



# HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER 35¢

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

by Beverly denOuden

A group of approximately 40 people boarded a school bus at the Mohawk State Park on Saturday, October 7, to explore a portion of the original Mohawk Trail.

The Mohawk Indians had a trail which originated in New York and led down into the Pioneer Valley. The road was later used by the military and early settlers. This small portion of the trail, which falls within the state park, was reclaimed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s when the park was established.

The hike originated in a meadow at the end of the County Road which lies on the right approximately 2 miles beyond the park entrance. The trail is not demanding going in and the path is clearly defined. One can walk along the ridge between the Deerfield and Cold Rivers to a summit on Todd Mountain which offers a splendid view of the western valley leading into Charlemont. If you reverse and walk out as you came, there would be no rugged up and down climbs. If you're interested in a bit of adventure, the path down the side of the mountain to the campgrounds by the Cold River is a steady decline and a bit more demanding. However, at the base the campgrounds offer picnic tables, comfort facilities and the Cold River itself is a great beauty.

The Historical Societies of Heath and Rowe have co-sponsored a hiking outing for five years. Members from their mid-twenties to their mid-seventies made the trek on Saturday and are already discussing plans for next year. Come join us!



Heath & Rowe Historical Society Hikers  
(Photo by Beverly denOuden)

## HEATH SCHOOL CRISIS

by Nan Gibbons

Heath Residents have begun to look at all the options as the issue of educating our children becomes more urgent. At present no fewer than 5 options are being considered.

The options of regionalization with Rowe and the option of building our own school with partial state funding have both had committees looking into them and reporting back to the community. Other options considered by concerned townspeople have been building our own school without state funds, finding another school system to regionalize with or tuition our students to, or tuitioning them to several different schools in the area.

Rowe's decision to do a six-month long study of a possible magnet school has complicated things because until Rowe decides what it will do, Heath must study several mutually exclusive options at the same time - and may have to spend funds just to keep the choices open.

### Regionalization:

This is looking much more promising than in the past. There has been some progress. The joint committee has tentatively agreed in principle to a plan proposed by School Business Manager David Newell for dividing up the operating expenses for the elementary education portion of a regional school. The proposal takes into account both Heath and Rowe's unique situations and comes up with a way that might seem fair to voters in both towns. Newell's proposal divides the two town's tax bases into residential and industrial parts.

About 75% of the operating budget for the school would be based on the industrial tax base, and 25% on the residential. This corresponds with the percentages of revenue from these sources for both towns.

The 75% would be divided between the two towns according to industry, with no town paying less than 10% of it. Since Heath's small industrial base amounts to only 9% of the two town's combined total, it would pay 10% of the industrial portion of the budget. Rowe, with its industrial wealth especially in utilities, would pay the remaining 90% of the three-quarter industrial share.

The remaining 25% or so of the operating budget would be based on enrollment. Heath, with its almost 80% share of students, would pay 80% or so of the residential portion of the budget, while Rowe would pay a corresponding 20% of the residential quarter of the budget. At a recent meeting of the Joint

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## LETTER

To the Editor:

I'm writing in response to Chris Niebuhr's reference to a statement by me. First of all, I want to say that some of my best friends are Episcopalians. Many of them are clergy and most look very good in their vestments. Secondly, Chris has misquoted me peculiarly. Misquoted, because I never said what he said I said. Peculiarly, because I actually thought what he said I said, but never said it. What I thought was not that putting on Episcopal vestments is like becoming a clown, but that me putting on Episcopal vestments is like becoming a clown, but I never said it!

At least he did me the justice of misquoting me out of context, for which I'm grateful. The occasion in which I thought what he said I said but I never said was the first time I had the privilege of administering the sacrament in an Episcopal church. It was in Ashfield, and the priest I was replacing had told me how to put on all those vestments but hadn't told me three important things: 1) Before you pour the wine into the chalice to be consecrated, count the number of people who will drink it (there were five), and pour only enough for them and you. 2) Let them have a good healthy swig. (I was nervous and they barely got a sip) 3) You don't have to consume what's left during the service and you can get others to help you afterward. I filled the thing up, about half a quart, and dutifully consumed what was left, a little bit less than half a quart, on the spot. That's when I thought what he said but I didn't say. It must have showed. But he wasn't even there!

I hope this clears things up.

Allen M. Comstock  
Charlemont

ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS, WE PRINT.



# HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

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## FOREIGN STUDENT EXCHANGE AT MOHAWK

by Christine Gilbert

Mohawk Trail Regional High School has a number of foreign exchange students this year, some of whom are attending Mohawk for the 1989-1990 school year.

A 16 year old German named Eva Klaus is staying with Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Purinton of Buckland. When asked how family life is different in Germany than in the United States she said, "I do not have any brothers or sisters in Germany; here I have two brothers and two sisters." Eva also explained how the family spends more time together in the U. S. than in Germany. Also, when asked how is school different in the U. S., Eva said "We don't have as many choices between the subjects and we don't need a hall pass to go somewhere. Very often there is no lunch but there are two breaks of 15 minutes each. We also have to go to school for 13 years and the classes are not combined of juniors and seniors. Everybody is in the same grade in a class."

Other foreign exchange students include Thomas Stigsen of Greenland, who is staying with the Rouleau family of Charlemont, Galbenia Mourau of Brazil, with the Vettors in Greenfield, Tiffany Ingham of Australia, with the Ahearns in Colrain, Sabine Keller of Germany with the Smith family in Colrain, and Sebastian Bruschwiler of Germany with the Poiriers in Shelburne.

Mohawk has an American Field Service (AFS) program which is the largest and oldest exchange program in the world. The AFS put on an exchange weekend from Thursday September 28 to Saturday September 30. Exchange students came from all over the world. Some of these places includes Switzerland, Colombia, Austria, and Japan. The exchange students arrived at 6 PM on Thursday. Friday was a fun-filled day. The students went to school with their American hosts and they had the opportunity to go on a tour of downtown Shelburne Falls. They saw the Bridge of Flowers, the Salmon Falls Artisans' Gallery and the famous potholes. Friday evening there was an AFS party at Babcock Hall in Charlemont. On Saturday there was a rafting trip put on by Zoar Outdoors. For the students that preferred to attend a football game there was a home game at Mohawk. Following these activities there was a farewell reception in the Mohawk library.

## HEATH PRECIPITATION

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

August precipitation was 5.72 inches. September precipitation was 2.69 inches, for a total for the year to October 1 of 37.96 inches.

August continued the trend of frequent rains, so the first two weeks of fair weather in September were much appreciated.

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## PEACE CHILD

by Olga Peters

For a month last summer I went to the Soviet Union with a theater group called PEACE CHILD, to perform with fifteen Americans and fifteen Soviets. The name of the musical we put on was appropriately named PEACE CHILD and it was played in Odessa and the surrounding cities.

I had the best time, met the friendliest people, and the shows and times we shared were unforgettable right up to our tearful parting on the island of Yalta.

I'm home now, and all the friends I made are scattered all over the place, but the memories are still there.

A few weeks ago Wendy, a girl from my tour, sent me a letter saying that on September 19 PEACE CHILD was going to sing via satellite, with Costa Rica and the Soviet Union, at the opening ceremonies at the United Nations, NYC. So, my parents loaded me, Nanny and Terry on a train and off we went to New York.

It was so much fun! We did a little shopping, a little sight-seeing and lots of eating.

Monday the 18th the "Peace Kids" (all 263 of us) met to start rehearsing. I was able to find Wendy through the crowd. After rehearsal we went for a walk around the city then had a huge spaghetti dinner with the rest of the kids from California.

Tuesday morning everyone met at the UN ready to go. We waited in the back of the General Assembly Hall for the satellite link to be made and the music to start.

The three screens (one each for the U.S.S.R., U.S.A. and Costa Rica) above the stage flashed on, the music started, and all at once kids from three countries started to sing!

It was fantastic! This was our show! In between numbers some kids stood up and addressed such issues as energy resources, over-population, an arms freeze and absolute poverty.

When the program ended and the screens were turned off, everyone cried. All the same we were happy. This was the first time kids like us had performed at the UN. We'd done something many people had thought we wouldn't be allowed to do, but we did it anyway.



Olga Peters at the United Nations  
(Photo by Alli Thane)

Continued from page 1

Committee, David Newell showed that by using his formula on this year's figures, Heath's costs would have actually been \$50,000 less, Rowe's costs would have been \$25,000 more, and there would be an \$80,000 increase in state aid.

The operating budget represents more than 90% of a regional school budget. Many other issues would have to be resolved if the two towns regionalized.

### Tuitioning Students to Another School:

We could continue to tuition our children to other schools. It seems unlikely that this relationship will continue with Rowe, but this is possible. Other schools in the area have been considered, but all seem too crowded already. A last resort would be to tuition them out here and there to whatever schools would take them - always voiced in meetings as an option to be avoided at any cost.

The *Heath Herald* will continue to keep readers apprised of the school situation, but the best way to be responsibly informed and involved is to attend the meetings.

### Building our own:

The option of building a school not to government standards, has yet to be seriously considered because if we build our own way we forfeit state reimbursement. "To build NOT to state standards, we'd have to build for much less than 30% (of what it would cost to build a state funded school)", said John Henry at the last Heath School Study Committee information meeting, "and even if we could build something ourselves, what would it be compared to what we could get with state reimbursement?"

### Building a School to State standards:

In order to meet state requirements, Heath would have little control over most of the specifics of a Heath Elementary School. At the least, it would have to be about 27,000 square feet, and cost about 2 1/2 million dollars to build. Up to 200 students would attend the school, which would have nine classrooms, a kindergarten, cafeteria/auditorium, a special education room, and a kitchen. The school and the town would share a nurse, the library, and much of the building would be available for community use. After a School Building Assistance Bureau grant, the bond payments would be over \$93,000 a year.

The operations budget for such a school, based on the present enrollment of 95 students would run between \$400,000 and \$430,000 a year. This would allow for a staff of four full-time and one half-time teachers, a special education teacher, and part-time art, music and P.E. teachers. It also allows for a full-time non-teaching principal.

If Heath wants to further explore this option, it will have to begin soon, even before we know what Rowe's decisions are going to be. There is a June 1990 deadline for grant applications and after that it is not likely that the same percentage of funds, if any, will be reimbursed. In order to meet this deadline, Heath will have to begin to appropriate funds within the next 6 or 8 weeks to obtain bond counsel, and begin preliminary architectural studies. This would begin at a cost of about \$10,000 and quickly become more than \$50,000 to keep with a schedule that keeps the grant a possibility. This is where Rowe's drawn out decision-making process really hurts.



## THE WAGON TRAIN ROLLS AGAIN

by Carroll Stowe

The 1989 Heath Wagon Train had its beginnings this year as last in the South Williamstown area.

A span of mules owned and driven by John (Popeye) Guiden set out Tuesday September 19. They traveled approximately 27 miles to arrive at the Ken Demers Farm in Clarksburg, MA. John's wife, Kris Anderson, and son Jesse were with him all the way. I admire the courage of people who can take off on a trip such as the Guidens did. The Demers' Farm was an overnight stop and on Thursday the 21st nine wagons and five out-riders set out for Frank and Sandy Sprague's place in Whitingham, VT, by way of Stamford, VT, Heartwellville, and Readsboro. The troop arrived at the Spragues' around 2:30 PM less one wagon which was forced to drop out to be repaired and brought to the Spragues' later.

After a leisurely evening of Frank and Sandy's hospitality the group bedded down in all sorts of sleeping arrangements. Horse trailers, tents, the ground and the offer of bunking in the Spragues' unfinished log house. In the morning while some folks packed for the trip to the Heath Fairgrounds, others moved the transport rigs to the Fairgrounds. After I had gotten a wagon and some firewood to the Fairgrounds I went to Rowe and readied Mrs. Carey's team and hitched up and went to meet the crew. We came together at about 9:30 Friday morning. We had a nice leisurely-paced trip by way of Rowe's Stone Hill Road to Heath's Number Nine Road and on to 8A, Ben Road and Branch Hill Road to the base camp for 2 1/2 days - our Heath Fairgrounds, arriving at just noon-time.

After reaching the Fairgrounds it is hard to believe how fast people could get the cooking equipment going and the noon meal ready. Those folks who got through eating first were available to go back to the Spragues' and get more transport rigs. So I rode back to Mrs. Carey's to get my truck and her trailer, and hay, grain, grooming tools and blankets for the horses. Friday afternoon was pretty leisurely-paced, with people standing about swapping stories and readying for the night and the possible striking of Hurricane Hugo. I could not believe how seemingly unconcerned the people were about the coming of storm Hugo. As in years past small knots of people could be observed swapping yarns as the evening was made ready for. Every so often you could hear a burst of laughter from one group and then another. That's what the wagon train is supposed to be about: having a good time. Hugo did blow and rain some at the Fairgrounds but we weathered it well.

Saturday presented itself to be a rather nice day but it got rather sour later. We readied the equipment and animals for our trip to the Cables' blueberry fields. We left at about 11 AM and drove into Jack and Grace's yard at 11:45. Here again the group was treated to some impeccable hospitality with hot drinks and blueberry muffins. A sincere thank-you is in order through the *Herald* to the Cables. We are indeed fortunate to be allowed to sample the Cables' good hosting. When we left the Cables' we traveled by way of an old road back down to Colrain Brook Road. I guess it could be said that we traveled in a coarse fog throughout the trip Saturday.

Upon arriving back at the Fairgrounds the sky opened up and it really rained. Because of the

good buildings at the Fairgrounds no-one got very wet. The team I drove provided the power to clean the barns. With stables clean attention could be turned to getting the evening meal together; and what a repast was put out. Everything was delicious and there was plenty of it. It is so good to see people really having such a good time.

As evening approached the rain stopped and it got a lot colder. The camp fire was kept going and people were gathered around it and a newcomer to the Wagon Train played his guitar and sang songs to everyone's pleasure.

A group of people were gathered in the lower barn that looked like a captive audience. So I took the opportunity to read two stories to them that Buck denOuden had written. They all seemed to enjoy the stories and some had tears because of the touching way they are written.

All too soon it was Sunday morning and the ritual starts all over again. Feed and water the animals and then grab a plate and feed thyself. Again a mouth-watering combination of food to hold your ribs apart. Sunday morning was beautiful; a touch of frost but most welcome after a moist Saturday. After some socializing, animals were made ready with either saddle or harness and we started out just before 10:30. We went through Heath Center just as church was over. The church-goers seemed to enjoy our procession. The trip took us by way of Long Hill Road to 8A, Rowe Road and Knott Road past Victor Vreeland's old home site, now Henry and Pat Leuchtman's. Here we have to open two swinging gates into and out of the pasture that the East Charlemont Hicks families use. After a short distance and two very sharp right-hand corners we exit the woods into a large field of Paul Lively's. Here we rested the horses and took on a few more calories for ourselves. People really enjoy the view from this large field as you can look almost back to the Fairgrounds. Again all too soon it was time to leave and head back to the starting point.

We reached the Fairgrounds about 2:30. This is the hardest part of the whole weekend for me, and I guess others. I also heard the word "sadness" mentioned several times as everyone prepared for the trip home.

All during the weekend Peggy Stowe had kept a never-ending supply of coffee and hot chocolate available for those who wished. There were also sweets to go with the hot drink.

If anyone counted heads or horses over the weekend I didn't hear the numbers. The Wagon Train was bigger than last year and it need get no bigger. People came from New York State, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, Vermont and Connecticut. Two fellows also came from Indiana. Many people stayed home to be near their property to deal with storm Hugo. This year's Wagon Train has the distinction of being held with the threat of a severe storm and I admire the courage of those who braved the storm warnings to attend.

Thank you one and all for a successful weekend.



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## MEMORIES OF OUR STAY IN HEATH

by Evelyn Comerford Munson

My husband had gone back to teaching during World War II. He taught at the North School. We owned a house in Conway, MA, and he was not allowed gas coupons to travel from Conway to Heath because of the gas shortage during the war.

We rented a Cape Cod style house on Jacksonville Road from Mr. Frank Gleason. The little house was very nice and had a barn and lots of land. We raised chickens, a pig and had a large garden.

We brought a minimum of furniture with us as we would go back to our house in Conway when gas became available.

When I saw the black kitchen range I wondered how I would cook with that. I soon learned and became quite efficient with the wood burning range.

Our daughter was two then and celebrated her third birthday in Heath.

The first day there in February I put on my ski suit and boots. We took our sled and started out to find the North school. We met Mr. Bellor who lived down the road and asked him directions to the North School. He told me it was quite a walk so I decided not to venture.

My husband would go to school early to start the wood fire. The children would visit us at home. Hillman, Crowningshield, Brunelle, Stetson and Bellor are names I recall. There were Halloween parties. Our daughter was afraid of the masks and my husband would end up carrying her. The children put on a Christmas play by lamplight. It was beautiful. I have thought of it so many times. After the plays, we took them for a ride all around Heath and they would sing their little hearts out.

There was Peters Store where we bought gas and other essentials. Once my husband went for gas and took our daughter with him. There were kittens at Peters. The next morning, when the Peters children went to school, they arrived at the door with a kitten saying it was for our daughter and that her father said she could have it. They asked if they could leave it and come for it after school. You guessed what happened - the kitten was ours.

During the war it was not possible for the farmers to get help for getting in the fall crop of vegetables. I had a workshop with the children to gather the vegetables for the Greenfield Hospital and the Farren Hospital. The women from the Board of Organized Work came with a station wagon and left with a full load. We had a nice write-up in the *Recorder*. The children were very proud.

There were Saturday night suppers in different homes when everyone brought a dish. It was very enjoyable.

The girls of the University of Massachusetts came out to teach the women how to cook and sew and all homemaking amenities. Sometimes they used to come for supper at our house and would have to have the State car back to the garage by 9 PM.

A snowstorm with ice on the crust would make the tree branches hang on the ice. It was eerie at night. We were without electricity and telephone for one or two weeks.

Our chimney caught fire. My husband was just out of bed from having the flu. I called for the fire department, only to learn there was none. Each farmer had an extinguisher and one called the nearest farmer. In the meantime, my husband went on

the roof and I handed him milk bottles of water which he poured down the chimney and had the fire out before the farmer got there.

We had a shepherd dog that was given to us by a man in Colrain who had three dogs and couldn't feed them in the wartime. He lived to be fourteen years old and was a nice dog.

Later, my husband was offered a teaching position in the Lunenburg, MA, schools and we moved to Leominster where he later was Art Director of the Senior High School where he retired in 1968. He passed away in 1982.

I fondly remember our stay in Heath and all the nice neighbors and children. It was a great pleasure to be invited to Richard Bellor's 25th anniversary party and Sadie Bellor's 75th birthday party. Sadie was our neighbor in Heath and her children were students at the North School. I still enjoy going to the Heath Fair every summer.



Portrait of Claude H. Munson, Heath teacher  
at the North School from 1940-1942  
(Photo courtesy of Evelyn Munson)

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## HEATH FAIR NEWS

by Mike Peters

Who could have believed that we would beat the odds and get another beautiful, rainless weekend? That makes three years in a row and everyone realizes how lucky we were.

After hearing horror stories about the Middlefield Fair getting three days of rain the weekend before the Heath Fair, and being a total loss, we were very worried.

But luckily, we didn't have to worry about bad weather, and because of that, Heath Fair "89" was a total success.

Starting Friday night with a record crowd of about 4,000 + people, we knew if the weather held up for the rest of the weekend we would have a financially successful Fair. And so it did. Best estimates put the total attendance at 12,000 +- people, which is a moderate increase from last year's Fair. And so, after spending a hefty \$8,162.00 on entertainment, \$6,600.00 in premium money for exhibits and animals, and \$4,000.00 in miscellaneous expenses, we still had a profit of over \$7,000.00 dollars. GREAT JOB EVERYONE.

Due to increased sales in the Fair's food booths, there was a \$1,600.00 profit increase from last year, making a total profit from food of \$4,962.00 dollars. Concessions also brought in more money this year, making a total of \$2,362.00 paid to the Fair for rental spaces. The Fair paid \$2,000.00 more in premiums this year also. There were many more Heath citizens renting spaces this year. Among them were the Heath Preschool, the *Heath Herald*, The Heath Park Committee, The Heath Fire Department, The Heath Historical Society and the Heath Library, who all took advantage of the policy of no charge for Heath non-profit organizations.

Total cost on the new pole barn was only \$3,625.00 dollars. Thanks to a very dedicated crew of local amateur carpenters, the entire barn was built by us and finished the night before the Fair started. Harry and Nancy Briggs, Carroll Stowe, Conrad Halberg and Steve Marcotte put in some long hours and did a great job building it. Other than some little communication problems, like having the crew on each end of the truss being placed pulling like mad in opposite directions and not going anywhere, everything went great.

The Fair was pleased to have the State's commissioner of Food and Agriculture, August Schumacher, attend the Fair on Saturday. It was his first time at the Heath Fair and he said he enjoyed all the small, quiet, country fair details he found in Heath. Steve Quinn, who works for the same department under the authority of Mr. Schumacher, also visited us on the same day. If everything works out as they say it will, the Fair will receive a \$10,000.00 grant from the State for non-agricultural purposes. This means we can use the money for anything we want instead of being committed to what they say we can do with it, such as the new barn we just built. Boy, we could do some nice things to the grounds with \$10,000. We'll cross our fingers.

Everyone liked the stone table and flower bed that Jerry Pratt displayed on the midway so much that he is going to build a much bigger and better one next year, and leave it at the fairgrounds permanently. He owns the stone quarry in Ashfield and was selling stone as a concession.

We want to thank Carroll Stowe for putting on the woodsman's contest this year. It went very well and was very professional.

The Fair committee would like to thank everyone who helped to make this year's Fair a huge success. There are a few problems to work on for next year, but nothing major. The possibility exists for having a horse show included in next year's Fair. There are a few people interested in running one so we'll see what happens. Anyone interested in helping to organize a horse show should contact a committee member.

We would also like to thank George Morse of Colrain for lending us the loader for the horse and ox pull, complete with driver, for all three days, and also for the flatbed trailer for the truck pull stage.

There are plans under way for some kind of pot-luck dinner or party for all the people who helped in any way in running the Fair this year. We're still putting together a mailing list of all the helpers.

Once again, thank-you to all the 150 to 200 people who helped make this year's Fair such a huge success, and we look forward to Heath Fair "1990".



Aerial View of Fairgrounds  
During 1989 Heath Fair  
(Photo by Mike Peters)

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## BLUEBERRY HILL

by Beverly denOuden

Leonard and June Day have completed their first blueberry harvest on Burnt Hill. Resiliency and optimism, important characteristics for any farmer, were needed, for the extremely icy conditions of last winter dramatically reduced the tonnage. The 70 acre blueberry plot has a potential harvest of 15 tons, whereas this year's gathering produced only 1 1/2 tons. Now their focus is on winter projects and planning for next summer's crop.

Blueberry picking at Jack Cable's brought the Days to Heath in the summer of 1988. A country stroll down Flagg Hill Road when the picking was completed led them to the Tripps' "For Sale" sign and thus began their imagining, research and ultimate purchase for this adventuresome change in their lives.

Leonard grew up on a farm near Northampton. As an adolescent he began educating himself in the craft of gun repair. Hitchhiking to Vermont, he would purchase a gun in need of repair and with the skills acquired by study with a nearby blacksmith he would make the repair, return to Vermont to resell the gun and purchase yet another. The repair and rebuilding of old guns eventually developed into a business of custom-building of historical replicas. Leonard's specialty, as pictured, is the swivel breech rifle manufactured between 1780 and 1835. He works one rifle at a time to fill a specific order and can therefore avoid the need of inventory on hand.

Leonard is currently racing the encroaching cold weather as he insulates his barn, which will serve as his manufacturing space.

June, a former Longmeadow resident, is currently engaged in refining Leonard's advertisements and notifying his business connections of their relocation.

She left an accounting position in the Springfield area and will be looking for part-time work. Meanwhile she is enrolled in a tax preparation course at Greenfield Community College.

Leonard and June also have a mutual interest in history and are members of the "Society of the 17th Century", based near Springfield.

The Days are now enjoying their panoramic view of foliage which, on good, clear days, allows a glimpse of the Holyoke range. The blaze of autumn leaves is not the only indication of season. June said she noted the exaggerated height of the bird feeders in their yard, and then she and Leonard exchanged a knowing look about the snows to come.

The *Heath Herald* extends a warm welcome to the Days and much success in their new plans on Burnt Hill.

## ECHOES FROM A HILL FARM

by Karen Brooks

Susan Gleason has recently written a wonderful collection of anecdotes (most of them adaptations of her *West County News* column "Somewhere Out There") entitled *Echoes from a Hill Farm*, with illustrations by Richards Steinbock. A long time resident of this area, she was born in Springfield, grew up in Rowe, then moved to Heath where she and her husband Walt farmed for many years until they made the difficult decision to go out of farming in favor of earning a living.

Her education carried her through a 15-year period of her life, through constant interruptions by babies and farm life, until she finally received her degree from Goddard College's Adult Degree Program. This program is designed for people who cannot leave home to attend college, allowing them to earn a degree through written assignments and communications with university faculty. It was during this time that she realized that she was a writer.

Susan has always had a very close relationship with the community. She has been Librarian, secretary of the Fair, spent ten years on the Planning Board and many more as the proverbial farmer's wife and yet she has always stayed very much her own person. Presently she works full-time at the Greenfield Public Library.

In her book she gives a first-hand view of life in Heath, or any other small town - its tragedies and comedies, the everyday difficulties and pleasures which make country life such a challenge and such a joy. She says, "It is through writing that I am able to see things the way they really are--if I didn't write, I wouldn't know what things were about."

Her book, *Echoes from a Hill Farm*, is available at area bookstores, or by mail from the publisher, at \$8.95 plus tax. Please include \$2.00 for shipping.

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## NEWS FROM THE ACADEMY

by Olga Peters

This is it! The red ribbon has been cut and the new campus of the Academy at Charlemont is open! School opened September 6, 1989, with an enrollment of 86 students, the largest number we've ever had. New and old alike were happy to be in the new building with its clean white walls, wall-to-wall carpeting, neat windows, and wide stairs. (We don't have any lockers yet, but that's beside the point.) The school held an open house Sunday, September 17, for about 200 people. Everyone was quite impressed.

This year the Academy is hosting a special student, Luthando Maphasa. He comes to us from South Africa through the ISSAEP (Independent School South Africa Education Program). He lives in a town called Umzinkulu in the Transvaal area of South Africa. He came to the Academy after reaching the highest level of education he could possibly reach as a Black in his own country. Luthando will spend a year at the Academy taking such classes as physics, chemistry, pre-calculus, history and English. After his year with us, Luthando plans to go to a college to study medicine in hopes of someday returning to his homeland to put such knowledge to work.

October 7 was the second annual Academy Free Carwash. This benefited the Black African Scholarship. The weather was fair and the kids were kept busy washing cars. Sponsors pledge per car and the total amount of money raised depends on how many cars are washed. Everyone was pleased at the outcome and, best of all, we all had a good time.

The soccer season is going great. All three teams (girls, boys, and JV) have been practicing very hard and have experienced more wins than losses.

The first few weeks have been hectic for a new school year and a new school campus, but classes and all are running smoothly. We all hope it stays that way!



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## SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT

by Budge Litchfield, Chairman

October finds the schools open and doing well with the school committee members as busy as ever. In the past few months we have been working on some old issues and some new ones. Some of what we have been doing can be described as searching - searching for new funding sources for the preschool, searching for a new principal for the Rowe School and continuing to search for a "permanent base" for our elementary school students. The search for a new Assistant Superintendent has ended. Linda Galton began work in September and has already attended a few meetings in Heath. (She found Sawyer Hall easily enough, but wondered what it would be like in the winter. We didn't tell her.)

At our last meeting we approved an extension of the current transportation contract and set our next school committee meeting date as November 14 at Mohawk.

As far as the Long Range Planning is concerned, about 30 people attended an informational meeting on October 5 and heard Pam Porter and John Henry describe the physical and fiscal realities of a "Heath Elementary School". I think most people in attendance would agree that such an undertaking is almost certainly "do-able", but would undoubtedly be a major financial burden on the town. The next step in this search will be to decide as a town whether or not we are willing to hire a bond counsel and architect. The most recent Regional School District Planning Board meeting was held in Heath and was quite well attended. At that meeting the Board tentatively agreed to accept an operating cost apportionment formula presented by Business Manager David Newell.

The last major area of new information for the Board will be a presentation about regional school committee membership. Beyond that we will be negotiating the terms for a possible regional school district agreement. It is our goal to finish this phase of the project within the next few months.

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## MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL SCHOOL NEWS

by Valerie Belval

Beginning with the 1989 school year there have been some new rules added to the curriculum. They are: 1) Physical Education: It is now a requirement to have a note from the doctor or signed by the nurse in order to be excused from taking the class on any given day. 2) Absences: If a student does not bring a note following the day of an absence, that student will have one detention automatically. If a student is absent more than 15% of the scheduled time for a course, credit will not be granted. 3) Early Graduation Program: At the beginning of eleventh grade a student may petition to graduate one year early. A student must fulfill the same course requirements as a regular graduate.

We had six graduates from Heath in 1989 and they were: Daniel Bryant: He will be attending UMass. His major has not been decided. Tanja Davin: She is attending Tufts University and is majoring in pre-med. Lark Miller: He is attending GCC and is majoring in ecology. He is also working part-time doing outdoor work. Chris Poisson: He will be attending GCC next semester and was working at Yankee Candle Company. Arlo Seaver: He is taking this year off and will be traveling to Colorado and Europe. He is now working with his dad in carpentry. Karen Venneri: She is attending the University of Rhode Island and is majoring in marine biology.

We would like to congratulate the graduates and wish them good luck in the future.

We would also like to congratulate Chris Toupen, the only Student Representative of Heath, and Tina Demech and Chuck Shattuck the only two Peer Educators from Heath. Keep up the good work!

## HEATH FAMILIES IN BEIJING

by Carolyn Holstein

Carolyn and Barry Holstein of Branch Hill Road recently returned from a two week trip to the People's Republic of China. While in Beijing they visited with Pat and Henry Leuchtman of Knott Road, thanks to Rachel Sumner who provided the Leuchtman address. In fact, both couples were staying in the same Friendship Hotel complex where many foreign specialists are placed. The Leuchtmans report that they are both busy "polishing" English translations for Chinese publications and are enjoying their year's sojourn in China.

During the June Tiananmen Square incident, however, the Leuchtmans left the country to visit their daughter in Kenya. They send greetings to all their friends in Heath.

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## HEATH PUBLIC PRESCHOOL NEWS

by David Schwartz

Owing to the financial state of Massachusetts several cuts needed to be made at the preschool. We lost Susan Regan as program coordinator and also the services of Dot Lyman as administrative assistant. Pam Porter's hours needed to be cut to where she is working only one half-day on Thursday instead of a full day. Cuts also had to be made in the materials budget, snack budget and others.

As if this wasn't difficult enough we also lost Ruth Fournier as senior aide because she had reached the time allowed by her program and needed to move on. Ruth had worked at the preschool for 6 years and has given a lot to the kids and the program. She will be greatly missed. We wish her luck in her new work at the library. We can also be glad that it's a small town and we'll still be seeing her around.

Now for some news that will be a little easier to take. Owing to the hard work of the advisory council, administration, staff and parents a good program seems to be shaping up. There will be no cuts in services to the kids and no tuition being charged. In addition, \$675 was raised at the preschool raffle at the Heath Fair and will go for materials. Thanks to all you town citizens for your generous support! It is reassuring to see how community members can pull together and overcome adversities.

## PARENT TEACHER PARTNERSHIP REPORT

by Karen Brooks

The PTP (Parent Teacher Partnership) had a good turn-out at the Rowe School Open House where they served refreshments and held a sign-up session for classroom resource parents, general volunteers and participants in the "Safe House" program, in which a network of houses will be set up for early release days when parents cannot be notified and children need a safe place to go. Sue Vadeboncoeur (339-8555) will be co-chairing the PTP this year with Veronica Smead (337-5389). Karen Brooks will remain treasurer.

Town residents and friends of the school are being urged to save their cash-register receipts from Stop & Shop and deposit them in boxes to be provided at the Town Hall and at the school. Stop & Shop is giving away Apple computer products as a promotion for every \$20,000 of receipts turned in.

There will be a Harvest Dance at the school on Friday, October 17. Volunteers are always needed. Also, we welcome anyone in the community who would like to help out at the school or volunteer in any other way. Please call Veronica or Sue for more information.

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## ROWE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

by Nicole Rainville and Joey Thane

On the third day of school the Rowe School had a send-off for Mr. Swem, the past principal.

For the send-off every class, except the kindergarten, made a poster of memories. Some classes made him special things such as pins, paperweights and cards. The fifth grade wrapped up a lot of boxes with the smallest box inside and the largest box on the outside. In the smallest box was a package of batteries. On the package was a message that said "Gift not included."

Every class had a picture with Mr. Swem. After each class had had their picture taken the entire staff had a picture taken with him.

That was his last day at Rowe School. Now he is working at Buckland-Shelburne.

Mr. Willard, the Superintendent of Schools, visits the school twice a week. He is the acting-principal.

## MOHAWK SCHOOL NEWS

Student Activities

by Christine Gilbert

The 1989-1990 school year has started and things are back on regular schedule. The American Field Service sponsored an exchange program from September 28 until September 30. Also, on Saturday September 30, the Mohawk soccer team had a bake sale at the Varsity football game. There are plans for a Music Association Dance on October 27. More details will be announced at school closer to the date.

The fall sports are off to a winning start. Heath students participating in a fall sport are as follows: Middle School Soccer, John Demech, Andrew Shattuck, Jim Cerone; Varsity and JV Football, Tom Pasquantonio, Shane Briggs; Varsity and JV Field Hockey, Tina Rode, Betsey Silvester, Cathy Toupence, Jennifer Gilbert; Varsity and JV Soccer, Chris Toupence; Varsity and JV Soccer, Heather Gruen.

## CHURCH NEWS

by David Gibbons

The Heath Union Church held a special evening at the end of August to celebrate the one year anniversary of the Peaces' arrival. People gathered at the Heath Fairgrounds for a potluck supper followed by several selections of special music, talks by the Peace family on their first year in Heath, a presentation by Olga Peters of her time in the Soviet Union with "Peace Child" and a slide show.

Time was also set aside during the evening for a very sad/happy farewell to the Griswold family who will be sorely missed by members of the church and by Heath residents.

More recently the church held its annual meeting, a pleasant, if quiet, affair.

A Saturday workbee was held to move the wood cut last year.

Two upcoming events to note: on Thanksgiving Eve there will be a hymn sing, with other special music, at the church. And on December 10 the annual Living Creche and concert by the Gather 'Round Singers will take place in the church and on the common. All are welcome to both events. For more information contact Roger or Rhodessa Peace.

## LIBRARY LINES

by Alli Thane

The library is back on winter hours, closing one hour later on Saturdays.

The children's reading hour will be held at 3 PM the first and third Wednesdays of each month with Ruth Fournier planning the program. Ruth is with us through the Senior Aid Program and will work 20 hours per week.

Don Dekker and I have finished the "weeding" and we will now catch up on cataloguing the many gift books. These have been piling up and we are grateful for the generosity of so many friends who donate them.

Some new books are: The Russia House, John leCarre, Journey, James A. Michener, From Beirut to Jerusalem, Thomas L. Friedman, Clear and Present Danger, Tom Clancy. There are some new craft books to start your Christmas gifts, and several new books for the school-age reader including more Baby Sitter Club books by Ann M. Martin.

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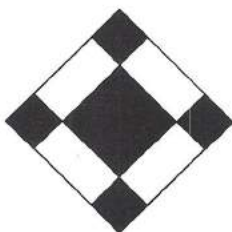
## by David Gibbons

David and Nan Gibbons and family would like to thank the neighbors, members of Heath Union Church and other friends who came (or sent coffee and cookies) to the workbee. Once again Heath has shown what it is to be a community, what can be done if we work together and just how special a place our town is.

~~~~~

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Kathy Condon, the Shared Administrative Assistant for Heath, Hawley and Leyden, is based in Heath, at Sawyer Hall. She can be contacted at 339-5518.



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## ASSESSORS' REPORT

by Alan Nichols

While we expect to have our valuation certified this year we have not had an easy time of it and we can expect a harder one in three years. We're mindful of the budgetary constraints on the town. But more time (which unfortunately nowadays means money) must be given to maintaining and keeping the valuation list current: preparing now and for the next 3 years for recertification in FY1993. The Board can see two options: 1) restructure itself in some way so that the paperwork (it's almost all paperwork) will be done or 2) hire an outside re-valuation company to do the job. We're not sure what would be best.

We will be sending the valuation list out soon. Land values are much higher. Thank heavens we didn't have to use the sales of the past six months. It seems to be a regional trend that the more expensive properties sell.

We welcome all complaints and suggestions.

## POLICE REPORT

by Guy Silvester, Police Chief

We continue to have a serious problem with breaking and entering, not only in Heath but in surrounding towns as well. Recently the chiefs of police from area towns met to discuss the situation. This problem has grown increasingly worse as we deal with a relatively small number of teenagers. To date the courts have not provided much assistance, but, after a recent meeting with the District Attorney, I feel slightly more encouraged. Residents seeing anything suspicious are urged to report their observations promptly, noting, if possible, the license plate numbers of any vehicle involved. Your continued assistance is greatly appreciated!

Many traffic control signs are now in place, numerous roads have been resurfaced and some vehicles are exceeding the speed limit. We will be continuing to run radar in strategic places in an effort to promote traffic safety.

The majority of police calls recently involve domestic problems, arrest warrants and breaking and entering. We have also had several motor vehicles stolen in Heath. Yes, this really does happen in our community, and it may well happen to you if your vehicle is not properly secured and keys removed from the ignition.

The telephone number for all police business and emergencies is 1-772-2133; this number appears in the most recent telephone book. The county dispatch office is staffed twenty-four hours a day.

Gordon E. Taylor d/b/a



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## PERCS, PERMITS AND TRANSFERS

### Percolation Tests

Percolation testing has been suspended until April except for repairs.

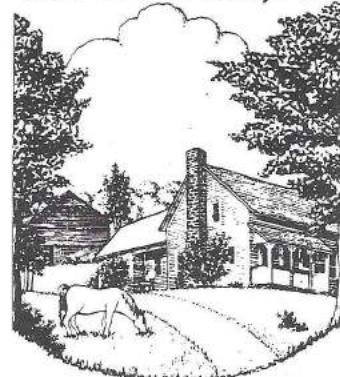
### Building Permits

Homer Bouchard, Number Nine Road, 1-family.  
Charles Shattuck, Number Nine Road, dormer on residence/accessory apartment.  
Bruce LaMothe, 3 Mohawk Beach Drive, demolish and replace deck.  
Heath Agricultural Society, Branch Hill Road, animal show ring.  
Gerard Ashey, 42 Modoc Street, storage shed.  
Edmond Croteau, Route 8A, above ground pool.  
Total, \$112,880.  
David Whalen, Route 8A, 1-family.  
Charles Shattuck, Number Nine Road, storage shed.  
Paul Lemelin, Branch Hill Road, rebuild/enlarge deck.  
Rockwell Lively, Avery Brook Road, deck.  
Total: \$52,920.

### Deed Transfers

Antoni L. and Elizabeth R. Sitko to Jeanne B. and Margaret M. Sitko of Cambridge, Avery Brook Road. \$1.  
Hugh Klockers, Jr., to M.J. McCarthy of West Haven CT. Clearwater Drive. Lots 11 & 12. \$1.  
M.J. McCarthy to Hugh Klockers, Sr., and Hugh Klockers, Jr. of Branford, CT. Clearwater Drive. Lots 11 & 12. \$1.  
Gerard J. and Jeanette L. Marchand to Joel J. Marchand of Chicopee. Underwood Hill Rd. Lot 7. \$27,000.  
Myron C. and Mary Cade Lucas to Theresa Miller of Holbrook, NY. Number Nine Road. \$2,000.  
Ethier Management, Inc. of Greenfield to Edward L. and Lisa A. Nuenkel of East Northport, NY. Number Nine Road. Lot 2. \$26,500.  
Holy Trinity Lay Community, Inc. of Rowe to James J. Levens. Number Nine Road. Lot 6A. \$90,000.  
Adolph J. Gudell to Scott A. and Adolph J. Gudell. Oxbow Road, four tracts, 377 3/4 acres, \$1.  
Rachel M. Sumner to Todd A. Sumner, South Road, 78 acres, \$128,000.  
Ronald M. Kapinos to Simone E. Kapinos Mezzette of Chicopee. Mohawk Estates. Lots 24 and 25. Less than \$100.  
Kendall D. and Carolyn S. Litchfield to Budge A. and Sheila M. Litchfield. Jacksonville Stage Road. \$80,000.  
Paul L. Lemelin, Alice H. Lemelin and George Tikky to Helen T. Warner of Brockton. Ben Road. Lot F. \$17,500.  
Joseph A. Corbeil to Joseph A. and Darlene M. Corbeil. 15 Tepee Lane. \$1.  
Winfield Gregg to Joseph A. and Darlene M. Corbeil. Tepee Lane. Lot 17. \$3,000.  
James H. and Lois R. Jobson to Marian W. Spritzer. Burrington Rd. \$22,500.

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## HEATH CONSERVATION COMMISSION

by Bill Lattrell, Chairman

During the last two months the Conservation Commission has remained busy. Site visits, to determine if the Wetlands Protection Act was an issue, were done at eight sites in town. Visits were made to sites on Rowe Road, Number Nine Road, Swamp Road, Eastbrook Drive, Westbrook Drive, Colrain Brook Road and Sumner Stetson Road. Requests for Determination were considered from the Morel family in the center of town, the McCloud family of Mohawk Estates, Ruzek Withold of Swamp Road, and James Cerone of Number Nine Road. All of these were determined to be not under the jurisdiction of the Wetlands Protection Act, with the exception of the application by Mr. Cerone due to the involvement of a bordering vegetated wetland, and a flood plain.

Two Notice of Intent hearings were scheduled. The first was filed by Dick Gary of Avery Brook Road. He has since withdrawn his application. The second was filed by the Holy Trinity Lay Community in regard to the building of a chapel. The chapel construction is to take place in the buffer zone of a bordering vegetated wetland. The application was approved and an Order of Conditions was written to protect near-by wetlands.

On August 22, 1989, the Town Wetland By-Law took effect. Accompanying regulations have been completed, and will be available by November 1, 1989. Interested parties should contact the Conservation Commission. These new by-laws contain many differences from the State act, and provide further protection for all wetland resources.

Fall is a very busy time for the Conservation Commission. If people are planning to build or do any type of work near a wetland resource area then they should contact us as soon as possible.

The entire Conservation Commission wishes everyone in Heath a healthy and happy fall. We encourage everyone to take some time to get out and enjoy the magnificent resources of our beautiful town.

### HEATH ENTERPRISE COUNCIL MEETING

November 1, 7:30 PM

Community Hall

## HEATH ENTERPRISE COUNCIL

by Alastair Maitland

On October 4 a meeting was held at Community Hall, under the chairmanship of Richard Giard, to consider the creation of a Town Enterprise Council.

The question whether the Town might benefit from the formation of such a body had been debated in a preliminary fashion a couple of years or so ago, on the initiative of Dick Giard in his capacity of Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. The Town had at that time been considering the findings and recommendations of the Economic Development Planning Study prepared by the Franklin County Community Development Corporation.

Sixteen townspeople attended the October 4 meeting, to which Michael McCusker, of McCusker's Market & Deli, Shelburne Falls, had been invited as guest speaker. Mr. McCusker treated the meeting to an absorbing and instructive account of his own personal odyssey, from school days in Unionville, CT, and his flight from the ravages being perpetrated there by urban renewal, to his involvement in the early preservationist initiatives in the Shelburne Falls community and - though he himself did not say so and would modestly dispute this - his emergence as one of the area's most influential business leaders.

Mr. McCusker made it clear that he had not come to offer any prescriptions. Instead he hoped something might be learned from his own experience. What, he asked, would the townspeople of Heath hope to get from a business persons organization? The preliminary answer he received was: net-working, economic development and the improvement of the tax-base, and promotional assistance.

In the discussion that followed Mr. McCusker stressed the importance of taking the fullest possible advantage of the resources, both tangible and intangible, of the wide range of organizations concerned with business development and promotion, from Chambers of Commerce to the various agencies of the State and such County bodies as the aforementioned Franklin County Community Development Corporation. He emphasized also the value of making regular meetings, e.g. breakfast get-togethers, a feature of any Business Association schedule. One should never discount the serendipitous potentialities of such gatherings.

He also recommended that Heathens should take a good look at the natural resources, human and otherwise, of their Town. From the floor it was suggested that the Information Revolution might offer opportunities for the Town, which had shown that it possessed considerable talent in the computer sciences field. Mr. McCusker agreed, while reminding his audience of our most plentiful natural resource: the forests all around us. Another resource, intangible but no less valuable, which some other Towns might envy, was Heath's ability to mount a Town-wide cooperative operation, as the Annual Ski Race had vividly demonstrated.

The Town is in Michael McCusker's debt for his generous and informative and constructive contribution to a debate which is to be continued. At the close of the meeting it was proposed and immediately agreed, that a further (domestic) meeting should take place soon, to discuss ways and means. It will be held on Wednesday, November 1, starting at 7:30 PM in the Community Hall. Please make a note on your calendars.

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## FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

by Earl Gleason, Chief

Nine emergencies were responded to during the last four months. June 6 saw four EMTs and two firefighters respond to a call to Route 8A for a lady who was ill. The next incident occurred on June 23. Charlemont, Shelburne Falls and Colrain ambulances along with two Heath EMTs and two firefighters transported five victims of a two-car accident on the Long Hill portion of Rowe Road. Four EMTs and three firefighters aided Charlemont ambulance in transporting an ill man on Royer Road on July 7. An unusual event at Yankee Atomic on July 25 was immediately terminated. The next evening two Heath police officers, two firefighters and three EMTs responded to Cascade Drive for a man having difficulty breathing. Two EMTs made the trip to the hospital. On July 29 a fire in the cellar of a Brunelle Road home was quickly extinguished by sixteen firefighters under the direction of Captain Richards Steinbock. This fire was caused by an oil-burner malfunction. Smoke in the cellar was reported on August 10. Seven firefighters responded and disconnected the electricity to a water pump that had shorted out. At 1:45 AM an unusual event occurred at Yankee Atomic. No further action was recommended other than the fire department's normal procedure of confirming the receipt of the message with both Tri-State Dispatch Center and State Police Troop B in Northampton. The unusual event terminated at 8:25 AM, followed by the confirmation process. The next day three EMTs and two first responders assisted Charlemont Ambulance for a man having trouble breathing. The incident was at a home on Colrain Brook Road in Mohawk Estates. One EMT assisted on the run to the hospital. Labor Day afternoon saw eight firefighters respond to Charlemont for a river search for a reported drowning. Captain Steinbock and Deputy Chief Gleason were squad leaders of two of the six search parties. No victim was ever found.

Activities of the members of the department are as follows: Four EMTs and a firefighter helped move equipment and get the new ambulance at Charlemont in service. The Fire Department officers met in June to set up activities for the future. Several firefighters spent five evenings taking a refresher first-aid class presented by Sheila Litchfield. Seven firefighters attended a drill on the use of ropes and eleven attended a drill on the use of nozzles and appliances. A Fire Association meeting was held on September 7. If the fire truck in the Rowe Old Home Day parade shone a little more than usual, the thanks should go to Bob and Leroy Tanner who spent the previous evening waxing it. Five firefighters made root beer at the home of Tom Lively in preparation for the Fair where twenty-five firefighters and friends put on the chicken barbecue, tended the first aid booth, ran the wheel and sold root beer. Firefighters spent another 100+ hours catering the Yankee Picnic. The Fair and Picnic are two of the major fund raisers for the Department.

The Chief attended two directors meetings and one fire wardens meeting and met with Yankee representatives on two occasions. He also met with a representative of the Massachusetts Civil Defense who came to our station and filled out a several-page evaluation sheet of our facilities. The major considerations were communications and telephone

and the ability to house and feed a crew stationed at the station in the case of an emergency. Two of the Civil Defense representative's concerns were the lack of potable water and the shared telephone with the Highway Department. The Fire Chief made four smoke detector inspections and three oil burner inspections, and issued a permit to the Heath Fair to conduct a fireworks display.

New equipment includes a new base radio installed to replace a radio that died.

One comment to be made in regard to the automobile accident on Rowe Road. Some of the victims were transported in a private car to meet the ambulance. A first rule of First Aid is not to move the victims and this case removed the victims from first aid as one of our EMTs was on the scene shortly after the victims were removed. Another consideration is the liability you are taking on if your actions should cause permanent injury or death. This is not to be considered as a complaint but rather as an appeal to individuals to think how their actions may affect the victim.



Fire Chief Earl Gleason  
in the 1989 Heath Fair Parade  
(Photo by Susan Silvester)

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## SELECTMEN'S REPORT

by Art Schwenger

Thanks to the diligent efforts of Ray Galipo and the highway crew, the selectmen can report great progress on our roads. Reconstruction of the STRAP section of Route 8A, Trask Hill on South Road, Bray Hill in Heath Center and two sections of Avery Brook Road are nearly completed. Chapter money and the funds voted at Town Meeting are being used. People are urged to not sprint on these new sections - it is still prudent to keep your speed down and your guard up.

Drainage work, culvert cleaning and other winter preparation work are underway as well. With a few more weeks of cooperative weather, Ray will be able to take credit for doing what he predicted was impossible in this construction season. Meanwhile, the Board has lined up more work for next year by accepting the box culverts bid from Rotondo and Sons, Inc. The culverts will be installed on Colrain Stage Road in the spring.

The Transfer Station is materializing one step at a time. The compactor is installed on a new cement platform, a hopper has been built on top, and an attendant's shed is soon to follow. Fencing has been ordered and utilities are due as well. A Special Town Meeting for October 11 sought and received permission to transfer \$5000 from the Dump Closing Account to pay for some Transfer Station expenses.

The limited Hazardous Waste Disposal Program sponsored by the County to which Heath contributed \$650 is to take place October 28.

The State sent \$4787.69 to reimburse the Town for the emergency work performed in the first 90 days after the 1987 flood. To date \$70,949 has been received and a request has been made for the remaining \$83,344 not yet paid. At least one selectman expects to be old and bald before this "emergency reimbursement" process is complete!

After the State made cuts in local aid, Heath applied for emergency aid from a \$20 million fund along with several other west County towns. Wendy Luckhurst, Linda Marcotte and Kathy Condon worked extra hours together to get the application submitted under an unrealistic deadline.

Kathy Condon and Karen MacDougall are in the process of totally revamping the Selectmen's filing system. If successful, this new system will make it possible to find something again once it has been filed.

Promoted by Dave Howland, the Heath Enterprise Council (The Business Association renamed) is off the ground. At a meeting held October 4, sixteen people attended an experience-sharing session with Mike McCusker. The next meeting will be held November 1 in the Community Hall at 7:30 PM. (See separate article).

Free Cash has been certified by the State as \$6,298 in the hole. The Selectmen figure it at closer to \$35,000 in the black. It looks like another year doing battle with the Department of Revenue. Since cash flow is difficult in the absence of State reimbursements, since the Selectmen have been trying to avoid paying interest for large amounts of borrowed money, and since the Assessors are a little behind while completing the revaluation, the Selectmen asked the Assessors to send out estimated FY90 tax bills as soon as possible.

In other actions, the Selectmen acting as the Board of Health approved, after considerable study and after applying several conditions, a septic design application for a chapel being planned on Number Nine Road. The Selectmen organized a meeting with Mike Harrington of the Cooperative Building Inspector Program for all town boards involved in building permit issuance. And the Selectmen have set October 26 for an evening Roundtable discussion among town departments and the public. These Roundtable meetings have been very helpful in bringing people "up to speed" on all the many activities taking place in town.



Newly Paved Portion of 8A  
(Photo by Mike Peters)

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## MILESTONES

by Edith C. Royer

Jessica Lynn, a daughter, was born August 5 to Deborah and Kevin Gilbert of Jacobs Road, Heath.

Ashley Robin, a daughter, was born September 12 to Nancy and Roger Purington, Jr., of Dwight Cross Road, Colrain. Granddaughter of Roberta and Roger Purington, Sr., of Heath.

Michael Mark, a son, was born September 23 to Heidi and Roger Williams, Jr., of Shelburne Falls. Grandson of Margaret Sykes of Heath.

Claire and Richard Hatch, of Colrain Road, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary September 5. They held an open house and family party at the Community Hall on August 27.

Charlene Churchill, daughter of Clyde and Ruth Churchill, was married August 26 to Wayne Brasier of Portland, ME, son of Mrs. Arthur and the late Mr. Brasier of Portland. The ceremony was performed in the North Deering Congregational Church, Portland. Mrs. Hilma Ayers of Columbia, SC, was matron-of-honor for her sister. Best man was Lloyd Black of Windham, ME, friend of the groom. A reception followed in the church hall. After a wedding trip the couple will be at home on Towle Street, Bar Mills, ME, after September 5.

Pearle L. Tanner, of Mohawk Trail, died September 2 at the Hillside Nursing Home in South Deerfield. She was 100 years old on June 1, 1989. She leaves a son, Richard, of East Charlemont. Pearle lived in Heath for many years and was librarian here for 30 years. She was also librarian in Charlemont for 34 years after moving there. She retired in 1984. Private graveside services were held in the Heath Center Cemetery.

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## LADIES AID

by Edith Royer

Ladies Aid Christmas Sale will be at the Community Hall on November 4, 1989, from 11 AM to 3 PM. There will be fancy articles, toys and tree decorations and baked foods. Lunch will be on sale. Come and look around and visit with friends before winter.

## COMMUNITY HALL NEWS

Due to lack of interest there will not be a Halloween Party at the Community Hall this year.

We, the Hall Committee, wish to acknowledge the painting of the Community Hall by John Mooney - a job well done.

The Hall Committee is again considering having a craft fair. Anyone interested please contact a Hall Committee member: Deb Gilbert (337-4351), Dolly Churchill (337-6680), Donna Hyttinen (337-4762) or Deb Crowingshield (337-5561).



John Mooney of Burrington Road  
paints the steeple on the Community Hall  
(Photo by Wanda Mooney)

### Richard A. Sumner

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