



VOLUME 8 NUMBER 5

DECEMBER/JANUARY 1986

# HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER 35¢



Happy New Year



## HEATH PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Katherine Harris will be in Tel Aviv for five weeks from mid December to mid January as a Distinguished Guest Lecturer under the auspices of the University of Tel Aviv. She will be giving special lectures to undergraduates and graduates in the Department of Speech and Hearing. Her husband, George, will join her for two weeks. Kathy has also edited a book entitled "Laryngeal Function in Phonation and Respiration" which will soon be published.

Nicole Fogarty, a student at Brandeis University, placed third in the NCAA Division Three cross country regional meet at S.E. Mass. University in North Dartmouth, which qualified her for the NCAA national competition. In this she placed in the top 25 which placed her in the All American.

Nicole DenOuden has been elected to the National Honor Society. Nicole is a senior at Mohawk Regional High School and will enter the University of Hartford next fall.

Cleon and Teresa Peters have returned from a trip to the Hawaiian Islands.

The Charles Hamiltons have sold their house on Colrain Brook Road and have moved to Florida.

Kenneth Gilbert of Avery Brook Road is in Altus, Oklahoma, for four months of training to become a certified flight engineer on the new C-5 airplanes at Westover Air Force Base. He will complete his qualifications by next October.

Bob and Jayne Dane held their second annual Open House at their Heath Brook Studios on December 6 and 7. Jayne had many of her hand crafted items including her baskets on display. Bob demonstrated his glass blowing techniques using his high temperature furnace and displayed some of his glass sculpture which has been well received in many art galleries.



## HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

Volume 8 Number 5

December/January 1986

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Send all correspondence to Box 54, Heath, MA 01346

## MILESTONES

by Edith C. Royer

Matthew Dean was born on October 13 to Michael and Carolyn Armstrong of Rowe Road.

Loren Andrew was born on October 16 to Christopher Burke and Karen Brooks of Rowe Road.

Gordon Francis was born on November 2 to Darryl and Michele Cutter of Royer Road. Gordon is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Rice and Clarence Cutter all of Heath.

Mr. and Mrs. Bernard DenOuden announce the engagement of their son Matthew to Miss Amy Driscoll of Farmington, CT. The wedding is planned for the summer of 1987. Both Amy and Matthew will enter the University of Hartford Graduate School next fall.

David J. Giard, Jr. of Shelburne died on December 1. He leaves his father David J. Giard, Sr. and a brother Richard Giard both of Heath and several brothers and sisters in surrounding towns.

## TOWN OFFICE HOURS

(At Town Hall unless otherwise noted)

Selectmen: Tuesdays 7:15 PM  
Assessors: Mondays 7 - 9 PM

Town Clerk & | Mondays 8:30 AM - 12 noon & 1 - 4 PM  
Town Accountant | and by appointment, call 337-6665

Town Treasurer & | Tuesdays & Wednesdays 9 - 11 AM  
Tax Collector | and by appointment, call 337-4394

Finance Committee: As posted  
Planning Board: Mondays 7 - 9 PM  
Heath School Committee: 1st Wednesday of month 7:30 PM

Library Trustees: 3rd Monday of month 7:30 PM  
Library: Mondays 6 - 9 PM Wednesdays 1 - 5 PM  
Saturdays 9 AM - 1 PM

Town Nurse: Wednesdays 8:45 - 10:45 AM  
Fridays 12:45 - 2:45 PM  
(call 625-2829 between 7 - 8:15 AM for appointment)

Post Office: Monday through Saturday  
9:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Dump \* : Mondays 10 AM - 2 PM Wednesdays 10 - 4 PM  
Saturdays 9 AM - 5 PM  
\* (Permit required - see Town Clerk)

Town Telephones: Town Hall 337-4934  
Community Hall 337-4847  
Town Garage 337-4462

## HEATH PRECIPITATION

by Ralph Dickinson, Observer  
for Mass. Water Resources Commission

October precipitation was 3.63 inches; November precipitation was 6.53 inches.

Total precipitation for the first eleven months of 1986 was 46.98 inches.

We enjoyed some of our most pleasant summer weather in mid-October and before our first snowfall of November 11. The 20 inches of snow that fell in November was nearly gone by December 1.



## A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

From where I am sitting as I write this letter, it would be easy to imagine that we are seeing the first days of spring instead of the last days of fall. Probably by the time you read these words Winter will be hard upon us. We have had a taste of it already. But right at present the snow is melting, the sun is shining and the thermometer is pushing up towards fifty. It is a day in which the seasons become confused. It is a day in which the anxious activity preparing for the cold ahead gives way to a warm, relaxed sense of peace. We can be lulled by an impression of timelessness on days like this and an appreciation of the unfolding rhythms of nature.

Peace is a big part of what the Christmas season is all about: peace of mind, peace of heart, peace on earth. Yet every year the season threatens to be overcome with an almost frantic activity. Between shopping, decorating, writing cards and letters, mailing, gathering families together, cooking, cleaning and the rest there hardly seems time to take a deep breath, much less stop and consider the true meaning of Christmas.

This year, before the activity of the season gets out of hand and while the warmth and laziness of late autumn is a not-too-distant memory, we still have a chance to see that the peace of Christmas doesn't get lost in the shuffle. I would like to offer three suggestions in that direction.

First of all, try planning some personal time into your schedule. It isn't an easy thing to do when so much demands our attention, but if we truly want peace to be part of our lives, we have to make room for it.

Second, take time for family. Those who are closest to us need our care and attention throughout the year. Yet there is a special irony at Christmas time that while we spend so much time doing things for them we can often forget that just being with them is every bit as important.

Third, take time for worship. The true meaning of Christmas does not lie in shopping malls. It lies in our relationship to God and the thankfulness of the gathered community.

As far as the third point is concerned, let me invite you all to join with the members of the Heath and Rowe Churches in any and all of the events listed below as well as in our regular Sunday morning worship services. Our gathering is the more joyous when you can join us.

May the Holiday Season be one of peace for you and all those you hold dear.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Kevin Pleas

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## CHURCH NEWS

by Paul Snyder

This church year was much like the last with the same dedicated members in attendance, church officers and members selflessly giving of their time and inspiring sermons from our multi-talented new pastor.

Although this report is not a diary, it was thought that a summary of outstanding events would be in order - Starting with the joint Maundy Thursday supper and service at Rowe; the Easter Sunrise service at Bray Road; a wonderful Easter Service with a choir at the Church; the Mohawk Trail Concert followed by strawberry shortcake on June 8; the church auction at the Fairgrounds on July 26 with a satisfactory exchange of many useful items.

The Ladies Aid has met every other week to work diligently on many projects which were on sale at the July bazaar, followed by a dinner. In November the Ladies Aid held their Christmas sale and lunch which was very successful.

The Tuesday evening meeting of the Prayer Group gives much satisfaction and solace to its members.

Church Growth is a high priority item and is being pursued on several fronts. The religious education of our children and the desire for fellowship in God has led to a restart of Sunday School. An exploratory session was agreed to during the church business meeting in November and was held on the 30th at 10 AM. We welcome all children as well as adults to Sunday School to share our joy at 10 AM each Sunday. Church service is still at 11 AM.

### SPECIAL CHRISTMAS EVENTS:

Joint Christmas Service - December 21 will be the date for the children's Christmas Service. This will be a joint Heath and Rowe service held in Heath beginning at 10 AM.

Caroling - Those interested in caroling in the Rowe area should join with the Rowe choir and the Heath and Rowe youth group at the Rowe Church, 5:30 PM on Monday, December 22. Refreshments will be provided following the event.

Christmas Eve - The services of worship for Christmas Eve will be held this year at 7 PM in Rowe and 9 PM in Heath. Please come and bring a friend.

In addition to the above, our regular Sunday morning worship service is at 11:00 AM in the Heath Church. You are welcome and encouraged to attend.



**Briar & the Rose**

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Shelburne Falls, MA

**Lingerie & Fine Clothing**

by Catherine Nichols

**Wooden Furniture**

by Alan Nichols

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by Susan Silvester

The annual Christmas Concert will be held this year on December 15 at 7:30 PM in the school auditorium.

## — SHELBURNE FALLS —

Heating Supplies  
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by Budge Litchfield, Secretary

At our last meeting the idea of Heath applying for an Early Childhood grant was brought up again. The committee voted not to apply because, as a non-operating committee, we don't have jurisdiction over a place for pre-school nor do we have the personnel to even administer a feasibility study.

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## FOOTWEAR



## MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL SCHOOL NEWS

by Tanja Davin, Grade 10

The first academic quarter at Mohawk is completed. Nervous students await the arrival of their report cards which were scheduled to be given out at the Open House. However, weather conditions forced the cancellation of this event which would have occurred on November 20. Open House will now be held on January 13.

Winter seems to be rapidly moving in on all of us. Mohawk has already had one school cancellation and two one hour postponements.

The Mohawk music department is proud to announce the success of the annual Middle School Musical "Annie Get Your Gun." Congratulations to leads Jessica Larkin and Jeff Magee and the entire cast, pit orchestra and set crew for a job well done! Mr. Waynelovich and Mr. Moulton would like to announce that the first high school band and chorus concert of the year will be held on December 17. Another congratulation to the Mohawk high school band and color guard for a terrific marching season!

The fall sports season is over now, and athletes are preparing to play for their winter teams. Winter sports teams offered at Mohawk are male and female basketball, coed indoor track and boys' and girls' downhill skiing.

On November 13 the student government led by President Jen Pepyne hosted a multimedia presentation entitled "The Prize." This three screen film and slide show was designed to promote friendliness and school spirit. "The Prize" gave a message for people to tell others of their importance and value to society.

Everyone is well into the school year and a routine schedule is apparent. The year is giving every indication of being a great one. It has certainly begun on the right foot.



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## CHRISTMAS ART CLASS

Thanks to the Heath Arts Lottery Fund there will be a free Christmas art class for town children this month. The class will involve creating items like Christmas cards, wrapping paper and ornaments. In addition, on December 20, the children will be baking Christmas cookies to decorate - or eat, whichever comes first!

The class is limited to 15 children, age 7 - 12, and will be held at the Community Hall on December 18 and 19 from 4 to 5:30 PM. Saturday, December 20 is Christmas Cookie Day and everyone in town is invited to join in the fun. (Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult). To register for the class or Cookie Day pick up the registration forms at the Town Hall or call Paty Lenz, 337-5357.

## HEATH PLAYSCHOOL

by Joan Brownlee

The children of the Heath Playschool had a busy fall. Their indoor activities have concentrated on the everyday life of the Pilgrims and Indians. In addition, the children have designed turkey puppets for Thanksgiving.

The children have been somewhat limited in their outdoor activities, due to a number of factors. The state has requested that the playschool repair the surface of the lower slide of the park play structure. It appears that the playschool will be unable to use the play structure until this repair is made. In addition, the play yard adjacent to the Community Hall has been plagued by standing water this fall, thus limiting its use somewhat.

A raffle was held recently by the parents of the playschool in an attempt to help support the school.



Award Wining Design at Rowe School  
to be used on School T-Shirts

Drawn by Betsey Silvester



## THE REV. JOSEPH STRONG HOUSE

[Editors' Note: This is the 23rd in a series of articles on the older houses of Heath published in the HEATH HERALD over the past eight years. The Strong house, built in 1791 and located at the corner of Bray Road in the Center, has been owned by Craig and Amy Barry since 1973. Information for this article has been supplied by Prof. Jytte Muus of Mt. Holyoke College, by Amy Barry, and from Ed Calver's history. It was compiled by the HERALD Staff]

In 1790 the town of Heath had been incorporated just five years and the meeting house, which served both as the church and for all town meetings, had been moved from South Heath to the Center near the road and a little west of the present "Old Town House." In April 1785 the town, having become dissatisfied with its minister, the Reverend Jonathan Leavitt, voted to dismiss him. In the interim several men came to conduct services, including the Reverend Joseph Strong, Jr., who was ordained and settled as the minister in Heath in October 1790.

The Reverend Mr. Strong had been graduated from Yale and studied theology before serving as a missionary in Maine. He came to Heath at the age of 34 with his wife, Sophia Woodbridge, and two sons, Joseph and Theodore. Sophia, the daughter of a clergyman in South Hadley, was said to have been very beautiful. Miss Anna Maxwell describes her as "... a lady of dignity and polished manners... her conversation rendered her interesting and instructive as well as agreeable. I mean to those of a literary character. There were others of a different sort who saw nothing agreeable in Mrs. Strong." Miss Anna also describes Mr. Strong as: "... altho an excellent man, he had not that winning affability; and affectionate familiarity of maners, that securied the hearts of the people, but christianity shown in his life and conversation."

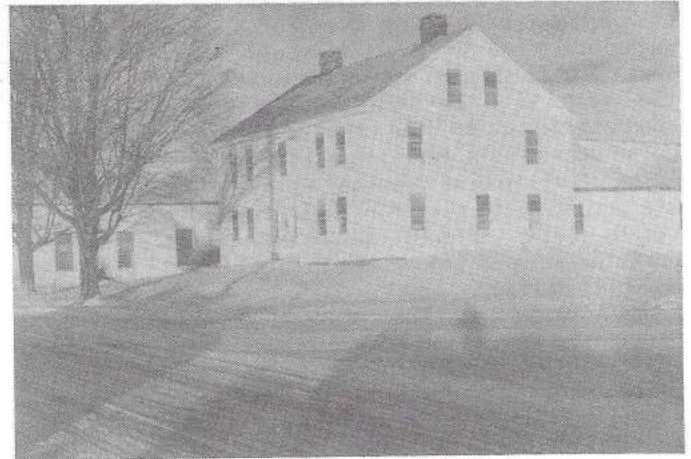
Strong first bought land on what is now Avery Brook Road around the area owned by Francis Rice, formerly Clyde Varney's. Strong must have used this property for farming or as a rental property, as a few months later in 1791 he bought six acres in the Center near the church on the corner of Bray Road. Here he built the house for his family. The house was quite elegant for Heath but not as imposing as the manse built for Parson Leavitt by the town of Charlemont in 1767. Strong had to pay for his. The design may have been influenced by Sophia whose brother had just completed building a handsome house in South Hadley. Much of the similar detail can still be seen in each house.

The Strong house is a large Georgian style home with four square rooms downstairs, built around a spacious center hall with an elaborately carved staircase and a rear hall with another staircase to the second floor. Upstairs are four large bedrooms opening off a large hallway. Originally the house must have had fireplaces in most if not all of the rooms, but today only two fireplaces remain downstairs and two on the second floor. A large carved mantel in the kitchen is all that remains of the kitchen fireplace, which must have contained a brick oven. A long woodshed extended north back of the main part of the house with a "built-in" privy still available on the northwest corner; there was a separate barn further north.

The house is characterized by formal paneling in several rooms. The "Roman keys" carved over the fireplace in the front west downstairs room and the unusual "domino-like" decoration under the eaves on

the front exterior are other interesting features.

The Reverend Joseph Strong was a hardworking farmer besides being a minister. In addition to the 100 acres he owned on Avery Brook Road and the 22 acres he acquired in the Center, he bought several parcels of land totaling almost 200 acres north of the Center in the area of William Wolf and also near the Center Cemetery. Not having any help with his farm work except his family and with little other income, Strong spent much of his time in this work and in bringing up his children, preparing his sermons in the evenings. Although Strong was much liked initially by his congregation in Heath, his devotion to his family and the excessive time spent on his farm work to the detriment of his parishioners led to his ultimate dismissal.



The Joseph Strong House c. 1771

Late in 1800 the Reverend Mr. Strong sold his house and property in the Center to Dr. Benjamin Dickinson from Whately and the Strongs lived elsewhere in town until they left in 1803. In June of that year Strong moved out of Heath driving his cattle before him, his wife and daughter riding one horse, and his other children and goods following in a wagon. The Strongs temporarily stayed in South Hadley before settling in Connecticut.

In 1803 the house was sold to Ephraim Hastings, storekeeper and business man, and in 1853 David Gould bought it. Gould served three terms as Selectman and was a prosperous farmer on Burnt Hill. He retired from farming, spending his "sunset years" in the Center with his wife Sarah (Green). The Goulds' daughter Louisa and her husband Hugh Maxwell 4th, greatgrandson of Lt. Col. Hugh Maxwell, also lived in the house which later was passed down to their daughter Miss Mary Maxwell. In 1884 when the Baptist church in the Center was dissolved, Hugh Maxwell bought the church building and moved it to the north of the house where it was used as a barn before being torn down around 1940.

Miss "Mamie" Maxwell sold the house in 1945 to Mrs. Ruby Austin, who did extensive restoration including having the fireplace chimneys rebuilt and "12 over 12" window sash with old glass put back in the front of the house. It is due in part to her interest and concern that the Strong house is in such good condition today. Walter and Ann Silva bought the house in 1970, and it was sold to the Barrys three years later.

. . . . . continued on page 7



... continued from page 6

Each of the owners made such modifications to the place as their own life style required. The large barn to the north was torn down. A shed to the east of the house, now used as a garage and for wood storage, housed the town fire truck for a number of years.

Today the Joseph Strong house is almost two hundred years old. From its vantage point in Heath Center it has been witness to the many changes that have taken place since 1791. Modernized and restored, it still retains its 19th century grace and sense of proportion. It stands as an historic landmark to Heath's first "settled" minister and his wife.

## BRIAR & THE ROSE

Catherine Nichols has just opened a new shop in the Salmon Falls Marketplace in Shelburne Falls. Here she will sell, as well as make, the lingerie and fine clothing which she has been making for a number of years at her home in Heath.

The wooden furniture designed and made by Alan Nichols in his shop on South Road will also be on sale.

The Nichols held an open house at the Briar & the Rose on Sunday afternoon December 7 to introduce their new shop to the public.

Daily hours at the Briar & the Rose are: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday 9:00 to 5:00, Sunday 12:00 to 5:00.

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## HEATH'S 1987 SKI RACE

Carol Sartz has already started on plans for the 3rd Annual Cross-country ski race in Heath to be held on Sunday, February 8, 1987. A snow date of February 22 has been set in case of poor ski conditions. The starting shot will fire at 12 noon and the take-off will be at the Center as in the past. The only change in plans for this year's event will be an optional, shorter 7 1/2 kilometer course, in addition to the longer 15 kilometer course.

It is expected that this year the event will be even more successful than last year when over 100 skiers participated. Anyone who can help in brushing out the trail is asked to call Steve Marcotte at 337-4934. If you wish more information on this race, call Carol Sartz at 337-4077.

## 1987 HEATH FAIR IN QUESTION

by Barbara Smith, Secretary

The Heath Agricultural Society regrets the loss of our president, Walt Gleason. Walt had to give up working on the Fair so that he could put more time into his selectman's duties. Also the Fair has lost the help and support of Harry and Nancy Briggs who have packed up and moved to a warmer climate.

The Society is trying to regroup after these substantial losses. In trying to regroup we have definitely found our biggest problem. The committee finds our problem to be a lack of people and interest in the fair until the actual Fair time. The Fair runs for three days which takes a lot of ideas and energy to pull it off.

Our last meeting, held in November, was supposed to be for the election of officers but we needed seven people to form a quorum and only six were present. We re-scheduled our election to December 9. Everyone is welcome to become involved in the Fair. We desperately need people to help organize such activities as the cattle show, the sheep show, publicity, the food booths, the premium book and entertainment.

Please, if you are interested in the Fair meetings and have questions, call me at 337-5563 in the evening.

In these busy times it's hard for the Fair to compete with all the more modern forms of entertainment, but please do not let it be cancelled due to lack of interest in its 70th year.

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## HEATH GARDENER

by HERALD Staff

Elsa Bakalar knew that an article, written by Pat Leuchtman, was to appear in the January 1987 number of Horticulture Magazine. However, she did not know until November that the article, entitled "The Garden According to Elsa," is to be the feature article for that issue. Elsa will appear on the cover; her garden is represented by several photographs including a double page spread. This issue of Horticulture will be available at McCusker's Market in Shelburne Falls and at the Farmers' Exchange in Greenfield.

As an interesting bonus, Elsa reported that she received a phone call from the horticulturist at White Flower Farm Nursery in Litchfield, CT. He had been visiting the Horticulture office and was so impressed by the photos he saw in process for publication that he asked if he might come to Heath and take his own photos next summer.

In future issues of Horticulture Elsa will contribute a new feature called "Combinations" which will give specific suggestions on flowers that can be grown together to achieve an especially attractive effect.

Elsa has been in demand locally as a garden lecturer for some years, but recently her fame has begun to spread. She already has seven speaking engagements for 1987 including several out-of-state.

## FLU CLINIC A SUCCESS

by Sharleen Moffat, R.N.  
Town Nurse

The flu clinics held in Heath and Rowe during October were a great success. We were granted 60 doses from the Department of Public Health, and they were all used up in the first two days. I made two trips to Amherst for additional doses of vaccine for next year. We will request 110 doses for next year.

The Taiwan A flu strain which has received so much publicity will be arriving soon. There have been documented cases in eastern New York state in the past several weeks. There is a great deal of confusing information about vaccination. The safest action is to contact your physician and let him make that determination. This particular strain of flu was seen in the United States in the fifties and some health officials feel that the vaccine is only necessary for those individuals under age 35 who are at risk. There is conflicting data indicating that all individuals in risk groups should receive the vaccine. This vaccine will not be available through the Department of Public Health. Check with your personal physician now. Happy Holidays to all!



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## FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

by Pat Leuchtman

The Friends of Heath Library are continuing their membership and fund raising drive. Since the summer we have added 20 new members and have raised \$325 of our \$500 goal towards the purchase of a new encyclopedia. The World Book we currently own is more than ten years old and must be replaced because it is so out of date. State guidelines strongly recommend that encyclopedias be discarded before they are ten years old. Our Library budget is so very tight that a major purchase like an encyclopedia can be very difficult, but it is an important resource, especially for children who use the library for research.

We did a mailing to residents and we thank all of those who have given generously so far and urge others to contribute when they can. It is our goal to have the new World Book ordered by the end of the year. Membership dues (\$1 annually per family) and contributions can be left at the Library with Alli Thane, sent to Ray Pettengill, Treasurer of the Friends, or to Pat Leuchtman, President of the Friends.

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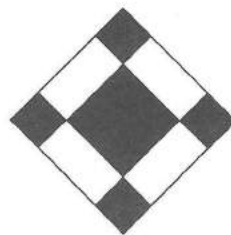
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## FURNITURE ARTISAN - ALAN NICHOLS

by Joan Brownlee

Alan Nichols, a local Heath craftsman, specializes in custom made chairs of cherry, maple, birch, and ash. Each chair is designed in consultation with his client, and the result is a truly unique piece of furniture. In addition to chairs, Alan has crafted a wide variety of furniture and wood products, including tables, banisters, and pencil post beds.

The raw materials for his designs come from the local area. Alan operates a small saw mill, and is thus able to provide most of the wood required for the chairs he designs.

Alan began his furniture business, in his home, eight years ago. In the early years, he worked as a carpenter to supplement his income from the furniture business. In the past several years he has been able to devote full attention to his craft.

Marketing his product has proven to be challenging. In the past, he has advertised in local newspapers with some success. He is currently putting his marketing efforts into an exhibition space in the Salmon Falls Marketplace in Shelburne Falls. He plans to display samples of his work, and will share the space with his wife, Catherine, a designer of lingerie. Catherine and Alan opened their exhibition space on December 7.

Alan feels his biggest marketing problem is making people comfortable with the idea of buying from an individual and not a large furniture store. He feels that he is selling himself as well as a product, and strives to develop a rapport with his clients. Often he finds that clients come to him with an idea of what they want, and it is his job to translate these ideas into a functional, well designed product. It is often difficult to set a price, given the individualized nature of his designs. He must consider what others in the business charge, despite differences in quality and workmanship. He must also take into account the costs of materials and the labor involved. He believes that he is able to price his products at the low end of factory-priced items.

Alan is one of small number of craftsmen in Heath engaged in a cottage industry. He believes several factors are inhibiting growth in their type of trade. Individuals need capital to start such a business, both to purchase supplies and, initially, to supplement income. The lack of a Heath marketplace also necessitates a regional base for trade. Alan feels, however, that the potential for similar cottage industries, such as cheese making and apple wine/hard cider production, is great.

Alan's interest in the greater development of diversity in the Heath economy is in keeping with his overall interest in the well being of Heath. He is currently serving as a town assessor, and has often expressed the need for greater community involvement and a willingness to confront town problems.

Alan has lived in Heath since the age of 18. His grandfather first purchased a home in Heath in 1911. He and his wife currently reside on South Road with his mother and their children, Emily, age 9, and their son, Gregory, age 7.

## HEATH'S CIRCUIT RIDER REPORTS

by Susan Wright  
Shared Administrative Assistant

The Colrain-Heath-Monroe Housing Rehabilitation Program is going along quite well in all three towns. To date 34 applications have been made for a total of 41 housing units in the three towns. The program provides low interest loans for housing rehabilitation for income eligible homeowners in these three towns. You can call for information and an application Monday through Friday from 9:00 to 5:00, 625-9831.

The Heath Conservation Commission several months ago received a grant from the Incentive Aid Program of the Executive Office of Communities and Development. With the grant funds the Conservation Commission has been able to hold several training sessions on Conservation Commission responsibilities. The Commission has also been able to purchase a library of important references and has had the wetlands of the town professionally mapped and analyzed. The grant funds also allowed the Commission to purchase recent aerial photos of the town. This grant has greatly increased the capacity of the Heath Commission to manage its responsibilities and get off to a good start.

Another news item is the town's receipt of another Incentive Aid Grant for the town's computer system. The grant funds will allow the town to purchase software for the office of tax collector and will allow for the computerization of many town functions related to this office.

Lastly, the Town of Heath applied for a Small Town Road Assistance grant of \$150,000 from the Department of Public Works. The grant was for improvements and reconstruction on a one mile section of Route 8A from the intersection of Jacobs Road, north to the intersection of Colrain Mountain Road. This road is badly in need of repair and its heavy use during the tourist seasons made it the most competitive road in town for the Small Town Road Assistance Funds. The grant was filed in October and decisions are due in December. Keep your fingers crossed!

This is just a short update of my activities in Heath. If you have any questions or would like information about any of the projects above, please call me at the office in the Shelburne Town Hall, 625-9831 or stop in sometime when you are in Shelburne Falls.



Furniture Craftsman of Heath  
Alan Nichols at Lathe

(Photo by Howard Dickinson)





## HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

by Susan Silvester

The Heath Historical Society is conducting a major fund raising campaign to pay for the restoration of the Old Town House foundation. The work was recently completed by local contractor Bruce Cromack, who excavated under the Town House building, pouring twelve concrete piers for support. The foundation is faced with native stone to preserve the original appearance of the 150 year old building.

The cost to the Society for this extensive and badly needed restoration was \$10,000 with additional money needed for interior work to be done in the spring. A Capital Campaign Committee, consisting of Craig Barry, David Howland and Dominic Musacchio, has mailed a fund raising letter to all members and Heath residents. The following categories were designated for contributors: Founder, \$500 or more; Benefactor, \$250 - \$499; Patron, \$100 - \$249; Contributor, \$50 - \$99; Friend \$1 - \$49. Many donations have already been received. Donations are greatly appreciated and may be sent to Treasurer Craig Barry, Heath MA 01346.

## HISTORICAL COMMISSION REPORT

by Jayne Dane

Work on the town inventory is still in the beginning stages, but the Commission plans to get things well under way this winter. The inventory "packet" has arrived from the state commission and Chairman Bill Thane is organizing the various forms.

We will meet in January to divide some of the responsibilities of this project. The photographs are in the process of being taken. It was necessary to wait until the leaves had fallen to record the maximum exposure of the buildings.



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## HEATH CONSERVATION COMMISSION

by Bill Lattrell, Chairman

During the months of October and November the Conservation Commission continued to work on the Notice of Intent filed by H.T. Associates on the Number Nine property (Lots 1a - 3a). As reported in the last issue of the HEATH HERALD, H.T. Associates had proposed the filling and replication of approximately 10,000 square feet of bordering vegetated wetland on Lots 1a and 2a. The Commission considered this request, but unanimously rejected it because only 5000 square feet of replication is allowed by state regulation. A short time later H.T. Associates resubmitted their Notice of Intent with an amendment that removed Lot 1a replication and construction from the Notice of Intent. This change brought the area of replication under the allowed 5000 square feet. At a subsequent meeting the Commission approved this amended Notice. A week later an Order of Conditions was issued in regard to this approved Notice. An Order of Conditions is a legal, binding document that insures proper procedure in the work occurring in a wetland area. The Order is filed with the deed on the property and remains attached to that deed until all conditions are satisfied.

Highlights of the conditions in this order were: 1) correction of damage done to bordering vegetated wetland on Lot 1a. This damage was done by operating heavy equipment in the bordering vegetated wetland. The area is to be raked, leveled and re-seeded; 2) On Lot 2a a silt fence is to be erected between the area of construction, all filling and replication work and the bordering vegetated wetland; 3) on the area to be filled and replicated on Lot 2a all work is to be done in accordance with the general performance standards of the Wetland Protection Regulation; 4) The Heath Commission will inspect the area of replication twice a year for a period of three years to insure that the wetland vegetative community has been reestablished successfully and that the replicated wetland is working as a bordering vegetated wetland; 5) On Lot 3a a siltation fence is to be constructed and damage correction made as in Lot 1a.

It was the feeling of the Commission that this Order of Conditions would protect the integrity of the wetland in the questioned area.

In a different light, the Heath Conservation Commission began discussing the possibility of having a logging demonstration with draft animals to educate and encourage positive forestry practices in wetland areas.





## HEATH FIRE DEPARTMENT HAS LONG HISTORY

by Pat Leuchtman

Fires have always been a threat in rural communities where help is not always close at hand. Certainly house fires were much more common before the advent of oil fired central heating. The many old cellar holes in Heath are the result of fires which started from fireplaces or old wood stoves used in early days for heating and cooking. Here in Heath we have records that show a long standing concern about the danger of fire. As early as 1909 there was an article in the town warrant to accept an act passed by the General Court in 1908 entitled "An Act to Provide for Protection of Forest or Sprout Land from Fire." Apparently the article in Heath was voted, since in the following year there was an article on the town warrant to purchase apparatus to be used for the protection of forest and sprout land from fire.

Up through the 1930's volunteers responded to fires with the equipment at hand, including soda and acid fire extinguishers that were distributed around town. It is said that every house in Heath Center had been saved at some time with one of these extinguishers.

Volunteers were notified of a fire by the operator of the Heath Central Telephone Office who sent a special telephone ring to every phone in town and those who were able responded to help fight the fire. If necessary a fire engine from Charlemont was also sent. This notification system remained in operation until dial phones were installed. Now there are red fire telephones located at Chief Earl Gleason's, Peters Store, Walt Gleason's and Richards Steinbock's. Also, all the volunteers carry beepers which are used to notify them of the location of fires.

The Fire Department was officially founded in 1942. A converted 1935 town truck equipped with a tank and the Guptil portable pump was used as a fire engine. The town continued to use equipment that had been purchased over the years.

Earl Gleason remembers some of those early years. In 1937 he watched that Fitzhenny Guptil portable pump and hose being demonstrated at the corner of Dell and Royer Roads and he fought his first fire when he was only 16.

Earl became Fire Warden in 1956 and Fire Chief in 1975, succeeding Howard Thompson who served from 1947 to 1975. Andreas Royer served for a year before that in succession to Homer Tanner who had been the first Fire Chief and had retired in 1946.

The Fire Department has continued to improve. It belongs to the Tri-State Mutual Aid System and the Deerfield Valley Mutual Aid System. This means it is able to call on other fire companies for assistance when there is a large fire, and return that service to the other participating towns.

The quality of our Fire Department is so good that in 1978 it was approved by the Insurance Services Office, a nationwide association of insurance underwriters who rate towns' fire protection; this has meant a reduction in fire insurance rates for all householders within five miles of the Fire Station.

The Chief, Earl Gleason, is the only member of the Fire Department who receives any remuneration. There are about 12-15 active volunteers, who not only turn out to fight fires, but attend monthly drills and practices. The state keeps adding to the regulations governing the amount of training and kinds of certification that volunteer firemen must have which is another demand on their time.



Heath's 1946 Dodge Fire Truck  
purchased from Colrain in 1960

(Photo from Earl Gleason)

Earl says many of the volunteers put in a couple of hundred hours a year. This gets more and more difficult to do because so many Heath residents work out of town. "Also, when there were more farmers, and more volunteers who worked in Heath during the day, there wasn't as much money to spend on leisure activities and the Fire Department served an important social unction as well." Chief Gleason says there is alw a need for more volunteers.

The Volunteer Firemen's Association was formed in 1946 to help support and raise money for the Fire Department. Anyone may be a member. The Association sells fire extinguishers, cleans chimneys for a contribution, and accepts donations, but its big fund raisers are the barbecue and Wheel of Fortune at the Heath Fair. The money raised goes to purchase helmets, coats and boots for volunteers as well as some of the fire equipment. Money was even raised to build the office and training room at the Fire Station; no town money was used for that project.

The town owes our Volunteer Fire Department a huge debt. In 1985 they responded to 34 fire alarms. Chief Gleason says it's best to have a fire between five in the afternoon and six in the morning as there are only three volunteers available in Heath during the day, but they have never failed to answer a fire call.



Fire Drill  
Burning remains of the old Bolton house  
on Brunelle Road

(Photo by Earl Gleason)



## FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

by David F. Howland

The FinCom looks upon the year 1986 as one of progress and hope for the future. The Roundtable discussions promoted by the Selectmen, the establishment of special committees and the improvement in cash flow are positive indications of the town's efforts to cope with specific and immediate problems as well as plan for the long range needs of Heath.

The FinCom and the Selectmen met with the Solid Waste Committee to review the Committee's tentative recommendations as to how to handle refuse after the closing of the present dump in January 1988. The FinCom was highly complimentary of the work of the Committee. There will be a town informational meeting on January 7 to explain the options and problems before us as well as costs involved.

On November 20, Bruce Cromack, Chairman of the FinCom, attended a training session on Cherry Sheets at G.C.C. The State Department of Revenue sponsored the program which was designed to acquaint town officers with changes that affect budget planning for next year.

As to the town's finances, it is worth noting that Heath has not had to borrow money to meet its obligations! In fact there should be some income generated on investments which, when combined with the catch-up on taxes, should effect a favorable free cash position. These funds will be very important to the planning for FY 1987-88. The budget hearings for this will start soon.

Our best wishes for the Holidays!

## FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

by Chief Earl Gleason

The only response for the past two month period occurred on October 17 for an illegal burn of leaves. Although no response was required, a call was received from the State Police alerting us of a missing person on Dell Road on November 1. The person had succumbed to a heart attack and had been found by his family before a search had started.

One Fire Association meeting was held and two drills were planned although the November drill was canceled. Crews went out October 4 and 5 to clean chimneys.

Chief Earl Gleason conducted a fire drill at the Playschool on October 27. He also attended a Deerfield Valley directors' meeting, Fire Wardens' meetings in October and November, a Franklin County Dispatch meeting, and the November meeting of the Western Massachusetts Fire Chiefs' Association. Also five smoke detector inspections were conducted.

On November 12 Sheila Litchfield and Dick Giard represented Heath at the ambulance meeting in Hawley. It was reported that the E.M.T. training class was going well and that all of Heath's entrants were still enrolled.

**Alan L. Nichols**  
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## PLANNING BOARD REPORT

by Robert Dane, Secretary

For the past two months the Planning Board has been meeting every Monday in an attempt to complete our revised Subdivision Regulations as well as keep up with regular business. We have almost completed the revised first draft of the Subdivision Regulations, which will be sent to various planning professionals for review. We hope to have them ready for a public hearing early next year.

In other business, Steve Belitsos' special permit for his garage was approved with some restrictions on parking and number of vehicles allowed on the premises. Paul Lemelin on Ben Road, and Ray and Terry Pettengill on Route 8A brought plans to us which we endorsed as not requiring approval under our Subdivision Regulations. Sue Hunkler submitted a request for a Special Permit to operate a used car business on her property. We set a public hearing for December 15, 1986.

The Board has organized a Task Force to help us with certain planning priorities. The members are: David Howland, chairman; Ken Stetson, vice chairman; Alastair Maitland, secretary; and Eric Grinnell. They are currently examining the feasibility of a Master Plan for the Town, and investigating the mapping of Heath for various purposes.

## ASSESSORS' REPORT

by Alan L. Nichols

We have pencilled in all the new valuation figures for the town, including personal property, classified lands and most of Mohawk Estates. When it is all done we will apply to the state for a review by the Bureau of Local Assessment. When the state approves, with whatever changes it may require, we will publish the new values and hold hearings.

If you are unhappy with your own or someone else's new valuation, we would like to hear about it. We want everyone to be taxed fairly and we realize we can make mistakes.

One thing we ask you to remember is that these new figures are not based on the value to you, or the value of the crops that could be grown, or the wildlife or serenity that could be appreciated, but on what you can get in cash in the marketplace. If you feel that the cash value we have come up with for your property is way out of line, let us know. We are no more perfect than anyone else.

The Assessors wish every one a Merry Christmas.



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## HEATH "G-MEN" REPORT TO SELECTMEN

In early November the Solid Waste Task Force, appointed by the Heath selectmen last summer, presented a preliminary report on their studies and recommendation at a meeting of the Selectmen and Finance Committee. The Task Force, consisting of Harley Hunkler, Charles Kades, Fred Lively and Newland Smith, had been instructed to investigate possible arrangements for the town's solid waste disposal in replacement of the present three-town landfill when its lease expires in January 1988. The bottom line of the study indicated that the alternatives are limited and that the cost of waste disposal will jump to three or four times the present cost for Heath.

The committee (of self-named "G-Men" - "G" for Garbage) held numerous meetings and conferences with county officials, the Department of Environmental Quality Engineering (DEQE), selectmen and officials of neighboring towns (both in Massachusetts, Vermont and New Hampshire), an incinerator manufacturer, potential energy resource recovery plants, legal firms, waste haulers and suppliers of waste handling equipment.

On first thought, another local landfill might appear to be a logical solution. However, even if a suitable site could be found, the present State DEQE requirements for constructing and operating such a landfill make the cost of this alternative prohibitive, even for much larger towns than Heath.

A newer form of waste disposal, now being used and proposed in larger communities, is the energy resource recovery plant. Here solid waste is incinerated at an extremely high temperature, burning all materials and even any smoke particles. The heat generated by such a process is used to generate steam or electric power which can be sold to local manufacturers or utilities. In this area such a plant has been successfully operating in Pittsfield for almost six years. Another, using the same VICON process, and sponsored by the City of Springfield with eight other communities (including Greenfield), is under construction on Bondi Island in Agawam. A third plant of this type had been planned in Holyoke by HERCO using a different process of energy recovery (Research Cottrell). The principal owner of the HERCO operation also has a very large landfill in Chicopee which is presently used by most of the communities who have subscribed to the HERCO operation. A majority of our neighboring towns have already signed long term contracts committing their waste to HERCO with the Chicopee landfill to be used until the plant is in operation.

For a town to use any of these plants requires a long term agreement (up to 27 years from now), the payment of a specified fee per ton for dumping, guarantee of a fixed tonnage per year, and delivery of the waste to the plant. These costs can escalate during the term of the contract but can also be reduced by profit realized from the sale of energy.

For a town as remote as Heath is from these plant locations, the cost of hauling the waste is a substantial part of the total. In addition, another cost incurred is the requirement for a local transfer station with compactor to compress the waste as well as containers to handle it.

On the basis of these large disposal costs, the committee looked into the alternative of local incineration. Having visited a small incinerator operating successfully in Stamford VT, the Task Force felt this might offer a more economical and a clean

solution. Subsequent discussions with an incinerator manufacturer, and later with the DEQE, indicated, however, that the cost and operation of such an incinerator, in compliance with the very stringent State environmental requirements, would be excessive. In addition it would not be feasible to utilize the energy from the burning waste as can be done in a large plant such as VICON where hundreds of tons can be burned each day.

This narrows the choice down to hauling the town waste to an energy recovery plant. Recent developments in plans for the HERCO operation indicate that its construction will be blocked or further delayed due to environmental problems with its proposed location, and even then it was not expected to be operational until 1991.

Because of this as well as many variable cost factors involved with the HERCO proposal, contracting with Springfield/VICON has been recommended by the Heath "G-Men." This option became available notwithstanding that county officials told Heath that this new plant was fully committed and that there was no room for additional waste from other towns. After investigating the Pittsfield/VICON plant and finding its capacity fully committed, contacts led to the VICON headquarters in New Jersey, which in turn put the committee in touch with the Springfield Department of Public Works. It was soon found that the City of Springfield had the right to assign portions of their guaranteed tonnage of solid waste [87,000 tons per year (TPY)] of waste to other communities and that they were agreeable to accommodate the mere 300 TPY, or so, that Heath might generate. And this could be done at a lower cost than at HERCO. Furthermore, the Springfield/VICON plant has already been approved by the DEQE, \$31,000,000 of bonds have been issued, and plant construction is well under way with operation assured in 1988.

Even though the costs of dumping at Springfield are more reasonable, the larger amount of the total cost lies in the waste hauling and cost of the transfer station. Sharing these costs with another town might help some, but would also present a number of other major problems.

A recent State-initiated program to help towns in recycling waste is being investigated for Heath. This could reduce the TPY of waste to be hauled and dumped, but the town would still be required to pay for whatever TPY it contracted for at the VICON plant.

At the moment the total cost for this new method of waste disposal will be about \$20,000 per year with approximately a third of the cost each in hauling and dumping fees and the balance in operating the transfer station in Heath. In addition to these operating costs there will be a substantial one-time cost for closing and covering the present landfill, of which Heath must pay 20% as its share in the three-town landfill.

The Heath Selectmen plan to hold an informational meeting on this subject on Wednesday, January 7, to explain this proposal in more detail and to answer questions for the townspeople. At a special town meeting planned for the following week an article will be voted authorizing the selectmen to enter into a contract with Fluor Resource Recovery of Massachusetts, Inc., Limited Partnership, which is constructing and will own and operate the Springfield/VICON facility. No funds will be appropriated, however, until the annual town meeting next May.

N.F.S.



## REPORT FROM THE TAX COLLECTOR/TREASURER

by Linda Marcotte

The estimated fiscal 1987 tax bills were in the mail by November 1. To date, 70% has been collected on these bills in just slightly over a month. It should be noted that these estimated bills are based on one half of the fiscal 1986 bill. The property values have been left blank as these values have not been determined yet. This bill is the closest we have come in issuing a bill on time in years. We also hope that the final bill will be issued on time and that we can issue future bills on the proper dates. It also should be noted that this bill insures that the Town won't have to borrow for a couple of months, if at all, to meet its normal bills.

Anyone who reads the local papers knows some of what I have been doing recently. I wish I could report that all owed taxes have been collected, but this is not true. I am still working on collecting the balance of remaining owed taxes. This includes personal property, motor vehicle, farm animal and machinery and the more recent real estate bills. Between the holidays and the recently issued tax bill, I probably will not be able to actively work on these until January.

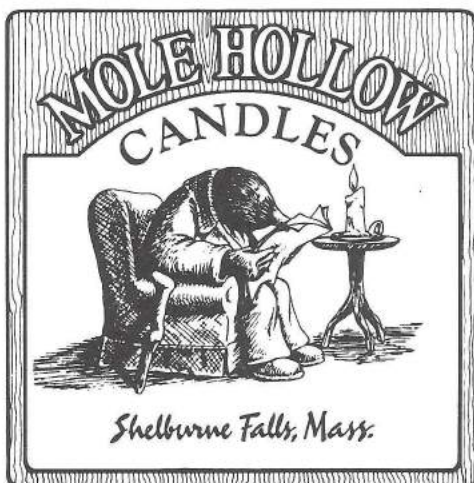
Several of us will be talking with computer software suppliers over the next couple of months now that we have received a grant from the Executive Office of Communities and Development in Boston. This grant will enable us to make more efficient use of the computer in the town hall and will be a benefit to all.

I hope everyone has a Happy Holiday Season.

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## ANNIE GET YOUR GUN

by Alastair Maitland

Edmund Burke stated a universal truth when he said: "To tax and to please ..... is not given to men." And it is not at all surprising that here, in a nation that was born of a tax revolt, tax collectors should be held in especially low esteem - lower even, if we are to believe a recent public opinion poll, than politicians, used car salesmen and Wall Street arbitragers. So it is all the more noteworthy, and gratifying to Heathens, that our own Tax Collector should not only have been recognized on the front page of The Recorder of Greenfield but that she should also have been celebrated in a Recorder editorial (November 4).

The editorial described Linda Marcotte as "a wonderful example of how valuable a conscientious town official can be." When she first surveyed the scene and took aim, unpaid town taxes for fiscal years 1985 and earlier already amounted to almost half the town's \$360,000 tax levy for fiscal 1984. Her efforts have now brought in some \$100,000; and the town's borrowing has been eliminated for the first time in many years.

The Recorder comments that as a result, Heath tax payers have reason to be happier than heretofore. But their own contribution to this satisfactory state of affairs should not be overlooked. They had demonstrated their unhappiness with the town's fiscal affairs last January by decisively rejecting the proposed over-ride of Proposition 2 1/2. The climate of opinion was favorable to the efforts of "a conscientious (and very hard working) town official." And Linda Marcotte's efforts have paid off. Heathens join with The Recorder's editorialist in congratulating her on "A Job Well Done."

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## FROM THE SELECTMEN

by Art Schwenger, Secretary  
Heath Board of Selectmen

Various developments and actions have taken place since the last HEATH HERALD, many of which are reported elsewhere in this issue. The Selectmen are eager to thank many people in town who are giving their time and energy to work on important issues and projects that Heath is facing. One example is the Solid Waste Task Force. Newland Smith, Charles Kades, Fred Lively and Harley Hunkler in a concentrated effort researched and compiled a timely report and recommendation on what the Town should do when the landfill must close only one year from now.

A number of people from the towns of Heath, Hawley, Rowe and Charlemont, who have been working to assure the continuity of ambulance service, are promoting an ambulance district as a solution. Dick Giard is active in this group. A proposal and public discussion will take place in the near future. A town vote will be necessary.

The Shared Administrative Assistant or "Circuit Rider" program has been continued for the third year and Susan Wright's calendar year contract has been renewed. This will be the last year of state support for the program. The Selectmen commend Ms Wright for her success in helping Heath to acquire assistance for the Town from various sources.

Darwin Clark has been appointed to fill the regular position on the Highway Crew vacated by William Wait.

About 1.3 miles of Dell Road and 0.6 miles of Colrain Mountain Road have been paved with blacktop. Weather interrupted the process but in the spring another few tenths of a mile will be paved on Colrain Mountain Road. Pug mill oil and gravel paving was also done in several places in town including part of Avery Brook Road and a stretch on Trask Hill. The Selectmen have been trying to arrange for new box culverts on Avery Brook Road and other sites to replace deteriorating culverts and at the same time have some paving done. This would be fully reimbursed by the state.

Plan to attend the next Heath Roundtable Forum on January 7. It promises to be quite interesting. In addition to an opportunity to raise concerns and questions in general, there will a discussion of items to be voted at a special town meeting set for January 13. Some items such as the Solid Waste plan will effect our budget and taxes. Every citizen's opinion is both needed and welcomed.



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## OPENING IT UP

by Alastair Maitland

The present disarray in Washington suggests that the White House might have been well advised to take a leaf out of the book of Our Town of Heath, where during the past year the Selectmen have adopted a series of practical measures to ensure, as far as possible, that the Town's right hand knows what the left hand is doing, and vice versa, as well as to keep the citizenry currently informed.

The third of the Round Table discussions inaugurated by the Selectmen's chairman, Richard Giard, took place at the Community Hall on November 25. On this occasion the Selectmen had deliberately chosen not to have a fixed agenda but instead to invite contributions and questions from anyone with any Town business to raise. There were some two dozen townspeople in attendance, with virtually all Town departments represented.

From such a combination of inter-agency bull session and parliamentary-question time it would be hard to extract any central theme. But it would be fair to say that the tone was one of quiet confidence, coupled in one or two cases with expressions of some concern about the manageability of the tasks ahead. Patrick Venneri, for example, drew attention once again to the problems inherent in the growth of the school population; while Earl Gleason (*in absentia*) warned that, without new blood, the Fire Department might be hard put to remain viable. Some public concern was voiced, too, about police protection and, it almost goes without saying, about Town roads.

Force, provided an up-date on the problem of future garbage disposal, which will be the subject of an informational meeting on January 7. At a subsequent Town Meeting we - the townspeople and waste-makers - will be called upon to approve an article on the warrant, the financial effect of which seems likely to be that, starting in 1988, we shall collectively spend up to \$20,000 a year on getting rid of our trash.

## NEW HOURS FOR TOWN CLERK

Town Clerk / Town Accountant Catherine Nichols has announced new office hours starting December 1. She will be at the Town Hall office on Mondays only 8:30 AM to 12 noon and 1:00 to 4:00 PM. She can be contacted at other times by calling 337-6665.

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## CHRISTMAS SONG

by Josiah G. Holland

There's a song in the air!  
There's a star in the sky!  
There's a mother's deep prayer,  
And a baby's low cry!  
And the star rains its fire, while the beautiful  
sing.  
For the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!

We rejoice in the light,  
And we echo the song  
That comes down through the night  
From the heavenly throng.  
Ay! we shout to the lovely evangel they bring,  
And we greet in His cradle our Saviour and King!

Editors' Note: This poem, written in 1872 by Holland and later set to music as a hymn, is in The New Church Hymnal (1937) used in the Heath Church for many years. It was brought to our attention by Hannah Burrington and we thought it appropriate for this issue of the HEATH HERALD.

Around 1830 when Josiah Holland was a boy he lived for a number of years in what was then known as "Mill Hollow." Here his father ran a mill and also a wagon shop. After the Hollands moved away, that area of Heath became known as "Holland Dell" as it is still known today. Josiah later on became a writer and was editor of the Springfield Republican. Among his other writings is the two volume History of Western Massachusetts.

## OUR CHRISTMAS COVER

Julianne Hall Rocke's imaginative drawing is our Christmas card front page for this issue of the HEATH HERALD. The bears and other animals seen in the drawing are taken from character drawings she has used in illustrating children's books.

Soon after Julie moved to Swamp Road in 1982 the HERALD ran an article about her. Since then Julie has expanded her activities, forming the Hall-Rocke Company with her husband, Kenneth, to make T-shirts using her own designs. Julie started on this when the Heath Playschool asked her to design the graphics for their T-shirt. From this Julie went into dinosaurs - Mommy and Baby - teaming up with the Boston Museum of Science. Next year Hall-Rocke will be travelling from museum to museum with the "Talking Dinosaur Show."

The HERALD greatly appreciates Julianne's contribution to our front cover and wishes Hall-Rocke well.



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## CHRISTMAS IN HEATH

The Christmas Concert, given by the Gather 'Round Singers held in the Heath Union Church on Sunday, December 7, was well attended. Dr. Christopher French was unstinting in his presentation of the songs and carols. This was followed by the tree lighting ceremony at the old Center School House where more Christmas carols were sung by all with the help of the Gather 'Round group. Afterwards, the families and guests enjoyed hot cocoa and cookies at the Community Hall.

This is the fourth annual tree lighting sponsored by the HEATH HERALD, the Heath Church, and the Heath Historical Society. The present tree is a live spruce donated and planted by Ron Corey last spring. Since the tree was so large, Ron has donated the additional lights which are used this year. The tree will be lighted each night from now until New Year and, it is hoped, will add to the Christmas spirit in Heath.

**Merry Christmas  
and a  
Happy New Year**

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