



VOLUME 11 NUMBER 1

APRIL/MAY 1989

# HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER 35¢

## TENTH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE



VOL. 1 NO. 1 APRIL 1979

# HEATH HERALD

NEWS AND VIEWS

25¢

### HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER!

By Harriet Read

Spring is here. Read any newspaper or listen to any broadcast and you will become aware of all the many good things that happen in the spring except for this one, the arrival of the first edition of the Heath Herald. This is very good news!

Some time ago the idea of a newspaper for Heath began to take root. There are advantages to having topics of local interest presented from one source and now, with our quiet little town of yesteryear experiencing many changes due to influences beyond its boundaries, these advantages are even more apparent. A group of enthusiastic "Heathens" got together early in March to discuss the philosophy of the paper, its title, and the technicalities of getting the first issue published.

The Heath Herald will be a non-partisan newspaper written by and for the people of Heath. It will be informative and inspirational only if the news of events reaches the paper. You may write directly to the Heath Herald, P.O. Box 54, Heath, MA.

Let's make it a go, with all of us supporting Heath's very first newspaper by contributing to future issues and, of course, by subscribing to it. Here's to a Successful Heath Herald!

### SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

On Thursday, April 19 at 8 PM, a Special Town Meeting will be held to vote on an appropriation of \$8000 to cover additional finishing work on Sawyer Hall not covered in the original specifications. Of this amount, \$5000 is to be transferred from Revenue Sharing and \$3000 is to be raised by taxation.

Another article will call for \$7500 from Revenue Sharing to be used for the purchase of a wood chipper machine.

### SAWYER HALL UPDATE

By Anne Henderson

Work on Sawyer Hall is progressing and should be completed soon, according to the Selectmen. Structural renovations are being handled by Whiteman Bros. of Colrain. A new plumbing and heating system has been installed by Don Ward of Buckland, and the building has been rewired by Charles York of Shelburne.

Some unexpected problems were encountered early in the renovation. Poor quality foundation work had to be corrected before upstairs remodeling could begin. Some crumbling basement walls and an ill fitting boiler room door were repaired, and a plastic drainage pipe was replaced by a cast iron one as required by the building code.

Upstairs the contractors found more problems as they began the remodeling work. A steel I-beam has to be installed in the back wall of the library to replace a wooden one which has sagged. Shelving in the old kitchenette was found to be supporting the floor upstairs and a new beam will be installed there also. A small leak in the roof was also repaired.

The "new" Sawyer Hall will be quite a change from the old building. Insulation has been blown into the walls. A baseboard heating system has replaced the old furnace and space heaters. Windows have been repaired. A wheel chair ramp and new entryway have been created.

Inside, the building will be brighter and more open. The first floor will provide a foyer with a public phone, the Selectmen's office, a combined Assessors'/Town Clerk's office, new rest rooms, a small storage closet, and the enlarged library. On the second floor, there will be two finished rooms and a large unfinished hall. One of the finished rooms has been designated as a library research center. The function of the other two rooms will be decided by future town needs.



## LETTERS

To the Editors:

I would like to thank everyone who helped us after our automobile accident on February 14.

I think it was great that there were people who were able and willing to come to help us. I also think it was very kind of them to take us to the hospital and comfort us. I'm very grateful! Thanks again.

Special thanks to: Gloria Fisher, Carol Sartz, Art Schwenger, and Ronald Corey.

Amanda Ausikaitis

## HEATH PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

**Sadie Musacchio**, daughter of Wanda and John Musacchio of Swamp Road, has been accepted at Deerfield Academy. She is a junior at Greenfield High School and will matriculate at Deerfield Academy next September when the institution becomes co-educational.

**Jennella Porter**, daughter of Hazel Porter, has qualified to compete in the Boston Marathon, to be run on April 17.

**Melanie and Roberta Tripp**, daughters of Robert and Alicia Tripp, were named to the Dean's list for the fall 1988 semester at the American International College.



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**HEATH HERALD**

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

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Caroline Smith

Editorial Assistant  
Staff Reporters

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Susan Silvester  
Alli Thane

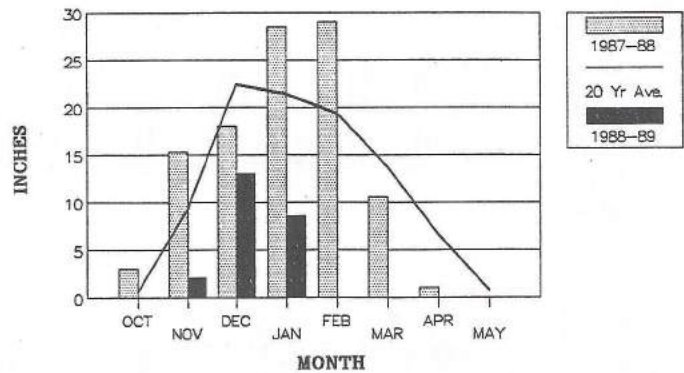
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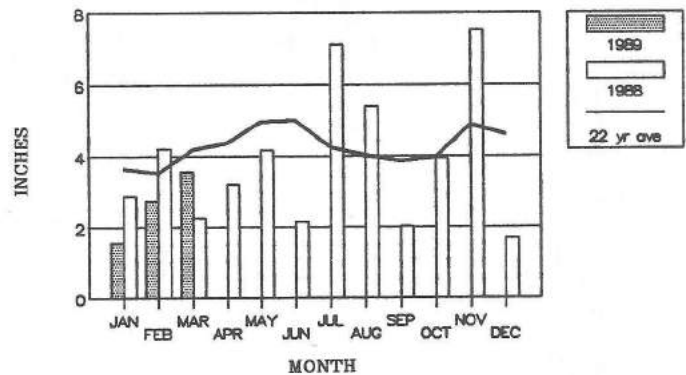
## HEATH SNOWFALL CHART

20 YEAR AVERAGE COMPARISON



## HEATH PRECIPITATION CHART

22 YEAR AVERAGE COMPARISON



## HEATH PRECIPITATION

by Ralph Dickinson

Observer for Mass. Water Resources Commission

February precipitation was 2.74 inches; snowfall was 4 inches. March precipitation was 3.57 inches; snowfall was 15 inches. The total precipitation in 1989 so far is 7.86 inches. The total snowfall for this season is 43.5 inches.

So far our snowfall the equals the amount we received in the season 1979-1980. Our average annual snowfall for the previous 20 years is 94 inches. It has been an unusual winter with lots of ice and little snow. (The first week of spring gave us 15 inches of snow.)



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## EDITORIAL

### ON ZONING

The citizens of Heath will be asked to vote at the Special Town Meeting on April 26 on one of the most important issues that has ever faced our Town. The result of that vote will shape the way that Heath will develop and grow over the next century.

All of us who were not born in town have come to Heath because we like the rural atmosphere and enjoy our woods, the open spaces with rolling fields and the mountain views. This is something that one cannot obtain down in the Connecticut Valley or in the cities. It is something that we wish to preserve as much as possible and to pass on to our families and future generations.

Realizing, however, that the Town will grow regardless, our Heath Planning Board and Task Force have worked hard over the past year and a half to devise a reasonable set of guidelines to control this growth in a planned and orderly manner, instead of the way in which developments have taken place in the meadows of the Valley and along Route 5. These proposed bylaws will still allow for new houses and business, but will do so in a way so that will protect our environment and still provide a tax base to support the needed additional town services.

The proposed new bylaws have been the subject of many meetings and hearings over the past few months. A large number of people have attended and expressed their opinions. Many of the views expressed are reflected in the final proposed laws. Since everyone cannot be pleased in all ways, this set of bylaws represents the best possible compromise and is one that will protect our Town over many years from a too rapid growth with resulting problems.

The *Heath Herald* supports the work of the Planning Board and Task Force and urges all citizens of Heath to vote for this program at the April 26 Town Meeting.

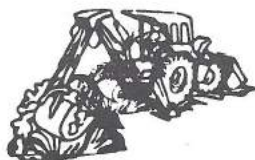


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## OPEN LETTER

To: Joint Rezoning Task Force

The Joint Rezoning Task Force should be commended for their year-long work of researching, compiling, studying, modifying, and compromising to come up with a real workable and liveable set of zoning bylaws.

I believe the Joint Task Force is made up of an excellent cross-section of Town people devoted to a way of life and the character of the Town of Heath. The bylaws that you are proposing are the best that would be accepted by the residents of Heath.

I would like to extend thanks for a job well done, and hope the voters of town will support these bylaws at the April 26, 1989 Special Town meeting.

Dick Glard  
Heath

### GENERAL WETLANDS PROTECTION BYLAWS

The Special Town Meeting on April 26 will be concerned not only with the new Protective Zoning Bylaw but also a Wetlands Protection Bylaw.

The Warrant will include an Article relating to the proposed General Wetlands Protection Bylaw, the purpose of which is to protect the wetlands, related water resources and adjoining land areas in the Town by controlling activities deemed by the Conservation commission likely to have a significant or cumulative effect upon wetland values. This includes but is not limited to public or private water supply, groundwater, flood control, erosion and sedimentation control, storm damage prevention, water pollution control, fisheries, wildlife habitat, recreation, aesthetics and agricultural values.

The bylaw, while it will be independent of the State Wetlands Protection Act by virtue of the Home Rule Amendment and Statutes, re-states and clarifies the basic provision of the State law.

It introduces changes in the notification and hearing process, providing broader public access.

It reinforces the concept that applicants for permits and determinations may be held liable for the reasonable costs necessarily incurred by the Conservation Commission in reviewing such applications and requests.

It clarifies the procedure to be followed in the delineation of wetland boundaries during the winter months.

This bylaw will be a Town bylaw, as distinct from a zoning bylaw. A majority vote will be sufficient for its adoption.

Enforcement of the General Wetlands Protection Bylaw will, as indicated above, be the responsibility of the Conservation Commission.

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# PROTECTIVE ZONING BYLAW

A summary of the proposals to be voted on  
at the April 26 Special Town Meeting

## SECTION 1: PURPOSE AND ADMINISTRATION [PAGE]

- 1.1 Purpose [1]  
An expansion of what exists in the present zoning bylaw. It forms the legal basis for the following provisions.
- 1.2 Enforcement [1]  
Designates the Building Inspector as enforcement agent. Same as current bylaw.
- 1.3 Penalty [1]  
Sets penalty for not following this bylaw at \$300 per day per offense. The present bylaw fine is \$25 per offense.
- 1.4 Filing Fee [1]  
The filing fee for Special Permits, variances and/or appeals will be \$25. Same as current bylaw.
- 1.5 Board of Appeals [1]  
Establishes the Zoning Board of Appeals. Same as current bylaw.
- 1.6 Special Permit Granting Authority [2]  
This provision says that the Planning Board has the authority to grant Special Permits. Same as current bylaw.
- 1.7 Validity [2]  
If one section of the bylaw is declared invalid the remaining sections are still in effect. Same as current bylaw.
- 1.8 Applicability [2]  
The zoning bylaw takes precedence over other regulations or agreements. The present bylaw carries this statement.
- 1.9 Amendments [2]  
Defines how amendments can be made to the bylaw as spelled out by State law. Same as current bylaw.

## SECTION 2: GENERAL REGULATIONS

- 2.1 Pre-existing Uses, Structures and Lots [2]  
Exempts existing uses, structures and lots from zoning changes. Sets limits on their expansion. Same as present bylaw.
- 2.2 Removal of Natural Materials [3]  
The removal of sod, earth, rock etc. will require a Special Permit, except in certain defined circumstances. The current bylaw has a similar provision.
- 2.3 Erosion Control [3]  
Specifies limits for grading on slopes and clearing vegetation during construction. The present bylaw does not offer this protection.

## SECTION 3: DISTRICTS

- 3.1 Establishment of Districts [4]  
Establishes the underlying Districts in Town as Primarily Agriculture and Residential, Mohawk Beach Estates and Heath Center. The Heath Center District would be an addition to the current bylaw.
- 3.2 Overlay Districts [4]  
Establishes two new protective overlay Districts (Water Supply Protection District and Floodplain District).
- 3.3 Location of Districts [4]  
Defines the boundaries of the Heath Center District and provides the map references for Mohawk Beach Estates, the Water Supply Protection District and the Floodplain District. Makes the zoning map part of

the bylaw.

- 3.4 Boundaries of Districts [5]  
Specifies how to interpret the zoning map.

## SECTION 4: USE REGULATIONS

- 4.1 General Regulations [7]  
Says all new uses and structures in the Town must conform to those listed in Section 4.2.
- 4.2 Use Regulations Schedule [7]  
Lists what specific uses can be carried out in each of the three proposed Districts. Spells out permitted and prohibited uses more clearly than current bylaw.
- 4.3 Water Supply Protection District [11]  
Protects potential Town water supply from pollution. Applies to a very small area of Heath, but makes the law consistent with State requirements. Not in the current bylaw.
- 4.4 Floodplain District [15]  
Is designed to protect the public health, to guard against the dangers of flooding and to preserve the flood storage capacity of the floodplain.
- 4.5 Parking and Loading Requirements [19]  
Adequate off-road parking must be provided for new structures, additions or changes in a primary use. Lists number of parking spaces required for each type of use. The existing bylaw does not require any off-road parking.
- 4.6 Sign Regulation [20]  
Describes the type, size and lighting allowed for signs. Gives clearer standards than the current bylaw.
- 4.7 Standards for Multi-Family Dwellings [22]  
Gives standards for new multi-family buildings: no more than 4 units per building; set-backs from lot lines; minimum disruption of site; parking screened from road. Not in current bylaw.
- 4.8 Standards for Business and Industrial Use [23]  
Gives standards for new business and industry; set-backs from road, side and rear lot lines; parking and storage screened from the road and neighbors; shielded lighting; no fumes, odors, excess vibrations, noise, dust. Not in current bylaw.
- 4.9 Driveway Regulations [23]  
A slightly amended version of the recent Town regulation. Spells out standards. Also adds allowance for 2 or 3 lots to share a driveway.

## SECTION 5: INTENSITY REGULATIONS

- 5.1 Dimensional Requirements [25]  
Specifies the minimum lot size, frontage and set-back required for each type of use allowed in each of the three proposed Districts. The required dimensions for business and industry remain the same except in the Water Supply Protection District, where they are increased. The proposed changes will increase the residential minimum lot size from 1 1/2 acres to 2 acres and frontage from 200' to 250'. Unlike the current bylaw, the new bylaw requires increased lot size and frontage for 3- and 4- family structures where they are permitted. The proposed changes in residential lots will bring the Town into line with the majority of the West County Towns.

## SECTION 6: SPECIAL PERMIT AND SITE PLAN REVIEW

- 6.1 Special Permits [27]  
Spells out the procedures to be followed and the criteria to be considered by the Planning Board when issuing a Special Permit. Expands the criteria in



the current bylaw in one or two respects, e.g. the impact of a development on historic and other cultural resources.

6.2 Site Plan Review [29]

Is designed to give the Planning Board the opportunity to discuss a development in its preliminary stages with the landowner in order to ensure as much as possible that it is in harmony with its surroundings.

SECTION 7: PHASING OF GROWTH

7.1 Purpose [32]

To phase residential growth so that it will not unduly strain the community's ability to provide basic facilities and services.

7.2 Regulations [32]

They provide for an annual cap on the number of residential building permits. The cap, based on the average number of residential building permits issued over the previous 8 years, will be applied for 5 years. It will be renewable by Town vote. Preference will be given in the grant of building permits to Special Projects, involving Affordable Housing and Conservation Development (see Section 8.3) as well as Large Lot Projects.

7.3 Administration [33]

Spells out the procedures to be adopted. Explains that the Planning Board will be responsible for administering the procedures.

SECTION 8: OPTIMAL DEVELOPMENT METHODS

8.1 Back Lot Development [35]

Allows an existing lot to be divided one time so that one lot has less than the required frontage. New provision.

8.2 Flexible Development for Small Projects [36]

Allows a small project (3 lots along a road) flexibility in assigning frontage. Could protect scenic views.

8.3 Conservation Development [36]

Allows by Special Permit a flexible arrangement of houses so as to preserve some open space. Authorizes a relaxation of dimensional and density requirements in exchange for farmland preservation, extra open space. Spells out requirements and procedures. New option.

SECTION 9: DEFINITIONS [43]

Definition of terms helps to avoid confusion in interpreting the bylaw.

## SAFEGUARDING THE WELL-BEING OF TEENS

by Sharleen Moffatt, R.N. Town Nurse

Injuries are the leading cause of death and disability in teenagers. Auto accidents, drownings, falls, and firearm accidents are the most frequent causes of death. Firearm accidents occur mainly in or around the home. Contributing to the increased risk of injury in the teenage years is the tendency of risk-taking and feelings of indestructibility felt by teens. Also changes in growth, coordination, and energy levels make teens more prone to accidents.

Suicide also ranks high among the causes of death in teens. The number of unsuccessful suicides is even higher, with estimates of two to ten unsuccessful attempts for each successful one.

The term "accident" suggests an unavoidable event, but most accidents are preventable. Here are some measures to prevent them:

1. Encourage use of seat belts in cars and use of helmets and reflective material for cyclists/joggers.
2. Discuss the dangers of drugs and alcohol.
3. Stress the importance of avoiding driving after drinking and of not riding with drivers who have been drinking or using drugs.
4. Establish good driving habits through driver's training.
5. Teach appropriate behavior for contact with gasoline, electric wires, and fires.
6. Have a fire safety plan (How to get out, whom to call, where to meet).
7. Never keep loaded guns in the home.
8. Store guns and ammunition only where appropriate adults have access to them.
9. Teach basics of water safety - learning to swim; use of the buddy system; appropriate places and depth for swimming, diving, and skating; proper boat skills.
10. Encourage good conditioning and training for sports activities.
11. Use of protective gear for sports and vocational activities (padding, helmets, mouthguards, masks, and goggles).
12. Be alert for signs of depression and the potential for suicide - feelings of sadness, worthlessness, isolation; noticeable changes in schoolwork and social behavior; significant changes in eating habits; and talk about killing oneself.
13. Discuss and encourage responsibility for sexual behavior.

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## NEW NEIGHBORS

by Beverly denOuden

At the top of Dick Giard's meadow is a commanding hill-town view of rolling tree-topped hills and valleys. Right there at the line between Mohawk Estates and one of Heath's former farms is Wendy Luckhurst's new home. She has enjoyed this view for the 12 years that Heath has been her part-time escape from the pressures of New York City life.

Her family's original purchase came about on a ski trip several years ago. They were renting a cabin at the Hilltop Motel on the Trail and skiing at Berkshire East where she taught skiing in winter. There was poor skiing that weekend and their interest turned to real estate. The realtor showed them the site's original dwelling - an unfinished A-frame with no electricity. They bought the view and enjoyed the rather inconvenient home for many years of ski outings.

Wendy was a controller for a textile manufacture in mid-town Manhattan and was daily commuting to and fro from Oakland, New Jersey. She has had enough of the long hours, the hassle of the drive both ways, and has now established herself as a permanent resident in Heath.

Wendy has two married daughters in New Jersey and a son in college in West Virginia.

Wendy was appointed to complete the unexpired term of Steve Belitsos who had resigned from the Board of Assessors and she is currently running for a three year term for the Board of Assessors.

Wendy and a friend designed her gracious new home, which was built with the help of George Giard's contracting firm. The completion of the interior is almost finished.

Living in the midst of daily dustings from dry wall finishing is a current short-lived inconvenience but the vista from Wendy's dining table endures.

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## TOWN MEETING AND ELECTION 1989

The 1989 election of Town Officers will be held on Friday, May 5. For this purpose Sawyer Hall will be open from 12 noon to 7 PM for balloting. This year besides the election of officers voters will be asked whether or not they support the override of the "2 1/2" levy limit. This is necessary since our requirements on town services and expenses, as proposed in the FY'90 budget, are greater than the limit set by the State under the present laws.

The Annual Town Meeting will take place the following morning, Saturday, May 8, starting at 9 AM, at which time all articles will be taken up and voted upon. Prior to this Meeting, on Tuesday, May 2, an information meeting on these articles, including the budget, will take place at the Community Hall.

It is expected that the 1988 Annual Town Report, with a copy of the Town Warrant, will be distributed to all Heath households in advance of the Town Meeting.

In this year's election the Town offices listed below will appear on the ballot together with the names of the persons who have filed nomination papers. Voters are at liberty to indicate by write-in any other citizen of their choice. Statements of candidates running for office are printed elsewhere in this issue.

<u>Position</u>	<u>Term (yrs.)</u>	<u>Candidate</u>
Selectman	3	(I) F. Walter Gleason Paul Lively
Assessor	3	* Wendy Luckhurst
Assessor	1	(W) Alan Nichols
School Committee	3	Frank Brower
Planning Board	5	Robert Dane
Finance Committee	2	* Charles Mackie
Finance Committee	3	No candidate
Library Trustee	2	* Helen Mackie
Library Trustee	3	(W) Rhodessa Peace
Town Auditor	1	No candidate
Constable	1	Charles Kaempfer
Constable	1	Peter Toupence
Tree Warden	1	No candidate

(I) = Incumbent

(W) = Write-in candidate

\* = Has been filling unexpired term  
by appointment

There being no declared candidates for Assessor (1 year unexpired term), Finance Committee (3 year term), Town Auditor (1 year term) and Tree Warden (1 year term) these offices will be filled by write-in vote, or else, if no-one is elected, by Selectmen's appointment.

Be sure to VOTE on May 5 and attend the Annual Town Meeting on Saturday, May 6.

**Gilmore  
and Watters**

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## CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS

### CONSTABLE - Charles "Bud" Kaempfer

I became a resident of Heath last fall. Although I recently moved here, I have been a property owner over eighteen years. I retired after twenty years working for the Town of Monroe in Connecticut with the Highway Department, serving as Crew-chief and Assistant Foreman. This position led me to deal with the public on a day to day basis. I am a World War II veteran, serving in the Navy. I am a past member of the American Legion and a volunteer fireman. I also have worked for two tree companies and drove truck for a mill-work company a total of fifteen years. I believe I can be a service to the town as a constable.

### CONSTABLE - Peter J. Toupence

I am a resident of Heath and am seeking election for the position of Constable.

I am a local business owner of Heath Auto Sales and Service located next to Peters General Store and I reside on Number Nine Road with my wife, Carol, and two children, Christopher and Catherine.

I was trained in law enforcement by the Connecticut State Police. Seeing the Town of Heath is growing I feel that the Chief of Police could use active constables to assist him when the time is needed.

### PLANNING BOARD MEMBER - Robert Dane

I am running for reelection to the Planning Board. I have been on the Planning Board for the past 5 years. During that time we have revised the Subdivision Regulations for the town, and we are finishing the revision of our Zoning Bylaws. These are important tasks in this time of rapid growth. I have enjoyed working with the Board, providing a much needed service to the town.

With the knowledge I have gained in this term, I would like the chance to help implement these new regulations. I hope you will support me and our efforts by voting for me this spring.

### SELECTMAN - Paul L. Lively

I am seeking the office of Selectman to be in a better position to help government promote LIFE, TRUTH and FREEDOM.

I will communicate with the voters of Heath on these matters in a future statement.

### ASSESSOR - Wendy Luckhurst

I feel that with my background as an accountant and business person I would be deficient if I were not to offer some of my time and energies to the town I have chosen to make my home.

The need for an assessor was there and hopefully I can fill that vacancy successfully.

### FINANCE COMMITTEE - Charles H. Mackie

Since being appointed to the Finance Committee some months ago, I have enjoyed working with the other Town representatives on the Town's Fiscal Policies. With the serious State cutbacks on programs affecting cities and towns, it is a challenge to provide the services the community requires. Your vote for me for the Finance Committee will be appreciated.

### LIBRARY TRUSTEE - Helen J. Mackie

During the past several years I have worked with the Librarian when the Bookmobile comes to town, and previously worked as Librarian for nine years at Rowe Elementary School. I have a strong interest in our Town Library, particularly as it relates to the children and would appreciate your vote as Library Trustee.

### LIBRARY TRUSTEE - Rhodesia Peace (Write-in candidate)

I have been asked to be a candidate for the position of Library Trustee; a three year term by write-in ballot. I am presently helping out at the library a few hours a week and do realize how important the services of the library are to this town. I will try to support and contribute my help concerning matters pertaining to the library.

The following candidates who have filed nomination papers for election were asked to submit statements for publication but have not done so.

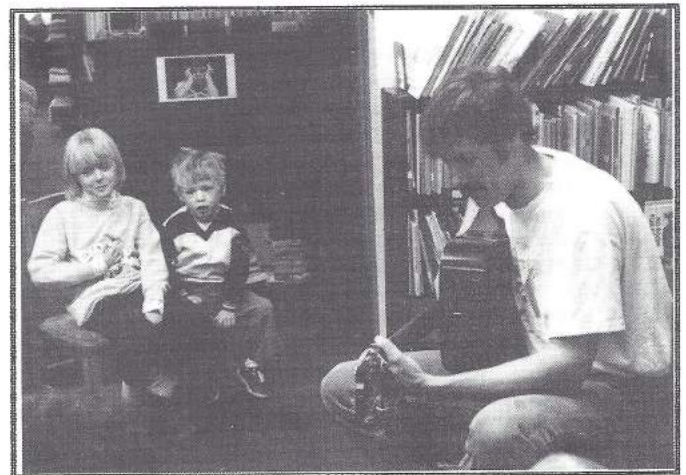
### SELECTMAN - F. Walter Gleason

### SCHOOL COMMITTEE - Charles Brower

## COMMUNITY HALL NEWS

by Karen Brooks

The Community Hall will be serving a simple lunch after the Annual Town Meeting on May 6. Money raised for the lunch will go to help replace dishes that have been lost or broken over the year. Anyone able to help or donate hot dogs, juice, etc. please call Dolly at 337-6680. Also we hope to have coffee and donuts for sale before and during the meeting for all you Saturday morning late risers! Stop in and get a cup on your way up!



Children's Songs at the Library  
Doug Wilkins playing guitar and singing  
while Lara and Ross Thane listen

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## CHURCH NEWS

by Kim Griswold

Easter has been a busy and wonderful time for the Heath Union Church. A "West County" Good Friday Service was held on Friday, March 24 at 7 PM. Despite the unexpected snow storm, attendance was high.

The following churches participated in the event: East Charlemont Bible Church, Colrain Baptist Church, Colrain Chapel, Colrain Community Church and the Congregational Church of Goshen.

The Sunrise Service began at 6 AM on Easter Sunday near the Heath fairgrounds. The Reverend Allen Comstock of the Charlemont Federated Church along with Pastor Roger Peace celebrated the service.

Breakfast followed at both the Heath Community Hall and the Charlemont Community Hall.

Easter celebrations continued at our regular 10:00 AM worship service, with an Easter Cantata. Many attended the special musical presentation.

The new choir was directed by Nan Gibbons and organ music was supplied by Joan Adair. Members of the choir are as follows: Russ Johnson, Ruth Johnson, Todd Sumner, Eric Sumner, Carroll Stowe, Dave Gibbons, Karen Brooks, Jason Peace, Bradley Peace, Sue Gleason, Alli Thane, Olga Peters, Ruth Corey, Kirk Pettengill, Sandy Pettengill, Celia Pettengill, Roger Peace Jr., Roger and Rhodessa Peace and Paul Burrington. A large thank you to all who helped make all the celebrations successful.

A Mohawk Trail Concert is being planned for May 14, 1989.

The parsonage garage is progressing nicely thanks to all those who have put their time and energy into it.

Anyone wishing to learn more about either church membership or baptisms should contact Pastor Peace at 337-5755.

## SPRING RITES

by B. J. denOuden

Augie stops his sap sled, noses  
up a covey and drinks sweet maple juices  
from a brimming bucket.

Shoulders aching from hefting, we, too,  
pause, laughing at his antics and note  
the almost audible melting of snow.

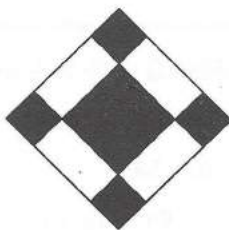
Bong! Bong! The rhythmic drip of  
sap into a freshly emptied bucket syncopates  
with the rattle of harness and squish of now  
wet socks in heavy snow-packed boots.

Sweet steam rolls up from vast pans.

Load the arch, quell the foam, draw off  
New England nectar.

Pass the samples around. Reward  
for another load brought in.

Take the loop road on the Martin piece  
and this run will be gathered.



WOODEN QUILTS  
TO WARM THE SOUL

NARY A STITCH  
SPECIAL ORDERS WELCOME

HELEN J. MACKIE  
HEATH, MA 01346-0026

## RETIRING HERALD STAFF MEMBERS

When the *Heath Herald* was started in April 1979, it was agreed that the staff would continue their work for ten years and now that point has been reached. Accordingly with this number of the *Herald* three of the founders of paper in 1979 are turning over their jobs to newer staff members. A fourth original staff member is also retiring as soon as a replacement can be located.

Starting with the next number, Editors Caroline Smith and Alli Thane are turning over their duties to Susan Silvester as the new Managing Editor and to Alastair Maitland as Copy Editor. Pegge Howland will continue beyond her ten years to be responsible for Layout and General Editing. Terry Pettengill, who has handled circulation and mailings since the beginning and is also Business Manager, is searching for a replacement. In addition Typographer Newland Smith, who has made many typos over the past ten years, is happy to turn over his keyboard to Arlene Markert who does not make such serious errors.

Edith Royer, who has been reporting "Milestones" since the paper's beginning ten years ago, is the only one of the original staff members besides Pegge Howland who will continue. The newer staff reporters Karen Brooks and Cindy Rice will join with Beverly denOuden in keeping us informed of town news. David Gibbons will assist Editor Maitland in catching errors and proof-reading.

We can all now look forward to a fresh approach in bringing Heath's town news to the public.

## HEATH HERALD PARTY

The *Heath Herald* gave itself a 10th anniversary birthday party on April 1. Twenty people including the Founding Fathers (and Mothers) and Devoted Volunteers joined in the fun. The highlight of the evening was a mystical presentation prepared by Sue Silvester with Alastair Maitland as the "Swami" dressed in an appropriate white turban and black robe. Sue had many answers to put to the Swami while he transcendently meditated, motioned with his hands, rolled his eyes and came up with the answers *before* a sealed envelope was opened and the questions read by Sue.

Here is a sampling of some of the eleven answers and questions: (answer) "6 trillion 942 million 798 thousand.7920" - (question) "What is the number of words that the typographer typed on his computer for the 10 years of the *Herald*?"; (answer) "Where is Whittemore Spring" - (question) "What is the famous question asked by Newland Smith of every *Heath Herald* staff member, of whom only two were able to provide the correct answer?"; (answer) "Ed Calver" - (question) "Who has the most active correction pen in town?". The last answer was imponderable in spite of more soul searching by the Swami, so the answer was "?????" - the question, "How many more decades will the *Heath Herald* continue?"

In spite of this ominous ending, we do not think the Swami is all knowing and we do believe the *Herald* will survive the next decade and many more to come.

CARLISLE WALLCOVERING  
PAPERHANGING & INTERIOR PAINTING

MICHAEL CARLISLE

413-625-9733



## 10 YEARS OF PUBLISHING THE HERALD

When the newly formed staff of the *Herald* first thought of publishing a town newspaper, we only had vague ideas of how to go about it. Knowing that we could not possibly afford to have a commercial printer typeset the paper and, finding a good example in the already going *Wendell Post*, it was agreed that final copy typed on a manual typewriter would be satisfactory. The 8 1/2 by 11" page format in two columns was adopted and continues in the present paper.

A suitable name had to be chosen for the new paper and *Heath Herald* was chosen by a close vote over another suggestion of *News and Views*. The masthead design was created by Harriet Read who made the drawing of the "Herald" blowing his horn. This design is still retained after ten years.

Since the editors needed the flexibility of shifting articles around a literal "cut and paste" approach was taken. The pasted copy was then taken to a commercial printer who used the offset-printing process to run off the final copies.

Articles, after editing, are turned over to the typographer who started out using a portable typewriter. The columns were typed in a 3 1/2 inch width. Many typos, misspelled words and punctuation errors were created. Some were caught by the editors and many more were caught only by our sharper readers. After typing, the columns are "laid out" on a master sheet and articles shifted around on the different pages by Editor Pegge Howland to fit appropriately with the photos and ads. After the layout is approximate, Editor Caroline Smith reviews the general contents with Pegge and then the paper is finally "pasted" in place. Headlines were at first made up with a larger type strip-printer and pasted over the typed copy.

The first few issues of the *Herald* were taken by Dave Howland to Amherst where he was able to have a limited number of copies run off. Then a commercial printer in Greenfield did the printing; but photographs had to be sent out for processing which took several days. The *Herald* then found that the Adams Printing and Specialty Co. could not only do quick processing of the printing but also process the photos in-house and complete the whole job in one day. The *Herald* then switched to Adams where we have received consistently good quality and excellent service. In 1981 we changed over to a smaller type font, comparable to other newspapers, providing almost 50 percent more words per page than before. This format is still in use. At the same time the ads were professionally set up by Adams Printing, providing a better finished appearance.

In 1983 the typographer, having acquired a personal computer system the previous year, abandoned the typewriter. This system, combined with a state-of-the-art wordprocessing program, made possible much faster typing and facilitated editing and the correction of errors. The print quality was good but not as high quality as a good typewriter. Once the computer program was in place and operating effectively, right hand justification was introduced in 1984 to produce a more finished appearance. Then a more sophisticated word-processing program was introduced in 1987 which provided not only a spelling checker ability but also a proportional spacing printing capability. Later a completely new computer system with a higher quality printer provided other improvements in quality and editing.

Over the ten years of the *Herald* the number of pages in each issue has increased from six pages in some of the earlier numbers to eighteen pages in recent issues. Over the same period the number of copies printed and

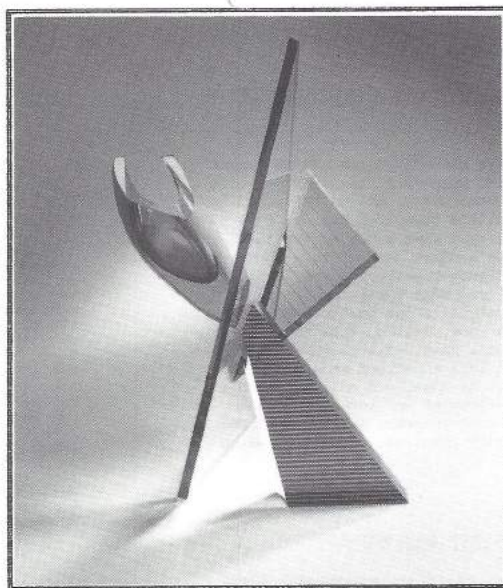
circulated has increased from 150 copies to 500 copies per issue. Circulation Manager Terry Pettengill now mails to subscribers in 150 cities in 35 states and in one foreign country. This is in addition to all of the local Heath readers.

In its continuing effort to be of public service, the *Herald* is glad to have had the opportunity to help the Town by publishing a special issue with the full copy of the final town warrant before the Annual Town Meeting in 1982 and circulating it, at no charge, to all town residents. This established a precedent which has since been carried on by the Town which now inserts copies of the final warrant in the Annual Report before circulating it prior to the Town Meeting.

In another effort to get more information available to Heath townspeople, the *Herald* encouraged the Board of Assessors to publish, through a special issue of the paper, the complete property revaluation list in October 1984. Such a list had not been published in the town for many years.

The publishing of the *Heath Herald* has been made possible only by the continuing support of our advertisers, who help defray about half of the expenses, and by the work of an interested group of devoted volunteers who spend many hours writing, collecting information, printing and circulating the paper. We now can look forward to the second ten years of the *Herald* having new staff members with their different ideas and better publishing methods.

### "PARITY VARIANT"



The above photograph is one of twelve pieces of Bob Dane's newer glass sculptures represented in a showing entitled "Glass" being held at the Snyderman Gallery in Philadelphia from April 2 to May 2.

"Parity Variant" stands 20" high by 16" wide by 12" deep. It is made of blown and constructed glass with beautiful colors and lines. These newer pieces mark a new development in Bob's work and are all created at his Heath Brook Studio in Heath Center.

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

CLOTHING

FOOTWEAR



August 1979

## LITTLE FAIR IN THE OAK TREES

By Ken and Grace Crowmingshield

Many years ago as kids there were two things we always looked for - school vacation and the Heath Fair. It was more of an old home day then. Most all of the exhibitors were from Heath. The balloon man had to sell his birdie-on-a-stick and balloons on the town highway because he didn't come from Heath. The premium money was very little then. As we grew up, many of us went into the service of our country. When we came home, it was still the little fair in in the Oak Trees.

August 1980

## HOUSE BY THE SIDE OF THE ROADS

By Earl Gleason

First in a series of articles about older houses in Heath)

The Gleason homestead was built about 1810 on a road leading from the present R. Thanes' to C. Stowes'. It passed just east of the Gleason house and the present door from the dining room to the kitchen was the front door. Later the road was changed to lead to the present Branch School and the ell on the front of the house was moved to its present location. In the late 1890's the present 8A road was built. My father always referred to the section of road from our house past Ken

August 1980

## THE MOHAWK ESTATES DEVELOPMENT

Until quite recently Heath had no zoning laws. As with many small towns it was felt they were unnecessary, and so it seemed in the quiet little town of Heath. In 1967 this all changed when a man bought 350 acres in the eastern part of town on the former Henderson-Davenport place. He divided this land into 750 1/2-acre lots, put in roads, rebuilt a dam on the brook, and dredged the pond. Calling this Mohawk Beach Estates, Read Scarborough started selling the lots under the name of World Waterfronts. He based his enterprise on a similar development in Connecticut, and was a real entrepreneur, selling lots easily, with many promises, not all of which were fulfilled.

## OUR FIRST ANNIVERSARY

With this, the first anniversary issue of the HEATH HERALD, we take the opportunity to thank all of you who have supported us in so many ways

... All of the contributors who have sent their stories to us by our deadline, bearing with us while we endeavored to figure out how much space would be available, and trying not to edit out important facts ... Those who have bought advertising space, without whose support we could not be solvent financially



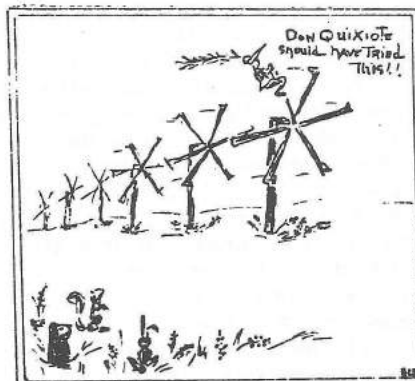
# 1979 - TEN YEARS IN

June 1980

## HOT AND COLD WINDS BLOW AT WIND FARM HEARING

By John Holdsworth

When the last Planning Board report was written for the HEATH HERALD, few, if any, people in town had heard of U.S. Windpower, Inc. Early in April representatives of that company came to Heath, viewed Tripp's blueberry farm on Burnt Hill, and met with town officials and interested citizens to discuss the possibility of erecting a windfarm of 100 windmills on the Tripp farm. Town zoning bylaws indicated a special permit would have to be issued by the Planning Board before such a project could be implemented. In a series of public meetings, held jointly by the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals, assistance and suggestions were received from the Assessors, the Finance Committee, the Selectmen, and many other townspeople that will help provide the flesh on the bones



August 1981

## HEATH HIGHWAYS AND ITS PROBLEMS

Money! Time! Bureaucracy! - This seems to be the crux of all problems, be they individual or local, county, state or federal government. Each has its own priorities of interest just as does every individual.

None of us wishes to pay higher taxes to pay the price of inflation, but each of us is guilty of not wanting to give up the comforts we are used to, and we also like to have our life comforts improved in a progressive manner.

The priority of this article brings us to the road conditions in Heath. Nearly every conversation raises a complaint - or two - about how rough they are, where the worst potholes in, the largest bump, etc. Naturally each person involved is most concerned about the section of road he uses daily.

December 1981

## 165 YEARS OF THE HEATH POST OFFICE

By Esther M. Dickinson

On October 11, 1816 Sylvanus Maxwell was appointed the first Postmaster of Heath, Mass. He kept the office in his home, now Roger Clark's. He served in that office for 17 years, and was followed by John Hastings, Jr., who lived in the Old Red House, the site of the present Town Hall and Library. In the past 165 years there have been 21 Postmasters of Heath. The shortest term was Oliver Kendrick's, from Nov. 1857 to April 1858, a brief five months. Horace McGee served 10 years; George Bolton 12 years; Maria Wetmore 10 years; Edward P. Dickinson 15 years, and Mrs. Marion Peon 17 years.

In 1845 during the tenure of Winslow Buck a 1/2 oz. letter going no more than 30 miles was 5¢, but a 1/2 oz. letter going 300 miles or more was a dime. The first adhesive postage stamp came into use in 1847 during Winslow Buck's time. His office was in what was later known as the Stockwell house just south of the Community Hall.

December 1981

## HEATH POST OFFICE UPHEAVAL

By the Editors

Esther Dickinson, our Postmaster for 30 years, submitted her resignation late in September to be effective October 31. At the same time, the landlord, Gregory Babineau, indicated that he did not want to continue with the Post Office lease.

The postal officials from Springfield immediately announced the opening and requested applications for a replacement postmaster for Heath. Unbeknownst to a majority of townspeople, they met with the Heath Selectmen on several occasions to investigate alternate sites for the post office. Finally, after looking at one or two sites in town, the postal authorities ignored the applications for a full time postmaster, and proposed a Contract Postal Service whereby bids would be solicited to run the post office on a contract basis. The Selectmen agreed that the Town Clerk's office in Sawyer Hall would be an ideal location for the Contract Post Office, and proposed that the town bid on this contract. Very short notice was given for the receipt of the bid (about one week) which discouraged a number of potential bidders.

At the request of a number of concerned citizens, who had met informally with one of the Selectmen as soon as this information was publicized, a public hearing was held to discuss the reasoning behind the postal decision.

APRIL/MAY 1982

## MAPLE SUGARING - HEATH STYLE

By Carroll B. Stowe

Maple sap here in Heath has been gathered and boiled down to syrup for many generations, and always with the same results - a delightfully sweet, character laden liquid which can only improve the things it is used with and on.

Sap has found itself moving to the sugar house by every method possible, from being carried from the hooks of a sap yoke to oxen, mules, horses, crawlers and wheel tractors, trucks and pipe lines.

From a tape of a conversation with Ma Peters of Peters' Store fame, her father sold syrup in the store for a dollar a gallon.

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 1982

## BURNT HILL BLUEBERRIES

by John Read

August is blueberry month in Heath. Robert Tripp and Jack Cable both operate successful businesses in blueberries on the extensive acreage on Burnt Hill.

Cable started his business in 1966, whereas Tripp has been in production for over 25 years. They both grow blueberries on 100 plus acres from which the yield for each is approximately 20 tons.

Mechanical pickers are used by Tripp and Cable when field conditions are just right. But mostly

July 1983

## DEDICATED LIBRARIAN RETIRES

by John Holdsworth

"May I help you?" For 17 years and more, that softly spoken question from Mrs. Edith Gleason has greeted new and old visitors to the Heath Public Library. In July a different voice will greet us and Mrs. Gleason will step down as the full-time Librarian, freed of the time restrictions of the library job to do the many other things she wants to do.

Mrs. Gleason has always been a reader and user of libraries, but her first "professional" association came in 1959 when she was elected to the Board of Library Trustees in Heath. She was a trustee through 1966. Then, as now, the board members would also assume the Librarian's duties on occasion, and Mrs. Gleason recalls that stoking the wood stove was one of those duties until the floor furnace was installed in the early 1960's.

Susan Gleason was Librarian in 1966. In September, Sue resigned to raise a family and a number of people filled in until the end of the year when Edith's husband, Frank, died and she agreed to take the Librarian's position on a trial basis until April. She has been the Librarian ever since and, to many of us, the library without Mrs. Gleason won't seem quite like the Heath Public Library.

As a trustee she oversaw a change from wood to gas heat - a real time-saver for the Librarian, and an increase in the library collection from about 600 to over 3000 books. The hours of operation increased to 10 per week in 1963 as the library was opened Monday and Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoons. Heath joined the Regional Library System in 1962. The bookmobile made a stop at the Branch School and, in the summer of 1964, bookmobile books



# THE HERALD - 1989

October 1984

## REVALUATION 1981-1984

### THE REVALUATION IS FINALLY COMPLETE!

The valuation figures that you see here are on the way to the state for approval. Before we get into the sequence of events leading up to actual issuance of fiscal 1984 tax bills, we should probably explain how to read this list.

First of all, as these are fiscal 1984 values, they are based on ownership and construction as of January 1, 1983. If you sold property in 1983, your name will still be on this list. If you bought property in 1983, the name of the person you bought from will be on this list. Any 1983 construction will not be on this list. As far as the actual bills are concerned, every effort will be made to get the bills to the current (1983) owner.

Second, a superhuman effort was made at proofreading to make sure that this list was correct and to insure that this list agreed with our field cards, which agreed with our computer cards, which agreed with the figures going to the state. It is possible that mistakes still exist, however, and if

As a service to the residents of Heath, the HEATH HERALD is publishing this special issue containing the complete listing of the revaluation on all town properties. In the June number, the Assessors indicated they expected the listing to be completed in time to publish that month. However, even though half the property listings was complete at that time, it still required more time than anticipated to finalize and proofread the over 1000 listings.

Started three years ago, this 100% revaluation of the town was undertaken by our Board of Assessors to comply with the new state laws. The revaluation represents many long days and midnight hours on their part to perform this study and complete the job. It also required many hours of work beyond their estimated cost for which they received no compensation. Chairman Richards Steinhock and his Board are to be congratulated on the completion of this task.

August 1984

### DAIRY FARMING - THEN AND NOW

by Allie Thane

Our life in Heath began on Memorial Day 1958. We bought our farm from Arthur and Phyllis Volland who with Phyllis's parents, the Chamberlains, had raised milking Shorthorn cattle. We were reminiscing about this the other day and trying to recall the number of dairy farmers Heath had at that time.

We came up with nineteen farms. Ted Burrington on Burrington Road had recently sold his cattle but on the next farm, where Art Schwenger presently lives, Ron and Ruth Corey were farming. Ralph and Rachel Sumner had cows not far away and also Frank and Edith Gleason where Walt Gleason now farms. Then there was Oscar Landstrom and Bob Law on the Law place and Belle Dickinson and her family on the Dickinson place. Down the road in the Center were Dana and Carol Malone. The Peons on the present Howland place had just stopped farming. David Giard was in East Heath, and Oscar and Howard Thompson where Bill and Brenda Clark are now. There were two Sessions farms; Ralph toward the south and Richard north on BA. There were two Lively farms on Number Nine Road; Medric, Frederick's father and Roland, Paul's father. There were three Crowningsfield farms; Herbert, where the Rodriguez family summers; Arthur, where Fred and Esther now farm; and Ken and Grace where Grace lives.

August 1984

### TOWN COMPUTER OPERATIONAL

by Newland Smith

The last piece of hardware for the town computer system was delivered on July 25. The next day members of the Computer Committee had the system set up and tested out in the town hall.

The equipment is set up on a special table, made by John Holdsworth, at one end of the Selectmen's room. The six foot table has plenty of room for the large Epson printer, the keyboard with display unit, and the IBM system unit, still leaving space for working papers.

Town Treasurer Catherine Nichols has already started using the new system, under supervision of Committee members, for some records and is rapidly becoming familiar with its operation.

During the next month, the Computer Committee expects to select several software programs for use on the town system.

APRIL/MAY 1985

### HEATH BICENTENNIAL BEGINS

by Allie Thane

On February 10th, the Heath Bicentennial celebration started with a bang, literally. Bill Thane of Brunelle Road and Jeff Novy of Wilmington, VT, dressed in uniforms of the Seth Warner Regiment of the Green Mountains, fired a cannon, a replica of the "three pounder" used in the Revolutionary War. Eighty-nine cross country skiers started a grueling 15-kilometer race which took them from Heath Center high up to the blueberry field of Burnt Hill, across toward Fort Shirley and back by the Fairgrounds. Organized by Steve Marcotte of Flagg Road, the race was highly successful and as Steve said, "We couldn't have chosen a more perfect day, weatherwise." Enthusiastic groups cheered skiers along the route and later enjoyed the hot soup and baked goods served at the Community Hall by members of the Heath Play Group and Drop-in Center.

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 1985

### OVERRUNS AND TAX BILLS HIGHLIGHT SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

by D. F. Howland

Moderator Ed Calver gavelled a bare quorum of voters to order at the Community Hall on July 11, 1985. The seven townspeople present decided on the transfer of about \$20,000 to various accounts and raised taxes for FY 1984-85 by \$5000.

The transfers were necessary due to overruns in the accounts for highway materials, interest, highway wages, insurance, highway machinery, police department, and town buildings. The Finance Committee expressed concern about the magnitude of the overruns and noted that only the good fortune of available funds in the school budgets prevented a substantial increase in taxes. The FinCom was especially critical of the administration that permitted the interest account to go over the budget by \$9288. Total interest on borrowed money for the year was \$10,788. Primarily, this was due to lack of cash flow which in turn was caused by late tax bills and, to some degree, to tax collection problems. The FinCom expressed their opinion that monies being spent to adjust the interest account could have been used to purchase equipment or put into free cash to better meet the needs of the town. It was noted that tax

February 1986

### VOTERS DEFEAT 2 1/2% OVERRIDE

by Newland Smith

In a written ballot vote on January 6, Heath citizens expressed their concern over increasing expenditures and taxes by defeating the proposal to override Proposition 2 1/2 with the overwhelming vote of 111 to 20. The override would have meant an increase in town assessment of almost \$50,000 with a corresponding potential increase in the tax rate of about \$2.30 per \$1000 valuation.

At a special town meeting following the ballot, some 60 voters went on to question the need for additional expenditures above the record high budget already voted at the annual town meeting last May. The ten articles on the warrant obviously could not be accepted if the town was to stay within the levy limit for this year in light of the defeat of the override. The Selectmen, apparently not prepared for a defeat of the override, hastily scrambled to find unspent accounts that might be available for transfers and, with about \$12,000 still available between the current levy and the levy limit set by 2 1/2, proceeded with the articles as read by Moderator Ed Calver.

Article 1, calling for \$30,000 to pay an outside contractor to conduct the 3-year revaluation, was quickly passed over since that amount was clearly not available. Article 2, which was to pay the town assessors an additional \$15,000 to do the same job, was also voted down after much discussion about different methods and costs to recertify the original revaluation. Neither article had been recommended by the FinCom. The Selectmen claimed the state would step in and do the job with a substantial charge to the town, if the town did not complete the revaluation itself. This was later modified by Assessor John Moriarty who indicated the state would merely require the town assessors to select a contractor from an approved list to set the job done. Several notions modifying this article were proposed and discussed at length, including one to pay the assessors \$5000 to do the revaluation. This was defeated after the Chairman of the Assessors said they would not undertake the work for only \$5000. A

October 1987

### CITIZENS CONCERNED OVER ZONING

The very rapid growth in building throughout Heath during the past year prompted a group of Heath citizens to write the following letter to the Planning Board on September 10 expressing their concern over the effects on the rural environment in the town and making a recommendation for immediate action. This letter was signed by almost 60 citizens of the town.

Dear Members of the Board:

Representing a large number of concerned citizens of Heath, we heartily support the time and effort of the Planning Board in its continued work after having completed the recent revision of our Subdivision Bylaws. However, we are greatly alarmed by the extremely rapid, haphazard growth in housing in our community, especially during the past year. We are therefore writing to your Board with a recommendation for immediate action in revising the Heath Zoning Bylaws.

August 1987

### CONTRACT FOR HEATH'S WASTE DISPOSAL

by Newland Smith

A 25 year contract for the disposal of Heath's solid waste at the Fluor/Vicon Energy Recovery Plant, now being completed in Agawam, has just been received from the Springfield Department of Public Works who have been most cooperative in helping Heath with its disposal problem.

This contract was recommended and was negotiated by the Heath Solid Waste Task Force over the past six months. It represents the only feasible solution to the town's solid waste problem brought on by the closing of the present three-town landfill in January 1988. The contract is similar to one negotiated by the town of Greenfield. It has been carefully reviewed by Task Force member Charles Kades who recently retired from his New York law firm and was instrumental in obtaining this agreement.

JUNE/JULY 1988

### HEALTH AND WATER: Perc Test Rationale

by Martha and Leighton McCutchen  
and A'stair Maitland

The health of a community depends on clean, pure water. Water flows under the ground's surface slowly or quickly, depending on the filtering action of various soil types and the shape of rock formations which sluice it. All water, sooner or later, runs together.

Disease organism, toxins from hazardous wastes and significant bacteria and minerals from human waste move in a water base. These deleterious agents can be filtered out to a large extent, either by dense soil filters through which water moves quickly or by diffuse ones through which it moves slowly. But once in the water they must be filtered out, if possible, or their effect on humans is definitive.

Sparsely settled country houses have not had to worry much in the past. But with "thickly settled" houses, particularly those competing for water table access, the situation changes. More and more care has to be taken about what happens to used water which is ejected back into the ground with a variety of agents in it, chemical and otherwise.

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 1988

### Population Explosion Hits Rowe School

by Karen Brooks, Heath Parent

Uneasiness and a feeling of hopelessness marred the opening of the Rowe School this year. For parents it had become apparent that they had in fact no voice in the operating of their school. A Rowe School Committee meeting had been planned for the middle of August but had been postponed (due to absences of its members) until August 31, the last night before school opened. Two out of three members were present as well as Budge Litchfield, Heath's School Committee representative for Rowe School, Bruce Willard, Superintendent of Schools, and many parents.

The meeting began with everyday business (bids for bread and milk, discussion of roof inspections, etc.) and went on as usual until the issue of personnel hiring began. There were many comments from teachers and parents about the quality of education with the lack of one teacher for grades 3-6. (Presently, the morning sees some 4th graders in the 3rd grade room, some in 5th and some 5th in with the 6th, with Ruth Johnson, the kindergarten teacher, taking the extra grade in the kindergarten.) Suggestions were made for the hiring of an additional full-time teacher as well as a full-time aide for Readiness-1 (a new grade created to en-



## NEWS FROM THE ACADEMY

by Olga Peters, '94

The second trimester was a grueling one with sweat and tears shared by both the faculty and students alike. Many activities kept us all quite busy. So as the end of the trimester rolled around and all were getting ready for term exams, the students were surprised by a "Mystery Day." This began with the mysterious disappearance of the headmaster, Mr. Grinnell. The chase was on! Given clues, ten groups of kids scattered across the new campus, climbing under, over and through the new building.

The search ended back at the present campus in Babcock Hall where the students enjoyed a mime presentation (yes, he even produced Mr. G.) and then all participated in theatre workshops.

A Spanish lunch, prepared by Mrs. Grant, language teacher, was served by the faculty. There's no question, we all enjoyed the day and were better able to face impending papers and exams. Now the Spring Break has come and gone. Students and faculty have returned to school refreshed. A spring festival/May Day is in the works and sports season has started. The first lacrosse and tennis games will be played next week. The trimester has started well; we all know that there are only eight weeks left. The countdown is on!

Until next time, TA, TA!

## EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

by Valerie Belval

This quarter we have been working hard on what we call the "Garden Project". This is a courtyard we are going to build, so when we get into our Senior year we will have a place to go to read, study and just enjoy the scenery. To use the courtyard you must have a privilege card.

Right now we are in the process of designing it and putting our ideas down on a large piece of paper with all the measurements. When we are done, we're going to pick the ideas we like the best and put them together. Then we're going to build it right from scratch.

We already have had many specialists come in and give us some helpful suggestions. When we really get down to doing the work, we're thinking of having Channel 22 come in and interview some students and look at our project. I really think this is going to be a great thing to do if we get all the right things together.

If there is anyone out there who would like to donate supplies, we would really appreciate it.

Contact Mohawk Trail Regional High School at 625-9811 and ask for Mrs. Bening. Thank you.

### Richard A. Sumner

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

### FRESH WINDS FARM

Paul & Marcella Lively & Sons

Excavating - Loam - Sand Stone 337-4331

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

## MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL SCHOOL NEWS

by Tanja Davin, Senior

As Mohawk moves into the fourth and final quarter of the 1988-89 school year, it is bustling with activities.

Spring sports teams have begun practice. The softball, baseball, golf, tennis, and track and field teams are all looking forward to good seasons. The winter athletic teams did very well. Boys' basketball made it into the tournament games and fought with spirit against Wachconah High at the Springfield Civic Center. Both girls and boys ski teams were first in their leagues.

The All School Musical, The Mystery (clap!) of Edwin (clap, clap!) Drood was a huge success. The cast received standing ovations from the audience.

The Music Department has just finished its exchange program with Kearsarge High School. A concert was held Saturday, April 1.

National Honor Society members raised money through a phonathon for the American Heart Association as their community service project this year.

The Peer Educators at Mohawk have completed presentations on Teen Pregnancy and Prejudice, Stereotyping, and Individuality. The Peer Educators are now planning a week on Drug and Alcohol Abuse and will soon be teaching at the elementary schools.

The Seniors are working down to thirty days left in their school year. We'll soon "be outta here!"

Dates to remember are: May 19, Prom; June 1, Senior Awards Night; June 4, Graduation; June 19, last day of school for under graduates.

## SIXTH GRADE VISITS WASHINGTON

by Melina Ausikaitis

This year once again Rowe School's sixth grade is going to Washington, D.C. They will be going to Washington by train from May 8 to May 12.

Thanks to our parents' contributions we only have six hundred dollars to raise.

The sixth grade would like to thank Peters General Store, Robin Reed from the company Avon, and all of our parents for their help and support.

We'll be accompanied on our trip by our sixth grade teacher, Mr. Shoenfeld and Ms. Lapointe, the first grade teacher.

While we're in Washington, we'll be visiting the White House, the Washington Monument, and lots of museums. Also while we're in Washington we're going to see a performance called "Sheer Madness".



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## VISIT TO A SPANISH SCHOOL

by Betsey Silvester

February 21-28, 1989, I went to Granada, Spain, to visit a friend of mine, Carmen Linde. Carmen spent the month of September with me and went to Mohawk Trail Regional School as an exchange student. Then she invited me to Spain during the winter. I stayed with her family and went to school with her every day.

The private Catholic school had 2,000 girls. They were all very nice. At first they were kind of shy to speak to me in English, but then they became more confident. One of the girls had spent two years in Alaska and had excellent English.

The school had a nice chapel, and there were five floors of classrooms. On the top floor there was a dormitory for some of the girls who lived out of town.

A typical school day started at 10 in the morning. At 2:30 PM we all went home for lunch. Carmen lived right across from the school. At 3:30 we went back to school until 5:30 PM. Then it was time to do homework. Dinner was at 9:00 PM!

In Carmen's family there were Carmen, age 13, her brother Ralph, age 10, and her mother and father. There were many cousins and aunts and uncles nearby. It was a great experience, and I would like to go back again next year.



Betsey Silvester (top center)  
at School in Spain with Friends

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## SCHOOL BUDGET CRISIS

by David Gibbons

On Friday, March 10 a rally was held at Mohawk Trail Regional High School concerning the proposed state budget as it affects our region's educational funding. A crowd of over two hundred and fifty parents, educators and students listened as speakers representing State Representatives Healy and Buell (who were in Boston, voting on the budget at the time) and Senator Peter Webber detailed the situation.

The meeting opened with a detailed run-down of the cuts that the Legislature had proposed to make to the Governor's already lean budget proposal. In all some \$190 million were to be cut from local aid and education programs - much of it particularly affecting small communities and regional school systems.

That was the bad news. The good (or at least better) news was, and is, that the process is not over and that changes can still be made. Although the budget's bottom line was set that evening by the House vote (the Senate cannot initiate new taxes) the Senate can reapportion the monies in the budget. Congressman Healy's representative told how, as a result of more than 2,500 phone calls in one week, the Congressman had rethought his position of "no new taxes" in favor of education funding. Senator Webber implied that similar pressure would result in a similar shift in the Senate.

Throughout the meeting the same theme kept emerging: change is possible if people will take the time and effort to call those involved in the process. Senator Webber stressed that concerned citizens should not only call their Representatives and Senators but also other involved people like Pat McGovern, chair of the Senate Ways and Means Committee.

School Superintendent Bruce Willard also announced the formation of a loose local action network of citizens and organizations that would keep people informed both on the status of the budget and any action that was being planned. People interested in becoming part of the network should call Mr. Willard at 625-9811.

At a time when Heath is facing a major budget problem, a drop in local aid and an even larger increase in our school assessment (due to a drop in state funding) should make every Heath resident, parent or not, an "interested" party. Now is not a time to sit around and complain that Boston "ignores Western Mass.". It is a time to force Boston to listen to us. The future of Heath as a viable town depends on it!

HEATH ZONING BYLAWS

VOTE

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26

8 PM Community Hall

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# SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT

by Budge Litchfield, Chairman

As promised in the last *Heath Herald*, this article will present the "numbers side" of the school budget story. On the Town Meeting warrant you will see three different school budget line items; Franklin County Technical School, Mohawk Trail Regional School, and a line called Elementary and Administration. The first two items reflect our assessments as members of those two regional school districts. The third represents the bottom line figure for what is called the Heath School Budget and it covers the following things: administration and school committee costs, transportation for elementary school students, tuition payments to Rowe, and Special Education costs for students not in Rowe, Mohawk or the Technical School.

Our assessment for the Technical School will go from \$29,175 in FY89 to \$54,042 in FY90. The overall Technical School budget went up by about 6%. But, while the overall enrollment decreased, Heath's enrollment increased. Those three factors have caused our \$24,867 assessment increase. The enrollment changes were the most damaging.

Our assessment for Mohawk will go from \$95,738 in FY89 to \$113,978 in FY90. At the time this article was being written there was a possibility of some last minute cuts in the Mohawk budget. If that happens our assessment will be reduced accordingly. At this time the overall increase in the Mohawk budget stands at a little over 9%. But the Heath enrollment figure has increased by a larger percentage than any other town's.

It is at the elementary school level that we have seen our largest enrollment increases (33 additional students in the last 3 years) and therefore will see our largest cost increase. As I mentioned earlier, elementary school expenses are covered by what is called the Heath School Budget. That budget will go from \$204,579 in FY89 to \$267,930 in FY90. Why? Due to the number of students expected at Rowe School next year (134) and to almost achieving the educational goal of one teacher per grade level, the two school committees agreed to add one new teacher. This addition will result in one teacher covering Kindergarten and the Readiness Program and one teacher for each of the other grades. Although this does mean an average class size of 19 students (the same as all the other elementary schools in our district) in reality class size will probably run between 11 and 26. Another important new element in the Rowe School Budget is the addition of one more day at Rowe for the Art, Music and Physical Education teachers. This was done both to accommodate the new class and to allow our children to have as much time in art, gym and music classes as children in the other schools in our district have. The total cost of these staffing additions will be about \$37,000. Also included in the Rowe budget are monies for additional desks, books, general supplies and renovation of the art room to make it into a regular classroom. The part of the Rowe School budget we help pay for (elementary operating expenses), has gone up \$52,882. In accordance with our tuition agreement we will pay 75% of that figure plus \$1,900 per full time student. This means that our total payments to Rowe will go from \$163,969 in FY89 to \$220,726 in FY90. Another growth area in the Heath School Budget is transportation. Due to enrollment increases we will now have two sessions of Kindergarten at Rowe and the largest part of the transportation cost increase is related to the additional bus time needed to bring the "afternoon kids" in to school.

All-in-all we will be spending \$106,457 more on education next year than we did last year. The School Committee has carefully considered each line item on both the Mohawk and Rowe budgets. We have suggested and have helped make cuts where appropriate and have suggested increases where appropriate. The three of us strongly feel that these budget figures accurately represent what our town will need to spend in order to continue providing decent education to the children of our town. We urge you to vote for education by supporting these budgets.

## HEATH PUBLIC PRESCHOOL NEWS

by David Schwartz

Heath Public Preschool has been chosen as a model program for the State Department of Education childcare case study. A State Department of Education representative will visit the program sometime in April.

The Preschool and the Early Childhood Advisory Council will be hosting a communication workshop series led by Dr. Kenneth S. Chapman. It will provide an opportunity for examining how parents, town committees and the schools can work together to provide good schools for our children. Flyers have been sent out to Heath residents and residents of Rowe with elementary school age children giving more information.

The Advisory Council is sponsoring a letter-writing campaign. Letters are being written to legislators involved in the budget process in an effort to keep preschool programs funded. Contact Susan Regan at 339-4781 for more information.

Enrollment for next year continues. Contact the school at 337-4847 for more information.

Happy Spring!!!

## MASSACHUSETTS STATE SKI RACE

On February 12, 1989 Gabe Porter-Henry, age 11, a student at the Center School in Greenfield, and Betsey Silvester, a Mohawk student, participated in the annual state Thomson Trophy Qualifier ski race in Bradford, MA. Top racers of the day were eligible to compete in tri-state competition and possible go on to the Junior Olympics. Other area youngsters in the race were Jon Schaefer of Charlemont, Jesse Putnam of Northfield and Zak Katz of Colrain.

Gabe and Betsey represented the Berkshire East Ski Team. This winter they participated in the Berkshire east Alpine Training Program, and both were members of the A-Team. The goals of the A-Team are to develop advanced skills and to introduce the skier to competition. Betsey was also on the Mohawk Ski Team.

**WANTED:** Heath teenager to mow and weed-whack Heath Playground. Need own equipment. May to September. Call Judy Thrasher at 337-5327 for more information.

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## THE MORE THINGS CHANGE...

by Robert McAfee Brown

When you come down Bray Road from the top of the hill (past the fair grounds and the cemetery), you encounter a bump across most of the road, about three quarters of the way to town. The bump is sizeable enough on the right side of the road to make it worth swinging to the left in order to lessen the impact on shock absorbers and unsuspecting passengers making the trip for the first time. No problem going up Bray Road from the town center; simply stay way over on the smoother right side, which is where you belong anyhow.

The road crew makes a valiant attempt each year to smooth out the bump, and appears at last to have gained control over it, but a non-cooperating providence for many years reasserted dominion over well-intentioned human plans, by slowly but inexorably pushing the surface of the road up during the winter and spring.

Since the bump isn't clearly visible to the driver until almost too late, it has been best to prepare yourself on the down hill journey about the time you passed what used to be The Ekwall Place. In earlier times, the white colonial dwelling (actually two colonial dwellings joined together, but that's another story), was called Mrs. Drown's House, presided over by a redoubtable lady full of years and authority. Her impress on the community was so great, in fact, that when she died and left the property to the Ekwalls, it was still known for the duration of their tenure by the name of its former owner. ("The Ekwalls? Oh yes, they live in Mrs. Drown's House.") Only when the Ekwalls sold the house to its next owner did it become The Ekwall Place, and would have been presumed to remain such until the next change of owners.

The subjunctive mood is, alas, required, for one night last winter, when the present owners were in Africa and the renters were in Greenfield, reality caught up with some faulty wiring (perhaps a relic of the time when the two houses became one) and The Ekwall Place burned to the ground in a scant half hour. All the debris has since been removed, the area sodded over, and the only signs that a house once stood there are the huge stone slab that provided a step up to the front porch, and the singed remains of two stately maples that had guarded the south side of the house for generations. The slab will be there in perpetuity; it is even money whether or not the maples will survive.

One of the unanticipated misfortunes of the fire, of course, is that the clue to prepare for that bump in the road is no longer in evidence. So from here on, if you are travelling down Bray road, you're on your own. No need to go into second gear, but have your right foot ready for the brake when the bump suddenly appears. Better yet, swing far over into the relatively smooth left lane as soon as the way is clear.



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by Catherine Nichols

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## HEATH AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY NEWS

by Mary Smith

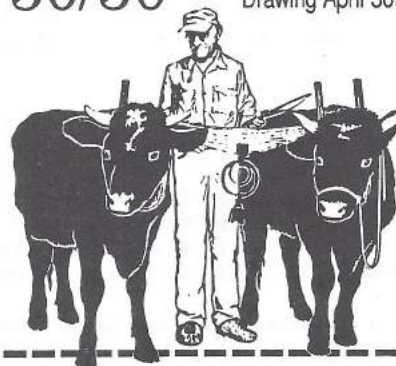
The March meeting of the Fair Committee turned into an informational chat as not enough members were present for a quorum. People who are interested in helping with the Fair in any capacity are welcome. We especially need those with ideas on fund-raising. With the state cutting back on funding, we need to become more self-sufficient.

The raffle is going well and tickets at \$5.00 may be obtained at Peters Store, or you may send in the coupon in this issue of the *Herald* with your check. The raffle is 50-50 (winner gets half) and the winner will be drawn on April 30, 1989.

At a meeting on April 10, plans for the new Premium Book were discussed. Everyone is urged to attend and to participate in our meetings to plan the 1989 Fair. Contact Mike Peters for more information.

### HEATH FAIR RAFFLE

50/50 (Winner Gets Half)  
Drawing April 30th



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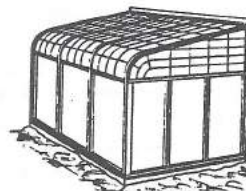
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## SELECTMEN'S REPORT

by David F. Howland

This report is being drafted well in advance of the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting which is scheduled for Saturday, May 6. Consequently we cannot be specific at this time about the budget or other articles on the warrant. Depending on what develops, special reports may be prepared before this *Heath Herald* actually goes to press.

In any event it is apparent that an override vote will be necessary primarily because of an increase in all three school budgets. Franklin County Technical School is up about \$25,000 to \$54,042. This increase is due to an increase in the number of Heath students and to the fact that our percentage of the budget is up because overall enrollment is down. The Mohawk Trail Regional School budget is up 12.6% to \$107,793 (+\$12,054); not because of the number of students but primarily because of the overall increase in budget and a levelling off of state aid. Rowe School's figure is expected to be \$266,930, an increase of \$59,851 (+ 28.9%). This is due to the increase in the number of Heath students which impacts on administrative and teacher costs. To date we have met three times with the School Committee about the Rowe budget to review costs and sources of income.

Our meetings with other department heads of town government are nearly completed and we must say they have been very sensitive to the budget problems facing the town.

After the budget is completed and the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting is prepared, an information meeting will be held on Thursday, May 2, to provide everyone an opportunity to think about the articles to be voted.

Shared Administrative Assistant Kathy Condon and Town Clerk Karen MacDougall have created a new filing system which should help us with the overall administration. Also, in the area of administration, some town officials have attended a training session in Charlemont that was sponsored by the Local Services Division of the State. We find that the complexities of local government require more and more attention and planning.

The Selectmen have reviewed the status of the transfer station and have made plans to have it fully functional for the summer season. FY 1989 stickers for using the facility are now available at a cost of \$15 plus an additional \$1 per additional car. The stickers may be obtained from Marcella Lively at the Post Office. Ray Galpo, with the assistance of Bill Thane, is managing the site.

Much time has been spent on resolving the free cash and highway money reimbursement problems. The next step is getting the recapitulation sheet approved so that tax bills can be sent out. This approval was the subject of a Special Town Meeting held April 6 at which an adjustment in appropriations resolved the problem. At this time we expect one comprehensive tax bill to be sent out because of lateness in the year.

A proposal has been prepared and issued to prospective professional auditors so that an appointment can be made for the position of outside town auditor within a month or two. The sum of \$8,000 was appropriated this year for this purpose.

The Selectmen also act as the Board of Health and that activity has been picking up as a result of the pending vote on the new zoning bylaws. If approved, the bylaws will affect the number of new building permits issued which, in turn, require septic system design

approvals by the Board. Also, the Board acts on complaints relative to public health matters. Then there is the "right-to-know" law as well as other problems relating to refuse disposal that come to the attention of the Board such as our commitment to recycling and the development of a demolition type materials disposition program.

One last item is the creation of a Business Persons Association. The Selectmen support this program. Former Selectman Dick Giard has volunteered to get it organized and he reports that there seems to be considerable interest in such a group. Please feel free to call him at 337-4815 if you have any questions about it.

All in all it looks like a busy spring and summer for all of us in the Town of Heath.

## ASSESSORS' REPORT

by Don Dekker  
Heath Board of Assessors

The Assessors would like the town to know that the tax bills for FY 1989 have not been sent mainly due to difficulties in getting State sanction. We expect to get approval shortly and hope to have the bills printed and out to you in a few weeks.

Included with the tax bills will be a letter requesting payment for the full year all at one time. Since the town is paying high interest rates on loans, the town would welcome anyone who wishes to make an early payment. Please include a copy of last year's tax bill, or at least a complete identification of the property with your voluntary early payment. The anticipated tax rate (if approved) is \$15.76 per thousand.

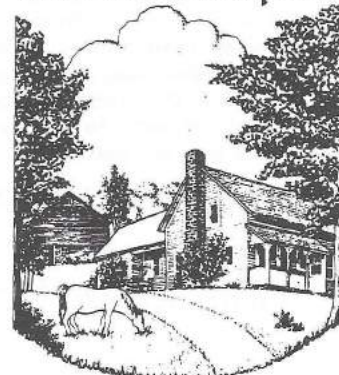
Besides locking horns with the state, the Assessors have been working on property records looking towards the revaluation and waiting for better weather in which to trudge around looking at property.

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## FROM THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Dump permits for using the Town of Heath Transfer Station are now being issued at the Town Hall by Marcella Lively, Postal Clerk. These are now required by the Station Attendant before any trash may be dumped. The cost is \$15.00 and the permit is valid until July 1, 1989 at which time a new permit will be required. The permits are issued, one per household, to permanent and summer residents of the town, but if an extra permit is needed it can be obtained for an additional \$1.00. Vehicle registration must be shown in order to obtain a permit.

Dog licenses are now being issued by Town Clerk Karen MacDougall. These can be obtained at her office in Sawyer Hall during normal office hours. The state law requires that all dogs must have a rabies vaccination every three years and proof of this vaccination is required to obtain a license. A Rabies Clinic will be held on Saturday, May 13 at the Community Hall from 9 to 10:30 AM at which time dog owners can have their dogs vaccinated.

Fishing & Hunting Licenses for this year can be obtained from the Town Clerk. License holders are also available at a cost of \$1.00.

Karen MacDougall has completed the Town Street List as of January 1, 1989. The data has now been entered in the computer and has been printed. Copies may be obtained at the Town Hall at a cost of \$2.00 each.

## PERCS, PERMITS AND TRANSFERS

### Percolation Tests

Percolation tests resume this month and will continue through June.

### Building Permits

Mike Peters, Number Nine Road, interior renovation to apartment. Total, \$7,280.

### Deed Transfers

Donald E. Hillman to Charles A. and Linda A. Ryan of Bolton, Sumner Stetson Road, 26.137 acres, \$14,375.

Michael J. G. Brown of Colrain to Janice A. Brown. Brunelle Road, \$50,000.

Tena L. and Roy C. Smith and May B. Churchill to Mary B. Smith of Colrain. Route 8A. No consideration.

Leon H. and Margaret E. Pelletier to George J. and Bonnie J. Ramsey. Sadoga Road. Lot 5. \$13,000.

Allyn W. Coombs, Inc. to Warren D. Platt of Longmeadow. Sadoga Road. Lot 9. \$27,000.

Gerard J. and Jeannette Marchand to John Kain and Lynne A. Tetreault of Colrain. Underwood Hill Road. Lot 3. \$59,500.

Allyn W. Coombs Inc. to David K. Toplon of South Hadley, Underwood Hill Road. Lot 1. 30.526 acres. \$33,000.

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## ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT REPORT

by Kathy Condon  
Shared Administrative Assistant

Will we ever get the money? The Department of Public Works has come up with yet another snag before they'll approve our paperwork for the Federal Highway Administration funding from the Spring Flood of '87.

Even though we have now submitted the paperwork twice already we have to do it again. Could this be a stalling tactic because of the state's present financial situation? Maybe, but no matter what it is the Selectmen are determined not to give up without a fight. The \$72,000 allotted by the Federal Highway Administration for the Town of Heath was partially used to get out of the emergency situation we were facing. However, we still have several projects we need to complete, like Dell Road, and the Town just can't do it without this funding. So far, we have not received one penny of the \$72,000 in promised money.

The Audit Committee will meet for the first time on Wednesday, April 5, 1989 at 7:30 in the Town Hall for a Bidders Conference. The process for hiring an Auditor is long and drawn out, but well worth the effort. First we drafted the Request for Proposal from a sample provided by the Department of Revenue. It was mailed to several accounting firms in the area. Then the Committee will meet with them before the proposal deadline (the Bidders Conference) and answer any questions. Once all the proposals are received they are reviewed by the Committee and interviews are held with each individual firm. Based on all the information the Committee has collected, they make a recommendation to the Selectmen. The Selectmen will be kept informed every step of the way, so that when the final appointment is made they can be confident of their choice.

If you would like more information about any of the projects I'm working on, or would like to share any comments, it would be nice to hear from you. My office is based in Charlemont and the number there is 339-8474.

## BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

by Paul Lively, Chairman

The process of producing a Bicentennial publication is proceeding smoothly. The goal is to have it completed by the end of this fiscal year with all bills paid. There is enough money in the Bicentennial account to get the job done.

The Committee appointed Susan Silvester to be the Editor and we are happy that she has accepted this responsibility.

The copy will be ready to send out for printing in three to four weeks. It is good to be able to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

HEATH ZONING BYLAWS

VOTE

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26

8 PM Community Hall



## PLANNING BOARD REPORT

by Bob Dane, Secretary

The Special Town Meeting for the Revision of the Zoning Bylaws is rapidly approaching. It is scheduled for April 26 at 8 PM at the Community Hall. Please mark your calendars and make a point to get out and vote for the new Zoning Bylaw, and for controlling growth.

During the past month we held four public information meetings where we presented our draft of the Zoning Bylaw. The attendance at these meetings was rather low (average 25 people) but there was spirited discussion on some of the zoning issues, and much valuable input by concerned citizens. Since then we have made a few changes and finished a final draft of the Bylaws which was reviewed at the Public Hearing on April 5. The definitive text of the document to be voted on at the Special Town Meeting will be posted for perusal at Sawyer Hall, outside the Library.

Again, please plan to attend the Special Town Meeting and vote for the Revised Zoning Bylaws. The future of Heath, both fiscal and physical, is in your hands!

## HEATH CONSERVATION COMMISSION

by Bill Lattrell, Chairman

Spring unleashes a flurry of activity for the Heath Conservation Commission, and this year is proving to be no exception. The Heath Conservation Commission has received a record number of wetlands related applications. Five Notices of Intent have been filed, and three Requests for Determination have also been filed. We are aware of three more Notices that will be arriving soon. This would represent in two months a larger number of applications than in all of last year.

One of the Notices filed, by Charles Gary Cooley, has been heard, and an Order of Conditions is pending. This process has been delayed because of inclement weather and the need to review the site assessment. Four other applications will be subject to public hearing on April 6, 1989 at 7:30-9 PM. Orders of Conditions will most likely be issued within three weeks of the hearings.

Other individuals who think they need assistance from the Conservation Commission or who think they may be filing a Notice or Request are encouraged to contact Bill Lattrell, Chairman, at 337-5792.



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## FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

by Earl Gleason, Chief

Six emergency responses were recorded in February and March. On February first one EMT responded with Colrain Ambulance to a person suffering cardiac arrest. On the fifth the tanker and five men responded to a structure fire in Colrain. On the seventh a firefighter directed the Charlemont Ambulance to a Sumner Stetson Road residence where a child was having convulsions. The fourteenth saw two EMTs and a fireman respond to an auto accident on Burrington Hill. One EMT and two first responders went to Number Nine Road where a child had stopped breathing. The only response in March was on the thirtieth when a person had a malfunction of the ignition switch checked out by a fireman.

Two drills and two Association meetings were conducted during the two months. Five members took a class on hazardous materials incidents in Charlemont. The class was put on by General Electric of Pittsfield. Also the first in a series of classes for junior firefighters was held on March 23 with six in attendance.

The Fire Chief attended the Tri-State Mutual Aid Annual Meeting as well as one Tri-State Directors Meeting. He met with the Yankee Atomic representative as well as the Fire Warden, and attended the Western Massachusetts Fire Chiefs meeting.

Seven building plans were examined and smoke detector locations were placed on the plans. Eight driveway permits were signed.

Most important to the Department was the meeting with the Finance Committee and the Selectmen concerning the proposed budget for the next year. The Department requested level funding.

## POLICE REPORT

by Guy A. Silvester  
Heath Chief of Police

During the past month there have been a number of cases of breaking and entering reported in North Heath. The people involved have been identified and charges are currently pending. Some of the stolen property has been recovered and restitution is being sought for the balance.

The Heath Police Department, along with other town departments, is financially troubled. There are not sufficient funds to operate at full capacity; additionally, we need updated radio equipment which is essential for public safety. We are working in cooperation with the Selectmen to solve this problem.

Our First Aid training classes with Sheila Litchfield will be starting in the near future.

Gordon E. Taylor d/b/a



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# FAMILIES OF THE OLD HEATH OXBOW

## Part II

[This is the concluding part of an article started in the December 1988 number of the *HERALD*. It is extracted from a story written by Pearle Tanner for the *Greenfield Gazette* in 1929. The Oxbow Road, now officially known as Hosmer Road, 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. This part takes us from the present Guddell brick house on around the Oxbow to the present Fairgrounds]

The Barker place [now a cellar hole] is north of the Kendrick place on an unused road that used to lead down to the Branch. Rev. Milo Frary lived there with his wife and four daughters; the swains who came to court the girls must have been in earnest as this place is a long distance away!

The Rev. Frary was six feet tall, a regular giant of a man; his strength was great and a job that required a vast amount of energy he could perform with one hand and that easily. Mrs. Frary was a Carpenter whose people lived just over the line in Rowe where Will Carpenter lived. Mr. Frary was the Baptist minister for a time and walked the long distance and preached for 50 cents a Sunday. He carried on his farm during the week with the help of two pairs of oxen and two of steers. The place was burned in 1875 when H.C. Barker lived there. It was thought that it was set by a fire bug who had stolen a watch and other things from Mr. Barker a short time before.

The next two places, the Chaffin and the Spooner places, also burned. Passing along to the Spooner place [now the most perfect cellar hole in Heath] we are reminded of the members of the Spooner family in Heath. There were Lucy, Caroline, the near cripple, Martha, Sarah and Herman, who was a Civil War veteran. Philip Spooner died and left Mrs. Martha (Gale) early in life with a large family of children to support and that almost entirely with her own hands. [There is a portrait of Martha in the Old Town House Museum. She looks as though she could manage a large family by herself.] She accomplished the task and kept them in comfort, taught them religiously and showed them by her own example how to be guided by God's precepts. She lived to be 96 and died at the home of her son Deacon N.W. Spooner. Another son, Horace, died in 1892. He was the father of the celebrated Dr. H.E. Spooner of New York.

The Estee place [now Betty Eldridge] is a little farther along; a long while ago Dea. Hart Brown lived there with his good sized family and they were wide awake youngsters and no mistake. Lowell Brown was a son and is the father of Fred and Miss Alice Brown, the Sweetheart Tea-House lady.

One of the sons was "sparking" a Miss Darling, who lived on the next place (Mrs. Malone's) [now Lucianna Ross]. Robert Stetson bought the place and lived there with his sons John and George. Lysander Estee was a resident too. We remember him starting for town with a crate of eggs; his horse became frightened and smashed all but a dozen. When Mr. Estee reached the horse sheds he amused himself by breaking the rest of the eggs on the side of the building. He said he thought he

had better finish up a good job.

Charles Benson, brother of Squire Benson of North Heath, married Eliza Hunt and they lived at Mrs. Malone's place [Ross] for a number of years. Mr. Benson was killed by lightning during a very severe electric storm here; it struck a great number of places in Heath at the same time.

Later the Pratts of New York had it for a summer residence. Then Mr. Dana Malone of Greenfield [Attorney General of Massachusetts and grandfather of Alan Nichols] bought it and the family enjoyed it for several summers as it is very beautifully situated. Mr. Malone died here in Heath from a fall from his horse and the entire community was shocked beyond measure. He was much interested in the welfare of the town and his loss is still felt.

Mrs. Malone was the daughter of the Rev. Francis Robbins Greenfield and a sister of the Rev. Howard C. Robbins of New York; of Mrs. Edward Champney and Mrs. Wm. Landon.

And thence around the corner [on Colrain Stage Road] to the Crofoot place [now Kades "white house"]. The first known people who lived there were a family of Harringtons; "Aunt Polly" was a sister to Arad Hall.

A few years ago a Harrington came to Heath and wanted to find his old home, the Crofoot place, and view the upstairs rooms in order to see the print of his mother's hand where it was printed when the plaster was laid.

Later it was bought by Mrs. Crofoot and had been used very little in the late years.

The next house east was the Oliver Kendrick estate [recently Timothy Smith's and now Lucianna Ross]. It was later the home of Ella Purrington who came here when her mother died. Her mother was Ann Kendrick. Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Fairbanks lived here for a number of years until his death last fall when it was sold to Orman Hicks.

We have made the round trip of the Oxbow and the road was somewhat difficult travelling and has been for the past 10 or 15 years. But it used to be the prettiest carriage drive for miles and all guests who came to Heath surely had the pleasure of this before returning home.

The views are wonderful from many points - from the Dea. Taft place the view of Monadnock, Mt. Grace and Mt. Wachusett to the east. The view from the Estee place especially lovely, and from the top of the hill near the cemetery you can see "all over creation." Mt. Greylock and Haystack are in plain view. You can often see the lights from the cars on the Mohawk Trail to the west at night, and it is indeed a pretty sight in the evening to be up on this high land and to see the glow on the sky from the illumination of the electricity from the towns around, especially so on the Fourth of July with the fireworks display.

### DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Wednesday, April 26, 8 PM Special Town Meeting  
Vote on Zoning Bylaws

Tuesday, May 2, 8 PM Information Meeting  
on Annual Town Budget and Warrant

Friday, May 5, 12 noon to 7 PM  
Election of Town Officers

Saturday, May 6, 9 AM Annual Town Meeting



## 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)

**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:** 2nd 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  
 Permit required - see Postal Clerk  
 \* (Branch Hill Road, opposite Town Garage)

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

**FIRE** 337-4461  
**POLICE** 337-4901

## HEATH LADIES AID

Edith C. Royer

The Ladies Aid will hold their first meeting of the spring on Thursday, April 13, at the Community Hall. We will meet every two weeks. All are welcome to come and join us at these meetings.



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## MILESTONES

by Edith C. Royer

**Evan David**, a 2-month old son, was adopted by Don and Alison **Richmond** of Gillam, Manitoba. Evan is the granddaughter of Joyce Thompson of Lorton, Virginia and the great-grandson of Marion Patterson of Burke, Virginia, both formerly of Heath.

**Richard Theodore** was born on March 17 to Brenda and James **Gallagher** of Turners Falls. Richard is the grandson of Catherine and Bruce Cromack of Heath and of James Gallagher of North Adams and Rose and Robert Kenney of Rowe. He is the great-grandson of Hannah Burrington of Heath, Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Cromack of Sanford, Florida, Evelyn Gallagher of North Adams and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Racicot of Rowe.

Ruth and Clyde **Churchill** have announced the engagement of their daughter, **Charlene Ellen**, of Portland, Maine to Wayne Arthur Brasier of Bar Mills, Maine. Both Charlene and Wayne are employed by the Allied Construction Company of Portland. They plan to be married on August 26 in Portland.

**Andrea A. Belval**, 8 years old, of Number Nine Road, died on February 21 at the Franklin Medical Center after a long illness. She leaves her parents, Robert A. and Pamela Belval of Heath, her grandparents, Jeanette and Howard Crowningshield of Heath and Juanita and Darwin Clark, Jr. of Hawley. Andrea also leaves her great-grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Belval of Jensen Beach, Florida and Mr. and Mrs. Darwin Clark, Sr. of Hawley, and her great-grandmother, Louise Newland of Naples, Florida.

**Frances Brunelle** of Turners Falls died February 24. She was a teacher in the Heath schools for seven years. It was during this time that she married George Brunelle and they lived in Heath for 49 years. They were foster parents to 26 boys, raising 11 of them as their own. They moved to Turners Falls and she took up nursing and was a licensed practical nurse at the Farren Memorial Hospital, retiring in 1969. They were frequent visitors to Heath and always attended the Heath Fair.

**Joan E. Sumner** of South Road died on March 10 in the Franklin Medical Center following a lengthy illness. She leaves her husband, Richard Sumner of Heath, three sons, Jay Sessions of Plainfield, Craig Sessions of Shelburne Falls and Dale Sessions of Greenfield; two stepsons, Todd and Eric Sumner of Ashfield and a stepdaughter, Ree Sumner of Buckland and two grandchildren. Services were in the Heath Church and burial in the South Cemetery.

**Pauline Ashby** of Orlando, Florida and Whately, Massachusetts died on March 17 at the Cooley Dickinson Hospital following a long illness. She leaves her husband, William E., and a daughter, Arlene Markert of Heath and two grandchildren.

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