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HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER 25¢

COMMUNITY HALL "BETTER" AND "SAFER"

by Terry Pettengill

During the past few years most of the repair work on the Community Hall has been of a non-cosmetic nature. However, with the exterior painting of the building last fall, a more cosmetic trend was started.

In August, Howard Crowningshield was contracted to install new metal front doors and a new ceiling in the front stairwell. This was a long awaited and much needed repair job. It also included insulation which was paid for from the Weatherization Fund.

The Selectmen and Treasurer had been checking fuel cost for the town buildings and found during the past year the Community Hall heating cost doubled that of Sawyer Hall. Next the Selectmen decided that since the dining room ceiling showed signs of disrepair, it would be a good time to insulate and install new ceilings in the dining room, kitchen, and in the two bathrooms which never had ceilings.

Unfortunately the bids for this job were nearly a thousand dollars over the balance in the Weatherization Fund. However, a special town meeting on September 23 voted to transfer this needed money

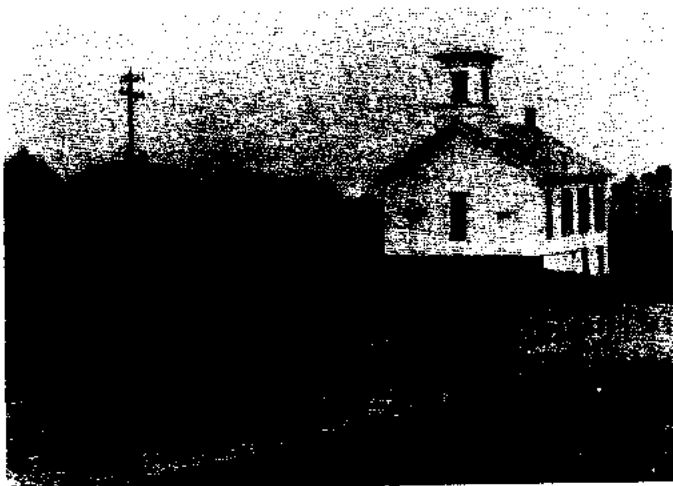
from Revenue Sharing Funds. Hopefully, if the renovated heating system is used correctly, the newly insulated areas will help to keep the heat where it is needed and not be wasted.

There is also a new draft-stopping step on the lower entrance door. Please step carefully when entering. An attractive "Community Hall" sign, which helps to identify the building, has been installed on the front. This was made and donated by John Read, and is much appreciated by the town.

The Community Hall Committee and the Selectmen have contracted an agreement with the Cooperative Parents Play School allowing the school to use the Community Hall under certain regulations. These parents are providing certain materials and labor required for the facility. The town will supply only those materials that are permanent fixtures in the Hall such as plexiglass in the three dining room doors and fire extinguishers at each exit. The Building Inspector and the State Department of Lead Paint Regulations will inspect the school facility.

All of these projects are certainly helping to make the Hall look better and to be a safer place.

One final note - Remember that any person or committee engaging the Hall for use is responsible for cleanup and trash removal before leaving.



Heath Center around 1900 showing Methodist Church on right (now the Community Hall). House to left was originally built by Hiram Buck in 1828.
(Photo from Heath Historical Society)



Heath Community Hall (old Methodist Church)
in 1982

LETTERS

To the Editors:

Concerning the article "Tyrifield" in the June/July issue of the HERALD, I would like to take exception to the slur on Mohawk Estates. Three families who live there, independent of one another, have mentioned the article to me. They are hurt and offended by the remark "visions of ... Papoose Lake flashed through my mind with horror" concerning a possible subdivision of the old Landon estate.

Regardless of how any of us may feel about $\frac{1}{2}$ acre subdivisions, Mohawk Estates is a fact. The people who live there, or own summer lots and camps, are tax paying members of our community, and their homes mean as much to them as ours do to us. We are a town, all of us together, and it serves no useful purpose for those of us, more fortunate to live here year 'round on large tracts of land, to denigrate other residents whose circumstances don't allow them that luxury.

ANNE STEINBOCK

HEATH PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Jim Coursey is now making his permanent home in Heath. He has given up his office in New York and has set up his business called "Corporate Designs" at 141 Main Street in Springfield. He is working on business interiors for the growing number of corporations in Springfield.

Alastair Maitland was the speaker at the annual meeting of the Shelburne Falls Woman's Club on October 5. The talk was entitled "Jerusalem Revisited"

HEATH PRECIPITATION

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

Precipitation in August was 1.07 inches; September precipitation was 2.81 inches. Total precipitation in 1982, January through September, was 37.13 inches. Although the past three months have been dry, the rainy June brought our nine month average precipitation to above average.

HEATH HERALD

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Editorial Staff	Pegge Howland Caroline Smith Alli Thane
Staff Reporters	Edith Royer Amy Barry
Advertising and Business Circulation Typography	John Read Terry Pettengill Newland F. Smith
Photograph in this issue	John Read

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WARNING ON DRIVING

by Police Chief Lorin S. Gowdy

I am deeply concerned over reports that a considerable number of townspeople are ignoring normal common sense and think the narrow, bumpy roads of Heath are Route 91.

Slow down and drive on your own side of the road. Your cars will last longer and your children will live longer.

Along with slowing down, here are a few more tips that will contribute to your safety and convenience.

1. Get a pre-winter tune up. This tune up should include an inspection of your electrical system and emission control devices.

2. Check your tires. It may not be enough that your tires passed inspection. Deep treaded snow tires are particularly helpful for driving through loosely packed snow; studded tires improve stopping and pulling ability on ice.

3. Replace streaking wiper blades and be sure that your windshield washers have adequate antifreeze

4. Clean your lights more frequently during the winter months to remove snow, slush, and road muck. This should include not only your headlights, but your tail lights, stop lights, and directional lights.

5. A brake that grabs or pulls to one side is a serious matter at any time, and particularly when the pavement is slippery. If you feel your car pulling to one side when stopping on dry pavement, it's past time for an inspection by a competent mechanic.

6. For an added measure of safety buy a set of tire chains and keep them in the trunk. These old standbys provide the most help for pulling through severe snow and ice.

Check your car, then double check your driving habits. Safe driving requires a little slower speed, a little extra care, and a little more common sense.

CORRECTION

In the last issue of the HEATH HERALD the article on the Historical Society incorrectly gave David Thane credit for cleaning and oiling the old guns in the museum. It was Bill Thane, his brother, who made this worthwhile contribution. We apologize to Bill for the error. At least it was all in the family!

WAGON TRAIN TRAVELS AGAIN

Carroll Stowe is organizing his third Wagon Train to be held Saturday and Sunday, October 9-10. The Wagon Train will assemble at the Fairgrounds Saturday morning and go around the old Oxbow stopping at Fort Shirley. It will then proceed up Burnt Hill to the Tripps. The night will be spent at the Fairgrounds. A Sunday trip will be made down South Road, back on Royer Road and up Ledge Road to the Fairgrounds.

Call Carroll Stowe at 337-4498 for further information.

TOWN REPORT WINS AWARD

Selectman Anne Steinbock has just received a letter from the Massachusetts Municipal Association announcing that the 1981 Annual report of Heath has been awarded second place among towns in our population category. The Town Officers are to be congratulated on this award.

THE OTHER SIDE

by Marcella R. Lively

Do you believe in ghosts? A ghost, I'm told, is a human being that died in a tragic or violent manner and doesn't realize he or she is dead. Consequently, they remain at the place of their demise trying to communicate with the living, and wondering why everyone ignores them.

I've always wondered why no one from the other side has come for them, so to speak, and shown them the way they are to go.

It must be a very lonely experience for them, and others like them on the other side, isolated from everyone and tied only to the last moment of their existence in this world. In a sense they are suspended in time and space, probably so full of fear of the unknown they know not where to go, so they desperately cling to the last remnants of what they knew.

I myself have never seen or heard a ghost but would react like most people, either fainting or even dying of a heart attack - or, if I survived, would look in my mirror to see a head of hair turned white as the driven snow!

If I could prepare to encounter my ghost, I would train myself to keep my cool and try to approach it in a sympathetic manner. After all it only wants to be a friend and needs my help desperately. I would try to converse with it, even though my hair is standing on end, and my body is tingling all over!

The first thing I would try to tell it is "Don't be afraid" and, at the same time, try to convince myself of that. Hopefully, when I'm convinced, so would be the ghost.

Afterward, I would try to find out its name, and other details of its life. For example: Were you married?; What kind of work did you do?; If that wasn't obvious by the kind of clothing it was wearing, I would ask if it remembered what it was doing at the time the Grim Reaper came with its scythe to claim it for the other side.

My last question would certainly be a shocker to my ghost and it would finally realize that he or she shouldn't be here with me.

I would then say a few peaceful things to my ghost and yes, even a few prayers to hopefully attract a good angel who might, with his lamp of love and light, help my ghost through the dark valley of shadows and on to his eternal destiny. I would probably feel quite saddened and would also shed a few tears when it was time for my ghost to depart to the other side, because in the meantime we have become good friends, something the ghost was longing for - for who-knows-how-long!

So remember this on some misty night, especially All-Hallows-Eve, or in simple terms Halloween. If you encounter a wispy, transparent character walking on the roadside, don't panic - say a prayer and calm down!

Just give directions to my house and I'll see what I can do.

Help ! ! ! ! !

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GHOULS, GHOSTS and BEASTIES

by Amy C. Barry

To look at me you would probably never guess I loved horror stories. I do not slither around under chairs, my fingernails are not very long, and only rarely do I cringe when somebody pulls up the window shade too quickly on a very sunny morning. I am, nevertheless, an incorrigible horror fan, well acquainted with ghouls, ghosts, and beasties, who prefers H.P. Lovecraft to Ken Follett and Stephen King to John Irving.

Since October is the month of Halloween, when witches and other creatures of the dark underworld wander freely on our streets, I think it is an appropriate time to discuss four books that I would enthusiastically recommend, both to seasoned horror fans and to those who might just be looking for a change of pace in their reading habits. All of these books would certainly be on my Horror Top Ten list. They are listed alphabetically by author and not in order of preference. I do promise not to tell you how any of them end.

Campbell, Ramsey The Doll Who Ate His Mother

This book would be worth reading for the title alone. Campbell is one of the rising stars of British horror and The Doll, like all his others, is set in modern everyday Liverpool where very unsedate and very non-everyday events take place. Take a bad little boy who likes to bite people, a decadent sculptor who makes odd figurines and buries them in his cellar, and a young woman whose brother loses his arm in a bizarre car accident, and you have the recipe for a most delicious Halloween treat.

Jackson, Shirley The Haunting of Hill House

Although Jackson is best known for her chilling short story, The Lottery, Haunting is probably her best work. A group of people of varied backgrounds are brought together to investigate rumors of hauntings at Hill House. The horror they find there is much scarier than any bogeyman you are likely to come across locked in an attic. The house is actually an embodiment of evil, preying upon all who come within its walls. You will not soon forget Jackson's descriptions of groaning, icy rooms; little furry creatures in the garden; and mazes of shifting corridors that never end. (continued on back page)



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THE EAST CHARLEMONT BIBLE SCHOOL

by Amy C. Barry

The East Charlemont Bible School has been in existence for twelve years, yet probably very few people in Heath are familiar with the school or its program. This year, however, the number of Heath children attending the Bible School has grown to six and the Heath School Committee in accordance with state law has agreed to provide transportation for these children. The Bible School, therefore, has a new significance for our town.

Rev. Irving Mullette is Headmaster of ECBS, and his wife serves both as kindergarten teacher and school secretary. Rev. Mullette was pastor of the East Charlemont Bible Church until last year when he resigned to devote himself to the school. The school was founded in 1971 to educate children of the East Charlemont Bible Church. In its first year the Bible School had twelve students in grades 1-7. Children of a variety of religious backgrounds began to attend and a new grade was added each year. This year the Bible School has an enrollment of 62 children in preschool through grade 12, with 18 enrolled in grades 7-12. Students come from all over Franklin County, as far away as Sunderland and Leverett.

There are presently one part-time and four full-time teachers. The preschool class and the kindergarten class are taught together in the morning by Mrs. Mullette. The first through third grades are grouped together, as are the fourth through sixth grades, and two teachers work with the seventh through twelfth grades. The school also has a music teacher. Sports are intramural with all grades playing together and the younger children learning from the older ones. French and Spanish are offered and in the past Rev. Mullette has taught Greek to interested students.

The ECBS is an accredited private school, required by state law to have its curriculum approved by the Hawlemont School Board every year. Of the five students the school has graduated so far, four have gone on to college, and one is now in her third year of Nursing at Fitchburg State College.

The purpose of the ECBS is to provide a sound academic program that is integrated with the study of Christian values and faith. This year the school is accomplishing its goals with a brand new curriculum called the ABeka System, which originated at the Pensacola Christian College in Florida. Traditional learning methods, such as drills and the acquisition of basic skills, are stressed in the ABeka System with plenty of opportunity for the development of analytical and creative thinking. Rev. Mullette said that 28 new schools in the New England area alone have begun to use the ABeka System this year.

The ECBS appears to be here to stay as a reasonable alternative to public school for a number of children in the county. The white building on the Mohawk Trail in East Charlemont may seem small and unassuming, but inside there is a great deal going on.

EARLY HEATH SCHOOLS

by Caroline C. Smith

This picture, contributed by Pearle Fanner and taken around 1890, shows Miss Mamie Maxwell and her class at the Northeast Schoolhouse which is now the home of the Housners. Miss Maxwell certainly looks as if she could readily cope with her 21 students ranging in age from six years to fourteen. Maybe the picture was taken on the last day of school as Miss Maxwell has a flower pinned on her dress and the children are all dressed up. Homer Fanner is missing from the picture because he had gone home for a handkerchief. He only had to run diagonally across the road to his house. Imagine his disappointment to find the photographer gone. One wonders who it was - in such a hurry.

As is true now, school enrollment was diminishing at the turn of the century and gradually Heath schools were closed. Many of the children in the picture came from Burnt Hill as the school there had been previously closed. Amy Kendrick who is in this picture told us how she loved to walk to the Northeast School from her house just down the lane. She said she hated to go to the Center School when this one was abandoned. Eventually of course the Center was given up too and all children went to the Branch School.

Mrs. Grace Landstrom, who taught at the Center and West Schools, remembers the six-week winter vacation when the heavy snow and cold made it difficult to conduct school in Heath, which still is not such a bad idea. She also remembers how young some of the teachers were when starting - some only 16 years old, just out of school themselves.

Perhaps the largest family of children attending the Northeast School was the Louis Lively family, with ten children, who lived in the present Steinbock house on Burnt Hill.



School at the Northeast Schoolhouse in the 1890's

Located on the east side of the old Oxbow - now the home of Richard and Marlene Housner

Teacher, Miss Mamie Maxwell

Top row: Florence Lively (Mrs. Clyde Varney), Rose Lively (Mrs. Tom Sharkey), Genevieve Kendrick (Mrs. Henry Shack), tall boy (unidentified), Louis Roberts, Cora Kendrick (Mrs. Guy Sawyer), Hazel Kinsman, Edith Barnes; middle row Ida Lively (Mrs. Stanley Clark), Albert Tanner, Halbert Dwight, Amy Tanner (Mrs. John Kendrick), boy (unidentified), Fred Tanner, Tom Leavitt, Ed Pope; front row Lewis Lively, Edna Roberts (Mrs. Dean Fairbanks), Jay Kendrick, Ralph Tanner.

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SCHOOL COMMITTEE NEWS

by Richard Housner, Chairman

School has begun and is running quite smoothly at Mohawk and Rowe. One problem that has since been remedied was school bus delays due to water in the fuel. Frank Zak has been hired to replace Vice-principal Champney at Mohawk, so both schools are now fully staffed.

Several children from Heath attend the East Charlemont Christian School. Recent court decisions have placed responsibility for transportation on the school committee. A busing route has been established for these children at a cost of nearly \$3000 for the school year. It should be remembered that this expenditure is greatly offset by lower public school enrollment. Therefore, less tuition payment results.

Principal Anita Page has announced that Rowe Elementary School has received a \$3000 Arts Infusion grant under Title IVC which will start in January. Under this program children will visit Springfield museums and musicians from the area will visit the school. Three parts of the learning process will be involved; parts of speech, capitalization and punctuation, and water and condensation. Through the orchestration of the museums and musicians, it is hoped to involve the children in these three parts of learning. The principal is also in the process of establishing a long range Planning Committee. This group will discuss future school directions. Please consider the importance of your participation and contact the school if you are interested.

On October 12 at 1:30 PM the Emerson Stage Group will perform "Robinson Crusoe" at the Rowe School. All interested people are invited. Open House will be held on October 13 from 7 to 9 PM. Parents and interested townspeople are urged to attend. In addition to open classrooms, a music and art presentation is planned.

A school store has been started under the direction of Cynthia Cole. The 5-6 class will be selling school supplies to the students and will become involved in buying, selling and banking.

The Heath School Committee will now meet on the second Tuesday of each month at Sawyer Hall, 7:30 PM.

COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL OPENS

by Catherine Nichols

The new Heath Parents Cooperative Preschool opened on Monday, October 4, at the Community Hall. For the past three years Debbie Porter, with Sheila Litchfield and later with Pam Porter, ran a play school at her home. State laws limited enrollment to six children. This year Debbie no longer wanted to have it in her home and looked into alternatives.

The parents and Debbie collectively arrived at the idea of a parent cooperative. This means that the school will be directed by the parents with an elected board overseeing. Debbie, who is fully licensed, will be hired by the parents to teach. She is assisted by a parent in the classroom and parents will be responsible for such jobs as cleaning, putting equipment away when the Hall is needed by other groups, and all other jobs required for running the school. The town will receive a nominal rental from the school for the use of the Hall.

This is a fully licensed nursery school program under all required regulations. The enrollment limit for this type of preschool is 15. Thirteen children have already signed up (12 are boys!), so a few openings remain. Children 2 years 9 months to 5 years are eligible. The school is open 8:30 to 12 on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Interested parents can call Polly Maclean at 339-4456 for more information.

There will be an open house at the school on Saturday, October 16, from 2-5 PM.

PLAYGROUND UPDATE

As was reported in the last issue of the HEATH HERALD, the playground was originally proposed to be located on the Fairgrounds. However, due to some difficulties (mainly with insurance coverage) and to the later development of the Preschool at the Community Hall, it seemed appropriate to use some town land contiguous to the Preschool play area. This would be a good piece of land for a playground when cleared. The proposal will now go to the Selectmen for approval and, hopefully, work can start on the playground in the spring.

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THE 1938 HURRICANE

Edited by Pegge Howland

The New England Hurricane of 1938 stands unchallenged as the greatest single meteorological event in the history of the region. On that unforgettable afternoon of September 21, the interplay of weather elements channeled an atmospheric disturbance of massive proportions and enormous energy onto a path that cut through the heartland of New England. Striking almost without warning and with unprecedented force, the mighty intruder snuffed out more lives, temporarily disrupted more living patterns, and destroyed more property than any other natural catastrophe in New England's history.

The hurricane made the 260 mile trip through western New England from Long Island Sound to Canada in about five hours at a speed slightly over 50 mph. Wind blasts along the immediate shoreline exceeded 100 mph on the ground, and atop Mount Washington, when the storm had already lost some of its drive, gusts reached 162 mph with a sustained speed of 136 mph.

The greatest amount of damage and the greatest loss of life was caused by the hurricane's tidal surge along the shoreline where the increase in water levels ranged from nine to thirteen feet.

The exact figures for loss of life will never be known. Contemporary figures place it at 585 for New England alone. Over 53,000 people were forced to seek emergency help and shelter. In Massachusetts, 99 deaths were reported and damage exceeded \$100 million. (From - The Country Journal

New England Weather Book by David Ludlum)

The following is a description of the storm as experienced by the Rev. Worcester Perkins and is taken from his letter to Prof. Newland T. Smith, Sr. dated Sept. 30, 1938. Worcester, an Episcopal clergyman in New York City, was a long time summer resident of Heath. His house on the Avery Brook Road, where he had left his wife and daughter on the day of the storm, is now owned by Richard Hulbert.

On the day of the storm I was on my way to New York for a funeral. The car was loaded down with household goods, and it was raining hard all morning. I left Heath about 10AM and stopped in Pittsfield for an hour to get the car greased and some lunch. At Millbrook it rained harder so I stopped at the police barracks to enquire about road conditions on the Eastern States Parkway. They said the roads were O.K., but a little later, after I had gone down the Parkway about ten miles, the full horrible blast of the hurricane struck me.

Trees began to fall all around me, and high tension wires snapped right and left. Water for long stretches of the road was well over the hub caps on the car. A tree fell just in front of me and blocked the Parkway. I turned around and drove back, trying to make another road to Hopewell Junction. I came upon another tree across the road with a car badly smashed resting under it. I got out to see if anyone was inside and the wind all but knocked me down. The driver of that car had apparently crawled out as he was nowhere to be seen. Trying to make Millbrook again, water got in my brakes and they were absolutely useless. For a time I lost four of my six cylinders through short circuits. I was plowing through water all the time. At Millbrook police told me to try to make Poughkeepsie but that road was blocked, I found

out, by a tree. The storm was getting worse and trees and wires were falling more frequently. Radio reports over my car radio spoke of horrible devastation around Charlemont, Shelburne Falls and North Adams. I simply could not proceed further, neither could I retrace my steps to Heath, so I spent the night in Millbrook with a clergyman friend. There were no telephones, telegraph or lights. The next morning I was told it would be hopeless to work my way back, so I proceeded to New York City, worming my way between trees, landslides and via detours. I finally reached the church, dumped my load, and in fifteen minutes started back for Heath at 11 AM. With detours and difficulties too numerous to mention I rolled into Pittsfield around six o'clock. There I was told that seven miles out of North Adams the entire Mohawk Trail was washed out to Charlemont, that the Berkshire Trail was completely gone, that Jacob's Ladder was impassable. Yet I still made

North Adams. There, previous reports of trails being washed out were confirmed. The havoc at North Adams was beyond description. I called the police and they said Route 116 might be open but it was highly dangerous and that I probably couldn't get from Ashfield to Shelburne Falls. I knew the Greenfield to Northampton road was impassable, so at eight o'clock under lamplight I started for Plainfield over Route 116. Dangerous was a mild word for it! Often the left front wheel missed a ditch by inches, while the right was doing the same on the other side. Gullies, bridges out, and deep crevices in the road were everywhere. After great difficulty I reached Ashfield and slowly started down Ashfield Mountain. The road was awful and at the bottom the second bridge was out. Wreckage was everywhere, so I retraced my steps up Ashfield Mountain.

It was then about 10 PM and I had been driving since 9 AM when I left Millbrook. I woke a resident of Ashfield and was told of an almost impassable back road to Shelburne Falls. This road - a dirt lane - that is all that it was - was the most treacherous of any I had traveled. Yards of mud and "thank-you-mums" were the nature of it with steep pitches and sharp banks to the right and left. How I ever got over it alive in the dead of the night I don't know, but I reached Shelburne Falls at last. I got a cup of coffee and was told that not even a horse could walk down Heath Road. Nevertheless I drove to the Avery Brook Road, and arrived at the foot of the hill at one AM. I had been at the wheel for 16 hours and was feeling ill and exhausted; so I awoke a farmer and he took me in for the night. The next morning I walked up the road. I found it almost unwalkable, and was told I had better walk up the South Road. I finally got to Mrs. Burrington's and from there a car brought me home. Only the great anxiety for my family compelled me to run the risks I did, and made me attempt the trip.

The Avery Brook Road from my house down was like the bed of a river. Dell Road to Gilbert's (Bishop Charles Gilbert) was a terrible sight. Gilbert's place was horribly damaged. He himself had been in his mill only a few minutes before it was washed away, and made kindling wood of. Water flowed six feet over his dam and the little bridge between the two houses. He lost every tool in the mill. With great difficulty he saved the white house though water flowed through the lower levels. Luckily the red house was unharmed.

PERMANENT STATUS FOR HEATH POSTOFFICE

by Marcella R. Lively

The Postal Service has sent out a proposal, now posted in Sawyer Hall lobby, to make permanent the present temporary status of the Heath Community Postoffice. Also a survey is being made to see what the people who use the Community Postoffice think of the service.

At the end of October, there will be a review of the situation. Based upon the comments received the Postal Service will declare the Postoffice permanent or else propose another type of service. The other alternative would be a Star Route with once a day pick up and delivery at roadside boxes. We would then have to use other postoffices for any other business.

BEARS AGAIN

We promised our readers a follow-up on our original bear story (HEATH HERALD June 1982) at that time having no idea how almost commonplace a meeting up with a bear was becoming in Heath. So far these are friendly bears, and they hibernate in the winter so there is no reason to jump the gun and start a campaign for a bear hunt.

To go back to May when our original mother bear and her three cubs were seen, Sandy Gilbert spotted probably the same family near her home on Avery Brook Road. As they wandered north, they stopped to feast on blueberries at the lower entrance to the Howland's and then, well fortified, were seen up at Jack Cable's cabin on Burnt Hill. Sandy, being notified by Rick Hamilton, rushed up with her camera but the cubs had climbed high in a tree and were barely visible to the lens.

From there the saga takes off in all directions. Alli Phane had not seen a bear since one appeared under the apple tree at the Branch School when her children were there, but the other day she saw a year-old cub on the Colrain-Heath line. A mother bear and her cub were seen on No. Nine Road, and another bear was almost hit in 8A near Win Warriner's saw mill. Pat Smith saw one near his house in North Heath, and Millie Decker saw one above Ken Crowning-shield's.

To close, here are two bear stories. The first is recounted by Bill Wolf and the other by Sophie Coe.

Bare Bears related by Bill Wolf

Sienna Chrisman and her father met a bear followed by two cubs while driving up Branch Hill Road near their house at the point where the old road meets Ledge Road. Sienna was telling the story of this encounter to Bill Wolf, whereupon Bill said "This is just like the story of the Three Bears". Sienna replied "Oh no, they were not real bears because they didn't have on any clothes". Whereupon, Bill replied "You mean 'bare' bears!"

Another Bear Story by Sophie D. Coe

Sunday, August 8th, was a still, overcast day in North Heath. Around noontime I went down to our bunkhouse to put some of Jack Cable's blueberries in the freezer. As I put my foot on the steps, a noise in the woods at the bottom of the field drew my attention. A single branch of a chokecherry tree was waving violently. It took me a bit of time to realize that it was dead calm, and that something odd was going on.

BEARS (continued)

"BEARS", I said, "at the bottom of the field". My husband grabbed his binoculars and we went up to the girls' room, which was our best vantage point to watch the feeding bears. Mother would stand on her hind legs, an impressive sight even at that distance. She was beautifully black and glossy, unlike the bears you see in the National Parks out west and in Tennessee. Those bears eat mostly junk food from the tourists, a diet which is just as bad for humans their fur is rusty, dull, and patchy. Heath bears have been eating proper bear food, and it shows in their fine condition.

After about 15 minutes of chokecherry eating, the family moved on, the mother loping south along the stone wall, followed by two of her offspring. We had almost decided our eyes had deceived us, and that she had only two cubs, when number three - greedy creature - tumbled out of the tree and hurried after the rest. I could almost hear the plaintive cry, "Wait for meeee!".

We wonder when we shall see our bears next, since I like to pick wild blackberries on our field walls, and my husband often wanders in the woods looking at birds and collecting insects. Alfred Godin's very useful Wild Animals of New England says that black bears "rarely attack men except when provoked, wounded, or cornered, except for females with cubs". That "except for" has us wondering!

FROM THE LIBRARY

by Edith Gleason, Librarian

With the beginning of fall we are thinking about indoor activities. Visit us at the Library and bring your problems. We will try to find a solution as we have in other cases.

I have encouraged college students to come and study in the quiet atmosphere of the Library during non-library hours. Let me know when you would like to use the Library and please leave it exactly as you found it.

During the month of October, Amy Barry is having a display of "Horror Stories" in connection with a new book review feature in the HEATH HERALD.

Story hours have begun and will continue until school closes in June. The children look forward to this hour each week. Again we need volunteers to supervise. Usually there is a story or two, then another activity such as a film strip or simple handicraft project. The older children love to help the younger ones. No particular skill is needed, so get in touch with me, if you wish to help.

Do you know how to knit, tat, crochet or do macrame or chair caning? We have had requests for someone to "show me how to do" some of these crafts. Many people are frustrated by instructions in a book, but would grasp instructions easily on a one-to-one basis. Contact me if you would like to make someone happy this way.

We have received a gift of children's books from Jean Curry Munsinger, who used to live in the present Buchsbaum house. The books are illustrated by Jean's daughter, Lynn, who is among the top illustrators of children's books.

We have also had several donations of magazines. I pass along the appreciation of the patrons who are enjoying them. Due to the rising price of magazines we had to cancel less used magazines or ask for more money. We chose the former.

We have a number of new books and extend to you an invitation to come in and see "what's new."

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

by Chief Earl Gleason

There was only one emergency call in the months of August and September. At 1:45 AM on the Monday after the Fair, we were called to the scene of an automobile accident on Number Nine Road. Three persons were transported to the hospital in ambulances from Charlemont and Shelburne Falls.

Speaking of the Fair, the EMT had no serious injuries to treat, but one EMT was called to aid a sick mule. The Department decided that they had been called to aid a few "jackasses" but it was a first time call for a mule!

On September 25-26 the Mass. Fire Academy conducted classes at the Heath Fairgrounds on Rural Water Supply. This consisted of instruction in fast loading of tankers and fast unloading of tankers. The school was concluded on the 26th with a drill. Tankers from Colrain, Rowe, Buckland, Halifax VP, and Heath moved water from the lake at Mohawk Estates to the Fairgrounds with an average flow, for a two hour period, of approximately 475 gallons per minute. Shelburne Falls supplied a pumper at the source in addition to portable pumps from Heath and Rowe. Engine No. 1 of Heath was used at the Fairgrounds at the unloading site. Heath's tanker with its new 1600 gallon tank made ten trips during the two hours. At the fill site it was loaded in an average of one minute 50 seconds, and with the jet assisted dump valve unloaded in as little as one minute 29 seconds.

On September 27 approximately 50 members of the Western Mass. Fire Wardens held their September meeting at the Community Hall. A supper was served by the Fire Association. The program after the meeting consisted of a slide show on "Plastics and the Firefighter", and a short humorous slide show by Chief Gleason.

Again as the fall and winter season approaches, the Fire Association will be cleaning chimneys. A donation is appreciated. If your chimney needs cleaning, call E. Gleason at 7-4948.

BRIDGE OF FLOWERS

A fund raising drive is now underway for the preservation of the historic Bridge of Flowers in Shelburne Falls. If you can contribute to this fund, please contact Caroline Smith at 337-4900.

PLANNING BOARD REPORT

by John Holdsworth

The public hearing on the revised zoning bylaws was held on August 5 as planned. Fifteen townspeople attended and a number of valuable suggestions were made. Further changes were then incorporated in the bylaws and they were submitted to the town attorney, the Franklin County Planning Dept., and an attorney with special knowledge of the state zoning laws (who very kindly donated his time).

On September 23, the zoning bylaws were presented at a special town meeting and were generally approved unanimously with some minor changes. In an effort to minimize costs to the town, The Planning Board will not have copies of the bylaws printed, but rather will maintain some copies with the Town Clerk to be available on request. When it becomes necessary to make future changes, these can be more easily incorporated in a photocopy than in a printed copy.

One of the most important changes to the zoning bylaws is the addition of a Table of Uses to indicate what activities are permitted as a matter of right and what activities require a special permit from the Planning Board (issued only after public hearing). This table is reproduced here:

Residential-Agricultural Uses

	Special Permit Required
Forestry	No
Sawmill	Yes
Single Family Dwelling	No
Multi-Family Dwelling	Yes
Cottage Industry	No
Agricultural Activities	No

Other Uses

Commercial Recreation	Yes
Scientific Research/Development	Yes
Disposal Facilities	Yes
Stores	Yes
Commercial & Industrial	
Activities not listed above	Yes

The next Planning Board meeting will be at 7:00 PM on October 11, 1982.

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SELECTMEN'S REPORT

by Anne Steinbock, Chairman
Heath Board of Selectmen

Important: The voter turnout for the Town of Heath in the primaries was one of the lowest in the county, certainly nothing we could be proud of. The elections are Tuesday, November 2. Please get out and vote. If you're not registered, see Town Clerk Catherine Nichols and she can register you. If you need a ride to get to the polls, call Anne Steinbock at 337-4746.

The Selectmen have joined the Franklin County Selectmen's Association. We hope to enlist the Association's help in pressuring the state to allow reimbursement for improving the roads with less than the width now required.

On September 13, Roger Smith of Charlemont made a presentation to the Selectmen on "911", the proposed emergency system. He asked the Selectmen for a non-binding letter of intent to pursue further study of the system. We agreed to send the letter, but with reservations. The Selectmen would like to hear comments from the townspeople on their feelings concerning "911".

There was a balance of \$11,415.58 from appropriations from 1982. This money will go into free cash.

Community Hall: The Community Hall is almost ready for winter. The new front doors have been installed. Six inch insulation and a new ceiling have been put up in the front entryway and stairwells. Downstairs 6" of insulation and new ceiling tile have been installed in the dining area, kitchen and bathrooms. Howard Crowningshield and his crew did an excellent job.

The Preschool will be starting the beginning of October in the Community Hall. Most of the school preparations have been done by the parents.

Highway Department: Dell Road is now tarred. It will be paved over in the spring. A combination of state regulations and the weather has held up progress. Guard rail has been placed along 1600 feet on the side of Dell Road, making driving a lot safer.

Avery Brook Road will be graded and graveled before winter formally sets in, if it doesn't set in too early.

The new sander has been ordered. The only bid received was from Graves Equipment. It was accepted at \$7,900. We hope to have it by the first week in November and trust we won't need it before then.

Ed Gulyban has finished work on the new aprons in front of the fire house. He did an excellent job which improves the appearance of the fire house.

Power Line Spraying: The Selectmen, acting as the Board of Health, issued an emergency order to Mass. Electric to stop spraying the power lines until a hearing could be held. They ignored the order. We then began legal action for a show cause hearing. The Assistant Clerk of the District Court ruled that we had no cause because, in the Clerk's opinion, the situation was not an emergency. We disagree, but feel it would be too costly for the town to engage in a legal battle. The Selectmen would welcome any comments on this matter.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

by D.F. Howland, Chairman

Recent activity of the Finance Committee has focused on problems raised by the articles for the September 23rd special town meeting.

In the last issue of the HERALD we referred to Free Cash as important to the maintenance of a stable tax rate. So, what is Free Cash? By definition it is the amount of surplus revenue over and above uncollected taxes of prior years, only on July first of any year, which is certified by the state. First, however, a town must have surplus revenue which is cash, accounts receivable and other assets in excess of liabilities. Consequently, if tax collections get substantially behind, a town can be in a deficit position. This happened last year when tax arrearages of about \$100,000 resulted in a \$4500 deficit as of July 1981. As tax collections rise and overcome the deficit, it is possible to get the state to approve a free cash figure. This money can be used, as it was in FY 1981-82, to reduce taxes this current year and to pay for equipment and annual expenses last year in accordance with state guidelines.

The Committee's concern is that real estate taxes were in arrears about \$175,000 as of July 1982. This is over 50% of the tax levy. This causes the town to borrow money, which this past year cost about \$3500 in interest, and increases the risk of not accumulating free cash in time for state approval. It is just a matter of reasonable cash inflow to meet outgo. Of course, there are other reasons why Heath has been able to keep expenses in check, such as the volunteer work on the rebuilt tanker by the Heath Fire Department. All these things help us all.

HEATH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

by Ruth Law, President

The officers and directors of the Heath Historical Society met on September 8 to plan for the coming year. The main topic of discussion was the possibility of restoring the painting of the Dr. Joseph Emerson family dated to about 1840. We had one estimate of the cost but more research will be done on the project and reported back at the next meeting on October 13.

We will all want once more to thank our former President, John Read, for his time and effort to keep the Society thriving and actively looking towards the future. Our appreciation goes to all the other officers who retired this year. The Society is anxious to add new members, so if anyone is interested please contact our Secretary, Beverly Denouden.

Our Curator, Amy Barry, and Rachel Sumner have finished proofreading the index of Dr. Calver's History of Heath and it will soon be professionally typed.

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ASSESSORS' REPORT

by Richards Steinbock

The state mandated revaluation is progressing. It looks as if our end of it will be completed sometime in late November or early December. After that, the state will take up to 16 weeks to approve it, amend it and otherwise fiddle around. We will then be allowed to set the 1983 tax rate and send out tax bills, probably sometime in April or May. This is certainly too long to wait to have tax money coming in. In the past, when we've known that bills would be late, we've made requests that people make an early payment to the town. This year, because the town needs the money and because the state allows us to do so during a revaluation, we will be sending out "estimated tax bills" sometime in October.

These bills differ from our previous "requests" in that they are a legally enforceable bill (demands, interest, etc.) and should be treated like an actual bill; i.e., they have to be paid. Bills will be sent for real estate, classified forest land, and farm animal excise (the last will be an actual bill and not estimated). Estimated bills will not be sent out for personal property. The estimated bill will consist of one half the Fiscal 1982 taxes minus any abatements and exemptions granted for 1982.

The actual tax bills will come out next spring about the time the second payment would normally be due. I believe that the computer will automatically credit the bill for the estimated payment, but details have not yet been worked out with our company. In any case, the situation is probably going to be a bookkeeping nightmare for the Assessors and the Tax Collector.

About \$120,000 is owed the town for taxes due for the past few years. This is the equivalent of a third of a year's budget. The Tax Collector sent out demands on September 22 for the '80, '81, and '82 outstanding taxes in an effort to get this money coming in. Having so much money outstanding forces the town to borrow at today's usurious interest rates. Please - If you owe the town back taxes, do what you can to pay them, or see the Tax Collector to make arrangements. It benefits us all. Remember those magic words - cash flow!

BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

by Paul Lively, Chairman

We are progressing slowly but surely. Ed Calver, in collaboration with Bob Gruen, will write a bicentennial play to be presented during the year of our celebration. The committee has given the go ahead to Steve Marcotte to organize a cross country ski race, subject to cost and availability of funds. The Thanksgiving ecumenical service for the year of the bicentennial is tentatively going to be at the Heath Union Church.

At our last meeting we heard an informative talk by Norm Sessions on his experiences as a leader of the Buckland bicentennial event a few years ago.

The committee had a float in the Heath Fair parade. We want to thank Malvin Lively for making the sign, Matthew Lively for furnishing the wagon, and Carroll Stowe for being teamster of the mule team.

Our meetings are the first Thursday of the month at the Community Hall. We invite interested townspeople to attend.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

by D.F. Howland

Approximately 20 citizens attended the special town meeting on September 23. The meeting was preceded by a hearing to listen to suggestions on the use of Federal Revenue Sharing money. As no suggestions were forthcoming, Moderator Calver closed the hearing and proceeded with the Town Meeting.

The first of five warrant articles dealt with the acceptance of \$21,377 from the state for Chapter 90 road work. The article, which also permitted the town to borrow money in anticipation of reimbursement, passed unanimously. The second article was voted to transfer \$1000 from the Revenue Sharing Fund to insulate the Community Hall.

The third article asked the town to purchase a new road sander for \$8000 using Revenue Sharing money. The Finance Committee did not recommend this since the present sander was reparable and nearly all of the Revenue Sharing Fund would be spent, leaving reserves dangerously low. They also brought out that tax collections were seriously in arrears and they thought such sizeable expenditures should be considered at the annual Town Meeting. In the discussion which followed the Selectmen stated that estimated tax bills would be sent out in October this year, which should help the cash flow situation. It was also stated that the repair of the sander would be too costly. The article then passed 11 to 1.

A fourth article was voted to appropriate \$650 to adjust the salary of the Assistant Road Superintendent.

The last article asked the town to adopt the revised zoning bylaws as proposed by the Planning Board. This was voted with some minor changes as described in the report of the Planning Board in this number of the HERALD.

CHURCH NEWS

by Amy C. Barry

On the evening of September 16, Rev. Lynn Dooley and her husband hosted a housewarming at the parsonage for the Heath community. About 25 people enjoyed fellowship, lots of home made cookies, and a guided tour of the Dooley's new home. The "warming" was completed on the following Saturday when a work bee was held to cut wood for the parsonage furnace. The wood was hauled out by Cinnamon and Nutmeg, horses owned by Mrs. Ann Carey of Rowe, and driven by Carroll Stowe.

September has been a month of beginnings for the Heath Church. Sunday School began on September 19 with David Dooley teaching the older children and Dawn Kenny and Ree Sumner teaching the kindergarten and first grades. Mrs. Dooley's sermon for the first week of Sunday School was appropriately titled "Will Our Children have Faith?". With these good teachers we are enthusiastic about this year's School program and hope to see more children participating in the coming weeks. All Heath teen-agers are welcome to join the Heath Youth Group which held its first meeting on September 22 and will meet every alternate Wednesday evening from 7:30 - 9:00 PM.

At the request of several church members, Rev. Dooley is holding a weekly adult Bible study class on Thursdays. Everyone interested in learning more about the Bible is invited to attend.

World Wide Communion Sunday was observed on October 3 with a celebration of the Lord's Supper and reception of new members. The annual meeting of the Heath Union Church was held on Tuesday, October 5.

HEATH FAIR IN RETROSPECT

by Barbara Smith

Although the 1982 Heath Fair opened August 20th in damp and cold, it did get drier but not much warmer. The entire three day fair was held under typical New England fall skies with crisp cold air. The coldest morning was Sunday when there were signs of a visit from Jack Frost. Despite the cold the Fair had an attendance of over 5000 people this year. The grounds buzzed for three days with contest activities ranging from tractor pulls to children's games.

The exhibit hall took on a new character with its tables full of home made foods and crafts. Even with the shorter than usual growing season, there were vegetables a-plenty for competition, and table after table of colorful flower arrangements.

Margaret Lively from Colrain won the Massachusetts State award for her beautiful farm produce collection.

In the horse drawing contest on Saturday, Fred Cook of Halifax VT placed first in the 2900 lb. class, with six teams competing. In the 2901-3300 lb. class eight teams competed with Fred Cook winning first place and Ray Galipo of Heath second. The 3300 lb. and over class had five teams competing. Hall & Guilford of Shelburne Falls placed first.

The Heath Fair parade rolled through on Sunday with some interesting floats. First through fourth place awards went to the "Heath Hysterical Society", The Dancing Trio, Leo Miller's antique car, and the Heath Bicentennial Committee float.

The parade of oxen - some heavy, some small - was most impressive. In the oxen draw fifteen teams competed in the youth 2400 lb and under class. First award went to Kyle Clark of Heath. In the adult 2800 lb and under class Deschene Farms of Jaffrey NH placed first out of eight. For the 3200 lb and under class the first award was given to William Clark of Heath. In the 3200 lb and over class eleven teams competed and Duane Hines of Harwington CT placed first.

HEATH AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Heath Agricultural Society will hold its annual meeting on Tuesday, November 9, at the Community Hall. An election of officers for the coming year will take place. Walter Gleason has been Acting President since Richard Hatch resigned.

LADIES AID

by Edith C. Royer

The Ladies Aid will have their Christmas Sale on Saturday November 6 from 11 AM to 3 PM at the Community Hall. Fancy articles, toys, Christmas decorations, will be for sale as well as coffee, donuts and other food items. A light luncheon will be served.

We have just started our meetings this fall. The next meeting will be on October 7. The meetings are held on every other Thursday until the first of January. More help is needed and all are welcome.

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SPOTLIGHT ON ENTERTAINMENT THE NEW "STAR TREK"

by Mal Lively

Among the many films released this year there is one that, in my opinion, is truly outstanding, "Star Trek: The Wrath of Khan". To be perfectly honest, my view of the film is somewhat slanted because I fall into a category of Star Trek fanatics known worldwide as "Trekkies". I of course loved the film.

To begin with, the entire original cast is reunited to do battle with an old foe from a Star Trek TV episode. The foe is Kahn, portrayed by Ricardo Montalban in each case. The TV episode, incidentally was entitled "Space Seed".

In "Space Seed" Kahn and his people are brought out of suspended animation by the crew of the starship "Enterprise". It was soon learned that they are a product of 20th century genetic engineering, superior beings, both mentally and physically. It gradually became apparent to Captain Kirk that Kahn and his people were conquerors who meant to rule the galaxy. Realizing this, Kirk deposits them on a harsh, uncivilized world where they pose no threat to the Federation.

This episode sets the stage for the new Star Trek film, in which Kahn takes control of another Federation starship, the "Reliant". This brings to mind another point about the film - the special effects.

In the TV days of "Star Trek" the producers didn't have a big budget to work with. Also techniques used were in an experimental, pioneering stage. There were no standards to go by, so the net result was something never before seen on TV, and at the same time not very impressive or realistic.

Today however is a different story, with a big budget and the latest state-of-the-art equipment the special effects of the new "Star Trek" provides a heightened sense of excitement and thrill. The space battle between the "Reliant" and the "Enterprise" is the highlight of the film that is not only impressive but realistic as well.

The film, however, is not flawless. There are a few spots that drag on somewhat, but the overall is very entertaining. It will make you cheer. It will keep you on the edge of your seat. You will come out of the film with a feeling of victory.

The success of the film is due to a good plot development and spectacular special effects, coupled with the nostalgic reunion of the "Enterprise" crew and the surprise ending concerning everybody's favorite vulcan, Mr. Spock. I highly recommend you see the film, if you haven't already.

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MILESTONES

by Edith J. Royer

Daniel Callen was born on August 8 to Kim and Katherine Levitch.

Rebecca Anne was born on August 12 to Walter and Dawn Kenney of Rowe. Rebecca is the granddaughter of Ronald and Ruth Corey and the great granddaughter of Ralph and Rachel Sumner.

Katasha Elaine was born on August 14 to Edward and Christine Gulyban.

Matthew David was born on August 16 to Robert and Darlene Newton of Jacksonville, VT. Matthew is the great grandson of Winthrop Warriner.

Amie Marie was born on August 20 to Brandon and Perry Peters of Shelburne. Amie is the granddaughter of Dennis and Dawn Peters.

Jonathon Richard was born on August 24 to Donald, Jr. and Carolyn Giard of E. Charlemont. Jonathon is the great grandson of David and Anita Giard, Sr.

Lara Rose was born on August 28 to William and Arlene Thane. Lara is the granddaughter of Ernest and Alli Thane.

Carl Thomas was born on September 14 to Thomas and Hilma Kuzmeskus of Topeka Falls, GA. Carl is the grandson of Clyde and Ruth Churchill.

Christopher Mark was born on September 27 to Kevin and Debbie Gilbert.

Gregory Adam was born on September 30 to Darryl and Michelle Tutter. Gregory is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Rice and of Clarence Tutter.

Jay Sessions and Denise Thatcher were married on August 14 in Plainfield. A reception was held at the Whale Inn in Goshen followed by a trip to Bermuda. They will make their home on Union Street in Plainfield.

Hilda Bailey of Heath and Daytona, Florida died on August 22. She leaves a daughter Patricia Williamson of Old Greenwich and a son Joseph C. of Riverside, CT. and six grandchildren. Mrs. Bailey and her husband had been residents of Heath for 50 years.

Evelyn Warriner died on September 5. She leaves her husband Winthrop, three daughters, Shirley Miller of Colrain, Winifred Herron of Williamstown, and Donna Mazanec of Buckland, two sons, Arthur of New Salem, and Earl of Heath, twelve grandchildren and twelve great grandchildren. The Warriners have lived in Heath for many years.

Laura Perkins died last month in New York. She was the wife of the late Rev. Worcester Perkins. They were summer residents of Heath for many years, living on the Avery Brook Road. She leaves a daughter, Nancy Perkins Goat, and two grandchildren.

GHOSTS (continued from page 3)

Stoker, Bram Dracula

Dracula is the definitive vampire story and Stoker's Count is one of the most vivid personalities ever to emerge from the literature of horror. He is not only evil, but cunning and sophisticated as well and, if you are not careful, you may find yourself drawn into the same hypnotic spell the Count casts over his victims. The book is also rich in images of unearthly appetites. Poor mad Renfield, for example, eats flies in his cell and drools hungrily over a tender kitten while the Count, in one of the more ghastly passages in the book, forces Mina Harker to drink his blood as part of her conversion to the undead.

Tryon, Tom Harvest Home

An advertising executive and his family leave New York City and buy an old house in Cornwall Coombe, a peaceful little New England village. At first it all seems so innocent, then slowly but relentlessly the terror builds. The contrast between the appearance of life in bucolic Cornwall Coombe and the dark forces actually at work there is especially horrible. I doubt if you will be able to look at scarecrows in the same way after learning the fate of Worthy Penninger and when you discover why Jack Stump has his mouth sewn shut you may wish you had left Harvest Home on the bookshelf.

As a result of reading these great horror books you may find yourself jumping up at any unusual sound or getting an uneasy feeling when you pass a scarecrow in a cornfield. You may take to draping bunches of garlic on your bedposts at night to keep vampires away. And you may also rush out and get five more scary books to read by the woodstove this winter. Horror is addictive, so do not say I did not warn you.

GIRL SCOUTS AND BROWNIES NEED LEADERS

The Brownies and Girl Scouts are still without leaders. If you can help with either of these groups, please call Rebecca Richardson at 625-2930.

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