



VOLUME 10 NUMBER 5 DECEMBER 1988/JANUARY 1989

# HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER 35¢



*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*



## TOWN OFFICE HOURS

(At Town Hall unless otherwise specified)

**Selectmen:** Tuesdays 7:30 PM  
**Assessors:** Wednesdays 7 - 9 PM

**Town Clerk & Assessors' Clerk:** Tuesdays 6:30 - 7:30 PM  
 Wednesdays 8 - 11 AM  
 (Call 337-4268 between 5 & 8 PM for appointment)  
 (No hours during Christmas school break, Dec. 24-Jan. 2)

**Town Treasurer:** Tuesday & Wednesday 9 - 11:30 AM

**Tax Collector:** Mondays 8 - 10 PM  
 Wednesdays 8 - 9 PM  
 Also call 337-4260 for appointment

**Finance Committee:** As posted

**Planning Board:** 1st Monday of month 7 PM

**Conservation Commission:** 3rd Tuesday of month

**Heath School Committee:** 1st Tuesday of month 7:30 PM

**Library Trustees:** 3rd Monday of month 7:30 PM  
**Library:** Mondays 6 - 9 PM Wednesdays 1 - 5 PM  
 Saturdays 9 AM - 1 PM

**Town Nurse:** Wednesdays 8:45 - 10:45 AM  
 (call 625-2829 between 7-8:15 AM for appointment)

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

**Transfer Station\*** Saturdays 9 AM - 5 PM  
 \* (Branch Hill Road, opposite Town Garage)

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

## HERALD STAFF IN TRANSITION

During this period of transition, in which several members of the HERALD staff are turning over their duties to new volunteers, we welcome the help and assistance of the following people.

Arlene Markert has quickly mastered the intricacies of our word processing computer program and has prepared practically all of the articles for this number. Buck denOuden has been very helpful in rounding up reports from our various town departments. Karen Brooks and Cindy Rice have contributed several interesting stories. David Gibbons has been active in proof-reading and editing for this issue. Also Dick Hulbert has contributed a good story from abroad.

We look forward to more assistance of this type to help continue with publication of the HERALD. Only one other key position needs to be filled and that is a person who can devote sufficient time to coordinate the overall paper. Anyone interested in this activity should talk with one of the staff members as soon as possible.

Comments and suggestions from our readers are always welcome. Don't hesitate to write to the HERALD with your thoughts.

## ON THE MEANING OF LIFE

Robert McAfee Brown, of Heath and Palo Alto, was one of some forty "wise men and women" who contributed their thoughts on the meaning of life in an article in the current issue of LIFE magazine. Bob's thoughts relating to Ralph Sumner are well expressed in the following paragraphs:

"Ralph Sumner died the other day, full of years (80 plus) and wisdom (dairy farmer, cabinet maker, church-goer, member of the local road crew, dowser). When we laid him in the ground there were some tears, but there was also a lot of gratitude for the joy he had spread around folk of Heath MA. Ralph's death made me think about my life.

"I believe we are placed here to be companions . . . We are here to share bread with one another so that everyone has enough, no one has too much and our social order achieves this goal with maximum freedom and minimal coercion. There are many names for such sharing: utopia, the beloved community, the Kingdom of God, the communion of saints. And while the goal is too vast to be realized solely on this planet, it is still our task to create foretastes of it on this planet - living glimpses of what life is *meant* to be, which includes art and music and poetry and shared laughter and picnics and politics and moral outrage and special privileges for children only and wonder and humor and endless love, to counterbalance the otherwise immobilizing realities of tyrants, starving children, death camps and just plain greed.

"But I expect Ralph Sumner now sees it more clearly than I do."

## HEATH PRECIPITATION

by Ralph Dickinson

Observer for Mass. Resources Commission

October precipitation was 3.93 inches; snowfall was 2 inches. November precipitation was 7.59 inches; snowfall was 1 inch. The total precipitation for 1988 to November 30 was 44.89 inches.

October rainfall was about average. Only twice in the last 22 years have we had more rain in November. This will help raise the ground water before winter sets in. Usually we have had more snow in November.



## HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

VOLUME 10 NUMBER 5 DECEMBER 1988/JANUARY 1989

Editorial Staff	Pegge Howland Caroline Smith
Editorial Assistant	Alastair Maitland
Staff Reporters	Beverly denOuden Edith Royer Susan Silvester Alli Thane
Advertising	Ray Pettengill
Circulation & Business	Terry Pettengill
Typography	Newland Smith

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



## ARMISTICE DAY IN FRANCE

by Richard Hulbert

[Editor's note: As noted in the last number of the HERALD, Dick Hulbert of Avery Brook Road volunteered to contribute to the paper from time to time as our "Paris correspondent." He plans to be in France for another year where he runs the office of his New York law firm.]

As a visitor to New England or upstate New York soon discovers, a common feature of even the smallest village (although not, so far as I know, of Heath) is the monument, usually on the village green, commemorating the young men of the village who lost their lives in the Civil War. In terms of the population of the country at the time, that war was much the bloodiest in our history, and one is often astonished that a village with so small a current population could have made such an enormous sacrifice.

For France, the equivalent, even after the intervening Second World War and the fighting in Algeria and Vietnam in which France engaged thereafter, remains the First World War. In the four years 1914-1918 France, a country then with a population hardly one-sixth that of the United States today, lost 1,400,000 dead, another 800,000 who survived the war gassed or crippled, and still a further 3,000,000 who had been wounded. The armistice at 11 a.m. on the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918 thus brought to an end a carnage the like of which France had never seen before and surely hopes never to see again.

November 11 this year was the seventieth anniversary of the Armistice, and several thousand Frenchmen in their 80's and 90's who fought in the war are still alive to recall it. It was a bright sunny day, not characteristic of French weather in the late fall, and Dorothy and I took advantage of the day and the fact that an acquaintance of mine is the mayor of the village of Fontenailles to visit that town and witness the annual ceremonies of commemoration.

Fontenailles is a farming village in northwestern Burgundy about 100 miles from Paris and some 20 miles from Auxerre, the nearest town of size. It lies in rolling country reminiscent in that respect of western Massachusetts, but very different in that much the greater part of the land is stilled cleared and still farmed - the soil is better and the climate milder -, although the rural population of France has greatly declined in the last 50 years and indeed continues to do so. The village now counts 81 inhabitants. The one-room school, which occupies part of the building that also contains the office of the mayor, was closed several years ago when the primary school population fell below the minimum of eight required to keep a local school open. The town consists essentially of a single street running down a steep hillside, lined on either side by stone houses. Like Heath center, it has no commercial establishment.

The celebration of Armistice Day in Fontenailles is a joint enterprise with the neighboring village of Molesme. The ceremonies, which began in Fontenailles and continued at Molesme, were led by the mayors of the two towns, each in his tricolor sash of office. The participating crowd at Fontenailles, apart from two American visitors, consisted of seventeen residents, including one 90-year-old veteran of the war. We gathered in the sunlight in front of the mairie and then were led inside to the small office of the mayor. He read a speech written for the occasion by an official of the central government. The speech was no longer

the glorification of the victory in 1918 that it must once have been, but rather mingled regret for that bloody past with the hope for a better future. The mayor followed his speech by turning to the plaque on the wall dedicated "aux enfants de Fontenailles morts pour la France" and solemnly recited, one by one, the names of the five men of the town killed in the First World War and the one resident killed in the Second.

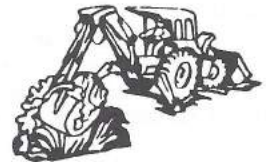
The assemblage then straggled on foot up the village street in a disorderly and peaceful parade to the cemetery at the top of the hill. Like most French cemeteries it is walled, and although the view from it over fall foliage of yellow, muted orange and reddish brown to more distant country can stand comparison with the view across to Burnt Hill from the South Cemetery in Heath, the walled enclosure deprives one of that close sense of nature that one has in a New England cemetery.

The gravestones in a French cemetery tend to be family rather than individual memorials, and as usual in a small town half a dozen surnames predominated in the cemetery of Fontenailles. The tombs of the residents of the village who had served in the French army in wartime were each decorated with a small French flag. It is a commentary on the history of Europe in the last century and a half that more than a fourth of the tombstones bore these bright markers. The procession moved along the rows, pausing before each marked grave while the mayor pronounced the name of the veteran, and the bearer of the banner of the "anciens combattants" (former veterans) of Fontenailles and Molesme dipped the banner in salute.

The ceremonies of the day concluded with a mass in the village church of Molesme and similar ceremonies in the cemetery of that town.

My aunt Winifred Hulbert, whose kindness 30 years ago to a young lawyer and his wife in Brooklyn and their then two small children introduced us to Heath, spent part of the First World War in Europe as a young woman and was present in Paris on that first Armistice Day. It seemed fitting that we should be participating in the seventieth anniversary of it in a small village in France whose tranquillity mocked the pretensions of man that lead to war.

### Shepherd Excavation



Rte. 8A, Heath, MA

(413) 337-4215

### Gilmore and Watters INSURANCE AGENCY INCORPORATED

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



## HANGING TOGETHER OR SEPARATELY

by Alastair Maitland

"To see if the Town will vote to unite with some other Towns to employ a Superintendent of schools." So reads Article 21 on the Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting held March 5, 1900. The Warrant is written in the fine clear hand of a local scribe, who may have been Hugh Maxwell, Town Clerk.

In 1900 the Town had evidently come to recognize that, so far as schools were concerned, it could no longer go it alone. And so the Town was reaching out for a regional solution. Eighty-eight years later the town is, once again, exploring a regional arrangement, at the elementary school level. At the secondary school level regionalization has been in place since the mid-sixties.

Regionalism and Cooperation Education is not the only field in which the Town has chosen - or has felt obliged - to resort to a regional or cooperative approach to a particular problem. Amongst the more obvious examples are the now abandoned Heath-Hawley-Charlemont landfill and the Franklin County Cooperative Building Inspector Program. Others are the long-standing mutual aid arrangement with neighboring Towns for fire protection and last May's Annual Town Meeting decision to join the Cooperative Plumbing and Gas Inspector and Cooperative Wiring Inspector Programs. At the same meeting the Town laid the basis for an Emergency (Ambulance) Service District comprising Heath, Rowe, Hawley and Charlemont and prepared the way for the Town's use of the Massachusetts Recycling Facility.

Perhaps the most significant and far-reaching action, in a regional sense, that the Town has taken in recent years was the 1984 vote to join the Shared Administrative Assistant Program, along with Colrain, Shelburne and Buckland. Susan Wright's appointment was seen by some principally in terms of the assistance she would (and did) bring in procuring various forms of State aid. But its true and lasting value lay rather in the pooling of knowledge amongst the participating Towns as each separately grappled with problems common to all. We wisely chose to remain in the Program last May, when we joined with Hawley and Charlemont in sharing the services of Katherina Condon.

At a different level, and less well-known but no less noteworthy for its political and symbolic significance, was the Town's participation in the 1982 "Road Rebellion," a Shays-type uprising against the State's blinkered refusal to ease up on its standards for rural roads.

The County Just as the Towns have come to recognize and accept that there are some things they cannot effectively or economically do for themselves, for lack of human or financial resources, so the County has been moving in the direction of identifying and intervening in those areas where a common service can more efficiently, as well as more economically, help to meet local needs.

A key development was the appointment in 1971 of a County Planner. The winds of change were being felt throughout the County. Dairy farms were succumbing to increased regulation and to the consolidation of the milk industry. Locally-owned businesses were yielding to national conglomerates. And the completion of Interstate 91 had opened the flood-gates to unmanaged and often unwise development, to which Heath did not remain immune. The County Planner responded by mobilizing funding for a wide range of studies of the County's environmental and planning needs and by oversee-

ing the writing of zoning bylaws for many of the Towns. Meanwhile, the County Commissioners, acting under a Federal Executive Order as the Regional Planning Agency, had created a Planning Board to advise and assist them. The Planning Board became a clearing house for regional issues. And the County began to serve increasingly as the advocate in Boston for local and regional needs.

The next major development came in 1980. With the passage of Proposition 2 1/2, the Legislature relinquished its absolute power over the budgets of the Counties, which had evolved to the point where they were no longer merely the local agents of the State. That power was given to an Advisory Board on County expenditures, made up of the chairpersons, or their representatives, of the Town's Boards of Selectmen. A formal link was thus established between the County and the municipalities. And, while the County Commissioners could propose, it was the Towns, through their Selectmen, who disposed. Their votes on the advisory Board were weighted in such a way as to reflect their Town's respective over-all property valuations, a formula seen by some as essentially undemocratic.

Before long this devolution of budgetary authority began to prompt questions in Franklin County and elsewhere about the functions and structure of County government. The County Planner proposed, and the Commissioners and Selectmen on the Advisory Board agreed, that a review should be carried out to see what improvements were possible within the existing legal structure of County government. This led, in 1983, to an administrative reorganization, with the appointment of a County Administrator and the creation of four new service departments: the County Purchasing Agent, to serve the Towns, School Districts and the County itself; a County Engineer, for highway engineering services previously provided by the State Department of Public Works; a Community Services Coordinator to assist Towns on projects and in grant-writing; and a County Assessing Consultancy.

Charter Commission Two years later, in 1985, the State Legislature enacted a law calling for the establishment of a Charter Commission to determine whether County government "could be strengthened (and) made more clearly responsible or accountable to the people or whether its operation could be made more economical or efficient" under a revised Charter. This legislation had been initiated by Barnstable County and had been broadened to include Franklin County at our County Commissioners' request.

The proposal for a County Charter Study Commission was voted upon in November 1986. It had been endorsed by a large majority of the Selectmen and others involved in local government, and was duly adopted.

It was the report of that Commission that was the subject of Question 5 on last November's ballot. Like the other hill Towns Heath voted against (181-129). The bulk of the smaller towns in the valley voted for. County-wide the tally was 15230 against and 13578 for.

The report itself was a flawed document, the bitter fruit of a debate within the Study Commission that was bedeviled by political maneuvering and no small measure of obfuscation and misrepresentation. Our own district representative on the Commission, George Riggan of Rowe, declared himself unable either to endorse it or to reject it. He himself would have preferred to leave things essentially as they are except for the assignment of legislative authority to the County Commissioners.

Where do we go from here? For the time being the initiative may lie with the Legislature, which is not a stronghold of pro-county sentiment. The prospect ex-



ists therefore of some emasculation of County government as we presently know it. Regionalism may be pursued through alternative mechanisms, such as Districts, which would not necessarily be co-terminous with existing administrative boundaries. The aim would be to evolve ways and means of dealing with problems lying beyond the administrative capacity of the Towns but which it would be inappropriate and retrograde to entrust to the State.

But what do we ourselves think? The trend towards regionalism is undeniable and of long standing. Heath is not an Arcadian oasis but part and parcel of an ever more complex society. Most Heathens now earn their living outside the Town. So it will be in our interest to strengthen and improve the kinds of regional and cooperative ventures that we have already embarked upon. County government, which is scarcely a government in the accepted sense but rather a service and consulting organization, can be made to be an effective partner. Perhaps we shall be better served, as citizens, by an infusion of greater accountability into the County structure. Direct elections to the Advisory Board, rather than by way of Selectmen's elections, could provide for this and might at the same time help to broaden the Board's horizons. And there is certainly a case to be made for revising the formula for the weighting of the Board members' votes.

We all have our parts to play. We can begin by speaking or writing to our Selectmen and our County Commissioners and our State legislators.

[Editors' note: In preparing this article Mr. Maitland drew upon historical material on Franklin County written for The Recorder in 1986 by Mr. Thomas Luck, a member and until recently Chairman of the Franklin County Planning Board.]



## AT HOME IN DELL

by Beverly denOuden

One of the homes fast by the roar of Dell waters belongs to Frank and Ann Rocchi. Their home is approximately 200 years old and they have been steadily renovating and remodeling the interior since moving in in August of 1984.

Frank and Ann were living on the Cape and were becoming dissatisfied with the rapid development and congestion of the area. Heath was the answer to their wish for a more peaceful life.

Frank transferred from a Cape Cod office of the Department of Public Welfare to the office in Greenfield. The process of retraining and relocating people in the workforce is a source of real satisfaction for him.

Ann's career interests fall along similar lines as she is now working part-time for the Franklin County Home Care. Her particular focus is in training and placing the older worker. She also recruits employers in the area who might have job openings suited for her clients.

The Rocchis' two young daughters, Amella, 3 1/2 years and Alice, 2 years, have gotten themselves involved in the Preschool in Heath Center. Ann is a member of the Park Commission, as well, and is currently immersed along with other Commission members in preliminary preparations for the Annual Ski Race.

## ON LEAVING HEATH FARM

by David R. Huisjen

*It sure wasn't much to look at, at first -  
just a tumbled down place in the hills,  
But it came back to life with a beauty its own,  
a refuge from cold cities' chills.*

*Apple blossoms in spring, the lilies in summer,  
some iris, hydrangea - we cared for them all.  
Black berries, raspberries, cider apples in autumn,  
a rich garden kept bearing 'till the deep frosts  
of fall.*

*I had never thought about selling the farm.  
The planting and mowing and painting would last  
the rest of my lifetime, and maybe my children's.  
Our place for reunion, though years may go past.*

*The farm was a home where I taught my children  
some of the skills and values my parents taught me.  
Now we've all grown older and life moves us onward.  
It's hard to leave Heath, tho' good reasons we see.*

*Parts of this farm will go with me from here -  
good memories way back in my mind.  
These years have been blessed by children and friends,  
who found peace here and shared love in kind.*

\*\*\*\*\*

A special thank you to all our neighbors, especially the Fred Lively and Buck denOuden families for help and friendship over these fourteen years.

D.R.H.

[David Huisjen recently sold his house and land on Number Nine Road and has moved to Kalamazoo, Michigan.]

## HEATH AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY NEWS

by John Henry

The Agricultural Society met on November 14th. Officers for the coming year were elected and they are as follows: President, Michael Peters; Vice Presidents, Mary Smith, Conrad Halberg; Secretaries, Kathy Wilkins, Doug Wilkins; Treasurer, Karen MacDougall.

Please give them the same support you have given the past officers of the committee.

In case you have not heard, we have begun a monthly raffle! It is a 50/50 split purse; that is, the winner will get 50% of the total sold and the Agricultural Society will get the other 50%. No more than 200 tickets will be sold each month, so the percentage paid out and the odds are much better than any of the state lotteries!

The first raffle drawing was on November 30, the winner being Norma Baxter of Jacksonville VT. The next raffle has already been started, with tickets selling at \$5.00 per chance. The drawing will be held on January 31, 1989.

Tickets are on sale at Peters Store or from any committee member. It's a nice way to contribute to the fair and who knows, you may be the one to win!

We would like to again encourage everyone to attend our meetings on the second Monday of each month. At the very least, please give us your suggestions and ideas for next summer's fair.



# FAMILIES OF THE OLD HEATH OXBOW

## Part I

[The following account has been extracted from an article written by Pearle Tanner for the *Greenfield Gazette* in 1929. The Oxbow Road, now officially known as Hosmer Road (renamed by a selectman in the 1940's for the only year-round resident of the time, Dr. Helen Hosmer), loops north of Colrain Stage Road at the Fairgrounds and at the east end returns to the Stage Road at Swamp Road, making a complete bow of about four miles. It was once the location of a number of households whose only presence is now marked by the stone cellar holes. The north end of the Oxbow, passing by the site of Fort Shirley, is not maintained and is now only passable on foot or on horseback.]

The houses that are or were situated on the Oxbow Road yield a host of pleasant memories to all who are inclined to listen. Beginning at the four corners where Mr. and Mrs. O.F. Tanner live [Silvester] which was the house where Silas Allen resided when he first came to Heath in 1791. Wm. Fisk lived in this Tanner house for some time. Arad Hall was also an occupant with his large family. He was a great tall man, 6 feet in height; his wife was "comfortably stout" but not quite six feet around; she was a Fisk.

Arad Hall had a rake shop that stood on the west side of the road by the brook between Newland Smith's and the Tanner place, and did an extensive business there; he would go into the woods and cut the ash lumber himself, split them out and shave them down and down until they were smooth as could be. Sometimes he used walnut. The shop was moved and is the building west of the Tanner's [Silvester] house. Frederick Tanner (father of Oliver) and his father, John, moved into this house in 1865 and for a time both the Halls and the Tanners resided there. Most of the time since the place has been the home of some members of the Tanner family.

The Deacon Taft place was the first one north from the aforesaid four corners; it was built in 1812 presumably by Dea. Taft. It is still a fine old house; now owned by Prof. Newland Smith of Charleston, S.C. It has two big square chimneys with several fireplaces. Mr. Smith has restored the original old brick oven, and the room is furnished with such articles as hand braided rugs etc. to help the old time effect.

The upstairs rooms were stenciled in an over all pattern rather like a cosmos blossom in the days before wall paper was generally used. In one room, on each side of the fireplace, was a big urn stencilled, filled with conventional flowers, and it made a most pleasing decoration to the attractive room. Dea. Sullivan Taft (1781-1865) married Sarah Flagg, a daughter of Phineas Flagg, a revolutionary soldier. Dea. Taft was one of the founders of the Baptist church and was prominent in affairs of the town. He represented the town in the General Court in 1845 - he was a "resolute, industrious, respected Christian gentleman."

Austin Tanner, a brother of Oliver, bought the place when he was married and moved here. This Taft place has been in the Tanner family since, until Mr. Smith bought it for a summer home in 1921. Last summer, 1928, Mr. Smith took the barn down and expects to have an old fashioned garden on the spot.

Horace McGee lived here [after Taft] for some time but later moved to the Center to the Old Red House [site of Sawyer Hall] where he kept store.

The schoolhouse of this northeast district [presently the house owned by Richard Housner and sold by the Smiths to Dr. Helen Hosmer in the 1940's]. used to

stand farther north near the lane that leads to the Sessions place.

What we call the Gleason place [on the site of the present Cohen/Ginsburg cottage, opposite the Bakalars'] was next on the main road and this was always considered the very best dwelling anyone could desire. The first point of excellence was the wonderful old flat door-stone, found there on the place; it was at least five feet wide by 10 or 12 long. We understand it is now down at the brick Kendrick place [Gudell] as a piazza floor.

The underpinning of the house was flat stones stood up edgewise and the bricks laid also to keep out cold.

The very best lumber was used, and the finishing was beautiful; some of it was in black walnut. The pantry shelves, a foot and a half wide, were of birds-eye maple. It was a most pleasant sight to see the beautiful and priceless old willow ware dishes on it.

The window sills were of wood and all four or five inches thick. The newel post and the hand rail of the staircase in the hall were a thing of beauty and its equal was never seen in these parts. The land had all been cleared by Will Gleason's grandfather [Earl Gleason's great-grandfather], Capt Wm. Gleason, and it became a very productive farm; it kept 15 cows, two pairs of horses and two yokes of oxen and lots of young stock. They often made 100 pounds of butter a week and shipped it to Boston.

It seems such a calamity that such a splendid residence was allowed to fall into decay, but it was, and 20 or 25 years ago the house was taken down. Part of it was used in Ernest Payne's barn when he remodeled it; it is now in the possession of H.S. Tanner.

Next beyond the Gleason place was that of Lovel Cook [now on the property of the Markerts'] known as the Higgins farm. Lovel Cook married Bendanna Stacy; her brother Morris and a sister Idella lived there with them and went to school. Later Mr. and Mrs. Cook went west. This place was burned and the family was not able to save but very little so fierce were the flames.

The Kendrick place [now Guddell] was northwest of the Cook farm and is just about in the bow of the Oxbow. The place is now the summer home of Miss Helen Hosmer of the Albany Medical College. The old house used to stand east of the present brick one; this one was built by Wm. Kendrick.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Kendrick moved to Shelburne Falls a number of years ago and all of their children live there.

Part II of the OXBOW story will be concluded in a future number of the HERALD



## BEFORE AND AFTER

Feel Young Again

The difference from before and after chiropractic treatment is like night and day. If you are suffering from back pain don't delay. Call us today.

Chiropractors . . . We Can Help

**SHELBURNE FALLS  
CHIROPRACTIC OFFICE**

Dr. Michael A. Boyle

10 Kratt Avenue • Shelburne Falls, MA • 625-6359





## PLANES MAKE LANDINGS IN HEATH

A small plane with engine sputtering and gliding unusually low over Police Chief Guy Silvester's home attracted his attention on Saturday, November 12. He and his neighbor, Robert Markert, quickly followed it up the Colrain Stage Road in the police cruiser and found that it had made an emergency landing in Lucianna Ross' long field at the top of the hill next to the cemetery. The State Police who were alerted also came quickly to the scene.

The pilot, James Nardi of West Brookfield, was on a training flight with his student John Dowd of Worcester. The plane, a Tomahawk II, had developed engine trouble which proved to be a blown cylinder pushing out the hood on the side. Fortunately no one was hurt in the landing.

The next day a mechanic from Worcester arrived with replacement parts which he installed in almost freezing rain, and the plane was flown away on Monday in better weather.

This field has served as an emergency landing for a number of planes over the years. Having a length of over a quarter of a mile and reasonably smooth, it is one of the few places that a plane can safely land in the area. Clarence Cutter also had a landing field in Heath on Royer Road where he kept his own plane for a number of years.

A few weeks before another landing was made in Heath by a helicopter. Fortunately this was not an emergency but only a friendly visit by Charles Gilbert of New York who dropped in to see his aunt and uncle, Caroline and Newland Smith. The 'copter made an easy landing beside the Smiths' garage. Chad Gilbert, who is a pilot for Island Airways in New York was on a charter flight to bring a visitor to Eaglebrook School in Deerfield. While waiting for his passenger before returning to New York. Captain Gilbert and his 1st Officer, Bob Kent, came over for a pleasant visit in Heath.

Chad is the son of Martha Gilbert and the late Frederic Gilbert who spent many summers at Dell in Heath and also at the present Smith house.



Plane Makes Safe Landing  
(Staff photo)



Helicopter Visits Smith Place  
(photo by Bob Kent)

## 1989 CROSS COUNTRY SKI RACE

by Beverly denOuden

The Heath Park Commission is engaged in the preparatory work for the annual cross country ski race scheduled for Sunday, February 5th. The trail grooming is underway and affected land owners are being contacted for permission to pass over their properties.

Peters General Store will be a major sponsor this year with additional contributions coming from Avery's Store, the Charlemont Inn, McCusker's, and the Shelburne Falls Supermarket.

The race has increased in size each year in its brief history and the Commission is anticipating a large turn out again. Registration is expected to begin at 10:30 AM at the Community Hall. As usual there will be posters and detailed publicity as the race date draws nearer.

There are many ways to help with this community event so if you wish to contribute time and talent contact Judy Thrasher, 337-5327.

### BRUCE A. CROMACK

General Carpentry  
Restoration a Speciality

Burrington Road

Tel: 337-4350

### HEATH AUTO SALES & SERVICE

NUMBER 9 ROAD

HEATH, MASS 01346

Next to Peter's General Store

OFFERING QUALITY AUTOMOBILES

SERVICE AND USED CARS & TRUCKS

OFFERING FULL LINE SERVICE

24 Hour Road Service

HEATH AUTO SALES & SERVICE

NUMBER 9 ROAD HEATH, MASS

TELEPHONE 337-8485 or 337-4977

(Clip and save)



## ELECTRICITY THE CLEAN WAY

by Cindy Rice

When building a home in a rural town such as Heath, one of the major financial expenditures is getting electricity to your building lot. Bill Lattrell and Maureen O'Malley of Colrain Brook Road built their home in 1979. At that time it would have cost them twenty thousand dollars to have poles placed and wire strung to their home. Instead they opted for solar panels. The system they installed cost them about six thousand dollars and, after their federal and state tax rebates, their cost was two thousand eight hundred dollars. The federal government no longer gives tax credits on installation of solar devices; however, you can still get a percentage of your cost back in tax credits from the state.

Today the Lattrell-O'Malley household has eight solar panels made of silicon chips on their roof. Together they cover an area a little larger than a four by eight sheet of plywood. Sunlight enters the panels and in a process known as photovoltaics is converted into electricity. Photovoltaics is the name given to the process whereby sunlight, which is energy, enters the silicon chip and excites the chip into discharging electricity.

The electricity then enters the home through a meter which measures the amount of power in storage. If the storage bank is full, the system won't accept more. The meter also has a digital readout showing how much power is available for use.

After passing through the meter the electricity is stored in six batteries. The batteries composing the storage bank look like regular twelve volt car batteries and function the same way, but they have a twenty-four volt storage capacity. The cost of each battery is around one hundred dollars, and the bank's life expectancy averages ten years.

When electricity leaves a battery it must leave as Direct Current. To power household appliances electricity must be in Alternating Current. In this system the DC leaves the battery bank and goes to the inverter which changes it to AC. The inverter loses some power in the conversion process, so Bill has set up two separate wiring systems. One carries DC to the light bulbs which are made especially to run on DC. The other path leaves the inverter and carries AC to the household outlets.

The solar system that Bill and Maureen have in their home is amazingly simple and clean. The meter and inverter take up the space of a fuse box and the battery bank sits on a cupboard shelf.

This system supplies the electrical needs of a family of four. Bill has a woodworking shop and runs his power tools with no problem. The battery bank has the capacity to store enough electricity to last for five days. The family is conservative and is always aware of the meter reading telling them what they have available in storage. Their television can be run off a twelve volt car battery if the meter shows the bank is low or if they know rainy days are ahead. November is one of the toughest months because it has the lowest average of sunny days. If they get a stretch of bad weather there is a gas generator to power a battery charger which can then fill the battery bank.

Today the Japanese have invented a new silicon chip for the purpose of photovoltaics that is much smaller than the ones in use. They can produce eighty percent more electricity with the same size panel. Every day the technology for storage of electricity gets more advanced and the size of batteries needed to store it decreases while efficiency increases.

Bill is chairman of Heath's Conservation Committee and next spring will be receiving his master's degree in Environmental Sciences from Antioch College in New Hampshire. Within the next two years the family plans to install a low-head hydro power system. Bill feels that as his family and business expands he will be in need of a computer and more electricity. This new system will provide them with a constant source of power and supplement their existing system.

The home's water comes from a gravity feed spring up the hill from the house. This same spring will run the hydro system. This low head hydro system will produce electricity with a stream of water falling a vertical drop of less than fifty feet.

Financially it is nice to not be beholden to the power companies. But more importantly the Lattrell-O'Malley family and others like them are not contributing to the strain that producing electricity in large power plants is placing on this planet's environment and its resources. Hopefully, as technology advances and people become more aware of the cost and convenience of alternate energy sources, there will be less reliance on the old ways and a new, cleaner Earth. I know that the Lattrell-O'Malley family is not only saving a lot of money, but also has a clear conscience about where their electricity comes from, and they have power during an outage!

## PASSENGER SAFETY/OCCUPANT PROTECTION

by Sharleen Moffatt, R.N.  
Heath Town Nurse

This month the students at Rowe Elementary School in grades four through six will be completing a unit entitled "It's Up To You!". We are one of six pilot programs across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Our unit began with a pre-test that asked for our thoughts on seat-belt use and general questions regarding passenger safety. In November we viewed a new film that was developed for these grade levels by the Massachusetts Passenger Safety Program. The program objectives were to make pre-teens aware of the importance of seat belt use and to correct misinformation concerning their use. The final portion of this unit will take place shortly, when we will take a post-test. Hopefully this will point out all that we have learned as well as explore new attitudes surrounding the issue of passenger safety.

Some of the interesting things that were pointed out in the film were: The fact that one in three people will be seriously injured in a car accident in their life; Most car accidents occur at less than 40 mph, within 25 miles of home; In order to figure the force of impact, you take your body weight and multiply it by the miles per hour and that gives you the pounds of pressure on your body at the time of impact. We all learned a great deal through this unit, and hopefully we will all work toward developing better habits of occupant protection when riding in a car.

If anyone wishes a copy of the curriculum guide or other information, please feel free to contact me at the school. REMEMBER: as of August 1987 Massachusetts state law requires that anyone 12 years old and under be fastened in a properly adjusted safety seat or seat belt. This is a primary offense. That is, any officer can pull you over and if your child is not restrained you can be fined. The fine for non-compliance is \$25, which can be waived if proof of a child safety seat purchase is given.



## PETER BROWN PUBLISHES NEW BOOK

Peter Brown's new book "Seasons of Light" was recently published by Rice University Press. "Seasons of Light" is a book of photographs with accompanying stories by Peter as well as poems and an essay by Denise Levertov. Peter's photography explores the mystical role that light plays in establishing objects in a space. He spends part of his summers in Heath and some of the photographs and stories in the book were inspired by his times here. Such is the adjacent photograph entitled "Summertime."

Peter now lives in Houston with his wife, Jill, and is an Assistant Professor of Art and Art History at Rice University.



**SUMMERTIME**  
from "Seasons of Light"  
by Peter Brown

## ELECTION '88

by Alastair Maitland

As Heath goes so goes the County. Or vice versa.

The November 8 poll showed that the Town had marched in virtual lock-step with the rest of Franklin County, voting identically and, save in two instances, with remarkably similar margins, in the Presidential and Congressional contests, the Franklin County Commissioners and Clerk of Courts races, and on a range of referendum questions. As for the Presidential contest, one prominent Democrat in Heath said, "In spite of the vote of Heath and Massachusetts it was a 'mudslide' for Bush." The two anomalies were the Congressional elections, in which the incumbents' (Kennedy and Conte) respective shares of the total vote in Heath were 8 and 4 per cent lower than the County figures.

As for voter turn-out the County-wide figure was 83.8 per cent. In Heath 83.2 per cent (or 346) of the registered voters went to the polls. It was doubtless the local referenda rather than the Presidential marathon that sparked such voter interest.

New names in the County's political cast of characters are Peter Webber (R), State Senator for the recently formed district of Franklin, Berkshire, Hampden and Hampshire Counties; Margaret Striebel of Gill and Gregory Wells of Conway, who became County Commissioners; and Doris Doyle, who succeeds Helen Pekenla as Clerk of Courts.

On the referendum issues Heathens cast their heaviest vote (296, or 85 per cent) against the proposal to regulate the treatment of farm animals, which was rejected County-wide (83.5 per cent) and State-wide (71 per cent). The Town also voted (207-96) against the SDI or Star Wars and (202-136) against the proposed shut-down of the Rowe Yankee and Pilgrim nuclear power plants. The nuclear referendum had been on the ballot in nine Congressional districts and 63 Towns in Franklin, Berkshire, Hampden, Hampshire and Plymouth Counties. In Rowe itself 17.5 per cent of those voting on this issue cast their ballots in favor on the shut-down.

The referendum on the Franklin County Charter is discussed in a separate article.



**NORTHERN PRODUCTS  
LOG HOMES**

WILLIAM J. O'CONNELL  
Representative

P.O. Box 41, Colrain Brook Rd., Heath, MA 01346  
Telephone 413/337-8588

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

Route 2 Mohawk Trail

Greenfield, MA

24 Hours Movies

Phone 772-0298



TRUCKING • EXCAVATING

**J. M. BLASSBERG  
CORP.**

NORMAN R. SESSIONS  
President

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

Gordon E. Taylor d/b/a



### BLACKMER INSURANCE AGENCY

R. E. Blackmer

On the Mohawk Trail

Joseph J. Judd

Shelburne, MA

Marion J. Taylor

Tel: 625-6527



## SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT

by Budge Litchfield, Chairman

We have a new school committee member! Frank Brower was appointed to fill the vacancy created by Skip Veneri's resignation. Frank and his wife Sharon have 2 children in Rowe School and Frank himself is a teacher at Greenfield High School. Frank will be our town's Mohawk representative. He also will be attending as many Rowe School Committee meetings as possible. Linda and I look forward to working with Frank and will, in fact, enjoy sharing some of the work-load with him.

Staffing, space and accreditation have been the big issues at Rowe School this fall. After well over a year of hard work, the accreditation team from New England Council of Schools and Colleges visited Rowe school during mid-October. Their report will not be available for a few months yet, but when it arrives it should provide information about the relative strengths and weaknesses of Rowe School. This information can then be used to help with the on-going process of making a good school even better. Twice during the month of November, teaching staff, administrators and school committee members have met to discuss staffing and space issues for the 1989-90 school year. It is very important that these discussions be well under way before the budget process begins. On Thursday, December 8 at 7 PM, parents and community members are invited to Rowe School for further discussion of staffing and space plans for next year. We hope to see you there. The Heath and Rowe School Committees will both meet on Thursday, December 15 at Mohawk, Heath at 6:30, Rowe at 7:30.

The Heath Public Preschool continues to run smoothly. Residents of Heath are quite fortunate to have such an effective and well-equipped program being offered, free of charge, right here in our own town. Head Teacher Pam Porter reports that there are a few openings, spread the word. This is an opportunity not to be missed.

We have a new face among our central office administrators. Rick McInerney has begun work as our Director of Special Education. Mr. McInerney has worked in special education for a number of years. We wish him luck as he embarks on a challenging and vitally important job.

By the time you read this you should have received a report from the Heath Long Range Educational Planning Committee. A Special Town Meeting was to be held on Dec. 6 to vote on the recommendation (detailed in the report) to form a Regional School District Planning Committee. If approved by the town meeting, that committee would explore and later report to the town on issues relating to the formation of a Regional School District with Rowe. At the same time the current Long Range Educational Planning Committee will continue looking into other, mainly non-regional, options for providing education for our children. If you have any questions or comments about future educational plans please contact a member of the Long Range Educational Planning Committee.

**BED & BREAKFAST**

Y'ALL COME

**Forest Way Farm**

Heath, Massachusetts

Route 8A

413-337-8321

## PARENT TEACHER PARTNERSHIP FORMED AT ROWE SCHOOL

by Karen Brooks

Seven parents, two teachers and Principal Paul Swem turned out for an initial goal-setting meeting of the newly formed Parent Teacher Partnership at Rowe School on Tuesday, November 15. Ideas for involving parents school-wide were examined and an immediate goal was set of establishing a "room-parent" and a "resource-parent" for each class by the beginning of January. These volunteer positions will assist the teachers in utilizing the many varied resources available in our communities. The general feeling was that this would be a positive venture and lead to further establishment of better communication and cooperation between parents and the school and that parent involvement would enrich the program to the benefit of all (children, teachers and parents). A questionnaire is being sent to all parents in Heath and Rowe to establish a network of available volunteers. The next meeting will be at Rowe School on December 8 at 7 PM to be followed by an informational meeting on the fiscal outlook for next year's staff and classroom needs. For more information contact Karen Brooks 337-6614 or Veronica Smead 337-5389.

## MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL SCHOOL NEWS

by Tanja Davin, Senior

With the first quarter over, students are becoming comfortable with their classes. Fall sports are over and winter athletics have yet to begin, so for the moment there is a lull in the activity at Mohawk. All of the sports teams had a very good season, though some did exceptionally well. The girls' field hockey team made it to the Western Massachusetts Finals and were champions of their league. Both cross country teams were first in their leagues. The girls' cross country team won the State Championship in November!

The Middle School Musical "Singin' in the Rain" began Friday, November 18, and was a huge success.

The senior class has decided to wear all blue for their graduation this year and students have been fitted for their caps and gowns already.

Students and faculty alike are making plans for the upcoming holidays. Merry Christmas, everyone.

### Richard A. Sumner

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



**Briar & the Rose**

Lingerie & Fine Clothing  
by Catherine Nichols

Wooden Furniture  
by Alan Nichols

Salmon Falls Market Place  
Shelburne Falls, MA

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



## HEATH PRE-SCHOOL

by David Schwartz

The children have been learning about the world around them and having lots of fun at the same time. There was a field trip to Avery's store which led to the setting up of a store within the classroom. After a visit to the polling booths on election day there was a vote as to which story to have back at the classroom. Of course, Halloween was an exciting time of making jack-o'-lanterns, trick or treating and getting dressed up in costume. The open house was a big success; many came and enjoyed the storytelling of Claire Green, a preschool teacher from Wendell. Finally, Thanksgiving preparations and celebration kicked off the beginning of the holiday season.

There are events occurring that will have a significant impact on the future of the Heath Public Preschool. A long range planning committee, of which head teacher Pam Porter is a member, has been looking into the possibility of creating a regional school district for the towns of Heath and Rowe. A special town meeting took place on December 6 at 8 PM to vote on whether to appoint a regional planning committee to study this matter further. It should be noted that this is a vote to appoint the committee not to approve the actual regionalization.

Sue Regan, the program coordinator for the preschool, reports that this is a crucial time for the future of early childhood education in our area. The Office for Children (OFC) is holding public forums across the state on public schools and childcare; educators, officials and interested community members are all being invited to attend. OFC, together with the Department of Education, will look to these forums when making decisions about funding programs. Sue emphasizes that this is a chance for people in our community to talk about how the preschool program works for them and to really improve the chances for continued funding. The forum for our area will take place December 14 from 6 - 9 PM at Soldiers' Home, Cherry Street, in Holyoke. If you are interested in attending contact Sue at 339-4781 for information on car pooling. A large turnout for this meeting is essential for the continuation of the public preschool!

Happy Holidays!

## LADIES AID CHRISTMAS SALE

by Edith C. Royer

We held a very successful Christmas Sale on November 6, making about \$600. I would like to thank all that helped in any way.

We will be closing for the winter after December 15 and starting again in April. We hope to see you all then.

**LYLE H. HALL, INC.**

Colrain, Mass.

**BUILDING LUMBER**

**HARDWOOD & SOFTWOOD SLABS**

## NEWS FROM THE ACADEMY

by Olga Peters '94

The Academy's school year has started productively. Much progress has been made on the school building at the new campus. This has been done with the generous help of Academy parents and friends.

The soccer season was quite successful. All teams did very well and played their best walking away with many wins and a good time.

The annual road race was held in early November in very good weather. Cool enough so that one didn't melt but warm enough so that one didn't turn solid either. People didn't just run this year. There were bikers, roller skaters and of course the ones who just walk and enjoy the scenery.

To raise money for the sports program this year the Academy tried something new. We had a FREE carwash!

Now here's the catch.

Before the day of the carwash students collected sponsors' pledges. Each sponsor agreed to pay a fixed amount for each car washed. It was a great success. Through the course of the day the Academy washed 166 cars.

Thank you to all who helped us.

December 8 is the Academy's Christmas concert. The students are awaiting the day with great excitement. I'm sure it will be a lot of fun!!

See you next time!

## MOHAWK SEVENTH GRADE NEWS

by Benjamin Steinbock

It's been an exciting first semester here at Mohawk. I'm sure everybody had opening day jitters, and it took us all a couple of days to know our way around and get to work, but we're fine now. Our first two dances were a great success and Booster Day was really fun. So, all around I think everybody enjoys Mohawk.

## FRANKLIN-WARE

— SHELburne FALLS —

Fuel Oils  
Propane Gas  
Coal

Heating Supplies  
Gas Appliances  
Burner Service

## CARLISLE WALLCOVERING

PAPERHANGING & INTERIOR PAINTING

MICHAEL CARLISLE

413-625-9733



**BALD  
MOUNTAIN  
POTTERY**

STONEWARE & PORCELAIN

Sarah Hettlinger  
South Rd. Heath, MA 01346 (413)337-4496  
Salmon Falls Marketplace  
Shelburne Falls, MA (413)625-6353



## by Susan Silvester

This year a special mid-winter musical presentation will be held in January at the Rowe School in lieu of the regular Christmas concert. More information will be forthcoming after the holiday.

Seniors: Tanja Davin (High Honors). Juniors: Tina Demech (Honors). Sophomores: Brian Sackett (Honors). 8th Grade: Valerie Belval, Joel Porter-Devries (Honors). 7th Grade: Betsey Silvester (High Honors), Jennifer Gilbert, Shawna Hyytinen, Benjamin Steinbock (Honors).



**OPEN DAILY**

## by Val Belval

[Editors' Note: Heath participants in the Middle School Musical were Joel Porter-DeVriese as Don Lockwood and Jason Peace as a policeman; support cast included Angellia Almeida, Jaime Hyytinen, Emily Nichols, Barbara Purington, Ann Shattuck and Cathy Toupence from the Rowe Elementary School and Betsy Silvester as a member of the stage crew from Mohawk.]

~~~~~

Charlemont • 339-4915

## Soft Serve Yogurt



## HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

by Susan Silvester, Secretary

On Saturday, October 15, 1988, the Rowe and Heath Historical Societies sponsored their annual hike, traditionally held during the Columbus Day weekend. The day dawned crisp and clear as a group of approximately twenty people gathered at the town common early in the morning for a ride with Cleon Peters on the school bus to the top of Flagg Hill.

Hikers carried lunches and miscellaneous provisions for the half-day excursion. The woods were beautiful in October. Leaves crackled and twigs snapped underfoot as the exuberant band of marchers conquered Catamount. Miss Russell of Colrain, a local expert on the history and topography of the Catamount area, led us to the most breathtaking view of the whole river valley. Sprawled below were the familiar ribbon of highways flanked by the glistening Deerfield River, tiny farms with fields just harvested and acres of peaceful woodlands, orange, red and yellow in the autumn sunlight.

The rest of the hike was lovely, but could not compare to that magnificent view from the high ledges of Catamount. We saw the marker commemorating the first flag to be flown over an American schoolhouse and lunched on the shore of McCloud Pond. The trek down the other side of the mountain to Colrain was an easy one; Cleon was waiting patiently in the ubiquitous yellow school bus to return the tired hikers to Heath for the conclusion of yet another successful annual hike.

In mid-November the Board of Directors met to discuss the restoration of one of the society's most valuable holdings - an oil painting entitled "Mrs. Spooner at the Age of 93 Years" painted in Heath in 1871 by P. S. Harris. The Williamstown Regional Art Conservation Laboratory has given Curator Pegge Howland estimates of \$435 to repair the frame and a price range from \$450 to \$510 to restore the painting to its original state. It was decided to go forward with just the restoration of the painting at this time.

Our President, Michael Coe, and his wife Sophie were once again in Venice, Italy, for the Thanksgiving holidays.

The Heath Historical Society wishes you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy holiday season!



**Shelburne Falls, Mass.**

Overlooking the Glacial Potholes.  
Come experience Mole Hollow -  
an unusual store in an unusual setting  
**OPEN 7 DAYS 10-5**

## CHURCH NEWS

We trust that everyone had a "HAPPY THANKSGIVING". The Lord has truly blessed this country, and there is much to be thankful for. As we look back over the past two months we have seen God working in our church. We welcomed six new members into our fellowship. Our musical celebration and Thanksgiving eve hymn sing were a success, and we are busy planning for future events.

Now as we approach Christmas, we are rejoicing in the celebration of Jesus' birth. This is a time of sharing and giving to others. This past month we distributed love loaves to some members and friends of the church. What a joy it was to collect these loaves and see the wonderful response. So far, \$297.93 has been collected and will be equally divided between World Vision and Good Neighbors. Thanks to all who donated to these worthy causes.

The church is excited about December. Many activities will be happening. As of December 4 there will be a time change in our service. Worship service will begin at 10:00 PM and Sunday School will begin the same week at 9:00 AM. All are invited to join us. On December 11, at 4:00 PM in the church, the Gather 'Round Singers will be starting our evening with special song. This will be followed by a Living Creche, Christmas carols and the lighting of the Christmas Tree at the Historical Society. Refreshments will follow at the Community Hall. On Christmas Eve at 7 PM we will have a Candlelight Service. Come and worship the Lord with us.

May the peace of God be upon you this blessed Christmas season. Have a healthy and happy New Year in 1989.

God's Love,

Pastor Roger Peace, Rhodesa & family.

## BILL WOLF'S "BENEDICT ARNOLD"

Bill Wolf's new book and first novel "Benedict Arnold; a Novel" will soon be published by Paideia Publishers of Ashfield. Seymour Itzkoff, the head of Paideia Publishers, also published "The Book of Heath". Bill has been researching Benedict Arnold for a good many years and it took him two years to write the story. He says "There is a story behind the story - it's the story of everyone of us, of how we deal with good and evil in our lives and in the lives of others". Bill has also been researching a book on General Heath and gave a talk on him at the Bicentennial Pot Luck Supper in 1985 which was a defense of this controversial character. Bill's new book promises to be both educational and a spy thriller.

## CHARLEMONT TV, INC.

*Zenith*

Sales & Service

High Street, Charlemont

Tel: 339-6685

*K.R. Jeweler*

17 Chapman Street • Greenfield, Ma. 01301

*Watch & Jewelry Repair*



## SPECIAL TOWN MEETING With Round Table

by HERALD Staff

A well attended special town meeting held September 14 had only four articles on the warrant. However, it took an hour and a half before the meeting could be adjourned to start on the Round Table discussion which the Selectmen had scheduled.

The first two articles were routine transfers between town accounts. The last two were more controversial causing lengthy discussion. Article 3, to transfer the balance of the Bicentennial Account, some \$2800, to pay for part of the tri-annual revaluation cost, prompted a motion to pass over the article. The reasons for this motion were: (1) that it was important for the town Bicentennial Committee to complete their project of publishing a record of the Bicentennial events of 1985 as originally planned and that these funds should be used for that purpose as originally intended; (2) it was recognized that the Selectmen, in taking these funds, had indicated that the same amount would be put into the next annual budget but that it might not be voted in view of other pressing needs at the time; also (3) if the money was needed for the Assessors' revaluation before next May's annual meeting, it could be appropriated directly with the amount appearing above the 2 1/2 levy limit. After a half hour of discussion with arguments presented for and against, the motion to pass over the article was voted with the suggestion that the Selectmen ask for regular progress reports on the work of the Bicentennial Committee.

The last article asking for a transfer from the Stabilization Fund of \$16,000 to purchase a new pickup truck also caused much discussion when it was pointed out by Treasurer Linda Marcotte that the amount could be borrowed at a lower interest rate than the same amount would generate if held in the Stabilization Account. An amended motion to borrow for this purchase for a three-year period was defeated after the Moderator voted, breaking a 14 to 14 tie vote. The original article was then voted without dissent.

The town meeting was then formally adjourned by Moderator Doug Wilkins and a Town Roundtable Meeting called to order by Chief Selectman Walt Gleason. However, due to the late hour, a majority of the townspeople left the meeting at that point. School Committee Chairman Budge Litchfield had given an account of the Rowe School situation prior to the start of the Town Meeting while waiting for the Moderator to appear. He presented the problem of growth in the Rowe Elementary School and explained the three alternatives that are available. The main practical solution is the establishment of a regional elementary school with Heath and Rowe.

Selectman Art Schwenger reported that the Board was considering setting up a separate Board of Health and that it was planned to have a vote on this at the next annual town meeting. He also reported on the status of the transfer station and announced that the design approval was expected momentarily from the DEQE. A funding grant application for the closing of the old landfill has not yet been approved.

Planning Board representative Helen Mackie reported that the Board is still reviewing the proposed revised zoning bylaws. She indicated that more input from interested citizens is needed and that the Board would welcome more participation in their regular weekly meetings.

Fire Chief Earl Gleason reported on the numerous activities of his department including the work on an evacuation plan and training activities. He furthermore drew attention to the problem of driveways in town to buildings that would prove inaccessible to fire engines in case of emergency.

Karen Brooks, speaking for the Community Hall Committee, pointed out the number of building improvements that had been made this year with the hope that outside painting of the building could still be completed this fall.

## POLICE REPORT

by Guy Silvester, Police Chief

This has been an extremely busy season for the Heath Police Department. There have been numerous incidents of breaking and entering, vandalism and thefts. I would strongly recommend that all residents of the Heath community maintain tight security. All homes and especially outbuildings should be locked and secured at all times. Please be cognizant of unauthorized trespassing and report any suspicious behavior to the Police Department immediately. If you suspect that a building has been broken into, call the Heath Police Department at 337-4901.

Within the past few months we have responded to several motor vehicle accidents. As winter approaches and with it more difficult travelling conditions, please drive carefully and wear seatbelts.

In mid-November the Department responded to an emergency landing of a two-seater Piper Tomahawk II aircraft caused by engine failure. The men in the plane were extremely lucky to land safely in the large field near the Heath fairgrounds.

## BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE PLANS PUBLICATION

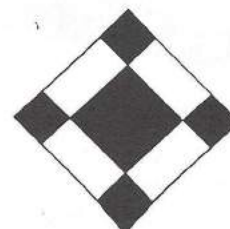
Chairman Paul Lively of the Heath Bicentennial Committee has announced that his Committee is still intact and that they are now proceeding with plans for the publication of the complete records of Heath's Bicentennial events held in 1985.

After some question as to the status of the Bicentennial Committee and the balance of the town funds in their account, which was resolved at the Town Meeting on October 25, the Committee is now in the process of making specific plans for this important publication. A printing quotation has been received indicating that such a book can be printed within the amount left in the account. More information on these plans will be available after the first of the year.

### Howard Crowningshield

Building & Remodeling

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



WOODEN QUILTS  
TO WARM THE SOUL

**NARY A STITCH**  
SPECIAL ORDERS WELCOME

HELEN J. MACKIE  
HEATH, MA 01346 - 0026



## SELECTMEN'S REPORT

by Art Schwenger

The Board of Selectmen have been quite busy on a variety of issues since the last report. Considerable effort has been spent acting as the Board of Health. The Selectmen are currently exploring mechanisms for establishing a separate Board of Health and expect to recommend some action to the Town by spring.

The Highway Department has been hard at work and Ray Galipo reports that we are ready for winter. The new 3/4 ton pickup truck has arrived and is in service. The grader transmission is repaired. By May we should be able to uncross our fingers.

The Selectmen and the Shared Administrative Aide, Kathy Condon, have been pursuing the elusive highway funds promised after the floods of yore. Kathy, Ray Galipo, Walt Gleason and Dave Howland travelled to the State Highway Department in Northampton on December 2 and came back with some new information and strategies. There is still hope that what was promised will still be available.

Work on the transfer station continues. We still hope that the retaining walls and pad will be in place very soon, the electric hook-up completed and the compactor positioned and operating before winter sets in. In the meantime, residents are reminded that the only legal time for leaving trash is on Saturdays.

The Selectmen have been participating in the organizing of Greenfield Community College's Municipal Management Institute, a program of workshops and technical assistance for officials of a number of small towns including Heath. Our effort is to make whatever training or information is provided relevant and accessible to Heath officials.

## FROM THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

by Karen MacDougall

The elections are finally over for a while! The registrars and constables put in some very long hours this year. The State mandated that the polls be open for 13 hours for all State elections and we had three this year! Thanks to these people for all of those hours. As many of you know, we had lines for the November election. A total of 346 people voted. After the polls closed all the ballots had to be counted so I thank everyone that counted, even the registrars who had been here all day.

The question came up several times during the year as to why we are now voting at the Town Hall instead of the Community Hall. Again the State has said that ALL voting places must be handicap accessible. The Community Hall does not meet the requirements because the door downstairs is not wide enough. We who are working all day at the polls do enjoy the Town Hall because it is warmer and more cheerful.

We also have new book shelves in the upstairs office area. Thanks to Ken Stetson for building them and to Newland Smith for staining. I think we may be able to put the old books up out of the way. Thanks guys.

I will not have office hours during the schools Christmas break, December 24 to January 2.

Merry Christmas and a Peace-filled New Year.

**LARRY'S**  
*of Shelburne Falls*

CLOTHING

FOOTWEAR

## PLANNING BOARD REPORT

by Bob Dane, Secretary

The revision of the Zoning Bylaws is progressing well. We are reaching the end of the first draft, and we should be ready to set a date for the first public hearing by the end of December. Notices for the public hearing will be posted at Sawyer Hall and Peters Store, and advertised in the Greenfield Recorder and the Heath Herald. Copies of the Revised Zoning Bylaws will be available for inspection in the Library.

In the past two months we signed four plans of land as not needing approval under subdivision regulations. These were for land owned by Paul Lemelin, John Roethel, Robert Rode, and Gerald Ethier.

We held a public hearing for a request for a special permit by Peter Toupen to operate a used car sales and repair business in the garage north of Peters Store, formerly Stephen's Garage. Fifteen people attended the public hearing. The main concern was that the parking problem be properly addressed. The Planning Board granted the special permit with conditions restricting the number of vehicles allowed on the premises at one time, and the storage and disposal of waste.

## FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

by Bruce Cromack, Chairman

We are back to full strength with the appointment of Charles Mackie to fill the unexpired term of Dave Howland.

At the October 25th Special Town Meeting the voters decided not to use the Bicentennial money to help pay for the state-mandated property revaluation. It is possible that we can have our free cash certified by the time the assessors need this money. Until that time we have no money.

It was voted to transfer money from the Stabilization Fund to buy the new pickup truck. It is our hope that with your help at the annual meeting in May this money can be replaced in the Stabilization Fund.



**The Baker  
Pharmacy**

**YOUR REXALL STORE**

Tel: 625-6324

Week Days 8:30AM - 9PM

Saturdays 8:30AM - 6PM

Sundays & Holidays 9AM - 12 Noon

52 Bridge Street

Shelburne Falls

**QUALITY CARS & TRUCKS**

**SILVESTER'S**

**SAAB CARS AND PARTS**

**Colrain Stage Road Heath, MA 01346**

**413-337-4491**

**FOR SALE**

**Interstate Megatron**

**Car & Truck Batteries**

**Rated #1 by Consumer Report**



## ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT REPORT

by Kathy Condon

Working for the towns of Heath, Hawley and Charlemont as Shared Administrative Assistant to the Selectmen is one of the most interesting positions I have ever held. The variety of projects are challenging my skills and helping me develop new ones.

Town government and the way it operates affects each and every one of us on a daily basis; e.g., Are the roads safe? Are the schools up to standard? Is the town's money being administered properly?

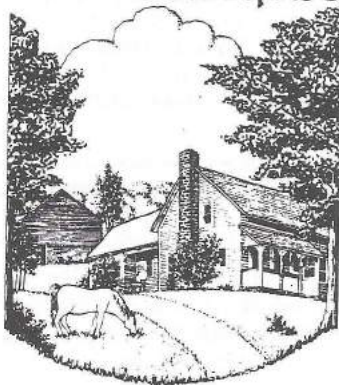
The hard work, determination and boundless energy of the full-time, part-time and volunteer staff, make me realize why so many of the small towns are able to operate successfully on such small budgets. The enthusiasm of just one person on a project can be very encouraging and often contagious. Heath seems to have a wealth of people willing to give of its time.

The Heath Selectmen in particular work well with one another and have developed with me a plan of action for several important projects. The most current and visible is the completion of the Transfer Station. The Department of Environmental Quality Engineering (DEQE) has given their approval and construction has been started by Heath's own highway crew. DEQE has indicated that grants may be available in the future to possibly defer some of the construction cost. We are still waiting to hear from DEQE about the \$440,000 Landfill Capping Grant. News should be available at the beginning of December.

Some of the other projects we are currently working on include obtaining the \$72,957 of funding promised by the Federal Highway Administration for the '87 flood damage; separating the Board of Heath from the Board of Selectmen; hiring an auditor; investigating the possibility of an Energy Grant for the Community Hall; and investigating the creation of a new numbering system for the homes and buildings in Heath. In the event of an emergency this would assist the fire-fighters and policemen in identifying the location easily.

If you have any questions or comments regarding any of the above projects, I can be reached at 339-8474. My office is based in Charlemont. I hope that everyone has a safe and happy holiday season.

**PEN Y BRYN**  
**BED & BREAKFAST**



ROUTE 8A  
JACKSONVILLE STAGE ROAD  
HEATH, MASSACHUSETTS  
JOHN AND NANCY CLARK

TEL: (413) 337-0683 OR (212) 316-2977

## HEATH CONSERVATION COMMISSION

by Bill Lattrell, Chairman

As expected the autumn months produce a flurry of applications in an attempt to complete projects before old man winter arrives. Unfortunately, most of these applications were received in late November, and will not be processed until the month of December. This will undoubtedly curtail some projects until spring. December, January, and February are generally good months for spring Notice of Intent and Request for Determination submissions. Early planning means an early start for those of you who are planning projects that may involve, or be within 100 feet, of water bodies, swamps, streams, or bordering vegetated wetlands.

In October the Heath Conservation Commission reviewed a Request for Determination submitted by Matthew and Cynthia Perry of Colrain Brook Road in Mohawk Beach Estates. The project was determined to have no significant effect on the nearby stream. In an unrelated matter the Commission also issued an emergency certificate to the Perrys for the repair of a failed leachfield.

Also in October the Commission approved a Notice of Intent filed by Homer Bouchard of No. 9 Road. His project involved building a house and installing a septic system within 100 feet of a bordering vegetated wetland. The proposed system was well beyond the 50 foot minimum distance from a wetland.

Another Request for Determination filed in October by Charles Gary Cooley of Westbrook Drive, Mohawk Beach Estates, was determined to have a potential wetland effect. Mr. Cooley then filed a Notice of Intent, and the initial hearing was held in November. Mr. Cooley withdrew the Notice of Intent in late November, reserving the right to submit a modified proposal at some later date.

The Commission initiated an enforcement process for wetland violations against Lamore Logging and Jeffrey Silva of Rowe Road. The logging operation caused severe stream bank degradation, and no Forest Cutting Plan had been submitted. The operation then fell under the jurisdiction of the Wetlands Protection Act. Lamore Logging and Mr. Silva are being required to file a full Notice of Intent, hire a professional forester to prepare a restoration plan, and correct the damage. This process was the result of action by a conscientious citizen of Heath who reported this severe damage. The Heath Conservation Commission thanks this individual for the information.



### WOOD STOVES

From Box Stoves to Cook Stoves!  
Also Mini-Furnace and Coal Stoves!

### OFF SEASON PRICES

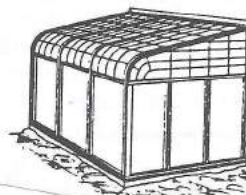
• Fire Place Doors & Accessories

### GREENHOUSE SUN ROOM

3 styles - unlimited sizes

As Low As

\$1,995. 6' x 8'



**POTPOURRI** STOVE  
SHOP

MOHAWK TRAIL, SHELBURNE, MA.  
MON-FRI 9AM-5PM

625-9279



## FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

by Chief Earl Gleason

Responses made by the Department are as follows: On October 21, twelve firefighters responded to a chimney fire on Avery Brook Road. Halloween evening eleven firefighters responded to an illegal burn on Avery Brook Road. The next morning at 4:45 fifteen firefighters responded to a structure fire in a bedroom on Sumner-Stetson Road. Firefighters quickly extinguished the blaze with fire damage only in room of origin and some smoke damage in the rest of the upstairs of the house. The cause of the fire was determined to be an overheated radio set on the carpet. November 2 saw one EMT and a firefighter assisting the Charlemont Ambulance at Deer Run Path with a man who had fallen off a roof. Although not considered an emergency run, two private vehicles with Fire Department radios responded on November 4 to a hunt for Mark Branch. They patrolled North Street in Shelburne Falls from about 10:30 PM to 3:30 AM. Again on November 11 we responded to a reported basement fire on Sumner-Stetson Road. Fourteen firefighters found that a faulty oil burner had caused the basement to fill with smoke. On November 12 a small plane came down safely in Ross' field. No emergency action was needed but the Police and Fire Chief did surround the area with barrier tape to keep the public out. Another non-emergency call was on November 18 for two firefighters to assist a man, returning from the hospital, from his car to his house.

Don Emerson, Walt and Glenn Gleason completed a four evening course on Multiple Company Operations. The Mass. Fire Academy course was offered at the Charlemont Fire Station. Two drills were held during the last two months at our own station as well as two Fire Association meetings.

It might be of interest that the Department has made more runs this year than other years. We have responded to 36 emergency calls this year, passing the 32 which we made a few years ago. Sixteen of the calls were for medical emergencies. Seven calls were for structure fires of which two buildings were lost, one had damage to one room and the other four with minor or no damage. Congratulations. We have had only four chimney fires in 1988 so far. Let's keep up the good work. The rest of the runs were for brush, auto, Mutual Aid or two rekindles. The results of the many hours of training showed up as we could have lost all seven of the structure fires. The two we lost were lost before we arrived.

Have a safe and happy holiday and a New Year free of fire and medical emergencies.

## COMMUNITY HALL NEWS

The Hall Committee will hold its annual holiday craft fair Saturday December 10 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. There will be a variety of tables consisting of Ladies Aid, textiles by Nan Gibbons, blown glass by Bob Dane and "Sons and Daughters of Hawley" to name a few. There also will be pictures with Santa, hot coffee, tea and cocoa and tag sale tables.

If you would like to rent space, call Dolly at 337-6680 or Karen at 337-6614.

There will also be a baked goods table to benefit the Hall. If anyone would like to donate something call Karen, Dolly or Debbie at 337-4351.

If anyone is interested in renting the hall for a special event or occasion call Debbie at 337-4351.

See you at the Craft Fair!

## PERCS, PERMITS AND TRANSFERS

### Percolation Tests

On November 22, 1988 the Selectmen, acting as the Board of Health, voted to limit percolation tests to the months of April, May and June effective January 1, 1989. This ruling follows a vote earlier this fall to discontinue percolation tests for the remainder of 1988.

### Building Permits

Wendy Luckhurst, Modoc Street, demolish/replace 1-family; Charles Miller, Burrington Rd., 1-family/garage; Paul LaBrie, Flagg Hill Rd., storage shed; Robert Gruen, Main St., foundation repair; James Lively, Number Nine Rd., shop/kiln; Gladney Ross, Colrain Stage Rd., storage shed; James Gleason, Colrain Stage Rd., barn; John Sandell, Number Nine Rd., demolish shed/new addition; Bernard denOuden, Number Nine Rd., garage/shed/barn. Total: \$236,280.

### Deed Transfers

William and Lenore O'Connell to Matthew and Cynthia Perry of Manchester. Colrain Brook Rd.. \$61,500.

David Huisjen to Peter Charow and Lorraine Berger of New York City. Number Nine Rd.. \$130,000.

Carl and Mabel Holmblad to Jacques Lamuniere and Lorain Tonna of Charlemont. Jacksonville Stage Rd., buildings and an acre of land. \$87,500.

Charles and Lynn Perry Miller to Bruce Goldstein of New York City. Rowe Rd. \$81,000.

Properties of America Inc. of Williamstown to David and Ellen Sorensen of Riverdale, N.Y. Number Nine Rd. \$58,000.

Harold Green to Gary Munter and Nancy Barisano-Munter of Greenfield, Burrington Rd., buildings and 2 1/2 acres land. \$115,000.

John Wyzik, administrator of Murray Marquis estate, to John and Elminia Kawa of Springfield, Wigwam and Modoc Streets, Lot 1. \$3,000.

Arthur and Arlene Galipo to Michael and Veronica Smead, Rowe Rd., two parcels, \$10,000.

Vincent and Anna Palange to Robert and Virginia Goldrick of Springfield, Mohawk Estates, Lot 7, \$5,000.

Anna Nussbaum to Mary Nussbaum of Colrain, Colrain Rd., 4.7314 acres, \$1.

Charles and Cynthia Kotker Goff to Leon and Myrna Nathan of Brookline, Dell Rd., buildings and 4 1/2 acres land, \$191,574.

Paul Lemelin, Alice Lemelin and George Tikky to Linda Rothwell and Jean Galanti of Philadelphia, Pa., Ben Rd., \$23,500.

David Brown to Stephen Eyer of Auburndale, Mohawk Estates, Lot 16, \$3,500.

Gerard and Philip Ethier to Peter James of South Deerfield, Jacksonville Stage Rd., approximately 30 acres. No consideration.

Peter James to Gerard Ethier of Greenfield, Number Nine Rd., Lot 1, 7.179 acres. No consideration.

Peter James to Ethier Management Inc. of Greenfield, Number Nine Rd., 8.274 acres. No consideration.

Peter James to Gerard Ethier, Number Nine Rd., 8.685 acres. No consideration.

Peter James to Ethier Management Inc. of Greenfield, Number Nine Rd., 1.507 acres. No consideration.

Peter James to Philip Ethier of Greenfield, Route 8A, Lot 5, 16.595 acres. No consideration.

Brenda Clark to Inhabitants of Heath. Branch Hill Rd., 25,723 sq. ft. No consideration.

Shirley Cobb to Randall Cobb, Avery Brook Rd. Agreement for divorce.



## Merry Christmas

### HEATH PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Chris Seaver, the son of Juliet and Charles Seaver, recently went on a luxury cruise up the Danube. However this was not just any luxury cruise. Chris was attending a World Congress of Global Ecology and World Peace, a gathering which included Nobel Laureates. He is taking a year off from his studies to pursue his interests in ecology and the environment.

Melanie Tripp, the daughter of Alicia and Bob Tripp has been elected Vice President of the Student Chapter of the American Society for Personnel Administrators of the American International College.

William J. O'Connell is the area representative for Northern Products Log Homes, a firm based in Bangor, Maine. He and his wife, Lenore, have resided in Heath for five years and will soon move into a model home being built on his property on Colrain Brook Road where he will have an office.

Helen Nichols is recovering from an operation at the Cooley Dickinson Hospital in Northampton. She expects to be back soon to her home at Lathrop House in Northampton and welcomes cards from friends.

### MILESTONES

by Edith C. Royer

Alexandra Louise was born on October 26 to Phyllis and David Thane. Alexandra is the granddaughter of Alli and Ernie Thane and Joseph L. Glard.

Sara Betheny born on November 7 became a member of the family of Cathy and Mark Loomis of Torrington CT. Sara is the fourteenth great-grandchild of Hannah Burlington.

Roy Smith and Sherry Silver were married on November 12 in the Heath Church with a reception following in the Community Hall. Sherry is from Northfield. Roy is the son of Mary Smith and has spent most of his life in Heath. They are living in North Heath.

Wilda Wolf died on August 20 in Hartford CT. Wilda leaves a brother William of Heath and Cambridge. Wilda owned the house on Ledges Road where the MacDougalls now live and where she spent many summers.

Marion H. Ackley, of Marlboro VT, died in the Eden Park Nursing Home on November 5. She leaves a daughter, Grace Crowningshield of Heath, and four other daughters in Vermont; 13 grandchildren and 33 great-grandchildren. Services were held in Wilmington VT.



MAIL TO:

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

HEATH HERALD Box 54, Heath, MA 01346

## Happy New Year

### OUR CHRISTMAS COVER

The cover photograph on this Christmas issue was taken by Michael Peters. This winter scene, typical of Heath at this time of year, was awarded first prize at the Heath Fair.

### MASSAGE THERAPIST IN HEATH

Juliet Seaver is taking a one year course in Advanced Acupressure. To complete the requirements for a degree she must fulfill one hundred hours of hands-on acupressure.

Anyone willing to bring their physical aches and pains to her - from headaches, sciatica, back pain to insomnia - will receive treatment at half the usual rate. Juliet is also open to barter. Having already worked for a year and a half at the Spa as a massage therapist, she has seen very definite results from this kind of body work.

Call 337-4866 until 9 PM for more information.

### CLASSIFIED

Authorized dealer for MASON SHOES  
Gilbert Smith 337-5535

#### FRESH WINDS FARM

Paul & Marcella Lively & Sons

Excavating - Loam - Sand Stone 337-4331

**\*\*SCREENED LOAM A SPECIALTY\*\***

compliments of

Wells Corner Country Store

CHARLEMONT 339-6632

#### PETERS' GENERAL STORE

The ONLY Store in Heath

RENTING VIDEO TAPES

We Sell Alcoholic Beverages

Now Pumping SUNOCO Gas and Diesel Fuel

Accepting Credit Cards

Weekdays 8 to 7

Sundays 10 to 7

Michael Peters

Tel: 337-5501