During December the Planning Board reviewed five proposals for our Strategic Planning Grant and chose to interview two firms; Sarah James, Jean Van Orman & Associates; and LandUse, Inc., of Hadley. On the basis of the interviews we chose LandUse, Inc. Although both firms gave good presentations, we felt LandUse would be better able to serve our needs due to their proximity and their record of dealing with communities in Western Massachusetts.

LandUse is preparing presentations to be given at the Zoning Workshops which will be held during the next four months. They will present zoning issues and we townspeople will discuss and decide how to deal with the growth of Heath through revision of our present Zoning Bylaws. Growth is here, it does affect you. Please participate.

Our first Workshop was held on February 8 as this went to press. We encourage all townspeople to attend the next four workshops as listed below.

Feb. 29 Open space and related issues
March 28 Economic development
April 25 Phased growth
May 23 Special Topics and synthesis

All meetings will be held at the Community Hall from 7:30 to 9 PM. Everyone is urged to attend.

Shortly after the last meeting we will hold a public hearing where we will present revised Zoning Bylaws for the town. A special town meeting will then be held in order to vote on these Bylaws.

The more people who participate, the more the new Bylaws will reflect the needs and desires of this community.

See you there!!

POLICE REPORT

by Chief Guy Silvester

This winter is currently well underway and the snow banks are getting higher. We would like to recommend that all of us use caution at all road intersections and also take it a little slower than usual on the roads in general.

We are utilizing our radar unit on a regular basis. Traffic speed is generally very reasonable, but we still have a few people travelling at excessive speeds.

The Heath Police Department is also very happy to announce that one of our residents will be starting training for police certification. This recruitment will help to expand our police coverage in town.

Gordon E. Taylor d/b/a



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FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

By David F. Howland

Budget meetings for FY 1988-89 have begun. The FinCom met with the Selectmen to review specific department requests that have been proposed to date and to discuss the big ticket items of schools, roads, the closing of the three-town dump and the opening of the new solid waste transfer station next to the town salt shed. The school boards have not made their final recommendations yet, but we were told that the budget for Mohawk Regional would be up 14% and Rowe, 10%. We think these numbers will be pared down - they have to be in order to be acceptable. Rowe's budget, for example, has gone from about \$110,000 for FY '85 to \$197,000 for the current year, a 79% increase in four years. Mohawk, on the other hand, has been relatively stable for the same period, but in time the large number of students at Rowe will impact on Mohawk. The FinCom recognizes that this investment in human resources is most important for the townspeople.

We have to acknowledge, however, that income must be generated for sorely needed services such as roads. The FinCom is supporting the development of a long range road maintenance program that is affordable to the taxpayer because it believes that decent roads are necessary to secure the town's future, both fiscally and as an attractive place to live and visit.

The life of the three-town dump has been extended another six months to June 1988, which will defer the higher trucking costs associated with the removal of waste from the transfer station. However, we expect the Town will have to face up to the costs associated with closing the present dump site this next year. The total figure has been estimated to be \$250,000; our share is 20% or \$50,000. We hope there will be state funds available - 70% in no-interest loans, 20% in grant monies and the balance of 10% (\$5000) out-of-pocket. Even \$5000 is hard to come by for Heath, plus the Town will be incurring the higher operating cost of trucking trash to the VICON plant in Agawam.

On other fiscal fronts, the rate of expenditures against the current year's budget is right on target and we have not had to borrow yet. The FinCom is concerned, however, about the delay in getting the tax bills out; another month or so and we will have to borrow.

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FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

by Chief Earl Gleason

On December 18, four firefighters responded with Engine No. 2 to cover the Colrain fire station while Colrain, Leyden, Shelburne Falls, Shelburne, Buckland and Halifax fought a house fire in East Colrain.

The day after Christmas a disastrous fire struck the house owned by Robert Bergquist. Twenty-four firefighters from the Heath Fire Department responded and a tanker water shuttle was placed into operation under the direction of Chief Dennis Annear of Charlemont. Tankers from Heath, Rowe, Colrain, Charlemont and Shelburne moved water from the lake at Mohawk Estates where they were filled by a pumper from Charlemont. Police from Heath, Colrain and Charlemont were assigned to the intersections for traffic control. The Halifax Fire Department sent a pumper and crew to cover our station during the fire. Although a substantial head start by the fire destroyed the house, the water shuttle performed extremely well, supplying the fire scene with a flow of nearly 500 gallons per minute. In perspective this amounts to between 25,000 and 30,000 gallons each hour. The Heath Fire Department wishes to thank those who provided coffee and food and any other aid during the fire. As usual some things don't get done and I wish to apologize to the Halifax Fire Department. I forgot to have anyone take coffee or food to them at our station.

Two days later several firefighters aided the Charlemont Ambulance and Heath Police at an accident on Number Nine Road.

Our first fire of 1988 occurred on January 27, when a defective stove pipe set a partition afire. Twelve firefighters found that the owner had extinguished the fire. The Fire Department opened the partition to check for extension.

Early in December I attended the final two classes in Northfield on Multiple Company Operations. Also I attended another seminar by the State Fire Marshal's staff on fire prevention. Two drills were held at the local department conducted by Deputy Chief Lively of the Greenfield Fire Department. He instructed us in a Massachusetts Fire Academy class on woodland fires.

Two smoke detector inspections were made and placement of smoke detectors in new construction was made in another new house.

"What are you doing during the long winter." I am often asked. This time period my answer could easily have been, "I go to meetings." I have been to meetings of Fire Wardens, Western Mass. Fire Chiefs, Deerfield Valley Fire Mutual Aid Directors, the Franklin County Dispatch Association and, with the Selectmen and two men from Mass. Civil Defense, a meeting on Radiological Emergency Response Plan.

I also attended a meeting of the Charlemont Ambulance Committee which may have an effect on the Town. The Charlemont Ambulance needs to be replaced and the price tag is about \$60,000. The Ambulance Committee is looking for a way to divide the cost among the user towns. If anyone has any innovative ideas, I am sure the Selectmen would be interested.

The other meeting that would cause concern to the town has to do with the Central Dispatching of emergency service. Those towns that are using Crocker Answering Service were notified recently that their assessments would rise from \$175 a month to \$475 per month. This was due to changes in telephone equipment now being used by Mrs. Crocker. The present equipment will be disconnected by A.T. & T. and she will have to purchase new computerized equipment. As a result the Police and Fire Departments now using Crocker's are forming a new communications district, hopefully at some savings. I have two reasons in favor of Heath joining the district at some point. One is that, in recent years, a bill has been filed and supported by the Governor mandating that all emergency services must be served by E911. If we do not have a dispatch center in place, where would our 911 calls go? Springfield perhaps ?? Also as Fire Chief I have felt uncomfortable about our present red phone system, since a friend of mine in Berkshire County faces a \$100,000 law suit because of the notification procedure for a fire in his town. With several different people answering our red phone, it is difficult to follow a set procedure in every case. The people on our red phones are doing an excellent job but in this law-suit-happy society it only takes one person to cause problems.

Have a fire-free winter.

NEW COUNTY CHARTER PROPOSAL

A hot topic these days is the future structure and scope of county government.

An informational meeting will be held at the Heath Community Hall on Wednesday, February 17, at 8 PM, at which Rowe Selectman George Riggan, a member of the Franklin County Charter Commission, will discuss the majority and minority draft proposals for a new county charter.

A formal public hearing on these proposals is scheduled for Wednesday, February 24, at 7:30 PM at the Buckland/Shelburne Community Center.

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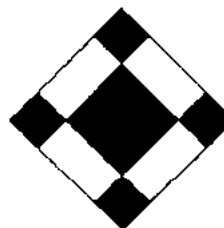
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SELECTMEN'S REPORT

by Richard Giard, Chairman
Heath Board of Selectmen

The Selectmen accepted with great regret the resignation of Catherine Nichols from her position as Town Accountant. The Selectmen appreciate the many hours of service she has given the town over the past nine years in the various positions she has held.

Arlene Markert was appointed to the position of Accountant to replace Catherine Nichols.

Plans for a new Circuit Rider program to be shared with the towns of Charlemont, Hawley and Heath are progressing. The state has approved the funding for this position for Charlemont and Hawley. Heath, however, having already received the state aid for three years, must now pay its full share of the salary. The time and costs will be distributed between the three towns on the basis of 20 hours for Charlemont, 12 for Heath and 8 hours for Hawley. This program is still subject to approval of the town meetings in the three towns this spring.

Funding for repair of roads from flood damage this spring has been received except for about \$69,000 of FEMA funds and about \$10,000 of state funds which will not be paid until the work has been completed next fall.

A land survey has been completed for the site of the solid waste transfer station adjacent to the town salt shed. An engineering firm has been contacted to prepare a design for this station which will be submitted to the DEQE for approval. The construction and equipment will then be put out for bid and it is hoped that the work can be completed by June. The Selectmen are considering the feasibility of using recycling to reduce the amount of solid waste we will have to haul to the Springfield/VICON recovery plant.

The 3-Town Dump Committee is considering the possible purchase of the site of the present landfill. This would relieve the present owner of any future liability and would put the towns in a position of being able to benefit from any possible state aid for the cost of closing the dump. The test wells, as required by the DEQE, have already been drilled around the site of the dump. Water and gas tests will be made from these wells at regular intervals to inspect for any possible contamination. Results from the initial tests just made show no indication of problems.

TOWN PERSONNEL POLICY ISSUED

The Selectmen have recently issued a personnel policy to cover official holidays, sick leave and vacations for all full-time town employees. This policy, which is now in writing, covers only highway department employees who presently are the only full time employees of the town. These policies clarify the guide lines that have been followed by the town up to now.

The policy allows for eleven public holidays to be granted each year with pay. The vacation policy grants five days of paid vacation after the first 12 months of employment with one additional day granted for each 12 months of employment up to a maximum of 15 days which is acquired after 14 years of employment. Sick leave with full pay is granted on the basis of one day for each 73 calendar days after employment up to five days per year. Sick leave days not used in one year may be carried over and accumulated up to a maximum of 15 days.

CATHERINE NICHOLS RESIGNS

by Beverly denOuden

Catherine Nichols has resigned from her position as Town Accountant, one of several town offices she has filled over the past nine years. We have all been used to seeing Catherine around the Town Hall over these years and will miss her knowledge of town government which she acquired over that time. As Selectman Giard said, he "could always get a quick answer on a state regulation from Catherine, or else she knew where to find it."

Catherine was first elected to a town office in 1979 when she ran for Town Clerk, Town Treasurer and Tax Collector. She was elected to all three positions without any real knowledge of what was entailed. She dug right in, however, under difficult conditions when the town office was still in the basement of the Community Hall and records were not in the best of order. Later after finding the large amount of work involved in all three posts was too much, she gave up the Tax Collector's job, keeping on with the Clerk and Treasurer's work. Catherine continued in these capacities after being re-elected for another term of office. The detail of accounting and the requirements of the state grew to a point where it seemed best for the town to separate the accounting function from the treasurer's work. This was done three years ago and Catherine became the first appointed accountant for the town, turning over the treasurer's job to Linda Marcotte.

Four years ago she was interested enough in the job to appreciate what a computer might do to help in the growing complexity of town office work. On her own time she spent many hours at a neighbor's house learning a little of how to use a computer and how to adapt it to the town's office. As a member of the appointed town computer committee she was helpful in convincing the selectmen and town to appropriate the funds to purchase a computer system. Now, after spending many hours over the past six months in debugging and adapting a new software accounting system for the town, Catherine has decided that her main business activity and her family come first and it would be better for her and the town to turn over the accounting activities to a successor.

Catherine is now devoting her business acumen and creative talents to her shop, Briar and the Rose at the Salmon Falls Marketplace. There her designs in lingerie and women's finery are displayed and sold. Her first year in the Marketplace has been "promising" and we wish her the best for the future with a hearty thank you for her years of service to the Town of Heath.

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MORE ON GROWTH: SAVING OUR FARMS AND FORESTS

by Alastair Maitland

The much publicized Massachusetts "economic miracle" is not universally perceived as an unalloyed blessing. To quote from a recent press notice issued by the Office of the Franklin County Commissioners: "The population is growing and people are moving back to the country to escape urban and suburban life styles. The real estate market is booming and the price of land is going out of sight, even in Franklin County. Realtors, builders and developers now comb the County looking for available land. Combine that with a devastatingly poor agricultural economy putting farmers out of business nation-wide and it spells trouble for the County's farmland and forestland."

Recognizing that residential development represented a real threat to the County's farm and forest land and realizing that, amongst farmers and non-farmers, there are many who see the farms and forests as an essential component of Franklin County, the County Planner, Gwen Hallsmith, successfully sought a grant from the State Executive Office of Communities and Development.

The grant, totalling \$50,000, will enable the County to assist the towns, farmers and the general public in responding to the real and potential loss of productive farm and forest lands. In charge of this project is Steven Judge of Ashfield, who until recently served as Building Commissioner in the Franklin County Cooperative Building Inspector Program.

The principal aims of the project are:

1. To produce maps of all productive farm and forest land throughout the County for distribution to the towns.
2. To produce a guidebook for town officials and citizens describing the options available when productive farm and forest land is threatened by development.
3. To draw up a regional farm and forest land-use management plan.
4. To seek public involvement in the project and to increase public awareness through town officials, townspeople, farmers, foresters, realtors, developers, planners, community organizations, schools, etc.

Meanwhile Steven Judge invites anyone interested in helping to preserve farm and forestland throughout the County to contact him, or Land Use Planner Lynn Rubinstein, or County Planner Gwen Hallsmith at the County Planning Office (774-3167).

REZONING WORKSHOPS THE HEATH PLANNING BOARD PRESENTS

A SERIES OF WORKSHOPS

February 29 *Open Space Related Issues*
March 28 *Economic Development*
April 25 *Phased Growth*
May 23 *Special Topics and Synthesis*

At the Heath Community Hall
Mondays 7:30 - 9:00 PM

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HEATH CONSERVATION COMMISSION

by Bill Lattrell, Chairman

By the end of November the Conservation Commission could see the light at the end of the tunnel after a very busy fall that included many hearings and meetings to consider the information presented at those meetings. We are already receiving notification of a "spring rush" by prospective applicants. Although it is wonderful to see such excellent compliance with the Wetlands Protection Act (WPA), it does produce a great deal of work and time commitment.

In November a new set of regulations was added to the WPA. The regulations protect wildlife habitat in three resource areas; banks, land subject to flooding, and lands under water bodies. These "resource areas" are subject to thresholds that allow a designated amount of activity to take place and will require no habitat replacement. Activity beyond these "thresholds" is deemed harmful to wildlife habitat and habitat functions. Activity above the threshold limit is permitted when restoration of habitat is offered subject to a variety of conditions. There are maximum amounts of area that can be restored with each of the three resource areas, beyond which no alterations are allowed. These regulations are very complex. Our Commission has attended workshops that explained them and is reserving one meeting just to review and bring a greater understanding of the new regulations.

In January the Heath Commission held a public hearing to consider a Notice of Intent filed by the Mohawk Beach Property Owners' Association. The Association has been involved in an aquatic nuisance vegetation control program for the past seven years. The object of the program is to control nuisance vegetation through the use of approved herbicide application. The Conservation Commission, by law, is to consider only the effects of this program on the applied resource area. In this case the resource area was land under water bodies and waterways. The herbicide application process is approved under Mass. State Regulations and may not be denied by a local agency of government as long as it complies with State Performance Standards. The Commission will make a final decision on the filed Notice of Intent in mid-February.

In relation to the above it should be noted that the Mohawk Beach Estates Property Owners' Association works with one of the most delicate wetlands resource areas in town. They have been very cooperative and are very concerned about protecting the quality of this resource area. The Heath Commission expresses a thank you to the Association for their sincere attitude of cooperation.

The Commission is in the process of identifying areas in town that are subject to flooding. The identification of these areas will be helpful in establishing the 100 year floodplain within town boundaries. We are presently studying the town floodplain regulations used throughout the state. Any townspeople who are familiar with areas that are subject to flooding and who would care to share this information with the Conservation is asked to contact Bill Lattrell at 337-5792. Your help would be appreciated.

Richard A. Sumner

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

HEATH'S CIRCUIT RIDER REPORTS

by Susan Wright
Shared Administrative Assistant

It has been three years since I began working for the Town of Heath and I must say it has been a very interesting three years. The range of issues facing small town government and the concerns about growth and development have certainly kept me busy. At present I am working on several projects which I will briefly describe.

The first project involves closing out the Colrain-Heath-Monroe Housing Rehabilitation and Economic Development Block Grant. With the funds we received for this program, we were able to assist approximately 20 Heath homeowners rehabilitate their homes. We also have been able to assist Heath businesses obtain low-interest financing to expand and improve their work. Funds for housing rehabilitation have all been committed. However, there are still funds for small business loans and interested people should contact Nancy DuBosque at the FCCDC at 774-7204.

We are also in the process of closing out the Heath Computer Grant. This \$5,600 grant, matched with \$1,800 in town funds, has enabled the town to purchase computer software to implement computerized payroll, tax collecting and record keeping for the assessing department. It will be at least a year before the tax collecting program is completely operational because of the large amount of data input required. However, once in effect it will save time and improve record keeping.

The Town of Heath will soon have STOP and YIELD signs throughout the town, thanks to the work of the Planning Board and the Governor's Highway Safety Bureau which has provided a \$2,500 grant to purchase the needed signs. These signs should improve safety throughout the town. Another grant from the Highway Safety Bureau for \$2,353 will allow the highway department to purchase work-zone equipment such as signs, cones, barrels, etc. to properly mark work-zone areas.

Over the next several months, a major planning effort will be initiated to plan for growth and development in the Town of Heath. The project will be assisted by the consultant firm, LandUse, Inc., of Hadley who will be assisting the Planning Board to develop proposed zoning bylaw changes. The planning project is funded by a \$21,000 grant from the Executive Office of Communities and Development through the Strategic Planning Program.

Lastly, I am working with the Selectmen on two related and extremely important issues: The closing of the landfill on Burrington Hill Road and the construction of the Transfer Station. We are now looking into possible funding sources for both of these projects, seeking ways to reduce the costs to the town.

Development of the Transfer Station site is not a complicated process but it does take some time. First the site plan must be designed and approved by the Department of Environmental Quality Engineering (DEQE). The Town must also submit an operations plan detailing how the transfer station will operate, what kind of equipment will be used, where and how the trash will be transported, etc. Following DEQE approval, the town will be putting out for bid a contract for hauling the waste to the facility in Agawam and a contract for purchase of the compactor, the containers and the construction of the hopper. At the same time the Town will be putting out to bid the contract for construction of the transfer station. There is a great deal of work to do on this issue, but we are making some progress.

This is a brief summary of my present activities. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 625-9831. Also, as of July 1, the Town of Heath will be continuing with the Circuit Rider Program, but re-grouping with the Towns of Charlemont and Hawley. It is hoped, providing the Annual Town Meetings of all three towns approve, that the Circuit Rider will work 20 hours per week in Charlemont, 12 hours per week in Heath and 8 hours per week in Hawley. Since these three towns have much in common, it should make an ideal Circuit Rider Program.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

by Elizabeth Beaudoin

Although tax bills for Fiscal 1988 have not yet been sent, many people have elected to make payments in the past two months.

I have recently spent time trying to catch up on collection of overdue bills prior to the arrival of the new tax bills. All demands for 1987 unpaid taxes have been mailed. All outstanding motor vehicle excise taxes from 1978 through 1986 are now entered on the computer. Those owing excise for these years will soon be receiving statements to that effect. Those owing 1986 excise tax have already received notices from the Registry of Motor Vehicles.

I have engaged the firm of Jefferies and Jefferies, of Ware, MA, to act as my deputy collector. They will pursue the collection of overdue excise tax in cases where my notification does not produce results. In the future, I may also request their assistance to collect other types of unpaid taxes.

People who are seeking abatements are reminded that they are still responsible for paying their tax bill on time. If the abatement is granted, a refund check will be issued.

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ASSESSORS' REPORT

by Stephen Belitsos

The paper trail to the FY '88 tax rate and the eagerly awaited tax bills is practically complete. With the essential assistance of Catherine Nichols we have completed the Recap sheet and supporting documentation. With the certification of the Free Cash figure, we will submit our information to the Department of Revenue for approval and the tax rate will be set. Since approval of our figures can now be handled through the local Assessment Office in Springfield, we do not anticipate more than a two to three week delay in the mailing of the tax bills.

On January 26 the Assessors and the Selectmen voted to continue the single tax rate for all types of real and personal property. The consensus was that there is still not enough commercial/industrial property in town to significantly reduce the residential tax rate. During the next year we will be examining the assessment of the public utilities to attempt to correct any inequities in that particular category of property.

Please note that the Assessors have changed their meeting night to Wednesdays at the same time - 7 to 9 PM.

TREASURER'S REPORT

by Linda Marcotte

Although we are seven months into the current fiscal year and the 1988 tax bills have not yet been issued, we have not had to borrow money so far to meet town expenditures.

The Quarterly Report for the Treasurer's cash for the period ending December 31, 1987 shows \$428,013.28 on the books. \$271,533.70 is for special funds (highway, stabilization, etc.) and \$156,49.70 for regular expenditures. I hope that we will be able to get the 1988 tax bills in the mail before this money is depleted.

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ECONOMIC REPORT ON HEATH

by Caroline Smith

On January 20 about 20 town board members and a few interested citizens braved the sub-zero weather to attend another Town Round Table meeting. This time the subject was a presentation by Jay Di Pucchio, of the Franklin County Community Development Corporation (FCCDC), on his Economic Development Planning Study for the Town of Heath. Also attending were Jennifer Dawgert, of Land Use, Inc., a member of our newly appointed team of consultants under Heath's Strategic Planning Grant, and Nancy DuBosque of the FCCDC.

Jay outlined some of the findings which are covered in his Planning Study as reported in the December number of the HEATH HERALD (page 18 Did You Know ?). Among the highlights in the report is the change in population of Heath to a larger, younger and less economically secure one resulting in more people making more demands upon public services and financially straining the town. Some of these demands are new ones. Agriculture employs very few people now, forcing the traditional population to go elsewhere for employment.

There are 22 small businesses in Heath as well as other incipient ones. However, most of these do not significantly help the tax base. There is help for growth in the small businesses through Better Management Grants. Perhaps a business men's group should be formed in Heath to promote new ideas in forming successful businesses, and to emphasize the importance of satisfying local needs with products being made in town.

Jay concluded that there is little hope for any manufacturing operation to locate in Heath which might employ a large number of townspeople.

In the discussion that followed it was suggested that tourism, with emphasis on recreational areas such as the State Forest, might attract some business to the town. It was also proposed that a place to show and sell locally made craft products would help.

The meeting closed with the announcement by Susan Wright and Jennifer Dawgert of the Workshops to be conducted in Heath on the Re-zoning Project. The first of these workshops, "Ready or Not, Here Growth Comes," was presented on February 8 as the HERALD went to press. The second in the series will be held on Monday, February 29, 7:30 to 9 PM in the Community Hall. All Heath citizens are urged to attend as it is extremely important to receive feedback on how townspeople feel about zoning. Be sure to attend and bring your neighbors.

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MILESTONES

by Edith C. Royer

Maria Ann, the baby daughter of Matthew and Monika Lively, was christened at St. Joseph's Church in Shelburne Falls on January 24. The officiating priest was the Reverend Richard Lavigne, Pastor of St. Joseph's. Maria Ann is the granddaughter of Marcella and Paul Lively. The godparents of the baby are Michelle Shattuck and Dom Lively.

Denise Kelly was born on January 9 to Karen and Weston Cromack of Greenfield. Denise is the granddaughter of Catherine and Bruce Cromack and the great-granddaughter of Hannah Burrington of Heath.

Patricia Anne was born on January 26 to Sandra and Mark Hatch of Greenfield. Patricia is the granddaughter of Clair and Richard Hatch of Heath.

Kurt Howard was born on January 29 to Catherine and Douglas Wilkins of Underwood Hill Road, Heath.

Peter Anthony Shattuck, age 7 years, of Number Nine Road died December 29 as the result of an accident. Survivors include his parents, Charles A., Jr., and Lea Shattuck, five brothers and six sisters. Peter was in the first grade at Rowe Elementary School.

Emily Porter Blood died suddenly at the Albany Medical Center. She lived in Selkirk, N.Y. She leaves her husband, Steven, their six month old son, Nathaniel and two sisters and a brother. Emily was the daughter of Hazel Porter Maitland of Heath and spent much time here at their home on Royer Road.

PAMELA PORTER ORDAINED

Pamela Porter was ordained to the Sacred Order of Priests in a celebration at St. Mary's-in-the-Mountains in Wilmington on January 17.

Acting for the Rt. Rev. H. Coleman McGehee, Bishop of the Diocese of Michigan, the Rt. Rev. Daniel Lee Swenson, Bishop of the Diocese of Vermont, officiated. Also participating in the service were the Rev. Dr. William J. Wolf and the Rev. Mr. Allen Comstock as well as members of the family. The Gather 'Round Singers participated in the music.

Pamela, who received her degree from the Episcopal Divinity Seminary in Cambridge last year, is the daughter of the late Rev. John and Nelle Porter of Heath, and the wife of Brian M. DeVriese. They live on Royer Road, with their children Joel and Timothy, while they are completing the renovation of the old barn on Number Nine Road opposite her father's old house where her sister Debbie lives with her family.



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VOTER REGISTRATION DATES AND ELECTIONS

Town Clerk Karen MacDougall has announced the following dates for voter registration and elections to be held this year:

Feb 9 Tuesday	Last period for registration for Presidential Primary 2-4 & 7-10 PM at Clerk's home
Mar 8 Tuesday	Presidential Primary Election 7 AM - 10 PM in Town Hall
Mar 14 Monday	Registration for Town Election 6:30 - 8:30 PM in Town Hall
Mar 21 Monday	Registration for Town Election 6:30 - 8:30 PM in Town Hall
Mar 23 Wednesday	Last day to file nomination papers for town offices
Mar 28 Monday	Registration for Town Election 6:30 - 8:30 PM in Town Hall
Apr 9 Saturday	Registration for Town Election 9 AM - 5 PM at Clerk's home
Apr 16 Saturday	Last Registration for Town Election. 2-4 & 7-10 at Clerk's home
May 6 Friday	TOWN ELECTION 1 - 7 PM in Community Hall
May 7 Saturday	ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 9 AM in Community Hall

Voters may also register prior to last dates above by calling Karen MacDougall 337-4268 for appointment.

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