



# HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER 35¢

## TOWN ELECTIONS - 1989

The Town elections this year will be held on Friday, May 5. The Annual Town Meeting will take place the following Saturday, May 6.

The deadline for obtaining nominations papers from the Town Clerk is Wednesday, March 22 (5 PM). The filing deadline is Friday, March 24 (5 PM). A minimum of 20 signatures of registered voters is required on the nomination paper for each candidate.

This year the following elective offices are to be filled:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Term</u>		<u>Present incumbent</u>
Selectman	3	U	F. Walter Gleason
Assessor	3	Y	Alan Nichols
Assessor	1	Y *	Wendy Luckhurst
School Committee	3	Y *	Frank Brower
Planning Board	5	Y	Robert Dane
Finance Committee	3	U	Bruce Cromack
Finance Committee	2	U *	Charles Mackie
Library Trustee	3	U	Susan Silvester
Library Trustee	2+	N	Pat Leuchtman
Town Auditor	1	N	Douglas Wilkins
Constable	1	N	Ronald Corey
Constable	1	N	Newland Smith
Tree Warden	1	N	Thomas Lively

Y = Incumbent intends to run again  
 N = Incumbent does not intend to run  
 U = Incumbent is undecided at this time  
 \* = Appointed - Filling unexpired term  
 + = Unexpired term of incumbent who has resigned

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

New voters may register for the Town election at the Town Hall (except where noted) on the following dates:

\*Monday, March 6 (9 AM - 5 PM)  
 Wednesday, March 22 (6:30 - 9 PM)  
 Wednesday, March 29 (6:30 - 9 PM)  
 \*Saturday, April 8 (9 AM - 5 PM)  
 \*Saturday, April 15 (9 AM - 10 PM)  
 \* = at the Town Clerk's residence

The next number of the Heath Herald will list all candidates who have filed nomination papers and will publish statements of their positions.

In addition to the above offices, which are filled by ballot, the following positions are to be filled by nominations from the floor at the Annual Town Meeting: Dog Officer, Fence Viewers (3), Measurers of Wood and Bark (3), Field Drivers (3).

## SKI RACE CANCELLED

by Beverly denOuden

The 5th Annual Cross-Country Ski Race, which had been re-scheduled for February 19, will have to be put on hold until next year. It has not been determined, either in Heath or in Washington DC, whether this lack of snow is due to the greenhouse effect or insufficient wool on the caterpillar. However, the result is no Ski Race this year.

The ski race committee has put in many hours of work and organization, trail grooming excepted. Peters General Store assumed the sponsorship with assistance from McCuskers Market, Shelburne Falls Supermarket, Charlemont Inn and Avery's Store. The end result of all the preparations is that we have a head start on planning for 1990.

... continued on page 16



## HONECOMBS IN WINTER

The above unusual photograph of honeycombs was taken by Michael Peters about two weeks ago. The large combs, seeming to grow out of the large limb of a maple tree, are about 25 feet up. The tree is near the Green River in Leyden. Mike's telephoto lens gives a good closeup of the comb.

Dick Bonney, of the Charlemont Apiaries, who also photographed this unusual comb, reports that honey bees normally look for a crevice or a hole in a tree trunk to build their honeycomb. However, not finding a suitable place, they sometimes work in the open on a limb. He expects by spring the entire comb will be broken off by ice and snow and will fall to the ground. Mike Peters says that a large number of bees were dead on the ground below the honeycomb.



## LETTERS

To the Editors:

... I was so happy to read in your last issue (Vol.10 No. 5) that you would be continuing this fine paper. I look forward to each issue, especially any news of the Heath Fair which my husband and I have attended the past 20 years. A memorable occasion each August!

JOYCE CONNOR  
Troy, New York

To the Editors:

... Thank you for an excellent and informative publication.

GEORGE & EILEEN TOUGAS  
South Hadley, MA

## CHRISTMAS CAME ALIVE IN HEATH

by Cindy Rice

On a December Eve in 1988 the temperature dropped to sub-zero readings. God was testing the spirit of Heath.

That was the night of our town's Tree Lighting, Living Creche and Carol Sing. This annual event was sponsored by the *Heath Herald*, the Heath Historical Society and the Heath Union Church. Special thanks go to the Deacons of the church, Rachel Sumner, Ralph Dickinson, Catherine Cromack, Ron Corey, Helen Crowningshield and Sue Croteau.

Kimberlee Griswold arranged the refreshments which were very welcome after the cold night air. The "Gather 'Round Singers", led bravely by Christopher French, sang beautifully and also joined us for cocoa and cookies in the Community Hall.

The physical creche was made by Ralph Sumner and Ralph Dickinson and will be treasured for many years to come. Sheep, goats, horses and mules were provided by the Marcotte, Briggs, Stowe and Sartz-Schwenger families. Thanks go to the angelic children who braved the cold to reenact the Birth of Christ.

## NEW HOUSE - NEW BUSINESS

by Beverly den Ouden

Cross the footbridge over the Colrain Brook just an approximate eighth mile beyond the lake and you have arrived at Bill and Lenore O'Connell's new home. The cozy log structure on Colrain Brook Road is the O'Connell's second home in Heath. Their original purchase was made five years ago right next door.

Bill, from New York State, and Lenore, from Indiana, found their way to Heath via Northampton. Bill had worked for several years in the health foods industry. The O'Connells purchased the abutting property to their first Heath home and their next move was a big one for, with the sale of their first Colrain Brook home, Bill decided to change from his career in health food to become a franchised dealer for Northern Products Log Homes. I had the pleasure of a tour through the home that Bill and Lenore chose for themselves. This home will also serve, for a time, as a model of Northern Products design for inspection by Bill's clients.

The homes feature the truss and purlin system and are constructed of spruce and pine. There are numerous designs with a wide choice of square footage offerings.

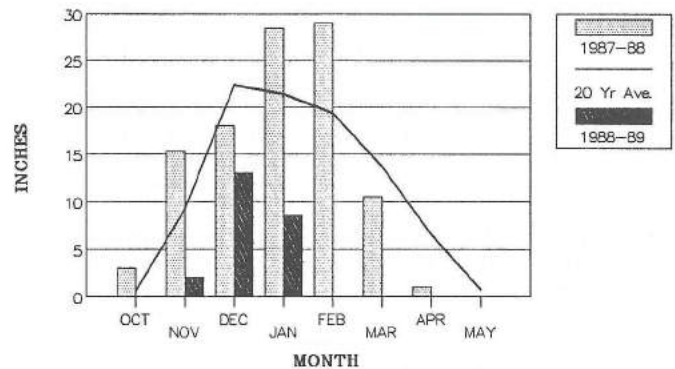
Bill, with the assistance of some friends and outside contracting, has handled the assembly and construction. They have been working for three months and hope to move in before spring.

The O'Connells would welcome anyone who wishes to visit them at their building site. Bill is an enthusiastic and knowledgeable guide on the subject of Northern Products homes, and indeed Bill and Lenore's selection is pleasing both inside and out.

Lenore was recuperating from an injury to her heel at the time of my visit. The *Heath Herald* wishes her a swift recovery and success to the O'Connell business.

## HEATH SNOWFALL CHART

20 YEAR AVERAGE COMPARISON




## HEATH PRECIPITATION

by Ralph Dickinson

Observer for Mass. Resources Commission

December precipitation was 1.69 inches; snowfall was 13 inches. January precipitation was 1.55 inches; snowfall was 8.5 inches. The total precipitation for 1988 was 46.57 inches which is below the 21 year average of 51.37 inches.

Total snowfall this season was 24.5 inches. December and January have been dry with small amounts of snow. Since 1968 we have had two years with less snowfall as of February 1. In 1974 we had 23.5 inches and in 1980 we had only 8 inches.



# HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

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<b>Editorial Staff</b>  <b>Editorial Assistant</b> <b>Staff Reporters</b>  <b>Advertising</b> <b>Circulation &amp; Business</b> <b>Typography</b>	Pegge Howland Caroline Smith  Alastair Maitland Beverly denOuden Edith Royer Susan Silvester Alli Thane  Ray Pettengill Terry Pettengill Newland Smith
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Classified ads: \$1.00 per line.

Send all correspondence to Box 54, Heath, MA 01346



## LAND PRESERVATION IN HEATH

by Alastair Maitland

Surveys of opinion over the years - most recently in the course of the 1988 series of Rezoning Workshops - have shown that a substantial majority of Heathens attach great importance to the preservation of the rural character of our Town.

Caroline and Newland Smith are part of that majority. This was concretely demonstrated last December when they jointly executed a deed assigning the bulk of their land in Heath to the New England Forestry Foundation, Boston.

The land in question, some 127 acres, lies to the east of Hosmer Road. It is forest land, and has been under New England Forestry Foundation management as part of a Tree Farm for a number of years. Under the terms of the transfer the land will continue to be professionally managed as forest land, and will be protected in perpetuity from any form of development. Selective cutting and weeding of trees will be used, as heretofore, to stimulate the growth of the more desirable species of trees; and the land will be available for general hiking, fishing, snow-shoeing and cross-country skiing. (The area is traversed by a portion of the official Heath Ski Race Trail).

The Tree Farm will be known as the Warren W. Smith Memorial Forest. It has been named for the present Newland Smith's grandfather who was instrumental in introducing the Newland Smith family to Heath in 1920. The New England Forestry Foundation also owns and manages another Memorial Forest in Franklin County. This is the Fred W. Wells Memorial Forest in Shelburne.

In planning and executing this transaction the Smiths were assisted and advised by Mark Zenick, Project Director of the Franklin Land Trust, of Ashfield, a non-profit organization which has worked successfully over the past several years to save many rural acres in western Franklin County from being developed into housing projects or condominiums.

There are other techniques for the preservation of land on which the Franklin Land Trust can help and advise. For example, instead of an outright gift of land to a conservation organization such as the New England Forestry Foundation, or a local Land Trust or a national body such as the Nature Conservancy, the Audubon Society or the Trust for Public Land, the landowner may donate a conservation easement, retaining ownership but imposing restrictions on the use of the land conveyed.

It goes without saying that any preservation measure - whether it entails the transfer of land to a non-profit organization or takes the form of a restrictive covenant on future development - impinges on our tax rate by reducing the Town's overall valuation. On the other hand, as we are all learning, to our certain cost, residential development can scarcely be said to confer net tax benefits on the community.

The Rezoning Project in Heath, if brought to a successful conclusion, will be a useful collective tool for the management of growth. But it will remain a limited tool. The achievement of the majority's desire to preserve our rural environment will call for individual action. This is one example. The Newland Smiths have shown the way. It will be for the good of the Town when others follow.

[Note: Franklin Land Trust can be contacted at P.O. Box 216, Ashfield MA 01330. Telephone 413-428-4696]

## COMING TO HEATH

by David L. Gibbons

First of all I should state for the record that we never intended to move to Heath. In fact, we never intended to move at all. Now that we are here, however, I think it is going to take a lot to get us to leave.

We moved to this area because I was hired at Mohawk Trail Regional High School at the last minute (one week before classes started!). We moved to Heath because it was the only housing we could find in the two days we had to look.

It may have been a forced move, but it has not been an unhappy one. The house we have is wonderful and the yard and view are magnificent. Our son, Jonathan, loves it--it is certainly much nicer for him than the eighteen inches of tar that were our front yard in Salem, MA! He is also enjoying being at the pre-school, a new experience for him.

Moving is one of the major stress-inducing things that happen to people, especially if you add a new job on top. We also had to add a new baby (our second) just three weeks after our move--another major stress factor. Complications after the birth piled on yet more stress. In Salem we had a lot of friends and a very good support network that would have seen us through. Here, though, we had only a few friends living in Greenfield or farther away. The situation looked pretty bleak.

Probably the lowest point was at the hospital in Greenfield, after Madeleine's birth. Faced with the prospect of bringing a sick wife home and a newborn I wasn't sure how it could be done. Then one of the nurses gave us the number of a friend of hers (Veronica Smead) in Heath. Desperate, I called and not only did Veronica meet us as we got home to help with the children, but she had already arranged for other neighbors (some we had met--briefly, some we had not) to help with meals for that first, hectic week.

This was the kind of support we had come to expect among our church friends in Salem, after living there for ten years. To find it appearing within weeks of our arrival in Heath spoke, and still speaks, volumes to us of the kind of community we have been blessed to become a part of.

We want to thank all of the people of Heath who have helped us, in big and little ways, over the last five months. I'm not sure how we would have managed without you all. Heath is a very special community and we look forward to becoming even more a part of it in the coming months and years.



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## ABOUT SUGARING

by Michael Peters

Now that our January thaw is behind us, sugarmakers all over New England are preparing for the season ahead. Believe it or not, spring is almost here. The biggest subject facing not only the Massachusetts Maple Syrup Producers Association (MMSPA) but all the states in New England is definitely the well publicized insect, called the Pear Thrip. After months and months of discussion, the overall decision reached by the Association was to carry on as usual this year in the tapping process but to tap lighter than normal, meaning fewer taps per tree. There is currently only one sugarmaker in western Massachusetts, to my knowledge, that is not going to tap because of the Thrips. Without mentioning any names, he is on the committee for the MMSPA and, without any research, study or professionalism, he announced last summer that he was not going to tap his sugarbush because it is not worth killing the trees. This comment was very unprofessional, without reason and very damaging. This has already hurt the sugar making business significantly, by scaring landowners. He has definitely put the cart before the horse.

The actual strategy for coping with the Thrips this season is to tap a tree according to its health, which can easily be assessed with a glance up the tree at its limbs and branches. If you have a big tree that would normally hold four buckets but looks unhealthy, the best solution for this year is to use one or two. There are several areas of Heath where seemingly healthy maples have been getting diseased and are slowly dying, one by one. This, however, was not caused by Thrips, but has been going on for ten or so years and is much more of a concern to the land owners at the present time.

We will have 4000 taps out this season and are hoping for another record year for syrup produced. With 90% of our sap coming from Heath's landowners, with whom we trade maple syrup for letting us tap, it is in our best interest to take care and to closely watch their maples to see that no harm comes to them by tapping. Our buckets and pipeline will stretch from Heath's south border right up to the Vermont line, in North Heath.

We look forward to having visitors in the sugarhouse (just past Peters Store) and giving out free samples of still warm maple syrup for the ultimate taste test. We will be selling syrup there also. With 4000 taps supplying sap, the sugarhouse boiling hours should be easy to remember, 24 hours a day until sugaring is over.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

"Hot Fresh Store-Baked Goodies"—Now, every day at 7 a.m.  
Come on Down!

*at the Bridge of Flowers!*



**MCCUSKER'S**  
**MARKET & DELI**  
SHELburnE FALLS, MASSACHUSETTS

*Quality Foods*

OPEN DAILY

## CYRUS WASHBURN CARLEY

1812 - 1889

by Roger L. Brown

Cyrus W. Carley, then of Jacksonville, VT, married Augusta L. Adams of Heath in 1846. She was the daughter of Joseph and Thankful Holland Adams. After their marriage they lived in Jacksonville, VT for 19 years where Cyrus alternated his time between teaching school and running a blacksmith shop.

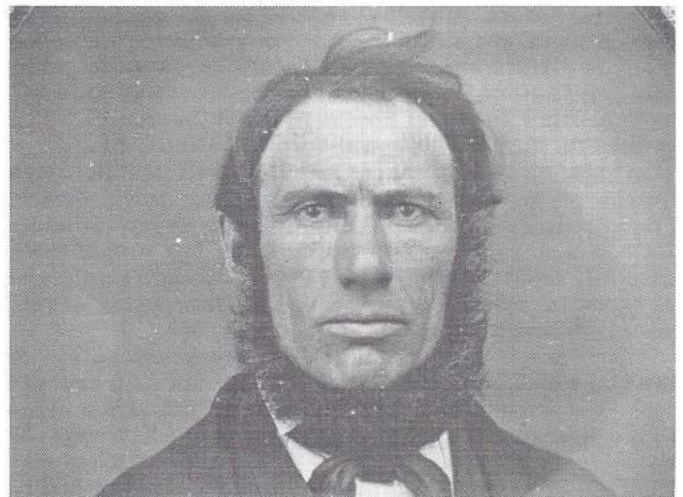
He was very prominent, being elected Justice of the Peace for 15 consecutive years for Windham County, VT from 1860 to 1865.

His wife and four surviving children were much afflicted with illness their last years there.

Cyrus decided that he wanted to try farming. His wife Augusta's brother lived on Number 9 Road in Heath in the present Murray Newman house. He sold his farm to Cyrus in 1864; they moved there in March of 1865. Besides farming, Cyrus also did blacksmith work. Cyrus died in 1889 and his wife in 1896.

His son Arthur became postmaster in 1895 and named the post office Cyrus in honor of his father.

Cyrus Stage Road in Rowe was named after him, as was the road on the Heath-Whitingham border, north on Number 9 Road.



CYRUS W. CARLEY  
of Number Nine Road  
(photo loaned by Roger Brown)

In Shelburne Falls  
Laundry 7 AM - 9 PM  
Sweet Shop 9 AM - 9 PM  
Do 12 Washes, get One Free  
Half-price coffee for laundry customers  
**Village Coin-Op Laundry**  
55 State Street

ALL BRAND NEW  
**Also Sweet Shop**  
Now Serving Coffee, Muffins & Snacks  
Soft Service Ice Cream  
Soft Serve Yogurt



## 200TH BIRTHDAY OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

by Richard Hulbert

The year 1989 will be for France something like 1976 was for the United States, the 200th anniversary of the revolution from which the modern nation claims descent.

The year here has already been marked by public ceremonies, and many more are scheduled. Earlier this month great balloons were released in each of the 96 departments of France. The Arch of Triumph has been cleaned and loose stone repaired. The facade of the eighteenth century building in which the National Assembly meets has been rebuilt. A new opera house is scheduled to be inaugurated in July. A controversial glass pyramid, designed by the American architect I. M. Pei, has been erected in the courtyard of the Louvre and will be dedicated later this spring.

Literally hundreds of books on the Revolution have been published and more appear every day. A television series reconstructing the historical events leading up to the Revolution is appearing at intervals, and recently a television retrial of Louis XVI was presented, with one of the leading lawyers in France appearing as defense counsel for the King. The television viewers were invited to call in their verdict, for or against the death penalty that was actually imposed: the modern audience voted against death by more than 2-1. The culmination of ceremonies will come on Bastille Day, July 14, the French national holiday. Every year it is a day of parades and speeches, but this year promises to be a much bigger splash than usual.

Last night (January 24) the City of Paris inaugurated its own celebration of the Year of the Revolution with ceremonies at the vast Place de la Concorde. On that day in 1789 the King authorized the opening of the States General, the medieval parliament that had last been convened 150 years earlier. It was the subsequent proceedings of this body that launched the momentous series of changes which transformed France from an absolute monarchy into a democracy founded on universal suffrage. At last night's ceremonies, passages from the 1789 royal decree were read, and Jacques Chirac, the mayor of Paris (and a recent unsuccessful candidate for the French presidency), offered his remarks. The eight large statues which stand in pairs on pedestals at the corners of the square representing the major provincial cities of France (symbols of the "unity of France" said the mayor) and which had been covered in blue, white and red bunting, were unveiled to reveal their newly cleaned surfaces amid the play of colored searchlights. A splendid burst of fireworks completed the evening.

In much of this one will see resemblances to the public ceremonies that marked our own bicentenary. There are, however, many differences, and French reaction to this year's celebration reflect them. The American Revolution was a pretty tame affair compared with the French. It represented, to be sure, a political revolution - independence from England and a democratic republic rather than a constitutional monarchy - but it brought little social change beyond the confiscation of the property of sympathizers of George III who fled the country, mostly to Canada. And it quickly passed beyond controversy. Today the American Revolution hardly represents anything very "revolutionary" as we now think of it. Indeed, organizations closely associated with it have over the years acquired a particularly conservative tone. Examples that come to mind are the Daughters of the American Revolution and

the Society of the Cincinnati, an organization whose membership is confined to men who can show direct descent in the male line from officers in George Washington's Continental Army.

The French Revolution was not at all such a simple or straight-forward affair. It did not, of course, represent the birth of the French nation, for "France" had existed for centuries - if the empire of Charlemagne is regarded as French, for a millenium. Unlike the American Revolution, the French Revolution represented not only a fundamental change in the political structure of France but also a vast upheaval in social and legal relations at every level. It marked the end of feudalism in France and the abolition of the special privileges of the nobility. In their place, for the first time, was the concept of equality before the law. It profoundly affected the role of religion in the country, the Church having been an immense landholder and the clergy constituting a separate "order" within the society of pre-Revolutionary France.

The vast changes wrought by the French Revolution were carried out amidst almost continuous foreign wars and, unlike the American Revolution, with a great deal of internal violence and bloodshed, as well, culminating in the famous Reign of Terror in 1793-94.

The violence with which the Revolution proceeded, and the immensity of the social changes it affected, made the Revolution and its legacy a subject of continuing controversy in France for more than a century, again unlike the American Revolution so rapidly accepted. Even the political changes made by the Revolution were contested: in the two centuries since, France has been governed under two Empires, three kings and five Republics. This succession of forms of government reflected the profound divisions of sentiment as to how France should be governed and how the Revolution should be assessed. Serious efforts to re-establish monarchical government in France ended only a century after the Revolution, and even today there are those - small in number, to be sure - who identify themselves as monarchists. There is still a "pretender" to the throne of France, vacant these 120 years.

Yes, the French are celebrating the 200th anniversary of their Revolution, but it is a Revolution with different meanings for different Frenchmen. Perhaps by the 400th anniversary enough time will have passed to transform it into a long-distant event of which everyone will be vaguely proud and to which no one will give much thought. The French, and France, have a long way to go before that will be true.

### Richard A. Sumner

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



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Salmon Falls Marketplace  
Shelburne Falls, MA (413)625-6353



## THE NAMESAKE AND THE FOUNDER OF HEATH

Following a clue from John Holdsworth in his letter to the HEATH HERALD about a year ago (Vol. 10 No. 2), we recently made a trip with camera to the Forest Hills Cemetery in Jamaica Plain near Boston to locate the monument to General William Heath for whom our Town was named in 1785. In this very large, beautiful and well kept cemetery the fifteen-foot high granite monument to General Heath was finally located on a knoll at one edge of the cemetery.

Photographs were taken and the inscription on the large bronze plaque is transcribed below. The monument and plaque appear to be of fairly recent construction. When erected and by whom are not known at this time.

With the 203rd anniversary of the founding of the Town of Heath occurring on February 14, it seems appropriate to publish this at this time.

\* \* \* \*

*Here lie the remains of*

**WILLIAM HEATH**

**A MAJOR GENERAL OF THE ARMY OF THE  
AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

*Born in Roxbury March 2 1737*

*A Member of the*

*Provincial Congress of 1774-5*

*and of the Committee of*

*Correspondence and Safety*

*He prepared his countrymen for the conflict*

*By his pen and by his personal influence*

*Was present at the battle of Lexington*

*and issued the final*

*General Orders of the Revolution*

*Was in active service throughout the war*

*Was the trusted friend of Washington*

*and was appointed by him to the command*

*of all the posts on the Hudson*

*after the treachery of Arnold*

*On the return of peace*

*he held many positions of public trust*

*and for the last twenty years of his life was*

*Judge of Probate for the County of Norfolk*

*He died January 24 1814*

\* \* \* \*

Of perhaps more importance to our Town is the monument to Colonel Hugh Maxwell who had served under General Heath in the Revolution and, holding his commander in such high esteem, was instrumental in having the town named after the General when it was incorporated in 1785.

The monument, located in the Heath South Cemetery, bears the following inscription on one side:

**HUGH MAXWELL**

*A soldier and an officer in the*

*French war from 1755 to 1764*

*Escaped the massacre at Ft. Wm. Henry 1756*

*a member of the first Provincial Congress 1774*

*A brave and faithful officer in the war of the*

*Revolution from April 1775 to April 1784*

*Was at the siege of Boston and the Retreat*

*from Long Island and New York*

*fought at Bunkerhill, Trenton*

*Princeton, Saratoga and Monmouth*

*suffered in the camps at Morristown and Valley Forge.*

*Watched for three years on the lines near New York*

*under General Heath*

*Who said of him*

*"Often I have slept without fear of being surprised,*

*because I knew you were at the outpost."*

*in civil life, he obtained the charter of this town*

*was the first justice commissioned in this section,*

*the first deacon in the First Church in this town*

*A Christian Patriot and Christian Soldier*

*Honored his God, served his country, Loved his family.*

*To duty was ever true. To his posterity*

*His memory is a rich inheritance*

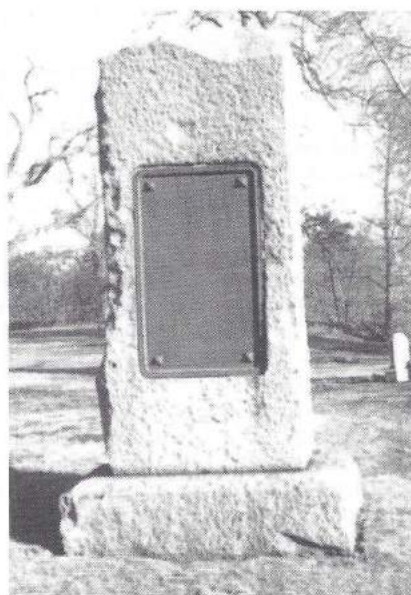
*may they emulate his virtue.*

\* \* \* \*

An interesting sequel to this history occurred last fall when Miss Christine Mahl (who lives near Philadelphia), a fourth-great granddaughter of Colonel Maxwell, visited Heath. She met Esther Dickinson, saw the Maxwell monument in the South Cemetery, and also was shown the old Maxwell house where Rachel Sumner now lives in South Road. Miss Mahl wrote back enthusiastic letters to both Rachel and Esther expressing her appreciation for the opportunity of seeing the area of Heath where her famous forefather lived. In her letter to Rachel she says "What a thrill it was being in the place where my great, great, great, great grand parents lived! Thank you so very much for inviting us into your home and showing us some of its exciting mysteries. I had never seen anything like that 36 inch piece over the fireplace, or like the chimney complex. I've heard of smoke houses but never knew of a smoke room in the home! . . . When I was about six my mother brought my brother and me to Charlemont. We took the "stage", an open Dodge touring car with the top folded back. We travelled up the Heath Road four miles to the home of three farmerettes [Grant, now McCutchen]. I watched for the place this time but didn't spot it."

Miss Mahl plans to write a book about her distinguished ancestor.

[Ed. note: We are indebted to Esther Dickinson for the inscription on the Maxwell monument and to both Esther and Rachel Sumner for the additional information which they received from Miss Mahl after her visit.]



**MONUMENT TO GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH**  
**Forest Hills Cemetery, Jamaica Plain**  
(Staff photo)



## A SLOW TRIP TO CHINA

by Pat Leuchtman

It was about 15 months ago that I first learned about *Women of China English Monthly* which is published in Beijing, China, and distributed internationally to inform people about women's lives and issues in modern China. Marguerite Lentz, a friend of a friend in Northfield was holding the job as "polisher" at that time and I applied to fill the position when her "tour of duty" was over in July.

We proceeded with the expectation that I was a serious candidate and Henry started Chinese lessons and got his passport. However, Marguerite and her young daughter left Beijing in January because of ill health and I heard no more from the office even though I sent several letters assuring them of our interest.

By July we had given up all hope of an Oriental adventure and acquired a puppy and kitten. Needless to say, it was shortly after that I received a letter from *Women of China* saying "We have heard you are interested in the position of polisher." So we started all over again.

For the past five months we have sent letters and telegrams to China, arranged for complete physicals, only to have the forms get lost in the mail. When they ultimately showed up we then needed to "clarify syphilis". We don't have it. We have endured shots for tetanus, yellow fever, typhoid, and cholera. The gamma globulin is ordered and we've got our prescription for prevention of malaria since we hope to visit our daughter Betsy in Kenya before we return.

While we wait for the visas and plane tickets we are packing clothes, gifts for my work unit including a copy of Peter Brown's new book *Seasons of Light*, and my working library to help me "polish".

As polisher I will take articles that have been written by the Chinese staff and translated into English and turn them into real English. I will also be responsible for helping the staff with their English language skills and understanding of western journalistic form.

*Women of China* has arranged for Henry and me to live at the Friendship Hotel which is actually a walled compound of 2400 rooms and apartments designed for foreigners who are in Beijing on a long term basis. We have been promised a basically furnished 3 room apartment with heat, air conditioning and western plumbing, all of which are in short supply elsewhere in Beijing.

We imagine that living with this international community will be an extra pleasure during our stay in Beijing. A year should give us enough time to come to a real appreciation of - if not total understanding of - a very different culture.

We have been reading and talking to a lot of people who've been to China. We've been told to remember that China is a Third World Country and that conditions can be rough. However, Betsy, who has been living in a mud hut in Kenya for the past 18 months, says that after living in Manhattan and Heath she was well prepared for Third World conditions.

With her encouragement we look forward to our Oriental year and promise to send back tales of our adventures in The Middle Kingdom.

*K.R. Jeweler*

17 Chapman Street • Greenfield, Ma. 01301

*Watch & Jewelry Repair*

## A TRIBUTE TO EMPEROR HIROHITO

At the request of *Newsweek Japan* Charles L. Kades of Heath wrote a contribution for its special commemorative issue on Emperor Hirohito who died January 7. Chuck's article, which is featured in a center spread of the January 15 issue of the magazine, is entitled "The Emperor -- What He Means to Me."

In the article Colonel Kades recalls three Rescripts issued by the Emperor which indicate his moral leadership. He recalls the Imperial Rescript of September 2, 1945 accepting the terms of the Potsdam Declaration, notwithstanding opposition to it; also the Rescript in which the Emperor renounced his divinity and unequivocally proclaimed the fundamental policy of pacifism later codified in an article of the Showa Constitution; and the Rescript of November 3, 1946 sanctioning and approving the new constitution. The first article of this last Rescript stipulates "The Emperor shall be the symbol of the State and of the unity of the people, deriving his position from the will of the people from whom resides sovereign power."

The Showa Constitution embodied the principles of sovereignty, peaceful settlement of international disputes and recognition of the dignity of the individual. It testifies to Emperor Hirohito's statesmanship.

The article closes with the phrase "*Vivit post virtus*--worth survives death." The entire issue is printed in Japanese and contains many photographs of the Hirohito era, including one of Chuck. Colonel Kades was asked to write this article for *Newsweek* because of his part in drafting the present Showa Constitution while on the staff of General MacArthur in Japan.



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## SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT

by Budge Litchfield

The purpose of this report will be to present to the people of Heath the reasons why the school budgets will be increasing dramatically and along with them our tax rate. In this article I will limit my discussion to 'reasons', purposely excluding many numbers because at this time most of the numbers are tentative. In the April issue specific numbers will be presented.

We are fortunate to be able to make available to our children four different kinds of education. They are: a public preschool (completely funded by a state grant), elementary school (via a tuition agreement with Rowe), high school (as a member of the Mohawk Trail Regional School District) and vocational, technical school (as a member of the Franklin County Technical School District). It is the opinion of the School Committee that the quality of each of these programs is quite high. It is also an unfortunate reality that significant enrollment increases from kindergarten through twelfth grade are the root of significant budget increases for each of these programs.

At the Technical School a combination of decreased overall enrollment while Heath enrollment continues to expand will present us with a greatly increased assessment. Since their budget is pretty much finalized I will present some of the important numbers at this time. Our enrollment is up by four students, the assessment is up more than \$25,000. Our town's levy limit will be about \$20,000 or less, so this single assessment (based mainly on enrollment increase) could force an override.

At Mohawk we know now that our enrollment figures have increased by a larger percentage than figures of any other town. Therefore, if that budget is, in general, level funded we still must expect an increase in our assessment.

At the elementary level we will face the largest increases both in numbers of students and in dollars. Our elementary school budget has three major elements: tuition to Rowe, transportation and special education (administration and committee expenses being smaller components). Right now we don't know of any significant increases in our special education expenses. Last school year (1987-1988) we sent 75 students to Rowe Elementary School. This school year we are sending 93 students to Rowe. Next year we expect to send at least 106 students to Rowe. Obviously the tuition expense will go up. Other aspects of the Rowe School budget will also have to go up, the most important and costly being the addition of at least one new teacher. The last time a new teacher was added was in the 1986-1987 school year. Heath had 73 students in Rowe School that year. The fact that we will have 33 more Heath students in the school next year more than justifies the addition of at least one more teacher. The hard part for us will be that the terms of our tuition agreement require us to pay 75% of any operating budget increases for next year (last year we paid only 50%). Therefore with the enrollment increase and our 75% share of budget growth the School Committee expects a very significant increase in our payment to Rowe. This rampant enrollment growth is also affecting transportation. Right now a number of our children spend over an hour (one way), bouncing along on our roads. Much of the time many of them are packed three to a seat. We can't continue to do this to our children and we will soon run out of seats. Unfortunately adding a bus means additional cost.

The School Committee recognizes that these budget increases will have a dramatic impact on a town that has no business or industrial tax base and is also one of the poorest (in per capita income) in the Commonwealth. At the same time Heath is one of the most rapidly growing towns in the Commonwealth. These increases reflect the impact of that growth. We are doing everything we can to find a reasonable balance between what is right for our children and financially possible for our town. We welcome your ideas, comments and support.

## HEATH PUBLIC PRESCHOOL NEWS

by David Schwartz

The Preschool is alive and well in spite of the usual winter battles with sickness and the skunk which is hibernating somewhere in the walls and occasionally reminds us of its presence in its own unique fashion.

It is time to think about enrollment for next year. Any child who will be at least 3 years old by August 31 and who lives in Heath or Rowe is eligible and parents can contact the school if interested (337-4847). Letters have been sent out already to as many families as could be identified as having eligible children. Visitors to see the program are encouraged.

The Preschool was recently evaluated by the Preschool Enrichment Team; an independent, professional organization. The results of this evaluation will be used to enhance the program and support the grant application for next year. Another professional organization (Massachusetts Early Childhood Associates in Public Schools), MECAPS, is sponsoring a conference that will look at issues that impact on preschools such as our own. Although still in its infancy MECAPS has already been able to advocate fiscal supports to keep preschool programs alive. The conference will be on March 21 at Assumption College in Worcester from 9:30 to 1:30 and has a fee of six dollars. Contact Sue Regan at 339-4781 for more information about the conference or carpool arrangements.

The Preschool Advisory Council is sponsoring the lunch at the Heath Cross-Country Ski Race as a way to raise money to pay for the open house held last fall and possibly a similar event in the spring. Hopefully by the time this issue of the *Herald* appears we will have already dug ourselves out from a much needed snow-fall!

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## MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL SCHOOL NEWS

by Tanja Davin, Senior

As Mohawk moves into the second semester of this year, it is alive with activity. Mid-year exams are over, but there are still many demands waiting to be met by students in various extracurricular areas.

It is a common occurrence to see a reporter or photographer for the yearbook running down the hallway, eager to meet a deadline. The 1989 Peer Educators are busily planning an educational week at Mohawk on teen pregnancy, and are setting up appointments to visit elementary schools.

In the athletic areas, the ski teams are doing well, as are the girls' basketball and winter track teams. The track team had a meet on Saturday, January 28. The Boys' basketball team is having a great season, with a record of nine and two.

The Music Department is actively planning this year's all School Musical, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. Starring in this production are seniors Amy Kiendzior as Edwin Drood, James Taylor as the chairman and Melanie Lackard as Helena. Other leads are played by Diane Lesure as Rosa Bud, Tracy Richardson as Princess Puffer, Patrick Welsh as Reverend Chrisparble, and Peter Mead as John Jasper. Nick Waynelovich, as Music Director, is also planning an exchange for the bands and choruses with a school in New Hampshire. The away portion of the exchange will be on March 10, 11, and 12. The home portion will happen on March 31, April 1, and April 2.

All in all, everyone is very busy and there are no signs of this changing until June 4 on the Seniors' graduation day!

## SUPERINTENDENT'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

by Susan Silvester

Heath resident Tanja Davin has received the 1988 Superintendent's Award for Excellence. This award is given to a member of the senior class who had demonstrated academic excellence in school and had actively participated in extra-curricular activities.

Tanja has been accepted at Tufts University under the early admission plan. She intends to major in a premedical course of study.

At Mohawk, Tanja is president of the National Honor Society and an active member of the high school band. She has participated in many school activities including track, class projects, tutoring and peer education. Tanja has received numerous awards for academic honors in Latin, English and Chemistry as well as the Dartmouth Book Award, Wellesley Book Award and Smith College Award. As a student reporter for the *Heath Herald*, she received a certificate for her contributions to this local paper.

Tanja is the daughter of Bruce and Liz Davin of Heath and the granddaughter of Eva Pazmino and Luis Pazmino of Heath.

The award is sponsored by the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents and was presented by local superintendent of schools Bruce E. Willard.

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## MOHAWK TRAIL SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

The Mohawk Trail Regional High School announces that the following Heath students are on the second quarter honor roll: Junior Honors Tina Demech, Christina Rode; Sophomore Honors Brian Sackett, Son Wooten; Senior High Honors Tanja Davin; Senior Honors Daniel Bryant, Karen Veneri; 8th Grade Honors Valerie Belval; 7th Grade High Honors Betsey Silvester.

## SEVENTH GRADE NEWS

by Ben Steinbock

As we finish the second quarter, everyone is really settled in.

We had our first semi-formal dance, and that was lots of fun.

As we finish this quarter, I think most students have realized that seventh grade isn't that bad. But even though it's pretty fun I think everybody is looking forward to summer vacation.

## EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

by Valerie Belval

This quarter has been a very exciting one. We are now in the process of doing a trial. It is called "My Brother Sam Is Dead". This trial is about a man who is charged with cattle theft and desertion.

We just had mid-term exams. That meant a lot of studying to do, but then we had a blast at our semi-formal dance.

We also have two Heath students who have joined Junior High Basketball, Theresa Shattuck and Valerie Belval. We have won Pioneer and Hopkins games but lost to Frontier and Greenfield. We are trying our best to win all the games we are challenged with but, even if we don't win, we have a super coach, Mr. Moore.

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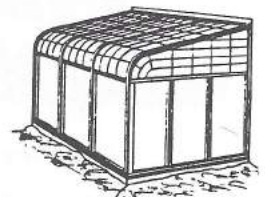
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## PTP AT ROWE SCHOOL

by Karen Brooks

The newly-formed Parent Teacher Partnership (PTP) of Rowe School met again this past month. Nancy Wilson, Enrichment Coordinator for the area, conducted a workshop on parent involvement in the school. It was an extremely helpful and informative meeting, teaching parents to use the technique of "brainstorming" to unleash a multitude of good ideas from a group, and then helping them to siphon down those ideas into a manageable form. The meeting was well attended and left us feeling that we had better organized our priorities for the future.

At the January "Winter Concert", the PTP held a pie auction to raise money for an Enrichment Fund which would pay for special programs, guest speakers, etc., to be brought into the classroom. One example of this was the bringing of Nancy Bell and her hearing dog Mitzi to the third grade as part of their study of the five senses. We hope to have many more programs like this in the future. Our next meeting will be at Rowe School on February 16 at 7 PM.

## NEWS FROM THE ACADEMY

by Olga Peters '94

The Academy's second trimester has started off smoothly. Everyone got back into the grind. Classes and students are starting on time. Teachers are busy giving homework.

In sports not much has happened so far. The lack of snow has caused the cancelling of many cross-country ski meets. Hopefully there will be more snow soon. The Alpine ski team did go to one meet at Berkshire East, January 17-19 and came in 3rd over all. Three members of our cross-country ski team combined to make a team for the Hanover Relays in Hanover, N.H. They competed against many skiers including some Olympic team members. Despite the horrible skiing conditions they did quite well with a time of 103 minutes.

The exchange program with Ransom Everglade School of Miami, Florida is being planned for February. A dance given by the seniors and other winter activities are being planned for the agenda.



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## LIBRARY LINES

by Alll Thane, Librarian

Now is the time to put aside the Christmas craft and cooking books, ignore the gardening books for a while, and sit down to read that novel you've been trying to find time for all winter. We have some new ones: To Dance With Kings, Lakes; Anything for Billy, McMurtry; Mitla Pass, Uris; Thornyhold, Stewart; Summer's Lease, Mortimer; Breathing Lessons, Tyler; At Risk, Hoffman; Libra, Delillo; Sands of Time, Sheldon; Doctors, Segal, and many new paperbacks for young readers. Do you want a breath of spring? Try Lady Bird Johnson's Wildflowers of America, a beautiful book.

We received two much appreciated gifts; Peter Brown's book of photographs and stories Seasons of Light, and a new book on war and society in Colonial Deerfield called New England Outpost, written by Richard I. Melvoin and given to us by Jane Deleeuw. We are very grateful for these.

Our afternoon reading group is still busy and well attended. Join us at 3:30 each Wednesday afternoon. Also on February 22 at 2 PM Doug Wilkins will be in the Library to teach the little children songs.

I must admit, however, that our VCR tapes are the most popular items in the Library. We have about 90 of them on hand. These may be borrowed from one library day to the next without fee. A \$2.00 per day fine will be charged for late returns. Come in and enjoy.

## READING AROUND THE WORLD

by Emily Nichols, Melina Ausikaitis  
and Nicole Rainville, Grade 6

The Reading Around the World Program that started last year has been growing and is beginning to get children to read more and more! This program involves having children read 15 to 30 minutes at home each day. After each student reads up to 300 minutes they get to move on to a continent. After moving to a continent you are presented with a laminated certificate.

We interviewed three of the top students who went around the world last year and did it again this year. Here are the interviews starting with Nicky Soviecke:

When we asked Nicky what he thought about the program he replied, "I think it's fun." Nicky also pointed out that he had to squeeze in time for reading but he enjoyed it anyway.

The second student we interviewed was Danny Levitch. Danny said he liked the program and he loves to read. He also said he was going around the world again.

The last student we interviewed was Anna Soviecke. Anna said she enjoyed the program and she said the thing that was most fun was winning books at the end. She also said she was going around the world many more times this year.

We thought it would be interesting if a "Write Around the World Program" could be started for older students.

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## CHURCH NEWS

by Kim Griswold

As part of our Christmas celebration candlelight service was held Christmas Eve at which time a special collection was taken to benefit the Saylor family.

The Peace family would like to thank all those handy people who have been helping to build the parsonage garage. Construction is still in process.

A reminder that Sunday School meets at 9:00 AM each week. The classes are divided into three sections; beginners through third grade, fourth grade through seventh and an adult class. The adult class is studying the Book of Luke. Church service is held at 10:00 AM.

Plans are in the beginning stages for our Easter celebrations. Some events being considered include a Maundy-Thursdays service and an Easter sunrise service, featuring a cantata. Anyone wishing to lend a helpful hand or a singing voice please contact Pastor Roger Peace at 337-5755. He also asks anyone who is interested in church membership or baptism to speak to him.

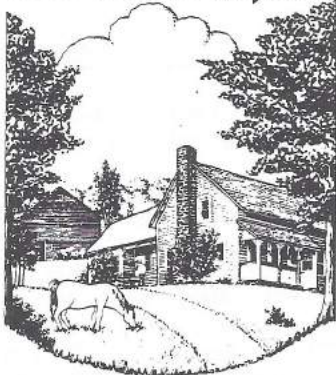
## HEART HEALTH MONTH

by Sharleen Moffat, R.N.  
Town Nurse

The children at the Rowe Elementary School have been having some educational fun with Heart Health Month. Ask them how to check a pulse or what a stethoscope does and they can explain this. How about how long it takes a drop of blood to circulate through the heart or the entire body? They have gained valuable information to help them lead heart-healthy lives. Remember to eat a healthy diet, get plenty of exercise and know your body's "vital statistics" (pulse, blood pressure, serum cholesterol).

[Editors' note: Sharleen herself has been laid up with a heart problem. Now, although Sharleen is better she is still undergoing further tests. We wish her well]

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## EASTER

At this very special time of year people's thoughts are concentrating on spring. Trees will have new buds and the grass will be turning green once again. Seeds will soon be planted and flowers and plants will be peeking through the ground. The earth seems to be exploding with new life, as if it had been resurrected, and the event is celebrated with the beautiful colors of spring. Maybe that is why God chose the springtime to allow the events of Easter to happen. But what is Easter? Easter is the time of year when Christians celebrate, not just the death of God's Son Jesus Christ, but more importantly - His resurrection.

Who can better tell the story in poetic words than Helen Steiner Rice?:

*An empty tomb...a stone rolled away  
Speak of the Saviour who rose Easter day...  
But that was centuries and centuries ago,  
And we ask today, was it really so?  
Did He walk on earth and live and die  
And return to His Father to dwell on high?  
We were not there to hear or see,  
But our hopes and dreams of eternity  
Are centered around the Easter story  
When Christ ascended and rose in glory...  
And life on earth has not been the same,  
Regardless of what the skeptics claim,  
For after the Lord was crucified,  
Even the ones who had scoffed and denied  
Knew that something had taken place  
That nothing could ever remove or erase...  
For hope was born in the soul of man,  
And faith to believe in God's master plan  
Stirred in the hearts to dispel doubt and fear  
And that faith has grown with each passing year...  
For the hope of man is the Easter story,  
For life is robbed of all meaning and glory  
Unless man knows that he has a "goal"  
And a "resting place"...for his searching soul*

So Easter is a time to celebrate, not mourn. Christians serve a living, risen Lord. Is the story true? You must decide for yourself. Nearly 2000 years have passed since this event and people still wonder: why the cross?

May you have a joyous and blessed Easter season and realize that Jesus is part of the reason.

God Bless,

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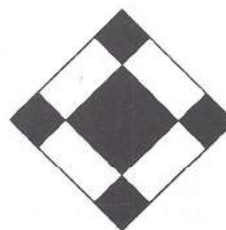
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## ARTS LOTTERY COUNCIL

by Jayne Dane, Chairman

The Heath Arts Lottery Council is given \$750 twice yearly. The fall cycle partially funded the October jazz concert featuring John Clark, sponsored by the Friends of Heath Library, a storyteller as part of the Preschool Open House, and the Old Fashioned House Party presented by the Pioneer Valley Folklore Society held in the Community Hall February 11.

Previous cycles have funded tickets for Heath families to attend the "Saturday's Child" programs sponsored by the Franklin County Arts Council. In addition to the \$1,500 yearly allotment \$500 is available for Heath school children, through Rowe School, for the Performing Arts Student Series or PASS program (also sponsored by the State). This enables schools to take students to various musical or theatrical performances. Students from Heath have attended "The Nutcracker" and "A Christmas Carol" as well as other plays through PASS money.

Applications for the spring/summer cycle are due March 15. Contact Jayne Dane, Chairman for information and applications. The committee also includes: John Auskaitis, Fred Burrington, Karen Chrisman, and Julianne Hall.

## HEATH COUNCIL ON AGING

by Alli Thane

Are you interested in Senior Citizen activities? Do you know that Heath has a Council on Aging? Do you know that there are 83 people in Heath who are 60 years of age or older?

Massachusetts encourages each town to have a council "to serve as a medium through which individuals can engage in joint ventures beneficial to the older population." We in Heath have this council, but thus far the only activity has been to purchase large print and audio books to be circulated and delivered through the library. Our group met on January 24 to draft a questionnaire to be sent to all citizens over 60 years of age. Please help us by filling this out and returning it as directed on the form, even if it is to say that you are not interested at this time. We are open to suggestions, i.e. luncheons, films, informational lectures, etc. Perhaps you didn't realize that in the hallway of Sawyer Hall there is a section on the magazine rack devoted to Senior Citizen pamphlets and other informational leaflets.

Please feel free to call your council members if you need help in filling out this questionnaire. We are: Sheila Litchfield 337-4957, Alli Thane 337-4852, Ruth Fournier 337-4360, Dorothy Sessions 337-4896, Mary Smith 337-4733, Michele Emerson 337-8482, Ann Rocchi 337-5378.

### PLANNING BOARD ZONING BYLAWS

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PUBLIC HEARING on REVISED BYLAWS APRIL 5

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING  
to VOTE on NEW BYLAWS APRIL 26

## ANNUAL STREET LISTING UNDER WAY

Town Clerk Karen MacDougall has already started on the listing of all residents of Heath as of January 1. One purpose of this annual street listing census, which is required by state law, is to remove names of individuals from the voting list who no longer reside in town.

All households in town will be contacted to update the previous listing with verification of names, birth dates, voter information and other data for each member of the household. All new households in town will also be added at this time.

Karen reminds everyone of the importance of responding to the listing by the following quotations from the Massachusetts General Laws (Ch. 51 & 56): "...failure to respond may be a crime, punishable by a fine of up to \$100 or by imprisonment for up to a year." ; also, "In any city or town which communicates with residents by mail, the communication must state in large boldface type: 'Warning--failure to respond to this mailing may result in removal from the voting list'."

After the listing for Heath is completed, Karen MacDougall will enter the data on the town computer where it will be sorted and printed. It will then be made available at the Town Hall. The listing is also sent to the State to serve as the basis for the selection of names for the Jury List. Another version of the list is used to compile the town voting list.

## BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

by Paul Lively, Chairman

The Bicentennial Committee had a meeting on January 30 to get things rolling concerning the Bicentennial publication.

February 15 is the due date set by the Committee for all materials for publication. About seventy pages of material have already been submitted and are being processed under the direction of Newland and Caroline Smith who are serving as the Managing Editors. A number of townspeople have volunteered to assist them with that job.

Our next meeting is at 7:30 PM on Monday, February 27, at the Community Hall.

## HEATH AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY NEWS

by Michael Peters, President  
Heath Agricultural Society

The Fair Committee has been meeting as usual and coming up with some new ideas for this year's Heath Fair. The Committee meets on the second Monday of every month and is always looking for new members to help with the increasing workload. Mary Smith will be taking over writing Fair news articles for the *Heath Herald*.

The Fair raffle has been going nicely and we will be placing an ad in the paper to help sell more tickets. Tickets are \$5.00 each and can be bought from any committee member or at Peters Store. Richards Steinbock was last month's winner making him \$195.00 richer. There is a cash prize of one half of the total intake from ticket sales. So the more tickets we sell the higher the prize. Try your luck.



## FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

by Chief Earl Gleason

The Department responded to four calls in December and one EMT aided Charlemont Ambulance on January 19. On December 4 fourteen men responded to a call involving a chimney fire. December 13 was the start of a three-day binge with a chimney fire in the afternoon with four firefighters. About three minutes were left of December 14 when a call came for a structure fire at the Martin Saylor residence. Seventeen firefighters fought the blaze aided by tankers and firefighters from Rowe, Charlemont and Colrain with Shelburne Falls sending a pumper to cover our station. The house was totally involved upon arrival. The next afternoon, December 15, three fighters were called to a chimney fire on Route 8A.

Two Association meetings and two drills were held during the past two months. The Chief attended two Tri-State Directors meetings, and a meeting with Civil Defense and Yankee Atomic Electric Co. in regards to protective measures relative to schools and the handicapped. Two oil burner installations were inspected and given a permit, and one smoke detector inspection was made.

The Chief's activities have been somewhat slowed by surgery, but he is gradually learning to manipulate his crutches. Many thanks to those who sent cards and visited me. It's times like this when you really appreciate friends.

## POLICE REPORT

by Guy Silvester, Police Chief

During the past two months the Police Department has responded to numerous calls for assistance, in cases involving domestic disputes, breaking and entering, wintertime motor vehicle accidents and medical problems while operating a motor vehicle. The number of reported break-ins has decreased.

In addition to routine patrols the Heath Police Department has assisted the Colrain Police for accidents and domestic disputes. Firearms identification cards and licenses to carry have been issued on a regular basis. Renewals may be requested by calling 337-4901.

I have met with the Selectmen to discuss general police concerns and am presently engaged in planning next year's budget for the Police Department.

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## SELECTMEN'S REPORT

by Art Schwenger, Secretary

Winter - sure enough, it has gotten cold and stuff has come from the sky.

The Highway Department has been plowing and sanding - mostly sanding. The machinery is all in reasonably good working order after repairs to trucks and grader were completed. The transfer station construction has been at a standstill since the ground froze up. The temporary arrangement for receiving trash on Saturdays will continue until a cement pad can be poured, the compactor installed and electricity set up.

Budgets - it's time again. The Selectmen have requested each department head and town board to prepare their budgets. Joint hearings with the Finance Committee will take place in February and March. The school budgets are anticipated to show considerable increases. Participation in the budget preparation by any interested party is welcomed.

The Selectmen and Shared Aide Kathy Condon have been relentlessly pursuing the promised money for repairs following the flood of April 1987. The hitch seems to rest at this point with the State Public Works Department who appear to be having difficulty finding the money to pay us for 100% of the repairs up front in order that they can get 75% of it reimbursed by the Federal Government. We have gotten a new promise from Commissioner Jane Garvey that one way or another we'll be paid. Representative Healy and Senator Olver have been most helpful in reaching this point. No one in Heath is counting chickens yet. As a matter of fact the confusion and delay surrounding the flow of these "emergency" funds appears to have played havoc with the town's free cash availability.

The Selectmen are looking for people who would help with the Heath Council on Aging. This Council has been beneficial in acquiring and distributing a number of small grants to citizens of Heath. Let us know of your interest. It's a good way to serve your community.

## ASSESSORS' REPORT

by Alan Nichols, Chairman  
Heath Board of Assessors

The tax bills, which should have been out long ago, have been held up by shortfalls in some town accounts which have thrown off the budget plans of last year and may have pushed our tax rate over the Levy Limit. We're trying to find a way out of the mess with the help of Joe Messana of the State Bureau of Accounts. It has been a slow process.

The Board of Selectmen have appointed Wendy Luckhurst to fill the vacancy on the Board of Assessors created by the resignation of Steve Belitsos.



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## HEATH CONSERVATION COMMISSION

by Bill Lattrell, Chairman

In December the Heath Conservation Commission considered a Notice of Intent filed by Lamore Logging for Jeffrey Silva of Rowe Road. The Notice of Intent was in response to a cited violation of the Wetlands Protection Act. The Notice of Intent asked the Conservation Commission to consider the restoration of a stream bank and the installation of water bars and siltation fences to prevent further damage of the resource area. Our Order of Conditions was severely hampered due to the fact that the Department of Environmental Quality Engineering lost the entire packet of information. Finally the Order was issued in mid-January of 1989.

In December the Heath Conservation Commission was asked to consider a Request for Determination to see if the Wetlands Protection Act applied to Lot 1A on Number 9 Road. This lot was originally owned by H. T. Associates. It is presently owned by Mr. and Mrs. A. Liberatore of Somerville, CT. Readers may remember that this lot was withdrawn from the original Notice of Intent some three and one half years ago when H. T. Associates filed a Notice of Intent in response to wetland violations observed by the Heath Conservation Commission. The lot was withdrawn because it was proposed to fill and replicate approximately 5000 sq. ft. of wetland in addition to 5000 sq. ft. on lot 2A. This was not allowable since Chapter 131 Section 40 of the Massachusetts General Laws allows only 5,000 sq. ft. total per application.

In regards to this application Mr. Liberatore tried a new engineering firm, and through their survey the Heath Conservation Commission determined the original mapping done by the first engineering firm was incorrect for Lot 1A only. In addition the applicant is placing the house in a slightly different location. The Heath Conservation Commission determined, after site visits and several meetings with the engineer, that the new layout was not subject to the Wetlands Protection Act.

The Heath Conservation Commission also met with representatives of Mr. Ethier of Greenfield in relation to lots he is selling on the corner of No. 9 Road and Route 8A. Originally this area was to be subdivided into 11 lots. Presently five lots are being sold in this area. The reduction in the number of lots took place because of the presence of wetlands and other resource restrictions. The Heath Conservation Commission has put dozens of hours of work into this area meeting with realtors, engineers, biologists and prospective buyers. The wetland flagging has now been done and all parties are aware of existing restrictions.

## PLANNING BOARD REPORT

by Bob Dane, Secretary

The Planning Board has completed the first draft of the Revised Zoning Bylaws. We are now ready to begin the final round of public information meetings and kitchen meetings which will lead to a formal public hearing and a special town meeting (hopefully only one) where we will vote on a final draft of our Revised Bylaw. It is important for everyone to be well informed when they vote at town meeting and to do this people must attend the information meetings and the kitchen meetings. We hope the attendance at this round of meetings will be as good as at the ones last spring. The public information meetings will provide an overview of the different sections in the bylaw, as well as an opportunity for people to express their opinions and concerns. The kitchen meetings will offer an informal setting for more in depth discussion of the issues, and will be organized at the public information meetings.

### Schedule of Planning Board Meetings

Wednesday, February 15, Public Information Meeting,  
7:30 PM, Community Hall  
Wednesday March 1, Public Information Meeting,  
7:30 PM, Community Hall  
Monday March 6, Planning Board Zoning Revision,  
7 PM, Sawyer Hall  
Wednesday March 8, Public Information Meeting,  
7:30 PM, Community Hall  
Monday March 13, Planning Board regular meeting,  
7 PM Sawyer Hall  
Wednesday, March 15, Public Information Meeting,  
7:30 PM, Community Hall  
Monday, March 20, Planning Board regular meeting,  
7 PM, Sawyer Hall  
Wednesday April 5, Public Hearing for Revised Zoning Bylaws  
7:30 PM, Community Hall  
Wednesday April 26, Special Town Meeting for Revised Zoning Bylaws  
7:30 PM, Community Hall

At our regular business meetings of the past two months we signed three plans of land as not needing approval under Subdivision Regulations; Paul Lemelin of Ben Road, Lisa Whalen of Route 8A, and Newland and Caroline Smith of Hosmer Rd. The Planning Board would like to commend the Smiths for their donation of a sizable portion of their land to the New England Forestry Foundation. The donation will help Heath to maintain its rural character in these days of encroaching development.

In other business, at a public hearing on January 18, the Planning Board denied a special permit for a two family dwelling on Ben Road owned by Jean Galante and Linda Rothwell. Their house is presently under construction.



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## SPECIAL REPORT ON HEATH'S FINANCES

by D.F. Howland

Recently there was a report in the *Greenfield Recorder* about the status of the Town's free cash position that adversely affected the current budget year. Upon being advised of this situation the Selectmen engaged Tom Scanlon, who was the Town's auditor, to review the balance sheet at issue. It appears that the primary problem is so-called overdrawn expenditures for flood repair work for which we have not been reimbursed. The balance sheet does not reflect any compensating income from the Federal Emergency and Federal Highway programs for this work, because apparently, the State does not acknowledge they exist.

However, we find that past practice in such situations in Massachusetts suggests that other options to offset "overdrawn" monies can be exercised to balance the books. For example, certain State road monies could be borrowed against or even outside borrowing could be done in anticipation of income. However, such interpretations of State accounting are not readily evident. Now it is apparent that we would have had plenty of free cash to meet our commitments for FY'89 had we known of the problems implicit in the flood money funding.

We had planned on using \$55,000 to reduce taxes for FY'89 and indications were, when we proposed the budget for this year, that there was more than enough free cash to meet that obligation. It still seems feasible, but we have run into a technical accounting interpretation that has just put a hold on our doing business as usual; especially with regard to getting out tax bills. We hope that Tom Scanlon will obtain the necessary approvals from the State to resolve this and any related problems during the week of February 13.

This is not the first time that technicalities like this have occurred; nevertheless, it is very disturbing to the Selectmen as well as to the townspeople to have this kind of situation occur. The timely preparation of financial reports and tax bills and the follow-ups necessary on the myriad of state and federal programs is of utmost importance to the town's fiscal health, which is why we have supported the Shared Administrator program and are developing communication procedures for town officers and employees.

Please feel free to contact any of the Selectmen if you have questions about the foregoing information.

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## ANNUAL TOWN REPORT Being Prepared

The Annual Town Report, which is issued each year to all Heath residents, is now being planned by the Town Clerk, Karen MacDougall. Besides obtaining quotations from various printers, she reminds all town officers and committees to submit their own reports for this record by Friday, February 24. This lead time is required in order to allow for proper editing and re-typing as well as the necessary printing time. It is planned to distribute this report a week ahead of the Annual Town Meeting to be held on May 6.

## PERCS, PERMITS AND TRANSFERS

### Percolation Tests

There will be no percolation tests conducted until April.

### Building Permits

Howard Queen, Jr., Modoc Street, replace mobile home/add deck, roof. Raymond Dupre, Eastbrook Drive, replace mobile home/add two decks. Lucianna Ross, Colrain Stage Road, garage. Howard Crowningshield, Jacksonville Stage Road, demolish shed and sugarhouse. Mike Peters Number Nine Road, change living space to commercial space. Total \$85,680.

### Deed Transfers

Robert W. Dobek to Holy Trinity Lay Community, Inc. of Rowe. Number Nine Road. \$135,000 (Also includes land in Rowe.)

Newland F. and Caroline C. Smith to New England Forestry Foundation, Inc. of Boston. Hosmer Road. \$2,000.

Paul L. Lemelin, Alice Lemelin and George Tikky to James and Kathleen Tuturice of Jacksonville VT. Ben Road Lot E. \$18,000.

Bernard F. Mazrolle to Donald and Elaine Tatro of Ludlow. Mohawk Estates, Lot 14. \$1,500.

Dorothy A. Niedbala to Roy W. Neidbala. Number Nine Road, Lots A and B. Divorce agreement.

William E. and Julia Flanders to Paul A. and Nancy Giard. West Brook Drive Lots 7 and 8. \$5,000.

Daniel J. Organ to Southern New England Modular Homes, Inc. of CT. Jacksonville Stage Road Lot M5-A. 48,500.

Paul Ciesluk to Donald R. and Theofany Georges of East Longmeadow. Cascade Avenue Lots 14 and 20. \$3,500.

Bruce and Susan Litchfield to Bruce S. Litchfield of White Plains NY. Jacksonville Stage Road. \$35,000.

Kathryn B. Rinaldi to Richard C. Rinaldi of Wolcott CT. Bellor Road Lot 23-B. \$1.

Gerald R. and Noella J. Coderre to Tina Marie Houle of Chicopee. Mohawk Estates Lot 33. \$1,200.

Gerard R. Ethier to Ethier Management, Inc. of Greenfield. Number Nine Road. Lot 1. No consideration.

Ethier Management, Inc. to Joseph and Mary Delrosso of Braintree. Number Nine Road. Lot 1. \$29,000.

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## HEATH PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Earl Gleason is back home from the Franklin Medical Center where he had a successful hip replacement operation. Earl is getting around well with crutches, even driving his truck.

Ernie Thane is recuperating at home after having had a quadruple heart bypass operation at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center in Worcester. Ernie is feeling better and is expecting to return to his usual farm chores by summer.

Jean Holdsworth has completed her Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association internship. The results of her survey and analysis of the PVMA Museum gift shop appear in the February newsletter *Pocumtuck Papers*. Jean writes "This type of targeted customer-oriented marketing would translate into increased shop sales to help support the many worthwhile activities of the PVMA."

Petty Officer 3rd Class Robert E. Jillson was promoted to his present rank upon completing a 32-week course at the Combat Systems Technical Schools Command at Mare Island, Vallejo CA. Robert joined the Navy in October 1987. He is the son of Robert A. Jillson of Number Nine Road.

Keith Sherman, son of Leland and Cecilia Sherman, was promoted to flight officer in the Turners Falls Squadron, Air Patrol. He is now eligible to receive the coveted Billy Mitchell Award which will be presented to him by the wing officer at the state conference in Hyannis in March.

Bob Dane will have a showing of his glass sculpture at the Snyderman Gallery in Philadelphia. The opening reception is on April 2.

Martha R. (Sherman) McDonough, of Des Moines IA, has been named to the National Dean's List. She is a fourth-year student at the University of Osteopathic Medical Health Science in Des Moines and will graduate in June. Martha is the daughter of Elmer and Mary Sherman of Judd Road.

Brian M. McDonough, grandson of Elmer and Mary Sherman, has been selected to be a member of the Outstanding High School Students of America because of outstanding merit and accomplishment. He is the son of John and Martha (Sherman) McDonough of Des Moines IA.

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## SKI RACE.....continued from page 1

The race has been a popular event in the area during its short history drawing enthusiasts from several surrounding counties and extending its reach to adjacent states.

Last year, although we had to move the snow date to get the best trail conditions, the race had about 150 people skiing in bone-chilling temperatures. This kind of diehard spirit will prevail until next year when we hope to be back to our usual February snow cover for Heath's hills.

The Heath Ski Committee has now planned a potluck supper to be held on Sunday, February 19, at the Community Hall at 6 PM. As Carol Sartz, Chairman of the Committee, says it cannot really take the place of a ski race, however "it could lift our spirits."

## MILESTONES

by Edith C. Royer

Edward Arthur was born on December 12 to Patti Calkins and Edward Rickey, Sr. of Turners Falls. Edward is the grandson of Helen and Emerson Hamilton of Heath.

Michael Warren was born on January 18 to Jill and Dennis Kuehl of Ben Road, Heath.

Philipine A. Peters died on December 26 at the Hillside Nursing Home. She was 90 years old and had lived in Heath most of her life. She and her husband Leon, who died several years ago, owned and ran Peters Store almost from its beginning until recent years.

Philipine leaves four sons; Cleon of Heath, Nelson of Chelmsford, John of Colrain and Leon of Whitingham and seven daughters; Jeanette Emond of Worcester, Marie Orpe of Saugus CA, Evelyn Lemay and Beatrice Drew of Colrain, Pauline Stevenson of Franklin NH, Teresa Hicks of Shelburne Falls and Sylvia Williams of Pine Tops NC. She also leaves four sisters; Nora Galipo of Shelburne Falls, Clara Cardinal of North Adams, Hazel Leonard and Amy Poulin of California; 39 grandchildren and 42 great grandchildren.

Nancy Lou (Hurd) Sessions of Jacksonville Stage Road died suddenly on February 1 in the Franklin Medical Center after being stricken at home. She leaves her husband, Allen Sessions, and three sons, Allen D., Robert J. and David L., all at home in Heath.

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