

VOLUME 7 NUMBER 5

DECEMBER 1985/JANUARY 1986

HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER 35¢

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



Heath's Bicentennial Year 1785 - 1985

MALVIN LIVELY 1963-1985

It's a difficult thing to write of the sudden death of Malvin Lively on October 25. One of the treasures a community such as ours holds is the opportunity of seeing its children grow into adulthood. As a neighbor and friend, it was gratifying to watch Malvin play with my children in ways that I can remember playing with him when he was small.

Malvin, a native to Heath, was the eldest son of Paul and Marcella Lively of Number 9 Road. He was born October 26, 1963 and lived at home at the time of his death.

Malvin attended the Rowe Elementary School and the Mohawk Regional High School where he was a member of the school band and co-editor of the school newspaper. As a teenager he was also a member of the Junior Firemen. He graduated from high school in 1981.

After high school, Malvin joined the National Guard and at the same time remained interested in our town's life. He was a boy scout leader, contributed to the Heath Herald, and was a member of the Fire Department. Malvin was last employed by William Graves Dairy Farm in Conway.

I find myself still looking for his friendly smile and the wave of his hand among the family work crew, stacking wood beside his house. For the many who knew him, Malvin Lively is greatly missed.

... Debbie Porter

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HEATH HERALD

Volume 7 Number 5 December 1985/January 1986

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LEROY DECKER 1922 - 1985

Roy was a friend, a good neighbor, who was ready to help when an extra hand was needed in the neighborhood. He worked hard; for 39 years at Millers Falls Tool Co and since his retirement he has helped at Western County Taxi in Shelburne Falls. Roy was active in the Heath Agricultural Society, first organizing the gymkhanas and for many years working on the refreshment committee.

Most of all, Roy was a family man. He and his wife Millie were married for 45 years and rarely was one seen without the other. He was good to his children, Ed, Douglas, Wayne and Donna, as well as a devoted grandfather to his many grandchildren.

We'll miss you, Roy.

... Alli Thane

X-COUNTRY SKI RACE 1986

With hopes for the same perfect weather and ski conditions as prevailed last February, the 2nd Annual Heath X-country Ski Race will be held in 1986 on Sunday, February 9. Steve Marcotte will again groom the same 14 km trail. A shorter and less rugged course will be available for child participants. This time, however, the event is under the auspices of the Town Park and Playground Committee.

Letters are being sent to landowners along the course again requesting permission to use the same route. Parties involved are asked to reply promptly to this request.

Volunteers are again needed to assist in organizing and managing the event. Anyone willing to help with this project is asked to contact Catherine Nichols at 337-6665.

HEATH PRECIPITATION

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

Precipitation for October 1985 was 2.51 inches. November precipitation was 7.54 inches. Total precipitation, January 1 through November 30, was 42.93 inches.

Our first snowfall arrived November 16. We had 9 1/2 inches of snow the latter half of November. A very wet November helped bring the year's precipitation up nearer normal.

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CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

The approaching Christmas Season gives me the opportunity to share with all of you just how glad we are to be living in the Berkshires. Pam and I, Sarah and James, are all delighted to at last be settling into a real home in the midst of a real community of people.

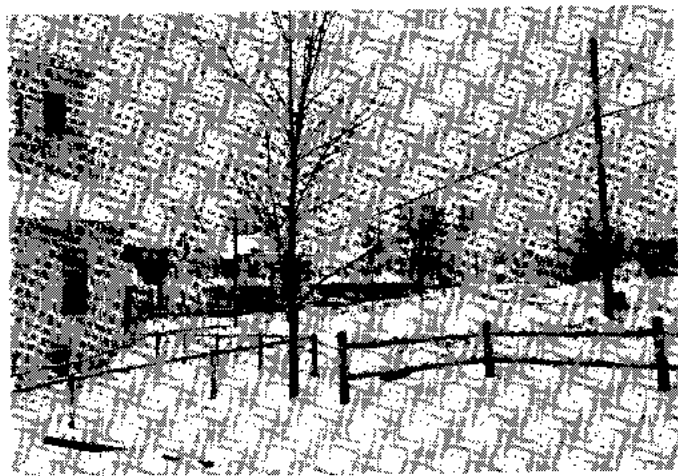
We have found Heath to be filled with people who go out of their way to be friendly and helpful. I think these hills tend to attract people who know the value of human relationships and aren't afraid to act like good neighbors.

As a way of saying thank you for all your kindness, Pamela and I have decided to extend an invitation to an open house which will be held at the Parsonage, Bray Road, on December 15th from 2 to 5 in the afternoon. We hope you will find time in your busy holiday schedule to drop in.

In the spirit of the Season which is rushing our way, I wish you all happiness and peace, and the joy which comes from sharing our lives with the lives of others.

A very Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with blessings.

Kevin Pleas, Pastor
Heath Union Church



Christmas in Heath Center
(Photo by Paul Turnbull)

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3rd ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

Ron Corey donated the beautiful, 15 foot, Blue Spruce for the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony on Sunday December 8 sponsored by the HEATH HERALD, the Heath Historical Society and the Heath Church. Ron and Mike Kinsman cut the tree on a very cold day and with the help of Newland Smith settled it into a dug hole at the corner of the Center School House. Guy wires which were placed to hold it in the winds proved inadequate for the fierce 45 mph winds of the following days and they had to be replaced. John Read and Newland ran wires from the inside of the School House and strung the lights after the weather warmed a bit.

The official lighting took place with the help of the Gather 'Round Singers leading a group of townspeople in a carol sing following the Church concert on Sunday. The group then went over to the Community Hall for cocoa and cookies organized by Karen MacDougall. The tree will be lighted each night during the Christmas season. Many thanks go to Ron Corey for this Christmas gift to the town.

NEW YEAR'S PARTY 1948 - 1985

by Carroll Stowe

At a recent Bicentennial Committee meeting I made mention of an event that took place years ago here in Heath. It was on New Year's Eve - probably 1948. Some folks with a good imagination put together a New Year's party.

Three teams of horses and double sleds left Heath Center with loads of people. They traveled out of the Center by way of Long Hill Road to 8A, north to the Ben Road, to Bray Road and back to the Center. The party was held at Sawyer Hall and a fine time was had by all.

I thought, as an end to our Bicentennial Year, it would be nice to recreate this event, as near as possible, this New Year's Eve.

Wagons would have to replace the sleds because of the plowed roads. The weather will also be a factor.

My thought was to have a potluck supper and spread it out in the Community Hall, and eat and have a chance to visit with a group of good people. Hopefully we could arrange to have the Church bell rung as Bruce Patterson did at the party in 1948.

If anyone has recollections of the earlier party, I would like to hear from them. I would be very happy for any help that can be turned in the direction of this party.

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SPECIAL ELECTION AND TOWN MEETING

by HERALD Staff

The Selectmen have announced that a special town election and ballot will be held on January 6, 1986. This is being held to request additional appropriations for funds not incorporated in the current budget adopted last May. The voting by written ballot is required as these additional appropriations would push our total appropriation for the year beyond the allowed limit set by Proposition 2 1/2. These additional amounts being requested are to be used principally for another town revaluation, interest payments and the insurance account.

Since this substantial increase in the budget and overriding of the Prop 2 1/2 limit means an increase in taxes for the current year, a number of concerned citizens have asked the Selectmen to hold an informational meeting to explain the reasons for this emergency. Such a meeting has been set up for Thursday, January 2 at 7:30 PM in the Community Hall. It is hoped that all town voters will attend to ask questions of the Selectmen and Assessors on the issues in question.

In other news from the Town Hall, it was announced that Michael Smead resigned as Dog Officer but no one has yet been appointed to the position. Also a refund of \$1300 from Blue Cross was received for overpayments - some of which is to repay town employees. The new Sawyer Hall septic system has been completed except for final grading which will be done next spring. Two new entrance doors have been installed on the lower level of the Community Hall and the north entrance improved by re-grading to obtain better drainage. A grant has been obtained for a training program for the Conservation Commission. Although this commission was appointed some time ago, it was done without a legal town vote. An article on this is to be included for the next town meeting. The draft of a town employee vacation policy has been prepared but not yet finalized.

VOTER REGISTRATION

Town Clerk Joanne Fournier has announced the last date to register for voting in the January 6 special election will be on Tuesday, December 17. She will be in her office that day at the Town Hall from 10 AM to 6 PM. You can also register at any time prior to that date during her regular office hours.

Voting in the special election will take place between 3:30 and 7:30 PM. The special town meeting will start at 8 PM.

In other news the Town Clerk has started to update our town street list. Anyone in town who has not been called for the listing, or anyone new in town, is asked to contact Joanne or Marcella Lively so that they may record the needed information and enter it on the town computer.



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FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

by D. F. Howland, Chairman
Heath Finance Committee

As 1985 draws to a close the voters of Heath are being asked to consider a ballot vote and a warrant on January 6, 1986 that is probably unprecedented in the history of the Town. The Selectmen are posing a question on the ballot to override Proposition 2 1/2 tax levy limits during the current year. This is required procedure in these matters. The proposed warrant reflects expenditures that are causing the override issue. These expenditures are in addition to those voted at the annual town meeting last May, and will exceed the current allowable levy limit of \$381,048.

As the warrant has not yet been posted, the Finance Committee is unable to state its specific recommendations. In general, however, the Committee does not support the question to override and believes that many articles should be postponed to the next annual town meeting. Also, as a result of waiting on the results of this special town meeting, the tax bills have neither been prepared nor sent out thereby further exacerbating the interest expense to the taxpayers, an account already in serious deficit condition. We sincerely hope that all voters will attend the informational hearing on January 2 so that as many facts as possible can be heard and considered before voting.

FinCom members Bruce Cromack, Guy Silvester and I wish to thank those who have been helpful to the Committee's work this past year and wish a happy holiday and prosperous New Year to all.

ASSESSORS' REPORT

by C. Richards Steinbock, Chairman
Heath Board of Assessors

Due to the fact that the town must wait until a January 6 special town meeting takes place before sending out Fiscal 1986 tax bills, we are asking anyone who would like to, or can afford to, to make an early 1986 payment.

We can't send out estimated tax bills because this is not a revaluation year, but we will be sending out postcards asking for a voluntary payment. One-half of last year's tax payment would put you ahead of the game and greatly help the town. For many people, it's quite a help on their federal tax return to make real estate tax payments before January 1.

Whether you decide to send a payment immediately, or wait for a postcard, which ought to go out in about two weeks, it would help the tax collector greatly if you would note your name and parcel number clearly. This number is the 7 letter/7 digit code next to the words MAP/PAR near the upper left corner of your last tax bill.

If you have any problems, please feel free to call the assessors on Tuesdays, 7 - 10 PM, at 337-4934 or the tax collector at 337-4394.

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A NEW HEATH ARTIST

by Pat Leuchtman

Fred Burrington created the cover for this year's Christmas issue of the HEATH HERALD, attempting to capture the sense of Heath's past and its present spirit which we celebrate this Bicentennial Year.

At 21, Fred is one of Heath's younger artists, but the watercolor paintings he showed at the Bicentennial Art Exhibit proved he is already perceptive and skilled.

In addition to painting, Fred takes great pleasure in carving loons. He began in 1983 when he carved one for his father's Christmas gift and is still perfecting his technique. He does not attempt to achieve a strictly realistic representation, but says "I love their call which sings of New England, but I think I hear it with an internal ear because it speaks directly to my soul. If I can show how I feel about these birds, perhaps I can share some of their beauty."

Though much of his technique is self-taught, Fred did attend art classes at Greenfield Community College and eventually hopes to continue formal art studies.

Currently Fred is concentrating on working in watercolor because he wants to feel more complete control before he continues experimenting with other media.

Also, he says "Heath is my only subject right now and I feel it could keep me busy for a lifetime. I love this area very much."

TOWN BULLETIN BOARD REGULATIONS

The bulletin board in the front lobby of Sawyer Hall has always been reserved for official town notices only, by order of the Heath Selectmen.

This restriction is necessary due to the large number of personal and organizational notices posted, among which important town notices were lost.

A much larger bulletin board was placed in the inside lobby of the hall where these other notices may be posted.

The Selectmen have requested the cooperation of all town organizations and individuals in this matter.

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FOOTWEAR

THE BATTLE OF WOUNDED KNEE

by Alastair Maitland

One wonders what it must have been like for Philippeides, who ran and swam more than 22 miles from Marathon to Athens to announce the victory of the Athenians and Spartans over the Persians in 490 B.C. Philippeides had a number of mountains, as well as rivers, with which to contend. But he had been a champion Olympic athlete. The English Militiamen, who in the 1740's carried out scouting and dispatch-carrying missions along Massachusetts' Line of Forts, were not expected to be seasoned Marathoners. Nonetheless, the terrain that they had to traverse in the course of the five and a half or so miles between each Fort could hardly have been less testing than the challenge encountered by Philippeides. To begin with, as some of us were very soon to be reminded on October 12 last, as we started out from the site of Fort Shirley, this was "the forest primeval." And not just "the whispering pines and the hemlock" but, as Michael Coe has told us, also ash and red oak, as well as beech and other species. The environment in which the scouting parties and runners operated must have been one of dense and virtually unbroken woodland.

The occasion was the joint expedition by the Heath and Rowe Historical Societies, as part of the Bicentennial Year celebration in the two Towns, to retrace the "war trail" followed by the English scouts and runners between Fort Shirley (Heath) and Fort Pelham (Rowe). There were 21 of us. The Fort Shirley contingent, commanded by Sophie and Michael Coe, included the Newland Smiths, their son and a friend from Minnesota, Clyde Churchill, the Leuchtman, Susan Silvester, Andean mountaineer Alice Woznick and Craig Barry, as well as Dr. Richard Morris, who has been assisting Michael Coe in his research into the Line of Forts, together with two other Yalies. Fort Pelham was represented by Mary Elizabeth Snively and Jack Carse, under the command of Nancy and Jack Williams (who, by the way, disclaims even the most distant kinship with the ubiquitous Williams family, the "River Gods" of the northwest frontier of the Colony, who operated an early version of Cosa Nostra under the Hatfield Godfather, Israel Williams). There was also one Militiaman on detached duty from Fort Morrison in Colrain, Professor Gillett Griffin, whose boundless energy made him a natural candidate for the role of scout and pace-setter for the party as a whole which, like a World War II convoy on the Atlantic, stayed together throughout, moving at the speed of the slowest ship.

The expedition was favored by perfect hiking weather, dry, cool and sunny. And, more important, Lewis and Clark, in the persons of Sophie and Michael Coe and Nancy Williams, with an assist in mid-route from Clyde Churchill, had carried out a reconnaissance mission in advance to mark the path to be followed.

For the benefit of those whose mental picture of Heath and Rowe is that of a community of people and homes and farms (and cellar-bottoms) rather than a couple of quadrangles on a map of Franklin County, and for the benefit especially of those who may feel inspired to emulate the original 21 and to retrace the Old Military Road on foot, the path we took started off westwards from the Fort in a gentle ascent, under the power line, to the former Spooner place. The next leg took us to the disused western section of the Oxbow Road and then, once more,

..... continued on page 6

..... continued from page 5

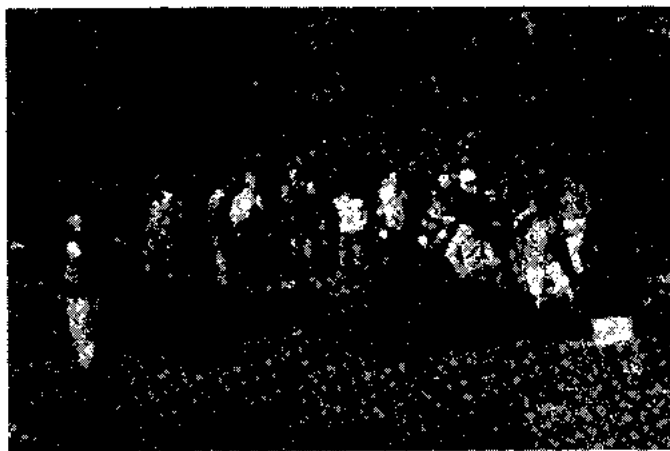
through the woods along a small stream-bed to the site of the Pomeroy cabin, recently destroyed by fire. From there the route led past the rear of the Heath Town Garage to the Cromarty pasture on Ben Road.

Back on terra firma we followed the hard-top road to the intersection with BA where, under Clyde Churchill's guidance, we re-entered the woods, following Clyde's sap line up to the Churchill picnic grounds and then, in single file, climbing through the Metelica woodlot and emerging in due course at the track leading north-west to Knott Road. From there our route lay north, past the Leuchtman's house, and along a logging track, described by Nancy Williams as being reputedly the oldest road between the two towns. We were then technically in Rowe and were entering Dell Road. The remaining stages were: Cyrus Stage Road, down past the Rowe East Cemetery, then right on Leshures Road and left on Ford Hill Road, which may have seemed to some like Heartbreak Hill, past Rowe's Liberty Pole. Finally, by a mysterious route known only to Nancy Williams, south from Ford Hill Road through thick woods to the "north entrance" to Fort Pelham. By Nancy Williams' reckoning we had covered, with our various meanderings, almost 7 miles. The journey had taken 4 hours, without any significant pause.

The Fort Pelham site is well maintained, and the various points of interest are suitably marked. The item of the most immediate interest to the travellers was, however, a hamper of cold beer and chilled wine, which our Rowe hosts had thoughtfully and generously arranged to deliver to the Fort in advance of our arrival, and which would surely have seemed no less titillating even to a rum-swilling 18th century Militiaman.

If this particular Long March had a hero it was without doubt Clyde Churchill, at 74 one of the more senior members of the expedition (but, despite what has been written elsewhere, not the oldest). Although suffering from a 3-year-old and still not fully healed knee injury he had made a solemn Bicentennial Year resolution to embark upon and to complete the trek between the Forts, a journey that he had never attempted in all his many years as a Boy Scout and Scoutmaster. Naturally enough he took with him on the expedition the 6-foot-long knotty ash he had cut green in 1925, when he was a 14-year-old patrol-leader and which, flying the Scout Troop's pennant, had accompanied him on all the hikes he led in the years that followed. Whether, 60 years later, his ancient stick served more as a moral than a physical support Clyde triumphantly accomplished his self-imposed mission. And he certainly did better than the gallant Philippeides who, exhausted at the completion of his run, staggered dying to the gates of Athens proclaiming: "Yippee! We clobbered them" (or words to that effect).

Our own scouting and dispatch-carrying party suffered no casualties. We could all proclaim: "Yippee! We made it."



**Scouts on Military Trail (near Ben Road)
Fort Shirley - Fort Pelham
October 1985**

HALLEY'S COMET 1910 - 1985

While some Heathens this winter have their binoculars or telescopes glued on the Pleiades hoping for a glimpse of Comet Halley, a former Heath summer resident chartered a balloon and took off from Pittsfield in 1910 with some friends to get a better view of the comet.

The following item appeared in the May 14, 1910 number of the New York Times:

R.C. TRIPP STARTS OFF WITH FRIENDS FOR A SIGHT FROM CLOUDLAND

Roswell C. Tripp, ex-Yale athlete and member of several successive All-American football teams, now a downtown broker, left the Grand Central Station last night with a few college friends for Springfield, Mass., where he had previously chartered the balloon Springfield for a comet seeing exhibition.....

One of the members of the party said last night:

"Mr. Tripp is the only one of us who has ever seen a balloon, but we have been training at the Harvard Club gymnasium for the last week, and we think we can make the proper leap from the basket at the proper time. We will be equipped with photographic and telescopic instruments, and intend to make this a scientific as well as a novel adventure.

"It is our intention to stay up in the air as long as practicable."

The May 15th number of the Times carried a follow-up to this story indicating that the take-off was moved to Pittsfield as they could not obtain the 60,000 cubic feet of balloon gas in Springfield. They were scheduled to take off at 2 AM the next morning. No doubt they passed over Heath!

Roswell Tripp had a beautiful old house on Burnt Hill and spent summers here with his family from 1919 until the place was burned in the 1930s.

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CHURCH NEWS

by Amy C. Barry

The beginning of the Christmas Season was marked in the Heath Church by a wonderful concert given on Sunday, December 8, by the Gather 'Round Singers. The Gather 'Round Singers evolved from a group of neighbors and friends meeting weekly in Shelburne Falls at the home of Dr. Christopher French. This past June the Singers performed at the Mohawk Trail Concert held in the Heath Church in honor of the town's Bicentennial.

Their Christmas concert consisted of shape-note Christmas music and two Renaissance motets as well as traditional carols. Baroque music for flute and harpsichord was provided by Diane Gordon and Sylvia Phipps. Dr. French is the group's director and Jayne Dane, a member of the group, helped coordinate this special musical celebration.

On Sunday, December 22, the children of the Heath and Rowe Sunday Schools and the Rowe Youth Group will present their annual Christmas pageant. This will be a joint service and will be held in the Heath Church beginning at 10 AM with a coffee hour to follow.

The Christmas Eve candlelight service of readings and carols will take place at 7 PM in the Heath Church.

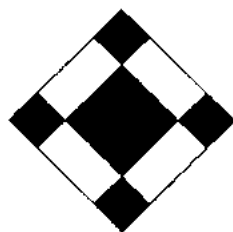
All are welcome to attend these Christmas services and participate in the waiting, the hope and joy of this Holy Season.

PETERS' STORE CHANGES HANDS

Michael Peters is the new owner of Peters' Store. Pam and Ray Galipo, who have been running "the only store in Heath" for the past several years, have transferred ownership to Michael and the liquor license to Michael's father, Cleon.

Pam is working at the Rowe Atomic Plant and Ray can now devote full time to his first love, working in the woods. However, they will both be missed at the store.

The HEATH HERALD sends good wishes to Michael as he starts out on his new venture.



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THE PLEAS FAMILY

by Pamela Pleas

Since moving to Heath in early October, we have met many people and have already made good friends. It is such a pleasure for us to be living in the country after living in Boston for the last two years. However, we are not altogether unfamiliar with this area, having spent four years living in Amherst.

Kevin originally came to Amherst to study psychology at Hampshire College, but then transferred to the University of Massachusetts after one year. Kevin's hometown is Riverside in southern California, and he served four years in the Coast Guard as a radioman in Virginia before starting college. I transferred to the University of Massachusetts from a small college near Chicago where I grew up. My major was German since I had lived and worked in Germany for two years following high school. Kevin and I met in Amherst and were married one year later. Our daughter, Sarah, was born in May 1983 in the middle of our final exams at U. Mass.

From there, we moved to Boston where Kevin has been studying to be a minister at Andover Theological School. Our son, James, was born in Boston last May. Kevin was called to serve as minister of the Heath and Rowe Churches starting in early October. He is still commuting to Boston to complete the last of his seminary education, which he finds exciting, since he can combine his studies for the ministry with real-life work in the Church.

We are now living in the parsonage on Bray Road. We are enjoying our lovely new home, our new friends and our new surroundings.

MAILING PROBLEMS FOR THE HERALD

The HEATH HERALD regrets the delays in delivery experienced by subscribers in some areas. This has been caused by the use of 3rd class bulk mailing to which we have been obliged to resort because of the increased postal rates.



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THE PELATIAH SMITH HOUSE

[Editors' note: This is the eighteenth in a series of articles on the older houses of Heath which has been appearing over the past seven years. Information for this story was supplied by Clarence Cutter, Edith Royer, Lorin and Sandy Gowdy and Ed Calver. It was compiled by the HERALD staff.]

The present Lorin Gowdy house on Royer Road was probably built about 1785 by Pelatiah Smith, who came from Amherst buying the lot of 160 acres from Jonah and Jonathan Thayer. Pelatiah built a two story house with two rooms downstairs and two upstairs with a large ell attached in back followed by a whole series of smaller ells. The main rooms are large as is the center hall. It is a very spacious house with a handsome fan light over the front door. It has two chimneys with four fireplaces and nice panelling still to be seen around the fireplace and cupboards in the lower northeast room. Wide floor boards with saw marks made in a vertical up-and-down sawmill can still be seen in some of the rooms. The main house has very little cellar under it and the foundation is 18 inches out of square. The roof rafters are shorter by a foot on one side making the gable off center. There was a root cellar accessed through a trap door in the floor which, when removed, exposed narrow steps going down to the cellar. The ell had a chimney dutch oven and fireplace in the kitchen for cooking. This was later removed.

Pelatiah died in 1809 at the age of 85 but the farm stayed in the family for several generations. In 1793 one of his sons, Aaron, took over the farm legally and at the same time another son, Samuel, received a portion. Later Anna Merrill, who was Aaron Jr.'s sister, and her husband Joseph bought the farm and lived the rest of their lives on it.

In the 1890s a lumber company acquired the place to supply logs for the mining operation then active in Rowe and the logging crew stayed in the house. During this time Peter Royer came down from Canada to work with the crew as a logger, bringing with him three of his children. The logging operation needed a cook for the crew, so Peter sent to Quebec for his wife and the remaining eleven children. They reached the Charlemont station by train in winter in the middle of the night and were carried by sled up the Dell Road but were then obliged to walk through unplowed snow up the long hill to the house.

After the logging operation was completed Peter Royer acquired the property for \$600 (and perhaps back wages) from a John Gerry who was associated with the lumber company. Peter and his wife are remembered as being a very happy couple, always laughing and smiling.

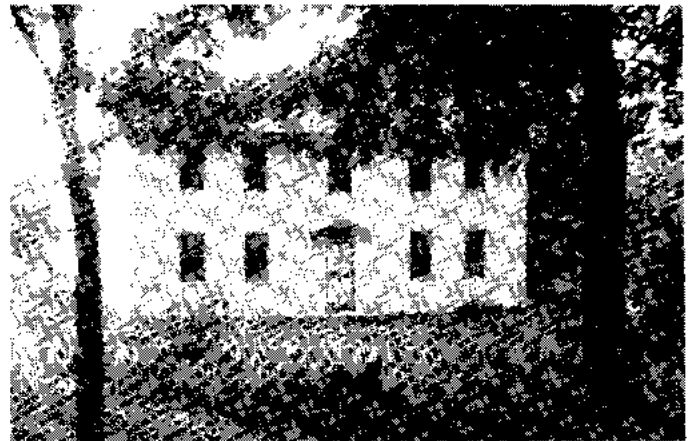
After Peter died, one of his sons, Andy, took over the place and lived there putting in electricity in 1949. According to his wife Edith, he went down to the root cellar through the trap door one day, when the narrow stairs gave way leaving him hanging with his hands as his legs were too short to touch the ground. Edith ran for a ladder and retrieved him.

In 1951 Clarence Cutter bought the house for \$6500. Clarence found the house in rather poor condition and did considerable restoration. He tore down the ell and rebuilt it, but the series of sheds were already gone. A second ell had been moved from the field as a shed and attached to the house. A separate barn had burned at one time, but a town work bee helped the Royers rebuild it.

Clarence Cutter, who had taken up flying, acquired his own plane and built his own airstrip just south

of the house. For many years he could be seen circling over Heath, preparing to land. The slight upgrade of his landing strip allowed him to land at a good 50 mph speed and still use only a small part of the airstrip. After 29 years of successful flying, Clarence thought it was time to stop.

In 1977 Lorin and Sandy Gowdy acquired the house and part of the land. They in turn have made their own changes to the house with further restoration. The original deep-panelled doors with iron latches still remain in the main house with the four fireplaces. And it is nice to see that the main house with its fan window over the front doorway looks much as it did when Pelatiah lived there in the 1700s.



**Pelatiah Smith - Peter Royer House c. 1785
as it was in the 1940's**
(Photo from Edith Royer)

FLU AND COLD SEASON

by Sharleen Moffatt, R.N.
Town Nurse

The cold weather is here to stay again. The flu vaccine that many of you received is of great help in prevention of the serious side effects of influenza. However, it does not replace taking care of oneself properly. Maintaining a well body is a combination of several aspects, each of equal importance. An adequate dietary intake of nutrients, minerals and vitamins is necessary for the body to maintain an adequate immunological response. Of equal importance is maintaining an exercise program and getting the proper amount of rest.

Maintaining body warmth is one of the more difficult aspects of winter months. Use of layers of clothing rather than heavy and restrictive clothing is always more effective in maintaining body temperature. Always take care that the head, hands and feet are adequately protected. If using wood heat, assure adequate humidity by use of water on the stove, and strive to maintain a level temperature. Stay warm and healthy and enjoy one of the beautiful times in New England.

Happy Holidays to one and all

(No office hours on Thursday, December 26)

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LIBRARY LINES

by Alli Thane, Librarian

The Library has had a change. We now have two new bookcases in the adult fiction section and the area seems lighter and brighter. These cases are the effort of Kenneth Stetson who donated his time to the construction. It is much appreciated.

I just finished a course on material selection at the Western Massachusetts Regional Library Center in Hatfield. The study emphasized the need for librarians to choose their books carefully. Books are so expensive now. For example, a non-fiction book which cost \$11.95 in 1981 is now \$21.95; a fiction book costing \$7.95 in 1981 is now \$17.95 and children's books have doubled. Magazine subscriptions have doubled and in some cases tripled.

We are fortunate here in Heath to have many kind patrons who share their magazines with us after they have finished reading them. This gives us a good selection of magazines on many different subjects which otherwise we would not be able to afford.

Our Wednesday afternoon children's story hour has grown so large that we show filmstrips out in the hallway. These volunteers, 5th and 6th graders, read stories to the younger children. It is a very busy afternoon!

We have also had many donations of books this past month. This is such a boost to our small budget. I'd like to extend thanks to all these volunteers and donors. With you our library is richer.

In closing, I'm declaring December as "free from fines month." Please check your bookcases and bedside tables for overdue books. Visit the Library or drop them into our convenient book return.



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BLOCK GRANT AVAILABLE TO HEATH RESIDENTS

Part of a Block Grant of over \$900,000 recently awarded to Colrain, Heath and Monroe will be available to Heath residents after January 1. This grant money is in the form of low interest loans (or no interest depending upon financial needs) for housing rehabilitation.

Susan Wright, our Town Shared Administrative Assistant, who was successful in obtaining this grant for the towns, will assist residents in making application for these loans. Eligibility depends upon the family size and income, although families with special hardships are encouraged to discuss their situation with Susan Wright. The maximum gross income limits range from \$14,050 for a household of one to \$25,150 for a family of eight. Information supplied in the applications will be held strictly confidential and will be reviewed only by the Franklin County Regional Housing Authority.

Although application forms are available now from Susan Wright, she plans to have regular office hours in Heath starting in January to help people with their applications. A mailing will soon be made to all households giving the times of these office hours.

Another part of this grant is to be used for small business. This can be in the form of low interest loans for setting up a new business or for capital improvements in an existing business. Susan will be glad to give more details on this part of the grant to interested persons. She can be reached at her office in the Shelburne Town Hall 625-9831.

PLANNING BOARD REPORT

by Robert Dane, Secretary

The Planning Board is currently finishing up work on the revised version of the Subdivision Regulations. A final draft is being prepared which we will submit to the Franklin County Planner, Liz Kidder, for critique.

Three weeks ago Tom Lively, Sue Gleason and I attended a meeting organized by Liz Kidder for planning board members of Heath, Colrain, Buckland and Shelburne. The purpose of this meeting was to get ideas for training workshops for planning boards. These workshops are part of the implementation of the "Incentive Aid" grant program, and will be held some time in January. They should help planning board members to be better informed in areas such as regional growth trends, planning board responsibilities and the role of zoning bylaws and subdivision regulations in managing growth while retaining rural character.

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FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

by Chief Earl Gleason

Congratulations: After a busy summer the Department went through October without an emergency response. The streak ended on November first with two EMTs aiding the Colrain Ambulance. Another medical call was responded to by three EMTs and the Colrain Ambulance on November 22. Three firefighters responded to a partition fire caused by a stove pipe installed too close to the floor joists.

I would like to remind those installing wood burning stoves and chimneys that they should obtain a permit from the Franklin County Building Inspector. The codes are for your protection. We have run into several emergencies that were caused by improper installation of equipment that had been working for several years. Sooner or later the flammable products around a stove pipe, stove or chimney become dry from the heat and at some point cause problems.

I have been attending an officers' training school in Shelburne each Thursday evening since the middle of September. These classes will continue into January. In addition eight smoke detector inspections were made, certificates issued for sales of property; attended Fire Wardens meetings in Deerfield and Northampton respectively; and also four Tri-State Directors meetings.

The first three Tri-State Directors meetings were held mainly to discuss and plan for a central dispatching center for the Franklin County fire and police departments. Several departments are having trouble finding people to man red phones or an answering service for emergencies. Also the Governor has asked the legislature to implement a state-wide E911 system with the system to go into dispatch centers. It is the feeling of the directors that it would be to our advantage to have our own dispatch center set up rather than have the state set up a dispatch center, which would probably be in Springfield and cover all of western Massachusetts.

REPORT FROM THE TAX COLLECTOR/TREASURER

by Linda Marcotte

I hope everyone has a happy Holiday Season.

It has been a very busy time and I am still trying to compile all the necessary information to start collecting the outstanding real estate taxes. So far, collection has been very good on the bills that were issued at the end of August with 81% collected to date.

In mid to late January I will be changing my office location from the Town Hall to my home for an indefinite period. I will need to go to the Town Hall every so often to use the copier and computer. Therefore, if someone need to see me personally, they should call first to make sure I will be there or it is possible I could meet them at the Town Hall if more convenient. Hopefully my regular hours will not have to change. I hope this change does not cause too much trouble. I live approximately one mile from the Town Hall on Flagg Hill Road (second house on the left).

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POLICE REPORT

by Chief Lorin Gowdy

Since July the Heath Police Department has spent 285 hours on patrol, 18 hours answering life threatening emergencies and 31.5 hours completing investigations and other administrative tasks; a total of 334.5 hours. This averages about 2.75 hours of police work per day for July through October. During the same period in 1984 we spent approximately 2 hours per day.

So why, with only an increase of 3/4 an hour a day did the Police Department manage to spend 45% of its allotted budget of \$7206 (the highest ever appropriated by Heath voters)? Part of the answer is that while Heath police officers make only \$5 an hour for administration, \$5.50 for patrol and \$6 for the first two hours of an emergency call, all the other people we buy from are trying to make a living. The telephone company alone has cost \$290 since July, an increase from \$110 from last year. Along with everything else the cruiser finally decided it needed some major repair. Aside from normal oil changes etc., the car has needed little since 1978. Well, now the cruiser is seven years old and this year all the brakes and associated miscellany had to be replaced at a cost of \$388. The other reason why the budget looks short is that most of the additional equipment and repair to existing equipment planned in the 1986 budget has already been done. I don't believe that the Police Department will have a problem staying within the budget for the remainder of the year.

The only thing that would really keep the cost of law enforcement down is if all criminal activities ceased. However, since that doesn't seem likely, Heath residents should continue to report suspicious activities, especially around the home of our part-time neighbors.

Through your helpfulness and caring, the Heath Police Department has been able to come to a satisfactory conclusion to most of the criminal complaints received. The items listed below are part of what we did during our average 2.75 hours per day:

July We were able to obtain complaints against individuals that had broken into 22 homes causing extensive damage to some; and recovered a stolen car that had been missing since last November.

August Responded to a serious auto accident; aided in locating two children believed to be kidnapped; started an investigation that led to the arrest of an individual wanted for arson, burglary, and also on a federal fugitive warrant relating to drug charges in Florida.

September Recovered a Moped stolen from Greenfield; responded to a burglary in progress leading to an arrest and conviction of a female subject; responded to two motor vehicle accidents; and worked with state and local Civil Defense during Hurricane Gloria.

October Reports of vandalism to some summer houses, some miscellaneous larceny of tools (mostly axes); one burglary; one attempted burglary; and one assault with a dangerous weapon. We ended October by handing out candy to all the little goblins at the town Halloween Party.

If you see anything out of the ordinary - please call. We have three phones that ring when you dial 337-5505 (one at my home, one at Lee Shepherd's and one at Guy Silvester's home).

THE BOOK OF HEATH: AN EPILOGUE

Heath's Bicentennial Year has all but run its course; and we, the living, can think back and reflect, with pleasure and gratitude, upon the many celebratory things we did together, as a Town. We will, at the same time, give a thought to posterity and we will leave a record, so that the curious among those who will succeed us here will be able to ascertain what we collectively chose to do in honor of our Town's 200th Birthday.

Meanwhile, one thing seems certain. One hundred years from now (if not also fifty years from now) someone will reach out for a slim hard-cover book on the shelves of the Heath Historical Society, or the Heath Library, or even the Library of Congress, bearing the title The Book of Heath. It will be required reading for anyone thinking about how to celebrate the 300th (if not also the 250th) Birthday of our Town. It will be regarded, along with the Town's Annual Reports of our times, as a sort of Domesday Book of Heath.

It was with a real sense of having been privileged to play a part in the writing of a chapter in the annals of our town for the benefit of all posterity that the Book of Heath essayists (and their spouses) foregathered on November 9 at a reception to celebrate the successful launching of the book and to meet the owners of Paideia Publishers, Seymour and Pat Itzkoff. Professor Itzkoff teaches at Smith College; he and his wife reside in Ashfield. (Marcella Lively and Eric Grinnell were unable to attend).

The reception was at the home of the Editor, Susan Silvester, who was assisted by her daughter Betsey and husband Guy. Much of the fine fare was provided by the bountiful Sophie Coe who had brought a ham, a turkey and a 14-inch-diameter cheesecake made according to a secret recipe, thus demonstrating once again that (as she had noted in her own essay) "Heath still has a cuisine to be proud of." Chairing the proceedings was her husband, Michael Coe, President of the Heath Historical Society and the instigator of the Book of Heath project, who reminded us that, without the enthusiasm and pertinacity and the special editorial talents of Susan Silvester, the undertaking would probably never have borne fruit; and that, without the immense personal interest and tender loving care of Professor and Mrs. Itzkoff, we could not have hoped to have the immaculately printed and handsomely bound volume of which Heathens, present and future, can be justly proud. And, hovering over the assembly, unseen and still anonymous, was the "angel" who underwrote the project and ensured its financial viability.

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BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

by Paul Lively, Chairman
Heath Bicentennial Committee

It was a good feeling that was shared by those who experienced the Bicentennial Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at the Heath Church. Rev. Kevin Pleas in his inspiring message pointed out how great it is that Catholics and Protestants are together to praise God.

At our last meeting, Helen Mackie proposed including in our documentary booklet the names of all the people who now live in Heath or are summer residents. The Committee agreed and Helen is in charge of compiling the list.

Carroll Stowe proposed having a New Year's Eve sleigh ride followed by refreshments at the Community Hall. The Committee supports the idea and will assist with this undertaking.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, January 8, at the Community Hall. We will start work in earnest at that time on the Bicentennial booklet which will document the events of the Bicentennial Year.



BOOK OF HEATH - Publication Party

(rear) Clyde Churchill, Newland Smith, Esther Dickinson,
Amy Barry, Publisher Seymour and Pat Itzkoff, Alastair Maitland;
(front) Sophie Coe, Bill Wolf, Michael Coe, Sue Gleason,
Sue Silvester. (Photo by Sue Silvester)

THE BRIAR AND THE ROSE

by Pat Leuchtman

Catherine Nichols has just begun selling her original designs in lingerie and elegant blouses. She calls her new business The Briar and the Rose and intends to focus on romantic clothing made of 100 % cotton or silk.

Her cotton camisoles are artfully stencilled with an iris or butterfly inspired by Oriental patterns or embellished with lace. Simplicity is the key to their appeal.

Catherine is considering other outlets that might be appropriate for her designs, but her long range goal is to sell them through specialty boutiques in city department stores.

Although many people are most familiar with the work Catherine has done for the town in recent years as Town Clerk and Treasurer and now as Accountant, The Briar and the Rose is a return to an early interest. While a student at UMass she began to sew and sell her designs on the Concourse and later she and her sister, Margery Heyl, ran a boutique in Greenfield for a year. Catherine did custom sewing and was called upon to make everything from stuffed animals to velvet party dresses.

MILESTONES

by Edith Royer

Scott Andrew was born to Le-Ellen and Peter Weis on November 18 in Sound Beach, L.I. Scott is the grandson of Ray and Terry Pettengill.

Elizabeth and Hubert G. Dennison of Bernardston announced the engagement of their daughter Marsha L. Freeman to Norman R. Sessions of Jacksonville Stage Road. He is the son of Dorothy Sessions of Heath. A December wedding is planned.

Richard A. Sumner and Joan Sessions, both of Heath, were married on November 2. He is the son of Rachel and Ralph Sumner of South Road.

Susan L. Wright, the Shared Administrative Assistant for Heath, was married on November 29 to Peter C. Westover. Peter is the conservation director for the town of Amherst. They will live in East Charlemont on West Oxbow Road.

Florence Hillman of Highland Village, Shelburne Falls, died October 12 at the age of 84. She leaves a son Smead, of Heath; three sons and four daughters in surrounding towns; also several grandchildren and great grandchildren of Heath. She was a resident of Heath for many years.

Malvin J. Lively, died on October 25. He was the son of Marcella and Paul Lively of Heath. Besides his parents he leaves six brothers, Mathew P., Dominic S., Adam J., Anthony J., Jeremy J. and Jason A., all of Heath.

Leroy E. Decker of Jacksonville Stage Road died on November 22. He leaves his wife Mildred; three sons, Edwin of Heath, Douglas of Hawley and Wayne of Readsboro VT; a daughter Donna Tanner of Heath, and 17 grandchildren.

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HEATH PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Bob Gruen, who has been active with the Area Civic Theater acting and directing several of their productions, will give an acting workshop at Greenfield Community College through the Division of Continuing Education beginning in February.

Greenfield Community College is offering two workshops during the spring semester taught by Pamela Pleas. One is "Conversational German" and the other is "Off Loom Weaving."

Two Heath artisans, Catherine Nichols and Helen Mackie, are exhibiting and selling their work at the Franklin County Arts Council Christmas Shop in Greenfield through December.

Mike and Sophie Coe spent the Thanksgiving holiday in Venice, Italy.

Charles Miller was kept busy autographing his book Auden at the Shelburne Falls Woman's Club annual book sale in November.

Jim Coursey has returned from a six week holiday in Europe. He went salmon fishing in Scotland and also visited England and France.

Bob Dane recently participated in a show entitled "New Directions in Glass Sculpture" at the Holstein Galleries in Palm Beach, Florida.

The Burrington family reunion was held on November 30 at the Community Hall. About 50 members of the family attended. Hannah Burrington, at 84 years, was the oldest present and Eric Burrington was the youngest at 3 months. Eric, the son of Pearl and Robert Burrington, is the first great grandson to carry on the Burrington name.

Jayne and Bob Dane held an open house at their Heath Brook Studios on December 7. Bob demonstrated his glassblowing techniques and new high-temperature furnace. Jayne showed her handmade crafts and many Christmas items were on sale.

Amy Barry will be showing her craft work at the Super Sunday Craft Fair and Sale at the Sheraton Rolling Green Inn in Andover, MA on Sunday, December 15. The Craft Fair features jewelry, handcrafted gifts, folkart and craft demonstrations. Amy also participated in the Hobby Horse Bazaar sponsored by the Hawlemont P.T.O. on December 7. She has created a new series of wall-hangings in more traditional New England patterns including an 81 piece Tree of Life wall-hanging done in Christmas colors.

Nicole Fogarty achieved All-American status by placing 23rd in the 5000 meter NCAA Division III, National Cross Country Championship, at Emory University, Atlanta GA. The top 25 women and men are All-American. Nicole attends Southeastern Massachusetts University in N. Dartmouth. Nicole qualified for the Nationals by placing 5th in the New England Regionals held at SMU in November. The top ten individuals and the winning team qualified to go to the Nationals.

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