



HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER 25¢

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

By D.F. Howland

Moderator Ed Calver convened the special town meeting on September 28 with about 15 townspeople present. All eight articles on the warrant were voted on favorably. Four articles dealt with the transfer of funds from Free Cash to balance accounts for FY 1981, amounting to \$1533. One of the transfers, a bookkeeping entry, reflects \$499 the Fire Department received from a grant. Two other articles transferred, from Free Cash, \$20,000 to the Stabilization Fund, and \$5,000 to the Reserve Account. The Stabilization Fund now has a balance of over \$40,000 for future capital expenditures. The last two articles transferred from Revenue Sharing \$5500 to weatherize the Town Garage, in order to reduce heating costs, and \$2500 to paint the Community Hall exterior.

In a related matter, Finance Committee Chairman David Howland noted that the Mohawk School appropriation voted at the annual town meeting had been reduced about \$7,000, but that the Committee had not recommended taking any action on the reduction. He explained that forecasts indicated a slight reduction in the tax rate, and that a combination of Proposition 2½ limitations, budget needs for next year, and cash available to meet those needs suggested taking a moderate stance in reducing taxes.

HEATH FAIR - 1981

By Dot Scofield

A record number of people attended and participated in the 1981 Heath Fair. The weather was typically New England - changeable, but did not dampen the spirits of fairgoers. Over \$5600 was paid out in prize money this year. George Dole of Shelburne won the State Award with his farm produce collection.

As we review the Fair's activities, we are ever mindful of the future fairs and areas ready for change. The 1982 Premium Book will have a lot of changes. A committee has already begun to work on several corrections, some additions, and hopefully a better book for next year. So please be sure to read your copy very carefully to avoid any disappointments.

At this year's Fair Dick Tower from Rowe was our official photographer, and he took many wonderful pictures which we hope to display soon. They will also be displayed at next year's Fair.

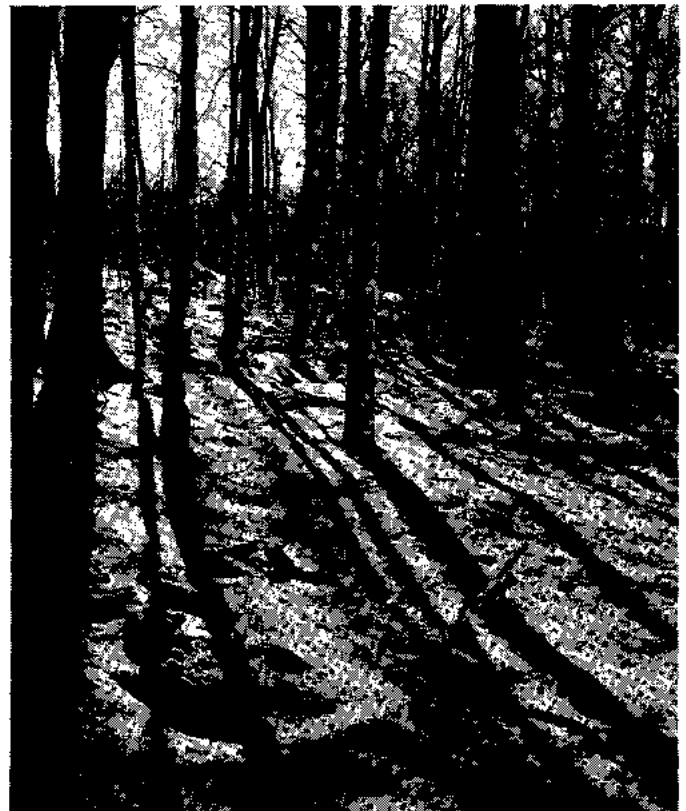
The Heath Agricultural Society meets on the first Tuesday of every month except December and January. So plan to come with any new ideas for consideration. The annual election meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 1981.

HEATH PLAYGROUND UNDERWAY

By Catherine Nichols

This past summer the idea of building a playground in Heath became, if not a reality, at least the goal of a new organization, the Heath Playground Committee. Debbie Porter and John Holdsworth, after studying various playgrounds in books and in the area, came up with a design. A model of the plan was displayed at the Fair. The float in the Fair parade was fun to construct and better yet - won first prize - it must have been all those cute kids.

The next step is getting lumber cut and preparing footings. Progress is slow but the interest in the project is encouraging. If you have any ideas or materials to donate, contact Catherine Nichols at 337-4011.



CONTRASTS IN THE SNOW

This photograph taken by Howard Dickinson won a blue ribbon at the Heath Fair

BILL WOLF IN HEATH

William Wolf, or Bill as he has been known for some forty years in Heath, is the Howard Chandler Robbins Professor at the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, a seminary affiliated with Harvard University and sharing its buildings and faculty with the Jesuit Weston School of Theology. This fall term Bill is on assignment by the Fund for Theological Writing to do a book on The Integration of Ethics and Politics: Abraham Lincoln as Case Study. His project is to try to understand how nearly every political act or policy presupposes some value or values. He wants to describe the clash of values in our pluralistic society and the dilemmas of policy makers and legislators as well as the problems of the citizen both as human being and voter. He finds Lincoln a "gold mine" on these issues and is working through nine volumes of Lincoln's Collected Works.

Bill's argument is that the usual conceptions of ethics as either "the good" (the ideal) or "the right" (duty as "law") are inadequate. What is needed beyond these is concern for the "fitting" action. From this perspective politics is seen as "responsible opportunism". Bill is also trying to decide whether Lincoln's development in morality can be usefully described by Lawrence Kohlberg's Six Stages in every person's development toward moral maturity. If Bill has a good writing day, he can often be seen in late afternoon with his wife, Eleanor, hiking the woods of Heath. Evenings are spent planning and researching for the next day's writing. In his spare time he is also editing a book on spirituality by his colleagues.

HEATH PRECIPITATION

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

August rainfall, 1.81 inches; September, 4.70 inches
Total precipitation from January through September is 34.16 inches. The average annual rainfall for the past 14 years was 51.5 inches. We are still below normal for this year.

HEATH HERALD

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HEATH PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Jennifer Fogel-Songer is working at home on various art projects which include painting in oil, and collage. She is presently painting a portrait of Tina Smith. Also she is expecting to help the Youth Group put on "Arsenic and Old Lace" at the Community Hall later this year. Jennifer will have a leading part in "The Last of the Red Hot Lovers" produced by Theatre '81 during the month of October.

A new book entitled "Growing Food in Solar Greenhouses" by Dolores Wolfe is illustrated by Richards Steinbock. The book is a monthly guide to raising fruits and vegetables indoors and is illustrated on almost every page.

Jean Petkevich is teaching 7th and 8th grade English at the Walnut Hill School in Natick.

Kirk, Debbie and Christopher Pettengill returned from Korea September 5. Kirk has been discharged from the Army and is employed by Green Mountain Security at Yankee Atomic in Rowe.

George Scott is the new caretaker at the Fairgrounds. The Scotts have moved here from New York State.

Helen Mackie has resigned as librarian at Rowe Elementary School effective October 30 and has been the librarian for eight years.

Bill Thane is recuperating at home after surgery on his back at the Mary Hitchcock Hospital in Hanover.

LADIES AID

By Edith Royer

The first meeting of the year of the Ladies Aid will be held October 8 at the Community Hall with ensuing meetings every other week until Christmas. Everyone is welcome and we hope to see new faces.

The Christmas Sale will be on November 7 from 11 AM to 3 PM at the Community Hall. On sale will be fancy articles, toys, quilts and Christmas decorations. Luncheon will also be served.

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FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

By D.F. Howland

Time: 7:30 AM

Date: Friday, September 11, 1981

Place: Walt Gleason's Milk Room

Agenda: Recommendations for articles on warrant for special Town Meeting

Attendance: Walt Gleason and Dave Howland - Bruce Warner at Fire Training Program for Yankee Atomic

Discussion: Money transfers to balance accounts generally OK. Should do something about Fire Dept. money received from state. Probably appropriate it like library money. Money was put in general funds; therefore transfer from free cash to show expenditure.

Reviewed tax projections best we could so that reasonably stable tax rates can be anticipated while improving Stabilization Fund and Reserve.

Reviewed Revenue Sharing expenditures. Not quite sure about Community Hall painting project. Good to weatherize Town Garage. Agreed Revenue Sharing gives Town considerable flexibility in meeting operating costs; therefore gives town lever to stabilize taxes. Runs out in 1984. Don't know if it will be renewed.

Time: 7:50 AM - Dave Howland taken on tour of Milk Parlor and Open Cow Barn. Walt milks 30 cows an hour without help. Cows walk in and out all by themselves - must like it. Darn good system too, efficient.

8:05 AM - Dave Howland calls Alli Thane from Town Hall to talk about Community Hall work. Learns more, so that decision can be made. Leaves recommendations in door jam for Catherine Nichols so she can finish typing warrant to be posted by Monday morning.

8:20 AM - Dave checks back with Walter on final recommendation for Community Hall.

8:25 AM - Walt goes back to chores. Dave goes off to work at Amherst.

Dave Howland thinks as he drives down Burrington Hill with the sun streaming over the view to the south ... good way to get business done ... Heath nice place ... a gem in God's creation....

(to the reader: Please don't think we decided our actions on the warrant in 20 minutes. We spent about four hours before this meeting reviewing tax projections, warrant articles and talking with people.)



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NORTHWARD-HO THE WAGONS!

By Alli Thane

Our own Carroll Stowe has done it again! This time it is a wagon train trail ride from Heath to Halifax Vermont on Saturday, October 10 leaving at 10:30 AM. The Stowe family, Carroll, Peggy, and Diane will lead the way and, so far, these teams will follow; Ken Demers from Clarksburg with two teams, Ted Jones from Pawlet, Richard Osborne of New York State, Jim Lively of Rowe, Ann Carey of Rowe with two teams, the Denouden family of Heath, and with yokes of oxen will be Richard Guilford of Greenfield and Kirk Benson of Colrain. Expected also are several on horseback, and Carroll has stated that there is room for more. So call Carroll at 337-4498 if you are interested in making the trip.

The train will assemble on Sumner-Stetson Road on a field owned by Don Hillman. It will proceed from there north on Rt. 8A past the Finck homestead, through the state forest to Rt. 112, where the animals will be trucked across the open grating of the iron bridge which crossed the North River. Then it will go to Halifax, Vermont to a farm owned by Richard Stowe for a "bean hole bean" supper made from 41 pounds of dry beans. Carroll stated that anyone wishing to play for their supper is welcome, as they would like some square dancing in the evening. Then they will camp for the night there and return to Heath on Sunday by the same route. Carroll would like to make this an annual event and hope others will feel the same.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE NEWS

By Richard Housner, Chairman

At a special meeting August 24 of the Committee, Susan Gruen was elected to replace Richard Housner as Mohawk representative. This switch was necessitated by the appointment of Richard Housner to the Mohawk faculty. He will continue on the School Committee as a Rowe representative.

We welcome Anita Page, the new principal of Rowe School. In the past four years Mrs. Page, under a federal grant, operated as an administrator and teacher with specialties including language arts and programming for the gifted. Joan Benneyen, our former district reading coordinator, has replaced Budge Litchfield in Special Education. Budge is now teaching at Sanderson Academy.

The Committee has received a very positive evaluation of the Title I Math program. Cindy Cole is the Title I tutor at Rowe and the learning material seems to be very stimulating, mirroring the economic realities of life with an emphasis on achievement.

Vocal and instrumental Music, Art, and Physical Education have been taught previously by district specialists. This program has been dropped due to the restraints imposed upon the school budget. These programs were of great value. The Committee is looking into different possibilities for filling this obvious gap. Suggestions by interested persons are enthusiastically encouraged. Phone in ideas, or better, attend our next meeting - Monday, October 12, at 8 PM at Sawyer Hall.

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SALLY AND SAMUEL

By Michael D. Coe

It is easy to be sentimental about the New England past. Looked at through the golden glow of native pride and patriotism, pioneer life in the hill country of northwestern Massachusetts can be viewed as an upland version of "The Little House on the Prairie", complete with log cabins, stalwart axe wielders, and bonneted lasses. But the reality was probably not quite like this: for instance, few if any of the early Heath families ever lived in a log cabin.

Another kind of reality can be seen in the mountain of documents -- deeds, wills, tax records, probate inventories, and so forth -- that exist for the early Heathens. These bear ample witness to the difficult and hardscrabble life that faced all but the most affluent residents of our town. These hills were a hard taskmaster, as I hope to show by focusing on the tribulations of one couple, Sally and Samuel.

Our house in North Heath sits on a hilltop with a fine view toward Colrain and Amherst, and was reached in the old days by a winding dirt road coming up from what is now the Sessions farm on Route 8A. Shortly after we bought the place in early 1970, a search through the deeds in the Franklin County Courthouse revealed that the house -- a simple post-and-beam structure with a central chimney and three fireplaces -- had probably been built for Samuel Kendrick (or Kandrick -- spelling was fairly free in those days). This would have been sometime around 1816 when he bought the property from Artemus Church III. It was obviously the house of a farmer of very modest means.

Four years earlier, Samuel had married Sally Gleason, the oldest of the thirteen children of the great Heath patriarch, Solomon Gleason. He was 33 and she was 22 -- back then, people married later than one might think. It is easy to find hard data on Heath births, marriages, and deaths prior to 1850 for these were published by the New England Genealogical Society in 1915. This volume, like those for other New England towns, is a solid gold mine for the social historian. Let me reluctantly point out but one statistic, however embarrassing it may be: Sally and Samuel were married in November of 1811, but their first child Sophie was born on March 6, 1812. It is clear that Sally took her marriage vows when she was about five months pregnant.

Are you shocked by Sally and Samuel? Well do as I have done, and make the same kind of subtraction between the spouses time of marriage and the birth date of their oldest child for other early residents of any New England town and you will be astonished to find that many a lass was "in the family way" at her marriage in those days. In recent years, historians have shown that throughout oldtime New England, from the earliest Puritan settlements right through the Revolution, the vast majority of brides were pregnant. Those now exhorting our youth to return to the moral values of "the good old days" should beware!

Alan L. Nichols
Wooden Chairs and Tables

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Be that as it may, the Kendricks had three children by the time they moved into their new house, then proceeded to produce four more; without birth control, women bore many children in those days. Sally's reproductive cycle was broken only by Samuel's death, although she was then close to menopause. Poor Samuel was of no great distinction in Heath, never having served as selectman or in any other official capacity. Sally Kendrick is commemorated in the Heath Sesquicentennial book, in which her younger brother Abijah Gleason credits her with saving his life by feeding him trout soup when he was critically ill with typhoid fever.

Samuel passed to his reward on April 2, 1834, when the snow probably still lay in patches on our wind-swept hill. He was then 57. His improvidence is shown by the fact that he died intestate, but because of this there is a fascinating inventory of his possessions at that time. Most of his meager wealth was in real estate -- 43 acres "with the buildings thereon" -- and in his pair of oxen, three cows, and two horses. The only other item of any value was his church pew (a virtual box stall in those times), which was worth \$20. The appraisers went through his humble house room by room. The big old fireplace of the kitchen/dining room had iron and brass kettles, "spiders" (frying pans), and a crane for hanging pots over the fire. There were "9 dining chairs" for the couple and their children; the latter must have slept in a very cold and drafty attic.

Samuel's clothing was pathetic. He had two woolen "coats" (jackets), a vest, and a "great coat" to keep off the winter cold, but only three shirts to his name and, most remarkably, one pair of woolen pants and one pair of boots to cover his nether parts. He was poor indeed! Out of his estate, his administrators had to pay not only court costs, but also the doctor's bill for his last sickness, Ansel Kendrick for his shroud and for digging his grave, Hezekiah Coutts for his coffin. Small wonder that Sally soon petitioned the court as follows (in her own spelling):

To the honorable Judge,

Sir I Pray that you Would allow me my furniture and Wairing apparel of the deceased Samuel Kendrick which amounts to (illegible) I pray that your honour would allow me one horse and one cow and one horse sleigh and hernice that I may have the small comforts of life I pray that your honour would allow me something to form the suport of my family which consists of myselfe and seven children the youngest is 6 year old and my youngest but one is a feble boy Honourable judge if it please your honour to grant your petitioner this

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favour it will be hily pleasing and I would be very thankful to the judge for such a favour

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Samuel had been a subsistence farmer, eking out a bare pittance from the growing of wheat, apples, perhaps flax (there was a loom in the house), and a handful of domestic animals. In these circumstances, there was only one way that Sally and her offspring could survive in such a world. The story is told by two simple, marble tombstones in the Center Cemetery just across from the Fairgrounds. The couple lies side-by-side, but Sally's headstone says: "SALLY wife of Samuel Kendrick & afterward wife of Joseph Chapin. Died Feb. 5, 1859, AE 71 yrs." Before or after she sold the old farm in the year following Samuel's death, Sally had found a new breadwinner and provider. In an age without social welfare programs, immediate remarriage was the only solution.

After all their travails, Sally and Samuel rest in peace.

FROM THE LIBRARY

By Edith Gleason

August and September have passed very quickly in the Library. Story hours were discontinued for the summer, but on request we played video tapes for our younger patrons.

We are always happy to have all come into the Library to browse or to use any of the media. This includes the youngsters, but, please, we cannot babysit. If your tot is not old enough to read, please arrange to have someone older to stay with him or her.

We appreciate the help of Amy Barry, Alli Thane, and John Holdsworth in keeping the Library going while the Librarian was on vacation in September.

Story hours will begin on October 14 from 3 to 4 PM. It is planned for children through third grade. Very small tots will need parents or a sitter. At present we have three volunteers and we could use more to advantage. Let me know if you would like to help and when it would be convenient for you.

Mr. Musacchio has just made a study carrel for the Junior High to High School area. It is a beautiful piece of furniture and uses only half the space as the desk. This contribution is greatly appreciated.

I do not have any book reviews at this time, but new books arrive from time to time. Come in and bring your suggestions, if there is a particular book you would like. I am often surprised at what is possible to obtain.

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IMPROVED TELEPHONE SERVICE ON THE WAY

By N. F. Smith

Many Heath residents noticed the construction of a large concrete pad by the side of South Road near the Center last month and wondered what it was. It turned out that this was the foundation for a telephone Digital Transmitter. Originally planned to be located on the town Community Hall property, it was relocated to the pole right of way area when delays arose in obtaining a permit.

When questioned on what the Digital Transmitter would do for Heath customers, the telephone company spokesman in Northampton, Mr. Pequignot, explained that the present cable which goes along South Road to the Charlemont switching center will be capable of carrying ten times as many phone conversations using the new digital transmission techniques. This means that the same cable which had almost reached its limit of new circuits will now handle many more new customers in that area of Heath, and at the same time improve the quality of service. It is expected the new unit will be in service by the middle of October.

Mr. Pequignot further stated that the telephone company is also working on the installation of new cables and equipment in other areas of the town this year in order to further improve the quality of service. He said that \$400,000 has been allocated for this improvement program in the area.

It appears that Heath can soon expect better telephone service, but not the free calls to Greenfield that Selectman Paul Lively asked for at the Town Meeting.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT

By Paul Lively, Chairman
Heath Board of Selectmen

Highway Dept. We have finally finished with all the red tape concerning state highway projects and the work is proceeding well. The Dell Road project is close to completion except for the blacktopping which will be done in the spring to allow the gravel to settle and pack. On the Avery Brook Road the stumping is done along with some shaping. Because the season is getting late and the town crew has other work to get done before the snow flies, not much more will be done on that road this year.

Roadsides will not be mowed this year because no one was interested in contracting to do the work for the town. As a result, Ray Galipo has been asked to locate for purchase a good used mower so that next year the town can mow its own roads.

Landfill. At a recent hearing in Charlemont the number of days the dump is open was increased from two to three days with the total hours the dump is open remaining the same. Also the three town highway departments worked together to stockpile fill, thereby saving wear and tear on the dump dozer.

Buildings. There is a lot of work to be done before winter on town buildings. Most of the work is to cut down on heating expense. The money is available so it is a matter to get those contractors who have agreed to do certain jobs to get the work done and to get the contracts out for the insulation work at the Town Garage and Community Hall, and for the painting of the Community Hall exterior. Ed Crafts noticed that the chimney on Sawyer Hall has settled three quarters of an inch, which is another problem to be worked on.

PLOVER HILL HOUSE

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

By Harriet C. Read

Plover Hill House has survived many owners and many changes in its 202 years.

Mr. Samuel Gould had lived in several towns before coming to Heath, which was still part of Charlemont. Records show that in 1779 he bought 100 acres across from the Rugg property and "presumably" built the original part of Plover Hill House then. The Gould and Rugg houses were located on a portion of the Colrain Brook Road which, at that time, ran directly in front of Howland's center house and up over Nim's Hill, now known as Plover Hill. The descent down the slope of the hill was very steep, "which accounts for re-routing the road" in 1833 to its present location around the base of the hill.

Since those early days Plover Hill House has been added to and renovated, depending on the needs and/or decorative fancies of the owners. The original house was a very simple farm house with two front rooms over two and a large kitchen in the rear. This part can be distinguished by the wide floor boards used at that time, some of them being over two feet wide, and by the old front door which appears to have survived from early days. Its construction of horizontal boards against vertical boards can be seen on doors in many old New England houses.

By the 1930's there had been additions of a new kitchen off the original one, and several more rooms on the second floor, bathrooms and a wing to the east for a woodshed and a large room over it, known at one time as the "gym". An imposing porch graced the entire front of the building, later to be reduced to a small roofed porch with a sleep-porch sitting on top of it. This grotesque looking top was removed in later years. Clapboarding was replaced by shingles and shutters were removed only to be back much later to clapboarding and shutters again. Through the years the Victorian look had left its mark, along with examples of early American. So it went until now it stands in its dignity and age as an example of many styles of interior and exterior design.



Plover Hill House

FRANKLIN-WARE

— SHELBURNE FALLS —

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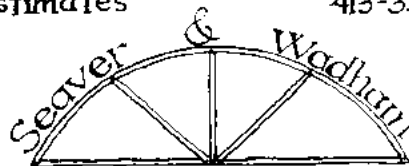
The owners of Plover Hill House, many of whose names do not appear here, have been of varying occupations and interests. The place had been run as a farm for many years. John Williams of Deerfield became owner through a mortgage default but never lived here, renting instead to young Daniel Rugg. At his death, Williams left the house, barn and one acre to the Deerfield Academy. In 1819 the Academy sold to Ansel Kendrick. Later Amos Brooks and his daughters lived here plying their trade as milliners. There followed in the 1870's a Mrs. Algernon Mandrell who might have been responsible for some of the Victorian look. In 1896 the Misses May and Flora White, former residents of Heath, bought Plover Hill House and property, now depleted from the 100 acres to one half an acre. They gave the place its name and added 10½ acres to the property. With successful careers as school teachers they held a summer conference here for kindergarten and primary school teachers, the aim "to a better understanding of the principles and methods of Friedrich Froebel (1782-1852), founder of the kindergarten system". They conducted a boarding school here in the 1920's for summer studies and classes in gymnastics directed by Flora. Pageants were staged on the lawn, including "The Drama of David" and an evening of Chinese entertainment, all highlights of summers in Heath. Mr. Frank E. Carpenter, a New York City businessman born in Heath in the Howland's center house, purchased Plover Hill House in 1932 for a summer home. He and his family have owned the place for 49 years, the longest period of time it has remained in one family.

Down through the years ghosts and poltergeists have been claimed to exist in many an old house; why not one in Plover Hill House? There's an amusing story in connection with this thought. Three boys, ages 9, 10, and 13, were invited, with their mother, to visit here in the 1970's. To give interest to their visit, it was pointed out that because of various incidents, totally inexplicable, one could expect the existence of a poltergeist. That evening the kids could be heard chatting and laughing from all parts of the house. Long after retiring an astonished household was startled by a loud jangling of sleigh bells just outside the front hall bedroom doors. To carry out the prank, a string had been fastened to the bells and run down the back hall to their bedrooms in the rear. This was quite plain. However, the mystery of how they had found the sleigh bells, so carefully packed away in the attic, still remains to this day. When questioned, the boys slyly remarked, "Didn't you say there could be a poltergeist living here?" It's interesting to note that when this writer got to typing this article, the page with the above story had mysteriously disappeared.

An expression of thanks goes to Ed Calver for the material taken from his book Heath Massachusetts.

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PLANNING BOARD REPORT

By John Holdsworth

The problem of where to locate the telephone company transmitter was resolved when the phone company and the Selectmen agreed on a site at the edge of the public right of way on South Road just south of the Community Hall. The phone company was unwilling to apply for a special permit for a more favorable site; this was partly due to the confused state of the Heath zoning bylaws. The Planning Board has made a concerted effort at recent meetings to write the bylaws clearly and unambiguously. Much of the work on the first draft of the revised bylaws will be completed this fall.

The Planning Board held a public hearing on August 3 to consider an application by Al Canali of Dell for a special permit to repair the lower dam on his property on Mill Brook and to install a hydroelectric generator there. The Board was favorably disposed toward the project, but had some questions for Mr. Canali. Unfortunately he was unable to attend the hearing so the Board decided to have Mr. Canali at its regular meeting the following week. All questions were then answered satisfactorily and the special permit was issued on August 10. Public attendance at the meetings was modest.

A bill (House Bill #6877) presently in a committee of the state legislature would, if passed, enable the state to take suitable land anywhere in the Commonwealth for the disposal of low level radioactive wastes. Townspeople are urged to write Senator John W. Olver and Representative Johnathan L. Healy at the Statehouse, Boston, MA 02113, to express their opinions on this bill. Establishment of such a facility could have a very beneficial effect on the taxes of the selected town(s), but the Planning Board is opposed to the bill in its present form. Under the revised Heath zoning bylaws (if the town approves them at town meeting), development of a facility for disposal of any radioactive or hazardous waste will require a special permit.

The Planning Board will discuss Bicentennial planning at the January 1982 meeting. The Heath Bicentennial will occur in 1985. It is better to start giving some thought now to planning for it rather than wait until the last few months.

ASSESSORS REPORT

By Richards Steinbock

Our state-ordered revaluation is proceeding. By the time you read this, we will have met with the representatives of our consulting firm and will have worked out a new land valuation system.

Our new field cards have come back from the printer. These are much more detailed than our old ones and should enable us to further refine our house valuations. We are in the process of transferring information from the old to new cards and organizing our files. When this is done, all homeowners will be mailed a Xerox of the card prior to our on-site visits. This will enable you to get some idea of what we are doing and possibly make it easier and faster for us to view all 200 and some odd houses in town.

As for this year's taxes - the Auditor is anxious that we get the bills out as soon as possible. Rather than delay the bills until our revaluation is complete, we are going to go with last year's valuations. So, assuming the amount to be raised is close to last year's, your taxes should be about the same. Of course, this all depends on whether or not the powers-that-be in Boston allow us to do this.

CHURCH NEWS

By Amy C. Barry

The commitment of the Heath Union Church congregation remains steadfast despite the recent loss of their minister, Rev. Ann Ceer. Rev. George Riggan of Rowe has agreed to take on the duties of interim minister until a new settled minister is selected. His concern for the congregations of both the Heath and Rowe churches is greatly appreciated, particularly his willingness to make home visits to those in need of spiritual comfort.

The Joint Deacons, under the chairmanship of Everett Brown of Rowe, have begun to review the resumes of candidates for the position of minister. So far no candidates have visited the churches or been interviewed but several should be coming to preach and meet with the congregation within the next few months. The joint Deacons will select the candidates who will visit Heath and Rowe, but it is the church membership who will make the final decision. Therefore the Deacons urge members to come and hear the candidates and to talk with them. The responsibility for choosing a suitable pastor rests with all the membership.

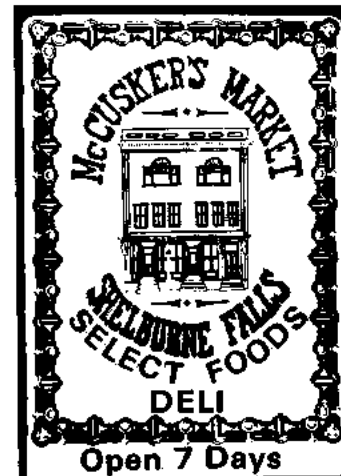
For those parents who have been waiting for the news, Sunday School begins in the Heath Church on October 11. Some of the Sunday School teachers have been attending Bible study classes under the instruction of Rev. Riggan for the past several weeks. Everyone is looking forward to another successful year of Sunday School.

Work on the Parsonage continues. The basement floor has been poured and the window and door casings are being installed. The next project is the selection of linoleum and carpeting. The Heath Church Treasurer, Mrs. Rachel Sumner, reports there is not sufficient money available for work that still needs to be done. Therefore, at the annual church meeting on October 6, the Parsonage Committee will recommend that money be borrowed to complete the Parsonage.

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CRICKETS

By Amy C. Barry

It is an August evening in Heath. Outside the night sounds mingle together and the curtains float noiselessly on the warm summer breeze. Inside, cozily settled on the couch watching television, I become gradually aware of a loud "Chirp!" repeated incessantly at regular intervals. Of course, as soon as I race into the hall and turn on the light, the chirping stops. Cricket hunting, my annual August pastime, has begun for another year.

Whenever I raise the subject of crickets with other people, I get one of two responses. Either people are only vaguely aware that crickets chirp and have never had one in their house, or they react violently with descriptions of their latest mass murder of the little bugs and tales of the awful things crickets do, such as munching on tweed jackets while hiding in the pocket. Nobody I have talked to, however, takes cricket hunting as seriously as I do.

Crickets seem to like our 18th century house with its dirt cellar and numerous hiding places in the walls and floorboards. And their chirping becomes a stereophonic experience as it echoes through our sparsely furnished and high-ceilinged rooms. I do not like being awakened at 3 a.m. by the singing of a little black bug, no matter how much luck it may bring, and so whenever I hear a cricket in my house, I try to find it.

The object of my cricket hunts is to capture the cricket and deposit it outside. Maybe I am sentimental, but I think that crickets are too cute to kill. My favorite and time-proven method of trapping involves a Tupperware container and vacuum-seal lid, a putty knife, and a headlamp like the kind coal miners wear. My husband bought the headlamp in order to have his hands free for night skiing, but I find the intensity of the light excellent for distinguishing little black antennae under a baseboard or in the tiny crack under the stairs. I slide the putty knife into tight spaces to ferret out the cricket and I use the Tupperware container and lid to scoop it up as it scurries from its lair.

In the four years I have been actively hunting crickets I have only injured one. The mishap occurred late one night as I sleepily attempted to extricate a cricket from underneath a baseboard. The cricket was finally captured, but in the morning I realized that I had amputated one of its hind legs in the process.



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Crickets are smart little bugs. Not only do they stop chirping the minute a light goes on, but they seem to know when you are trying to creep up on them, no matter how quiet your sneakers. Crickets can also squeeze into the most impossible places. I have spent much time flat on my stomach with my face pressed to the floor trying to locate a loud "Chirp!". During the course of cricket hunting I become intimately acquainted with every crack and crevice in my house and I discover anew places that have not been dusted in a year.

It is now late September and I have not heard any chirping in two weeks or more. My headlamp is back in the closet and my numerous Tupperware "cricket catchers" have been washed and filled with tomato sauce for the freezer. The silence is still somewhat disconcerting, for this past August was a particularly active cricket season and I averaged five or more captures a week. This year I also began training my little girl in cricket catching. She is very quick at locating crickets and is also acquiring a very specialized wrist movement with her putty knife.

The summer sounds of insects and flowers have given way to the autumn sounds of rustling leaves and departing birds. Tonight I listen to the wind roaring in the chimney and I wonder where the crickets go in the winter.

HEATH COOKBOOK

By Sophie Coe

The Hall Committee of the Heath Agricultural Society is going to put out a cookbook. Profits will go to enlarging the hall prizes not paid by the state. These prizes are for baked goods, home furnishings, and clothing.

Your recipes are needed - for soups, main dishes, salads, candies, and anything else you can think of. Of course, recipes that have won prizes at the Fair (or would win prizes if they could take sitting unrefrigerated for three days) are more than welcome. Bread, rolls, cake, cookie, and pie recipes! Jam recipes! Jelly secrets! Pickles! Recipes starring Heath's own gourmet products - maple syrup and blueberries - would be terrific. If you have any anecdotes about your recipes, please include them.

Please send all recipes to Alli Thane, RFD Charlemont, MA 01339.

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LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE BILL

- Special to the HEATH HERALD -

By Jay Healy, State Representative

As you may already know, a piece of legislation has been filed by the Committee on Energy which, if passed, could have a great effect on the residents of Western Massachusetts. This bill seeks to establish a low level radioactive waste disposal facility in the state. The chances for siting it here in the western part of the state are high because of our low population density. It is my opinion that this bill does not deal adequately with the increasingly serious problem of low level radioactive waste and is ill conceived and an affront to Home Rule. Consequently I will do all that I can to oppose its passage.

Due to the lack of space I will discuss only some of the many reservations I have about the bill. First of all it stipulates that any changes in the zoning ordinances or bylaws of a town adopted after the bill is enacted will not alter the availability of the state or federal land (in said town) for acquisition and siting of a waste facility. This section could have a potentially disastrous impact on the many towns in western Mass. which do not already have zoning laws. It would render them quite helpless to fight such a siting should the powers that be decide that their town is geologically suitable. As this goes to press Greenfield, Charlemont, and Colrain have taken steps to enact protective zoning ordinances.

This lack of respect for local self determination does not end with that section. Once chosen as a "host" community a town will, at most, only be allowed to negotiate the details of the siting. All of the power to choose the community and regulate the standards for the facility lie with the Department of Public Health and to a lesser degree the 'Low Level Radioactive Waste Siting Safety Council'. This 23 member council, 13 of whom will be appointed by the Governor, will be responsible for the monitoring of the waste facility and its selection. They may, if they wish, appoint several residents of the host community to participate in the specific site selection. There will also be a local Assessment Committee, drawn from local government, which will have the power to bargain for benefits from the state and the developers. They will also sign the final binding contract with the development firm, but will have absolutely no right of refusal.

Another reason I do not favor this particular bill is that it makes no provision for the Legislature to take part in either the site selection or the standards to be applied to the developer.

Proponents of the bill say that as New England is the eighth largest producer of low level radioactive waste in the nation, Massachusetts should begin to shoulder some of the burden of disposal. Congress has already decided that each state should take care of its own waste. While this may be true Massachusetts should not shove through such important legislation without extensive legislative and public input.

And the final point must be made that as of now neither the industry that creates it nor the government that regulates it has discovered a truly reliable method of storage or disposal. Industry's apparent unwillingness to handle this situation is hardly beneficial to them or the people they serve. Dealing with radioactive waste materials should be an integral part of the industrial process. And, in no way should the citizens of Western Massachusetts be forced to shoulder this responsibility through such questionable legislation as House Bill 6877.

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

By Chief Earl Gleason

The Fire Department responded to one call in August. A washing machine fire at 3:40 AM on August 17 caused no structural damage to a Number 9 Road home. Three trucks and 13 men responded. Our EMT's were called to an automobile accident on September 12 and on September 21 one truck and nine men responded to the first chimney fire of the season.

The Fire Association ran their booth at the Heath Fair and sold homemade root beer. It was considered quite successful. The First Aid booth manned by the EMT's had no major injuries to contend with.

On September 28 the Western Mass. Fire Wardens held a supper meeting at the Community Hall. It was the first time the Fire Wardens have met in Heath in over 20 years. The Fire Association, headed by Rich Steinbock, put on the ham supper.

On the same evening a special town meeting was held. One of the articles transferred funds received from the federal government to the Fire Department's last year budget. This is administered by the Mass. Dept. of Natural Resources and is a matching fund used to purchase equipment by the Fire Dept.

The Fire Dept. will hold a Ladies Night at the Community Hall on October 17. A turkey dinner will be served and an entertainment is being planned.

Another event being planned at this time is our annual chimney cleaning project.

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MILESTONES

Diane May was born to Deborah and Gregory Babineau on September 30.

Kevin Pettengill was married to Joan Ann Snow on September 3 in Sumter, S.C. They are both in the U.S. Air Force. Kevin is the son of Terry and Raymond Pettengill.

Janice Boudreau and Paul Turnbull were married in the Heath Church on August 29.

Cynthia Cromack, daughter of Catherine and Bruce Cromack, was married on August 8 to Allan Smith, son of Caroline and John Smith of Hopkinton, MA. They were married in the Heath Church by Rev. Ann Geer followed by a reception at the bride's home. Guests came from many states.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilburt Rainville Sr. celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on September 28 with an open house. A large number of friends attended.

Frederic D. H. Gilbert of Briarcliff Manor, N.Y. died on August 2. Fred was the son of Bishop Charles K. Gilbert and was a summer resident of Dell in Heath for many years. He leaves his wife, the former Martha E. Smith and a daughter Elizabeth and a son Charles.

TOWN OFFICE HOURS

(At Town Hall unless otherwise noted)

Selectmen: Mondays 8 PM

Assessors: Mondays 8 PM

Finance Committee: As announced

Town Clerk and Treasurer:

Mondays 8:30 AM - 12 Noon & 7-10 PM

Wednesdays and Thursdays 8:30 AM-12:30 PM

Planning Board: 2nd Monday of month 8 PM

Tax Collector: (at Sheila Litchfield's residence in Dell)

Mondays and Wednesdays 9 AM - 12 Noon
also by appointment 337-4957

Heath School Committee: 2nd Tuesday of month 8 PM

Library Trustees: 1st Monday of month 7 PM

Library: Mondays 7-9 PM Wednesdays 1-5 PM
Saturdays 1-5 PM

Dump: Mondays 10 AM - 2 PM Wednesdays 1-7 PM
Saturdays 9 AM - 5 PM

(Hours subject to change after standard time goes in to effect October 31)

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HEATH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

There have been a number of important activities of the Society over the past two months. A work bee was held at the Center Cemetery in August where 12 members participated in cleaning, straightening gravestones, and cutting brush. This was followed with a lunch provided by Don Conlan.

At the Fort Shirley site the replica of the original Ann Norton gravestone has been set in cement at the grave by Bill Wolf. A path from the road in to the site was cleared by Scott Guddel. A general brush cutting and clearing around the site of the old fort is to be done by Carroll Stowe and Bernard Denouden, and possibly a community project by the Boy Scouts.

The Society exhibit won a blue ribbon at the Heath Fair in the Organizational Class. This was a genealogical chart of some of the older families of Heath prepared by Curator Amy Barry. The booth operated by the Society on the midway at the Fair was very successful in earning additional funds.

It was expected that the restored flag of the old Heath Rifle Company would be available for display this month. However, a last minute check with the Textile Institute in North Andover indicated that the wooden frame for the flag has still not been completed.

At a meeting of the Directors in September, a number of items were discussed and approved: the scraping and painting of the ceiling of the Schoolhouse, a workbee to touch up a peeling area on the outside of the Schoolhouse, the installation of an electric outlet in the Old Town House for a desk lamp and vacuum cleaner use, a revision of the museum acquisition policy, a proposal of Bernard Denouden to preserve old farm equipment, the setting up of a committee to plan for the Heath Bicentennial in 1985, long range planning for the program development committee.

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