



# HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER 35¢

## THE SCHOOL CRISIS

by David Gibbons

Heath has a problem, a major problem. It concerns the education of our children.

That is probably not news to anyone who has lived in Heath for more than a few months. What may come as a shock is the scope of that problem and the nature of the possible solutions. In this article I want to sketch out some of the possibilities, along with their costs and problems and then to make a suggestion.

For about two years now John Henry, Sue Lively, Pam Porter and Art Schwenger, under the leadership of Budge Litchfield, have been meeting as Heath's Long-Range Educational Planning Committee to try to explore just what options are open to the town. More recently four other groups have also been involved in looking more closely at specific options. Three of these groups have been looking at what it would mean for Heath to have its own elementary school. The fourth is the Regional School District Planning Committee.

What then are the options?

Option one: the status quo. In this case we simply continue to tuition our children to Rowe school as in the past several years. An addition would need to be built so that Rowe school would have enough room. This is almost certainly the cheapest option, but it has several major drawbacks. One is that we have no say in the quality or nature of our children's education. Neither do we have a say in the school budget. What Rowe votes in, we pay (75% of new additional operational costs!) And the very favorable division of costs in Heath's favor will not continue. It may still be the cheapest option but it will not be anywhere near as cheap as it has been.

The real drawback to this option, however, is simply that we don't get to choose it! No matter how much we in Heath might want or need it, this option involves cooperation with Rowe, so that Rowe must also want it. If Rowe decides it does not want it, and there are reasons why it might, then this ceases to be an option.

Option two: form a regional school district with Rowe. Here the Rowe school (plus an addition) would be leased to the new regional district for elementary school kids. High school students would be tuitioned to Mohawk, since we would have to withdraw from the Mohawk Regional School District. This would solve the problem of not having a say in our children's education but would cost significantly more. The Regional School District Planning Committee (Dick Gary and Sue Lively with Budge Litchfield as chairman) have been meeting with the corresponding committee from Rowe to try to draw up a proposal. Negotiations have been progressing slowly but there are still a lot of problems to work out; the exact nature of the lease on the building and the division of costs to name but two. There is also the same

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## HEATH FAIR NEWS

by Mary Smith, Vice President

The Fair is almost here! Our new sheep and cattle show ring is coming along, and hopefully will be finished in time for the Fair. Carroll Stowe, Harry Briggs and Conrad Halberg have worked very hard to get it done.

Some of the buildings have been painted and look real nice thanks to Nancy Briggs.

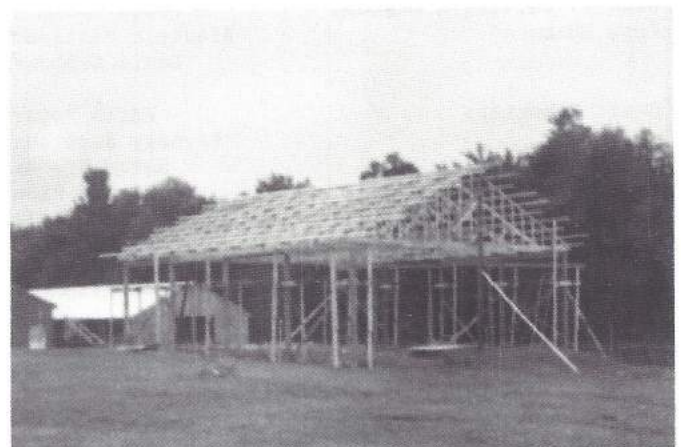
All of the rides, entertainment, and concessions have been set and everything is falling into place nicely.

The Fair will open Friday at 10:00 AM. Our pony pull will be at 1:00 PM, and the popular garden tractor pull run by Norman Sessions will be at 4:00 PM. The exciting four-by-four pull starts at 6:00 PM and the popular fireworks at 9:30 PM.

Saturday is a big day with sheep, cattle, and poultry shows in the morning. Chicken barbecue sponsored by the Heath Fire Department will start at noon. Entertainment for the day will include the famous Wright Brothers, and Bear Acker and Billings Gap (bluegrass) for evening shows. At 8:00 PM the square dance will start with the Catamount Mountain Boys. Also starting at 11:00 AM is the horse pulling contest, and the "free-for-all" class starts at 7:00 PM.

Sunday is Youth and Ox day, with sheep, rabbit and cattle shows for the youth and an ox show, pull, and parade for both youth and adults. Our show will include an obstacle course for youth and adults this year. This is a new feature. The chicken barbecue will start up at noon again on Sunday. The big parade will start at 1:00 PM followed by the fiddlers contest at 1:30 PM and a concert by the Shelburne Falls Military Band. It should be a great closing day!

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New building under construction at Heath Fairgrounds  
(Photo by Chrissy Gilbert)

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

by Karen Brooks

One Friday morning in late June our peaceful breakfast scene was shattered by a loud crash followed by shrill cries that made us think the chicken house had fallen over. A few moments later five injured people, all of them friends, arrived at our door, victims of a two-car accident near our driveway on Long Hill Road. Within ten minutes of my call to the Ambulance Dispatch number (772-2133) two Heath EMTs had arrived, soon followed by the Fire Department, road crews, police, more EMTs, neighbors, and finally the ambulance. All of these members of our town responded promptly and worked effectively to handle all the different aspects of a difficult situation, directing traffic, cleaning the road, taking care of the injured, and even taking care of our children so that we could be supportive to the victims.

It was good to see our town services in action, to see our friends and neighbors as the professionals they really are, and also to know how important it is to be well-trained. It has also been a good lesson to many of us that although life may seem slower and more removed here in Heath, we can no longer trust that there will be no one coming the other way when we drive these winding roads.



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Send all correspondence to Box 54, Heath, MA 01346

## LETTERS

Please just give my congratulations to the Zoning-By-Law Committee on remarkable foresight into saving the Heath I've loved for many years, and come to as often as I can. I was so proud of the Town that dared to say "whoa". My hometown in Plymouth is almost ruined due to development.

Joan Clark

South Plymouth, MA

## TO THE WONDERFUL TOWN OF HEATH

Your small town has some large hearts. Thanks to all the people who looked for our dog Leia on 4th of July weekend. Your prayers and concern helped so much.

Leia went for a walk to Charlemont. Mr. Bonney of Charlemont Apiaries took her in and cared for her.

Thanks again.

Nancy and Tony Mazzeo

Newfield, NJ

## A THANK YOU

The new emergency phone system is now up and running and has already proven to be an improvement.

On July 29 the system was used for the first time for a fire, one that had started in the furnace at the home of Bill and Arlene Thane. Thanks to the exceptionally prompt arrival of several members of Heath's Volunteer Fire Department (even before the equipment got there), the only loss was the furnace itself.

Bill, Arlene, Lara and Ross would like to extend their thanks to Earl Gleason and Heath's Volunteer Fire Department as well as to Ernie and Allie Thane, David and Phyllis Thane and Beverly Thane and their families and the neighbors who all helped prevent a serious tragedy.

## HEATH PRECIPITATION

by Ralph Dickinson

Observer for Mass. Water Resources Commission

June precipitation was 7.02 inches. July precipitation was 3.79 for a total for January through July of 29.55 inches. The 20 year average for the same period is 29.85 inches. It rained nearly every day in June; in July we had less rainfall, but frequent showers.



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major flaw as with option one: its not ours, alone, to choose. Rowe must also want it and the indications are not too promising. Consider the fact that Rowe appropriated \$2,500 for its regional school district committee but at a special town meeting in August a \$5,000 appropriation will be sought to look into creating a magnet school in Rowe.

If Rowe does decide to go with a magnet school, or simply decides not to renew its current agreement with Heath, where will that leave us?

Option three: build our own school. This really divides into two options; do it with or without State aid. Doing it without State aid would be a lot cheaper overall, but since Heath qualifies for 70% reimbursement for the project, building the larger and more costly facilities the State would require would still probably work



Rowe School  
(Photo by Mike Peters)

out cheaper. John Henry is chairing a committee made up of Jim Cerone, Frank Rocchi, Judy Thrasher and Karen Brooks that is trying to come up with actual figures. Current estimates are that it would cost around \$150,000 a year with the State grant.

A school is more than buildings though and Pam Porter is heading the group that is trying to outline a reasonable operating budget. Working with her are Joanne DeLisle, Bob Gruen, Sue Lively, Dawn Peters and Caroline Smith. Their best estimate to date seems to be around \$350,000 a year. This would bring the total elementary school budget (building costs plus operating costs) up to about half a million dollars a year. That is about the size of Heath's current total budget. There are serious doubts as to whether a town like Heath could legally raise that much money.

So there are three options, two we cannot choose and one we probably cannot afford. There is one other possibility that some of those working on the problem fear we may be forced into and that is to "tuition out" our children wherever we can. In this worst case scenario some kids would continue to go to Rowe (30-40). The rest would go in small groups to whatever other local, and not so local, schools could take them. There would be no guarantee that neighboring children, or indeed even siblings, would get to go to the same school. The transportation costs would be astronomical and we would again have no control over the quality of education or the budget, since tuition rates would be set by those schools with room.

There are other, more drastic, measures we could take. We could, for instance, tell the State that there is

no option open to us and demand that they come up with one. Or we could start our own school and then declare bankruptcy. Let us hope that there are still other, better options waiting to be found.

One thing is certain though: no other issue is going to affect Heath as much in the coming years. We really do face a situation where the options seem to be to bankrupt the town, bankrupt the taxpayer or bankrupt our children.

The final committee I mentioned earlier is made up of Budge Litchfield, Dick Gary and Sue Lively. They have been organizing informational meetings on this subject. It is hard to believe that almost no one has attended them. Everyone in Heath should be there - if you have young children, this is their future we are talking about. If you own property in Heath, it is likely to be the biggest factor to affect your taxes in years. And if you love Heath, it is the very future, financially and otherwise, of our town that will be discussed. The next meeting, on the option of Heath building its own elementary school, will be scheduled for a date after Labor day. Watch for the announcement.

The people mentioned in this article have given of themselves in great measure and deserve our heartfelt thanks. But the job is not over yet and, more than our thanks, they need our involvement. Come to the meetings. Call the people mentioned here and see how you can help. The more people get involved the more likely we are to find a solution we can not only live with but also feel good about.

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT

by Budge Litchfield

More bad news has come our way as a result of the state's fiscal crisis. Our preschool grant has been cut by 25% (approx. \$11,000). This cut combined with our local aid cut of almost \$10,000 means we have lost about \$21,000 in state money, leading this school committee chairman to wonder why we bother paying state taxes! These fiscal problems concern the school committee in at least two critical ways. First, we must now scramble to figure out how to fund our preschool on 25% less money. Secondly, it raises doubts about any long-range planning that is dependent on state funding.

At the August 1 school committee meeting we will begin trying to make the cuts or other changes needed to keep our preschool program in business. Some possible options could be: staff reductions/consolidations, elimination of preschool supplied snack, charging of tuition, or reduction of services (ie: no three year olds, fewer hours, etc.) We don't look forward to any of these decisions but do remain committed to seeing a preschool operating in our town.

As most of you have probably noticed there is an excellent article about long-range educational planning issues on the front page. As a town we are truly in a bind. The inconsistency of state grants/aid throws an additional and unneeded twist into an already confusing situation.

Looking ahead to September, two quick items come to mind. Buses; if you have questions about or need to make changes in bus schedules please contact Frank Brower (337-4220) or the Superintendent's Office (625-9811). Staffing at Rowe School; the new teaching position will be held by Joanne Giguere. Ms. Giguere has been the Special Education Teacher the last few years. She will teach fifth grade this year. A Heath native and graduate of Rowe School (also Mohawk and American International College), Roberta Tripp will be the new Special Education Teacher. We wish them both the best of luck!

## LIBRARY LINES

by David Gibbons

No news this time about Heath Library from Alli, but she did want to share some news about another librarian from Heath who is a little further afield.

Pat Leuchtman, currently in Beijing, China, writes that Beijing Broadcasting has approached her to do "some" 10 minute segments on aspects of life in the U. S. The first broadcast is to be about our own Heath Fair! The segment will air all over China so that hundreds of millions of people will know all about Heath. (Let's hope they don't all decide to come and see for themselves!) Articles will also be run in the Chinese edition of Women of China. Other topics under consideration include the living creche and the Gourmet Club.

## MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL SCHOOL NEWS

Seniors, Class of 1989, Honors: Tanja Davin; Juniors, Class of 1990, Honors: Tina Demech, Christina Rode; Sophomores, Class of 1991, High Honors: Brian Sackett; 8th Grade, Class of 1993, Honors: Valerie Belval, Joel Porter-DeVries, Theresa Shattuck; 7th Grade, Class of 1994, High Honors: Betsey Silvester; Honors: Shawna Hyytinen, Benjamin Steinbock.

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## HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

by Sue Silvester, Secretary

The 1989 Annual Meeting of the Heath Historical Society was held on Saturday, August 12, in the Community Hall preceded by the traditional potluck supper.

Outgoing President Mr. Michael Coe led a brief business meeting before introducing guest lecturer Dr. Robert B. Gordon, Professor of Geophysics and Applied Mechanics at Yale University. His illustrated talk featured the geologic history of the Berkshire Hills and its relationship to such local activities as mining and transportation.

The society was honored this winter to receive an invitation from the Clark Institute in Williamstown, MA, to have the Emerson Family Portrait become part of an exhibit entitled "Between the Rivers: Itinerant Painters from the Connecticut to the Hudson River Valleys". This oil painting was done for Dr. Joseph Emerson circa 1837 and is currently on display in the Heath Public Library. The Board of Directors voted this spring to allow the painting to go on exhibit under the auspices of the Clark Art Institute.

Curator Margaret Howland recently brought our other valuable painting back from the Williamstown Regional Art Conservation Laboratory where it underwent minor restoration this past winter. The Portrait of Mrs. Spooner at 93 is a small oil on paper painted by Phillip Harris in October 1871 when his grandmother was 93 and lived in North Heath. This masterful rendition of a Heath grandmother will be on display soon.

Again this year the Heath and Rowe Historical Societies will co-sponsor an exciting hike during the height of the fall foliage season. This year the hike will follow the old, original Mohawk Trail from Florida to Rowe on Saturday October 7. The rain date has been set for October 15. Details will be announced in the Heath Herald and the Shelburne Falls and West County News.

The Heath Historical Society will once again share a booth at the Heath Fair with the *Heath Herald* staff. The Society will be selling copies of its publications and will also have a tag sale. Donations of items to be sold at the tag sale may be left at the home of Dolly Churchill in Heath Center on or before August 17.

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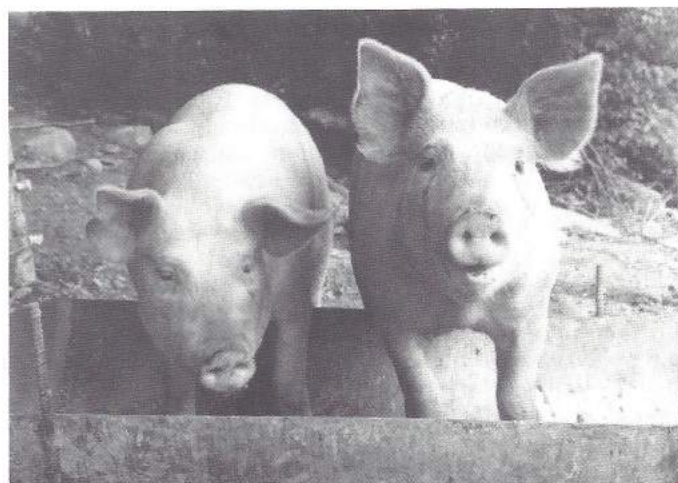
(Half-priced coffee or Free small soda or coffee with  
purchase of sandwich, for laundry customers only)

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There will be a huge midway with rides, food, flea markets, games, and arts and crafts and FUN for everyone!

We want to thank everyone who has come to the meetings and worked hard to make this year's fair come together, and to welcome our new members who have joined us this year. We need more new members. It's the new younger members who will keep our fair going. Please help us.

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Heath Fair Scenes  
(Photos by Mike Peters)

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## SUMMERS IN HEATH 1940-56

by Christopher Niebuhr

Prior to attending Vacation Bible School in the South Heath school house taught by Esther Dickinson and Bill Wolf, I would usually help Walter and Earl Gleason and others including Bob Brown, who was working a summer for the Landstroms. Bob Brown joined the community for Sunday services, as mentioned in his introduction to The Essential Reinhold Niebuhr, 1986. Brown reports on page vii that Niebuhr preached an earlier version of the Wheat and the Tares, one summer to the farming community at Heath, Massachusetts, winning over his congregation with the opening comment, "This sermon may be good theology, but it's certainly bad agriculture". My sister and I were supposedly under the care of Sydney Thompson that summer as my parents were busy getting their college courses ready for the next year. I would hear in the morning that after work Bob and Sydney would meet half way between our new house (the Stone Cottage) and the Landstroms, at the South Cemetery. Later when I read ghost stories, I had visions of the major American expert on liberation theology meeting his wife-to-be at a cemetery!

My father would spend some parts of the summer going to meetings of the World Council of Churches and other committees relating to it. He would go across the road and discuss various problems with the Rt. Rev. Angus Dun, Bishop of Washington, who had moved from the Creamery to the Robbins' Swimming-Pool House. Later on David Johnson, who lived in Dell, would be a member of the World Council of Churches Central Committee, but was still then a young boy, not going to World Council meetings.

In some of my father's letters home to Heath in 1948 from Britain, he discusses how the Episcopal Church and the World Anglican Church accepted the United Church of South India bishops, but did not accept the ordination of a woman deaconess to the priesthood, the Rev. Lei Tim-Oi in Macao who had been ordained by Bishop Hall as an individual act of his own. The major news in Heath was that the Episcopal Church in 1949 at their Convention would not accept a woman lay delegate. Mrs. Elizabeth Dyer had been a delegate in 1946. Mr. Dyer would later move to NY City to be Comptroller of Union Seminary where my father was a professor, so we would see more of the Dyer family than during the summers, in Heath.

Although the women of the Episcopal Church were not officially recognized much of the discussion of church news occurred at the homes of Mrs. Drown and Mrs. Moors, two ladies who came to Heath from Cambridge and Boston. I was invited to Mrs. Moors' house for dinner when I entered Harvard in 1952. Trinity Church in Boston of which she was a devoted and loyal supporter was attacked for allowing a Dutch Reformed clergyman, the Rev. Romig, to participate in the ordination of his son, the Rev. Edgar Romig, to the priesthood. This was after the Bishops in Lambeth had permitted interfaith cooperation. Mrs. Moors' house in Heath (presently owned by James Coursey) was willed to Trinity at her death.

Much of the Heath discussion of national events was with Justice Frankfurter and our neighbor Howard Chandler Robbins. During World War II Dr. Robbins had assisted at St. John's Church, Lafayette Square, Washington, the Church of Episcopal Presidents such as Roosevelt, Ford and Bush. It was Bishop Dun who participated in President Roosevelt's funeral.

The summer before 1944 I remember seeing the signs that Gov. Saltonstall would stop by the Heath post office. I asked various persons why Roosevelt campaigned

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in Boston and Saltonstall in Heath, and was told that Boston was Democratic and Heath Republican. Yet no Heath clergyman participated in Saltonstall's inauguration as Governor.

While the Stone Cottage was across the road from the then parsonage we would get planting advice on various vegetables from the Rev. Dixon who grew alfalfa grass as an experiment in the Heath climate. The Heath Congregational Church was supposed to share a pastor with the Shelburne Falls Episcopal Church. Heath had an experiment in having the Rev. William Wolf, an Episcopal minister, as pastor of the Congregational Church. Also the Rev. Allen Comstock, a Congregational minister, would perform Church of South India communion services under the church regulations in Episcopal churches. He stated that putting on Episcopal vestments is like becoming a clown.

Most of my NY neighbors vacationed on the seacoast. I returned to New York City and would tell about Heath while everyone else went sailing or beachcombing. On my first church visit back in the United States after serving in the Army in Stuttgart, West Germany, I met the Rev. Richard Gary, the new Rector of St. Mary's in Manhattanville. He told me that the local Congressman, the Rev. Adam Clayton Powell, justifying his attending a night club, and remarrying after a divorce, stated his practice was similar to that of Paul Tillich. Powell stated he was the Black Tillich. As I found out ten years later, that was the year that Powell was recording sermons that seemed to be lifted from Luccock and Tillich. Powell was so busy being a Congressman that he appeared to be preaching other people's sermons. Charles Packard as a neighbor to the parsonage and our house was gratified that both Bill Wolf and my father bought homes in Heath, as summer clergy who owned homes would not be socialists! A leading renter in the house just below the Kades who bought land, but not a house, in Heath was the Kirk family: William, Mary, Nancy, Susan, and Judy.

One summer Bill Kirk, who had moved from St. Louis to New York City, where he became Superintendent at Union Settlement, gave me a course in bicycle maintenance, as a condition for accompanying his family and others through a four day trip in Southern Vermont. I spent more time at the Kirk house, rented from Mrs. Watson. Later I would visit Union Settlement, where Bill Kirk built senior citizen housing and had a community space and halls as part of the Settlement. A recent biography of my father describing me with Bill on a bicycle trip has me mistakenly with Bill Wolf not Bill Kirk. Bill Kirk, an Amherst College graduate, seemed always to have the trips end in Amherst, Massachusetts, so he could make his alumni visit to the college. Carol Rogers (later Malone) joined one trip with her horse, but the spacing was not good, as horses take their time going downhill, while bicycles take more time going up hill. Judy Kirk, the youngest, rode on her father's bicycle, but then graduated to her own bike. The Kirks later moved to Castine, Maine, but I was glad to see them return after the death of Col. Watson in February 1945, still renting the Watson House (the Kades' "white house").

The Watson House was always rented. I never met Col. or Mrs. Watson. One summer their house was rented to the Luxembourg Minister who had as a foreign diplomat unlimited rationing. They seemed to buy a lot of meat and chickens.

Recently in my history reading I came across the death of the military aide to the President, in the Mediterranean. This was followed by the death of the President of the United States in April 1945. I found Watson to be a mysterious man of Heath. "Page 579 Burns, Roosevelt, Soldier of Freedom, 1970.

"Two days out of Algiers, Pa Watson died of acute congestive heart failure and a cerebral hemorrhage. The President seemed unusually depressed and exhausted. He would stay in bed most of the morning reading books he had brought with him and looking over documents. He seemed to show some of his old-time gaiety and animation only at cocktail time and dinner."

In the summer of 1945 no one in Heath could tell me the relationship of the deaths of Watson and Roosevelt, both victims of cerebral hemorrhages so close together. Watson had been the military advisor to the President. Watson as military advisor was the one White House staff member who had experience in putting FDR's brace on his legs and understood the problems of his polio.

Bishop Dun had had polio. He bought the Robbins' cottage with a swimming pool, so that he could use the pool. We as children were told not to interfere with his swimming. It was stated that Mrs. Drown needed bishops as repair persons for her plumbing and other household problems. Bill Wolf usually took care of them, and it was assumed that Bill Wolf would be a Bishop as he was trained by Mrs. Drown! However, another Bishop Wolf (Frederick) moved to Heath instead.

Since my father and Bishop Dun spent some of the summers away at church meetings I would hear about the discussions only indirectly. The two persons who visited us that I remember were John Baillie, former Moderator of the Church of Scotland. I was told that his rank was similar to a bishop, a Calvinistic bishop. The other was W. H. Auden, a poet, who had been teaching at Bennington College. He was a colleague and friend of the present Heath poet, Charles Miller. When *TIME Magazine* wanted to know about our Heath life for their cover story on my father they used a picture of the family with dog Topsy and puppies taken by Bill Kirk's brother.

I now live in Stockbridge in the house formerly owned by the Brewer sisters. Their brother was a U. S. Supreme Court Justice. At one Heath party I attended Justice Frankfurter explained the famous immigration case, *U. S. v Church of the Holy Communion*. This was the church where the Rev. Worcester Perkins, long time summer resident, was rector. A previous rector had been hired in England. Congress had forbidden the hiring of contract labor overseas, a law against the so-called Chinese coolies hired by California corporations. One Justice exempted Episcopal clergy, stating that the United States as a Christian nation did not mean to include clergy as contract labor. Recently Justice Sandra Day O'Connor referred to this case.

Both Howard Chandler Robbins and Bishop Gilbert of Dell served under Bishop Manning, the English-born Bishop of New York; Gilbert as Suffragan Bishop and Robbins as Dean of the Cathedral. Frankfurter in Washington, D. C., would walk to work with Secretary of State Dean Acheson, son of the Bishop of Connecticut. There was much discussion of how these Episcopal ministers would be free of Britain and Frankfurter in particular would ask my mother about English customs, as she was born in Southampton, England. Mrs. Drown came up to me and asked how it was that Worcester Perkins and I were able to get Justice Frankfurter to talk about the Supreme Court while she could not get him to answer questions. The answer was that we asked questions on past cases while she asked about current cases before the court!

Other times we would be invited to Mrs. Moors' home to meet visiting clergy. Paul Tillich supposedly came one summer but that was a year we were not in Heath. Vivian Pomeroy, the Unitarian minister of the Church in Milton, MA, spent various summers at the Manse. He wrote his children's sermons in a book that was given to

us by Mrs. Moors. *The New York Times Magazine* referred to Bishop White as a prominent summer resident. They had mistaken him for Bishop Gilbert who had two houses, one red and one white, and assumed Bishop Gilbert's second house was another Bishop's. Justice Frankfurter lived in the Bishop's white house.

Frankfurter had been a member of the NAACP Board. He invited many Black friends to Heath, as Washington, D. C. was segregated. When Bishop Dun moved from Cambridge, where he was Dean of the Episcopal Theological Seminary, to Washington as Bishop, he desegregated the grounds of the Cathedral.

Sherman Johnson, who taught New Testament Studies at the Episcopal Theological School and lived summers in Dell, and family returned one summer from a sabbatical in Jordan, today the West Bank. They told us how it was unsafe to drink water in the Holy Land. So they drank coca cola and wine. In 1971 I had dinner Christmas day in Jerusalem at the Ecumenical Institute with Sherman Johnson. He told Sargent Shriver, who had just been U. S. Ambassador to France, about his days working through seminary by being a U. S. Congress elevator operator. The elevators in the Congress, unlike the Executive Branch of the government, were integrated; Blacks and whites could ride on the same elevators, as Congress was under Republican control.

While the summer families were Democrats and Episcopalians, they differed with the prevailing mores of the Democrat Party. The Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York, where Howard Robbins and Bishop Gilbert worked, was integrated. The Episcopal Cathedral in Washington was segregated until Bishop Dun became Bishop.

#### Editor's Note:

When one conjures up images of summertime in Heath, the predominant thoughts, after the Heath Fair, of course, are usually blueberries and theologians.

Heath has been honored through the years with the presence of many distinguished theologians, and I use this blanket terminology to include the many people affiliated with religious organizations. Some, like Pam Porter and Dick Gary, call Heath their home year round; others, like Bill Wolf and Murray Newman, spend as much of their summer here as possible.

Without a doubt the most renowned theologian to call Heath home, at least for thirteen summers, was Reinhold Niebuhr. He and his family owned the Stone Cottage in Heath Center from 1943 to 1956. Raised in a German-speaking home, Niebuhr matriculated at Yale Divinity School in 1913 and joined the faculty of Union Theological Seminary in New York City in 1928. During the next four decades he was to rise to prominence as the nation's best-known theologian and political preacher.

Christopher Niebuhr graciously consented to writing the following article for the *Heath Herald*. He and his mother Ursula reside in Stockbridge, MA. S.B.S.



Reinhold Niebuhr's Stone Cottage  
(Photo by Chrissy Gilbert)

## LADIES AID

by Edith Royer

We had a very successful Fair on July 26 and a full crowd for the church supper. I would like to thank everyone that helped in any way. We will start meetings again September 21 and all are welcome.

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FOOTWEAR

## A GARDEN LOVER'S TOUR OF ENGLAND

by Sue Silvester

Reporting will be something new for me. My position is more observation and comment. When you see the world at sixteen inches from the ground, as I do, life takes on a different view.

It is early Autumn now, but can we all remember Spring in our hearts and in our town? There is in Heath Center a woman, who since the passing of Mr. Willey, raises the flag every morning. Her name is Dolores Churchill. We call her Dolly. She has been doing this for the past twenty years. I did not know Mr. Willey. He lived in the Gruens' house before the Thompsons and Deckers. Newcomers to this hill, on driving by, and seeing Dolly at the pole might comment, "My, isn't that nice?", and quickly drive on. For those of us who have viewed this occurrence with the passing seasons it takes on a different meaning.

These photos were taken when I was a youngster, a time when life in Heath Center moved at a slower pace. I am now nine. Believe it or not there was no need for speed signs. Roly, Pudge Churchill, Sparky Gruen, Tippy who lived in Heath and then summered here, and thru the years Holly, Tyeen, newcomer Gustie Mackie—all helped Dolly. We were faithful every morning. For a few minutes we put aside our differences, sat at attention and listened to Dolly while the pledge was said. Yes, it is true, Dolly did give us treats from her pocket. I cannot remember a fight over the morsels. What went on before I do not know. Dolly turned and headed home and we all returned to our homes to our daily duties.

If you ask Dolly, she might brush it all away with the offhand comment "Well, I don't much like dogs." Maybe humans could learn from our gathering at the pole. WE sure know what LOVING OUR NEIGHBOR MEANS. Dolly showed all of us. She did not always agree with how we handled things the rest of the day but for that moment we were united.

When the leash law went into effect it changed our lives. We still run to the door when we hear Dolly at the pole. Sometimes I am napping in the morning sun, sometimes I am out on the chain with Gustie.

If you ever get a chance read a poem, *Big Mare*, by Mark Van Doren. He asks the question, "Does a plain mare remember? And how long?" Thanks Dolly. Keeping Spring in our hearts, we remember.

Darby Mackie

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Heath's famed garden designer and lecturer, Elsa Bakalar of Hosmer Road, accompanied by her husband Mike led a tour of 17 garden enthusiasts to England June 22 to July 7 for an insider's view of some of the world's most magnificent gardens.

Although there was virtually no rain while they were there, Elsa reports that the gardens were lovely. A total of 16 unique gardens were visited by the group as they traversed the English countryside.

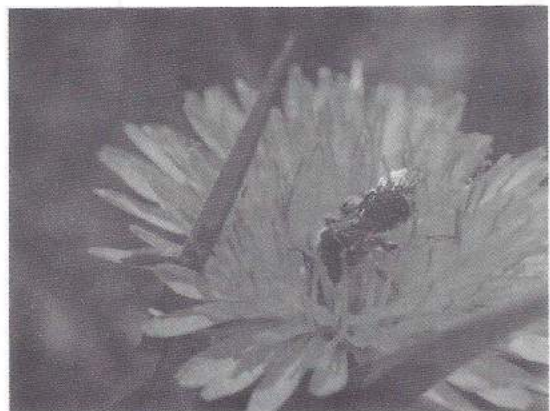
Among the highlights of the well-organized tour was the most famous garden in England, Sissinghurst, with its marvelous "White Garden" at the foot of the castle's twin towers. One morning was spent at Great Dixter, the gardens of Christopher Lloyd, author of such books as The Well-Chosen Garden and The Adventurous Gardener. There a sunken garden topiary and wide variety of plants could be seen.

Before leaving the Salisbury area a stop was made at Stonehenge. The next day's afternoon saw the group at Tintinhull House Garden owned by the National Trust and supervised by Penelope Hobhouse, author of Color in Your Garden. "A truly great gardener," Ms Hobhouse is "the" garden consultant of the National Trust. Just two days after their return from England, the Bakalars were delighted to receive a visit from her!

Then it was north to the Cotswolds, the "Heart of England", where Elsa had arranged for accommodations in the beautiful market town of Cirencester. One of the most delightful gardens in that district was at Barnsley House, home of Mrs. Rosemary Verey. Author of The Englishwoman's Garden, she had rare shrubs, dwarf fruit trees, knot and herb gardens, flowers, vegetables and even individually planted carrots! (How do these gardeners find the time to pen so many books?!)

The Royal Horticultural Society's gardens at Wisley provided the most comprehensive horticultural display in Britain. Back in London the famous Kew Gardens were last but not least on the impressive list of gardeners' "musts". Situated on the River Thames this Royal Botanic Garden features over 25,000 varieties of plants!

Since returning from England, Elsa's summer schedule is typically busy as she manages to fit in Wednesday morning workshops, a host of speaking engagements, from New Hampshire last week to a lecture at the Little Compton Garden Club in Rhode Island, and of course the important things in life such as supervising the floral section of the Heath Fair! Next week an author is coming to visit from England, and *Horticulture Magazine* (Elsa is a contributor) is sending half their staff to Heath for instruction and inspiration!



**Bee in a Flower**  
(Photo by Mike Peters)

## MUNYAKA - AN AFRICAN HEATH

by Pat Leuchtman

Because of recent events in Beijing, Henry and I arranged with my work unit to take a very early vacation. We left on June 9 for Hong Kong where we spent a week being overwhelmed by the muchness of the city, trying to regain our equilibrium and making travel arrangements to visit our daughter, Betsy Reilley, in Kenya.

Betsy met us in Nairobi and took us on a big bus to Kitale. The ride took about 7 hours and gave us the opportunity to see something of the Kenyan countryside. We could look down into the Rift Valley, admire thousands of pink flamingos on the lake in Nakuru and zebras grazing by the side of the road. We passed many village centers where businesses were clustered, mud huts housing hotels (these 6 x 6 foot huts actually only served food), dukas or little general stores and many "bar and butchery" establishments. Kitale is a bustling metropolis of several thousand. We left our bus there and boarded a matatu. There are few private vehicles in Kenya and the matatu is a very important means of transport. Most of them are essentially capped pickup trucks that carry up to 25 or 30 people, inside and hanging on for dear life outside with their groceries, chickens, et al. We were fortunate and our matatu never had more than 18 passengers and we even had a seat on the bench.

After a little more than half an hour we arrived in the village of Kesagon where Betsy arranged with a truck to take us a little closer to her house in Munyaka. We piled in the back of the truck loaded with empty crates and several Kenyan women and children. That truck let us off so that we had only about 5 kilometers to carry our luggage and groceries to Betsy's house. By the time we finally got there we had been on the road for 12 hours!

Munyaka is very much like Heath in a number of ways. Though it is right on the equator it's about 7,000 feet up in the mountains. It's at least as hilly as Heath and except for the spring and fall rainy seasons the weather is like Heath in June year round. There is even a duka (store) run by Peter. Munyaka was originally a large colonial farm owned by Mzungus (white people) that was split up when Kenyans won their independence from England 26 years ago. Depending on the quality of the land it was generally divided into 20 or 30 acre parcels and sold to Kenyans, mostly Kikuyu in that area, where they now raise maize and beans, but also grow tomatoes, onions, avocados, bananas and oranges.

During our week's visit we got to inspect Betsy's water project. One brand new 50,000 liter water storage tank had been finished and was hooked up to a spring several kilometers away. Another old tank built by mzungu had been renovated, and a third tank in the center was under way. Trenches for pipeline that had yet to be delivered were being dug. The villagers hope to finish this system, which will put a tap in each household compound, by the time Betsy has to leave in mid-September so that she can be there for the official opening. Currently women haul all the water used from springs.

We also got to meet many of Betsy's neighbors. All day on Sunday and every evening families stopped by to talk and drink chai, tea that is half boiled milk with a lot of sugar. They assured us that we never had to worry about Betsy because now she had many many parents to watch over her, and expressed their gratitude for all the work she had helped them with. Several told the story about how shocked they had been when Betsy's bike had been stolen. Everyone in the village searched

for it. The school was let out early one day so that the children could search in the tall corn fields, and the priest preached that God would strike the robber dead if he didn't return the bike within two weeks. It was returned.

We didn't engage in too many of the usual tourist activities while we were in Kenya. We never even got to see the famous sitatunga, the "mysterious, rare, sub-aquatic antelope" that lives only in Saiwa Swamp, located not far from Munyaka. But we did get a taste of Kenyan village life, using the "choo" (outhouse), bathing in a basin, cooking with a charcoal jiko stove, working by kerosene lamplight and walking everywhere. One Kenyan we met said they referred to walking as "two by two - one, two, one, two" or travelling on Route 11. All in all, Betsy said there were a lot of things about life in Heath that prepared her for life in the Third World. Not only the primitive conditions, but the beautiful agricultural countryside and the friendly and cooperative neighbors who can be counted on for help when there are personal difficulties and who work together for the good of the community. Some of Betsy's mail comes addressed to Munyaka Family instead of Munyaka Village, but she says that is more accurate anyway.

We left for Kenya so hurriedly that there wasn't time to ask Betsy about appropriate gifts to bring. But we left her landlord and neighbor, Kimani, with Steiny's Heath Fair T-shirt, with its blue ribbon label, First Prize Person. Betsy said Kimani understood about agricultural fairs; and then he smiled at us and said his first English sentence to us, "I am Number One!" We think he, Munyaka and Betsy all deserve first prize.

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## AVERY BROOK ROAD NEIGHBORS

by Chrissy Gilbert

As a young child I remember the Garys as a very friendly family. They always bought from me when I sold Christmas cards or gifts to support the elementary school. Now I know Richard and Dorothy much more as friends than as customers.

Mr. and Mrs. Gary have moved to Avery Brook Road, Heath, permanently following their retirement last November. They have moved here from Manhattan, New York, where they lived since 1956. Earlier they owned an old place in Rowe, which they purchased in 1959.

The Garys have three children, who have also migrated to Massachusetts. They are Janet, who lives in Amherst, John, who lives in Boston, and Virginia, who lives here in Heath with her parents.

Richard began his ministry in New York in 1956 as pastor of a congregation in West Harlem. He then worked for the Diocese of New York, in urban ministry. He retired as a Planning Officer for the national Episcopal church. Just recently, Dorothy retired from the Church World Service, an organization devoted to overseas refugee and development services.

When asked, "What do you like most about Heath?", they both agreed that the people they have gotten to know are friendly, and that Heath is both a fascinating and tranquil place. They enjoy the variety of activities open to them, also. Heath is close enough to cultural activities and has many attractions itself.

Richard has traveled all over the country during the past decade, but has found Heath to be a very attractive place to live. Richard and Dorothy both feel they have roots here in Heath, as they have been here so long. Richard says that his retirement wasn't disruptive because Heath has provided important continuity. He was asked to serve on the Heath-Rowe Regional School District Planning Board, and finds this a challenging and exceedingly complex assignment. He finds the cultures of the two towns very different but compatible. Dorothy would like to see where the needs are here before making any commitments. She has an interest in the elderly and their concerns.

The Garys share a mutual favorite hobby which is the renovation of old houses and gardening. They also enjoy the outdoors, and Dorothy is an avid bird watcher. She looks forward to doing some traveling in the future, and being able to spend some time with family and friends in Alabama where she grew up.



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## THE HEATH BICENTENNIAL BOOK

by Sue Silvester

Printed just in time for sale at the Heath Fair, *The Heath Bicentennial* represents the culmination of several months of intensive work. This third volume in a trio of Heath anniversary books commemorates the events of the Bicentennial year. Activities ranging from the local Beard-Growing Contest to the elegant Edwardian Garden Party at the Manse are all carefully documented. Also included is Ed Calver's play *Now And Then*, Bill Wolf's Bicentennial address, Charles Miller's poem *All Praise* and a host of letters from former residents of Heath. The book is liberally sprinkled with photographs that captured the activities of the year-long celebration.

Copies of the book are on sale for \$5.00 each at Peters Store, the Heath Post Office (hours are 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM), the Bridge Street Book Store in Shelburne Falls and World Eye Book Store in Greenfield.

## COMPUTER FUND UPDATE

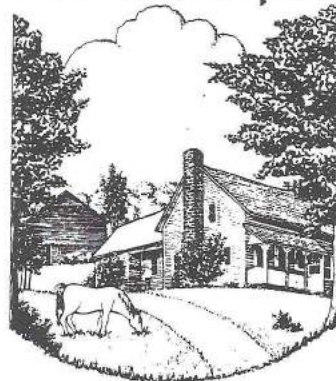
by Sue Silvester

*Heath Herald* treasurer Terry Pettengill reports that a total of \$637 has been received to date for the purchase of a computer. Although that amount is still far from the goal of \$2,500 we are very pleased with the generous responses.

Thank you for the many donations that have been received. If you would still like to make a donation and have not yet done so a check payable to the *Heath Herald* may be mailed to:

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## HEATH (heth) n. (ME. heth, wasteland)

by Cindy Rice

Websters Collegiate Dictionary defines the word heath as a tract of wasteland, a place of acid soil or a place where berries like to grow. The original name for the area now known as the town of Heath was "Burnt Hill" because in and before colonial times Indians burnt off the brush on the hill for a good crop of blueberries. Today it is still necessary to do this in the fall to keep brush back and blueberries up. Everything burns off and the next summer there is no crop, the following year the roots below the surface come back and flourish. With the one year gap between burns and the next harvest normal practice is to burn one third of the fields each year.

In the early 50s a blueberry grower from Granville, MA, named Andrew Duris went in search of new fields and founded "Burnt Hill Farm." Mr. Duris purchased the wooded land from the Hamiltons of Heath and had a lumber company log off the trees. The next step was to burn off the brush, then like magic ... blueberries! A few years later he was joined by a friend, Jake Tripp, who turned the adjoining wood into another farm. Back then there was a young boy, Jack Cable, who every summer came to pick berries for Mr. Duris. A distant relative of Duris' wife, Jack fell in love with the farm, knew it had to be his and in 1966 persuaded Mr. Duris to sell the farm to him.

When Jack Cable bought "Burnt Hill Farm" he had only two hundred dollars to his name and a 1953 Jaguar XK 120 coup which he still owns. At first Jack tried to make a go of it with just the farm and these years became a learning period for him. He had counted on Mr. Duris to teach him and oversee operations. But that winter Mr. Duris passed away. After a while Jack realized that he couldn't make it on blueberries alone and when his previous employer, Torrington Co. a needle bearing factory in Connecticut, asked him to come back with summers off. He agreed.

The past few seasons have been poor ones for blueberries in Heath. To break even Jack's field must produce 15 tons. An average yield on a good year is 25 tons. Last year his farm produced 3 tons, the year before 10 tons, and this year will produce about 1 ton. Rule of thumb is a picker per ton and this year he's it. Every kid in Heath has probably picked blueberries at least one season in their lives, and as they know at the beginning of Jack's drive is a sign reading "Trespassers will be shot. Survivors Prosecuted". Even though the probability that the only trespassers to be fired upon are crows. Trespassing is not recommended so therefore one of the only ways to enjoy the spectacular view is to pick berries for a living. Two other ways are Carroll Stowe's Wagon Train and Heath's annual cross country ski race. Lunch time for the Wagoners is on Burnt Hill with blueberry muffins and coffee served by Jack for dessert. The first year Jack brought out the treats to be neighborly. It has become a tradition and the highlight of the trail.

Blueberry growing is year round work. Starting in the fall one third of Jack's 100 acres of berries must be burned. Straw spread over the area to be burned is imported wheat straw from Canada because it won't seed the fields. During a good season Burnt Hill Farm may employ 25 people working two shifts. Days are spent in the field, and evenings in the shed sorting and cleaning the pick. Most of the harvest is sold to a wholesaler in Springfield, but you can buy directly from the farm yourself. In the winter lack of snow can winter kill the next year's crop and spring rains can keep the blossoms

from being pollinated. Bees do the pollinating and are friendly until you want to move a swarm. Then friendly is not always fun. Fruit flies are the insect that the berries must be protected from. They will lay their eggs on the plants. The only chemicals used on Burnt Hill Farm are Sevin and malathion. Both are used to kill fruit flies and both dissipate within 24 hours. To use pesticides today a farmer must be licensed. In order to maintain the license, the farmer must attend three classes a year.

Pest management is the term for ecologically clean forms of protecting crops. This is the method most used by Jack. Maggots are a problem and so are birds, turkeys, deer and bear. Fruit fly traps, hanging hub caps, sheets, fake owls and geese, propane noise-makers and a 20 gauge shot gun are what Jack uses. Although, according to Jack, a crow can be very hard to get a bead on. Jack has completed two years at an agricultural school and spent seven years in the late sixties and early seventies working cranberry bogs in the fall after the blueberry season was over. Working with Hayden Manufacturing in Waltham MA, a manufacturer of one type of automated cranberry picker, Jack helped devise a modified picker for his crop of blueberries. A small cranberry bog for his own use even exists on Burnt Hill and it is rumored there are others in Heath. In the Olden Days wealth was measured in land, animals and crops. Today the smells of sweat and manure are looked upon as unusual, a sad turn of events. Some people like Jack and Grace Cable still see wealth in farming and richness in the heath and bracken beauty of Burnt Hill.

Gordon E. Taylor d/b/a



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## A LENINGRAD SOJOURN

by Sophie Coe

Yale is older than Leningrad. It was 1700 when that bunch of clergymen got together and decided that Harvard was going to the dogs, and 1701 when they founded an institution to do something about it. It was 1703 when Peter the Great gave the orders to start building his "window towards Europe", the city he named St. Petersburg. Thus it was a comparatively new city we arrived in on the twelfth of May, a city my parents had left more than sixty years earlier for what they thought was going to be a year's study in the United States, but what turned out to be, to their great good fortune and mine, the rest of their lives.

We were met in the customs area by Galya, a student of things Maya from Moscow, who is married to a Guatemalan, and speaks excellent Spanish. She inaugurated the linguistic three-ring circus we lived in for the next three weeks, where Spanish, English, and Russian swirled about on equal footing. Waiting outside was Yuri Valentinovich Knorozov, the man who has single-handedly put the world on the track to deciphering the Maya hieroglyphs, and the person we had come to see on the National Academy Exchange Program.

This might be the place to explain Russian names. The polite way to address a Russian is to use his or her given name, and add the name of the father. Yuri Valentinovich means George son of Valentine. With close friends you can move on to the world of Russian nicknames and diminutives that English readers find so confusing when they read Russian novels, just as confusing as Russian readers of English novels find English nicknames and diminutives.

We had met Yuri Valentinovich before, on our only other trip to the Soviet Union twenty years ago, so we knew what to expect, the deepset eyes and the dour, if not downright forbidding countenance, all concealing a man for whom we have the greatest respect and affection. There were several other people there as well, to greet us, and pack us into a rattletrap green van which took us to the Hotel Moskva, where we were installed in a seventh floor room overlooking the Alexander Nevsky Monastery and the graveyard where Dostoevsky, Tchaikovsky, Rimsky-Korsakov, Borodin, and Moussorgsky are buried.

That began our three weeks in the USSR. We soon developed a routine in our Soviet life. Every morning we had breakfast at the "Swedish Table" on the second floor. For one ruble 42 kopeks (a ruble is worth a dollar at the hotel exchange counter, an eighth of that on the street black market) you could get some of the following items, not all of them every day, and not all of them what one thinks of as breakfast. There was white bread and the delicious sour rye (now being sold in New York as "peace bread" for \$3.98 a loaf). There was cheese, and cottage cheese and sour cream, grated carrots, beet salad, herring salad, sauerkraut, buckwheat kasha, really nasty hot dogs, and things I couldn't even name. There were good cinnamon rolls, tiny meringues, and other pastries. There was boiling water to make tea, from a samovar which leaked incessantly all through our stay, hot milk, and a brownish liquid described generically as "sok" (juice), from no fruit that ever graced this earth that I know of. Coffee came from an espresso machine at the other end of a rather cramped balcony overlooking the main dining room where this all took place, and cost extra, 46 kopeks for a big cup.

At first I was amazed at the people who carried several heaped-up plates to their seats, but we soon found ourselves imitating their example. You never knew when you were going to eat again.

After breakfast we usually took the subway two stops to the center of town. Whenever I wanted to praise something in the USSR, there were always two things I could mention - the bread and the subway. There was a digital clock at each end of every subway platform, giving the time elapsed since the last train, and we never saw one reach five minutes. At rush hour, the trains seemed to be continuous. The subway was also a fine place to people-watch. They were great readers. Not so much newspapers, because until recently the newspapers were strictly party organs and a colossal bore. People read magazines, people read literary journals with pale blue covers, people read books. Several times I peeked over the shoulder of the reader sitting next to me, and found them reading "Children of the Arbat", an epic about the thirties in the USSR, describing the disillusionment of the young who thought they were building socialism and found themselves in the grip of Stalinism instead. Indeed, many times on the subway I saw people who looked like my mental portraits of characters in "Children of the Arbat".

We would get off the subway and walk past the Winter Palace, over the bridge, and to the green and white Ethnographic Museum, built on the orders of Peter the Great on the place where a freak pine tree had caught his attention. There we would meet Yuri Valentinovich, and often spend the day, talking, listening, showing slides, and drinking tea. Sometimes he would take us sight-seeing. He was immensely knowledgeable about eighteenth century St. Petersburg, the architects, the corrupt ministers, and of course Peter the Great. It was one of his jokes that no orders given had ever been rescinded, so that whatever Peter the Great had ordered was still law. That meant that no building in the center of town could be higher than the golden needles of the Peter Paul Fortress and the Admiralty. Whether it was Peter's orders or not, the low skyline, rivers and islands has been preserved, making the name "Venice of the North" a realistic one.

Twice we went with younger colleagues to the summer palaces on the outskirts of Leningrad. They were very cheerful places, with none of the oppressive grandeur of French palaces, deliberately designed to make the viewer feel like an insignificant worm. The bright gold domes of the palace churches glittered in the sun, the gilded statues shone in the gardens, and there were red tulips everywhere. The palaces had been almost entirely gutted by the Nazis, not, we understand, from any strategic considerations, but out of sheer bloody-mindedness. Fortunately most of the furnishings had been removed to storage, and the restoration has been going on for years, and must be costing millions. Even the eighteenth-century trick fountains, said to be the most extensive surviving collection in the world, are being restored to drench twentieth-century tourists.

On the weekends we were invited to the dwelling of a young couple, a linguist and his wife, who worked for Yuri Valentinovich. I say dwelling, because I don't know what else to call it. It was a room in a "komunalka", a Leningrad cooperative apartment. It must have been a nice apartment for a small family in the nineteenth century, five large airy rooms, three of them overlooking a pleasant street. Now every room was inhabited by a family, and the whole place housed fifteen people, all sharing the bathroom and the spotless kitchen. Our friends, and their three year-old son, lived and worked in one of the rooms, along with all their books. The kid was visiting his grandparents in the country when we were there, but how they manage when he is home I can't imagine. But they were wonderfully generous to us, as everybody was, loading us down with books and souvenirs, and she even offered me a very rare Russian cook-

book she had inherited, and which she obviously treasured, unfortunately not as something to be used, but as a memento of the way things were. I did take it, but just to copy, and I have since sent it back, along with photocopies of the missing first seven pages, and all the excess Leningrad bus tickets that other people had pressed on us.

We soon discovered that the Moskva Hotel had a very efficient ticket agency in the cavernous lobby, and that an opera season was going full blast at the Maly theater. The ticket prices were negligible, except for one performance at the Kirov theater, which was still a fraction of New York prices. The only hindrance was that we were always in the tourist ghetto, the orchestra, and several times I found myself translating complex Russian opera scenarios for the benefit of my neighbors, who wanted to know which were the good guys, and which were the bad guys.

Then there were my relatives. They were a hardy lot, my aunt, her daughter and son-in-law, and their son, all living in the same apartment on one of the islands that my parents had lived in. They have the apartment all to themselves, but they are a wily bunch, skilled in the arts of getting along in Soviet Russia. The old lady is a certified survivor, a "blokadistka", someone who lived through the nine-hundred-day Nazi siege of Leningrad, which gets her honors now, and perks like extra tea. She is a cheerful old party, convinced that her grandson is the best young person in the world, whose one failing, a taste for popular music, was cured by his wife, a musician, who lives in Moscow and whom we did not meet. When we returned from Moscow and said we preferred Leningrad her answer was simple - "Of course".

Twice we took the subway and a very crowded bus to their dacha, their country house. It sounds very grand, but it is a tiny house on a tiny plot of land, surrounded by lots of other tiny houses on tiny plots. Every square inch of that plot is cultivated, and I have never seen such a garden. There are red and black currants, gooseberries, raspberries, and cucumbers and tomatoes growing in greenhouses made of scrap lumber and plastic film. The old lady makes the jam, my cousin makes the pickles, and her husband makes the fruit juice. I was asked if Americans made jam, and I was glad to be able to picture the Heath Fair jam section in my mind, and be able to assure people that Americans did indeed make jam. Not all the garden was for the table. There were glorious flowers as well, primroses, daffodils, lilacs, and emerging gladioli.

The television set was on most of the time we were at the dacha. It was a time of great political excitement, with first the election of Leningrad delegates to the parliament in Moscow, and then the deliberations in Moscow. There was an atmosphere of anticipation, rather like what the Continental Congress might have fostered if radio and television had been invented. Every day there was some new revelation. One day someone - was it the Olympic weightlifter? - suggested that the KGB headquarters, a massive cube of grey masonry on Dzerzhinsky Square, be turned into a library, and a slimmed down KGB be relocated somewhere on the outskirts of Moscow. The next day someone - was it Gorbachev himself? - gave a figure, the first anyone had ever heard, for Soviet defense spending. It may have been grossly underestimated, but it was a shocker nonetheless to his listeners.

We met nobody who was a Gorbysmaniac. Quite the contrary, the feeling was that they did not care what his foreign policy triumphs were, why were they worse off than they had been since World War II? Why was sugar rationed, why were tea and coffee and soap and

detergent going to be rationed after June fifteenth? The Moscow cousins showed me their new ration books with considerable disgust. Of course one reason for the shortages is people like my Leningrad cousin, who announced that she had stowed away enough soap for a year. That's what it takes to be a survivor.

Our brief trip to Moscow was not much of a success as far as sightseeing went. The Tretyakov gallery was shut down for repairs, and Red Square was closed off because of the meetings going on. No opportunity for a Tienanmen massacre here - they never let the people on the square in the first place. But we did get to the Arbat, a pedestrian precinct with musicians, sidewalk art displays that look just like sidewalk art displays everywhere else in the world, and five young singers in whiteface and clown costumes, singing pointed verses about the way things are. They were being watched by a group of militia men, and a very tall person in a suit who Galya said was a KGB officer moonlighting. There were other militia men close at hand down a side street. Just because the man on top says "glasnost", glasnost" doesn't mean that all the innumerable bureaucrats under him feel that way. Nearby was a jumble of cardboard boxes on the sidewalk, containing Dutch vegetable oil according to the labels, and a particularly long line waiting to buy.

But we did meet the Moscow cousins for the first time, and Mike gave another illustrated talk, which I translated. I have never run a marathon, but simultaneous translation for an hour and a half is marathon enough for me.

When we left Leningrad for the airport, it was four o'clock in the morning. It is so far north that it was quite light, although the streets were absolutely empty except for a few early buses. The taxi radio was playing a silly tune based on the subway announcer's "watch the doors" - "os-to-ro-zhno, dveri za-kry-vai-utsa". On the plane, an American on a tour from North Carolina told us that he had heard about lines and shortages in the USSR, but he had seen no such thing. We stared at him. There is a difference between going on a tour and spending your time with the natives.



View of the Institute of Ethnology seen across the Neva River, Leningrad.  
This is where we met our Soviet Colleagues.  
(Photo by Michael D. Coe)

## RADON TESTING INFORMATION

by Sharleen Moffatt, Town Nurse

On July 13 I attended an all day workshop sponsored by the University of Massachusetts and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health concerning radon testing for schools and communities. There was a great deal of information to absorb, but I will attempt to share the more important points with you.

Radon is a naturally occurring gas that is found throughout the United States. When radon becomes trapped, it can reach levels that are hazardous for people who have to be in those areas. The Center for Disease Control in Atlanta estimates that over 20,000 deaths a year in the United States are directly related to radon exposure. Prolonged exposure to high levels of radon causes cancer of the lung and this is further potentiated by smoking. The Environmental Protection Agency has set a level of four pico-curies per liter as the upper limit for radon in buildings. A person living with this level for one year would receive a dose higher than that allowed for a worker in a nuclear power facility or a uranium mine.

Testing for radon levels is a simple procedure and is relatively inexpensive. Although the cost of test kits may vary the average price of a charcoal canister type kit is seven dollars. To test, you wait until October or November when the outdoor temperature is below forty degrees and the heating system is on. Close up the house as tight as possible for a couple of days prior to testing. Open the canister and place it in "breathable air space" i.e. between two and four feet off the ground in the lowest living space of the dwelling. It should not be in a drafty area and should be left undisturbed for two days. Record the date and time that the canister was placed. Place a second canister (unopened) near the original. This will act as a control to rule out any lab error. After two days, close the canisters and record the date and time again and mail out immediately. In a larger dwelling testing of several areas is advised. If you receive a high reading in a particular area, do not panic. Consider it like going for a blood pressure screening. If I say your blood pressure is high one time, you do not go onto blood pressure medication, but you wait and retest it a couple of times. The same is true for radon test results. If you get a high reading, you retest before taking any action. Then, if there is any question, you can contact the Massachusetts Department of Public Health in Northampton. William Bell is a radiation scientist with the D.P.H. in Northampton and is our "resident expert". If you require further information, contact me at home or at school. There was a great deal of information that was handed out that day to participants by the E. P. A. and the Department of Public Health.

## A SPECIAL REPORT ON HEATH'S FINANCES

by D. F. Howland

The selectmen have just been notified of Heath's State aid for FY90 by the Department of Revenue (DOR) and, as expected, the town received \$19,826 less than last year, down from \$153,075 for FY89 to \$133,249 for FY90. These figures reflect income from the State less County assessments. Chapter 70, School Aid, is the account that took the brunt of the reduction, but these monies can be and are spent for general appropriations. The Mohawk Trail Regional High School and the Franklin County Technical School, however, were essentially level funded. Mohawk's State funding is \$1,715,058 - up \$24,446 and the Tech School's amount is \$2,292,838 - down \$18,674.

The cities and towns were led to believe that local aid for FY90 would also be level-funded and we forecast Heath's budget accordingly. The reports in the newspapers about the Governor's vetoes and his allocation of State aid based on a per capita method rather than on a needs based formula are quite accurate. The per capita approach adversely affects the amount of local aid money to smaller cities and towns. For example, Heath loses \$21,010 by the per capita approach, but only \$3,790 by the formula method. As selectmen responsible for these matters, we are understandably disconcerted by these events. There has been a flurry of legal action taken by the city of Brookline (the Governor's town) and by the Legislature to enjoin the Governor from proceeding with his method of allocation. These actions will take time and they did not stop the distribution of the cherry sheets.

In any event the Town of Heath has a problem. Early on in the budget year the Selectmen agreed to not make unnecessary major expenditures until we had a clearer picture of the future and what the aid package would entail. We do not have many appropriations that can be rescinded, if it becomes necessary.

However, there are some positive things happening. We have learned that the town may be reimbursed \$11,250 for its costs for the Shared Administrator program due to an interpretation of funding rules by the agency that dispenses the money. And the Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) reports that there is \$20 million that was appropriated by the Legislature to help the small towns with their losses. The MMA is working with the State on the distribution of that money. (How sure this is, we do not know). Finally, the DOR has written all the towns and cities indicating that they will be more flexible about letting the communities gain access to available funds.

In this climate of uncertainty the Selectmen of Heath believe they should not overreact, i.e., cut the budget, raise the taxes, which would mean an override, etc. We will monitor matters closely and try to have things sorted out or resolved by late September. The Legislature is "off duty" until after Labor Day and we expect it will be some time before legal rulings will be rendered.



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## HEATH CONSERVATION COMMISSION

by Bill Lattrell, Chairman

During the last two months the Heath Conservation Commission has been reorganizing Commission duties and developing regulations for the new Town Wetland Protection By-Laws. The regulations, adopted from regulations used by other towns with similar by-laws, and some thoughts of our own that pertain specifically to Heath's Wetland By-Laws should be ready in September. The actual Town Wetland By-Laws do not take effect until they are approved by the Massachusetts Attorney-General's office. We have contacted them and this approval is due to come in the next week or two. From that period forward Wetlands will be protected under State and Town regulations.

As mentioned earlier, we have also reorganized our duties. People needing general information should contact the Chairman, Bill Lattrell (337-5792); people wanting to schedule a site visit should contact Ruth Johnson (337-4367). Brian DeVriese is in charge of scheduling hearings. Dawn Peters is in charge of all Public Postings and David Thane is responsible for our record-keeping system. After we all get used to our new jobs all of our business should be conducted more smoothly.

Starting August 1, 1989 the State is imposing a new fee system that has brought much concern to the Conservation Commission. We wrote a six page letter as testimony to oppose the new fee schedule, but much to our chagrin it is in place starting August 1. Formerly the fee for all Notices of Intent was \$25. The fees now range from \$55 to \$1000. The fee schedule is far too long and complicated to repeat here. But, to take some examples, a buffer zone activity is \$55, any single family residential (near a resource area) is \$250, multi-residential is \$550, and work within a resource area is \$750. This should not encourage anyone to try to omit the permitting process, however, because fines for violations range from \$300-\$25,000 per day per violation as administered by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), formerly known as the Department of Environmental Quality Engineering (DEQE). The Heath Conservation Commission will continue to uphold and enforce the Wetlands Protection Act. We will also try to find a way to get these fees reduced. But until we do we have to collect them as directed per application. The State gets about half of the money, and we get all of the hassle. So, needless to say, we are not thrilled with this piece of news. One strategy that we are examining is to use the Request for Determination process more effectively so that some applicants may not have to file a Notice of Intent. There is no fee for the filing of a Request for Determination.

The Heath Conservation Commission wishes all the people of Heath a good summer, and we encourage all of you to try and get outdoors as much as possible and to enjoy the beauty of our town.

## ASSESSORS' REPORT

by Don Dekker

We are happy to report that the revaluation inspection is almost completely done. A few isolated places are left, but about 95 percent of the town has been viewed, the Assessors mostly fighting off mosquitoes and rain in the process.

The Assessors are now engaged in revaluating residential property. Except for substandard housing, most properties in Heath begin at \$80,000 and go up from there. This is based on sales figures from the past few years and, as the state requires the assessments to be 100% based on sales, we have no choice but to go up.

The new land schedule from the regional office sets a home site at \$25,000 and each additional acre at \$500. Vacant land with no building is assessed at \$15,000 for a developable house site and \$500 for each additional acre. Mohawk Estates of course has a completely different system.

We have voted to have bi-monthly open public meetings. (The rest of our work is done during the day or at home). The public meetings will be the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month from 7 to 9 PM except for the month following the issuance of tax bills. Then we will be available each Wednesday between 7 to 9 PM. Call at those hours for information, or drop a note. Thanks to all the people who kindly received us during the property viewing.

## POLICE REPORT

by Guy Silvester

During the past several months numerous house breaks and car thefts have occurred in town. Residents are advised to secure their homes upon leaving and not to leave car keys in their vehicles. Items commonly reported stolen include electronic equipment, guns, jewelry, money and late model automobiles.

The new emergency dispatch telephone number is 1-772-2133. ALL telephone calls to the police department should be made to this number. This system is working out very well for the police, fire and ambulance and is resulting in more efficient service for the town.

Traffic control signs are being placed in strategic areas around town, such as Peters Store where the speed limit is 25 miles per hour. Please be cognizant of the new signs and drive safely. Radar is being used to enforce the speed limits. Ultimately "stop" and "yield" signs will also be installed.

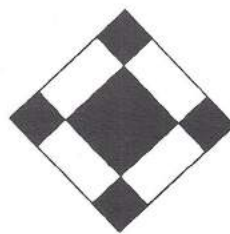
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## PERCS, PERMITS AND TRANSFERS

### Percolation Tests

Earl Gleason reports that ten percolation tests were conducted in June. Seven passed and three failed. Except for repairs, perc tests will not be conducted again until next April.

### Building Permits

Stephen Ryack, Hosmer Road, 1-family.  
Jim Frank, Rowe Road, 1-family/garage.  
Martin Saylor, Colrain Brook Road, replace burned 1-family.  
Clayton Herbert, Shawnee Drive, deck on residence.  
Jacques Lamuniere, Route 8A and Rowe Road, addition to residence/deck.  
Total: 184,660.  
David Freeman/C. O'Brien, Town Farm Road, 1-family, garage.  
Karen Chrisman, Burrington Road, change porch to sunroom.  
Norman Terault, 40 Navaho Lane, garage.  
Ralph Dickinson, South Road, sugarhouse.  
Michael/K. Chrisman, Burrington Road, deck.  
Steven Crowingshield, Bassett Road, demolish barn.  
David Adie, Burrington Road, barn.  
David Freeman and C. O'Brien, Town Farm Road, barn, storage shed.  
Paul Thompson, Rowe Road, above ground pool and deck.  
Total, \$149,740.

### Deed Transfers

Martin R. and Susan G. Saylor to Frank Marchese of Colrain, two parcels, Colrain Brook Road, \$10,000.  
James A. and Dianne B. Cerone to Robert and Eileen Herman of Braintree, Number Nine Road, 1.507 acres, \$27,000.  
Nancy F. Martin to George L. Giard, Paul Giard, Mark Giard and Michael A. Giard of Colrain, Mohawk Estates, Lots 1 and 2, \$7000.  
Mary Boyd to Glenn J. and Mary Boyd, Colrain Road, 4.7314 acres, \$1.  
Roderick L. Lively to Roderick L. and Margaret M. Lively, 1 Merrifield, Lot 4, off Burnt Hill Road (also includes land in Colrain), 100 acres. No consideration.  
Theodore Brown to David Brown of Mansfield Center, CT, and Sharen Brown of Springfield, Mohawk Estates, Lot 68. No consideration.  
Donald P. and Patricia A. Stickles to United Savings Bank, South Road, \$42,916.  
Alida S. King to Donald J. and Joyce E. Morissette of Chicopee, Mohawk Estates, Lot 3, \$500.  
Arthur E. and Elsie I. Holmes to James M. Dougherty of Chicopee, 20 Lakeview Drive, \$2,000.  
Andrew P. and Marion M. Fortini to James M. Dougherty of Chicopee, 19 Clearwater Drive, \$15,000.  
Sanford W. Hager estate, Ruth E. Hager, executor, to Albert L. Hager Jr. of Colrain, Maxam Road, 15 tracts with exceptions, includes land in Colrain, \$50,000.  
Roderick L. Lively to Roderick L. and Margaret M. Lively, Kendrick Lot and Davenport Lot. Includes land in Colrain. No consideration.  
Robert L. and Marian W. Spritzer to Marian W. Spritzer. Deer Run Path. Lots 41 and 42. \$1.  
Peter G. and Barbara T. Smith to Peter G. Smith, Jacksonville Stage Road, \$1.  
Robert C. and Alicia A. Tripp to June I Guild Day of Longmeadow, 6 Flagg Hill Road, \$445,000.  
Robert A. and Dianne T. Rode to Leonard O'Dea and Mary Beth O'Dea of East Northport, NY. Number Nine Road, \$13,750.  
Homer Bouchard to Paul and Susan Bouchard of Springfield. Number Nine Road, \$1.

## ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT REPORT

by Kathy Condon

The Shared Administrative Assistant (SAA) Program changed its makeup as of August 1, 1989. The Charlemont/Hawley/Heath consortium no longer exists.

On June 20, 1989 the Charlemont Selectmen voted to withdraw from the consortium knowing that the community of Leyden wanted to participate. On July 17, 1989 at a Special Town Meeting, the townspeople of Leyden voted unanimously to join the program.

The community of Leyden is similar to Heath and Hawley in population, location (i.e. off of Route 2) and area. We all share many common problems and concerns.

The Town of Heath will administer the grant and the Aide's office will be based in the Heath Town Hall. Office hours will be held in each of the corresponding Town Halls as well. The SAA answering machine can be reached in Hawley's Town Hall at 339-5518, if you would like to leave a message. Generally, your call will be answered the following day. If you would like to try to reach me direct, Heath's office hours will be on Tuesdays.


In this time of increasing budget cuts at the state level, town finances are tighter than ever before. Heath's maybe more so than those of other communities in the area. Recently, we have been working with the Executive Office of Communities and Development (EOCD) to see if any funding might be available for the Town of Heath since it is participating in a new consortium. Results have been very good. The Project Manager, Christopher Crowley from EOCD, indicated that Heath would be eligible for state funding at the two thirds level of assistance for the salary portion this year and one third in FY91.

This means that for FY90 Heath has been awarded a grant for the SAA Program in the amount of \$5,250. As well, we are seeking funding for last year's participation and indications are that exact figures may be available by the second week in August.

The Selectmen have organized a Management Task Force Committee (MTFC) to review and make recommendations regarding administration, personnel and general operations. Recently, MTFC sent personnel surveys to nine like communities in Franklin County in order to determine how Heath compares.

In addition to the above for Fiscal Year 1990 the Selectmen would like to set up a separate appointed Board of Health; obtain the Federal Highway Administration funding now long overdue, the Federal Emergency Management Agency funding (also from the Flood of '87) and develop some written procedures manuals for the varying aspects of town government.

If you have questions regarding any of the above, please do not hesitate to call or drop by the Town Hall on Tuesdays.



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## SELECTMEN'S REPORT

by Art Schwenger

Following through on their promise at the Annual Town Meeting, the Selectmen have formed a new Task Force on Town Government. Appointed to the committee are Charles Mackie, Beverly denOuden and Tom Lively. Kathy Condon will serve as ex-officio member providing staff support and coordination. The Task Force is charged with: 1) examining and making recommendations about the organizational structure of Heath's town government; 2) preparing job descriptions; 3) reviewing wages and benefits, including Chapter 32B; and 4) conducting a general review of policies and practices. The Task Force has been asked to report to the Selectmen by November 1, 1989. An early recommendation on health coverage options relating to the town's 50% share and Chapter 32B was requested.

Reactivated and renamed, the dump committee is now the Task Force on Solid Waste. Headed by Newland Smith, with members Charles Kades and Fred Lively, this group is asked to report by November 1, 1989, with recommendations on: 1) demolition; 2) hazardous waste; and 3) stump dump materials; and to develop proposed rules for disposal.

The Transfer Station construction is now in progress. Most of the blocks are in place. A cement pad is scheduled to be poured. Wiring, fencing and installation are being scheduled. Walt Gleason is acting as coordinator and clerk of works for the Selectmen. The recycling program which is to save the town money in tipping fees is back on track for September or October. Highway Superintendent Ray Galipo attended a recent meeting on the administration of the program. FY90 stickers for the use of the Transfer Station are available at the Post Office. The \$15 fee is for the period July 1, 1989 to June 30, 1990. Because the stickers for FY89 (July 1, 1988 to June 30, 1989) were late being issued, many people may have paid their fee for last year fairly recently. Be assured that the fees are for the above periods and were set and approved by Town Meeting vote. Please note also that the fees will pay for only a portion of the real costs of operating the station.

Roadside mowing has been completed. It is the first time in several years that all roadsides have been mowed. In order to save considerable handwork in clearing brush, this process must be repeated yearly. In spite of the heavy construction schedule the Highway Department has cleared brush at some key corners and intersections to increase traffic safety. Citizens are reminded to please travel slowly and with caution on our narrow roads! Heath is one of those towns where the slower you go the greater your chance of arriving on time.

The Selectmen accepted with regret the resignation of Arlene Markert as Town Accountant. Arlene put in a great effort during her term and because of the complex timing and nature of the free cash certification, flood reimbursement process and Department of Revenue rulings, her work has been key to the final success we realized in June. The Selectmen are grateful for her extra work. Until recommendations are received from the Town Government Task Force, Wendy Luckhurst will be replacing Arlene as Accountant on a temporary basis.

The Shared Aide program now includes Leyden as a replacement for Charlemont. Kathy Condon will now headquarter in Sawyer Hall, and Heath will take over the lead town role from Charlemont. Art Schwenger was reelected to chair the Steering Committee for the program.

The Selectmen recently met with Ray Galipo and Police Chief Guy Silvester concerning installation of traffic control signs. Within the next few months speed signs near Peters Store and Heath Center will appear. Also scheduled are numerous stop and yield signs. It is hoped that these signs will encourage greater safety for all of us.

## FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

by Chuck Mackie

The prospect of settling down to a calm Heath summer season, after a very interesting spring dealing with a number of frustrating fiscal problems, seemed a little bit too good to be true.

Our State leaders, in an attempt to juggle responsibility for the fiscal and leadership crisis at the Capitol, are severely reducing services and funding to cities and towns. The formula used in this reduction is to the extreme disadvantage of smaller communities like Heath.

These reductions will have to be balanced by either reducing our Town's services or increasing local taxes.

In addition to the State's fiscal woes, we have continuing operating expenditures to deal with, such as: additional funding for the Town's Transfer Station; costs associated with the landfill closing; and, depending on the scenarios recommended by the School Committee, a serious investment for Elementary school education.

Stay tuned!

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## MILESTONES

by Edith C. Royer

Tiffany Ann, a daughter, was born June 16 to Pamela and Barry Bradbury, of Bellor Road, Heath.

Rachael Elizabeth, a daughter, was born July 2 to Priscilla and Christian Brackett of Kingston. Granddaughter of Hazel and Gilbert Wilson of Charlemont and great granddaughter of Elizabeth Wilson of Heath.

Elizabeth Heath, a daughter, was born July 2 to Nancy and Mark Eldridge, of Burlington VT. Granddaughter of Elizabeth Eldridge of Heath.

Jeremy Paul, a son, was born July 2 to Bonnie Benson and Jeffrey Purinton, of Bray Road, Shelburne Falls. Great grandson of Rudolph Fournier of Heath.

Zachary Thornton, a son, was born July 3 to Kimberlee and David M. Griswold of South Road, Heath.

Riston Ed, a son, was born July 6 to Carmen and Russell Donelson of Colrain. Grandson of Eva and Luis Pazmino of Heath.

Lynn Ann Tetreault, daughter of Nelson and Mary Anne Tetreault of Colrain was married to John Michael Kain, son of Bruce Kain of Heath and Astrid Kain of Greenfield. The couple took a wedding trip to the White Mountains. They are living in their newly-built home on Underwood Hill in Heath.

Peggy Lee Martin and Lawrence Crosby Smith were married on July 15 at the Colonial Congregational Church in Edina, MN. Peggy is the daughter of La Beryl Martin and the late Judge Robert W. Martin. Lawrence is the son of Caroline and Newland Smith. Peggy is employed by the First Bank National Association, Minneapolis office, where she is an Assistant Vice President and commercial lender. Lawrence is Vice President of First Asset Management in Minneapolis. They are living in Edina.

Nelson U. Peters, of North Chelmsford, died June 8 at Lowell General Hospital. He was the son of Leon and Phillippine Peters, former Heath residents.

Survivors include his wife Phyllis, a son Mark and a daughter Pamela, three brothers, Cleon of Heath, John of Colrain and Leon of Vermont, seven sisters, Jeanette Emond of Worcester, Marie Orpe of California, Evelyn Lemay and Beatrice Drew of Colrain, Pauline Stevenson of Tilton N. H., Theresa Hicks of Shelburne Falls and Sylvia Williams of North Carolina.

George E. Sessions, of Greenfield, died July 4 in Bay-state Medical Center. He leaves his wife Francis, a son Todd and a daughter Robin, all of Greenfield, his mother Dorothy Sessions of Heath, a brother Norman of Heath and a sister Janet Mello of Northfield and a granddaughter. Burial was in Green River Cemetery.



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## HEATH PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Terry Pettengill has just returned from an 11 day trip to California. She and a friend visited San Francisco and Santa Barbara.

Chrissy Gilbert, daughter of Ken and Sandy Gilbert of Avery Brook Road, attended drum majorette school at the University of Connecticut at Storrs from July 31 to August 4. The program was sponsored by the Marching Auxiliaries of America. Approximately 150 high school students from New England and New York attended this intensive program; Chrissy was one of four students from Mohawk Trail Regional School to attend. She will be the drum majorette for the MTRS marching band this fall.

Elmer and Mary Sherman, Leland, Cecelia and Keith Sherman of Heath and Patricia Guilbault of Turners Falls attended on June 2 the graduation of their daughter, sister and aunt, Martha R. (Sherman) McDonough from the University of Osteopathic Medicine and Health Sciences in Des Moines, Iowa. She received her Doctorate in Osteopathic Medicine, D.O., and begins her year of internship on July 1.

Her husband, John P. McDonough, received his Doctorate in Education, Ed.D., from Drake University on May 13, 1989.

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