



# HEATH HERALD

## HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER 25¢

### REFLECTIONS ON THE BICENTENNIAL

by Edward Calver

One aspect of any town's century observance is recalling its beginnings, and here is an opportunity for the historian. It may be of interest to recall what they did a century ago. The party was concentrated in one day in August, and in the morning it rained. So they assembled in the largest available building, the Congregational church, which was "hastily decorated" with several flags, relics of the past, and "a large white banner" (a bed sheet?) "bearing in evergreen letters" (hemlock?) "these words--1785 1885/WELCOME HOME/HEATH." The tone was not oppressively religious and there had already been bell ringing and cannon fire and the ceremony opened and closed with band music--and the skies cleared. After the solemnities there was a parade of the whole assembly led by a marshal on horseback up to the woodlot now owned by Robert Berquist on the Bray road where a meal prepared by the ladies was set out and a speakers' stand had been erected. In the evening (after chores!) there was a third round of speeches, in the church again, preceded by socializing.

Ever since school children have had to memorize Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, the word "forefathers" has had a meaning different from "ancestors." No matter how short a time some of us have identified ourselves with Heath, we all have forefathers here, and many have ancestors as well. I will mention Jonathan Taylor. He is said to be "the first permanent resident." That does not mean he was the first settler. He was not, but of the people who came to live here before the incorporation he was the earliest arrival who stayed--stayed until he passed on rather than moved on. They have tried to make a joke of his first location, in the northwest angle of the intersection of Colrain Brook and Swamp/Flagg Hill roads; it included a swamp, now a beaver pond. I am told that there is a cellar hole. Later he bought from a son-in-law and lived on land in the southwest angle. He has a descendant still living in Heath not far from these locations: Charles Emerson (Emmy) Hamilton, who may be embarrassed to have this distinction pointed out.

As a conscientious historian I have a great respect for the recovery and accurate reporting of facts and am cautious in the riskier task of interpreting them. On both counts the impatient may charge me with hair-splitting and nit-picking but I will take the risk, additionally because I am something of a Heath chauvinist, as will appear. A little friendly rivalry won't hurt.

As historian my topic is the precise beginning of Heath. To decide when that was will emerge from a roundabout presentation.

By March of 1776 the inhabitants were at odds with the minister, who was pressing for back pay or at the least for interest on it. Later he would ask for an adjustment to compensate for payment in inflated money but would not consider concessions, such as renegotiating his supply of firewood. Relations deteriorated; Parson Leavitt refused to renegotiate his contract and refused to resign. In 1778 the selectmen unwisely decided to stop his pay and to lock him out of the church. This was illegal; dismissal could only come from a council of the clergy. Such a council was convened, deliberated for nine days in the month of May, and proposed a cooling off period of nine months, a proposal unacceptable to people in the south part of Charlemont. The people on Charlemont Hill were also exercised. In the same month of May they got up a petition to the Great and General Court asking to be "set off." Independence was in the air; it had recently been declared nationally. The petition, printed in the Acts and Resolves, vol. XXI, p.44, was signed by "Valentine Harris and twenty-two others." It was refused. But it did draw the line south of Leavitt's farm, which should establish it as a fact that his exclusion from Charlemont was deliberate.

Harris may have headed the list, but the prime mover was doubtless Asaph White. He was, in the words of Pearle Tanner, "a man of remarkable business and

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Rev. Jonathan Leavitt, Controversial minister 1768-1788  
(Reproduced from *Descendants of John White*)

## LETTERS

To the Editors:

I was just reading the current Christian Century (December 19-26), 1984) and came across an article previously unpublished by Reinhold Niebuhr written in 1967 or 1968, three or four years before his death. Niebuhr reflects on his changed perspective as a result of a stroke in 1952 -- article titled, "A View of Life from the Sidelines". He is grateful to nurses who in 1952 gave him daily physical therapy. He continues to write "I owe to them a tremendous debt, as I do to our old friend, Hannah Burrington of Heath, Massachusetts, who stayed with my wife and me every summer and gave me twice-daily treatments."

NEWLAND F. SMITH, 3rd  
Evanston, Illinois

Editors' Note: Hannah Burrington has received a part of the above article from Ursula Niebuhr with a note saying that Bob Brown is editing a volume of out-of-print articles and sermons by Reinhold for the Yale University Press. Ursula thinks this whole article should go into this volume as a sort of "Finale".

## HEATH PRECIPITATION

by Ralph Dickinson, Observer  
for Mass. Water Resources Commission

December precipitation was 3.18 inches. Total precipitation for the year 1984 was 58.60 inches. January 1985 precipitation was 1.88 inches. Snowfall in December was 13.5 inches; January snowfall 20 inches; total for the season, 33.5 inches.

Although the growing season was dry in 1984, the overall precipitation was above normal.

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executive ability" and came of a wealthy family. He built two turnpikes, moved to and promoted the town of Erving (coming back to Heath after his house there burned), bought and sold at retail 2500 acres in the part of Heath once called Hancock's farm. He was here during the Revolution. When the petition was refused, he sent another to the Court. Its language shows that he was frustrated and irate: "...praying for a committee to repair to Charlemont and view the situation of said Charlemont...and hear all the parties belonging to said Charlemont...which committee will probably prevent the cost of their being so often at the expense of attending this Court."

The General Court authorized the incorporation of Rowe on February 9, 1785 and that of Heath on February 14. For people who like those dates (and Valentine's Day has a certain charm) that puts Rowe ahead. But nobody here knew what had occurred in the State House until word was brought back. The 14th was just another winter's day. I say this knowing that the Committee has planned a potluck dinner for that date, an event which I plan to attend.

Copies of the act were printed, but the original, signed by Samuel Otis, Samuel Adams and John Hancock, among others, remains in the state archives; a photographic copy is in the possession of the Historical Society. Colonel Hugh Maxwell, newly discharged, was the man to carry the petition to Boston, where his old commander General William Heath had become a state senator. The boundaries are the same as in the first one, with measurements and compass readings added. The legislature held both Heath and Charlemont responsible for Leavitt's back pay. He brought suit; the decision against him was thrown out on a technicality; and the towns decided against a second trial. They paid.

I hold out for March 21 (the first of spring) as the decisive date, which was when a man empowered by the state, having previously issued a warrant, came to initiate proceedings, conduct the election, and swear in the first officers. As that was done Heath actually came into existence. (A nice parallel might be made with conception, gestation, and birth.) By state law the annual meeting had to be held in May--and Rowe just made it: installation there took place on the 30th. In my estimation that puts us ahead. The point may be argued, but luckily it can never be settled.

So in one sense the bicentennial year did not begin on January 1, when the starting gun for the beard-growing contest was fired. It will begin on either February 14 or March 21 (at 9:30 in the morning to be precise). It will end with celestial fireworks in December and January, which is when Halley's comet is promised to appear. We will share the display with Rowe, Leyden, and Plainfield.

This essay was solicited by the HERALD. I have tried to include material not in the script of Now and Then, a sort of historical play which the Bicentennial Committee got me to work up, and which will be put on towards the end of May. My hope is that it will be livelier and more entertaining. Sugar coated anyway.

## FRANKLIN-WARE

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by Steve Marcotte

## 1985 BICENTENNIAL CALENDAR

Jan 1 - June 29	Beard Growing Contest (already underway !)
Feb 10 12 noon Sunday 10 AM-5PM (snow date - Feb 24)	Cross Country Ski Race registration & start, Heath Center Food Sale - Community Hall
Feb 14 7 PM Thursday	Potluck Dinner - Community Hall Cane presentation, eldest citizen Talk on Gen. Heath - William Wolf Annual Town Meeting and Elections
May 6 Monday	
May 24 8 PM Saturday	<u>Now and Then</u> - Historical Play by Ed Calver
June 29 1-5 PM Saturday 11 AM - 2 PM (rain date July 6) 6 PM	"Edwardian" Garden Party -The Manse - refreshments & dancing Old House Tour
8 PM	Dinner, Community Hall by Agricultural Society Judging & awards, Beard Contest Mohawk Trail Concert, Heath Church Historical Society Museums open regularly - special exhibits Historical Society Bazaar - Town Common
July - August	- 18th Century Potluck Dinner, Community Hall - Ft. Shirley Diorama and talk, Bill Thane/Michael Coe Garden Tour
July 4 Thursday	
July 13 Saturday	
August 3 Saturday	Historical Society Annual Meeting and Bicentennial Speaker
Aug 16, 17, 18 Fri/Sat/Sun	Annual Heath Fair - Historical Exhibits including Ft. Shirley Diorama - Parade, Special Floats Heath Artists' Exhibition, Reception Aug 30 - Sawyer Hall
Aug 30 - Sept 6	
Sept 21 Saturday	Joint Meeting, Heath and Rowe Historical Societies - Supper and Talk by Michael Coe
Oct 5 - 6 Sat/Sun	Bicentennial Wagon Train & Pig Roast - True story telling by campfire
Oct 12 Saturday	Hike on old trail from Ft. Shirley to Ft. Pelham
Nov 27 Wednesday	Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service - Heath Church

## BICENTENNIAL DINNER

The Bicentennial Potluck dinner will be held on Thursday, February 14 at 7:00 PM in the Community Hall. This day is the 200th anniversary of the "enabling act" passed by the General Court of Massachusetts which authorized the incorporation of the town of Heath.

The committee in charge of the dinner asks that food be brought similar to a dish your great grandmother prepared. Those individuals with names A-H should bring a hot dish; names I-Q, a salad, bread or rolls; and names R-Z, a dessert. Also the committee asks that you bring a copy of the recipe for your dish to share with others.

Everyone interested in the Heath Bicentennial is invited to participate.

All that remains to complete preparations for the race is a few more inches of new snow. Several people have registered from as far away as Nashua, NH, and many more are expected. Registration will remain open until 11:50 AM on the day of the race, Sunday, February 10. However, anyone who expects to enter the race is encouraged to notify the race organizer so that an estimate of the turnout can be made. On the day of the race you will be able to register upstairs at the Community Hall starting at 10 AM.

Ten members of the Nordic Ski Patrol will be on duty along the course to respond to any emergency that might occur.

Prizes have been obtained from McCuskers Market and Magical Child is donating prizes for the children's race.

Refreshments and food will be on sale downstairs in the Community Hall starting at 10:00 AM.

Volunteers are still needed to shovel snow at road crossings on the day of the race. Also, we might need some help with the children's race. Anyone who would like to participate should call 337-4394.

## BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

by Paul Lively, Chairman

The year of the celebration is now upon us! You will find a calendar of Bicentennial events listed in this issue of the HEATH HERALD. We are all hoping for a successful cross country ski race on February tenth.

Steve Marcotte has been appointed to the town Bicentennial Committee by Moderator Edward Calver. This appointment fills a vacancy that has existed for some time because one of our original members moved out of town. We welcome Steve who has already proven to be a dedicated bicentennial worker with his two years of effort organizing the cross country ski race.

We look forward to celebrating the birthday of our town on Thursday, February 14, which happens to be Valentine's Day. There will be a potluck supper in the Community Hall at 7 PM. The Bicentennial Cane will be presented to the town's eldest citizen, and William Wolf will give a talk on General Heath, the man for whom the town is named.

Success requires effort, so I urge all of you to make an effort to support these events of celebration in a spirit of community during this Bicentennial Year. Let us together make this year a truly enjoyable celebration!

## OLD PHOTOGRAPHS WANTED

Plans for a Bicentennial slide show are underway and anyone who would be willing to share old photographs, portraits, plates from books or other Heath memorabilia is asked to call Susan or Guy Silvester evenings at 337-4491. The material can easily be photographed in your home, so there is no chance of loss or damage.

We would also like to photograph families at home, either inside or outdoors with some being taken in the winter months and others during the summer. Especially welcome would be a call to attend a special event like a family gathering, birthday or anniversary celebration that includes many Heath residents.

## LIBRARY LINES

by John Holdsworth

A booksale, sponsored by the Friends of the Library, is now being held in the Heath Public Library during normal operating hours. Although it was originally scheduled to end on February 2, it has now been extended to Saturday, February 16. The sale includes hardcovers and paperbacks, fiction and non-fiction, all between 2 and 90 years old, all at popular prices.

The bookmobile came to town on January 16. Don Dekker, Helen Mackie and Charlie Miller helped to take off an excellent collection: lots of mysteries, westerns, general fiction and romances, large print books in all fiction categories, and non fiction covering humor, whales, windpower, inventing, cooking, antiques, death, photography, mountain climbing, biography, ballet, needlepoint, architecture and more. Come in and see; if you don't find what you want, it is a simple matter for the librarian to order it.

The Library has just been informed of an award of an Arts Council grant. Two hundred dollars of the grant will be used for the purchase of new filmstrip-cassette stories for children; the remaining \$100 will be used for purchase of simple musical instruments that will be available for loan.

John and Harriet Read have given the Library a gift subscription to Readers Digest and the Porter-Henry family gave a set of National Geographic children's books: Exploring the Seashore, Baby Farm Animals, What Happens at the Zoo, and The Wonderful World of Seals and Whales.

Other new titles in the Library include: Prince of Peace, Carroll; Brothers and Keepers, Wideman; More Collected Stories, Pritchett; The U.S.A.: A History in Art, Smith; Crockery Cookbook, Berry; The Silver Palate Cookbook, Rosso and Lukins; Making American Folk Art Dolls, Rogowski; and a set of four National Geographic books for young adults: Amazing Mysteries of the World, Messengers of the Brain, The Five Senses, Small Inventions That Make a Big Difference, and How Animals Behave. A number of new children's books have also been added.

Alli Thane and Edith Gleason have made some new pillows for the children to use during the Wednesday story hour. They have been greatly enjoyed by the children and some adults. Everyone is welcome to the 2:30 story hour. It usually lasts 30 to 45 minutes and includes a showing of two, or more, story filmstrips followed by story reading in small groups.

I am presently considering a list of magazines for the next subscription period. If anyone has a magazine they would particularly like the Library to get, please let me know during February. The Library receives a number of donated magazines for which I am grateful. My only request is that the magazines be current, in reasonable condition and that the donation be reasonably dependable and consistent.

## MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL NEWS

by Sue Silvester

Heath students on the Honor Roll for the first quarter at Mohawk are: Seniors Lisa N. Hamilton, Christopher C. Seaver, Melodie R. Warriner; Sophomores Shell A. Galipo, Jessica C. Cain, Larry S. Sherman; 8th Grade Tanja C. Davin; 7th Grade Tammy Jo Archambo.

The Boys' and Girls' Ski Teams at Mohawk are doing very well this year with the able assistance of two Heath students. Roberta Tripp, a senior with 15 years of skiing experience, has been racing for the past three years and is a member of the Girls' Team. Christopher Seaver, also a senior, is a member of the Boys' Team. The teams compete every Thursday afternoon at Berkshire East with 17 other schools in two divisions. In first place for their division now is the Boys' Team from Mohawk, and the Girls' Team is not far behind in third place. The coach for both teams is Mr. David Chula.

The annual all-school musical will be held on March 15, 16 and 17 in the Mohawk auditorium. Featured for the first time will be BARNUM, an exciting musical with a circus theme. On the opening night a special International Dinner will be sponsored in the cafeteria by the AFS and Foreign Travel Clubs.

The crowded conditions in the Mohawk classrooms will hopefully be alleviated this spring or summer, depending on when the removal of the asbestos can take place. According to Business Manager David Newell, 11 bid applications have been mailed and bidders have begun to respond. At present there are three possible alternatives: 1) Summer removal of the asbestos, 2) Removal during the spring with one week of shutdown time in April, and 3) Spring removal with an additional week of school being closed.

The Mohawk School Community is relieved and happy that Superintendent Bruce Willard has not accepted a job offer for the Superintendency in Fitchburg; he is a conscientious and dedicated administrator and would have been sadly missed had he left our school district.

### ! FOOD SALE !

AT THE BICENTENNIAL SKI RACE  
Sunday February 10 - 10 AM to 5 PM

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## ACADEMY NEWS

by Luke Housner '89

The second quarter ended with four days of midterm exams and a sigh of relief on January 24th.

Groups of Academy students are working on three plays this term under the direction of Rita Jaros. The first, "The Ugly Duckling," will be performed in early February. The others are "Hands Across the Sea" and "The Devil and Daniel Webster."

Our winter sports program includes both cross country skiing and downhill skiing. On Wednesday and Friday our vans head towards Stump Sprouts in Hawley or Berkshire East.

In March a group of Academy students, faculty and friends, under the experienced leadership of the Grinnells and expert planning by Lyon Travel, are planning to tour Egypt and Greece. This will certainly enrich the entire student body when experiences are brought back and shared.

We are looking forward to the return of Shakespeare and Company this month and the workshops and friendships that will take place.

Work has begun on our yearbook, The Grove, with a new staff this year. Ads will be sold in the community soon. Many of us have benefited this year with the Journalism seminars given by B. J. Roche, local reporter.

I will keep you updated on coming events and news of the Academy in the next HEATH HERALD.

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT

by Linda Marcotte, Secretary

You might have noticed that each member of the Heath School Committee has been writing these reports for the HEATH HERALD.

I am the newest School Committee member and the Rep at Mohawk. As you are probably aware, there is an asbestos problem at Mohawk. I have attended several meetings since November on the subject. I would like to congratulate the faculty, staff and students on the great job they are all doing in the limited space available. An asbestos committee has been formed of faculty and school committee members to look into how to clean up the problem. They have done a thorough job and have come up with some recommendations with the hope of a late winter/early-spring removal. We would like to hear from parents if they are concerned about the asbestos being removed while school is still in session.

Other Mohawk news is that the tentative budget for 1985-1986 is \$1,819,664 and Heath's share of that would be \$92,520. These are not necessarily the final figures.

For parents with students at Rowe, Skip Venneri has asked me to mention that the ski program is being rescheduled until the end of February or early March due to overcrowded trails.

Once again, the School Committee would like to invite everyone to attend any and all meetings of the Committee. They are held in Heath Center on the second Tuesday of each month at the home of Susan Gruen, Chairperson.

### PHIL'S PICK-UP

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## ROWE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

by Sue Silvester

The Rowe School Ski Program will start Wednesday, February 13 at Berkshire East in Charlemont. The following week there will be a break for the winter vacation; then the Ski Program will resume with afternoon skiing on February 27 and March 6.

A special program at Rowe for the past ten weeks has been the presence of a Poet-in-Residence in the person of Margaret Robison. The program culminated on January 25 with the visitation of sixth graders from the Maurice Donahue School in Holyoke, where Mrs. Robison had also been working with students on poetry writing. The visiting sixth graders shared their poetry with Rowe students, had lunch with them, divided into small discussion groups and even provided a fantastic break dancing demonstration. The Poet-in-Residence Program and cultural exchange was funded entirely by the Institute for the Arts and a state block grant award.

On January 22 the fifth and sixth graders joined students from Sanderson Academy at the Hawlemont School to see a production by Shakespeare and Company.

Principal Anita Page is forming a Parents Advisory Group as part of the school's Three C's Campaign this year. The group will explore the effect that violence on television is having on our young people and will attempt to raise a community awareness of the misuse of television. Any interested parent or member of the Heath and Rowe Communities is invited to contact the Principal at school for further information.

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## JOHN FRANCIS PORTER (1920-1985)

### A Personal Memoir

by Alastair Maitland

I did not meet John Porter until the summer of 1982. Somehow, in the years we both had spent in Heath up to that time, our paths had failed to cross. When we met it was shortly after the death of my wife, the loser in a long battle against an insidious and implacable disease. And it was not too long before I was to learn that both John and Nelle faced that same formidable and unrelenting enemy. It was really Nelle, I think, who cemented the friendship, by the special quality of her personality and by the respect and admiration that her courage and serenity inspired.

Her passing was - in retrospect - a death-blow to her husband. He told Bill Wolf that in Nelle he had lost not only a wife but also a nurse and manager. But such a matter-of-fact assessment does not tell the whole story; and it would not be much of an exaggeration to say that she had been his whole life. You knew that when you observed that John was never able to speak of Nelle after her death without profound and irrepressible emotion.

John had far more than his share of the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune. Yet I never once heard him rail against fate or his God. There can be no better proof of the depth and sincerity of his religious conviction.

The best moments in all my too brief friendship with him were those times when he would be, in his imagination, once again back in the pulpit or on some academic rostrum. I recall in particular one day, in England, during our overseas trip together, when at my brother's home, John got to talking about the Resurrection. (We had just returned from Easter in Jerusalem). As his impromptu sermon progressed and his eloquence took flight it was as though he were transfigured.

Like his clergyman father, whom he revered, John was by inclination and in practice more of an academic and a teacher than a pastor. (His father - Phi Beta Kappa and a nominee for a Rhodes Scholarship - died when John was 17). I learned a great deal from John - about some of the people who had inspired and guided him, in his social and ecumenical concerns, like Reinhold Niebuhr and Frederick Denison Maurice, the 19th century English Christian Socialist. John was justifiably proud of the book about Maurice on which he and Bill Wolf collaborated in the 1960's.

I also came to know a great deal about John's love for his children. Bringing up four spirited and independent-minded daughters in the 50's and 60's must have been interesting, to say the least. Whether the credit for the success of the operation belongs more to Nelle than to John I don't know. But the five women in his life meant that he was blessed five times over. His love for Nelle was rivalled only by his love for his daughters and his deep pride in them and his grandchildren.

... continued

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The last time I took John for an outing was on Election Day, November 6. I fetched him from the nursing home in Greenfield so that he could come to Heath and record his votes. As we passed the cemetery near the fairgrounds he said, "I must go one of these days and visit Nelle's grave." I don't think John had the opportunity to do so before he went to the hospital for the last time. Remembering again his sermon at my brother's home in England I do not doubt that John would have been able to recite by heart 1 Corinthians, Chapter 15. Nor do I doubt that he has prevailed over the last enemy.

Should anyone wish to contribute, in John Porter's memory, to one of the causes (Theological Education) that he promoted and supported, the address to write is: Diocese of Michigan (Theological Education), c/o the Right Reverend Coleman McGehee, 4800 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, MI 48201.

## CHURCH NEWS

by Amy Barry

We are sorry to report that Rev. Lynn Dooley has announced her resignation as pastor of the Heath Union Church and the Rowe Community Church effective April 15. A search committee, composed of the deacons from both churches and representatives from church related organizations, has begun to look for a replacement. The next meeting of this committee will be held in Heath on February 6.

The congregations of Heath and Rowe joined together on January 20 for a service celebrating Christian Unity Sunday and a potluck luncheon. Despite cold temperatures, snow flurries and the flu about 30 people enjoyed a very special time of worship that effectively warded off the winter chill.

Other church activities continue through the winter months. The Women's Group meets every Tuesday at 9:30 AM at Melissa Quinn's home in Rowe. Presently the group is reading and discussing Letters to Malcolm, C.S. Lewis's wonderful book on prayer. There is also a weekly prayer meeting on Thursday nights at 8 PM at the Parsonage. Heath Ladies Aid has cancelled only one meeting this winter due to bad weather. Since December, the Ladies have tied two quilts and worked on a variety of sewing projects for the July sale. Anyone interested in joining the above activities is welcome.

The celebration of Easter season begins on April 4 with a Maundy Thursday potluck supper and Communion Service at the Community Hall for the Heath and Rowe churches. The Easter Sunday sunrise service on April 7 will be in Rowe with a breakfast afterwards. All are invited to share in the celebration of this holy day. Details about Easter activities in the Heath Church will be available at a later time.

The Church auction will be held Saturday, July 13.

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## NINETY-SEVEN YEARS AND STILL SUGARING

by Michael Peters

### In memory of my grandfather, Francis Galipo 1902-1983

Back around 1887, a man named George Brown either built or bought a sugar house on Number Nine Road in Heath. It was worked by him and his family until the year 1929, when it was sold to a man by the name of Francis Galipo and his wife, Nora, along with the surrounding sugarbush.

Having little experience in sugaring, Francis set 400 buckets and hoped for the best. Boiling with a 4 by 12 Vermont evaporator, the results of the first year were 80 gallons, an average season. Sap was gathered with a team of horses and stored in two five-barrel tubs.

Francis had high hopes of buying a new evaporator, but with money being tight he made do with what he had until 1938 when the now steady business invested in a Leader 4 by 12. Being a totally different evaporator and "syruping off" in the rear instead of the front, sap was boiled much faster and syrup taken off in a constant stream about the size of a match stick.

For the next three years, much of the syrup produced was given to Leader to pay for the evaporator; in all \$400 worth of syrup was traded off for the now well used evaporator. This doesn't sound like much, but the going rate for syrup was, in those days, \$1.50 per gallon. Syrup was also traded with a man by the name of Leon Peters (who had taken over the business of Peters' General Store in 1923) for merchandise to be used by the family.

Later, when business grew, 250 buckets were bought from Jesse Thompson, increasing the number of taps to 1150. Also a power tapper and a 1950 Ford tractor were bought, the now obsolete bit brace was abandoned and the horses sold. Competition was starting to grow so all syrup that wasn't used by the family or sold in Peters' Store was filtered into a forty-quart milk can, packed into fifty-gallon drums and sold to Coombs in Jacksonville, VT.

In 1955, after working the operation for 21 years, he sold it to a young man named Victor Vreeland, then also of Heath. Victor quickly noticed that the sills were badly rotted, so he dismantled it and reconstructed it, moving it eight feet from the road. In the process he decided to add a woodshed that is still being used today. Extra lumber was bought from Herb Stetson and everything was completed for the following season. The number of taps was up to 1300, and slowly the price of syrup rose between 1930 and 1955 to \$4.00 per gallon.

Trading with "Papa Peters" went on and horses were again seen working for their keep, pulling tubs around the sugarbush. Although half of the 1300 hundred taps was set in pipeline, the horses still had plenty of work. Then as time went on, Victor got too many "irons in the fire," and decided to sell to Roland Lively (father of Paul) in 1959.

Roland, along with his wife Marie, set about 1200 buckets gathered with a tractor equipped with half tracks, and later switched to oxen. The lower part of the sugarbush was set with pipeline which was gravity fed right to the sugarhouse.

In 1964 Roland, not feeling so well, sold to Paul and Marcella Lively, who kept it for about one and a half years and in turn sold it to Paul's brother, Maurice Lively, and his wife, Judy, in 1966.

Maurice set even more of the sugarbush into pipeline and decided to lease the property back to Paul and Marcella. Even more buckets were added to build the number of taps to its greatest ever - 2000. The average yield was about 400 gallons of syrup which was sold in Peters' Store as it was 37 years before.

Finally in 1975, the operation was sold through a real estate agent (Porier) to the present owners, Michael and Connie Girard of Simsbury, CT.

Although it is ninety-seven years later, most of the operation is still the same. The only difference is that now 1000 taps set all in pipeline are attached to a vacuum pump with an ultraviolet sap treatment system at its side. Inside the sugarhouse, things are exactly like they were many years ago, except for a new 5 by 12 Small Brothers evaporator with stainless steel pans and a few added lights. The sugarhouse itself is exactly the way Victor left it.

It is hard to believe that many people don't even know what "Pure Maple Syrup" is, to say nothing of how it is made. Around here, it is a way of life. Believe me, no one has lived until they've smelled maple sap boiling, or eaten a hot dog cooked right in the syrup pan, or poured maple syrup still warm from the evaporator onto some blueberry pancakes. In fifty-five years the price of syrup has gone from \$1.50 to \$19.00 per gallon, an increase of more than 1000 percent. I would dare say that in another ninety-seven years the same sugarbush will still be seen going.

The men and their families who built and worked in this sugar bush, will always be remembered, especially one man named Francis Galipo.



**The Galipo Sugar House**

(Photo from Michael Peters)

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## SOLAR HEAT IN HEATH

by Newland Smith

During the administration of former President Carter he promised that 20% of the nation's energy would come from solar energy by the turn of the century. Today, some six years later, and with millions of dollars spent in federal and state subsidies and tax credits, there are only six households in Heath that have taken advantage of this form of energy. It is interesting to examine these local cases and to obtain opinions from the owners. Five of these installations have been made for the purpose of heating domestic hot water only.

The first Heath installation of this type was made at the house of Newland Smith on the east Oxbow in 1979. Here three solar panels were installed on the southern roof of a woodshed, some 35 feet from the main house. Underground insulated pipes feed warm solar fluid to a heat exchanger in a preheat storage tank in the basement. This in turn feeds the heated water into an electric hot water heater which only operates when called upon for additional heat. To supplement the solar heat, a loop was installed to circulate water from the preheat tank through a wood stove. A microprocessor control was provided to control both circulating systems depending upon the relative heat from each source. The results of this system have been impressive in that the consumed electrical energy has been significantly reduced over this period of time. However, it was found that, during winter months, the solar heat contributes very little to the final water temperature, as the wood stove is the main contributor. The owner feels that the combined system has been cost effective based on the initial net outlay. However, without the federal and state subsidies, the savings in electricity cost could not be justified - and certainly not based on the solar contribution alone.

Bill Thane installed solar panels at his house on Brunelle Road about four years ago. He reports that the system is very effective during the summer months (from April to November). His oil heating system heats the hot water during winter months as then the solar unit is not contributing significantly. The solar water tank contains an electric heating element which operates when there is insufficient solar energy, such as on rainy days in summer. Bill feels that the system is definitely cost effective and that his investment is paying off in savings on fuel, even without the benefit of the tax credits.

Three or four years ago, Ken Gilbert installed two solar panels on the roof of his house on Avery Brook Road to heat their water. The preheat tank in this system feeds into an oil fired hot water heater which again only comes on when needed. Except for winter months, the oil burner is seldom used. Ken feels that cost of the solar system was easily justified by the savings in his fuel costs. He too has taken advantage of available tax credits.

Art Schwenger installed his solar system about a year ago at his house on Burrington Road and is quite happy with the results. The panels in his system are installed on the ground with underground pipes running about 12 feet to a heat exchanger in the basement. Here an electric hot water heater is used as additional storage and for backup. Art indicated that the savings in electricity costs are substantial and that the net cost of the system (after tax credits) will easily be written off within 5 to 7 years.

The most recent solar installation was made by Bob Gruen in the summer of 1984 at his house in Heath

Center. So far, and this has included the best solar heating months of the year, Bob feels that the system is certainly paying off as his costs for electricity have been cut in half. This cost effectiveness of course takes into account the government subsidies which pay for a good part of the system cost and installation. During winter months the solar heat will raise the water temperature to some extent, but more electricity will be used to bring the water to its final temperature.

Although the above examples in the use of solar energy are for the direct heating of hot water, a far greater potential is for the direct conversion to electrical energy using photovoltaic cells. There is one example of this in North Heath installed by Kim Levitch about two years ago. This system provides his house with its only source of electricity. Here a three by four foot bank of photovoltaic cells charge a bank of 12 volt storage batteries when the sun shines. Kim says that he uses this entirely to supply his house with power for lights, TV and radio. So when the rest of Heath is blacked out from an ice storm, Kim can read a book or watch TV with the sunshine he "canned" from several days before. He claims his storage capacity is sufficient to supply his normal needs for a week or more without sunshine, and that his batteries charge even on a cloudy hazy day. Kim indicates that his net cost of about \$1000, after tax credits, for the solar electric system is easily justified.

Kim Levitch's experience with a photovoltaic system contradicts a recent article on solar systems which presents the problems of developing an economical supply of solar cells. After pouring millions of dollars into this form of energy conversion, two of our largest companies have bailed out of the field as it does not seem to offer an economical approach in the near future.

A more substantial utilization of solar energy is Craig Gerry's solar heated house which he designed and built himself on Sumner-Stetson Road over the past four years. The whole southern side of the house is glass windowed capturing a good amount of energy from the sun. A blower system circulates the warmed air past the windows and into a rock storage area in the basement. Heat for the house is obtained by circulating air through the heated rock storage. Craig claims he obtains about 50 % of the heat needed in this manner. The remainder comes from a wood-burning furnace. Although Craig is pleased with the results from his system, he has ideas on improvements for the next solar house he builds.

Perhaps windpower is the answer as an alternate energy source. We have one example in Heath which has had several years of use, although we have not heard any encouraging report. The "windmill farm" proposed in Heath some six years ago has now been set up in California where it appears to be quite successful, again subsidized by tax credits, other incentives, and steady winds!



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## NEW SALT SHED IN HEATH

by Sue Silvester

The salt shed, a larger and more imposing structure than most people expected, is just about completed. According to Selectman Anne Steinbock, all that remains is for the asphalt floor to be poured in the spring, electricity to be installed and the building to be stained. The color to be determined by the state will probably be brown. With the exception of the asphalt floor and the optional electricity, the state is paying for the building. The site was prepared by John Churchill and his crew who will soon be using the building for storing sand and road salt.



John Churchill at New Salt Shed  
(Photo by Sue Silvester)

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## PRICE INCREASE FOR THE HERALD

Six years ago when the HEATH HERALD was established, the price for subscriptions and single copies was set to partially cover mailing and printing costs, with a minimum of advertising to cover the balance. Work on the paper is done entirely by a volunteer staff with no compensation even for their out-of-pocket expenses such as typing, paper, photos or travel.

In the meantime there have been three increases in postal rates, the paper has expanded to more pages with more copy and features, resulting in costs greater than income. As a result it is now necessary to announce an increase in the subscription rate to \$3.50 per year and in the single copy price to 35 cents to be effective with the June 1985 issue.

The staff of the HERALD hopes our readers will continue to give their support as they have in the past.

## FLU SEASON

by Sharleen Moffatt, RN  
Town Nurse

Flu and pneumonia are the fifth highest causes of death in the United States. This year flu has reached an epidemic proportion. The main strain is the Philippine flu, but various strains exist at this time.

Influenza is a respiratory disease caused by the influenza virus. Symptoms of flu include fever, chills, headache, dry cough, and muscle aches. The course of the disease ranges from a few days to a week or more. Most people recover completely. However, for some people, flu may be severe and complicated by pneumonia or pulmonary complications.

Flu vaccine guards against certain strains of influenza virus, but not all. We must all be alert to the signs and symptoms and armed with "healthful" habits to prevent flu. Obviously, a good defense is a healthy body. A well balanced diet, adequate rest, and regular exercise are all part of the battle plan. Seek medical attention when needed and keep other medical problems in check with the proper treatment prescribed by your physician.

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## FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

by Chief Earl Gleason

The Fire Department had a busy December with responses to four chimney fires, one of which later expanded to a partition fire, and we also covered the Rowe station while they were at a structure fire. One of our chimney fires was on Christmas day. So as not to be upstaged we started out January with a chimney fire at 8:00 AM on New Year's day. Several fire-fighters also responded to the Chief's request to go to Charlemont and help them pick up after their recent fire.

December's activities included Hornidas Lively of the Greenfield Fire Department and the Mass. Firefighting Academy teaching a class on structural hazards in firefighting. Two smoke detector inspections and one work bee were also held during the month.

January saw Directors' meetings in both Deerfield Valley and Tri-State Mutual Aids. The Fire Association met and decided to go back to the Sunday morning equipment checks. The Association meetings will continue to be held the first Thursday evening of the month at 8:00 and the drills to be held the third Thursday at 7:00 PM.

The truck committee has met and drawn up an outline as to the requirements for a new truck. Ball park figures are being gathered to aid in the planning and financing.

Recent criticism of a neighboring fire department reminds me of a story I read recently and here is my condensed version.

### Five Below at 2:30 AM

Joe Fire Officer is awakened by the beep beep of his radio receiver that has been his constant companion for the past three years. He jumps out of bed and hurriedly dresses and heads for the fire house in a seven year old Ford. The glow in the sky tells him they have a worker. Arriving at the scene he jumps from his car, snaps on his turnout coat and puts on his helmet at the same time. Joe sizes up the situation and realizes the decisions to be made are his and his alone. He quickly requests additional help. Joe notices with satisfaction that the long hours of training have paid off and they are making progress against their enemy, the fire. The battle will go on for more than 1 1/2 hours before the fire is totally extinguished, and then the equipment must be picked up, taken back to the station, cleaned and put back on the apparatus. Joe gets home at 6 AM, too late to go back to bed. He showers, eats his breakfast and gets ready to leave for his regular job.

This scene is typical of a volunteer firefighter's life. You may ask what kind of a person is willing to risk his life, go without sleep and spend many hours in training - all without pay, to save his neighbors' property.

He is your neighbor and without him there would be no fire protection at all.

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## PLANNING BOARD REPORT

by John Holdsworth

There are a number of intersections in town where a doubt may arise as to which driver has the right of way. When people who live in Heath are asked about the right of way at a particular intersection, varying opinions may often be heard. One convention has it that whoever arrives at an intersection first has the right of way. This works well most of the time for people who live here and are familiar with such unwritten rules. But for a number of cases in town, this is not a valid rule. Some intersections are just plain tricky and pose a hazard for native and stranger alike.

At its most recent meeting, the Planning Board discussed potential locations for stop, yield, warning and speed signs in Heath. Police Chief Loren Gowdy attended the meeting and advised the board on specific locations for stop signs and some warning signs. The board does not wish to pepper the roads with signs, but dangerous intersections should be marked to protect both the town and individuals. The board will give more consideration to this project and will report to the Selectmen.

The County Commissioners and the county planning board are again discussing regional land use planning. The Commissioners are presently considering a plan that would allow towns or the County to purchase development rights to specified properties. This would resemble the existing Agricultural Preservation Restrictions Act. There will be more about this in a future report.

The Planning Board position of John Holdsworth is up for reelection this year. John will not be running again. Any citizen interested in being on the board should see the town clerk about taking out papers and should talk to present board members about planning board duties.

## ASSESSORS' REPORT

by Richards Steinbock, Chairman  
Heath Board of Assessors

The fiscal 1984 tax bills are finally history. The assessors are currently updating new construction and property transfers with the goal of getting the fiscal 1985 bills mailed out sometime in early March. If you should see a couple of strange people wandering around town with a measuring stick and scribbling furiously into manila folders, it's only us!

Fiscal 1986 "form of lists" have been mailed and are beginning to come back in. This is the green (non-resident) or white (resident) form which asks you to list and value all of your taxable personal property - animals, machinery, stock in trade and (for owners of second homes) household furniture. Please try and put an approximate value on your list - we really don't know how much your used refrigerator or your 1969 riding mower is worth. Value is not what it would cost to replace an item now, but its current worth in its current condition. And remember, in Massachusetts everything is taxable unless exempted by law. That means just about everything except cats and dogs!

Failure to file a form of list means that we will have to guess, and the only way for you to correct our guess will be to file a late list, which will subject you to a tax penalty. I know it's an obnoxious, ill-conceived, outdated form but do your best.

## FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

by D. F. Howland, Chairman

It seems that budgeting is a never ending process. Of course, the media keeps us aware of problems on state and national levels and we see similar issues with our own personal finances. So, it is always with us! The Finance Committee will be meeting shortly with the Selectmen, department heads, the Town Clerk/Treasurer and others such as the School Committee and Library Trustees about next year's budget which will be acted on by the annual town meeting on May 6. The Finance Committee's role in these deliberations is to "consider any and all municipal questions for the purpose of making reports or recommendations to the Town". (Chap. 39, Sec. 16 MGL)

We are noting some proposals and problems that may affect the budget for FY 1985-86. First, Gov. Dukakis has announced a substantial increase in state aid to the 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. Naturally this news has been well received, but how much will actually filter down to the communities depends on the legislature which controls allocations in the final analysis. Nevertheless, any increase will help and, as we have reported before, this trend in state aid both complements and is the result of Proposition 2 1/2. Next, the Finance Committee has opined about the lack of direction in expanding the tax base of the town and the region. Some effort is being made by the state to promote tourism in the area, but that type of activity is unlikely to replace the possible demise of Kendall Mills, a worrisome event. Also, federal revenue sharing is under review by the budget cutters because many states have surpluses. Heath receives about \$16,000 per year (about 1 mil on the tax rate); it is a lifesaver in helping us finance equipment and small projects. Lastly, we hope the Selectmen and Assessors focus on getting the tax bill out and money in...soon. Interest charges for the current year on borrowed money may well exceed \$10,000 (only \$1500 was appropriated) and we have lost interest income on monies that we normally have available. This is a serious cash flow problem that also affects the Free Cash account, which has been important to our maintaining a stable tax rate.

So, there you have the big picture. We will keep you informed about details in the coming months.

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## TOWN OFFICERS TO BE ELECTED

At the annual town election to be held this year on May 6, the following town offices are to be filled:

Position	Term (yrs)	Present Incumbent
Selectman	3	* Earl Warriner
Town Clerk	3	* Catherine Nichols
Town Treasurer	3	* Catherine Nichols
Assessor	3	Richards Steinbock
Tax Collector	3	* Sandra Gilbert
School Committee	3	Susan Gruen
Finance Committee	3	David Howland
Planning Board	5	* John Holdsworth
Library Trustee	3	* Alli Thane
	2	++ Edith Gleason
Town Auditor	1	Newland Smith

\* Present incumbent at this time does not intend to seek reelection.

++ Filling term of John Holdsworth, resigned

Any town resident wishing to run for one of the above offices may do so by taking out nomination papers from the Town Clerk by Saturday, March 23. Twenty or more signatures of registered voters are required on the nomination paper which must be filed with the Registrar by Monday, March 25.

In addition to the above officers who are elected by ballot, the following positions are to be filled by nominations from the floor at the annual meeting: Fence Viewers (3), Measurers of Wood and Bark (3), and Field Drivers (3).

The last day for new voters to register for the town election is Tuesday, April 16. You can register at the Town Clerk's office in Sawyer Hall at any time during her regular office hours or by appointment before that date.

Don't miss the Bicentennial Dinner Thursday, Feb 14

## NEWS FROM TOWN HALL

Bids on the renovation of the old Grange Hall in the town hall are to be opened on February 11. Hearings on the new town budget have started and will continue into March.

Consideration is being given to the appointment of a town accountant which would reduce the work of the town treasurer. This appointment by the Selectmen, although authorized under the Mass. General Laws, would still come before a town meeting. If this proposal is followed before the close of nominations on March 23, it would allow time for candidates for Treasurer to evaluate the changes in this position. The Selectmen will meet with the Planning Board on February 11 to discuss this proposal.

The town has received a copy of an internal memo in the state Department of Revenue from the team sent here to review the town revaluation. Besides commending the work of our assessors, the memo concludes, "We feel a good revaluation has been done and we recommend certification."

The Selectmen have announced another "Open House" to be held on Monday April 22, two weeks before the annual town meeting. All citizens are invited to attend and to ask questions on the articles for the town warrant at that time.

## HEATH PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

May Churchill is in Franklin Medical Center where she is being treated for a back ailment. She welcomes cards and visits.

Sheila Litchfield has been appointed Health and Safety Supervisor at the Rowe Yankee Atomic Power Plant. This position combines the jobs of occupational health nurse and safety supervisor. She has resigned from her former position at the Mohawk Medical Center.

Eric and Todd Sumner are on the Dean's list at GCC for the fall semester.

Sandi Ann Galipo and Diane Stowe are on the Dean's list at Bay Path Junior College. Sandi is in her first year and Diane in her second year, both in the executive secretary program.

Don and Lucia Finck have returned home after a month's visit with their daughter, Lucia MacIntosh, in South Lake Tahoe, CA. Their other daughter, Laurel, also visited her sister while her parents were there. Laurel was promoted with merit to Corporal in December. She also received a Navy Unit Commendation. are on the Dean's list at GCC for the fall semester.

Roberta Tripp, daughter of Robert and Alicia Tripp has been accepted at American International College in Springfield. She is a senior at Mohawk High School.

Betsy Reilley, daughter of Pat Leuchtmann, has graduated from Clark University in Worcester. She received a bachelor of science degree with high honors.

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## MILESTONES

by Edith Royer

Edward William was born on December 10 to Edward and Christine Gulyban of Number Nine Road.

Lisa Marie was born on December 12 to James and Sandra Herzig of Colrain Stage Road.

Elise Catherine was born on December 18 to Charles and Debra Washer of Greenfield. Elise is the granddaughter of Catherine and Bruce Cromack and great granddaughter of Hannah Burrington.

Michael James was born on December 27 to Paul and Joan Fournier. Michael is the grandson of Joseph and Mildred Giard and Philip and Ruth Fournier and the great grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Fournier.

Maegan Lynn was born on January 10 to Norman and Lisa Davenport of Shelburne. Maegan is the granddaughter of Catherine and Bruce Cromack and great granddaughter of Hannah Burrington.

Nathan Allan was born on January 20 to Allan and Cynthia Smith of Shelburne. Nathan is the grandson of Catherine and Bruce Cromack and the great grandson of Hannah Burrington. Mrs. Burrington now has eight great grandchildren - seven great granddaughters and one great grandson.

May Churchill is in the Franklin Medical Center where doctors are finding the cause of a painful back.

Ralph Riddle will celebrate his 93rd birthday on February 28. He formerly lived in the present Beaudoin house on South Road and now lives in Annapolis. He appreciates hearing from old friends in Heath.

Rev. John F. Porter died January 13 at his home on Number Nine Road after a long illness. He leaves four daughters; Jane of Pelham, Pamela of Cambridge, Deborah of Heath, and Rachael of California. He and his wife Nelle spent many summers in Heath before moving here permanently five years ago.

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