

VOLUME 4 NUMBER 3

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 1982

# HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER 25¢

## THE ROAD

by Marcella R. Lively

Ever since I was a young girl, I always wanted to live in the country and my dreams came true. Over twenty-one years ago I came to live on Number Nine Road, after my marriage to Paul. The Road has changed a lot since that time. These are my thoughts on that change, and how I feel about it now!

From the end of our upper driveway, down to Route 8A, it was a paved road, much narrower with quite a dip down where the brook passes under. Two huge maple trees were firmly rooted in the road-side bank in front of our house, with a nice set of cement steps leading down to the road in front of Peters' store.

The road to the north was a different story. It was a beautiful country dirt road, just like the ones in my dreams. I would take morning and evening walks on it, and loved the feel of it under my feet. At night the quiet was almost deafening, except for the chirp of night noises - a real blessing!

I can remember back to that time when a car or truck would occasionally pass by in the night, in an unhurried manner, seemingly ignoring the passing hands of the clock.

The bliss lasted about a year, after which the road would change forever. Soon they came, the men with their power saws, trucks and bulldozers. They attacked my two stately maple trees the first thing. In the twinkling of an eye, in relation to their lifetime, they lay like fallen soldiers, their severed trunks waiting to be cut up and hauled away. My beautiful cement steps were the next to go, torn from their foundation so the road could be widened. I felt anger and frustration but I was told 'progress' had to come.

The sides of my road had to be gouged out so it could be widened all the way to Liese's Corner. My dear neighbors, the Porters, and I were in sympathy as they lost a goodly portion of their front lawn. But we all know 'progress' has to come!

I still took walks on the road with my young sons though with a heavy heart, hoping they would remember the road in its country dignity before it became a highway. The progress could be seen as they went further north tearing down trees, ripping out greenery, and gouging its sides. Day by day it went on.

Finally the trucks with fill, the graders, and tar trucks came to finish the job. For days the pungent smell of tar filled the air as it was poured on the road, imprisoning it in its hard, fast grip. I was utterly saddened.

( continued on page 2 )

## BURNT HILL BLUEBERRIES

by John Read

August is blueberry month in Heath. Robert Tripp and Jack Cable both operate successful businesses in blueberries on the extensive acreage on Burnt Hill.

Cable started his business in 1966, whereas Tripp has been in production for over 25 years. They both grow blueberries on 100 plus acres from which the yield for each is approximately 20 tons.

Mechanical pickers are used by Tripp and Cable when field conditions are just right. But mostly the berries are picked with a scoop by a group of teenagers from Heath and surrounding towns. By skillful use of the scoop, one can fill a 20 pound box in less than 20 minutes. The pickers are paid by the box, so their earning depend on their expertise.

A pickup truckload of boxes is transported from the fields to the sorting house about every two hours. The boxes are unloaded onto a dolly and wheeled to a conveyor where a young man empties a box at a time into the hopper. Nimble fingered girls on each side of the conveyor belt cull out the rejects as blueberries roll before them into a packing box. All workers get periodic rest breaks and seem to enjoy earning their own money.

The majority of the 20 pound cartons of blueberries are trucked to baking supply houses or other outlets in Springfield. However, Jack Cable transports about a third of his crop to the Congregational Church in Goshen, Connecticut where they are used in bake goods sold by the church. (cont'd p.3)

Sorting Blueberries

## THE ROAD (continued)

Progress finally arrived with one more insult to the road, in the form of a silver fence strung along its side, taking away the last vestige of a true country road. The southern part of the road was done over in the same manner down to Route 8A followed later by the upper part from Leise's Corner to the Vermont line.

I am sure the Newmans, the Livelys and others on the road shared my feelings as the true character of the road disappeared, replaced by a very efficient, streamlined raceway of a road. Of course the road cannot speak, but I always imagined that if it could it would have screamed "Let me be as I was."

Only we who live on the road can think and reason. Reason dictates that the new Number Nine Road is much safer now, easier to care for, and allows us to go more quickly from here to there. That may be so. Also we need not be concerned with the mud season, which slowed us even more, but is high technology and speed the answer? I think not! Just watch the daily news reports on TV, listen to the radio and read the newspapers. There is something to be said in those reports.

I believe we should slow down, at least in our minds, and reflect on the beauty around us for we are all part of God's wonderful creation. As long as I know this I can accept anything that follows, including progress.

## HEATH PRECIPITATION

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

Precipitation in June was 9.86 inches; May precipitation was 2.71 inches. Total precipitation this year to August 1 has been 32.25 inches. Not since 1968 have we had a wetter June. Vacationers and farmers were glad to see dryer weather in July.

## HEATH HERALD

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Editorial Staff	Pegge Howland Caroline Smith Alli Thane
Staff Reporters	Edith Royer Amy Barry
Advertising and Business Circulation Typography	John Read Terry Pettengill Newland Smith
Photographs in this issue	Grace Landstrom John Read

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## HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

This year's annual meeting of the Heath Historical Society on August 7 was preceeded with a potluck supper in the Community Hall. Edith Royer headed a committee organizing the supper. Members and guests enjoyed the social innovation as well as the good food.

After supper a tour of the Strong-Maxwell house in the Center (now owned by the Craig Barrys) was made and also the two museums. In the Schoolhouse Museum a new display case, made and donated by Dominic Musacchio, showed off well two old guns recently cleaned and oiled by David Thane.

The annual meeting began at 8 o'clock with an interesting lecture by Prof. Jytte Muus who spoke on the connections between Heath and South Hadley in respect to the Joseph Strong - Woodbridge families. Prof. Muus, a retired professor from Mt. Holyoke College and Curator of the South Hadley Historical Society, has done extensive research on the Woodbridge families.

The usual business meeting followed with the election of new officers. Ruth Law was elected President replacing John Read; David Howland replaces Vice-President Sophie Coe; Craig Barry as Treasurer replaces Teresa Peters; Beverly Denouden was elected Secretary replacing Alli Thane; and Dominic Musacchio was elected a Director replacing Elizabeth Eldridge.

## HISTORICAL BAZAAR A SUCCESS

by Caroline Smith

A raffle on a cake and merry-go-round rides were big attractions at the fifth annual Historical Society Bazaar on July 3. The weather lived up to past years, maybe a bit cooler and more pleasant.

Chances were sold on a beautifully decorated cake made and donated by Mrs. Heist of Charlemont. At a first drawing, Mrs. Soule of Rowe, the winner declined as she had just enjoyed a birthday cake made by Mrs. Heist. So a second drawing was made with Clyde Churchill the winner.

The merry-go-round seemed hypnotic to the children as they clamored for ride after ride and John Churchill was kept busy keeping it going around with his small tractor. It amazed everyone that such a simple old-fashioned amusement would find so many riders. The merry-go-round was built by Wilbert Rainville 40 years ago and was given to the Heath Agricultural Society about 1950. Ralph Sumner ran it when the Fair was held in the Dickinsons' oak grove and it will be going 'round again at the Fair this year.

Dolly Churchill was in charge of a successful flea market. The Society's own table had many helpers and a tremendous amount of donated "white elephants."

Over a hundred visitors enjoyed the two Museums, with exhibits arranged by Curator Amy Barry. The highlights were the framed Heath Rifle Co. Flag and a 19th century party dress donated by Helen Nichols worn on a doll loaned by Sue Churchill Ryan.

If you missed the Bazaar this year, be sure to plan on it next year!

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## BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

by Paul Lively, Chairman

At our annual town meeting there was some discussion on the legality of appropriating bicentennial money three years in advance. We thank Ed Calver for looking into the law. It provides that a town may appropriate money annually during the five years preceeding the anniversary. Thus the Committee has the use of the \$1000 appropriated at the town meeting. The law provides that the money be managed as follows: The town will have the money in a special fund along with any money received from the sale of commemorative items, or from admission charges to commemorative ceremonies or events. The money is kept separate from other town money, and interest from such money is also available for the celebration. By a majority vote of the Bicentennial Committee, money from the special fund may be expended for the celebration in the year of the celebration, in the year prior to and following the celebration. Any surplus remaining in the special fund after the celebration shall be transferred into town treasury.

At a recent special town meeting it was voted to give the Bicentennial Committee the authority to organize the bicentennial festivities and that the presentation of same will be their report to the town. This does not mean that we are going to do the job alone. We have invited suggestions from the people and so far have had a good response in the suggestion boxes. A sample of some received so far include: cross country ski race, bicentennial cane presented to oldest town member, hot air balloon festival and sky diving show, antique auto show events, pig roast attended using mode of transportation and dress of 200 years ago.

Individuals, other than Committee members, with an interest and expertise for a particular type of event will be given the responsibility to organize and present that event. We will be in communication with all town organizations so that each will have the opportunity to participate in the bicentennial celebration.

## CHURCH NEWS

by Amy Barry

July was a very busy month for the Heath Union Church. On Sunday July 4 our new minister, Mrs. Lynn Dooley, preached her first sermon to a large and enthusiastic congregation. Mrs. Dooley and her husband, David, are now settled at the newly completed parsonage. Mrs. Dooley has announced that she will hold office hours at the Parsonage on Tuesday mornings from 9 to 12, and at the Rowe Parish House on Wednesday afternoons from 12 to 3.

In July the Heath Church not only welcomed Mrs. Dooley but also said good-bye to Miss Barbara Davenport, our talented and dedicated organist. We have appreciated her beautiful music and congratulate her on her upcoming marriage.

Ham suppers organized by the church members were held in June and July. These cleared about \$500 for the Parsonage Fund. Our most recent money raising project was the Church Auction held August 7 at the Fairgrounds. A wide variety of articles was sold and we are grateful to all those who contributed to make the auction a success.

Looking ahead in August, the traditional Heath Fair church service will be held at the Fairgrounds at 9:30 AM on August 21. This will be a joint Heath and Rowe service. All are welcome to attend.

## HOLLYHOCKS

by Flora White

(This is taken from the book Poems by Mary A. White and Flora White published in 1939. The White sisters lived at Plover Hill in Heath for many years, and this poem no doubt was inspired by the many plants that still grow in the same garden there. Their tall and sturdy stems with blossoms of many colors still inspire the beholder. . . . contributed by Harriet Read)

Low-hung window, woodbine-wreath,  
And a plot of ground beneath  
Crowded full of hollyhocks.  
Broad-leaved bases, straightly shafted,  
Banners floating, sunbeams dancing,  
Joyous blossoms wide expanding,  
Who shall ever know the soul  
Of you, brave hollyhocks?  
Eager-hearted, upward straining,  
Pushing through the blue -  
Poised so lightly, shining brightly  
What is this lives in you?  
When the storm comes driving sharply,  
I can see you bending low,  
Not resisting, but persisting  
In the path you've meant to go.  
She, the fairest and the tallest,  
Ruby-red of reddest wine,  
Flaming cheeks and lips betraying  
Warmest love that calls to mine;  
She that strove above the others,  
She that kissed my window-sill,  
Storm-caught, stricken, lies before me -  
Spirit free, of gallant will -  
Can she take humiliation?  
Take defeat and overthrow?  
Weep for station - reputation -  
Cling to earth and stay below?  
Bit by bit I've watched her rising,  
Straining through the blue -  
Bit by bitter colors, glancing, open into view.  
Till like steepled song she stands there -  
Cuts my casement clean in two,  
Stirs my heart with speechless challenge -  
"Here's a cross I've built for you"

## BLUEBERRIES (continued)

Both places of business will sell to anyone who takes the scenic drive up Burnt Hill. Cable also lets one "pick their own."

In the fall, the blueberry fields are covered with straw spread by a crew of teenagers. In the spring, the fields are burned off under controlled firelines which kills the weeds and underbrush but not the berry plants. Cable also fertilizes and irrigates his fields.

Yes, August is blueberry month in Heath, so be sure to enjoy some of this year's luscious crop.

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## THE TOWN FARM

### Later known as Overbrook Farm

by Grace E. Landstrom

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

We have not been able to find the exact date when this house was built but old town records of Heath state that Ashel Thayer, who owned a farm a few miles north of this farm, took it over in 1779. It is not known whether he or someone else built the house, but some of the Thayer family lived here until the Town of Heath bought it in 1853.

At this time there were so many poor people who were without money and could not care for themselves that the town voted to buy this house and keep all of these people under one roof. Once established the town farm averaged 18 residents. A farmer was hired to look after the paupers, as they were called. If any of them were able to work, they were obliged to help in the house as well as on the farm. Nearly everything was produced on the farm; meat, eggs, vegetables, fruits, wool for clothing, maple syrup, as well as fuel for cooking and heat. It must have been a busy life for all who lived there. Cutting wood for six fireplaces and a brick oven for cooking and warmth must have taken many working hours.

There are ten rooms in the main house and probably there were at least two in the ell. The original ell ran to the west with a woodshed and chicken house. The well for water was a few feet below the main house to the west. Now water comes from a spring about one half mile away with a storage tank in the attic. It provides plenty of water even for the demands of modern day living. One wonders how often the paupers took baths when water had to be pumped by the old hand pump and heated in front of a fire place.

The number of paupers declined over the years and the records show the town voted in 1896 to sell the town farm. It was rented to several different farmers to 1906 when Miss Ethel Paine bought the farm and hired a farmer to care for her place, The Manse, and to live on and care for this farm. She called it Overbrook Farm as a brook runs between the two places.

Miss Paine made many changes in the house. She removed the west ell and added one to the south adding a woodshed and carriage house, and later a grain room and milk room. This joined the main house to the remodeled barn and enabled one to avoid the cold winter weather outside, which was a real asset indeed.

In 1911, Victor Landstrom from Waltham, who had worked on Miss Paine's father's estate, came to be her farmer. He and his family arrived by train in Charlemont and were picked up by a Heath farmer with a two seated wagon drawn by two horses. The two younger children, aged eleven and thirteen, were excited by the long climb up the steep Harris Mountain Road, but were even more ecstatic when they reached the farm with the long open fields and big house and barn. The house was empty of furniture as theirs had not yet arrived by train. However, they were soon able to enjoy the place as a real home and lived in it until 1921.

Mr. and Mrs. Landstrom decided to return to their home in Waltham as their five children were grown and away from home, so Miss Paine, who was now married to John F. Moors, asked Oscar, a son of the Landstroms who had been a student at Mass. Agricultural College (now Stockbridge), to stay and become her farmer to care for the Manse and run both farms. Oscar was to provide their summer home with butter, eggs, fruits and vegetables and to keep the lawns mowed and the flower gardens cared for. As it was before automobiles, horses were to be kept for riding, driving and to get the mail at the postoffice three miles away.

Oscar decided to stay and later married a local girl, Grace Gleason, and they lived many happy years in the old house. They had three daughters but no sons so had to hire extra help for the farm work. A hired man was kept all year with extra help in the summer months.

There have been many changes in the house by the numerous dwellers but the six fireplaces and brick oven remain intact. Most of the rooms in the main part of the house have the wide floor boards, many fifteen or sixteen inches wide. These had multiple coats of paint which are being removed to reveal the beauty of the old wood. The big chimney with three fireplaces and brick oven downstairs and one fireplace upstairs was rebuilt from the roof up a few years ago. The second chimney with two fireplaces is still in excellent condition. About 40 years ago a new chimney was built to provide a flue for a furnace. The furnace was originally in the old kitchen fireplace flue, but after a chimney fire that burned all night it was decided this was not a wise idea.

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In 1953 the youngest daughter of Oscar and Grace came home with her husband to help, as her father had a heart attack and could not do the heavy work. They stayed on and in 1960 purchased the farm. This was Robert and Ruth Law and they had three boys and one girl. They planned to build a house but it was decided this was not necessary with the size of this house. So they raised the roof on the ell to provide a kitchen upstairs. This made five rooms and a bath upstairs as well as down. The arrangement prevailed until the death of Oscar in 1960 when the grandmother, Grace Landstrom, moved upstairs and the young family down. She has lived sixty-one years in this old house.

There was a beautiful old maple tree in the front of the house which gave shade to the house and always held a swing for the children. The hurricanes of 1938 and 1945 each took a large limb. So two years ago the remaining part had to be taken down as a severe northeast storm might have sent it into the house. It must have been there when the house was built, as it has been estimated by the rings on the stump to be over 300 years old.

We have always been thankful to the builders of the house for its grace and for its beautiful location. The house faces the east and gives a wonderful view of the Shelburne and Greenfield hills as well as beautiful sunrises. To the west, until the pines took over, we could see Mt. Greylock from the kitchen windows. We still enjoy the Hawley, Savoy and Cummington hills and the pines protect the house from the west winds.

If the house could talk, it would tell of the many people who enjoyed living here and the many guests who came, for there was always room for visitors and family parties.

(Thanks are due to Edward Calver for providing copies of the old town records as well as his History of Heath)



The Old Town Farm in 1920



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## TOWN FARM REGULATIONS

The following is taken from the town records of Heath, April 4, 1853.

Voted to adopt the following bylaws as presented by the Selectmen for the Government of the Paupers at the Poor House:

### Bylaws

For the regulation of the Poor House in Heath

- 1st All inmates of this house shall be required to take their meals at the table at the regular meal time or not to have them unless prevented by sickness.
- 2nd All are requested to attend respectfully and reverently the religious devotions of the family when not prevented by sickness.
- 3rd The Sabbath shall be observed repairing from all unnecessary labor and recreation inconsistent with the sanctity of the day.
- 4th The use of any obscene or profane language will be regarded as an offense deserving of special reproof and reprehension.
- 5th All persons able to work shall be diligently employed as required by the revised Statutes, Chap. 16th Sec. 21th which is as follows: Every person committed to any work house shall if able to work, be kept diligently in labor during the term of his commitment and in case he shall be idle and not perform such responsible task or stint as may be assigned or shall be stubborn and disorderly shall be punished according to the orders and regulations established by the directors of such house.
- 6th The punishment to be inflicted for disobedience as described in the above section shall be solitary confinement and to have but bread and water.
- 7th No person shall be allowed to get up or to be out later than half past nine o'clock and after retiring all lights shall be extinguished in the house unless required on account of sickness.
- 8th All shall keep their persons clean and wholesome, reasonable washing and regular change of their under clothes and shall carefully avoid all practices that defile the house such as spitting on the floor or the stoves or any of the furniture of the house.
- 9th All shall be bound to treat the principal of the house and each other courteously and kindly to refrain from all conversation adapted to produce discontent and strife, to promote cheerfulness and good feeling in the family, it being understood that if they are not treated kindly by the principal of the house their complaint is to be made to the overseers of the poor by whose authority they are provided for.
- 10th To prevent all ground of complaint by those who had property when they came upon the town it is understood that such property is entirely at the disposal of the overseer of the poor and may be used or sold as they may judge best.

Benjamin A. Farnsworth, David Gould, J.T. White:  
overseers of the poor

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## HEATH FAIR TO HAVE MANY EVENTS

by Barbara Smith

The time is here for the 65th Annual Heath Fair, August 20, 21, and 22. With so many things to do and see there should be something for everyone.

On Friday, August 20, the Fairgrounds will be open from 1 to 10 PM. The opening attraction will be the third annual Tractor Pulling Contest sponsored by the New Hampshire Tractor Pullers Assoc. Eric Goodchild and his bagpipes will be playing from 1 to 4 PM and, for the country western fans, the Country Classics band will be playing from 7 to 10 PM.

On Saturday the gates will be open from 8:30 AM until midnight. The first event of the day is the horse drawing which starts at 11 AM. In the morning the exhibit hall will be closed until the judging is completed. Then the doors will be open for the public's inspection.

At noon a chicken barbecue starts followed by an afternoon wood chopping demonstration and cattle judging. The Swinging Sweethearts of Shelburne Falls will show their steps from 6 to 8 PM followed by Elli Maes Country Sounds band from 8 to 10 PM. For those who would like to try what you learned from the Swinging Sweethearts, come to the square dance at the Community Hall from 8 until midnight featuring the Old Thymers band.

On Sunday the gates will be open from 9 AM until 8 PM. Starting out Sunday morning there will be a church service held in the pulling arena at 9:30. At 11 AM the ox draw will begin. The Fair Parade starts at 1:30 PM followed by the New Sounds polka band playing from 2 to 5 PM. Other events of the day include the exhibits, forestry events and an ox parade.

If you find these events don't fill your time, there are always the flea markets to visit, the concessions, or something to eat from the food booth.

Come to the Heath Fair - have fun and enjoy!

### LEON N. PETERS

1895 - 1982

Leon N. Peters, long of Peters' Store, Number Nine Road, died July 8, 1982 and was buried on what would have been his eighty-seventh birthday, July 8, 1982. Having worked for the Kendall Mills and the Heath Highway Department, he retired about 1960 and devoted full time to the family store. Present day Heath people came to know him there.

He was a member of Heath's French-Canadian community, having emigrated from Sherbrooke, Canada, to Shelburne Falls where he developed his legendary devotion to fishing. After a tour of Army duty in World War I, he married Phillipine Lively in 1923. The couple remained in Heath until 1974. The two of them certainly embodied the spirit of enterprise and hard work that has marked the French-Canadian population of New England. In addition to his jobs, Mr. Peters undertook potato trucking and raised small animals to be sold to medical research laboratories. Mrs. Peters, while mothering thirteen children, also managed the store on Number Nine Road, which became one of Heath's central institutions. The HERALD salutes them both: Leon N. Peters, buried in Branch Cemetery, Colrain, and Phillipine Peters, now residing in the Hillside Nursing Home, Deerfield.

... John Porter

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE NEWS

By Richard Housner, Chairman

Although it is summer vacation our school district has been quite busy. The transportation package has been settled, and the Heath School Dept. will pay \$114.71 per day. This rate should keep us well within our budget. The 1981-1982 expenses, when finally figured, resulted in a considerable saving over budget. In pupil transportation \$1000 was left. Rowe tuition was adjusted giving us \$6900. In special education \$700 remained in the account. In summary \$8600 was unspent and will go back into the town's coffers.

Two new teachers have been hired by Rowe School. Paula Parsons will replace Johanna Weinstein for the 1982-1983 school year. Paula has six years teaching experience and will teach a combined 2nd - 3rd grade class. Leonard Schoenfeld will replace Bob Gruen in grades five and six. Leonard has taught at the Hunter College elementary school for seven years. Most recently he was teaching a fifth-sixth grade class at Wildwood School in Amherst.

The Heath School Committee is actively searching for a replacement for one of its members. Anyone interested in joining the Committee must be willing to serve as Mohawk representative. If interested, contact Richard Housner. The next meeting of the School Committee is on Monday September 13, at Sawyer Hall, 7:30 PM.

Phil Dzialo is leaving his former post as Special Education Director to become Principal at Mohawk. Phil also attended our meetings in Heath as administrative liaison. In his former capacity he will be missed and we wish him success in his new endeavor.

## PLAYGROUND UPDATE

by Catherine Nichols

We are pleased with the results of our recent mailing and newspaper stories. To date \$217.87 have been received plus a picnic table. Many wishes for success were also received. We thank all of the generous donors.

The lumber is on order for the first project - a large sandbox. This should be completed by Fairtime. There will be a meeting on Thursday, August 12, 8 PM at the Nichols home to plan work bees. Anyone interested is welcome.

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## FLOWER GARDENING IN HEATH

By Pat Leuchtman

Every Thursday in July found the dust rising thick on Hosmer Road as 32 people drove to Elsa Bakalar's to be instructed in the fine points of perennial gardening. As part of a summer program at Greenfield Community College, Elsa's workshop attracted a variety of gardeners from Greenfield and the West County. Men as well as women participated and skilled gardeners and novices alike found the sessions enjoyable and informative.

The emphasis of the workshop was how to keep a perennial garden blooming from May through October by advance planning and regular maintenance.

Many new gardeners have difficulty in designing a border because they are familiar with only a few varieties of flowers. Through tours of Elsa's gardens and by viewing slides, participants were able to gain this familiarity with many plants.

After discussing the considerations to keep in mind while choosing a proper site, Elsa gave a fairly formal lecture on the qualities of a plant to examine before planting it in your garden. What shape (silhouette) will it take when mature? What is the leaf texture and how long will the foliage last? When will the plant bloom and what is its color? You don't want to have clashing colors blooming next to each other at the same time. How and where will the plant spread, and will it be easily movable as the garden changes and takes a different shape? Finally, gardeners need to be aware of the disease proneness or resistance of different flowers and of their special needs.

After all these questions have been answered to the gardener's satisfaction and choices have been made and planted, more questions arise. How should the plant be pruned and shaped? How can repeated bloom be insured? Elsa says there is no substitute for close observation. She advises that spent flowers be cut daily and that the gardener look closely for leaf buds at axils to promote healthy development of the plant and new bloom. She reminds her students that plants bloom in order to reproduce, not to please the gardener. Keep the plant watered and fertilized and you will be rewarded with vigorous and healthy growth and bloom.

The workshop included lots of practical work in Elsa's garden, discussion of many topics, and each student was given the opportunity to design a perennial border or island bed that could be planted in their yard or in their imagination.

## FORESTRY MEETING

by Terry Pettengill

Dr. Alan Page of Green Diamond Forestry spoke on several aspects of forestry management to an interested group at the Heath Community Hall on June 25.

Dr. Page's talk included proper management to enhance a forestry investment, forestry management under Chapter 61, and possible benefits that towns may realize with appreciable amounts of land under Chapter 61, if proper management is carried out.

Many questions were presented and, for the most part, satisfactorily answered by Dr. Page.

The meeting was interesting and informative and Dr. Page's enthusiasm and descriptions certainly gave food for thought. The meeting was concluded with the serving of refreshments.

## FROM THE LIBRARY

by Edith Gleason

When you think of your library in your home town of course your thoughts first are of books, magazines, story hours, perhaps records and cassettes and games and puzzles.

We are fortunate, I am told, to have a good selection of all of these but, even though we are one of the smallest libraries in the state, we can now offer you more than these.

Included now in our collection are "large print" books for people who have difficulty reading conventional print. At regular intervals we augment these with more books from the Bookmobile. If there is a special need between Bookmobile visits, we can get titles by mail or inter library loan.

But this is not all that our small library can offer. Recently we implemented the loan of a "talking book" for one of our patrons. This consists of a special low speed tape player giving longer playing time than a standard tape. This can give the patron access to literally hundreds of titles from which to choose. Fortunately all this is as simple as borrowing a book from the library, and often means only a telephone call to your library. The special tape is then obtained from the regional library or by an inter library loan. Normally these loans are received within a few days.

If you or a relative or friend cannot read ordinary print, these services are worth looking into. The first thing to do is to contact me for more information.

Another service is home delivery of books to the shut-in. This is a volunteer service. One can borrow books or other media for delivery to a shut-in and, after a reasonable time, return them or exchange them for new ones. We have one person doing this for a relative now. Why not do a friend or relative a favor? It takes only a small part of your time and could make someone very happy.

The latest new books are: Eden Burning, Belva Plain; Man from St. Petersburg, Kenneth Follett, An Important Family, Dorothy Eden; Dinner at Home-sick Restaurant, Anne Tyler; Family Trade, James Carroll; Happy Hollisters and the Ice Carnival Mystery, Jerry West (Juvenile).

## LANDSTROMS HOLD REUNION

Three guests and ninety descendants of Victor and Jacob Landstrom met at the home of Bruce and Catherine Cromack on Sunday, August 1. Guests came from all New England states except Rhode Island.

Grace Landstrom was the oldest family member present and Daina Davenport was the youngest.

Catherine Cromack was elected chairman and secretary. It was voted to meet again at the Cromacks on the second Sunday in July, 1984.

A great deal of study has been done and a genealogy is being printed.

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## FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

by D.F. Howland, Chairman

There is good news and some not-so-good news. The good news is that the "Cherry Sheets" have arrived from the state, earlier than usual. They reflect about a \$2500 increase in local aid. Most of it, about \$1600, is for school transportation costs. We had some apprehension that the aid might be less because of the pressure from large cities for more help, but the legislature came through with about 10% more direct aid to help them out. Some other good news is that the state has granted Heath a one time allotment of \$7900 for general highway work. This is an entitlement program; the town simply has to apply for the money. This will help our limited highway budget considerably.

The not-so-good news is that while the town should have a surplus (free cash) of about \$9000 from over-ages in accounts, tax collections are still not producing the cash flow we need. It is possible that such surplus will be lost because of that situation. However, we hope that by late this fall collections will catch up and we will have some free cash. More about that in the next issue.

Other news is that we regret losing Bruce Warner from the Committee. Bruce moved from Heath and therefore had to resign. We appreciate his efforts. The Selectmen and Finance Committee met and voted Linda Marcotte of Burnt Hill Road to fill the vacancy until the next annual town election. Linda is a graduate of Holyoke Community College with a degree in accounting and is employed at Mount Holyoke College. We welcome Linda.

## LADIES AID

by Edith C. Royer

The Heath Ladies Aid held their last meeting of the season July 22 and held a very successful Fair and Sale on July 28. Even with a pouring rain, which did more good than we could, a large crowd attended. The sale made \$575 and the supper made about \$300 for the parsonage fund. Our next sewing meeting is September 23 and we would like to see more people interested in attending.

Thanks are extended to everyone who helped to make this sale a success.



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## PLANNING BOARD REPORT

By John Holdsworth

For the past four years, with some interruptions, the Planning Board has been rewriting, adding to, and editing the town zoning bylaws. The job appears to be done. A public hearing, scheduled for August 5, will have occurred before this paper is published. This hearing will be the first public presentation of the proposed new bylaws. After the hearing, the Planning Board has six months to consider any recommendations for changes and to bring the bylaws before a special town meeting. If the town does not vote to adopt the bylaws within the six months, a new hearing must be held. Zoning bylaws must be approved by two-thirds of the town meeting members in order to be accepted by the town.

After considerable revision of the bylaws, the Planning Board consulted the Franklin County Planning Dept. for assistance and suggestions. The FCPD responded by pointing out some inconsistencies and by suggesting some additions required by law, and a number of definitions. The Heath Board made further changes, not always exactly following the recommendations, and after several episodes of suggestion and revision felt that a finished set of zoning bylaws had emerged.

The FCPD was seen as a valuable source of assistance because of their experience with the Massachusetts state zoning act, M.G.L. Ch. 40A, and because of their knowledge of the zoning bylaws of the other Franklin County communities. Town zoning bylaws from Colrain, Charlemont, and Rowe were also consulted during the revision process. The Planning Board is pleased with the present draft of the bylaws and hopes for extensive participation by all townspeople at the public hearing and the town meeting. The tentative date for the special town meeting is Thursday, September 23, 1982.

Heath Planning Board meetings are held on the second Monday of every month at 7 PM in the Town Hall and are open to the public (unless we want to talk about somebody).

## CHURCH YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITIES

The Youth Group got off to a good start when Rev. Lynn Dooley and her husband took them on their annual camp-out to the camp grounds off Jacksonville Stage Road. About a dozen young people had a good time singing, eating lots of food, and just enjoying each other. In another activity the Youth Group will visit Labelle's Rest Home on the second Sunday of every month in the afternoon. Led by Rev. Dooley they will conduct a worship service. The Youth Group will also have a ducking booth at the Fair and the proceeds will go to their foster child.

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## FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

by Chief Earl Gleason

The only response for the Department in June and July was a call for a fire at the Fairgrounds on June 9. It turned out to be the caretaker's car which was fully involved and therefore totally destroyed. This was our eighth response this year, down considerably from any of the previous five years. Let's keep up the good work.

If you have driven by the Fairgrounds and seen the strangely colored people climbing out of a multicolored box, I can assure you they did not arrive from outer space! It was only Tom Lively, John Holdsworth and Steve Marcotte coming out for a breath of fresh air while painting the inside of the new tank and body for Engine No. 2. The 1600 gallon tank and compartments were designed by Walt Gleason. He took his drawings to a metal fabricator who cut and bent the various metal pieces. Walt and Ed Regan then placed the pieces together and welded them with an assist from Ernie and David Thane and Dick Giard. Each drove his tractor to the Fairgrounds to roll the tank into position to be welded. Each joint was welded inside and out. Then the previously mentioned painting crew took over and the tank is now finished on the inside with two coats of paint. The outside has been painted and will receive another coat of paint after it is mounted on the truck.

The job so far looks very good. In fact, when Bob Gruen got back from vacation and saw what had been done, his conscience hurt him enough so that he went right to the Fire Station and painted the ceiling and walls of the new addition! If anyone else has a twinge along those lines, we sure can find something for you to do. We will let you do most anything, if it will make you feel better!

See you at the booths at the Fair.

The bears are coming again ! !

..... in a future issue.

## SELECTMEN'S REPORT

by Anne Steinbock, Chairman  
Heath Board of Selectmen

The Selectmen, on behalf of the town, would like to thank John Read for the sign he made and donated for Sawyer Hall. It looks very nice mounted on the front of the building.

On July 27, Police Chief Lorin Gowdy and the Selectmen signed the Mutual Aid Agreement at the Buckland Town Hall. This agreement should provide more coordination among the police in the member towns.

Blue Cross rates for the town have gone from \$92.05 for a family to \$165.14, a difference of \$73.09 a month. The rates for a single individual went from \$34.12 to \$64.41, a difference of \$30.29. And we're in a low user rate group.

Linda Marcotte is the newest member of the Finance Committee. She was appointed to fill the vacancy due to Bruce Warner's resignation.

**Road Business:** The Selectmen would like to welcome Nathan Clark and Dohn Sherman to the road crew. The new pickup truck arrived on July 13. The old pickup was traded in.

Work is being completed on Dell Road. Much needed guard rails will be installed this week.

Mowing is in progress on town roads. The job is being done by Bob Nelson. The roads that have been done look good and visibility has improved.

## SPECIAL TOWN MEETINGS HELD

by D. F. Howland

Two special town meetings have been held since the annual town meeting in May. At the meeting of June 28 four articles were considered, two of which addressed the important question of the Town of Rowe withdrawing from the Mohawk School District and from the Franklin County Technical School District. The school committees had done excellent work preparing the towns for voting; consequently there was little discussion and both articles passed unanimously. It is expected that the withdrawals will result in increased state aid to the two school districts of nearly \$200,000. (Heath's share may be about \$8000.) This is because a small town like Rowe, with a very high per capita property valuation, reduces the aid from the state to the district. Hence, if they withdraw the aid increases. The towns will not see the effect of the change until the tax year of 1984-85. The town of Rowe will continue to pay their share of past capital obligations and their share of operating costs on a tuition basis. Rowe has been reasonable and generous in negotiating this complex change in the school district organization. The other two articles dealt with the role of the Bicentennial Committee and mileage reimbursement for town officials. The meeting voted to instruct the Committee to produce the celebration, not merely to plan and organize it as previously voted. The mileage article required the Selectmen to approve reimbursement at county rates (18¢/mile). After lengthy discussion and no support for an amendment to restrict application offered by FinCom Chairman Howland, the article was tabled. Because articles must be voted at the same town meeting, and as this meeting was not postponed, the article was effectively rendered inactive.

A special meeting on July 12 transferred funds to balance accounts for the fiscal year 1981-1982. From the Reserve Account \$2746 was transferred to the Interest Account and \$4 to Street Lights; \$1740 from the Mohawk School Account to Town Buildings; and \$2981 from Chapter 480 to Chapter 329(481) account. The meeting lasted about ten minutes - not the shortest on record!

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## HEATH PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Al Canali reports that, after many initial problems, his hydroelectric power system is generating more electricity than was expected with plenty of water running over the dam in Dell.

David Dooley who teaches chemistry at Amherst College is completing a research project at Stanford University in California this summer. He will return to Heath in time for the Fair.

Kenneth Gilbert, who is a civil service flight engineer at Westover, is at a training program at the Air Force base in Little Rock, Arkansas this summer. He will not return home until late September.

Kim Taylor has been visiting her sister, Lynn Dooley. Kim and her two children live in New York City and enjoyed the fresh air of Heath.

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Sumner of Fairfax, Va were recent guests of his brother Ralph Sumner.

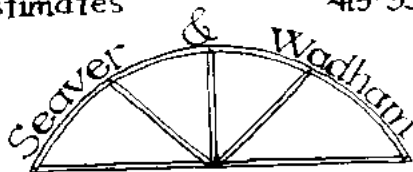
Bob and Susan Gruen with their children have returned from a month's vacation in California.

Susan Gleason has received a BA degree in the Adult Degree Program from Vermont College of Norwich University, Montpelier, VT.

Mark Fogarty graduated from Mohawk Regional High School in June. Mark's name was inadvertently left off the list of graduates in the last HERALD.

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## MILESTONES

by Edith C. Royer

Colin Masaski was born on May 26 to Paul and Alison Ehara of California. Colin is the grandson of Rev. Robert and Sidney Brown.

Brandon Nelson was born on June 12 to Dale and Martha Ward of Charlemont. Brandon is the grandson of Luis and Eva Pazmino.

Alec John was born on June 20 to Fred and Heather Law of Denver, Colorado. Alec is the grandson of Ruth Law and the great grandson of Grace Landstrom.

Melissa Jane was born on July 10 to Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Smart, Jr. of Whitingham, VT. Melissa is the great granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Brown, Sr. of Heath.

Peter Law, son of Ruth Law, was married to Gretchen Barrie on June 19. The ceremony took place in the Heath Union Church with a reception in the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Bole in Shelburne.

Howard Boyden of Conway and Jeanne McKay of Holbrook were married in the Holbrook Church on June 26. Howard is the grandson of Dorothy and Ralph Sessions.

Joseph P. Musacchio was married on August 7 to Perry Pomeroy in Boston. Joseph, the son of Dominic and Mafalda Musacchio, is a graduate of Western N.E. Law School and is now working in Boston.

Jay N. Sessions is to be married to Denise Thatcher on August 14 in Plainfield, MA where they will make their home.

Leon N. Peters died at the Hillside Nursing Home on July 5. He leaves his wife Phillipine, four sons, eight daughters, forty-one grandchildren, and twenty eight great grandchildren.

Julia Chatten died in the Franklin County Public Hospital on July 14. She leaves two daughters, Rosemary Shippee of Buckland and Nancy Burrington of Heath.

Friends gathered at the Center Cemetery on July 27 for the burial service of Stephen Wolf. He was the son of Rev. William and Eleanor Wolf, and the brother of Edwin of Huntington, West Virginia and of John of Rochester, New York.

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