



VOLUME 4 NUMBER 2

JUNE/JULY 1982

HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER 25¢

HEATH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

The old Schoolhouse Museum is finally undergoing a much needed face lift, both inside and out, by professional painters. It is expected that the building will be in ship-shape condition by the time of the annual Society bazaar on Saturday, July 3.

The bazaar will again be held on the Common in front of the Old Town House. It is hoped that all of our friends in Heath and surrounding towns will come and enjoy browsing around. Flea market items will be on sale as well as food and drinks. The two museums will of course be open with a number of new displays to be seen. Subsequent publicity will give more details, but set aside July 3 for the bazaar.

The annual meeting of the Society is planned for Saturday, August 7. A pot-luck supper preceeding the meeting in the Community Hall is in the planning stage. The terms of office expire this year for President, Vice President, Treasurer and one Director. The Society is expecting to engage an interesting speaker with a slide presentation for the meeting.

Having a curator for the Historical Society who lives in Heath year 'round means activities do not stop when summer ends. Now that we have electricity in the Old Town House, our Curator, Amy Barry, is able to work there later in fall and earlier in the spring. She has completed the index to Dr. Calver's book and, after typing and proofreading, the Society hopes to publish it in the near future. This index will be useful to people interested in researching Heath history. Dr. Calver's book on Heath is for sale through the Society for \$9.00, postage paid.

This summer Mrs. Barry will be working on cataloging our large document collection. Each item will be read and dated, and the owner identified, if possible. Eventually we hope to have a file system for all our documents so that persons with a special interest can quickly access the relevant material.

The Norton gravestone from Fort Shirley is now on exhibit in the Old Town House. In the same case are a Bible, dated to 1731 that Jonathan White brought to Heath, and a powder horn that belonged to Job Colman, dated to the mid 18th century. Amy Barry has also set up an exhibit on the palm-leaf hat industry popular in rural New England around the mid 19th century. The exhibit includes two palm-leaf hats probably made in Heath and the wooden hat block on which the hats were shaped.

In the Center Schoolhouse you can see the beautifully preserved Heath Rifle Company Flag. Other articles of the Rifle Company on display include a ceremonial sword, some epaulets, a shako, and the Company's account book.

If you wish to visit the museums at times when it is not open, contact either Amy Barry or Dolly Churchill. Either will be happy to show you around and answer questions.



Center Schoolhouse Museum - 1982

TOWN ELECTIONS

A record number of 162 voters turned out on May 3 to cast their ballots for town officers. In the only contested position, Earl Warriner won the 3-year term as Selectman over incumbent Paul Lively by 15 votes.

Other unopposed candidates were elected as follows: Catherine Nichols, Town Clerk and Treasurer; Sandra Gilbert, Tax Collector; Richards Steinbock, Assessor; David Howland, Finance Committee member; Amy Barry, School Committee member; Alli Thane, Library Trustee; Newland Smith, Auditor.

The two questions on the ballot, which authorized the town to set up a health insurance plan for town employees, were also approved by the voters.

LETTERS

To the Editors:

Consider the following 1980 census reports: Greenfield 18,436; Heath 484; Rowe 354. Now consider the recently approved FY 1983 budgets: Greenfield \$15,749,998; Heath \$419,211,43; Rowe \$1,252,231. Thus, as a reasonable approximation, Greenfield will be spending \$854/person; Heath slightly more at \$866/person; and Rowe will be spending an utterly outrageous \$3,537/person!

Sour grapes? Not really. Just an observation that at least two thirds of Rowe's voters feel quite comfortable in lavishly spending O.P.M. (Other People's Money). Some 95% of Rowe's tax levies come from Bear Swamp and Yankee.

Shades of O.P.E.C.? If you have any doubts, please recall that last fall the Rowe School Committee, citing Prop. 2½ difficulties, initially demanded that Heath's tuition be increased by a whopping 38%!

BRUCE E. WARNER
Burrington Road

HEATH PRECIPITATION

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

Precipitation in April was 4.74 inches; May precipitation, 2.51 inches. The blizzard in April blew around and drifted the snow as it came, so it was impossible to get an average depth. The amount accumulated in the gauge was 18½ inches of snow. This made the total snowfall for the season 121½ inches.

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HEATH HERALD

Volume 4 Number 2

June - July 1982

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Classified Ads: \$1.00 per line.

Send all correspondence to Box 54, Heath, MA 01346.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 11&13		"Man from LaMancha" - Oxbow Motel, with Todd & Eric Sumner Fred Burrington - Lighting
June 16	10 AM	Bookmobile at Library
June 19-20	2-5 PM	Open House at new Parsonage
June 25	8 PM	Forestry Management Meeting Community Hall
June 26	5:30 PM	Ham Supper, Benefit Parsonage Community Hall
June 28	8 PM	SPECIAL TOWN MEETING Community Hall
July 3	11AM-4PM	Historical Society Bazaar, Museums open, Town Common
July 6	8 PM	Agricultural Society Meeting Fairgrounds
July 10		Rowe Old Home Day
July 11	9:30 AM	Joint Church Service Pelham Lake
July 28		Ladies Aid Fair, Community Hall
July 28	5:30 PM	Ham Supper, Benefit Parsonage
August 3	8 PM	Agricultural Society Meeting Fairgrounds
August 7	8 PM	Historical Society Annual Meeting, Community Hall preceded by pot-luck supper, museums open
August 20,21,22		HEATH FAIR
All summer:		Tues. & Sat. 1:30-4:30 PM Trading Post, Charlemont Thurs. 7-9 PM

TOWN OFFICE HOURS

(At Town Hall unless otherwise noted)

Selectmen: Mondays 7 PM

Assessors: Mondays 8 PM

Town Clerk and Treasurer:

Mondays 8:30 AM - Noon & 7-10 PM

Wednesdays & Thursdays 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Planning Board: 2nd Monday of month 7 PM

Heath School Committee: 2nd Monday of month 7:30 PM

Finance Committee: As posted

Tax Collector: (at Sandra Gilbert's residence on
Avery Brook Road)

Mondays and Tuesdays 9 AM - 12 Noon
also by appointment 337-4390

Library Trustees: 1st Monday of month 7 PM

Library: Mondays 7-9 PM Wednesdays 1-5 PM
Saturdays 1-5 PM

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

Dump: Mondays 10 AM-2PM Wednesdays 1-7 PM
Saturdays 9 AM - 5 PM

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CUBS WILL BE CUBS

By Harriet Read

People had told me that bears roam these hills. A large one had even been seen in our driveway. However, because I don't relish the thought of an encounter with a bear, I had purposely avoided giving any credence to these stories....

The day was warm, a lovely day in May. Four of us were driving along Avery Brook Road below the Charlemont line. We hadn't seen each other for some time so there was much to talk about. All of a sudden one of the girls exclaimed, "Look! There is a dog that looks like a bear!" Another said, "Look at the cute puppies following her." We stopped to avoid scaring them and, to our complete surprise and delight, we had a close-up view into wild life in the area.

The dog that "looked like a bear" was indeed a medium sized mother bear with her three little cubs. One of the cubs was padding along very close behind its mother as she made it across the road and over the embankment. The other two cubs were an inquisitive pair for they stopped following their mother, as good little cubs should do, and stood there looking at the strange thing facing them. Undoubtedly, being so young, they had never encountered a car before this one.

After a little bit, one of the cubs became apprehensive and scampered off to a safer place, the other one right behind. Instead of seeking out their mother, they chose the security of a tree on the other side of the road. Up the tree they went and, from this vantage point, they watched to see what the "thing" would do, all the while clinging dexterously to the tree trunk.

Unfortunately, we had to be on our way. As we drove off, we saw the mother move deeper into the brush. We were concerned for the little ones left behind. Would the mother soon return for her mischievous children? We sincerely hoped she would.

It was quite an experience and an enlightening one for me. Now I know that there are bears around here. Moreover, I know that there will be two very inquisitive bears roaming these hills.

TOWN MEETING - 1982

By D.F. Howland

Nearly 100 citizens of Heath attended the annual Town Meeting on May 3 at the Community Hall. Twenty-two articles were on the warrant, but the one that generated the most interest was the resolution to ask the President of the US to propose to the USSR a halt in the nuclear arms race and to use the funds saved for civilian purposes. Discussion on this lasted almost an hour. It reflected a wide range of spirited opinion and sincere concern about nuclear weapons and the fate of mankind.

Craig Barry proposed an amendment to this article calling for a verifiable arms reduction plan with a budget or tax cut but it was defeated by about a two to one margin. Another amendment to include all countries in the arms halt negotiations was proposed by Walter Gleason and it was carried along with the favorable, but not unanimous, vote of the article.

Budget Article 3 contained 46 line items, but there was discussion about only four of them; the Library, the Mohawk Regional School, the interest account, and the Reserve Fund. The Finance Committee explained and supported these items and they were voted along with the entire article which totaled \$419,211.

It should be noted that a poorly attended Special Town Meeting was held just 15 minutes prior to the Annual Meeting. There were two articles: one to transfer \$9000 from Revenue Sharing to the Highway Account, and the other to transfer \$9000 from Free Cash to the Machinery Account. The Finance Committee supported these transfers reluctantly, because they represented cost overruns of the regular budget and depleted the Revenue Sharing and Free Cash Accounts to very low levels. The Finance Committee reported earlier, in the HERALD and to the Selectmen, that it believed the new 1983 budget could be kept within the guidelines of Proposition 2½ and avoid a vote to override, if funds were available to stabilize taxes. The stabilization of taxes is primarily dependent on state aid income and the prudent use of funds in the Revenue Sharing and Free Cash Accounts; hence the Committee's concern over these transfers. The overruns were due mainly to costly machinery breakdowns, and to overtime and supply expenditures attributable to severe winter conditions.

Certain other articles received special attention also. Article 5 concerning reimbursing town officials if they travel more than 25 miles from Heath was withdrawn for more study. Article 12 that proposed raising \$8513 as matching funds for road work was passed over because the Chapter 90 account had been brought up to date and it was learned that there was over \$80,000 still in that account which negated the need for additional money. The town had voted by ballot to implement a Blue Cross health plan for town employees; thus, Article 14 was passed appropriating \$3200 to pay for the town's 50% share of the program. However, the Finance Committee asked the Selectmen to obtain a written opinion of the law in order to limit participation to those employed 20 hours or more per week (elected or otherwise) which was the intent of the proposal.

Article 19 that reaffirmed a vote of February 1925 requiring the Assessors to print the valuation list each year was voted down. In anticipation of the bi-centennial year 1985, the town voted Articles 7 and 8 to establish a Committee to organize a suitable program and authorized \$1000 to support its efforts.

Having done its work and nearing exhaustion, the townspeople voted to adjourn the 1982 Annual Meeting at 11:30 PM.



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CHURCH NEWS

By Amy Barry

On May 16 the Heath Church was privileged to have Miss Veronica Lanier as guest minister. Miss Lanier is Field Director of Christian Education for the American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts.

On Easter Sunday Rev. George Riggan gave his last service as interim minister. Since then, Rev. George Butler, who previously was an interim minister for Heath in 1955, and who has many ties with our town, is filling in until the permanent minister arrives. Mr. Butler and his wife live in Jacksonville, VT, where they pursue their interests in maple sugaring and hydroelectricity. Mr. Butler has just completed a book on building a small hydroelectric plant which is to be published soon.

Heath's newly appointed minister, Mrs. Lynn Dooley, will conduct her first service on July 4. Meanwhile work proceeds on the Parsonage. The carpeting will be installed very soon, and Rachel Sumner reports the upstairs should be completely finished next week. Also, as anyone who has recently driven up Bray Road has seen, the exterior of the Parsonage has acquired an attractive stain finish.

The Parsonage Committee will hold Open House at the new Parsonage on Saturday and Sunday, June 19-20 from 2-5 PM. All are cordially invited to attend.

On June 26 and also on July 28 at 5:30 a ham supper will be held to benefit the Parsonage Fund. Reservations for both can be made by calling Martha Crowningshield at 625-9506.

There will be an auction at the Fairgrounds sometime this summer, also to benefit the Parsonage Fund. You are asked to look around for items you would like to donate. Call Amy Barry at 337-4411, if help is needed for pickup.

WELLS FUND TRUSTEE APPOINTED

The Selectmen have appointed Jean Holdsworth as trustee from Heath on the board of the Fred W. Wells Trust. Jean will replace Newland Smith who has served on the Board since it was established in 1977.

The Fred Wells Trust Fund makes over \$100,000 available in annual awards to individuals and organizations of Franklin County in the areas of agriculture, education, and health. Many Heath residents in the past five years have benefited from these awards, as well as those from other towns in the County.

Jean Holdsworth is with the accounting firm of Hefner, Hirst & Margola in Greenfield. She is completing her bachelor's degree in accounting at the North Adams State College.

HEATH GRADUATES

By Edith Royer

The HEATH HERALD extends its congratulations to each of the following students who have graduated from their respective schools:

Graduating from Rowe Elementary School are: Anthony Lively, Jon Poisson, and Vicki Thane.

Graduates from Mohawk Trail Regional High School are: Todd Sumner who will be working at the Old Colony Bank, Fred Burrington, Doreen Moody and Kathleen Reilly who will all be pursuing further studies at G.C.C.

Graduating from Franklin County Technical School are: Danny Lively and Darryl Belval.

Scott Gudell graduated from the Fieldstone High School in New York, and will be going to U. Mass.

Maude Harris received a Masters degree in Public Health from Yale University Department of Epidemiology and Public Health.

Ruth Law received her Masters degree in Environmental Education from North Adams State College.

Jean Holdsworth received a degree in accounting from North Adams State College.

Peter Law graduated from U. Mass. with a B.S. degree.

FORESTRY MEETING

On June 25, at 8 PM at the Community Hall, an informational meeting will be held on the advantages of forestry management and evaluation and its benefits to the town. Dr. Alan Page of Green Diamond Forestry, Inc. will be the speaker. The meeting is open to the public and all interested landowners are urged to attend.

LEWIS NICHOLS

1903 - 1982

He was "Nick" except on his by-line in the New York Times. Wary and mistrustful, Nick protected his deep shyness with impenetrable armor; his first line of defense was a reporter's aggressive manner. During his summers in Heath and while his health lasted he cut grass and split and piled wood, warming only to a few old friends. This was a loss because he had many entertaining anecdotes concerning authors, theater people, and other celebrities whom he had met as a journalist. As a professional critic of plays and books he had sure judgement, and his sense of humor was particularly his own. Wry.

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SELECTMEN MAKE APPOINTMENTS

By Anne Steinbock, Chairman
Heath Board of Selectmen

At our May 10 meeting the Selectmen reorganized. We welcomed Earl Warriner as the newest member to the Board. The following are the Selectmen's appointments for the current year:

Chairman, Selectmen	Anne Steinbock
Secretary, Selectmen	Edward Calver
Selectmen's Clerk	Catherine Nichols
Chairman, Board of Health	Anne Steinbock
Veterans' Representative	Edward Calver
Dump Committee Representatives	Earl Warriner
	Anne Steinbock
Franklin Co. Regional Transit Authority Representative	Earl Warriner
Chairman, Liquor Commission	Edward Calver
Road Superintendent	Raymond Galipo
Fire Chief	Earl Gleason
Police Chief	Lorin Gowdy
Forest Fire Warden	Earl Gleason
Civil Defense Director	Richard Giard
Animal Inspector	Paul Lively
Reporter of Diseases	Janet Bliss
Veteran's Agent	Edward Russell
Zoning Board of Appeals Members	
1983	Ken Stetson
1984	Alan Nichols
1985	Ralph Sumner
1986	Robert Tripp
1987	Carol Sartz
Wiring Inspector	John Rossi
Registrars of Voters	Catherine Cromack,
Don Decker, Alice Woznack, Catherine Nichols	Francis Galipo
Constables	Catherine Cromack
Community Hall Committee	Alli Thane,
Teresa Pettengill, Dolores Churchill,	
Teresa Peters, Cleon Peters	
Town Counsel	Edward Pepyne
Dog Officer	Michael Smead
Inspector of Gas Piping	Kenneth Henderson

In other matters:

There will be a special town meeting on June 28. Rowe's proposed withdrawal from the Mohawk School District will be the major item on the warrant.

The Town Building and the Interest accounts are overdrawn, and other small accounts will need clearing up.

The long time spent in acquiring health insurance for town employees is almost over. Employees of the town who qualify will start on the Blue Cross and Blue Shield program July 1.

The town has signed a letter of intent with the Mass. Municipal Association to acquire our Workmen's Compensation Insurance from a new program the Association is starting. The first year will realize a 10% savings, and with our excellent safety record should reduce it further in years to come.

The Boy Scouts are working closely with the Dump Committee on their recycling efforts. I would like to commend them for their efforts. Recycling is extending the life of the dump, as well as putting new life into old materials.

Work has begun on Avery Brook Road. The project will have number one priority this summer for the Road Crew. Town Roads may be somewhat neglected while work is in progress. Bids will be going out for mowing the 52 x 2 miles of roadside in town. We should know soon if the town is to have some CETA workers this summer.

As the newly elected Chairman, I am beginning to realize just how much time and effort Paul Lively put into the job in his two years as our Chairman. With his experience and dedication, Paul will be missed by the Board. My goal as Chairman for the next year will be to live up to the high standards Paul set on the Board.

JUSTICE FRANKFURTER CENTENNIAL

Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter, who spent several summers in one of Bishop Charles Gilbert's houses in Dell, would have been 100 years old this year.

Christopher Niebuhr, the son of Reinhold Niebuhr, has written some interesting reminiscences of the Justice. Dr. Niebuhr was a contemporary of Justice Frankfurter and was also a summer neighbor here in Heath for many years.

One of Justice Frankfurter's interests was equality for Blacks. More black religious leaders made visits to him in Heath than to the two Episcopal bishops here!

A copy of these reminiscences is available at the Old Town House Museum for anyone to read.

CANCER DRIVE PROGRESSES

The drive for the American Cancer Society is nearing a successful conclusion. Volunteers have worked hard and people gave generously. So far the sum of \$344 has been raised, which is a large amount for the small town of Heath. If you have not been contacted, call 337-4900.

1982 HEATH FAIR

By Alli Thane

The time has come to start thinking of the annual Heath Fair to be held on August 20, 21, and 22. The program will have the tractor pull on Friday, horse drawing on Saturday, and the oxen pull on Sunday. The music department will feature Ellie May's Country Band, a polka band, and Eric Goodchild with his Bagpipes. There will be the usual children's games, barbecue, square dance, and parade.

The major project for the year is to construct a circular gravel road from the main gate around the cattle shed and back to the front of the hall. The state has awarded \$1000 for this work.

Get ready - think of the Fair as you plant your seeds and work on the craft projects. A complete program leaflet will be included as usual in the August issue of the HEATH HERALD.

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BROWNIES

By Amy Barry

During April school vacation, Brownie Troop Leader, Robert Gruen, took the Heath and Rowe Brownies to the Children's Museum in Boston. This spring members of the troop have made Mother's Day cards, practiced tying knots, and learned about plant and leaf identification. A trip to Mountain Park and an overnight camping trip are being planned. Bob is proud to report that the Brownies sold 812 boxes of Girl Scout cookies this year. Excellent work for a troop of fourteen girls!

HEATH COOK BOOK

It is expected that the Heath Cook Book will be on sale at the Heath Fair in August. If you would like to see your favorite recipe in it, you should get a copy to Sophie Coe promptly.

BICENTENNIAL PLANNING

Paul Lively, Chairman of the Bicentennial Committee reports that initially there will be regular monthly meetings of the Committee. It is expected that later on some of the meetings will be open to the public. He stated that suggestions for the celebration are welcome from all town people, and that it is planned to place suggestion boxes at Sawyer Hall and at Peters' Store.

DANCE RECITAL

Many Heath children danced in the recital at the Mohawk School presented by the Debbie and Cheryl Dance Studio on June 6. Debbie Bolaski and Cheryl Keleher teach tap, ballet, jazz and acrobatic dancing at their studio in Shelburne Falls.

Children from Heath participating in the recital were Blake and Marcia Warner, Laura Holdsworth, Amber Sullivan, Shelli and Sherri Galipo, Crystal Peters, Laura Clark, April and Justinia Tanner, Ree Sumner.

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BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

By Ed Calver

The committee to plan and organize the celebration of the two hundredth anniversary of the founding of the town of Heath was authorized at the annual meeting. The moderator was instructed to appoint a committee of nine members representative of the community. They met with him for the purpose of organization on June 3. Paul Lively was chosen chairman and Peter Smith secretary. The seven other members are: Marty Howland, Veronica Smead, Carroll Stowe, Rachel Sumner, Bill Thane, Alicia Tripp, and Bill Wolf.

Before the moderator could make his escape an interesting question was put to the town historian: when exactly did Heath come into existence? He did not that evening think to answer by suggesting a parallel: when did the bicentennial committee come into existence--when it was legislated on May 3 or when the members had been chosen and it was organized on June 3? He did say that the state legislature acted on February 14, 1785 (in winter, in Boston, in pre-telephone, pre-telegraph, pre-TV times); the meeting for organization was held in the old South Schoolhouse on March 28. The town records begin with that date. The charter is in the State House (a photo-copy is owned by the Historical Society). The moderator and historian did not stay to hear the outcome, if there was one. Presumably, this is a matter which the committee will have to decide, by vote.

READERS COMMENTS

.... This Newspaper is put together with love. . .

Neil Patterson

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FROM THE LIBRARY

By Edith M. Gleason

By the time you read this, summer will be here. Where has spring gone?

The National Library week was a success. The displays were very good. We awarded four prizes in the reading project. Laura Holdsworth, Heather Gruen, Caroline Barry and Emily Nichols were the winners. The prize, in each case, was a book of the winner's choice.

We have recently received some outstanding books as gifts. These were all best sellers which we did not own. We have also been given a number of magazines that supplemented our subscriptions. Gifts like these help swell our budget at no cost to the taxpayers.

The Bookmobile is resuming its visits after moving to Hatfield where there was more room and all activities could be coordinated. Our first date is June 16. There will be a notice at the Town Hall. Please watch for this and future notices.

Our student participation seems to be growing. We are fortunate to be able to get information for their studies by inter-library loan, if it is not available in our own library. Last week a book housed in the Springfield City Library arrived here the next day, and one from Forbes Library in Northampton was only three days from the time of the request.

While shelf reading, we have discovered some missing books. Naturally we would like to get them back. Most books are stamped so they are easily recognized. If you find a book and are embarrassed about returning it personally, please put it in the book return and nothing more will be said. There is no need to feel embarrassed.

I have heard that some people are interested in helping in the library. I would be very glad to have your assistance. Please contact me as there are a number of jobs that need attention.

Some of you have been using the library for a quiet study place. You have been very good about not leaving any traces of your visit. The trustees and I are glad that you are using the library. However, we ask that you let me or one of the trustees know when and how long you plan to be there. The janitor doesn't like to interrupt your studies, and we would like to avoid interference with your work by overbooking. Also we ask that you register so that we know the amount of time the library is used. This also applies to committees who meet there.

There is no listing of books at this time. We have new books for all ages. Come and see for yourselves.

CHECKMATE!

By Bruce Warner

How do official chess ratings work? Imagine the familiar bell-shaped curve, with the end points being 0 and 3000. 1500 is the mean, median, and mode. Each time you play an official game of chess your rating will change, except on those rare occasions when you draw with someone who has an identical rating. International and Postal ratings are somewhat different.

The highest rating that anyone the world over has ever attained is 2810. This was by America's Bobby Fischer, who retired from official chess after he won the World Championship in 1972. Currently, the highest rated player in Massachusetts is 21 year old James Rizzitano, at 2505. He is rated #24 in the U.S.A. In April, 50 year old John Curdo, at 2461 rated #2 in the state and #35 in the nation, won the 51st Mass. Open in Worcester by defeating Rizzitano on tie-break. Amazingly, this was Curdo's 16th State Championship.

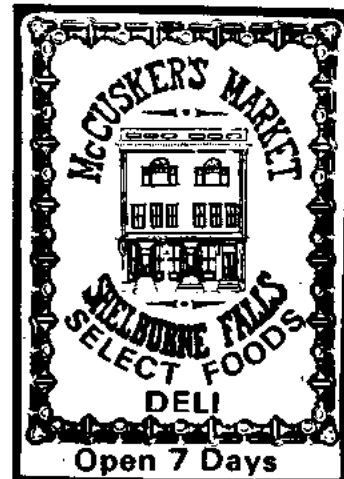
Postage stamps: most people use them and many people collect them. Over the years 60 countries have issued some 225 stamps honoring the game of chess (Pac-Man eat your heart out). Forty stamps have been issued over the past seven years alone. Incredibly, not one of those 225 stamps came from the U.S.A. However, the U.S.C.F. is holding a design contest for a proposed Paul Morphy stamp to be issued in 1984. Morphy, the world's #7 all-time chess player, died 98 years ago.

This nine move game shows the pitfalls of poor development. White manages only three Pawn moves and six Knight moves. Finally, White gleefully captures Black's Queen, only to be immediately checkmated:
1. P-Q4 N-QB3 2. P-Q5 N-QN5 3. N-QB3 Q-K2 4. N-Q5 QxP 5. NxN BxN+ 6. P-QB3 B-QB4 7. N-KB3 N-KB3 8. N-KN5 N-K5??? 9. NxQ??? BxP mate! A nice swindle by Black.

For those of you who are interested in beginning to play official chess there are six to twelve tournaments in any given month within a 95 mile radius of Heath. The closest tournament in the near future is at Athol on July 10. Call me at 337-4073 for details

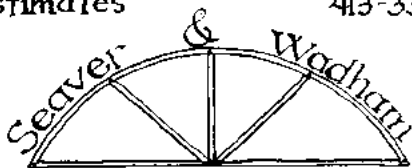
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SCHOOL COMMITTEE NEWS

By Richard Housner, Chairman

Staff changes at the Rowe School and the search for a new principal at Mohawk are top priorities on the horizon for the Heath School Committee. Bids for transportation have been received and will be evaluated by all District Committees on Monday June 7.

Ruth Law will continue to teach kindergarten and, in place of her afternoon environmental science program, she will be utilized as a team teacher. These changes should add much support to the raising of basic skill levels. Environmental science will be incorporated into the regular class activities. Due to this shift Al Canali will be leaving his position as tutor.

Joanna Weinstein will be on maternity leave, but expects to return after one year. Bob Gruen after much thought has decided to pursue an acting career. He will be greatly missed; we admire his ambition and share his excitement. Finding replacements for these two teachers are primary concerns for us.

After getting into the last stages of the Mohawk principal search, it was decided to readvertise the vacancy. This became necessary because several finalists took advantage of other opportunities.

Rowe School has received the needed funds for a major roof alteration which shall, in the long run, save much energy consumption and be more maintenance free. The Heath School Committee has been invited to help in the building investigation.

The Heath Committee meetings have been changed to the second Monday of the month at 7:30 PM at Sawyer Hall.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

By Bruce Warner

At the first meeting since the annual Town Meeting, on May 24, Dave Howland was re-elected chairman. Bruce Warner was elected secretary, with Walt Gleason to be member-at-large. Walt will also continue to be Heath's representative to the Franklin County Technical School Committee.

Before June 30 a special town meeting will be needed to vote on Rowe's withdrawal from the Mohawk Trail Regional School District. This will result in a substantially better financial position for the District. The voters of Rowe have already approved their own withdrawal, and we recommend approval by the Heath voters. Another special town meeting will be required in July or later to adjust accounts for the end of FY 1982. This seems to be a necessary evil each year.

Minutes for the FinCom meetings will henceforth be posted at Peters' General Store as well as at Sawyer Hall. The reason - not everyone makes it to Sawyer Hall regularly, but just about everybody seems to visit the store.

Several subjects will be discussed with the Selectmen at the meeting on June 7. Other meetings will occur occasionally this summer - it's the slack time of year for the FinCom.

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PLANNING BOARD REPORT

By John Holdsworth

The Planning Board had hoped to have the revised zoning bylaws ready for presentation at Town Meeting, but suggestions from the County Planning Department for inclusion of certain things, particularly more definitions, extended the time necessary to complete the revision. When the bylaws are ready, the Board will hold a public hearing to discuss them prior to presenting them for approval at Town Meeting. It is hoped that all people concerned about zoning bylaws will attend the hearing, since changes are made easily and appropriately then.

The Board elected new officers for the coming year: Tom Lively will continue as the County Planning Board representative and will take over the chairmanship from Earl Gleason; John Holdsworth will continue as secretary; Sue Gleason was reelected to another 5-year term; Don Churchill and Earl Gleason continue as the other members of the Board.

In regional matters legislation has been filed to authorize formation of a solid waste district. Even with this approved, selection of a site for the solid waste facility remains a major problem. There has also been discussion of development of a regional alternative power authority to develop and administer energy projects dealing with renewable sources and conservation. This authority would have the power of eminent domain. More information on this will become available.

The Planning Board continues to meet on the second Monday of each month at 7 PM.

ASSESSORS' REPORT

By Richards Steinbock

There is nothing earth shattering to report at this time. Once tax bill come out things pretty much settle down to routine business.

The revaluation is progressing. Most of the preliminary in-house work is complete. Viewing of houses should recommence in a week or so. When that is done it will be back to the books and calculator to establish 100% valuation for the town.

For anyone considering placing land in classified forest status, there have been quite a few changes in the law. The assessors have any information that might be needed.

There is some legislation pending that could affect the classification and taxation laws as they now stand, basically dealing with how a town determines the burden of taxation that commercial property will bear. As 95% of our commercial property consists of dairy farms, The Board's opinion is that it is in the best interest of the town not to burden the farms with a disproportionate share of taxes - not unless we want to see all our farms, our agrarian heritage, and our rural way of life disappear. More on the issue as we hear about it.

PHIL'S PICK-UP

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"MYRIFIELD"

By Pegge Howland

One afternoon in the summer of 1977 as I drove up Avery Brook Road, and just before I reached Colrain Brook Road at the top of the hill, I came upon a man posting "For Sale" signs along a stretch of woods on the right. Since we owned most of the land on the other side of Avery Brook Road (the west side except for the Perkins and Hulbert lots), my curiosity was immediately peaked. Who, I wondered, owned this land and why were they selling it. Visions of the sale and subsequent subdivision of the property around "Papoose Lake" flashed through my mind with horror. I was determined to find out without delay the answers to my questions. I was bound for a luncheon, so upon arrival I immediately queried the assembled ladies as to their knowledge of the property on Avery Brook Road and the conditions of its sale. Phyllis Kades volunteered that she thought there was "quite a lot of land" and that it was owned by the Landons who hadn't lived there for years. "Lived there," I said, "you mean there's a house in there?" Indeed, later in the afternoon Phyllis and I clawed our way through a narrow, overgrown driveway to find a huge white house almost completely overtaken by lilacs, sumac and voracious grape vines. My heart nearly stopped! I knew what that feeling meant - my sensibilities had been "seized" by the house and I was irrevocably drawn to it. Perhaps you think me silly or even crazy, but that once grand house now sagging dangerously in the middle like an old lady seemed to call out to me to help it. I couldn't resist its pleas, and vowed to save it.

Friends said the house was unsalvageable and urged us to "burn it!" My mother called it a huge white elephant, bank appraisers shook their heads in disbelief and denied the mortgage, contractors walked away in disgust, even my husband groaned at the sight of the house, but I was determined (called?). Finally, almost in desperation, I begged Paul Burrington to take a look at it. Paul stomped silently all through the house, from the leaking attic to the mouldering cellar, he jumped up and down on the rotting floors, he peered at the sagging roof lines and up the crumbling chimneys, he poked at falling plaster and finally, he broke his silence. "I think I can fix it," he said, "I'll try!" Thank God, I thought, he must have heard its cries, too!

I guess the rest of the story is (or will be) history. David and I bought the Landon house in 1977, spent four years repairing the grand old lady and moved in June 1981. We didn't make any structural changes except to remove the decaying front porch and replace a ramshackle entryway with a door frame that was hand-made by Paul Burrington. The vines and sumac have been cleared but the formal plantings of daffodils and narcissus and lilies and lupine come up faithfully each year to delight us.

Ed Calver has pretty much chronicled the history of the house in his "Heath" book so I won't go into that except to say that the oldest part of the house was probably built by Ezra Gleason around 1790. It apparently was lived in as a homestead by the Gleason, Tilden and Temple families until Dr. Grace Wolcott bought it in 1903. Dr. Wolcott was a practicing physician in Boston who pioneered the field of women's medicine and developed the concept of "occupational" therapy for the emotionally disturbed. We believe she made most of the major structural changes in the building, such as removing the huge central fireplace with its wrap-around staircase common to the style and period of the house and replacing all with a wide, straight stairway. Our research indicates she probably extended the entire back of the house by five feet, built a "modern" rope-operated elevator on the front and covered it all over with new wood shingles. We found some with Dr. Wolcott's name and address printed on the back, obviously for shipping purposes. During the renovation we discovered that the original narrow clapboard siding was still intact under the shingle, but we left everything on for warmth.

We also found a printer's die in the house which was used to imprint stationary with a view of the house and the name "Myrifield" under it. Dr. Wolcott's obituary, which appeared in the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal of Nov. 18, 1915, refers to the sanitarium in Heath as "her camp", so we think it may have been Mary Alice Robbins who named the place "Myrifield" after she acquired it in 1917.

In 1927 the property was transferred to Dortha Robbins Landon and her husband William.

Today Myrifield stands straight and tall, once again queen of all she surveys, and of course queen of our hearts.

(The ninth in a series on old houses of Heath)

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

By Chief Earl Gleason

On May 18, ten firemen rolled out of bed about 2:15 AM to respond to a request to cover the Charlemont Fire Station under the Mutual Aid Agreement. Charlemont and Shelburne Falls Fire Departments were fighting a house fire on Zoar Road. Six men spent about 2½ hours at the Charlemont Station while the rest of the men were sent home to enjoy the balance of the night sleeping.

Bob Gruen, Rick Steinbock, John Holdsworth, and Earl Gleason spent the morning of May 12 at the Rowe School presenting a fire prevention program. This annual event consisted of classes covering the "Science of Fire" and "Knowledge and Use of Fire Extinguishers", "General Fire Prevention" and looking over the fire truck. It concluded with the firemen demonstrating pumping water using various nozzles. This year's presentation seemed to be well received and the Department received several letters from students thanking us for the program.



Myrifield 1981 - Straight and Tall

HEATH PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Fred Law entered the Air Force in January 1981 and was an Honor Graduate from Basic Training in Texas. He then went to technical school at Lowry Air Force Base where he was again an Honor Graduate tied for the top of his class. He was asked to remain as an instructor and is now assigned to the 3420th Technical Training Group as Airman First Class stationed at Lowry Air Force Base in Denver, Colorado.

In May Bob Gruen and Debby Porter led a group of eight 6th graders from the Rowe School on a week's visit to Washington, Philadelphia and New York City. Those going on the trip were Vicki Thane, Jon Poisson, Anthony Lively, Lori Lafford, April Hudson, Lori Vega, Dawn Boutwell, and Sabrina Rice.

Sgt. Jay N. Sessions, son of Norman and Joan Sessions, was recently discharged from the U.S. Marines stationed at Cherry Point, NC. He is now working with his father at JM Blassberg, Inc.

Todd and Eric Sumner are cast in principle roles in "Man from LaMancha" at the Oxbow Motel June 11 and 13. Fred Burrington is the art and lighting director.

Todd Sumner will receive the Eagle Award at a Court of Honor on June 25, the highest award of the Boy Scouts.

Bob Gruen has resigned from teaching 6th grade at Rowe School. He plans to pursue an acting career and will be auditioning in New York City where he hopes to find an agent.

Luke Housner was one of ten piano students of Mrs. Chonghyo Shin who played in a recital at the Trinitarian Congregational Church in Northfield. He played Beethoven's "Two Sonatinas, No. 1."

Kenneth Crowningshield is in the Franklin County Public Hospital. He is improving but will be there for some time longer.

Melanie Poisson will be studying at the Pioneer Gymnastic School in Springfield through the summer.

Vicki Thane, who found a balloon in her yard sent from West Southport PA, received a newsy letter from the sender, Pam Chilson, who is a student teacher at Central School in Southport

MILESTONES

By Edith Royer

Sharri Marie was born to Thomas and Susan Lively on April 18.

Amy Lynn was born to Arthur and Dokmai Crowningshield on April 21. Amy is the granddaughter of Fred and Esther Crowningshield and the great-granddaughter of Mildred Crowningshield of Charlemont.

Lindi May was born to Russell and Carmen Donelson of Colrain on May 22. Lindi is the granddaughter of Luis and Eva Pazmino.

Daina Marie was born to Norman and Lisa Davenport of Shelburne on May 24. Daina is the granddaughter of Bruce and Catherine Cromack and the great-granddaughter of Hannah Burrington.

Barbara and Beverly Thompson were married on May 10 in a double wedding ceremony in the Heath Church with a reception at the Oxbow Motel. Barbara and Beverly are the daughters of Virginia Vetromile and the late Howard Thompson. Barbara was married to Peter Smith, son of Gilbert and Alice Smith. Beverly was married to Erel Blinn of Greenfield.

Mr. and Mrs. Leon Peters celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary on April 23.

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Brown celebrated their 57th wedding anniversary on May 9.

Lewis L. Nichols died on May 10. He leaves his wife the former Helen Malone, two daughters, Mary Louise and Margaret, and two sons, Robert and Alan. Alan is a resident of Heath.

TOWN CLERK'S VACATION

The office of the Town Clerk and Treasurer will be closed while she is on vacation from July 5 to July 10. It will be open as usual on July 11.

DOG TAGS

The Town Clerk announces that the 1982 Dog Tags are now being issued and can be obtained from her office. Proof of rabies shots is not presently required to obtain a license, but it is a state law that all dogs must have these shots.

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