



VOLUME 11 NUMBER 5 DECEMBER 1989/JANUARY 1990

# HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER 35¢



*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*



## LETTERS

To the Editor:

For Heath children this year Halloween wasn't as special as in other years. All the little children who were looking forward to having a Halloween party in Heath center were disappointed when they found out that it just wouldn't happen. It is understood that there was a lack of interest and parents just didn't think it was important enough to have this year. I would just like to let everyone know that there are enough teenage girls and boys who would probably love to help prepare and make the best Halloween party ever. There are enough good ideas that we could use if we first give it some thought. Well, I hope next year there will be a little more enthusiasm put into this subject because it may not seem like a big deal for the older people but the younger kids really look forward to it.

Valerie Belval  
Heath  
November 20, 1989

## NOTE OF THANKS

I wish to express my gratitude to the Heath Public Preschool and the Heath Preschool, Inc. for the recognition at the Open House and the lovely hand-print quilt, photo album of memories, money, cards, and gifts.

I have been privileged to work with great children, exceptionally nice parents and three excellent Senior Aide Supervisors, Deb Porter, June Ahern, Pam Porter and my friend and colleague for five years, Judy Clark.

Your thoughtfulness was greatly appreciated,  
God Bless You All,  
Ruth Fournier

## LETTERS

To the Editor:

News items in the last two editions of the *Heath Herald* have blandly referred to "the events in Tiananmen Square". This is about as appropriate as talking about "the events in Auschwitz", or "the events in Hiroshima and Nagasaki".

Most newspapers in this country and Europe have viewed the terrible fate of the student demonstrators in Beijing last May as a bloodbath or massacre conducted by a thoroughly murderous regime. The anodyne propaganda put out by the Chinese authorities that everything is "back to normal" and that no one but a few hothead trouble-makers were hurt last spring need not be reflected in the *Heath Herald*.

Michael Coe  
Sophie Coe  
New Haven, CT  
October 23, 1989

To the Editor:

Thank you so much for all the *Heath Herald*s. I never had such a complete realization of what a good publication the *Herald* is, how much good news it contains.

We had been hearing some of the news about the zoning by-law and the continuing school crisis. We enjoyed being able to see a more comprehensive report.

Henry and I particularly enjoyed Mick Comstock's letter to the Editor!

Here, we do get news, of course. We're very happy that we brought a short-wave radio. But it's all so brief. I certainly never realized the extent of news available in the U.S. of all kinds. Henry and I are at a disadvantage because of the language, but the Chinese we know admit that they become adept at reading between the lines to get the real news.

We were so happy that the Holsteins were sent our way (see *Heath Families* in Beijing, *Heath Herald*, October/November 1989). It was great to meet them and be able to say how grateful we have been for everyone's thoughts and prayers.

Pat Leuchtman  
Beijing, China  
October 26, 1989

Cover photo: The cover photo this issue is a familiar winter scene from Mohawk Estates. Photo by Susan Silvester.

## HEATH PRECIPITATION

by Ralph Dickinson  
Observer for Mass. Division of Water Resources

October precipitation was 7.76 inches. For the period November 1 to 21 precipitation was 2.73 inches. November snowfall measured 2 1/2 inches.

Total precipitation from January 1 to November 21 was 42.45 inches.

October was the wettest month this year and had the most rainfall for any October in 22 years.

We had a few snow flurries but no measurable snowfall until November 21.



## HEATH HERALD

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## PARENT TEACHER PARTNERSHIP REPORT

by Veronica Smead and Sue Vadeboncoeur

On November 4 Rowe School's PTP sponsored an informational meeting regarding the progress of a study on the formation of a regional school district agreement between the towns of Rowe and Heath. Approximately 35 people from the two towns participated. Regional School District Planning Board members Budge Litchfield and Henry Dandeneau discussed the four most critical issues of a regional agreement; school committee composition, building jurisdiction, apportionment of capital costs and apportionment of operational costs. A question and answer period followed the presentation. Following is a summary of the information shared for those who were unable to attend the meeting.

A regional agreement must define a number of things, among them the composition of the regional school committee. The Board is currently considering a 5 member school committee with 3 members elected from the town of Rowe and 2 members elected from the town of Heath. There has also been discussion of 2 additional board members, 1 from each town, to be elected as members-at-large.

Ownership of the building would remain in the hands of Rowe. The town would then lease the building to the Regional for a nominal fee. A 20 year lease with guarantees regarding Rowe's "community use" of the building are being recommended at this time. A continued educational relationship between the towns of Heath and Rowe would require an addition to the current Rowe School. Estimates from the Rowe Long Range Planning Committee, which were accepted as viable by the School Building Assistance Bureau, indicate that such an addition would cost approximately 1.2 million dollars.

Apportionment of costs is another major consideration before the board. Costs are divided into two areas, capital and operational. Capital expenses would be any significant structural expenses such as an addition to the building, a new roof or a major renovation. Operational expenses are the day to day costs of running the school; salaries, purchasing supplies, regular maintenance, utility costs. The board is currently considering two separate formulas, one to be applied to capital costs and the other to operational costs. The formulas take into account the individual towns enrollments, populations and the equalized valuation ratios, which are residential valuations as compared to "corporate" valuations. It is paramount that the final equations maintain a reasonable balance in the cost to the individual taxpayer of each town.

It is critical to remember that a regional agreement is organizational and financial in nature. Present state laws and incentives favor Rowe and Heath forming their own K-12 school district. Such an arrangement would not bring a change in the building locations where our children are educated. Elementary age children from the two towns would continue to be educated in the Rowe building while high school students would continue to attend Mohawk or the Technical School. For a variety of reasons (financial, technical, legal and absurd) Heath would need to withdraw as a voting member of Mohawk. Such an agreement would maximize reimbursements from the state, assure the continuation of an excellent educational program, and create a sensible organizational arrangement. It also allows the other seven towns that feed into Mohawk to actively ex-

plore a K-12 regional of their own.

The Regional School District Planning Board's task is to explore the feasibility of regionalizing and to create a proposed regional agreement. Their work is then brought to the selectmen of each town. If it is recommended that the agreement be accepted it must be presented to each town for a ballot vote. The agreement must pass by majority vote in both towns to be enacted.

Board members are currently preparing to review a summary and abstract of the tentative agreement for revision and refinement. This is a critical time. If you have questions, comments or suggestions please contact one of your Board members. Your input is needed now so that the Board can create an agreement that reflects your wishes. Board members are: Henry Dandeneau, Marion Franceschetti, Jack Williams, Rowe; Richard Gary, Budge Litchfield, Sue Lively, Heath. The next scheduled board meeting will be December 6, 7 PM, at Rowe School.

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT

by Budge Litchfield, Chairman

Recently we have been finding ourselves spending about half of our meeting catching each other up on our various school-related projects. We have found these summaries very helpful. If you would like to get a glimpse of what is going on (and lots is) with schools these days please join us on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM upstairs in Sawyer Hall.

The ongoing Commonwealth financial crisis is making its presence felt at the Heath Public Preschool and at Mohawk Trail Regional High School. The Preschool is trying to find a way to fit parent conferences and class time into the Head Teacher's hours which we had to reduce after the school's grant was cut by 25%. These types of decisions can best be described as lose-lose-lose-kids lose, parents lose, educators lose (and all of us pay higher taxes!). At Mohawk, drastic cuts may have to be made in this school year's budget in order to replenish the district's surplus so that cost increases to member towns for next year can be avoided or minimized. It is terrible that people who care dearly about education should be finding themselves forced to think and act in this way. If anyone has any ideas about how to address these problems, please come to one of our meetings and share your thoughts. We are as frustrated as you are.



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## HEATH PUBLIC PRESCHOOL NEWS

by Pam Porter

The preschool celebrated the beginning of another year with its second annual Open House. Parents donated cider and muffins and Bill and Barb Ackemann of W. Halifax, VT, told stories and led songs. The opportunity was taken to thank Ruth Fournier for her years of service to the Preschool. She was presented with an album of photographs of many of the children with whom she had worked, a cash gift and a quilt designed and sewn by Nan Gibbons. The quilt bore hand prints of past and present preschoolers. The Open House was very well attended.

The Early Childhood Advisory Council gained two new members and lost two. Jill Kuehl of Heath and Sue Taylor of Rowe were appointed by the School Committee at its last meeting. Meanwhile, Carolyn Armstrong and Bonnie Wodin, both of Heath, have resigned. Bonnie was one of those who campaigned for and wrote the original Preschool Grant. She has been extremely active in every aspect of the Council's work, serving as its co-chair and chair, coordinating many of its duties and events. She had made a lasting contribution to the preschool and will be missed.

The Advisory Council, required by the conditions of the State grant under which the school operates, recommends policy to the School Committee, participates in the evaluation of the preschool program, offers support and advice to the school's head teacher/director, sponsors community events such as the Open House and looks to the continuation of the preschool in years to come.

This year the Advisory Council faces a special challenge. It is expected that the cuts experienced in the State grant this year will be repeated in 1990. A fund-raising committee is forming and includes Deb Gilbert, Sue Taylor and Ellen Foberg. Membership is not limited to present preschool parents, and anyone who would like to serve on the committee may contact Bill Lattrell, the acting chair of the Advisory Council, at 337-5792.

Finally, a debt of gratitude is owed to David Schwartz, who for the past two years has faithfully and ably reported preschool news to the *Heath Herald*. Since he no longer has a child enrolled at the school he has resigned these duties. We have appreciated his dependable coverage and will miss him.

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## LONG RANGE EDUCATIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

by Budge Litchfield, Committee Chairman

At a special town meeting about one year ago the town was asked to take two actions regarding educational planning: first, to form a Regional School District Planning Committee and appropriate funds for its work, and second, to keep the Long Range Educational Planning Committee active so that further study of an elementary school in Heath could be done.

At this point in time that study has been taken as far as our local "non-professionals" can bring it. Under the able, active (and much appreciated) leadership of Pam Porter and John Henry studies have been completed and reports written which give us a very good idea of what a "Heath Elementary School" would require in terms of a building, staff and costs in general. A summary of these reports was mailed to each resident about a month ago. The financial reality of a "Heath Elementary School" would cost us two times as much as we currently pay for elementary education.

In the past few weeks we have had to make a difficult decision. In order to meet a June 1990 deadline for State school building assistance money at our current 70% reimbursement level, three things would need to be ready: architectural drawings, a bond counsel study and a buy-sell agreement on about 12 acres of land. The question was whether to push ahead on these three projects or to put this whole option on "hold". After much discussion we agreed to push the "hold" button. It was felt that our children's educational needs could best be met at a Rowe Elementary School run by a Regional School Committee. We were also very nervous about the overall cost of a school in town, particularly one that would need financial support from the Commonwealth. Again, many thanks to all those who helped with these studies.

Gordon E. Taylor d/b/a



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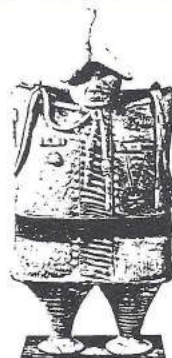
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## ROWE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

by Nicole Rainville and Joey Thane

The sixth grade is raising money for its trip to Washington, D.C., by selling raffle tickets for a cord of wood donated by the Town of Rowe. It is also selling Avon products under the supervision of Rob-in Reed from the Town of Rowe. The products are: a keychain for \$2, a note paper compact for \$6, and a door hanger for \$5. We are also having a combination Flea Market, Chinese Auction, and bake sale on December 16, at the Rowe School gym.

On Friday, November 17, Mr. O'Reilly our new principal visited the school. He held an assembly to introduce himself. He read a book, The Giving Tree, and said that "it was a tradition for him to read that book at the beginning of every year." He played ball outside at recess and visited all the classes.

Mr. O'Reilly started full time as our new principal on December 4, 1989.

## MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL HONOR ROLL

First Quarter

Seniors: Honors, Christina Rode; Juniors: Honors, Brian Sackett, Son Wooten; Freshmen: Honors, Joel Porter Devries; Grade 8: High Honors, Betsey Silvester, Honors, Shawna Hyytinen, Benjamin Steinbock; Grade 7: Honors, Adam Almeida, James Cerone.

## PHILOSOPHY ABROAD

Bernard denOuden will be visiting the Soviet Union this winter as guest of the Moscow Institute of Philosophy.

He will be giving lectures there and also at the Institute's branch in Leningrad. His lecture topics will be "Philosophies of Nature," "Philosophy of Technology," and "Ethical and Philosophical Problems in Technology Transfer to Developing Countries". It is hoped that, with continued good relations with the Soviet Union, Buck's colleague at the Moscow Institute, Vitaly Gorokhov, will visit the University of Hartford as an exchange-lecturer in late January.

## MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL SCHOOL NEWS

by Valerie Belval

This year the Mohawk sports that made it to the championships were the boys Varsity cross-country, the girls Varsity cross country, field hockey, and soccer. We had one person in Heath go to the final championships, Heather Gruen. Congratulations, Heather!

We also had a multimedia presentation at Mohawk, sponsored by the student government. This presentation was to educate and change the attitude of children toward drugs and alcohol. The students set up three huge screens and heard famous people speaking on these subjects, such as Kim Fields and Michael Fox. There were also parts of the movies that described what kind of pressures teens go through with drugs and alcohol.

## MOHAWK SCHOOL NEWS

by Christine Gilbert

The month of December is here already. On December first there was a seventh and eighth grade student council dance from 7:00-10:30 PM.

On December 16 there is a very exciting Holiday Concert put on by the Mohawk band and chorus. First, there is a ham dinner at 6 PM to raise money for the trip to California. Then, at 7:30 PM the concert will begin. The concert is free to all people who wish to come and watch, but donations will be greatly appreciated.

December 22 is the last day of school for Christmas vacation.

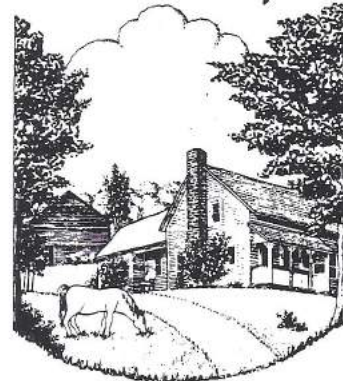
Merry Christmas!

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## PUBLISHING CONSULTANTS IN HEATH CENTER

by B. J. denOuden

After looking at several houses in the West County, Dick and Beth Morel settled in Heath Center, opposite the Center School, in August 1988. They left positions in Boston in publishing and established a new business along with a new residence.

Dick worked as a senior editor in the sciences and mathematics for Harcourt Brace Jovanovich and for Allyn and Bacon, a division of Simon and Schuster. Most recently he was a marketing and advertising manager at Random House. He couples his experience with Beth's expertise in book production and editing. Together they serve as consultants to publishers on matters relating to college textbook development, production, and marketing. They also write ancillaries, such as study guides, instructors manuals, and test banks, primarily in the areas of science, mathematics and computer science.

Dick and Beth informed me that college textbook manuscripts are subjected to many academic and professional reviews and are normally in the process of being developed for at least two years before they are published. The cost of textbooks is explained, in part, by this extensive process of refinement in a highly competitive industry.

Because they can conduct virtually all of their business from their home via telephone and Federal Express, they have solved the problem of the hill-town commute, which is lucky, as they have yet to experience a true Heath winter's snowfall.

Dick has been busy jacking up the shed attached to the house, as well as mitering, painting, and installing molding (created by Caleb Kissling) above the front door, replacing long-since-disappeared original molding.

Both he and Beth look forward to continued refurbishment of--as well as adding some personal touches to--their house in Heath Center, and they hope to expand their familiarity with Heath outdoors and the community.

The *Heath Herald* welcomes the Morels and looks forward to seeing them about town.

## A NEW CONSULTANCY IN HEATH

by Alastair Maitland

William Lattrell, who was awarded a Master's degree in Resource Management last November, on completion of a 2 1/2 year course of study at Antioch Graduate School, Keene, NH, has established a consultancy, Resource Management Associates, offering professional advice and guidance in the field of environmental and land-use planning.

The consultancy is based at Bill's residence on Taylor Brook Road (postal address: Box 141A, R.R. 2, Colrain, MA 01340; telephone: (413) 337-5792).

Because of his current responsibilities as Chairman of the Conservation Commission Bill will not, for the time being, be undertaking any wetlands consulting work in Heath. He is, however, ready to advise on wildlife habitat assessment and planning and other environmental and natural resource matters.

Meanwhile Bill has been elected President of the Deerfield River Watershed Association Board of Directors. The DRWA is a group that has an interest in the good management of the Deerfield River Basin.

Bill has also been hired as a consultant to the Franklin County Planning Department in the writing of the Deerfield River Management Plan, a project funded cooperatively by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Communities and Development, the New England Power Company and Northeast Utilities.

## DEERFIELD RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

by Alastair Maitland

The DRWA is seeking to enlarge its membership. The yearly fee for basic membership is \$12.00. There are other levels of membership, at \$25.00, \$50.00 and \$100.00 annually. The Association's address is: P.O. Box 13, Shelburne Falls, MA 01370.

On a historical note, the DRWA is looking for any available documentary material, e.g. contemporary press accounts, family letters, etc., concerning the catching of salmon in the reaches of the Deerfield River upstream of the Falls, in the period preceding the building of the Buckland dams in 1915. Anyone having any knowledge of, or papers relating to, such salmon fishing is invited to contact the Association.

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# THE WAYSIDE WILL ROGERS

by Alastair Maitland

How many of us, as we drive down to the Valley, experience a sense of anticipation as we approach the Mobil Station in Shelburne, a couple of hundred yards beyond the Sweetheart Restaurant? What, we ask ourselves, is Joe Davenport up to today?

My first encounter with Joe Davenport was a few years back. I needed his help in changing a wheel on my 1967 VW bug. I had already come to regard his wayside announcements, or pronouncements, as one of the special attractions of the Mohawk Trail; and I asked him if he had kept a record of them. He seemed somewhat taken aback by my question. "No", he said, "I never bothered to do that". And so we social historians - including Joe himself - are left to scratch around in our unhelpful memories.

Joe's manner is hardly what one might call ebullient. He is almost as dead-pan as Ned Sparks. Remember him? Three winters ago, if memory serves, Joe posted a notice reading: REGISTER HERE FOR SNOW-SHOVELLING LESSONS. Hoping that I might learn something from an expert I drove into the Station and presented myself to Joe. I should like to enroll in the snow-shovelling class, I said. His unsmiling response was, "Sorry. We're full up. The next opening will be in July. Come back then".

The following October I toyed with the idea of wedging a garden rake into my Rabbit in order to respond to the announcement of AUTUMN LEAVES FOR SALE: RAKE YOUR OWN AND SAVE. I would have persisted had it not been for the disincentive of a warning notice, posted the following week: DANGER. FALLING LEAVES.

When I pulled into the Station the other week, reacting to the invitation to TRY NEW AND IMPROVED JOE DAVENPORT, I asked the boss how it had all begun. He explained that about ten years ago, when he took over the Station, he had installed the two-sided notice-board with the intention of renting the space on one side - the west side - to some other local business. The first, and only, renter had been The Railroad Crossing Restaurant, whose use of the notice-board had before long been deemed by the Town to represent a technical infraction of Shelburne's zoning by-law concerning "off-the-premises" advertising. Joe had accordingly been left with both sides of the board to fill. His fertile imagination and satirical talent and his well-developed sense of the absurd immediately went to work.

Thus it was that the eastbound traveller was invited to ENJOY OUR FIFTY-FOOT VIEW, and to HONK IF YOU LOVE JOSEPH, or to try Joe's gasoline, REGULAR OR CAFFEINE-FREE, which, in either blend, had LESS CALORIES THAN FUDGE.

The Davenport family's dedicated customer service was touted in an announcement which read: YES, SCARLETT, AT DAVENPORT'S WE DO GIVE A DAMN. And customer approval was solicited by: HAVE YOU HUGGED YOUR GAS ATTENDANT TODAY? - a question which, Joe told me with the faintest hint of a smile, had evoked a gratifyingly large physical response. On the other hand so many customers misconstrued a Thanksgiving announcement: HAVE A TURKEY FILL YOUR TANK: that it had to be hastily withdrawn.

Gas stations are places where a traveller can get, or hope to get, information. Davenport's is no exception. It even advertises. For example, FREE INFORMATION: CORRECT INFORMATION - \$6.00. And, a

month or so ago, WILL EXCHANGE INFORMATION FOR HOT GOSSIP AND RUMORS.

And history has not been neglected. Joe's researches have shown - to his own satisfaction at least - that it was at his Mobil Station that the MOHAWK INDIANS BOUGHT THEIR GASOLINE.

The Joe Davenports are a large family, in more senses than one. There are two sons. Ben, 6 feet 4 inches, is dwarfed by his brother Matthew, who is built on the same lines as the Chicago Bears' Refrigerator. Daughter Sarah, who - like her mother Sylvia - also plays her part at the Station, has the appearance and bearing of a Nordic Goddess. How far do they all collaborate in the formulation of Joe's announcements? Not at all, say the two boys. But Joe himself indicates that the family has occasionally imposed a veto. And he acknowledges that Sylvia (who, by the way is a Heathen by origin) was the author of two of this past year's advertisements. The first, reversing her husband's intended batting order of the family team, read: SYLVIA, DAUGHTER, SONS AND HUSBAND. The second: DR. RUTH ASKS US.

It should be added that the notice-board has not been used exclusively to further the Davenport commercial interests and to share Joe's antiquarian discoveries with the lay public. The possession of a notice-board is almost bound to kindle political ambitions. And so, for several years now, Joe has been seeking elective office. Last November he ran for President. When I dropped by to announce to him that he would have my vote - but only if he would first divulge the name of his running-mate - he told me, "It's up for the highest bid".

I hope he will run again. We could use a few more politicians with a sense of humor.



JOE DAVENPORT STANDS BESIDE HIS SIGN  
(Photo by Alastair Maitland)



# MOHAWK ESTATES - A TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY

by Richard Gary

Part of Heath has an anniversary this year. 20 years ago a rural recreation area named Mohawk Estates appeared in East Heath. It all began the previous year when 350 acres, bisected by Colrain Brook Road, were acquired by an aspiring young developer, Reid Scarborough, to provide a low cost rural recreation area for families from the nearby urban centers. To those in Heath who were aware of it, the thought of Brad's Pond and contiguous swamp being rechristened Papoose Lake brought smiles of disbelief. But not for long. Those were the days when you could buy a piece of land and immediately proceed with your plan. No waiting for permits or hearings from the town. Only some Board of Health limits could delay immediate implementation. As one closely associated with the project commented, "Heath was living in an age of innocence." Absorbed in its familiar ways and caught up in the private occupations of its own life, Heath was not to be distracted by any bogus wave of the future. But the future of Mohawk Estates was not to be deterred.



Papoose Lake was attractively recreated; camps and campers sprang up around the lake, and the weekends were full of visitors fishing, swimming and picnicking. What had been just another piece of rural landscape suddenly spread out roads, and more campsites and then A frames, as new owners began to arrive. Scarborough had envisioned a summer colony of tents, campers and cabins which would create its own community and alter the landscape to meet those needs. Lots were small and people had to accept density at peak vacation periods. To some in Heath the number of families involved in this enterprise seemed overwhelming. Mr. Scarborough may have thought of it all as something of a summer-long Heath Fair. But the more knowing of the townsfolk foresaw hillsides cluttered with shacks, discarded equipment and a town over-populated. For city folks, on the other hand, it was an improvement over the beach or parks on summer weekends.

The Scarborough plan was deceptively simple - divide the lakeside, brookside and hillside areas, about 180 acres, into 707 saleable plots of 1/3 acre each. Lot prices were scaled according to sales value - from about \$900 for upland sites to \$5,000 for prime lakeside locations - scheduled with monthly payments spread over a period of 5 years. Scarborough's organization held the deeds until full payment (with no interest charge) was received. At the end of 5 years the Association of Land Owners would assume full responsibility for the management of the organization. Rules and responsibilities were defined early on. Management would build and maintain the roads, some 50 or so miles of them, provide holding tanks for waste, build the headquarters recreation hall and care for the beach areas and water quality of the lake.

**"From the beginning the residents were expected to become a self-constituted community."**

The residents took complete responsibility for their own real estate; they complied with Association rules about cabins, trailers and sheds, and, as later formulated, well drilling and septic tank placement. Problems developed alongside progress. The holding tanks for waste were ruled unhealthy and were removed. Built on some of Heath's most difficult terrain and not constructed to state standards, the homeowners were given the frustrating responsibility of maintaining their own stretch of road. What might have been a possible assignment in summer vacation time became impossible in winter. Of course, the vision was for summer recreation use, not winter, and no permanent housing, with its long-term sanitation and water supply needs, was anticipated.

But these early parameters disappeared even before the landowners took over. Houses appeared within one year - some even built by management, and shortly thereafter year-round access to homes was demanded. The inadequacy of the 1/3 acre plots became obvious. Residents were forced to acquire 2 or 3 lots for space enough for sanitation and reliable water supply.

Meanwhile, Heath seemed miles away, unaware of all this activity. "Mohawk Estates might as well have been New Hampshire", remarked one resident.

In retrospect, the complications of the Heath/colony relationship were imbedded in the initial concept. Could seasonal housing remain seasonal? From the beginning the residents were expected to become a self-constituted community. The only ties to Heath were garbage dump privileges, fire and police protection and access to the colony by town roads. Town taxes were no reminder of Heath as they were included in the monthly land payments until title was transferred. It was not until owners began to receive their own tax bills that the consciousness of a tie to the Town of Heath began to



# MOHAWK ESTATES: HOMES, CAMPSITES & SCENIC VIEWS

(Photos by Mike Peters and Susan Silvester)





rise. That stirred conversation among the settled residents about how little they were getting for their tax dollars. A most frequently heard comment became a refrain. "We don't cost the Town of Heath a dime, and we pay taxes." Paying tax creates a testy connectedness between the payer and the Town. As more houses were constructed, tax assessments increased to about 10% of the total Town real estate tax receipts by 1988. This tax payment level will continue to increase as will the number of voting residents. The transition from a colony to full town participation is directly related to paying the dues. For nearly a century summer people had paid their taxes and quietly returned to their other homes, but if they chose to retire in Heath they were welcomed. An adequate precedent already exists to extend this courtesy of acceptance.

Other indications of transition followed from the increase of year-round residents. In a town dependent on volunteer service all residents are encouraged to help out. As this participation picks up, so does communication across whatever barriers may exist. A big part of the transition is accomplished as the barriers disappear.

Year-round living for older people is difficult anywhere in Heath and requires the concerned attention of family, friends and the few public services available. Winter living in the erstwhile colony is a frontier experience without the basic amenities of maintainable roads and other public services we have all come to expect. A summer camping is not easily converted to winter retirement living. The hard choices for the town and for the people directly affected have not yet been made but it now a common agenda.

Fortunately for the residents of Mohawk Estates the Owners' Association can be a sort of extended family, a neighborhood in the country. With 300 members the Association is an active, governing organization. It offers to the rest of Heath some reliable experience as a working, caring community.

The reactions of the townsfolk to this presence of



strangers rose and fell in relation to the numbers of people involved. When the summer residents arrived, heated conversations ensued about the changes being wrought. Old timers, on the other hand, seemed to avoid discussing the matter.

The coming of the colony surfaced some previous divisions in the town. When it appeared that nothing could be done to halt or alter the Mohawk Estate project, some foresaw the end of Heath as it had always been. The point of disagreement focussed on the issue of zoning. Until 1970 there were no town

land use rules and no enforceable building permit regulations even though there had been quiet agitation for protective restrictions for some years. The arguments pro and con are familiar to us now, but it took several crises to forge the agreement realized in 1989. Ironically, one of Mr. Scarborough's first acts was to insert in the property deeds restrictions on what could be built and where. The chief beneficiary of Heath's openness had produced its first building code, such as it was.

The reaction of the town in 1969 was to pull back, to enforce its few Health Board rules and otherwise try to ignore the new realities of unanticipated change.



A state of co-existence followed. New people spent their vacation time in the Estates and life in the town proceeded in its accustomed routines. This was of course only the appearance of reality. Underneath much was changing on both sides of the line of co-existence. In 1975 the developer turned over an uncompleted project to the Homeowners Association and left town. Association members took charge of their corporate affairs, establishing occasional contact with town officials and enforcing their own already agreed upon deed restrictions.

Meanwhile in the rest of town anxiety about the Estates invasion diminished to the status of mild curiosity. Colrain Brook Road was still one of Heath's most distinctive drives, and the rehabilitated lake was a visual improvement. There were also noticeable changes occurring in the rest of town. Farms were phasing out, and as the woods were being thinned, new homes were appearing on the hillsides. More young year-round families were settling in Heath. Some new retiree households appeared and some of the notable longtime residents departed. Many of the younger members of the old families moved elsewhere to live and work, and young people from elsewhere located in Heath as self-employed craftsmen, writers, artists and educators. There were more full-time residents who commuted to jobs in the valley. Route 91 opened new access to vacation homeowners and a means of egress from Heath to more distant employment.

Heath's population gradually increased during the seventies. There was new home construction in scattered sites outside of Mohawk Estates.

In the early eighties it became apparent to some that a slow change was occurring in Mohawk Estates as well. The 1983 Zoning By-Laws as amended permitted the possibility of constructing permanent



housing in the Mohawk Estates district by reducing the site size requirement from 1 1/2 acres to two 1/3 acre lots. The mystique of country vacationing was changing. For those who could upgrade their living space by acquiring additional lots, year-round living became a possibility. Others seemingly abandoned even the occasional use of their property; some because of loss of interest; or changed family conditions; or that the land they owned would not accommodate the domestic necessities of water and sanitation.



tion. Others found it difficult, if not impossible, to secure electric service because of the utility installation costs. To some, it appeared that Mr. Scarborough would have the last word. His intent that it would be a summer place limited to campers, tents and cabins was not going to be violated. His plan had become the imprint for the future for most of the Estaters. But the exceptions to this entrapment are growing in number.

On the other side of town, the grip of the past was also lessening. Limited zoning which had been voted in 1970 was followed by a new building code in 1983, and completed by updated zoning provisions in 1989.

**"If anniversaries are worth celebrating, isn't it because there is something worth remembering?"**

There appeared to be several trends shared by both east Heath and the rest of Heath. Year-round living in both areas is increasing and summer occupancy is holding its own. Both are seeing a slow increase in the number of retired households, and probably most significantly commuting to work outside of the town is becoming the rule, not the exception. The specter of entrapment by the past is yielding to finding a common way into an uncertain future.

Given the difficulty of these uncertainties spread indiscriminately on the citizenry, one has to ask, "why put up with it?". Apart from the fact that one might have to put up with something worse elsewhere, isn't it the core truth that Heath is a desirable place to live, and some hardships should be expected if one is to enjoy that privilege?



If anniversaries are worth celebrating, isn't it because there is something worth remembering? A bit of the bitter with the sweet, perhaps, but whatever its intangible content, it's a taste all share.

Is only a part of Heath having an anniversary? No, all of Heath has something it has shared that is worth remembering; a love of rural life that will enable us to solve the difficulties that we can, and leave those unsolved to another anniversary.

**— FINIS —**



## **HOUSE ON PAPOOSE LAKE**

by Christine Gilbert

Mrs. Elizabeth Rice of Papoose Lake Drive in Mohawk Estates has lived in Heath now for four years. Mrs. Rice is originally from Fitchburg, MA, and finds Heath to be a quiet and peaceful town. Her house is one of the oldest on the lake in Mohawk Estates.



## CHURCH NEWS

by David Gibbons

The Church held a Thanksgiving Eve hymn sing which was very well attended. Everyone was in great voice. A feature of the evening included a duet by Jason Peace and Eric Sumner of America the Beautiful and rounds led by the pastor and choir director Nan Gibbons. Joan Adair played the organ. The Thanksgiving theme was further enhanced as people shared some of the things that they are thankful for this year.

Soon to be officially presented to the church is a new electric piano. Donated by Rachel Sumner in memory of Ralph, the new piano has already arrived and been declared "marvelous" by the Pastor, choir director and organist.

The Ladies Aid sale was a success this year and brought in nearly \$400, which will be given to charity.

Several special events are planned for this holiday season. On Sunday, December 10, the Gather 'Round Singers will give a concert at the church starting at 4 PM, followed at 5 PM by the living creche on the town common and a carol sing. Let's all hope for a somewhat warmer day this year! Cookies and cocoa will be served in the Community Hall after the carols.

There will also be a Christmas Eve candlelight service in the church starting at 7:30 PM. The service will feature a selection by the church choir.

Have a happy and blessed Christmas season.



GATHER 'ROUND SINGERS AT THE  
CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY  
DECEMBER 1983  
(Staff Photo)

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## LIBRARY LINES

by David Gibbons

Alli Thane reports that the following new books are in at the library: Caribbean by James A. Michener, The Dark Half by Stephen King, The Pillars of the Earth by Ken Follett, It Was On Fire When I Lay Down On It by Robert Fulgham, An Acceptable Time by Madeleine L'Engle, The Temple of My Familiar by Alice Walker, Among Schoolchildren by Tracy Kidder and Sirs Stories in Rhyme (five book set) by Elaine Weingarten.

For the holiday season the library's collection of Christmas craft books will be on special display. And on the subject of the holiday it should be noted that since Christmas and New Year's Day are both Mondays the library will be closed both days.

Finally, a reminder about the children's reading hour which takes place every Wednesday afternoon at 3:30 PM. All children are welcome to come and listen to Ruth Fournier read.

## NEWS LATE?

by Terry Pettengill, Circulation Manager

Some of our subscribers, especially from out-of-state, have expressed concern over the length of time it takes the *Herald* to arrive in the mail.

Due to a change in staff and new adjustments to be made, the past three issues have been printed a week later than usual, but the chief reason for lateness in the mailing is the fact that we must mail third class bulk mail.

For those who wish to receive their issues faster, you may remit \$1.80 in addition to the subscription fee of \$3.50 and the paper will be sent to you by first class mail.

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## ARTIFACTS FROM AFRICA ON EXHIBIT

by Susan Silvester

Bill and Arlene Thane of Brunelle Road are currently exhibiting a collection of artifacts from Africa at the Mohawk Trail Regional School Resource Center. Arlene travelled to southern Africa during 1974 and returned to become a volunteer with the United States Peace Corps in 1976-77. It was then that she met Bill, also a Peace Corps volunteer. Most of their time in Africa was spent in Ghana, but the collection is representative of items from Botswana, Nigeria, Ghana and the Kalahari Desert area.

Included in the fascinating exhibit are wall hangings, clothing, large, colorful swatches of hand-dyed cloth with adinkra symbolism stamped into the material, coins, wood carvings and jewelry. There is an Owere game, an herb pouch, child's doll, decorative baskets, small bronze figures, wooden stamps that were dipped in warm pitch to print designs on cloth, and a variety of cooking utensils. The collection fills the display case, bulletin board and walls of the high school library and has interested many classes.

The exhibit is open to the public daily while school is in session from now until the Christmas holidays.



JOEL PORTER-DEVRIES EXAMINES ARTIFACTS FROM AFRICA  
(Photo by Susan Silvester)

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## PERCS, PERMITS AND TRANSFERS

### Percolation Tests

Percolation testing has been suspended until April except for repairs.

### Building Permits

Robert Houle, Deer Run Path, storage shed.  
Wolfgang Behl, South Road, shed addition to residence.  
Budge Litchfield, Route 8A, interior renovation.  
Ronald Corey, Burrington Road, camper storage shed.  
Total, \$32,300.

### Deed Transfers

David M. and Kimberlee D. Griswold to Andrew R. Berman and Vivian Lee of New York, NY. 4 South Road. \$164,000.  
Allan James Pinard to James P. and Dawn Seidell of Easthampton. Mohawk Estates. Lot 16. \$1.  
Kenneth E. Pinard, Jr. to James P. and Dawn Seidell of Easthampton. Mohawk Estates. Lot 16. \$1.  
Robert Rivers to Robert H. and June M. Kratz, 17 Colrain Stage Road, Lot 17. \$10,000.  
Claudine M. Raycroft and Donna Shepard, Route 8A, 2.7 acres. \$10,000.  
Richard R. and Allen L. Sessions, individually and as The Sessions Farm, to Thomas and Claire L. Rabbitt of Charlemont, Route 8A, 22.575 acres. \$20,000.  
Clayton J. and Katherine G. Herbert to Kerrie Latino of Worcester. Mohawk Estates, Lot 12. \$5,000.  
David R. Moss to Nancy R. Moss. Colrain Stage Road. Lot 85. No consideration.  
United Savings Bank to Minor F. Marchese of Colrain. South Road, \$46,000.  
Nancy R. Moss to Michael M. Baronas and Nancy R. Moss. Colrain Stage Road. No consideration.  
George and Bonnie J. Ramsey to Gregory William Rode of Rowe. Sadoga Road. Lot 5. \$15,000.  
Doris Y. O'Brien to Carl J. Chimi. Branch Hill Road, \$75,000.  
Patricia A. Adley to Joseph and Carol J. Changnon of Holyoke. Mohawk Estates, Lot 1. \$1.  
Richard J. Robideaux to Mark and Victoria S. Patenaude of Shelburne Falls. Number Nine Road. \$100,000.  
Jo Anne Joubert to Charles M. and Mary A. Maguire of Turners Falls. Mohawk Estates. Lot 37. \$5,000.  
Jo Anne Joubert to Charles M. and Mary A. Maguire of Turners Falls. Mohawk Estates. Lot 35. \$5,000.  
Daniel J. Coderre to Eric Maslak of Southamptn. Mohawk Estates. Lots 6 and 7. \$4,000.

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## FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

by Earl Gleason, Chief

Three emergencies were responded to in October and November. On the evening of October 20 twelve firefighters turned out to clean culverts and turn water during a heavy rain storm. On November 14 two EMTs, a nurse and one firefighter aided Charlemont ambulance in treating and transporting a woman who was reported as hyperventilating. On the sixteenth eight firefighters responded to an alarm caused by the heavy wind.

Four drills were conducted during the period along with two Fire Association Meetings. The Chief attended the last two evenings of the Massachusetts Fire Academy class on "The Burning Process" which was held in the Buckland fire station. He was also pleased to be able to attend a two-day National Fire Academy class on "Firefighter Safety and Survival" which was held at Wilmington, VT, High School.

Six permits and inspections were granted or conducted as follows: one oil burner inspection, two smoke detector placements for new construction, two smoke detector inspections for real estate sales, one propane installation inspection and permit, and one gasoline tank removal permit as well as the observation of the tank removal.

The Chief attended the fall meeting of the Deerfield Valley Fire Mutual Aid directors meeting, the annual meeting of Franklin County Dispatch, the October meeting of Western Massachusetts Fire Wardens, and the Heath town officers roundtable discussion.

The first of the dry hydrants was installed at the upper pond at the Dell on November 11.

Two meetings were held in October in preparation for the mailing of the special needs (Civil Defense) questionnaire. At the writing of this report seventy-two responses have been received. If you have not responded I urge you to do so as this information would be extremely helpful in the case of almost any kind of emergency.

Have a safe and fire-free winter.

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## ASSESSORS' REPORT

by Don Dekker

The State Acting Deputy Chief of the Bureau of Local Assessment, Mr. Ken Stein, and Ms. Jacki Barden of the Springfield office made a second consultative visit to Heath on November 16. The second visit was primarily concerned with our first valuation of lots in Mohawk Estates. Steve Marston, of the Springfield office, who helped construct the land schedules, originally assessed buildable lots in Mohawk Estates at \$11,000. We understood that two lots were needed to build. When we discovered that only 10,000 square feet were needed to build, we simply transferred the assessment to those lots.

After review, which included objections from owners in Mohawk Estates, the Board of Assessors decided to lower the original valuation from \$11,000 per lot to \$5,500 per lot (i.e. buildable lots). This change, plus our mapping system and original assessing system, probably caused the State Officials to pay their return visit. We are now waiting for the news that the town has been recertified.

As soon as we receive that word from the State, we will distribute the new valuations. We will then have open hearings to determine any action on your objections. Remember, when you get the new property valuation, that everybody's valuation will be going up proportionally the same amount. Your tax bill should therefore be about the same. There will be some differences, of course, but your share of the taxes will be about the same.

One main revelation of the visits by the State is to make clear the need for a change in the staffing of the Assessors' Office. The State will recommend that the Town use a more detailed classification system, and also participate in the CAMA computer system. It has become clear that the town can no longer rely on an almost volunteer group to oversee the assessing of the town.

Assessors must not only know the State rules and regulations, visit new houses and old, figure out valuation and the tax rate. They must also become computer-knowledgeable plus maintain all the new classification schedules etc. This means that someone will need to put more time in and it is only fair that he/she be paid for this work. Unless this is done, the only alternative would be for the town to hire a professional valuation firm. Rowe paid \$30,000 for such a valuation on their last revaluation; Charlemont in the \$20,000 range. If Heath agreed to an additional outlay of \$2,000-\$3,000 per year the Board believes we could satisfy the State and keep the system going. The Board will make the necessary detailed recommendations at Town Meeting.

One other item the State requested improvement on was our mapping system. Despite my earnest support of the Ed Calver map the State will request a more detailed mapping of the town. This as everything else will cost money. It will have to be done by the next valuation in FY1994. The Board has written to mapping companies for estimates and we will report to the Town the details when received. It seems that despite all our attempts to keep expenses down costs keep going up.





## FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

by Charles Mackie

The excitement of FY90 is still proceeding with votes for overrides, Special Town Meetings to balance our budgets, commitments to the State to try harder (so we can keep the \$34,000 they have given back to us), and the anticipation of going through the FY91 budget hearings with all department heads, committee chairpersons etc. All this is difficult to ignore.

The cost of status quo, or slightly improved services, is higher taxes, both at the Town and State levels. In addition, fixed responsibilities such as the cost of terminating the old landfill shared by three towns, our new waste disposal site, and the specter of rising school costs will make the budget process in the next few months prior to Town Meeting an exciting time for all participants.

## MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE REPORT

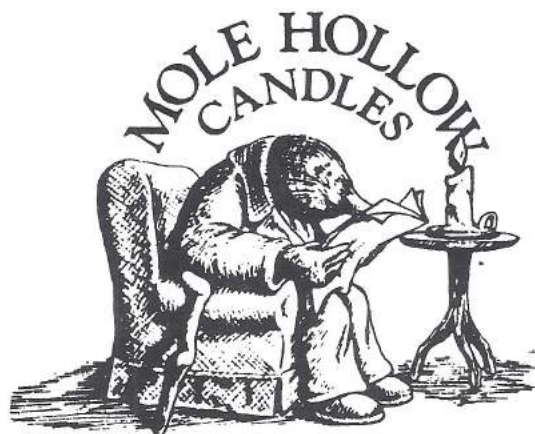
by Charles Mackie

There have been many meetings held in which employees and other interested parties were interviewed during the past several months in an attempt to reach an understanding of how the present system of Town Government works. Our goal was to make recommendations to improve the system.

The efforts will probably conclude after several more meetings, and recommendations will be made to the Selectmen for their consideration.

Among the topics of interest: wages and benefits for individuals serving the Town, changes in the structure of Town Government and procedures, and a set of procedures in the permit process for construction in Town to make life easier for both the applicant and the approving authorities.

Other similar communities were polled to determine how their employees were compensated in wages and benefits, and this information has been helpful to our Committee in its work.



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## HEATH CONSERVATION COMMISSION

October - November 1989

by Bill Lattrell, Chairman

The number of transactions performed by the Conservation Commission has slowed since the end of summer. This is quite different from last year when October and November proved to be record months in terms of applications and meetings. During these last two months we have performed five site visits, held one hearing with regard to an enforcement order, and reviewed one Request for Determination. The enforcement order was issued pursuant to an Order of Conditions issued in response to a Notice of Intent filed last fall. The Order of Conditions was not followed; so the Conservation Commission was forced to stop work on the site until all the conditions of the order had been adhered to. Since that time the applicant has complied with all the necessary precautions and has resumed working.

The Conservation Commission has completed the regulations pertaining to the new Heath Wetland By-Law. These regulations define further the By-Law and set out specific rules for perspective applicants to follow. People should take note that under this new By-Law isolated wetlands are now protected; and there are new forestry guidelines with regard to logging operations in wetlands or their buffer zones. Copies of the new regulations will be available soon.

The Conservation Commission would like to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season. The coming winter months are perhaps the best time to observe much of our native wildlife and we encourage everyone to get out as much as possible and enjoy this wonderful natural resource.

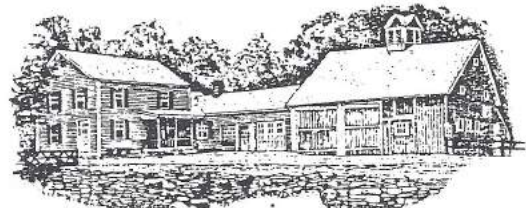
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## POLICE REPORT

by Guy Silvester, Police Chief

Crime in Heath? Oh, yes, and plenty of it! I believe that our community has undergone a gradual transition; unfortunately Heath is not the same community it was even two years ago.

Basically we have all the problems associated with more densely populated areas, and our juvenile crime problem is extremely serious. People's homes and their property have been ravaged during the last year by approximately 27 juveniles from the West County area. Some of these young people reside in Heath, while others have friends here or formerly lived here themselves. These young people in Heath have been and are being prosecuted. Yet the system moves slowly and at times seems ineffectual.

In addition to the juvenile problem we have had our local post office broken into recently. This is still under investigation by the Heath Police Department and the Massachusetts State Police. The results have been turned over to the federal authorities and charges should be filed in the near future.

Also, many of our citizens, including innocent children, have been victims of harassment. To compound the issue we now have some individuals riding around at night intimidating people by firing shots into homes and at street lights. This activity had previously taken place last summer and had stopped until recently.

I feel very strongly that our community needs to help itself by working cooperatively with friends, neighbors, and law enforcement authorities. You may report suspicious activity 24 hours a day by calling the dispatch number at 1-772-2133. It does not always help when a crime is reported days or weeks after an incident takes place. Prompt action is more likely to get immediate results. I would like to thank all the Heath citizens who have acted responsibly in making Heath a safer place to live. There have been many parents who are concerned about their children and they are to be commended for their actions. It is imperative that we act cohesively to bring all this criminal activity to a stop. I sincerely hope that everyone in town will remain concerned and interested in the safety of our community.

The Heath Police Department wishes everyone a healthy, happy and a very safe holiday season.

## PLANNING BOARD REPORT

by Bob Gruen, Secretary

Over the past few months the Planning Board has been meeting regularly to review where we've been, and where we're going. The year 1989 had a hectic beginning for us. We focused all our energies on passage of the new zoning package. In this holiday season you could say we got our Christmas present early when the package was overwhelmingly accepted. Yet, just as some gifts are the wrong size or color, and some are not needed or wanted, so too the Board is going through our gift, looking to fine-tune and clean-up the by-laws. We don't want any fat, ugly ties in our zoning package. We suppose this process will be going on continuously for many seasons, holiday or otherwise, to come. However, we were pleased to receive word that Attorney-General Shannon has approved our by-laws as written.

The Board has been reviewing a number of ANR (Approval Not Required) plans. Several were signed off without any difficulty and a few were held for clarification and further review before approval was given.

Two of our most important meetings were with the Franklin County Collaborative Building and Electrical Inspectors. We don't envy these gentlemen because their jobs are extremely tough, and getting tougher all the time. They deal with most towns in our region, trying to set certain standards, yet be aware of widely varying by-laws for each town. Our discussions revealed many areas where things have been running smoothly and several others that needed clarification. The key to it all seems to be clear and constant communication between their offices and ours. There was general agreement that all concerned would share information and gripes on a more regular basis.

Speaking of better communication ... During the pre-vote days at the beginning of this year, the Board met as often as six or seven times each month. We were in contact with each other, and the flow of information was constant and complete. We enjoyed each other's company, but our families missed us. After the by-laws were passed we reverted to meeting once a month. However, we've come to realize that the space between meetings is too wide to keep our finger on the pulse of Heath's growth, needs, and problems. So, we plan to begin meeting twice each month, starting in January.

Two quick notes in closing. First, in the next issue, I hope to bring you up to speed on how the by-laws have been working, especially the cap on new homes. Finally, the Board would like to take this opportunity to wish all of Heath a happy holiday season. As this world spins itself into the 1990's and beyond let's work together to keep Heath the beautiful, caring town we've all grown to love.



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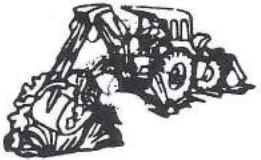
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## SELECTMEN'S REPORT

by D. F. Howland

First, we wish to extend our best wishes to all the townspeople of Heath for the holidays and for a healthy and prosperous New Year. Second, we wish to thank all employees, members of committees and volunteers who have helped make this a good year for the Town. Finally, we extend our greetings to all the people in the surrounding towns with whom we cooperated with regard to mutual and regional concerns.

As we approach a new decade, we find the pace of activity continues unabated. The combination of events occurring at the State and local levels require, perhaps we should say demand, constant analysis of problems and the finding of solutions. As a governmental subdivision of this State, we are inextricably involved with legislative matters and quite dependent financially on how the State recycles and allocates the people's money. Having indicated there are problems, let me say we also find our job fun and challenging, especially when members of the staff, committees and townspeople come through in the clutch.

Within the last two months the Town won \$34,000 in local aid from a special fund legislated to restore that fund. Although it has been awarded we have to submit a report by December 1 that reflects our financial status and outlines management practices to improve our situation. Kathy Condon, our Shared Aid, will coordinate the preparation of that report. On Wednesday, November 29, a Special Town Meeting will be held to balance the budget for FY'90. The \$34,000 will offset the \$20,000 we lost in state aid and other adjustments in accounts plus the use of machinery earnings (money the Town earns by using its equipment on road projects) will correct some other shortfalls and oversights. The end result is that we can meet, we think, the obligations voted at the Annual Town Meeting without any change in promises made or expectations aroused at that time. Of course, the legislature continues to cope with its deficit problems and we could still face unforeseen cuts in some programs. One last note on budgetary matters. In an earlier *Heath Herald* report we made reference to the impact of the school budget on FY91 because of Equal Opportunity money and free cash we used this year - FY90 - to keep taxes reasonable. While we have not yet worked out details for next year, it is probable that an override will be necessary. We will keep you informed.

One item on the Special Town Meeting warrant is to create an appointed Board of Health. The growth of the Town and the complexity of regulations suggest that the Board of Selectmen should no longer carry the burden of those responsibilities. The procedure for making that change is to inform the voters at the Special Town Meeting that the change is on the horizon.

The Task Force on Solid Waste made its report to the Selectmen at the Round Table meeting on October 26. The members of the Task Force were Newland Smith, Charles Kades and Fred Lively. The report, which is quite comprehensive, will require further study and the development of administrative procedures to meet regulatory guidelines. We appreciate the Task Force's work. Related to this topic is the Transfer Station. It is nearly complete but again we have run into delays with the utility companies; the

fencing is supposed to be installed by the end of November. When the station is formally operating rules have to be enforced about recycling procedures and the handling of demolition and other waste materials that we used to be able to just throw in the dump. This is all part of the effort to improve our environment and it will mean a little change in how we handle our waste. Bill Thane has resigned his post as attendant; we appreciate his help. Charles "Bud" Kaempfer has replaced Bill effective November 25. Bud and his wife live in Mohawk Estates. He spent many years with the Highway Department in Monroe, CT.

Betty Beaudoin has resigned as Tax Collector and has been replaced by June Day. Betty's new full time job has made it difficult for her to devote time to the task of tax collecting. We appreciate her help over the years. June has considerable business and accounting experience to bring to the job. As you have read in the *Heath Herald* she and her husband, Leonard, purchased the Tripp property this past year, having relocated from Longmeadow, MA.

The maintenance of the Town Hall requires almost constant attention and follow-up. The Selectmen decided that one person should be delegated the authority to coordinate those tasks and we were fortunate to have Debbie Gilbert agree to accept the position. Debbie has cleaned the building in recent years and, also, as a member of the Hall Committee, helps maintain the Community Hall. Thus, she is very experienced and familiar with the workings of these facilities, which are so important to the town.

Our snow equipment is ready for the winter, which is upon us. Again, drive carefully and have a pleasant holiday season.

(Submitted November 22)

### Richard A. Sumner

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

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## Merry Christmas

### MILESTONES

by Edith C. Royer

Caitlin Fryar, a daughter, was born September 8 to Mr. & Mrs. Peter Brown of Texas. Granddaughter of Sydney and Robert McAfee Brown of California. They are all frequent visitors to Heath.

Grace Schafer, a daughter, was born September 17 to Deborah and Bruce Phillips of State Farm Road, Heath.

Emma Rose, a daughter, was born September 28 to Amy and David Krane of South Road, Heath.

Heather Rose, a daughter, was born October 27 to Darlene and Joseph Corbeil of Tepee Lane, Heath. Granddaughter of Roberta and Roger Purington of Avery Brook Road, Heath.

John R. Wickline, of Greenfield, died October 5. Besides his wife Ione, he leaves two sons, John Jr. of Heath and Jerry of Leyden, and a daughter, Helen of Bernardston.

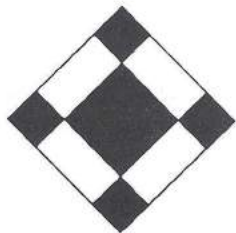
### COMMUNITY HALL CRAFTS FAIR

The Community Hall is again having a Winter Craft Fair. It will be held on Saturday, December 9, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. There will be craft tables, baked goods, face painting and refreshments.

Lunch will be available, supplied by the Friends of the Library.

Santa will be visiting from 10:00 AM to 12:00 noon. So bring the kids and check out our craft tables.

Anyone interested in having a craft table should contact one of the following: Deb Gilbert (337-4351), Dolly Churchill (337-6680), Donna Hyytinen (337-4762) or Deb Crowningshield (337-5561).



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## Happy New Year

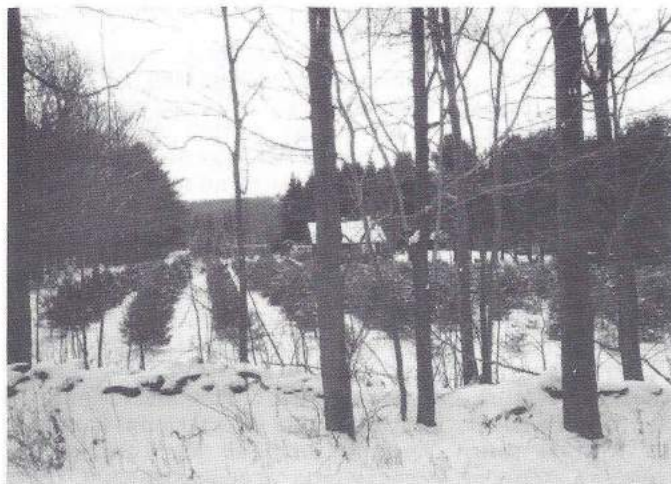
### SKI RACE

by David Gibbons

Believing that we can't go two years in a row with no snow, the Parks Commission is planning this winter's Heath cross-country Ski Race. The primary date is the first Sunday in February (the fourth). This year's sponsors are Peters Store, McCusker's Market, the Charlemont Inn, Avery's Store and Shelburne Falls Supermarket.

Volunteers are needed to help in many aspects of the race from preparing the course to manning the registration table. Crossing guards will also be needed on the day of the race at all intersections, and people will be needed to help prepare and serve food after the race.

If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information contact Judy Thrasher or Anne Rocchi.



DO YOU HAVE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE YET??  
THESE TREES AT THE MUSACCHIO CHRISTMAS TREE FARM  
ON THE CORNER OF COLRAIN STAGE ROAD WILL BE  
READY FOR HARVESTING IN A COUPLE OF YEARS  
(Photo by Susan Silvester)

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