



VOLUME 3 NUMBER 1

APRIL/MAY 1981

# HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

25¢

## VOTE ON MAY 4

Town Meeting Day is Monday, May 4, at the Heath Community Hall. All registered voters will have the opportunity to vote for the candidates of their choice between 1 and 7 PM. Then at 8 PM the annual meeting will be held to act upon the articles in the Town Warrant, although this part of the meeting may be adjourned until a later date when more financial information might be available.

There are nine important town offices to be filled this year by ballot. These are listed below with the names of the candidates who have filed nomination papers. In addition, write-in votes may be made for any other candidate. The only position contested this year is for the Finance Committee where Bruce Cromack is running against Bruce Warner.

A completely new School Committee is to be elected this year. This is due to the resignation of two members during the past year and the remaining incumbent, Cecelia Sherman, not running for re-election.

<u>Position</u>	<u>Term(yrs)</u>	<u>Candidate(s)</u>
Moderator	3	Edward Calver
Selectman	3	David Howland
Assessor	3	Richard Giard
Finance Committee	3	Bruce Cromack
(vote for one)		Bruce Warner
School Committee	3	Richard Housner
	2	Susan Gruen
	1	Amy Barry
Library Trustees	3	John Holdsworth
Auditor	1	Newland Smith

Elsewhere in this issue statements are given as submitted by the candidates on their background and qualifications.

In addition at the Town Meeting a member of the Planning Board is to be nominated and elected to a five year term. The present incumbent, Earl Gleason, has submitted a letter which is also printed in this issue.

## THREE YEARS FOR THE HERALD!

The HEATH HERALD goes into its third year with this issue. Founded on the premise of unbiased news reporting, the support and interest received seems to prove that the paper to some extent is fulfilling its purpose. We pointed out in our first anniversary issue the need for more interaction with our readers. This need is still very evident and we do welcome comments, pro or con, as well as more local news stories.

. . . The Editors

### THE MIRACLE OF EASTER

By Rev. Ann Geer

Any day now you will begin to see buds on the tree branches. They are still so tiny that their presence is hidden from the casual look, but a studied, quiet moment will reveal the subtle changes on the branches.

A bud is a marvelous thing - packed full of hope and promise. It is filled with an incredible hope of leaf and blossom, a promise of a complex cycle creating a new seed to grow yet another tree. The bud is a visible reflection of the unseen quickening roots and rising sap. Life - the whole miracle of life - begins now to strain against the dark husks of imprisonment, swelling, soon to burst in its reach for light.

And then, when the bud opens, comes the glory of renewal. We call it spring and celebrate it as Easter and as Passover.

Where there was compressed darkness, there is now freedom and light; where there was only faint winter's hope, there is now spring's fulfillment. It is a release from our soul's dreary winter. A new beginning; hope made real.

All this contained in the tiny husk of the bursting bud - welcome back to life!



## LETTERS

To the Editors:

It is my belief that the Planning Board is vital and, though the plans of today may seem insignificant, the far reaching effect will shape the town's image.

The faster growth of Heath in comparison to its neighbors proves that the past town officers have created something unique and desirable.

It is my opinion that as I rapidly approach being an old-timer, I can ask the question "When you moved to Heath, we must have had something you liked. Will your suggested change continue to improve Heath or just make it more like where you came from?"

Serving in various town positions for over twenty years, owning my own business, should give me some of the experience needed to make the decisions.

Thank you for your consideration.

EARL M. GLEASON

To the Editors:

I read the HEATH HERALD and enjoyed all of it, especially the article on the book binder and Amy Barry's wonderful article on a first winter in Heath. Of course it is very well written and contains much wisdom for those of us for whom there is no season for rest and for renewing of one's spirit.

NEWLAND F. SMITH, 3rd  
Evanston, Illinois

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### HEATH HERALD

Volume 3 Number 1 April-May 1981

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## MILESTONES

Tina Louise was born to Patti and Norman Calkins II on February 15. Tina Louise is the granddaughter of Emerson and Helen Hamilton of Heath.

Aaron was born to Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Giard of Colrain on February 27. Aaron is the great grandson of Mr. and Mrs. David Giard.

Beverly Thane and Ronald Andrews of Wilmington, Vermont were married on January 26.

Erma and Fred Lowd celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on February 25. Erma is the daughter of Hannah Burrington.

Mr. and Mrs. Leon Peters will celebrate their 58th wedding anniversary on April 23.

## HEATH PRECIPITATION

By Ralph H. Dickinson, Observer  
for Mass. Water Resources Commission

	1981 Precipitation	Snow
February	10.65 inches	17 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches
March	.72 inches	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches

Total snowfall, November through March, was 61  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches. The ground was frozen when we had the heavy February rains, so much of the moisture ran off instead of soaking into the ground. Much more rain is needed for the coming growing season.

## READERS COMMENTS

I enjoy reading your newspaper very much.  
I love Heath.

Wilda Wolf

\* \* \* \* \*

Thank you for such an interesting and informative paper.

Rachel Sumner

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### LARRY'S

of

Shelburne Falls

Clothing

Footwear

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BRUCE A. CROMACK  
Burrington Road  
General Carpentry  
Restoration a Speciality  
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## PROPOSITION 2 $\frac{1}{2}$

- Special to the HEATH HERALD -

By Jay Healy, State Representative

One of the most challenging issues I have faced in my tenure in the House is that of responsible implementation of Proposition 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ . As I am sure you are aware, the state passed Question 2 by a substantial margin. In view of this fact, any major change in the law must be made only after careful consideration and scrutiny of the overall impact any amendment might have on the original intent of the legislation.

Among the amendments being considered is that of local override. I favor this amendment as long as it takes place at the polling booth and a two-thirds vote is obtained to increase the budget beyond the 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ % limitation. Other amendments being considered include exemption of several items such as pension costs, energy costs and bonded indebtedness for municipal projects from the 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ % limitation. Another proposal would change the effective date of the auto excise tax reduction from Jan. 1, 1981 to July 1, 1981. I fully intend to study all the above recommendations before the legislature this session.

It is my firm belief the answer to the responsible implementation of Proposition 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  is by the state passing a level funded state budget with an increased amount of local aid. As a candidate for re-election as State Representative of the 1st Franklin District, I campaigned actively against Proposition 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ . My main objection was that it forced communities that had less fat and waste in their governments to severely cutback while allowing the state to continue their runaway spending habits. The budget I support at the state level would cut administrative costs and unnecessary programs sharply, yet would include over 300 million new dollars for local aid. This is in direct opposition to the Governor's proposed budget which is up almost 8% over last year and includes only 37 million new dollars in local aid.

### 4-H SHEPARDS TO MEET

The West County 4-H Shepherds will meet at Club Leader Launie York's home in Shelburne on Saturday, April 11. A hands-on sheep shearing demonstration will be given. All West County youth interested in sheep are invited.

## PROPOSITION 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ continued

Unfortunately, we had reached a point in Massachusetts where the overburdened taxpayer felt compelled to make his voice heard. All levels of government; Federal, State, County and Local, have a responsibility to carefully scrutinize all areas of their budgets to see where cuts can be made while maintaining the essential services we all depend upon.

I hope that the Legislature acts on these pieces of the 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  puzzle soon. Those constituents interested in these important issues should write their elected officials to urge responsible action soon.

## FINANCE COMMITTEE READIES BUDGET

By D. F. Howland

As the HEATH HERALD goes to press the preparation of the town's budget for FY'82 is nearing completion. However, the final report of the special auditor, Tom Scanlon of Deerfield, will not be submitted until April 10, and the results of this report are very important to forecasting next year's taxes. The members of the Finance Committee attended a seminar on March 25 conducted by the Massachusetts Municipal Association on Proposition 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ . It is premature to be specific about FY '82 taxes, but it can be said that every effort is being made to hold them down in the face of rising school costs and inflation.

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### MAPLE SYRUP at the farm

Quart \$6.00:  $\frac{1}{2}$ Gallon \$11.00: Gallon \$20.00  
Ray Scofield, Sumner-Stetson Rd. Heath, MA

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## CANDIDATE PROFILES

### AMY C. BARRY - School Committee

I attended public schools in Falmouth, Massachusetts and graduated from Radcliffe College in 1970. For the next ten years I worked at Northfield Mount Hermon School where I taught Anthropology and Women's Studies and served as the head of a girl's dormitory. I would like to be a member of the Heath School Committee because I want to be involved in the future planning and direction of our school system. I also have a personal stake in the Heath schools because my little girl will be entering first grade in September. Both my experience as an educator and my interest as a parent should serve me well as a member of the School Committee.

### EDWARD CALVER - Moderator

After seven years in office (one 1-year term and two 3-year terms) my record must speak for me. Past performance is a good indication of future performance and I would urge voters to make their decision on that basis.

### BRUCE A. CROMACK - Finance Committee

I moved to Heath in 1962 with my wife, the former Catherine Burrington. We have raised five children, one of whom is still with us.

I attended schools in Colrain and Shelburne, then served four years in the Navy. I have owned and operated a contracting business for over 16 years.

I have served in many capacities in social and fraternal groups and served for ten years on the Heath Planning Board.

I am interested in and concerned with fiscal responsibilities in government at all levels.

### RICHARD R. GIARD - Assessor

I was born and raised on the farm where I now live on the Colrain Stage Road. I attended the Branch School and Arms Academy where I took Vocational Agriculture and was a member of the FFA Chapter. In 1960 I joined the Army and was stationed in New Jersey, Arizona, and Germany.

In 1963 I returned to the farm and was a dairy farmer until 1978. During that period I served on the local ASCS committee three times. I was a committeeman for two terms at the local Agway store.

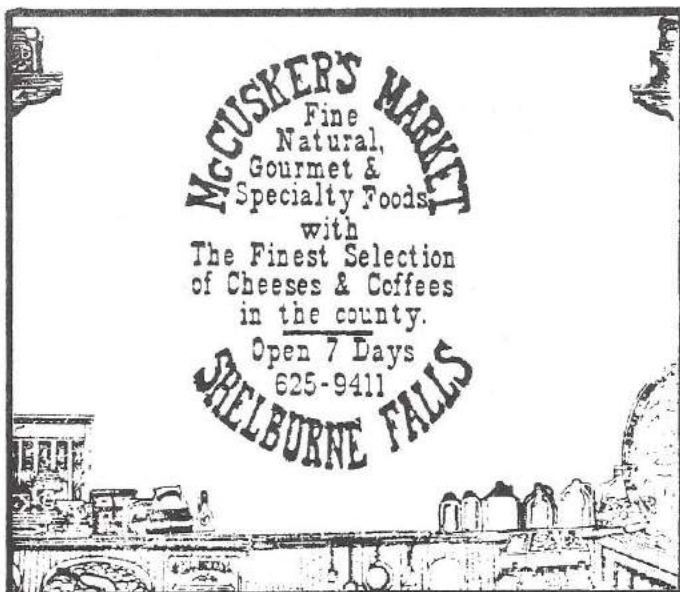
I have served two terms as assessor. In that time we have upgraded our files and records to comply with state mandates for full and fair cash value and the Classification Act. We are now in the final stages of that compliance and I would like to help finish that job. I attended a course in assessing at GCC and also a full week course in the Principles of Assessing at U Mass. where I obtained a certificate.

I am one of the Deputy Chiefs of the Heath Volunteer Fire Department and have attended a number of Fire courses. I served on the committees to get our new MI fire truck and the new truck for the MII tanker. For two years I served as President of the Firemens Association.

Since 1978 I have served as the Heath Civil Defense Director and was responsible for setting up the Evacuation Plan and an Emergency Response Plan.

### JOHN HOLDSWORTH - Library Trustee

I was born in Bristol, Conn., and attended public grammar and high schools there. Between two periods of college education, I served four years in the U. S. Navy. During college, I worked part time for two years as a librarian. Since coming to Heath seven years ago, I have maintained a very active interest in the Heath library. I am presently a member of the Planning Board and the Fire Department. My wife, Jean, and daughter, Laura and I live at the east end of Long Hill Road.





## CANDIDATE PROFILES

### RICHARD E. HOUSNER - School Committee

I was born in New York in 1939. After receiving B.A. and M.A. degrees from Hunter College in Art Education, I taught in several high schools and junior high schools in New York City. We moved to Heath in 1972. I am currently teaching at Greenfield High School. Our daughter attends Mohawk and our son is enrolled at Rowe.

I gained much civic experience by being a selectman and would want to continue to serve the town as a member of the school committee. Difficult questions are posed by these particular economic times. I am concerned with helping to insure that our children get the education that they will need for their future.

### DAVID F. HOWLAND - Selectman

Pegge and I were part time residents of Heath from 1963 to 1978 when we became permanent residents. While our two children are grown and away, they and we care about Heath and its future very much. I have served on the Finance Committee for two years and am Chairman of the Development Committee of the Heath Historical Society. I have been in the personnel field for over twenty-five years and am Personnel Officer at Amherst College. As Selectman I will strive to augment the fine cooperation that exists amongst town agencies and the citizens of Heath which is so important to solving problems and shaping Heath's future. Your support will be appreciated.

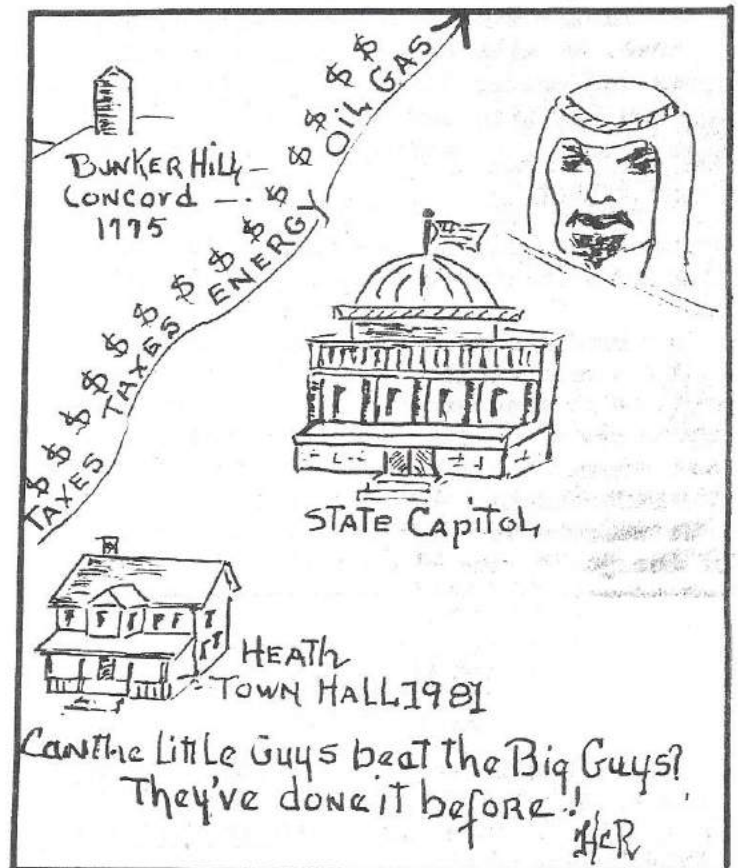
### NEWLAND F. SMITH - Auditor

I have been a part time resident of Heath for sixty years including the past seven years as a full time resident. I received a college degree in physics from The Citadel, Charleston, S.C., and post-graduate degrees in electrical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. I have held engineering and management positions in several electronics companies, television broadcasting, and in the data communications field.

I am a past president of the Heath Historical Society, a former member of the Heath Finance Committee, and Town Auditor for FY 1981. I am currently a member of the Board of Trustees of the Fred W. Wells Trust as appointed by the Selectmen in 1977.

### BRUCE E. WARNER - Finance Committee

I was born in Wisconsin and raised in Washington State. In 1972 I graduated from the U. S. Naval Academy and entered the Navy's Nuclear Power Program. Over the course of the years I've managed to live in or visit 41 states and 9 countries. Since November of 1979 I have worked in the Reactor Engineering Department at the Yankee plant in Rowe. Initially I lived in Monroe Bridge while my wife and two daughters were selling our Oklahoma home. Then, last April, we bought the Stetson's place on Burrington Road. In July I became an active member of the Heath Volunteer Fire Department.



## TOWN CLERK OFFICE HOURS

Town Clerk Catherine Nichols states that her office hours had to fluctuate quite a bit recently due to babysitter problems. She wishes to apologize for any inconvenience caused. The old schedule is now back in effect (Mon., Thurs., Fri. 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM and Mon. eve. 7 - 10:00 PM).



## CHURCH NEWS

By Rev. Ann Geer

On Palm Sunday, April 12, we will move our worship services from the front room to the main sanctuary. At the 11 o'clock service we will distribute the traditional palms and begin our spiritual journey through the coming holy week.

We will celebrate Maundy Thursday as a joint venture with the Rowe Church at 7:30 PM in the Heath Community Hall. Tables will be set for us to take part in a memorial of the Last Supper and the service will include a remembrance of Jesus' last words in readings and music. A special choir, under the direction of Barbara Davenport, will sing several anthems.

The Easter sunrise service will be held in Rowe. We will gather at the junction of Cross and Potter Roads at 5:00 AM to greet the new day with Scripture and song. The Rowe Church has invited both communities to breakfast at the Rowe school following the service. The men of the church will prepare the meal and the Youth Group has planned an Easter egg hunt for the children.

Our traditional Easter church service will be held at 11 o'clock in Heath. The choir will sing several anthems. Craig and Amy Barry have extended an invitation to their home following the service to join for refreshments and fellowship.

We welcome you to join us in celebration of the joy of the Risen Lord.

## LIBRARY NOTES

By Edith Gleason

Recent new books at the Library include: Adam Smith, Paper Money; Ken Follett, Key to Rebecca; Studs Terkel, American Dreams; William Manchester, Goodby Darkness; Irving Stone, Origin. In addition some books from the Encyclopedia Brown series by J. Sobal have been received. Several gift books have been received for which we are very grateful.

The Bookmobile visit is much missed, but, until their next visit, they are filling requests by mail.

Story hours are still scheduled, but we do need story tellers or readers. Please call me if you can give an hour every week or so. I am sure you will get more out of it than anyone else.

## FLAG FUND OVER THE TOP!

Response to the Heath Rifle Company Flag Fund has exceeded expectations according to David Howland, Chairman of the Development Committee of the Heath Historical Society. To date \$505 has been contributed by 43 donors toward the total expense of \$600 with contributions still being received. "This is very gratifying and many of the contributors expressed their support for this type of project", Howland said. The preservation and restoration of this 150 year old flag is underway at the Merrimac Valley Textile Institute. Curator Amy Barry reported that the flag should be ready for public viewing at the Heath Museum later this year.

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# CRIME PREVENTION NEWS

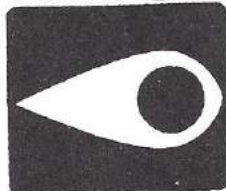
By Chief Lorin Gowdy

## HOW SAFE ARE YOU?

Don't allow a burglar to enter your home. This simple quiz will help you determine how well protected your home is against burglary.

Every "no" answer shows a weak point that may aid a burglar. As you eliminate the "no" answers, you improve your protection.

MASSACHUSETTS  
**CRIME  
WATCH**



### DOORS

1. Do you know everyone who has a key to your house?
2. Do you keep all doors and windows, when you are not at home, locked?
3. Are your door locks either the dead-bolt or jimmy-proof type?
4. Are your exterior doors metal or solid wood construction?
5. Can all your entrance doors be securely locked?
6. Does your screen or storm door have a lock?
7. Is the exterior door frame strong enough and tight enough to prevent forcing and spreading?
8. Are your door hinges protected from removal from the outside?

### WINDOWS

1. Do all your windows have locks in operating condition?
2. Are your window locks jimmy resistant and properly mounted.
3. Do you use window locks that allow you to lock a window that is partly open?
4. Are all basement windows secured against entrance?
5. Are upper level windows that open on to porch or roofs of adjoining buildings secured the same as if they were on ground level?
6. Are your windows locked now?

### GARAGES

1. Do you have good, secure locks on your garage doors and windows?
2. Do you lock your car and remove the keys when it is parked in the garage?
3. Do you keep tools in the garage that would help a burglar gain entry?

## CRIME PREVENTION (continued)

### WHEN YOU ARE AWAY

1. Do you have a trusted neighbor check your home?
2. Do you notify the Police Department that you will be away?
3. Do you use automatic timers to turn on radios or lights to give your home a lived-in appearance?
4. Do you make arrangements to have your lawn mowed and garden cared for?
5. Do you stop your mail and paper delivery?

### SAFE PRACTICES

1. Do you plan so that you do not leave a key under the mat or other easily accessible spot?
2. Do you keep as much cash and other valuables in the bank?
3. Do you avoid unnecessary display or publicity of your valuables?
4. Do you ask repairman and door-to-door salesmen for proper identification before you admit them to your home?
5. Do you have photographs or a list of all valuable property?
6. Do you leave a light on, both inside and outside when you are away at night?
7. Have you told your family to leave the house undisturbed and call the police if they discover that a burglary has been committed?
8. Do you keep a watchful eye on the homes of your neighbors?
9. Do you report immediately to the police any suspicious acts, persons, vehicles, or circumstances?

REMEMBER - CRIME IS A THIEF'S BUSINESS.  
PREVENTION IS YOURS!

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# ASSESSORS' REPORT

By Richards Steinbock

The tax bills are out and the Form-of-Lists are in. The response in both cases has been gratifying.

We didn't realize how confusing the Form-of-List would be to a number of people. Next year's cover letter will go into more detail about items to include.

The building measuring we completed last year was translated into valuation by multiplying square footage by a cost per square foot figure taken from state manuals, adjusted for type of construction, condition, amenities or lack of, and any other factor which would make an individual house more or less valuable than another. However, the square foot costs were 1974 figures. The state sends a "Time-Location Modifier" every year, telling the percentage those figures have increased since 1974. The Modifier we are supposed to use is for Greenfield (the nearest large town) which this year was 150%; in other words, a 1974 \$20/sq.ft. figure should now be \$30.

It was our feeling that with rising commuting costs, lack of services like town water, sewerage and garbage pick up, and other factors, values in Heath have probably not increased as much as those in Greenfield. A slackening of both sales and increase in resale prices tended to reinforce this feeling. So we used a modifier of 115% this year.

A state tax person meeting here last week indicated the state would like us to use the full Greenfield figure.

This summer we will update our information by checking measurements and viewing house interiors with an aim of further refining valuations to get them as fair as possible. The same state person indicated we might be forced to go to a "Unit-in-Place Cost" method of figuring. This is a method of valuing a structure by computing the cost of each individual element that went into construction.

Our other major project (again state mandated and unfortunately, because of some outrageous sale prices we're seeing, necessary) is a complete revaluation of all 15,000 acres in town. We are asking the Selectmen for about \$9000 to do the job, to cover materials and the large amount of

## ASSESSORS (continued)

time it will take to do the job. We plan to work with the tax maps, state personnel, landowners, other local assessors and, if necessary, outside consultants, to insure a fair and thorough job. The alternatives to our doing the job are either hiring an outside firm at a cost of about \$35,000, or doing nothing. In which case the state will come in to do it and bill us on the cherry sheet - at who knows what price.

We are now having all our deeds and valuation books bound by David Brooks, who is doing a fantastic job at a very reasonable price, and generally reorganizing our office and files.

One final note: Dick Giard has decided to run for another 3-year term. I consider him one of the most able persons I've worked with and a fair, thoughtful and excellent assessor. Dick deserves a resounding vote of confidence. He is in large part the one that holds us all together.

## HEATH FAIR PLANS

By Dot Scofield

The Agricultural Society met on March 3 to begin making plans for the 1981 Fair. One of the changes approved was the raising of premium money paid in the Cattle Show for both adult and youth groups.

Again this year, there will be the tractor pull, horse and ox pulls, and the Fiddlers' Contest, all very exciting parts of our country fair.

There will be changes in the 1981 Premium Book, so look for these changes when the book is out about June 1.

Now is the time to contact one of the officers of the Society with your good ideas and suggestions for the Fair.

As good weather returns to Heath, we will be scheduling work bees at the Fairgrounds and will appreciate any help anyone can give.

So mark your calendar on August 14, 15, and 16 to attend the 64th Annual Heath Fair.

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## FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

By Chief Earl Gleason

The Fire Department responded to one car fire, one smoke investigation, one camp-fire, and one brush fire since February 1. The camp destroyed was estimated to be worth in excess of \$25,000. It was sighted by a neighbor living more than half a mile away, and was fully involved at that time. Fire personnel were hampered by the distance needed to truck water and the amount of water required to cool four propane tanks that had vented and were burning off at the time of arrival. Three pieces of equipment and 24 men responded with Rowe covering our station and later bringing one load of water to the scene. State Trooper Gary Pease of the State Fire Marshall's office, Earl Gleason, and local police are investigating the cause.

The Fire Association is sponsoring monthly raffles and tickets are available from members.

A new and exciting program is coming to our area from the Mass. Fire Academy. Sponsored by the Charlemont Fire Department, local Departments are invited to participate in twice-a-month classes that will run from April until early in 1982. This course covers all fundamental fire fighting techniques.

The Chief has attended, as a director, two meetings with other directors planning the annual meeting of Tri-State and the Firemen's Field Day to be held in Turners Falls on May 3. He has also spent considerable time on the Deerfield Valley Mutual Aid annual meeting.

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## SELECTMENS' REPORT

By Paul Lively  
Chairman

Heath Board of Selectmen

Highway Dept. We are accepting applications for the position of road superintendent until April 6. As an economy move, we have budgeted for a total of four employees for the Highway Dept. in the coming fiscal year. We may need to hire part time help from time to time.

Town Meetings. There will be a special town meeting on April 20 at 8 PM to transfer \$4500 to the Heath school budget and to act on a request by the Telephone Company to lease a small portion of town land next to the Community Hall for installation of special equipment that is supposed to improve telephone service for the town.

We may ask that the May 4 Annual Town Meeting be adjourned and we would then call a special town meeting several weeks later after having received the state cherry sheets. In that way we would know exactly how much money we can appropriate.

Buildings. We are making arrangements to have drainage installed on the northeast corner of the Community Hall as well as having the cement block wall repaired. Bruce Stetson is going to repair the leak in the roof.

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT

By Cecelia Sherman

On Tuesday March 10, 1981, in addition to the three School Committee members and two administrators, seven people attended the Heath School Committee budget hearing to approve the elementary school budget. There is a significant increase in the budget despite the savings from conjoining the Mohawk and elementary bus routes due mainly to the increase in enrollment (the kindergarten route required a mini-bus instead of the usual eight passenger vehicle), and due also to the increased pre-school special education services needed in the coming year.

After reviewing the entire budget and answering any questions brought forth by the public, the budget was approved.

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# MOSES MILLER-DICKINSON HOUSE

By Esther M. Dickinson

(This is the fifth in a series of articles on the older houses in Heath.)

The Rev. Moses Miller, pastor of the Heath Church from 1804 to 1840, had to provide his own dwelling. He purchased from Isaac Gould the farm on the South Road originally owned by Benjamin Temple and his sons. The brick house was built by Mr. Miller for his bride in 1806. The bricks were made in East Charlemont and brought up the Old County Road (by the Manse) by ox team. The brick part of the house consists of four large rooms (two upstairs and two downstairs) and a central hall. The west wall of each room has a fireplace in the center, with a clothes closet on one side and a cupboard for storage on the other. The fireplace mantel in the north downstairs room or parlor is carved.

The south room downstairs was for Mrs. Miller's parents, Dr. and Mrs. Samuel Ware (formerly of Conway). They had a folding rope bed that could be drawn up to the ceiling during the day. The four hooks are still in our living room ceiling, and the bed was given to the Heath Historical Society by our grandparents.

The south room upstairs was used as a study by Mr. Miller and his students.

The attic windows are fan shaped, and another fan window is over the front door.

The old original wooden house may have been used as an ell, but was probably replaced. In 1916 H.F. Dickinson remodeled the ell raising the roof to two stories high instead of one and one-half stories. Before the wall in a back room was finished it was possible to see the two previous roof lines on the brick wall.

The Millers had nine children. Tradition says they planted a maple tree in the yard for each child. Time has taken its toll - only three of the old maples are left.

Moses Miller was much interested in education. He helped start select schools in Heath. He also taught students who lived in his home; many of those went on to become ministers. Two of the young ministers later became his sons-in-law. During Moses Miller's ministry in Heath he encouraged many young people to continue their schooling. A few years ago when Dr. Dame was writing a history of the doctors in Frank-

## MOSES MILLER - DICKINSON HOUSE (continued)

lin County he told me Heath produced more doctors during that era than any other County town.

When Moses Miller left Heath, his oldest daughter Sarah and her husband Aaron Dickinson lived in the brick house. In 1843 Sarah died leaving three young children. The following year Aaron Dickinson married Abigail Temple. Her father, Richard Temple, bought the farm from Mr. Miller giving his daughter and son-in-law lifetime use, with the provision that it would go to Abigail's heirs. Abigail and Aaron Dickinson's youngest son, Edward Spencer Dickinson, lived here and ran the farm for his mother for a number of years until his death in 1893. Edward's widow and young daughter could not carry on the farm, so Edward's oldest brother (our grandfather) William A. Dickinson came here from Colrain. Grandfather bought off the other heirs and owned the place until his death in 1917 when it was willed to his youngest son, our father, H.F. Dickinson.

Aaron Dickinson had three sons who were Congregational ministers; two of his children married descendants of Rev. Jonathan Leavitt; and two married children of Rev. B.B. Cutler. Over the years we have been privileged to meet many of the descendants of Moses Miller and Aaron Dickinson who came back to Heath to see the old home. (I have a cousin who thinks my mother's cooking was also a factor.)

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## PLANNING BOARD REPORT

By John Holdsworth

The Planning Board has had good intentions of continuing its work on the town zoning bylaws, but other items of business have made it difficult to stick to the agenda.

The County Commissioners, with the help of the Franklin County Planning Board, are trying to set up a feasibility study on construction of a solid waste incinerator. The proposed incinerator would serve all Franklin County communities that desired membership in the project. It would be located in Montague in proximity to an industry that would purchase all steam produced by the disposal plant. Most county communities and some from outside the county are interested in the regional incinerator. Unfortunately, the County Commissioners were turned down in their request for a grant to support the feasibility study. This means the towns would have to finance the study themselves. Heath's share would be about \$1073. The Selectmen feel that it would be more economical to avoid that expense and to consider joining the disposal region when, and if, the town is unable to continue using the present three-town landfill (That contract expires January 1982). Joining the region at a future date might involve some financial penalty. In any event, the Planning Board hopes to keep two members on solid waste subcommittees. There are seven subcommittees, and they are open to all members of the community. Anyone wanting more information on the subcommittees and the regional solid waste project should contact the Planning Board. The Board has some bulletins from the Massachusetts Local Energy Action Program. Any person with an energy project might be interested in these bulletins - particularly Funding and Assistance Sources. These will be available at all Planning Board Meetings. Next meeting: Monday, April 13, 1981.

## DOG TAGS AVAILABLE

The Town Clerk announces that the 1981 Dog Tags are now in and can be obtained from her office. Proof of rabies shots is not presently required to obtain a license but it is a state law that all dogs must have these shots.

## ART NEWS

Marisa Housner will be dancing in the role of the bird in "Peter and the Wolf" in the Pioneer Valley Ballet Company's spring performance at the Academy of Music, Northampton, on April 11 and 12. This production has been choreographed and staged in the traditional Russian folk style.

Several Heath artists have donated work to the annual Channel 57 Spring Auction. Be sure to check out who they are on ARTS night.

## ART GROUP EXHIBIT AT MOHAWK

The Rowe Art Group exhibit at Mohawk Resource Center represents the work of present and former members. Heath artists are: Craig Brown, Jessica Cain, Angela Churchill, Laurel Clark, Nicole Denouden, Luke Housner, Marisa Housner, Lark Miller, Arlo Seaver, Chris Rabbit, Amber Sullivan, and Ree Sumner.

The Art Group has been part of Rowe School's Artist-in-Residence Program for the past three years. Meeting weekly with Heath artist-painter, Marlene Housner, they explore the many aspects of drawing, painting, design, and art history. Museum and sketching trips are coordinated with the studio work.

These specially talented students develop a vocabulary of skills which enable them to use art as a highly personal expression of their thoughts and feelings.

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## HEATH PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Thomas Rabbitt of Underhill Road has completed a course at the State Police Academy in Framingham, and has graduated as Natural Resources Officer. He has accepted a post in the Lowell-Dracut area.

Jean Holdsworth is one of three GCC accounting students who have volunteered to help taxpayers with their returns. They were trained by an IRS expert and hold regular office hours at the college. Jean, who holds a bachelor's degree, plans to take further work at North Adams State College. At present she is interning at Hefner, Hirst, and Margola in Greenfield.

Timothy J. Smith, senior airman son of Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Smith of Route 8A, has been named outstanding airman of the year at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi. Timothy, a weather operator, was selected for professional skill, duty performance, and exemplary behavior.

Norman Sessions, son of Ralph and Dorthy, is putting up a house whose foundation was laid last fall. Its location on 8A is very slightly and it is reported that his well struck the largest vein ever known hereabouts.

Edwin Decker on Route 8A in North Heath has opened a new business for the sharpening of saws, tools, scissors, and knives. He is open every day except Sunday.

Arthur A. Schwenger of Burrington Road has been named director of the Greenfield CETA Consortium. Art was formerly the associate director. CETA tries to train unemployed persons by placing them in public service jobs where they can learn new skills. In spite of the proposed federal budget cuts, Art hopes there will still be a program to help the unemployed in the area. He predicted the program will be revised in the coming year to emphasize job training rather than public employment.

Mildred Burrington is out of the hospital and is staying with her sister, Betty Goodell, in Colrain.

May Churchill is confined to her home after a stay in the hospital as the result of an accident on February 6.

Tina Percival has returned home after a month in the hospital.

VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

## DELIVERY PROBLEM PLAGUES H.H.

The HEATH HERALD regrets a postal delay in delivery of the February issue. Even though the mailing was postmarked Feb. 14, many copies did not reach subscribers until after the middle of March. It is hoped that this will not recur. If you did not receive the February issue, please notify the Circulation Manager.

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